



Prof. Dr. Roman Petrov, a former Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at Heidelberg University, conducts research on the concept of "Accession through War," examining how Russia's invasion of Ukraine has impacted the EU's enlargement and external policies. His work explores the unprecedented fast-tracking of Ukraine's EU candidate status, granted on June 23, 2022, just four months after its application on February 28, 2022.

My research hypothesis is that the EU Member States and institutions have granted the candidate status to Ukraine essentially as an act of moral support, to boost the country's resistance to the aggression and to recognise Ukraine's defence of the EU common values. It was more a (geo)political decision rather than a scrupulous legal application of the conditions related to Article 49 TEU. If so, the question can then be raised whether the Ukraine's accession process will continue to be framed by the "accession through war" approach, or whether it will ultimately fall back onto the "classic accession" track, as applicable to candidate states before the war in Ukraine.

"Accession through war" entails that the war justifies the EU taking an ad hoc approach in its assessment of the applicant's ability to join the Union. It implies a more favourable EU treatment of the membership application and the negotiation procedure if and because the applicant is fighting, literally, to defend common European values as defined in Articles 2 and 21 TEU. If such a country is committed to respecting those values, notably by taking an active part in the EU external policies (e.g. Eastern Partnership) and becomes a victim of a military or hybrid invasion, it may expect extensive political, economic, security, and humanitarian support from the EU and its Member States. Such support may indeed include the recognition of a membership perspective and ad hoc tailored negotiation process for the country at war. Of course, the aggression would have to be of such a nature that it undermines the territorial sovereignty of the state concerned, and its European integration objectives.

Roman Petrov is a specialist for European Law. Since 2010 he has been the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Law at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, where he also functions as the Head of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in EU Studies at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Furthermore, he has

been the Director of the German Law Institute at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy since 2016. In 2009, he was awarded with the visiting research fellowship by the German Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and spent his research stay at Heidelberg University's Institute for German and European Company and Commercial Law. His current research host institution is the Hamburg Institute of Advanced Studies.
