



AtidMUN X 2024

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# EuCo Study Guide



**Topic A: The Challenges of the  
Migrants' Integration in the EU**

**Topic B: Reviewing the Kosovar and  
Ukrainian Applications**



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## CHAIR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

We are thrilled to welcome you to AtidMUN! We are Nour Istaitih and Noa Miller, and we are truly honored to be your chairs for this upcoming conference.

Migrants in the EU face challenges such as adapting to new cultures, learning languages, and finding jobs, often while coping with past trauma. Discrimination and social exclusion further complicate their integration. The EUCO Committee of the UN works on addressing these issues, focusing on policies that support migrants and promote social cohesion. At the same time, the committee is reviewing the applications of Kosovo and Ukraine to join the EU. Both countries must meet key standards in democracy and stability, and the committee must carefully assess their readiness and the potential impact on the EU's future.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us -

Nour - 050-300-9874 or [nour.stety@gmail.com](mailto:nour.stety@gmail.com)

Noa - +972 54-528-0877

We look forward to meeting you and having respectful dialogues and meaningful discussions with all of you.

Here's to an enjoyable and productive conference!

Warm regards,

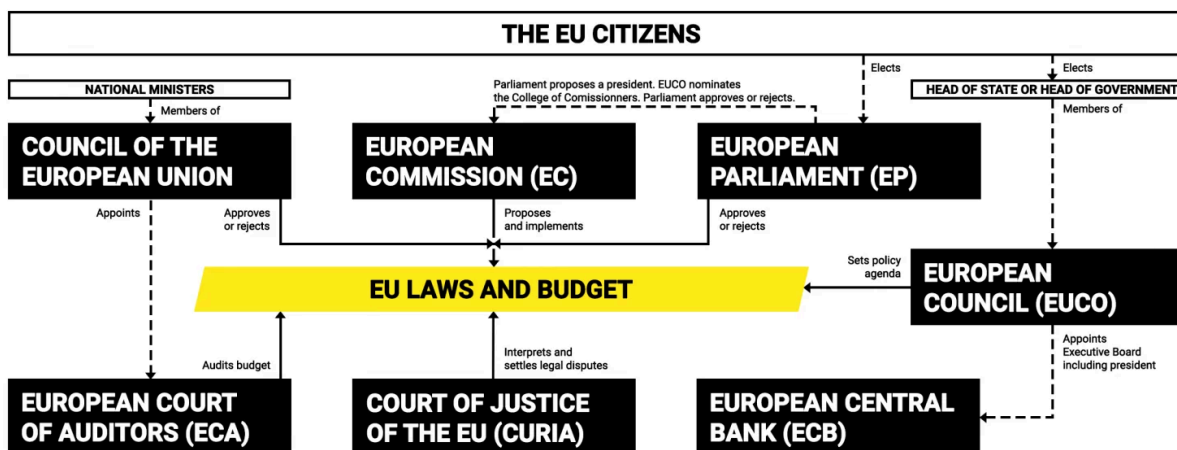
Nour Istaitih & Noa Miller your chairs of AtidMUN



## INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The European Council defines the EU's overall political directions and priorities and sets the EU's policy agenda in both the short and long term. It does not negotiate or adopt EU laws. In addition, it sets the EU's standard foreign and security policy, considering EU strategic interests and defense implications.

How does the EUCO work? The members of the European Council are the heads of state or government of the 27 EU member states, the European Council President, and the President of the European Commission. EUCO members meet to discuss, amend, adopt laws, and coordinate policies. The ministers have the authority to commit their governments to the meetings' agreed-upon actions. To pass a resolution, the EuCo requires **consensus**.



The European Union's institutional setup is unique, and its decision-making system constantly evolves. The seven European institutions work together to address the common interests of the EU and European people. As you can see above, the European Council is responsible for setting the policy agenda and appointing the Executive Board.



## TOPIC A: THE CHALLENGES OF THE MIGRANTS' INTEGRATION IN THE EU

### *BACKGROUND TO THE ISSUE*

Migration has always played a significant role in shaping the European Union (EU), but recent years have witnessed unprecedented migration flows, particularly following the 2015 refugee crisis. Integration of migrants into EU societies presents both opportunities and challenges for the migrants themselves and the host countries. This study guide explores these challenges and possible solutions for better integration, a critical issue for ensuring social cohesion, economic growth, and political stability across the EU.

### KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

- **Migration:** The movement of people from one place to another, often for economic, social, political, or environmental reasons.
- **Refugees:** Individuals forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution, or natural disasters.
- **Asylum Seekers:** People seeking international protection but whose claim for refugee status is still under review.
- **Economic Migrants:** People who move to another country primarily for employment or financial opportunities.
- **Integration:** The process through which migrants become accepted into society as individuals and groups. It includes social, cultural, economic, and political aspects.
- **Xenophobia:** Fear or hatred of foreigners, often resulting in discrimination and violence.
- **Multiculturalism:** A policy or philosophy that promotes the preservation of different cultures or cultural identities within a unified society.
- **EU Migration Policy Framework:** The set of laws, regulations, and initiatives to manage migration, including the Common European Asylum System.

### CAUSES OF MASS MIGRATION

Several key factors drive mass migration, and they are often categorized as push and pull factors. Push factors are conditions in the origin country that cause people to leave, such as political persecution, ethnic conflicts, war, lack of economic opportunities, or environmental disasters. These



push factors often leave many civilians homeless, causing significant health and major financial crises, leading to a lack of job opportunities and inflation.

On the other hand, pull factors are conditions in the destination country that attract migrants, including better job prospects, higher wages, political stability, or family connections. In this case, with Europe being a technological, cultural, and economic strong force in the global community throughout most of history, it is usually the obvious choice for refugees.<sup>1</sup>

## THE HISTORY OF THE EU'S MIGRANT CRISES

The history of the EU's migrant crises is marked by waves of humanity seeking refuge and opportunity. The most notable wave occurred in 2015, when about 4.7 million people fleeing the Syrian civil war sought asylum in Europe, making it the most significant influx since World War II.

This massive movement was fueled by escalating conflicts in the Middle East, particularly the rise of ISIS and the subsequent destabilization of countries like Afghanistan and Iraq. As borders tightened and the Mediterranean became dangerous, many migrants embarked on dangerous journeys. Many chose to go from Africa to Italy and Turkey to Greece, often facing harsh conditions at sea.

Countries like Germany initially embraced these new arrivals, with Chancellor Angela Merkel famously declaring "Wir schaffen das" (We can do this), signaling a welcoming stance. This lessened the pressure on many countries, like Austria and Hungary, whose immigrants now chose to admit themselves to Germany. However, Germany soon faced a surge in immigrant numbers that overwhelmed its processing centers, prompting the country to reintroduce border controls. Other countries also tightened their borders; some even erected physical barriers to curb on-foot immigration. This border closure, mainly the varying physical borders that eastern countries had built, dismayed many EU officials, who stated that the borders endanger the freedom of movement and show mistrust between EU countries.

The crisis led the EU to reconsider its asylum policies, sparking debates about how to share the responsibility among member states. Attempts to distribute asylum seekers were met with resistance, and the Dublin Regulation, which stated that asylum seekers had to apply in the first EU country they arrived in, came under scrutiny. The crisis also emphasized the need for better integration

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<sup>1</sup> Guillot, J. D. (2024, April 16). *Exploring migration causes: why people migrate* | News. European Parliament. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdfs/news/expert/2020/7/story/20200624STO81906/20200624STO81906\\_en.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdfs/news/expert/2020/7/story/20200624STO81906/20200624STO81906_en.pdf)



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strategies, as many refugees experienced unemployment and social isolation in their new communities.

## PAST EU ACTION

One of the EU's significant moves was establishing the EU-Turkey deal in March 2016, which aimed to control the flow of migrants crossing from Turkey to Greece. This agreement included financial support for Turkey to improve living conditions for Syrian refugees and a commitment to return irregular migrants from Greece to Turkey. While this deal was controversial and raised ethical concerns, it was seen as necessary to alleviate pressure on frontline states like Greece and Italy. The EU's negotiations with Turkey showcased its willingness to engage with non-EU countries to tackle migration challenges.

Throughout the years, the EU has also focused on reforming the EU's asylum system. In 2020, it proposed a new Migration and Asylum Pact to create a more efficient and fair system for processing asylum claims and distributing responsibilities among member states. This initiative sought to address the imbalances caused by the Dublin Regulation, which often left countries like Italy and Greece bearing the brunt of asylum requests. The proposed reforms aimed to enhance solidarity, ensuring that all member states contribute to managing migration flows, thus fostering a more unified European approach. In addition to these legislative efforts, the EU has emphasized the importance of humanitarian assistance. It has coordinated various emergency support mechanisms to provide immediate aid to member states facing humanitarian crises due to high numbers of arrivals. This included funding for food, shelter, and medical care for refugees, demonstrating the EU's commitment to uphold human rights and humanitarian principles despite political disagreements.

## CURRENT SITUATION

### THE BENEFITS AND EFFECTS OF MIGRATION

Today, the EU remains a destination for migrants worldwide, drawn by economic opportunities, political stability, and safety from conflict. However, integration challenges vary widely across EU member states due to differences in migration policies, societal attitudes, and the capacity to absorb new arrivals.



## CHALLENGES OF INTEGRATION

### The challenging aspects of integration

- **Social and Cultural Integration:** Migrants often face language barriers, unfamiliar cultural norms, and discrimination, which can hinder their ability to integrate fully into society.
- **Economic Integration:** Securing employment is essential for integration, but migrants often struggle to find jobs that match their skills or qualifications. Youth and women migrants, in particular, face high unemployment rates.
- **Political and Legal Challenges:** Navigating the legal system to obtain residency or citizenship can be complex and time-consuming. Many migrants are excluded from political processes, limiting their ability to advocate for their rights.
- **Public Services:** The increasing migrant demand has strained education, healthcare, and housing systems in many EU countries, particularly Greece and Italy, which have been frontline states in managing arrivals.

## HOST COUNTRY PERSPECTIVES

- **Economic Pressures:** Concerns about job competition and the cost of welfare services for migrants can cause resentment among the local population.
- **Social Tensions:** The arrival of large numbers of migrants can sometimes lead to social tensions, especially in areas with limited resources or where integration policies are poorly implemented.
- **Rising Xenophobia:** Anti-immigrant sentiment has grown across the EU, driven by populist political movements and media portrayals that often depict migrants as a threat to national identity and security.

## MIGRANT PERSPECTIVES

- **Discrimination:** Migrants may face overt and covert forms of discrimination, making it harder to access housing, jobs, and social services.
- **Access to Services:** Legal barriers or a lack of information can prevent migrants from accessing essential services, further hindering their integration.





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- **Psychological Impact:** Many migrants, particularly refugees, have fled traumatic situations and suffer from mental health issues, which can be exacerbated by the stresses of adapting to a new society.

## CRIME AMONG MIGRANTS

The issue of crime among migrant populations has been a sensitive and polarizing topic in the EU. In Germany, for instance, migrants account for 41% of crimes committed in 2023 while being only 15% of the population. In some cases, migrants, particularly refugees who have experienced trauma, may struggle with mental health issues or find themselves marginalized, leading to involvement in petty crime or clashes with law enforcement. However, studies indicate that a lack of integration—especially regarding employment, housing, and social inclusion—can contribute to criminal activity. Addressing these root causes through effective integration policies is critical to preventing crime and promoting safer communities.

## RELIGIOUS TENSIONS

Religious tensions have also emerged as a significant challenge in the integration of migrants, particularly those coming from predominantly Muslim countries into largely secular or Christian-majority EU states. Differences in religious practices, dress codes, and values can sometimes lead to misunderstandings and hostility. Additionally, the rise of Islamophobia in parts of Europe has fueled public fears of cultural erosion, often exploited by far-right political groups. At the same time, certain radical elements within migrant communities have contributed to concerns about extremism. Bridging these divides requires efforts to promote interfaith dialogue, mutual respect, and understanding while ensuring that freedom of religion is upheld within EU values.

## FAR-RIGHT BACKLASH

Far-right political parties across the European Union have increasingly capitalized on the issue of migration, using it as a central theme to rally support. These parties often portray migrants, particularly refugees and those from predominantly Muslim countries, as threats to national identity, security, and economic stability. They advocate for stricter immigration controls, including tighter border security and reduced asylum quotas, and argue that the EU's open-door policies have led to social unrest, crime, and unemployment. The rise of far-right parties has contributed to a more



polarized political landscape, fueling xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment. This growing influence has also pressured mainstream political parties to adopt stricter stances on migration, impacting the development of integration policies and creating challenges for promoting social cohesion within increasingly diverse EU societies.

## CASE STUDIES

### *Successful Integration Models*

- **Sweden:** Sweden has historically had a proactive stance on immigration, offering robust language training and employment programs to help migrants integrate. Despite challenges, its inclusive policies have made it one of the more prosperous countries in terms of migrant integration.
- **Germany:** Following the 2015 refugee crisis, Germany led the EU in welcoming refugees. The government invested heavily in integration programs, offering language courses and vocational training. However, significant challenges have been related to social tensions and the rise of nationalist movements.

It should be noted that even in successful countries such as Sweden and Germany, the integration process was not full or perfect, and there are still problems, such as high crime rates among migrants and cultural clashes. As of now, Sweden looks to financially incentivize migrants out of the country, while Germany recently introduced border checks to combat illegal immigration.

### Challenges in Other EU Countries:

- **Italy and Greece:** These countries have been on the frontline of receiving migrants but have struggled with insufficient infrastructure and resources to manage integration, leading to overcrowded reception centers and strained public services.
- **France:** France's integration policies have faced criticism for being too assimilationist, expecting migrants to adopt French culture fully. This has led to tensions, especially in migrant-heavy suburbs where social and economic exclusion is common.



## EU FRAMEWORK AND RESPONSES

### *The New Pact on Migration and Asylum*

The EU's 2024 immigration policy reforms, encapsulated in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, aim to overhaul asylum procedures, labor migration, and border management. Asylum reforms focus on expedited procedures, enhanced border screening, and faster decision-making processes, supplemented by legal support for asylum seekers. However, challenges in resource allocation and political resistance from countries like Poland and Hungary complicate uniform implementation across member states, reflecting deeper divisions within the EU.

Labor migration reforms under the new pact aim to align migration flows with the EU labor market needs through initiatives such as Talent Partnerships and streamlined recognition of professional qualifications. These measures intend to attract skilled workers and facilitate their integration into the workforce, supported by comprehensive integration programs. Nonetheless, the practical implementation faces challenges in balancing labor demands with political and social concerns within host communities and ensuring coordinated policies across the EU.

Border management is critical to the 2024 reforms, focusing on enhanced controls, advanced surveillance technologies, and improved crisis response mechanisms. The EU aims to strengthen its external borders, mainly through increased funding for Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. However, implementing these measures must carefully balance security needs with human rights considerations and ensure practical cooperation among member states and third countries to manage migration routes and prevent irregular migration.

## CHALLENGES AND CRITICISMS OF THE REFORMS

The EU's efforts to reform its migration policies have not gone without their criticism, revealing deep divisions among member states. A significant point of contention is the persistent disagreement over migration policy, particularly the "mandatory solidarity" component of the new pact, which requires states to either accept a quota of migrants or pay a fee for each rejected migrant. This aspect has faced strong opposition from countries like Poland and Hungary, as these nations feel disproportionately burdened by migration flows while others resist shared responsibility. Countries such as Germany, France, and southern EU states like Italy and Greece generally support the reforms. Still, others, including Austria and Denmark, expressed strong reservations about



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mandatory relocation quotas and the centralization of migration policies. These differing perspectives highlight the complexity of achieving a cohesive and effective immigration policy within the EU, necessitating ongoing and further negotiation and reforms.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What role should the EU play in facilitating migrant integration, and how can it balance security concerns with humanitarian needs?
- How can member states promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of migrants?
- What are the most effective ways to combat xenophobia and promote multiculturalism within the EU?
- How should the EU tackle increased crime rates of violent migrants?
- How should migrants who commit crimes be treated? Should there be a difference between refugees and economic immigrants?
- How should the EU balance the cultural inclusion of migrants without compromising Western norms and standards?
- How should the EU deal with anti-immigration sentiments?

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2. "A Common European Asylum System" by European Commission  
[https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/common-european-asylum-system-ceas\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/common-european-asylum-system-ceas_en)
3. "Integration of Migrants in the European Union" by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)  
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/migrant-integration-policies-eu>
4. "The EU's Migration Crisis Explained" by TLDR News EU  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXfMz1\\_JOFE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXfMz1_JOFE)



5. "EU Migration Policy" by Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

[https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en)

6. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/asylum-migration-borders>

7. "Why Immigration Isn't Saving Europe's Economy" by Into Europe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNZ67cVp6ic>

8. Understanding Migration in the European Union: Insights from the European Parliamentary Research Service

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS\\_BRI\(2020\)642828](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2020)642828)

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## TOPIC B: REVIEWING THE KOSOVAR AND UKRAINIAN APPLICATIONS

### *BACKGROUND TO THE ISSUE*

#### KOSOVO AND THE EU

Since its proclamation as an independent sovereign state in 1992, Kosovo has had a complicated relationship with the EU. With Kosovo being a “disputed state,” getting EU recognition has been a challenging venture, as countries like Greece, Romania, and Slovakia - all EU members - have close relations with Serbia and, thus, do not recognize Kosovo as a separate nation. This means that the EU itself does not technically recognize Kosovo either, since a consensus is needed, even though most members of the EU do, and certain EU offices work with Kosovo as well. Through its mission for peace in the Balkans, the EU knows peace and prosperity in Kosovo are also imperative. Thus, the EU’s representation in Kosovo engages EU policy and law in Kosovo’s core values and works with Kosovo to achieve the conditions in the EU Enlargement Policy. Kosovo receives financial assistance from the EU for both developmental projects and for strengthening Kosovo's economy - a paramount problem in most Balkan states and one of the reasons why many of them have not yet been accepted.

This close relationship between Kosovo and the EU sparked a need in both the government and the citizens to achieve EU residency.<sup>2</sup> Since its formal independence in 2008, it has worked on “EU-ization” of its departments. In 2014, the prime minister’s office stated that Kosovo’s goal was to achieve memberships by the decade's end. In 2022, the Kosovar parliament passed a resolution calling for the country to “take all necessary steps to join the EU, its offices, and other international organizations.” By the end of the year, Kosovo had formally sent its application to the EU but had not been accepted yet.<sup>3 4 5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> KOSOVO PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY. (2019, March 20). National Democratic Institute. Retrieved August 19, 2024, from <https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/NDI%20Kosovo%20Public%20Opinion%20Poll%202019.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> *Accession of Kosovo to the European Union.* (n.d). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession\\_of\\_Kosovo\\_to\\_the\\_European\\_Union#](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Kosovo_to_the_European_Union#)

<sup>4</sup> Press and Information team of the EU office. (2021, October 20). *The European Union and Kosovo | EEAS.* EEAS. [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/kosovo/eu-and-kosovo\\_en?s=321](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/kosovo/eu-and-kosovo_en?s=321)

<sup>5</sup> *Kosovo - European Commission.* (n.d). European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/kosovo\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/kosovo_en)





## UKRAINE AND THE EU

Ukraine has been a long-standing accomplice to the EU for a long time. Ukraine is one of the EU's largest agricultural trade partners, and the EU is one of the most prominent financial, political, and defense supporters of Ukraine.<sup>6</sup> Since its foundation after the fall of the USSR, Ukraine has been in close ties with the EU through many Europe-wide agreements. Still, it has never applied for membership due to its consistent reliance on Russia as a trade partner for energy. By the end of the decade, though, Ukraine had become a much more robust and independent nation and had signed more and more deals, agreements, and pacts with the EU, sparking their relationship. Only in the 2000s did Ukraine realize that joining the EU would be valuable to the country, and the president stated that "Ukraine would pass all EU membership requirements by 2011."

Sadly, a setback occurred after the 2004 presidential election, which was marked by deep corruption, voter intimidation, and fraud. The Ukrainian people took to the streets to protest the government and call for democratic reforms and closer ties with the EU for the betterment of the political landscape of the country. This event was called the Orange Revolution, and by its end, after re-election was held and the opposition won, Ukraine began working to implement deeper EU ties. The president instigated a four-point plan whereby Ukraine would be acknowledged as a market economy, enter the WTO, achieve associative membership to the EU, and finally become a fully-fledged member. The EU returned the favor, and Ukraine's prospects were considered.<sup>7 8</sup> In 2013, after the president of Ukraine, because of which the Orange Revolution happened, refused to sign the association agreement with the EU, the Ukrainian people once again took to the streets in the Euromaidan Protests. In the aftermath, the party elected was heavily pro-EU. Since then, even though the war, Ukraine has continued to reform its institutions for EU membership, and the EU continued supporting it and granted Ukraine candidate status.<sup>9 10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> EU trade relations with Ukraine. (n.d.). EU Trade. [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/ukraine\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/ukraine_en)

<sup>7</sup> Wikipedia. (n.d.). Orange Revolution. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange\\_Revolution#](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_Revolution#)

<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia. Ukraine–European Union relations. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine%E2%80%93European\\_Union\\_relations#](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine%E2%80%93European_Union_relations#)

<sup>9</sup> Wikipedia. (n.d.). Euromaidan. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euromaidan>

<sup>10</sup> Ukraine - Consilium. (n.d.). Consilium.europa.eu. Retrieved August 19, 2024, from <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/enlargement/ukraine/>



## CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS OF ADMITTING NEW MEMBERS INTO THE EU

### The Copenhagen Criteria

To become an EU member and join the numerous EU offices, a country must fulfill a set of criteria as stated by the EU Enlargement Policy, or as is more formally known - “the Copenhagen Criteria.” The requirements are in three different fields. The political criteria require governmental stability and democracy, upholdment of the rule of law and human rights, and protection all citizens. The economic criteria require economic stability and a strong market that can withstand integration into the EU and the euro. The “capacity” criteria require the country’s industries and administrations to be able to take on membership obligations and follow the EU Acquis. These criteria were not only meant to protect the EU but also to protect the future of the country following them, but there is a problem - many countries can exaggerate their upholding of the criteria, and a lot can have their criteria “deteriorate” due to neglect.<sup>11</sup>

### *Migration*

Admitting a new member nation into the EU entails integrating a new nation into the Schengen Area. This raises great concern over who should be allowed as countries with inferior border control and high immigration rates could open the gates for mass immigration into the EU using Schengen. Apart from non-EU migrants, the citizens of the newly admitted country could mass-migrate as well, looking for better prospects in other countries, possibly overloading their new country’s industries, and abandoning their native country.

### EU Politics

One of the biggest concerns with admitting new members is the veto power, which upon entering, every EU member receives for every vote. Because of the complexity of the veto power, it is always in the EU’s best wishes to have a unified bloc on all matters, otherwise, nothing can get done. The EU cannot allow a country to have veto power if it is still in conflict with another European country, as it might rely on its personal agenda against the country in voting, rather than the ideal solution for the EU.

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<sup>11</sup> EU enlargement policy - Consilium. (n.d.). Consilium.europa.eu.  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/enlargement/>



## *CURRENT SITUATION*

### CHALLENGES OF ADMITTING KOSOVO

Kosovo's admission request has two major problems which caused it to have not yet been accepted as an EU member. The first is Kosovo's struggles with fair governance such as rule of law, combating organized crime and corruption, and weak institutions. Despite making some progress - especially while being aided by the EU - Kosovo continues to struggle with systemic corruption and a judiciary that is not fully independent, raising concerns within the EU. The lack of consistent enforcement of anti-corruption measures and unresolved high-profile cases has cast doubt on the country's commitment to reform. Additionally, issues with political interference in the judicial sector further complicate its path towards meeting EU standards.

The second problem is the fact of Kosovo's disputed sovereignty. With Serbia continuing to claim Kosovo, and applying for EU membership itself, the situation gets even more complicated. The EU cannot take sides in the conflict but still has its own mission for peace in the Balkans and a unified Europe. This brings to question whether Kosovo and Serbia should be allowed to enter the union separately, as upon entering both could veto the other, undeterred. But currently, the fact that 5 EU members do not recognize Kosovo, and therefore a consensus cannot happen, puts its application on hold unless a deal can be struck between the countries.

### CHALLENGES OF ADMITTING UKRAINE

The admission of Ukraine into the European Union has been put into doubt and concern for three main reasons. The first is the longstanding corruption in the country and its incapability to reform. Despite the massive improvement over the last two decades, from the events of the Orange revolution and the Euromaidan, the country is still experiencing major corruption in all its governmental offices, and a sense of dependency is set in all its branches of power. Many citizens view the judiciary as completely susceptible to influence from the executive, inefficient, lacking independence, and unjust.

The second reason is border security. Border security is a very important aspect in the EU's objectives for new countries, but the current situation in Ukraine regarding the war has "distracted" the Ukrainian forces from continuing to ensure complete border security in the



non-russian borders. The current fire-zones of the war might also be considered as “disputed” and thus clear borders for the EU’s outreach could be considered complicated.

The third and most major reason is the 2022-present escalation of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war. The war brings up two worries with the EU. The first is the worry that by admitting Ukraine, Russia would be further antagonized against the union, leading to bigger and bigger escalations, and the security of all EU members could be jeopardized. The second worry is that if Ukraine is admitted into the EU it would feel obligated to actively aid it in the fighting. This concern raises the question of would the EU support a member at war, as is policy, and in the process endanger its other members.

## *QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER*

1. What is your country’s relationship with Kosovo?
2. What is your country’s relationship with Ukraine?
3. What aspect of the admission of new members worries your country the most?
4. Does your country think that the EU should admit more members currently?
5. Does your country believe the EU should aid European nations to follow and institute the Copenhagen Criteria?

## *SUGGESTED READINGS*

1. "The EU and Kosovo: Enlargement and State-Building" - This paper explores the EU’s role in Kosovo’s state-building efforts and its implications for EU enlargement.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326233378\\_The\\_EU\\_and\\_Kosovo\\_Enlargement\\_and\\_State-building](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326233378_The_EU_and_Kosovo_Enlargement_and_State-building)

2. "EU-Kosovo Relations: The Role of Conditionality in European Integration" - ResearchGate

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330443239\\_Legislacio\\_ambiental\\_Arago\\_Segon\\_semestre\\_2011](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330443239_Legislacio_ambiental_Arago_Segon_semestre_2011)



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3. Ukrainian refugees: EU member states welcome the proposal to extend temporary protection -Council of the EU

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/13/ukrainian-refugees-eu-member-states-welcome-the-proposal-to-extend-temporary-protection/>

4. Application by Kosovo for membership of the Council of Europe -Council of Europe

<https://rm.coe.int/application-by-kosovo-for-membership-of-the-council-of-europe-/1680af1575>

5. Council of Europe: Kosovo ante portas? -Blog of the European Journal of International Law

<https://www.ejiltalk.org/council-of-europe-kosovo-ante-portas/>

6. Ukraine's path towards EU accession -An official website of the European Union

[https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/ukraines-path-towards-eu-accession\\_en](https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/ukraines-path-towards-eu-accession_en)

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