

# THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The European Union and Eastern Europe



[eeas.europa.eu](http://eeas.europa.eu)

## 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





# Eastern Partnership



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



The European Union

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:



If conditions met, Ukraine to sign 2013



Georgia/Moldova to initial in 2013



Azerbaijan negotiating agreement



Armenia – process discontinued



Belarus – no negotiations



## 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:



Armenia: €182 million



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



## 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](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)

EuropeAid

[www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid](http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid)

Neighbourhood information centre

[www.enpi-info.eu](http://www.enpi-info.eu)

