LEARNING BRIEF

The Eastern Partnership and sustainable reform

Seminar: Eastern Partnership Policy Beyond 2020 | 17 October 2025

Purpose

A synthesis for students, teachers and readers interested in European policy, based on the materials of the seminar held on 17 October 2025.

Regional cooperation and differentiated pathways

The Eastern Partnership provides a framework for cooperation between the European Union and its Eastern partners. The seminar volume emphasises that different political ambitions, institutional capacities and reform performance require differentiated instruments. Regional cooperation can complement the accession process while preserving its requirements.

The More for More principle

This principle links reform progress with increased European support. The seminar discussion examines the limits of financial incentives and market access where institutions remain vulnerable, vested interests resist change or reform fatigue develops.

What makes reforms sustainable

Legislative adoption must be followed by effective implementation. Judicial independence, professional public administration, anti-corruption institutions and public accountability support continuity under changing political conditions.

Green and digital transformation

The volume treats the European Green Deal and the Digital Agenda as directions for modernisation. Their effects depend on administrative capacity, finance and implementation adapted to partners' resources. Cooperation in energy and transport is discussed as a means of strengthening resilience.

Key takeaway

A credible European perspective and transparent criteria need institutions capable of implementing and sustaining reforms.

Seminar volume, pp. 8–11, 104–120.