

EU democratization policies in the neighborhood countries and Russia's reaction as a destabilizing factor: A comparative case study of Georgia and Moldova

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Abstract

The EU democratization policies have not achieved the expected results in Eastern Partnership countries. On the contrary, they have led to the outbreak of the most important crisis in Europe after the end of the cold war. A new vision of cooperation in the field of democracy is necessary in the East, as long as even Georgia and Moldova, countries considered to be the most advanced among the EaP states, have not registered essential progress in the democratization of their societies.

Assuming that democratization, as part of EU's neighborhood policies, can be considered a threat to Russia and hence a 'destabilizing factor' for the EU partners, this thesis tried to understand what changes can be made to EU policies and to what extent a cooperation between EU and Russia is possible in the process of fashioning the democratization policies in Georgia and Moldova. While arguing for the revitalization of the instruments used for the implementation of the democratization policies, this thesis finds that cooperation between the EU and Russia in the field of democracy is excluded as long as the two geo-political actors have different values and different views on the notion of democracy. The most likely cooperation that might occur between EU and Russia is the establishment of a Common Economic Space 'from Lisbon to Vladivostok'. Even though such a scenario would have the potential to reduce the confrontation between the two actors in the common neighborhood, this cooperation would have a negative impact on the on-going democratic reforms in Georgia and Moldova.