

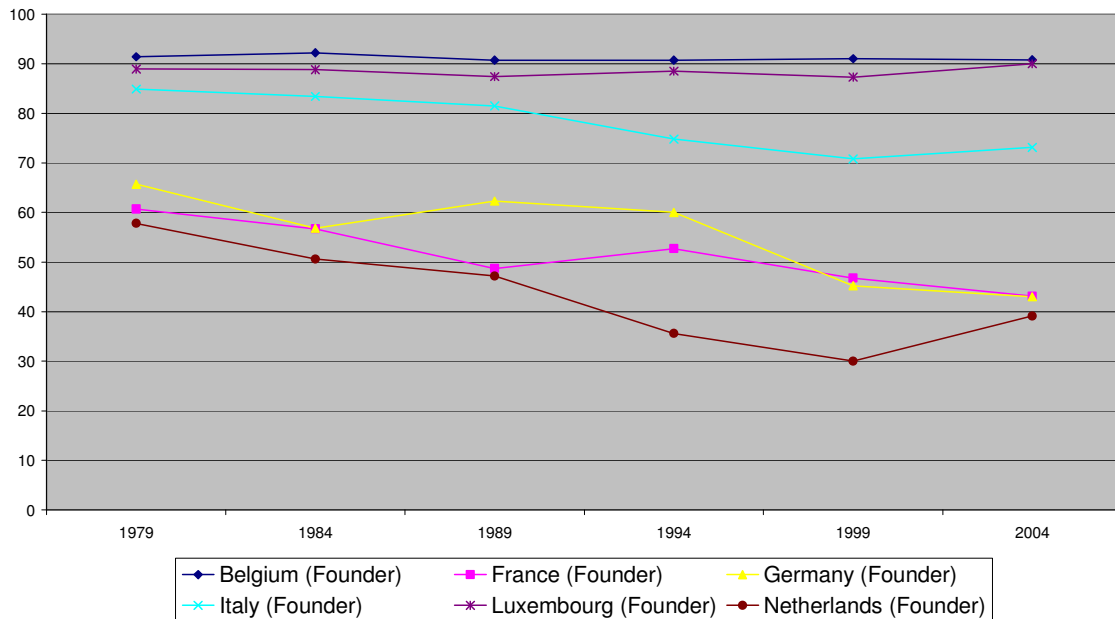
Voter Turnout Trends in Different Groups of Member States

The following graphs show in more detail the trends in voter turnout in different groups of Member States.

Founder Members

The six original Member States were Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. They have participated in all elections. Luxembourg and Belgium have compulsory voting. This affects the overall level of turnout but there are still noticeable trends. There is a slight upward trend for Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands.

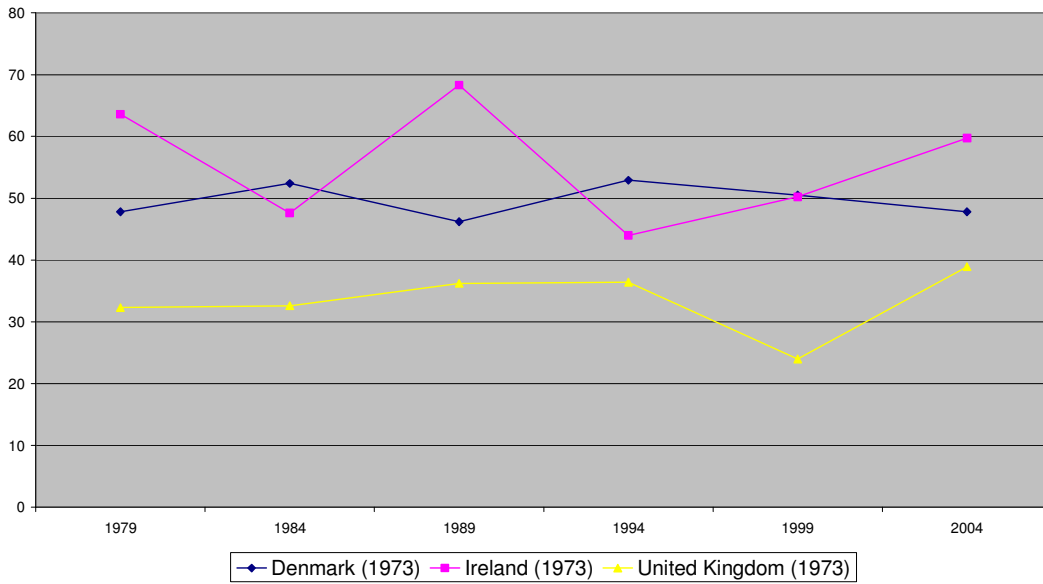
Voting Trends - Original Six Member States



First Accessions

The first three countries to join after the original six Member States were Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom in 1973; they, too, participated in all elections. None of these countries has compulsory voting. Both Ireland and the UK show an upward trend in the last election. In the UK this was at least in part as a result of these elections coinciding with local elections.

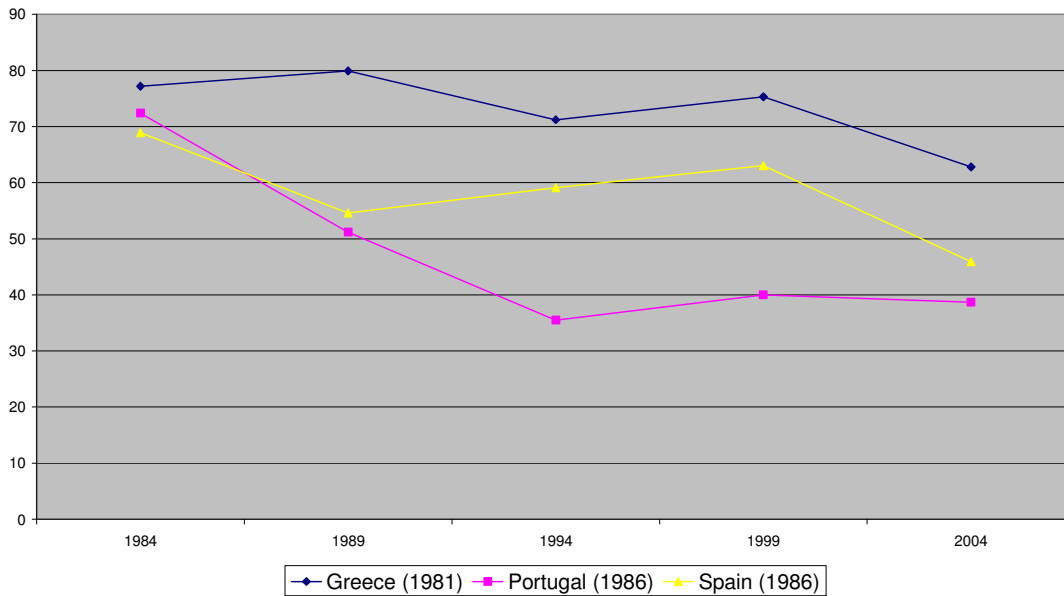
Voter Turnout - Trend 1973 Accession Countries



The 1980 Accessions

During the 1980s, first Greece (in 1981) and then Spain and Portugal (in 1986) joined. They have participated in elections since 1984 (although the vote in Spain and Portugal took place in 1985). Greece has compulsory voting. All these countries show distinct downward trends.

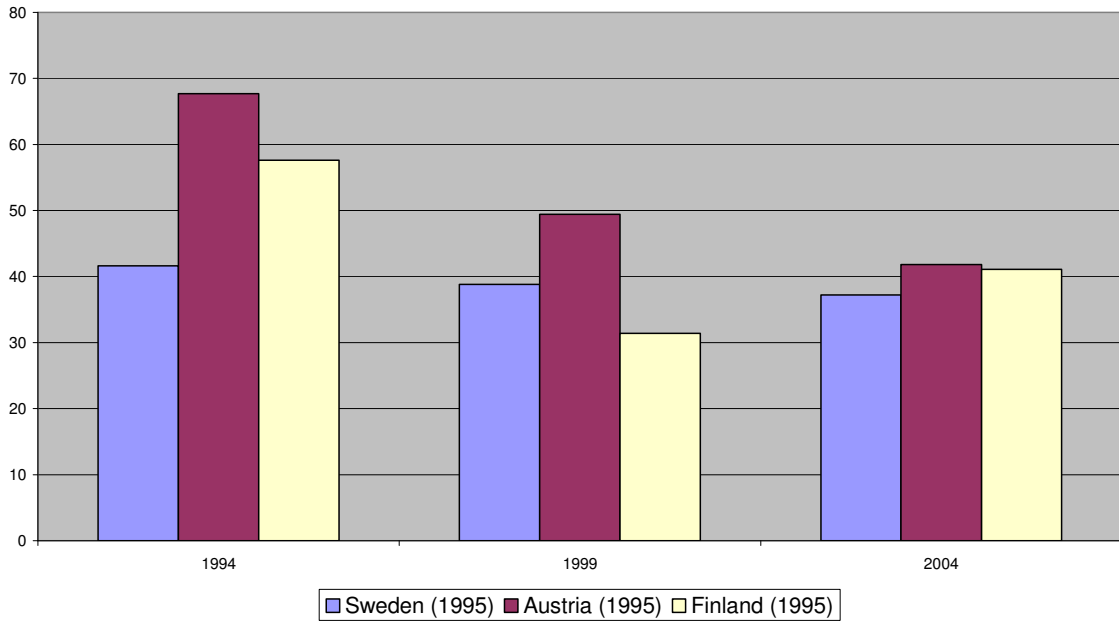
Voter Turnout - Trend - 1980 Accessions



The 1995 Accessions

In 1995, Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the EU. They have participated in elections since 1994 (although they voted in 1995 for the first time). Finland shows an upward trend in the last election but overall, the trend is downward.

Voter Turnout - Trend - 1995 Accession Countries



Detailed results table - all Member States

MEMBER STATE (year of accession)	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004
Belgium (Founder) ¹	91.4	92.2	90.7	90.7	91	90.8
France (Founder)	60.7	56.7	48.7	52.7	46.76	43.1
Germany (Founder)	65.7	56.8	62.3	60.0	45.2	43.0
Italy (Founder)	84.9	83.4	81.5	74.8	70.8	73.1
Luxembourg (Founder)	88.9	88.8	87.4	88.5	87.3	90.0
Netherlands (Founder)	57.8	50.6	47.2	35.6	30.0	39.1
Denmark (1973)	47.8	52.4	46.2	52.9	50.5	47.8
Ireland (1973)	63.6	47.6	68.3	44.0	50.21	59.7
United Kingdom (1973)	32.3	32.6	36.2	36.4	24.0	38.9
Greece (1981)		77.2	79.9	71.2	75.3	62.8
Portugal (1986) ²		72.4	51.2	35.5	40.0	38.7
Spain (1986)		68.9	54.6	59.1	63.0	45.9
Sweden (1995) ³				41.6	38.8	37.2
Austria (1995)				67.7	49.4	41.8
Finland (1995)				57.6	31.4	41.1
Cyprus (2004)						71.2
Czech Republic (2004)						27.9
Estonia (2004)						26.9
Hungary (2004)						38.5
Latvia (2004)						41.2
Lithuania (2004)						48.2
Malta (2004)						82.4
Poland (2004)						20.4
Slovakia (2004)						16.7
Slovenia (2004)						28.3
Average	65.9	63.83	62.85	58.45	52.91	47.79

¹ Belgium, Luxembourg and Greece have compulsory voting

² Portugal and Spain voted in 1986 and their results are not included in the average

³ Austria, Finland and Sweden voted in 1995 and their results are not included in the average