

## Europe 2020 education indicators in 2014

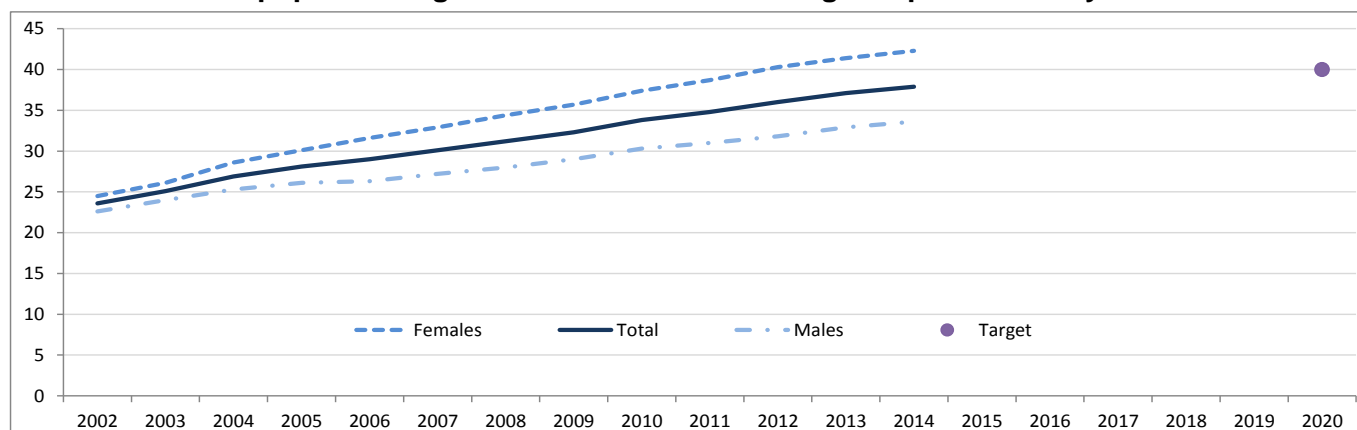
# The EU is moving closer to its Europe 2020 goals on education

Europe 2020<sup>1</sup> is the European Union’s ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Among its headline targets, two are related to education to monitor access to the labour market and employability: increasing the proportion of persons having completed tertiary education<sup>2</sup> and reducing the share of early leavers from education and training<sup>3</sup>.

Today, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes the most recent data for the EU and its Member States on achievement against these targets.

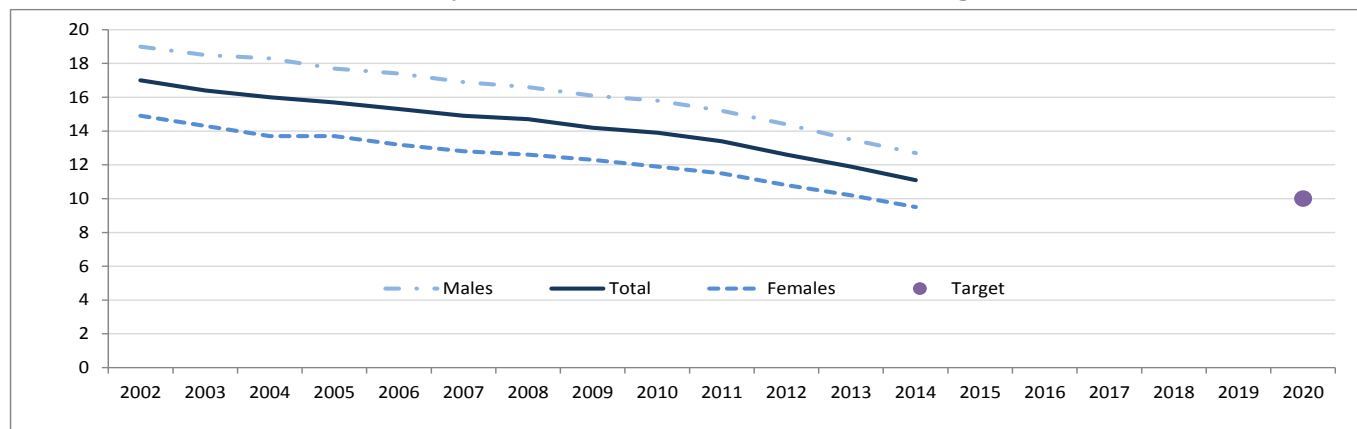
The share of persons aged 30 to 34 in the **EU** who have completed tertiary education has constantly increased, from 23.6% in 2002 when the series started to 37.9% in 2014. This pattern was even more significant for women (from 24.5% in 2002 to 42.3% in 2014) than men (from 22.6% to 33.6%). The Europe 2020 strategy’s target is that at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds in the **EU** should have completed tertiary education by 2020.

**Share of population aged 30 to 34 in the EU having completed tertiary education**



In addition, the share of early school leavers has steadily decreased in the **EU**, from 17.0% in 2002 to 11.1% in 2014. Women are less affected by early leaving from education and training than men. The Europe 2020 target is to reduce the rates of early school leaving in the **EU** to below 10% by 2020.

**Share of early leavers from education and training in the EU**



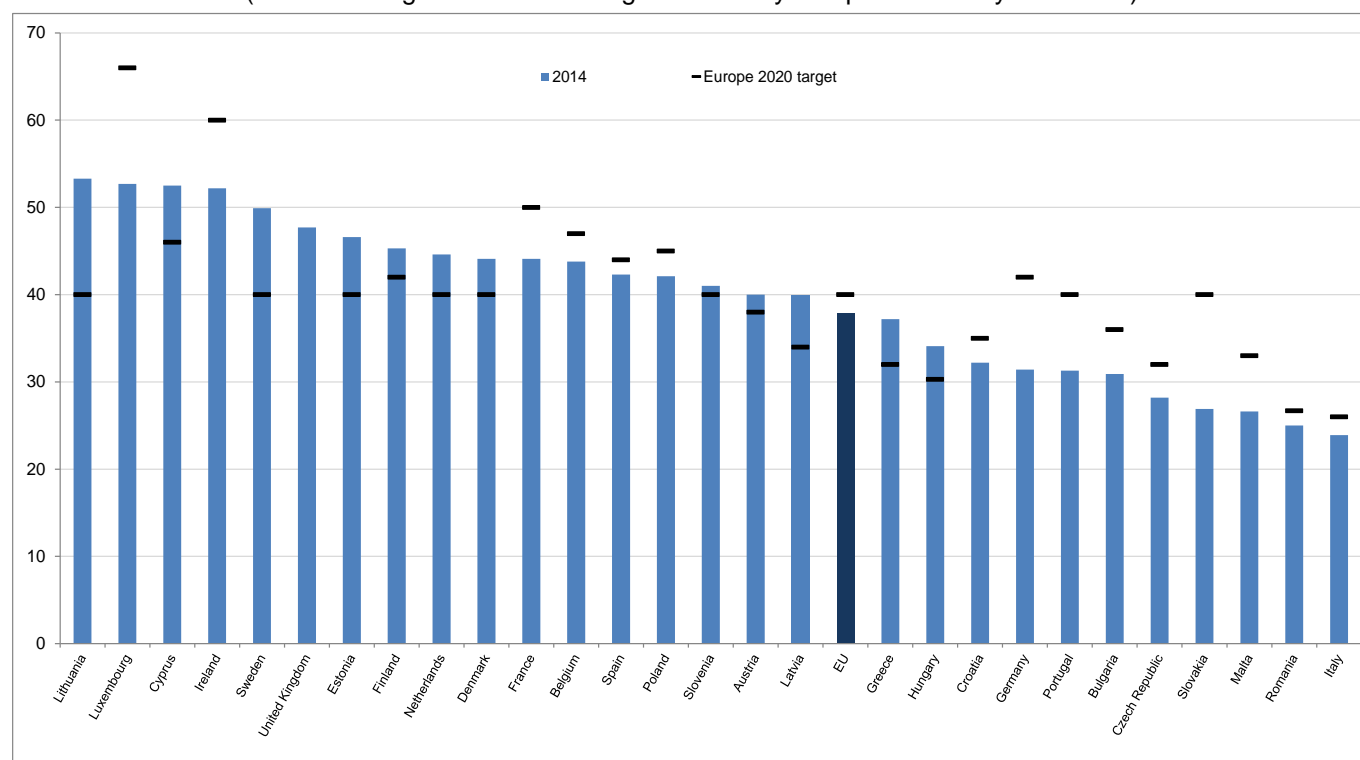
## Highest proportion of persons aged 30-34 with tertiary education in Lithuania, lowest in Italy

In 2014, the proportion of those aged 30 to 34 who had completed tertiary education increased compared with 2002 in every Member State for which the time-series is available.

In 2014, more than half of the population aged 30 to 34 had completed tertiary education in **Lithuania** (53.3%), **Luxembourg** (52.7%), **Cyprus** (52.5%) and **Ireland** (52.2%). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest proportions were observed in **Italy** (23.9%), **Romania** (25.0%), **Malta** (26.6%), **Slovakia** (26.9%) and the **Czech Republic** (28.2%). Twelve Member States have already met or exceeded their 2020 national targets for this indicator: Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden.

It should be noted that the share of persons aged 30 to 34 who have completed tertiary education is higher in 2014 for women than men in all Member States, except **Germany**.

**Tertiary educational attainment in the EU Member States**  
(% of those aged 30 to 34 having successfully completed tertiary education)



No national target for the United Kingdom.

The national target for Germany includes post-secondary non-tertiary education (International Standard Classification of Education 1997 level 4).

## Lowest shares of early school leavers in Croatia and Slovenia, highest in Spain and Malta

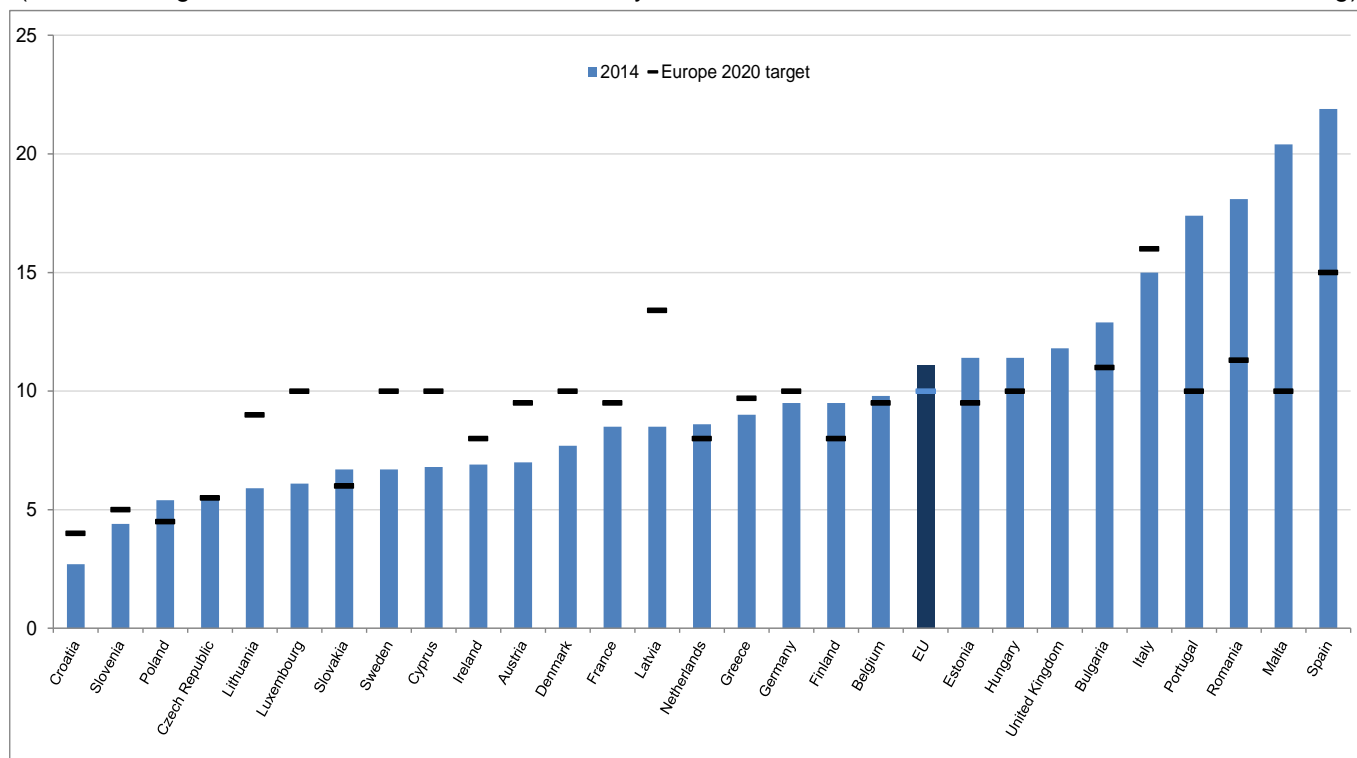
Compared with 2006, the proportion of early leavers from education and training decreased in 2014 in all Member States for which the time-series is available, except the **Czech Republic**, **Poland**, **Romania** and **Slovakia** where it slightly increased or remained stable. In contrast, the proportion halved in **Portugal** (from 38.5% in 2006 to 17.4% in 2014).

In 2014, the lowest proportions of early school leavers were observed in **Croatia** (2.7%), **Slovenia** (4.4%), **Poland** (5.4%), the **Czech Republic** (5.5%) and **Lithuania** (5.9%), while shares of at least 15% were recorded in **Spain** (21.9%), **Malta** (20.4%), **Romania** (18.1%), **Portugal** (17.4%) and **Italy** (15.0%). Fifteen Member States have already fulfilled their 2020 national targets for this indicator: the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Austria, Slovenia and Sweden.

In 2014, the share of early leavers from education and training was lower for women than men in all Member States, except **Bulgaria**.

## Early leavers from education and training in the EU Member States

(% of those aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and who were not in further education or training)



No national target for the United Kingdom.

- For more information on the Europe 2020 strategy: [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm). More detailed information about the Europe 2020 indicators are presented on the dedicated section of the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy> as well as in the Eurostat publication **“Smarter, greener, more inclusive? - Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy”** (2015 edition). PDF-version available on the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/product?code=KS-EZ-14-001>
- The indicator is defined as the percentage of the population aged 30-34 who have successfully completed tertiary studies (e.g. university, higher technical institution, etc.). This educational attainment refers to ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) 2011 level 5-8 for data from 2014 onwards and to ISCED 1997 level 5-6 for data up to 2013. Data are however comparable over time for all Member States, except Austria. The indicator is based on the EU Labour Force Survey.
- The indicator is defined as the percentage of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and who were not in further education or training during the last four weeks preceding the survey. Lower secondary education refers to ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) 2011 level 0-2 for data from 2014 onwards and to ISCED 1997 level 0-3C short for data up to 2013. Data are however comparable over time for all Member States. The indicator is based on the EU Labour Force Survey.

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**Tertiary educational attainment**  
(% of those aged 30 to 34 having successfully completed tertiary education)

|                | 2002        | 2013        | 2014        |             |             | Headline target<br>Europe 2020 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                | Total       |             | Total       | Men         | Women       |                                |
| <b>EU</b>      | <b>23.6</b> | <b>37.1</b> | <b>37.9</b> | <b>33.6</b> | <b>42.3</b> | <b>40.0</b>                    |
| Belgium        | 35.2        | 42.7        | 43.8        | 37.4        | 50.2        | 47.0                           |
| Bulgaria       | 23.2        | 29.4        | 30.9        | 23.4        | 39.0        | 36.0                           |
| Czech Republic | 12.6        | 26.7        | 28.2        | 24.2        | 32.5        | 32.0                           |
| Denmark        | 34.2        | 43.4        | (44.1)      | (38.4)      | (50.0)      | 40.0                           |
| Germany        | 24.2        | 32.9        | 31.4        | 32.0        | 30.8        | 42.0*                          |
| Estonia        | 27.7        | 43.7        | 46.6        | 35.6        | 58.2        | 40.0                           |
| Ireland        | 32.0        | 52.6        | 52.2        | 45.1        | 58.6        | 60.0                           |
| Greece         | 23.5        | 34.9        | 37.2        | 32.9        | 41.6        | 32.0                           |
| Spain          | 34.4        | 42.3        | 42.3        | 36.8        | 47.8        | 44.0                           |
| France         | 31.5        | 44.1        | 44.1        | 39.6        | 48.4        | 50.0                           |
| Croatia        | 16.2        | 25.6        | 32.2        | 25.6        | 39.0        | 35.0                           |
| Italy          | 13.1        | 22.5        | 23.9        | 18.8        | 29.1        | 26.0                           |
| Cyprus         | 36.0        | 47.8        | 52.5        | 46.0        | 58.2        | 46.0                           |
| Latvia         | 17.3        | 40.7        | 39.9        | 27.8        | 52.3        | 34.0                           |
| Lithuania      | 23.4        | 51.3        | 53.3        | 44.0        | 62.7        | 40.0                           |
| Luxembourg     | :           | 52.5        | 52.7        | 49.8        | 55.4        | 66.0                           |
| Hungary        | 14.4        | 32.3        | 34.1        | 28.0        | 40.3        | 30.3                           |
| Malta          | 9.3         | 26.0        | 26.6        | 22.9        | 30.5        | 33.0                           |
| Netherlands    | 28.6        | 43.1        | 44.6        | 41.3        | 47.9        | 40.0                           |
| Austria        | :           | :           | 40.0        | 38.3        | 41.6        | 38.0                           |
| Poland         | 14.4        | 40.5        | 42.1        | 34.2        | 50.2        | 45.0                           |
| Portugal       | 12.9        | 30.0        | 31.3        | 23.2        | 38.9        | 40.0                           |
| Romania        | 9.1         | 22.9        | 25.0        | 22.9        | 27.2        | 26.7                           |
| Slovenia       | 20.7        | 40.1        | 41.0        | 30.0        | 53.7        | 40.0                           |
| Slovakia       | 10.5        | 26.9        | 26.9        | 22.5        | 31.5        | 40.0                           |
| Finland        | 41.2        | 45.1        | 45.3        | 38.2        | 52.6        | 42.0                           |
| Sweden         | 28.3        | 48.3        | 49.9        | 42.4        | 57.9        | 40.0                           |
| United Kingdom | 31.5        | 47.4        | 47.7        | 44.2        | 51.1        | -                              |

\* The national target for Germany includes post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 1997 level 4).

: Break in the series for Luxembourg in 2009 and for Austria in 2014. Data not comparable before those years and therefore not shown.

() Data with reduced reliability due to high non-response rate.

- No national target for the United Kingdom.

## Early leavers from education and training

(% of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and who are currently not in further education or training)

|                       | 2006        | 2013        | 2014        |             |            | Headline target<br>Europe 2020 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|
|                       | Total       |             | Total       | Men         | Women      |                                |
| <b>EU</b>             | <b>15.3</b> | <b>11.9</b> | <b>11.1</b> | <b>12.7</b> | <b>9.5</b> | <b>10.0</b>                    |
| <b>Belgium</b>        | 12.6        | 11.0        | 9.8         | 11.8        | 7.7        | 9.5                            |
| <b>Bulgaria</b>       | 17.3        | 12.5        | 12.9        | 12.8        | 12.9       | 11.0                           |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | 5.1         | 5.4         | 5.5         | 5.8         | 5.2        | 5.5                            |
| <b>Denmark</b>        | :           | 8.0         | 7.7         | 9.3         | 6.0        | 10.0                           |
| <b>Germany</b>        | 13.7        | 9.8         | 9.5         | 10.0        | 8.9        | 10.0                           |
| <b>Estonia</b>        | 13.4        | 9.7         | 11.4        | 15.3        | 7.5        | 9.5                            |
| <b>Ireland</b>        | 12.2        | 8.4         | 6.9         | 8.0         | 5.7        | 8.0                            |
| <b>Greece</b>         | 15.1        | 10.1        | 9.0         | 11.5        | 6.6        | 9.7                            |
| <b>Spain</b>          | 30.3        | 23.6        | 21.9        | 25.6        | 18.1       | 15.0                           |
| <b>France</b>         | :           | 9.7         | 8.5         | 9.5         | 7.4        | 9.5                            |
| <b>Croatia</b>        | (4.7)       | 4.5         | (2.7)       | (3.1)       | (2.3)      | 4.0                            |
| <b>Italy</b>          | 20.4        | 16.8        | 15.0        | 17.7        | 12.2       | 16.0                           |
| <b>Cyprus</b>         | 14.9        | 9.1         | 6.8         | 11.2        | (2.9)      | 10.0                           |
| <b>Latvia</b>         | 15.6        | 9.8         | 8.5         | 11.7        | 5.1        | 13.4                           |
| <b>Lithuania</b>      | 8.8         | 6.3         | 5.9         | 7.0         | (4.6)      | 9.0                            |
| <b>Luxembourg</b>     | :           | 6.1         | 6.1         | 8.3         | (3.7)      | 10.0                           |
| <b>Hungary</b>        | 12.5        | 11.9        | 11.4        | 12.5        | 10.3       | 10.0                           |
| <b>Malta</b>          | 32.2        | 20.5        | 20.4        | 22.3        | 18.3       | 10.0                           |
| <b>Netherlands</b>    | 12.6        | 9.2         | 8.6         | 10.3        | 6.8        | 8.0                            |
| <b>Austria</b>        | 10.0        | 7.5         | 7.0         | 7.6         | 6.5        | 9.5                            |
| <b>Poland</b>         | 5.4         | 5.6         | 5.4         | 7.3         | 3.3        | 4.5                            |
| <b>Portugal</b>       | 38.5        | 18.9        | 17.4        | 20.7        | 14.1       | 10.0                           |
| <b>Romania</b>        | 17.9        | 17.3        | 18.1        | 19.5        | 16.7       | 11.3                           |
| <b>Slovenia</b>       | 5.6         | 3.9         | 4.4         | 6.0         | (2.7)      | 5.0                            |
| <b>Slovakia</b>       | 6.6         | 6.4         | 6.7         | 6.9         | 6.6        | 6.0                            |
| <b>Finland</b>        | 9.7         | 9.3         | 9.5         | 11.9        | 7.2        | 8.0                            |
| <b>Sweden</b>         | 8.6         | 7.1         | 6.7         | 7.3         | 6.0        | 10.0                           |
| <b>United Kingdom</b> | :           | 12.3        | 11.8        | 12.8        | 10.7       | -                              |

Due to breaks in the series, data before 2006 have a limited comparability at Member State level.

: Break in the series for Denmark and the United Kingdom in 2007, for Luxembourg in 2009 and for France in 2013. Data not comparable before those years and therefore not shown.

( ) Data with reduced reliability due to sample size.

- No national target for the United Kingdom