

In 2004, ten countries from Eastern and Southern Europe joined the European Union. This collection of papers has been launched by the Institute for European Studies to take stock of the last two decades since the accomplishment of the biggest EU enlargement. The series features contributions on the following themes: the evolution of the Copenhagen Criteria (Aida Lorca Arce); differentiated integration practices in countries that joined in 2004 (Sarah Falcucci and Luca Saviolo); the EU's role in navigating the Cyprus question (Andreas Kotelis); post-accession compliance with the environmental acquis (Erriketi Tla da Silva); europeanisation dynamics in Czechia (Ladislav Cabada); identity visions of the EU in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia (Nerija Putinaitė); post-accession conditionality in Hungary (Veronika Czina). Specific to Malta, contributions focus on the Rule of Law (Benedetta Lobina); LGBTQ rights (Mark Harwood); cultural policy (Karsten Xuereb); the framing of European values (Jean Claude Cachia); the evolution of Malta's budgetary institutions (Moiria Catania); the impact of membership on climate policies (Charles and Clara Galdies) and environmental NGOs (Michael Briguglio); the evolution of Malta's approach to neutrality (Valentina Cassar); and Common Foreign and Security Policy (Roderick Pace).

All papers underwent double-blind peer review. The selection of abstracts and coordination of the peer review process were conducted by the members of the editorial board.

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