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### **EU enlargement to the East and EU-Russia relations in the studies abroad**

The European Union enlargement to the East in 2004 and 2007 became the largest in its history. Therefore, it is not surprising that it aroused the strongest interest of the academic community of the EU and Western countries. In the academic literature there have been published a large number of researches devoted to the study of various aspects of the EU Eastern enlargement, its influence both on the candidate countries and on the EU itself, most of them were published in the first half of the 2000s.

First of all, the researches have focused on the preparation of the candidate countries for the EU accession and, therefore, the multiple aspects of their transformations (supported and monitored by the EU) have been explored in economic, social, legal and political fields (economic transitions and structural economic reforms; democratization, human rights, transitional justice and legal reforms; development of civil society, organization and structure of political parties; the development of social dialogue; military reforms and civil-military relations; the public debates on the accession to the EU ect.). Also, a number of studies have been devoted to the impact of the EU accession on the public administration of the enlargement countries and their administrative capacities to participate effectively in the EU institutions, “pillars” and legal regimes. As well there have been the studies focused on the implications of the EU accession for the territorial-administrative reforms in the enlargement countries, the issues of the cross-border cooperation in the enlarged EU have been analyzed too. Also, the significant number of studies have been devoted to the analysis of the complex influence of the EU accession on the individual candidate countries.

Also, the researchers were interested in the impact of the EU enlargement on its policies, institutions, funds, social sphere and the migration processes between the new and old members of the European Union.

The "Russian" issues in the context of the EU eastern enlargement have been given relatively small attention. Among the topics that have been the most studied and debated there have been the issue of Kaliningrad region and the bilateral relations between Russia and EU accession countries. It should be noted that the number of works that analyze the relations between Russia and new EU member-states increased in the period after the EU enlargement.

Regarding the current EU enlargement agenda it is possible to single out the studies devoted to the topical issues of the EU enlargement policy, there are also studies devoted to the Western Balkan direction of EU enlargement and the EU-Turkey relations in the context of the EU enlargement policy.

Finally, in the context of the completed EU Eastern enlargement (2004 and 2007) and the current EU enlargement agenda the studies have examined such issues as the Europeanization /EUisation and European identity, the EU conditionality, the Eurosceptic attitudes in the candidate countries and "the enlargement fatigue" in the EU.