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## WORKING GROUP 5: THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

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The Working Group on ‘The Future of Europe’ was chaired by [Juha Jokela](#) (Finnish Institute of International Affairs) and benefitted from the contributions of [Kakha Gogolashvili](#) (Georgian Foundation for International Studies), [Funda Tekin](#) (Co-Director at Institut für Europäische Politik), [Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm](#) (Lecturer at the Istanbul Gedik University) and [Ebru Ece Özbey](#) (PhD Student at the Max-Planck-Institut for the Study of Societies).

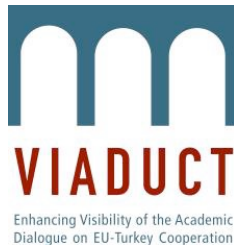
Working Group 5 opened the session by emphasizing that a discussion on the Future of Europe must take two dimensions into account. The internal dimension refers to the EU’s internal procedures and developments, such as differentiated integration or rising Euroscepticism and populism as well as specific agendas and policy themes, where different topics are addressed, inter alia, debates on the migration crisis, security and defence. In this regard, the external dimension of the EU is not only affected by global trends but also particularly shaped by these internal processes as they have external implications on accessive countries, neighborhoods, partnerships and the global scene.

In the following, the discussion went on by focusing on ‘differentiated integration’ as an existing and well-known fact within the EU, and even though it has been subject of political and academic debates ever since the EU was established, there is no clear answer where differentiated integration stops. However, the participants identified different red lines drawn by the EU, among them Article 2. The uncompromising stance of the EU on this article becomes particularly evident when Turkey’s current accession situation is taken into account. According to the Working Group, the only model of differentiated integration acknowledged by the EU institutions is the multi-speed integration. In the further course of the discussion, the group also paid attention to several challenges induced through differentiated integration as it not only creates and enables obstacles concerning the unification for joint policies and certain opt-outs for certain member states, but can also lead to fragmentation with significantly diverging values, as in the case of EU’s member state Poland.

After picking up on the essence and challenges of differentiated integration, the Working Group discussed how the concept should be taught in order to be better understood. Hereby, the Working Group stated that it is important to understand differentiated integration as a cross-cutting issue, and to begin with its definition. With regard to the EU Treaties a “pre-defined” differentiated integration already exists, however, there are many other forms of this notion which need to be considered. The research on the theorization of the notion should be promoted and academic debates linked to political ones.

The Working Group finally elaborated on the Future of Europe by highlighting EU’s Enlargement Policy and stressing that the geopolitical reality should be included more in the discussion. Due to certain global developments and shifts, other countries, such as Russia through coercive exercise of power and China through investments, are gaining more influence on neighboring non-member states. Even though they do not display a viable alternative to the normative power of the European Union, other types of cooperations which are not value-based can also consolidate strong relationships. Therefore, the EU should have a clearer vision of their Enlargement Policy. Even though European integration works





on not having a finality, the standard cautious step by step approach should be rethought in order to be able to provide an altered prospect for these non-member states on an institutional level.

Finally, the Working Group referred their discussion back to the mission of VIADUCT by concluding that the project should not exclusively concentrate on EU-Turkey relations as the Future of Europe should be seen in a geopolitical context and research needs to be conducted beyond this bilateral context. These considerations necessarily include people from outside the EU within these discussions and branches of research.

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