

EU - Western Balkans relations

October 2020
#WesternBalkans

2020 - a new momentum in EU-Western Balkans relations

February 2020: Revised methodology, presented by the Commission, to drive forward the enlargement process with a **stronger political steer** and in a more **credible, predictable, dynamic way**

March 2020: EU decides to open accession negotiations with **Albania** and **North Macedonia**



April 2020: EU financial support package of **over €3.3 billion** to tackle coronavirus-related health needs & post-pandemic socio-economic recovery

May 2020: EU-Western Balkans
Zagreb Summit

October 2020: Commission proposes **Economic & Investment Plan** to support and bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU

Overview: EU relations with the Western Balkans

Bosnia and Herzegovina –

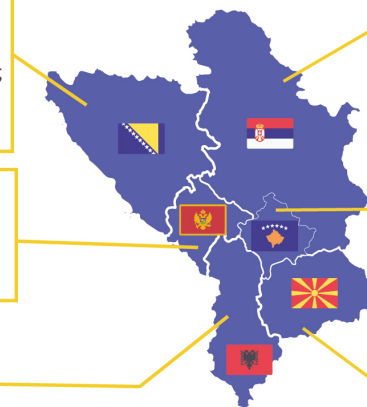
Population: 3.5 million
Potential candidate
Commission Opinion on EU membership application in May 2019; EU Council conclusions endorsing the 14 key priorities in Dec 2019.

Montenegro – Population: 0.6 million


Candidate country
Opened chapters - 33 
Provisionally closed chapters - 3

Albania – Population: 2.9 million

Candidate country
March 2020: EU decides to open accession negotiations.



Serbia – Population: 7 million

Candidate country
Opened chapters - 18 
Provisionally closed chapters - 2

Kosovo* – Population: 1.8 million

Potential candidate
In April 2016, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force.

North Macedonia – Population: 2.1 million

Candidate country
March 2020: EU decides to open accession negotiations.

Economic relations between the EU and the Western Balkans



EU companies are by far the **leading investors**, accounting for **over 65% of FDI stock** in the region in 2018



Western Balkans is a market of **18 million consumers**



EU accounts for **over 69%** of the region's **total trade** in 2019