



## PRESS RELEASE OF WORKING PAPER 1.4

### OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY: ITS HISTORY, STRUCTURE, AND IMPLEMENTED POLICY MEASURES

January 2012

#### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this working paper is to provide an overview of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Focus will be on the history and the goals of the ENP, the institutional structure of the ENP, and the policy measures that have been carried out through the ENP. This press release will give a brief overview of the most important conclusions of the working paper. Since the goal of this report is only to provide an overview of existing research in order to inform the SEARCH project, policy implications of this report are not further explored.

#### MAIN RESULTS

This working paper develops a reference work that provides a factual background on the history, institutional structure, and implemented policy measures of the ENP. The ENP has its roots in a 2003 European Commission communication and over the last seven years it has developed to the multifaceted policy that it is today, by gradually developing new institutional structures for specific gaps in policy. The ENP replaces or subsumes a number of previous regional and thematic policies, which are further detailed in the working paper. In the beginning period, the ENP was funded by existing funding instruments for the different regional and thematic policies it was supposed to replace. After 2006 the European Neighbourhood and Policy Instrument was developed as the main method of funding projects for the ENP. Further, the European Investment Bank has specific investment instruments that leverage funds

from the European Neighbourhood and Policy Instrument to carry out investment projects in neighbouring countries.

The ENP has an interregional element, southern and eastern regional elements, and bilateral elements for all the ENP countries, except for a few which do not fulfill basic requirements for democracy and human rights. The most important policies and reforms that have been carried out in these elements are discussed in the working paper. This overview clearly shows that the regional and interregional aspects of the ENP are weakly developed, judging from the low amount of activity in these elements of the ENP. The bilateral elements have various amounts of activity, with some countries being extremely active and reform-minded, and other countries who have witnessed practically no progress in the reforms that are proposed by the ENP.

This overview can serve as both an overview of the exact institutional structure of the ENP and its changes over time, and as a repository that can be used as an aid to select suitable countries for further empirical research on the impact of the ENP, because the overview enables a quick selection of countries that have implemented specific policies.