

February 6, 2006

Dear friends,

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

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- 2005 BREAKDOWN

The IVF published statistics of its grant programmes in the year 2005. The IVF supported altogether **301 projects** in the fields of culture, education, science, youth exchange, cross border cooperation and promotion of tourism in 2005. Total amount allocated on the projects reached over 2,3 million Euro. The IVF also provided **80 scholarships** for total amount of half a million Euro.

The Fund's statistics can be found at <http://www.visegradfund.org/index.stm>

2- UPCOMING GRANT ROUNDS

Next grants deadlines are **March 1** (Small grants) and **March 15** (Standard grants). We look forward to receiving your applications. More information about IVF grant schemes can be found at <http://www.visegradfund.org/ifa.stm?inc=ifa1>

3- UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 8 "Bass Burial", folk bands festival, **Cieszyn (Jazz club Targowa)**,
February 14 - March 11 "Theatherkarussell", festival of Visegrad theaters in Austria, **Vienna**, www.theaterbrett.at
February 25 "Sperm festival", electronic music festival, **Prague**, www.sperm.cz

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

4 - V4 MEETINGS

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

- **V4 Ministers of Culture** met in Karlovy Vary on December 8-9, 2005. Among the topics agreed was co-ordination of use of EU Structural Funds in the area of culture.
- **Ministers of Defence of V4** met in Budapest on January 19. The meeting was also attended by Ukrainian Minister of Defence, Mr Hrycenko.
- **V4 Ministers of Employment** held a meeting in Budapest on January 27. The main topic of the meeting, which was attended also by Slovenian Minister, was free movement of workers in the EU.
- On February 2, **heads of Parliaments of Visegrad countries** signed a joint declaration in Prague calling for further liberalisation of labour market in the EU for workers from new EU member states. In the declaration they encouraged the V4 governments to negotiate towards the liberalisation and appealed to the governments of other EU member states to liberalise their labour markets by May 1, 2006.

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 2006 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