

European Neighbourhood Policy and Eastern Partnership Initiative

Background Paper

1. *Introduction*

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective to avoid an appearance of new divisions between the enlarged EU and EU's Eastern neighbouring countries. The (very general) strategic objectives are set out in the European Security Strategy paper <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf> ("A secure Europe in a better world").

The enlargement of the European Union brought closer also its neighbours. That's why the events passing in the Eastern neighbourhood affect EU countries and vice versa.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was first outlined in a Commission Communication on Wider Europe in 2003, followed by a more developed Strategy Paper on the European Neighbourhood Policy published in May 2004. This document sets out in concrete terms how the EU proposes to work more closely with these countries. The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration for the EU neighbours. The ENP remains distinct from the process of enlargement although it does not prejudge, for European neighbours, how their relationship with the EU may develop in future, in accordance with Treaty provisions.

The European Neighbourhood Policy includes EU neighbours: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The central element of the European Neighbourhood Policy is the bilateral ENP Action Plans agreed between the EU and each partner. These set out an agenda of political and economic reforms with short and medium-term priorities.

Eastern Partnership initiative was built up in the frame of the European Neighbourhood Policy for the EU's Eastern neighbouring countries. These are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The participation of Belarus in this program depends more or less on the political situation in the country and the further development of the relations between EU and Belarus.

However the status of the relations between EU and the eastern neighbours is not the same, they all are interested in further developments of their bilateral relations with the European Union. Moreover all of them are in a process of development of new political, social and economical reforms. EU in turn is interested in further economic development, democratic governance and stability in the respective countries. Eastern Partnership process pursues common interests and shared values, so that both sides can benefit from this program.

Main new points in this initiative:

- New association agreements including deep and comprehensive free-trade agreements;
- Comprehensive EU funded programs giving partners possibility of their administrative improvement in order to be able to participate in tenders (handle with EU grants, etc.);
- “Mobility and Security pacts” allowing free legitimate travel to EU countries; combating corruption, organised crime and irregular migration. These pacts will also cover asylum systems to EU standards and the establishment of integrated border management structures. The long term goal is the visa-free travel with all cooperating partners
- The possibility of labor mobility;
- Enhancement of energy security in partner countries and with the EU
- Providing seminars for individual countries to improve their understanding of EU legislation and standards, sharing experience in this context and if necessary to organise joint activities. Four policy platforms are proposed: 1) Democracy, good governance and stability. 2) Economic integration and convergence with EU policies. 3) Energy security. 4) Contacts between people.
- Environment and Climate change;
- People – to –people contacts and involvement of civil society and other stakeholders.

The European Neighbourhood Policy Instruments (ENPI)

ENP - ENPI differences

	ENP	ENPI
What?	European neighbourhood and partnership POLICY	EC assistance (European neighbourhood and partnership INSTRUMENT = ENPI, thematic programmes...)
Main goal	implement reforms and deepen relationship between the EU and the partner country	Assist the partner country in its reforms and needs (implement EC assistance)
Main responsibility (who to lobby)	government and ministries (and keep the delegation informed) European Commission (RELEX)	European Commission: in Brussels (RELEX and AIDCO) and in delegation (and keep the government informed)
Main documents	EU Action Plan	Country / regional strategy papers Annual action programmes Call for proposals/tenders

2. *Financing*

Financing is the main instrument of the Eastern Partnership initiative. The new "Vademecum on Financing in the Frame of the Eastern Partnership" http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/docs/eap_vademecum_14122009_en.pdf provides some information on the way in which the €600 million earmarked for the EaP will be used over the period of 2010-2013.

Civil Society Organisations in general may benefit from the implementation of the Pilot Regional Development and cross border cooperation programmes. CSO active in the areas Youth and Culture will benefit from a specific Culture programme and the opening of the Youth in Action programme.

3. *Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum 2009*

The success of the development of democratic and market-oriented reform in the frame of the Eastern Partnership is the strong involvement of the civil society in each of the participating countries. The aim of the Forum is to consult with Civil Society of cooperating countries.

Previous Civil Society Forum took place on 16-17 November 2009 in Brussels under the title "EaP Civil Society Forum: an opportunity to make EU social and labor migration policies work for poverty eradication in the EaP countries". Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Europa participated in this Forum. Written contributions from other MO's: Caritas Georgia, Caritas Armenia and Caritas Moldova, were combined together in one document and presented to the Forum.

There were 4 working groups built, which drafted their recommendations to the EU.

Working Group 1: Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/78367.pdf>

Working Group 2: Economic Integration and Governance with the EU Policies

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/civil_society/forum/working_group2_en.pdf

Working Group 3: Environment, Climate Change and Energy Security

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/civil_society/forum/working_group3_en.pdf

Working Group 4: Contacts between people

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/civil_society/forum/working_group4_en.pdf

Some other useful links:

http://eescopinions.eesc.europa.eu/EESCopinionDocument.aspx?identifier=ces\rex\rex252\ces1532-2008_ac.doc&language=EN * [EU Ukraine relations](#)

http://www.eesc.europa.eu/sections/rex/europe/areaactivities/newneighbours/docs/ces1167-2006_ac_en.doc [civil society in Belarus](#)

http://eescopinions.eesc.europa.eu/viewdoc.aspx?doc=//esppub1/esp_public/ces/rex/rex238/en/ces1714-2007_ac_en.doc [EU-Moldova](#)

http://eescopinions.eesc.europa.eu/viewdoc.aspx?doc=//esppub1/esp_public/ces/rex/rex241/en/ces887-2009_ac_en.doc - Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia