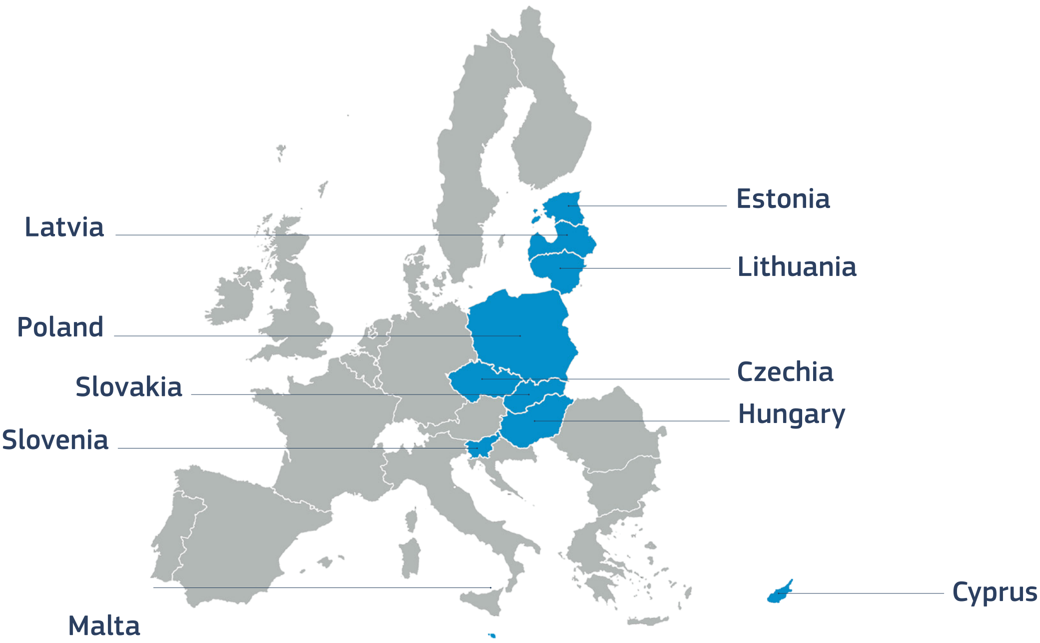
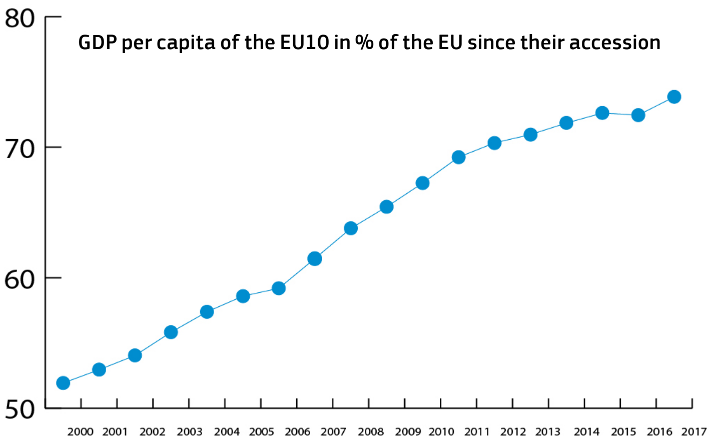
# GROWING TOGETHER: EU SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES THAT JOINED IN 2004

On 1 May 2004, 10 countries acceded to the European Union. For these Member States to catch up with the EU average in terms of growth and income, the EU invested massively via its Cohesion Policy and, since 2014, via the Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan. These investments have had very positive results on the ground, not only thanks to EU funding but also to the efforts of these Member States to reform and become attractive places for investors and for businesses to settle and thrive.

***"The decision in 2004 to embrace 10 European countries was a great moment for our continent and a great moment in history. The accession of the Central and Eastern European countries, and the courage of their people in preparing for that accession, is what allowed us to reconcile our continent's geography with its history. I remain an ardent fan of enlargement today."***

President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, 29 April 2019






Convergence: **the 10 Member States are catching up with the rest of the EU.** Over the period 2003-2017, their GDP per head grew by 18 percentage points compared to the EU average.

Growth: Over the period 2003-2017, GDP per head in the 10 Member States grew by **84%**

The accession of these Member States to the EU has led to a sizeable increase in its GDP and population. **In fact, the 10 Member States that have joined the Union accounted in 2018 for close to 7% of the EU's total GDP and above 14% of its population.**

**Over the past 15 years, the economies of these Member States have grown at an above-average annual rate of 3.3%.**

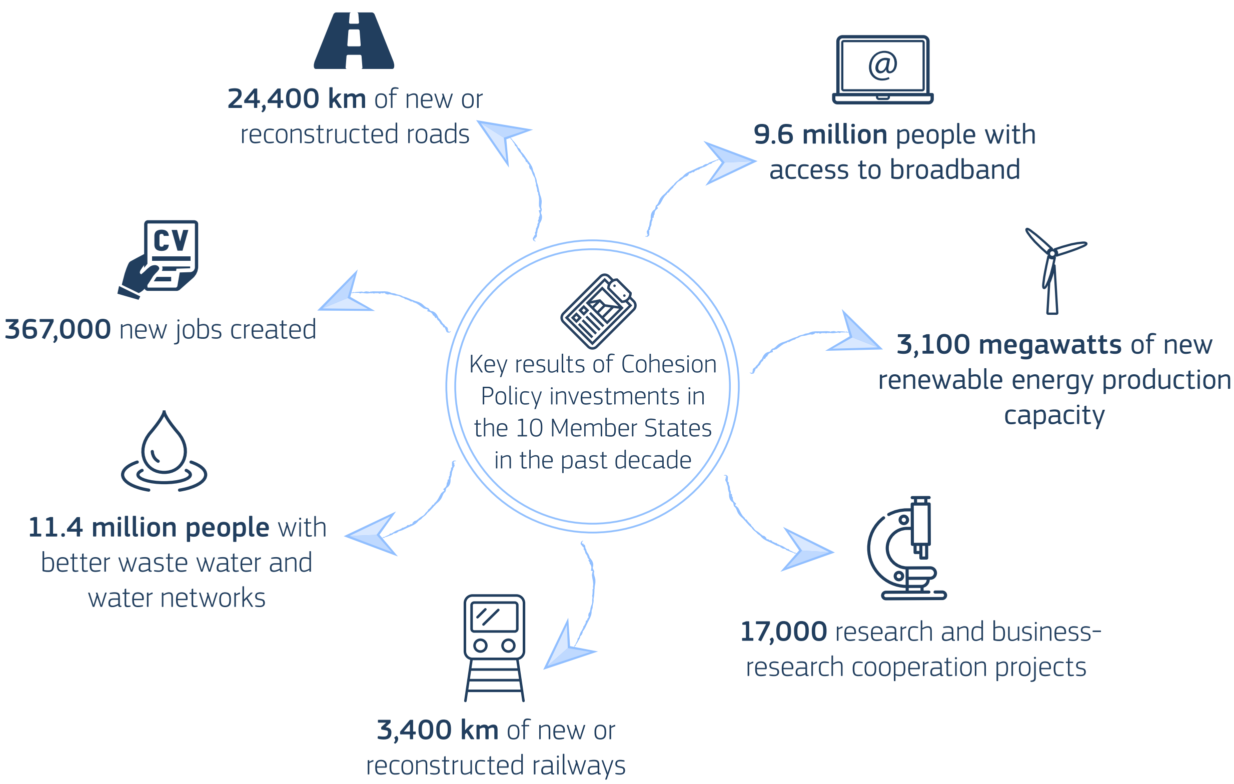
**€365.2 billion**
invested in the 10 Member States over 2004-2020 under the **European Structural and Investment Funds**, or 2.6% of their GDP every year

**€31.4 billion**
of additional investments mobilised in the 10 Member States under the **Juncker Plan** since 2014

Since the beginning of the Juncker Commission in 2014, the European Structural and Investment Funds and the Juncker Plan have supported **222,729** small and medium businesses in the 10 Member States.

Since 2014, Cohesion Policy investments in the 10 Member States have led to **25 million** people having access to better health services.

Cohesion Policy investments have supported **2.3 million** people in the 10 Member States in finding a job, developing new skills or accessing social inclusion programmes.



Enlargement benefits all. By extending the Single Market, it opens new markets to companies in the EU and in the incoming countries. With higher income in these Member States thanks to EU investments, trade and investment opportunities increase everywhere in the EU. EU investments in these countries can contribute to jobs and growth in other Member States even more directly, when a company works as a contractor in an EU-funded project across the border.

For example, it is estimated that almost a third of the impact of Cohesion Policy on Germany's GDP comes from the funding programmes implemented in other Member States.

Finally, a larger Single Market is more attractive to investors worldwide: Foreign Direct Investment to the EU has more than doubled as a percentage of GDP since accession – from 15.2% of GDP in 2004 to 40.9% of GDP in 2017.