

Stabilising the Balkans

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Issues

- Shrinking geography of animosity
- Withering away of the Western Balkans
- Fundamental problems – slow change
- Depressed, uncompetitive, unbalanced economies
- Worsening social situation

Territorial Stability

- Basically, EU offers market integration,
- which may prove inferior to control over territory

Political Stability

- EU tends to stabilise democracy,
- but is less of a force for democratisation

Right and left (votes in the two last elections)

	right-wing extreme		left-wing extremism			right-wing extreme		left-wing extremism	
	previous, %	latest, %	previous, %	latest, %		previous, %	latest, %	previous, %	latest, %
Albania	2.1	3	.	.	Austria	28.2	29.7	.	.
Belarus	.	.	.	.	Belguim	12	7.8	.	.
Bulgaria	9.4	7.3	.	.	Danmark	13.9	12.3	2.2	6.7
Croatia	3.4	2.8	0	5.2	Finland	4.1	19	.	.
Czech Rep.		6.9	11.3	14.9	France	4.3	13.6	4.3	6.9
Estonia	.	.			Germany	.	4.7		
Greece	0.3	7	25.3	32.8	Italy	.	.	.	.
Hungary	2.2	16.7	.	.	Netherlands	15.5	10.1	.	.
Latvia	7.7	13.9	.	.	Sweden	2.9	5.7	.	.
Lithuania	7.3	12.7	.	.					
Macedonia	.	.	.	.	
Montenegro	.	.	.	.	
Poland	.	.	.	.	
Portugal	.	.	7.9	7.9					
Romania	.	.	.	.	
Russia	8.1	11.7	11.6	19.2					
Slovakia	5.1	4.6	.	.					
Serbia	.	.	.	.	
Slovenia	5.4	1.8	.	.					
Spain	.	.	3.8	6.9					
Turkey	14.3	13	.	.					
Ukraine	0.8	10.4	5.4	13.2					

Economic Stability

- EU can be an instrument for development,
- but that is conditional on domestic economic policies

Social Stability

- For less developed countries in and around EU, depressed labour markets bring high social costs

Conclusion

- EU stabilises, but is a force for change often only after other alternatives are exhausted