THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The European Union and Eastern Europe



Introduction



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

















Context



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

















Eastern Partnership



Within the ENP, the Partnership is a joint initiative involving:



EU Member States



Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine







Objectives



Launched in 2009, the aims of the Eastern Partnership are:

- Political association
- Economic integration
- Mobility
- Strengthened sector cooperation

















Basis of Partnership



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:







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

















EU funding 2011-2013



Overall, €2.5 billion available for European Neighbourhood Instrument:



Azerbaijan: €75.5 million

Belarus: €41.5 million

Georgia: €208 million

Moldova: €308 million

Ukraine: €389 million





Multi-country programmes



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

















Multilateral dimension I



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

















Multilateral dimension II



Institutional structure comprises:

- Additional high-level political forums
- Four thematic platforms
- Expert panels
- Flagship initiatives

















Political forums



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

















Thematic platforms



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)

















Expert panels II



Under platform 2, expert panels on:

- Agriculture and rural development
- Small and medium enterprises
- Transport
- Platform 4: Research and Innovation

















Flagship initiatives



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 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













