

about
CROATIA

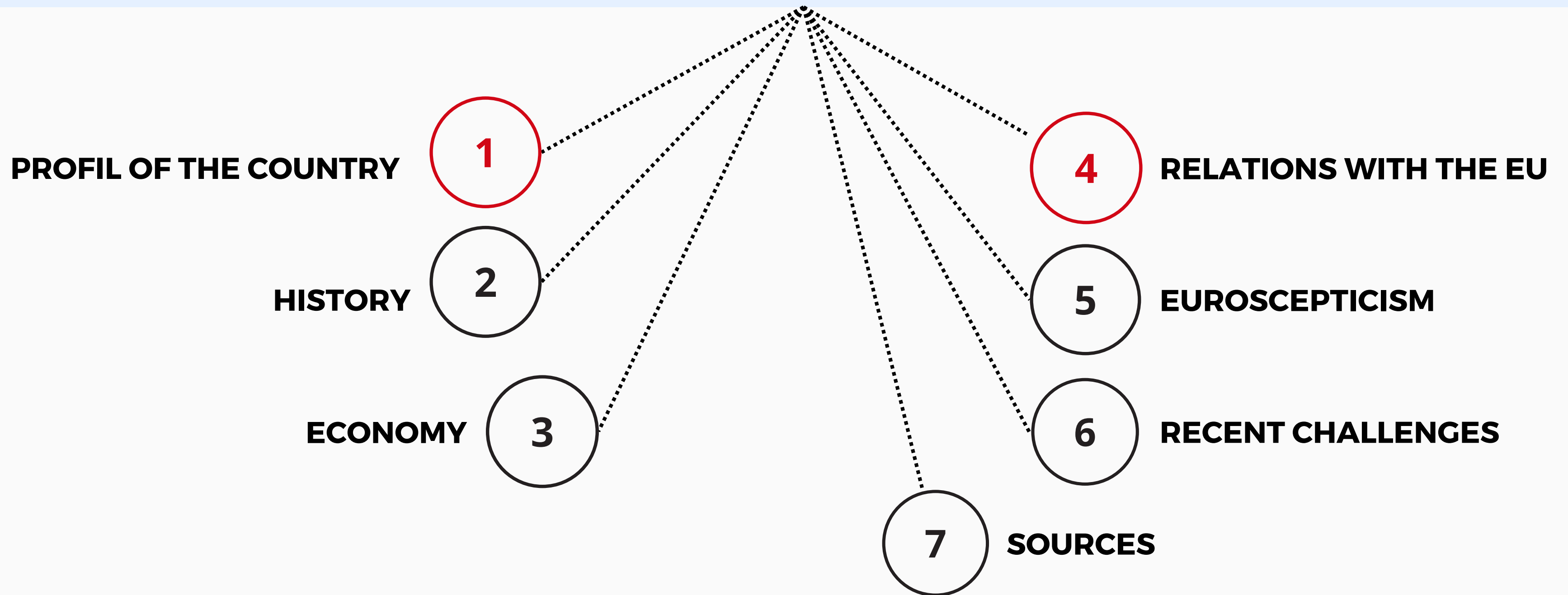


THE EUROPEAN POLICIES OF THE EU MEMBER-
STATES



Croatia's presentation

LIST OF CONTENTS



01 PROFIL OF THE COUNTRY

→ introducing CROATIA

- Capital : Zagreb
- Population : around 4 mio

Currency : kuna, but euro since 2023

Official language : Croatian

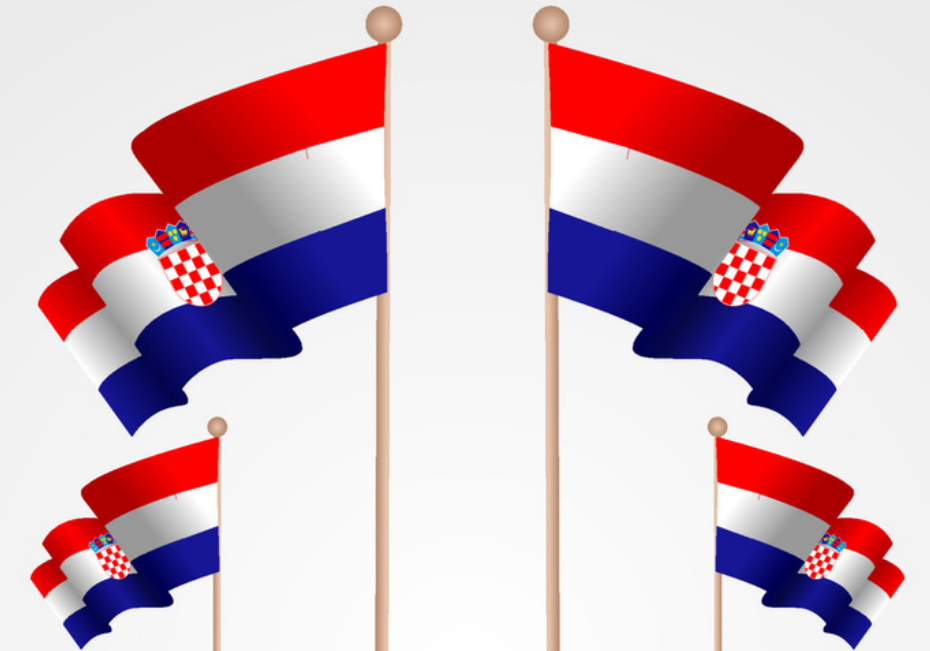
Surrounded by Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Serbia and Adiratic sea





CROATIA COMPLEX HISTORY

- after **WW2** : Croatia => socialist republic within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
- **1990** : dissolution of the socialist federal republic of Yugoslavia
- Croatia wins her independence after a war against Yugoslav forces and local Serbs. War ended in **1995** with the Croatian military operation "Storm"

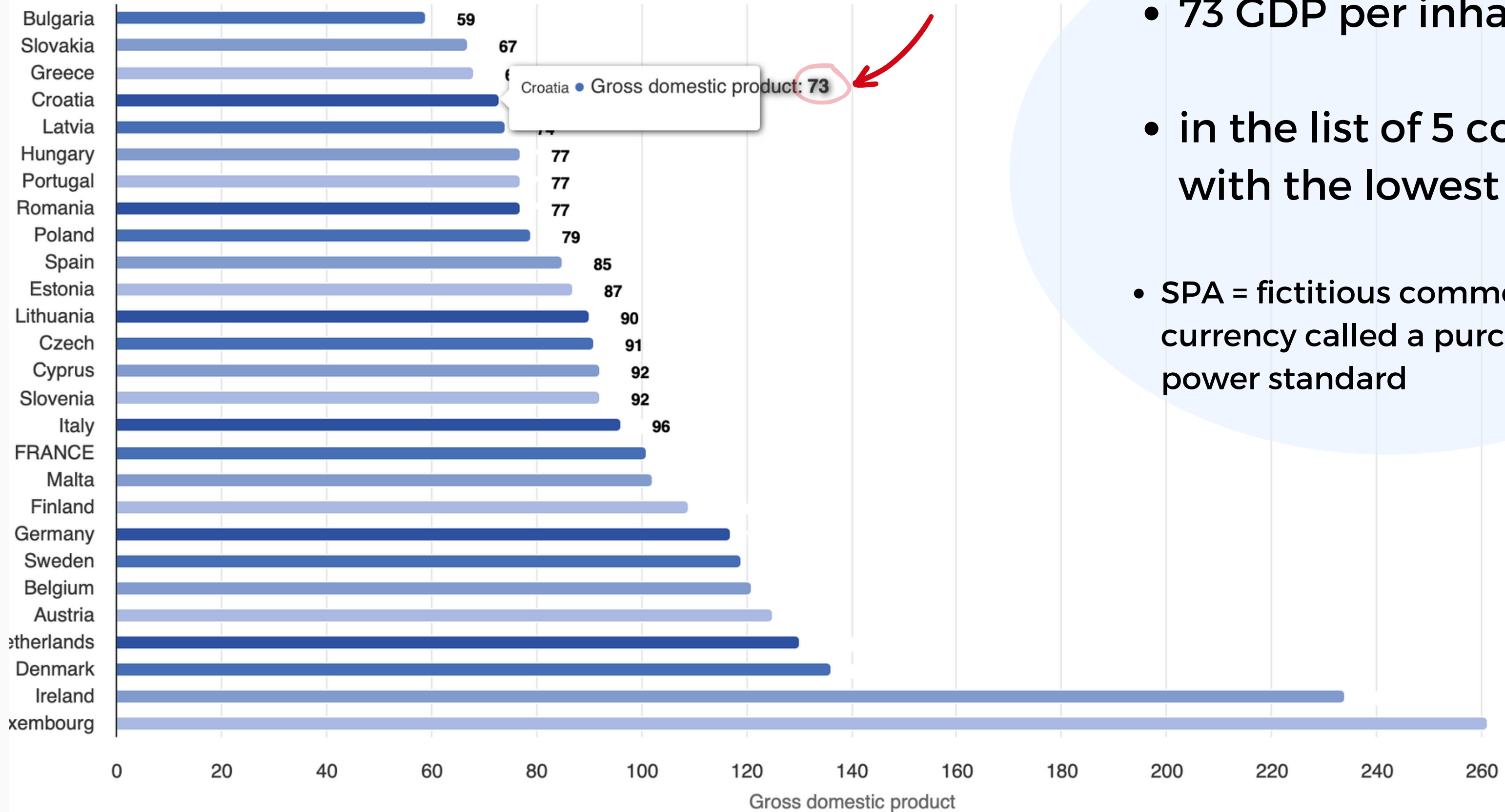


CROATIA
INDEPENDENCE DAY

8 OCTOBER

03 ECONOMY

GDP per capita in SPA



- 73 GDP per inhabitant
- in the list of 5 countries with the lowest GPD
- SPA = fictitious common currency called a purchasing power standard



03 ECONOMY

→ based on : wholesale and retail trade, transport, accommodation + food services (20.1%), industry (19.2%)

- **Exports** : 67 % intra UE (Germany: 13%, Italy: 12% and Slovenia: 10%) and non-EU exports: 9% for Bosnia-Herzegovina and 5% for Serbia
- **Imports** : 77% of imports come from EU member states (including Germany: 15%, Italy: 12% and Slovenia: 11%).

📍 Outside the EU, 5% of imports come from China and 3% from Bosnia-Herzegovina.



04 POLICY AND RELATIONS WITH THE EU



- parliamentary republic
- Last legislative in 2020 won by the **HDZ** (Croatian Democratic Union) conservative / center right, one of the main party / pro European



Prime minister : Andrej Plenkovic



President Zoran Milanović

04 POLICY AND RELATIONS WITH THE EU



HISTORY WITH THE EU

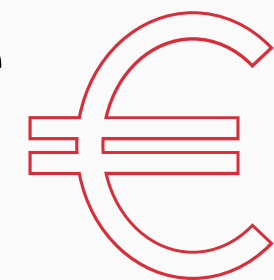
- entering EU after 10 years of negociation, in 2013

Croatia has 12 Members of the European Parliament in 2023

- joins NATO in 2019

- 1993 / Copenhagen criteria to respect / fight for less corruption

- 1er of January, **2023** : entering **Euro Zone + Schengen Space**



04 POLICY AND RELATIONS WITH THE EU



SOME ISSUES :

⚠ Some disputes with Slovenia threatened to cancel the accession process (over maritime borders in the Bay of Piran and another over Croatian assets (from the former Yugoslavia) deposited in a Slovenian bank)

→ 2014 : refusal to extradite Josip Perkovic provokes crisis between Zagreb and Berlin / the commission has threatened to cut off funds earmarked for its integration into the Schengen area,

05 EUROSCEPTICISM

- one eurosceptical party called : "Human shield" (Zivi Zid in croate) → anti-European party, has 1 seat at the Croatian National Assembly
- the ruling centre-right Croatian Democratic Union (**HDZ**) holds socially conservative views on minority and gender issues

=> Euroscepticism in Croatia is linked mainly to the protection of rights for minorities

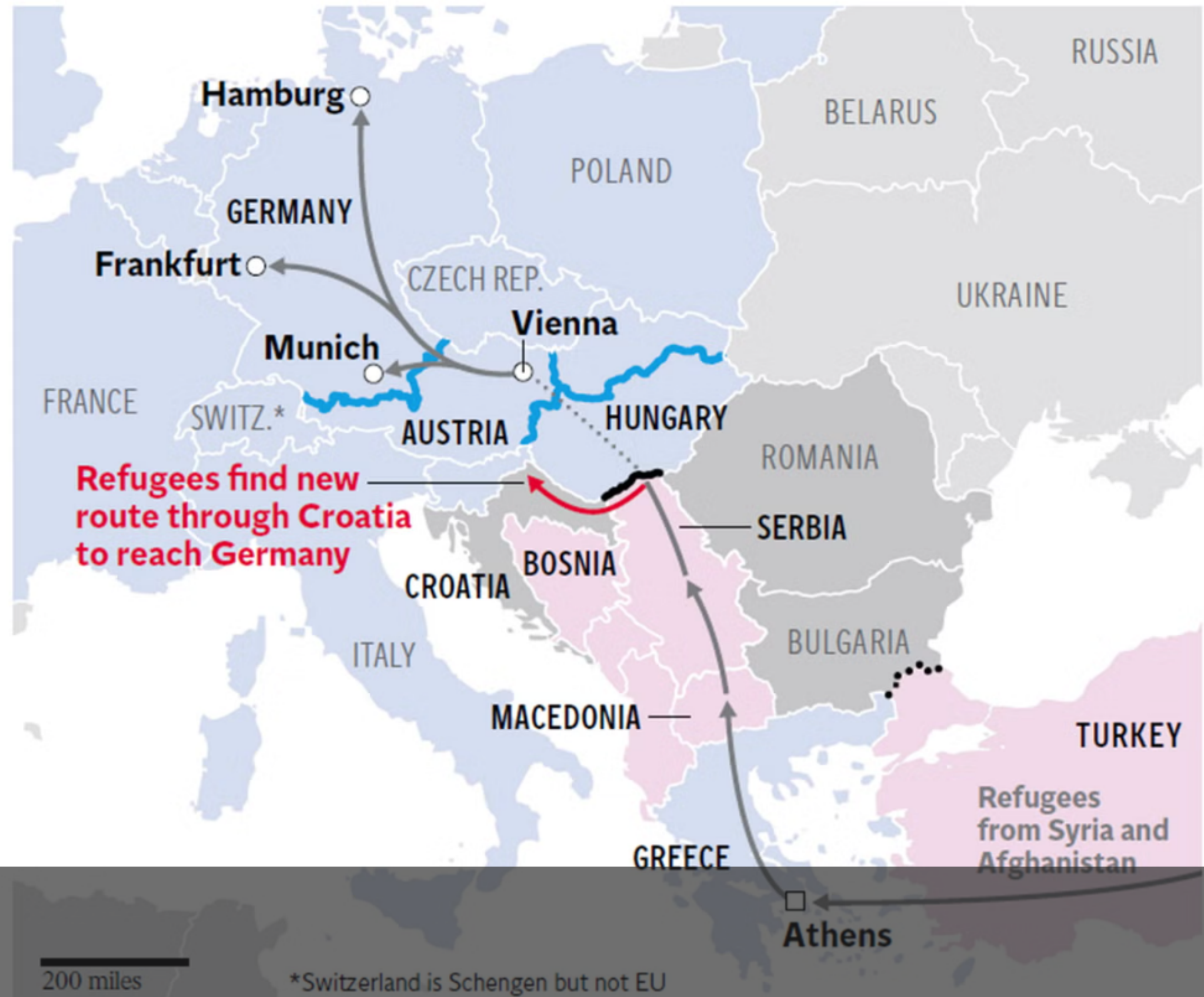
- an economic euroscepticism : Zvonko Segvic, president of the construction site trade unions: *"I'm a eurosceptic because I think that small countries are being short-changed in the European Union. We're going to join the EU when we're not ready. Our economy has been devastated."*

06 RECENT CHALLENGES

- **Immigration** : one of the reasons why Croatia did not join the Schengen area until 2023

Slovenia recorded **14,000** illegal border crossings **from Croatia** in the first ten months of 2019 = shows that Croatia's borders are porous

REFUGEES ROUTE WEST



06 RECENT CHALLENGES

- **Russia Ukraine war** : President Zoran Milanović declared the country would withdraw its troops from NATO forces in Eastern Europe if there's an escalation of tensions with Russia over Ukraine
- He said there are other ways to preserve Ukraine in “its entirety or 99 percent of its territory” and “to help it economically.”
- a prime minister and a president at odds: Croatia's confused position on the conflict

07 SOURCES

- Croatia / Wikipedia
- The Western Balkans / Europa.eu
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- Igor Vidacak: "Croatia is one of the most Eurosceptic countries in the EU" / Liberation.fr
- Wall in: The Eurosceptic challenge in Croatia/ ecfr.eu
- Influence of the Russo-Ukrainian War on Croatia/ Wikipedia
- Croatia sows confusion with threat to pull NATO troops over Ukraine crisis / politico.eu
- Croatia's entry into the European Union is a debate in the country / Radio France
- Croatia: the conviction of a "national hero" revives Euroscepticism / Toute l'Europe.eu