

Sustainable development in the European Union

Overview of progress towards
the SDGs in an EU context

2026 edition



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Contents

Sustainable development in the EU	3
How has the EU progressed towards the SDGs?	4
EU indicator assessment	6
The 2026 EU SDG communication package.....	7
SDG 1: No poverty	8
SDG 2: Zero hunger.....	10
SDG 3: Good health and well-being	12
SDG 4: Quality education.....	14
SDG 5: Gender equality.....	16
SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation.....	18
SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy.....	20
SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth.....	22
SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	24
SDG 10: Reduced inequalities.....	26
SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities.....	28
SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production	30
SDG 13: Climate action	32
SDG 14: Life below water.....	34
SDG 15: Life on land	36
SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	38
SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals	40
Annex: EU SDG indicators assessed against quantitative EU targets	42



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 🎯)

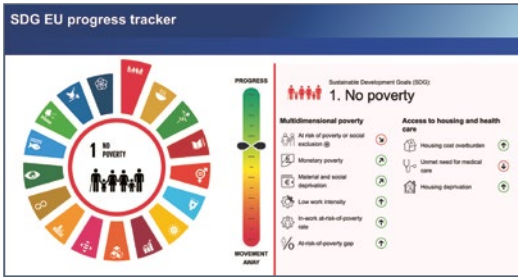
 Insufficient progress towards the EU target 🎯
or
Moderate movement away from SD objectives

 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:

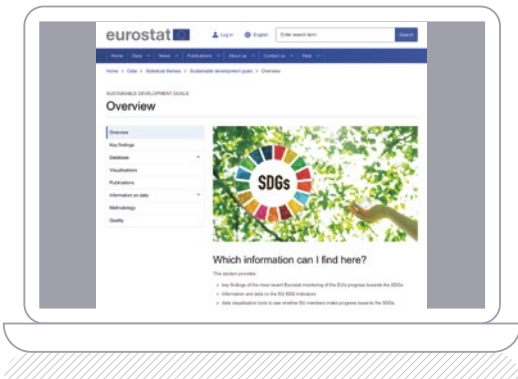


Do you want a quick overview of SDG monitoring?

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

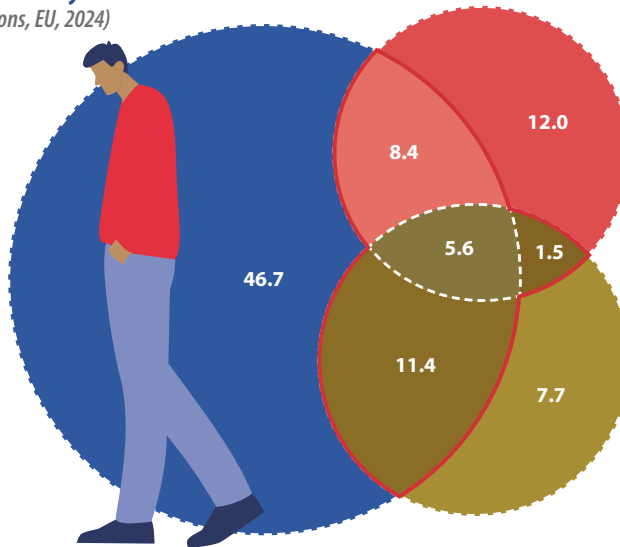


Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(by component, million persons, EU, 2024)

Total number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion: **93.3**

Persons at risk of poverty after social transfers



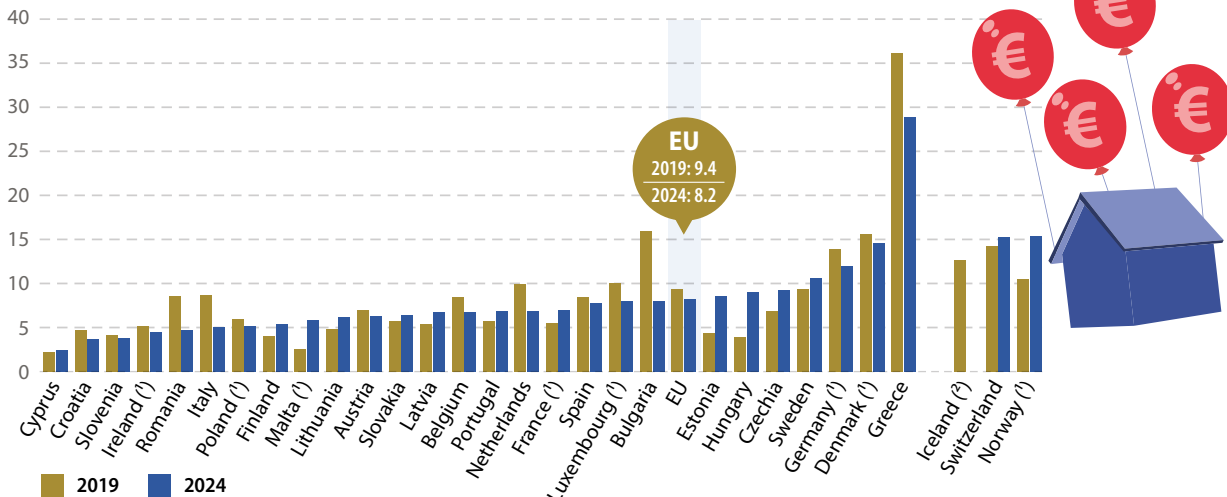
Severe material and social deprivation

Persons living in households with very low work intensity

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

Access to housing and health care

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

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



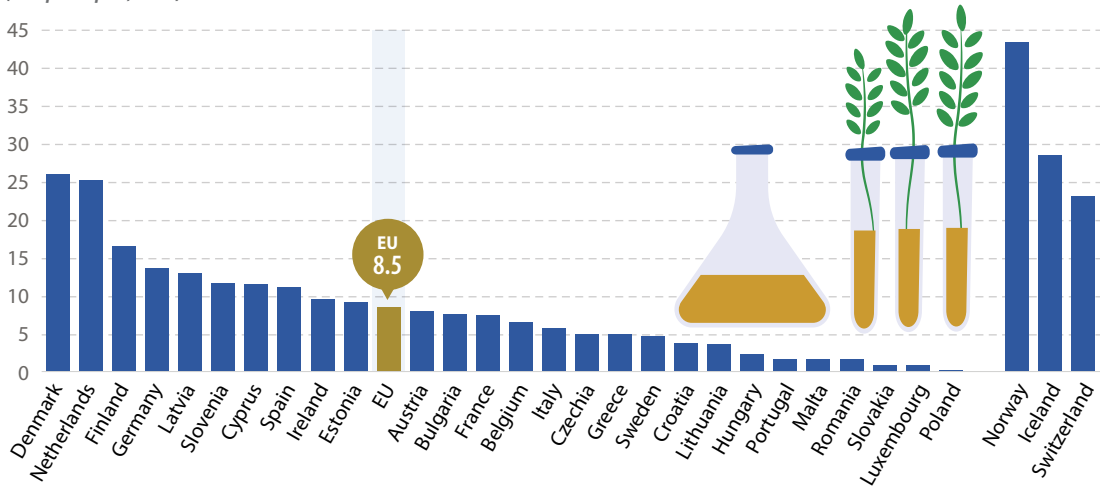
SDG 2 seeks to end hunger and malnutrition and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Realising this goal will largely depend on promoting sustainable production systems and increasing investment in rural infrastructure and agricultural research and development. Monitoring SDG 2 in an 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

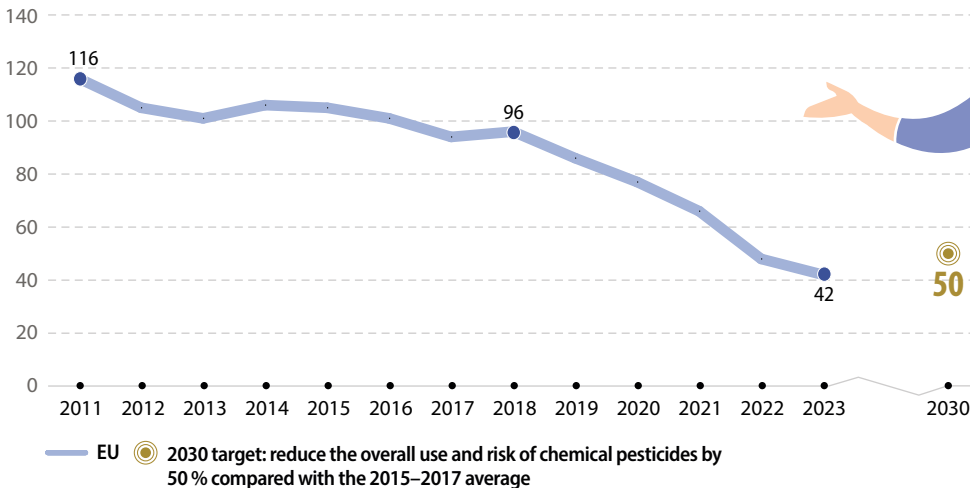
(EUR per capita, 2024)



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 NO₃ 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

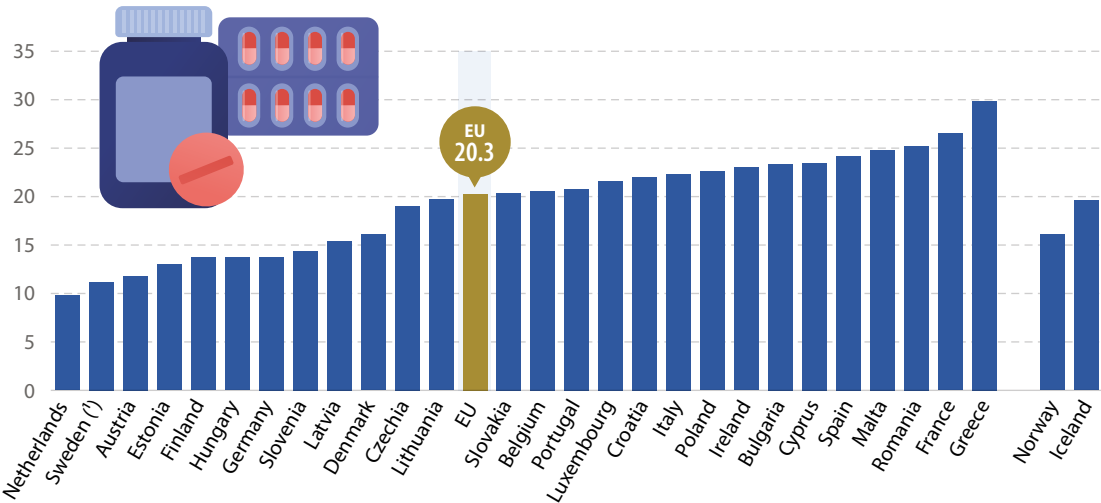
SDG 3 aims to ensure health and promote well-being for all at all ages by improving reproductive, maternal and child health; ending epidemics of major communicable diseases; and reducing non-communicable and mental diseases. It also calls for reducing behavioural and environmental health-risk factors. 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)

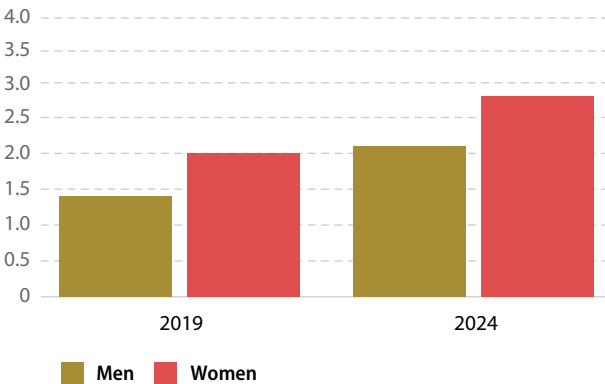


🎯 **2030 target: reduce the total consumption of antibiotics in humans by 20 % compared with 2019 (to 15.9 DDD per 1 000 inhabitants per day)**

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

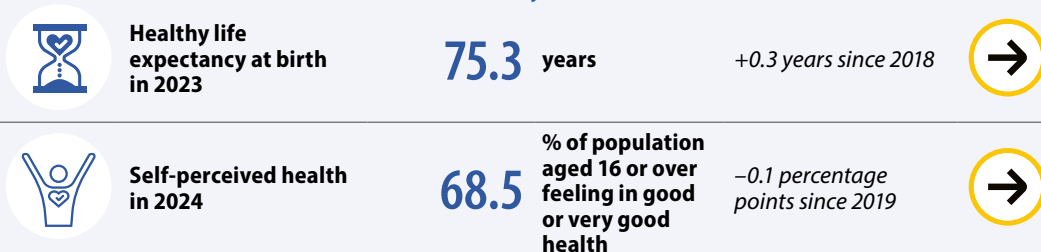
Self-reported unmet need for medical care

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

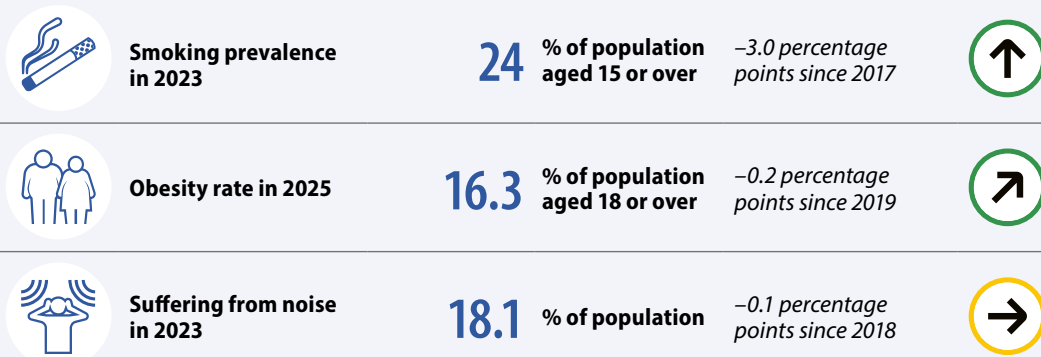


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sdg_03_60](#))

Healthy lives



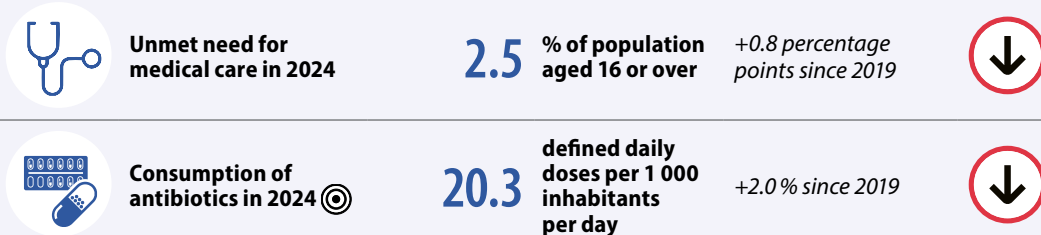
Health determinants



Causes of death



Health care



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](#))



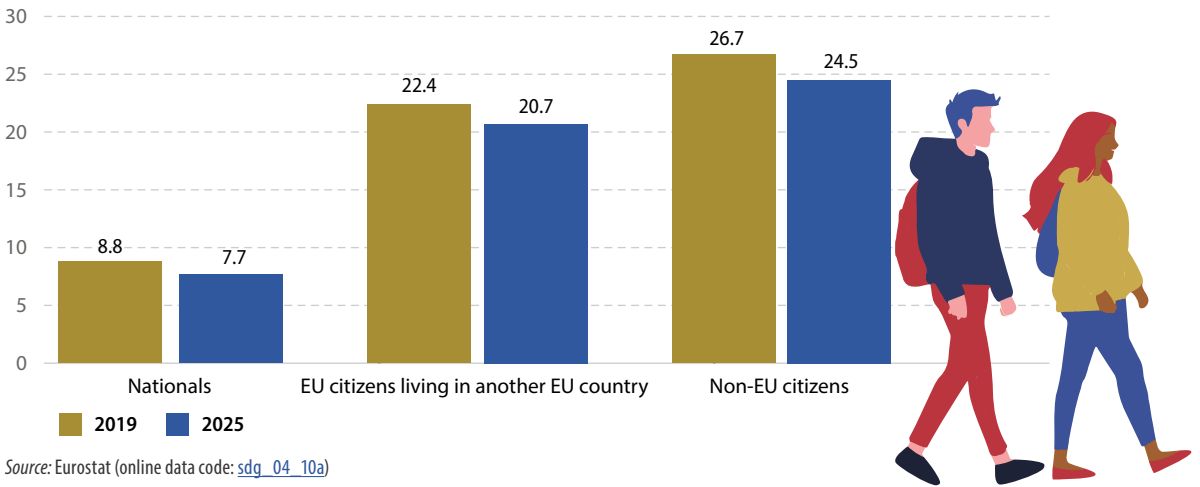
SDG 4 seeks to ensure access for all to quality education through all stages of life, as well as to increase the number of young people and adults who have the relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Monitoring SDG 4 in an EU context focuses on basic education, tertiary education,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

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



Early leavers from education and training

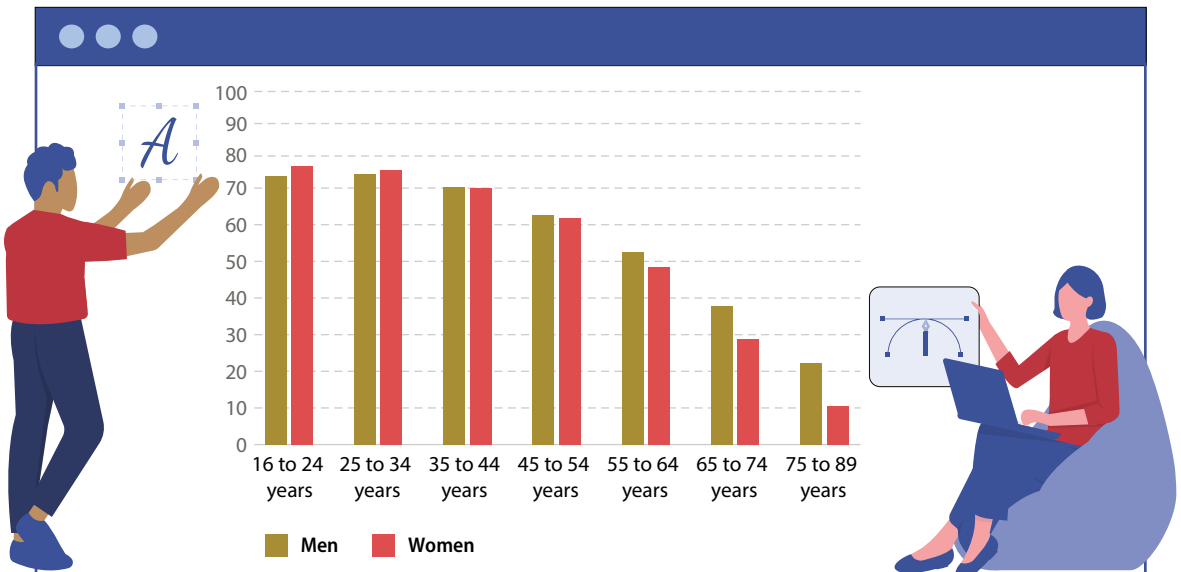
(by citizenship, % of population aged 18 to 24, EU, 2019 and 2025)



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



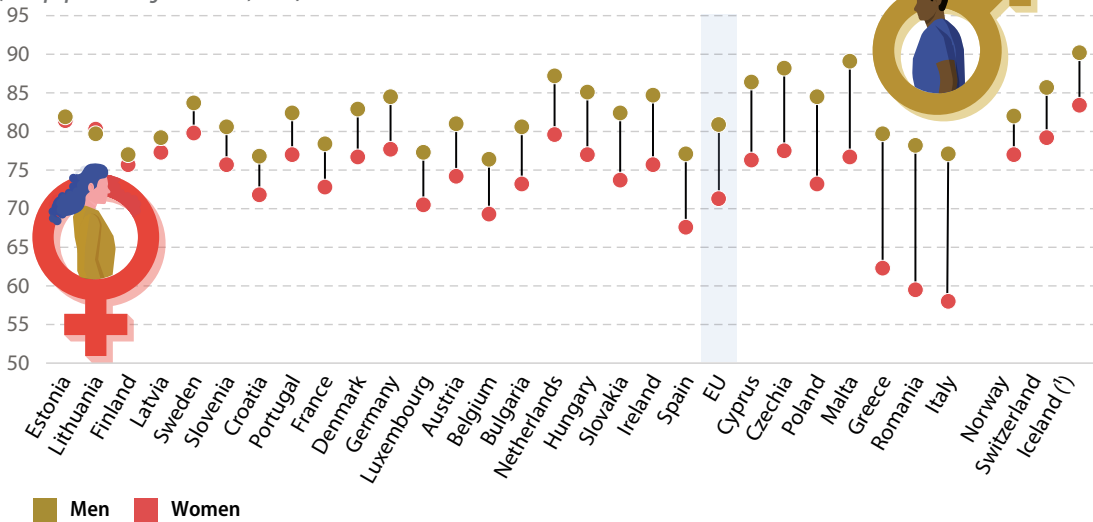
SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality by ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls. It also calls for the full participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making. Monitoring SDG 5 in an EU context focuses 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)

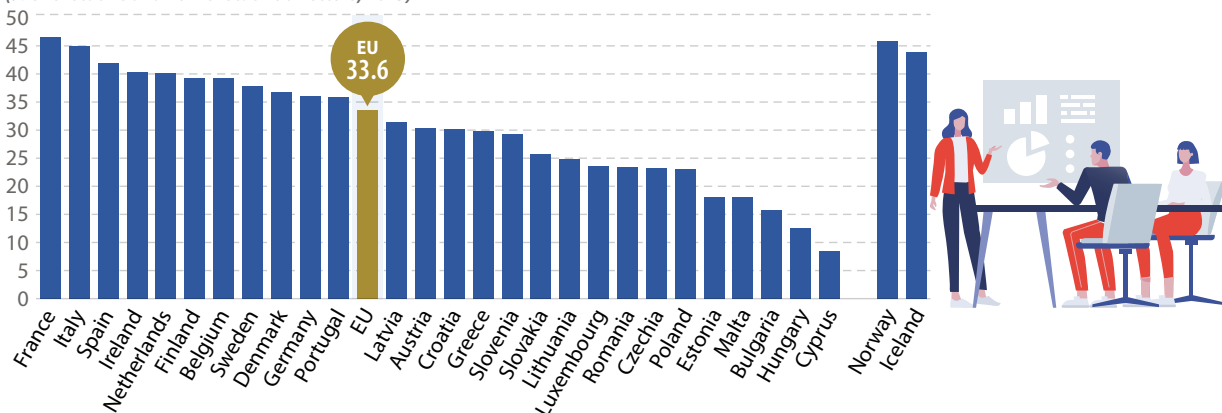


(*) 2024 data.

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



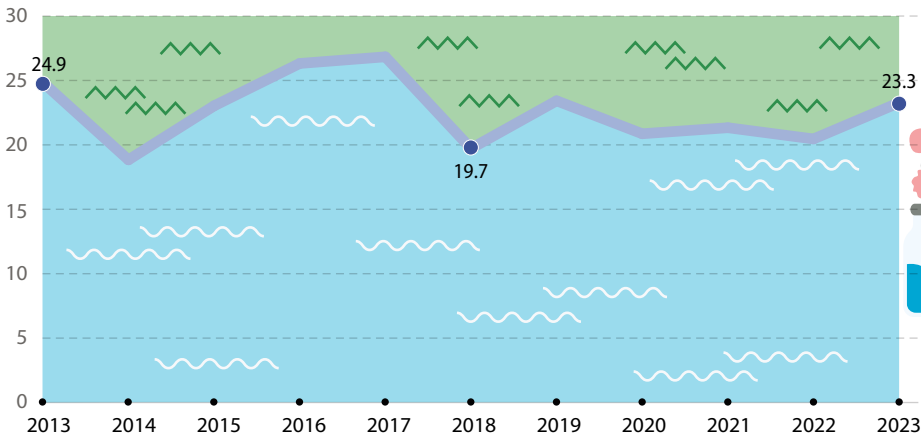
SDG 6 calls for ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and ending open defecation. It also aims to improve water quality and water-use efficiency, and to encourage sustainable abstractions and supply of freshwater. Monitoring SDG 6 within an EU context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

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



Pesticides in rivers

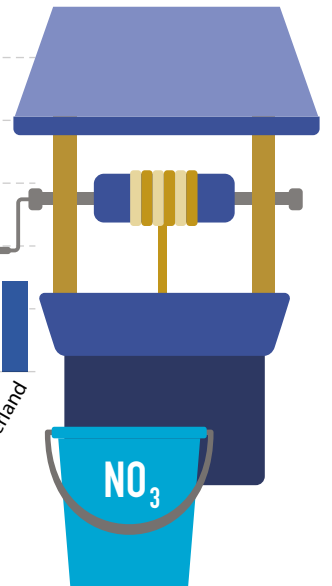
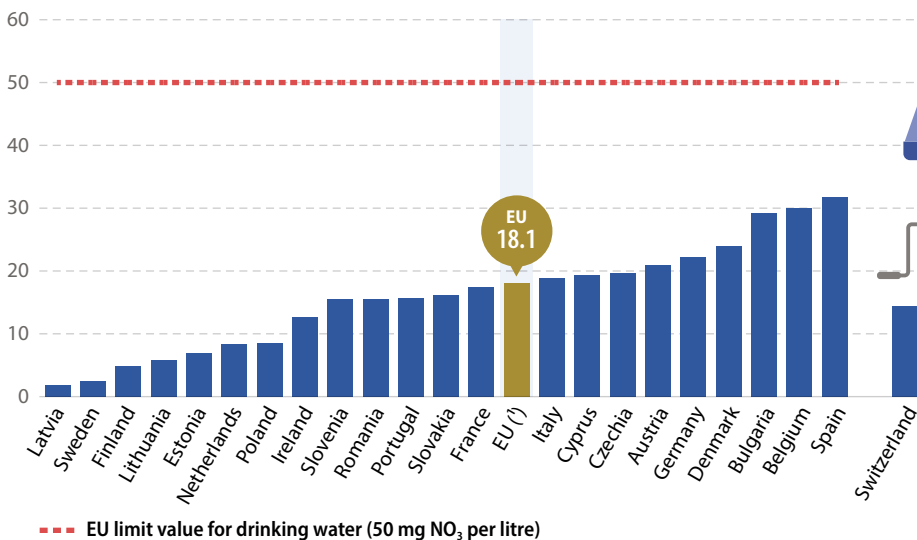
(% of reported waterbodies with pesticides exceeding thresholds, EU, 2013–2023)



Source: EEA (Eurostat online data code: [sdg_06_70](#))

Nitrate in groundwater

(mg NO₃ per litre, 2023)



(*) '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 O₂ per litre -5.1 % since 2018



Nitrate in groundwater in 2023

18.1 mg NO₃ per litre -2.7 % since 2018



Phosphate in rivers in 2023

0.081 mg PO₄ 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



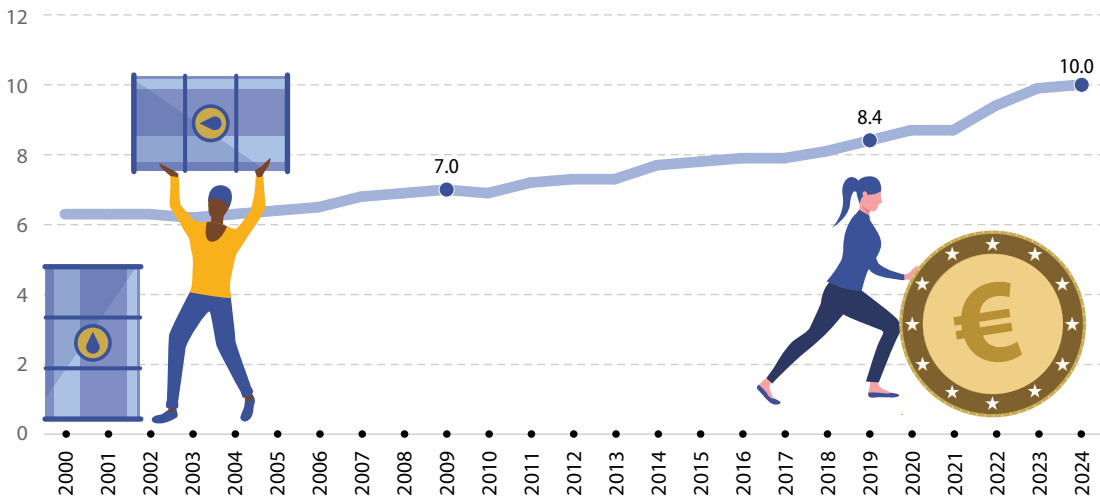
SDG 7 calls for ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. This includes improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewables and further diversifying the energy mix while ensuring affordability of energy for all. Monitoring SDG 7 in an EU context involves looking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

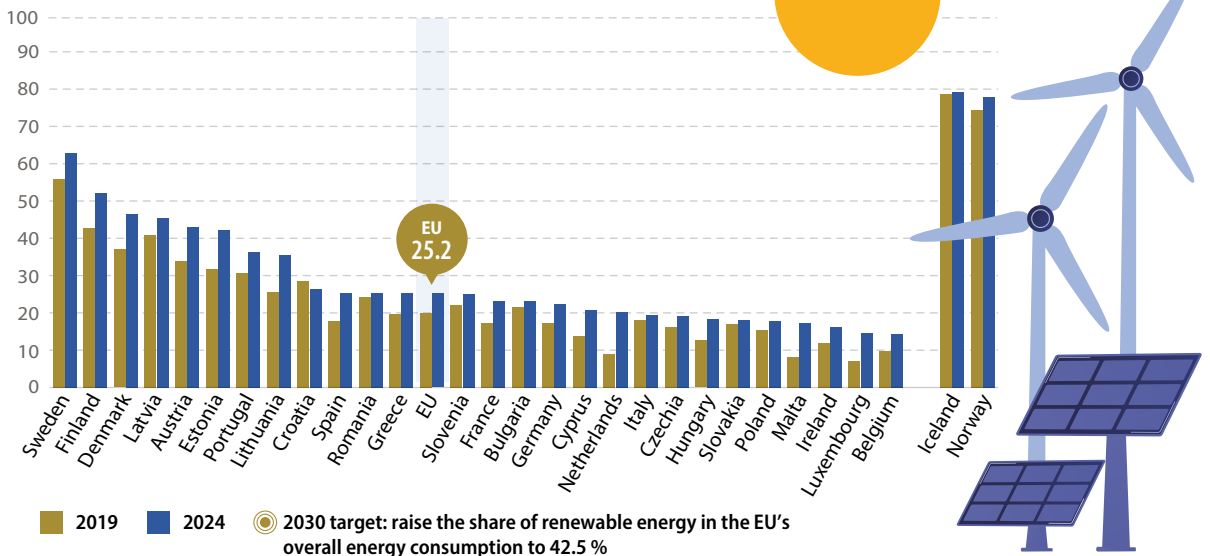
(EUR per kgoe, EU, 2000–2024)



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



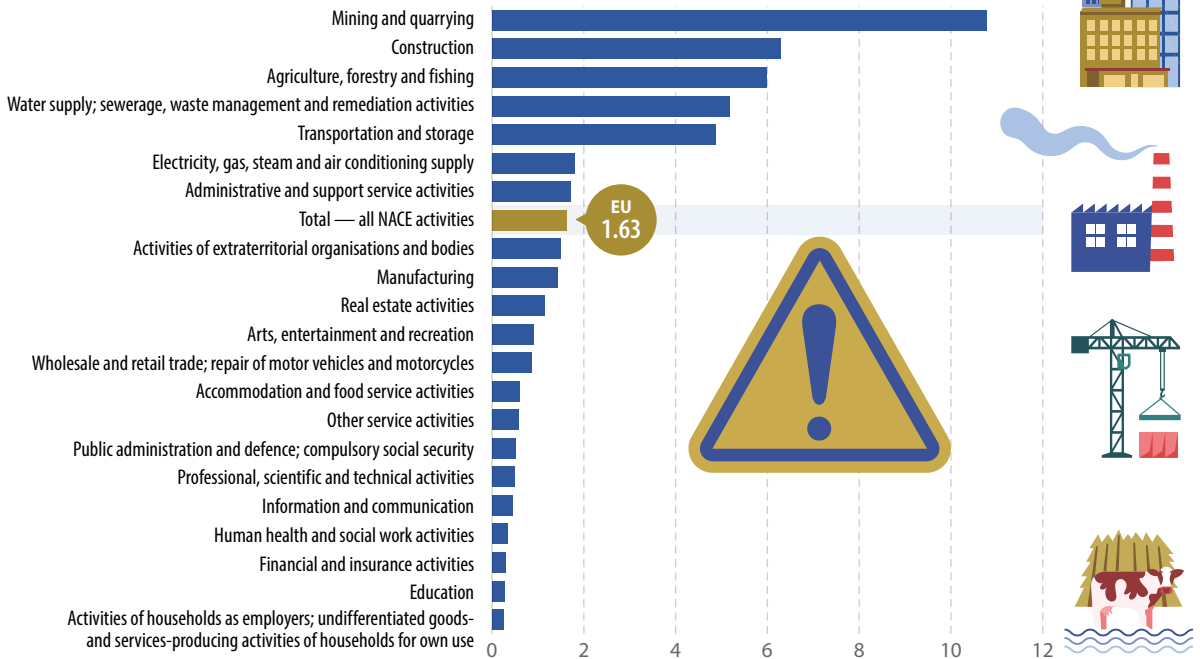
SDG 8 recognises the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs and calls for opportunities for full employment and decent work for all. Monitoring SDG 8 in an EU context means looking into developments in the areas of sustainable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

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



Fatal accidents at work

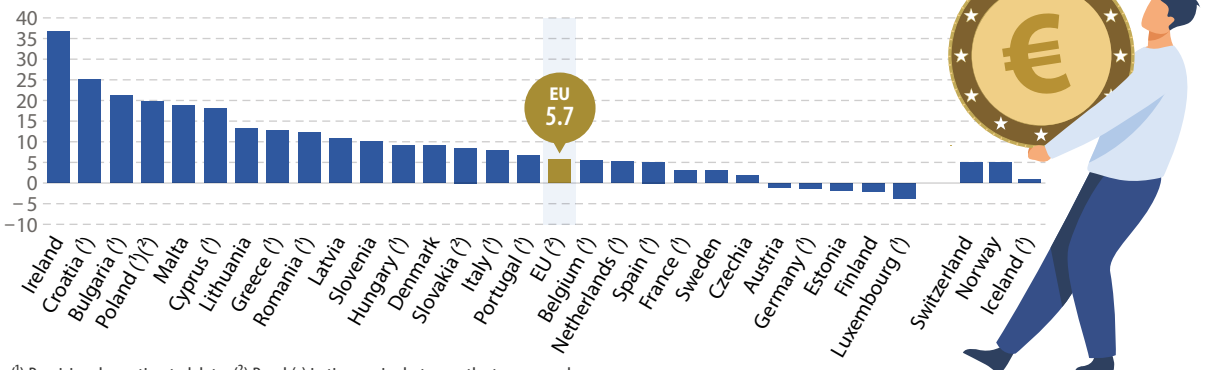
(by economic activity (NACE Rev. 2), number per 100 000 workers, EU, 2023)



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



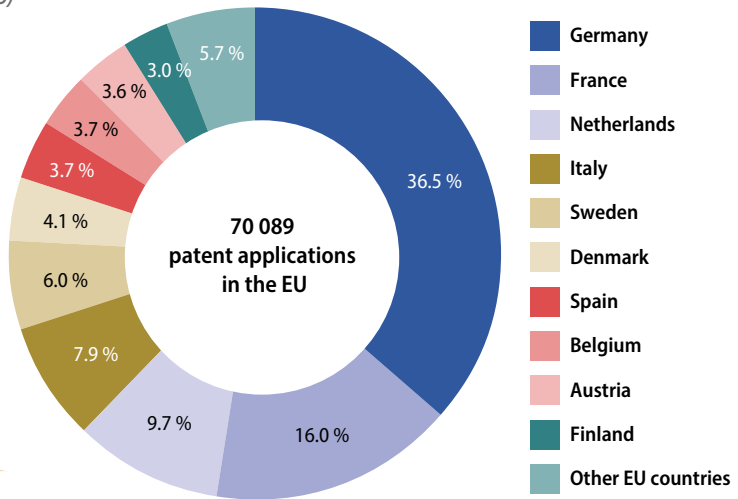
SDG 9 calls for building resilient and sustainable infrastructure and promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialisation. It also recognises the importance of research and innovation for finding solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges. Monitoring SDG 9 in an EU context focuses on 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)

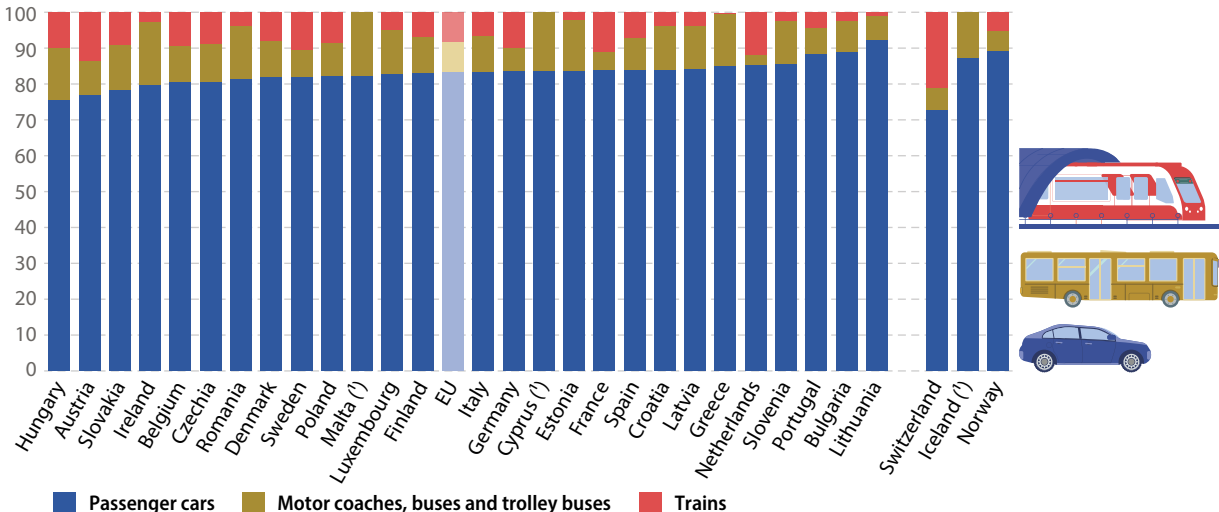
(by country of inventor, % of EU total, 2025)



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_psm0d](#))








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



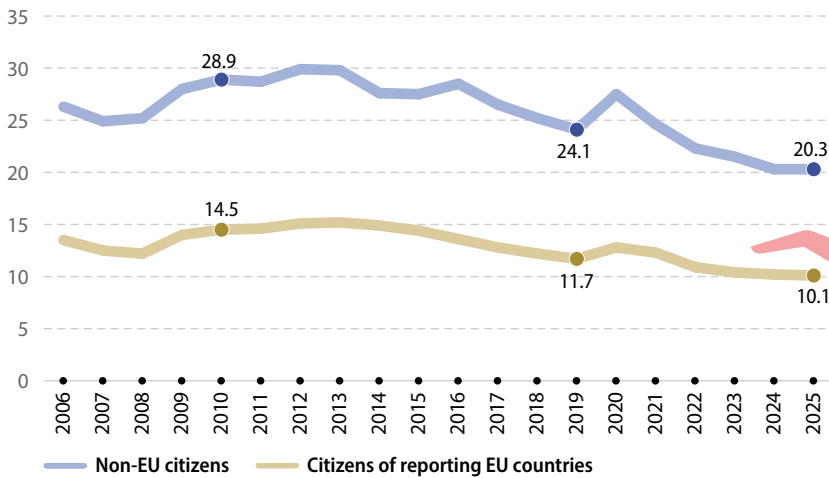
SDG 10 addresses inequalities within and among countries. It calls for nations to reduce inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status within a country. The goal also addresses inequalities among countries and calls 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)

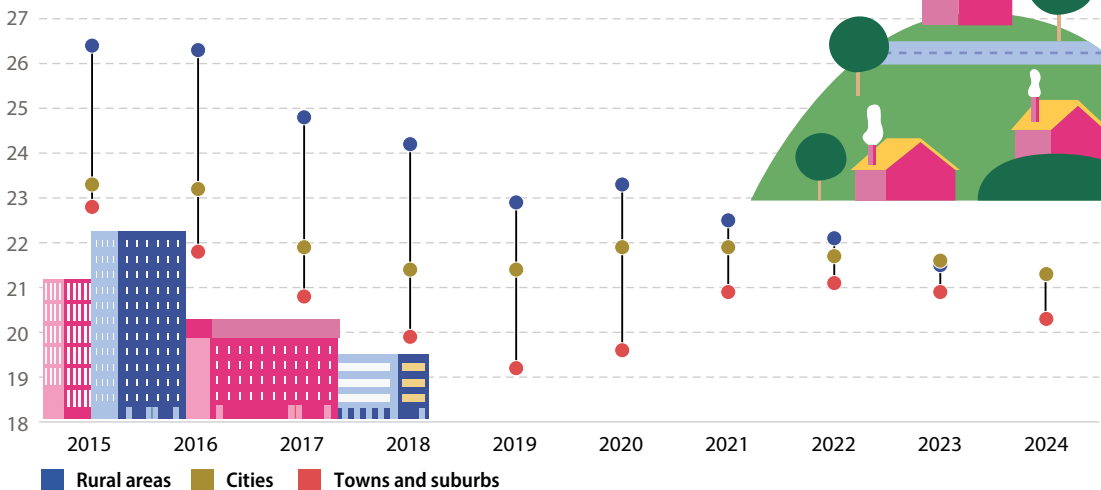
(by citizenship, % of population aged 15 to 29, EU, 2006–2025)



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

Inequalities between countries

	Disparities in GDP per capita in 2025	40.1 coefficient of variation	<i>+0.5 percentage points since 2019</i>	
	Disparities in household income per capita in 2024	20.7 coefficient of variation	<i>-3.7 percentage points since 2019</i>	

Migration, asylum and social inclusion

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

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



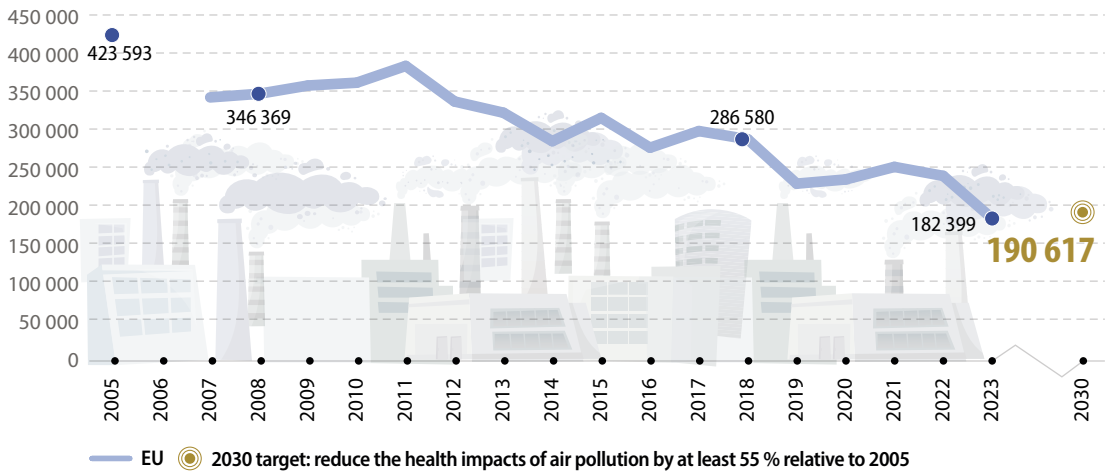
SDG 11 aims to renew and plan cities and other human settlements in a way that offers opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transport, waste management, clean air and green public spaces, while reducing resource use and environmental impact. Monitoring SDG 11 in an EU 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})

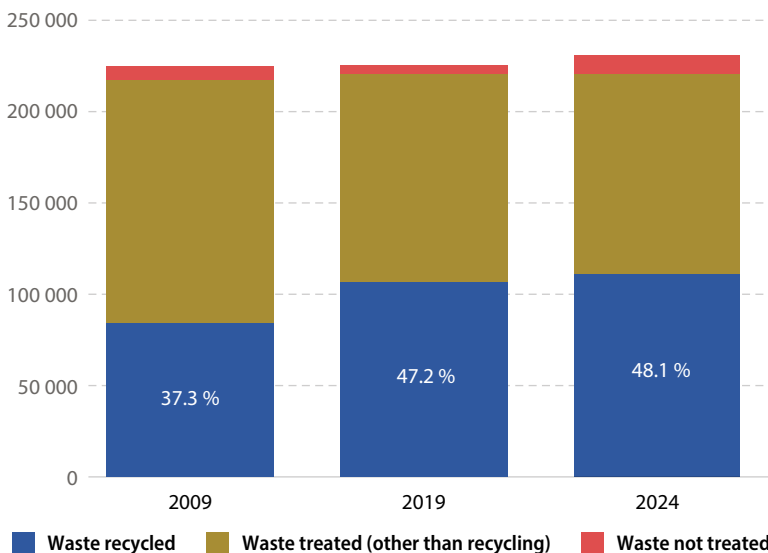
(number, EU, 2005–2023)



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



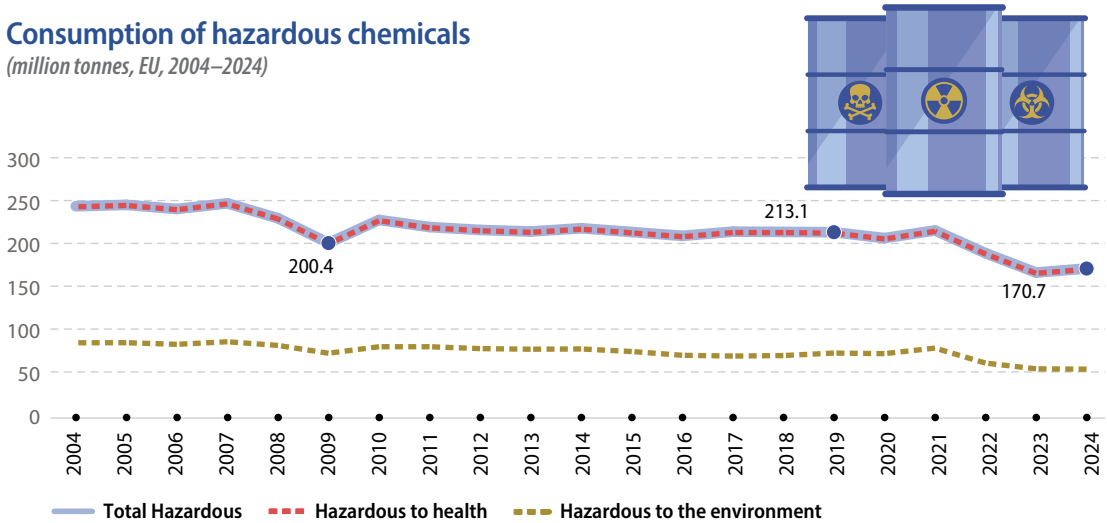
SDG 12 calls for a comprehensive set of actions from businesses, policy-makers and consumers to adapt to sustainable practices. It envisions sustainable production and consumption based on advanced technological capacity, resource efficiency and reduced global waste. Monitoring SDG 12 in an EU context 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

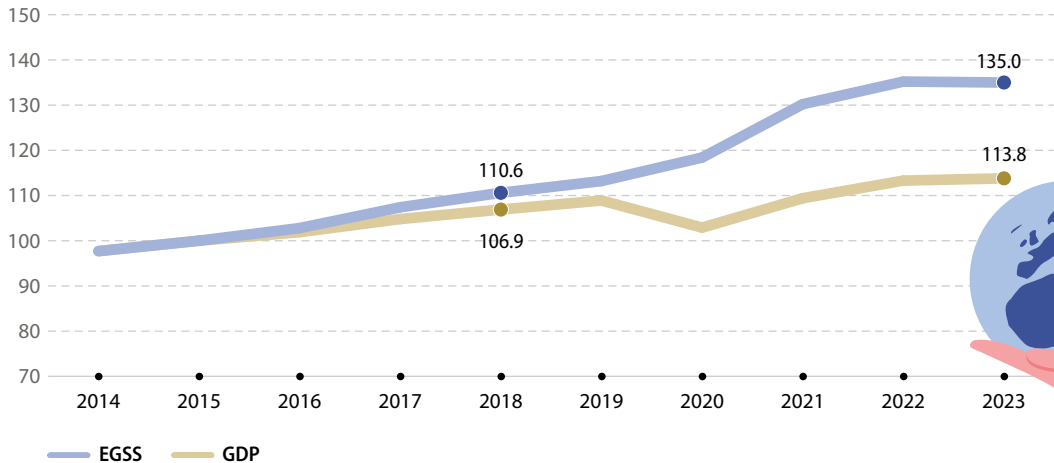
(million tonnes, EU, 2004–2024)



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 CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars in 2024

107.9 g CO₂ 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](#))



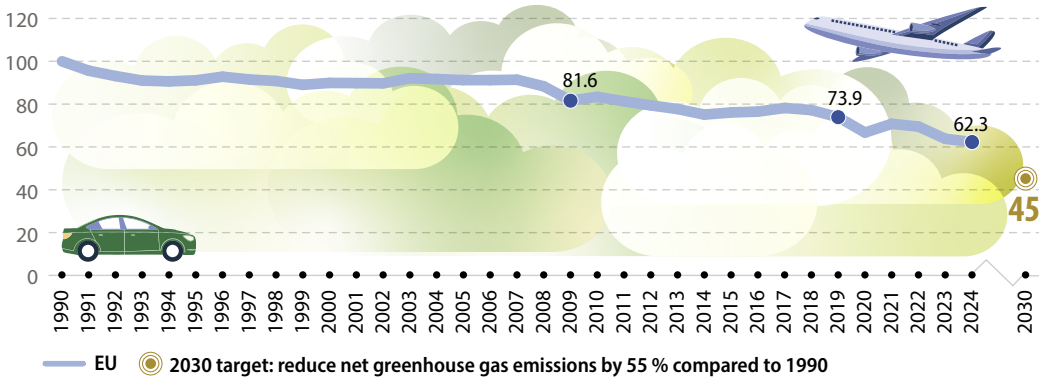
SDG 13 seeks to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century and to limit global warming to well below 2 °C — with an aim of 1.5 °C — compared with pre-industrial times. It aims to strengthen countries' climate resilience and adaptive capacity, with a special focus on supporting least-developed countries.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



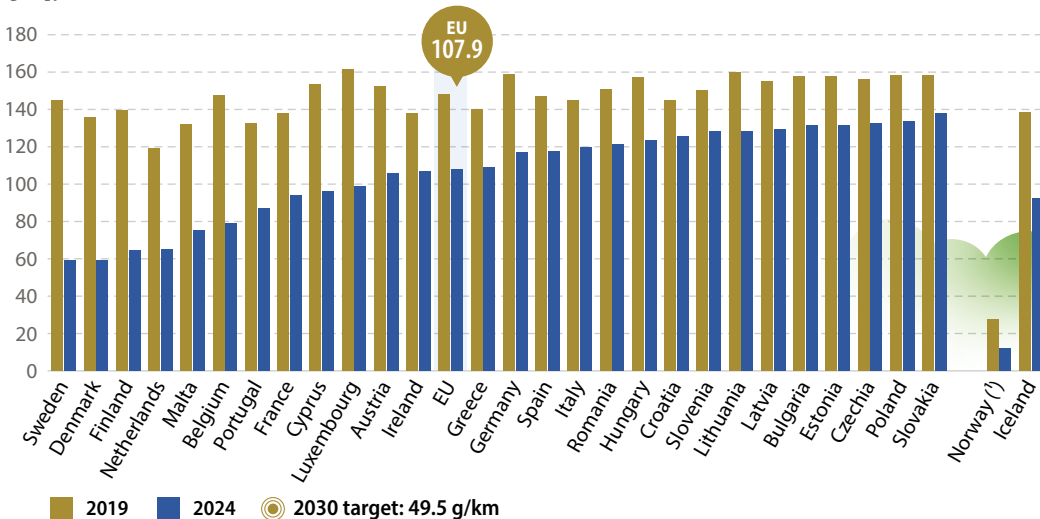
Note: All data are provisional. The EU target scope, as defined in the European Climate Law, includes

— 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](#))

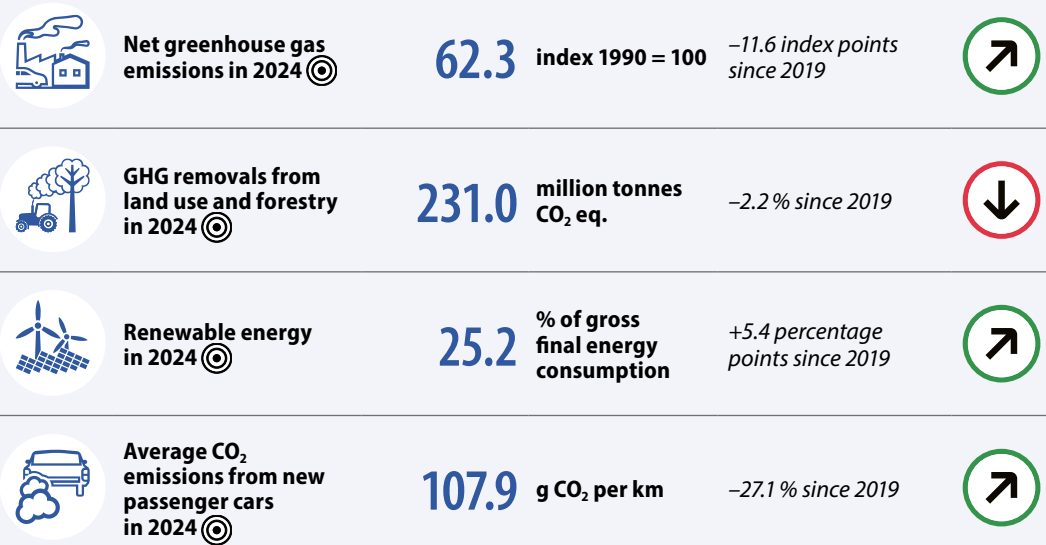
Average CO₂ emissions per km from new passenger cars

(g CO₂ 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](#))

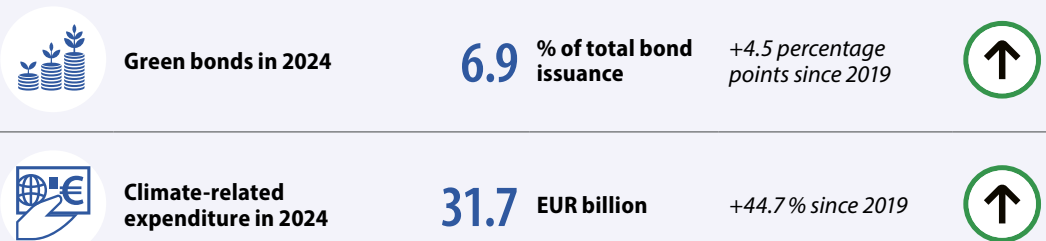
Climate change mitigation



Climate change impacts



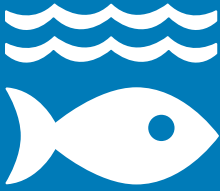
Financing climate action



(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



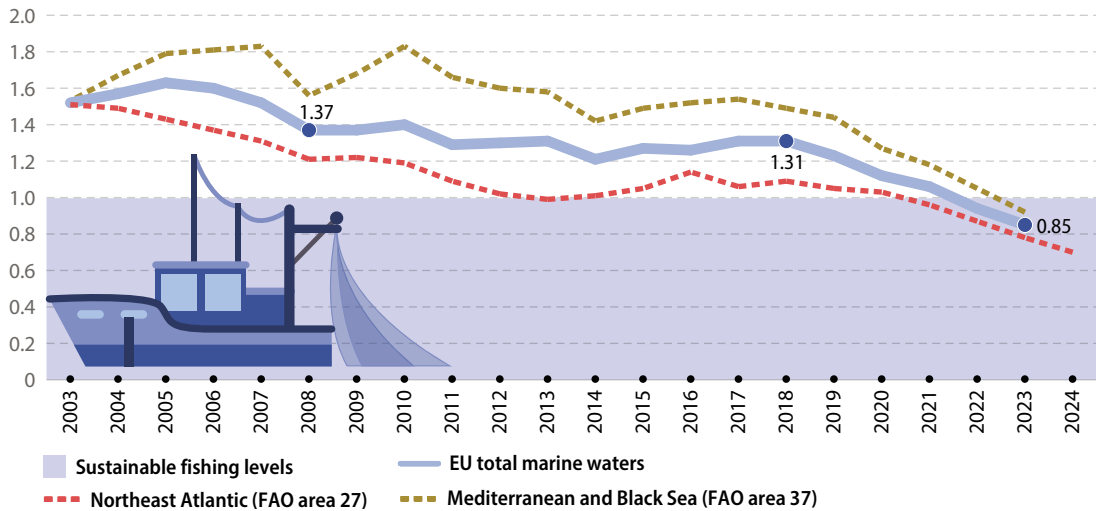
SDG 14 aims to protect and ensure the sustainable use of oceans. This includes reducing marine pollution and ocean acidification, end overfishing and conserve marine and coastal ecosystems. SDG 14 is strongly related to other SDGs as oceans sustain coastal economies and livelihoods, contribute to food 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

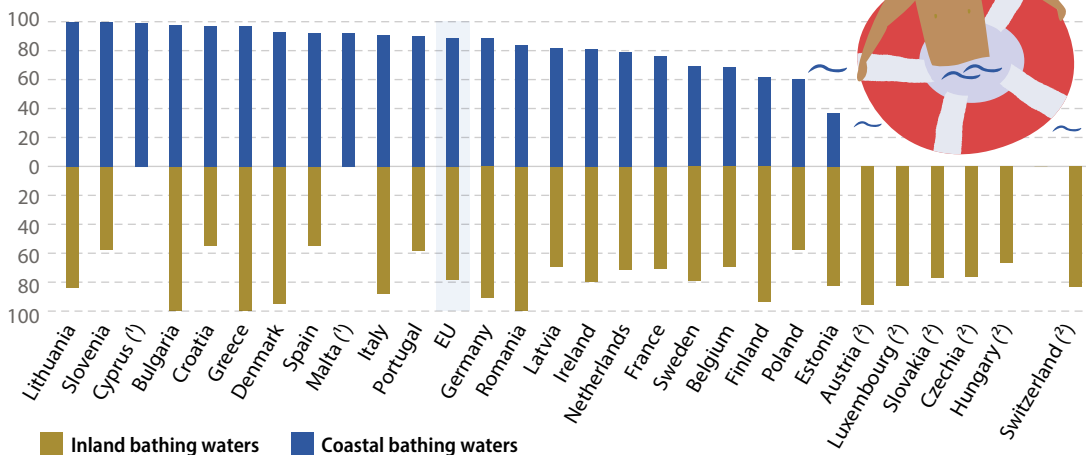
(model-based median value of fishing pressure (F/F_{MSY}), 2003–2024)



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

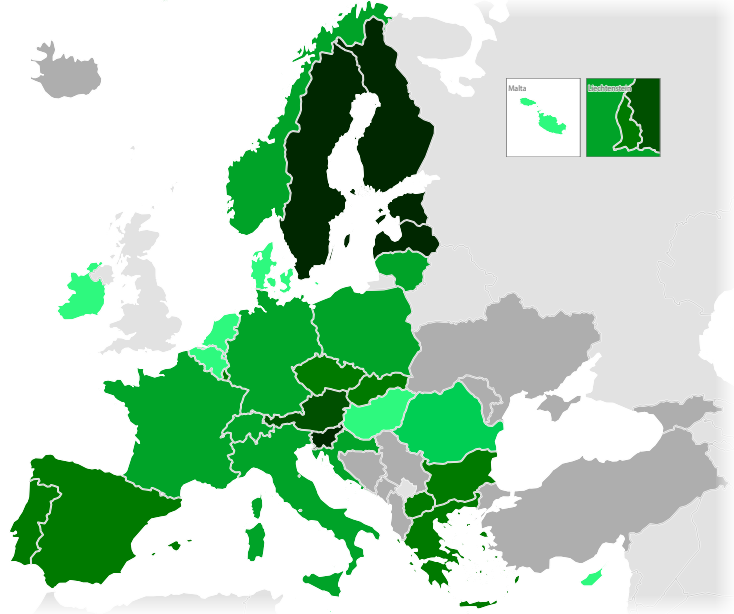
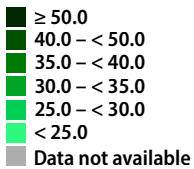


SDG 15 seeks to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. This includes efforts to sustainably manage forests and halt deforestation, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, halt biodiversity loss and protect threatened species. Monitoring 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



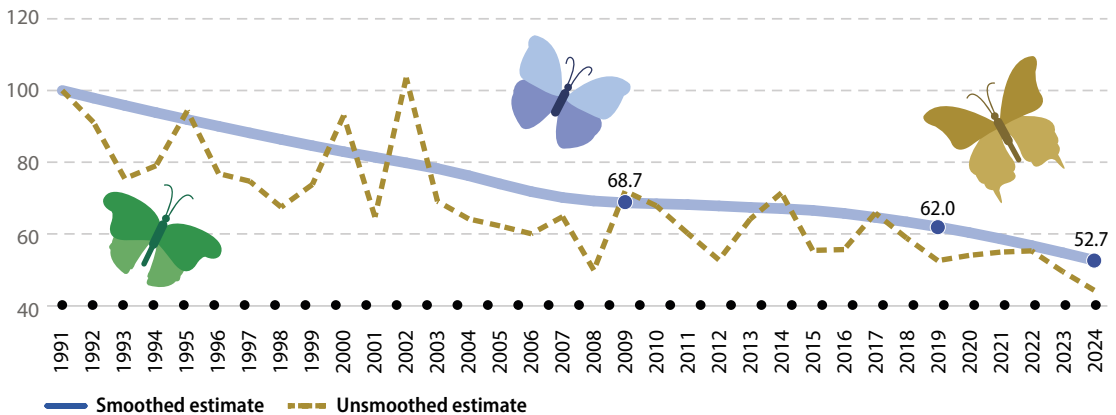
Share of forest area (% of total area, EU, 2023)



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © OpenStreetMap
Cartography: Eurostat – IMAGE, 05/2026

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



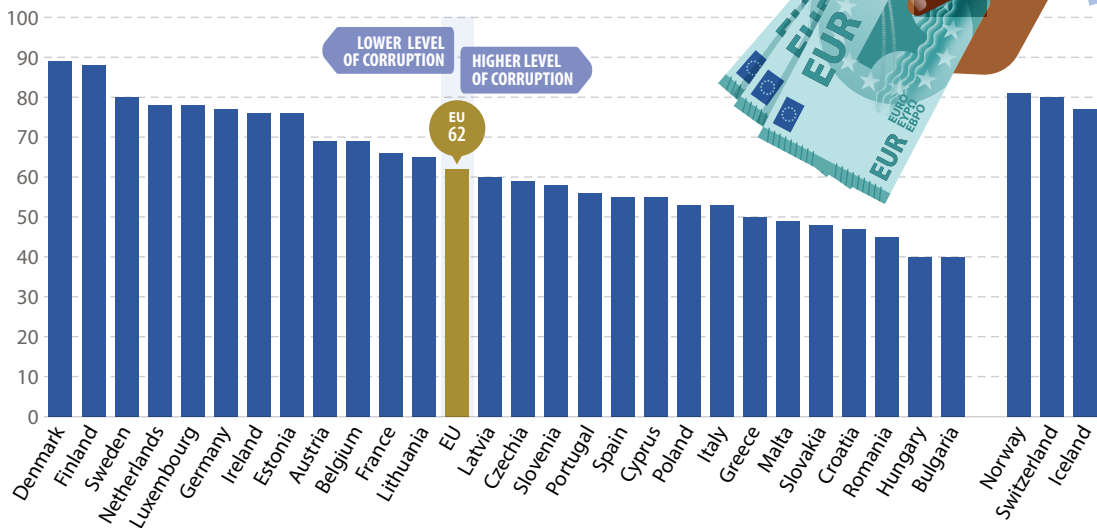
SDG 16 calls for peaceful and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights, protection of the most vulnerable, the rule of law and good governance at all levels. It also envisions transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Monitoring SDG 16 in an EU context focuses on personal security,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

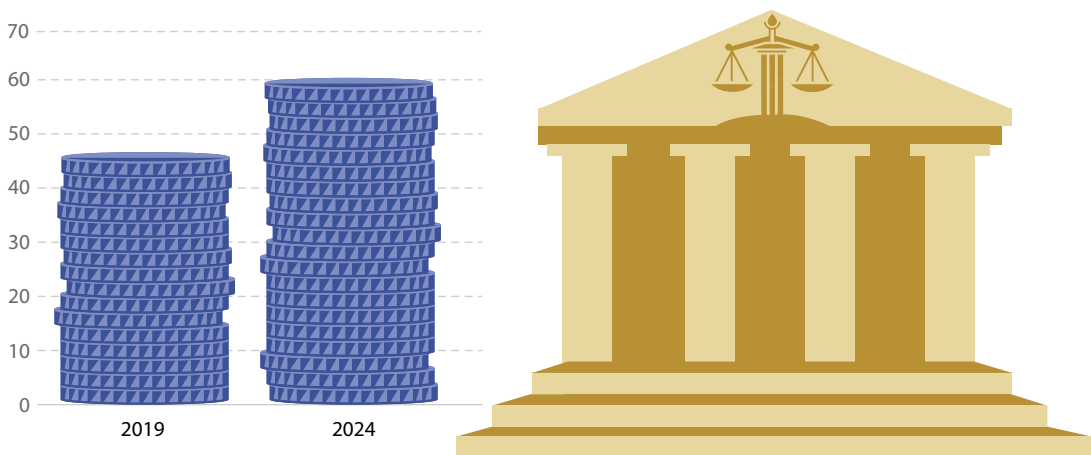
(score scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), 2025)



Source: Transparency International (Eurostat online data code: [sgd_16_50](#))

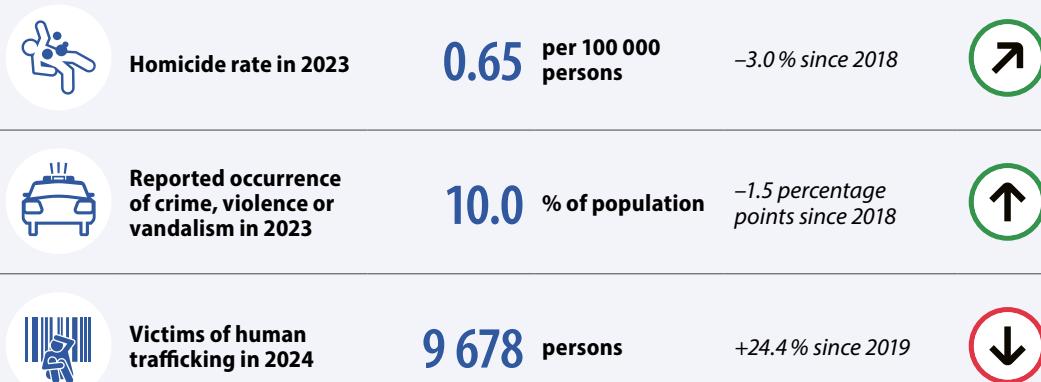
General government total expenditure on law courts

(billion EUR, EU, 2019 and 2024)

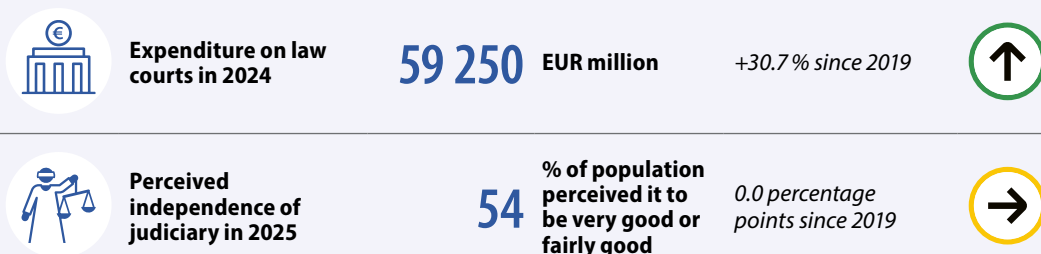


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sgd_16_30](#))

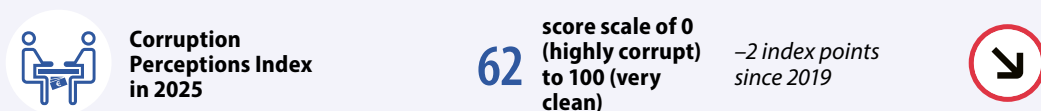
Peace and personal security



Access to justice



Trust in institutions



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



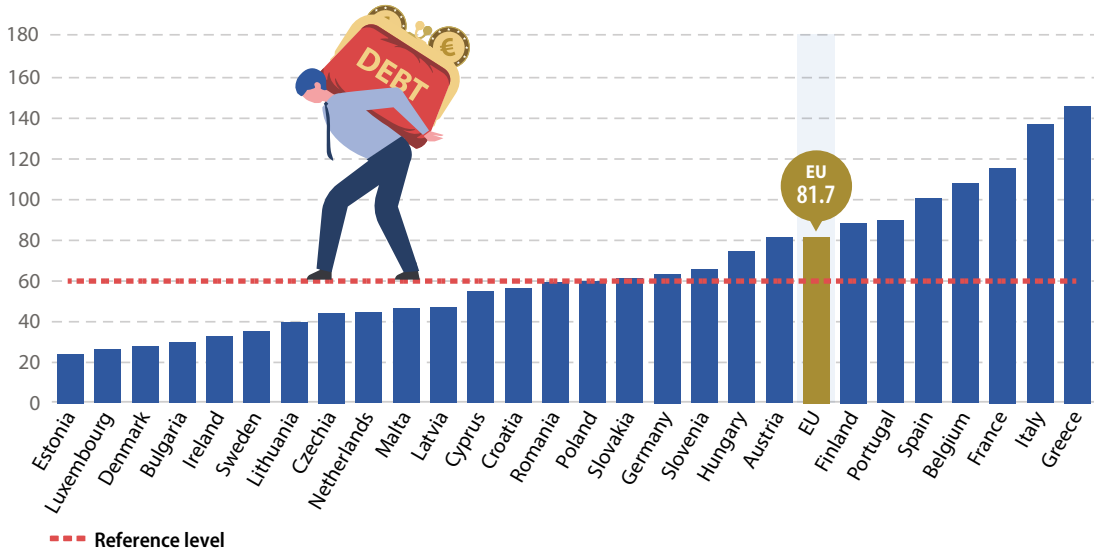
SDG 17 calls for a global partnership for sustainable development. It highlights the importance of macroeconomic stability and of mobilising financial resources for developing countries. It also stresses the importance of trade and equitable rules for governing it. The goal also emphasises the importance 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

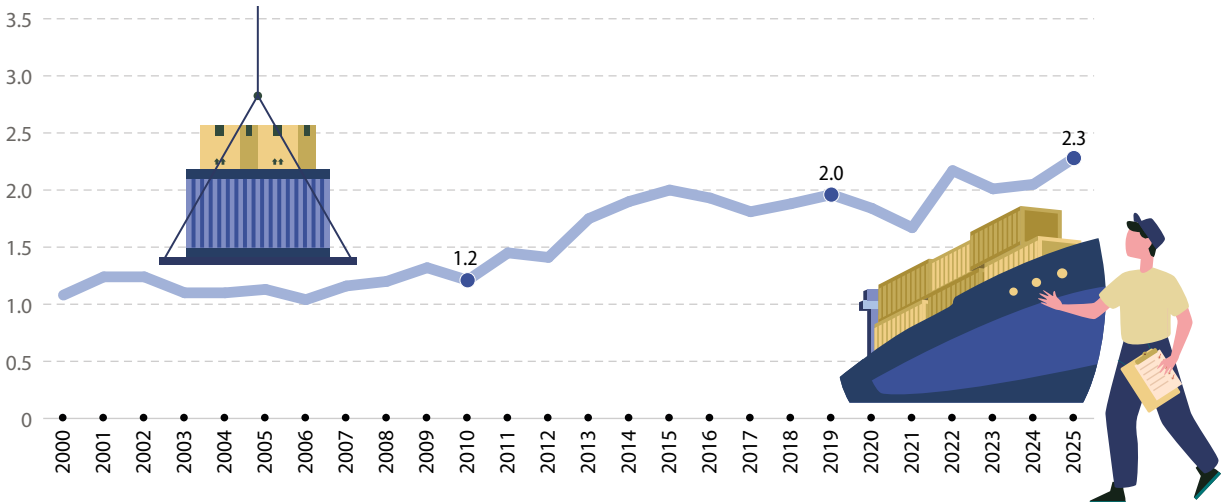
(% of GDP, 2025)



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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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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EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

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

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>