



European
Commission

Croatia and the EU

from applicant to
EU member state



From 6 to 27+



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1957  Belgium  Italy
 France  Luxembourg
 Germany  Netherlands

1973  Denmark  UK
 Ireland

1981  Greece

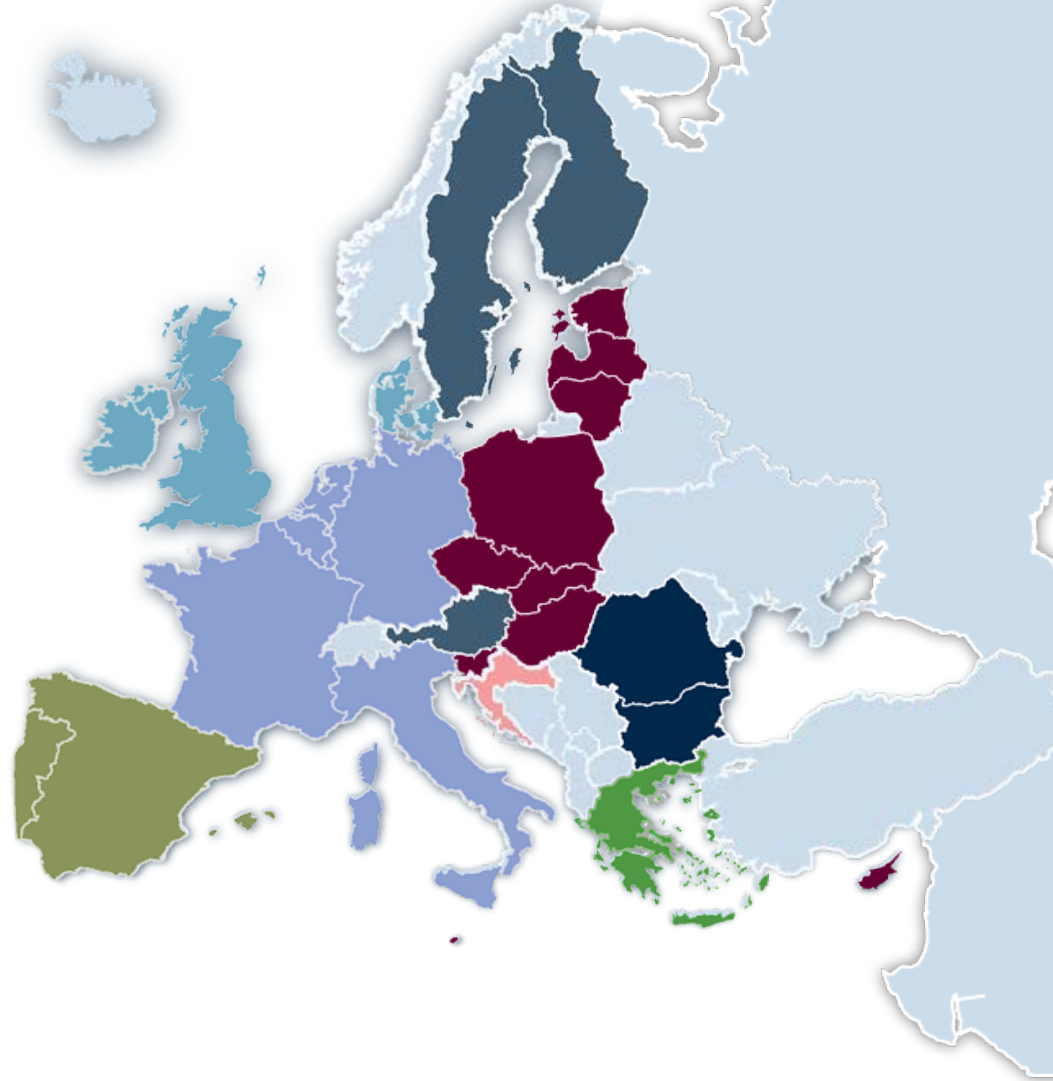
1986  Portugal  Spain

1995  Austria  Sweden
 Finland

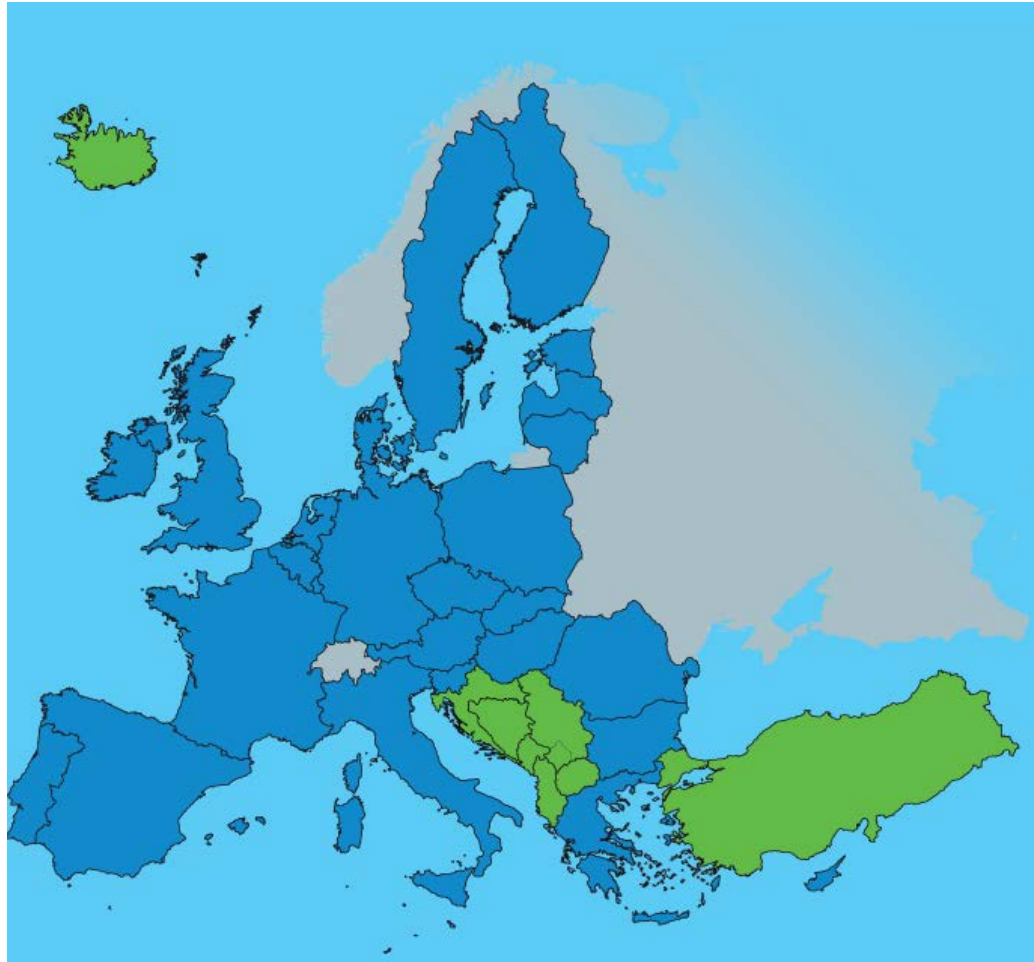
2004  Cyprus  Lithuania
 Czech Rep.  Malta
 Estonia  Poland
 Hungary  Slovakia
 Latvia  Slovenia

2007  Romania  Bulgaria

2013  Croatia will join in July



The current enlargement agenda





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The Western Balkans



Enlargement



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So how does Enlargement work in practice?

How to get in: conditions for membership

Copenhagen criteria (1993)

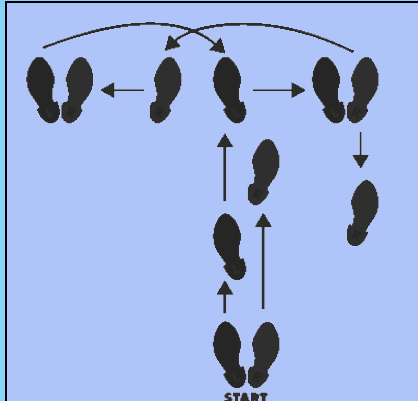
- Political
 - Stable democratic institutions
 - Human rights, protection of minorities
 - Rule of law
- Economic
 - Functioning market economy
 - Capacity to cope with competitive forces in EU
- Ability to take on obligations of membership



Steps from potential candidate to member

Potential candidate
submits
application

1



Commission
opinion →
Council
decides on
candidate
status

2

Accession negotiations

3

Continuous
monitoring of
progress

European Parliament
has to give
consent

4



States
sign & ratify
accession
treaty

5

Croatia



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- Declaration of Independence in 1991
- Applies for EU membership in 2003
- Council grants candidate status in 2004
- **Membership negotiations officially begin in 2005**

Accession Negotiations

- Adoption of established EU law & rules
 - 35 policy chapters (the "acquis")
 - Judicial, economic, administrative and other reforms to meet conditions

- Stabilisation and Association Process
 - Ever-closer partnership with the EU: trade concessions, economic & political dialogue

- Continuous Reporting, monitoring



Chapter 6: Company law

Chapter 7: Intellectual property law

Chapter 8: Competition policy

Chapter 9: Financial services

Chapter 10: Information society and media

Chapter 11: Agriculture and rural development

Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy

Chapter 13: Fisheries

Chapter 14: Transport policy

Chapter 15: Energy

Chapter 16: Taxation

Negotiations – in detail



- Conditions and timing – not content are negotiated
- Screening
 - Examination of each policy field (chapter)
 - Open negotiations (or set benchmarks)
- Negotiating positions
 - Closing benchmarks
- Duration of negotiations depends on speed of reform and alignment with EU laws in candidate country



Financial & Technical Assistance

- Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)
- IPA funding 2007-2013: total of €11.5bn
- Twinning – sharing best practices between public administrations of EU MS and beneficiary countries



Financial & Technical Assistance

- IPA: Flexible instrument – tailor-made funding
- Full national 'ownership' of the process
- Funding is channelled through five components:
 - Transition Assistance and Institution Building
 - Cross-Border Cooperation
 - Regional Development
 - Human Resources Development
 - Rural Development

IPA Assistance for Croatia

- Croatia receives IPA financial aid since 2007
- Total of €910m between 2007-2012



- Project examples
 - Fight against organised crime: anti-smuggling equipment (€4m)
 - Fight against corruption: strengthen anti-fraud system (€250.000)
 - Administrative system for managing EU agricultural funds (€4.5m)
 - 'Ears Wide Open': Inclusion of people with disabilities (€150.000)

Croatia – The final lap



- Negotiations concluded in June 2011
- Accession Treaty signed in December 2011
- **Croatia joins the EU on 1 July 2013**

Croatia – The final lap



What is left to do?

- Continuous progress in completing its alignment with EU law
- Need to ensure - preparations completed on time
- Final report on Croatia's accession preparations published in March 2013

What's in it...



...for Croatia?

- Political reforms
 - Improving good governance & rule of law
- Economic benefits: access to single market
 - In 2011, 61% of Croatian trade with EU
 - In 1993-2011, 91% of FDI came from the EU
- Promote good neighbourly relations – regional cooperation & stability

- Enlargement is in the EU's 'DNA'
 - Join together as common unified Europe
- Warrant for peace & stability in the region
 - Consolidating economic and financial stability
 - Prevent much higher cost of instability
- Signal to other Western Balkans countries
- Business opportunities & increased trade

What's in it...



...for the EU?



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Thank
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