



EU Enlargement and Gender Equality

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http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/index_en.htm

EU Accession process – State of play

- On **1st May 2004**, the EU welcomed 10 new Member States: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- **Bulgaria and Romania** have completed accession negotiations and their accession is planned for 1 January 2007.
- Negotiations with **Croatia and Turkey** were opened on 3 October 2005.
- **FYROM** was granted candidate status on 17 December 2005.

Accession negotiations: Procedure

- **Opinion** (*avis*) of the Commission
- Member States' **decision** to open accession negotiations
- **Screening** process (one year) followed by a Commission recommendation on the opening of chapters for negotiations and decision by MS
- For chapters to be opened, submission of **negotiating positions** by candidate country followed by submission by the Commission to the Council of a **draft common position** and by the adoption by the Council of a **common position** allowing to open the chapter concerned at the next accession conference
- Chapter **provisionally closed** following unanimous decision by the intergovernmental conference. Chapters **definitively closed** only when all negotiations with the candidate country are concluded.

Accession negotiations: Chapters

1. Free movement of goods
2. Freedom of movement for workers
3. Right of establishment and freedom to provide services
4. Free movement of capital
5. Public procurement
6. Company law
7. Intellectual property law
8. Competition policy
9. Financial services
10. Information society and media
11. Agriculture
12. Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
13. Fisheries
14. Transport policy
15. Energy
16. Taxation
17. Economic and monetary policy
18. Statistics
19. *Social policy and employment*
20. Enterprise and industrial policy
21. Trans-European Networks
22. Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments
23. Judiciary and fundamental rights
24. Justice, freedom and security
25. Science and research
26. Education and training
27. Environment
28. Consumers and health protection
29. Customs union
30. External relations
31. Foreign security and defense policy
32. Financial control
33. Financial and budgetary provisions
34. Institutions
35. Other issues

EU Accession process: Gender equality

■ Political criteria

1.1 Democracy and the rule of law

1.2 Human rights and the protection of minorities

Civil and political rights

Economic, social and cultural rights

Minority rights and the protection of minorities

■ Negotiating chapter "Social policy and employment"

Equal treatment between women and men /

Equal opportunities

Negotiating chapter "Social policy and employment"

■ Equal opportunities

9 Directives:

Equal pay (Directive 75/117/EEC)

Statutory social security (Directive 79/7/EEC)

Equal treatment of self-employed (Directive 86/613/EEC)

Health and safety of pregnant workers (Directive 92/85/EEC)

Parental leave (Directive 96/34/EC)

Occupational social security (Directive 96/97/EC)

Burden of proof (Directive 97/80/EC)

Access to employment, vocational training, promotion, working conditions (Directive 2002/73/EC)

Access to and supply of goods and services (Directive 2004/113/EC)

Negotiating chapter "Social policy and employment"

■ *Administrative capacity*

Equality body with the necessary powers and the independence required for each of its functions (Art. 8a of the Directive 2002/73/EC)

- *without prejudice to the right of victims and of associations, organisations or other legal entities, **provide independent assistance to victims** of discrimination in pursuing their complaints about discrimination;*
- *conduct **independent surveys** concerning discrimination;*
- *publish **independent reports** and make **recommendations** on any issue relating to such discrimination*

Monitoring instruments

- **Progress Reports on Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries**

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/report_2005/

- **Intensified monitoring (BG, RO) /
Monitoring Reports**

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/report_2006/index.htm

- **Framework of the Association Agreements**

Europe Agreements (BG, RO)

Association Agreement (Ankara Agreement TK)

Stabilisation and Association Agreements (HR, Western Balkans)

Financial assistance

- **PHARE**, set up in 1989 to assist candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe in their preparation for joining the European Union, is the main EU pre-accession funding instrument.
- In 2005-2006, 3 countries eligible under Phare: Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia. In addition, Turkey is covered by the **Turkey pre-accession instrument** that has the same features as Phare.
- Since 1997, pre-accession instruments are **accession-driven** (and no longer demand-driven), i.e. all projects must be framed in the objectives of regular reports, accession partnerships, national programmes for the adoption of the *acquis*.

Allocations 2004/2006: *(in million Euros)*

	2004	2005	2006
BG	204	225	247
RO	476	526	578
TK	250	300	500

Pre-accession priorities

■ Institution Building

(approximately 30 % of funding)

Building the administrative capacity for the alignment and implementation of the *acquis*.

Typical projects: **Twinning**: Secondment of EU experts to the corresponding Ministry/Administration/Region of a CC to transfer "know-how" on implementation of EU legislation.

■ Investment in Economic and Social Cohesion

Preparation for Moving to Structural Funds Business-Related Infrastructure, Human Resource, Development, Productive investment. Typical projects: grant schemes.

Beneficiaries are normally public bodies: national administrations, local and regional authorities. Civil society (NGOs) and business organisations can also benefit.

From 2007: the “new” instrument (IPA)

- An integrated Pre-Accession Instrument to assist candidate (Croatia, Turkey) and potential candidate countries (Western Balkans).
- Will replace Phare, ISPA, SAPARD and Turkey pre-accession instruments, as well as CARDS (currently covering the Western Balkans).
- Will streamline pre-accession assistance through the creation of a single framework.
- Aims at a better preparation for Structural, Cohesion and Rural development Funds through progressive emulation of EU funds rules.

Where to obtain more information

■ Financial Pre-Accession Assistance

- http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/financial_assistance/index_en.htm

■ Documents

- <http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/publist.htm>

TAIEX Facility

(Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office)

For NMS, CC and Western Balkans

Who?

European or national social partners, officials

What for?

Seminars, conferences, visits...

What kind of support?

Technical support

Rental of rooms, equipment, interpretation facilities

Travel arrangements

How to proceed?

<http://taiex.cec.eu.int/>

Community Action Programme

Community Action Programme on Gender Equality (2001-2006)

Annual budget: around € 10 million

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/employment_social/gender_equality/actions/index_en.html