



EUROPEAN SEMESTER 2020

President Ursula von der Leyen's Political Guidelines committed the Commission to integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the European Semester.

One of the new features in the European Semester is the integration of the SDGs. Each country report now includes a summary assessment of Member States' progress towards achieving the SDGs as well as a dedicated annex setting out the individual Member State's SDG performance and the trend over the past five years.

The European Semester Winter Package and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

 **DECEMBER 2019**

European Semester Autumn Package

The 2020 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy was the first step in refocusing the European Semester on competitive sustainability, with the aim of building an economy that works for people and the planet in line with the European Green Deal.

 **FEBRUARY 2020**

European Semester Winter Package

The country reports reflect this new approach. SDG-relevant policies and challenges are identified across the country reports and a new annex sets out Member States' performance in respect of the SDGs and the trend over the past five years.

The 2020 country reports take a first step in integrating the SDGs into the European Semester by:



Providing an overall assessment of progress based on the set of [SDG indicators compiled by Eurostat](#)



Highlighting the most prominent areas where good progress is being achieved or where more work remains to be done.

State of play in 2019

OVERVIEW OF EU-28 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGS OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS



Progress has been faster for some goals than for others. On average, the EU has made progress towards almost all of the 17 SDGs over the past five years.

The main progress refers to gains in actual and perceived health (SDG 3), reductions in certain dimensions of poverty and social exclusion (SDG 1), and improvements in the quality of life in cities and communities (SDG 11). These favourable trends can be seen in the context of an improving economic situation in the EU over the past five years, as shown by some clearly favourable trends in the EU's labour market (SDG 8).

However, there was only limited progress in the use of natural resources and the reduction of its negative environmental impacts, as shown in the trends for affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13) and life on land (SDG 15).

The European Semester and the UN Sustainable Development Goals – Timeline

