



## 1.2. EU ENLARGMENT PROCESS AND PHASES

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# Enlargement policy of EU...fundamentals - Article 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. The European Parliament and national Parliaments shall be notified of this application. The applicant State shall address its application to the Council, which shall act unanimously after consulting the Commission and after receiving the consent of the European Parliament, which shall act by a majority of its component members. The conditions of eligibility agreed upon by the European Council shall be taken into account. The conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded, which such admission entails, shall be the subject of an agreement between the Member States and the applicant State. This agreement shall be submitted for ratification by all the contracting States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements















































# Legal basis - Treaty on European Union, Article 2

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„The Union is founded on the **values** of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These **values are common to the Member States** in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.”

# Any European State.... Members of the Council of Europe..



▶ Albania		▶ Lithuania	
▶ Andorra		▶ Luxembourg	
▶ Armenia		▶ Malta	
▶ Austria		▶ Monaco	
▶ Azerbaijan		▶ Montenegro	
▶ Belgium		▶ Netherlands	
▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina		▶ North Macedonia	
▶ Bulgaria		▶ Norway	
▶ Croatia		▶ Poland	
▶ Cyprus		▶ Portugal	
▶ Czech Republic		▶ Republic of Moldova	
▶ Denmark		▶ Romania	
▶ Estonia		▶ San Marino	
▶ Finland		▶ Serbia	
▶ France		▶ Slovak Republic	
▶ Georgia		▶ Slovenia	
▶ Germany		▶ Spain	
▶ Greece		▶ Sweden	
▶ Hungary		▶ Switzerland	
▶ Iceland		▶ Türkiye	
▶ Ireland		▶ Ukraine	
▶ Italy		▶ United Kingdom	
▶ Latvia			
▶ Liechtenstein			

# Enlargement policy of EU...history (1)

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- ❑ EU has expanded 7 times
- ❑ Many multiple accessions have altered politics of scale & heterogeneity
- ❑ Pre and post cold war enlargements
- ❑ Enlargement is not something that just happens to the EU, it is intrinsic to the dynamic of EU integration

# The Founding states...

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- ❑ 9th May 1950 - the Schuman Declaration, (proposition of creation of the ECSC, whose members would pool coal and steel production); aim: economic development and political stability;
- ❑ 18th April 1951 - Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community with founding states: France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.
- ❑ 25th March 1957 – the „Treaties of Rome”, creating the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM);

# Enlargement cycles in the EU...

Germany, France,  
Italy, the  
Netherlands,  
Belgium,  
Luxembourg

1952



United Kingdom  
Denmark  
Ireland

1973



Greece

1981



Spain  
Portugal

1986



1990



Eastern Germany  
Unification to  
Germany

1995



Austria  
Finland  
Sweden

2004



Cyprus, Malta,  
Slovenia, Czech  
Rep, Hungary,  
Slovakia,  
Estonia, Poland,  
Lithuania, Latvia

2007



Bulgaria,  
Romania

2013



Croatia

# Enlargement policy of EU...history (2)

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- ❑ After the collapse of communism – enlargement became a key dynamic in the EU agenda until 2013 when enlargement fatigue kicked in
- ❑ Some politicians (from candidate countries) spoke of even “enlargement ignorance”
- ❑ With decades of Integration, especially after the Maastricht Treaty, “EU” and “Europe” became more interconnected and interchangeable
- ❑ With the latest (global) events, EU enlargement will be (once again) the core element of the next 2 decades (maybe 3 )



# Steps towards joining EU -Process

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1

- **Application for membership**

2

- **Initial evaluation of the applicant country**

3

- **Granting a status of the candidate country**

4

- **Opening of negotiations**

5

- **Negotiations (and screening)**

6

- **Accession treaty**

7

- **Ratification**

8

- **Acceding country becomes EU member state**

## Application for membership

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- ❑ The applicant country submits its application to the country holding the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- ❑ The European Commission makes an initial evaluation of the applicant country and submits its findings to the Council of the European Union.

## Process – granting a status of the (potential) candidate country

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- ❑ If the European Commission has a favourable opinion of the applicant country's status, the Council of the European Union **may** decide to consider the applicant a candidate country.
- ❑ The decision to open negotiations is made through a **unanimous** vote of the Council. A positive opinion from the Commission on the candidate's compliance with the Copenhagen criteria is essential

## Process – Copenhagen criteria + Madrid criteria

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- ❑ Stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;
- ❑ Functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces in the EU;
- ❑ Ability to take on and implement effectively the obligations of membership (Acquis), including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

## Process – screening and negotiations (1)

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- ❑ Before negotiations can start, the candidate country must submit its negotiating position and the EU must adopt a common position.
- ❑ Often bilateral disputes (Case of BG-NMK blockage)
- ❑ The duration of negotiations can vary – starting at the same time as another country is no guarantee of finishing at the same time. ( case of Turkey)

## Process – negotiations and screening (2)

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- ❑ The candidate country does not „negotiate” on the acquis communautaire itself
- ❑ The negotiation aspect is on the conditions for harmonisation and implementation of the acquis,
- ❑ how the rules are going to be applied, by whom and when

## Revised methodology of EU enlargement from 2019

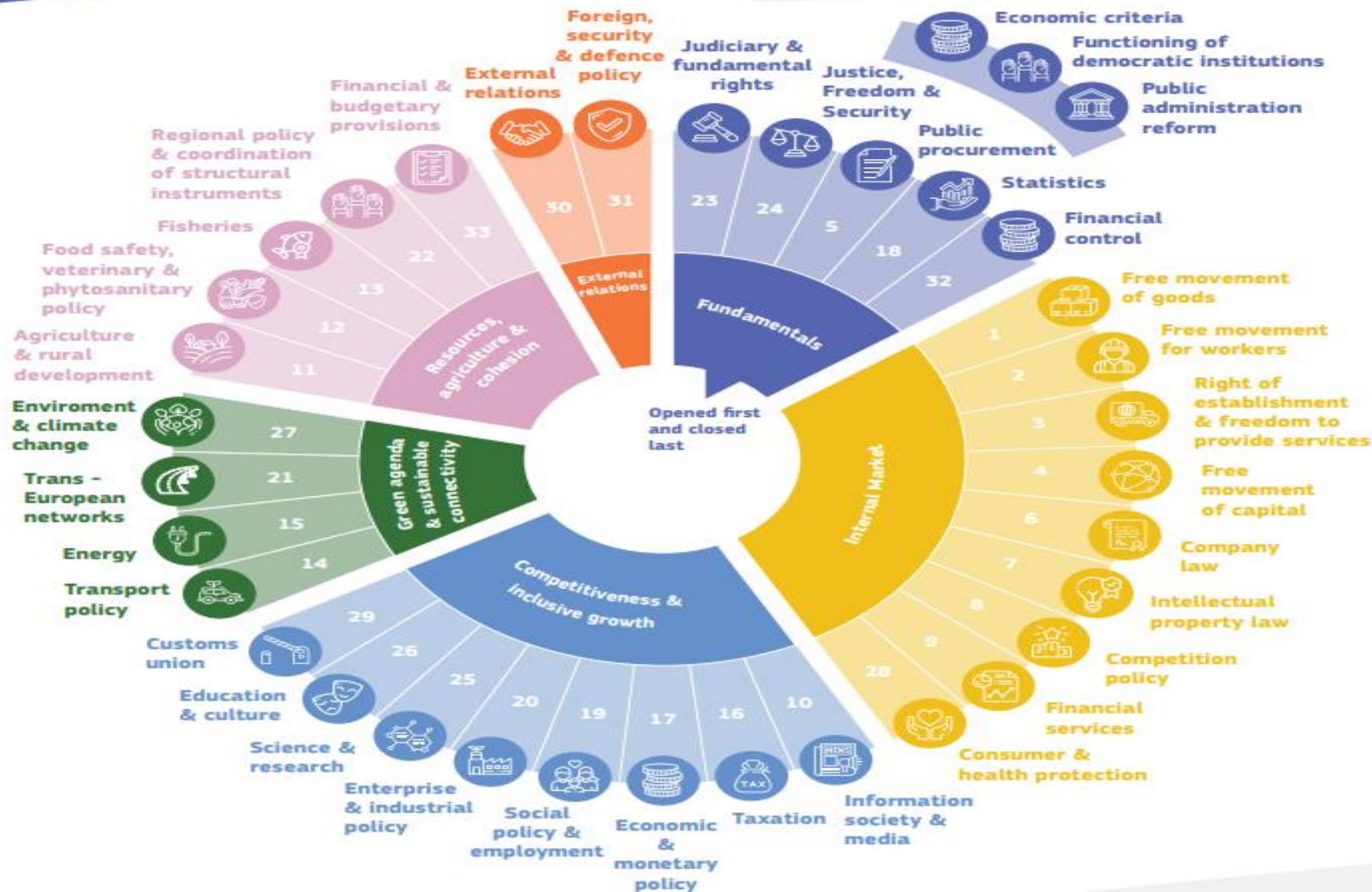
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- ❑ Clustering of chapters, clearer criteria, and stronger political steer
- ❑ Negotiations in the area of fundamentals will be opened first and closed last
- ❑ More decisive measures sanctioning any serious or prolonged stagnation or even backsliding

# Clusters of negotiating chapters

Following the introduction of the **revised methodology for the accession negotiations** in February 2020, negotiating chapters are now divided in **six thematic clusters**:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Fundamentals                       | <b>4</b> Green agenda & sustainable connectivity |
| <b>2</b> Internal market                    | <b>5</b> Resources, agriculture & cohesion       |
| <b>3</b> Competitiveness & inclusive growth | <b>6</b> External relations                      |





## Questions for discussion ...

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- ☐ Which enlargement was the easiest for EU?
- ☐ Which enlargement was the hardest for EU?
- ☐ Do you think that enlargement policy of EU is a success story?
- ☐ Which Countries in your opinion profited the most from EU membership and why?

# Thank you for your attention!

My contacts:

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send me an email, discuss, debate.....