



VISEGRAD YOUTH FORUM 2022



POLICY RECOMMENDATION: INCREASING COOPERATION IN THE V4 REGION

Introduction: The Visegrad Group, or V4, is a cooperation platform for Central European countries comprising of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. It has been in existence for over 30 years and has played a significant role in the region's integration with the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The V4 countries share a common history and cultural heritage, which has created a strong bond between them. The cooperation between the V4 countries has been instrumental in addressing regional issues and promoting economic growth. However, the V4 cooperation has faced several challenges in recent years, including the ongoing war in Ukraine and the EU's migration crisis. These events have highlighted the need for a more robust and coordinated V4 approach to address regional security and economic challenges.

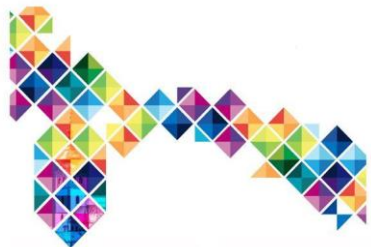
The purpose of this policy recommendation is to propose some actions and initiatives that can enhance the V4 cooperation and address some of the challenges and conflicts in the region. It focuses on three main areas: economic and social development, security and defense, and external relations. The recommendation also takes into account the role of the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the region, as well as the ongoing war in Ukraine and its impact on the V4 countries. It is based on the analysis of the current situation and trends, as well as the best practices and experiences of other regional and international cooperation initiatives.

1. Economic and Social Development:

The V4 countries should enhance their economic and social cooperation and integration, in order to benefit from the opportunities and overcome the challenges of the current global and European context.

The V4 countries should promote the development of common infrastructure, such as transportation, energy, and digital networks, in order to improve the connectivity and competitiveness of the region.

The V4 countries should also support the development of common policies and programs in areas such as education, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, in order to foster the human capital and creativity of the region.



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The V4 countries should also strengthen their social dialogue and cohesion, in order to address the common issues and concerns of the citizens and the society, such as poverty, inequality, migration, and integration.

2. Security and Defense:

The V4 countries should enhance their security and defense cooperation and integration, in order to address the common threats and challenges to the region, such as terrorism, hybrid warfare, cyber attacks, and disinformation.

The V4 countries should also develop and enhance their military capabilities and readiness, in order to contribute effectively to the collective defense and security of the region and of Europe as a whole, in accordance with the NATO principles and commitments.

The V4 countries should also strengthen their border and cyber security, in order to prevent and counter the illegal and criminal activities, such as trafficking, smuggling, and extremism.

The V4 countries should also foster the regional and international dialogue and cooperation on security and defense, in order to share the best practices and experiences, and to coordinate the actions and policies with the EU and NATO, and other relevant partners.

3. External Relations:

The V4 countries should enhance their external relations and cooperation, in order to promote the interests and values of the region and of Europe as a whole, in the current global and regional context.

The V4 countries should also support the EU and NATO enlargement and integration, in order to promote the stability, security, and prosperity of the region and

One potential conflict that could arise in the future is the potential clash of interests between the V4 countries and the EU on issues such as migration, energy security, and economic policy. These conflicts could lead to a fragmentation of the V4 cooperation if not handled carefully.

To address these challenges, the V4 countries should focus on specific programmes that target the most pressing issues, such as the development of a common energy market, the strengthening of regional security, and the creation of a more coordinated approach to migration.



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The V4 countries should also work closely with NATO and the EU to address regional security challenges, including the ongoing war in Ukraine. This cooperation could include increased military exercises, intelligence sharing, and diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict.

Another important area of cooperation for the V4 countries is the development of a common energy market. The V4 countries should work together to increase energy efficiency and reduce dependence on a single energy source. This could include the development of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, as well as the expansion of the natural gas infrastructure.

The V4 countries should also take a coordinated approach to migration, including the development of common asylum and refugee policies, as well as increased cooperation on border management and security.

The V4 countries should also focus on economic cooperation, including the development of a common market for goods and services and the promotion of trade and investment between the V4 countries.

In conclusion, the V4 cooperation can play a vital role in addressing the challenges facing Central Europe, including the ongoing war in Ukraine, the EU's migration crisis, and the need for a more robust and coordinated approach to regional security and economic challenges. The V4 countries must work together and with the EU and NATO to address these challenges and promote stability and prosperity in the region.

The recommendation is not prescriptive or exhaustive, but rather aims to provide some useful and realistic suggestions for the V4 countries and their partners. It is intended for the governments, institutions, and civil society organizations of the V4 countries, as well as for the EU and NATO, and other relevant stakeholders. The recommendation is open for discussion, feedback, and further development, and welcomes any additional suggestions and contributions from the relevant experts and practitioners.