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Russia-EU shared neighborhood and Russia-EU relations in the studies in Russia

The issue of the Russia-EU shared neighborhood occupies a significant place in the academic studies published in Russia on the relations between Russia and the European Union.

In general, a significant part of the Russian research agenda on the Russia-EU common neighborhood has been influenced with the perception that the states of this region had been the integral territories of the USSR for a long period of time and even before most of them had been included in the Russian Empire for a long historical period. Consequently, nowadays such terms as the "CIS region" (Commonwealth of Independent States), "Western area of the CIS", "post-Soviet countries" are most often used to describe the shared neighborhood area. The term "shared /common neighborhood" of Russia and the EU is relatively rarely used. Thus, the actorness of the regional countries is quite often considered as the marginal and this region itself is immanently quite frequently precepted as an area of competition (rather than cooperation) between Russia and the institutions of the Western community (European and Euro-Atlantic ones) where the EU is one of them. Since 2014 such a perception has intensified, the region is becoming to be considered as the increasingly contested area where realist and geopolitical approaches for its analysis are well spread. Likewise as the Western research agenda, the interest of the Russian scholars towards this area have been stimulated by the domestic political events that took place in the common neighborhood countries (e.g. "color revolutions", "frozen conflicts"), the EU policies towards this region (European Neighborhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership) and the dynamics of the Russia's policies towards this region.

On the whole, the academic literature published in Russia on the issues of Russia-EU common neighborhood and relations between the EU and Russia in this area have focused on several issues.

There are studies that have analyzed the development of the initiatives of the European Union towards the shared neighborhood, the European Neighborhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership. Several articles have discussed the specifics of the Russia's perception of the European Union policies towards the post-Soviet space.

Also, a number of researches have explored the modalities of the interactions and competition as well the possibilities for the cooperation between Russia and the EU in their common neighborhood region and its countries.

Some academic literature have been devoted to the influence of the countries of the common neighborhood region on the development of relations between Russia and the European Union, and a number of studies have analyzed the development of relations between the EU and individual states of the post-Soviet space.

It is also possible to single out the works that have examined the internal and international dynamics of the post-Soviet space after 1991 and the Russia's actorness within this area. The influence of internal (social, political and economic) and external factors on the post-Soviet space and its transformation have been explored and the aspects of the integrity and disintegration of the post-Soviet space have been debated.