

Democracy in the neighbourhood and EU enlargement: Horizon Europe research insights

*Democracy support and related challenges
in the Eastern Partnership countries and
Turkey*

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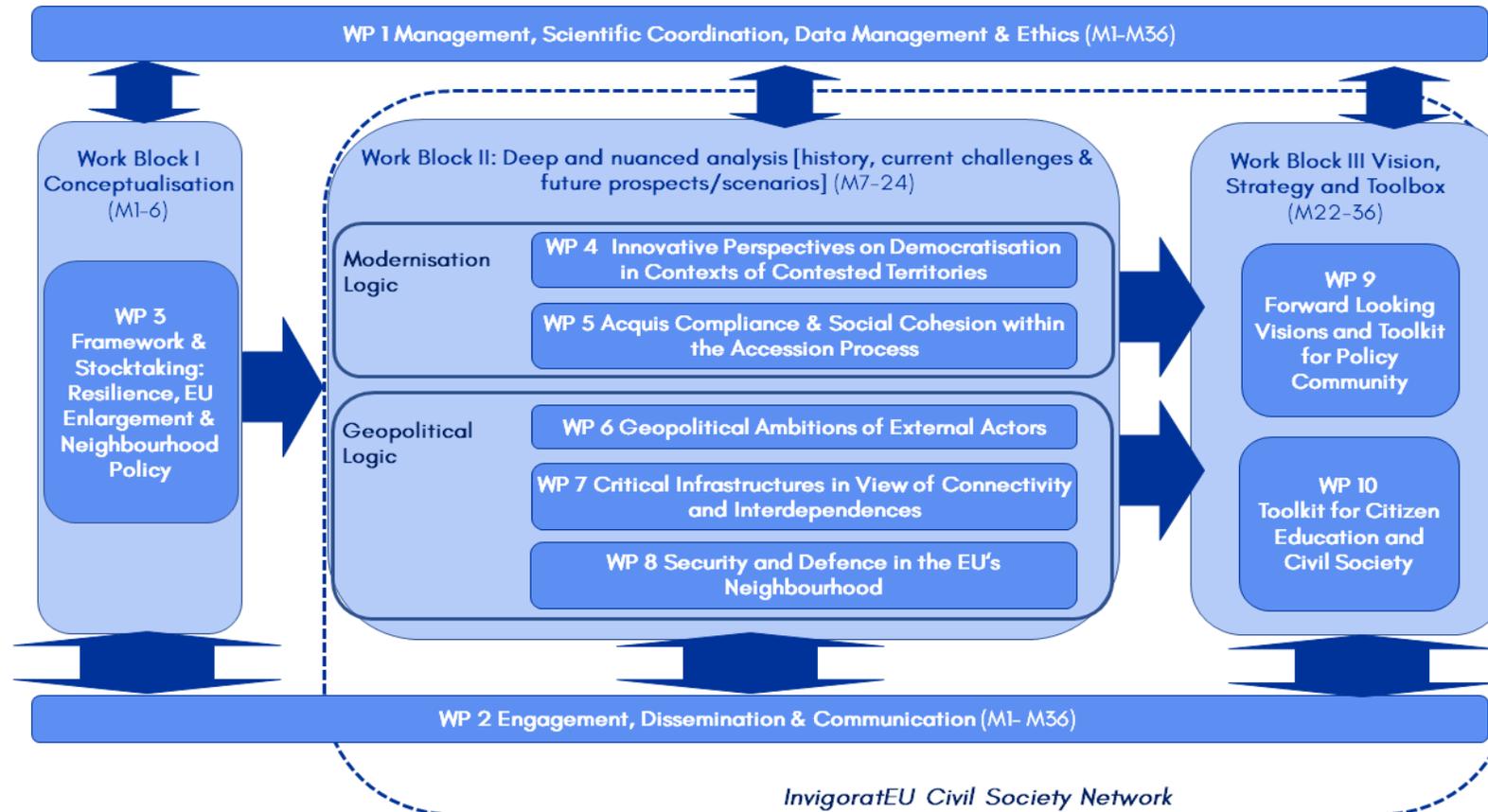


The InvigoratEU Consortium



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InvigoratEU: WP structure



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Notion of resilience

- Contested buzzword
- General definition: the ability of societies or communities to adapt to complex crises and reorganize within a constantly changing equilibrium
- Four dimensions of resilience
 - State resilience: the ability of states to adapt and reform;
 - Societal resilience: emphasize on the role of societies and communities
 - Resilience of the neighbourhood
 - Resilience of the EU
- Resilience and enlargement policy:
 - a modernisation logic focusing on strengthening the internal resilience of candidate countries – the ‘inside of the outside’ – by means of strengthening democracy, stability of institutions and social cohesion;
 - geopolitical logic focusing on protection against interferences and interventions by geopolitical rivals – strengthening the ‘outside of the outside’ – addressing the issues and challenges of connectivity, security and defence and countering other global actor’s ambitions in the region.

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InvigoratEU: Democracy-Support Innovations in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova

Geopolitics matter

- The geopolitical context constitutes a defining and complex dimension for the democratic and EU integration process.
- Interactions between democracy and geopolitics

Democratisation models

- Democratisation as a multi-level interplay of international, regional, state and societal factors
- Three models:
 - Georgia: securitized hollowing
 - Moldova: hybrid consolidation
 - Ukraine: wartime hybridisation

InvigoratEU Work Package 4

- Leaders: Giselle Bosse (Maastricht University); Richard Young (Carnegie Europe)
- Two long policy reports: www.invigorat.eu



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Democracy in the neighbourhood and EU enlargement: Turkey insights

- Turkey and the EU's enlargement: To be or not to be?
 - Accession negotiations frozen since 2018,
 - the European Parliament calling for formal suspension in 2019, 2021, and again in May 2025 due to democratic backsliding and human rights concerns.
 - The country not part of the revitalisation of the EU's (geopolitical) enlargement policy
 - Turkey as a strategic partner



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Democracy in the neighbourhood and EU enlargement: Turkey insights

- Three periods of political and legislative reforms in Turkey
 - 1999-2006: Period of acceleration,
 - 2007-2012: Period of recess
 - 2013-today: Period of backsliding
- Link between geopolitics and democratisation?



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Triple „R“-Approach: Reform

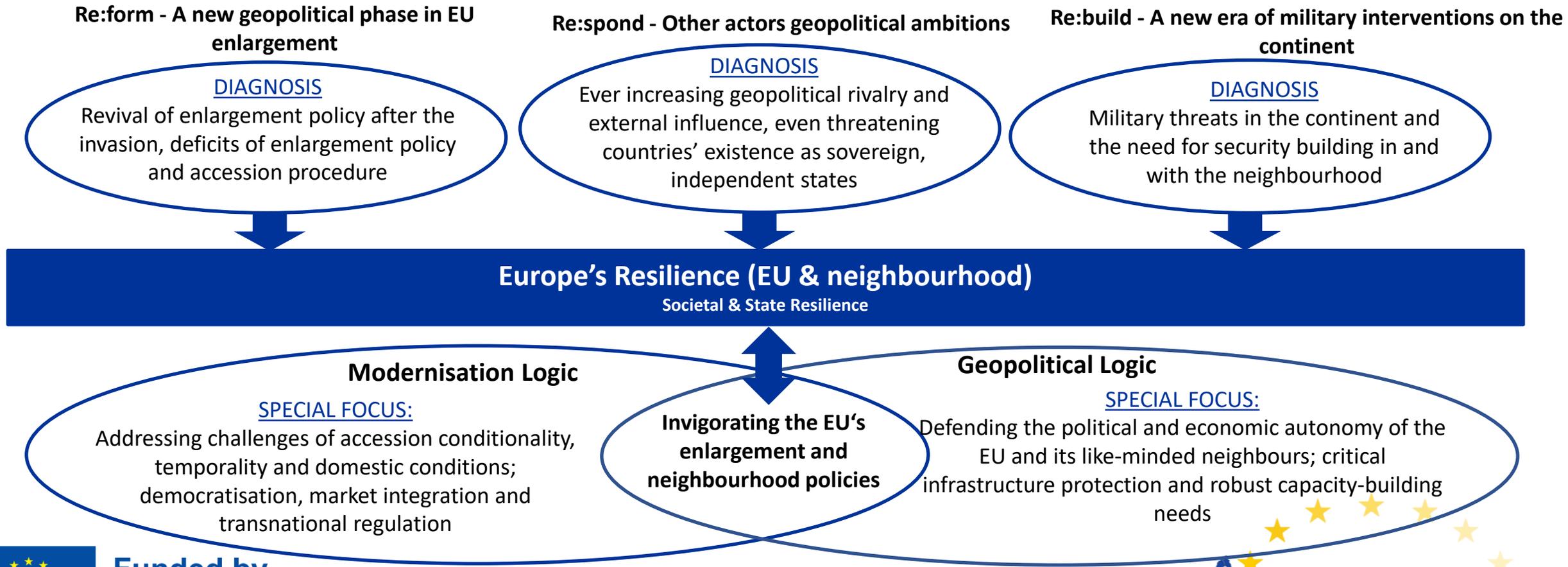
- Solving the credibility dilemma in modernisation and geopolitical logic
- Shift in democracy support in the neighbourhood
- Considering forms of flexibility and differentiation



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The InvigoratEU Project: Conceptual framework



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