



Chapter XII

POLAND IN INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES

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Get to know about Poland – Training Materials for Trainers and Teachers

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I. WORKSHOP SCENARIO



AIMS

- To acquaint participants with the history and activity of some selected international structures to which Poland belongs.
- To rouse the participants' interest in Poland's road towards its membership in international organisations, along with the challenges faced and achievements attained.
- To develop skills related to public speaking: concise argumentation, discussion as well as communication and receiving positive feedback.



DURATION: 180 minutes.



PARTICIPANTS: 20 people.



TEACHING METHODS

- Demonstration methods – film.
- Practical methods – guiding text method.
- Problem-focused methods – didactic discussion.
- Computer Assisted Learning – with the use of a computer.



TEACHING MATERIALS, AIDS AND WORK

- Computer and projector to display video.
- Internet connection and a computer to search for information on organisations.
- A table where the speakers will sit and chairs for the audience.
- At each of the positions: 1 card containing the name of the organisation and its symbol, envelopes containing educational texts and the role characteristics.
- A print-out of the speakers' evaluation form for each participant.
- A stopwatch which will buzz when the allotted time expires.
- For variety, printed photographs, drawings, symbols and maps concerning a given international structure may be placed at the positions.

I. WORKSHOP SCENARIO

Plan of the workshop



1. INTRODUCTION

The participants are informed that the five main – but not the only international structures – to which Poland belongs include the UN, NATO, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Visegrad Group and that they will be discussed during the workshop. The participants are asked to which international structures the states represented by them belong and what they know about their country's integration processes. The educational film *Get to know about Poland: Poland in international structures (Auxiliary material no. 1)* is shown. The movie is discussed as a group: the information contained therein as well as the visual material.

At the end, the participants are informed that Poland also belongs to many other international organisations, such as: the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Community of Democracies, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Organisation of La Francophonie (MOF), Central European Initiative (CEI), Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF), Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.



2. EXPLAINING AND CONDUCTING AN EXERCISE

Explain to the participants that they will take part in a discussion on the international structures to which Poland belongs. They will be divided into 5 groups of 4 people. Each group will represent and present one of the organisations (*Auxiliary material no. 2*). Roles will be assigned to members of a given group (*Auxiliary material no. 3*) and accordingly they will talk about their institution. Additionally, they will receive educational texts which may form the basis for their speeches (*Educational material no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5*). They may use the Internet as well to find additional information on sites recommended by the trainer.

5 positions with chairs are prepared and marked with the symbols of the international organisations to be discussed (*Auxiliary material no. 6*). The participants randomly select pieces of paper on which the symbols are printed, after which they sit in their designated places. They will work in these groups during the workshop. Each group receives educational texts divided into roles (*Educational material no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5*). The participants distribute, as they wish, the roles between themselves, and then they have 30 minutes to read the text, obtain additional information from the Internet and prepare their speeches.

Afterwards, 4 rounds of discussion are held, during which – in the appropriate order – the historians, informants, analysts and lobbyists of a given international structure present and talk about the material (*Auxiliary material no. 4*). Each person will have 2 minutes to discuss their organisation in accordance with their assigned role (providing as much factual information as possible) and 1 minute to propose questions for discussion, to refer to or comment on each others' speeches. Meanwhile, other workshop participants will play the role of presidents from other planets who must decide which organisation to join. The evaluation form, on which they will assess the speakers on a scale from 0 to 3 points, will facilitate their choice (*Auxiliary material no. 5*). The substantive content and presentation method are both taken into account during the evaluation.

It is essential to ensure that the instructions have been understood and that each person within their group works on the right task. A 5 and then 10 minute warning should be given to each group before the time-limit for completing the task is exhausted. While approaching the groups, help in performing the task should be offered where necessary.

I. WORKSHOP SCENARIO



3. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The participants are invited to prepare in their groups a debate focusing on how the substantive content was delivered, how well it was presented and the involvement of the participants. It is essential that the feedback is positive and constructive. Meanwhile, the votes cast during the debate are counted and the results announced. The groups are asked how much they enjoyed the work, what posed the greatest difficulty for them, and what information gleaned during the debate was the most interesting for them.

Finally, the participants are invited to evaluate how these organisations function in the contemporary world in the following aspects: war and peace, economy, youth mobility, finance, society, politics and politicians as well as regional development.



4. THE TIME FRAME OF THE WORKSHOP

Introduction to the topic and the presentation of film: 30 minutes.

Explaining the exercise and dividing into groups: 5 minutes.

Preparation of the speeches: 35 minutes.

Conducting the exercise: 70 minutes, including:

- Time for one round of a debate: 3 minutes x 5 people = 15 minutes.
- Time for one speech per person: 2 minutes for substantive issues + 1 minute to comment on each others' speeches.

Time for filling in the evaluation form concerning the speeches of other participants: 4 rounds x 2,5 minutes.

Discussing the exercise and summarising the workshop: 40 minutes.

2. AUXILIARY MATERIALS

Auxiliary material no.1 Educational films



The films are available on You Tube at:

- *Get to know about Poland: Poland: Poland in international structures*
(EN): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U7t4WiW4xg>
(RU): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_83I8EwNug

Auxiliary material no. 2 Names of organisations

UN

- The United Nations (UN)

COE

- The Council of Europe (COE)

NATO

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

EU

- The European Union (EU)

V4

- The Visegrad Group (V4)

Auxiliary material no. 3 The roles



- Historians – provide general information on a given organisation, its origin, aims and tasks as well as member states.



- Informants – discuss the Polish road towards joining a given international structure and its importance.



- Analysts – discuss the role of Poland in a given organisation and analyse the developmental opportunities generated thanks to membership.



- Lobbyists – emphasise the positive aspects of the membership of a given organisation and convince the audience to join.

2. AUXILIARY MATERIALS

Auxiliary material no. 4 The order of speeches during the debate

- Round 1 – Historians: EU -> COE -> UN -> NATO -> V4
- Round 2 – Informants: UN -> V4 -> NATO -> COE -> EU
- Round 3 – Analysts: NATO -> UN -> EU -> V4 -> COE
- Round 4 – Lobbyists: V4 -> NATO -> COE -> EU -> UN

Auxiliary material no. 5 Evaluation form



Historians – Grade scale: 0-1-2-3

	Substantive content	Method of presentation
EU		
COE		
UN		
NATO		
V4		



Informants – Grade scale: 0-1-2-3

	Substantive content	Method of presentation
UN		
V4		
NATO		
COE		
EU		

2. AUXILIARY MATERIALS



Analysts – Grade scale: 0-1-2-3

	Substantive content	Method of presentation
NATO		
UN		
EU		
V4		
COE		



Lobbyists – Grade scale: 0-1-2-3

	Substantive content	Method of presentation
V4		
NATO		
COE		
EU		
UN		

Auxiliary material no. 5 Symbols of international organisations



The European Union

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



The United Nations



The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation



3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational material no.1

**The European Union (EU)****Historians**

In 1951, under the Treaty of Paris inspired by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Robert Schuman, the European Coal and Steel Community was founded, whose aim was to create a common pool of coal and steel production involving Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, that is the Benelux countries along with France, Italy and West Germany. This was the nucleus of economic and political cooperation in Western Europe. The area of cooperation was soon expanded to include energy, raw materials, transportation and agriculture. The 1957 treaty of Rome led to the foundation of the European Economic Community (EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community. Over time, the EEC expanded to include new members – Great Britain, Denmark and Ireland (1973), Greece (1981), Spain and Portugal (1986). Within the EEC area, customs barriers were removed, common legal and technical standards and the common agricultural policy were introduced. Under the Maastricht Treaty of 1 November 1993, the EEC was transformed into the European Union. In 1995, Austria, Sweden and Finland joined. On 1 May 2004, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus joined the EU. In 2007 Bulgaria and Romania, and in 2013 Croatia followed suit. Currently, the EU has 28 Member States. The main EU institutions are: the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, European Parliament, Court of Justice and the European Council.

**Informants**

Poland's aim since 1989 has been integration with the Western economic and political system. The European Union did not close the door on countries from Eastern Europe, but it expected the fulfilment of certain conditions on the road to integration. In 1994, Poland began to strive for EU membership. Since 1998, there were negotiations between the Polish negotiation team and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, aimed at developing an Accession Treaty acceptable for both sides. In 2003 the Council of European Union and the European Parliament approved the Accession Treaty. Finally, on 1 May 2004 Poland was admitted to the European Union. On this day other countries from Southern, Central and Eastern Europe were also admitted to the EU. This was the biggest enlargement in the history of the European Union. The adaptation process undertaken by legal and state institutions for integration with the European Union was long, arduous and involved many sacrifices. Polish accession to European Union involved changes in politics, the political system and economics.

**Analysts**

After accession to the European Union, Poland received a large amount of subsidies for agriculture, infrastructure and social programmes. These means were necessary to overcome the developmental gap in comparison with the countries of Western Europe. At the same time, thanks to these funds, the domestic economy was revived, investments increased and unemployment started to gradually decline. Poland brought a lot of energy and potential to the EU common market as the sixth largest country in the European Union. High quality Polish products started to appear on Western markets. At first these were basic products such as food, although now more and more Polish specialty and technological products enjoy a solid reputation. The Polish economy has flourished within the Union, especially during the time of the economic crisis of 2008. In political and diplomatic terms, Poland has become one of the most important players in the EU. In fact, the former Polish prime minister, Donald Tusk, has been appointed Chairman of the European Council – one of the two most important positions in the EU.

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



Lobbyists

A state joining the European Union can count on an injection of subsidies that will improve the functioning of the country, both at an infrastructure level and in terms of the competence of managerial staff and officials. The Union actively supports the development of a civil society; the strengthening of the position of non-governmental organisations also contributes to boosting innovation and promoting tolerance and ecology. The EU has the world's largest common market, where trade, manufacture and exchange of services are conducted without customs restrictions, with an integrated legal system and consumer protection. The open labour market gives not only the possibility to travel legally in search of better-paid work, but also enables the development of professional, linguistic, and intercultural skills.

Development of texts: Agnieszka Słomian, Tomasz Mazurek



Photo: European Union flags / Source: Fotolia

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational material no. 2

**The Council of Europe (COE)****Historians**

After the Second World War, many politicians expressed the view that a forum of political cooperation in Europe had to be created in order to prevent future conflict on the continent. Winston Churchill, among others, was in favour of this view. A great advocate of integration was the Polish politician Joseph Retinger, who is still referred to as the father of Polish European integration. On his initiative, in 1946 a congress was held in the Hague, where the representatives of pro-European organisations adopted a declaration in favour of greater political integration in Europe. The governments of Western European countries started multilateral consultations, and finally the Council of Europe was established on 5 May 1949 with the signing of the Treaty of London by 10 countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain and Italy). The aim of the Council of Europe was to deepen the unity between its members, the protection of human rights, minority rights and European cultural heritage, promoting democracy and tolerance. Currently, the Council of Europe has 47 countries, and its headquarters is in Strasbourg. The only European country which is not a member of the organisation is Belarus. The most important bodies of the Council of Europe include: the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the Secretary General and the Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Informants**

Only after the changes in 1989 could Poland fulfil all the standards of democracy, human rights and the rule of law that were necessary to join the Council of Europe, which positively welcomed the political transformation in 1989 and opened up to the states of Central and Eastern Europe. In 1988, Pope John Paul II visited the Council of Europe. Although the Poles were the first in the Eastern Bloc to work out a compromise with the communist authorities and carry out a peaceful transition, the first elections to admit a democratic opposition were only partially free. Therefore, Poland could only join the Council in autumn 1991 when completely free elections to the Sejm were held. The formal adoption of Poland to the Council of Europe took place on 26 November 1991. Confirmation of this decision was reflected in the resolutions of the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland.

**Analysts**

Since their accession to the Council of Europe, Poland has been actively involved in the activities of the Council, promoting and supporting its objectives. For Poland, the most important element of the state system which sets a good example for other countries is respect for the rule of law, the democratic system and human rights. From November 2004 until May 2005 Poland chaired the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which ended during the Third Summit of the Council of Europe in Warsaw. Poland is a party to the *Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties* and more than 85 other Council of Europe Conventions. Since 2011, the Office of the Council of Europe has been located in Warsaw, within the OSCE and the Community of Democracies. The Council of Europe is often confused with the European Council and the Council of the European Union, which are institutions of the European Union. The Council of Europe is an organisation which geographically covers the whole of Europe, including countries outside the European Union.

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



Lobbyists

The Council of Europe promotes democracy and the rule of law and supports its members in achieving the highest democratic standards. Joining the Council of Europe opens the door to the European family of democratic nations, increases political and diplomatic opportunities, allows the chance to present their ideas and opinions as well as problems in a pan-European forum. In addition to European countries that are members of the Council of Europe, Israel, Japan, Canada, Mexico and the United States as well as the Holy See – the Vatican – have observer status.

Development of texts: Agnieszka Słomian, Tomasz Mazurek



Photo: The Palace of Europe in Strasbourg / Source: Wikimedia commons

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational material no. 3

**The United Nations (UN)****Historians**

The United Nations was founded in 1945, after the end of World War II. During a conference in San Francisco on 25 June 1945, fifty countries signed the founding act – the United Nations Charter. Officially, the UN started functioning on 24 October, that is from the moment when the charter of the conference was ratified by the USA, the USSR, China, France and the United Kingdom. Since 1948, the 24th of October is celebrated as United Nations Day. The UN has its headquarters in New York, but the organisation also has branches in Geneva, the Hague, Nairobi and Vienna. The UN's goals mainly include: the maintenance of international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; agreeing on the actions of nations in the name of common goals. The UN structure includes: the General Assembly – made up of representatives of all member states; the Security Council – consisting of 5 permanent members (Russia, China, USA, UK, France) and 10 non-permanent members elected for two years; the Economic and Social Council; the Trusteeship Council overseeing trust territories until they become independent; the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. Currently, 193 countries belong to the UN.

**Informants**

Poland is a country which, during World War II, fought on the side of the anti-Hitler coalition and suffered huge losses. Despite this, during the UN founding conference in 1945, the Polish delegation was absent as Western politicians feared to invite to the conference the representatives of the Polish Government in London, which was not recognised by the Soviet Union. As a result, Poland was included in the group of founding members of the United Nations, but the United Nations Charter was signed and ratified only in October 1945 by the new Polish government accepted by the Soviet Union. Until the end of the 1980s Polish foreign policy depended on the influence of the USSR, as was reflected in their activities and voting during the UN forum. After 1989, Poland began to conduct an independent policy within the UN, putting forth a series of legal and social initiatives, strengthening the importance of the region of Central Europe and postulating a reform of the Security Council. Currently, Poland has a permanent representation in the UN headquarters in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, Paris and Rome.

**Analysts**

From the very beginning, Poland has been active in the UN forum. During the 1950s and 60s, Poland initiated attempts to limit the arms race in Central Europe. This was the aim of the "Rapacki Plan", established in the UN in 1957, which proposed the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe. The Gomułka Plan, submitted in 1964, postulated a freezing of the Conventional Armed Forces in this part of Europe. In 1959, Poland submitted a proposal entitled *The Declaration of the Rights of Child*, as well as *The Convention on the Rights of the Child* in 1990. In 1968, on the Polish initiative the *Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity* and in 1996 the *Convention against Transnational Organised Crime* were adopted. Poland also took part in UN peacekeeping military missions. Its soldiers and observers were present, among others, during conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Syria, Haiti, the Sinai Peninsula, or in the former Yugoslavia. In 1991, Polish soldiers took part in the Desert Storm Operation against Iraq under the lead of the UN. Currently Poland is trying to receive a rotation place in the UN Security Council. Polish politicians and diplomats have, for quite some time, emphasised the need to reform the Security Council and its functioning.

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



Lobbyists

The United Nations was created in response to the nightmare of World War II and for 70 years has been involved in peacekeeping and stability missions to help avoid global conflicts. The balance system between large and small states which developed in the UN protects the weaker entities and solves disputes through diplomatic means. The UN checks if Human Rights and the Rights of Children and Women are being observed and monitors the health of human populations and environmental protection. As a member of the UN one can be sure that in case of, for example, serious natural disaster, specialised UN agencies will come to the rescue of those in need.

Development of texts: Agnieszka Słomian, Tomasz Mazurek



Photo: United Nations General Assembly hall in New York City / Source: Wikimedia commons

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational material no. 4

**The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)****Historians**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was founded in 1949 as an alliance of the democratic states of Western Europe, Canada and the USA. NATO was to counterbalance the Soviet Union and its dependent socialist countries of Eastern Europe. The legal basis for NATO is the North Atlantic Treaty consisting of 14 articles. Article no. 5 is of great importance as it states that any attack on one or several members of the alliance is treated as an attack on the entire NATO. The main goal of the Alliance is to ensure, by political and military means, the liberty and security of all Member States. NATO has a complex structure and its main elements include: the North Atlantic Council, the Defence Planning Committee, the Nuclear Planning Group, the Military Committee, Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee. In 1949, NATO included 10 countries: USA, Canada, Iceland, Norway, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Portugal, Italy. Currently, NATO includes 28 states and is the largest military alliance in the world.

**Informants**

It took Poland 10 years to join NATO as a result of hard work, reforms and the will of the majority of the society. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the Polish authorities took the strategic and geopolitical decision to join the North Atlantic Alliance – this was supported by all parties present on the political scene. In 1994, Poland was invited by NATO to join the “Partnership for Peace” programme. As a result, the Polish army took note of the procedures and functioning of NATO forces via joint exercises. In 1996, US President Bill Clinton announced that new members could join NATO at the 50th anniversary of the Alliance. A year later, at the NATO summit in Madrid, the decision to start accession talks with Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic was taken. On 17 February 1999, the Polish parliament ratified the North Atlantic Treaty and on the 12 March 1999 Poland, along with the Czech Republic and Hungary, officially became a member of NATO. Currently, Polish military units - in particular, GROM and Formosa - are well-known and appreciated within NATO.

**Analysts**

Following the terrorist attacks in the USA on 11 September 2001, for the first time in NATO's history a reference to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty was made. This sparked military operations in Afghanistan. Polish involvement in Afghanistan was extensive and long-lasting; the Polish contingent in 2012 amounted to 2,500 troops. Shortly afterwards, in 2003, Poland took part in the Iraqi Freedom Operation, which overthrew the dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein. Within the framework of the stabilisation mission, a contingent of more than 2,000 Polish soldiers was stationed there. As part of their NATO duties, Poland participates in operations such as: Baltic Air Policing – a mission to protect the airspace of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia; Kosovo Force – keeping peace in Kosovo and ensuring conditions for the safe return of refugees; Ocean Shield – an anti-piracy operation off the Somali coast. Because of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict over the last two years Poland has been actively working to strengthen NATO's eastern border. This has involved an increase in defence expenditure and the purchase of modern weaponry. The Polish Army currently has 48 F-16 fighter aircrafts at its disposal along with modern weaponry and more than 800 tanks, including 250 modern Leopard 2 tanks.

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



Lobbyists

The North Atlantic Alliance is the largest military organisation in the world. The values on which NATO is based are the foundation of Western civilisation. Respect for democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the resolution of disputes through peaceful means is the duty of each member of the Alliance. Accession to NATO guarantee military security, supports the development of democratic institutions and a civil society. Joint manoeuvres, exercises and military missions affect the professionalisation of the army and boost its level of integration into the NATO system. Alliance members have access to modern technologies, the opportunity to purchase modern military equipment at preferential prices and expand the defence industry based on the purchased technology. Research teams are involved in advanced research projects carried out by the multinational teams of the Member States.

Development of texts: Agnieszka Słomian, Tomasz Mazurek



Photo: NATO flag raising at a military exercise at Drawsko Pomorskie in Poland / Source: Wikimedia commons

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational material no. 5

The Visegrad Group (V4)



Historians

The Visegrad Group is an informal association of four Central European countries – Poland, Czech, Slovakia and Hungary. The Group's objective is to develop cooperation among members at an economic, political and cultural level. The group was formed in February 1991 when Polish President (Lech Wałęsa), President of Czechoslovakia (Václav Havel) and Prime Minister of Hungary (József Antall) met in Visegrad, a town in Hungary. Before the break-up of Czechoslovakia into two independent states the name Visegrad Triangle was used. In 1992, the Central European Free Trade Agreement was concluded within the group between Poland and the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. Currently, the Visegrad Group is referred to by its abbreviation – V4. The only institution belonging to the group is the International Visegrad Fund which finances cultural and educational projects. Presidents of the member states meet once a year to discuss current issues in the region and propose new initiatives. V4 Presidency is rotary, annual and lasts from the 1st of July to the 30th of June the following year.



Informants

Visegrad, a town in Hungary, is a symbolic place. Over the centuries, the leaders of countries in this region have met there regularly. One of the most important were the meetings of the kings of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary in Visegrad in 1335 and 1338. In the early 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the then Polish authorities' aim was a renewal of economic relations, which had collapsed after 1989, as well as closer cooperation in terms of security, as at that time none of the Visegrad Group countries belonged to any military alliance. After 1992, the Visegrad cooperation was frozen for several years. This was due to the consequences of the disintegration of Czechoslovakia into two independent states and the priority of integration with the European Union. It was not until 15 May 1999, during a meeting in Bratislava, that a symbolic reactivation of the Visegrad Group took place. Since then, cooperation within the V4 has become more intense.



Analysts

The purpose of creating the group was to intensify cooperation in terms of building democratic state structures and a free market economy, and in the longer run, to integrate with the European Union. After the reactivation of V4 in 1999 relations have become much more intense. The International Visegrad Fund was established with its headquarters in Bratislava and this is the main reason why V4 has become a platform where not only politicians meet, but also government institutions, non-governmental organisations and the general public. The main tasks of the Fund include the construction of a common identity of the V4 nations, developing social contacts and promoting cultural, scientific, educational, tourist and artistic cooperation. The Fund offers grant programs and scholarships. V4 is also open to cooperation with countries of the Eastern Partnership.

3. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



Lobbyists

The Visegrad Group may seem to be an inconspicuous initiative when compared with other large institutions such as the EU or NATO. Yet in the early 90s it gave Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia (later the Czech Republic and Slovakia) an increased sense of security, mutual support and acknowledgment of the common objectives and priorities in their pursuit of integration with NATO and the EU. Currently, when all V4 countries are already in both institutions, the Visegrad Group has new tasks on its agenda. Integration at the level of local governments, non-governmental organisation, education, culture, youth exchanges and tourism is of high importance. V4 is an informal group, not bound by agreements or treaties with the EU or NATO, so cooperation with the Group is relatively simplified.

Development of texts: Agnieszka Słomian, Tomasz Mazurek



Photo: The first meeting of the Visegrád Group in February 1991: József Antall, Václav Havel and Lech Wałęsa / Péter Antall / Source: Wikimedia commons

4. THE PROPOSED LITERATURE AND FILMS

Websites:

- Official EU website: <http://europa.eu/>
- Official COE website: <http://www.coe.int>
- Official NATO website: <http://www.nato.int/>
- Official UN website: <http://www.un.org/>
- Official V4 website: <http://www.visegradgroup.eu/>

Books:

- Bukalska Patrycja, Bocian Mariusz, *New Visegrad Group in the new European Union – possibilities and opportunities for development*, Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich, 2003.
- Kaminska Joanna, *Poland and EU Enlargement: Foreign Policy in Transformation*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.
- Kicker Renate, *The Council of Europe: Pioneer and Guarantor for Human Rights and Democracy*, Council of Europe, 2010.
- Markowski Jerzy, Paszkowski Krzysztof, *Poland in the peacekeeping operations: the United Nations peacekeeping operations*, Press and Information Bureau of the Ministry of National Defence, 1995.
- Simon Jeffrey, *Poland and NATO: a study in civil-military relations*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.
- Szczerbiak Aleks, *Poland Within the European Union: New Awkward Partner Or New Heart of Europe?*, Routledge, 2012.
- Trzeciak Sergiusz, *Poland's EU Accession*, Routledge, 2011.
- Wassenberg Birte, *History of the Council of Europe*, Council of Europe, 2013.
- Zhuplev Anatoly, *Geo-Regional Competitiveness in Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic Countries, and Russia*, IGI Global, 2014.

Films:

- *Get to know about Poland: Poland in international structures:*
(EN): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U7t4WiW4xg>
(RU): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_83l8EwNug
- *10 years of Poland in the EU* (PL, EN):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jd1AZE_6JE&list=PLbacxjg4nkHfff2pnRtVvPmP6L3b1QMzi&index=9
- *15 years of Poland in NATO* (PL): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LX1f_45lcA
- Council of Europe YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CouncilofEurope>
- North Atlantic Treaty Organisation YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/NATOCOMMUNITY>
- European Parliament YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EuropeanParliament>
- European Commission YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/eutube>
- United Nations YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/unitednations>
- The Visegrad Group YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjmlvvOFAXHdTJaLTD4-HTA>