

EU Enlargement: the Western Balkans



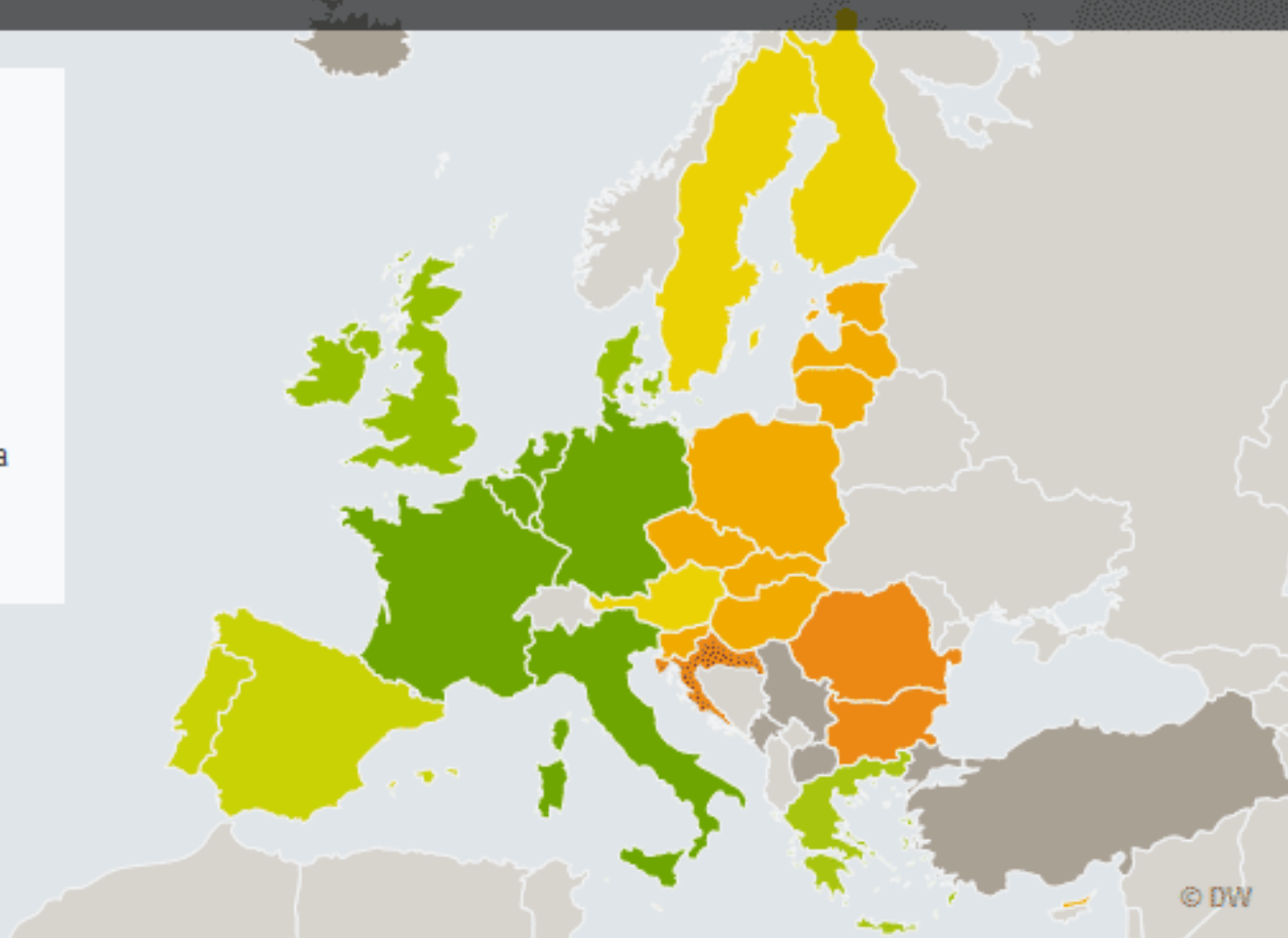
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Enlargement of the EU

- 1957: Founding of the EU
- 1973: First enlargement
- 1981: Greece
- 1986: Portugal and Spain
- 1995: Nordic enlargement
- 2004: Eastern enlargement
- 2007: Bulgaria and Romania
- 2013: Croatia
- Candidate countries



The EU Accession Process

Accession negotiations

- 1. Screening process** to identify areas where further progress is needed
- 2. Negotiation (adoption + implementation) of the EU acquis**
(35 chapters now “clusters”) / **Copenhagen Criteria**



Candidate Status when **criteria/conditions** are met



Application by the Country
evaluation by EC + Council → conditions

European Commission monitors & evaluates → All EU MS have to approve each step

EU Integration: State of Play

Stabilisation and Association Agreements

EU Candidate Status

Accession negotiations

Albania
Candidate status: 2014
Visa liberalisation: 2010

Montenegro
Candidate status: 2010
Negotiations: 2012
Visa liberalisation: 2008

North Macedonia
Candidate status: 2005
Visa liberalisation: 2009

Serbia
Candidate status: 2012
Negotiations: 2014
Visa liberalisation: 2009

Turkey
Candidate status: 1999
Accession negotiations since 2005

Bosnia-Herzegovina
SAA since 2015
Application for accession in 2016
Status: potential candidate country

Kosovo
SAA since 2016
Status: potential candidate country
]EL, RO, SK, ES, CY[

Visa liberalisation: 2010

Accession Process Croatia



21 February 2003	Application for EU Membership
1 June 2004	Candidate status
1 February 2005	SAA enters into force
2005 - 2011	Accession negotiations
9 December 2011	Signing of the Accession treaty
22 January 2012	Referendum in Croatia
1 July 2013	Croatia joins the EU

10 Years

Western Balkans and the EU

