

[20th anniversary of the 2004 EU enlargement: Stocktaking of the membership experience, challenges, and opportunities](#)

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Call for Papers

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Call for papers - special issue proposal

Editors: Matúš Mišík (Comenius University in Bratislava) and Monika Brusenbauch Meislová (Masaryk University Brno)

2024 will mark the 20th anniversary of the so-called eastern enlargement of the European Union, during which 10 countries joined the Union (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia). This was historically the biggest and most complicated enlargement that brought into the Union a large group of countries with economic and political legacy different from the other members (Toshkov 2017). Academic scholarship has extensively examined the accession process of these countries (Moravcsik and Vachudova 2002; Pridham 2014) and for a long time a distinction was made between old and new member states to underline the difference(s) between these two groups of countries (Copsey and Haughton 2009; Grabbe 2014). During the two decades of membership, however, this distinction has become obsolete, as the countries have learned the rules of the game, started to contribute to the development of the Union, and stopped being shy to present opposing positions. At the same time, they have also contributed to solutions to, but also deepening of, the various crises that the EU has been experiencing during the last two decades (Börzel et al. 2017; Grabowska 2020)

The main aim of the proposed special issue is to explore 20 years of these ten countries' membership in the European Union, investigating how they have contributed to its development and how the EU membership has contributed to the development of these countries. The special issue **aims to analyse the EU**

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membership of the 2004 enlargement countries in its complexity and therefore targets a wide spectrum of possible contributions. We are interested in papers on individual member countries, various regional groups (for instance, the Baltic States, the Visegrad Group), different EU policies and the 2004 enlargement countries' impact on those. Broader social and political issues connected to multiple EU crises and the role of 2004 enlargement countries can also be examined. Other topics are also welcomed and we encourage interested authors to contact us with topic proposals. We will prefer articles with broader, comparative scopes, rather than narrowly focused single case studies.

Please, send the abstracts of up to 150 words, 5 keywords, and 150-word bio to matus.misik@uniba.sk and brusenbauch.meislova@mail.muni.cz by **31 August 2022**. Authors will be notified of the selection outcome no later than 15 September 2022. The final papers, written in English, should be **7000-8000 words** long and the deadline for them is **30 April 2023**. We regret that due to the topical nature of the issue, we will not be able to grant any extensions on deadlines, including the one for the abstract. All inquiries should be directed to both editors.

We are in discussion with the Journal of Contemporary European Studies (IF 1.35, <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/cjea20>). The journal has expressed an initial interest in our special issue but please know kindly that there is no guarantee of acceptance.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts!

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