

# Disinformation narratives about the Eastern Partnership

EU vs  
DiSiNFO

Launched in 2009, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) aims to deepen and strengthen relations between the European Union (EU), its Member States and its six Eastern neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The Eastern Partnership and its members are targets of disinformation campaigns, which deprive citizens of clear and verifiable information about the initiative and its benefits. The most common disinformation narratives spread fear and seek to convince that citizens of Eastern Partnership countries do not have a choice over their decisions.

## DON'T BE DECEIVED! STAY INFORMED!

Here are the most common disinformation narratives about the Eastern Partnership.

DiSiNFO

**The Eastern Partnership is imposed on partners against their will**

DiSproof

The Eastern Partnership is a joint initiative of the European Union, its Member States and the partner countries. Partner countries have a choice as to the level of their engagement and their ambition. **Partner countries choose to align with EU standards.** This is done through, for example, the adoption of transparent and accountable governance structures and the harmonisation of industry standards in order to benefit from trade opportunities between EaP countries and the EU.

DiSiNFO

**The Eastern Partnership was designed by the EU to control its partners**

DiSproof

The Eastern Partnership is a joint initiative that aims to strengthen relations between the European Union Member States and its Eastern neighbours. The Eastern Partnership initiative is a platform for countries in the region to build a closer relationship with the EU **if they choose to do so.** The Eastern Partnership stands for good neighbourly relations and respects the individual aspirations and ambitions of each partner country. Investing in reforms and respect for shared fundamental values are at the core of the Eastern Partnership. This includes support for democracy, human rights, rule of law reforms, support for the fight against corruption, gender, and support to civil society and independent media.

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DiSiNFO

**Membership of the Eastern Partnership endangers traditional values and national identity**

DiSproof

The Eastern Partnership is a strategic and ambitious partnership based on common values and rules, mutual interests and commitments as well as shared ownership and responsibility. Continued delivery on the reform agenda, alongside respect for fundamental and shared values are, and will remain, the foundations of our partnership. The Eastern Partnership aims to reinforce the political association and economic integration of partner countries. It does not target any country's identity. The EU **promotes the key role of culture to build openness and foster intercultural dialogue** for peaceful inter-community relations. The EU supports youth and civil society participation in democratic processes and listens to their voices.

DiSiNFO

**The Eastern Partnership is a tool to destabilise and bring about revolution**

DiSproof

The Eastern Partnership's agenda aims at bringing positive change to the lives of people of the European Union and of the Eastern Partnership countries. One of the key ways to achieve this is through encouraging democratic rules and principles, respect for shared fundamental values and investing in reforms. This includes support for rule of law reforms, the fight against corruption, gender, and support to civil society and independent media. The EU does not impose any action or programme on partner countries. The overall aim of cooperation is to **build a common area of shared democracy, prosperity and stability** in line with each individual country's aspirations.

DiSiNFO

**Eastern Partnership countries are forced to buy Western-made vaccines and are forbidden to purchase Russian vaccines**

DiSproof

EaP countries are **free** to purchase any vaccine. Five of them participate in the **COVAX Facility** and have received vaccines directly from EU Member States or through COVAX. Furthermore, the EaP is tackling the COVID-19 pandemic through dedicated assistance programmes together with international financial institutions and in cooperation with EU Member States under the **Team Europe** approach.

DiSiNFO

**The Eastern Partnership is an anti-Russian project**

DiSproof

The Eastern Partnership **is not directed against any country**; it is a constructive platform for countries in the region to build a closer relationship with the EU, if they so choose. The EU does not intervene in any country's foreign policy choices and does not demand any of its partners to choose between the EU and any other country.