

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE EU'S EASTERN PARTNERSHIP?

Monday 20 May 2019, at 14:00 – 16:00
Arkadiankatu 23 H (inner courtyard), Helsinki

Ten years ago the EU and six partner countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – established Eastern Partnership (EaP), a joint initiative to promote a more institutionalised relationship of cooperation between them. The aim was to provide a pathway for these countries to deepen their relations with the EU in the absence of membership perspective and to achieve regional synergy. However, while Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine signed association agreements with the EU, political stability and economic prospects in the region are facing notable challenges. Furthermore, the Russian annexation of Crimea and military destabilisation of eastern Ukraine dramatically altered the security landscape. This FIIA seminar will examine the key achievements of EaP and the evolution of the initiative in recent years, and debate whether there is a future for a joint regional approach. The seminar aims to contribute to the so-called post-2020 planning process on the future of Eastern Partnership

Speakers:



Lawrence Meredith, Director for Neighbourhood East, DG NEAR, European Commission

Lawrence Meredith has been Director for Neighbourhood East in DG NEAR in the European Commission since 1 December 2015. In 2015, he was Head of Strategy in DG NEAR, and led work on the European Neighbourhood Policy Review. Previously, he has worked for 10 years on Enlargement Policy, both as Head of Strategy and Head of the Kosovo Issues Unit. He worked in the Cabinet of Commissioner Louis Michel on Southern Africa & the Pacific.



Kristi Raik, Director, Estonian Foreign Policy Institute

Dr Kristi Raik is the Director of the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute at the International Centre for Defence and Security since 1 February 2018. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Turku. Kristi has previously served, inter alia, as a Senior Research Fellow and Acting Programme Director at FIIA; as an official at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union in Brussels; and as a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels and the International Centre for Policy Studies in Kyiv. Kristi has a PhD from the University of Turku. She has published, lectured and commented widely on European foreign and security policy.



Arkady Moshes, Programme Director, FIIA

Arkady Moshes is the Programme Director of the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia research programme at FIIA. From 2008 to 2015 he was an Associate Fellow with the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House. He received his PhD from the Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. His main areas of expertise include Russia-EU relations and the internal and foreign policy of Ukraine and Belarus. He has written extensively on those issues, as well as on Russia's policy toward the CIS and Baltic States.

Chair:



Juha Jokela, Programme Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Juha Jokela is the Programme Director of the European Union research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His current research interests include political implications of Brexit, differentiated integration (in EU's external relations), and the EMU reforms. His previous projects and publications include political and security developments in the Arctic, EU's role in the G20, EU's Asia policy, Europeanization of foreign policy, and Finland's EU policy. Previously he has worked in the EUISS as a Senior Associated Analyst and Senior Visiting Research Fellow, Advisor in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and Research Fellow and Director of the Network for European Studies in the University of Helsinki. Dr. Jokela holds a PhD from the University of Bristol (UK).