

EUROPE'S BUDGET

Enlargement

JULY 2025

Enlargement is a geostrategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity. The new Multiannual Financial Framework will deliver on this ambition by supporting candidate countries and potential candidates on their path to EU accession. Internally, the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) will further consolidate the EU's preparation for accession. Externally, it will guarantee the financing for candidate countries and potential candidates, while incentivising key socio-economic reforms.

Why is this a priority?

- ▶ **The EU must prepare today for the Union of tomorrow.**
- ▶ Any enlargement needs to make the Union **stronger** and **more competitive, bringing benefits for all**.
- ▶ The accession process **promotes common values**, including democracy, the rule of law and respect of fundamental rights, while **fostering economic growth**.
- ▶ The accession process continues to have positive **transformative effects** for existing Member States and future Member States alike.
- ▶ The support for candidate countries and potential candidates on their **merit-based path towards accession** must continue to achieve successful accession.



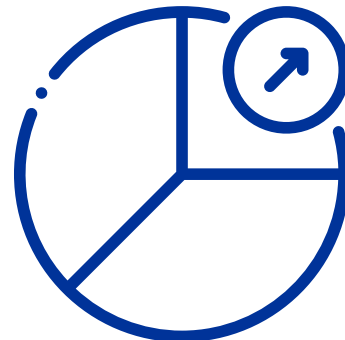
What is the Commission proposing?

- ▶ **Pre-accession assistance embedded in the Global Europe Instrument, which covers** most of EU external action financing.
- ▶ **A full toolbox** to prepare candidate countries and potential candidates for EU accession **through robust pre-accession support**, including technical assistance, policy-based loans, and support for investments in the form of financial instruments, budgetary guarantees and blending operations.
- ▶ **A dedicated special instrument**, channelled through the Global Europe Instrument, **the Ukraine Reserve**, to cater for Ukraine's accession path and reconstruction efforts given its exceptional and unpredictable needs resulting from Russia's war of aggression.

What does it mean in financial terms?

EUR 43.2 billion (21% of the Global Europe Instrument) will be allocated to the **Europe region**, including candidate countries and potential candidates.

The **Ukraine reserve** will make available up to **EUR 100 billion** additional financial resources for Ukraine.



How will the budget make a difference?

Supporting the accession preparations through incentivising **reforms and investments** via policy-based financing

Strengthening **administrative capacity** via targeted technical assistance

Better **response to and prevention of backsliding** on the EU accession process, including through a 'fundamentals first' approach

Strengthening **alignment between external and internal policies** and programmes to pursue EU strategic interests in all dimensions

The EU is committed and ready for the accession of new Member States

Several candidates are likely to **conclude accession negotiations** in the next years and under the next MFF.

The accompanying policy proposals make the EU's **sectoral policies fit for an enlarged Union**.

The **multiannual financial framework can be revised** when the timing of enlargement is known.