

List of executive summaries

Group 1
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Tutor: Simon Usherwood, University of Surrey
Title: “BREXIT and the Single Market” (Is leaving the EU the best way for the UK to achieve its goals?)
Executive Summary <p>The refugee crisis, economic instability and low growth, political turmoil and the perceived democratic deficit, present the European project with some of the biggest challenges since its creation. More particularly, in the UK, a series of internal factors coupled with dissatisfaction with the current circumstances in the European Union, have led the current government to call for an “in or out” referendum to take place in June 2016. The purpose of this document is to clearly illustrate that, as in many other stages of the European project, the internal market could be the unifying force in times of crisis. The interrelation between the UK and the other Member States is consolidated through many trade, financial and investments channels and has a strong impact in their economic performance and growth potential. Taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the digital economy, adaptable SMEs and a consolidated services single market, these channels could be strengthened and their impact leveraged.</p> <p>Through the analysis of official, academic and corporate publications, we first reflect on some of the Single Market’s main characteristics and the relative positions of the UK and the EU, to then scrutinise the possible scenarios in case of the UK leaving the EU with their advantages and disadvantages. In the last section, we review the current state of affairs and agreements between the 28 Heads of State during the February 2016 European Council summit, to soon after sum up the presented points, with our conclusion being that the UK’s economic interests are best defended through its status of fully fledged Member State with particular opt-out agreements in place.</p>
Group 2
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Tutor: Alexander Demyanchuk, National University of “Kyiv – Mohyla Academy”

Title:

How successful the ENP has been so far in terms of achieving its initial goals and objectives

Executive Summary

The European neighbourhood policy (ENP) is regarded as a pivotal mechanism by the European Union (EU) to engage with neighbouring countries. This mechanism is directed towards countries bordering the EU from the East through the Eastern partnership and from the South through the Euromed initiative. This project is examining how successful the ENP has been so far in terms of achieving its initial goals and objectives through a framework of common economic, political and social values.

The project starts by probing into the reasons for creating the ENP. The ENP is considered as a successor to different projects such as European economic area and wider Europe program, which aims at bringing countries closer to the EU without the rights and obligations of full membership. Moreover, ENP is regarded as the vehicle that promotes political, economic and social stability in the European sphere of interest.

The second section evaluates ENP's instruments and incentives used by the EU to influence its partners. ENP action plans set out each partner country's agenda for political and economic reforms. This action plans are financially supported by European neighbourhood instruments (ENI). ENI budget grew up to €15.4 billion (2014- 2020) from €11.2 billion (2007- 2013) offered by its predecessor European neighbourhood and partnership instrument (ENPI).

The third section assesses the impacts and challenges of ENP. ENP is often criticised as an unsuccessful program since it has not been able to create a stable buffer zone on the EU borders. The lack of common political vision of EU member countries, shifting political paradigms in the eastern partnership countries and the Mediterranean region made it hard to achieve stability as well as other objectives of ENP. Moreover, few partner countries were reluctant to undertake political reforms that could undermine their authoritarian regimes. Nevertheless, some positive impact of ENP cannot be ignored.

The fourth section examines Egypt's relationship with the EU through the ENP program. The case study found that ENP resulted in increased trade between Egypt and the EU more than doubled between 2004 and 2014. However, the Egyptian economic structure has not changed much. Moreover, ENP failed in promoting political reform and human rights in Egypt, which were the main reasons behind the 2011 revolution against its authoritarian regime.

The fifth section studies the Ukrainian case. ENP has achieved some success in areas such as energy, environment and education. However, ENP failed in promoting

democratic values, human rights and addressing the widespread corruption. It can be concluded that while ENP has succeeded in improving economic cooperation with partner countries, its attempts to create a framework of common political and economic values and promote democracy and human rights seem to be less successful.

Group 3

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Title:

The European Citizenship

Executive Summary

Which are the defining features of European citizenship nowadays? Are they similar in all countries, or does the notion vary among the different members of the Union? These are two research questions asked by this paper, which aims to shed light on this sometimes blurry concept. In order to do so, we will present a first section elaborating on the notion of European citizenship, divided in three sub-sections: the distinction between national and European citizenship, the study of Europeanisation as a relevant factor for European citizenship and an analysis of active citizenship within European institutions. This first part of the paper shall be a tool for understanding the defining features as well as the current state of European citizenship. A second section will analyze, through two case studies, whether this notion is similar in all European countries. It has been decided to compare the perceptions on European citizenship from a founding member – Germany – with the Baltic countries, not only because of the fact that Germany has been a member of the EU for much longer than the Baltic countries, but also because they have different languages, cultures and backgrounds. Thus, by comparing the perceptions in both cases, we will be able to understand if European citizenship is actually successful in giving the grounds for a common identity or if, on the contrary, no similar patterns are to be found. The main findings point towards the fact that European citizenship is still a process under development. While formal rights are already in place, the construction of an identity that brings together all European people, at the same time that it contains within it national diversities, is still an ongoing process. An evolution of this concept is taking place through the creation of symbols, and the development of different actions and initiatives.

Group 4

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<p>Tutor: Heidi Maurer, Maastricht University</p>
<p>Title: European Union and Ukraine</p>
<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>Research question: In what manner does external relations and fundamental human rights of Ukraine affected the visa liberalisation?</p> <p>Introduction “When Ukraine’s then President Viktor Yanukovich caved in to Russian pressure and refused to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in 2013, he triggered the ‘revolution of dignity’, that paved the way for his own ousting on 22 February 2014 and sparked hope for a European future” (Bentzen, 2016)</p> <p>The relationship between the community of Ukraine and the European Union (EU) have become stronger in recent years and the bilateral relations. This paper will address the way that by external relations and fundamental rights influence visa liberalization in Ukraine. First, describe the historical development of relations and agreements between Ukraine and the EU. Second, the development of external relations and fundamental rights in Ukraine. And thirdly, the formalities of the visa liberation's process and progress. The visa liberation process has arguably been set back by the nature of external relations and the situation for fundamental human rights.</p>
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<p>Tutor: Lasha Bazhunaishvili- Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</p>
<p>Title: Broader EU Foreign Policy. Evidence from EU Foreign Aid Policy</p>
<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>This paper looks at the broader foreign policy of the EU with a specific focus upon foreign aid as a foreign policy tool; aim is to shed light on the question around whether or not the EU is able to pursue a cohesive and effective foreign policy. Internationally, the EU is the largest aid donor, which reinforces its commitment to its founding values and principles. However, does this status reflect the EU’s ability</p>

to carry out successful foreign policy or it is an indicator that foreign aid is the only foreign policy competency the EU is able to carry out with agreement from all 28 member states?

The evolution of EU foreign policy goes back to the formation of the Coal and Steel Economic Community in the pursuing of further economic integration between the 6 original states. Enlargement of this community and its development into what we perceive to be the European Union as it is today, arguably is one of the most successful foreign policies in its history. However, the formal commitment to a common foreign and security policy in 1992 through the Treaty of the European Union (TEU), was a turning point towards further foreign policy integration moving beyond the realms of economic integration and enlargement policy toward a greater outlook beyond the continent.

Furthermore, underlying all EU foreign policy is its commitment to its historically embedded values- peace, democracy, equality, human rights, rule of law and good governance. In essence, these principles guide EU foreign policy and its identity as a foreign policy actor in the international system. In this paper, various foreign policy competencies are examined in order to understand its 'grand strategy for EU foreign policy', as well as identifying its effectiveness alongside other institutions such as the United Nations and engagement with its neighbours. Due to the EU's commitment to core 'normative' principles suggests integrating foreign policy is limited to only foreign policies which involve the upholding of these values to which foreign aid is suited too. However, attempts to shift toward further foreign policy competencies, theories of integration demonstrate that when it comes to foreign policy intergovernmentalism keeps the upper hand when it comes to foreign policy.

Therefore, the last part of the paper looks at a case study of foreign aid as a EU foreign policy tool and whether or not it is effective and reflective of EU foreign policy capabilities. Thus, questioning whether it is the normative qualities of foreign aid which make it far easier for member states to agree upon during the foreign policy decision making process. Furthermore, it could be argued that foreign aid is an excuse to avoid further policy integration towards more sensitive foreign policy which are traditionally related to be core competencies of the state- military capabilities or hard security matters.

In the end it is especially the technical expertise that can help the EU in presenting a strong and reliable diplomatic actor in foreign policy.

Group 6

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Tutor: Nataliya Nechayeva, Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University
Title: Evolution, challenges and prospects of EU-Turkey relations
Executive Summary <p>Turkey has always been, is, and will likely remain one of the most important countries for the European Union (Tocci, Natalie). The importance of it is rooted in their close historic ties. It is noteworthy, that beyond interest clashes, EU and Turkey have much interest in common. The area of cooperation is linked with deep economic relations, immigration and foreign policy.</p> <p>The following research aims to evaluate EU-Turkey relations from the mid-XX century till today. In this research we use literature review and content analysis as the methodology. Theoretical frame will be created from contemporary literature on EU-Turkey relations, Greek and Turkish interests in the Mediterranean region, particularly in Cyprus. We will focus more on their implications for EU-Turkey relations.</p> <p>One of the most emotional points in modernity is the refuge or migrant crisis in which the EU finds itself in a dilemma. The union of states needs to approach Turkey as the key player in finding a solution to the increased influx of refugees. On the other hand, the EU wants to maintain its position of moral high ground and warily follows developments threatening freedom of speech and the acceptance of minorities, as the deteriorated position on the World Press Freedom Index shows. So, seeking a way to resolve the current migrant crisis, the EU has been driven to establish cooperation with Turkey in this regard. Given the fact that Turkey is already hosting more than 2 million migrants, it has gained a significant advantage in negotiations with EU. Needless to say, it can use this advantage to demand a quicker liberalization of visa regime or even an accession to the EU.</p> <p>To answer the question if Turkey-EU relation has future it's more like a question without an answer, because there are many obstacles that prevent to say a full proofed answer. But with all that we can say that yes, there will be a partnership between this to actors. How good or profitable will be, it's hard to tell. As it will be discussed in the paper there are obstacles that prevent a more stable and open negotiation like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyprus problem. • The Kurdish problem. • Opposition against Turkish EU membership • Turkey's geographic position
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Title:

Impact of EU Gas/Oil Dependency on the European External Policies

Executive Summary

Political deterioration of EU-Russia relations, caused by crisis in Ukraine, illegal annexation of Crimea and war in Donbas, led to economic sanctions of Europe against Russia. There are questions that disturb European Union citizens. Why EU frequently acts rather softly on Russia – the country which has violated international law several times and the country which does not respect human rights and democratic values? Why does such democratic, just and law-abiding structure as EU comply with Russian demands? The reason is simple. EU is dependent on Russia. In fact, Russia is also dependent on Europe. Although this dependence has a tendency to decrease, it is still crucial for understanding current EU-Russia relations. And this dependency affects EU's external (international/diplomatic) relations with Russia in a way that EU may not fully act in terms of its values. It may occur that economic and political attitudes of Europe towards Russia do not correlate.

Russia as the country with biggest part of GDP in natural resources export becomes very much dependent on EU's demand for energy. In case EU refuses to import gas and oil, Russian economy will be stuck in a huge crisis, since EU's market is enormous and there are no alternatives to replacing the energy sector. At the same time, the European states are unable to heat themselves due to the fact they lack resources. Therefore, Europe consumes gas and oil in several states, but primarily in neighborhood Russia. Some European states have close ties with Russia others don't. It leads to differentiated vision of foreign policy among EU members. This disunified foreign policy also creates problems in terms of dealing with Russia and breaks the integrity of European Union.

The dependency creates inability to fully respond to threats in future and shows the vulnerability of European Union states. So far, Europe is moving forward to decrease this dependence on Russian energy by presenting newly Energy Union project. EU seeks to decrease the monopoly in energy market and create its own free and transparent energy market.

This essay examines EU-Russia relations, European energy sector, EU's internal disputes over foreign affairs, alternatives for Europe in energy sector and finally this essay looks critically on the possible future of EU's energy dependency.

Group 8

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Tutor: Nino Lapiashvili, Tbilisi State University
Title: Migration and Its Influence on the European Union
Executive Summary <p><i>“Today, The number of people living outside their country of birth is larger than any larger in history. International migrants would now constitute the world’s fifth most populous country if they all lived in the same place.” (UNFPA)</i></p> <p>Countries like the U.S, Argentina, and Brazil have always included large immigrant populations. Citizenship in those countries is based not on ethnic grounds but on a different sort of national identity in which commitment to certain values and ideas is paramount. But for many European countries, the nation is often defined in a cultural way—by a common language, heritage, and ethnicity. This raises important questions for countries that do not have long traditions of immigration. How long does an immigrant have to live in Germany to become a German? Can a person be French without speaking French? Should immigrants be forced to take citizenship classes that teach them “how to be Dutch”?</p> <p>Indeed, cultural issues are a significant factor in the response of Europeans to global migration. In recent years, the European public has questioned the effect of immigration on culture and national identity. Fear and distrust of immigrants has fueled the creation and success of anti-immigrant political parties in several European countries. Many of these parties have linked social ills, such as unemployment and crime, to immigration.</p> <p>The incorporation of many European countries into the European Union (E.U.) starting in the 1980’s (and continuing today) has streamlined internal migration policy in member states, so that citizens of these states may move relatively freely across national borders within the E.U. Some of these national boundaries lack any border security whatsoever. However, even within the E.U, states have maintained relatively inconsistent policies concerning “third-country nationals,” or citizens of non-E.U. nations. The amount of immigrants from outside the E.U. varies widely by nation, as do the laws that secure those migrants rights. In many cases, legal status is tied to employment in E.U. member states. This means that high unemployment rates resulting from the economic crisis have had the effect of stripping migrants of their authorized immigration status.</p> <p>The impacts of migration are complex, bringing both benefits and disadvantages. Immigration provides a supply of low cost labor for host countries, while remittances from emigrant workers can be an important source of foreign income for sending nations. On the other hand, immigration can stoke resentment and fear towards newcomers in receiving states, as immigrants are discriminated against, accused of lowering wages and associated with crime, among other complaints. For the economies of sending nations, emigration leads to a loss of young, able-bodied,</p>

well-educated and otherwise economically valuable citizens.

Group 9

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Title:

Eastern Partnership from the perspectives of the EU and the EaP countries

Executive Summary

This paper provides an analysis and evaluation of the current issues that the Eastern Partnership is facing, and determines how the partnership needs to be altered to gain the best possible outcomes for all involved. Firstly, the Eastern Partnership is summarized and evaluated as a means for furthering integration. Secondly, this paper argues that the high level of economic dependence on the Russian economic market has resulted in several Eastern Partnership countries being less willing to integrate further with the EU. These countries are Belarus, Azerbaijan and Armenia. On the other hand, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine are more resistant of Russia and continue to anticipate further integration with the EU and this is illustrated by the signing of Association Agreements. Thirdly, the EU's approach to the Eastern Partnership has necessarily taken a divided approach and now seeks to explore relations based on these two groups. Furthermore, the implications of Russian aggression and the annexation of Ukraine and question the EU's influence in the region. This paper finds that the 2009 Eastern Partnership is no longer a satisfactory method of integration. This paper proposes EU relations with the Eastern Partnership countries should be taken on a more differentiated and bilateral basis.