



**The European Neighbourhood Policy/the
Eastern Partnership
and Ukraine: “lost in transition”?**

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EU-Ukraine: The boundaries- politics framework

Expert inetrvIEWS:

ENP is a certain level of political dialogue, which conceptualises the way to further development of EU-Ukrainian bilateral relations. Although the “Eastern Partnership” implicitly considers future membership of Ukraine, in reality it aims to provide a new impulse to associate relations in political, economic and legal spheres.



National survey:

The main goals of ENP are improvement of the European Union's own security, preparation of neighbour countries to join the EU, development/unification of the European culture and spreading of standards of this culture among neighbour countries. The "Eastern Partnership" is a step toward European integration of Ukraine, although it is too general and declarative. Respondents evaluate most positively such points of the Programme as liberalization of visa system and money investments into the economy of Ukraine.



School essays:

Their country should rather join the EU, because after joining, the political and economic situation in Ukraine should surely get better, the flow of investment will increase and new opportunities for education and work will emerge. The Ukrainians and Europeans unite such things as common geographical location, similarity of political system, state independence, efforts of ordinary citizens of Ukraine and the EU to live in peace, and wellbeing.



The problems of EU-Ukrainian relations

Experts:

The main shortcoming of ENP is one-sided decision-making by the EU within this policy. The worst thing about ENP is the lack of an ultimate aim for Ukraine. While for the EU such an aim is the creation of a buffer zone of security with countries which share common values (“creation of a circle of friends”) – for Ukraine such an aim is absent.



National survey:

The current relations between the European Union and Ukraine are founded, first of all, on the interests of the EU. Comparative analysis of values characteristic of the EU and Ukraine points out the existence of the phenomenon of “socio-cultural split”. Values which are more characteristic of the EU generally do not coincide with those of Ukraine.



School essays:

In a quite categorical way point at the lack of any similarities between the EU and Ukraine because of unsatisfactory state of affairs in Ukraine itself. Here school-leavers in a quite expressive way, and at the same time with bitterness and regret, mention permanent conflict within the supreme organs of government, economic instability, disrespect of ordinary citizens' rights, and lack of market reforms in the economy.



Perspective

The perspective of Ukraine's European integration should be considered in the triangle EU-Russia-Ukraine. The nearest practical step in relations between Ukraine and the EU is signing the Agreement on a deepened free trade zone, which should become a basis for development of common internal market. As priority forms of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU are those forms in which the Ukrainian party has quite strong positions: agricultural production, military-technical co-operation, participation in the programme of energy security on the European continent.