



Main titles from the study:

- *Tasks defined in NATO's Strategic Concepts*
- *Clarification of tasks - Prague and Istanbul*
- *Internal responsibilities of new NATO members*
- *Summary*
- *Bibliography*

Annotation

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is today a political and military alliance of 26 states. The signatories of the Washington Treaty of 1949 certainly did not realize that the alliance they formed would bring together states belonging to the former Soviet sphere of interest within half a century, and 55 years later, Soviet successor states.

With the end of the Cold War, NATO's eastward expansion can be observed. Although 7 countries - Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia - joined the Alliance during the most recent enlargement process, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary, which joined five years earlier, can be considered as "new members" in the same way as the most recent Member States. Following the regime changes, these countries had different endowments and opportunities, and as a result, they were able to find their place in the new world order with different impetus. However, all of them are characterized by the fact that they have long been part of the Soviet sphere of interest, accordingly, their society was built and operated according to Soviet patterns, and its subsystems, such as political life and the armed forces, i.e., if not identical, but similar they set out for NATO membership. Today, as an integral part of the Alliance, these states also have specific problems, which, in addition to meeting NATO's obligations and commitments, present an additional challenge.

That is why, when we talk about the tasks of the new members of NATO, on the one hand, we must definitely look at the ideas and strategic documents from which the actual tasks can be deduced. On the other hand, the dimension of 'What made us a member of NATO?', I believe, should not be overlooked either. Due to its historical heritage, the "new" NATO members not only have to perform the tasks generated by NATO in an appropriate quality, but also have a number of "internal" tasks.

The study analyzes these challenges and provides an insight into the opportunities and ideas of the seven new members, which will also influence NATO's future capabilities.