The aim of this work is to compare the relative importance of the budgetary and non-budgetary benefits gained by the new member countries after their accession to the European Union in 2004. For this purpose a complex theoretical framework is created based on the historical aspects of the EU Eastern enlargement, theory of regional integration and theory of economic growth. Then the author presents a new multi-scenario approach to the estimation of the budgetary benefits, which is subsequently applied on the data from the new member countries. The results of the estimation support the hypothesis that the importance of the EU budget in comparison with other sources of benefits was relatively low.