

Enlargement of the European union (EU) in 2004

Bulgaria



The background of the slide is the flag of the European Union, featuring a blue field with twelve yellow five-pointed stars arranged in a circle. The flag has a subtle wavy texture.

**What do we call
“Enlargement of the EU”?**

Enlargement of the EU is a process of inclusion of other countries in Europe.



Any European country that respects the EU values set out in the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and is committed to affirming them can apply for EU membership.

COUNTRIES PART OF THE EU FOR 2020



Co-funded by
the European Union

The background of the slide is the flag of the European Union, featuring a circle of twelve gold stars on a blue field. The flag is slightly wavy, giving it a sense of motion.

ACCESSION CRITERIA?

There is certain criteria.

Countries that want to be integrated in the EU need to meet the “Copenhagen criteria”. These criteria were defined by the Copenhagen European Council in 1993.



The Copenhagen criteria set out certain democratic, economic and political conditions for countries wishing to join the EU:

- Stable institutions that guarantee democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities.**
- A functioning market economy.**
- An ability to assume and effectively fulfill the obligations arising from membership.**



Co-funded by
the European Union



The background of the slide is the European Union flag, featuring a blue field with twelve yellow five-pointed stars arranged in a circle. The flag has a subtle wavy texture.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 2004 ENLARGEMENT

Western Europe finally overcame their political differences and 10 new countries joined the EU in 2004, which is the 5th EU enlargement.



This historic enlargement of the EU from 15 to 25 members is the culmination of a long accession process leading to the reunification of a Europe that had been divided for half a century by the Iron Curtain and the Cold War.



The driving force behind the fifth EU enlargement has been the desire to ensure peace, stability and economic prosperity in a re-unified Europe. Nevertheless, this entails both costs and benefits that it is important to quantify.



COSTS

As part of its pre-accession strategy, the EU set up a number of financial instruments (Phare, Ispa and Sapard) to help the candidates become members.



ADVANTAGES

Along with the costs go advantages.

The enlargement from 15 to 25 countries has made it possible to:



The background of the slide is the European Union flag, featuring a blue field with twelve yellow five-pointed stars arranged in a circle. The flag has a subtle wavy texture.

BULGARIA DURING THE 2004 EU ENLARGEMENT

Bulgaria concluded its negotiations in June 2004 and signed its agreement on April 25, 2005. Bulgaria was unable to join in 2004, because it didn't fulfill the needed criteria but according to the Commission, constitute part of the fifth enlargement.



Co-funded by
the European Union

The background of the slide is the flag of the European Union, featuring a circle of twelve gold stars on a blue field. The flag is slightly blurred and has a wavy texture.

WHAT CRITERIA DIDN'T BULGARIA FULFILL

In this document from 2004 regarding the Strategy of the European Commission on progress in the enlargement process is given information about the process Bulgaria went through in order to join the EU.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE COUNCIL AND TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Strategy Paper of the European Commission on progress in the enlargement process

Regular Reports point to a number of areas where further improvements need to be made in the context of the political and economic criteria for Bulgaria.

Mainly improvements needed to be made in the reform of its public administration, the functioning of their judicial system, and the fight against corruption.



The background of the slide is a landscape. The top half is a bright green field, and the bottom half is a red field. The sky is filled with white and grey clouds.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!