What happens in the countries in Eastern Europe and the southern Caucasus matters to the EU. These countries are our neighbours. Their security, stability and prosperity increasingly affect the EU’s. Closer cooperation between the EU and its eastern European partners – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – is very important for the EU’s external relations.

Launched in 2009, the Eastern Partnership is a joint initiative between the EU, its 28 Member States and the 6 Eastern partners. It enables partner countries interested in moving towards the EU increasing political, economic and cultural links. It is underpinned by a shared commitment to fundamental values - democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms - and to the market economy, sustainable development and good governance.

The aim of the Eastern Partnership is to support reforms in Eastern European countries and promote closer political association and economic integration with the EU through the negotiation of Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA). It also works towards greater mobility of citizens and stronger cooperation in a number of sectors, such as transport, energy and environment. The Eastern Partnership supports interaction and contacts between EU and partner countries’ citizens, focusing in particular on students, teachers, researchers, young people,

Top 3 Facts

The EU is the main trading partner for all the EaP partners except Belarus where Russia is the first trading partner. However, EU is the main trade partner for Belarus in service exports where over half of total exports are destined for the EU.

More than 5000 students and academic staff have benefitted from mobility under higher education programmes, and an estimated 21000 young people and youth workers have received funding for their projects by the end of 2013.

EaP has been financed from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). When creating the Eastern Partnership in 2009, the EU assigned €600 million, increasing the overall amount of ENPI funds for the Eastern partners to €2.5 billion for the period 2011-2013.

What we do

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (CSF) is a policy initiative of the Eastern Partnership policy and creates a significant institutional platform for civil society organizations to monitor and contribute to the Eastern Partnership agenda. The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum held its first meeting in November 2009 with more than 200 Civil Society Organisations from the Partner countries and EU Member States.

The First Eastern Partnership Business Forum was held in Sopot (Poland) on 30 September 2011. The Business Forum is a means of engaging business communities in exploiting the opportunities opened up by the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs).

It develops and presents recommendations of business communities on the future development of the Eastern Partnership and provides a platform for experience sharing, establishing business contacts and discussing investment opportunities.
Main links:

General links:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-east/index_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/eastern_partnership/eastern_en.htm

Delegations:

Ukraine:
Yuliya Ielfimova, project manager from Ukraine, poses for a photo in Kobievo on July 12, 2013 where children from Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Germany and Poland took part in Youth Exchange.

Georgia:
National Food Agency.

Ukraine:
Bandura.

Moldova:
Catherine Ashton with Moldovan Prime Minister Iuri Leanca.

9th May Europe Day