Секция «Политические науки»

Explaining the European Neighbourhood Policy
Pazdniakova Yauheniya

Студент
Aarhus University, Faculty of Humanities, Aarhus, Дания
E-mail: pazdniakova@gmail.com

After the last two enlargements of the European Union (the EU), following the aim to enhance relations with the new neighbours and *"develop a zone of prosperity and a friendly neighbourhood – a'ring of friends' - with whom the EU enjoys close, peaceful and co-operative relation"* [3], Eastern Partnership Initiative (the EaP), as a more specific component of European Neighbourhood Policy (the ENP) has been launched in 2009. The EaP invited six partner-states, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine *"to create the necessary conditions to accelerate political association and further economic integration between the European Union and interested partner countries"* [1].

Explaining the reasons for launching EU partnership projects is one of disputable questions among the EU scholars. Constructivism and rationalism - two approaches suggested by Ian Barnes and Pamela Barnes (2010, p.422) to explain the enlargement - thus could be also used for justification of EU external action in regard to the EaP. According to rationalists the decision is made on the ground of rationally calculated interest, foreseen threats, costs and outcomes of a certain policy. Unlike rationalists, constructivists highlight arguments of another origin: they advocate that shared norms and values, understanding of common aims and interests prevail in policy formation. Following the rationalists, the EaP is designed to support the progress, reforms and development of partner countries in broad range of areas, while strengthening multilateral and bilateral relations, and constructing area of reliable partners with effectively functioning political and economic systems. Moreover the EaP intends to contribute to diminish democratic deficit, demanding from partner-countries compliance with basic democratic values and the rule of law, expecting purely 'constructivists' outcome.

The concept normative power Europe (Manners 2002) reveals another angle of the external action of the EU towards the states in its neighbourhood. It provides an insight into European capacity to develop normative standards to follow. At the same time I claim that the ENP (and the EaP as its component) serving as embodiment of the normative power Europe, refers not only to ethical promotion of the European achievements. It is also a tool to ensure security and stability of Europe while supporting neighbouring counties in solving their inner problems of different nature by this means preventing them from escalation.

Here I invite to discuss the idea of Europe as an advanced normative standard exported beyond its borders to replicate it in order to provide security and stability in Europe and its neighbourhood. This idea is a certain depicturing accompanied by a set of norms (rules, values, principles) that represents Europe beyond its borders.

Chiefly Manners affirms a way of assessment of the EU's principles, action and impact produced by three normative ethical approaches. Guided by virtue ethics the EU establishes a virtue example that is to be universally applicable, while following deontological ethics the EU need to "be reasonable" in its actions, reasoning and rationalizing "through processes of engagement and dialogue". (Manners 2008, p.58) "Engagement entails initiating and

institutionalizing regular and transparent patterns of communication or partnership" (ibid.). Impact of the EU's action is assessed under the logic of consequentialist ethics. "An emphasis on impact requires wider reading of the way in which policies change and shape the partners and targets of such actions" (ibid.).

The ENP is unique in its coherent approach to towards different states to which an incentive of membership cannot be utilized (Demidov and Svensson, 2011:2). Grounding on this tripartite logic of normative power Europe I consider the ENP to be a European policy of distribution of the norms and values while engaging neighbouring states in dually beneficial cooperation. The policy is criticized for decline in effect, coupled with blaming the EU for too mild diplomatic politics and it's "own limited commitment to the ENP" (Popesku and Wilson, 2011:1)

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If take the EU as an advanced normative standard that the EU seeks to promote and spread, then the EU neighbouring initiatives are means of exercising normative power Europe in Manners' reading. Projection of the European normative achievements beyond its borders is not only transference of norms and values, but also a support in solution of inner problems that may have negative direct or indirect impact upon the EU security and stability. The EU, being powerful to act beyond borders, modernizes and democratizes the neighbouring states by involving them in cooperation within various initiatives suggesting mutual interest. The EU uses a policy of engagement stating a requirement to comply with and a consequent reward for compliance or sanction for noncompliance. While some states positively respond to EU's normative power, others express stable resistance.

Литература

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