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3.1. WESTEN BALKANS ON EU PATH

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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 from Serbia, Montenegro initiated Stabilization and Association Agreement
- ❑ Uses EURO since its introduction (2002)
- ❑ Officially 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)



Federation of BiH

- 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 dedicated to EU accession
- ❑ SAA entered into force in 2004, same year Application for EU membership
- ❑ Candidate status granted in 2005
- ❑ 2009 -2014 – six recommendations 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 corruption and organized crime

KOSOVO



- ❑ Youngest Country in Western Balkans, declared independence 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 ?