



Ukraine's European Dream: Does Ukraine have an EU future?

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What does it take to accede into the EU?

- In 1993, the EU agreed on a criteria for accession of new members, known as the **Copenhagen Criteria**

1. Political

- Stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and respect for minorities

2. Economic

- A functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with the competitive pressures and market forces of the EU's single market

3. Legislative

- Acceptance of the *Acquis Communautaire* to be able to take on membership obligations
- This is done via chapters (Montenegro, the most advanced accession candidate has 35 chapters it needs to close)

The EU's engagement with Ukraine after 1991

- Initially, very little engagement
 - The EU was preoccupied with enlarging to Central and Eastern Europe, a process Ukraine was left out of
- Post “mega enlargement” of the EU in 2004, Ukraine entered Brussels’ purview
 - European Neighbourhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership Programme
 - But: “everything but institutions”, so membership unequivocally ruled out
- Ukraine had its orange revolution in late 2004
 - Under Yushchenko embarked on a pro-European pathway, but this was problematic and eventually the orange revolution fell apart
- Association Agreement was offered in early 2010s
 - Ukraine was keen to join – even under the leadership of the ostensibly pro-Kremlin Yanukovich – and it was all set to be confirmed in late 2013 in Vilnius
 - But, Russia embarked on a pressure campaign and eventually corralled Yanukovich not to sign and the rest is history

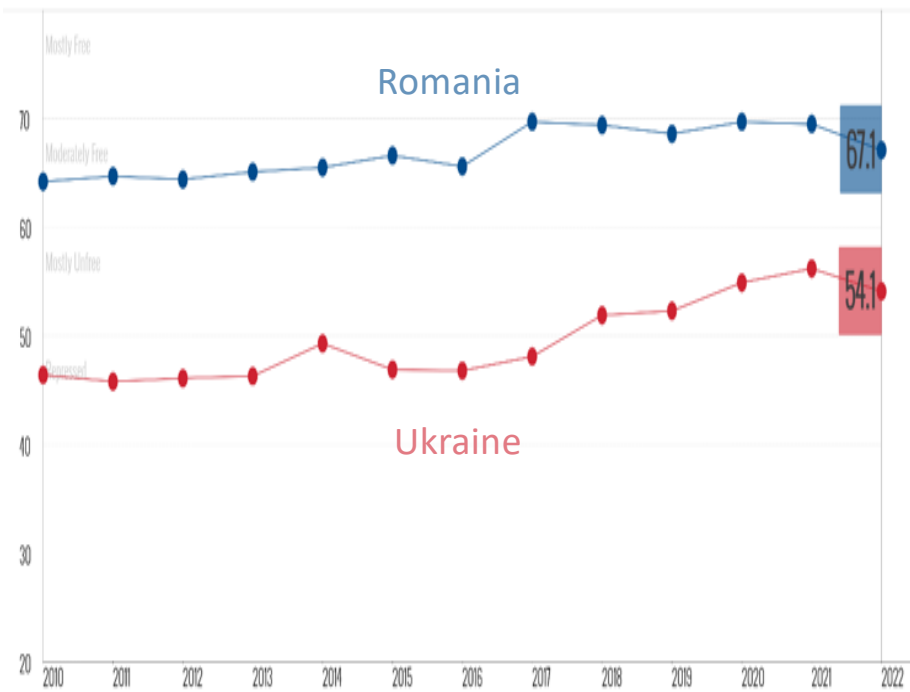
War in Ukraine and the EU's response

- Since 2014, Ukraine has suffered at the hands of Russia and this has evolved into the current invasion and war
- The EU has been quite strong in its response to Russia
 - Significant use of sanctions and political pressure against the Kremlin
 - It also engaged closely with the Poroshenko regime and Ukraine ended up signing the Association Agreement
- But the EU was also heavily criticized for “sleep walking” into the Ukraine crisis, mostly due to its clear lack of geopolitical nous
- The EU has arguably often been sidelined in the conflict by NATO, despite the fact that it was actually the EU's engagement with Ukraine that kick started the crisis in later 2013

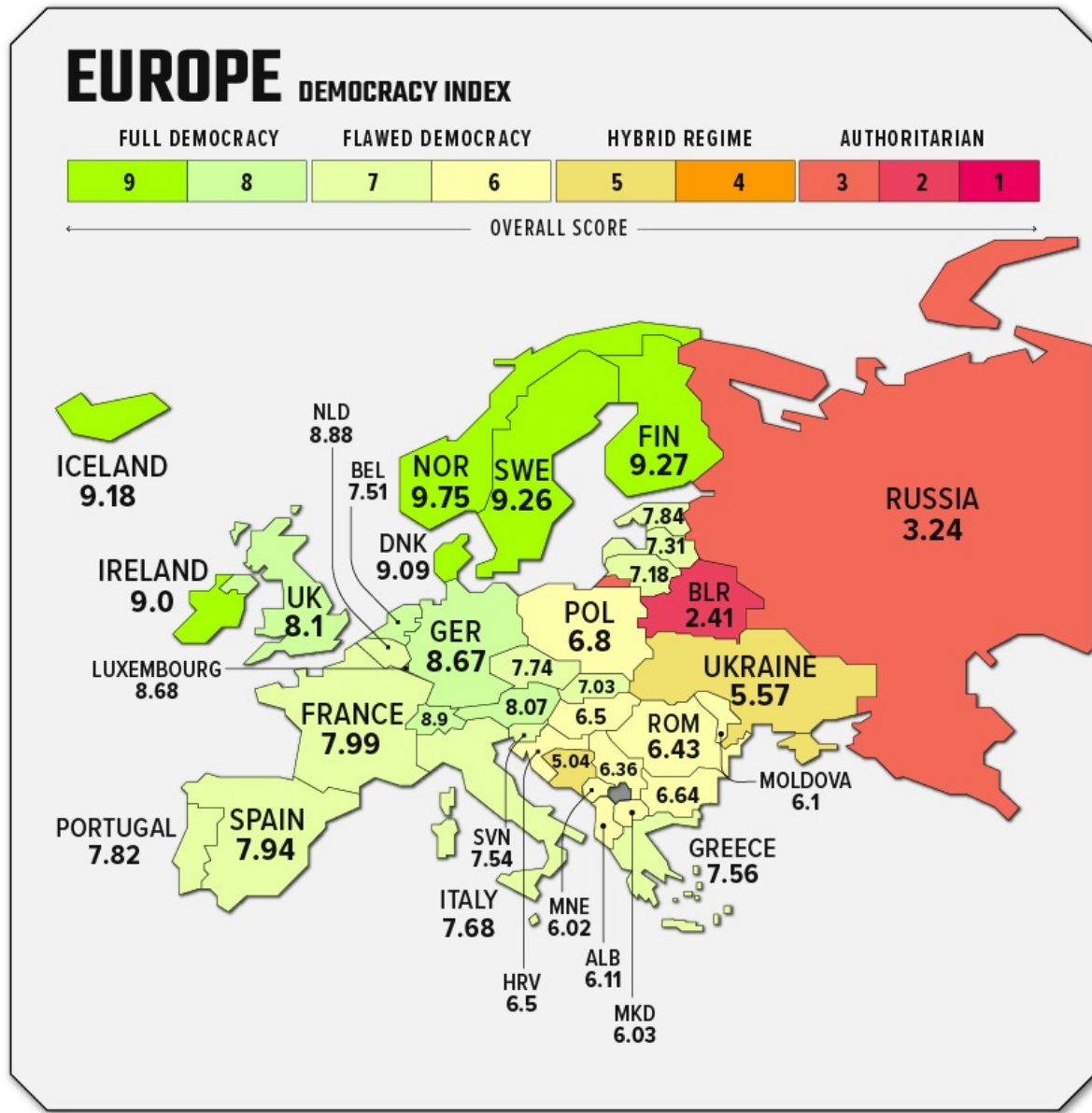
Ukraine's membership status and prospects

- On 28 February 2022, shortly after it was invaded by Russia, Ukraine applied for membership of the European Union
- Response from the EU itself was extremely positive:
 - Commission President von der Leyen: “Ukraine is one of us and we want them in the European Union“
 - Polish President Andrzej Duda, Slovakian Prime Minister Eduard Heger, and Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa all expressed desire for Ukraine to be given a fast track to EU membership
- On 23 June 2022, Ukraine was granted candidate status (along with Moldova)
- But, French President Macron poured cold water on this optimism:
 - “the process to allow it to join would take several years indeed, probably several decades”

Ukraine's political and economic status

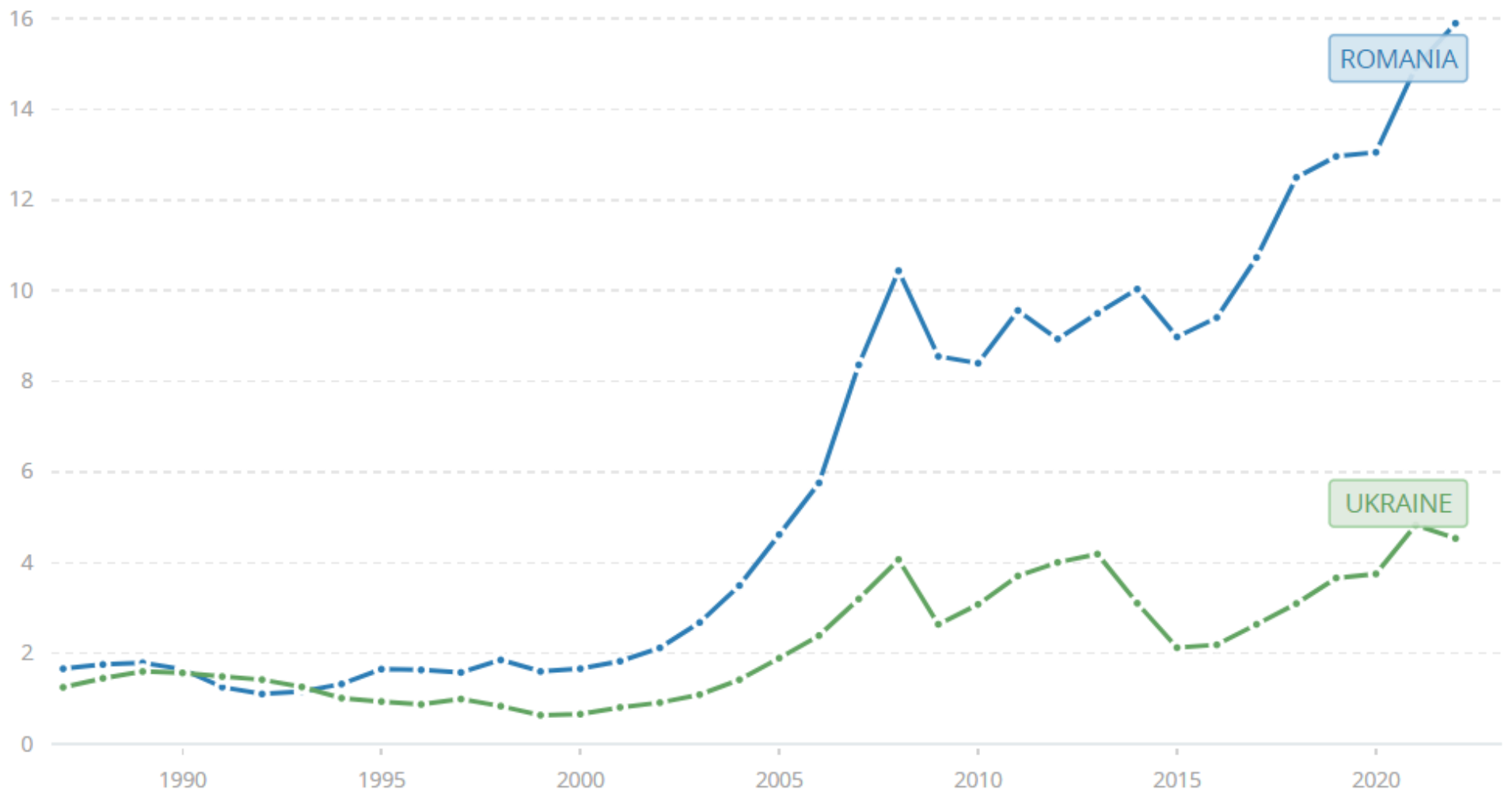


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