

# EU Enlargement

## Years Since Membership Application

Countries joining the EU start by submitting their official membership application. Once reviewed by the European Commission and the Council of the EU, a screening process begins to set a baseline for accession negotiations on the 35 policy area chapters of the *acquis*, which must align with EU standards. For some EU members, this process wrapped up in a few years, while for Turkey the process is still going after three decades. This BIVisual shows how many years the EU accession process has taken for each EU member state and official candidate after they submitted their membership application.

### Complete Rounds

- **1973:** Denmark, Ireland, UK
- **1981:** Greece
- **1986:** Spain and Portugal
- **1995:** Austria, Finland, Sweden
- **2004:** Cyprus, Malta, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia
- **2007:** Romania, Bulgaria
- **2013:** Croatia

### Not Complete

- Turkey, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Serbia

