

Title: **The Eastward enlargement and the migration space revisited**

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## **The Eastward Enlargement and the Migration Space Revisited**

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The failure of referendums on the ratification of the constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands in 2005 has caused an *impasse* in the harmonisation of national policies, while the enlargement and the redrawing of the EU outer borders has made the migration space of the continent extremely floating. Difficulties in the institutional development are therefore reflected on the process of political and geographical enlargement of the model of European *polity*. The lack of adequate policies with neighbouring countries both to the East and South of the new continent redrawn by the enlargement, instils migration flows, whose characteristics have a wide and changeable spectrum. The new joining members have to deal with migration outflows and the complexity of the management and control of new inflows, regular or irregular, of transit or of asylum seekers. The regional dimension seems to acquire importance and deserve special attention in the decision-making process and in the making of migration policies between the national and supranational level, between the ever present intergovernmentalism and the difficult genesis of proper European policies. The problem of EU borders is then inevitably linked with that of its political and cultural identity. The Eastward enlargement, redrawing the geographical map of the EU and its borders, opens new questions on European identity. The paper addresses these few open questions, building upon an ongoing research aimed at investigating the link between the post EU enlargement migration space and the process of the forming of a common EU immigration policy.

**Keywords:** EU enlargement, borders, immigration, Central and Eastern Europe, European identity, Turkey