

The aim of the proposed research project is to examine, whether the Visegrad Four is able to have an impact and stream-line domestic reforms in Ukraine and Moldova via the Eastern Partnership initiative. Furthermore it aims at examining how the EaP could be upgraded by the V4 to serve its goals defined in 2009. In order to examine the role of the V4, the factors of the success or failures of the EaP from a V4 perspective, the research will operate with the concept of neighbourhood Europeanization.

Both Ukraine and Moldova were chosen due to the fact that the two countries are most advanced in terms of negotiations within the EaP framework, but at the same time they offer a good comparison of how the domestic politics influence the pace and dynamics of future development and integration with the EU.

The theoretical framework for this project is based on the concept of Europeanization, the processes and mechanisms that define it and by which Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia can exert their external influence as a regional grouping on third countries. It aims at defining the effectiveness, credibility and capacity of the V4 on domestic transformation in the two countries, but also the EaP as a framework as such.

In terms of the practical framework, the research focuses on objectives defined in the Joint Communication “Eastern Partnership: A roadmap to the autumn 2013 summit”. Those include deeper contractual relations in form of the Association Agreements and DCFTAs, visa liberalisation and enhanced sector cooperation.

Once the research is concluded, its aim is to contribute to the debate on the future of the Eastern Partnership before and after the Vilnius Summit and offer practical recommendations.