

## Expert Workshop on Capability Development among the V4 Countries – ‘How to tailor needs to deeds?’ –

International experts – as well as Hungarians – have been paying ever growing attention to multinational forms of defense cooperation and capabilities development since the financial crisis hit the defense sector in Central Europe with an austerity not seen since the end of the Cold War. The need for innovative ideas that tailor needs to deeds and provide deliverable options is great. However, expert papers are mostly limited to comparing strategic cultures, security identities or national security documents, thus are unable to dig deep and formulate open-minded, ambitious – though realistic – proposals for capability development options.

After the defense dimension of the Visegrad Cooperation was relatively fruitless for two decades, 2011-2012 brought V4 countries to a new level: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia decided to establish a joint EU Battlegroup. Still there is a long way to go to make the V4 BG a reality, but there seems to be considerable space left for other capability development initiatives as well. Therefore, Hungarian experts, – representing the Center for Strategic and Defense Studies and the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, supported by the National University of Public Service and the Ministry of Defense – building on the momentum provided by the ongoing Hungarian V4 Presidency organize an expert workshop on August 27, 2013 in Budapest, Hungary.

The aim of the workshop is to openly discuss capability gaps and identify potential options and concrete proposals for multinational cooperation in this field. In order make preparation for the event more focused and easier, the topics below have been identified as the core topics of discussion.

**Date and venue of the workshop:** August 27, 8.00 – 13.00, National University of Public Service, Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training, 1101 Budapest, Hungária körút 9-11.

### Speakers:

**BALOGH, István**, Analyst, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, (HIIA), Budapest, Hungary

**CSIKI, Tamás**, Analyst, Center for Strategic and Defense Studies (CSDS), Budapest, Hungary

**JANKOWSKI, Dominik P.**, Analyst, National Security Bureau of the Republic of Poland (BBN), Warsaw, Poland

**JIREŠ, Jan**, Deputy Director, Defense Policy and Strategy Division, Ministry of Defense, Prague, Czech Republic

**MAJER, Marian**, Senior Research Fellow, Center for European and North Atlantic Affairs (CENAA), Bratislava, Slovakia

**NÉMETH, Bence**, Defense Policy Analyst, Ministry of Defense, Budapest, Hungary

**SUPLATA, Milan**, Director of Foreign Policy and Defence Research at Central European Policy Institute (CEPI), Bratislava, Slovakia

**TERLIKOWSKI, Marcin**, Analyst, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw, Poland

**TÓFALVI, Fruzsina**, Defense Policy Analyst, Ministry of Defense, Budapest, Hungary

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## Program

**8.00 – 8.15:** Arrival and registration

**8.15-10.30:** Session 1.

**1) *Fruzsina Tófalvi*: An Introduction to the V4 Battlegroup: the Know-how and Possible Outcomes.** (15 min + discussion)

Orientation questions:

- What are those lessons learnt that we can identify and rely on from previous experience in BG cooperation?
- What constitutes the V4 BG – which capabilities are already available and which ones are yet to be added?
- What could be the possible use of the V4 BG – limits of political will and military capabilities?
- How would it be possible to create and sustain a permanent V4 BG?

**2) *Representatives from each V4 country*: Kick-off remarks: V4 Defense Cooperation: What's Beyond EU BG?** (5-5 min + discussion)

- Which are those possible new fields of cooperation that respective Visegrad Countries identify in the field of defense?

**3) *All participants*: Discussion 1: How to Identify Capability Gaps and Tailor Needs to Deeds?** (30 min) **Moderator: Bence Németh**

- Who are the stakeholders in multinational capabilities development in respective countries (within the military, policy and expert communities)?
- What could be the most effective way to exchange ideas (formal / informal)? Can we identify a well-functioning methodology based on lessons learnt?
- What is the current level of political will in the respective countries to push further – and what are the obstacles of cooperation in practice?

**10.00-10.30:** Coffee break

**10.30-12.00:** Session 2.

**4) *All participants*: Discussion 2: V4 – The Delicate Balance of Equal Partners or 'Do We Need a Leader?'** (30 min) **Moderator: Bence Németh**

- What role do respective countries see for themselves among the V4 countries (e.g. 'initiator', 'leader', 'facilitator', 'experimenter', etc.)?

**5) *Representatives from each V4 country*: Concluding Remarks: Capability Development Plans of the V4.** (10-10 min + discussion)

- What are those concrete capabilities that are identified as lacking and necessary to be developed in the respective countries?
- What are those capabilities that could be developed in the V4 multinational framework?
- What could foster cooperation on the development of these capabilities?

**12.00-13.00:** Lunch

**13.00-14.00:** Optional open discussion

Analysts from the Defense Policy Department and Defense Planning Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Defense will also join the workshop to share their thoughts and comments.

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