

# STRATEGY IN VISEGRAD GROUP'S COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

Research in a field of security is a multidisciplinary area. Security issues are extended into other disciplines and security is therefore an interdisciplinary problem. Furthermore the internal division of international security concept is an important issue that needs to be taken into account where research on strategy and state documents through which the state implements a safety issue is included. Ensuring the safety of the nation's population is the most important responsibility of the state, the key document where a fundamental and conceptual security policy of state is defined is a Security Strategy This document is based on a comprehensive notion of security, on the defined values that state wants to protect, on the identification of the vital and peripheral interests of a state., All V4 countries are trying to ensure the greatest possible sense of security for their citizens, they are addressing not only safety issues but in many cases the stability and economic success of the country. To ensure these objectives are all countries rely greatly on whether its membership in the European Union or the North Atlantic Alliance, which helped them acquire a sense of security guaranteed by the collective defense.

**KEYWORDS:** *Security, Security Strategy, V4, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Republic of Poland, Hungary.*

## INTRODUCTION

Research in the field of security is a multidisciplinary area where the primary used sources are the papers and books on International Relations, Political Science, Military Science and International Law, and the cat-

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egory of secondary sources is filled with papers on safety of institutions, the security environment, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, and papers dealing with the functioning of international organizations and institutions. Therefore security as a research area extends into other disciplines and represents an interdisciplinary issue. Moreover, equally important is to take into account the internal division of the concept of security. For the purposes of this work, we are only working with the basic internal structure such as - methodological issues, structural issues and pragmatic issues. The last mentioned encompasses the latest research dealing with the strategic documents, through which a state implements its security.

The history of the research in Security Studies was realized simultaneously with the creation of national states that have started to adopt their security strategies perceived as part of their survival and securing of status quo. In principle, however, military strategies represent one of the oldest types of written literature. Almost every ancient culture - Chinese, Hebrew, Greek and Roman - has written strategies that are considered as national heritage. The end of WWI and WWII had brought a breakthrough together with the increasing violence between players in the world political system. Today we can conclude that the growing tensions in the global political system (the issues of political establishment of states, the impact and influence of multinational organizations and corporations, intergovernmental institutions) and also increasing frictions within countries (ethnic groups, ethnic unrest) are associated with the changing concept of national security, therefore interests the state wishes to protect are listed in the security strategy document. The development in conflict areas of the world has resulted not only into increasing intensity of conflicts and their impacts, but also in unparalleled consequences for the civilian population that is exposed to this conflict. The role of state that is currently engaged in various tasks is determined in the security strategy of every particular state.

## **1. SECURITY IN V4**

Regarding the definition of security, there is no consensus or interpretation of this term; therefore we will be using the definition as stated in the explanatory dictionary, which we consider to be one of the most complex current works in Central and Eastern Europe. The Glossary of security defines security as “a state of a complex system where the influence of external and internal factors causes deterioration or disturbance of its proper functioning and progressive development” (Zaplatskii, 2009, p.

60). For the purposes of this work, we focus primarily on national security, that is directly related to our research question. National security could be defined as “a state that allows the operation, stability and development of the state, secures peace, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, internal order in the country, fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens and protects the lives and health of persons, property and environment (Zaplatinskii, 2009, p. 61).

The base of thorough analysis of the security environment of the state is the complexity of the factors affecting the security environment of state; therefore, if we carefully analyze all the possible challenges (problems), the risks and threats in the system, we must examine all factors that affect the environment as far as possible. State due to its protective function must consider security its top priority and goal of its activities. Security as such can only be relative, because achieving absolute security is not possible in the international political system, as state has no capacity to destroy or remove all remaining states and potential enemies.

As already mentioned the concept of security is currently undergoing a period of its expansion and deepening. In our view it is therefore appropriate to examine the position of the state from the security sector approach (deepening security concept to new sectors, both military and political, as in classical approaches) and also derived from the vertical division - individual, group, state, international organizations, international the system.

To ensure the safety of the nation's population is the most important responsibility of the state. No consensus exists among experts on the very definition of national security policy, however, they do agree that the “ nation-state remains the major creator of security and the pursuing of national interest is the main motive of its action” (Danics, 2007, p. 38). Thus we can say that security policy is “a summary of instruments and procedures for the achievement of core national interests and objectives in the defense, security and internal order of state and its citizens” (Glossary of crisis management, 2006, p. 7). To summarize, the security policy is a comprehensive set of activities of the state in the area of safety of the state as such and its citizens, the clarification is based on the definition of national interests, analysis of the security environment and classification of security threats and international obligations, currently thesectorial distribution of state interests is also respected feature of state's policy in security area.

## 2. SECURITY STRATEGY IN V4 REGION

Security strategy is a fundamental, conceptual document of the security policy of state. The strategy is based on a comprehensive perception of security, in principle it is based on the defined values that state wants to protect, on the identification of the vital, primary and peripheral interests of state. The thorough analysis of the security environment provides a summary of the risk and extent of these risks or threats. Moreover the careful analysis of the resources available to state (state's obligations, alliances, own assets, resources) provides opportunities through which potential risks / threats can be eliminated and suggests what tools to use for this aim. Strategy as such provides other related legislation of the state - law, doctrine, operations, and conceptual framework to be implemented in other policy areas: foreign, domestic, economic, social, information (Danics, 2007). "Strategy is the product of a highly creative mental activity with the application of scientific knowledge. It expresses the idea of the social system on its possible response to changes in the strategic environment, in order to maintain the optimum conditions for the fulfillment of its mission. "(Zidek, 2008)

Suitable structure of the security strategy:

- it sets out the basic assumptions of national security policy, defines security interests;
- it defines the security environment of the state in which it is located and what risks are arising from it;
- it determines what tools and resources is the state willing and able to use to ensure internal and external security.

This section aim is to highlight the main trends of developments in the field of security of neighboring countries to the Slovak Republic. We have chosen the region of Central Europe, more specifically the V4 countries with which the Slovak Republic share similar history of development, geographical location and regional political developments as a framework region for our analysis. We will address the following countries: Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. The analysis will focus on structural construction, assumptions and conditions influencing the policy-making, the definition of national interests of the concerned state, the analysis of the security environment and security threats and challenges arising from it, and finally what tools does the country use to enforce them. All countries are now members of the UN, OSCE, OECD and especially NATO

and the EU, the vast majority of them updated their security strategy after the entry into one of the organization or joined the ongoing debate about the necessity of the update. In this context, we analyze the following documents: Czech Republic: Czech Security Strategy of 2011, Poland: National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland in 2007 and Hungary: The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Hungary in 2004.

The Czech Republic adopted its latest, eighth security strategy in September 2011, which responds to the current issues in the security of the Czech Republic. First Security strategy was adopted in 1999, which was related to negotiations on accession to NATO, and was later amended in 2001. The penultimate Security strategy of 2003 has responded to the future accession of the CR into the European Union in 2004. Czech experts agree that this latest version is the best version. One of the reasons could be the fact that the security community of Bohemia had participated on the drafting process and was processed under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussions were held on academic as well as under the auspices of security analysts and experts dealing with this issue - that preparation was carried out in both, academic and professional spheres. It is necessary to emphasize, however that this strategy is one of the best-prepared strategies of the V4 countries; not only in terms of terminology, but also due to its ability to respond to current trends and requirements of the state in the security area. The strategy includes a description of new security problems that are not part of the strategies of other V4 countries, for example the reinforcement of the importance of protection of the population, raw materials and energy sufficiency, building of the critical infrastructure and efficient use of EU civil protection mechanism (Janošec, Brabcová, 2011). Moreover the process of development of this strategy was based on the evaluation of the older versions, specially its shortcomings therefore the document is not only a reformulation of multinational documents, but the authors created a text that reflects the reality of Czech Republic.

Within the last decade Poland had adopted two major strategies, first was adopted in 2003, as reaction to Poland's accession to NATO and to the terrorist attacks that took place in the U.S. reacted to the changed security environment after the entry into the organization of collective security and changes in the world's security environment. The second strategy of the 2007, the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, responded to Poland's accession to the European Union, the conflicts that

took place during this period, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, and other international crises. National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland, which correlates with the strategic concept of NATO and the European Security Strategy, that can be considered a positive direction - especially in taking responsibility as a member of these organizations. However the greatest negative of both documents is that the content provides too little space for addressing the issues of national - homeland security. The entire document addresses the complex challenges and external threats but internal analysis is essentially avoided. Strategy of 2007 is one of the latest within the V4 region, therefore it reflects the new threats and challenges that many countries have incorporated.

Within the recent period Hungary has adopted two security strategies, the first of 2002 responded to the country's entry in NATO in 1999 and the second National Security Strategy of the Republic of Hungary adopted in March 2004, and this has reflected the country's accession to the European Union. Changes the documents addressed were related to the incorporation of issues arising from membership in these organizations. When assessing the security environment the strategy divides the global, regional and internal level, and excludes threats and challenges for Hungary. Within the regional security environment, Hungary has allocated four main geographical areas, Central Europe, Southeast Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Mediterranean and the Middle East, where potential threat may arise from they may come from potential sources of threat. Regional threats and challenges are thus divided according to region.

Two security strategies have been adopted by Slovak Republic within last decade, in 2001 and 2005. The analysis of the security environment is unsatisfactory in both documents where the internal aspects are omitted. The paragraphs are filled with a formal declaration of Slovakia's position towards external actors. The document does not address the real status of the security environment in which the Slovak Republic finds itself in 2005. The benefit is a more detailed elaboration of the definitions of challenges and threats to the state. Based on our analyses we conclude with the definition of main problem that is the non-existence of relatively independent analytical and research center that would cover the analysis of security area and environment and that would acquire cross-ministerial level.

## CONCLUSION

All V4 countries seek to ensure the greatest possible sense of security for their citizens, which they associate not only with security issues but in many cases, with the economic stability and economic development of countries. To ensure these objectives are all countries rely greatly on whether its membership in the European Union or in the North Atlantic Alliance, that offers them a sense of security guaranteed by the collective defense. Not all the countries however explicitly determine in their strategies resources for the achievement of security guarantees (while we do not count phrases on declaration of responsibility and collective defense), experience has shown that countries can contribute to the various tasks resulting from their membership, although some of them only with great effort. All countries have changed their strategy after the entrance to one of the organization and responded to the changed security environment in which they find themselves. When comparing particular security threats at the global level, we find their complete similarity, with the European Security Strategy and the Strategic Concept of NATO. Substantial differences can be found especially in regional and internal security environment, each country has its own specifics, she deemed necessary to incorporate into its strategy. The stability in the Balkans is dealt mainly in the Hungarian strategy, as these countries are immediate neighbors, and the others are geographically remote. Specific features of all these strategies represent two following aspects of security: energy security and corruption. The energy self-sufficiency is related to the dependency of these countries on former Soviet Union with a long-lasting linkage. Corruption is a particularly interesting phenomenon of post-Soviet countries. Among the things that result from the analysis of security strategies such as the V4 concerns about the collapse of the EU integration has been incorporated into strategies of Poland or the Czech Republic, which had already in 2003 dealt with the possible involvement in the project of missile defense. Phenomenon that has troubled most Czech Republic and Slovakia mostly in recent years - extremism - is precisely solved in Hungarian strategy only. The analysis of security interests of V4 countries emphasized the great similarity in the documents of all four countries due to the fact that all states derive their interests from their national constitutions that are taken as main source for defining their national as well as security interests. After a detailed analysis of the security systems, we conclude that most of the concerned countries are having problems with constructing an effectively operational

security system.

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