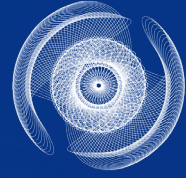




The Institute of
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FUTURE
PROOFING
EUROPE

An Overview of Sub-Regional Groupings in the EU

by Dylan Casey Marshall



An Overview of Sub-Regional Groupings in the EU

There are several sub-regional groupings in the EU, which provide forums for cross-border cooperation between smaller groups of states. These groupings vary in terms of size of membership and levels of institutionalisation, with the Central Five Format being a regular meeting of foreign ministers while the Benelux Union has a secretariat, a parliament, and several institutional bodies. The majority of these sub-regional groupings are composed of only EU Member States, although there are a number, including the Craiova Group and the Lublin Triangle, that include states outside of the EU.

Subregional Cooperation	Participating Countries	Founded	Purpose
Atlantic Four	France, Ireland, Spain, Portugal	2013	Cooperation on maritime issues and the blue economy
Baltic Assembly	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania	1991	Political cooperation
Benelux Union	Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands	1944	Economic and political cooperation
Bucharest Nine	Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia	2015	Political cooperation
Central European Defence Cooperation	Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia	2010	Defence and security cooperation
Central Five Format	Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia	2020	Political cooperation
Council of Baltic Sea States	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden	1992	Political cooperation
Craiova Group	Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia	2015	Economic and political cooperation
Franco-German	France, Germany	1963	Political cooperation
Franco-Italian Summit	France, Italy	1982	Political dialogue
Iberian Summit	Portugal, Spain	1983	Political dialogue
Lublin Triangle	Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine	2020	Economic, political, and security cooperation
EUMED Group	Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain	2013	Political cooperation
New Hanseatic League	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Sweden	2018	Economic and trade cooperation
Nordic-Baltic Eight	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden	2004	Political cooperation
Nordic Council	Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden	1953	Political cooperation
Salzburg Forum	Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia	2000	Political cooperation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs
Slavkov Format	Austria, Czechia, Slovakia	2015	Political cooperation
Three Seas Initiative	Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia	2016	Political cooperation
Trilateral Forum	Austria, Croatia, Slovenia	2023	Political cooperation
Visegrad Group	Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia	1991	Political cooperation
Weimar Triangle	France, Germany, Poland	1991	Defence and political cooperation

ATLANTIC FOUR

Founded in 2013

- **France**
- **Ireland**
- **Spain**
- **Portugal**



BALTIC ASSEMBLY

Founded in 1991

- **Estonia**
- **Latvia**
- **Lithuania**



BENELUX UNION

Founded in 1944

- **Belgium**
- **Luxembourg**
- **Netherlands**



BUCHAREST NINE

Founded in 1991

- **Bulgaria**
- **Czechia**
- **Estonia**
- **Hungary**
- **Latvia**
- **Lithuania**
- **Poland**
- **Romania**
- **Slovakia**



CENTRAL EUROPEAN DEFENCE COOPERATION

Founded in 2010

- Austria
- Croatia
- Czechia
- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Slovenia



CENTRAL FIVE FORMAT

Founded in 2020

- Austria
- Czechia
- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Slovenia



COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

Founded in 1992

- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Germany
- Iceland
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Poland
- Sweden



CRAIOVA GROUP

Founded in 2015

- Bulgaria
- Greece
- Romania
- Serbia



FRANCO-GERMAN COOPERATION

Founded in 1963

- France
- Germany



FRANCO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

Founded in 1982

- France
- Italy



IBERIAN SUMMIT

Founded in 1983

- Portugal
- Spain



LUBLIN TRIANGLE

Founded in 2020

- Lithuania
- Poland
- Ukraine



EUMED GROUP

Founded in 2013

- France
- Germany
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- Malta
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Spain



NEW HANSEATIC LEAGUE

Founded in 2018

- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Ireland
- Latvia
- Lithuania,
- Netherlands
- Sweden



NORDIC-BALTIC EIGHT

Founded in 2004

- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Iceland
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Sweden



NORDIC COUNCIL

Founded in 1953

- Denmark
- Faroe Islands
- Finland
- Greenland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden



SALZBURG FORUM

Founded in 2000

- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czechia
- Hungary
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia



THREE SEAS INITIATIVE

Founded in 2016

- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czechia
- Estonia
- Greece
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia



SLAVKOV FORMAT

Founded in 2015

- **Austria**
- **Czechia**
- **Slovakia**



TRILATERAL FORUM

Founded in 2023

- **Austria**
- **Croatia**
- **Slovenia**



VISEGRAD GROUP

Founded in 1991

- **Czechia**
- **Hungary**
- **Poland**
- **Slovakia**



WEIMAR TRIANGLE

Founded in 1991

- **France**
- **Germany**
- **Poland**



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