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The European Union and its Eastern Neighbours

Towards a more ambitious partnership?

Elena Korosteleva

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The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) of 2004, and the succeeding Eastern Partnership Initiative (EaP) of 2009 heralded a revolutionary new form of EU relations with its Eastern neighbours – *partnership* based on joint ownership and shared values, which would complement if not entirely replace the EU's traditional *governance approach* based on conditionality and rigid rule-transfer used for enlargement. These initiatives, however, have received a mixed response from the EU's eastern neighbours. This book, thus, explores EU partnership-building with Eastern Europe, 'sandwiched' between the EU and Russia. Based on extensive original research, including nation-wide surveys, in-depth interviews, focus groups and school essays in Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, with the EU's and Russia's added perspectives, the book assesses why EU initiatives have been so poorly legitimised in the region. It shows the importance of 'partnership', forged through reciprocity and equivalence, rather than prescription and conditionality, for building effective and legitimate relations with neighbours; and discusses the limitations of 'external governance' for Eastern Europe.

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