# Assessment of the EU's approach to Eastern Neighbours

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# Structure

- From ENP to EaP: conceptual & methodological tensions
- East European response: the missing 'other'
  - EaP's added value
  - Governance or partnership?
  - Limitations and boundaries
  - Perceptions
- ENP/EaP: an adequate tool?

# ESRC-funded project 'Europeanising or Securitising the outsiders? Assessing the EU's partnership-building approach with Eastern Europe', 2008-2010 (RES-061-25-0001)

Methodology:

- Surveys: published in EU and conducted in EE
- Interviews (across the border): government officials, MPs
- Focus groups
- School essays on Europe
- This presentation is based on interviews conducted in September-October 2009 in Brussels (EC, MEPs, MS), and in EE (MS reps, EU Delegations, MFA, MPs & Presidential Administrations)

For more information:
http://www.aber.ac.uk/interpol/en/research/EKPproject/index.htm

# ENP/EaP: conceptual & methodological tensions

- A new philosophy of partnership in the ENP
- Conceptual tensions:
  - Rhetoric vs actions & means
  - Policy discrepancies
- Methodological tension:
  - External Governance approach

# East European Response

- EaP's added value:
  - Equality without imposing alien values (MP, Belarus)
  - EaP is an odd attempt to show bureaucratically that something is being done without specific purpose (MP, Moldova)
- Governance vs Partnership:
  - The EU does not want to see Ukraine as equal partner. But if we had a prospect of membership, we would've allowed the EU to dictate (Rada)
  - EU is too soft and needs to be more concrete and critical (MP, Moldova)
- Limitations and Boundaries:
  - If the EU comes here to teach us how to live, this would be the wrong footing (Mp, Belarus)
  - Relations should be based on common rules, not values, which would make cooperation far more effective (MFA, Ukraine)
  - We don't share values, we repeat phrase and create illusions of values (MFA, Moldova)
- Perceptions:
  - We initially had a sense of inferiority, now we have learnt a lesson, and will pursue our strategic interests from now on (MFA, Ukraine)

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# Conclusions

- Logistical changes but conceptual continuity
- Absence of a workable notion of partnership
- Conceptual tensions:
  - EU-centred values and interests
  - Policy discrepancies
- Methodological tension:
  - External governance
- Implications for partnership without 'partner'
  - EU as a Securitiser? A moral Crusader?
  - Il-legitimate 'Force  for Good'?