



European  
Commission



# Education and Training Monitor 2015

EU targets for 2020

# 1. Early leavers from education and training

**EUROPE 2020 HEADLINE TARGET:** The share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10%.

**BEST EU PERFORMERS:** Croatia, Slovenia, Poland

**MOST PROGRESS 2011-2014:** Portugal, Cyprus, Spain

	2014 Total	Trend	2014	
			Males	Females
<b>EU</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Belgium	9.8	-2.5	11.8	7.7
Bulgaria	12.9	1.1	12.8	12.9
Czech Republic	5.5	0.6	5.8	5.2
Denmark	7.7	-1.9	9.3	6.0
Germany	9.5	-2.1	10.0	8.9
Estonia	11.4	0.8	15.3	7.5
Ireland	6.9	-3.9	8.0	5.7
Greece	9.0	-3.9	11.5	6.6
Spain	21.9	-4.4	25.6	18.1
France	8.5	-3.4	9.5	7.4
Croatia	(2.7)	-2.3	(3.1)	(2.3)
Italy	15.0	-2.8	17.7	12.2
Cyprus	6.8	-4.5	11.2	2.9
Latvia	8.5	-3.1	11.7	5.1
Lithuania	5.9	-1.5	7.0	(4.6)
Luxembourg	6.1	-0.1	8.3	(3.7)
Hungary	11.4	0.0	12.5	10.3
Malta	20.4	-2.3	22.3	18.3
Netherlands	8.6	-0.5	10.3	6.8
Austria	7.0	-1.5	7.6	6.5
Poland	5.4	-0.2	7.3	3.3
Portugal	17.4	-5.6	20.7	14.1
Romania	18.1	0.0	19.5	16.7
Slovenia	4.4	0.2	6.0	(2.7)
Slovakia	6.7	1.6	6.9	6.6
Finland	9.5	-0.3	11.9	7.2
Sweden	6.7	0.1	7.3	6.0
UK	11.8	-3.1	12.8	10.7
Iceland	19.0	-0.7	24.3	13.5
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:
Norway	11.7	-4.9	12.9	10.4
Albania	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
MK*	12.5	-1.0	11.0	14.0
Serbia	:	:	:	:
Turkey	38.3	-3.6	35.5	41.0

**A CLOSER LOOK:** Further progress cannot go without a profound policy effort to tackle education inequalities and an active focus on those most at risk of early leaving. A qualitative assessment reveals that such targeted measures are often still missing in teachers' education and training, students' guidance and governments' support to disadvantaged areas.

Source: Eurostat (LFS). Notes: the indicator covers 18 to 24 year-olds with ISCED 2 at most and who are no longer in formal or non-formal education and training. The trend depicted refers to the 2011-2014 change in percentage points.

## 2. Tertiary education attainment

**EUROPE 2020 HEADLINE TARGET:** The share of 30 to 34 year-olds with tertiary education attainment should be at least 40%.

**BEST EU PERFORMERS:** Lithuania, Luxembourg, Cyprus

**MOST PROGRESS 2011-2014:** Austria, Croatia, Greece

	2014 Total	Trend	2014	
			Males	Females
<b>EU</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>42.3</b>
Belgium	43.8	1.2	37.4	50.2
Bulgaria	30.9	3.6	23.4	39.0
Czech Republic	28.2	4.5	24.2	32.5
Denmark	(44.1)	2.9	(38.4)	(50.0)
Germany	31.4	0.8	32.0	30.8
Estonia	46.6	6.4	35.6	58.2
Ireland	52.2	2.5	45.1	58.6
Greece	37.2	8.1	32.9	41.6
Spain	42.3	0.4	36.8	47.8
France	44.1	0.8	39.6	48.4
Croatia	32.2	8.3	25.6	39.0
Italy	23.9	3.5	18.8	29.1
Cyprus	52.5	6.3	46.0	58.2
Latvia	39.9	4.0	27.8	52.3
Lithuania	53.3	7.6	44.0	62.7
Luxembourg	52.7	4.5	49.8	55.4
Hungary	34.1	5.9	28.0	40.3
Malta	26.6	3.2	22.9	30.5
Netherlands	44.6	3.5	41.3	47.9
Austria	40.0	16.4	38.3	41.6
Poland	42.1	5.6	34.2	50.2
Portugal	31.3	4.6	23.2	38.9
Romania	25.0	4.7	22.9	27.2
Slovenia	41.0	3.1	30.0	53.7
Slovakia	26.9	3.7	22.5	31.5
Finland	45.3	-0.7	38.2	52.6
Sweden	49.9	3.1	42.4	57.9
UK	47.7	2.2	44.2	51.1
Iceland	45.9	1.3	39.8	52.2
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:
Norway	52.1	3.3	42.6	62.0
Albania	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
MK*	24.9	4.5	21.4	28.7
Serbia	:	:	:	:
Turkey	21.5	5.2	23.4	19.6

**A CLOSER LOOK:** Active policy measures to strengthen the social dimension of higher education are not prevalent across Europe. Areas that require most urgent attention are the non-traditional entry ways into higher education, the setting of targets for under-represented groups and the allocation of extra funding whenever these targets are being reached by higher education institutions.

Source: Eurostat (LFS). Notes: the indicator covers 30 to 34 year-olds having successfully completed ISCED 5 to 8. The trend depicted refers to the 2011-2014 change in percentage points.

### 3. Early childhood education and care (ECEC)

**BENCHMARK 2020:** At least 95% of children between the age of four and the age for starting ISCED 1 [1] should participate in education.

**BEST EU PERFORMERS:** France, Malta, Netherlands

**MOST PROGRESS 2010-2013:** Finland, Poland, Luxembourg

	2013 Total	Trend	2013	
			Age 4	Age 5+
<b>EU</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>96.0</b>
Belgium	98.1	-1.0	98.0	98.1
Bulgaria	87.8	2.5	79.6	92.1
Czech Republic	85.7	-3.8	82.7	88.9
Denmark	98.3	0.2	97.5	99.1
Germany	97.0	0.8	96.3	97.7
Estonia	90.4	-0.0	91.0	90.0
Ireland	97.2	-2.8	94.5	100.0
Greece	76.4	2.4	58.0	95.7
Spain	97.1	-0.8	96.7	97.5
France	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Croatia	71.4	1.0	57.8	78.6
Italy	98.7	-0.3	98.5	98.9
Cyprus	84.3	-1.0	72.2	97.2
Latvia	94.1	3.8	89.3	96.6
Lithuania	86.5	2.7	80.7	89.6
Luxembourg	99.4	4.8	99.3	99.3
Hungary	94.7	0.4	93.1	96.2
Malta	100.0	1.4	100.0	:
Netherlands	99.5	-0.1	99.7	99.3
Austria	93.9	1.8	91.4	96.5
Poland	83.8	7.5	66.4	93.4
Portugal	93.9	2.8	90.4	97.5
Romania	86.4	-0.8	83.3	89.5
Slovenia	89.8	1.3	89.0	90.7
Slovakia	77.5	0.6	73.8	81.4
Finland	84.0	10.9	74.7	88.7
Sweden	95.7	0.6	94.5	96.4
UK	96.1	0.4	96.1	:
Iceland	96.2	0.4	96.8	95.6
Liechtenstein	84.3	-0.9	51.7	100.0
Norway	97.4	0.3	97.1	97.6
Albania	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
MK*	33.4	3.8	27.7	39.2
Serbia	:	:	:	:
Turkey	54.7	16.0	35.6	73.8

**A CLOSER LOOK:** Research shows that participation rates amongst the most disadvantaged are generally low, which means the potential of ECEC to tackle inequalities early remains under-exploited. In this context, parental support measures can particularly be strengthened across Europe, with almost half of the Member States not offering home learning guidance or parenting programmes.

Source: Eurostat (UOE). Notes: [1] the age for starting ISCED 1 is different from country to country. See Section 3.1 of the Education and Training Monitor 2015 for more information ([ec.europa.eu/education/monitor](http://ec.europa.eu/education/monitor)). The trend depicted refers to the 2010-2013 change in percentage points.

## 4. Underachievement in reading, maths and science

**BENCHMARK 2020:** The share of 15 year-olds with underachievement in reading, mathematics and science [1] should be less than 15%.

### BEST EU PERFORMERS:

Reading: Estonia, Ireland, Poland

Maths: Estonia, Finland, Poland

Science: Estonia, Finland, Poland

	2012 Reading	Trend	2012 Maths	Trend	2012 Science	Trend
<b>EU</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Belgium	16.1	-1.6	19.0	-0.1	17.7	-0.3
Bulgaria	39.4	-1.6	43.8	-3.3	36.9	-1.9
Czech Republic	16.9	-6.2	21.0	-1.3	13.8	-3.5
Denmark	14.6	-0.6	16.8	-0.3	16.7	0.1
Germany	14.5	-4.0	17.7	-0.9	12.2	-2.6
Estonia	9.1	-4.2	10.5	-2.1	5.0	-3.3
Ireland	9.6	-7.6	16.9	-3.9	11.1	-4.1
Greece	22.6	1.3	35.7	5.4	25.5	0.2
Spain	18.3	-1.3	23.6	-0.1	15.7	-2.5
France	18.9	-0.9	22.4	-0.1	18.7	-0.6
Croatia	18.7	-3.7	29.9	-3.3	17.3	-1.2
Italy	19.5	-1.5	24.7	-0.2	18.7	-1.9
Cyprus	32.8	:	42.0	:	38.0	:
Latvia	17.0	-0.6	19.9	-2.7	12.4	-2.3
Lithuania	21.2	-3.2	26.0	-0.3	16.1	-0.9
Luxembourg	22.2	-3.8	24.3	0.4	22.2	-1.5
Hungary	19.7	2.1	28.1	5.8	18.0	3.9
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	14.0	-0.3	14.8	1.4	13.1	-0.1
Austria	19.5	-8.0	18.7	-4.5	15.8	-5.2
Poland	10.6	-4.4	14.4	-6.1	9.0	-4.1
Portugal	18.8	1.2	24.9	1.2	19.0	2.5
Romania	37.3	-3.1	40.8	-6.2	37.3	-4.1
Slovenia	21.1	-0.1	20.1	-0.2	12.9	-1.9
Slovakia	28.2	6.0	27.5	6.5	26.9	7.6
Finland	11.3	3.2	12.3	4.5	7.7	1.7
Sweden	22.7	5.3	27.1	6.0	22.2	3.1
UK	16.6	-1.8	21.8	1.6	15.0	0.0
Iceland	21.0	4.2	21.5	4.5	24.0	6.1
Liechtenstein	12.4	-3.2	14.1	4.6	10.4	-0.9
Norway	16.2	1.3	22.3	4.1	19.6	3.8
Albania	52.3	7.0	60.7	-7.0	53.1	-4.2
Montenegro	43.3	-0.4	56.6	-1.8	50.7	-2.9
MK*	:	:	:	:	:	:
Serbia	33.1	2.3	38.9	-1.7	35.0	0.6
Turkey	21.6	-2.1	42.0	-0.1	26.4	-3.6

**A CLOSER LOOK:** The persisting determinants of underachievement are, inter alia, socio-economic status, immigrant background and gender. But structural and institutional characteristics also play their part, with access to quality education and ability grouping still penalising under-represented groups disproportionately.

Source: OECD (PISA 2009, 2012). Notes: [1] low achievement means failing Level 2 on the PISA scale for reading, mathematics or science. The trend depicted refers to the 2009-2012 change in percentage points.

## 5. Employment rate of recent graduates

**BENCHMARK 2020:** 82% of recent graduates from upper secondary to tertiary education (age group 20-34) who are no longer in education or training should be in employment.

**BEST EU PERFORMERS:** Malta, Germany, Netherlands

**MOST PROGRESS 2011-2014:** Lithuania, Bulgaria, Estonia

	2014 Total	Trend	2014	
			ISCED 3-4	ISCED 5-8
<b>EU</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>80.5</b>
Belgium	79.0	-1.8	67.4	86.2
Bulgaria	65.4	6.2	52.6	74.5
Czech Republic	81.3	0.6	81.2	81.4
Denmark	83.8	0.8	81.0	86.4
Germany	90.0	1.7	87.7	93.1
Estonia	81.0	5.9	74.4	87.0
Ireland	73.9	3.0	56.8	83.7
Greece	44.3	-6.1	38.8	47.4
Spain	65.1	-2.0	54.7	68.6
France	75.4	-2.2	66.9	80.4
Croatia	62.0	-0.7	47.3	72.2
Italy	45.0	-12.7	38.3	52.9
Cyprus	68.7	-3.8	54.6	72.4
Latvia	77.0	5.4	65.2	86.0
Lithuania	80.7	11.2	70.3	87.2
Luxembourg	83.8	-2.3	78.2	86.4
Hungary	78.5	5.1	72.6	85.7
Malta	91.7	0.3	86.8	94.6
Netherlands	87.3	-4.9	83.4	90.6
Austria	87.2	-3.3	86.0	88.5
Poland	75.6	0.3	65.6	83.7
Portugal	69.4	-6.4	65.2	73.6
Romania	66.2	-4.6	57.2	74.2
Slovenia	70.1	-5.9	62.5	74.3
Slovakia	72.7	2.6	68.3	76.7
Finland	77.0	-1.4	74.0	81.5
Sweden	85.0	0.4	79.7	90.8
UK	83.2	2.2	78.5	86.2
Iceland	87.7	0.2	84.8	90.7
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:
Norway	86.1	:	85.9	86.6
Albania	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
MK*	42.6	-3.3	33.8	48.6
Serbia	:	:	:	:
Turkey	62.5	1.4	49.4	66.6

**A CLOSER LOOK:** Better aligning education provision with labour market needs requires a more systematic use of information coming from labour market forecasting or graduate tracking surveys. Introducing more work-based learning, and particularly apprenticeships, strengthens links between the needs of employers and the education and training provided in vocational and tertiary programmes.

Source: Eurostat (LFS). Notes: the indicator measures the employment rate of 20 to 34 year-olds, who graduated from ISCED 3-8 one to three years earlier and who are no longer in education or training. The trend depicted refers to the 2011-2014 change in percentage points.

## 6. Adult participation in learning

**BENCHMARK 2020:** An average of at least 15% of adults (age group 25-64) should participate in formal or non-formal learning [1].

**BEST EU PERFORMERS:** Denmark, Sweden, Finland

**MOST PROGRESS 2011-2014:** France, Sweden, Italy

	2014 Total	Trend	2014		
			ISCED 0-2	ISCED 3-4	ISCED 5-8
<b>EU</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>18.8</b>
Belgium	7.1	0.0	3.0	5.4	11.8
Bulgaria	1.8	0.5	:	1.7	3.1
Czech Republic	9.3	-2.1	2.1	7.6	17.5
Denmark	31.7	-0.6	22.8	28.3	40.7
Germany	7.9	0.1	3.3	7.0	12.0
Estonia	11.5	-0.4	(3.3)	7.8	18.3
Ireland	6.7	-0.1	2.3	5.8	9.8
Greece	3.0	0.5	0.4	3.2	5.4
Spain	9.8	-1.2	3.8	9.6	17.5
France	18.6	13.1	8.1	15.5	29.7
Croatia	2.5	-0.1	:	2.3	5.2
Italy	8.0	2.3	2.2	9.4	18.7
Cyprus	6.9	-0.6	(1.3)	4.4	12.2
Latvia	5.5	0.4	(2.2)	4.1	9.4
Lithuania	5.0	-0.7	:	2.8	9.0
Luxembourg	14.0	0.4	7.3	12.0	18.2
Hungary	3.2	0.6	2.0	2.6	5.5
Malta	7.1	0.7	2.8	8.2	18.8
Netherlands	17.8	1.1	8.8	17.6	24.9
Austria	14.2	0.8	5.0	11.3	24.6
Poland	4.0	-0.4	(0.7)	2.0	9.7
Portugal	9.3	-2.2	4.2	11.9	20.1
Romania	1.5	0.1	(0.3)	1.6	3.0
Slovenia	11.9	-4.0	3.1	9.6	21.0
Slovakia	3.0	-0.9	:	2.2	6.8
Finland	25.1	1.3	13.0	21.6	32.9
Sweden	28.9	4.0	19.6	24.2	38.4
UK	15.8	0.1	7.4	13.1	23.1
Iceland	25.9	0.0	17.5	23.0	34.9
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	19.7	1.5	11.9	16.0	26.3
Albania	:	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:
MK*	3.1	-0.3	(0.3)	3.3	8.2
Serbia	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	5.0	2.1	2.5	7.9	12.6

**A CLOSER LOOK:** Strong examples of policy levers to strengthen the effectiveness of adult learning interventions are co-financing schemes to support employers' investment in adult learning provision, financing of learning programmes for disadvantaged groups, and the alignment of training provision with the identified future skills needs of employers.

Source: Eurostat (LFS). Notes: [1] the indicator covers formal and non-formal learning but excludes informal learning. The trend depicted refers to the 2011-2014 change in percentage points.


## General notes:

The percentage point trends and progress shown in this leaflet are calculated with 1-decimal figures and do not exclude any intermediate breaks in series.

( ) = data lack reliability due to small sample size

: = data either not available or not reliable due to very small sample size

\*MK = Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

 Member States that have reached EU benchmark at national level for the given year

ISCED: International Standard Classification of Education (2011)

- 0 Early childhood education
- 1 Primary education
- 2 Lower secondary education
- 3 Upper secondary education
- 4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education
- 5 Short-cycle tertiary education
- 6 Bachelor's or equivalent level
- 7 Master's or equivalent level
- 8 Doctoral or equivalent level

For further descriptions, analysis and notes see the Education and Training Monitor 2015 ([ec.europa.eu/education/monitor](http://ec.europa.eu/education/monitor))



compare countries and sub-groups across time with the online visualisation tool

[ec.europa.eu/education/monitor](http://ec.europa.eu/education/monitor)

European Commission  
 Directorate-General for Education and Culture  
 B-1049 Bruxelles / Brussel  
 Tel (32-2) 229 53 980  
[eac-monitor@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eac-monitor@ec.europa.eu)

