

DRAFT AGENDA

1-4 JUNE 2026

INVIGORATEU ACADEMY
★ ON EU ENLARGEMENT

COMPLETING THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

TEPSA

trans-
european
policy
studies
association



Funded by
the European Union

Monday, 1 June

Introduction

Carnegie Europe (15 Rue du Congrès, 1000 Bruxelles)

14:00-14:30 **Welcome and introduction**

Prof Dr Michael Kaeding, Professor, University of Duisburg-Essen; Director of Studies, College of Europe; InvigoratEU Coordinator

14:30-16:00 **Lecture:** The three phases of EU Enlargement policy and an introduction to staged accession

Prof Dr Frank Schimmelfennig, Professor, ETH Zürich; Academic Coordinator

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30-17:45 **Conversation:** Enlargement and the EU's role in the world amid (geo)political shocks and increasingly unpredictable transatlantic relations

Corina Stratulat, Associate Director and Head of European Politics and Institutions Programme, European Policy Centre (EPC)

Prof Dr Frank Schimmelfennig, Professor, ETH Zürich; Academic Coordinator

Café Caberdouche (8 Place de la Liberté, 1000 Bruxelles)

18:00 **Welcome drinks**

Tuesday, 2 June

How Enlargement actually moves forward (or doesn't)

European Commission DG ENEST (34 Rue Montoyer, 1040 Bruxelles)

09:30-10:40 **Meeting with the European Commission:**
State of play of Enlargement negotiations:
Western Balkans

Monika Csaki, Policy Officer, DG ENEST
Maja Smrkolj, Policy Officer, DG ENEST
Agathe Nowak, Policy Officer, DG ENEST

10:50-12:00 **Meeting with the European Commission:**
State of play of Enlargement negotiations:
Eastern Partnership and Turkey

Ilin Stanev, Policy Officer, DG ENEST
Alexei Iarochevitch, Policy Officer, DG ENEST

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

European Parliament (60 Rue Wiertz, 1047 Bruxelles)

14:00-15:30 **The role of the European Parliament in shaping the EU's Enlargement Policy**

*Institutional Visit & Meeting with **MEP Petras AUŠTREVČIUS**, Renew Europe Group*

Fondation Universitaire (13 Rue d'Egmont, 1000 Brussels)

16:10-17:10 **Lecture:** The upcoming Irish Presidency's prospects on EU Enlargement

Justin Ryan, First Secretary (COELA Working Group),
Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU

Wednesday, 3 June

*Security as the foundation for Enlargement
to succeed and democracy to thrive*

*European External Action Service
(9 Rond-Point Robert Schuman 9, 1046 Bruxelles)*

09:30-10:45 **Meeting the EEAS:** Enlargement as European security imperative and geopolitical necessity

Petra Gombalova Kyslingerova, *Head of SG Office and Head of Policy Coordination Division, European External Action Service*

Carnegie Europe (15 Rue du Congrès, 1000 Bruxelles)

11:30-12:45 **Lecture:** Enlargement in the new security context: countering Russian aggression in the candidate countries

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

12:45-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:15 **Panel Discussion:** Integrating a country at war: the mutually reinforcing guarantees of security and democracy in Ukraine

Amb. Vsevolod Chentsov, *Head of Mission of Ukraine to the EU*

Karolina Kottova, *Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos*

Moderated by Tyynne Karjalainen, *Research Fellow, FIIA*

15:15-15:45 Break

(cont.)

15:45-17:15

Panel Discussion: Democracy and civil society support in light of Russian aggression & interference

Igor Miskulin, Desk Officer, DG EXPO, European Parliament

Aleksandra Palkova, Policy Officer, DG ENEST, European Commission

Iliriana Gjoni, Policy Analyst, Carnegie Europe

Alexandra Kirby, Senior Programme Manager, The European Endowment for Democracy

Moderated by Prof Dr Frank Schimmelfennig, Professor, ETH Zürich; Academic Coordinator

17:15-17:45

Analysis and discussion

Thursday, 4 June

Enlargement narratives amid hybrid pressure

Carnegie Europe (15 Rue du Congrès, 1000 Bruxelles)

09:30-10:45

Lecture: Russian disinformation and interference: instruments, implications, and EU countermeasures

EEAS Representative

Dorin FRĂȘÎNEANU, First Secretary, Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union

10:45-11:00

Break

11:00-12:00

Lecture: Communication strategies about EU Enlargement in candidate countries and member states

Mikolaj Bekasiak, DG ENEST, European Commission

12:00-13:00

Wrap up and conclusion

13:00

Farewell lunch

About InvigoratEU



How can the EU invigorate its enlargement and neighbourhood policy to enhance Europe's resilience?

Funded by Horizon Europe and led by the University of Duisburg-Essen and the Institut für Europäische Politik, InvigoratEU is on a mission to redefine how the EU engages with its Eastern neighbours and the Western Balkans. Through cutting-edge research and actionable policy recommendations, we're crafting a resilient Europe ready to meet tomorrow's challenges.

Our mission is to analyse EU enlargement strategies; leverage forward-thinking research to anticipate and address future challenges; and make an impact by providing operational recommendations for policymakers that will drive real-world change.



**Learn more on
our website!**

About TEPSA



The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) was established in 1974 as the first transnational research network in the field of EU affairs. It comprises leading research institutes throughout Europe, with an office in Brussels. Its aim is to provide high-quality research on European integration 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. TEPSA is active on a wide range of research topics, focusing on differentiated integration, the EU's external relations, democratic participation and citizens' engagement.