

November 16, 2005

Dear friends,

you have received the first issue of newsletter published by the INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND (IVF).

The aim of our newsletters is to inform you about the IVF's new programmes and grant deadlines as well as about upcoming public events that the IVF supports. We will also update you on new developments in Visegrad Group cooperation.

We are addressing the newsletter to you as we felt that you may find its content useful for your personal or professional life. In case that you do not want to receive its issues, please reply to this e-mail by putting "NO" in subject of the message.

1- GRANTS PROVIDED

In October the IVF approved 23 small and 80 standard grants reaching total amount over 856.000 Euro

Among the supported project there are educational initiatives, music and movie festivals, expert conferences, scientific research and project in many other areas.

Next small grants deadline is December 1, 2005. More information available at <http://www.visegradfund.org/download/basicsmall.doc>

2- SCHOLARSHIPS

The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the governing body of the Fund, approved on its recent session the continuation of scholarship programmes for post-graduate students in academic year 2006/2007.

We would like to bring to your attention the Intra-Visegrad scholarship programme focused on students from Visegrad region wishing to study in other V4 country. Deadline for scholarship applications is January 31, 2006. More information at

<http://www.visegradfund.org/scholarships.stm?inc=scholarships>

The IVF also continues to provide scholarships to students from 5 non-EU neighbouring countries of V4, and newly also to students from Moldova. Also the special scholarship programme for Ukrainian post-graduate students will continue in 2006. Deadlines for applications is January 31, 2006.

3- STRATEGIC GRANTS 2006

The IVF Strategic Grants Programme with a budget 200.000 Euro continues in the year 2006. The project priorities are:

- Research and development projects enhancing the region's competitiveness
- Projects and initiatives articulating the V4 willingness to shape EU common foreign policy and neighbourhood policy in relation to Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, other CIS states and the Western Balkans

Deadline for strategic grants applications is January 31, 2006.

More information at <http://www.visegradfund.org/download/BasicStrategic.doc>

4 - UPCOMING EVENTS

We bring to your attention interesting public events supported by the IVF and taking place during the next few days:

- **October 20-21** "My City Prague" music festival, Ship A38, **Budapest**, www.a38.hu

Complete list of public events supported by the IVF can be found at <http://www.visegradfund.org/calendar.stm>

5 - V4 MEETINGS

Recently, several meetings of political representatives of Visegrad Group took place:

- V4 Prime Ministers met on August 30 with President of European Commission Jose Barroso, where they presented their joint position to the EU financial perspective for the year 2006.
- Presidents of V4 met in Visla on September 30, among the discussed topics were sharing the experience from the first year of membership in the EU, coordination of policies within the EU and neighbourhood policies (e.g. relations with Ukraine)
- Regional conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of V4+2 (Austria+Slovenia) about Western Balkans on October 11. The participants expressed their support for integration process of Western Balkans countries towards the EU

The International Visegrad Fund (IVF) based in Bratislava, was founded by the governments of V4 (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) in June 2000 with aim to promote cooperation among the Visegrad countries. The IVF runs various grants schemes through which it supports joint projects in the fields of cultural, educational, scientific cooperation, support of tourism, youth exchange and cross-border cooperation. The IVF also runs scholarship programmes for post-graduate students. Total budget of the Fund in 2005 is 3 million Euro.

Contact:
International Visegrad Fund
Drotarska cesta 46
811 01 Bratislava
Slovakia

tel 00 421 2 67 207 111
fax 00 421 2 59 354 180
visegradfund@visegradfund.org
www.visegradfund.org