

105/2019 - 28 June 2019

Eurostat monitoring report

How has the EU progressed towards the Sustainable Development Goals?

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 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 - 2019 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 three SDGs and moderate progress for most others over the past 5-year period

Overall, based on the indicators selected to monitor these goals in an EU context, the EU made progress towards most of the 17 SDGs 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 strongest progress over the last 5 years towards the overall achievement of SDG 3 '**good health and well-being**', followed by SDG 1 '**no poverty**' and SDG 8 '**decent work and economic growth**'.

For nine SDGs, the EU made overall moderate progress over the past five years. Such moderate trends are visible for SDG 4 '**quality education**', SDG 11 '**sustainable cities and communities**', SDG 17 '**partnership for the goals**', SDG 2 '**zero hunger**', SDG 5 '**gender equality**', SDG 10 '**reduced inequalities**', SDG 7 '**affordable and clean energy**', SDG 12 '**responsible consumption and production**' and SDG 15 '**life on land**'.

SDG 13 '**climate action**' and SDG 9 '**industry, innovation and infrastructure**' are characterised by mixed positive and negative developments of the indicators.

In the case of three goals – SDG 6 '**clean water and sanitation**', SDG 14 '**life below water**' and SDG 16 '**peace, justice and strong institutions**' – 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.

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, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

For more information

Eurostat publication of 2019 edition of monitoring report: "Sustainable development in the European Union — Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in the an EU context - 2019 edition"

Eurostat brochure: "Sustainable development in the European Union. Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context"

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" COM(2016)739

Commission Reflection paper: "Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030"


UN webpage dedicated to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**


Renata PALEN
Tel.: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu


Production of the publication:

Simon-Johannes BLEY
Tel.: +352 4301-35 420
Simon-Johannes.BLEY@ec.europa.eu

 [EurostatStatistics](https://www.facebook.com/EurostatStatistics)

 [@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu