

The Transformative Power of the European Union From the Enlargement Policy to the European Neighbourhood Policy

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Abstract

The European Union (EU) has been trying to pursue its success in the enlargement policy with the neighbourhood policy, which was launched just before the 2004 enlargement. The 2004 'big bang' enlargement brought the EU new neighbours and due to both security considerations within its borders and the long queue of candidates and potential candidates for membership, the EU chose to direct its relations with all its neighbours under the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which excludes the membership perspective clearly. This article examines the neighbourhood policy of the EU and the transformative power of the Union within this policy framework. The article explores the main characteristics of the policy framework and change in these across time, while critically discussing the potential of the policy to transfer EU's norms and rules to the neighbours.

Keywords

EU Enlargement, European Neighborhood Policy, European Union, Reform, Transformative Power.