



EU ENLARGEMENT FACTSHEET

<http://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement>

HOW DOES THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS WORK?

■ What is currently the EU began in **1957** as the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community with **6** members: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands



• **6** waves of enlargement rounds have increased the number of Member States to its current number of **28**

■ **1973**: Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom

■ **1981**: Greece

■ **1986**: Spain, Portugal

■ **1995**: Austria, Finland, Sweden

■ **2004 and** ■ **2007**: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania

■ **2013**: Croatia

- Any European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 and is committed to promoting them may apply to become a member of the Union (Excerpt from Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union)
- Values listed in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union: respect for human dignity; freedom; democracy; equality; the rule of law; respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities

The following **8** countries are currently in the accession process:

- **6** candidate countries (still in the negotiation process or waiting to start): Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland (negotiations with Iceland have been put on hold following the decision of the Icelandic government), Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey
- **2** potential candidates (countries promised the prospect of joining when they are ready): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

MAIN STEPS TO ACCESSION



SUPPORTING EU ENLARGEMENT

The European Commission has provided over 11 billion EUR to support enlargement countries in their reforms through the instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) over the period 2007- 2013.

11.7 billion EUR have been allocated for the 2014 – 2020 period (IPA II), which will help:

- Increase good governance and capacity building to align with EU laws and standards
- Support socio-economic development in line with the EU 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth