

Future Enlargements

Which countries are likely to join the EU next and what do they have to do?

Copenhagen Criteria:

To be considered for candidate status, a state must meet the Copenhagen Criteria which includes having a **stable democracy**, a **strong market economy** and the ability to **implement the existing EU laws**.

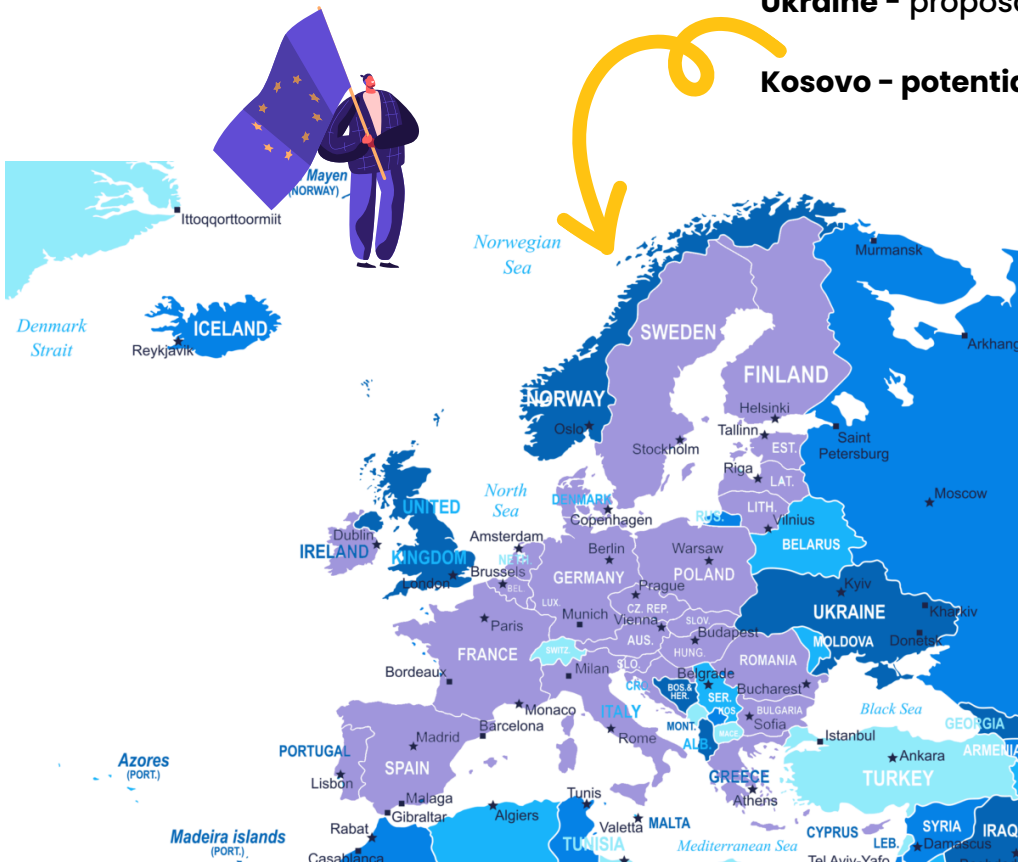


The steps to becoming a member:

- 1 **Candidacy:** submit an application to the Council of the EU (who are advised by the European Commission on whether they meet the criteria).
- 2 **Negotiations:** the candidate state gets ready to take on EU laws and standards while being monitored by the European Commission.
- 3 **Accession:** the European Commission decides if the state is ready to become a member and an "Accession Treaty" is prepared.

- Albania** - ongoing accession negotiations
- Bosnia and Herzegovina** - ongoing accession negotiations
- Georgia** - no negotiations open yet
- Moldova** - proposal to open negotiations
- Montenegro** - no negotiations open yet
- North Macedonia** - ongoing accession negotiations
- Serbia** - ongoing accession negotiations
- Turkey** - negotiations at a standstill since 2018
- Ukraine** - proposal to open negotiations

Kosovo - potential candidate



Did you know?

To become an EU member, the **Accession Treaty** needs to be approved by the European Commission, Council, and Parliament. It then needs to be signed and ratified by all EU member states and by the candidate country.

