

INVIGORATE EU TALKS

Enlargement, Security, Resilience



ABOUT

This podcast series is designed as a dissemination and impact tool for the project's research on EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy. Across six episodes, the podcast translates key project deliverables (long policy reports, policy briefs, and foresight tools) into accessible, policy-relevant conversations.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- **Six episodes**, each 25 to 30 minutes long.
- **Hosted by Mariam Khotenashvili**, Executive Director at TEPSA.
- **Target audience:** EU and national policy-makers, researchers, civil society actors, journalists, students and anyone interested in EU enlargement, neighbourhood policy, and European security.
- Each episode will feature **an interview with 2 or 3 guests**

TOPICS

Episode 1: Understanding the EU's actions towards its Neighbourhood

This introductory episode sets the analytical and political context of the podcast series. It explores how EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy have evolved, what tools the EU currently deploys, and where reform is needed.

Episode 3: Russia, China and Turkey in the EU's Neighbourhood

This episode zooms in on the growing influence of Russia, China and Turkey in enlargement and neighbourhood countries, comparing their strategies, ambitions, and policy tools, and assessing the implications for the EU's geopolitical standing.

Episode 5: Advancing social rights and equality: Translating formal commitments into real change

This episode focuses on the social dimension of enlargement, examining how formal alignment with the EU social acquis translates (or doesn't) into real improvements in social rights in candidate countries. It then zooms in on the issue of social cohesion, asking whether and to what extent the accession process has contributed to strengthening it.

Episode 2: EU Neighbourhood and the new European Security Imperative

This episode examines how Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has reshaped the EU's security priorities. It explores the EU's newfound urgency around defence, testing whether the bloc can act as a genuine geopolitical actor.

Episode 4: Instruments and constraints of EU democracy support

This episode examines how the EU supports democracy in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans, highlighting innovative approaches as well as structural constraints in conflict and post-conflict environments.

Episode 6: The way forward

The final episode presents concrete tools, institutional pathways, and strategic recommendations for reinvigorating EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy in an increasingly contested geopolitical environment.

