

1. Early leavers from education and training

EUROPE 2020 HEADLINE TARGET: The share of early leavers (age group 18-24) from education and training should be less than 10%.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Croatia, Slovenia, Cyprus

MOST PROGRESS 2012-2015: Portugal, Cyprus, Spain

	2015 Total	Trend	2015	
			Males	Females
EU	11.0	-1.7	12.4	9.5
Belgium	10.1	-1.9	11.6	8.6
Bulgaria	13.4	0.9	13.3	13.4
Czech Republic	6.2	0.7	6.4	6.0
Denmark	7.8	-1.3	9.7	5.7
Germany	10.1	-0.4	10.4	9.8
Estonia	11.2	0.9	13.2	9.0
Ireland	6.9	-2.8	8.4	5.4
Greece	7.9	-3.4	9.4	6.4
Spain	20.0	-4.7	24.0	15.8
France	9.3	-2.5	10.1	8.5
Croatia	(2.8)	-2.3	(3.6)	(2.1)
Italy	14.7	-2.6	17.5	11.8
Cyprus	5.3	-6.1	7.7	(3.2)
Latvia	9.9	-0.7	13.4	6.2
Lithuania	5.5	-1.0	6.9	(4.0)
Luxembourg	9.3 ^b	1.2	10.5 ^b	8.1 ^b
Hungary	11.6 ^b	-0.2	12.0 ^b	11.2 ^b
Malta	19.8	-1.3	22.9	16.6
Netherlands	8.2	-0.7	9.9	6.4
Austria	7.3	-0.5	7.8	6.8
Poland	5.3	-0.4	7.2	3.2
Portugal	13.7	-6.8	16.4	11.0
Romania	19.1	1.3	19.5	18.5
Slovenia	5.0	0.6	6.4	(3.4)
Slovakia	6.9	1.6	6.9	6.8
Finland	9.2	0.3	10.6	7.9
Sweden	7.0	-0.5	7.6	6.4
UK	10.8	-2.6	11.7	9.8
Iceland	18.8	-1.3	24.9	12.4
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:
Norway	10.2	-4.6	12.4	8.0
Albania	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
MK*	11.4	-0.3	10.0	12.9
Serbia	:	:	:	:
Turkey	36.4	-3.2	35.0	37.6

A CLOSER LOOK: Early school leaving is a determinant of educational poverty. Relevant measures to help preventing early leaving from education and training include increasing participation in early childhood education, promoting socio-economic inclusion in schools and offering systematic career guidance to school students.

Source: Eurostat (EU-LFS). Notes: the indicator covers 18 to 24 year-olds with ISCED 2 at most and who are no longer in formal or non-formal education and training. The trend depicted refers to the 2012-2015 change in percentage points.

2. Tertiary educational attainment

EUROPE 2020 HEADLINE TARGET: The share of 30 to 34 year-olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 40%.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Lithuania, Cyprus, Ireland

MOST PROGRESS 2012-2015: Austria, Greece, Croatia

	2015 Total	Trend	2015	
			Males	Females
EU	38.7	2.7	34.0	43.4
Belgium	42.7	-1.2	36.7	48.7
Bulgaria	32.1	5.2	24.8	39.9
Czech Republic	30.1	4.5	24.7	35.9
Denmark	47.6	4.6	39.6	55.9
Germany	32.3	0.5	32.2	32.4
Estonia	45.3	5.8	34.5	56.7
Ireland	52.3	1.2	45.1	58.6
Greece	40.4	9.2	35.3	45.5
Spain	40.9	-0.6	34.8	47.1
France	45.1	1.8	40.3	49.6
Croatia	30.9	7.8	23.8	38.3
Italy	25.3	3.4	20.0	30.8
Cyprus	54.6	4.7	46.7	61.6
Latvia	41.3	4.1	26.8	56.5
Lithuania	57.6	9.0	47.2	68.4
Luxembourg	52.3 ^b	2.7	46.8 ^b	57.7 ^b
Hungary	34.3	4.5	27.6	41.0
Malta	27.8	2.9	23.6	32.2
Netherlands	46.3	4.1	43.0	49.6
Austria	38.7	12.6	37.5	40.0
Poland	43.4	4.3	35.1	52.0
Portugal	31.9	4.1	23.3	40.1
Romania	25.6	3.9	24.2	27.2
Slovenia	43.4	4.2	32.0	56.4
Slovakia	28.4	4.7	22.8	34.4
Finland	45.5	-0.3	38.1	53.4
Sweden	50.2	2.3	43.2	57.7
UK	47.8	0.9	44.4	51.1
Iceland	47.1	4.3	39.2	55.0
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:
Norway	50.9	3.3	41.5	60.9
Albania	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
MK*	28.6	6.9	23.1	34.5
Serbia	:	:	:	:
Turkey	23.6	5.6	25.1	22.1

A CLOSER LOOK: The social dimension of higher education requires urgent attention, notably to support participation of students from disadvantaged groups. This can for example be achieved by better recognition of previous formal, non-formal and informal learning, and setting targets for attainment of under-represented groups.

3. Early childhood education and care (ECEC)

BENCHMARK 2020: At least 95% of children between the age of four and the age for starting ISCED 1 [1] should participate in education.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: France, Luxembourg, United Kingdom
MOST PROGRESS 2011-2014: Finland, Poland, Greece

	2014 Total	Trend	2014	
			Age 4	Age 5
EU	94.3	1.1	91.2	79.5
Belgium	98.1	0.0	98.0	97.2
Bulgaria	89.3	2.7	80.4	91.7
Czech Republic	86.4	-1.4	83.6	89.1
Denmark	98.1	0.2	97.2	96.0
Germany	97.4	1.0	96.7	97.8
Estonia	91.7	1.8	90.8 ^d	92.1 ^d
Ireland	96.0	-2.6	56.3	2.7
Greece	84.0	8.0	48.7	91.0
Spain	97.1	-0.6	97.2	96.8
France	100.0	0.0	100.3	99.8
Croatia	72.4	1.4	58.2	62.8
Italy	96.5	-2.6	96.1	88.3
Cyprus	82.6	-2.4	73.2	91.6
Latvia	94.4	1.7	90.3	95.7
Lithuania	88.8	4.6	83.3	86.9
Luxembourg	98.4	2.8	97.8	93.5
Hungary	94.7	0.2	93.8	95.5
Malta	97.7	-2.3	97.5	1.8
Netherlands	97.6	-2.0	96.1	99.2
Austria	94.0	-0.3	91.5	95.7
Poland	87.1	8.7	71.5	94.7
Portugal	93.5	-0.3	90.6	96.1
Romania	86.4	0.0	85.0	87.8
Slovenia	89.4	-0.4	88.7	90.0
Slovakia	77.4	0.5	73.8	81.2
Finland	83.6	9.6	73.9	79.4
Sweden	95.9	0.6	94.6	95.1
UK	98.2	2.4	95.1	0.0
Iceland	:	:	:	:
Liechtenstein	82.7	-3.6	51.3	102.8
Norway	97.2	0.0	97.0	97.5
Albania	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
MK*	25.6	4.5	32.6	12.5
Serbia	:	:	:	:
Turkey	51.7	8.6	32.2	43.5

A CLOSER LOOK: In addition to widening participation, key areas for successful reforms in ECEC comprise workforce, curriculum, governance, and evaluation. Several countries have increased minimum qualification requirements for ECEC staff, enhanced the curricula, and provided more language support at ECEC level.

Source: Eurostat (UOE). Notes: [1] the age for starting ISCED 1 is different from country to country. See Section 3.1 of the Education and Training Monitor 2016 for more information (ec.europa.eu/education/monitor). The trend depicted refers to the 2011-2014 change in percentage points.

4. Underachievement in reading, maths and science

BENCHMARK 2020: The share of 15 year-olds with underachievement in reading, mathematics and science [1] should be less than 15%.

BEST EU PERFORMERS:

Reading: Ireland, Estonia, Finland

Maths: Estonia, Denmark, Finland

Science: Estonia, Finland, Slovenia

	2015 Reading	Trend	2015 Maths	Trend	2015 Science	Trend
EU	19.7	1.9	22.2	0.1	20.6	4.0
Belgium	19.5	3.5	20.1	1.1	19.8	2.1
Bulgaria	41.5	2.1	42.1	-1.7	37.9	1.0
Czech Republic	22.0	5.2	21.7	0.7	20.7	6.9
Denmark	15.0	0.4	13.6	-3.3	15.9	-0.8
Germany	16.2	1.7	17.2	-0.5	17.0	4.8
Estonia	10.6	1.5	11.2	0.7	8.8	3.7
Ireland	10.2	0.6	15.0	-1.9	15.3	4.2
Greece	27.3	4.7	35.8	0.1	32.7	7.2
Spain	16.2	-2.1	22.2	-1.4	18.3	2.6
France	21.5	2.6	23.5	1.1	22.1	3.3
Croatia	19.9	1.2	32.0	2.2	24.6	7.4
Italy	21.0	1.5	23.3	-1.4	23.2	4.5
Cyprus	35.6	2.9	42.6	0.6	42.1	4.1
Latvia	17.7	0.7	21.4	1.5	17.2	4.9
Lithuania	25.1	3.9	25.4	-0.6	24.7	8.7
Luxembourg	25.6	3.5	25.8	1.5	25.9	3.6
Hungary	27.5	7.8	28.0	-0.1	26.0	8.0
Malta	35.6	:	29.1	:	32.5	:
Netherlands	18.1	4.1	16.7	1.9	18.5	5.4
Austria	22.5	3.0	21.8	3.1	20.8	5.0
Poland	14.4	3.8	17.2	2.8	16.3	7.2
Portugal	17.2	-1.6	23.8	-1.1	17.4	-1.6
Romania	38.7	1.5	39.9	-0.9	38.5	1.2
Slovenia	15.1	-6.0	16.1	-4.0	15.0	2.1
Slovakia	32.1	3.9	27.7	0.2	30.7	3.9
Finland	11.1	-0.3	13.6	1.3	11.5	3.8
Sweden	18.4	-4.3	20.8	-6.2	21.6	-0.6
UK	17.9	1.3	21.9	0.1	17.4	2.4
Iceland	22.1	1.1	23.6	2.1	25.3	1.3
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	14.9	-1.3	17.1	-5.2	18.7	-0.9
Albania	50.3	-2.0	53.3	-7.4	41.7	-11.4
Montenegro	41.9	-1.4	51.9	-4.7	51.0	0.3
MK*	70.7	:	70.2	:	62.9	:
Serbia	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	40.0	18.4	51.4	9.4	44.5	18.1

A CLOSER LOOK: In order to tackle underachievement, most countries dedicate additional resources to schools with disadvantaged students and issue guidelines on underachievement as a topic in teacher education. Increasing participation in ECEC and improving its quality are positive measures that can help tackling underachievement.

Source: OECD (PISA 2012, 2015). Notes: [1] low achievement means failing Level 2 on the PISA scale for reading, mathematics or science. The trend depicted refers to the 2012-2015 change in percentage points.

5. Employment rate of recent graduates

BENCHMARK 2020: 82% of recent graduates from upper secondary to tertiary education (age group 20-34) who are no longer in education or training should be in employment.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Malta, Germany, Netherlands

MOST PROGRESS 2012-2015: Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia

EU	2015 Total	Trend	2015	
			ISCED 3-4	ISCED 5-8
EU	76.9	1.0	70.8	81.9
Belgium	79.5	-1.4	70.0	85.3
Bulgaria	74.6	7.3	54.6	87.1
Czech Republic	82.2	-0.1	81.6	82.7
Denmark	81.7	-2.4	79.5	83.8
Germany	90.4	1.5	88.2	93.3
Estonia	80.6	5.7	74.4	86.1
Ireland	75.3	6.0	60.4	83.4
Greece	45.2	2.2	35.8	49.9
Spain	65.2	1.6	54.9	68.7
France	72.3	-4.1	62.5	79.2
Croatia	62.6	2.4	45.0	76.2
Italy	48.5	-5.6	40.7	57.5
Cyprus	68.8	-4.2	53.2	73.6
Latvia	78.8	4.5	70.0	84.4
Lithuania	82.1	6.5	72.2	88.5
Luxembourg	84.7 ^b	0.1	77.8 ^b	89.6 ^b
Hungary	80.4 ^b	7.1	75.6 ^b	86.7 ^b
Malta	95.1	2.7	91.6	96.9
Netherlands	88.2	0.1	84.7	90.9
Austria	86.9	-3.7	83.7	90.3
Poland	77.4	4.1	68.5	85.1
Portugal	72.2	4.7	68.6	75.5
Romania	68.1	-2.1	59.8	77.1
Slovenia	71.5	-1.7	60.2	78.5
Slovakia	75.2	6.6	69.3	80.3
Finland	75.5	-5.2	72.0	81.1
Sweden	85.9	2.7	80.6	90.9
UK	85.8	4.3	78.7	89.7
Iceland	92.0	5.1	89.1	95.4
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:
Norway	90.9	2.1	86.4	95.0
Albania	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
MK*	48.0	3.2	36.4	56.1
Serbia	:	:	:	:
Turkey	61.9	-0.1	53.3	64.3

A CLOSER LOOK: Enhancing the relevance of education for the labour market requires a systematic use of labour market forecasting or graduate tracking surveys. Introducing incentives or requirements for work placements for students in vocational and tertiary programmes can also increase employability.

Source: Eurostat (LFS). Notes: the indicator measures the employment rate of 20 to 34 year-olds, who graduated from ISCED 3-8 one to three years earlier and who are no longer in education or training. The trend depicted refers to the 2012-2015 change in percentage points.

6. Adult participation in learning

BENCHMARK 2020: An average of at least 15% of adults (age group 25-64) should participate in formal or non-formal learning [1].

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Denmark, Sweden, Finland

MOST PROGRESS 2012-2015: France, Hungary, Luxembourg

	2015 Total	Trend	2015		
			ISCED 0-2	ISCED 3-4	ISCED 5-8
EU	10.7	1.5	4.3	8.8	18.8
Belgium	6.9	0.0	3.0	5.5	11.2
Bulgaria	2.0	0.3	:	2.0	2.9
Czech Republic	8.5	-2.6	1.9	6.7	16.3
Denmark	31.3	-0.3	21.7	28.3	39.7
Germany	8.1	0.2	3.4	7.2	12.3
Estonia	12.4	-0.4	4.5	8.8	19.1
Ireland	6.5	-0.9	2.4	5.6	9.4
Greece	3.3	0.0	0.4	3.6	5.7
Spain	9.9	-1.3	3.6	9.9	17.5
France	18.6	12.9	7.7	15.5	29.7
Croatia	3.1	-0.2	:	2.8	6.3
Italy	7.3	0.7	2.0	8.4	17.0
Cyprus	7.5	-0.2	1.6	4.5	13.4
Latvia	5.7	-1.5	2.4	3.8	10.2
Lithuania	5.8	0.4	:	3.0	10.4
Luxembourg	18.0 ^b	3.8	7.0 ^b	15.5 ^b	25.9 ^b
Hungary	7.1 ^b	4.2	3.4 ^b	5.9 ^b	12.7 ^b
Malta	7.2	0.1	2.4	8.9	19.0
Netherlands	18.9	2.0	9.3	18.6	26.2
Austria	14.4	0.2	4.5	10.7	26.0
Poland	3.5	-1.0	(0.6)	1.9	8.1
Portugal	9.7	-0.8	4.2	12.0	20.7
Romania	1.3	-0.1	(0.3)	1.2	3.1
Slovenia	11.9	-1.9	2.8	9.7	20.2
Slovakia	3.1	-0.1	:	2.1	7.3
Finland	25.4	0.9	12.8	21.6	33.0
Sweden	29.4	2.4	20.0	24.7	38.5
UK	15.7	-0.6	6.8	13.3	22.6
Iceland	28.1	0.0	17.9	24.8	37.6
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	20.1	-0.3	12.9	16.6	26.1
Albania	:	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:
MK*	2.6	-1.5	(0.2)	2.9	6.1
Serbia	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	5.5	1.6	2.7	8.6	12.9

A CLOSER LOOK: In several countries the gap between average population and adults with disadvantaged status has been increasing. Effective support for adults with low basic skills or low qualifications should start from skills validation schemes, including skills assessment, guidance support and outreach campaigns. Second chance education can also support low-skilled adults in further learning.

Source: Eurostat (EU-LFS). Notes: [1] the indicator covers formal and non-formal learning but excludes informal learning. The trend depicted refers to the 2012-2015 change in percentage points.

General notes:


The percentage point trends and progress shown in this leaflet are calculated with 1-decimal figures and do not exclude any intermediate breaks in series.

() = data lack reliability due to small sample size;

: = data either not available or not reliable due to very small sample size

^b = break in time series; ^d = definition differs

***MK** = Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

 Member States that have reached EU benchmark at national level for the given year

ISCED: International Standard Classification of Education (2011)

0 Early childhood education

1 Primary education

2 Lower secondary education

3 Upper secondary education

4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education

5 Short-cycle tertiary education

6 Bachelor's or equivalent level

7 Master's or equivalent level

8 Doctoral or equivalent level

For further descriptions, analysis and notes see the
Education and Training Monitor 2016
(ec.europa.eu/education/monitor)



compare countries and sub-groups across time
with the online visualisation tool

ec.europa.eu/education/monitor

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Publications Office

ISBN: 978-92-79-58620-0
ISSN: 2466-9954
doi: 10.2766/8780

Release: December 2016
Cover image: © shutterstock