

Eastern Partnership glossary

Since the EU's enlargement in 2004, an ever deeper relationship is being built between the Union and the countries on its Eastern borders. The aim is to bring these neighbours closer and support their efforts for economic, social and political reform. Six of them, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, participate in one of the EU's newest external relations policies, the Eastern Partnership. It seeks to back political and socio-economic reforms in the Partner Countries, facilitating their approximation and convergence towards the European Union.

In order to support those interested in the Eastern Partnership, the ENPI Info Centre has put together a glossary of relevant terms.

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Acquis communautaire

The Community *acquis* is the body of common rights and obligations which bind all the Member States together within the European Union. It is constantly evolving and comprises:

- the content, principles and political objectives of the Treaties;
- the legislation adopted in application of the treaties and the case law of the Court of Justice;
- the declarations and resolutions adopted by the Union;
- measures relating to the common foreign and security policy;
- measures relating to justice and home affairs;
- international agreements concluded by the Community and those concluded by the Member States between themselves in the field of the Union's activities.

Annual meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) Foreign Ministers (EU Member States and the six Eastern European partner countries) meet annually during the spring. This annual meeting together with the *bi-annual meetings of the Heads of State and Government* of the Eastern Partnership countries is the driving force behind the Eastern Partnership. At these meetings, the EaP Foreign Ministers review the progress achieved based on the reports of the four *thematic platforms* and decide upon future policy priorities.

Approximation to EU acquis is the transposition and implementation into national legislation by EU Member States or associate states of the body of EU law, also called the *acquis communautaire*. In other words it is the harmonization of national legislation or its alignment to the EU acquis. Such approximation is usually the result of the accession process and membership, but also that of a high degree of integration with the EU without membership.

Association agreements (AAs) are a new type of contractual agreements that will replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreements and substantially upgrade relations between the EU and the six Eastern European partners. The AAs will establish stronger political relations and stronger cooperation in the field of foreign and security policy. The new agreements will also bring the partners closer to the EU in terms of their standards and legislation, in particular with a view to setting up deep and comprehensive free trade areas. Stronger cooperation in other important areas such as energy is also foreseen. The AAs will be implemented through documents which will replace the current ENP Action Plans. They are negotiated with interested partners capable of taking on the political and economic commitments tied to those agreements. Sufficient progress in terms of democracy, the rule of law and human rights will be a major precondition for starting the negotiations on AAs.

Bilateral track

The Eastern Partnership objectives are achieved through a bilateral track and a multilateral track. The bilateral track aims to deepen the bilateral relations between the EU and each Eastern Partner. This is achieved through the conclusion of bilateral agreements such as the Association Agreement, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, the bilateral dialogue on visa liberalization, as well as through closer bilateral cooperation in a number of fields (economy, energy, environment, transport, research, etc.) and technical assistance. The Eastern Partnership is complementary to existing bilateral contractual relations and relies on the differentiation between the partners and on *conditionality* with regard to its implementation.

Black Sea Synergy (BSS)

A regional initiative of the EU seeking to increase cooperation among and between the countries surrounding the Black Sea. It aims to stimulate democratic and economic reforms and contribute to solving conflicts in the region. The BSS focuses on concrete initiatives in the areas of transport, energy, the environment, maritime management, fisheries, migration, the fight against organised crime, the information society, cultural cooperation and support to civil society. A new cross-border cooperation programme also involves local authorities in the countries around the Black Sea.

CBC (Cross Border Cooperation)

Under the ENPI, the CBC component finances joint programmes bringing together regions of EU Member States and partner countries sharing a common border. It deals with common challenges, such as security at the external borders and encourages local cooperation. Two types of programmes are established: bilateral programmes covering a common land border (or short sea crossing), and multilateral programmes covering a sea basin.

Comprehensive Institution-Building programme (CIB)

The purpose of the CIB programmes is to assist each partner country to meet the commitments of the Association Agreements and more specifically to improve their administrative capacity. These programmes are tailored to the needs of each partner country.

Conditionality

Is one of the three principles which govern the Eastern Partnership (the other two are differentiation and joint ownership). Borrowed from the EU's enlargement policy, conditionality implies that the EU links certain benefits to the fulfillment of a number of conditions or reforms by the third country (or threatens with sanctions). For instance, the signature of AAs will be conditioned amongst others upon the partner country's ability to show sufficient progress in terms of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Convergence of Partner Countries with the EU is the growing similarity between the EU and partner countries due to their gradual integration with the EU and their adoption of EU standards and legislation in the political and economic fields. Convergence will be achieved in the EaP framework through the various agreements (AAs, DCFTAs, visa liberalization agreements) through sectoral policy convergence, growing economic integration and regulatory approximation. In order to achieve this, the EaP relies on the four thematic platforms and a structured approximation process supported by the CIB programmes.

Deep and comprehensive free trade areas (DCFTA) are a new generation of FTAs providing for the fullest possible liberalisation of not only trade in goods, but also trade in services and investment, as well as extensive regulatory convergence on issues like technical standards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, protection of intellectual property, public procurement, energy-related issues, competition, customs etc. These DCFTAs also foresee deep regulatory approximation with the trade-related EU *acquis*.

Eastern Partnership Culture Programme

Falling under the EaP's thematic platform on *Contact between people*, it enhances the role of culture as a force for reform and promotes inter-communal tolerance and social cohesion. The programme contributes to exchange of information and experience among cultural operators at a regional level and with the EU. It also supports regional initiatives which make a positive cultural contribution to economic development, social inclusion, conflict resolution and intercultural dialogue.

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (CSF)

This aims to promote contacts among Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and facilitate their dialogue with public authorities by providing input to and monitoring the work of ministerial meetings and the multilateral *thematic platforms*. The CSF also promotes dialogue, networking and exchange of experience (including on EU integration) between CSOs and between CSOs and authorities in EaP countries. Aside from CSOs from the Eastern Partners, the EU and third countries, the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee and representatives from international organizations/networks also participate in the Civil Society Forum.

Enhanced cooperation

The Eastern Partnership holds a stronger offer of greater political and economic cooperation between the EU and the Eastern Partners that builds on and goes beyond the ENP's achievements. Enhanced cooperation is offered through strengthened bilateral ties and through the addition of a multilateral framework.

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

From 1 January 2007 onwards, as part of the reform of EC assistance instruments, the TACIS (East), MEDA (South) and various other financial instruments have been replaced by a single instrument, the ENPI. The ENPI is designed to target sustainable development and approximation to EU policies and standards – supporting the agreed priorities in the ENP Action Plans (as well as the Strategic Partnership with Russia, which was previously also covered by the TACIS programme). For the budgetary period 2007-2013, approximately €12 billion in EC funding are available to support reforms in these neighbouring partner states.

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

The ENP was developed after the EU's enlargement with 10 new countries in 2004, in order to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines in Europe. Through it, the EU offers its neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration through reforms as a means of achieving peace, stability and economic prosperity. The level of ambition of the relationship will depend on the extent to which these values are shared. The ENP covers the EU's immediate neighbours by land or sea, namely: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. Although Russia is also an EU neighbour, relations are developed through a Strategic Partnership covering four "common spaces".

Flagship initiatives

Part of the *multilateral track* of the Eastern Partnership, the six flagship initiatives provide additional momentum, concrete substance and more visibility to the EaP. They also mobilise funding from different IFIs and investment from the private sector. The six initiatives are:

- *Integrated Border Management (IBM)*
In order to facilitate the mobility of persons, the IBM helps the partners to develop IBM strategies, align border management rules and adopt best practices in line with EU standards. It includes areas such as trade, customs, visas, the demarcation of borders, security (smuggling and human trafficking) and Pan-European transport corridors.
- *SME facility*
Seeks to strengthen the role of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in partner countries through the improvement of the business climate. It provides advice, funding and technical assistance to SMEs and for improving the regulatory framework. The SME facility is supported by the EBRD and the EIB and is open to other IFIs.
- *Regional electricity markets, energy efficiency and renewable energy*
Aims to achieve the integration of EU and EaP energy markets and to interconnect their grids in order to increase energy efficiency, to improve security of supply and to contribute to climate change objectives.
- *Diversification of energy supply*
Aims to establish cooperation with Eastern Partners to secure alternative sources of energy supply and transit routes, in order to avoid future energy crises. It implies a stronger cooperation between producers, consumers and operators for the reliable supply of energy to Europe and to partner countries. This might include improving the conditions for long-term supply and purchase commitments, transit guarantees, and infrastructure security that would be attractive to third country suppliers and potential infrastructure investors.
- *Prevention of, preparedness for, and response to natural and man-made disasters (PPRD)*
In order to counter man-made disasters (floods, fires, health risks, maritime pollution) and the effects of climate change, this initiative aims to strengthen disaster management capacities at local, regional and national level. It is achieved through enhanced cooperation between the EU (the Community Civil Protection Mechanism) and its Eastern Partners and among the partner countries, building on existing initiatives.
- *Environmental governance*
This initiative seeks to promote environmental protection and address the issue of climate change. It aims at tackling pollution multilaterally, through a mix of international, regional and domestic action. Environmental governance is a set of formal and informal arrangements and institutions which determine how challenges and opportunities related to the use of natural resources and environment are addressed, what behaviour is deemed acceptable, and what rules and sanctions are applied to affect the pattern of resource and environment use.

Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit

A Joint Declaration was adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the EU and six Eastern European Partners at a Summit in Prague on 7 May 2009, which launched the Eastern Partnership (EaP). This new policy initiative seeks to strengthen the EU's relations with six Eastern neighbours (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). The EaP is based on joint ownership and complements existing policies such as the ENP or the Black Sea Synergy. The EaP holds the prospect of a new generation of Association Agreements, far-reaching integration into the EU economy, the establishment of *deep and comprehensive FTAs*, easier travel to the EU for citizens provided that security measures are implemented in return, enhanced energy security arrangements, and increased financial assistance. In addition, the EaP includes a new multilateral dimension which will bring partners together to address common challenges, through four *thematic platforms* and a number of *flagship initiatives*.

Mobility and security pacts

These are agreements signed between the EU and partner countries which allow their citizens to travel more easily to the EU on the one hand, while on the other also tackling related problems such as corruption, organized crime and illegal migration. If properly implemented, these pacts should in due course lead to further visa liberalization. They also seek to bring the asylum systems in partner countries in line with those in the EU and to establish integrated border management structures.

Multilateral track

The Eastern Partnership objectives are achieved through a *bilateral track* and a multilateral track. The multilateral track represents a framework in which the EU and the Eastern partners tackle common challenges as a group (as opposed to the one-on-one "EU-partner" bilateral track). The multilateral track advances the EaP's objectives through the four *policy (thematic) platforms* and a number of *flagship initiatives*.

NIF (Neighbourhood Investment Facility)

The NIF funds projects of common interest, and focuses primarily on energy, environment and transport. The EC allocated €700 million to the Facility for the period 2007-2013, and asked Member States gradually to match this contribution, to maximise the leverage of loans

Panels to support the work of thematic platforms

Panel working groups at expert-level are attached to a *thematic platform*. Panels can either be permanent or temporary, and they meet according to needs of the platforms. They do not have to meet simultaneously with platform meetings. These panels submit reports to the next available platform meeting.

- *Integrated Border Management Panel*

On 15 October, the first meeting of the Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management panel took place in Odessa, Ukraine, to discuss the Commission concept note on the Flagship Initiative Integrated Border Management programme (IBM). It was followed by a visit to the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). The IBM panel broadly endorsed the Commission's concept note on the EaP IBM flagship initiative and identified concrete training and capacity-building activities, which will be carried out in the framework of the EaP IBM flagship initiative.

The EaP IBM flagship initiative focuses on exchange of best practices among EU and Eastern countries, on training and capacity building as well as on pilot projects at non-EU borders.

Policy (thematic) platforms

The EaP establishes four thematic platforms which set objectives and targets within the given policy area. They also serve for open discussion and for reviewing the progress, and include representatives (at senior level) from government ministries and agencies, parliaments, civil society, international organisations (such as the OSCE, Council of Europe and OECD), international financial institutions, the private sector, economic and social partners. Participation in the projects, activities and meetings of the thematic platforms is voluntary and may include third countries on a case-by-case basis. The work of each thematic platform is supported by a number of area-specific panels. The four thematic platforms are:

- *Democracy, good governance and stability (DGGS)*

This thematic platform promotes democratic and economic reform in Eastern Partners focusing on the development of stable democratic institutions (including electoral standards, media regulation and anti-corruption efforts) and effective state structures. It also promotes a stronger involvement of civil society in this process. The platform's focus also lies on security, the promotion of stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the partner countries through multilateral confidence-building and early warning arrangements.

- *Economic integration and convergence with EU policies (EIC)*

This platform works towards the partners' economic integration and regulatory convergence with the EU. This should be achieved through the establishment in the long-term of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (or regional free trade agreements) between the partners and the EU and between the partners themselves.

- *Energy security*

This platform focuses on addressing issues related to security of energy supply, transit, diversification and the growing interconnectedness in and between the EU and Eastern Partner countries. The platform also works towards the harmonisation of partners' energy policies and legislation with EU practice and *acquis*. In order to avoid future energy crises affecting both the EU and the Eastern Partners, the platform aims to increase dialogue on energy security and strengthen the energy crisis preparedness, through involvement

with the EU's NESCO (Network of Energy Security Correspondents), the Gas Coordination Group and Oil Supply Group and the Energy Community.

- *Contacts between people*
This platform works towards increasing the contacts between EU and partner countries' citizens, with an emphasis on young people, including through the development of the information society and the media. Other aspects of people contacts include cultural cooperation, education and research. People contacts are seen as a factor that promotes change in the partner countries.
- *Senior officials' meetings*
Senior officials from Eastern Partner countries and EU Member States who are involved in the reform process in the relevant policy areas (see the four *Policy (thematic) platforms* will meet at least twice a year. The meetings serve to set the objectives of the thematic platforms and to review the progress achieved. Senior officials will also report on their progress to the annual meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Meetings at this level represent the third level of the EaP's multilateral framework below the meetings of Heads of State and Government and the meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers.

SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management)

A joint OECD and EU programme launched in 1992 which mainly assisted EU candidate countries to install governance and administrative systems that would allow a market economy to function under the rule of law in a democratic context. It was extended in February 2008 to nine ENP partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia. It provides short- to medium-term (up to 6 months) 'peer practitioner' expertise by OECD staff or EU Member States' public servants for achieving national reform teams in ENP partner countries. From 2008-2010, SIGMA focuses on areas such as administrative law and administrative justice, public expenditure management, internal and external audit, public procurement, civil service reform and regulatory management. SIGMA interventions are developed in synergy with *Twinning projects* and *TAIEX operations* (bookmark-link?).

Summits (biannual) are meetings of the Heads of State or Government of the Eastern Partnership (the EU Member States and the six Eastern European Partners) which are in principle held every two years. These meetings together with the *annual meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs* provide the political impetus to further shape and move the Eastern Partnership forward.

TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange)

An ENPI instrument providing targeted policy and legal advice in the context of legislative approximation with the *acquis communautaire*, usually by sending an expert from an EU Member State to help a Ministry or local government in a partner country with a specific reform task.

TWINNING

An ENPI facility/tool (previously – and still - used with success in the context of enlargement and launched in 1998), which enables the EC to send out officials from EU Member State administrations to work with their counterparts in the administration of a partner country so as to prepare together for the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in a particular sector. It demands thorough preparation and long-term commitment, as well as a dedicated support structure from the partner.

Find out more

Eastern Partnership

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/index_en.htm

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www.enpi-info.eu/main.php?id=403&id_type=2