

Europe 2020 Strategy

Positive developments since 2008 in the EU on education, climate change and energy...

... but limited or no progress for employment, poverty and R&D

The Europe 2020 strategy, adopted by the European Council in June 2010, aims at establishing a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy with high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. The key objectives of the strategy are expressed in the form of targets in five areas: employment, research & development (R&D), climate change & energy, education and poverty reduction, to be reached by 2020. These have been translated into national targets in order to reflect the situation and possibilities of each Member State to contribute to the common goal. A set of nine headline indicators and additional sub-indicators, compiled by Eurostat, give an overview of how close the **European Union (EU)** is to its overall targets.

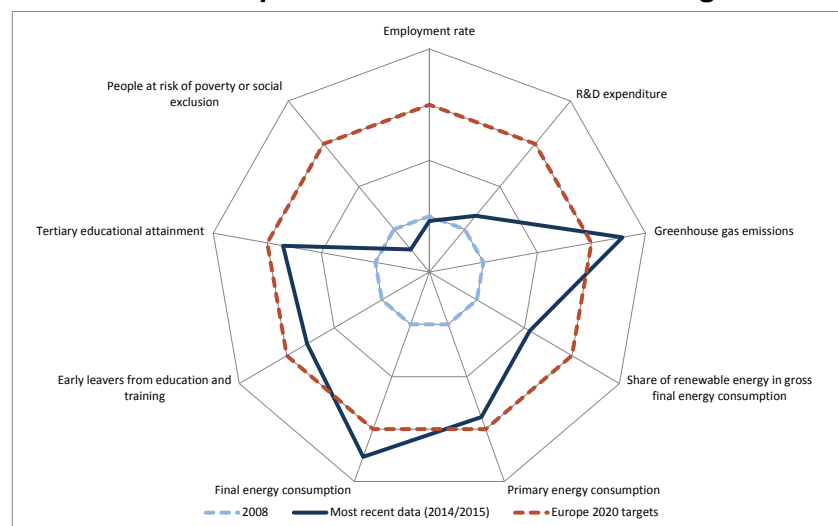
Today **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, issues the 2016 edition of the publication “**Smarter, greener, more inclusive?**”, which provides information on past trends and latest statistics useful to support the Europe 2020 strategy and to back up the monitoring towards its Europe 2020 targets.

A complete picture of how the EU is progressing towards its Europe 2020 targets

The analysis in the Eurostat publication is based on the Europe 2020 headline indicators used to monitor the strategy's targets. Other indicators focusing on specific subgroups of society or on related issues that show underlying trends are used to deepen the analysis and present a broader picture. The purpose of the publication is not to predict whether Europe 2020 targets will be reached, but to help to understand the factors behind the changes observed so far. Each chapter also links to various European Commission initiatives and reports that support the different areas.

The radar chart below presents the current situation of the EU by showing the progress made since 2008 and the distance still to cover towards the Europe 2020 key targets.

Europe 2020 headline indicators: target values and progress since 2008



Since 2008 substantial progress has been made both in the area of climate change and energy (through the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption combined with an increase in the use of renewable energy sources).

Positive developments are also visible in the area of education (through the increase in the rate of tertiary educational attainment and the reduction in the number of early leavers from education and training).

Progress has been more limited for R&D expenditure, while the distance to the employment and poverty targets has increased.

What is the situation in each EU Member State?

The five thematic chapters of the publication are followed by a country profile for each Member State. These country profiles give 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

	Headline indicator	Past situation	Current situation		2020 Target
		2008	2014	2015	
Employment	Employment rate, total (% of the population aged 20-64)	70.3	69.2	70.1	≥75.0
	Employment rate, females (% of the female population aged 20-64)	62.8	63.5	64.3	-
	Employment rate, males (% of the male population aged 20-64)	77.8	75.0	75.9	-
R&D	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% of GDP)	1.85	2.03 ^p	:	≥3.00
Climate change & energy	Greenhouse gas emissions (index 1990=100)	90.3	77.1	:	≤80.0
	Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (%)	11.0	16.0	:	≥20.0
	Primary energy consumption (Million tonnes of oil equivalent)	1 693	1 507	:	≤1 483
	Final energy consumption (Million tonnes of oil equivalent)	1 180	1 061	:	≤1 086
Education	Early leavers from education & training, total (% of population aged 18-24)	14.7	11.2	11.0	<10.0
	Early leavers from education & training, females (% of the female population aged 18-24)	12.7	9.6	9.5	-
	Early leavers from education & training, males (% of the male population aged 18-24)	16.6	12.8	12.4	-
	Tertiary educational attainment, total (% of population aged 30-34)	31.1	37.9	38.7	≥40.0
	Tertiary educational attainment, females (% of the female population aged 30-34)	34.4	42.3	43.4	-
	Tertiary educational attainment, males (% of the male population aged 30-34)	28.0	33.6	34.0	-
Poverty or social exclusion*	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (million)	116.2	120.9	:	≤96.2
	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (% of total population)	23.7	24.4	:	-
	People living in households with very low work intensity (%)	9.2	11.1	:	-
	People at risk of poverty after social transfers (%)	16.5	17.2	:	-
	Severely materially deprived people (%)	8.5	8.9	:	-

* The Europe 2020 target on poverty and social exclusion was defined for the EU excluding Croatia (EU27). Data presented in this table therefore refer to EU27. For information, the current number of person at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU28 is 122.2 million (or 24.4% of the population). For the subcomponents, the EU28 current values are: People living in households with very low work intensity (11.2%), People at risk of poverty after social transfers (17.2%) and Severely materially deprived people (8.9%).

p provisional
: Data not available
- not applicable

Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, 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 (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and methane (CH₄), contributing to global warming and climate change. Converting them to carbon dioxide (or CO₂) 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 CO₂, 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.

Persons 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.

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 [website section](#) dedicated to the Europe 2020 strategy.

Eurostat [scoreboard](#) on Europe 2020 headline indicators.

Eurostat [PDF publication](#) "**Smarter, greener, more inclusive? - Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy**" (2016 edition). Also available as set of [Statistics Explained articles](#).

European Commission [website](#) dedicated to the Europe 2020 strategy.

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