

EU MEMBER STATES



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Creation of the EU

EU Pioneers

The EU pioneers are a group of people that inspired the creation of the Union we live in today. From resistance fighters to lawyers and parliamentarians, the EU pioneers were people who held the same ideals: a peaceful, united and prosperous Europe.

EU Pioneers

Here are some of the most famous pioneers that had a common goal:

Winston Churchill



Konrad Adenauer



Alcide De Gasperi



Creation of the EU

The First Cooperation

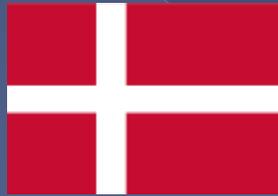
In 1951 when European countries started to cooperate economically, only Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands participated. It was later that more and more countries started to join the newly found European Union.



Years of accession 1973

In this year the first new members started to join the union. They are:

Denmark



Ireland



The United Kingdom



Years of accession (1981-1995)

During this period the EU received six new members. Greece entered in the year 1981, Portugal in and Spain in 1986 and Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995.



Years of accession (2004-2013)

During this period more than ten countries entered the union and at that point more than half of the countries on the continent participated in it. The countries are: Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Croatia and Bulgaria.



Joining the EU

Becoming a member of the EU is a complex procedure which does not happen overnight. Once an applicant country meets the conditions for membership, it must implement EU rules and regulations in all areas.

What are the Membership Conditions for joining the European Union?

1. Legal requirements for EU membership

As a regional organization composed of a liberal, democratic group of countries, the EU has always been open to new members as long as they are willing to take upon themselves the '*acquis communautaire*' and sign up to the founding treaties of the Community/Union

As such, article 237 of the Treaty of Rome states that 'any European state may apply to become a member of the Community';

And article F of the Maastricht Treaty reiterates that the member states that make up the EU shall have 'systems of government [...] founded on the principles of democracy'

Joining the EU

Any country that satisfies the conditions for membership can apply. These conditions are known as the 'Copenhagen criteria' and include a free-market economy, a stable democracy and the rule of law, and the acceptance of all EU legislation, including of the euro.



Members of Schengen

The Schengen Area is an area without internal borders, an area within which citizens, many non-EU nationals, business people and tourists can freely circulate without being subjected to border checks. Since 1985, it has gradually grown and encompasses today almost all EU countries and a few associated non-EU countries.



Members of Schengen

Although having significantly grown since 1985, the Schengen Area still excludes many European countries. Some of these countries are: Vatican city, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Ireland, Serbia, Bosna & Herzegovina, Belarus, Armenia, Kosovo and Azerbaijan.



Countries in Europe who are not part of the EU

Many other countries are in the European zone but still not members of the European Union. For instance, Russia is competing against EU. Moldova, a country in Eastern Europe is not a member of the EU but is affiliated to it through the ENP. Serbia applied for accession to the European Union officially on December 7, 2009, and received full candidate status on March 1, 2012. It is however yet to be fully accessed by the European Union. Norway is not a member of the union, but it still is working very closely with it just like Ukraine.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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goodbye