

Project proposal by Erzsébet N. Rózsa (IFAT, HU)

(IVF project „Flying experts”)

It has been agreed between IIR and the “flying expert” that the subject of the project will be Iran and the Iranian nuclear deal, including the possible consequences for the V4.

The Iranian nuclear program has been on the international agenda since 2002, resulting in a complicated sanctions regime. The November 2013 deal between the P5+1 and Iran paved the way to a negotiating process in the framework of which a complex agreement can be realistically expected, in spite of the hardliners in both Iran and the West.

The proposed research aims at analyzing the Iranian position on the one hand, and at the options of the international community, including the West in general and the Visegrad countries in particular.

The Iranian position is defined by regime survival. Due to the historical experiences of the 18th – early 20th century, the rejection of any foreign interference is a political rule for the Iranian establishment. This has been strengthened and taken to the extreme by the results of the Islamic Revolution, and is reflected in the constitution. The regime itself can be best identified by the elements include in the name of the country: Iranian (a national/nationalistic approach), Islamic (general outreach, but fundamentally Shiite interpretation) and “modern” (in the European sense by having incorporated European institutions such as the constitution and the parliament). The nuclear negotiations should be analyzed in this context in order to understand the caution, the authorization of the delegation to negotiate, the role of popular will and expectations, etc.

The options and the behavior of the international community are mostly defined by the West, in spite of the fact that there must be an agreement among the P5+1, which have different interests in spite of their – so far – common position. The final outcome of the negotiations is still pending, but the international community and Iran are preparing for the day after. In this context the options for the V4 should be analyzed taking into account the already “given” factors – former relations, existing and maintained contacts with Iran, national foreign policy considerations (e.g. Hungary’s “eastern opening”).

In the framework of the project a public lecture is to be held at the IIR and a paper shall be written. The timeframe is foreseen in the course of May 2015.