Dialogues@EIR: EU Enlargement in Practice
Romania and Candidate Countries in a Changing EU Context
5 November 2026 (online)

Overview

EU accession is a long-term economic and institutional transformation, experienced differently by each country. As a relatively recent EU member located in the region, Romania faced some of the structural challenges that candidate countries encounter today and can contribute a perspective grounded in its own experience before and after accession. *The event will bring together economic research think tanks from Romania and EU candidate countries to examine accession as a strategic and economic process*. The discussion will consider what EU accession means today for candidate countries and for the Union, including security, participation in the Single Market and institutional adaptation, as well as how the EU's perspective on enlargement has evolved. Building on research by IER and CPAG, it will also examine the macroeconomic conditions and priorities of candidate countries. The dialogue will also give participating think tanks an opportunity to get to know one another, compare research priorities and identify possibilities for future joint analysis and policy dialogue.

Agenda

(*) Bucharest time

10:50 – 11:00 (*)	**Online registration of participants**
11:00 – 11:05	**Welcome Address**
	Oana-Mihaela Mocanu, Director General, European Institute of Romania
11:05 – 11:25	**The current EU enlargement context**
	Dr Kerry Longhurst, Senior Fellow, Visegrad Insight
	Anastasia Pociumban, Research Fellow and Project Manager, Eastern Partnership Think Tank Network, German Council on Foreign Relations
11:25 – 11:35	**EU accession today: security and the Single Market**
	Laurian Lungu, Co-Founder, Consilium Policy Advisors Group
11:35 – 11:45	**Economic convergence under pressure: macroeconomic conditions in candidate countries**
	Ella Kállai, Co-Founder, Consilium Policy Advisors Group
11:45 – 12:00	**Perspectives from economic research think tanks in candidate countries**
	Nina Perunović, Researcher, Center for Finance, Montenegro
	Blagica Petreski, Executive director, Finance Think - Economic Research and Policy Institute, North Macedonia
	Iulian Groza, Executive Director, Institute for European Policies and Reforms – IPRE, Republic of Moldova
12:00 – 12:30	**Moderated discussion and open Q&A**
Moderator:	**Mihaela Pădureanu,** Coordinator of Studies Unit, European Affairs Department, European Institute of Romania

The event will be registered audio-video
Working language: English