

# List of Projects

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### **What are the economic and institutional must haves for candidate countries to make an accelerated enlargement possible?**

*European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs*

*October 2024 - June 2025*

This project, commissioned by the EU Commission's DG EcFin, attempts to identify "the minimal economic preconditions for the accession of candidates to the European Union, presuming a scenario under which there would be strong political pressure to admit new Member States much quicker than the current enlargement approach and procedures can deliver." (quoted from the tender document). The research set out to identify such minimum conditions by focusing on the following selection criteria: (i) relevance to provide macroeconomic stability for longer-term growth (and convergence), (ii) potential spillover effects on existing member states, and (iii) implications for proper use of EU funding and mutually beneficial participation in EU programs. Given these criteria we focus in our analysis on (a) external accounts (b) the fiscal situation (c) labour markets and social indicators and (d) institutional factors.

### **Geo-economic Interconnectivity Index (GEOII)**

*Bertelsmann Stiftung*

*July 2024 - April 2025*

The Geo-economic Interconnectivity Index (GEOII) is part of the Bertelsmann Stiftung's project "Sovereign Europe: Strategic Management of Global Interdependence" and builds upon the research conducted in collaboration with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and European Center for International Political Economy (ECIPE), to measure economic interconnectivity of the EU and other powers with the EU neighbouring countries. The focus of the "Sovereign Europe" project and its continuation with the index is to explore how the EU can consolidate and expand its influence in its neighbourhood amid increasing geopolitical rivalry and blocs formation. The aim is to align relations with the EU's political interests and values, thereby strengthening its role as a global player. This index aims to capture the dynamics of geoeconomic influence and shifts in the balance of power within the region. Its core objective is to track changes in economic ties in various sectors over time and their implications for the EU's relative influence. To this end, the index measures and evaluates the economic interconnectivity of the EU with its neighbouring countries, focusing on the bilateral flow of goods, services, and finances, as well as policies that hinder or promote this exchange. The index compares the EU's interconnectivity with that of the US, China, and Russia in the same region, providing an evidence-based picture of the intensity and development of interconnectedness while disclosing annual differences (deltas) in the data .