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The Price of Success, the Benefit of Setbacks: Alternative Futures of EU-Ukraine Relations

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Highlights

- New technologies might serve in Ukraine as sources for political change.
- Russia might gain control over the European Union through its right-wing governments.
- Instable Eastern neighbourhood might enhance solidarity within the EU.
- The lack of a common vision might build new gravitational centres in Europe.
- The intensification of EU-EAEU relations might turn Ukraine into a no man's land.

Introduction

While European integration successfully established peace within the European Union (EU), Eastern Europe remains a source of military conflict.¹ The transformation euphoria of the early 1990s with the slogan of an “end of history” had to give way to the insight of the 21st century that semi-democratic regimes may sustain. Even the EU acknowledged that it failed to achieve the major objectives of its European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), i.e. promotion of democracy and stability (European Commission 2015:2). In the last decades we observed a variety of political change in Eastern Europe from democratic revolutions to neo-authoritarianism. The political systems have not been settled and the susceptibility of that region to external influences remains considerable. In times of great uncertainties, it is worthwhile to reflect on alternative future developments.

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