

# Sustainable development in the European Union

Overview of progress towards  
the SDGs in an EU context

2020 edition



EUROSTAT  
SUPPORTS THE SDGs



eurostat 

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4th edition

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## Content

**Sustainable development in the EU, 1**

**SDG 1: No poverty, 6**

**SDG 2: Zero hunger, 8**

**SDG 3: Good health and well-being, 10**

**SDG 4: Quality education, 12**

**SDG 5: Gender equality, 14**

**SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, 16**

**SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy, 18**

**SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, 20**

**SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 22**

**SDG 10: Reduced inequalities, 24**

**SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities, 26**

**SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production, 28**

**SDG 13: Climate action, 30**

**SDG 14: Life below water, 32**

**SDG 15: Life on land, 34**

**SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions, 36**

**SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals, 38**

**Annex, 40**

# Sustainable development in the EU

Sustainable development has been at the heart of European policy for a long time, firmly anchored in the European Treaties. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, have given a new impetus to global efforts to achieve sustainable development. The EU has fully committed itself to delivering on the 2030 Agenda and its implementation, as outlined in the reflection paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030' <sup>(1)</sup> and 'The European Green Deal' <sup>(2)</sup>. Regular monitoring of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context is essential for this purpose.

<sup>(1)</sup> European Commission (2019), *Reflection paper: Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030*, COM(2019)22.

<sup>(2)</sup> European Commission (2019), *The European Green Deal*, COM(2019) 640.

## EU SDG indicator set

This regular monitoring is based on the EU SDG indicator set, developed in cooperation with a large number of partners and stakeholders. The indicator set comprises 100 indicators distributed over the 17 SDGs. Thirty-six of these are multi-purpose indicators and monitor more than one goal.



## Monitoring progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

This brochure presents a statistical overview of the most recent trends of the EU SDG indicators over a five-year period ('short term'); the specific years depend on data availability for the individual indicators. It shows EU progress towards the SDGs for the individual indicators and also presents the average progress for each of the 17 SDGs, based on the mean score of the selected indicators for the respective goal, including the multi-purpose indicators <sup>(3)</sup>. Studies and reports that consider current status rather than progress, different indicators or different time spans may come to different conclusions.

The overall assessment of EU progress towards the SDGs presented in this edition of the brochure is not fully comparable with the assessment presented in previous editions due to changes in the selection of indicators for some goals and due to the switch from EU-28 (including the UK) to EU-27 (excluding the UK).

The brochure does not show any effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, because it covers the situation in the EU and its Member States up to 2019 at the latest.

### How has the EU progressed towards the SDGs?

On average, over the last five years of available data — based on the mean scores of the selected indicators — the EU has made progress towards almost all goals. Progress in some goals has been faster than in others, and within goals there has been movement away from the sustainable development objectives in some areas. A more detailed description of each indicator trend can be found in the 17 thematic chapters of this brochure.

Over the most recent five-year period, the EU has made strong progress towards fostering peace and personal security, access to justice and trust in institutions (SDG 16). Good progress, although markedly slower, was visible in reducing certain aspects of poverty (SDG 1) and improving the health of the EU population (SDG 3). The advances in these areas have also helped to increase the quality of life in cities and communities (SDG 11). These favourable trends can be seen against the background of continued improvement in the EU economy up to 2019, which was also reflected in the labour market (SDG 8). Improvements were also visible in the viability and sustainability of the EU's agriculture sector (SDG 2), although some of its environmental impacts have intensified.

In contrast, goals dealing with environmental aspects of sustainability indicate slow or no EU progress over the past few years overall. Progress towards the EU's climate and energy targets (SDG 7 and SDG 13) has in part stalled, as has the shift towards a circular economy (SDG 12). Pressures on ecosystems and biodiversity (SDG 15) have therefore have been increasing in some areas.

The goals on education (SDG 4), innovation (SDG 9) and global partnerships (SDG 17) show an equally mixed picture. The slow progress towards reducing inequalities (SDG 10) reflects a growing divide between EU nationals and non-EU citizens in relation to poverty and employment. Similarly, in relation to gender equality (SDG 5), the gap between men and women in acquiring education and on the labour market has been widening. Since SDG 5 shows more unfavourable than favourable trends for the EU, the aggregate past five-year progress has been moderately unsustainable.

In the case of two goals — SDG 6 'clean water and sanitation' and SDG 14 'life below water' — overall EU trends cannot be calculated due to insufficient data for the past five years.

<sup>(3)</sup> For a more detailed description of the approach for assessing EU progress towards the SDGs, see the introduction chapter (section 3.3) and Annex III in the 2020 edition of the EU SDG monitoring report.

# Overview of EU-27 progress towards the SDGs over the past 5 years, 2020

(Data mainly refer to 2013–2018 or 2014–2019)



## EU indicator trends

The following thematic chapters present short-term indicator trends for each of the 17 SDGs. These trends are assessed following specific quantitative rules. For indicators with quantitative EU targets, the brochure assesses their progress towards those targets. This applies to 16 out of the 100 indicators, mainly in the areas of climate, energy consumption, education, poverty and employment. Indicators with an associated quantitative EU target are marked with the following symbol .

Target values for each indicator are listed in the Annex. All other indicators are analysed according to the direction and speed of change.

The assessment of indicator trends is presented visually in the form of arrows. The direction of the arrows shows whether an indicator has moved towards or away from the sustainable development objectives. Depending on the presence or absence of a quantitative EU target, the indicators are assessed differently. The following presentation illustrates the different cases.



Significant progress towards the EU target   
or  
Significant progress towards SD objectives



Moderate progress towards the EU target   
or  
Moderate progress towards SD objectives



Insufficient progress towards the EU target   
or  
Insufficient progress towards SD objectives



Movement away from the EU target   
or  
Movement away from SD objectives

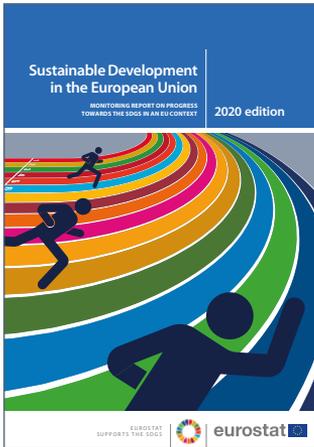


Assessment of trend not possible (for example, time series too short)

Eurostat's publication '[Sustainable development in the European Union — 2020 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context](#)' describes the methodology applied and provides a detailed analysis of progress for the individual indicators.

# The 2020 EU SDG communication package

The brochure is part of an EU SDG communication package which comprises a number of products:



Interested in obtaining all the details?

The [2020 EU SDG monitoring report](#) provides a detailed description of EU progress towards the 17 SDGs in an EU context.

Curious why the SDGs matter to you?

The 2020 EU SDG digital publication 'SDGs & me' presents the SDGs in a visual and personalised way, based on a selection of indicators across all 17 SDGs.



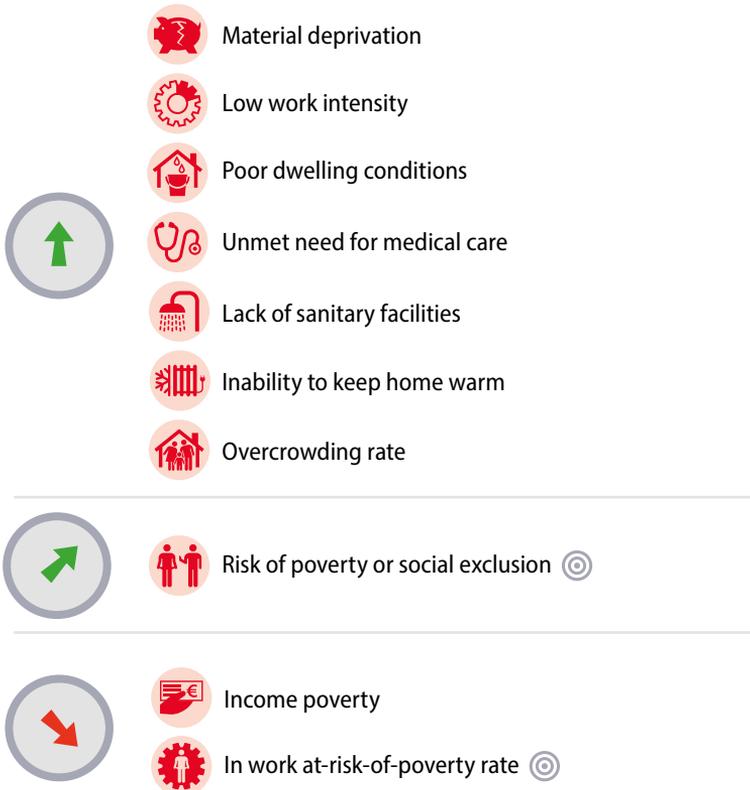
Looking for the full overview of all Eurostat SDG products and direct access to all Eurostat SDG publications, indicators, key findings, data and much more?

Eurostat SDG dedicated section (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview>).



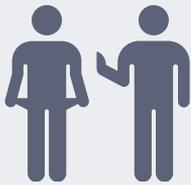
**SDG 1** calls for the eradication of poverty in all its manifestations. It envisions shared prosperity, a basic standard of living and social protection benefits for people everywhere, including the poorest and most vulnerable. The goal seeks to ensure equal rights and access to economic and natural resources.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 1, assessment of short-term trends



## MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

in 2018



Risk of poverty or social exclusion

**94.8** million persons

- 11.6 % since 2013



In work at-risk-of-poverty rate

**9.2 %** of employed persons aged 18 or over

+ 0.1 pp since 2013



Income poverty

**73.8** million persons

+ 0.5 % since 2013



Material deprivation

**26.7** million persons

- 37.7 % since 2013



Low work intensity

**28.2** million persons aged less than 60

- 19.1 % since 2013

## BASIC NEEDS

in 2018



Poor dwelling conditions

**13.6 %** of population

- 2.0 pp since 2013



Unmet need for medical care

**1.8 %** of population aged 16 and over

- 2.2 pp since 2013



Lack of sanitary facilities

**1.9 %** of population

- 0.6 pp since 2013



Inability to keep home warm

**7.6 %** of population

- 3.2 pp since 2013



Overcrowding rate

**17.1 %** of population

- 1.2 pp since 2013

Source: Eurostat (Online data codes: [sdg\\_01\\_10](#), [sdg\\_01\\_20](#), [sdg\\_01\\_30](#), [sdg\\_01\\_40](#), [sdg\\_01\\_41](#), [sdg\\_01\\_60](#), [sdg\\_03\\_60](#), [sdg\\_06\\_10](#), [sdg\\_07\\_60](#) and [sdg\\_11\\_10](#))

## 2 ZERO HUNGER



**SDG 2** seeks to end hunger and malnutrition and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Realising this goal largely depends on promoting sustainable food production systems, as well as increased investment in rural infrastructure and agricultural research and development.

### Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 2, assessment of short-term trends

-   Agricultural factor income
-  Government support to agricultural R&D
-  Organic farming
-  Pesticides risk indicator

-   Severe soil erosion by water

-   Ammonia emissions from agriculture
-  Farmland bird index

-   Obesity rate
-  Nitrate in groundwater

## MALNUTRITION



Obesity rate in 2017

**14.9 %** of population aged 18 or over

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION



Agricultural factor income in 2019

**124.5** Index, 2010 = 100

+ 12.2 index points since 2014



Government support to agricultural R&D in 2018

**EUR 2 828 million**

+ 10.0 % since 2013



Organic farming in 2018

**8.0 %** of utilised agricultural area

+ 2.1 pp since 2013



Pesticides risk indicator in 2017

**80** Index, 2011–2013 = 100

- 20 % since 2011–2013

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION



Ammonia emissions from agriculture in 2017

**3.4** million tonnes

+ 3.0 % since 2012



Nitrate in groundwater in 2017

**19.1 mg** NO<sub>3</sub> per litre



Severe soil erosion by water in 2016

**5.3 %** of the total non-artificial erosive area

- 0.01 pp since 2010



Farmland bird index in 2018

**83.1** Index, 2000 = 100

- 1.5 index points since 2013

# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**SDG 3** aims to ensure health and promote well-being for all at all ages by improving reproductive, maternal and child health; ending epidemics of major communicable diseases; and reducing non-communicable and mental diseases. It also calls for reducing behavioural and environmental health-risk factors.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 3, assessment of short-term trends



## HEALTHY LIVES

in 2018



Life expectancy at birth

**81.0** years

+ 0.5 years since 2013



Self-perceived health

**68.6 %** of population feeling in (very) good health

+ 2.1 pp since 2013

## HEALTH DETERMINANTS



Obesity rate in 2017

**14.9 %** of population aged 18 or over



Smoking prevalence in 2017

**27 %** of population aged 15 or over

- 1.0 pp since 2012



Concentration of particulate matter in 2017 <sup>(1)</sup> smaller than 2.5 µm

**15.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**

- 14.3 % since 2012



Suffering from noise in 2018

**18.2 %** of population

- 0.9 pp since 2013

## CAUSES OF DEATH



Avoidable mortality in 2016

**253.5** per 100 000 persons aged less than 75 years

- 9.2 % since 2011



Deaths due to tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis in 2016

**2.8** per 100 000 persons

- 24.3 % since 2011



People killed in accidents at work in 2017

**1.8** per 100 000 employees

- 16.4 % since 2012



People killed in road accidents in 2018

**5.2** per 100 000 persons

- 5.5 % since 2013

## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE



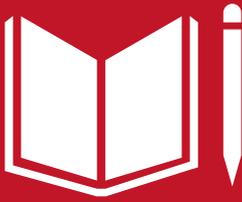
Unmet need for medical care in 2018

**1.8 %** of population aged 16 and over

- 2.2 pp since 2013

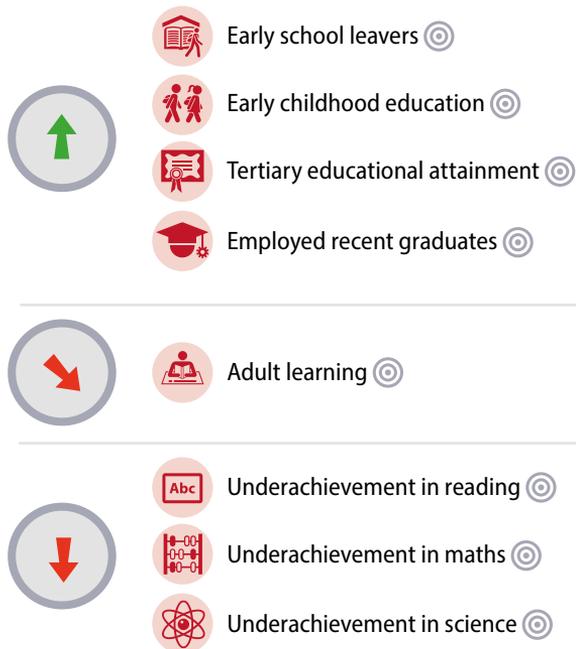
<sup>(1)</sup> It should be noted that although the average concentrations of fine particulate matter have decreased during the past five years, the overall adverse health impacts of urban population exposure to air pollution by particulate matter PM<sub>2.5</sub> remain significant. The annual mean for fine particulate matter continues to be above the World Health Organization's recommended level.

# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



**SDG 4** seeks to ensure access to equitable and quality education through all stages of life, as well as to increase the number of young people and adults having relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. The goal also envisages the elimination of gender and income disparities in access to education.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 4, assessment of short-term trends



## BASIC EDUCATION



Early school leavers in 2019  
**10.2 %** of population  
aged 18 to 24  
- 0.9 pp since 2014



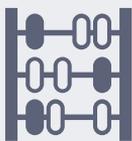
Early childhood education in 2018  
**94.8 %** of children  
between 4 and  
the starting age  
of compulsory  
education

+ 0.9 pp since 2013

Underachievement in reading, maths and science in 2018  
% of 15-year-old students who fail to reach level 2 in PISA



**22.5 %**  
+ 2.5 pp since 2015



**22.9 %**  
+ 0.7 pp since 2015



**22.3 %**  
+ 1.2 pp since 2015

## TERTIARY EDUCATION

in 2019



Tertiary educational attainment  
**40.3 %** of population  
aged 30 to 34  
+ 3.8 pp since 2014



Employed recent graduates  
**80.9 %** of population  
aged 20 to 34  
who completed  
ISCED 3–8

+ 5.9 pp since 2014

## ADULT LEARNING



Adult learning in 2019  
**10.8 %** of population  
aged 25 to 64  
+ 0.7 pp since 2014

Source: Eurostat (Online data codes: [sdg\\_04\\_10](#), [sdg\\_04\\_30](#), [sdg\\_04\\_40](#), [sdg\\_04\\_20](#), [sdg\\_04\\_50](#) and [sdg\\_04\\_60](#))

# 5 GENDER EQUALITY



**SDG 5** aims to achieve gender equality by ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls in the public and private spheres. It also calls for the full participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of political and economic decision-making.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 5, assessment of short-term trends



Gender pay gap



Women in parliaments



Women in senior management



Gender employment gap



Gender gap for employed recent graduates



Gender gap for early school leavers



Gender gap for tertiary educational attainment



Inactivity due to caring responsibilities



Physical and sexual violence

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Physical and sexual violence  
in 2012

**8 %** of women  
aged 15 to 74

## EDUCATION

in 2019



Gender gap for early school  
leavers

**3.5 pp** to the disadvantage  
of men

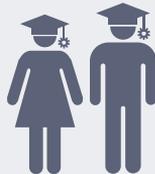
+ 0.2 pp since 2014



Gender gap for tertiary  
educational attainment

**10.5 pp** to the disadvantage  
of men

+ 1.5 pp since 2014



Gender gap for employed recent  
graduates

**4.6 pp** to the disadvantage  
of women

+ 0.8 pp since 2014

## EMPLOYMENT



Gender employment  
gap in 2019

**11.7 pp** to the disadvantage  
of women

+ 0.1 pp since 2014



Gender pay gap  
in 2018

**14.8 %** of average  
gross hourly  
earnings of men

- 1.2 pp since 2013



Inactivity due to caring responsibilities in 2019

**32.2 %** of inactive women  
aged 20 to 64

+ 4.1 pp since 2014



**4.5 %** of inactive men  
aged 20 to 64

+ 1.1 pp since 2014

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

in 2019



Women in parliaments

**32.1 %** of seats

+ 4.3 pp since 2014



Women in senior management

**28.4 %** of board  
members

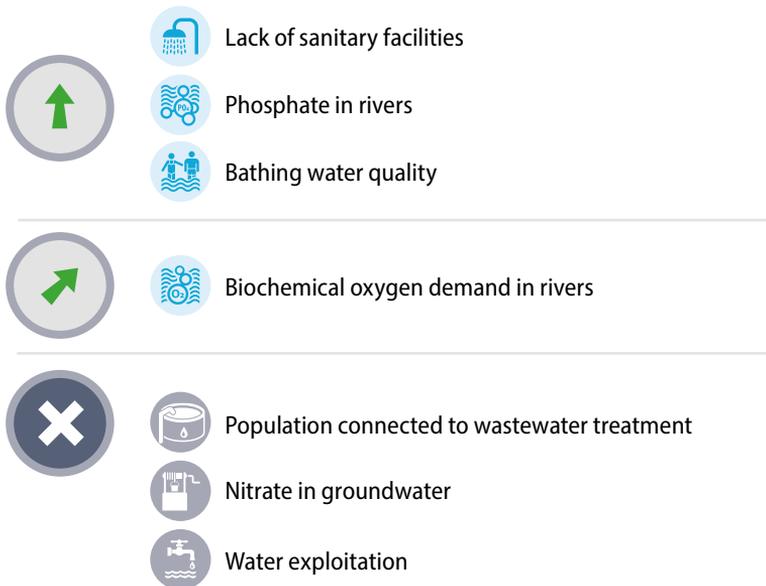
+ 8.6 pp since 2014

# 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**SDG 6** calls for ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and ending open defecation. It also aims to improve water quality and water-use efficiency and to encourage sustainable abstractions and supply of freshwater.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 6, assessment of short-term trends



## SANITATION



Lack of sanitary facilities  
in 2018

**1.9 %** of population  
- 0.6 pp since 2013



Population connected to  
wastewater treatment  
in 2017

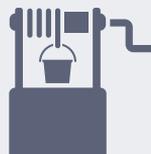
**≥ 80 %** in 15 reporting  
Member States

## WATER QUALITY



Biochemical oxygen demand  
in rivers in 2017

**2.0 mg** O<sub>2</sub> per litre  
- 2.9 % since 2012



Nitrate in groundwater  
in 2017

**19.1 mg** NO<sub>3</sub> per litre



Phosphate in rivers in 2017

**0.09 mg** PO<sub>4</sub> per litre  
- 3.1 % since 2012



Bathing water quality in 2018

**80.9 %** of inland water  
bathing sites with  
excellent water  
quality

+ 4.2 pp since 2013

## WATER USE EFFICIENCY



Water exploitation in 2017

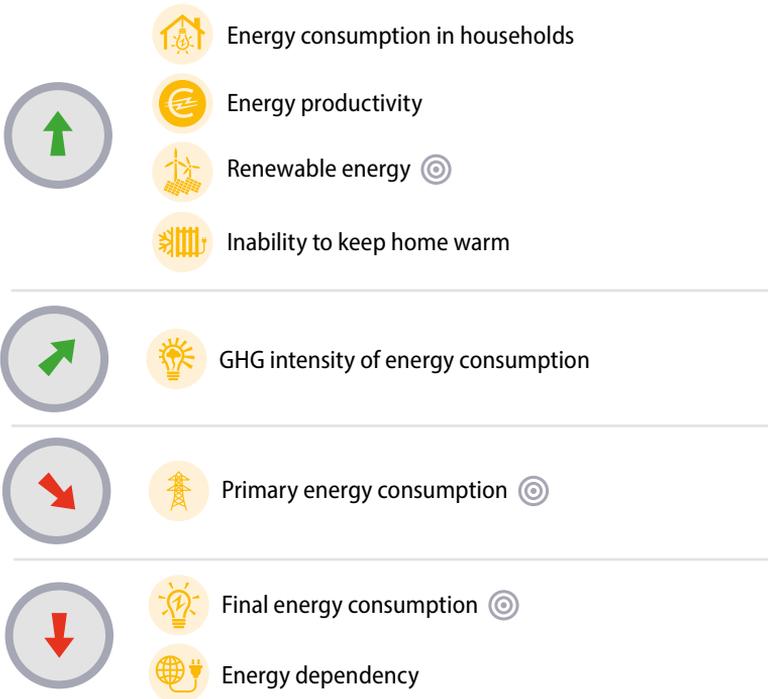
**24** of the 27 Member States  
used water sustainably

# 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**SDG 7** calls for ensuring universal access to modern energy services, improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy. To accelerate the transition to an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system that fulfils these demands, countries need to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology and to promote investment in resource- and energy-efficient solutions and low-carbon energy infrastructure.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 7, assessment of short-term trends



## ENERGY CONSUMPTION

in 2018



Primary energy consumption

**1 376 Mtoe**

- 0.7 % since 2013



Final energy consumption

**990 Mtoe**

+ 1.1 % since 2013



Energy consumption in households

**549 kgoe**

- 8.3 % since 2013



Energy productivity

**EUR 8.1** per kgoe

+ 11.2 % since 2013



GHG intensity of energy consumption

**85.7** Index, 2000 = 100

- 3.5 index points since 2013

## ENERGY SUPPLY

in 2018



Renewable energy

**18.9 %** of gross final energy consumption

+ 2.2 pp since 2013



Energy dependency

**58.2 %** of imports in total energy consumption

+ 4.3pp since 2013

## ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ENERGY



Inability to keep home warm in 2017

**7.6 %** of population

- 3.2 pp since 2013

Source: Eurostat (Online data codes: [sdg\\_07\\_10](#), [sdg\\_07\\_11](#), [sdg\\_07\\_20](#), [sdg\\_07\\_30](#), [sdg\\_13\\_20](#), [sdg\\_07\\_40](#), [sdg\\_07\\_50](#) and [sdg\\_07\\_60](#))

# 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**SDG 8** recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs, as well as resource efficiency in consumption and production. It calls for opportunities for full employment and decent work for all alongside the eradication of forced labour, human trafficking and child labour, and the promotion of labour rights and safe and secure working environments.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 8, assessment of short-term trends



## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH



Real GDP per capita  
in 2019  
**EUR 27 990**  
+ 10.2 % since 2014



Investment share of GDP  
in 2019  
**22.4 %** of GDP  
+ 2.2 pp since 2014



Resource productivity  
in 2018  
**EUR 1.92** per kg DMC  
+ 4.3 % since 2013

## EMPLOYMENT

in 2019



Employment rate  
**73.1 %** of population  
aged 20 to 64  
+ 4.9 pp since 2014



Not in employment,  
education or training  
**12.6 %** of population  
aged 15 to 29  
- 3.1 pp since 2014



Long-term  
unemployment rate  
**2.8 %** of active  
population  
- 2.7 pp since 2014



Inactivity due to caring  
responsibilities  
**22.2 %** of inactive population  
aged 20 to 64  
+ 3.0 pp since 2014

## DECENT WORK



Fatal work accidents in 2017  
**1.8** per  
100 000 employees  
- 16.4 % since 2012



In work at-risk-of-poverty rate  
in 2018  
**9.2 %** of population aged  
18 or over  
+ 0.1 pp since 2013

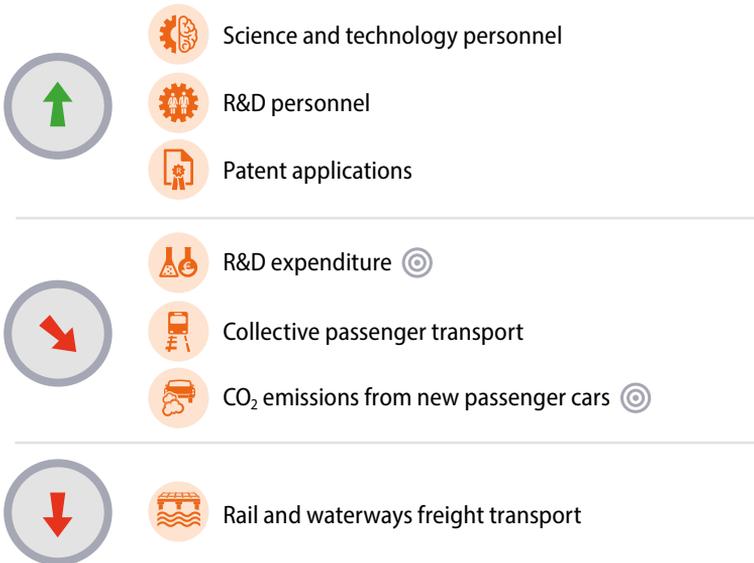
Source: Eurostat (Online data codes: [sdg\\_08\\_10](#), [sdg\\_08\\_11](#), [sdg\\_12\\_20](#), [sdg\\_08\\_30](#), [sdg\\_08\\_20](#), [sdg\\_08\\_40](#), [sdg\\_05\\_40](#), [sdg\\_08\\_60](#) and [sdg\\_01\\_41](#))

# 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**SDG 9** calls for building resilient and sustainable infrastructure and promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialisation. It also recognises the importance of research and innovation for finding lasting solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 9, assessment of short-term trends



## R&D AND INNOVATION



R&D expenditure *in 2018*

**2.2 %** of GDP

+ 0.1 pp *since 2013*



R&D personnel *in 2018*

**1.3 %** of active population

+ 0.2 pp *since 2013*



Science and technology  
personnel *in 2019*

**46.9 %** of active  
population

+ 3.9 pp *since 2014*



Patent applications *in 2019*

**66 459** applications to  
the EPO

+ 6.1 % *since 2014*

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new  
passenger cars *in 2018*

**119.6 g** of CO<sub>2</sub> per km

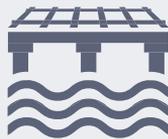
- 5.4 % *since 2013*



Collective passenger  
transport *in 2017*

**17.1 %** of total inland  
passenger-km

- 0.6 pp *since 2012*

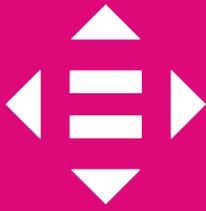


Rail and waterways freight transport  
*in 2018*

**24.7 %** of total inland  
freight tonne-km

- 1.4 pp *since 2013*

# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**SDG 10** addresses inequalities within and among countries. It calls for nations to reduce inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, and calls for the facilitation of orderly and safe migration and mobility of people.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 10, assessment of short-term trends



Urban-rural gap for people at risk of poverty or social exclusion



Disparities in disposable household income



Citizenship gap for early school leavers



Citizenship gap for NEET rate



Income distribution



Income share of bottom 40 %



Disparities in GDP per capita



At-risk-of-poverty gap



Citizenship gap for income poverty



Citizenship gap for employment rate



Asylum applications

## INEQUALITIES WITHIN COUNTRIES

in 2018



Income distribution

**5.1** income quintile share ratio

± 0.0 points since 2013



At-risk-of-poverty gap

**24.5 %** distance to poverty threshold

+ 0.1 pp since 2013



Income share of bottom 40%

**21.2 %** of income

± 0.0 pp since 2013



Urban-rural gap for risk of poverty or social exclusion

**2.2 pp** higher rate in rural areas

- 2.1 pp since 2013

## INEQUALITIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES

in 2018



Disparities in GDP per capita

**42.1 %** variation coefficient

- 0.5 pp since 2013



Disparities in disposable household income

**25.2 %** variation coefficient

- 4.7 pp since 2013

## MIGRATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION



Asylum applications in 2019

**1371** per million inhabitants



Citizenship gap for income poverty in 2018

**23.5 pp** to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens

+ 0.1 pp since 2013



Citizenship gap for early school leavers in 2019

**18.1 pp** to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens

- 0.4 pp since 2014



Citizenship gap for NEET rate in 2019

**12.4 pp** to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens

- 0.3 pp since 2014



Citizenship gap for employment rate in 2019

**13.8 pp** to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens

+ 0.8 pp since 2014

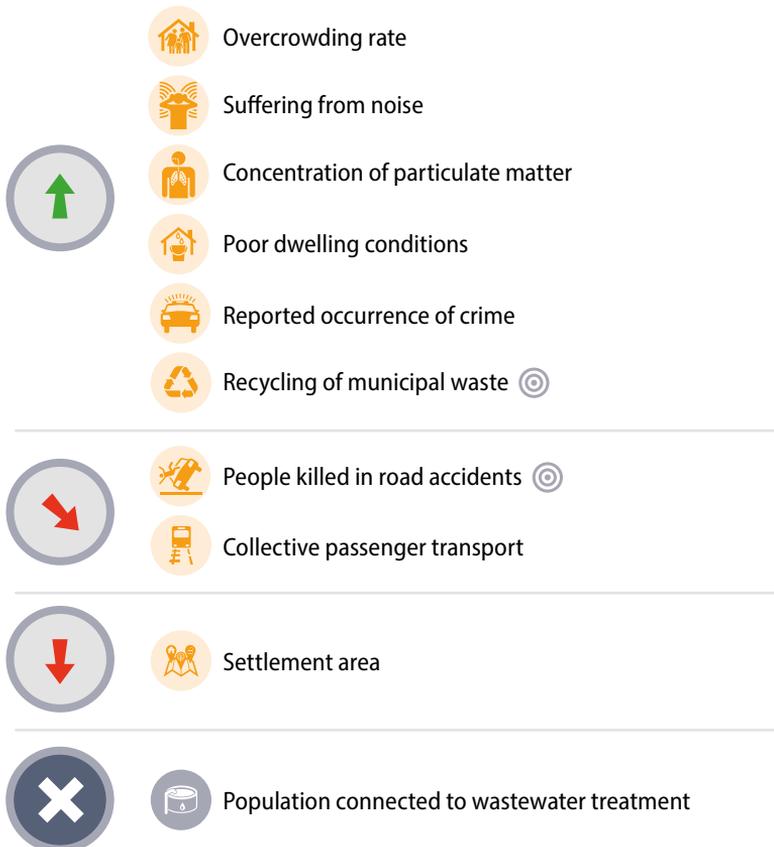
Source: Eurostat (Online data sources: [sdg\\_01\\_10a](#), [sdg\\_01\\_20a](#), [sdg\\_04\\_10a](#), [sdg\\_08\\_20a](#), [sdg\\_08\\_30a](#), [sdg\\_10\\_30](#), [sdg\\_10\\_41](#), [sdg\\_10\\_50](#), [sdg\\_10\\_10](#), [sdg\\_10\\_20](#) and [sdg\\_10\\_60](#))

# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**SDG 11** aims to renew and plan cities and other human settlements in a way that offers opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and green public spaces, while reducing resource use and environmental impact.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 11, assessment of short-term trends



## QUALITY OF LIFE IN CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Overcrowding rate *in 2018*

**17.1 %** of population

- 1.2 pp *since 2013*



Poor dwelling conditions *in 2018*

**13.6 %** of population

- 2.0 pp *since 2013*



Suffering from noise *in 2018*

**18.2 %** of population

- 0.9 pp *since 2013*



Reported occurrence of crime *in 2018*

**11.5 %** of population

- 2.6 pp *since 2013*



Concentration of particulate matter <sup>(1)</sup> *in 2017*  
smaller than 2.5 µm

**15.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**

- 14.3 % *since 2012*

(<sup>1</sup>) It should be noted that although the average concentrations of fine particulate matter have decreased during the past five years, the overall adverse health impacts of urban population exposure to air pollution by particulate matter PM<sub>2.5</sub> remain significant. The annual mean for fine particulate matter continues to be above the World Health Organization's recommended level.

## SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY



People killed in road accidents *in 2018*

**23 339** persons

- 3.6 % *since 2013*



Collective passenger transport *in 2017*

**17.1 %** of total inland passenger-km

- 0.6 pp *since 2012*

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



Recycling of municipal waste *in 2018*

**47.4 %** of total waste generated

+ 5.9 pp *since 2013*



Population connected to wastewater treatment *in 2017*

**≥ 80 %** in 15 reporting Member States



Settlement area *in 2018*

**703.4 m<sup>2</sup>** per capita

+ 3.4 % *since 2015*

# 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**SDG 12** envisions sustainable production and consumption based on advanced technological capacity, resource efficiency and reduced global waste. It calls on researchers, businesses and policy to develop sustainable production methods and promotes responsible consumption among consumers.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 12, assessment of short-term trends



Energy productivity



Environmental goods and services



Resource productivity



Circular material use



Consumption of toxic chemicals



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars 



Generation of waste

## DECOUPLING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM ECONOMIC GROWTH

in 2018



Consumption of toxic chemicals  
**220.7** million tonnes  
+ 1.9 % since 2013



Resource productivity  
**EUR 1.92** per kg  
+ 4.3 % since 2013



Energy productivity  
**EUR 8.1** per kgoe  
+ 11.2 % since 2013



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars  
**119.6 g** of CO<sub>2</sub> per km  
- 5.4 % since 2013

## GREEN GROWTH



Environmental goods and services in 2017  
**EUR 268.1** billion of value added  
+ 10.1 % since 2012

## WASTE GENERATION AND MANAGEMENT



Circular material use in 2017  
**11.2 %** of material input for domestic use  
+ 0.1 pp since 2012



Generation of waste in 2016  
**1 765** kg per capita  
+ 2.6 % since 2012

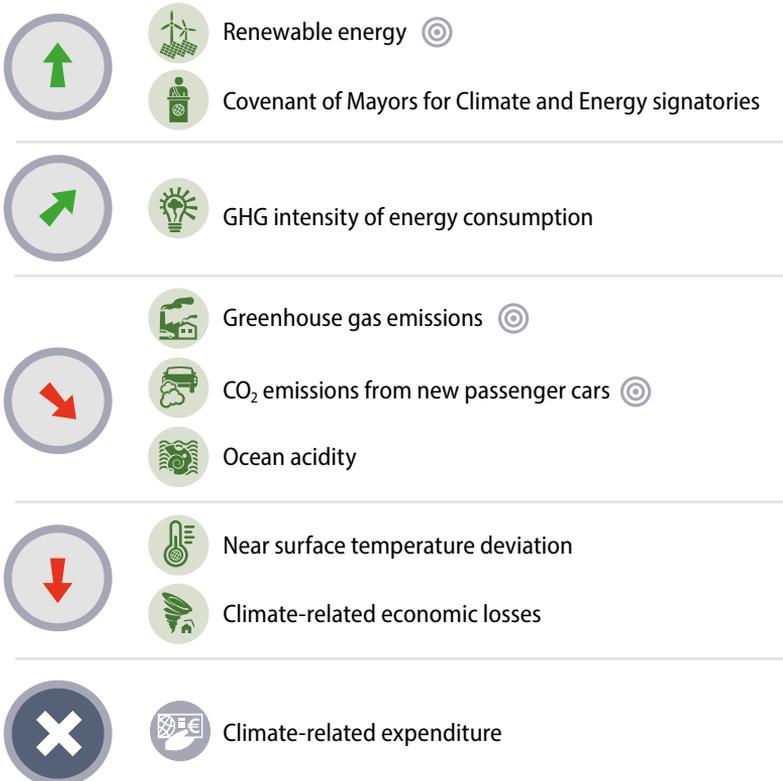
Source: Eurostat (Online data sources: [sdg\\_12\\_10](#), [sdg\\_12\\_20](#), [sdg\\_07\\_30](#), [sdg\\_12\\_30](#), [sdg\\_12\\_61](#), [sdg\\_12\\_41](#) and [sdg\\_12\\_50](#))

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



**SDG 13** seeks to implement the commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and deliver on the Green Climate Fund. It aims to strengthen countries' resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and the resulting natural disasters with a special focus on supporting least-developed countries.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 13, assessment of short-term trends



## CLIMATE MITIGATION

in 2018



Greenhouse gas emissions <sup>(1)</sup>

**79.4** Index, 1990 = 100

- 2.2 index points since 2013



GHG intensity of energy consumption

**85.7** Index, 2000 = 100

- 3.5 index points since 2013



Renewable energy

**18.9 %** of gross final energy consumption

+ 2.2 pp since 2013



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars

**119.6 g** of CO<sub>2</sub> per km

- 5.4 % since 2013

## CLIMATE IMPACTS



Near surface temperature deviation in 2009–2018

Global: **0.91** °C deviation, compared to 1850–1899 average  
European: **1.61**



Climate-related economic losses in 2017

**EUR 12.1 billion**

+ 7.6 % since 2012



Ocean acidity in 2018

**8.06 pH** value

- 0.1 % since 2013

## SUPPORT TO CLIMATE ACTION



Climate-related expenditure in 2017 <sup>(2)</sup>

**EUR 19.4 billion**



Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy signatories in 2019

**41.6 %** of population

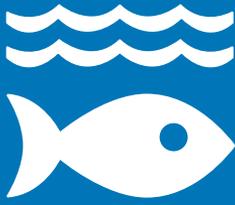
+ 6.8 pp since 2014

<sup>(1)</sup> 2018 data are provisional estimates based on the EEA's approximated GHG inventory for the year 2018.

<sup>(2)</sup> Data refer to EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank.

Source: Eurostat (Online data sources: [sdg\\_13\\_10](#), [sdg\\_13\\_20](#), [sdg\\_07\\_40](#), [sdg\\_12\\_30](#), [sdg\\_13\\_30](#), [sdg\\_13\\_40](#), [sdg\\_14\\_50](#), [sdg\\_13\\_50](#) and [sdg\\_13\\_60](#))

# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



**SDG 14** aims to protect and ensure the sustainable use of oceans. This includes the reduction of marine pollution and the impacts of ocean acidification, the ending of overfishing and the conservation of marine and coastal areas and ecosystems. SDG 14 has strong interdependencies with a broad range of other SDGs, as oceans sustain coastal economies and livelihoods and contribute to food production, while at the same time functioning as a sink for land- and sea-based pollution.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 14, assessment of short-term trends



Natura 2000 marine sites



Bathing water quality



Mean ocean acidity



Trends in fish stock biomass



Overfishing

## OCEAN HEALTH

in 2018



Bathing water quality

**88.1 %** of coastal bathing sites with excellent water quality

+ 2.3 pp since 2013



Mean ocean acidity

**8.06 pH** value

- 0.1% since 2013

## MARINE CONSERVATION



Natura 2000 marine sites  
in 2019

**441 001 km<sup>2</sup>**

+ 80.7 % since 2014

## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

in 2018



Trends in fish stock biomass <sup>(1)</sup>

**148** Index, 2003 = 100

+ 41 index points since 2013



Overfishing <sup>(1)</sup>

**38.2 %** of fish stocks

- 13.2 pp since 2013

<sup>(1)</sup> Data refer to the North-East Atlantic and adjacent seas.

Source: Eurostat (Online data sources: [sdg\\_14\\_40](#), [sdg\\_14\\_50](#), [sdg\\_14\\_10](#), [sdg\\_14\\_21](#) and [sdg\\_14\\_30](#))

# 15 LIFE ON LAND



**SDG 15** seeks to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, inland-water and mountain ecosystems. This includes efforts to sustainably manage forests and halt deforestation, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, halt biodiversity loss and protect threatened species.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 15, assessment of short-term trends



Phosphate in rivers



Forest area



Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers



Severe soil erosion by water



Grassland butterfly index



All common bird index



Natura 2000 terrestrial sites



Soil sealing index

## ECOSYSTEM STATUS



Biochemical oxygen demand  
in rivers *in 2017*

**2.0 mg** O<sub>2</sub> per litre  
- 2.9 % since 2012



Phosphate in rivers *in 2017*

**0.09 mg** PO<sub>4</sub> per litre  
- 3.1 % since 2012



Forest area *in 2018*

**43.4 %** of total  
land area  
+ 0.8 pp since 2015

## LAND DEGRADATION



Severe soil erosion by water  
*in 2016*

**5.3 %** of the total non-  
artificial erosive area  
- 0.01 pp since 2010



Soil sealing index *in 2015*

**104.5** Index, 2006 = 100  
+ 2.7 index points since 2009

## BIODIVERSITY



Natura 2000 terrestrial sites  
*in 2019*

**763 986 km<sup>2</sup>**  
+ 0.4 % since 2014



All common bird index *in 2018*

**95.7** Index, 2000 = 100  
+ 0.5 index points since 2013



Grassland butterfly index *in 2017*

**74.1** Index, 2000 = 100  
+ 1.9 index points since 2012

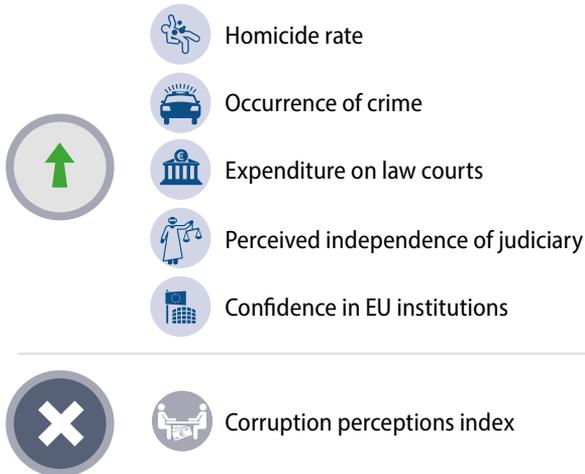
Source: Eurostat (Online data sources: [sdg\\_06\\_30](#), [sdg\\_06\\_50](#), [sdg\\_15\\_10](#), [sdg\\_15\\_50](#), [sdg\\_15\\_41](#), [sdg\\_15\\_20](#), [sdg\\_15\\_60](#) and [sdg\\_15\\_61](#))

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**SDG 16** calls for peaceful and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights, protection of the most vulnerable, the rule of law and good governance at all levels. It also envisions transparent, effective and accountable institutions.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 16, assessment of short-term trends



## PEACE AND PERSONAL SECURITY



Homicide rate in 2016  
**0.7** per  
 100 000 inhabitants  
 - 0.2 per 100 000 since 2011



Occurrence of crime  
 in 2018  
**11.5 %** of population  
 - 2.6 pp since 2013

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE



Expenditure on law courts  
 in 2018  
**EUR 43 156 million**  
 + 12.8 % since 2013



Perceived independence  
 of judiciary in 2019  
**54 %** of population  
 perceived it very good  
 or fairly good  
 + 4 pp since 2016

## TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

in 2019



Corruption Perceptions Index  
 Member States  
 perceptions  
 range from **43–87**  
 Score scale of  
 0 (highly corrupt)  
 to 100 (very clean)



Confidence in EU institutions

European Parliament  
**54 %** of  
 population  
 + 11 pp since 2014

European Commission  
**47 %** of  
 population  
 + 8 pp since 2014

European Central Bank  
**44 %** of  
 population  
 + 8 pp since 2014

Source: Eurostat (Online data sources: [sdg\\_16\\_10](#), [sdg\\_16\\_20](#), [sdg\\_16\\_30](#), [sdg\\_16\\_40](#), [sdg\\_16\\_50](#) and [sdg\\_16\\_60](#))

# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**SDG 17** calls for a global partnership for sustainable development. The goal highlights the importance of global macroeconomic stability and the need to mobilise financial resources for developing countries from international sources, as well as through strengthened domestic capacities for revenue collection. It also highlights the importance of trade for developing countries and equitable rules for governing international trade.

## Indicators measuring EU progress towards SDG 17, assessment of short-term trends



Imports from developing countries



General government gross debt



Official development assistance 



Financing to developing countries



Environmental taxes

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



Official development  
assistance in 2019 <sup>(1)</sup>

**0.41 %** of gross national  
income (GNI)

+ 0.03 pp since 2014



Financing to developing  
countries in 2018

**EUR 104.1 billion**

- 2.4 % since 2013



Imports from developing  
countries in 2018

**EUR 894.0 billion**

+ 25.5 % since 2013

## FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE WITHIN THE EU



General government  
gross debt in 2019

**77.8 %** of GDP

- 8.8 pp since 2014



Environmental taxes  
in 2018

**6.0 %** of total tax revenues

- 0.2 pp since 2013

<sup>(1)</sup> Data include EU Member States and EU institutions.

Source: Eurostat (Online data sources: [sdg\\_17\\_10](#), [sdg\\_17\\_20](#), [sdg\\_17\\_30](#), [sdg\\_17\\_40](#) and [sdg\\_17\\_50](#))

# Annex

## EU SDG indicators assessed against quantitative EU targets

Code	Name	Target value	Target year	SDGs
sdg_01_10	Risk of poverty or social exclusion	- 20 million	2020	1
sdg_04_10	Early school leavers	< 10 %	2020	4
sdg_04_20	Tertiary educational attainment	≥ 40 %	2020	4
sdg_04_30	Early childhood education	≥ 95 %	2020	4
sdg_04_40	Underachievement in reading, maths and science	< 15 %	2020	4
sdg_04_50	Employed recent graduates	≥ 82 %	2020	4
sdg_04_60	Adult learning	> 15 %	2020	4
sdg_07_10 sdg_07_11	Primary and final energy consumption	+ 20 % efficiency	2020	7
sdg_07_40	Renewable energy	≥ 20 %	2020	7 13
sdg_08_30	Employment rate	≥ 75 %	2020	8
sdg_09_10	R&D expenditure	≥ 3 %	2020	9
sdg_11_40	People killed in road accidents	- 50 % of 2010	2020	3 11
sdg_11_60	Recycling of municipal waste	≥ 60 %	2030	11
sdg_12_30	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars	≤ 95 g CO <sub>2</sub> per km	2021	9 12 13
sdg_13_10	Greenhouse gas emissions	- 40 % of 1990	2030	13
sdg_17_10	Official development assistance	≥ 0.7 %	2030	17

Note: Assessment of the risk of poverty or social exclusion (sdg\_01\_10) is based on data for the EU including the UK but excluding Croatia; assessment of primary and final energy consumption (sdg\_07\_10 and sdg\_07\_11) is based on EU-28.

## **Getting in touch with the EU**

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All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/meet-us\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/meet-us_en)

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### **EU law and related documents**

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

### **Open data from the EU**

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

# Sustainable development in the European Union

Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

This brochure is a 'light' version of Eurostat's publication 'Sustainable development in the European Union — 2020 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context', conveying its main messages in a visual and concise way. The brochure builds on the EU SDG indicator set which comprises around 100 indicators structured around the 17 SDGs. It presents a statistical overview of trends for each indicator, described on the basis of a set of specific quantitative rules and focusing on short-term trends over the past five years. For a detailed presentation of the EU trends and a description of the methodology, please refer to the full Eurostat SDG publication.

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For more information

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>