









European  
Commission





# EUROPEAN SEMESTER 2020


The country reports assess Member States' progress in implementing country-specific recommendations (CSRs), the tailored policy guidance the Commission provides each year. The following provides a selective overview of Member States' progress with the implementation of country-specific recommendations.





 **Belgium** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

 Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport	SOME PROGRESS
 Address skills mismatches	LIMITED PROGRESS
 Pursuing the envisaged pension reforms	LIMITED PROGRESS
 Coordinate fiscal policies of all levels of government	NO PROGRESS





 **Bulgaria** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

 Upgrade the state-owned enterprise corporate governance by adopting and putting into effect the forthcoming legislation	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
 Ensure the stability of the banking sector by reinforcing supervision	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
 Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework	LIMITED PROGRESS
 Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation	LIMITED PROGRESS





 **Czechia** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

 Supporting more quality-based competition in public procurement	SOME PROGRESS
 Removing the barriers hampering the development of a fully functioning innovation ecosystem	SOME PROGRESS
 Adopting pending anti-corruption measures	LIMITED PROGRESS
 Improving long-term fiscal sustainability of the pension and health-care systems	NO PROGRESS





## **Denmark** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	New legislative measures on the anti-money laundering framework	<b>SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS</b>
	Focus investment-related economic policy on education and skills	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport to tackle road congestion	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation to broaden the innovation based and include more companies	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>





## **Germany** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Achieving a sustained upward trend in public and private investment	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Strengthening the conditions to support wage growth	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Improving investment in sustainable transport, energy networks and affordable housing	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>
	Strengthening competition in business services and regulated professions	<b>NO PROGRESS</b>





## **Estonia** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations


	Address skill shortages and foster innovation by improving the capacity and labour market relevance of the education and training system	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including by improving wage transparency	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>
	Focus investment-related economic policies on sustainable transport and energy infrastructure, including interconnections, on fostering research and innovation, and on resource and energy efficiency, taking into account regional disparities	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>





## **Ireland** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Increase access to affordable and quality childcare	<b>SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS</b>
	Focus investment-related economic policy on low carbon and energy transition, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Continue to address features of the tax system that may facilitate aggressive tax planning, and focus in particular on outbound payments	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>
	Addressing the expected increase in age-related expenditure, by making the healthcare system more cost-effective and by fully implementing pension reform plans	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>





## **Greece** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Focus investment-related economic policy on environmental protection, energy efficiency, as well as on renewable energy, and interconnection projects	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Investment-related economic policy on digital technologies	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport and logistics	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>
	Focus investment-related economic policy on education, skills, and employability	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>



 **Spain** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Reinforce the capacity of employment and social services	SOME PROGRESS
	Energy efficiency	SOME PROGRESS
	Strengthen the fiscal framework	NO PROGRESS
	Preserve the sustainability of the pension system	NO PROGRESS





 **France** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations


	Implementing the measures to foster the growth of firms	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
	Addressing skills shortages and mismatches	SOME PROGRESS
	Fostering integration in the labour market and ensuring equal opportunities	LIMITED PROGRESS
	Achieving expenditure savings and efficiency gains, including by further implementing 'Public Action 2020'	NO PROGRESS





 **Croatia** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Urban and railway transport	SOME PROGRESS
	Reduce court proceedings and improving electronic communication in courts	SOME PROGRESS
	Harmonise wage-setting frameworks in the public sector	LIMITED PROGRESS
	Enhance the prevention and sanctioning of corruption	LIMITED PROGRESS





 **Italy** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Fight tax evasion, especially in the form of omitted invoicing, including by strengthening the compulsory use of e-payments, including through lower legal thresholds for cash payments	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
	Ensure that active labour market and social policies are effectively integrated and reach out notably to young people and vulnerable groups	SOME PROGRESS
	Implement fully past pension reforms to reduce the share of old-age pensions in public spending and create space for other social and growth-enhancing spending	NO PROGRESS
	Address restrictions to competition, particularly in the retail sector and in business services, also through a new annual competition law	NO PROGRESS





 **Cyprus** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Facilitate the reduction of non-performing loans including by setting up an effective governance structure for the state-owned asset management company	SOME PROGRESS
	Focus investment-related economic policy on energy efficiency and renewable energy	SOME PROGRESS
	Take measures to ensure reliable and swift systems for the issuance and transfer of title deeds and immovable property rights	LIMITED PROGRESS
	Resume the implementation of privatisation projects	NO PROGRESS





 **Latvia** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations


	Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework	<b>SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS</b>
	Address social exclusion notably by improving the adequacy of minimum income benefits, minimum old-age pensions and income support for persons with disabilities	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Increasing the accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	The provision of affordable housing	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>





 **Lithuania** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Improve tax compliance	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Address income inequality, poverty and social exclusion, including by improving the design of the tax and benefit system	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Improve quality and efficiency at all education and training levels, including adult learning	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>
	Stimulate productivity growth by improving the efficiency of public investment	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>





 **Luxembourg** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Focus economic policy related to investment on fostering digitalisation and innovation	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Focus economic policy related to investment on stimulating skills development	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Increase the employment rate of older workers by enhancing their employment opportunities and employability	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>
	Improve the long-term sustainability of the pension system, including by further limiting early retirement	<b>NO PROGRESS</b>





 **Hungary** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations


	Focus investment-related economic policy on transport infrastructure	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Continue the labour market integration of the most vulnerable groups, in particular through upskilling	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>
	Improve competition and regulatory predictability in the services sector	<b>NO PROGRESS</b>
	Improve the adequacy of social assistance and unemployment benefits	<b>NO PROGRESS</b>





 **Malta** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations


	Continue the ongoing progress made on strengthening the anti-money-laundering framework, in particular with regard to enforcements	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Focus investment-related economic policy on inclusive education and training	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b>
	Strengthen the overall governance framework, including by continuing efforts to detect and prosecute corruption	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS</b>
	Ensure the fiscal sustainability of the healthcare and pension systems, including by restricting early retirement and adjusting the statutory retirement age in view of expected gains in life expectancy	<b>NO PROGRESS</b>





 **Netherlands** has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

 Address transport bottlenecks	SOME PROGRESS
 Ensure that the second pillar of the pension system is more transparent, inter-generationally fairer and more resilient to shocks	SOME PROGRESS
 Tackle bogus self-employment	LIMITED PROGRESS
 Focus investment-related economic policy on research and development	LIMITED PROGRESS





 **Austria** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations


 Shift taxes away from labour to sources less detrimental to inclusive and sustainable growth	SOME PROGRESS
 Ensure the sustainability of the health-care system	SOME PROGRESS
 Simplify and rationalise fiscal relations and responsibilities across layers of government	LIMITED PROGRESS
 Improve labour market outcomes of the low-skilled	NO PROGRESS





 **Poland** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

 Strengthening the innovative capacity of the economy, including by supporting research institutions and their closer collaboration with business	SOME PROGRESS
 Take steps to increase labour force participation, including by improving access to childcare and long-term care, and removing obstacles to more permanent types of employment	LIMITED PROGRESS
 Ensure the adequacy of future pension benefits and the sustainability of the pension system by taking measures to increase the effective retirement age and by reforming the preferential pension schemes	NO PROGRESS
 Improve the regulatory environment, in particular by strengthening the role of consultations of social partners and public consultations in the legislative process	NO PROGRESS

 **Portugal** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

 Adopt measures to address labour market segmentation	SOME PROGRESS
 Focus investment-related economic policy on low carbon and energy transition and extending energy interconnections, taking into account regional disparities	SOME PROGRESS
 Improve the effectiveness and adequacy of the social safety net	LIMITED PROGRESS
 Develop a roadmap to reduce restrictions in highly regulated professions	NO PROGRESS

 **Romania** has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

 Safeguard financial stability and the robustness of the banking sector	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
 Ensure the long-term viability of the second pillar pension funds	SOME PROGRESS
 Improve skills, including digital, notably by increasing the labour market relevance of vocational education & training and higher education	NO PROGRESS
 Complete the minimum inclusion income reform	NO PROGRESS



## Slovenia has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Increase the employability of low-skilled and older workers by improving labour market relevance of education and training, lifelong learning and activation measures, including through better digital literacy	SOME PROGRESS
	Improve competition, professionalisation and independent oversight in public procurement	SOME PROGRESS
	Focus investment-related economic policy on low carbon and energy transition	LIMITED PROGRESS
	Adopt and implement reforms in long-term care that ensure quality, accessibility and long-term fiscal sustainability	NO PROGRESS



## Slovakia has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Focusing investment-related economic policy on energy efficiency	SOME PROGRESS
	Improving the effectiveness of the justice system, in particular as regards quality and efficiency	SOME PROGRESS
	Focusing investment-related economic policy on research and innovation and digital infrastructure	LIMITED PROGRESS
	Increasing efforts to detect and prosecute corruption	LIMITED PROGRESS



## Finland has made limited progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Enhance skills and active inclusion, notably through well-integrated services for the unemployed and the inactive	SOME PROGRESS
	Strengthening the monitoring of the household debt	SOME PROGRESS
	Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation	LIMITED PROGRESS
	Reducing inactivity and unemployment traps	LIMITED PROGRESS



## Sweden has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Legislative measures on the anti-money laundering framework	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
	Investment-related economic policy on research and innovation	SOME PROGRESS
	Limiting mortgage interest tax deductibility or increasing recurrent property taxes	NO PROGRESS
	Flexibility in the rental market and revisiting the capital gains tax	NO PROGRESS



## United Kingdom has made some progress in addressing the 2019 country-specific recommendations

	Focus investment-related economic policy on supporting research and innovation	SOME PROGRESS
	Focus investment-related economic policy on boosting house supply	SOME PROGRESS
	Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport	SOME PROGRESS
	Focus investment-related economic policy on training and improving skills	LIMITED PROGRESS