**GLOBSEC Eastern Neighbourhood Initiative**

***How to speed up the integration of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine with the EU?***

**AT A GLANCE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Problem statement:** | With a prolonged war at the EU’s borders, there is a high risk that the Eastern Neighbourhood region will struggle. Russia is interested in keeping its political and economic influence over the region and preventing its full integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures. There is no doubt, that for the successful economic reforms and democratization the ownership of the countries in question is crucial. At the same time, the diplomatic, financial, political and expert support of the EU to enhance these efforts plays an important role. While the CEE countries have a strong coherent position in support of the EU accession of the Eastern Neighbourhood, it is of crucial importance to expand and strengthen the pro-enlargement coalition in the EU. |
| **Goal:** | In this light, GLOBSEC European Neighbourhood Initiative will aim at developing actionable and practical policy recommendations on what the what Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine and other countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood could do to prepare their future accession into the EU. We discuss three aspects:   * **Resisting Russian hostile actions:** what the EU can practically do to assist political, military and socio-economic systems of countries in the Eastern Neighbourhood? * **Reforming economies and political systems:** what countries on their path towards the EU should carry out to enhance their preparedness for joining the EU? * **Preparing the EU for the enlargement**: what the EU could do achieve the finalité of the enlargement of the EU and be a constructive player in the neighbourhood region? What the EU could offer to the region and how to work with the countries (i.e. Belarus) which pursue other geopolitical goals? |
| **Format:** | It is a structured dialogue among a high-level group, including decision-makers, officials, experts, and think tanks. |
| **Added value of Initiative** | * Shaping consensus and design of action points based on multistakeholder and multinational approach. * Independent reflection process with actionable outcomes that complements the strategic reflections taking place in the national and EU capitals. * Increasing coherence between the EU foreign policy and foreign policies of Eastern Neighbourhood countries. |
| **Duration** | November 2022 – December 2023 |
| **Activities** | * workshops with Board of Experts * high-profile discussions on the selected topics relevant to the current developments (economic, political issues) and development of policy positions / recommendations for further assistance of the reform process. * mapping of interest and approaches towards EU Enlargement Policy and development of the strategy towards Eastern Neighbourhood countries, by identifying common grounds and ways for compromise and coalition building * public webinars with experts on the relevant topics related to the EU-Eastern Neighbourhood relations. * risk assessment with regards to further delay of the EU accession process and the role of third actors in the region. |