

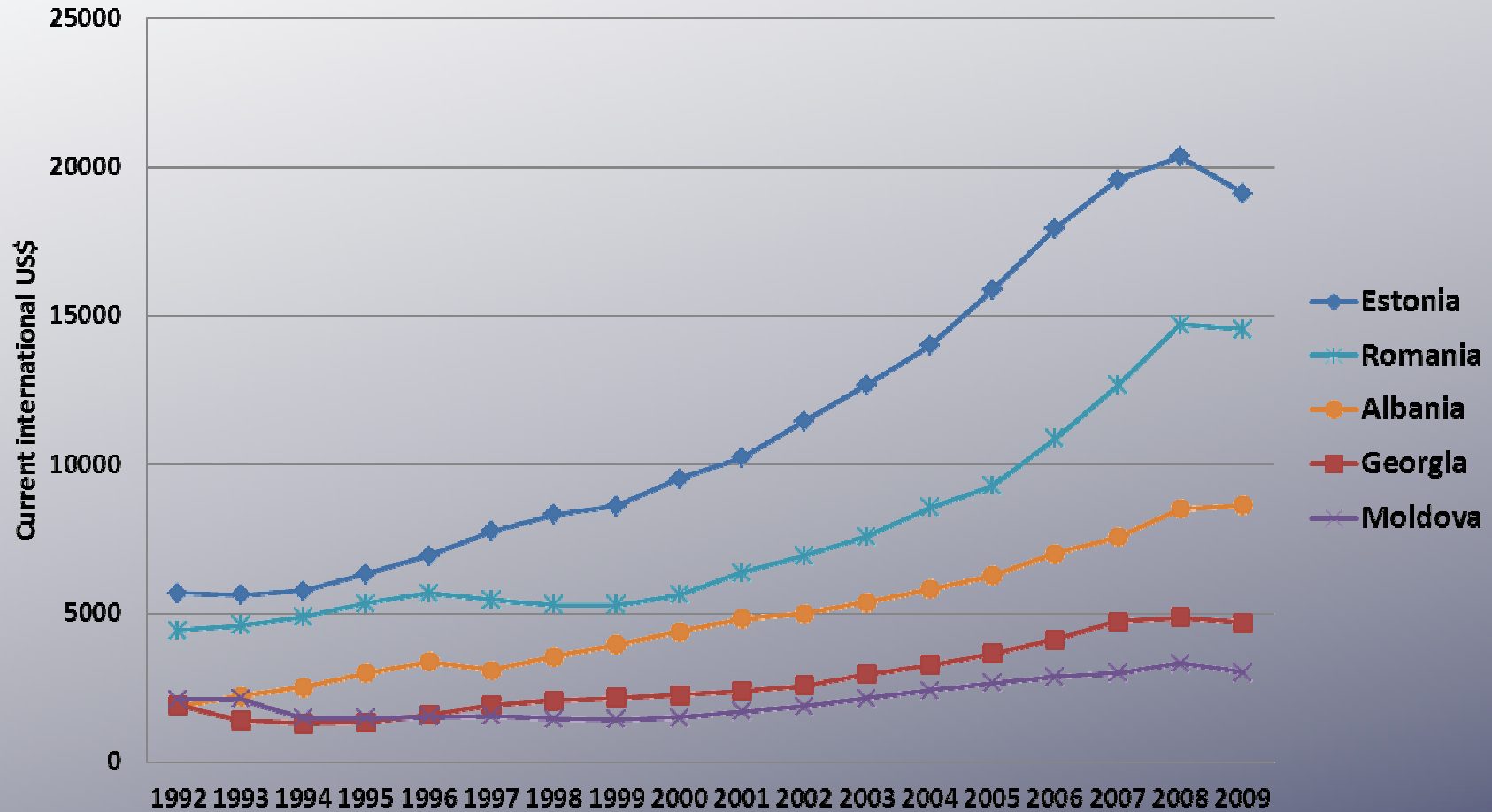


# Not doing the obvious

*EU integration policy  
towards Moldova*

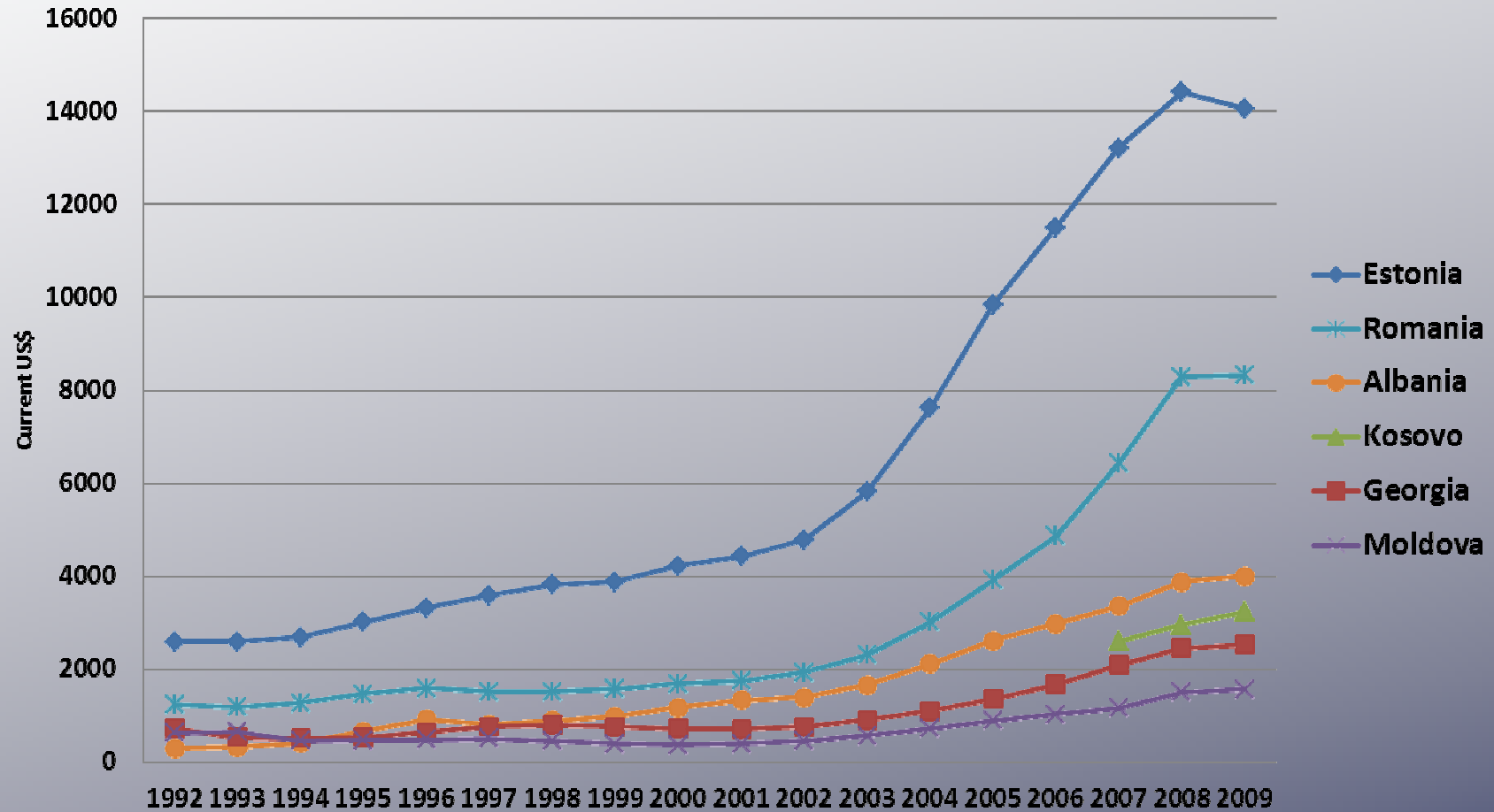


## GNI per capita (ppp) 1992-2009



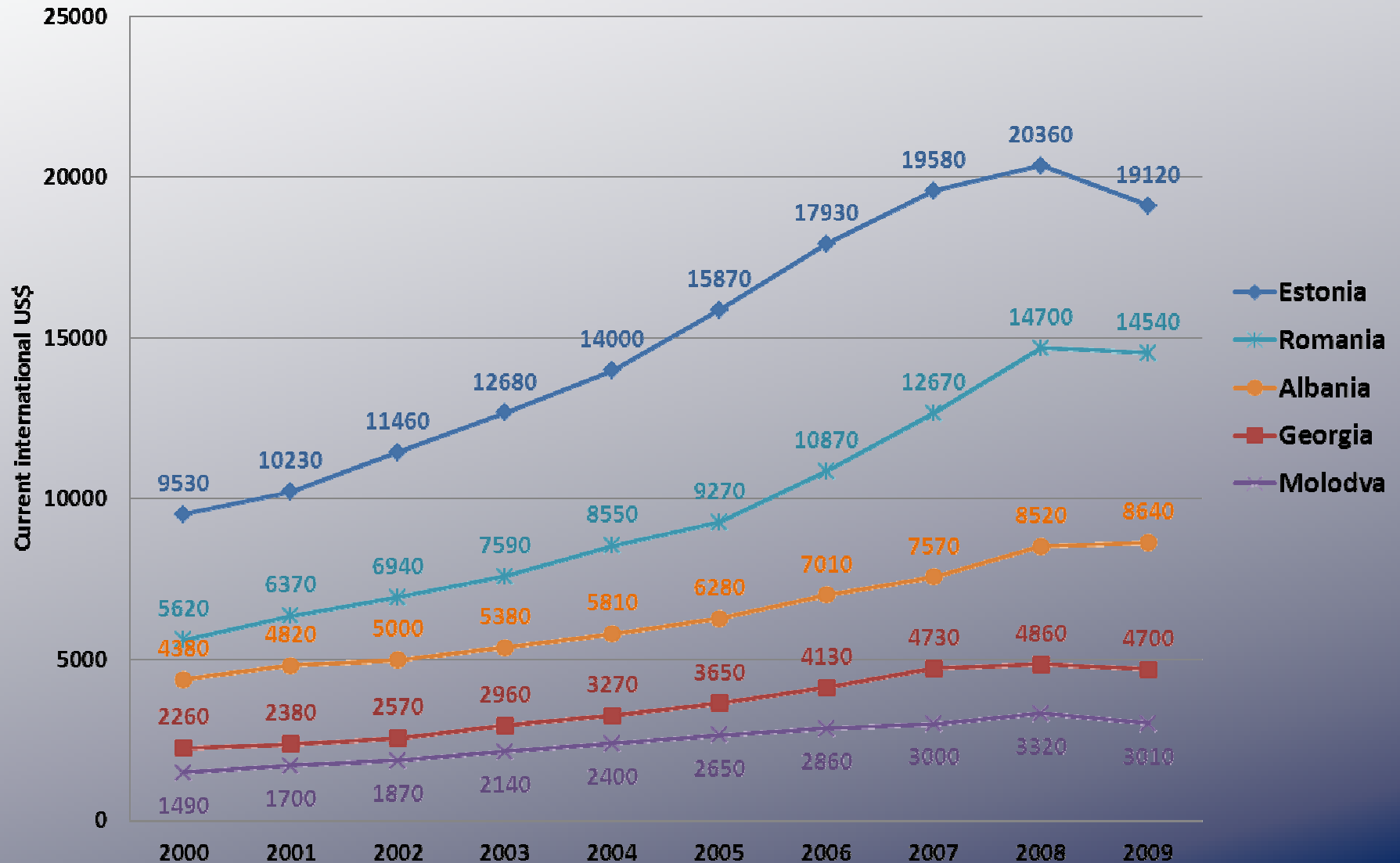


## GNI per capita 1992-2009





## GNI per capita (ppp) 2000-2009





## Moldova – natural European orientation

- In spite of language divide, a natural majority turned to Europe in last decade
- Romania's cultural influence and emigration
- In absence of EU membership perspective, visa free, free trade energy community the main issues – enough to keep Moldova on reform track
- Progress there would also mean irresistible European orientation for Transnistrians.



# Trade

- Free trade: a would-be win – win
- Instead: EU procrastination
- Technical argumentation – real reason is ...???
- No item of Moldovan exports reaches 0.5% of EU imports ...
- Authoritative analysis of Expert Group in 2008!



## Instead

- EU rewards Moldova for overthrowing Voronin by relatively large aid and nice words
- EU pretends it is serious about integration, Moldova pretends to reform
- Family ties in Romania
- Visa facilitation in 2008 – very limited impact on ordinary people
- ‘Visa dialogue’ in 2010
- No clear perspective when visa free will be achieved



# Moldovans will be part of the EU either way

- Romania's citizenship policy
- Easy access to EU visas on the market – quarter of Moldovans in the EU anyway





# Reform conditionality

- EU does not have the organized knowledge to impose smart conditionality
- Excessive emphasis on border security and deficit in economic reform conditionality

***EU's conditionality regime becomes increasingly illiberal***



# Transnistria

- EU's expansion of its interests moves slowly
- Up to 2007: ideology of isolation, then engagement
- Slow progress of aid in impoverished region
- Russian passports
- Interest in free travel to Europe
- Diverging perspectives in the EU



# Conflict resolution

- Conflict holds back integration instead of Europe solving the conflict through integration
- Very little appetite in EU to engage in geopolitics
- Romania's interests



# How long will Europe remain attractive?

- Crisis??
- In domestic politics we pick whom we like and do not stick to rule of law and democracy - illusion
- Lack of progress in free access of people and exports – Russia offers both (sort of)
- Romania