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The Context, The Actors And The Effects Of The Eastern Enlargement Of The European Union

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This paper deals with the conceptualization of the European Union (EU) Eastern enlargement. The author shows to what extent it is necessary to analyze the Eastern enlargement in the context of the already completed EC/EU expansion, and to remind the reader of the often overlooked connection between the processes of enlargement and those of integration deepening. The characteristic features of the eastwards EU enlargement, including the difference between the general factors of expansion and the specific features of Eastern enlargement are also demonstrated, with special attention paid to the nature and the position of the actors and the supposed effects of enlargement. In the conclusion, the author defines, based on the analyses, some of the research perspectives that should be observed in further political science research.

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