



## **ABSTRACT WORKING PAPER 2.7**

### **The Geography of trade relations between the EU and the ENP countries: Emerging patterns and policy recommendations**

**September 2013**

The EU launched the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), a unified policy framework towards its neighboring countries, aiming at strengthen the prosperity, stability and security around its political borders. The present paper studies the trade component of the ENP, conducting an in-depth empirical analysis of the geography of the EU-ENP trade relations (i.e. the size, the composition and the direction of exports and imports flows). Providing clear-cut, empirically-based, responses to a number of critical research questions, the paper offers valuable insight to both economic integration theory and policy-making. Overall, the findings of the paper indicate that the EU-ENP trade relations have been evolved in a rather uneven, unbalanced and asymmetric way. Thus, the EU should examine the possibility that mandatory acquis communautaire compliance related to political requirements should not be a precondition for trade negotiations (and agreements).