

From: Eugene Mrad, senior researcher

In brief, there is no need for another « new » European Neighbourhood Policy.

Another “new” initiative will add more confusion to the whole Euro-Mediterranean relations. The EU does not totally substitute one policy by another and does not acknowledge the shortcomings of the previous policies.

This raises serious doubts about the added value of another “new” ENP. The proclaimed “new” projects could be simply implemented within the framework of the already existing structures and programs.

Some academics are still talking about issues like “Theorizing the European Neighbourhood Policy”. Those academics who have never lived in any country of the European Neighbourhood and who do not speak any language of the European Neighbourhood can just talk about theories. They do not know the dilemmas and challenges in the region.

The focus should be on policy-oriented research which can lead to concrete recommendations and action plans. Academics who are native of the neighbourhood countries should be encouraged and consulted because they know the real situations, they speak the local languages and they can provide accurate analysis.

After all, the concrete actions - rather than the usual statements - and the way of response of both the EU and non-EU decision makers to the current tragic events in the Southern Mediterranean region will be a litmus test for the whole initiative.