

Andrzej Sadecki

### **Research proposal**

During my fellowship at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, I would like to focus on two issues. First topic concerns my ongoing research on Hungary's relations with its neighbours and the policy of Budapest towards Hungarian minorities living in the region. The cabinet led by Viktor Orbán engages more actively than its predecessor in the policy towards Hungarian minorities abroad (eg. facilitating distribution of citizenship and granting voting rights to non-residents in Hungary). Simultaneously, the government puts a strong emphasis on the regional cooperation. It is a particularly topical issue this year, since Hungarian diplomacy presides over two regional organizations and it proclaimed that 2013 is the Central European Year in Hungary. Hence, my research focuses on the interplay of these two developments. I examine the relations between Hungary and its neighbours, identify the main areas of cooperation and contention among them, as well as analyze the current dynamics of the bilateral relations. Particular focus is put on the leverage of the Hungarian minority issue on the bilateral relations. Thus, countries with the largest Hungarian population are especially taken into consideration, i.e. Romania, Slovakia and Serbia.

Second topic I would like to work on during the fellowship is the issue of infrastructural cooperation in Central Europe. Strengthening the regional cohesion becomes one of the most pressing matters on the V4 agenda. Despite some recent improvements concerning gas connections in the region, developing the North-South transport and energy corridors remains one of the main challenges for the Visegrad countries. Here the research focuses on identifying the main directions of the Hungary's policy in the sphere of infrastructural development and potential for regional cooperation. Particular emphasis would be put on the ongoing and planned involvement of Hungary in transborder energy projects.

The fellowship at HIIA would allow me to consult both topics with renowned experts in the field from the institute, in particular those dealing with the neighbourhood relations of Hungary, as well as the energy politics in the region. In addition, I would be able to engage in discussion with specialists from other institutions in Budapest, such as the Research Institute for National Policy in terms of the first project and REKK concerning the second. Moreover, I would have an opportunity to access the Budapest libraries in order to conduct the necessary research.