

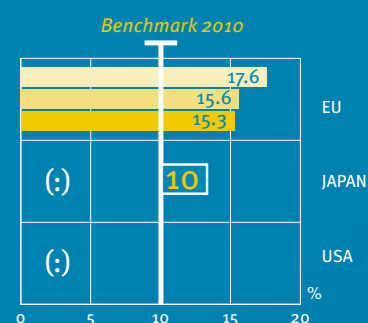
PROGRESS TOWARDS THE LISBON OBJECTIVES 2010 IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In 2007, reaching the EU benchmarks and goals for 2010 continues to pose a serious challenge for education and training systems in Europe, except for the goal on increasing the number of Mathematics, Science and Technology graduates.

Unless significantly greater efforts are made in achieving the benchmarks, early school leaving, completion rates of upper secondary education and key competences for low achievers will remain ambitious for the EU even beyond 2010.

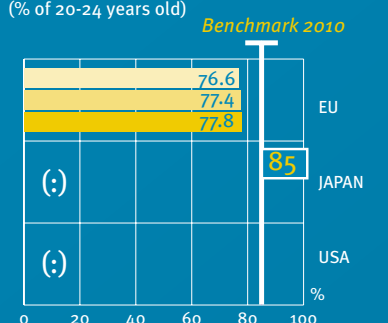
Five EU Benchmarks for 2010

Early school leavers
(% of 18-24 years old)



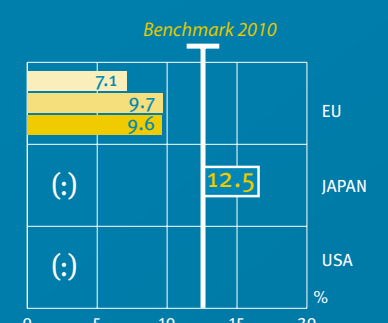
2000 2005 2006
Data source: Eurostat

Completion of upper secondary education
(% of 20-24 years old)



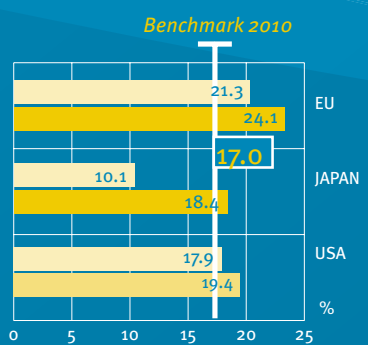
2000 2005 2006
Data source: Eurostat

Lifelong learning of adults
(% of 25-64 years old)



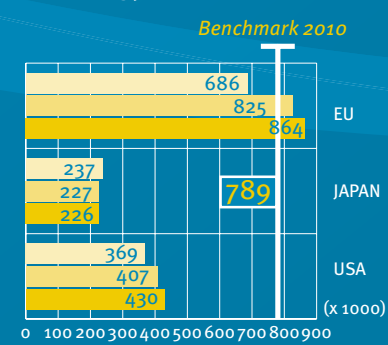
2000 2005 2006
Data source: Eurostat

Low achieving in reading
(% of 15 years old)



2000 2003 2006
Data source:
OECD/PISA
2000, 2003
and 2006

Number of tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and Technology (x1000)



2000 2004 2005
Data source: Eurostat



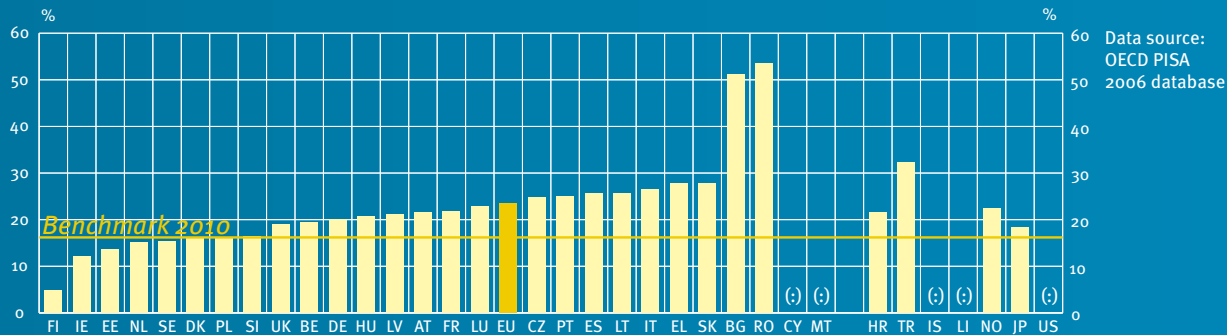
Low achievers in reading

Acquiring basic competences is essential for all citizens in order to participate in the knowledge-based society. However, at the age of 15 more than 1 million out of a total of 5 million pupils in the EU are low performers in reading literacy. While the share of low achievers has decreased in some Member States in the period 2000-2006 (notably in

Finland, Poland and Germany), there has been an increase at EU level (from 21.3% to 24.1%). Finland is the best performer with a share of less than 5% of low achievers, followed by Ireland and Estonia.

EU Benchmark for 2010: 20% fewer 15 years-old with poor reading skills

Percentage of pupils with reading literacy proficiency level 1 and lower on the PISA reading literacy scale, 2006



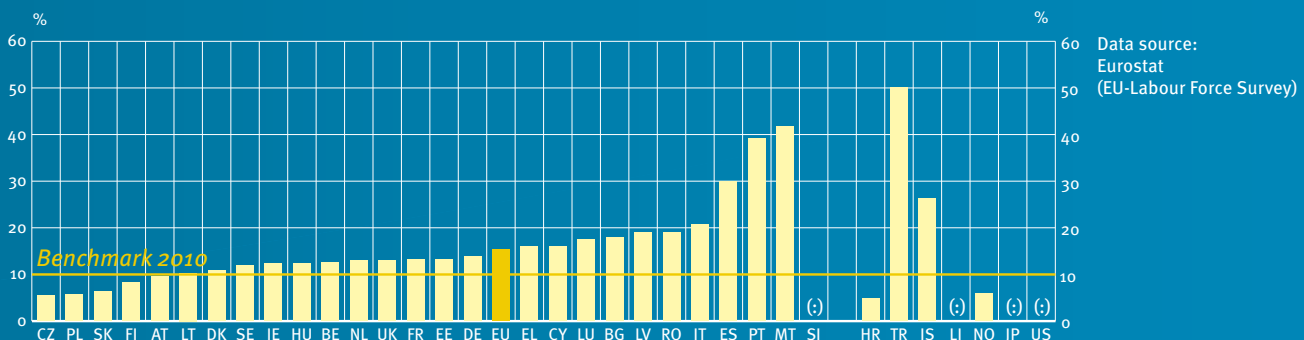
Early school leavers

Nearly one out of six young persons aged 18 to 24 in the EU still leaves education with no more than lower secondary education and currently participates in no form of education and training. The high number of early school leavers is an obstacle to developing a knowledge-based economy and

greater social cohesion. There was continuous improvement in recent years in reducing the share of early school leavers, but progress will need to be faster to reach the EU benchmark in 2010. However, some Member States already have shares of less than 10%.

EU Benchmark for 2010: Reduce early school leavers to 10%

Share of 18-24 years old with only lower secondary or less and not in education and training, 2006



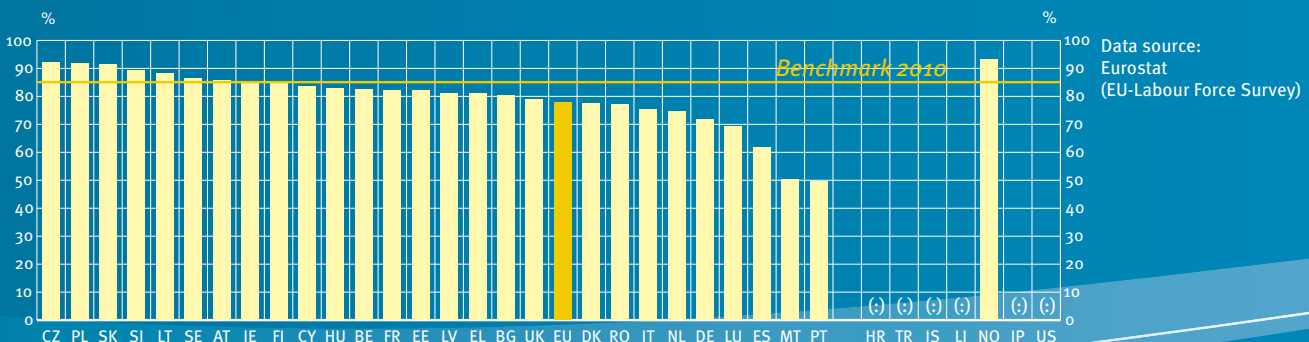
Upper secondary attainment

Full participation in the knowledge-based society requires that each individual is equipped with at least upper secondary education. However, the share of young people who have completed upper-secondary education in the EU is below 80% and has only slightly improved since 2000. Some countries with a relatively low share, notably Portugal and

Malta, have made considerable progress in the recent past. Moreover, some Member States already perform above the benchmark of 85%. In general women perform better – they have a lead of about 5 percentage points in comparison to men.

EU Benchmark for 2010: Reach 85% having completed upper secondary education

Percentage of 20-24 years old with at least upper secondary education, 2006



Mathematics, Science and Technology graduates

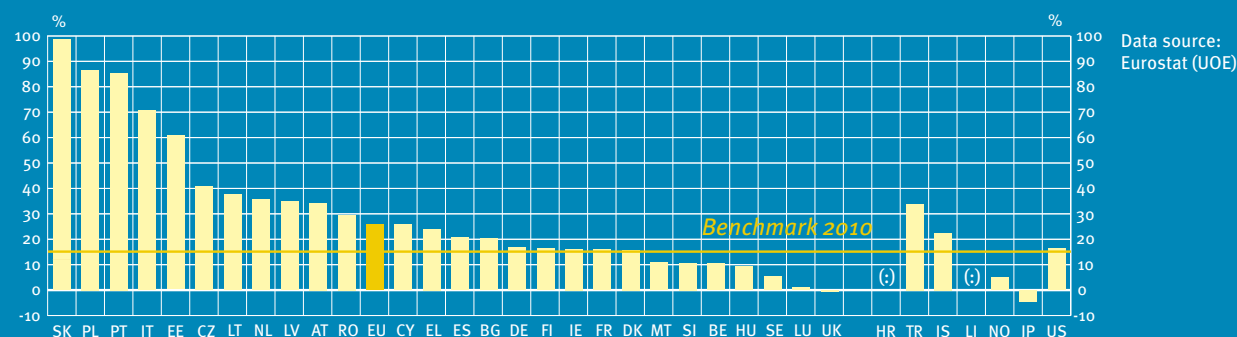
An adequate supply of highly qualified scientists is crucial for competing successfully in the global knowledge-based economy. The number of graduates from higher education in the field of Math, Science and Technology is here essential. The number of graduates in these disciplines in the EU has increased since 2000 by over 170,000 or more than 25%. The EU has thus already achieved the benchmark of increasing the number by 15% before 2010.

More limited progress has been achieved as regards redressing the imbalance between female and male graduates.

While Slovakia, Portugal, Poland and Italy showed the strongest growth in the number of MST graduates (from about 70% to nearly 100%), Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece and Romania perform best as regards gender balance.

EU Benchmark for 2010: 15% increase of Maths, Science and Technology graduates

Growth in the number of Math, Science and Technology graduates in 2000 – 2005, in %



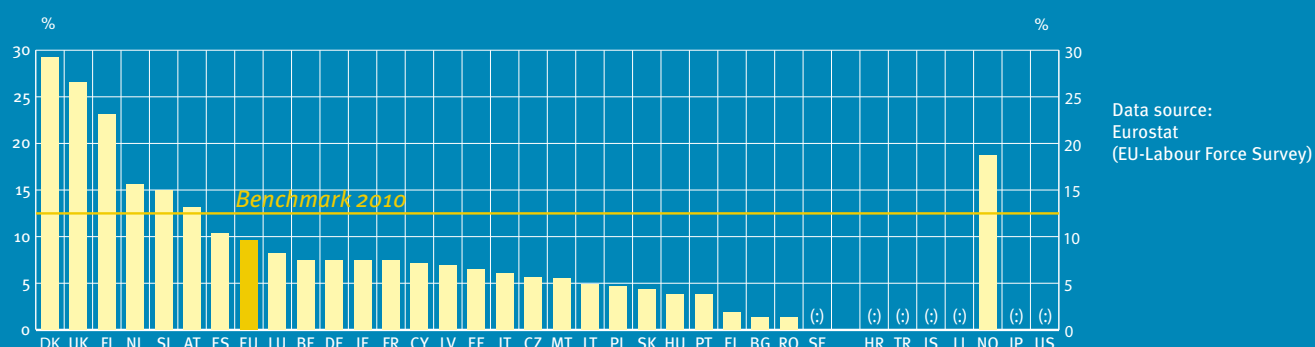
Participation of adults in lifelong learning

Lifelong learning is fundamental, not only for the competitiveness, and economic prosperity of the EU, but also for social inclusion, employability, active citizenship and the personal fulfilment of people. Everybody must be able to update and complement knowledge, competences and skills throughout life. The percentage of the working

age population participating in education and training amounted to 9.6 % in 2006. Nordic countries, the UK and the Netherlands currently show the highest participation rates. Additional efforts by many EU countries are needed to reach the benchmark of a 12.5% participation rate in 2010.

EU Benchmark for 2010: Increase of participation in lifelong learning to 12.5% of the adult population

Percentage of population aged 25-64 participating in education and training in the four weeks prior to the survey, 2006



Besides the five benchmarks presented above, two additional concrete goals have been decided by the European Council to be achieved by 2010: The Lisbon objective of increasing per capita investment in human resources and the Barcelona objective of ensuring that 90% of all children, aged from 3 years to the beginning of compulsory schooling, should be enrolled in pre-school day-care institutions.

Furthermore the Council has decided that progress of education systems in Europe should be monitored with reference to the overall educational attainment of the population.





Participation in pre-school day-care institutions

Within the general target to increase the participation in pre-school day-care institutions, there is some evidence that participation in pre-primary education has a positive impact on performance during compulsory schooling, including on early school leaving, in particular for children coming from socio-economically disadvantaged family

backgrounds. In 2005, 86% of 4-year old children were enrolled in education. Between 2000 and 2005, enrolment of 4 year olds increased by about 3 percentage points. In France, Belgium, Italy and Spain nearly all 4-year olds participate in education.

Increase investment in education and training

Investment in human capital through education and training is central to strengthening Europe's position in the knowledge economy and to increasing social cohesion. Between 2000 and 2003, public spending on education as a percentage of GDP increased considerably in EU Member States. However, in 2004, the upward trend stopped and there was a slight decline compared to the year before,

but as a result of GDP growth in absolute terms public education spending still increased. Rates of private investment in education appear modest in most Member States compared with the leading countries in the world, particularly in higher education. One can observe strong difference in investment levels between countries.

Increase the educational level of the population

The level of educational attainment of the adult population provides a good indication of the knowledge and skills available in the EU. There is evidence of a very close relationship between educational attainment levels and labour market participation. As a consequence, improving the educational attainment of the working age population is one of the most important long term challenges of the EU. In 2006 23% of the EU's working age population had

attained tertiary education, an increase of more than 3 percentage point compared to 2000. In Finland, Denmark and Estonia more than 30% of the population have a tertiary degree, while some Member States still had shares of less than 15%. However, in some of the poorer performing countries in this area, tertiary enrolment has expanded strongly in the last few years.

Monitoring progress towards Lisbon objectives in education and training

The Council Conclusions adopted in May 2007 a coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks on the monitoring of progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training. The Commission publishes since 2004 annual "Progress reports" monitoring the improvements in education and training systems in Europe. The Commission Progress Report 2007 (SEC(2007)1284) applies, for the first time, the coherent

framework of 16 core indicators and five benchmarks, where data are available, for analysing progress since 2000. In preparing the report the Directorate-General for Education and Culture has cooperated closely with Eurostat, CRELL (JRC) and the Eurydice European Unit.

	Austria		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	19.3 %	21.5%	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	10.2 %	9.6 %	17.6 %	15.3 %	10 %	10 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	85.1 %	85.8 %	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	+34.3% ⁵	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	8.3 %	13.1% (b)	74 %	9.6 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	79.5 %	82.5 % ⁵	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)	14.2 %	17.6 %	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	5.66 %	5.45 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		

	Belgium		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	19.0 %	19.4 %	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	12.5 %	12.6 %	17.6 %	15.3 %	10 %	10 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	82.7 %	82.4 %	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	+9.4 % ⁵	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	6.2 %	75% (b,p)	74 %	9.6 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	99.2 %	100 % ⁵	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)	27.1 %	31.8 %	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	6.00 % ¹	5.99 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		

	Cyprus		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	18.5 %	16.0 %	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	79.0 %	83.7 % (b)	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	:	+25.9% ⁵	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	+15 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	31.0 %	38.1 % ⁵	:	31.2 % ⁵	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	3.1 %	7.4 % (b)	74 %	9.6 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	55.7 %	64.4 % ⁵	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)	25.4 %	30.5 %	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	5.66 %	5.45 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		

1: (2001) 2: (2002) 3: (2003) 4: (2004) 5: (2005) (a) calculation based on estimate for 2005 result, (b) break, (d) Growth rate has been calculated only for years without breaks in time series, (p) provisional () results not fully comparable

	Denmark		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	17.9 %	16.0%	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	11.6 %	10.9 %	17.6 %	15.3 %	10 %	10 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	72.0 %	77.4 %	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	+10.9% ⁵	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	19.4 %	29.2 % (b)	74 %	9.6 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	90.6 %	93.5 % ⁵	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)	25.8 %	34.7 %	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	8.28 %	8.47 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		

	Czech Republic		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	17.5 %	24.8%	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	5.5 % ²	5.5 %	17.6 %	15.3 %	10 %	10 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	91.2 %	91.8 %	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	+40.7% ⁵	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	5.6 % ²	5.6 % (b)	74 %	9.6 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	81.0 %	91.4 % ⁵	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)	11.5 %	13.5 %	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	4.04% ¹	4.42 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		

	Estonia		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	14.2 %	13.6%	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	79.0 %	82.0 %	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	:	60.7 %	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	+15 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	35.7 %	43.5 % ⁵	:	31.2 % ⁵	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	78.2 %	84.2 % ⁵	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	28.9 %	33.3 %	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	5.57 %	5.09 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		


1: (2001) 2: (2002) 3: (2003) 4: (2004) 5: (2005) (a) calculation based on estimate for 2005 result, (b) break, (d) Growth rate has been calculated only for years without breaks in time series, (p) provisional () results not fully comparable


	Finland		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	7.0 %	4.8%	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	8.9 %	8.3 % (p)	17.6 %	15.3 %	10 %	10 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	87.7 %	84.7 %	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	+16.5% ⁵	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	17.5 %	23.1% (b)	74 %	9.6 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	41.9 %	46.7 % ⁵	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)	32.6 %	35.1 %	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	6.08 %	6.43 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		


	France		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	15.2 %	21.7%	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	13.3 %	13.1 %	17.6 %	15.3 %	10 %	10 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	81.6 %	82.1 % (p)	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	+15.9% ⁵	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	2.8 %	7.5 % (b)	74 %	9.6 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	100 %	100 % ¹	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)	21.6 %	25.5 % (p)	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	5.83 %	5.81 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		


	Belgium		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2010
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy	19.0 %	19.4 %	21.3%	24.1%	17.0%	17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)	12.5 %	12.6 %	17.6 %	15.3 %	10 %	10 %
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)	82.7 %	82.4 %	76.6 %	77.8 %	85 %	85 %
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology	:	+9.4 % ⁵	:	+25.9% ⁵	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	6.2 %	75% (b,p)	74 %	9.6 %	12.5 %	12.5 %
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds	99.2 %	100 % ⁵	82.8 %	85.7 % ⁵	90%	90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)	27.1 %	31.8 %	19.4 %	22.9 %	Significant increase	Significant increase
Public investment in education, % of GDP	6.00 % ¹	5.99 % ⁴	4.68 %	5.09 % ⁴		


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GERMANY		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		22.6%	21.3%	24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		14.9%	17.6%	15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		74.7%	71.6% ^(b)	76.6% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		21.6%	+16.7% ¹	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		5.2%	7.5%	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		84.4%	84.6% ^(b)	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		23.8%	23.9%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.45%	4.60% ¹	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase


IRELAND		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		11.0%	12.1%	21.3% ¹ 24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		14.7% ¹	12.3%	17.6% ¹ 15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		82.6%	85.4%	76.6% ¹ 77.8% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		37.9%	+16.2% ¹	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		5.5% ¹	7.5% ^(b)	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		54.4%	45.4% ¹	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		21.6%	30.8%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.29%	4.75% ¹	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase


LITHUANIA		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		25.7%	25.7%	21.3% ¹ 24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		16.7%	10.3%	17.6% ¹ 15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		78.9%	88.2%	76.6% ¹ 77.8% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		35.9%	+37.6% ¹	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		2.8%	4.9% ^{(b)(p)}	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		54.0%	56.8% ¹	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		22.4%	26.8%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		5.63%	5.20% ¹	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase


GREECE		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		24.4%	27.7%	21.3% ¹ 24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		18.2%	15.9%	17.6% ¹ 15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		79.2%	81.0% ^(b)	76.6% ¹ 77.8% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		21.4%	+24.1% ¹	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		4.0%	1.9% ^(b)	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		53.9%	57.8% ¹	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		16.9%	21.5%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		3.71%	4.22%	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase

ITALY		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		18.9%	26.4%	21.3% ¹ 24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		25.3%	20.8%	17.6% ¹ 15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		69.4%	75.5%	76.6% ¹ 77.8% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		36.6%	+77% ^(b)	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		4.8%	6.1% ^(b)	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		100%	100%	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		9.6%	12.9%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.47%	4.59% ¹	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase

LUXEMBOURG		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		55.1%	22.9%	21.3% ¹ 24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		16.8%	17.4%	17.6% ¹ 15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		77.5%	69.3%	76.6% ¹ 77.8% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		30.8%	30.8%	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		4.8%	8.2% ^(b)	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		94.9%	96.3% ¹	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		18.3%	24.0%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		3.74% ¹	3.93% ¹	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase

HUNGARY		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		22.7%	26.6%	21.3% ¹ 24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		13.8%	12.4%	17.6% ¹ 15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		83.5%	82.9%	76.6% ¹ 77.8% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		22.6%	+5.5% ^(d)	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		2.9%	3.8% ^(b)	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		89.5%	90.7% ¹	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		14.0%	17%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.50%	5.43% ¹	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase

LATVIA		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		30.1%	21.2%	21.3% ¹ 24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		19.5% ¹	90% ^(b)	17.6% ¹ 15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		76.5%	81.0%	76.6% ¹ 77.8% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		31.4%	+34.9% ¹	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		7.3% ¹	6.9% ^(b)	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		60.6%	72.2% ¹	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		18.0%	21.1%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		5.64%	5.08% ¹	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase

MALTA		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2006	
Low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy		54.2%	44.7%	21.3% ¹ 24.1% ¹ 17.0%
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		46.9%	50.4%	17.6% ¹ 15.3% ¹ 10%
Upper secondary completion rate (age 20-24)		76.6%	77.8%	76.6% ¹ 77.8% ¹ 85%
Tertiary graduates in Maths, Science and technology		26.3%	+10.8% ¹	+25.9% ¹ 31.2% ¹ Improve gender balance
Adult participation in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		4.5%	5.5% ^(b)	9.6% ¹ 12.5%
Participation in pre-school education, 4 year olds		100%	94.4% ¹	85.7% ¹ 90%
Adults with tertiary education level (age 25-64)		5.4%	12.0%	19.4% ¹ 22.9%
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.52%	4.99% ¹	4.68% ¹ 5.09% ¹ Significant increase

1: (2001), 2: (2002) 3: (2003) 4: (2004) 5: (2005) (e) calculation based on estimate for 2005 result, (b) break, (d) Growth rate has been calculated only for years without breaks in time series, (p) provisional () results not fully comparable



European Commission
 Directorate-General for Education and Culture
 B-1049 Bruxelles / Brussel
 Tel (32-2) 299 11 11
 eac-info@ec.europa.eu

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Country Abbreviations

EU European Union

BE Belgium
 BG Bulgaria
 CZ Czech Republic
 DK Denmark
 DE Germany
 EE Estonia
 EL Greece
 ES Spain
 FR France
 IE Ireland
 IT Italy
 CY Cyprus
 LV Latvia

LT Lithuania
 LU Luxembourg
 HU Hungary
 MT Malta
 NL Netherlands
 AT Austria
 PL Poland
 PT Portugal
 RO Romania
 SI Slovenia
 SK Slovakia
 FI Finland
 SE Sweden
 UK United Kingdom

Candidate Countries

HR Croatia
 TR Turkey

European Economic Area

IS Iceland
 LI Liechtenstein
 NO Norway

Others

JP Japan
 US/USA United States of America

This leaflet is based on Commission Staff Working Document :
 "Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in education and training, 2007
 Indicators and Benchmarks", (SEC(2007)1284)

It uses the latest available data (as of end January 2008)

The full text of the report is available at :
http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/progressreport_en.html



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