

Eurostat monitoring report

How has the EU progressed towards the Sustainable Development Goals?

The von der Leyen Commission has made sustainability an overriding political priority for its mandate. All Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) feature in one or more of the six headline ambitions for Europe, announced in the [Political Guidelines](#), making all Commission work streams, policies and strategies conducive to achieving the SDGs. In December 2019, the Commission presented '[The European Green Deal](#)', the new EU growth strategy, aiming to transform the Union into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where climate and environmental challenges are addressed and turned into opportunities, while making the transition just and inclusive for all.

Sustainable development aims to achieve a continuous improvement in citizens' quality of life and well-being, without compromising the well-being of future generations. This involves the pursuit of economic progress, while safeguarding the natural environment and promoting social justice. For these reasons, sustainable development is a fundamental and overarching objective of the **European Union** (EU) and the progress towards the goals agreed at UN level is regularly monitored and reported.

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, issues today the publication "[Sustainable development in the European Union — Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context - 2020 edition](#)". It provides a statistical overview of progress towards the SDGs in the EU.

Eurostat is also publishing a range of materials complementing the monitoring report,

- for a quick overview: a short [brochure](#) providing a visual summary of the monitoring report's main findings,
- to play with: the interactive visualisation tools for a selected choice of the EU SDG indicators in the [digital publication "SDGs & me"](#) that helps the reader to focus on the issues that are of interest to them and to compare their country with others,
- to focus on individual goals: the series of [Statistics Explained articles](#),
- everything under one roof: [Eurostat website section](#) on Sustainable Development Goals.

Significant progress towards the objectives for one SDG, and good or moderate progress for most others over the past 5-year period

Overall, based on the indicators selected to monitor the SDGs in an EU context, the EU made progress towards almost all of them over the past five years. Progress for some goals has been faster than for others. In addition, in specific areas within goals, the EU moved away from the sustainable development objectives. These trends are described in the thematic chapters on the individual SDGs in the monitoring report.

The EU made strong progress over the last 5 years towards the overall achievement of SDG 16 '**Peace, justice and strong institutions**'.

Good progress, albeit considerably slower, was visible for SDG 1 '**No poverty**' and SDG 3 '**Good health and well-being**', followed by SDG 2 '**Zero hunger**' and SDG 8 '**Decent work and economic growth**'.

For eight SDGs, the EU made overall moderate progress over the past five years. Such moderate trends are visible for SDG 11 '**Sustainable cities and communities**', SDG 4 '**Quality education**', SDG 17 '**Partnership for the goals**', SDG 12 '**Responsible consumption and production**', SDG 7 '**Affordable and clean energy**', SDG 10 '**Reduced inequalities**', SDG 15 '**Life on land**' and SDG 9 '**Industry, innovation and infrastructure**'.

For SDG 13 'Climate action', there was no progress over the last five years, while for SDG 5 'Gender equality' the EU has moved away from sustainable development objectives.

In the case of two goals – SDG 6 'Clean water and sanitation' and SDG 14 'Life below water' – overall trends cannot be calculated due to insufficient data over the past five years.

EU progress towards the 17 SDGs

(past 5-year period)



In the monitoring report, indicator trends are assessed over two periods (when data availability allows): the short term, accounting for developments over the past five years, and the long term, looking at the trends over the last 15 years, to reflect the 15-year scope of the 2030 Agenda. To provide a snapshot of overall development for each SDG, a synopsis presents a summary at goal level, while thematic chapters, one for each of the 17 SDGs, provide a detailed assessment of each related indicator.

An additional chapter, newly added for 2020, presents a graphical overview of the current status and the short term progress towards the 17 SDGs for each of the 27 EU Member States.

Geographical information

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 and Sweden.

For more information

Eurostat publication of 2020 edition of monitoring report: "[Sustainable development in the European Union — Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in the an EU context - 2020 edition](#)"

Eurostat brochure: "[Sustainable development in the European Union. Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context](#)"

Eurostat digital publication "[SDGs & me](#)"

Eurostat set of [Statistics Explained articles](#) on sustainable development in the EU

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to the EU Sustainable Development Indicators

Eurostat [database](#) on the EU Sustainable Development Indicators

Communication from the Commission: "[Next steps for a sustainable European future – European action for sustainability](#)"

Commission Reflection paper: "[Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030](#)"

[Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-2024](#)

[The European Green Deal](#)

[UN webpage](#) dedicated to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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