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**Internal Market among V4 Countries:
Energizing stakeholders' activity to
press for its smoother functioning**

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Smooth functioning of the Internal Market between V4 countries.

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Opening paper to project: Smooth functioning of the Internal Market between V4 countries, supported by the International Visegrad Fund.

- 1) provides an initial analysis of the role of the internal market for the economies of V4 countries; and
- 2) examines the role of media, public administrations, chambers of commerce, consumer organizations in safeguarding a functioning internal market.



V4 and internal market

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- The Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia are **extremely open economies**. Only Poland is a less open economy with a lower level of engagement in foreign trade.
- All V4 countries are also **important export trading partners to each other** (have at least one of the other V4 countries among their three most important export trading partners).
- All V4 countries have export **highly dependent on Germany**.



V4 and internal market

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- Agricultural trade is only a supplementary segment of mutual trade **between V4 countries - accounts for less than 10% of total trade.**
- Only **Poland** (and to a lesser extent **Hungary** in certain years) have comparative advantages in agricultural trade in relation to global markets (Smutka 2014).
- The current uneven distribution of agricultural trade competitiveness among V4 countries could be an important reason for the lingering *tension*.
- **Considering the weight of agricultural trade, this tension should not be allowed to trouble the otherwise good mutual trade relations.**



Conclusion and implications

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- Like Benelux in the 1950s, the V4 countries have strong motivation to be proponents of a fully functioning internal market and should be channelling particular effort in this direction.
- The **smooth functioning of EU internal market and further intensification of internal market integration** (for instance in the free movement of services) **are in the natural and vital interest of the V4 countries.**



References

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- For references of this presentation, please, see the reference list in the research paper, available at:

http://www.amo.cz/editor/image/produkty1_soubory/amocz_rp_2015_01.pdf.



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Thank you for your attention.