

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	6 – Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)
PIC number:	995038029
Project name and acronym:	(Re)uniting the East and West: Reflections on the 2004 EU enlargement — REWEU

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	D18.2
Event name:	"Two Decades of the EU's Major Eastern Enlargement" "Mitä EU:n suuresta itälaajentumisesta opittiin? ["Lessons learned from the EU's major eastern enlargement"]"
Type:	Seminar
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Turku, Finland and Tampere, Finland
Date(s):	30.8.2024 and 26.5.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://europeforum.fi/en/programme#calendar-08923bed-4371-48d1-8d1e-3ef0ce3376bc-event-lw693n95 https://fii.fi/en/tapahtumat/mita-eun-suuresta-italaajentumisesta-opittiin
Participants	
Female:	32
Male:	18
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 Finland:	52*
From country 2 Portugal:	1
From country 3 Germany:	1
From country 4 Norway:	1
From country 5 Belgium:	2
Total number of participants:	60*
From total number of countries:	5

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Regional even 1:

Finnish Institute of International Affairs organised a panel discussion titled “Two Decades of the EU's Major Eastern Enlargement” at the Europe Forum in Turku Finland on Friday 30 August 2024.

The addition of ten new member states in 2004-2007 is considered to have increased security, economic growth and democracy in Europe. On the other hand, the two decades old enlargement is blamed for today's problems, such as challenges to democracy and the rule of law in the EU. Following the war of aggression launched by Russia, EU enlargement has become relevant again. The panel discussed: What lessons can be learned from previous rounds of enlargement with regard to the accession processes of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and the Western Balkans?

Speakers:

Matti Vanhanen, Former Prime Minister of Finland

Matti Niemi, Liaison Director at City of Turku, Chairman of the Europe Forum in Turku association

Tyynne Karjalainen, Researcher, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Moderator:

Juha Jokela, Programme Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

The panel ended with a Q&A session. Questions from the audience touched upon potential EU reforms required in case of enlargement, the risks of non-enlargement, western Balkans and Ukraine's potential EU membership.

The panel's language was Finnish. Simultaneous interpretation into English was provided. The panel was also livestreamed (recording of the event can be found from YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkDF6uetmY>).

The Europe Forum organised annually in the city of Turku promotes open, science-based dialogue between citizens and policymakers. The Forum is a platform for societal debate on the future of Europe, the development of the European Union, and Finland's role in Europe. The event's seminars, panel discussions, and citizens' debates will provide a base for constructive dialogue on Europe and the significance and development of the European Union, not forgetting other topical domestic and international issues.

Regional event 2:

Finnish Institute of International Affairs organised a panel discussion titled “Mitä EU:n suuresta itälaajentumisesta opittiin?” [“Lessons learned from the EU's major eastern enlargement”] in Tampere Finland on Monday 26 May 2025. The event was organised at Tampere's main library Metso together with the Young European Federalists, European Movement Finland and the European Parliament.

EU's major eastern enlargement marked its 20th anniversary last year. The accession of ten countries to the union in 2004 increased the EU's global influence but made decision-making more challenging. Now, the EU is preparing for the next round of enlargement. What lessons from the previous expansion should be kept in mind?

Program

Opening: Juha Jokela, Program Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Speakers:

Astrid Thors, Former Member of Parliament, Member of the European Parliament, and Minister for Migration and European Affairs

Satu Hassi, Former Member of Parliament, Member of the European Parliament, and Minister for Environment and Development Cooperation

Tanja Tamminen, Team Leader, EU4Dialogue Project

Tyynne Karjalainen, Researcher, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Pihla Leppänen, EU Affairs Representative, the Young European Federalists, Tampere.

The panel ended with a Q&A session. Audience questions highlighted the EU's struggles in addressing Ukraine's membership ambitions over time and democratic backsliding in some member states. They

also emphasized the need for strong democratic leadership and questioned where it exists within the Union. The organisers received many thanks from the audience members that such an event was organised outside the capital region.

The panel's language was Finnish.

* Some participants did not answer to question about gender or country of residence

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).