

**Gökhan Turan**  
**İpek Eker**  
**Juraj Pekár**

## **SELECTION WITH TOPSIS METHOD AMONG OF EU CANDIDATE AND PRE-ACCESSION COUNTRIES**

***Abstract:** The paper deals with issues of admission of countries in the European Union, which is discussed in terms of economic criteria and political criteria. The authors analyse this problem on the basis of economic criteria assessed by the EU. There are various methods to evaluate the variants, while the authors have chosen the TOPSIS method. The result of this method of multi-criterial evaluation of variants is the arrangement of alternatives, in our case – candidates and potential candidates for admission to the EU on the basis of GDP criteria (in real terms, annual % change), unemployment (LFS, in % of workforce), current account balance (% of GDP), and inflation (consumer price index, annual % change), while it was EU reports that have been used as input data.*

***Keywords:** EU, multi-criterial decision making, TOPSIS*

**JEL:** C 6, C 61, C 63

### **Introduction**

After signing The Treaty on European Union (EU) in Maastricht, the EU has been enlarged three times. The first enlargement occurred on 1 January 1995 when Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the EU. Then, on 1 May 2004, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Cyprus, and Malta also became members. Finally, two more countries from Eastern Europe joined the EU, Bulgaria and Romania, bringing the number of member states to 27 countries on 1 May 2007. Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, and Turkey are also candidates for future EU membership. EU Candidate and Pre-Accession Countries, Economic Quarterly Report was published by the European Commission on 8 July 2010. In this report, 4 candidate countries and 5 potential candidate countries have been compared by some economic data (European Commission, EU Candidate and Pre-Accession Countries Quarterly Report, July 2010)