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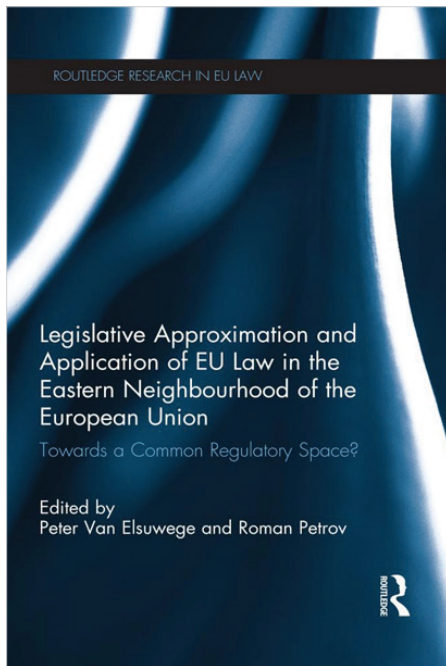
Elsuwege, Peter Van, and Roman Petrov, eds.  
*Legislative Approximation and Application of EU Law  
in the Eastern Neighbourhood of the European Union.*  
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*Reviewed by:* Mykhailo Mykievych

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**Peter Van Elsuwege and Roman Petrov,**  
eds.

*Legislative Approximation  
and Application of EU Law in  
the Eastern Neighbourhood  
of the European Union*

London; New York: Routledge, 2014. 268 pp.  
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*Reviewed by Mykhailo Mykiievych*

The study is a welcome addition to literature on EU external relations law. Modern patterns of legal research call on scholars to take a complex interdisciplinary approach to their work, and this book certainly contributes to these attempts.

The unifying theme of the book is the analysis of the approximation and application of EU law beyond EU borders. Any scholar interested in EU external policy and, in particular, in the Eastern Neighborhood will benefit from the highly interesting information and data presented here.

The book is well structured and logically construed. The study is divided into two parts. Part 1 deals with an overview of the instruments and mechanisms of the process of legislative approximation and application of EU law beyond EU borders. Christophe Hillion looks at anatomy of EU norm export towards the EU's neighborhood. Aaron Matta differentiates the methods of *acquis* export. Dimitry Kochenov deliberates about the scope and role of EU common values in the domain of EU external policy. Guillaume Van der Loo analyses the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area as an example of a coherent mechanism for legislative approximation. Sieglinde Gstoel writes about the prospects of a Neighborhood Economic Community between the EU and its Eastern partners. Adam Lazowski and Steven Blockmans focus on the challenges to the legal rapprochement of the Western Balkans and the EU.

Part 2 offers a comprehensive study of the experience of legislative approximation and application of EU law in the EU's neighborhood. Part 2 contains detailed country reports from Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Russia. Contributors to Part 2 (Roman Petrov, Anna Khvorostiankina, Gaga Gabrichidze, Narine Ghazaryan, Anna Hakobyan, Maksim Karliuk and Paul Kalinichenko) provide in depth analysis of direct and indirect application of EU law in legal systems of their countries. Country reporters study the link

between the approximation efforts and the application of EU law by national executive and judiciary branches. Country reporters from Belarus and Russia (Maksim Karliuk and Paul Kalinichenko) put forward the concept of “back door harmonization” that is inherent to East European countries not willing closer rapprochement with the EU. In concluding remarks Peter Van Elsuwege and Roman Petrov argue that in the absence of any explicit membership perspectives, legislative approximation between the EU and East European countries does not aim at the full incorporation of the entire EU acquis. In practice the East European countries “gradually but surely develop a new model of ‘integration without membership,’” which is based on the application of sectoral EU acquis and legislative approximation aiming at economic integration through the establishment of bilateral Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas.

To conclude, the book is a well structured and well researched source of information on EU external relations and the promotion of the EU acquis into the legal systems of the EU's eastern neighbors.