

**‘Goliath Versus Goliath:
EU Democracy Promotion in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia’s Alternative
Agenda’**

The proclamation of the ultimate victory of the liberal democracy, which was popular in the 1990s, has clearly become inconsistent today, especially if one looks at the Eastern Partnership countries. Whereas EU was the biggest democracy promoter in the world, establishing stable democracy in its Eastern European neighbourhood remains a challenge. The main assumption of these thesis is that Russia’s competitive agenda has outbalanced EU’s efforts in democracy promotion, or at least challenged it. This competition was manifested by considerable evolution of the policy instruments developed by both competitive actors. Goliath versus Goliath describes EU’s growing assertiveness with democracy promotion and Russia’s alternative agenda which offsets EU’s influence in the shared neighbourhood. Theoretically speaking it might appear as a clash of the liberal democracy concept versus realism. The main conclusion of these thesis is that the EU was not be able to advance its democracy promotion as every new step in democratization was met with a spiral of Russia’s assertive actions.