

The European Union Academic Programme cordially invites you to the following event:

EU+ Series

Seminar “Of Velvet Revolutions and Velvet Occupations - The European Union and the Current State of its Eastern Partnership Programme”



Date: 17 April 2014 (THU)

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Venue: WLB210, Wing Lung Bank Building, Shaw Campus, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong ([MAP](#))

Discussants:

- Nikolaus Graf Lambsdorff, Consul General of Germany
- Vincent Piket, Head, Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao
- Dr. Stefan Auer, Associate Prof, European Studies Programme, the University of Hong Kong

Moderators:

- Prof. Jean-Pierre Cabestan, EUAP Director General
- Prof. H. Werner Hess, EUAP Deputy Director

Language: English

Please register at euaphk@hkbu.edu.hk

In the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, peaceful ‘velvet revolutions’ in central and eastern Europe ushered in a new era of European cooperation, leading to the accession of several countries to the European Union and also NATO. Other states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) were offered political, economic and cultural assistance in gradually moving towards the EU on the basis of a shared commitment to international law and fundamental values - democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms - and to the market economy, sustainable development and good governance. The ensuing ‘Eastern Partnership Programme’ has been in operation since 2009.

The massive civil protests in Ukraine (the ‘Euromaidan’) and a marked change in Russian attitudes towards states under former Soviet Union domination, however, have put a question mark on the likely success of these policies. The Russian occupation of parts of Georgia and, most recently, Crimea and its subsequent incorporation into the Russian state, as well as the slow process of reform in some neighboring countries point to the necessity of a much stronger EU engagement in the region.



This seminar will discuss the emergence and relative success/failure of the 'Eastern Partnership Programme' so far, taking into account the dramatic events in Ukraine. It will also address the question of the future course of European neighborhood policies in the face of a renewed 'cold war' threat in Europe.

