# The Frontline: LGBTI Equality and Accession to The EU

With the current state of LGBTI rights in Central Europe, highlighted most recently by the Serbian government's anti-democratic instrumentalising of LGBTI people in an effort to try to stop EuroPride in Belgrade, how does this kind of backsliding play into the accession process? And what about countries like Ukraine, where LGBTI rights have barely been on the governmental agenda – what are the opportunities to be gained by candidacy for joining the EU?

Podcast, Civil Rights and Freedom, Inclusion and Equality, Legal Protection, Safety, EU Enlargement, Moldova, Montenegro, Ukraine

In this two-part episode of The Frontline podcast, presented by Belinda Dear, we're looking at the new wave of accession to the European Union and what it will mean for LGBTI people.

With the recent news that Ukraine and Moldova are now candidates to the EU, the topic of EU accession is on the radar again, while Western Balkan countries such as Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro have been going through the process for some years now, and Turkey not acceded since its application in 1987.

With the current state of LGBTI rights in Central Europe, highlighted most recently by the Serbian government's anti-democratic instrumentalising of LGBTI people in an effort to try to stop EuroPride in Belgrade, how does this kind of backsliding play into the accession process? And what about countries like Ukraine, where LGBTI rights have barely been on the governmental agenda? What are the opportunities to be gained by candidacy for joining the EU?

To discuss these questions and more, we're joined by former member of European Parliament, Marije Cornelissen, who has worked extensively on the accession process, Lenny Emson from Kyiv Pride in Ukraine, Anastasia Danilova from GENDERDOC-M in Moldova, and Danijel Kalezi?, who worked for years as the Executive Director of Queer Montenegro, but has now become the Co-director of ERA, the LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey . We're also joined by our Advocacy Director, Katrin Hugendubel to talk about ILGA-Europe's deep and long-term experience of working on accession countries, which has been happening for 25 years now.

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