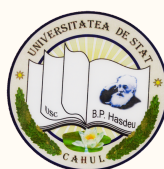




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SEMINAR SCIENTIFIC-ANALYTICAL

“EASTERN PARTNERSHIP POLICY BEYOND 2020”

ORGANIZED UNDER THE JMCOE-USC –
101126909 PROJECT

STATE UNIVERSITY “BOGDAN PETRICEICU HASDEU”
OF CAHUL

17.10.2025

PROGRAM OF THE SCIENTIFIC-ANALYTICAL SEMINAR "EASTERN PARTNERSHIP POLICY AFTER 2020"

JMCOE-USC – 101126909 PROJECT
17.10.2025

01

INTRODUCTORY BLOCK

09:00–09:30

Cornea Valentina, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Overview of the achievements and failures of the Eastern Partnership (EP) policy since 2009: key documents, “The 20 objectives for 2020.”

Golovataia Ludmila, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Analysis of the “More for More” model and its application to the three associated countries (Ukraine, Georgia, Republic of Moldova) in comparison with the three non-associated countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How effective has the “More for More” approach proved to be for structural reforms (rule of law, fight against corruption) in the associated countries? Was the financial support and market access provided by the EU a sufficient incentive to overcome the resistance of oligarchic interests?
2. Why, despite the “More for More” model, has “reform fatigue” emerged in some EP countries? What should be added to the “More for More” principle (beyond money and market access) to ensure the irreversibility of democratic change?
3. Should the EP policy after 2020 explicitly include a security and defence component for the associated countries (especially for the candidate countries) or does this go beyond the mandate of the EU’s civilian policy? What is the main risk of ignoring the security factor?
4. How can the EU ensure that new priorities, such as the European Green Deal and the Digital Agenda, do not become an excessive economic burden for EP countries already struggling with poverty and infrastructure modernisation?

MAIN BLOCK: STRATEGIC CHALLENGES AND NEW PRIORITIES

02

09:30–10:30

Cazacu Vitalie, PhD, Associate Professor

Analysis of democratic resilience issues (corruption, rule of law) and “reform fatigue” in associated countries.

Bădăraș Elena, PhD, Associate Professor

Exploration of the new EU priorities (European Green Deal, Digital Agenda) and how they can be integrated into the Eastern Partnership (EP) to stimulate modernization.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Should the EP policy after 2020 include a clear security and defence component for associated countries or does this go beyond the mandate of civilian policy?
2. How can the EU ensure that the reforms associated with the “European Green Deal” do not become an excessive economic burden for EP countries?
3. Despite many years of support, there is still oligarchic influence and much corruption in partner countries. What new, stricter mechanisms from the EU should be introduced to ensure that reforms in the rule of law and justice cannot be undone, even if political power changes?

4. How can the Eastern Partnership policy be changed to overcome “reform fatigue”? What new incentives (besides money) can be used to increase the involvement of civil society and local authorities, so that reforms are felt and supported “from the bottom up”, not only at the level of central governments?

5. The new EU priorities (Green Deal, Digital Agenda) require large investments. With limited economic resources, how can the EU adapt these “green” and “digital” requirements so that they become a driver of modernization, not an additional burden for the EP countries?

6. Energy independence/resilience is essential for sovereignty. What forms of regional cooperation (e.g. common energy markets or transport corridors) between partner countries can be strengthened with EU support to reduce dependence on external monopolists?

POSITIONING BLOCK: THE FUTURE OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AND ITS STRATEGIC POSITIONING

03

10:30–11:30

Mandaji Elena, Msg. lector univ.

Analysis of the “Associated Trio” initiative (Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine) and their current status as EU candidate states.

Golovataia Ludmila, Ph.D., associate professor

Should the EU offer a clear perspective of accession to the associated countries, as the main incentive for reforms, or maintain “strategic uncertainty”?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. To what extent has the candidate status of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova made the Eastern Partnership (EaP) policy less relevant for these countries? Should the focus shift to the accession negotiation process?
2. What control mechanisms should be strengthened (e.g. anti-money laundering, justice reform) to prevent access to the EU internal market from being used to benefit oligarchic interests?
3. How can regional cooperation (among EaP partners, e.g. in the areas of transport and energy) be strengthened as a tool to counter external threats?

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

04

11:30–12:00

1. Summary of key conclusions for each block.

2. Development of recommendations: divide participants into 3 groups (10 minutes each) to formulate two priority policy recommendations for the EU on the Eastern Partnership (EP) in the period 2025–2030.

Brief presentation of recommendations and vote on the most strategically important measure.

FINAL QUESTION FOR THE SEMINAR

05

What is that single, yet most transformative measure that should become the EU's strategic priority in EP policy, to ensure not only resilience, but also the irreversibility of reforms in associated countries?
