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**University of Macau/Institute of European
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Master in European Studies

**Poland's Influence in the European Union, a Perspective
of the Eastern Partnership**



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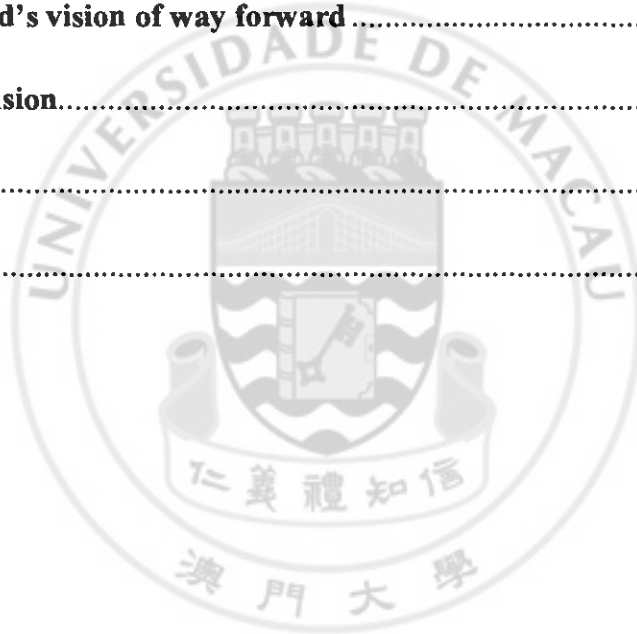
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Abstract

In the aftermath of the accession to the European Union, New Member States (NMS) extended the EU's boundary to the territory of the former Soviet Union. Given the situation, under the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), Poland and Sweden proposed the Eastern Partnership (EaP) so as to promote stability, security, and prosperity in the Central and Eastern Europe. As one of the two wings of the ENP, the EaP is to balance the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Northern dimension of the ENP. The challenges of the democratic and economic reform along with the energy cooperation are supposed to be highlighted on the roundtable of the EU. However, the funding and technical support in the region is not sufficient to assist the thorny reforms, especially in the Belarus. Poland's active stance on the EaP and regional development is another litmus test on the status quo of the NMS in the EU based on their influence in line with the institutionalism and bureaucracy of the EU. The 2011 Polish Presidency is the significant moment for the EaP in the Central and Eastern Europe and exerting influence on the top level of the Union. The adaptive capacity and diplomatic vision of Poland could be considered as the pivotal elements for the effectiveness of national influence.

Key Words: European Neighborhood Policy, Eastern Partnership, Poland