

EU and Moldova – 4 years later

Cristian Ghinea

Romanian Centre for European Policies
(CRPE)

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Debate in Brussels: Helping Moldova stay on the EU course

Post-Euromaidan Ukraine: Cooperation on the Minority Issue

March 2014

Policy Brief 38, CRPE March 2014
 Authors: Dragoș DINU, Octavian MILEWSKI

Pension system: alternatives and compromises

February 2014

CRPE Policy Brief 25: Alternatives and compromises in the Romanian pension system for the next 20 years
 Authors: Victor Giosan, Ciprian Ciucu Even



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Republica Moldova si Politica de Vecinatate



Negocieri REPUBLICA MOLDOVA – UE. Ce este de discutat, ce s-ar putea obține?



succes.

Raportul prezintă câteva argumente în sprijinul cazului excepțional al Moldovei în cadrul Parteneriatului Estic. Dacă UE dorește să își confirme seriozitatea în ceea ce privește dimensiunea estică a Politicii de Vecinătate și disponibilitatea de a face din Parteneriatul Estic (EaP) o politică substanțială, nu ar putea găsi o altă ocazie mai bună pentru a încuraja direcția actuală adoptată de Moldova. Există un consens printre experți că Parteneriatul Estic suferă de lipsa unei perspective clare și a poveștilor de

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SECURITATE: De unde vine și de cine ne apară scutul antirachetă



CRPE dă publicității un policy brief legat de dezbaterea din jurul scutului antirachetă planificat să fie instalat (și) în România. Raportul pune în context istoric relevant dezvoltarea acestei tehnologii și desființează câteva dintre miturile și informații eronate prezente în dezbaterea publică din aceste zile.

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... and the latest publications in the section.

Schimbare la Kiev: nevoia unui reset în relația România – Ucraina

Policy Memo nr. 53, CRPE Martie 2014 – Autori: Cristian GHINEA, Bianca TOMA
Centrul Român de Politici Europene (CRPE) lansează astăzi raportul „Schimbare la Kiev: nevoia unui reset în relația România – Ucraina. Propuneri ale experților români pentru reșezarea relației bilaterale” de Cristian Ghinea și Bianca Toma. Schimbarea de putere de la Kiev, noua criză [...]

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Supraviețuirea Parteneriatului Estic depinde de reușita Republicii Moldova în UE

Policy Brief 16, CRPE, Februarie 2014 – Autor: Stanislav Secieru
Centrul Român de Politici Europene (CRPE) lansează Policy brieful „Keep the eyes wide open: EU in Moldova” de Stanislav Secieru, o analiză la zi care descrie vulnerabilitățile Republicii Moldova în 2014. Sunt câteva pericole asupra cărora atenția europenilor trebuie concentrată în 2014 și de care [...]

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Perspective pe termen lung ale bursierilor din Republica Moldova

CRPE Policy Memo, nr. 50, Decembrie 2013. Autori: Ludmila Gamurari, Cristian Ghinea, Oana Ganea
Centrul Român de Politici Europene (CRPE) împreună cu reprezentanța sa din Republica Moldova – CRPE – R. Moldova, lansează raportul “Perspective pe termen lung ale bursierilor din Republica Moldova. Experiență și oportunități de carieră”, o cercetare calitativă bazată [...]

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Cum putem salva Programul “100 de milioane pentru Republica Moldova”



Policy Memo, nr. 49, CRPE Autori: Cristian Ghinea, Dragoș Dinu, Ludmila Gamurari, Oana Ganea
La aproape patru ani de la lansarea promisiunii, Programul “100 de milioane” pentru Moldova este blocat. Nici un proiect nu a fost selectat, nicidecum demarat, conform Acordului inițial semnat între cele două guverne. Au fost cheltuieli buni din acest fond, dar [...]

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Romania- avocatul integrării europene a Republicii Moldova: 30% din fondurile europene de dezvoltare sunt directionate către Chisinau
[evz.md](#)

Lectia conflictului inghetat din Cipru
[adevarul.ro](#)

Raport al Centrului Român de Politici Europene: Dreapta Rezistă și adevărat a

`EU and Moldova – 4 years later`

What is to be discussed, what could be achieved?



Policy memo, no.12, May 2010

Authors: Cristian Ghinea, Victor Chirilă

“We recognize that giving people hope without a clear membership perspective is difficult” stated Mr. Graham Watson, Rapporteur of the EU – Moldova Association Agreement during today’s conference on key priorities of the EU – Moldova agenda.

The conference organized today in Brussels by the Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE), the Foreign Policy Association (APE) of Moldova and Moldovan Mission to the EU

enjoyed the participation of Mr. Watson, members of the negotiation team of the the Republic of Moldova, other members of the European Parliament, Commission officials and expert from Brussels based EU think-tanks.

Mr. Watson encouraged the Moldovan officials and considered that `the membership perspective for Republic of Moldova is not a taboo subject in Brussels`. On the contrary, Mr. Watson continued, we `will discuss the subject if Moldova would be prepared. There is no example of a European country willing to join the EU and prepared to do so that was refused`.

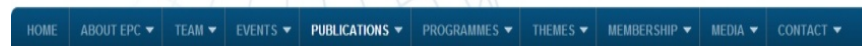
The report is available, [here](#).



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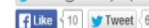
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Helping Moldova stay on the EU course - Proposals for a real 'more for more' approach

11 December 2013

by: Victor Chirila, Cristian Ghinea and Amanda Paul

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At the Vinius Eastern Partnership (EaP) Summit in November, Moldova initiated its Association Agreement including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) with the EU and became the first EaP country to meet all the requirements of their Visa Liberalisation Action Plan. 2014 may prove to be a make or break year for Moldova, with Chisinau facing a number of serious challenges. From the EU's point of view, it could also prove to be a make or break year for the Eastern Partnership.

Events

03 April 2014

[Turkish Insights Policy Dialogue](#)

[Evaluating Turkey's local elections - What will the future bring?](#)

07 April 2014

[Futurelab Europe@debate Missing a generation in EU politics - How to involve young Europeans?](#)

Before geopolitical competition



2010 - `The former EU – Moldova Action Plan was signed in 2005 for a three-year period, but it was extended by one year. This Plan created new hopes in 2005 for Moldova, with all mainstream political parties supporting an European path for the country and the Parliament unanimously voting a declaration in that sense.

Further steps were subsequently taken for a greater EU involvement in the country: a Special Representative was appointed for Moldova, the European Commission opened its Delegation in Chisinau in October 2005, an EU border control mission was launched in December 2005 for separatist Transnistria region`

West - East competition + consensus broken – implications?

Facing geopolitical competition

The period following Vilnius should be a soul-searching time for the EU. Of the three pillars (AA, DCFTA, visa regime) of the Eastern Partnership, two are now being openly challenged by Russia.

While EaP was not designed for such a competition, it now has to step up to the bar if it wants to remain attractive compared to Moscow's Euro-Asian Customs Union and its influence in the region. The EU and Russia have different styles in engaging with partner countries.

The EU mainly works with governments and is engaged in projects with long-term systemic benefits (such as institution-building) (...) Russia, for its part, promises concrete short-term gains such as cheap gas, while also engaging in fictional tales about EU initiatives, over which the EU is reluctant to openly tackle Russia

Moldova on MSs` agenda

Fig. 1. Member States` position versus Moldova

Category	Member states
Unconditional and active supporter	Romania ¹
Supporters	Poland, Sweden, Hungary, Baltic states, Bulgaria
Reluctant supporters	Czech Republic, UK
Good willing skeptics	Germany
Indifferent skeptics	France, Spain, Italy, Netherlands
Indifferent but Visas skeptics	Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg

2010 – 2014 – significant changes on countries positions

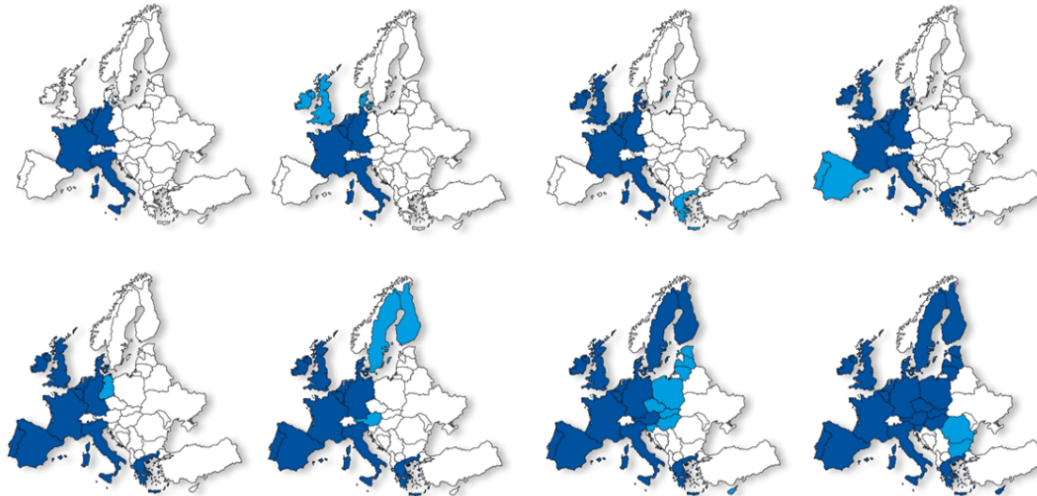
What is Moldova expecting?

The Moldovan government started negotiations with high expectation but slowly realized that the EU is willing to offer it significant assistance but no political promises. The general feeling in Chisinau that 2009 represented a rupture with the past and a new path was not matched by a similar approach from Brussels.

Chisinau expected the new Association Agreement to play the same role as the stabilization Agreement had in the Balkans in the late 90s, offering a membership perspective as a strong incentive for reforms.

Commission officials insist they don't have a mandate to offer Moldova more than substantial assistance and financial support and point to the Council where there is no majority in favor of Moldova

EU enlargements



2 steps:

- preparing the accession (adopting the acquis: Greece, Spain vs. 2004 wave / Balkan package – new negotiation chapters)

BUT the actual accession – bloc-based / leaps forward highly dependent on crises and changes: dictatorships falling in Greece and Spain/Portugal; fall of USSR.

Is EU enlargement a merit based process? Stealth integration concept

The geopolitics of EU enlargements...



”Which bloc does Moldova belong to?

In an optimistic view, EaP offers a remote accession perspective for the six countries involved by recognizing their status as European countries.

This should be read, the optimistic argument goes, in the context of the founding treaty that opens the Union for all European countries which fulfill some criteria (...) One can easily notice the emergence of a real Ukraine – Moldova bloc in the current negotiations”.

”Is Ukraine helpful for Moldova?

The challenges of integrating Ukraine are of a very different scale: a country bigger than Poland, with major national identity issues, involved in an unstable love-hate relation with Russia. In the optimistic scenario in which Ukraine is following an EU path, it may repeat the Turkish story: although not closing the issue, the EU is not prepared to integrate a big country that could change significantly the equilibrium of power within the Union itself.

This concern is not present in the case of Moldova. Small country, largely already integrated in the European trade and economic area, Moldova could be smoothly integrated with no serious effects on the internal EU politics.

The new president of Ukraine paid lip services to the EU while jumping on new cooperation schemes with Russia. The difference is already visible from the point of view of Commission’s officials in negotiating with Chisinau and Kiev: while Ukraine made it clear the reforms will not be carried out without clear incentives and membership perspectives, the Moldovan counterparts are engaged in the pro-active approach previously described.”

- The current crises - Opportunities for Moldova?
- after AA?
 - Ukraine?
 - is the crises in Crimea changing the perspective?