153/2019 - 7 October 2019

Smarter, greener, more inclusive?
How is the European Union progressing towards its Europe 2020 targets?
Employment, education and climate change targets are achievable. R&D and poverty alleviation still at a distance.

The Europe 2020 strategy - EU's agenda for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth - was adopted by the European Council in June 2010 with the aim to overcome structural weaknesses in Europe's economy, improve its competitiveness and productivity and underpin a sustainable social market economy. The EU targets are set in the five thematic areas: *employment – research & development (R&D) and innovation – climate change and energy – education – poverty and social exclusion*. EU Member States have translated these objectives into their national targets in order to reflect their situation and possibilities to contribute to the common goals.

The end of the Europe 2020 life cycle is approaching, which makes monitoring as important as ever.
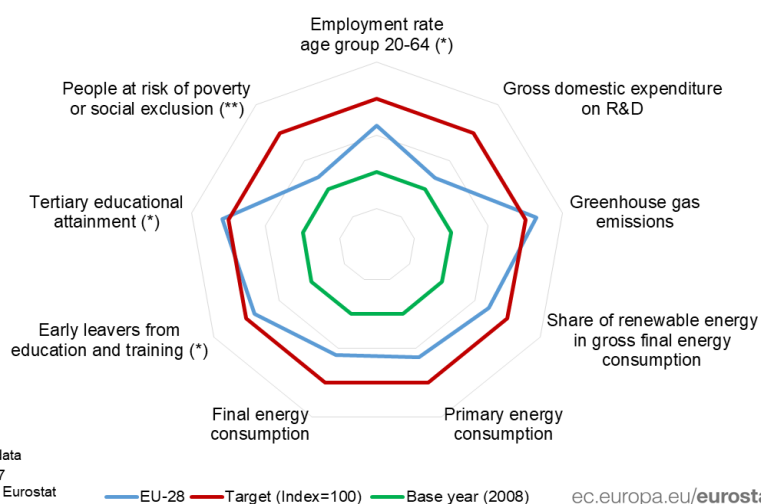
Today **Eurostat**, **the statistical office of the European Union**, issues the 2019 edition of the publication **'Smarter, greener, more inclusive?'**, which analyses the progress of the EU and its Member States towards the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.

A complete picture of trends in the Europe 2020 headline indicators

Eurostat monitors progress towards the Europe 2020 targets using nine headline indicators; the indicators' breakdowns focus on specific subgroups of society or the economy presenting a more detailed picture. The analysis in the five thematic areas shows trends in the headline indicators over the past years, up to 2017 or 2018, depending on data availability.

The radar chart illustrates the current situation of the progress made by the EU since 2008 and the remaining distance towards the Europe 2020 key targets.

Europe 2020 headline indicators: target values and progress since 2008 (2017 data)

Employment rate age group 20-64 (*)
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (**)
Greenhouse gas emissions
Tertiary educational attainment (*)
Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption
Early leavers from education and training (*)
Final energy consumption
Primary energy consumption

* 2018 data
** EU-27
Source: Eurostat

EU-28 — Target (Index=100) — Base year (2008)

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**

The **employment** target is within reach, if it continues to grow at the current pace. The EU has already met the tertiary **education** target and is approaching the target of early leavers from education and training.

Europe has made substantial progress in the area of **climate change and energy** and is on track with the Europe 2020 greenhouse gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency targets.

Investment in **R&D** as well as **risk of poverty and social exclusion** remain at a distance from targets.

What is the situation in each EU Member State?

The five thematic chapters of the publication are followed by a <u>country profile</u> for each Member State, giving an overall picture of the situation in relation to the national Europe 2020 targets. The country profiles provide for each Member State a table with the national Europe 2020 indicators and illustrate the situation in each Member State in the form of a radar chart, which shows the distance between the most recent data and the defined national targets.

Europe 2020 strategy headline indicators for the European Union

Topic	Headline indicator	Past situation	Current situation		2020 Target
		2008	2017	2018	
Employment	**Employment rate age group 20-64, total** (% of population)	70.2	72.2	73.2	75.0
	Employment rate age group 20-64, females (% of population)	62.7	66.5	67.4	:
	Employment rate age group 20-64, males (% of population)	77.8	78.0	79.0	:
R&D	**Gross domestic expenditure on R&D**[1] (% of GDP)	1.83	2.06	:	3.00
Climate change and energy	**Greenhouse gas emissions** (Index 1990=100)	90.7	78.3	:	80.0
	Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (%)	11.3	17.5	:	20.0
	Primary energy consumption (Million tonnes of oil equivalent)	1 697	1 562	:	1 483
	Final energy consumption (Million tonnes of oil equivalent)	1 180	1 123	:	1 086
Education	**Early leavers from education and training, total** (% of population aged 18-24)	14.7	10.6	10.6	<10.0
	Early leavers from education and training, females (% of population aged 18-24)	12.7	8.9	8.9	:
	Early leavers from education and training, males (% of population aged 18-24)	16.7	12.1	12.2	:
	Tertiary educational attainment, total (% of population aged 30-34)	31.1	39.9	40.7	≥40.0
	Tertiary educational attainment, females (% of population aged 30-34)	34.3	44.9	45.8	-
	Tertiary educational attainment, males (% of population aged 30-34)	28.0	34.9	35.7	-
Poverty and social exclusion	**People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, EU without Croatia** (Million people)	116.1	111.9	:	96.2[2]
	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (Million people)	:	113.0	:	:
	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion[3] (% of population)	23.7	22.4	:	:
	People living in households with very low work intensity[3] (% of population aged 0-59)	9.2	9.5	:	:
	People at risk of poverty after social transfers[3] (% of population)	16.6	16.9	:	:
	Severely materially deprived people[3,4] (% of population)	8.5	6.6	6.0	:

: Data not available

---

[1] 2017 data are provisional.

[2] The overall EU target aims at lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and exclusion by 2020. Due to data availability, the target is only defined for the EU without Croatia.

[3] 2008 data refer to EU without Croatia.

[4] Data for 2018 are estimates.

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

The **employment rate** is the number of employed persons in a given age group (people aged 20-64 in the Europe 2020 strategy) as percentage of the total population of the same age group.

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) includes expenditure on research and development by business enterprises, higher education institutions, as well as government and private non-profit organisations.

Greenhouse gases constitute a group of gases, among which carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O) and methane (CH_4), contributing to global warming and climate change. Converting them to carbon dioxide (or CO_2) equivalents makes it possible to compare them and to determine their individual and total contributions to global warming. The indicator includes international aviation and indirect CO_2, but excludes emissions from land use, land use change and forestry.

Renewable energy sources, also called renewables, are energy sources that replenish (or renew) themselves naturally, such as solar, wind, and tidal energy.

Primary energy consumption measures the total energy demand of a country. It covers consumption of the energy sector itself, losses during transformation (for example, from oil or gas into electricity) and distribution of energy, and the final consumption by end users.

Final energy consumption is the total energy consumed by end users, such as households, industry and agriculture. It is the energy which reaches the final consumer's door and excludes that which is used by the energy sector itself.

The indicator '**early leavers from education and training**' is defined as the percentage of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education (according to the International Standard Classification of Education) and who were not in further education or training during the last four weeks preceding the survey.

The indicator related to **tertiary educational attainment** is defined as the percentage of the population aged 30-34 who have successfully completed tertiary studies (e.g. university, higher technical institution, etc.) as defined in the International Standard Classification of Education.

The indicator **'At risk of poverty or social exclusion**' refers to the situation of people either at risk of poverty, or severely materially deprived or living in a household with a very low work intensity. The total number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is lower than the sum of the numbers of people in each of the three forms of poverty or social exclusion as persons affected simultaneously by more than one of these situations are only counted once.

People at-risk-of-poverty are those living in a household with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers). The equivalised income is calculated by dividing the total household income by its size determined after applying the following weights: 1.0 to the first adult, 0.5 to each other household members aged 14 or over and 0.3 to each household member aged less than 14 years old. This indicator corresponds to the sum of people who are at risk of poverty after social transfers, severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. People are only counted once even if they are present in several sub-indicators.

Severely materially deprived persons have living conditions constrained by a lack of resources and experience at least 4 out of the 9 following deprivation items: cannot afford 1) to pay rent/mortgage or utility bills on time, 2) to keep home adequately warm, 3) to face unexpected expenses, 4) to eat meat, fish or a protein equivalent every second day, 5) a one week holiday away from home, 6) a car, 7) a washing machine, 8) a colour TV, or 9) a telephone (including mobile phone).

People living in households with very low work intensity are those aged 0-59 who live in households where on average the adults (aged 18-59) worked less than 20% of their total work potential during the past year. Students are excluded.

For more information

Eurostat publication **"Smarter, greener, more inclusive? - Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy"** (2019 edition). Also available as set of Statistics Explained articles.

Eurostat website section dedicated to the Europe 2020 strategy.

Eurostat scoreboard on Europe 2020 headline indicators.

European Commission website dedicated to the European Semester.