THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The European Union and Eastern Europe

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The aim of the presentation is to:

- Introduce the Eastern Partnership
- Explain its objectives, key elements
- Outline funding, cooperation initiatives
- Detail coordination structure
- Present key challenges
European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP):

- Launched in 2004
- Supports area of prosperity and good neighbourliness
- Based on democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights
Within the ENP, the Partnership is a joint initiative involving:

The European Union

EU Member States

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
Launched in 2009, the aims of the Eastern Partnership are:

- Political association
- Economic integration
- Mobility
- Strengthened sector cooperation
The Partnership is based on common values:

- Democracy and the rule of law
- Respect for human rights and freedoms
- Commitment to market economy
Approach

A Partnership based on two dimensions:

- **Bilateral**: developing closer cooperation between EU and partner country
- **Multilateral**: bringing partners closer within framework for exchange and cooperation
Bilateral dimension

There are six bilateral aspects:

1. New contractual relations
2. Integration into EU economy
3. Easier travel to the EU
4. Energy and transport cooperation
5. Economic and social development
6. Financial support
New contractual relations

The EU is negotiating Association Agreements which provide:

- Enhanced political association
- Increased political dialogue
- Deeper cooperation on justice and security issues
Progress of agreements

Current status of negotiations:

- If conditions met, Ukraine to sign 2013
- Georgia/Moldova to initial in 2013
- Azerbaijan negotiating agreement
- Armenia – process discontinued
- Belarus – no negotiations
Integration into EU economy

Deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA):

- With Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
- Improve access to goods and services
- Reduce tariffs, quotas, barriers to trade
- Ensure stable legal environment
- Align practices and norms
Easier travel to the EU

The EU works towards visa liberalisation:

• Making it easier to apply for visas
• Less expensive application process
• Monitoring progress of partners
• Long term goal of visa free regime for stays under 90 days
Energy and transport

Cooperation leading to:

• Improved infrastructure interconnection
• Integration of energy markets and transport services
• Enhanced cooperation among partners
Economic development

In the area of economic, social and regional development to:

• Reduce regional disparities
• Support agriculture, rural development, institution building
• Based on EU cohesion funds model
Financial support

EU cooperation to the region to support:

- Association Agreement implementation
- Institutional capacity building
- Reforms through increased levels of funding based on political commitment
Overall, €2.5 billion available for European Neighbourhood Instrument:

- Armenia: €182 million
- Azerbaijan: €75.5 million
- Belarus: €41.5 million
- Georgia: €208 million
- Moldova: €308 million
- Ukraine: €389 million
Further funding is available via multi-country and other programmes:

- Erasmus
- Neighbourhood investment facility
- EIDHR
- Cross border cooperation
- Horizon 2020
- Culture programme
More for more

Principle of ‘more for more’ embedded:

- More support for more progress
- Increased funding for development
- Larger programmes for institution building
- Greater access to EU market
- Increased financing for investments
Reinforces bilateral relations to advance integration with EU:

- Forum to share experience and information
- Instrument to aid reform efforts
- Discussion of topics of common interest
- Cooperation on joint projects
Institutional structure comprises:

• Additional high-level political forums
• Four thematic platforms
• Expert panels
• Flagship initiatives
A number of forums established:

- Summit every two years
- Foreign Minister meeting annually
- Informal dialogue twice a year
- Senior officials twice per year
- Regular thematic platforms, panels
Four thematic platforms set up:

- Democracy, good governance and stability
- Economic integration and convergence
- Energy security
- Contacts between people
Expert panels I

Under platform 1, expert panels created:

- Public administration reform
- Integrated border management
- Migration and asylum
- Fight against corruption
- Improved justice
- Security cooperation (CSDP cooperation)
Under platform 2, expert panels on:

- Agriculture and rural development
- Small and medium enterprises
- Transport
- Platform 4: Research and Innovation
Eastern Partnership flagship initiatives include:

- Integrated border management (€44.5 million)
- SME facility (€57 million)
- Electricity markets (€41 million)
- Environmental governance (€12 million)
- Disaster response (€12 million)
Stakeholder involvement

The Eastern Partnership aims to engage a wider range of actors:

- Civil Society Forum
- EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly
- Eastern Partnership Business Forum
- CORLEAP with local authorities
Key challenges

Remaining challenges are to:

- Consolidate democracy and governance
- Address risk of conflicts and instability
- Further advance economic integration
- Continue approximation to EU norms
EU commitment

The EU is committed to:

- Further deepen relations with partners
- Progress on visa liberalisation
- Developing enhanced sector cooperation
Conclusion

Overall, the Eastern Partnership:

• Is key objective of EU foreign policy
• Offers significant opportunities to partners
• Is beneficial to wider neighbourhood
• Has huge potential mutual benefit
Further information

More information available:

EEAS
www.eeas.europa.eu

EuropeAid
www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid

Neighbourhood information centre
www.enpi-info.eu