



REDEMOS

RECONFIGURING EU DEMOCRACY
SUPPORT. TOWARDS A SUSTAINED
DEMOS IN THE EU'S EASTERN
NEIGHBOURHOOD

REDEMOS-based input to the panel “Democracy in the neighbourhood and EU enlargement: Horizon Europe research insights”

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at Kyiv School of Economics & Post-Doctoral
Researcher at the UiT the Arctic University of Norway



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WP3 focused on collecting and analyzing reliable and comparable data on international, EU and EU Member States' funding for democracy, human rights, gender equality, the rule of law and good governance in the EU's eastern neighbourhood since the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

WP7 aimed at exploring explore discourses, narratives and perceptions of EU democracy support within EU institutions and across EU eastern neighbourhood countries to identify areas of consonance and dissonance and to refine existing knowledge of the legitimacy, credibility, and potential of EU democracy support.

Our deliverables



REDEMOS Working Paper D3.1

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.13379017

Conceptual framework EU democracy funding

Unpacking EU democracy assistance. What model of democracy does EU funding suit?

Tina Freyburg, University of St. Gallen
Madalina Dobrescu, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Anastasiia Vlasenko, Kyiv School of Economics

March 2024



Published July 29, 2024 | Version v1

Dataset Open

International and EU funding in the eastern neighbourhood (2005-2022). REDEMOS Dataset 3.2

Vlasenko, Anastasiia (Data collector)^{1,2} ; Freyburg, Tina (Data manager)³

Show affiliations

International, EU and EU Member States' funding for democracy, human rights, gender equality, the rule of law and good governance in the Eastern Neighbourhood, between 2005 and 2022.



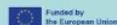
REDEMOS Policy Paper D3.3

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.14794746

Trends, patterns and coordination in the EU, Member States' and international institutions' assistance to the eastern neighbourhood countries

Maryna Rabinovych, Kyiv School of Economics
Stiven Kimmel, Kyiv School of Economics

February 2025



REDEMOS Working Paper D7.2

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.14230519

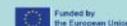
Narratives of external norm contenders across the EU's eastern neighbourhood

Kristi Raik, ICDS
Igor Gretskiy, ICDS
Tetiana Fedosyuk, ICDS

with valuable contributions from CRRC-Georgia, GFSIS, IDIS VIITORUL and YSU

November 2024

This paper is a draft and has not been approved by the European Commission.



REDEMOS Working Paper D7.1

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18232289

Talking About Democracy? A Comparative View of Discourses in the European Union and Armenia, Belarus, and Ukraine

Ivan Gomza, Kyiv School of Economics
Maryna Rabinovych, Kyiv School of Economics
Denys Hartvih, Kyiv School of Economics
Andrii Darkovich, Kyiv School of Economics

Vassilis Karokis-Mavrikos, University of Surrey
Theofanis Exadaktylos, University of Surrey
Laura Chappell, University of Surrey

Armine Sahakyan, Yerevan State University
Mariam Muradyan, Yerevan State University
Arusyak Aleksanyan, Yerevan State University

December 2025



- Reactive to events in the EN region
- **‘Division of labour’ among international donors as to preferred democracy models (2005-2022)**
 - European Union: Emphasis on peacebuilding and liberal institutional models
 - EU Member States: Predominantly liberal governance approaches
 - United States: Focus on participatory models and stakeholder engagement
 - International Organizations: Orientation toward egalitarian frameworks and inclusivity
- **Joint challenge: constrained engagement with the electoral model, largely concentrated around election periods**

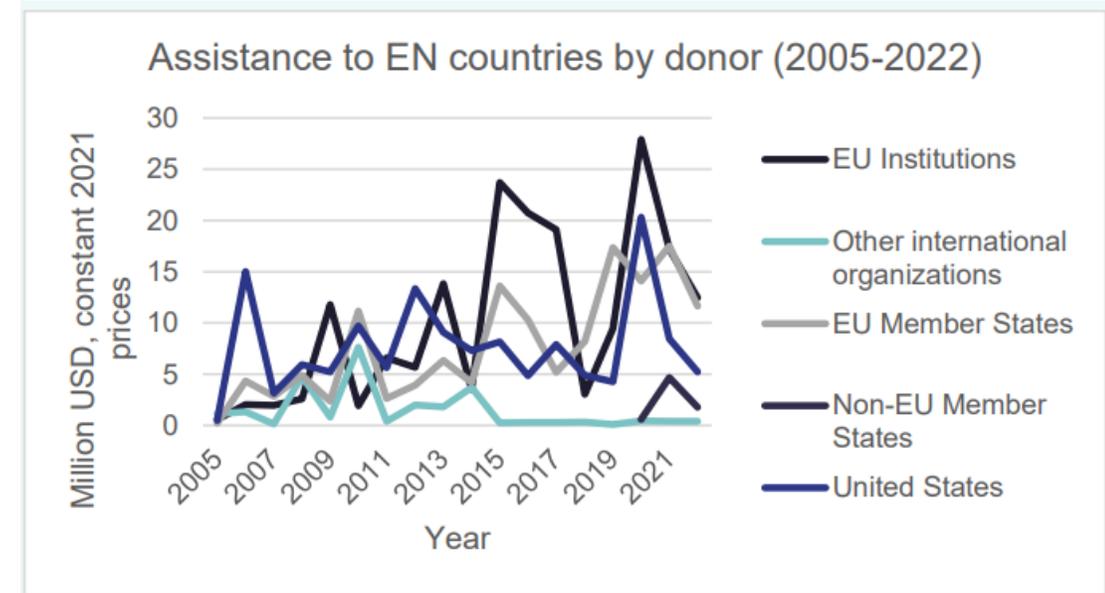


Figure 1: Assistance to EN countries by donor (2005-2022)

- **Good news:** EU democracy funding 2005-2022 oriented on **democratic resilience** before it became a mainstream
- Focus on institutions (NB: except for political parties), rule of law, civic engagement, inclusivity and representation, commitment to democratic norms & minority rights.
- Challenge to the participatory aspect due to the **USAID shutdown**
- Democratic resilience as the foundation for EU's geopolitical awakening & geopolitical enlargement ?



Image Credit: Trellis Group

Image Credit: Trellis Group

Discourses of EU democracy promotion, amid contesting narratives from Russia and China and officials' self-perceptions

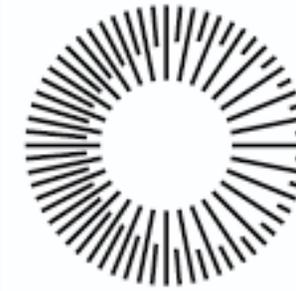


- Challenge of achieving **relational coherence** between democracy discourses in EN countries and EU democracy discourses (copy-pasting ≠ norm internalization)
- **Meta-perceptions** of the EU as a democracy actor influence democracy discourses & assertiveness of EU democracy promotion
- Russia and China as contesting powers in the EN region
- Need for stronger local ownership and broader discursive space for democracy in the EN region



Conclusion

- Geopoliticization of the EU role in the EN region & the EU's attempts to reinvent itself as a geopolitical actor
- Democratic resilience in EN countries as a prerequisite for successful geopolitical enlargement
- New ways needed for the EU to engage with the electoral and participatory democracy model
- Encouraging a broader and a more diverse space for democracy in the EN region



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