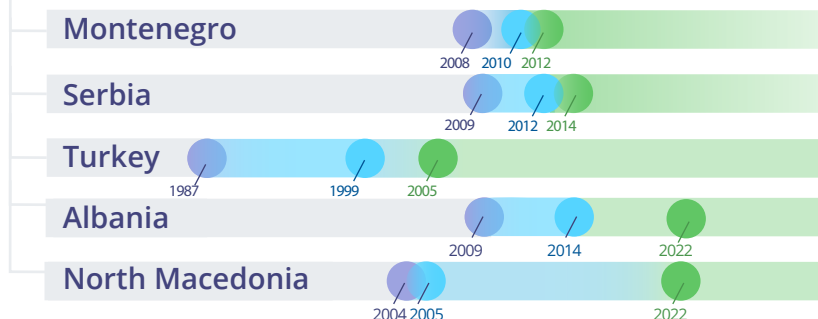


Overview of countries in the EU accession process

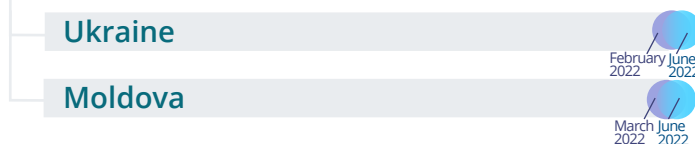


- Application for EU accession
- Granting candidate status for EU accession
- Start of EU accession negotiations

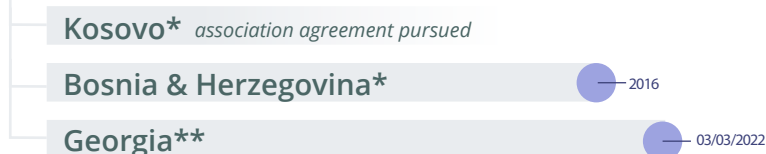
Candidates in negotiation



Candidates without ongoing negotiations



Potential candidates/application submitted



Who can become an EU member?

Art. 49 TEU: "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. [...]"

Decisive for EU accession -> fulfillment of the Copenhagen criteria

- 1 Political criterion:** Institutional stability, democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights and respect for and protection of minorities
- 2 Economic criterion:** A functioning market economy and the ability to withstand competitive pressure within the EU internal market
- 3 Acquis criterion:** Adoption of the shared legal system, the "acquis communautaire"



EU financial and technical assistance for reforms of (potential) candidates



Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III):
14.162 bn euros
for 2021-27

Important to EM Germany

- Advance the accession process, in particular with the Western Balkans
- Strengthen the institutional support of the Council of Europe for representative social forces in the accession countries
- Link pre-accession assistance to a democracy bonus, so that democratically constituted organisations in the candidate countries receive better support

*At least indirectly, Kosovo and Bosnia & Herzegovina have been given the prospect of EU accession. The Thessaloniki Declaration of the 2003 EU-Western Balkans Summit states that the future of the Western Balkans lies in the EU.

**Georgia was promised an accession perspective in June 2022. They will receive this as soon as they have addressed the reform priorities.