

# *Focusing Eastwards: The ENP from the German to Czech EU Presidencies*

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## Context

- Tensions
  - Different interpretations
  - South vs. East
- Young policy, ambitious, yet getting stabilized
  - Geographic scope
  - Instruments
  - Sticks and Carrots within the APs

## German Expectations

- *Neue Ostpolitik*
- History and presence
- Well-developed relations with Russia
- → High expectations
  - Central Europe
  - East Europe

## German plans

- Regarding the ENP
  - ENP Plus → going Eastwards
  - Sources redistribution within the ENP
  - Acquis application into some areas
  - New institutional design
    - Decision-making process
    - Regional organizations
- Regarding other Eastern policies
  - New framework for Russia
  - Strategy for Central Asia

## Results

- German power overestimated
  - EC „counter-paper“
  - No specific initiatives
  - No institutional changes
  - No financial redistribution
- German achievements
  - Improved relations with Ukraine
  - Change of the attitudes towards Russia
  - Central Asian strategy?

## Czech Eastern Policy

- No interest during the 1990s
  - Return to Europe
  - Break up of Czechoslovakia
  - Russocentric understanding of Eastern Europe
  - EU and NATO
- Towards the ENP – *first wave*
  - Western Balkan
- Towards the ENP (and EU presidency) – *second wave*
  - Specialization
  - Geographic focus
  - Multilateral support

## Key challenges

- Different interests in V4
- Internal dimension of foreign policy
- Public support