

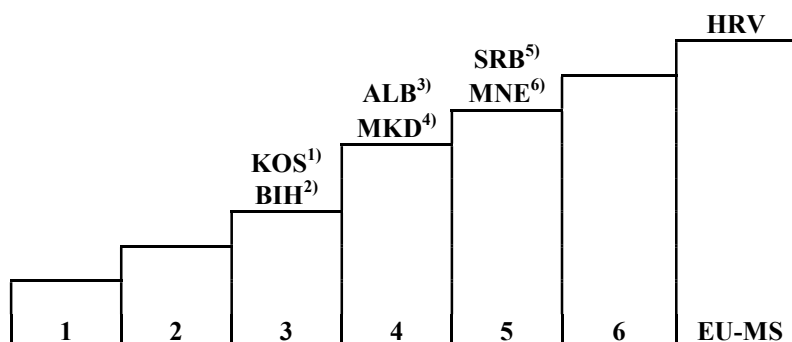
Roadmap Western Balkans: step by step model Situation 2015

Principles:

- Conditionality
- Own merits

Step	Action	Condition
1	Feasibility study on Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) negotiations	Sufficient level of stability
2	Opening SAA negotiations	Fulfilment of all conditions laid down in the feasibility study
3	Signature SAA	Sufficient progress in the implementation of the conditions
4	Status as a candidate country	Political recognition of the close relationship of this country with the EU (<i>broad margin of political appreciation for the Council</i>)
5	Opening of the accession negotiations	Sufficient implementation of the Copenhagen criteria; including the fulfilment of all political criteria, important progress in the implementation of the economic criteria and in the transposition of the acquis.
6	Closure of the accession negotiations	Fulfilment of all accession criteria (namely all benchmarks of the closure of chapters)

Present status of the Western Balkan countries:



1) **KOS:** 01.04.2016: Entry into force of the SAA

2) **BIH:** 01.06.2015: Entry into force of the SAA

3) **ALB:** 27.06.2014: Commission granted candidate status.

4) **MKD:** 01.10.2009: Commission recommends opening of the accession negotiations

5) **SRB:** 21.01.2014: Opening of accession negotiations

6) **MNE:** 29.06.2012: Opening of accession negotiations