



2021 Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context



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Different levels of SDG monitoring

Level	Reference to be monitored		Main actors	Indicator set
Global (UN)	Agenda 2030's and 169 targets	17 goals	UN Statistical Commission, IAEG-SDGs, Custodian agencies	Global list of 231 indicators.
UN region (UNECE)	Selection based on relevance for the region and data availability		UNECE, data sourced from the Global SDG indicators database	80 indicators from the global list
EU	SDGs in an EU context - focus on EU policies		Eurostat, other Commission services, National statistical offices	EU SDG indicator set. based on existing indicators
National	National SD strategies, implementation of Agenda 2030 in national policies		National statistical offices and other national agencies	National SD indicator sets (exist in some countries, are being developed in others)
Thematic	Individual SDGs or specific topics		Thematic institutions (e.g. UN thematic agencies)	More detailed indicator sets
Other	Alternative monitoring		NGOs, think tanks, other (e.g. OECD, Bertelsmann Stiftung)	Global or ad hoc indicators, different and ad hoc methodologies

EU SDG indicator set



Indicators are chosen for their policy relevance and statistical quality

Result of a broad consultative process (Commission services, national statistical institutes, Committees of EU Member States, civil society, etc.)

Original indicator set approved by the European Statistical System Committee

Annual reviews

EU SDG indicator set 2021



102 different indicators, evenly distributed across the 17 SDGs

37 multipurpose indicators (i.e. used for more than 1 SDG), reinforcing links between goals and narrative of reporting

90 indicators updated annually

63 indicators from ESS, **39** from non-ESS sources

67 aligned with UN SDG indicators

Summary of progress at goal level

Indicator	Long-term trend (past 15 years)	Short-term trend (past 5 years)
Basic education		
🎯 Underachievement in reading, maths and science	↓ ⁽¹⁾	↓ ⁽²⁾
🎯 Participation in early childhood education	:	↑
🎯 Early leavers from education and training	↑	↑
Tertiary education		
🎯 Tertiary educational attainment	↑	↑
Adult learning		
Adult participation in learning	↑	↓
Digital skills		
🎯 Share of adults with at least basic digital skills	:	↓ ⁽³⁾



Overview of EU progress towards the SDGs over the past 5 years



Key results

SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

- Deaths due to homicide and population reporting crime, violence and vandalism went down
- Government expenditure on law courts increased



SDG 1 – No poverty

- Considerable improvement in all poverty dimensions
- Fewer people face problems related to their homes (overcrowding, poor dwelling conditions etc.)

SDG 3 – Good health and well-being

- Improvement in noise and air pollution as well as smoking
- Healthy life years at birth increased



Key results

SDG 13 – Climate action

- Net greenhouse gas emissions reduced, but more progress necessary to reach -55% by 2030
- Impacts of climate change keep intensifying – European surface temperature, ocean acidity



SDG 15 – Life on land

- Forest area and Natura 2000 area increased slightly
- Bird index improved, butterfly index deteriorated

SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy

- EU not on track to meet +32.5% energy efficiency by 2030
- Share of renewable energy is rising, further efforts necessary



New features in 2021

- Chapter on impact of COVID-19
- Indicators for measuring spill-over effects
- Member States visualisation on Eurostat website
- Gap indicators included in digital publication

Impact of Covid-19 on SDG

- Analyse indicators for which 2020 (quarterly) data is available – importance of timeliness
- To cover all three dimensions (social, economic, environmental)
 - Excess mortality
 - Employment, unemployment
 - Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)
 - GDP, general government gross debt
 - Electricity consumption, commercial air flights, CO2 emissions

Impact of Covid-19 on SDG

Figure C.4: Employment and unemployment growth, EU, 2019–2020
(% change on previous period)

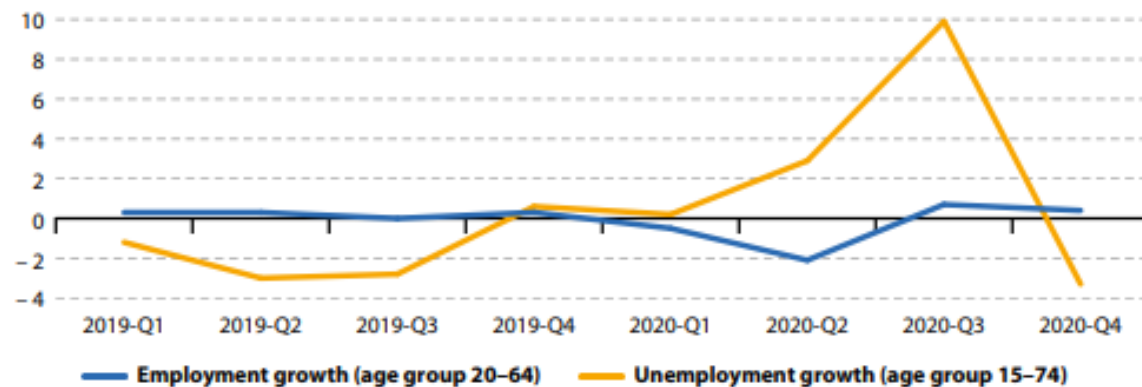
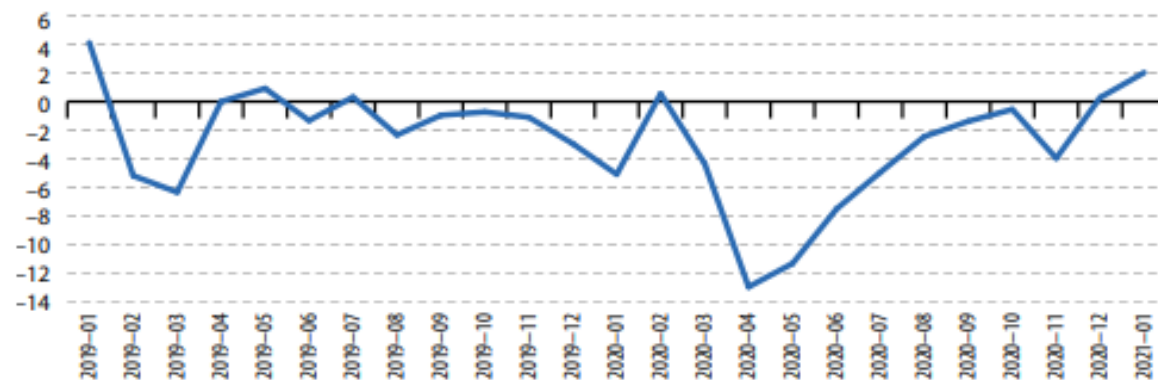


Figure C.6: Electricity consumption, EU, 2019–2021
(% change compared with same period of previous year)



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

Impact of Covid-19 on SDG

HEALTH



Excess mortality in 2020

545 000 deaths

+ 12 % compared with the annual average in 2016–2019

ECONOMY

in 2020



Real GDP per capita

EUR 26 230

- 6.2 pp since 2019



Industrial production

97.2 index, 2015 = 100

- 8.5 index points since 2019



Extra-EU imports

EUR 1 714 billion

- 11.7 % since 2019



General government gross debt

90.7 % of GDP

+ 13.2 pp since 2019

LABOUR MARKET

in 2020



Employment rate

72.4 % of population aged 20 to 64

- 0.7 pp since 2019



Unemployment rate

7.1 % of active population

+ 0.4 pp since 2019



Not in employment, education or training

13.7 % of population aged 15 to 29

+ 1.1 pp since 2019

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

change 2019–2020



Electricity consumption

- 4.4 %



CO₂ emissions from energy use

- 10 %

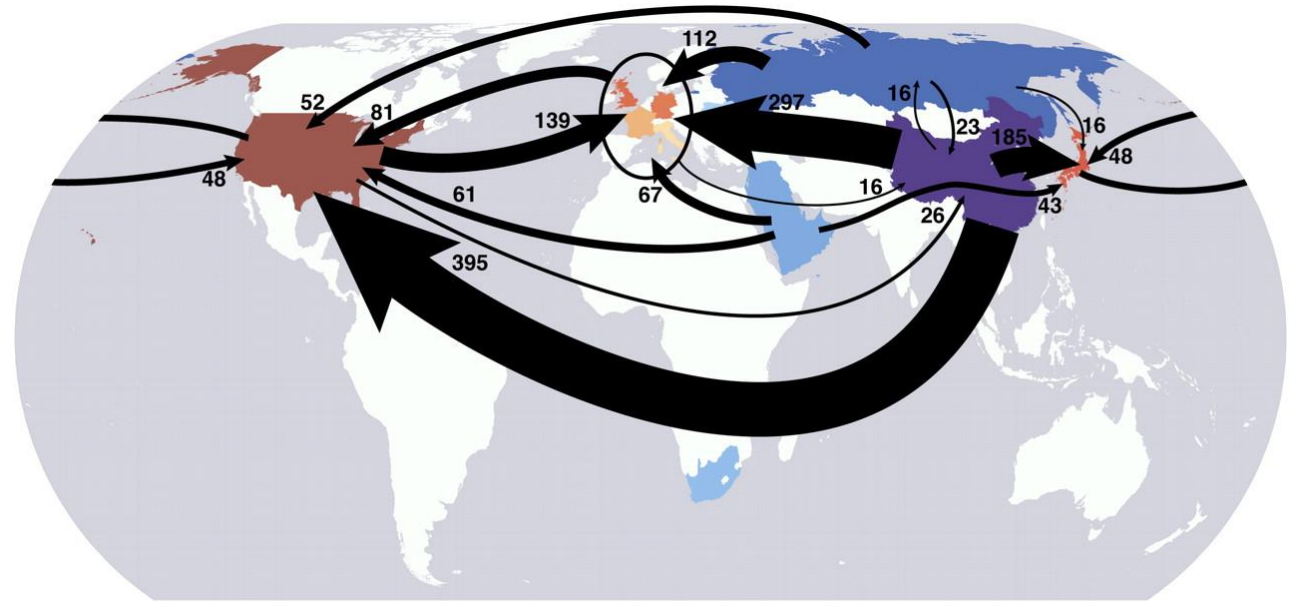
New chapter on spillover effects

2019 request from the EU Parliament: „However, the European Parliament and other stakeholders **regret** that the **spill-over effect** of EU policies on third countries remains a **blind spot** in the evaluation of the EU's contribution to the SDGs.”

December 2019 Council conclusions: „The Council also notes that the EU information concerning the **spill-overs** generated by the EU's policies around the world needs to be improved.”

Methodology for estimating spillover indicators

- „Spillover effects embodied into trade“
=> consumption based accounting across the supply chain
- Multi-regional-input-output (MRIO) tables (Global MRIO Lab) compiling Eora, EXIOBASE, and WIOD into one single system of IOT, led by the University of Sydney
- 5 indicators proposed: Carbon and air pollution footprints, income, employment, accidents at work



Results

Table C.1: Spillover effects of EU consumption for the indicators in this chapter in 2018

Indicator	Data source	Imports/Exports	Measurement unit	EU
Raw material footprint	Eurostat	Imports	t per capita in raw material equivalents	7.8
		Exports	t per capita in raw material equivalents	5.3
CO ₂ emissions	MRIO Lab	Imports	t per capita	1.6
	Eurostat		t per capita	1.0
	MRIO Lab	Exports	t per capita	0.6
	Eurostat		t per capita	1.3
Air pollutant: NO _x	MRIO Lab	Imports	kg per capita	4.8
	Eurostat		kg per capita	3.6
	MRIO Lab	Exports	kg per capita	1.9
	Eurostat		kg per capita	6.8
Air pollutant: SO ₂	MRIO Lab	Imports	kg per capita	4.7
	Eurostat		kg per capita	1.5
	MRIO Lab	Exports	kg per capita	1.6
	Eurostat		kg per capita	2.8
Employment	MRIO Lab	Imports	Absolute (million people)	69
		Exports	Absolute (million people)	25
Income	MRIO Lab	Imports	Absolute (EUR billion)	503
			Per employee (EUR)	7 295
			Per capita (EUR)	1 123
	MRIO Lab	Exports	Absolute (EUR billion)	636
			Per employee (EUR)	25 637
			Per capita (EUR)	1 427

Note: Imports cover imports from the rest of the world into the EU, exports cover products produced in the EU and exported to the rest of the world.

Source: Global MRIO Lab, Eurostat (online data codes: env_ac_io10, env_ac_rme and env_ac_rme fd)



Eurostat EU SDG monitoring package

Monitoring report & brochure



Dedicated website



Statistics Explained



Digital publication



Online database

- Sustainable development indicators (Information note)
- Goal 1 - No poverty (sdg_01)
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger (sdg_02)
- Goal 3 - Good health and well-being (sdg_03)
- Goal 4 - Quality education (sdg_04)
- Goal 5 - Gender equality (sdg_05)
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation (sdg_06)
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy (sdg_07)
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth (sdg_08)
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure (sdg_09)
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities (sdg_10)
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities (sdg_11)
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production (sdg_12)
- Goal 13 - Climate action (sdg_13)
- Goal 14 - Life below water (sdg_14)
- Goal 15 - Life on land (sdg_15)
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions (sdg_16)
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals (sdg_17)
- Replaced EU SDG indicators (sdg_h)

Thank you

[Overview - Sustainable development indicators - Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](#)



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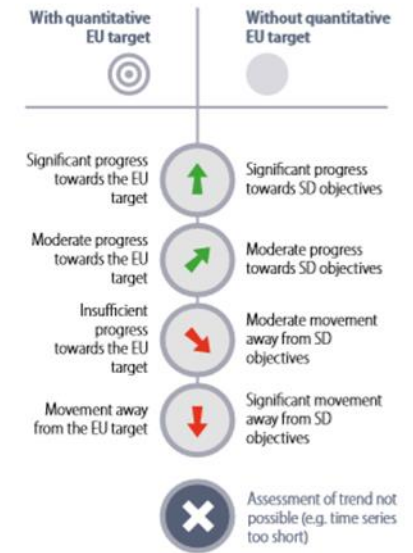
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Additional slides for Q&A

Trend assessment methodology

- Assessment of individual indicator trends...
 - ...with an existing quantitative policy target:
„Is the EU on track to reach the target?“
 - ...without a quantitative target:
„Is the EU moving in the right direction with regards to...?“
- Aggregation at SDG level by normalising the above indicator level results and calculating „average“ performance. Only for goals with available assessments for 70% of indicators.



Annual review of EU SDG indicator set

- Consultation of
 - Eurostat units, EEA and other data providers
 - Directorates General of the Commission (e.g. ENV, EMPL)
 - Committees of EU Member States (EMCO-IG, SPC-ISG)
 - National statistical institutes
 - Civil society
- Main purpose of 2021 review: adapt the indicator set for Green Deal and other new policies
 - Include new indicators
 - Include new/revised targets (until 2030)



Policy targets for 2021 monitoring

SDG	Indicator	Target	Target year
2	Area under organic farming	25%	2030
3	Road traffic deaths	-50%	2030
4	Share of people with at least upper secondary qualification	90%	2030
4	Tertiary educational attainment	50%	2030
4	Participation in early childhood education	98%	2030
4	Underachievement in reading, maths and science	<15%	2030
4	Share of adults having at least basic digital skills	70%	2025

Policy targets for 2021 monitoring

SDG	Indicator	Target	Target year
7	Primary and final energy consumption	-32,5%	2030
7	Share of renewable energy	32%	2030
9	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D	3%	2030
11	Road traffic deaths	-50%	2030
11	Recycling rate of municipal waste	60%	2030
12	Average CO2 emissions from new passenger cars	<95g/km	2021
13	Greenhouse gas emissions	-55%	2030
17	Official development assistance	0.7% of GNI	2030