



Ten Years EU Eastern Partnership

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Democracy promotion, economic governance and

**Democracy promotion, economic governance and
geopolitics:**

Where next for the EU's regional integration

**Where next for the EU's regional integration
project with its eastern neighbours?**

Brussels

Brussels 2019

6/7 June 2019

PROGRAMME

VENUE
VENUE

**Maastricht University
Campus Brussels**

Avenue de Tervueren 153, 1150 Brussels

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Maastricht University



Universidade do Minho



Research Center
in **Political Science**



UNIVERSITY
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Summary

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) was founded in 2009 to strengthen the EU's relations with six partner countries in its eastern neighbourhood (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine) and to build a common area of shared democracy, prosperity and stability. However, ten years after its inception, the EaP has only produced mixed results. The Russian military incursion in Ukraine, including the annexation of Crimea and the war in the Donbas on the one hand, and slow progress of the reforms even in "front-runner" countries, such as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine on the other hand, have clearly demonstrated the limitations of the EaP. Against this background, and also with the prospect of increasing competition between the EU, Russia and China over the so-called post-Soviet space, there is a strong case for the EU to rethink and revise the Eastern Partnership. This is a pressing academic and policy-relevant agenda, not only in the context of (re-) defining the EU's role and responsibilities as an international actor in the new 'world disorder'. The future relationship between the EU and third countries in the EaP also raises questions on the merits of EU rule expansion as a (sole) means and goal of its foreign policy.

This conference addresses these issues by asking in how far the EaP (in its current form) has achieved a strengthening of relations between the EU and its eastern neighbours, and invites to reflect on what conceptual and policy tools are required in the future to define the EU's relations with the six EaP countries. A special emphasis is placed on how (or whether?) to reconcile seemingly conflicting policy paradigms, such as the promotion of 'values', such as democracy, human rights and civil society versus 'pragmatic' policy based on ensuring stability, tensions between normative/utilitarian principles and geopolitical and geo-economic interests.

The conference aims to provide a holistic and interdisciplinary analysis of the EaP. Panels focus on (i) the existing legal and institutional framework(s), as well as financial instruments and their suitability for the challenges faced by the EU in the future; (ii) the policy dimensions of the EaP, (iii) concrete bilateral relations and perspectives from the EaP countries and (iv) critical reflections on security and geopolitics, including policy recommendations.

Thursday, 6 June 2019

12.30 h – 13.30 h Registration and Welcome Lunch

13:30 h – 15.00 h Opening Speeches

Speakers: Sophie Vanhoonacker, Maastricht University
 Jan Zielonka, University of Oxford
 Tobias Schumacher, College of Europe

15.00 h – 16.30 h Panel 1: ‘Institutional and legal dimensions of the EaP’

Since the launch of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) ten years ago, the EU has gradually deepened its bilateral relations with eastern neighbours. The EU has concluded Association Agreements (AAs) with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, it institutionalised a multilateral dimension for cooperation with the EaP countries and reformed and adjusted its financial assistance instruments. How effective have the EaP’s institutions and legal instruments been in the promotion of democracy, good governance and economic reforms?

Chair & speaker: Andrea Ott, Maastricht University

Key note speaker: Peter van Elsuwege, Ghent University

Further speakers: Julien Crampes, European Parliament
 Simona Popan, European External Action Service
 Sara Poli, University of Pisa
 Mathieu Bousquet, European Commission

--- Coffee Break and Poster Session ---

17.00 h – 18.45 h Panel 2: ‘Policy dimensions of the Eastern Partnership’

The EaP comprises a wide variety of EU policy areas, ranging from the promotion of democracy, human rights and democracy, to trade, energy, migration, counter-terrorism and the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. How effective has the EU been in expanding its policies to eastern neighbours, in which areas or sectors has cooperation been most and least successful and why? In how far has there been a tension between the promotion of values, economic/ security governance and geopolitical considerations?

Chair & speaker: Simona Davidescu, York University

Keynote: Roman Petrov, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Further speakers: Guillaume Van der Loo, Centre for European Policy Studies and Ghent European Law Institute
 Sarah Léonard, UWE Bristol & Christian Kaunert, Universtiy of South Wales
 Anke Schmidt-Felzmann, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Vilnius
 Zvezda Vankova, Maastricht University
 Balázs Jarábik, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

20.00 h Dinner

Dinner Speeches: H. Ambassador Eugen Caras, Head of Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union
 Taras Kuzio, National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy & Johns Hopkins University

Friday, 7 June 2019

09.00 h – 10.30 h Panel 3: 'EU bilateral relations and views from EaP countries'

The pace and substance of the EU's bilateral engagement with EaP countries has changed and varied over time. While three countries (Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia) are considered 'frontrunners' in the EaP, alternative cooperation agendas have been developed for the EU's engagement with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. Over the past ten years, the majority of EU member states have promoted closer cooperation with EaP countries, but consistently denied the prospect of membership for Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. In how far has the EU changed its 'one size fits all' approach to EaP countries and what are the advantages and drawbacks of a more differentiated EU approach?

Chair & speaker: Joanna Kaminska, European Parliament
Keynote: Katarzyna Wolczuk, Birmingham University
Speakers: Cristina Avornic, Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the EU
Narine Ghazaryan, University of Nottingham
Giselle Bosse, Maastricht University & Alena Vieira, University of Minho
Amanda Paul, European Policy Centre

- - - Coffee Break and Poster Session - - -

11.00 h – 12.30 h Panel 4: 'The Eastern Partnership: Critical reflections on EU security and geopolitics'

The EU's Eastern Partnership faces a number of formidable challenges in the future. The Russian Federation has considerably stepped up its pressure on all six EaP countries. 'Frozen' conflicts affecting five of the six EaP countries remain unresolved. So far, the EU's reaction has by and large been passive, restrained and reactive, as EU member states continue to disagree over EU-Russia policy. Much of the future 'fate' of the EaP countries is dependent on whether the EU and Russia (and China) manage to peacefully negotiate and reconcile their competing integration projects and interests. What could (or should) the EU's regional integration with the EaP countries look like in the future, and what are the roles of the OSCE and NATO?

Chair & speaker: Domenico Valenza, United Nations University, Bruges
Keynote: Kirsti Raik, Estonian Foreign Policy Institute
Speakers: Richard Ghiasy, SIPRI China and Global Security Programme
Michal Natorki, Maastricht University
Christian Nitoiu, Loughborough University
Nina Caspersen, University of York

12.30 h – 13.30 h Closing speeches

Speakers: Laure Delcour, College of Europe and French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs
Anaïs Marin, Special Rapporteur, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- - Light Farewell Lunch - - -

Poster Session participants: Caroline Will, Aslak Busch, Moritz Höpner, & Giovanni Carducci (Postgraduate students, Maastricht University)