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V4 and the Internal Market: the Benulux of the 21th century?

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Smooth functioning of the Internal Market between V4 countries.

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Main thesis: „The proper functioning of the EU internal market is a key to

- i) economic convergence of the V4 countries to the EU GDP average;
- ii) bottom-up cooperation among V4 countries.“

Main questions:

- 1) How the V4 countries can cooperate in improving their position on the EU internal market and the internal market itself (***outward perspective***)? and
- 2) How the internal market functioning among the V4 countries can be improved (***inward perspective***)?



Smooth project

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a consortium of four V4 think-tanks, supported by the International Visegrad Fund.



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Four workshops with four different groups of stakeholders with impact over functioning of the internal market among V4 countries



Target Group	The Main Reasons for Selection
<p>National public authorities responsible for internal market agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to provide remedy in cases of breaches of internal market regulations (e.g. SOLVIT). ▪ Their smooth cooperation within the region (e.g. swift inspection of the producer) can prevent affairs associated with failed quality of products (e.g. RAPEX, RASFF). ▪ Knowledge of cross-border features of private transactions triggering activity of public law (e.g. IMI System).
<p>Consumer protection groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representation of consumers' interests in international framework organizations with possibility of identifying specific consumer interests of the V4 region. ▪ Experience with provision of advisory services to consumers regarding issues with cross-border features.
<p>Chambers of commerce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to calm down cross-border animosities of businesses from different countries within the region, with particular stress on preventing the spiral of campaigns promoting national production against foreign production. ▪ Common representation of business interests of the V4 region at the EU level and in markets outside the EU.
<p>Economic journalists who report on the internal market agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responsibility for providing balanced information about the internal market agenda to the public. ▪ Ability to inform about quality failures of products from different countries which would be proportional to the severity of the failure in question.



Way forward

- 6 Possible common strategies of the V4 countries (three categories):
 - a) joining forces in **influencing single market integration** of the EU at both governmental and sub-governmental levels;
 - b) proactive pursuing of **practical steps** that would increase smooth functioning of the internal market among the V4 countries; and
 - c) **consider deeper market integration** among the V4 countries.



V4: Deeper market integration?

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Could V4 integrate where progress is blocked at the EU level?

- a) free movement of services based on the **country of origin principle**;
- b) The **Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB)**;
- c) The **Mini One Stop Shop (MOSS)** – VAT for online shopping applied for all goods (not just in electronic form);
- d) provide an even playing field for **P2P and sharing economy platforms** by coordinated regulatory steps.



References

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

<http://www.amo.cz/smooth-functioning-of-the-internal-market-between-v4-countries/>.



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Thank you for your attention.