The process of enlargement and the social conditions

The European Union is currently made up of 27 Member States (EU-27). Negotiations then an ongoing process for its future enlargement. The countries taking part in this process are at different stages: acceding country, candidate country, and potential candidate.

The European Union initiated the accession negotiations with Croatia (HR) and Turkey (TR) in October 2005 and with Iceland in December 2011, with the signing of the Treaty of Accession. Croatia has now become an acceding country. Croatia is expected to become the 28th EU Member State on 1 July 2013, pending ratification of the Treaty by the 27 Member States.

In 2010, the combined population of enlargement countries represented nearly a fifth of the total EU population. Turkey was by far the largest of the enlargement countries, with over 72.6 million inhabitants, whereas the smallest, with populations of about 3,000,000 and 6,000,000 respectively in Kosovo (XK) and Serbia (RS).

In 2010, the EU-27 unemployment rate averaged at 6.4%. Only Iceland recorded a higher unemployment rate than the EU-27 average. The unemployment rate in Iceland was 7.9% in 2010. In contrast, the unemployment rate in the other enlargement countries was below the EU-27 average. It ranged from 3% in Kosovo to almost 54% in Croatia in 2010.

Iceland stood out as having by far the smallest gender gap in unemployment. In 2010, it was 5 percentage points lower in Iceland, in employment rates between men and women recorded for the EU-27. The unemployment gender gaps in Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia were similar to those for the EU-27 in 2010. All other enlargement countries recorded substantially higher gaps, ranging from 10 percentage points in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to 41 in Turkey.

In 2010, the gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant in Iceland, adjusted to purchasing power standards (PPS), was 10% above the EU-27 average.

In contrast, GDP per capita in the other enlargement countries was less than the EU-27 average. In 2010, Croatia registered GDP per capita between 36% and 61% below the EU-27 average, while Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia were between 60% and 65% below the EU-27 average.

The data for Serbia exclude Kosovo, which is under international administration in line with the UNSCR 1244/99.

The data for Iceland are provided by the National Statistical Office, Eurobase. Data were processed between October 2011 and December 2013.

The role of Eurostat

One of the roles of Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, is to follow the progress of the enlargement countries in complying with the acquis (the body of EU law) in the field of statistics, as well as to collect statistical data from those countries. Eurostat provides technical assistance and support to the national statistical institutions of the enlargement countries, with the aim of ensuring that the countries concerned are able to produce data which comply with the European and international statistical standards.

Data source

The information presented within this booklet is fully extracted from Eurobase. Data were processed between October 2011 and December 2013.

Further information

For more general information on European statistics, please go to the Eurostat web site: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat

For more information on European policies in the areas of enlargement, employment, social affairs and equal opportunities please go to the following web sites: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement, http://ec.europa.eu/social

For more specific questions on statistics in relation to enlargement countries, please contact:

Eurostat Unit A4 - Statistical cooperation, 5 rue de Luxembourg, 2118 Luxembourg e-mail: ESTAT-A4@statistix.eurostat.lu

Country codes, symbols and further information

For more information on statistics in enlargement countries, please go to the websites of the National statistical institutes:

HR Croatia http://www.dzs.hr
ME Montenegro http://www.monstat.org
MK The former Yugoslav Republic
RS Serbia http://www.stat.gov.rs
TR Turkey http://www.tukeystat.gov.tr
BA Bosnia and Herzegovina
MK The former Yugoslav Republic

Araco:

The data for Serbia exclude Kosovo, which is under international administration in line with the UNSCR 1244/99.

Total fertility rate is the average number of children that would be born to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the average fertility rates of the last century, on the basis of population registers.

Life expectancy at birth, is the average number of years a person would live if age-specific mortality rates observed for a certain calendar year or period were to continue. Figures are given separately for men and women.
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In 2010, there are four candidate countries: Iceland (IS), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK), Montenegro (ME), and Serbia (RS), in June 2010. The negotiation process with Croatia was resolved in December 2011 with the signing of the Treaty of Accession.

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It should be noted that accessions negotiations with Croatia (HR) and Turkey (TR) in October 2003 and with Iceland in June 2008. The implementation process with Croatia was completed in December 2011 with the signing of the Treaty of Accession. Croatia has now become an accession country. Croatia is a potential candidate.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK), Montenegro (ME), Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA), Albania (AL), Bulgaria and Romania (RO), Kosovo (XK), Serbia (RS), and Turkey. The following are the potential candidates:

- Albania (AL)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)
- Kosovo (XK)
- Serbia (RS)

In 2010, the gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant in Iceland, subject to purchasing power standards (PPS), was 16% above the EU average.

In contrast, GD GDP per capita in the other enlargement countries was less than that of the EU-27 at 2010. Gross domestic product per inhabitant in Iceland in 2010 averaged at 64%.

In 2010, the employment gap in Iceland was 7% in 2010. In contrast, the employment rate in the other enlargement countries was below the EU-27 average. It ranged from 16% in Kosovo to almost 54% in Croatia in 2010.

Iceland stood out as having the smallest gender gap in employment. In 2010, it was only 4 percent points in Iceland, whereas in Europe, in employment rates between men and women recorded for the EU-27. The employment gap in Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia was similar to those for the EU-27. In 2010, all other enlargement countries recorded substantially higher gaps, ranging from 10 percent points in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to 46% in Turkey.

In 2010, the overall EU-27 unemployment rate averaged at 6.8%.

Only Iceland recorded a higher employment rate than the EU-27 average. In 2010, it was only 4 percent points in Iceland, whereas in Europe, in employment rate between men and women recorded for the EU-27. The employment gap in Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia was similar to those for the EU-27. In 2010, all other enlargement countries recorded substantially higher gaps, ranging from 10 percent points in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to 46% in Turkey.

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Unemployment rate – persons aged 15 to 74 who were not employed last activity week and were ready to begin working within two weeks, as a proportion of the total number of active persons of the same age.

Employment rate – the proportion of population aged 15 to 64 that is in employment.

GDP per capita: the gross domestic product (GDP) is a measure of the production of goods and services, whereas the purchasing power standard (PPS) shall mean the artificial common reference currency unit used in the European Union to express the volume of economic aggregates for the purpose of spatial comparisons in such a way that price level differences are eliminated. Economic volume aggregates in PPS are obtained by dividing their original value in national currency by the respective PPP. 1 PPS thus buys the same volume of goods and services in all countries, whereas different amounts of national currency units are needed to buy the same volume of goods and services in individual countries, depending on the price level. GDP is equal to the sum of the gross value-added of all resident institutional units (i.e. industries) engaged in production, plus taxes and subsidies on products not included in the value of their output. Gross value-added is the difference between output and intermediate consumption.

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Unemployment rates

Employment rates by gender, 2010

GDP per capita, 2010

Household expenditure, 2009

Rate of motorisation

Cellular mobile telephone penetration

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Unemployment rates (1) (2)

Unemployment rate is given as the number of unemployed persons aged 15 to 74 who were not employed, had actively sought work during the past four weeks and were ready to begin working within two weeks, as a proportion of the total number of active persons of the same age.

Unemployment rates, 2010

(1) AL and XK, 2009.
(2) XK, 2001; TR, 2005.

Unemployment rates

Figure 3:

Employment rates by gender, 2010 (%)

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: lfsi_emp_a and cpc_siemp).

Source:

(1) AL and XK, 2009.
(2) EU-27

Employment rate is the proportion of population aged 15 to 64 that is employed, had actively sought work during the past four weeks and was actively looking for work, and is a measure of the proportion of the total number of active persons of the same age.

Employment rate

Figure 4:

Employment rate

Business cycle indicators: the PPS (Purchasing Power Standard) shall mean the artificial reference currency unit used in the European Union to express the volume of economic aggregates for the purpose of spatial comparisons in such a way that price level differences between countries are eliminated. Economic volume aggregates of GDP by the total population.

GDP per capita

Figure 5:

GDP per capita, 2010 (1)

Source:

(1) XK, GDP per capita in PPS not available; MK, AL and RS, 2009; ME, AL and XK, estimated.

GDP per capita is an indicator that is derived through the division of GDP by the population.

GDP and Employment rate

Figure 6:

Employment rate by gender, 2010 (%)

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: lfsi_emp_a and cpc_siemp).

Source:

(1) AL and XK, 2009.
(2) EU-27

GDP per capita is equal to the gross value-added of all resident institutional units (i.e. industries) engaged in production, plus taxes, and minus the subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs. Gross value-added is the difference between output and intermediate consumption.

GDP and Employment rate

Figure 7:

GDP per capita, 2010 (1)

Source:

(1) XK, GDP per capita in PPS not available; MK, AL and RS, 2009; ME, AL and XK, estimated.

GDP per capita is an indicator that is derived through the division of GDP by the total population.

GDP and Employment rate

Figure 8:

GDP per capita, 2010 (1)

Source:

(1) XK, GDP per capita in PPS not available; MK, AL and RS, 2009; ME, AL and XK, estimated.

GDP per capita is an indicator that is derived through the division of GDP by the total population.

GDP and Employment rate

Figure 9:

GDP per capita, 2010 (1)

Source:

(1) XK, GDP per capita in PPS not available; MK, AL and RS, 2009; ME, AL and XK, estimated.

GDP per capita is an indicator that is derived through the division of GDP by the total population.

GDP and Employment rate

Figure 10:

GDP per capita, 2010 (1)

Source:

(1) XK, GDP per capita in PPS not available; MK, AL and RS, 2009; ME, AL and XK, estimated.

GDP per capita is an indicator that is derived through the division of GDP by the total population.
Female workers aged 15 to 74 who were ready to begin working within two weeks, as a proportion of the total number of active persons of the same age.

Employment rates: the proportion of population aged 15 to 64 that is in employment.

GDP per capita is an indicator that derives through the division of GDP by the total population.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is a basic measure of a country’s overall economic health. As an aggregate measure of production, GDP is equal to the sum of the gross value-added of all resident institutional units (i.e., industries) engaged in production, plus taxes, and minus subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs. Gross value-added is the difference between output and intermediate consumption.

Purchasing power standard (PPS) shall mean the artificial common reference currency unit used in the European Union to express the volume of economic aggregates for the purpose of spatial comparisons in such a way that price level differences between countries are eliminated. Economic volume aggregates of GDP are obtained by dividing their original value in national currency units by the PPS thus obtained. The common reference currency unit used in the European Union Purchasing power standard (PPS) is the Euro.

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