

## Western Balkans

The European Union's planned enlargement into the Western Balkans has recently drawn increased attention. In February 2018, the European Commission released its new [enlargement strategy](#), giving a credible accession perspective to the region. The latest impetus came last month, when the Commission proposed opening entry talks with Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Presenting the 2018 [Communication on the EU enlargement policy](#) to the European Parliament, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said that the EU needed to eventually accept new members from the Western Balkans to avoid the risk of a new war in the region. Many EU Member States insist that before enlarging, the EU must implement internal reforms. Future members must meet many tough entry criteria. From the Western Balkans, only Croatia has so far joined the EU, in 2013. Accession talks continue with Montenegro and Serbia. Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are official membership candidates, while Bosnia and Herzegovina remains a potential candidate country, along with Kosovo.

This note offers links **to reports and commentaries from some major international think-tanks and research institutes** on EU enlargement and Western Balkans. More reports on the topic can be found in a [previous edition](#) of 'What Think Tanks are thinking', published in October 2017.

### [Maintaining momentum in enlargement](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, April 2018

### [Do the Western Balkans face a coming Russian storm?](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, April 2018

### [The Western Balkans' EU dream: Ambition calls for a new process](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, April 2018

### [Beyond Enlargement: Why the EU's Western Balkans policy needs a reset](#)

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, April 2018

### [Road towards the EU: How does it look like?](#)

European Policy Centre, Belgrade, April 2018

### [The EU's next step: The Western Balkans](#)

Carnegie Europe, April 2018

### [Macedonia: A new beginning?](#)

Journal of Democracy, April 2018

### [The 2016 coup attempt in Montenegro: Is Russia's Balkans footprint expanding?](#)

Foreign Policy Research Institute, April 2018

### [Reforming from the bench, marking offside: The \(in\)effectiveness of the EU benchmarking mechanism in the Western Balkans](#)

Group for Legal and Political Studies and others, March 2018

[Towards a new thinking on the Western Balkans](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, March 2018

[EU's benchmarking mechanism on 'fundamentals first': Results and challenges, benchmarking in Kosovo](#)

Group for Legal and Political Studies and others, March 2018

[Propaganda and disinformation in the Western Balkans: How the EU can counter Russia's information war](#)

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, March 2018

[Bosnia on the chopping block: The potential for violence and steps to prevent it](#)

Foreign Policy Research Institute, March 2018

[Creating demand for reforms beyond EU conditionality](#)

European Policy Centre, March 2018

[EU enlargement: a new strategy, with hands by the brakes](#)

Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso, March 2018

[The Western Balkans on the road to the European Union](#)

Bruegel, February 2018

[China's Balkans silk road: Does it pave or block the way of Western Balkans to the European Union?](#)

Centre international de formation européenne, February 2018

[In search of consensus: What is Kosovo's red line?](#)

Group for Legal and Political Studies, February 2018

[Balkans: On track for EU membership or stagnation?](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, February 2018

[Don't believe the hype: Why Bosnian democracy will not end this October](#)

European Stability Initiative, February 2018

[Is Central Europe damaging EU enlargement?](#)

Carnegie Europe, February 2018

[Serbia, between the hammer and the anvil: An overview of the security of supply in South-Eastern Europe](#)

Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, February 2018

[Assessing Russia's economic footprint in the Western Balkans. Corruption and state capture risks](#)

Center for the Study of Democracy, February 2018

[Serbia scores a weak Two in professionalisation of public administration](#)

European Policy Centre, Belgrade, February 2018

[2018: The year credible EU enlargement policy returns?](#)

European Policy Centre, January 2018

[The Western Balkans: Between stabilisation and integration in the European Union](#)

Fondation Robert Schuman, January 2018

[A decisive year for the EU's re-engagement with the Western Balkans](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, January 2018

[Key problems in prosecuting corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina: A substantive law perspective](#)

Analitika, January 2018

[The EU and the Western Balkans: So near and yet so far](#)  
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, December 2018

[Exiting or entering the Union: EU consistency in accession and withdrawal negotiations](#)  
College of Europe, December 2017

[The Western Balkans on the Visegrad countries' agenda](#)  
Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, December 2017

[Sustainable policy impact through state-of-the-art research and advocacy](#)  
Center for the Study of Democracy, November 2017

[À quand l'union des Balkans?](#)  
La Vie des Idées, November 2017

[Possible date for EU accession and the years ahead](#)  
European Policy Centre, October 2017

[Macedonian Obama or the platform from Tirana: A guide to the integrative power sharing model](#)  
Center for Research and Policy Making, October 2017

[The good, the bad and the ugly: Chinese influence in the Western Balkans](#)  
EUROPEUM, October 2017

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