

## **Abstract**

This paper analyzes the statements of Russian politicians, represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, about the emergence and development of the Eastern Partnership program between 2008 and 2014. Although there are many papers in the scientific literature describing Russia's attitude to the initiative, there is a lack of research aimed at a methodologically complete study of this attitude. Neoclassical realism theory is chosen as the theoretical basis for the paper, and qualitative content analysis is used as the main method of data analysis. The results of the paper partially confirm the findings of the literature on the topic suggesting that Russia has a negative perception of the Eastern Partnership due to counteracting its own interests in the post-Soviet region. At the same time, these views are not permanent, but are subject to changes and adjustments. The results of the research allow us to put forward theories about Russia's view of the Eastern Partnership solely as an instrument of competition against its interests, as well as about the possible existence of undocumented agreements between Russia and the EU on Moscow's exclusive right to develop integration processes in the region.