

Competition Regulations

for the best Bachelor's or Master's thesis on

The position of the Visegrad Group countries in the European Union

organized as part of the project

"Visegrad Group Cooperation within the EU: Challenging the Rise of Euroscepticism"

§1.

1. The Regulations define the rules for conducting a competition for the best Bachelor's or Master's thesis on the position of the Visegrad Group countries in the European Union, hereinafter referred to as the "Competition".
2. The competition is organized within the framework of the international project "Visegrad Group Cooperation within the EU: Challenging the Rise of Euroscepticism" financed by the International Visegrad Fund, hereinafter referred to as the "Project".
3. The Organizer of the Competition is the University of Economics in Katowice with its seat in Katowice, ul. 1 Maja 50, hereinafter referred to as the "Organizer". The Department of Political Economy at the College of Management of the University of Economics in Katowice is responsible for organizing the Competition.
4. The Competition is co-organized by partner universities in the Project:
 - a) Mendel University in Brno,
 - b) University of Economics in Bratislava,
 - c) National University of Public Service in Budapest.
5. Information about the Competition and these Regulations will be available on the project website <http://v4cooperation.eu> throughout its duration.
6. The Regulations will be published in Polish and English. In case of doubt, the Polish version is the decisive one.

§2.

1. The Bachelor's and Master's theses which are eligible for the Competition should fall within the theme of the Competition and be defended in the years 2020-2022, but not later than August 31, 2022.
2. The competition will be adjudicated no later than October 31, 2022.

3. The competition is open to Bachelor and Master theses defended at universities in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.
4. Only theses written in Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and English will be judged in the Competition.
5. Accepted works must be original and there may be no disciplinary proceedings against the student related to the suspicion of plagiarism.

§3.

1. The works submitted to the Competition will be assessed by the Competition Jury appointed by the Organizer, hereinafter referred to as the "Jury".
2. The Jury will consist of representatives of partner universities cooperating with each other within the Project.
3. The Competition Jury may exclude a participant from the Competition in the event of a serious breach of the provisions of these Regulations or breach of copyright.

§4.

1. Detailed evaluation criteria and the method of selecting the winner are presented in Appendix 1 to these Regulations.
2. The theses will be judged anonymously and the decision of the Jury is final.
3. A member of the Competition Jury who is the promoter of the submitted work may not participate in its evaluation.

§5.

1. Applications for the Competition are made via the Project's website.
2. Thesis is submitted to the Competition by its author.
3. Applications for participation in the Competition must include:
 - a) a filled application form including consent to the processing of personal data for the purposes of organizing and conducting the competition,
 - b) a copy of the thesis in electronic form (pdf file preferred),
 - c) a copy of the diploma confirming the bachelor's or master's degree on the basis of the defense of the submitted thesis or a document confirming the successful completion of the defense,
 - d) signed and scanned declaration of the thesis' supervisor.
4. The deadline for applications to the Competition is August 31, 2022.
5. Incomplete or late entries will not be considered.
6. The Organizer pledges not to use the submitted works for purposes other than those related to the Competition.

7. There are no restrictions as to the field of study or the field of science and scientific discipline that the participant of the Competition represents.

§6.

1. The Organizer plans to award the Competition winner with an appropriate diploma and participation in the awards gala in Brno during the Project conference in September or October 2022.
2. The Organizer will finance the trip and stay in Brno for the Competition Winner to collect the prize and will provide free participation in the scientific conference.
3. Other prizes, not financed by the Project grant, are permissible.
4. The winner may not demand the exchange of the prize for another one.
5. The winner may not transfer the rights to receive the award to third parties.
6. The Organizer and co-organizers are not responsible for any difficulties related to the inability to contact the winner.
7. The Organizer may decide to award distinctions to other participants of the Competition at the request of the Jury.
8. The Organizer reserves the right not to award the prize at the request of the Jury.
9. Any disputes are settled by the Organizer and the decision is not subject to appeal.

§7.

1. The results of the Competition will be announced on the Project website no later than October 31, 2022.
2. The winner will be individually informed about the outcome of the competition by e-mail.
3. The terms of presenting the award will be agreed individually with the Competition winner.

§8.

1. The organizer reserves the right to introduce changes to the announcement and Regulations of the Competition and to cancel the Competition in justified cases.

Appendix no. 1.

Evaluation criteria with the method of selecting the competition winner

1. Submitted works will be assessed according to the following criteria (weights in parentheses):
 - a. convergence with the theme of the competition (40%),
 - b. originality of the topic (20%),
 - c. research methodology (10%),
 - d. quality of the analysis (20%),
 - e. selection of sources and literature (10%).
2. The Jury will evaluate each submitted work on evaluation forms with 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) points attributed to all the criteria indicated in point 1. The final score will be calculated with the help of weighted average based on the weights indicated in point 1 and points attributed by the Jury.
3. The winner will be selected in two stages:
 - a. in the first stage, the members of the Jury from partner universities of the Project will select the best work defended in their countries based on the criteria indicated in point 1 and methodology described in point 2.
 - b. in the second stage, the Jury will select the best of the works indicated in point a. in a general discussion.
4. If an equal number of points is obtained in the first stage, the winner shall be determined by the points attributed successively to the criteria with the highest weight.
5. The Jury may ask the competition participants to prepare a summary of their work in English in order to resolve the second stage.