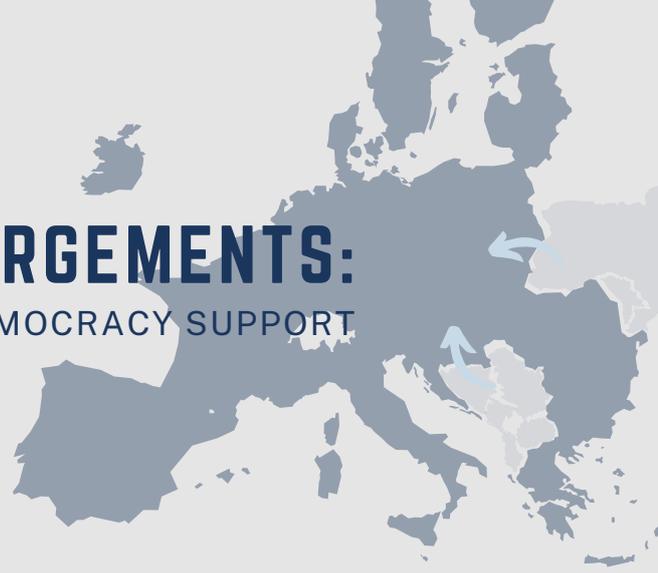


THE FUTURE OF EU ENLARGEMENTS:

CHALLENGING ILLIBERAL TRENDS AND DEMOCRACY SUPPORT

Rome, Polish Academy of Sciences, Vicolo Doria 2
6-7 November 2025



PROGRAMME

6 NOVEMBER 2025

13:30 - 14:00 **Welcome Coffee**

14:00 - 14:30 **Opening of the Conference / Welcoming Adresses**

Agnieszka Stefaniak-Hrycko - Director of the Polish Accademy of Sciences in Rome

Krzysztof Koźbial - Vice-Dean for Human Resources and Finance of the Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian Univeristy in Kraków

Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala - Vice-Dean for International Cooperation of the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Warsaw

Magdalena Góra - Future Democracy Lab. Strategic Programme Excellence Initiative at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków

Daniele Stasi - University of Foggia

14:30 - 15:45 **SESSION I**

ITALIAN POLITICS AND EU ENLARGEMENT: INTERESTS, CHALLENGES, AND INFLUENCE

Chair: Daniele Stasi

14:30 - 14:45 **Matteo Bonomi** (Istituto Affari Internazionali, IAI)

Varieties of Enlargement: Italy's Differential Approach under the Meloni Government

14:45 - 15:00 **Krzysztof Strzałka** (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

Italy and the Western Balkans' Involvement in European Defence: a Strategic Opportunity for the EU

15:00 - 15:15 **Goran Lošić** (Sapienza University of Rome)

Italian Politics on EU Enlargement: The Case of Serbia (2009-2014)

15:15 - 15:30 **Małgorzata Fijał** (Jagiellonian University in Kraków / Polish Academy of Sciences in Rome)

Italian Civil Society and Democracy Support in the EU's Neighbourhood

15:30 - 15:45 **Discussion with Q&A**

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15:45 - 17:00

SESSION II

EU ENLARGEMENT IN A TURBULENT ERA: DEMOCRACY, DISINFORMATION AND STRATEGIC INFLUENCE

Chair: Magdalena Góra

15:45 - 16:00

Daniele Stasi (University of Foggia)

The Rule of Law Versus 'Rule of the Nation': An Examination of Illiberal Democracy

16:00 - 16:15

Alberto Batinti (Sapienza University of Rome)

Widening the Union, Deepening Democracy? EU Enlargements and the Shaping of Democratic Governance

16:15 - 16:30

Dominika Harasimiuk (University of Warsaw)

EU Enlargement in the Age of Disinformation: Big Tech, Geopolitics, and the Struggle for European Values

16:30 - 16:45

Róża Różańska (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

Strategic Diplomacy in an Illiberal Age: Reframing EU Enlargement through Soft Power and Cross-Sector Partnerships

16:45 - 17:00

Discussion with Q&A

17:00 - 17:30

Coffee Break

17:30 - 18:45

SESSION III

THE WESTERN BALKANS ON THE ROAD TO THE EU: BETWEEN ENLARGEMENT FATIGUE AND NEW HOPES

Chair: Vadym Zheltovskyy

17:30 - 17:45

Spasimir Domaradzki (University of Warsaw)

When the EU Turns Bad. The EU and the 2024 Elections Campaigns in North Macedonia

17:45 - 18:00

Krzysztof Koźbiał (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

Western Balkans in the Foreign Policy of the Czech Republic

18:00 - 18:15

Natasza Styczyńska (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

Serbia's EU Integration: Understanding the Dynamics of Pre-Enlargement Fatigue

18:15 - 18:30

Luigi Pigna (Sapienza University of Rome)

From Pact to Deal: Western Balkans on the Path to EU Membership Amid Migration and Climate Challenges

18:30 - 18:45

Discussion with Q&A

19:30

Dinner



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|----------------------|---|
| 9:00 - 10:15 | SESSION IV
RULE OF LAW, POPULISM AND CONTESTATION OF INTEGRATION: CHALLENGES TO EU ENLARGEMENT FROM A CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE
Chair: Małgorzata Fijał |
| 9:00 - 9:15 | Piero Gambale (LUISS University / Italian Chamber of Deputies)
Maciej Serowaniec (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń)
<i>Accountability, Representativeness and the Rule of Law under Illiberal Pressure: Challenges for EU Enlargement Policy from a Central and Eastern European Perspective</i> |
| 9:15 - 9:30 | Magdalena Góra, Volodymyr Posviatenko (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)
<i>New Kids on the Block? New Actors and Patterns of Contestation of the New Eastern Enlargement in Polish Public Sphere</i> |
| 9:30 - 9:45 | József Dúró (Corvinus University of Budapest)
<i>Populists in Government. Lessons from the Experience of Hungary</i> |
| 9:45 - 10:00 | Jakub Krupa (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)
<i>Who Speaks Against the Europe Union? A Study of Polish Party Manifestos (2001–2023)</i> |
| 10:00 - 10:15 | Discussion with Q&A |
| 10:15 - 10:45 | Coffee Break |

THE FUTURE OF EU ENLARGEMENTS:

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PROGRAMME - 7 NOVEMBER 2025



10:45 - 12:00

SESSION V

GEOPOLITICS OF ENLARGEMENT: TRANSATLANTIC DYNAMICS, ILLIBERAL TRENDS, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Chair: Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala

10:45 - 11:00

Ewelina Waśko-Owsiejczuk (University of Białystok)

„America First” and EU Enlargement: Transatlantic Rivalry as a Challenge to Democracy Support in Candidate Countries

11:00 - 11:15

Tomasz Soroka (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

Canada’s Strategic Reorientation: The E.U. as Canada’s Key Democratic Ally Amidst the U.S. Volatility

11:15 - 11:30

Antonluca Lecce (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

EU Enlargement Package 2024: Normative Integration and Geopolitical Strategy in fieri

11:30 - 11:45

Filip Białobrzewski (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

European Integration as a Catalyst for Illiberalism? The Role of Migration and Climate Narratives in the Rise of Right-Wing Parties in the EU

11:45 - 12:00

Discussion with Q&A

12:00 - 13:15

SESSION VI

EU ENLARGEMENT AND UKRAINE: CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND MIGRATION PERSPECTIVES

Chair: Spasimir Domaradzki

12:00 - 12:15

Vadym Zheltovskyy (University of Warsaw)

The Agency of Verkhovna Rada in the European Integration of Ukraine

12:15 - 12:30

Halyna Dovhan (University of Trento)

Impact of the EU Enlargement on the Reform of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

12:30 - 12:45

Joshua Losinger (Jagiellonian University in Kraków / University of Deusto)

Moving Forward: Ukraine’s Position at the European Court of Human Rights in the Context of EU Accession

12:45 - 13:00

Wiktoria Koklina, Tomasz Zduńczyk (Polish Young Diplomats Forum)

From Maidan to Membership: the Prospects and Challenges of Ukraine's Integration into the UE

13:00 - 13:15

Discussion with Q&A

13:15 - 14:15

Lunch Break

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14:15 - 15:15

SESSION VII

THE FUTURE OF EU ENLARGEMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND BEYOND

Chair: Krzysztof Koźbiał

14:15 - 14:30

Olesia Kryvenko (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

What is the Future of the Eastern Partnership?

14:30 - 14:45

Eliso Chinchaladze (Caucasus University)

The Limits of the European Union's Democratic Conditionality: Case Study Analysis of Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova

14:45 - 15:00

Nicholas Zalewski, Zaruhi Margaryan, Chiara Ferro (University of Naples Federico II)

EU Enlargement: Challenges In Russia's Neighborhood And In The Balkans

15:00 - 15:15

Discussion with Q&A

15:15 - 15:30

Closing Remarks



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