

Consortium "Alliances for EU" led by Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities – Skopje
Supported by the International Visegrad Fund, with a contribution of the Republic of Korea

Roundtable

"The Pivotal Role of V₄ in the Current Processes of EU Enlargement"

Online / January 15th, 2024 at 11.00 AM CET

11.00-11.15 **Welcoming address: Prof. Katerina Kolozova**, Executive director of the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Skopje

11.15 - 12.45 **Roundtable: "The Pivotal Role of V₄ in the Current Processes of EU Enlargement"**

The project implemented by the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities - Skopje entitled "Alliances for EU: Overcoming Cultural Disputes, Opening Pathways of EU Enlargement" (Project ID: 22230012) has been dedicated to the promotion of improving intercultural relations between North Macedonia and its neighbors, particularly Bulgaria, as well as strongly advocating for the country's commitment to its EU accession. It has also sought to present the issue as not merely a local or a regional one, but also European, researching and raising awareness of EU's reinvigorated commitment to its enlargement and refashioned idea of European geopolitics (launched in 2019). On 23 November 2023 we organized a roundtable entitled "The Future of the European Union and its Enlargement: Does its Cohesion and Global Geopolitical Competitiveness Rely on Its Enlargement?" which took place the Slovak Academy of Arts and Sciences in Bratislava but also via zoom. Many important questions were open in addition to those we believed we closed by agreeing there is no alternative to the EU enlargement and North Macedonia's accession to the Union. The new questions that beg further discussion concern: the role of the Visegrad 4 group of countries in the enlargement process; if Europe has truly assumed a more geo/political instead of a technocratic approach to the enlargement process and how strongly is the Union truly committed to the process? Is the 2030 truly a deadline for the full integration of Western Balkans as the November 2022 resolution of the European Parliament states? Can Western Balkans opt out from the integration process and at what geopolitical (including economic) cost?

Panelists:

- Prof. Juraj Marušiak, Research fellow at the Institute of Political Science, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Ambassador David Geer, European Delegation in North Macedonia
- Prof. Spasimir Domaradzki, Ass. Professor at University of Warsaw, Institute of Central Europe, Visegrad Fellow 2020-2021 at Res Publica Nova
- Prof. Gábor Egry, Director at the Institute of Political History-Budapest
- Prof. Michal Vit, Assistant Professor at Metropolitan University Prague and a Senior fellow and Director of the Institute of Modern Development in Prague
- Prof. Dimitar Vatsov, President of the Human and Social Studies Foundation, Sofija
- Prof. Katerina Kolozova, Executive director of the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Skopje, Moderator

12.45- 13.15 **Discussion: Open Floor for All Attending Participants**

Please register for the event not later than 13 of January 2024 by following this [link](#) and filling out the registration form

The project is carried out with the support of the Visegrad Fund and co-financed by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea