

EU – Western Balkans relations

February 2020
#EUenlargement

2020: a key year for the EU-Western Balkans relations

Revised methodology to drive the enlargement process forward with a **stronger political steer** and in a more **credible, predictable, dynamic way**

Council to decide on opening of accession talks with **North Macedonia** and **Albania**



Commission proposals to further the EU-Western Balkans agenda with a strong focus on **economic development**

EU-Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb

Overview of the 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 - 32 
Provisionally closed chapters - 3

Albania – Population: 2.9 million

Candidate country
Commission recommends opening 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
Commission recommends opening accession negotiations.

Economic potential of the EU relations with the Western Balkans



€12.7 billion
Foreign Direct Investments in 2014-2018. EU companies are the biggest investors in the Western Balkans



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



€54 billion
in trade between the EU and the Western Balkans in 2018