



CEIAS

Central European Institute
of Asian Studies

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Spreading knowledge about Asia



About CEIAS

Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS) is an independent think tank established in Bratislava (then known as Institute of Asian Studies). Since its founding in 2013, CEIAS has grown to be a well-established regional research institute and think tank with branches in Slovakia, Czechia, and Austria.

The main goal of CEIAS is support and implementation of research in a field of Asian Studies and dissemination of knowledge about Asia among Central Europe's professional public, cooperation with organizations dealing with similar issues in the region, and developing partnerships with Asian partners.

We achieve these goals through the organization of conferences and seminars, supporting teaching of Asia-related classes at universities, and publishing publications. Our main fields of focus are international relations and security studies, while geographically, we cover primarily regions of East, South and Southeast Asia. CEIAS cooperates with similar organizations in other Central European countries for the purpose of maximizing the amount of relevant knowledge about Asia in the Visegrad region.

Since 2018, CEIAS is co-managed by Richard Q. Turcsányi and Matej Šimalčík. The CEIAS Board of Directors entrusts them with further development of the institute and securing the position of a leading Asian affairs and foreign policy think tank in the region.

2018 in numbers	
7	research papers
7	events
12	issues of Asia Briefing
39	articles
209	media citations
1 337	Facebook followers

Activities
CEIAS Insights
Asia Briefing
Chinese Media Watch
Research papers
Seminars and lectures
Books



Projects

The motto of the Institute of Asian Studies is to spread knowledge about Asia. For the purpose of its implementation, in 2018, CEIAS carried out several projects including original research and organization of public events. In 2018, CEIAS organized 7 public seminars, lectures, and debates for both the professional and lay public.

In 2018, we carried on with our last year's project **ChinfluenCE**, which entered its 2nd year of existence. In this international cooperation, we continued to map Chinese political and economic influence in Slovakia along with partners from the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland.

In the first half of 2018, we started a project **Opportunities for developing relations with states of Northeast and Southeast Asia for Slovakia**. This project was supported by a financial grant from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Here we aimed to contribute to the development of Slovak foreign policy towards Northeast and Southeast Asia states.

We also began with the project **Comparative Analysis of the Approach towards China: V4+ and One Belt One Road (OBOR)** around the middle of 2018. In this International Visegrad Fund (IVF) funded project, we cooperate with partners from Czechia, Hungary, Serbia, and Poland.

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www.asian.darujme.sk/2343





Expert Reports

The CEIAS experts are devoted to research activities on various aspects of contemporary international relations in East Asia. We conduct systematic research on relations between Slovakia and other CEE countries with East Asia, especially with China.

As part of the ChinfluenCE project, Matej Šimalčík and Richard Turcsányi contributed with a chapter to ChinfluenCE policy paper **Central Europe for Sale: The politics of China's Influence**.

Later in August Michal Hudec published a paper titled **China's emergence in Central Asia**. It focuses on the characteristics of the Belt and Road Initiative project in the Central Asian region, such as the geopolitical situation, cultural and historical factors and important specifics of the project in the region.

In September Barbara Kelemen published **China's twofold CPEC strategy in Pakistan**. The paper analyzes the CPEC's geopolitical implications for both China and Pakistan.

We also released an issue of the **Chinese Media Watch** in the middle of August. The Report **16+1 & EU-China Summit** looks into relevant articles discussing the two summits in Chinese, Slovak, and Czech media.

In early July Martin Šebeňa authored the report **Chinese Trade and Investment in the Visegrad Countries: Mapping Increased Exposure and Volatility** for the China-CEE Institute. The paper analyzes the trade and investment relations of China and V4 countries.

Matej Šimalčík published the policy paper **Multilateralism as a tool in Slovak China policy: The case of 16+1, V4+China, and EU+China** at the beginning of July. It is an analysis of how Slovakia is using various multilateral fora to further its relations with China.

Richard Turcsányi together with Matej Šimalčík authored **China in Slovakia: Are we ready for the future?** in early June. This paper deals with Sino-Slovak relations and explores Chinese activities in Slovakia with a qualitative approach.



CEIAS in Media

In 2018, CEIAS has significantly increased its presence in the Slovak media. In quantitative terms, the number of media citations by CEIAS has almost quadrupled compared to 2017. Over the course of 2018, we have been cited on more than 200 occasions in Slovak and foreign media.

We have also published over 30 articles that appeared in Slovak newspapers and magazines, as well as renowned international publications.

Besides offering expert comments to journalists, CEIAS researchers gave several in-depth interviews with major publications in Slovakia. The topics covered include human rights in Myanmar, relations with China, security risks posed by Chinese investments, North Korean nuclear program, Slovak-Vietnamese relations, or Vietnamese current affairs.

We have also managed to successfully grow our social media presence. Over the course of the year, the number of our followers on social media has soared. The number of people following our Facebook page has grown by 40 % over 2018. Towards the end of December 2017, we started our Twitter profile with a steady increase in the follower base. We are also active on Instagram and LinkedIn.

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What awaits us

In 2019, we plan to continue with the activities launched in the previous years and start new projects with the aim to spread knowledge about Asia.

We will continue to publish **Asia Briefings**, our flagship publication which on a monthly basis sums up the major events that happen in Asia. In different forms, we have been publishing these briefings since as early as 2013, which makes it our oldest activity.

We plan to participate in several projects. We will wrap up and present the results of the project **Comparative Analysis of the Approach towards China: V4+ and One Belt One Road**. Together with international partners, we will implement an IVF supported project **Chinese influence in V4: Understanding impact on political elites**. Over the summer, project **ChinfluenCE** will enter into the third year of its existence. We are also going to evaluate the results of Slovak policy towards China in a Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported project **Slovakia and China: Challenges for the future**.

Besides implementing the mentioned projects, we will continue to publish **CEIAS Insights** articles authored by both CEIAS researchers as well as visiting authors.

In Autumn 2019 we will hold another edition of **Asia Talks** events where both professional and lay publics can discuss with distinguished experts about the developments in current East Asia.



Financial sources

Income Sources by Share

31.04 %	National Endowment for Democracy (via Association for International Affairs)
24.71 %	China-CEE Institute
19.61 %	Taipei Representative Office in Bratislava
17.12 %	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovak Republic
2.97 %	Embassy of Republic of Korea in Bratislava
1.79 %	International Visegrad Fund (via Prague Security Studies Institute)
1.73 %	2017 savings
0.97 %	Petit Press
0.07 %	Individual Donors



CEIAS Team in 2018

Lucia Husenicová, PhD. | President

Richard Turcsányi, Ph.D. | Program director

Matej Šimalčík | Executive director

Kristina Kironska, PhD. | Research fellow

Filip Šebok | Research fellow

Runya Qiaoan, Ph.D. | Research fellow

Martin Šebeňa | Research fellow

Róbert Vancel | Research fellow

Klára Dubračíková | Research fellow

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