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## **The EU's conditionality in the case of Moldova: Failure or Success?**

### **Abstract**

In the last fifteen years, the relations between Moldova and the European Union (EU) have deepened significantly. Although a satisfactory progress has been achieved, the EU and Moldova appear to have different understandings of certain problems, which sometimes leads to different agendas and results in unexpected outcomes.

This paper gives an assessment of the success of the EU's policy instruments, which involve conditionality strategies, towards Moldova. The research briefly emphasizes the types of conditionality applied by international organizations in general, and by the EU in particular.

The main purpose of the paper is to evaluate the effects of democratic and economic conditionality as well as socialisation strategies towards Moldova, comparing the desired result of reforms requested by the EU and the real outcomes in Moldova.

Moreover, the study explains the role of internal (the Moldovan government) and external (Russia) factors which diminish the effects of EU policies.

The paper concludes by underlining the shortcomings of both the EU's policies and Moldova's "homework". In addition, it recommends several actions that could help improve the quality of reforms and upgrade the EU-Moldova relationship.

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