



AGENDA

InvigoratEU Mid-Term Conference

THE FUTURE OF EU ENLARGEMENT

BUILDING A STRONGER AND SAFER EUROPE

BRUSSELS

13 May 2025

09:30-10:00 **Arrivals & registration**

10:00-10:30 **Introductory keynote address**

Funda Tekin, Director of the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP) and InvigoratEU Scientific Lead

10:30-11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00-12:15 **The security, defence and partnerships dimension of European resilience: Overcoming the expectation-capability gap**

Artur Gruszczak, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Jagiellonian University

Cosmin Dobran, Director of the Peace, Partnerships and Crisis Management Directorate at the European External Action Service (EEAS)

Tyynne Karjalainen, Research Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

Oleksiy Melnyk, Co-Director of Foreign Policy and International Security Studies at the Razumkov Centre

MODERATOR: **Nicoletta Pirozzi**, Head of Programme on European Union and Institutional Relations Manager at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

12:15-13:30

Lunch break

13:30-14:45

Strengthening democracy in fragile EU neighbourhood contexts

Levan Kakhishvili, Lecturer at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences at ETH Zürich

Marie-Sophie Peyre, Team Leader of Democracy & Chapter 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security at DG ENEST (European Commission)

Daniela Morari, Head of the Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union

Elena Ventura, Program Coordinator and Research Assistant at Carnegie Europe

MODERATOR: **Tinatin Akhvlediani**, Research Fellow at Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

DISCUSSANT: **Pernille Rieker**, Director at ARENA Centre for European Studies at the University of Oslo

14:45-15:15

Coffee break

15:15-16:30

Enhancing social cohesion and economic convergence in the EU neighbourhood

Giorgi Khishtovani, Research Director at PMC Research

Ivanka Lakova, Enlargement Coordinator at DG REGIO (European Commission)

Frank Schimmelfennig, Professor of European Politics at ETH Zürich

MODERATOR: **Nina Abzianidze**, Associate Professor at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)

16:30-17:00

Coffee break

17:00-18:15

Securing critical infrastructure and developing connectivity in the EU neighbourhood

Helene Holm-Pedersen, Director for Enlargement and Europe (RELEX.4) at the Council of the European Union

Danijela Jaćimović, Professor of Economics at the University of Montenegro

Ramūnas Vilpišauskas, Professor of European Politics at the University of Vilnius

MODERATOR: **Strahinja Subotić**, Programme Manager at the European Policy Centre (CEP)

DISCUSSANT: **Juha Jokela**, Programme Director at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

18:15-18:30

Concluding words

Michael Kaeding, Chair of European Integration & European Policy at the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) and InvigoratEU Coordinator

18:30-20:00

Cocktail reception

ABOUT



THE INVIGORATEU PROJECT

#InvigoratEU

InvigoratEU investigates how to reform the EU's enlargement strategy in a new geopolitical phase, how to respond to other actors' geopolitical ambitions in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans, and how to rebuild the EU's foreign policy arsenal in view of a new era of military threats. It seeks to elaborate an evidence-based, forward looking vision for the EU's political agenda and institutional frameworks for co-designing a multidimensional toolbox, and has been presenting policy recommendations from day one. Learn more on the [project's website](#).



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Our aim is to provide high-quality research on a number of European themes to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe. This is achieved by the interaction between the European and national institutions as well as the academic and research community, and citizens.

TEPSA is active on a wide range of topics, focusing on differentiated integration, the EU's external relations, democratic participation and citizens' engagement.

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