





3.1. WESTEN BALKANS ON EU PATH

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Online presentation for students within the Project "Learning and living EU" Center for European Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32601

October 11th 2022

HISTORY AND COMPLEXITY OF THE BALKANS

- Around 20 million ppl
- Catholic, orthodox,muslim population
- Almost same language spoken in Serbia,Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Albania never part of Yugoslavia





SERBIA

- 2007, Serbia initiated Stabilization and Association Agreement
- Officially applied for European Union membership on 22 December 2009.
- Serbia received full candidate status on 1 March 2012.
- ☐ In December 2013, the Council of the European Union approved opening negotiations for Serbia's accession.
- Progress has been slow, Kosovo issue always mentioned
- The War in Ukraine additionally slowed down the integration process
- most of chapters opened, 6% of Chapters closed,



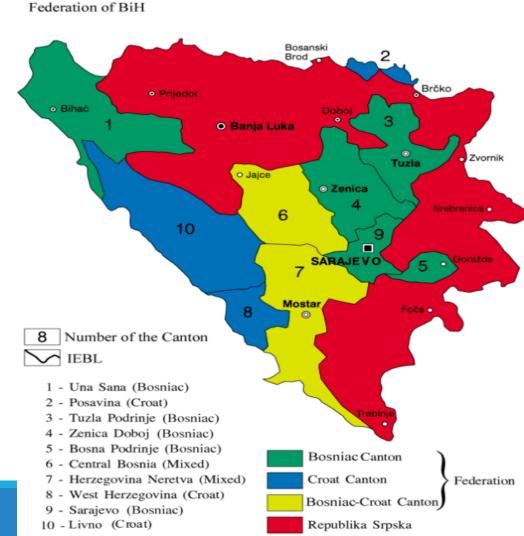
MONTENEGRO

- Small country dedicated to the EU path
- 2006 Independence form Serbia, Montenegro initiated Stabilization and Association Agreement
- Uses EURO since its introduction (2002)
- Oficially applied to join the EU on 15 December 2008
- ☐ Granted candidate status on 17 December 2010
- Membership negotiations began on 29 June 2012
- All the negotiating chapters opened, the country enjoys a widespread support among EU members' officials,



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (1)

- The most complex of the WB6
- The Country consist of Federation and Republika Srpska
- ☐ Dayton agreement stopped the war (1995)





BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (2)

- Negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) started in 2005, ratified in 2015. Process stalled due to police reform
- Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for EU membership in February 2016
- The EUFOR mission continues to be present in Bosnia and Herzegovina with around 600 troops with an executive mandate to maintain a stable and secure environment in the country
- B&H still does not have a candidate status



NORTH MACEDONIA

- The most dediated to EU acession
- SAA entered into force in 2004, same year Application for EU membership
- Candidate status granted in 2005
- 2009 -2014 six reccomendations to start negotiations from EC
- ■Name change in 2019 due to dispute with Greece
- November 2020 June 2022 BG veto
- 24 June 2022, Bulgaria's parliament approved lifting the country's veto on opening EU accession talks
- The start of negotiations was officially launched on 19 July 2022



ALBANIA

- SAA entered into force in 2009, same year Albania applied for EU membership
- Granted the candidate status in June 2014
- Opening of accession negotiations postponed several times due to objections from a number of countries including the Netherlands and France
- On 19 July 2022, the EU opened accession negotiations with Albania
- Problems with severe coruption and organized crime



KOSOVO

- Youngest Country in Western Balkans, declared independance in 2008
- EULEX mission operational in Kosovo since 2008
- ☐ The Stabilization and Association Agreement between the EU and Kosovo enters into force in 2016
- over 40 % of the GDP is Foreign aid
- 5 Countries of EU did not recognize Kosovo (ES, SK, CY, RO, EL)

Latest initiatives for better cooperation in the Balkans

- Berlin Process
- ReSPA Regional School of Public
- TCT Transport Community Treaty (Seat in Belgrade)
- EU Fund for the Balkans
- Regional Cooperation Council (Seat in Sarajevo)
- Open Balkans Initiative

Thank you for your attention!

My contacts:

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

Questions for dicussion...

- Do you blieve there will be additional bilateral disputes with EU Member states in the process of WB6 joining, if yes, which?
- ■Do you believe that Serbia's position towards no sanctions towards Russia should be "sanctioned" by the EU?
- How do you see the "Kosovo" connundrum being resolved .? In 5 , 10, 20 years?
- Do you see all WB6 joining the EU together or in pairs or one by one?