Sustainable development in the European Union

Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

2026 edition



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EUROSTAT SUPPORTS THE SDGs

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Sustainable development in the EU

Sustainable development has been at the heart of European policy for a long time, firmly anchored in the European Treaties. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, have given a new impetus to global efforts to achieve sustainable development. The EU has fully committed itself to delivering on the 2030 Agenda and its implementation. Regular monitoring of EU progress towards the SDGs is essential for this purpose.

EU SDG indicator set

This regular monitoring is based on the EU SDG indicator set, developed in cooperation with a large number of partners and stakeholders. The indicator set comprises 102 indicators, six for each of the 17 SDGs. Thirty-four of these indicators relate to more than one goal ('multi-purpose') and are thus repeated under a second SDG. Two thirds of the indicators are aligned with UN SDG indicators, others are EU specific.

Monitoring progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

This brochure presents a **statistical overview** of the development of the EU SDG indicators over the most recent five- or six-year period ('short term') ([1]). It assesses whether the indicators have moved towards or away from SDG-related EU objectives and targets, as well as the speed of this movement. The EU policy targets used for the assessment are listed in the Annex (see page 42). Illustrative showcases provide insights into indicator developments over longer periods. In other cases, they present differences between countries or other dimensions (such as between men and women) ([2]).

Page 5 presents the **average EU progress** for each of the 17 SDGs. The goal averages are based on the mean score of all indicators for the respective goal, including the multi-purpose indicators. The progress assessment methodology is explained on page 6 and, in more detail, on Eurostat's dedicated website section (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi).

([1]) The specific years of the short-term assessment depend on data availability for the individual indicator. In this year's report, several indicators include data for 2025, which would require using 2020 as the base year to assess five-year trends. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated lockdowns in 2020 constituted an exceptional disruption that affected several areas and associated indicators (for example, GDP growth, employment, transport and energy use). Using 2020 as the base year would show the impact of the pandemic rather than effects of EU policies, which this report aims to monitor. To address this, the pre-pandemic year 2019 is used as the base year for all indicators with available 2025 data, ensuring a clearer reflection of policy impacts.
([2]) Countries of the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) are also shown in these illustrations, but are not included in the EU assessment or in the EU average values.

How has the EU progressed towards the SDGs?

The EU has made progress towards most sustainable development goals over the short-term period, as shown by the average scores for each goal. Progress on some goals has been faster than on others, and within goals, movement away from the sustainable development objectives also occurred in specific areas. A more detailed description of individual indicator developments can be found on the following pages and in the full report 'Sustainable development in the European Union — 2026 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context'.

Over the short-term period, the EU has made significant progress towards five SDGs: 'Decent work and economic growth' (SDG 8), 'Responsible consumption and production' (SDG 12), 'Reduced inequalities' (SDG 10), 'Gender equality' (SDG 5) and 'Quality education' (SDG 4).

The EU has also progressed towards nine other SDGs, but at a moderate pace. Among these goals, the EU has performed best for 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure' (SDG 9) and 'Zero hunger' (SDG 2).

By contrast, no progress was observed for 'Partnerships for the goals' (SDG 17). Moreover, the EU has moved away from the sustainable development objectives of 'Life on land' (SDG 15) and 'Clean water and sanitation' (SDG 6) due to biodiversity loss, water scarcity and deteriorating water quality.

In summary, the EU has made progress towards most SDGs, at varying paces and despite remaining challenges, while it has stagnated on SDG 17 and fallen back on SDG 6 and SDG 15.

Overview of EU progress towards the SDGs over the short term

(Data mainly refer to 2019-2024 or 2019-2025)



EU indicator assessment

The following thematic chapters present the development of the EU indicators over the most recent five- or six-year period for each of the 17 SDGs. Indicators with a quantitative EU target (27 out of the 102 indicators) are marked with a target symbol (◎). Targets exist mainly in the areas of employment, education, climate and energy (see the Annex on page 42). For indicators with a quantitative EU target, the progress towards the target is assessed. For indicators without a quantitative target, the direction and speed of change are assessed. The indicator assessment is presented visually in the form of arrows. The direction of the arrow shows whether an indicator has moved towards or away from the sustainable development objective. The following presentation illustrates the different cases.

Eurostat's publication 'Sustainable development in the European Union — 2026 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context' describes the methodology applied and provides a detailed analysis of progress for the individual indicators.



On track to reach the EU target ◎
or
Significant progress towards SD objectives



Moderate progress towards the EU target ◎
or
Moderate progress towards SD objectives



No progress towards nor movement away from SD objectives (category not applicable to indicators with EU targets ◎)



Insufficient progress towards the EU target ◎
or
Moderate movement away from SD objectives



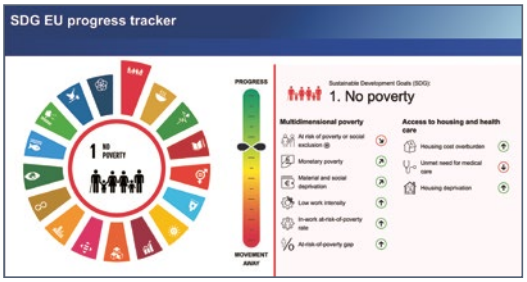
Movement away from the EU target ◎
or
Significant movement away from SD objectives



Assessment not possible (for example, time series too short)

The 2026 EU SDG communication package

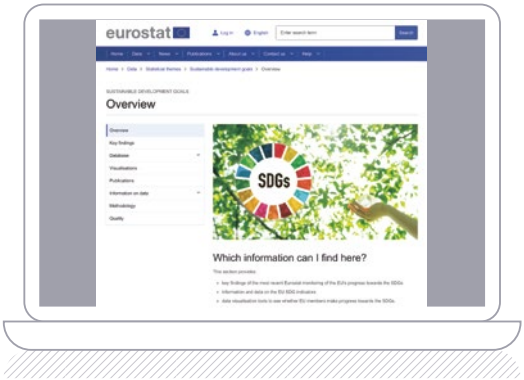
The brochure is part of an EU SDG communication package which comprises a number of products:



Do you want a quick overview of SDG monitoring?
The SDG EU progress tracker is an interactive visualisation tool which gives you a good overview of the indicator assessment at EU level across all the 17 sustainable development goals.

Curious why the SDGs matter to you?
The visualisation tool 'SDGs & me' presents the SDGs in a visual and personalised way, based on a selection of indicators across all 17 SDGs.





Looking for the full overview of all Eurostat SDG products and direct access to all Eurostat SDG publications, indicators, key findings, data and much more?
Eurostat SDG dedicated section (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview).

Interested in obtaining all the details?
The 2026 EU SDG monitoring report provides a detailed description of EU progress towards the 17 SDGs in an EU context.



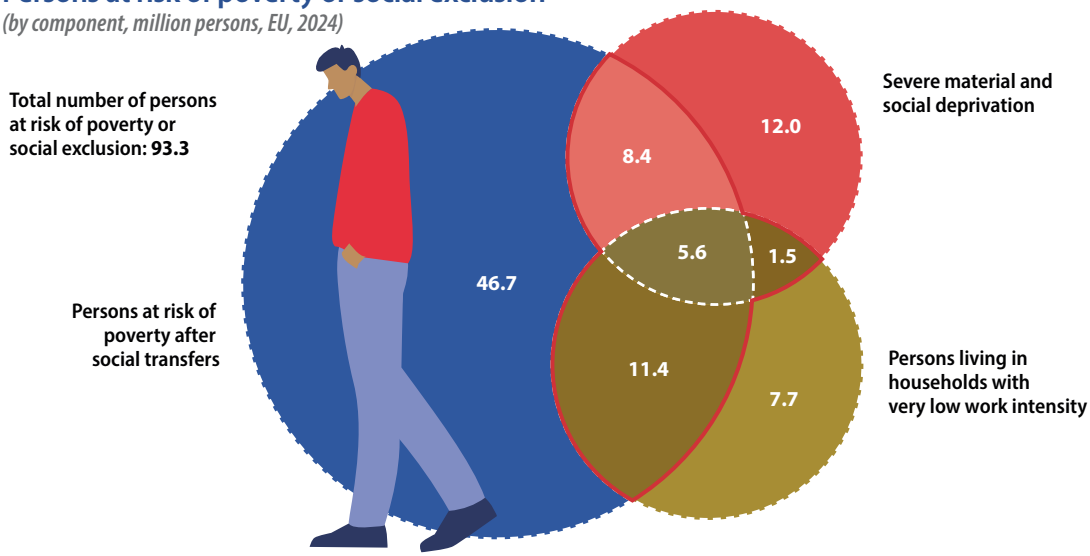
1 NO POVERTY

SDG 1 calls for the eradication of poverty in all its manifestations. It envisions shared prosperity, a basic standard of living and social protection benefits for people everywhere, including the poorest and most vulnerable. Monitoring SDG 1 in an EU context involves tracking aspects related to multidimensional poverty and basic needs.

For further data on SDG 1 please scan the QR code below

Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion

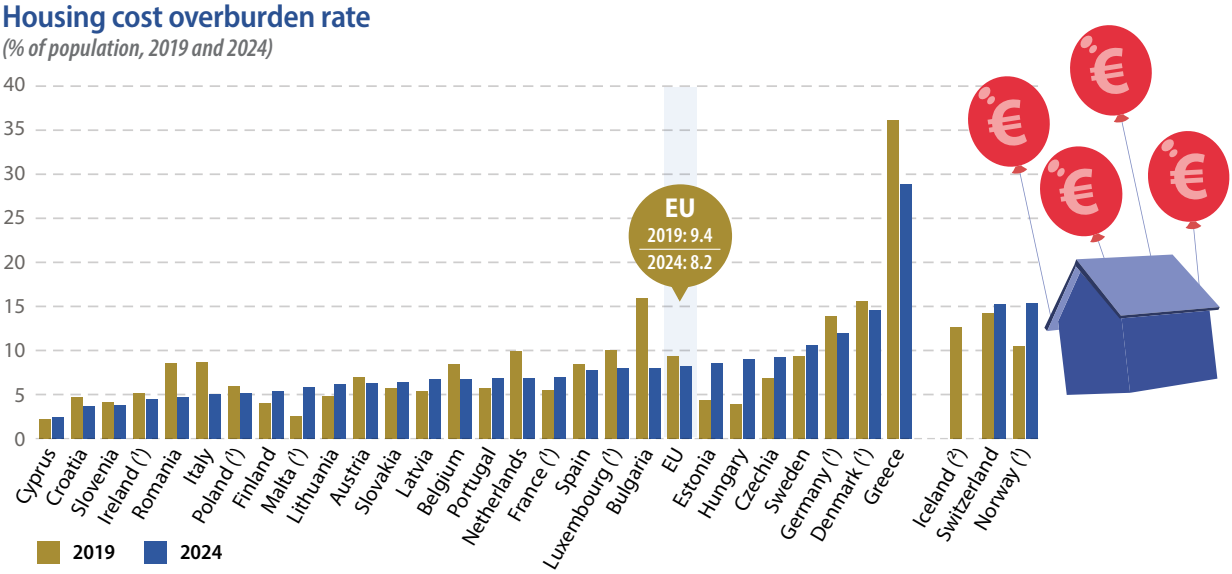
(by component, million persons, EU, 2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_pees01n)

Housing cost overburden rate

(% of population, 2019 and 2024)



(1) Break(s) in time series between the two years shown. (2) No data for 2024. *Source:* Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_50)

Multidimensional poverty

	**At risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2024**	**93.3**	**million persons**	*–2.4 % since 2019*
	**Monetary poverty in 2024**	**72.1**	**million persons**	*–0.2 % since 2019*
	**Material and social deprivation in 2024**	**27.5**	**million persons**	*–1.7 % since 2019*
	**Low work intensity in 2024**	**26.2**	**million persons**	*–0.3 % since 2019*
	**In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate in 2024**	**8.2**	**% of employed persons aged 18 or over**	*–0.9 percentage points since 2019*
	**At-risk-of-poverty gap in 2024**	**22.7**	**% distance to poverty threshold**	*–1.9 percentage points since 2019*

Access to housing and health care

	**Housing cost overburden in 2024**	**8.2**	**% of population**	*–1.2 percentage points since 2019*
	**Unmet need for medical care in 2024**	**2.5**	**% of population aged 16 or over**	*+0.8 percentage points since 2019*
	**Housing deprivation in 2023**	**4.0**	**% of population**	*–0.3 percentage points since 2018*

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sdg_01_10, sdg_01_20, sdg_01_31, sdg_01_40, sdg_01_41, sdg_10_30, sdg_01_50, sdg_03_60 and sdg_11_11)

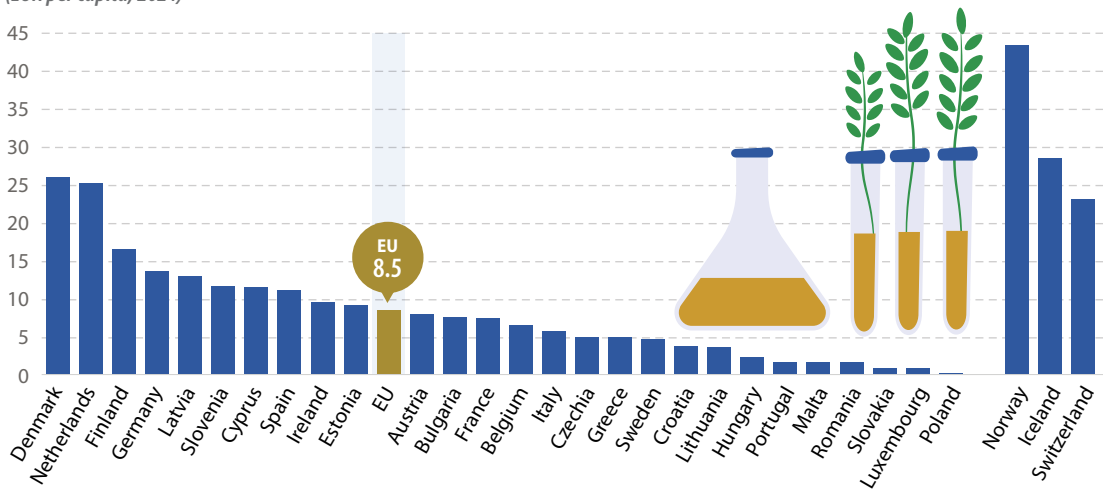
2 ZERO HUNGER

SDG 2 seeks to end hunger and malnutrition and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Realising this goal will largely depend on promoting sustainable production systems and increasing investment in rural infrastructure and agricultural research and development. Monitoring SDG 2 in an EU context includes tracking developments in obesity, the sustainability of agricultural production, and the environmental impacts of agricultural activities on land, water and atmosphere.

For further data on SDG 2 please scan the QR code below

Government support to agricultural research and development

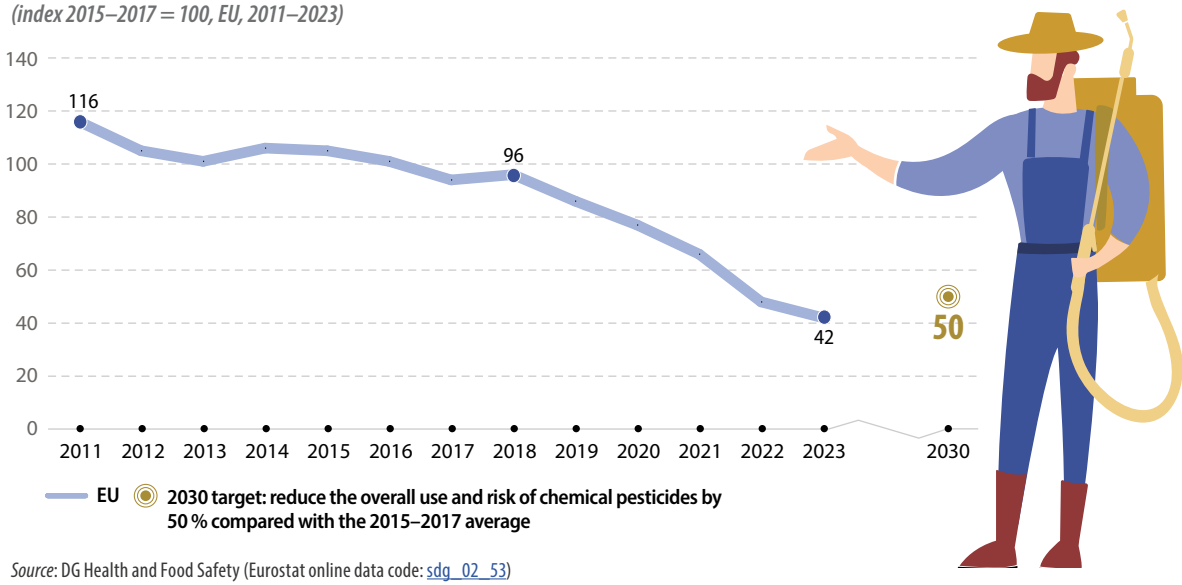
(EUR per capita, 2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_02_30)

Use and risk of chemical pesticides

(index 2015–2017 = 100, EU, 2011–2023)



Source: DG Health and Food Safety (Eurostat online data code: sdg_02_53)

Malnutrition



Obesity rate in 2025

16.3 **% of population aged 18 or over**

–0.2 percentage points since 2019



Sustainable agricultural production



Agricultural real factor income in 2025

121.4 **index 2020 = 100**

+25.0 index points since 2019





Government support to agricultural R&D in 2024

3.8 **EUR billion**

+29.0 % since 2019





Organic farming in 2024

10.9 **% of utilised agricultural area**

+2.4 percentage points since 2019





Use and risk of chemical pesticides in 2023

42 **index 2015–2017 = 100**

–54 index points since 2018



Environmental impacts of agricultural production



Ammonia emissions from agriculture in 2023

3.1 **million tonnes**

–11.7 % since 2018





Nitrate in groundwater in 2023

18.1 **mg NO_3 per litre**

–2.7 % since 2018





Area at risk of severe soil erosion by water in 2023

5.1 **% of the non-artificial erodible area**

–0.2 percentage points since 2016





Farmland bird index in 2024

67.9 **index 2000 = 100**

–6.0 index points since 2019



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sdg_02_10, sdg_02_20, sdg_02_30, sdg_02_40, sdg_02_53, sdg_02_60, sdg_06_40, sdg_15_50 and sdg_15_60)

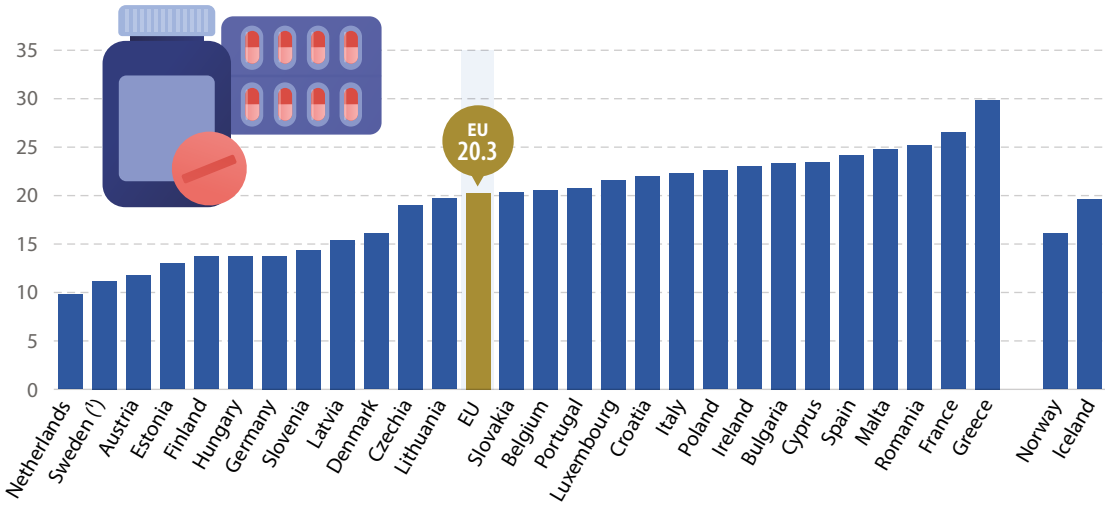
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 3 aims to ensure health and promote well-being for all at all ages by improving reproductive, maternal and child health; ending epidemics of major communicable diseases; and reducing non-communicable and mental diseases. It also calls for reducing behavioural and environmental health-risk factors. Monitoring SDG 3 in an EU context focuses on the topics of healthy lives, determinants of health, causes of death and access to health care.

For further data on SDG 3 please scan the QR code below

Consumption of antibiotics in the community and hospital sectors

(defined daily doses (DDD) per 1 000 inhabitants per day, 2024)

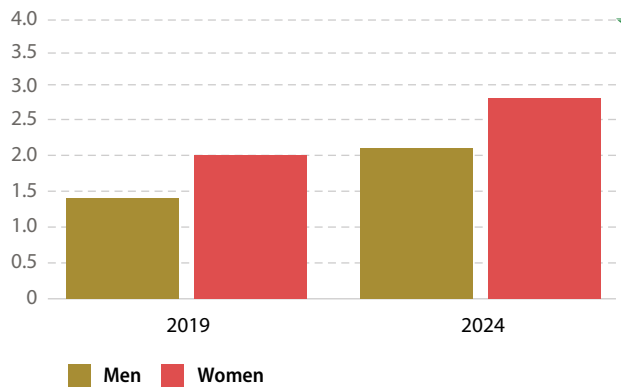


2030 target: reduce the total consumption of antibiotics in humans by 20 % compared with 2019 (to 15.9 DDD per 1 000 inhabitants per day)

(1) 2022 data (instead of 2024). *Source:* ESAC-Net, ECDC (Eurostat online data code: sdg_03_70)

Self-reported unmet need for medical care

(by sex, % of population aged 16 and over, EU, 2019 and 2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_03_60)



Healthy lives

	**Healthy life expectancy at birth in 2023**	**75.3**	**years**	*+0.3 years since 2018*
	**Self-perceived health in 2024**	**68.5**	**% of population aged 16 or over feeling in good or very good health**	*–0.1 percentage points since 2019*

Health determinants

	**Smoking prevalence in 2023**	**24**	**% of population aged 15 or over**	*–3.0 percentage points since 2017*
	**Obesity rate in 2025**	**16.3**	**% of population aged 18 or over**	*–0.2 percentage points since 2019*
	**Suffering from noise in 2023**	**18.1**	**% of population**	*–0.1 percentage points since 2018*

Causes of death

	**Avoidable mortality in 2023**	**237.7**	**per 100 000 persons aged less than 75**	*-4.9 % since 2018*
	**Fatal accidents at work in 2023**	**1.63**	**per 100 000 workers**	*–8.4 % since 2018*
	**Road traffic deaths in 2024** ◎	**4.4**	**per 100 000 persons**	*–13.7 % since 2019*
	**Premature deaths due to $PM_{2.5}$ exposure in 2023** ◎	**41**	**per 100 000 persons**	*–35.9 % since 2018*

Health care

	**Unmet need for medical care in 2024**	**2.5**	**% of population aged 16 or over**	*+0.8 percentage points since 2019*
	**Consumption of antibiotics in 2024** ◎	**20.3**	**defined daily doses per 1 000 inhabitants per day**	*+2.0 % since 2019*

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sdg_03_12, sdg_03_20, sdg_03_30, sdg_02_10, sdg_11_20, sdg_03_42, sdg_08_60, sdg_11_40, sdg_11_52, sdg_03_60 and sdg_03_70)

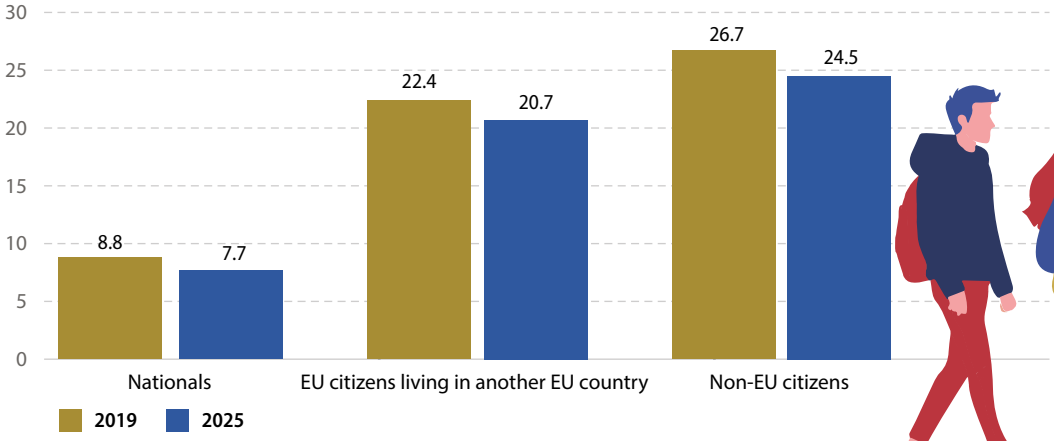
4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 4 seeks to ensure access for all to quality education through all stages of life, as well as to increase the number of young people and adults who have the relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Monitoring SDG 4 in an EU context focuses on basic education, tertiary education, adult learning and digital skills.

For further data on SDG 4 please scan the QR code below

Early leavers from education and training

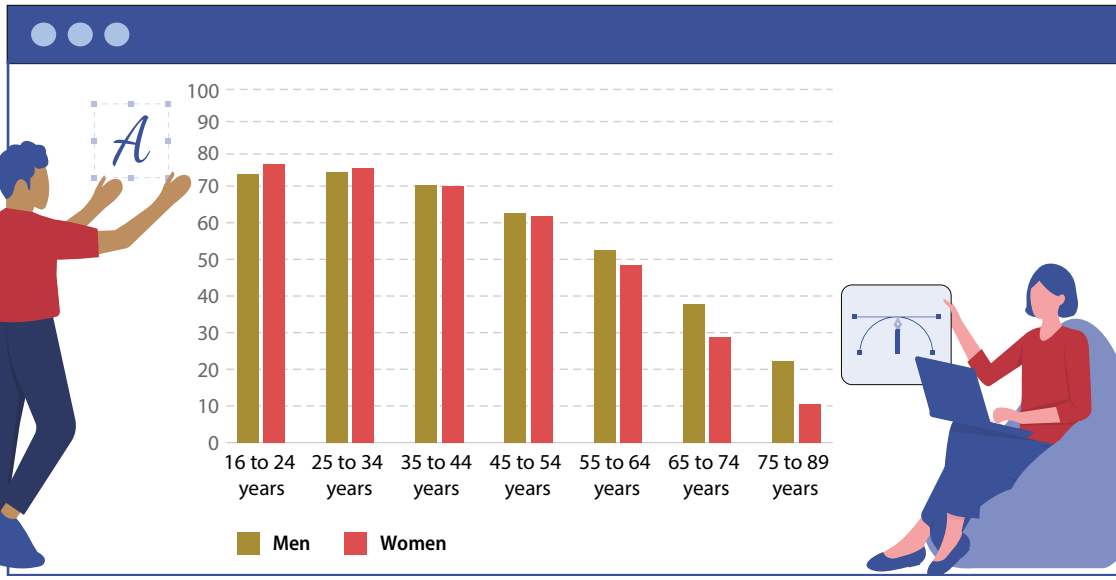
(by citizenship, % of population aged 18 to 24, EU, 2019 and 2025)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_04_10a)

Share of individuals having at least basic digital skills

(by sex and age group, % of individuals, EU, 2025)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_sk_dskl_i21)

Basic education

	**Low achievers in reading in 2022**	**26.2**	**% of 15-year-old students**	*+3.7 percentage points since 2018*
	**Low achievers in mathematics in 2022**	**29.5**	**% of 15-year-old students**	*+6.6 percentage points since 2018*
	**Low achievers in science in 2022**	**24.2**	**% of 15-year-old students**	*+1.9 percentage points since 2018*
	**Early childhood education in 2024**	**95.0**	**% of children aged 3 and over**	*+1.8 percentage points since 2019*
	**Early school leavers in 2025**	**9.1**	**% of population aged 18 to 24**	*–1.0 percentage points since 2019*

Tertiary education

	**Tertiary educational attainment in 2025**	**44.8**	**% of population aged 25 to 34**	*+5.2 percentage points since 2019*

Adult learning

	**Adult learning in 2025**	**13.7**	**% of population aged 25 to 64**	*+2.9 percentage points since 2019*

Digital skills

	**Adults with at least basic digital skills in 2025**	**60.4**	**% of individuals aged 16 to 74**	*+6.5 percentage points since 2021*

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sdg_04_40, sdg_04_31, sdg_04_10, sdg_04_20, sdg_04_60 and sdg_04_70)

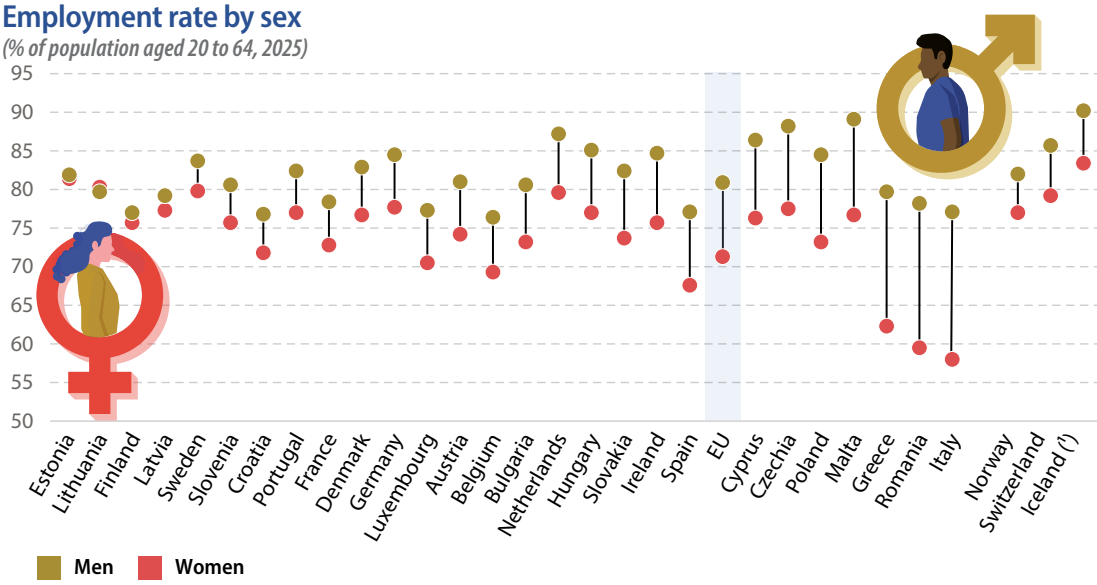
5 GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality by ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls. It also calls for the full participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making. Monitoring SDG 5 in an EU context focuses on the topics of gender-based violence, access to quality education, participation in employment, equal payment and a balanced representation in leadership positions.

For further data on SDG 5 please scan the QR code below

Employment rate by sex

(% of population aged 20 to 64, 2025)

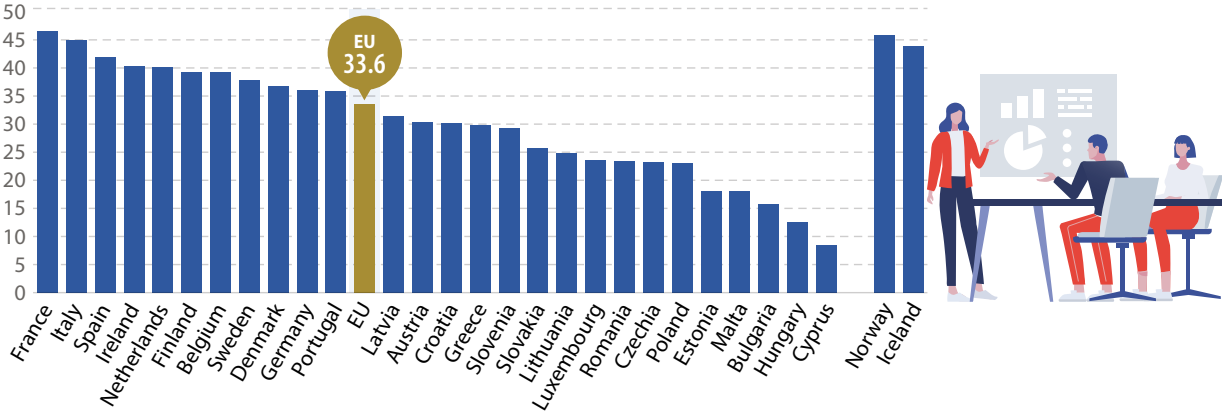


(1) 2024 data.

Note: y-axis does not start at 0. Countries are sorted according to the size of the gender gap (ascending). *Source:* Eurostat (online data code: sdg_08_30)

Positions held by women in senior management

(% of executive and non-executive directors, 2025)



2026 target: at least 33 % of all director positions (executive and non-executive) in listed companies should be held by members of the underrepresented sex

Source: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (Eurostat online data code: sdg_05_61)

Gender-based violence



Physical and sexual violence to women in 2021

30.7 **% of women**



Education



Gender gap for early school leavers in 2025

3.1 **pp, to the disadvantage of men**

–0.3 percentage points since 2019





Gender gap for tertiary educational attainment in 2025

11.3 **pp, to the disadvantage of men**

+0.5 percentage points since 2019



Employment



Gender employment gap in 2025

9.6 **pp, to the disadvantage of women**

–1.7 percentage points since 2019





Gender pay gap in 2024

11.1 **% of average gross hourly earnings of men**

–2.6 percentage points since 2019





Gender gap for being outside the labour force due to caring responsibilities in 2025

0.7 **pp, to the disadvantage of women**

–0.3 percentage points since 2021



Leadership positions



Women in parliaments in 2025

33.6 **% of seats**

+1.5 percentage points since 2019





Women in senior management in 2025

33.6 **% of directors**

+6.9 percentage points since 2019



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sdg_05_11, sdg_04_10, sdg_04_20, sdg_05_30, sdg_05_20, sdg_05_40, sdg_05_50 and sdg_05_61)

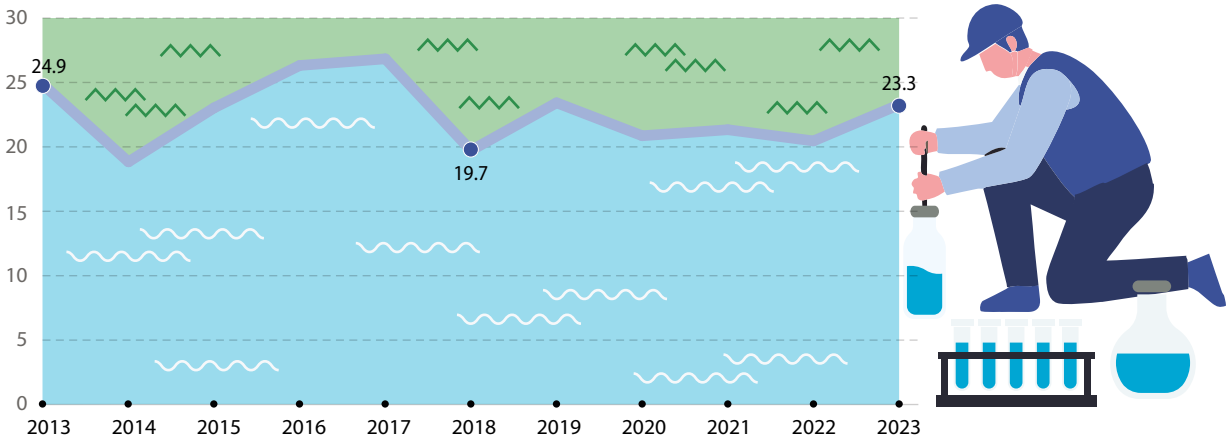
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SDG 6 calls for ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and ending open defecation. It also aims to improve water quality and water-use efficiency, and to encourage sustainable abstractions and supply of freshwater. Monitoring SDG 6 within an EU context focuses on sanitation, water quality and water scarcity.

For further data on SDG 6 please scan the QR code below

Pesticides in rivers

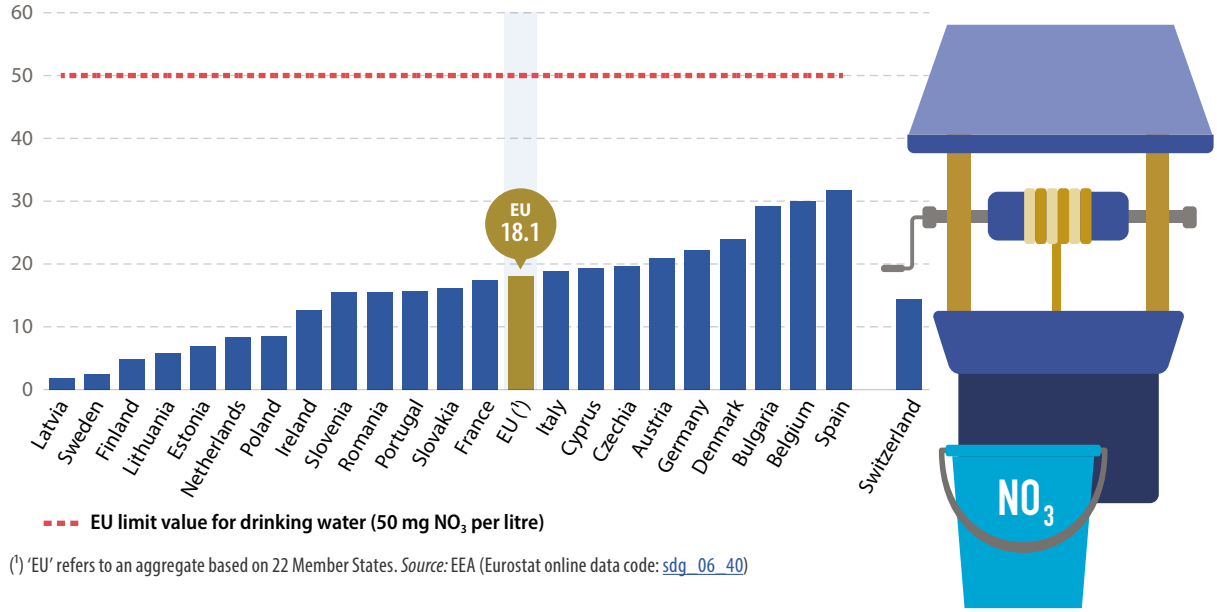
(% of reported waterbodies with pesticides exceeding thresholds, EU, 2013–2023)



Source: EEA (Eurostat online data code: sdg_06_70)

Nitrate in groundwater

(mg NO_3 per litre, 2023)



(1) 'EU' refers to an aggregate based on 22 Member States. *Source:* EEA (Eurostat online data code: sdg_06_40)

Sanitation

	**Population connected to wastewater treatment in 2023**	**80.7**	**% of population**	*+0.7 percentage points since 2018*

Water quality

	**Pesticides in rivers in 2023**	**23.3**	**% of reported waterbodies with pesticides exceeding thresholds**	*+3.6 percentage points since 2018*
	**Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers in 2023**	**2.24**	**mg O_2 per litre**	*–5.1 % since 2018*
	**Nitrate in groundwater in 2023**	**18.1**	**mg NO_3 per litre**	*–2.7 % since 2018*
	**Phosphate in rivers in 2023**	**0.081**	**mg PO_4 per litre**	*+19.1 % since 2018*
	**Bathing water quality in 2024**	**78.3**	**% of inland bathing waters with excellent quality**	*–0.8 percentage points since 2019*

Water scarcity

	**Water exploitation in 2023**	**5.2**	**% of renewable water resources**	*+0.7 percentage points since 2018*
	**Drought impact on ecosystems in 2024**	**232 416**	**km²**	*+19.6 % since 2019*

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sdg_06_20, sdg_06_30, sdg_06_40, sdg_06_50, sdg_06_70, sdg_14_40, sdg_06_60 and sdg_15_42)

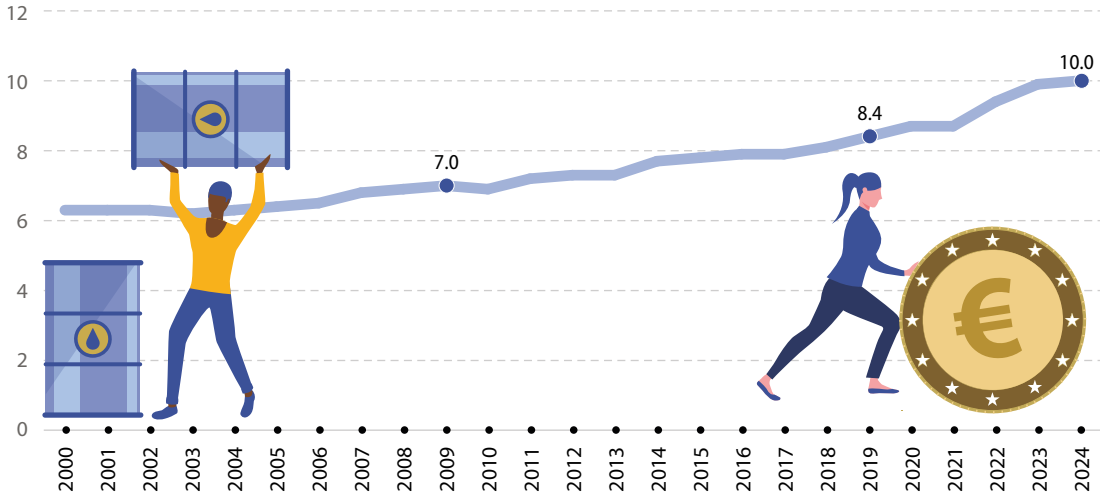
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

SDG 7 calls for ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. This includes improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewables and further diversifying the energy mix while ensuring affordability of energy for all. Monitoring SDG 7 in an EU context involves looking at developments in energy consumption, energy supply and access to affordable energy.

For further data on SDG 7 please scan the QR code below

Energy productivity

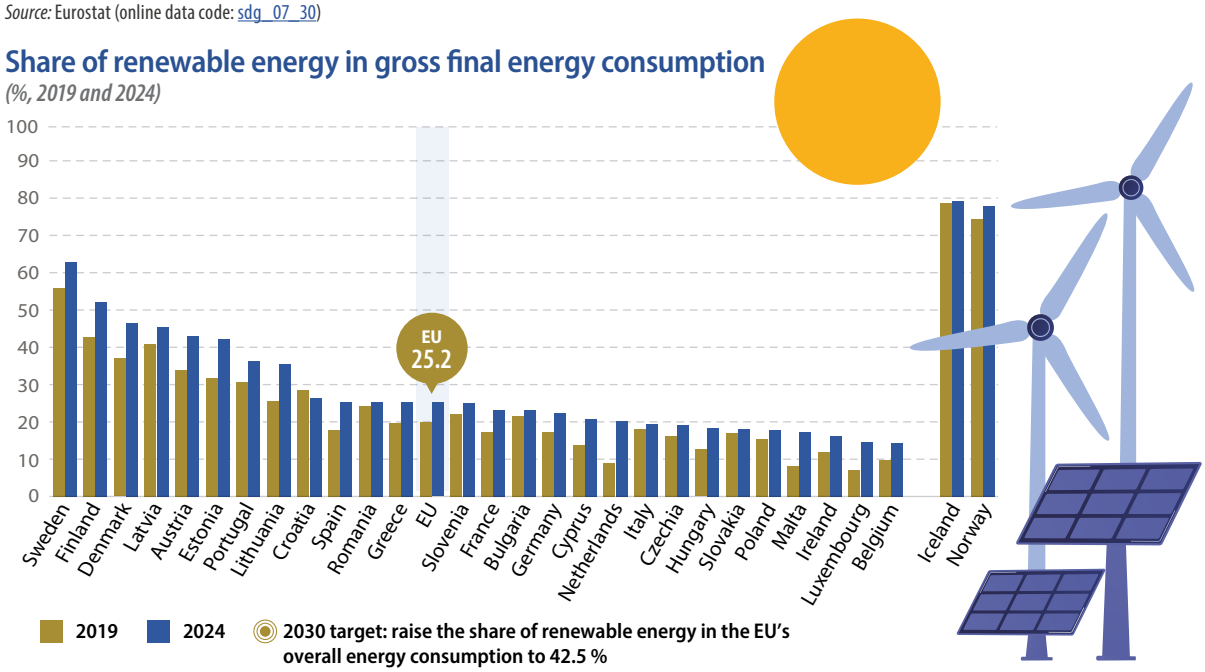
(EUR per kgoe, EU, 2000–2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_07_30)

Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption

(%, 2019 and 2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_07_40)

Energy consumption

	**Primary energy consumption in 2024**	**1 194**	**Mtoe**	*–11.8 % since 2019*
	**Final energy consumption in 2024**	**900**	**Mtoe**	*–7.1 % since 2019*
	**Energy consumption in households in 2024**	**507**	**kgoe per capita**	*–9.0 % since 2019*
	**Energy productivity in 2024**	**10.0**	**EUR per kgoe**	*+19.0 % since 2019*

Energy supply

	**Renewable energy in 2024**	**25.2**	**% of gross final energy consumption**	*+5.4 percentage points since 2019*
	**Energy import dependency in 2024**	**57.3**	**% of imports in gross available energy**	*–3.2 percentage points since 2019*

Access to affordable energy

	**Inability to keep home warm in 2024**	**9.2**	**% of population**	*+2.3 percentage points since 2019*

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sdg_07_10, sdg_07_11, sdg_07_20, sdg_07_30, sdg_07_40, sdg_07_50 and sdg_07_60)

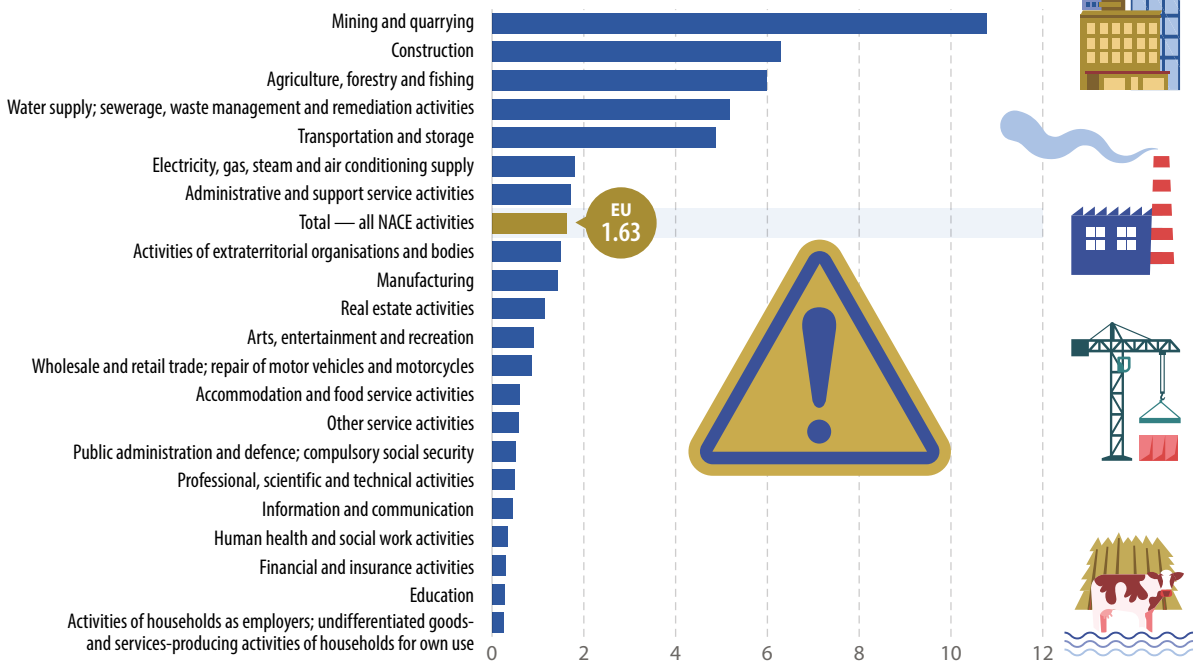
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG 8 recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs and calls for opportunities for full employment and decent work for all. Monitoring SDG 8 in an EU context means looking into developments in the areas of sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work.

For further data on SDG 8 please scan the QR code below

Fatal accidents at work

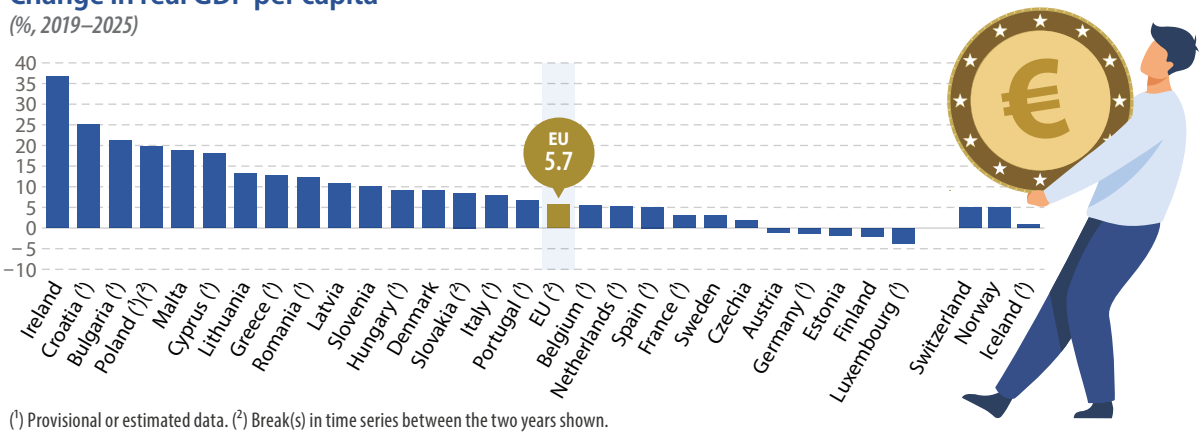
(by economic activity (NACE Rev. 2), number per 100 000 workers, EU, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: hsw_n2_02)

Change in real GDP per capita

(%, 2019–2025)



(1) Provisional or estimated data. (2) Break(s) in time series between the two years shown.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_08_10)

Sustainable economic growth

	**Real GDP per capita in 2025**	**34 110**	**EUR**	*+5.7 % since 2019*
	**Investment share of GDP in 2025**	**21.7**	**% of GDP**	*–0.7 percentage points since 2019*
	**Material footprint in 2024**	**6.2**	**billion tonnes**	*–7.1 % since 2019*

Employment

	**Employment rate in 2025** ◎	**76.1**	**% of population aged 20 to 64**	*+3.4 percentage points since 2019*
	**Long-term unemployment rate in 2025**	**1.9**	**% of population in the labour force**	*–0.8 percentage points since 2019*
	**Not in employment, education or training in 2025** ◎	**11.0**	**% of population aged 15 to 29**	*–1.8 percentage points since 2019*
	**Persons outside the labour force due to caring responsibilities in 2025**	**0.5**	**% of population aged 20 to 64**	*–0.1 percentage points since 2021*

Decent work

	**Fatal accidents at work in 2023**	**1.63**	**per 100 000 workers**	*–8.4 % since 2018*
	**In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate in 2024**	**8.2**	**% of employed persons aged 18 or over**	*–0.9 percentage points since 2019*

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sdg_08_10, sdg_08_11, sdg_12_21, sdg_08_30, sdg_08_40, sdg_08_20, sdg_05_40, sdg_08_60 and sdg_01_41)

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

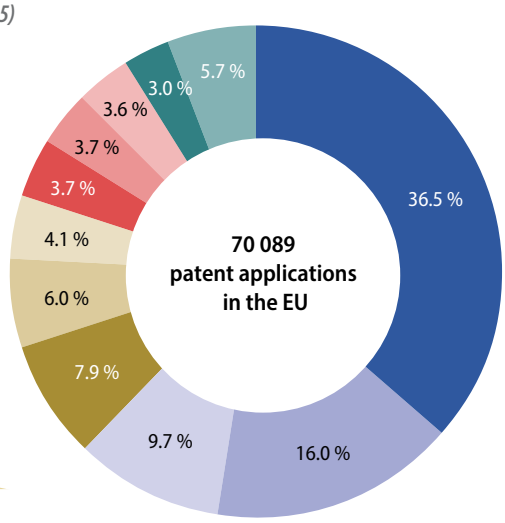
SDG 9 calls for building resilient and sustainable infrastructure and promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialisation. It also recognises the importance of research and innovation for finding solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges. Monitoring SDG 9 in an EU context focuses on elements such as R&D intensity and personnel, patent applications, the air emissions intensity of industry, and modal splits in passenger and freight transport.

For further data on SDG 9 please scan the QR code below

Patent applications to the European Patent Office (EPO)

(by country of inventor, % of EU total, 2025)



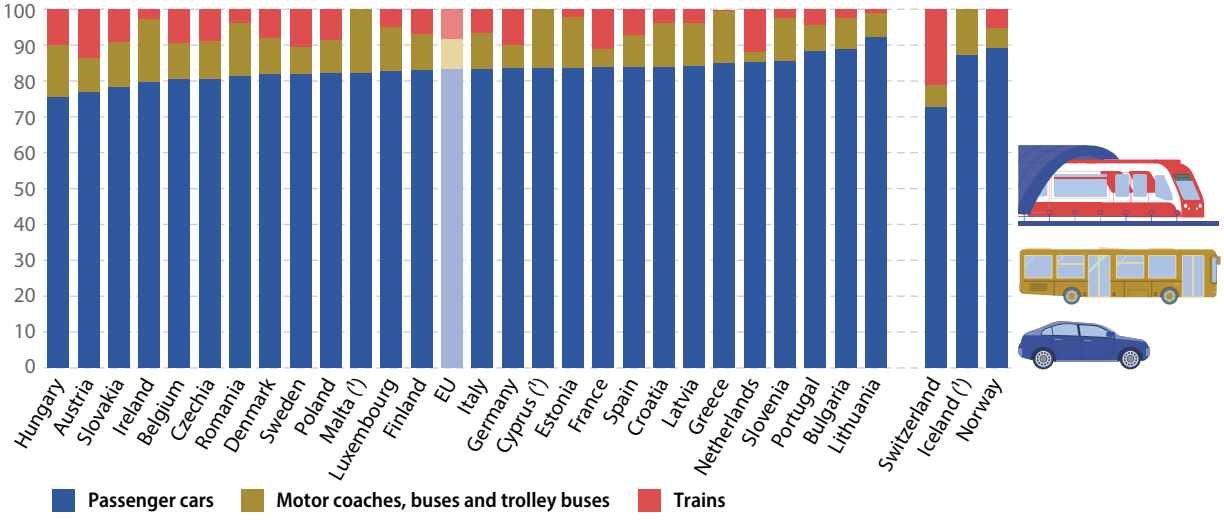


Germany
France
Netherlands
Italy
Sweden
Denmark
Spain
Belgium
Austria
Finland
Other EU countries

Note: Provisional data. *Source:* EPO, Eurostat (online data code: sdg_09_40)

Share of cars, buses and trains in inland passenger transport

(% of passenger-km, 2023)



Note: Estimated data for EU and many countries. (1) No railway network. *Source:* Eurostat (online data code: tran_hv_psmod)

R&D and innovation

	**R&D expenditure in 2024**	**2.24**	**% of GDP**	*+0.0 percentage points since 2019*
	**Patent applications in 2025**	**70 089**	**applications to the EPO**	*+3.1 % since 2019*
	**R&D personnel in 2024**	**1.59**	**% of population in the labour force**	*+0.2 percentage points since 2019*
	**Tertiary educational attainment in 2025**	**44.8**	**% of population aged 25 to 34**	*+5.2 percentage points since 2019*

Sustainable industry

	**Air emissions intensity of manufacturing for $PM_{2.5}$ in 2023**	**0.05**	**g per euro**	*–16.7 % since 2018*
	**Environmental goods and services in 2023**	**2.9**	**% of GDP**	*+0.6 percentage points since 2018*

Sustainable infrastructure

	**Collective inland passenger transport in 2023**	**16.9**	**% of passenger-km**	*–0.1 percentage points since 2018*
	**Rail and waterways inland freight transport in 2024**	**21.8**	**% of freight tonne-km**	*–2.2 percentage points since 2019*
	**High-speed internet connection in 2024**	**82.5**	**% of households**	*+32.2 percentage points since 2019*

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_09_10, sdg_09_40, sdg_09_30, sdg_04_20, sdg_09_70, sdg_12_61, sdg_09_50, sdg_09_60 and sdg_17_60)

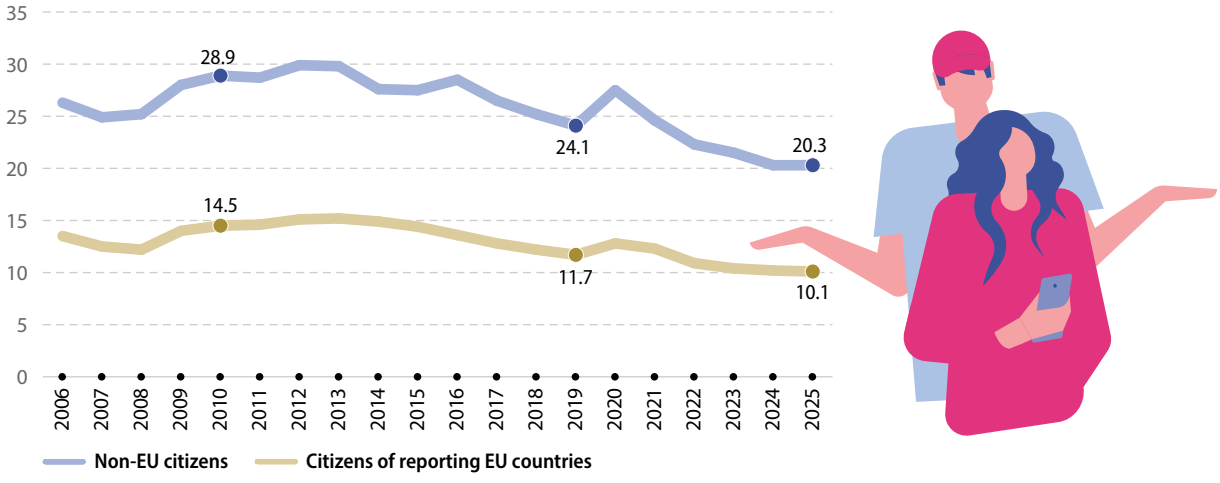
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 10 addresses inequalities within and among countries. It calls for nations to reduce inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status within a country. The goal also addresses inequalities among countries and calls for support for safe migration and mobility of people. Monitoring SDG 10 in an EU context thus focuses on inequalities within countries, inequalities between countries, and migration and social inclusion.

For further data on SDG 10 please scan the QR code below

Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)

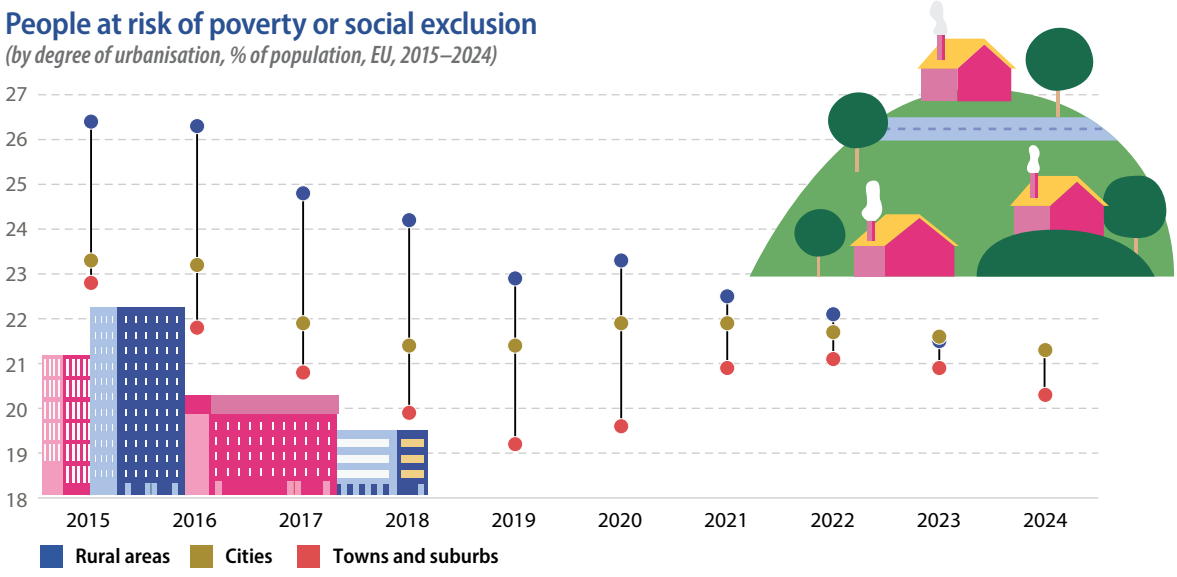
(by citizenship, % of population aged 15 to 29, EU, 2006–2025)



Note: Break in time series in 2021. *Source:* Eurostat (online data code: sdg_08_20a)

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(by degree of urbanisation, % of population, EU, 2015–2024)



Note: y-axis does not start at 0. *Source:* Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_10a)

Inequalities within countries

Income quintile share ratio S80/S20 in 2024	4.66		–6.6 % since 2019
Income share of the bottom 40 % of the population in 2024	21.8	% of income	+0.4 percentage points since 2019
At-risk-of-poverty gap in 2024	22.7	% distance to poverty threshold	–1.9 percentage points since 2019
Urban-rural gap for risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2024	0.0		–1.5 percentage points since 2019

Inequalities between countries

Disparities in GDP per capita in 2025	40.1	coefficient of variation	+0.5 percentage points since 2019
Disparities in household income per capita in 2024	20.7	coefficient of variation	–3.7 percentage points since 2019

Migration, asylum and social inclusion

Asylum applications in 2025	1 485	per million inhabitants	+5.4 % since 2019
Citizenship gap for monetary poverty in 2024	21.1	pp, to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens	+1.1 percentage points since 2019
Citizenship gap for early school leavers in 2025	16.8	pp, to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens	–1.1 percentage points since 2019
Citizenship gap for NEET rate in 2025	10.2	pp, to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens	–2.2 percentage points since 2019
Citizenship gap for employment rate in 2025	11.8	pp, to the disadvantage of non-EU citizens	–2.0 percentage points since 2019

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_10_41, sdg_10_50, sdg_10_30, sdg_01_10a, sdg_10_10, sdg_10_20, sdg_10_60, sdg_01_20a, sdg_04_10a, sdg_08_20a and sdg_08_30a)

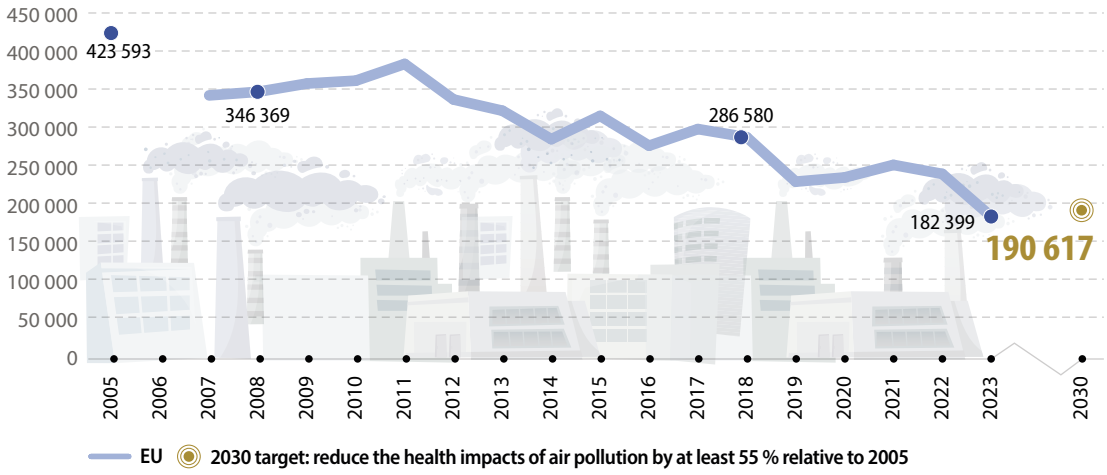
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDG 11 aims to renew and plan cities and other human settlements in a way that offers opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transport, waste management, clean air and green public spaces, while reducing resource use and environmental impact. Monitoring SDG 11 in an EU context means looking at developments in the quality of life in cities and communities, sustainable mobility and adverse environmental impacts.

For further data on SDG 11 please scan the QR code below

Premature deaths due to exposure to fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$)

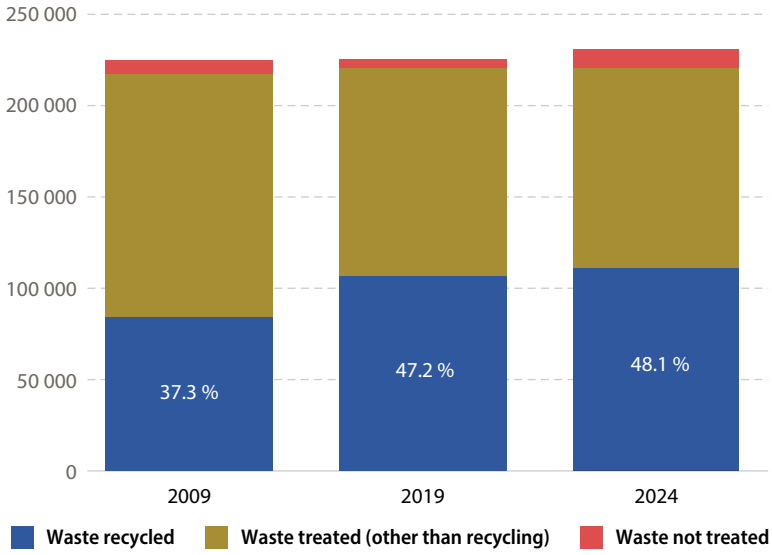
(number, EU, 2005–2023)



Note: No data available for 2006. *Source:* EEA (Eurostat online data code: sdg_11_52)

Recycling of municipal waste

(thousand tonnes, EU, 2009, 2019 and 2024)





Note: Data are (at least in part) imputed. *Source:* Eurostat (online data code: env_wasmun)

Quality of life in cities and communities

	**Housing deprivation in 2023**	**4.0**	**% of population**	*–0.3 percentage points since 2018*
	**Suffering from noise in 2023**	**18.1**	**% of population**	*–0.1 percentage points since 2018*
	**Premature deaths due to $PM_{2.5}$ exposure in 2023**	**182 399**	**persons**	*–36.4 % since 2018*
	**Reported occurrence of crime in 2023**	**10.0**	**% of population**	*–1.5 percentage points since 2018*
	**Housing cost overburden in cities in 2024**	**9.8**	**% of population**	*–2.0 percentage points since 2019*

Sustainable mobility

	**Road traffic deaths in 2024**	**19 934**	**persons**	*–12.4 % since 2019*
	**Collective inland passenger transport in 2023**	**16.9**	**% of passenger-km**	*–0.1 percentage points since 2018*

Impacts on the environment

	**Soil sealing in 2021**	**252.1**	**m^2 per inhabitant**	*+1.3 % since 2018*
	**Recycling of municipal waste in 2024**	**48.1**	**% of total waste generated**	*+0.9 percentage points since 2019*
	**Population connected to wastewater treatment in 2023**	**80.7**	**% of population**	*+0.7 percentage points since 2018*

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_11_11, sdg_11_20, sdg_11_52, sdg_16_20, ilc_lvho07d, sdg_11_40, sdg_09_50, sdg_11_32, sdg_11_60 and sdg_06_20)

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

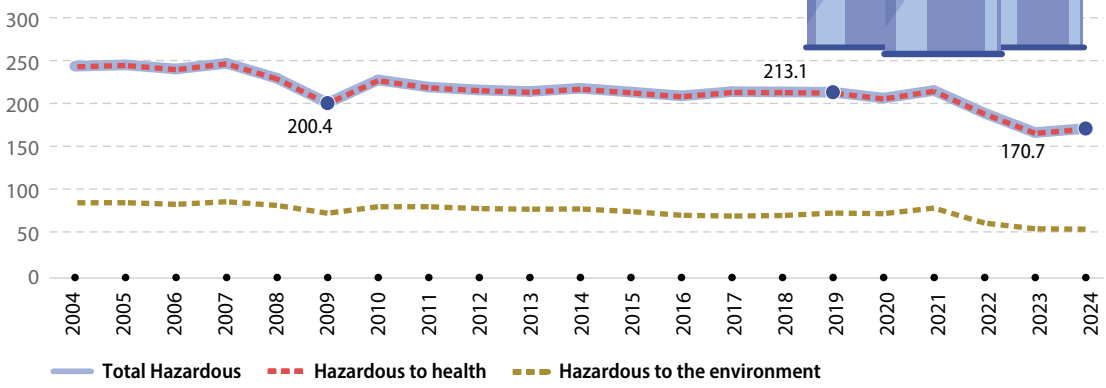
SDG 12 calls for a comprehensive set of actions from businesses, policy-makers and consumers to adapt to sustainable practices. It envisions sustainable production and consumption based on advanced technological capacity, resource efficiency and reduced global waste. Monitoring SDG 12 in an EU context focuses on developments in the areas of decoupling environmental pressures from economic growth, the green economy, and waste generation and management.

For further data on SDG 12 please scan the QR code below

Consumption of hazardous chemicals

(million tonnes, EU, 2004–2024)

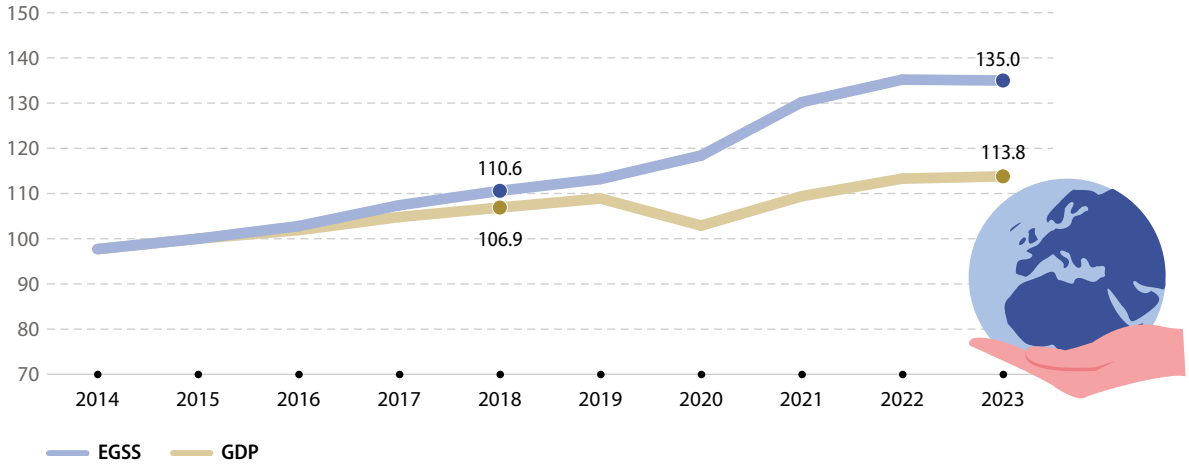




Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_12_10)

Gross value added in the environmental goods and services sector (EGSS)

(chain-linked volumes, index 2015 = 100, EU, 2014-2023)



Note: y-axis does not start at 0. EGSS data for 2014-2020 are imputed. *Source:* Eurostat (online data code: sdg_12_61 and nama_10_gdp)

Consumption patterns

	**Material footprint in 2024**	**6.2**	**billion tonnes**	*–7.1 % since 2019*
	**Consumption footprint in 2024**	**3.2**	**transgression of planetary boundaries**	*–4.8 % since 2019*
	**Consumption of hazardous chemicals in 2024**	**170.7**	**million tonnes**	*–19.9 % since 2019*
	**Average CO_2 emissions from new passenger cars in 2024** ◎	**107.9**	**g CO_2 per km**	*–27.1 % since 2019*
	**Energy productivity in 2024**	**10.0**	**EUR per kgoe**	*+19.0 % since 2019*

Green economy

	**Environmental goods and services in 2023**	**2.9**	**% of GDP**	*+0.6 percentage points since 2018*

Waste generation and management

	**Circular material use rate in 2024** ◎	**12.2**	**% of material input for domestic use**	*+1.1 percentage points since 2019*
	**Generation of waste in 2022**	**4 981**	**kg per capita**	*–4.9 % since 2018*

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_12_10, sdg_12_31, sdg_12_21, sdg_07_30, sdg_13_31, sdg_12_61, sdg_12_41 and sdg_12_51)

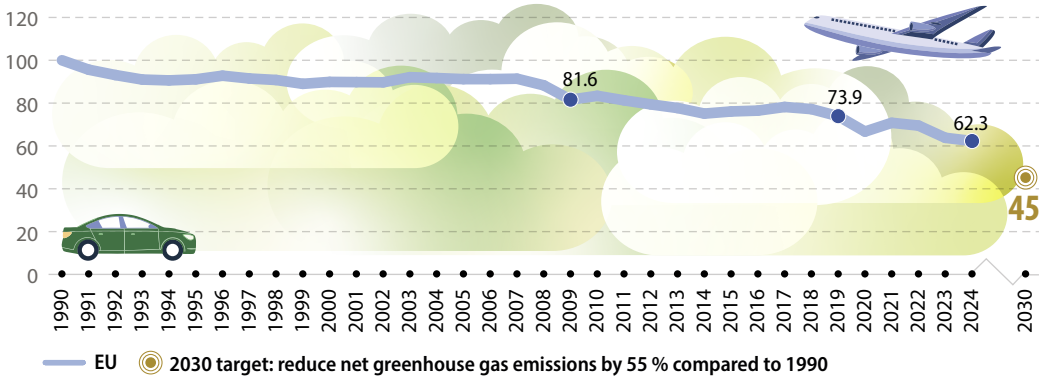
13 CLIMATE ACTION

SDG 13 seeks to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century and to limit global warming to well below 2 °C — with an aim of 1.5 °C — compared with pre-industrial times. It aims to strengthen countries' climate resilience and adaptive capacity, with a special focus on supporting least-developed countries. Monitoring SDG 13 in an EU context focuses on climate mitigation, climate impacts and initiatives to support climate action.

For further data on SDG 13 please scan the QR code below

EU net greenhouse gas emissions

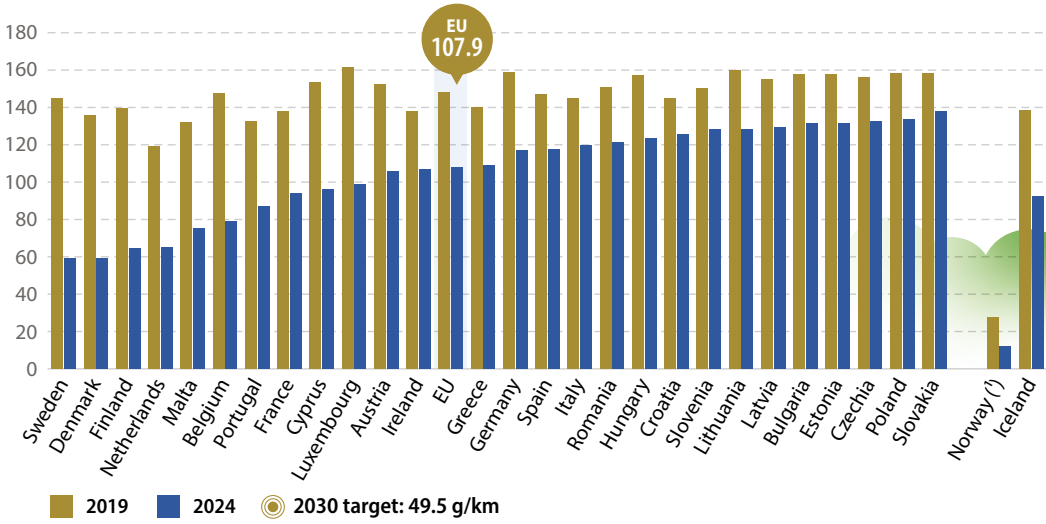
(according to EU climate policies and targets, index 1990 = 100, 1990–2024)



Note: All data are provisional. The EU target scope, as defined in the European Climate Law, includes
— for international aviation: intra-EU flights, departing flights from the EU to Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom;
— for International maritime transport: emissions from voyages between two EU Member States, 50 % of emissions from voyages between an EU Member State and Norway, Iceland or any third country. *Source:* EEA (Eurostat online data code: sdg_13_11)

Average CO_2 emissions per km from new passenger cars

(g CO_2 per km, 2019 and 2024)



Note: 2019 data are estimated, 2024 data are provisional. (1) 2021 data (instead of 2019). *Source:* EEA, European Commission services (Eurostat online data code: sdg_13_31)

Climate change mitigation



Net greenhouse gas emissions in 2024

62.3 **index 1990 = 100** *–11.6 index points since 2019*



GHG removals from land use and forestry in 2024

231.0 **million tonnes CO_2 eq.** *–2.2 % since 2019*



Renewable energy in 2024

25.2 **% of gross final energy consumption** *+5.4 percentage points since 2019*



Average CO_2 emissions from new passenger cars in 2024

107.9 **g CO_2 per km** *–27.1 % since 2019*

Climate change impacts



Economic losses from weather- and climate-related extremes in 2024

40.5 **EUR billion** *+29.2 % since 2019* [1]

Financing climate action



Green bonds in 2024

6.9 **% of total bond issuance** *+4.5 percentage points since 2019*



Climate-related expenditure in 2024

31.7 **EUR billion** *+44.7 % since 2019*

([1]) This change is based on 30-year moving averages
Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_13_11, sdg_13_21, sdg_07_40, sdg_13_31, sdg_13_40, sdg_13_50 and sdg_13_70)

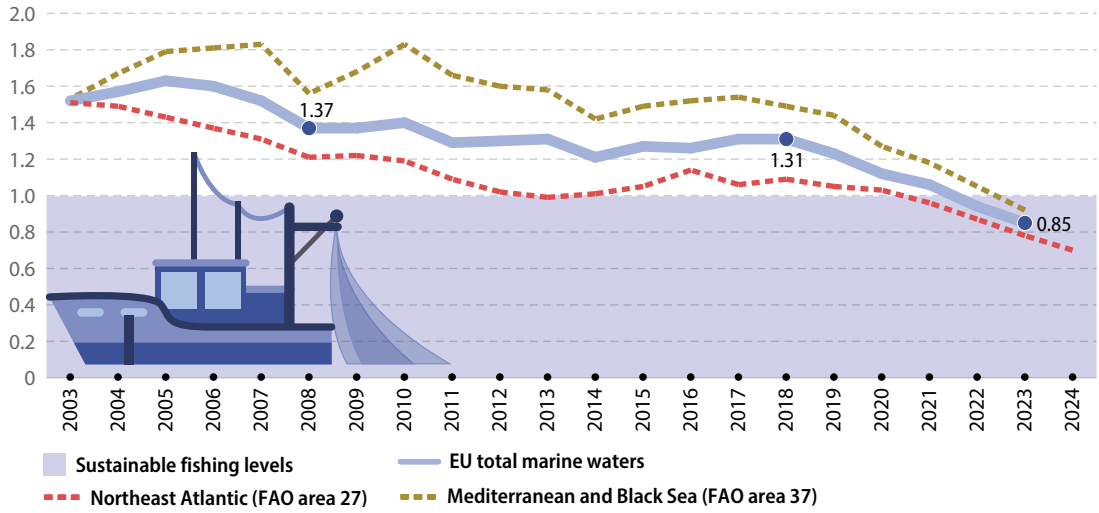
14 LIFE BELOW WATER

SDG 14 aims to protect and ensure the sustainable use of oceans. This includes reducing marine pollution and ocean acidification, end overfishing and conserve marine and coastal ecosystems. SDG 14 is strongly related to other SDGs as oceans sustain coastal economies and livelihoods, contribute to food production and function as a carbon sink. Monitoring SDG 14 in an EU context thus involves looking into trends in the areas of ocean health, marine conservation and sustainable fisheries.

For further data on SDG 14 please scan the QR code below

Estimated trends in fishing pressure by fishing area

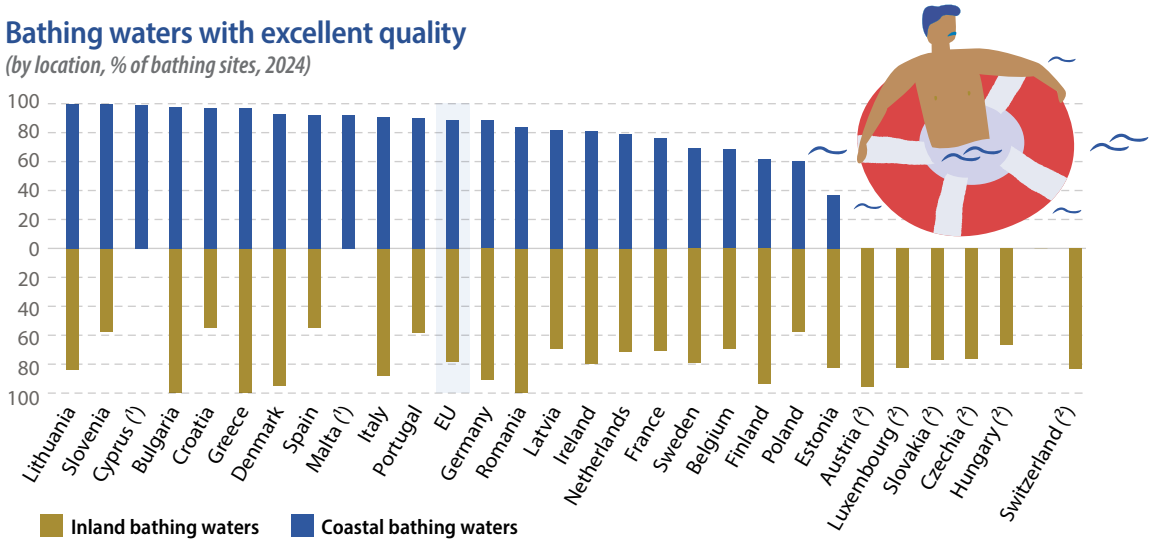
(model-based median value of fishing pressure (F/F_{MSY}), 2003–2024)



Note: Data for Mediterranean and Black Sea (FAO area 37) are only available until 2023. *Source:* Joint Research Centre (JRC) — Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) (Eurostat online data code: sdg_14_30)

Bathing waters with excellent quality

(by location, % of bathing sites, 2024)



(1) No measurements of inland bathing waters. (2) No coastal bathing waters (landlocked country). *Source:* EEA (Eurostat online data code: sdg_14_40)

Ocean health



Mean surface seawater acidity in 2025

8.76 **nmol/l**

+3.0 % since 2019





Marine eutrophication in 2025

0.38 **% of exclusive economic zone**

+0.04 percentage points since 2019





Bathing water quality in 2024

88.8 **% of coastal bathing waters with excellent quality**

+0.4 percentage points since 2019



Marine conservation



Marine protected areas in 2023

13.7 **% of marine area**

+2.8 percentage points since 2019



Sustainable fisheries



Trends in fish stock biomass in 2023

123 **index 2003 = 100**

+7 index points since 2018





Trends in fishing pressure in 2023

0.85 **model-based median value of fishing pressure (F/F_{MSY})**

–35.1 % since 2018



([1]) Data are presented as four-year moving average.
Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_14_51, sdg_14_60, sdg_14_40, sdg_14_10, sdg_14_21 and sdg_14_30)

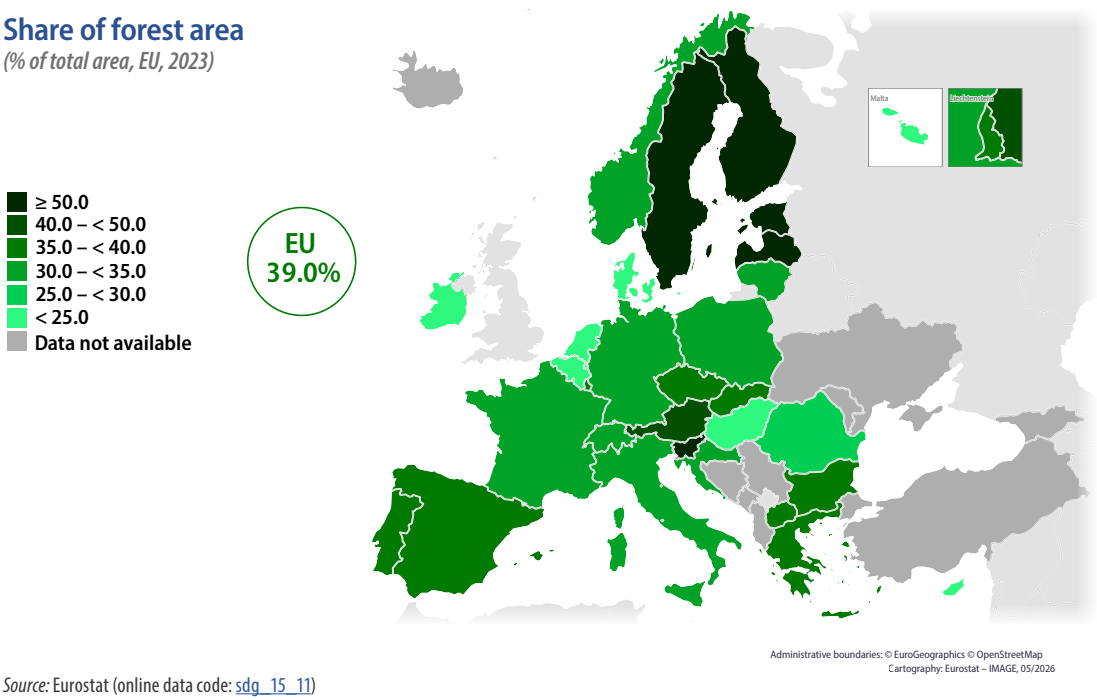
15 LIFE ON LAND

SDG 15 seeks to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. This includes efforts to sustainably manage forests and halt deforestation, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, halt biodiversity loss and protect threatened species. Monitoring SDG 15 in an EU context focuses on trends in ecosystem status, land degradation and biodiversity.

For further data on SDG 15 please scan the QR code below

Share of forest area

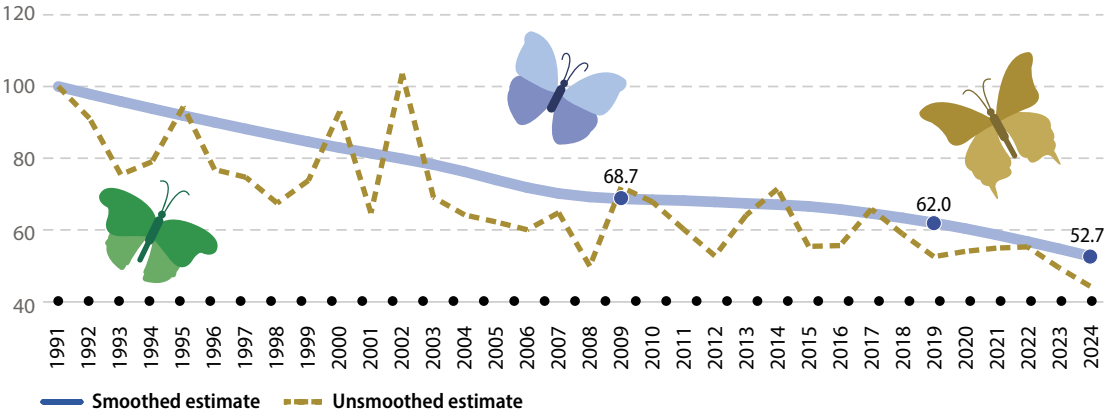
(% of total area, EU, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_15_11)

Grassland butterfly index

(index 1991 = 100, EU, 1991–2024)



Note: y-axis does not start at 0.

Source: Butterfly Conservation Europe, European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme partnership, EMBRACE project (Eurostat online data code: sdg_15_61)

Ecosystem status

Forest area in 2023	39.0	% of total area	+0.6 percentage points since 2018
Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers in 2023	2.24	mg O_2 per litre	–5.1 % since 2018
Phosphate in rivers in 2023	0.081	mg PO_4 per litre	+19.1 % since 2018

Land degradation

Area at risk of severe soil erosion by water in 2023	190 087	km^2	–3.4 % since 2016
Drought impact on ecosystems in 2024	232 416	km^2	+19.6 % since 2019
Soil sealing in 2021	252.1	m^2 per inhabitant	+1.3 % since 2018

Biodiversity

Terrestrial protected areas in 2023 ◎	26.4	% of total area	+0.8 percentage points since 2018
Common bird index in 2024	84.9	index 2000 = 100	–2.5 index points since 2019
Grassland butterfly index in 2024	52.7	index 1991 = 100	–9.3 index points since 2019

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_15_11, sdg_06_30, sdg_06_50, sdg_15_50, sdg_15_42, sdg_11_32, sdg_15_20, sdg_15_60 and sdg_15_61)

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

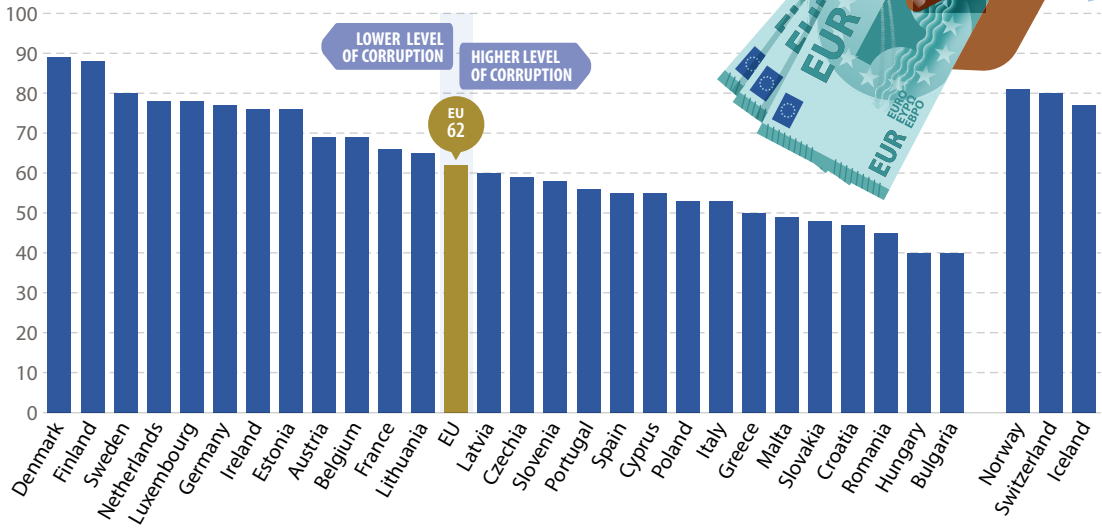
SDG 16 calls for peaceful and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights, protection of the most vulnerable, the rule of law and good governance at all levels. It also envisions transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Monitoring SDG 16 in an EU context focuses on personal security, access to justice and trust in institutions within the EU.

For further data on SDG 16 please scan the QR code below



Corruption Perceptions Index

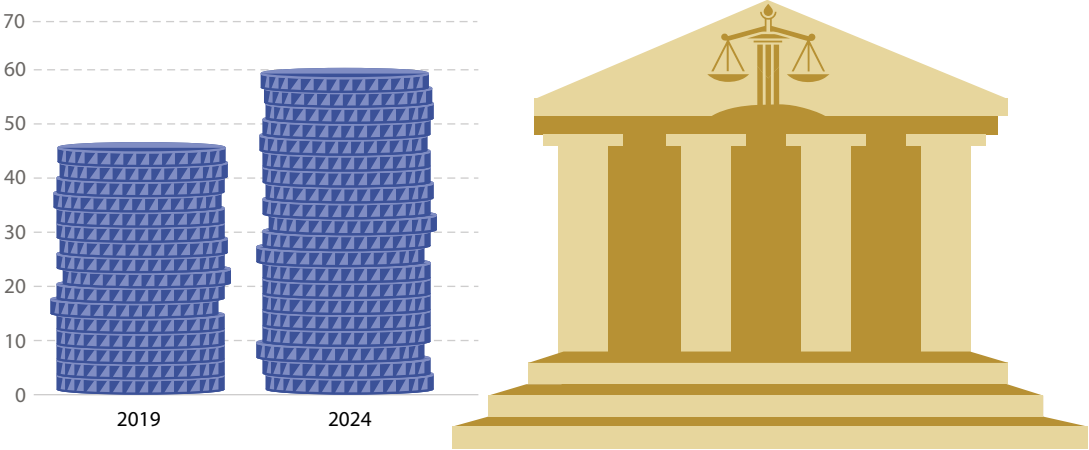
(score scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), 2025)



Source: Transparency International (Eurostat online data code: sgd_16_50)

General government total expenditure on law courts

(billion EUR, EU, 2019 and 2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_16_30)

Peace and personal security



Homicide rate in 2023 — **0.65** **per 100 000 persons** — *–3.0 % since 2018*



Reported occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in 2023 — **10.0** **% of population** — *–1.5 percentage points since 2018*



Victims of human trafficking in 2024 — **9 678** **persons** — *+24.4 % since 2019*

Access to justice



Expenditure on law courts in 2024 — **59 250** **EUR million** — *+30.7 % since 2019*



Perceived independence of judiciary in 2025 — **54** **% of population perceived it to be very good or fairly good** — *0.0 percentage points since 2019*

Trust in institutions



Corruption Perceptions Index in 2025 — **62** **score scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)** — *–2 index points since 2019*

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_16_10, sdg_16_20, sdg_16_70, sdg_16_30, sdg_16_40 and sdg_16_50)

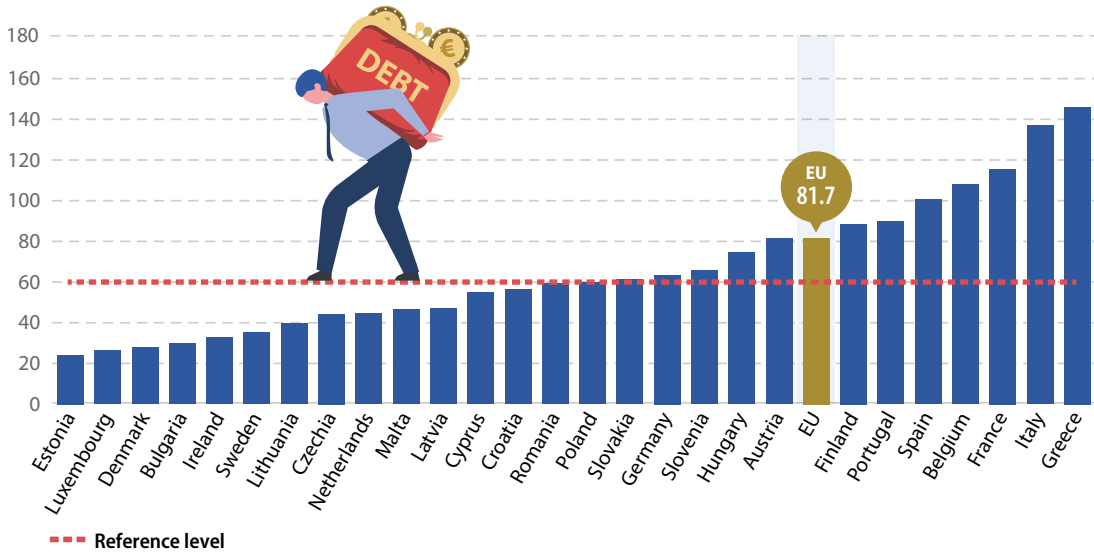
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG 17 calls for a global partnership for sustainable development. It highlights the importance of macroeconomic stability and of mobilising financial resources for developing countries. It also stresses the importance of trade and equitable rules for governing it. The goal also emphasises the importance of access to science and technology, in particular internet-based information and communications technology. Monitoring SDG 17 in an EU context focuses on global partnership, financial governance and access to technology.

For further data on SDG 17 please scan the QR code below

General government gross debt

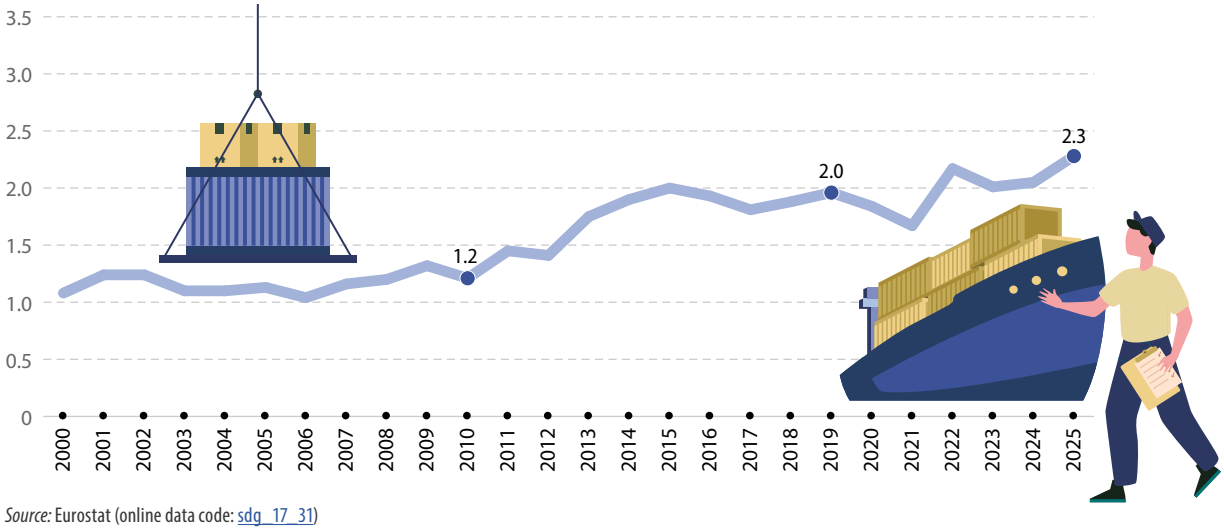
(% of GDP, 2025)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_17_40)

Imports from least-developed countries

(% of total extra-EU imports, EU, 2000–2025)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_17_31)

Global partnership

	**Official development assistance in 2024**	**0.50**	**% of gross national income**	*+0.09 percentage points since 2019*
	**Financing to developing countries in 2024**	**120.6**	**EUR billion**	*–21.9 % since 2019*
	**Imports from least-developed countries in 2025**	**2.28**	**% of total extra-EU imports**	*+0.32 percentage points since 2019*

Financial governance within the EU

	**General government gross debt in 2025**	**81.7**	**% of GDP**	*+4.2 percentage points since 2019*
	**Environmental taxes in 2024**	**5.3**	**% of total tax revenues**	*–1.2 percentage points since 2019*

Access to technology

	**High-speed internet connection in 2024**	**82.5**	**% of households**	*+32.2 percentage points since 2019*

Source: Eurostat (online data sources: sdg_17_10, sdg_17_20, sdg_17_31, sdg_17_40, sdg_17_50 and sdg_17_60)

Annex

EU SDG indicators assessed against quantitative EU targets

SDG	Name	Target value	Target year
1	At risk of poverty or social exclusion	**–15 million persons compared to 2019**	2030
2	Organic farming	**25 % of utilised agricultural area**	2030
2	Use and risk of chemical pesticides	**–50 % of 2015–2017 average level**	2030
3 11	Road traffic deaths	**–50 % of 2019 level**	2020
3 11	Premature deaths due to $PM_{2.5}$ exposure	**–55 % of 2005 level**	2030
3	Consumption of antibiotics	**–20 % of 2019 level**	2030
4	Low achievers in reading, mathematics or science	**15 % of 15-year-old students**	2030
4	Early childhood education	**96 % of children aged 3 and over**	2030
4	Early school leavers	**9 % of population aged 18 to 24**	2030
4 9	Tertiary educational attainment	**45 % of population aged 25 to 34**	2030
4	Adults with at least basic digital skills	**80 % of population aged 16 to 74**	2030
5	Gender employment gap	**–50 % of 2019 level**	2030
5	Women in senior management	**33 % of all director positions or 40 % of non-executive director positions**	2026

SDG	Name	Target value	Target year
7	Primary and final energy consumption	**–11.7 % compared with projections made in 2020**	2030
7 13	Renewable energy	**42.5 % of gross final energy consumption**	2030
8	Employment rate	**78 % of population aged 20 to 64**	2030
8	Not in employment, education or training	**9 % of population aged 15 to 29**	2030
9	R&D expenditure	**3 % of GDP**	2030
9 17	High-speed internet connections	**100 % of households**	2030
11	Recycling of municipal waste	**60 % of total municipal waste generated**	2030
12 13	Average CO_2 emissions from new passenger cars	**49.5 g CO_2 per km**	2030
12	Circular material use rate	**24 % of material input for domestic use**	2030
13	Net greenhouse gas emissions	**–55 % of 1990 level**	2030
13	GHG removals from land use and forestry	**310 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent**	2030
14	Marine protected areas	**30 % of marine area**	2030
15	Terrestrial protected areas	**30 % of land area**	2030
17	Official development assistance	**0.7 % of GNI**	2030

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Sustainable development in the European Union

Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

2026 edition

This brochure is a 'light' version of Eurostat's publication 'Sustainable development in the European Union — 2026 monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context', conveying its main messages in a visual and concise way. The assessment of EU progress towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs) is based on the EU SDG indicator set, which has been established to reflect the SDGs' broad objectives and ambitions, taking into account their relevance for the EU. Each SDG is covered by six primary indicators and one or more multi-purpose indicators that serve as primary indicators for other SDGs. The brochure presents the development of each indicator over the most recent five- or six-year period. For each SDG, two selected indicators are illustrated in more detail.

For more information

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