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**CSEE-ETUCE Thematic overview of the  
Country Reports 2020 of the European Semester  
in the education and training field**

*March, 2020*

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## Introduction

On 26 February 2020 the European Commission published the annual [Country Reports of each EU Member State](#) which form the basis for the dialogue with Member States on their national policy choices ahead of the presentation of their **National Reform Programmes** in April 2020 and will lead to the formulation of the **Country Specific Recommendations** in May 2020. The Country Reports monitor reforms and point to issues that EU Member States should address. All the Country Reports include the monitoring of the Social Scoreboard, Europe 2020 and Sustainable Development Goals' indicators, a chapter on Education and training systems, including the assessment of the implementation of previous years' Country Specific Recommendations and of the policy challenges, reform priorities and investment needs still to be addressed.

In line with the first principle of the EPSR stating that *'Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions into the labour market'*, and with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 aimed at *"ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all"*, ETUCE recalls the importance of ensuring free, quality, public education for all across the EU. The social and economic crisis from the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting schools and communities across Europe, is a wake-up call for all governments to put people, and their fundamental rights to health and to education, first, and to leave no-one behind. As ETUCE pointed out in its document ['Education priorities for the AGS 2020'](#), central to guarantee social justice and the right to education for all at times of sharpening inequalities across Europe, it is the need to:

- **Reverse the decade-long trend of decreasing investment by boosting public investment in education and training to address inequalities in access to and provision of quality education and training;**
- **Revise the Stability and Growth Pact rules to allow for an EU fiscal framework that excludes future-oriented education, training and basic research investment from the calculation of the deficit and debt levels for all EU countries;**
- **Boost professional and working conditions of education personnel to make the teaching profession more attractive;**
- **Ensure a real participation of education personnel and their unions in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of education policy, reforms and investment.**

The following note gives a **thematic overview of the education and training-related issues** identified across all the Country Reports and a summary of key indicators.

## The Country Reports 2020 in the education and training field

### *Education financing*

- In 2019, almost all countries received a Country Specific Recommendation (CSR) asking to focus investment-related economic policy either on education and training, on skills, and/or on research. Despite this call, **critical low levels of investment** as a percentage of the Growth Domestic Product (GDP) are still recorded in almost one third of EU countries.<sup>1</sup> In all those countries underfunding is clearly associated with issues of equity, inclusiveness and quality of education. Further, Spain and Greece are singled out as the countries where low public spending is being **compensated by substantial out-of-pocket payments by families and households**.
- **ETUCE recalls that such practices of privatisation conflict with the right to education and with the non-discriminatory delivery of education services as a public responsibility.** Alike, a continuous focus on **efficiency and effectiveness** of education reforms and spending<sup>2</sup>, promoting market-oriented behaviours in education, has distorted and steered the national debates in a direction of restructuring and rationalisation that overshadows the broader social and collective objectives of education. Rather, ETUCE argues for an equitable allocation of public resources based on sufficient, predictable and sustainable investment on people, their wellbeing and education.
- At the time of the publication of the Country Reports, when the shockwaves of the COVID-19 pandemic were not clear yet, **public investment in education were expected to increase** across a number of countries.<sup>3</sup> In many of these countries, such raises were already deemed essential even if only to offset budget cuts occurred in the last decade of austerity, hitting in particular **vulnerable children**, especially in rural/most disadvantaged areas, **specific sectors of education**,<sup>4</sup> **school infrastructures** and/or **teachers and other education personnel** in their working conditions, including salaries, and professional prerogatives.

### *Attractiveness of the teaching profession*

- A growing number of countries<sup>5</sup> (24 out of 28 EU countries) report that **teachers' shortage**<sup>6</sup> is becoming a major challenge for their education and training systems. In most cases, the **low status**<sup>7</sup> of the profession in society and **unattractive working conditions**<sup>8</sup> are the main causes for the low attractiveness of the profession for young people. Difficulties in **recruiting and**

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<sup>1</sup> Namely: BG, CZ, GR, IT, HU, SK, ES.

<sup>2</sup> As reported for AT, BE, LT, CY, MT.

<sup>3</sup> Namely: BG, DK, FI, FR, DE, IE, LV, NL, PT, UK (Scotland), SI, SE.

<sup>4</sup> E.g. pre-primary or primary education, vocational education and training, higher education and research and adult learning.

<sup>5</sup> The Country Report for the UK is included in the analysis.

<sup>6</sup> AT, BG, HR, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, GR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, SK, SI, ES, SE, UK.

<sup>7</sup> BG, CZ, LV, HR, EE, SI, SK.

<sup>8</sup> CZ, DE, FR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PT, ES, SK, SE.

**retaining teachers**, coupled with an **ageing**<sup>9</sup> of the current education workforce, **urban/rural and advantaged/disadvantaged schools' divides**<sup>10</sup> are accounted for as the main factors influencing attractiveness and threatening the sustainability of education systems at different level.

- In Latvia, 65% of schools report a shortage of teachers. In the Czech Republic, it is foreseen that only 3 out of 8 teachers retiring are to be replaced over the next decade. Data reported for Sweden projects teachers' shortfall for 2033 at 45.000, corresponding to 21% of the current teacher population. In the Netherlands, teacher shortage at primary schools is projected to reach 10.000 full-time equivalents by 2025 and in Germany it is estimated at a lack of 26.300 teachers by 2025. This number already takes account that 40.000 teaching posts are expected to be filled in Germany by people who were not trained originally as teachers. In England, the number of teachers leaving the profession continues to increase, especially in state-funded schools. Over 20% of new entrants leave the teaching profession within their first 2 years of teaching and 32% leave within their first 5 years.
- **Job security and salaries**<sup>11</sup> appear to be strong elements influencing the status of teachers and the choice of teaching as a profession. However, little room for career progression, the profession's image and increasingly competitive and diverse working environments remain key factors in teachers' well-being<sup>12</sup>. Incentives introduced for young students/graduates willing to enter the profession are also highlighted in the reports. Plans to address the context in which teachers work, including by reducing the share of temporary work as in Italy and Spain (by 8%), and to provide adequate support for teachers' **initial training and continuous professional development opportunities**<sup>13</sup> are considered equally detrimental both for an attractive profession and for the overall provision of quality education, especially for children from vulnerable groups. However, in several other countries<sup>14</sup>, more efforts to adapt the supply of training to teachers' needs are identified as necessary.

### ***Quality and inclusive education and training***

**For ETUCE, this year's analysis confirms the worrying levels of inequity in education systems arising from decade-long systemic underinvestment in public education and of narrow focus on the marketable aspects of education. Inclusion difficulties in the classrooms reported in almost all European countries have the potential to hamper quality education for all, and to exacerbate inequalities in society. They narrow opportunities, and act as major obstacles for social mobility, fairness, social justice and progress.**

- **Quality teaching** is recognised as a crucial element for quality education across most of the Country Reports, in line with the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4. Whether this rests on the provision and access to **quality initial education** and **continuous**

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<sup>9</sup> AT, BG, CZ, EE, EL, HU, LT, PT, SK, SI, ES.

<sup>10</sup> AT, BG, DE, HR, HU, FR, NL, PL, RO, SE, SK.

<sup>11</sup> CZ, FR, LV, LT, PL, SK, ES.

<sup>12</sup> E.g. in BE, MT, SI, SE, UK.

<sup>13</sup> BE, BG, CZ, EE, FI, FR, PL, RO, SK.

<sup>14</sup> FR, IT, LT, PT, SK.

**professional development** opportunities<sup>15</sup>, on other professional prerogatives such as **autonomy**<sup>16</sup> over curricula or pedagogy, or on teachers' and other education personnel's **working conditions**<sup>17</sup>, including decent salaries and stable employment contracts, the reports point clearly at key teachers' related matters that need to be swiftly overcome. In France, in particular, the monitor underlines the need to take into account the **social partners' calls and proposals** for making the organisation of teachers' work more collective and quality education a reality.

- **Education reforms** undertaken in recent years have been monitored against key elements of **equity and learning outcomes**. In some countries, **rationalisation of school infrastructure**<sup>18</sup> is posing serious barriers to access education, especially in **rural areas**.<sup>19</sup> It is also resulting in disruptions on schooling cycles, shortages of available school places in urban areas, and even shifts in the operation of schools, thus affecting working conditions of teachers and learning conditions of students. The reports also make an attempt to assess legislative changes introducing or restricting **school autonomy**<sup>20</sup>, **curricula reforms**<sup>21</sup> and **evaluation** methods<sup>22</sup> implemented in recent years. However, such a monitoring and assessment exercise should be conducted with the full involvement of education personnel and their unions: the voice of those teachers and other education personnel who bear the biggest responsibility for the educational outcomes of the students when reforms reach all the way down to the classrooms.
- **Growing socio-economic and geographical inequalities** across Europe, and increasingly **diverse school populations**, result in a generalised strong focus of all the Country Reports on **equity, inclusiveness and equal opportunities** in educational access, provision and outcomes. Educational attainments still influenced by **socio-economic**<sup>23</sup> and/or **migrant background**<sup>24</sup> raise major concerns as they are key determinants in under-performance of students across almost all European countries. **Regional disparities**<sup>25</sup> and **rural-urban divides**<sup>26</sup>, affecting negatively attainment levels of students in rural and economically deprived areas are persisting. However, these disparities are even stronger when students from migrant or other background (e.g. **Roma population**<sup>27</sup> or **other linguistic minorities**<sup>28</sup>) are concentrated in such areas.

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<sup>15</sup> BE, BG, HR, CZ, EE, FR, PL, SK, SI, UK (Scotland), EL, LT.

<sup>16</sup> FR, HU.

<sup>17</sup> BG, CZ, EE, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, LV, NL, PO, SK, ES, SE.

<sup>18</sup> HR, CY, FR, DE, EL, LV, MT, PO, PT, RO.

<sup>19</sup> E.g. in EL, RO.

<sup>20</sup> E.g. in HU, where reduced autonomy and differences in regulatory frameworks for schools are affecting equity and limit anti-segregation measures, and the UK.

<sup>21</sup> HR, CZ, LV, LT, MT, PO, SE, UK (Wales).

<sup>22</sup> E.g. in IT, EL.

<sup>23</sup> AT, BE, BG, HR, CY, CZ, DK, FR, DE, EL, HU, LT, LU, MT, PL, SK, ES, UK.

<sup>24</sup> AT, BE, HR, CY, DK, FI, FR, DE, LU, MT, NL, PL, SI, SE.

<sup>25</sup> AT, BE, EE, IT, ES, UK.

<sup>26</sup> AT, FR, EL, RO.

<sup>27</sup> BG, CZ, HU, RO, SK.

<sup>28</sup> E.g. Russian-speaking population in Estonia.

- Despite improvements, **early school leaving** is still significant in a number of countries<sup>29</sup> and appears to be particularly high in **rural** and **least developed areas**<sup>30</sup>, for **people with disabilities**<sup>31</sup>, among children with **migrant background**<sup>32</sup> and with **Roma people**.<sup>33</sup> It should also be noted that early drop-out continues to **affect men** in a disproportionate way (12.2% vs 8.9% in 2018), which partly explains their future low tertiary educational attainment. Promising measures are being taken to reduce disparities in the rates of early leavers from education and training, both addressing the **recruitment** and **professional development of teachers** in the most challenging schools or promoting **retention measures** and better engagement with the parents as in Bulgaria.
- **School system segregation resulting from education reforms** occurred in the last few decades based on school choice, competition among schools, early channelling of pupils into vocational streams, or increasing non-public schooling offers, including the promotion of private tutoring, have increased inequality of opportunities for students coming from more disadvantaged backgrounds, both in terms of the socio-economic situation of households and of the academic background of parents.

### **Skills, education and environment**

- **Underachievement in basic skills** is pointed out as a major concern in a number of EU countries,<sup>34</sup> which translates both into an important share of **low achievers**<sup>35</sup> and a **lack of top performers** in one or several education subjects.<sup>36</sup> Even in those countries performing above or close to the EU average, **negative trends** can be observed,<sup>37</sup> as it is the case in the Netherlands when it comes to both reading and science. Several Country Reports also state that the **link between education and the labour market**<sup>38</sup> remains a challenge, which results into **skills shortages**<sup>39</sup> and difficulties to advance towards SDG 4.
- Whilst **digital skills have improved** in most of EU countries over the past few years, the situation appears to be uneven across Europe and across generations. In a number of countries, **digital skills are low or insufficient**,<sup>40</sup> even among the young population, because the suboptimal use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in schools **lacking adequate equipment**<sup>41</sup> and/or where **teachers are not sufficiently trained**.<sup>42</sup> It should however be mentioned that many countries have developed or plan to develop **frameworks**

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<sup>29</sup> BG, HU, IT, MT, RO, ES.

<sup>30</sup> BG, HU, PO, PT, RO, SK.

<sup>31</sup> CZ, RO, ES.

<sup>32</sup> DK, EL, IT, ES, CZ, IT, SK, SE.

<sup>33</sup> BG, CZ, HU, RO, SK.

<sup>34</sup> BG, HR, CY, HU, LT, LU, MT, RO, SK.

<sup>35</sup> BG, CY, LU, MT, NL, RO, SK, ES.

<sup>36</sup> HR, CY, SK, ES.

<sup>37</sup> AT, BE (Flemish Community), FI, DE, NL.

<sup>38</sup> BE, BG, CY, EE, FR, DE, HU, IT, LT, MT, NL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, UK.

<sup>39</sup> EE, RO.

<sup>40</sup> BG, HR, CY, CZ, EL, IE, IT, LV, LT, RO, SK.

<sup>41</sup> BE (French Community), CZ, EL, RO.

<sup>42</sup> BE (French Community), CZ, ES.

**to better equip students and teachers with digital competencies** in the coming years.<sup>43</sup> These, however, shall be attentively monitored by education trade unions to prevent widening **digital divides**, as it is dreaded in Italy, and because they may include the testing of pupils,<sup>44</sup> a reshaping of the curriculum,<sup>45</sup> the introduction of digital textbooks and interactive applications<sup>46</sup> and partnerships with the private sector.<sup>47</sup> The different Country Reports stress out that these education reforms are primarily aimed at meeting the demand for digital skills on the labour market, among which the need for ICT graduates.

- In addition to digital shortcomings, a significant number of countries report a **low or declining share of graduates in science technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)**<sup>48</sup>, which may have critical impacts in the near future for the workforce.
- Finally, this year's Country reports integrate a new dimension to skills' analysis as they better consider the **green transition** that is urgently needed. Competences for sustainable development appear to be on the rise as **green skills** have emerged as new priorities to address in a handful of countries<sup>49</sup>. The 2020 Country Reports seem to mainly present environmental sustainability as a new opportunity for the economy.

### **Early childhood education**

- **Available quality childcare and early education** is recognised as key to improve educational outcomes all across the EU. For the past few years, there has been a **rise in young children's attendance rate**<sup>50</sup> to childcare and/or early childhood education in several EU countries. This may be explained by an increase in expenditure, a reduction of attendance fees, an extension of the working hours of kindergartens or by the lowering of the age of starting compulsory education<sup>51</sup>, as it is the case in France where the age of compulsory education has been lowered to three year old. Several countries have also recently launched initiatives to improve the **quality and the access of their early childhood education system**.<sup>52</sup> In Denmark, for example, where access to early childhood education is almost universal but quality is uneven, the 2020 Budget Bill proposes to implement a legal minimum staff/child ratio by 2025, and to raise investment in this sector.
- In countries where participation in early childhood education is way below EU average (95.4% for pupils between 4 years old and the starting age of compulsory education)<sup>53</sup> or declining, a **lack of places and facilities**,<sup>54</sup> a shortage of **qualified staff and pre-school teachers**<sup>55</sup> as well

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<sup>43</sup> AT, BG, HR, CZ, IT, LT, MT, NL, PT, RO, SE, UK.

<sup>44</sup> AT.

<sup>45</sup> HR, CZ, SE.

<sup>46</sup> HR.

<sup>47</sup> UK.

<sup>48</sup> BE, BG, CY, FR, IT, LV, RO, SK, ES, SE.

<sup>49</sup> CY, IE, LT, MT, SI, ES.

<sup>50</sup> AT, HR, CZ, EL, LT, MT, RO, SI, ES.

<sup>51</sup> BE, FR, EL, SK, SE.

<sup>52</sup> DK, MT, PT, RO, SI.

<sup>53</sup> BG, HR, FI, EL, LT, RO, SK.

<sup>54</sup> BG, HR, FR, DE, IT, SK.

<sup>55</sup> HR, FR, DE, MT.



as **regional disparities**<sup>56</sup> are usually pointed out by the Country reports. Participation in early childhood education is deemed to be deeply interlinked with the **activity rate of women**.<sup>57</sup> A lower activity rate translates into a rarer placement of children in childcare and early education. In turn, low availability and affordability of early childhood education have negative impacts on the percentage of women in employment. In Greece, childcare vouchers are granted to low-income families in order to support women's employment.

- Improving access to early childhood education is presented in the reports as particularly important for **children from disadvantaged backgrounds and households**, who may benefit from an expanded access to early childhood education the most. As it stands today, children with weak socio-economic or migrants backgrounds attend childcare and early education less often than their counterparts<sup>58</sup> (EU average: 77.8% vs 89.1% in 2016). What is more, **Roma children** attend kindergarten in much lower proportions,<sup>59</sup> with dramatic consequences on their school participation in the long run.

### **Vocational Education and Training**

- Improving the **labour market relevance** of Vocational Education and Training (VET) is one of the biggest challenges highlighted by the Country Reports, as VET is targeted as the sector offering better employability opportunities to students<sup>60</sup>. However, many countries face difficulties to increase the **enrolment rate of student in VET**<sup>61</sup> as it suffers from misconceptions and a lack of prestige. **Shortage of qualified teachers** with up-to-date knowledge are also frequent.<sup>62</sup>
- To strengthen these programmes and to attract more students, a significant share of countries has designed **competence-oriented curricula** and has created new **apprenticeship programmes** and places.<sup>63</sup> Supplementary funding, infrastructures or additional scholarships for students have been introduced in some EU countries.<sup>64</sup> Across almost all Country Reports, strengthening VET is portrayed as the most efficient answer to overcome skills' shortages, and to respond to the contingent needs of companies. Despite this dominant narrative, numerous VET programmes continue lacking sufficient relevant **workplace training** and exposure,<sup>65</sup> as well as **flexible study pathways**<sup>66</sup>. This negatively impacts graduates' qualifications, hampers job prospects of VET graduates<sup>67</sup> and calls for a closer monitoring in the light of the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET).

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<sup>56</sup> BG, HR, CZ, FI, FR, IT, PO, PT, RO, SK, ES.

<sup>57</sup> HR, EL.

<sup>58</sup> AT, BE, LT, MT, RO, SK, SI.

<sup>59</sup> BG, CZ, RO, SK.

<sup>60</sup> The employability rate of vocational graduates stands at 79.5% at EU average.

<sup>61</sup> BG, CY, DK, EE, FI, DE, EL, LV, LT, MT, UK.

<sup>62</sup> BG, HR, PT.

<sup>63</sup> AT, BG, HR, CZ, FR, DE, EL, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, PO, SK.

<sup>64</sup> BG, CY, DK, FI, HU, MT.

<sup>65</sup> HR, CY, PO, PT, RO.

<sup>66</sup> FI.

<sup>67</sup> EE, LV, LT, RO.

## Higher education and research

- **Tertiary education attainment** has been on the rise in an important number of EU Member states<sup>68</sup> over the past years (reaching an average of 40.7% across the EU), although **territorial disparities** persist between EU countries and regions, with the rate of tertiary education participation being generally **higher in cities than in rural areas**<sup>69</sup>. Despite progress, the share remains low in a number of Member States<sup>70</sup> and **socioeconomic disparities** continue to be particularly prevalent.<sup>71</sup>
- Overall, there is scope for improving the **equity and efficiency** of higher education systems as repetition of a university year or university course work, course dropout and a lack of appropriate student guidance continue to be widespread in a number of countries. **Insufficient public funding**<sup>72</sup> is deemed to be linked to **scientific output of modest quality**,<sup>73</sup> which sets off difficulties to attract highly qualified staff and hampers a given country's innovation capacities. Several countries have or plan to implement reforms to improve the quality of their research and higher education institutions<sup>74</sup>, often including **internationalisation strategies**<sup>75</sup>. Plans also frequently project to expand **performance-based funding**<sup>76</sup> as well as to reinforce links between **academia and business**<sup>77</sup>.
- Indeed, a sizeable number of Country Reports state that higher education is insufficiently **aligned with labour market needs** and that research has too much of a limited added value for the economy.<sup>78</sup> Qualification standards are often advised to be labour market driven<sup>79</sup> in order to facilitate knowledge and technology transfer. **Public-private cooperation**<sup>80</sup> is encouraged in many forms, including through the improvement of the framework conditions to increase the degree of public-private scientific co-publications. In that respect, countries have taken steps to create synergies between research **and the business sector**,<sup>81</sup> including **private investment** and the **commercialisation of research results**.
- In numerous occasions, and as the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak brings to surface today, ETUCE has warned that decade-long underinvestment from the public sector and reform pressures to better align higher education and research outcomes to the needs and priorities of business, have hampered the ability of the public to finance as well as to foster research and innovation in public goods, including in such areas as science, health and environment, with the potential to curb benefits for society that the market fails to provide.

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<sup>68</sup> AT, HR, CY, EL, MT, PT, SK.

<sup>69</sup> AT, RO, SK, SI.

<sup>70</sup> BG, HR, HU, IT, MT.

<sup>71</sup> CZ, IT, LT, PO, SI.

<sup>72</sup> BG, IT, LV, LT, PO, RO.

<sup>73</sup> BG, HR, HU, PO, RO, SK, ES.

<sup>74</sup> HR, LV, LT, PO, SK, SE.

<sup>75</sup> HR, FR, LT, PO, SK, SE.

<sup>76</sup> HR, EE, LV.

<sup>77</sup> BG, HR, DK, FR, EL, HU, IE, LT, LU, PO, PT, RO, ES, SE.

<sup>78</sup> CY, CZ, EE, EL, HU, LV, LT, LU, MT, RO, SK, SI, ES, UK.

<sup>79</sup> CY, EE, DE, IT, MT, NL, RO, SK.

<sup>80</sup> Considered insufficient in: BG, CZ, EL, PT.

<sup>81</sup> BG, HR, DK, FR, EL, HU, IE, LT, LU, PO, PT, RO, ES, SE.

## Annex I: Social scoreboard

	SDG 4 (Quality education) SDG 5 (Gender equality) SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities)					SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth)					SDG 1 (No poverty) SDG 3 (Good health and well-being)				
	Equal opportunities and access to the labour market					Dynamic labour markets and fair working conditions					Social protection and inclusion				
	Early leavers from education and training	Gender employment gap	Income quintile ratio (S80/S20)	At risk of poverty or social exclusion	Youth NEET (% of total population on aged 15-24)	Employment rate (% of population aged 15-74)	Unemployment rate (% of population aged 15-74)	Long-term unemployment (% of population aged 15-74)	GDHI per capita growth	Net earnings of a full-time single worker earning AW	Impact of social transfers (other than pensions) on poverty reduction	Children aged less than 3 years in formal childcare	Self-reported unmet need for medical care	Individuals' level of digital skills	
<b>Best performers</b>	HR, IE, GR, LT, PO, SI	FI, LV, SE	CZ, FI, SI, SK	CZ, SI, SK	CZ, DE, LU	CZ, DE, EE, SE	CZ		BG, LT, PO, RO	AT, DE, IE, LU, NL, GB	IE	BE, ES, LU		DK, DE, FI, NL, GB, SE	
<b>Better than average</b>	CZ, LU	DK, BE, EE, FR, PT, SI	DK, BE, AT, IE, GR, MT, PO, PT, NL, SE	DK, AT, DE, FI, FR, MT, PO, NL, SE	DK, LV, MT, SK, SE	DK, CY, FI, LV, LT, MT, PT, NL, SI, GB	DE, MT, PO, PT, NL, RO, GB	DK, AT, CZ, HR, CY, DE, EE, LU, MT, PO, PT, NL, GB, SE	CZ, EE, LV, SK, SE	DK, BE, FI, FR, SE	AT, FR, PO, SI, SE	GR, FR, PT, SI, SE	AT, CZ, DE, IE, ES, LU, MT, NL	AT, HR, IE, GR, MT	
<b>On average</b>	BE, AT, CY, DE, FI, FR, LV, NL, SK, GB	BG, HR, DE, IE, ES, LU, NL	HR, CY, EE	BE, CY, IE, LU, PT	BE, FI, IE, FR, LT, PO, PT	BG, AT, IE, FR, LV, LU, PO, SK	DK, BE, BG, AT, EE, FI, IE, LT, LU, SI, SK, SE	BE, BG, FI, IE, FR, LV, LT, RO, SI, SK	DK, DE, FI, IE, LU, PT, NL, SI	IT, MT	CY, DE, LU, MT, NL, SK	CY, DE, EE, FI, IE, IT, LV, GB	DK, BE, BG, HR, CY, FR, IT, LT, PO, PT, SI, SK, SE	BE, CZ, EE, ES, FR, LT, PT, SI, SK	
<b>Good but to monitor</b>		LT			AT, NL, SI						DK, FI	DK, NL		LU	
<b>Weak but improving</b>	RO	MT	BG, ES	BG, GR, RO	HR, CY		HR, CY, GR, ES	GR, ES		BG, EE, LV, LT	BG, GR	BG	GR	CY	
<b>To watch</b>	DK, BG, EE, PT, SE	AT, CZ, CY, PO, SK	DE, IT, LU, GB	HR, EE, ES, IT, GB	EE, ES, GB	BE, RO	FR		BE, AT, ES, FR	CZ, HR, GR, ES, PO, PT, SI	BE, CZ, HR, EE, PT, GB	AT, HR, LT, MT	FI, RO, GB	PO	
<b>Critical situation</b>	ES, IT, MT	GR, IT, RO	LV, LT, RO	LV, LT	BG, GR, IT, RO	HR, GR, ES, IT	IT	IT	CY, GR, IT	RO, SK	ES, IT, LV, LT, RO	CZ, PO, RO, SK	EE, LV	BG, LV, RO	

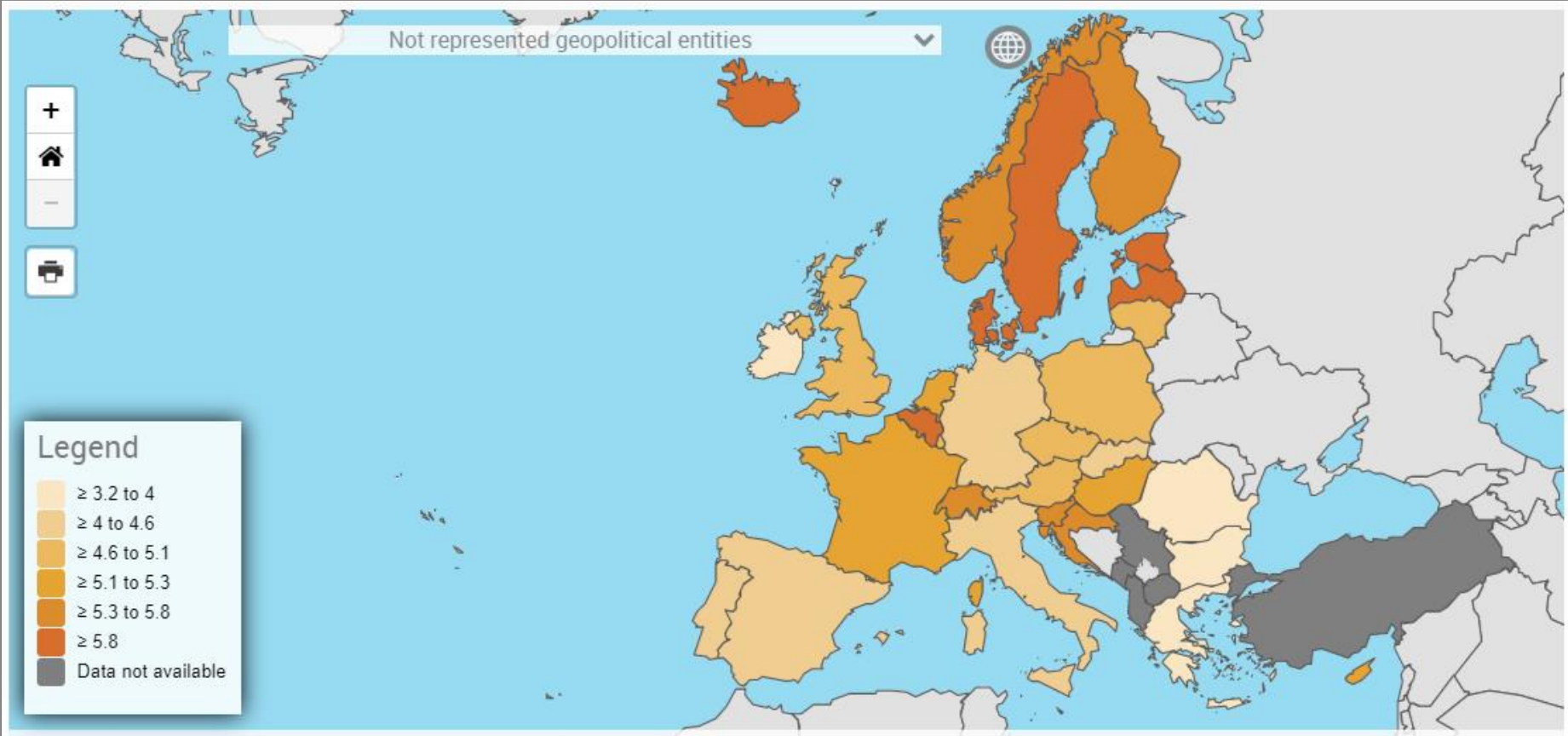
Source: Country Reports 2020, European Commission

## Annex II: General government expenditure in education (% of GDP)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
AT	5,0%	4,9%	4,9%	4,9%	4,8%	4,8%
BE	6,4%	6,3%	6,3%	6,2%	6,2%	6,2%
BG	3,7%	4,1%	3,9%	3,4%	3,5%	3,5%
CY	6,4%	5,6%	5,6%	5,5%	5,3%	5,2%
CZ	5,1%	5,1%	4,9%	4,5%	4,1%	4,6%
DE	4,4%	4,3%	4,2%	4,1%	4,1%	4,2%
DK	6,9%	7,1%	7,0%	6,8%	6,5%	6,4%
EE	5,9%	5,5%	5,9%	5,7%	5,7%	6,2%
ES	4,1%	4,1%	4,1%	4,1%	4,0%	4,0%
FI	6,4%	6,3%	6,2%	6,0%	5,7%	5,5%
FR	5,5%	5,5%	5,4%	5,4%	5,4%	5,1%
GB	5,3%	5,4%	5,2%	5,1%	4,9%	4,8%
GR	4,5%	4,3%	4,1%	3,9%	3,8%	3,9%
HR	3,9%	3,8%	6,6%	6,6%	5,3%	5,3%
HU	4,7%	5,2%	5,2%	5,0%	5,1%	5,1%
IE	4,7%	4,3%	3,3%	3,3%	3,2%	3,2%
IT	4,1%	4,0%	4,0%	3,9%	3,9%	4,0%
LT	5,2%	5,0%	5,1%	4,8%	4,5%	4,6%
LU	5,1%	4,7%	4,6%	4,5%	4,5%	4,6%
LV	5,7%	5,9%	5,9%	5,5%	5,8%	5,8%
MT	5,8%	5,5%	5,3%	5,2%	4,9%	5,2%
NL	5,3%	5,3%	5,2%	5,2%	5,1%	5,1%
PO	5,3%	5,3%	5,3%	5,0%	4,9%	5,0%
PT	5,5%	5,3%	5,1%	4,8%	4,6%	4,5%
RO	2,8%	3,0%	3,1%	3,3%	2,8%	3,2%
SE	6,5%	6,5%	6,4%	6,6%	6,7%	6,9%
SI	6,5%	6,0%	5,6%	5,6%	5,4%	5,4%
SK	4,0%	4,0%	4,2%	3,9%	3,9%	4,0%
EU (28)	5,0%	4,9%	4,9%	4,8%	4,7%	4,7%

Source: Eurostat, COFOG, ([gov 10a exp](#))

Figure 1 – General government expenditure in education as a percentage of GDP



Source: Eurostat, COFOG, ([gov\\_10a\\_exp](#))

### Annex III: Europe 2020 (national targets and progress)

COUNTRY	GOAL	NATIONAL TARGET	CURRENT FIGURES	PROGRESS
Austria	Employment rate set in the NRP	77%	76.2% (2018)	
	R&D in the NRP	3.76% of GDP	3.17% of GDP (2018)	3.17% of GDP in 2018; 3.19% expected for 2019, but not yet confirmed by Eurostat
	Early school/training leaving	9.5%	7.3% (2018)	
	Tertiary education	38% of 30-34 years old	40.7% (2018)	
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-235 000 compared to 2008	-187 000	In the baseline year 2008, the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion was 1 699 000. The respective number for 2018 was 1 512 000, i.e. 187 000 less, therefore requiring additional efforts to meet the target.
	Employment rate (20-64)	73.2%	69.7%	The employment rate (20-64) increased to a record high level of 69.7% in 2018 (+ 1.2 pp compared to 2017), but remains well below the EU average (73.1%) and the 2020 target (73.2%). There remain large regional disparities in the employment with highest rate in Flanders (74.6%), followed by Brussels (61.4%) and Wallonia (63.7%).
	R&D	3% of GDP	2.8%	Belgium R&D intensity increased remarkably from 1.9% in 2007 to 2.8% in 2018, mostly thanks a growth in business R&D intensity (from 1.3% to 2.0%). The public R&D intensity increased too (from 0.54% in 2007 to 0.8% in 2018), but remains slightly below that of most other Member States with a similar level of economic development.
	Early school leaving	9.5%	8.6%	In 2016, Belgium reached its Europe 2020 national target of 9.5% on early school leaving. Since then, the early school leaving rate further declined to 8.6% at national level. There are, however, large regional disparities with the highest rate in Brussels (10.7%), followed by Wallonia (9.9%) and Flanders (7.3%). The gender gap of 4.1 pps (with the higher rate of 10.6% for men) has increased and is now above the EU average (3.3 pps). The gap between non-EU (19.2%) and native-born (7.2%) is high and increasing. In 2018, the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET, 15-24 years old) has decreased to 9.2%. However, also in terms of the NEET rate there are important regional differences. It is the highest in Brussels (13.3%) followed by Wallonia (10%) and Flanders (7.8%).
	Tertiary education	47% of 30-34 years old	47.6%	In 2018, the proportion of 30- to 34-year old tertiary graduates reached 47.6%, surpassing its EU2020 target of 47% and well above the EU average of 40.7%. Tertiary attainment is the highest in Brussels (56.3%) followed by Flanders (48.2%) and Wallonia (42.5%). The gender gap of 13.9 pps (with the higher rate of 54.5% for

<b>Belgium</b>				women) has further increased (10.1 pps in 2017). The gap between non-EU born (35%) and native-born (49.2%) remains high, although decreasing
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-380 000 compared to 2008	+56 000	The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has continuously declined since 2014. Despite these improvements, the cumulative difference from 2008 remains positive in 2018 at 56 thousand individuals. As a result, it is highly unlikely that Belgium will obtain its target of reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 380 thousands individuals.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Employment rate set in the NRP	76%	72.4% (2018)	
	R&D set in the NRP	1.5% of GDP		There was no progress towards the R&D intensity target.
	Early school/training leaving	11% of 18-24 years old	12.7% (2018)	12.7 % in 2018. No progress has been made since 2010 (+0.1 point)
	Tertiary education	36% of 30-34 years old	33.7% (2018)	33.7 % in 2018. Tertiary educational attainment has been steadily improving (+6.9 points since 2012) but is unlikely to reach the national target by 2020.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-260 000 compared to 2008 (1 632 120)	-81 300	1 550 797 (2018)
<b>Croatia</b>	Employment rate (20-64) set in the NRP	65.2%	65.2% (2018)	The employment rate in Croatia has slowly but steadily increased (from 57.2% in 2013 to 65.2% in 2018). Croatia has achieved its national target, but the employment rate is still among the lowest in the EU, and well below the EU average.
	R&D set in the NRP	1.4% of GDP	0.97%	Investment in R&D equals 0.97%. Croatia is not on track to meet the target.
	Early school leaving	4%	3.3%	With a rate of 3.3%, Croatia remained among the leading EU Member States in ensuring that its young people complete secondary education. It comfortably met both the national target of 4% and the EU-level target of 10%.
	Tertiary education	35%	34.1% (2018)	Croatia's tertiary education attainment rate has risen to 34.1% in 2018. The national target could therefore be reached in 2020.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-150 000	-376 000 since 2011	The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion fell from 1.384 million in 2011 to 1.008 million in 2018. Croatia has already met its national target.
	Employment rate (population 20-64)	75-77%	73.9% (2018)	The employment rate increased to 73.9% in 2018 from 70.8% in 2017, above the EU average, making notable progress, yet remaining below the target.
	R&D	0.5% of GDP	0.55% of GDP (2018)	0.55% in 2018, almost unchanged from 2017 and exceeding the target.
	Early school/training leaving	10%	7.8% (2018)	The proportion of early school leavers aged 18-24 dropped to 7.8% in 2018 from 8.5% in 2017, thus staying well below the target.



<b>Cyprus</b>	Tertiary education	46% of 30-34	57.1% (2018)	Tertiary educational attainment increased yet again to 57.1% in 2018, compared to 55.9% in 2017. A substantial gap of 20.3 percentage points between the attainment rates of native- and foreign-born students persists.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-27 000 compared to 2010 (19.3%)	-38 000 compared to 2015	The proportion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is high at 23.9%, but declining. The overall number declined for the third year in a row by 9,000 compared to 2017, or 28,000 compared to 2016, or 38, 000 compared to 2015.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Employment rate set in the NRP	75%	80.2% (first half of 2019)	
	R&D set in the NRP	1% of GDP for public expenditures	1.93% of GDP total R&D expenditures (2018) 0.73% of GDP public R&D expenditures (2018)	
	Early school/training leaving	5.5%	6.2% (2018)	
	Tertiary education	32% of 30-34 years old	33.7% (2018)	
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-1 466 000	-1 264 000 (2018)	
	Employment rate set in the NRP	80%	77.5% (2018)	The employment rate has gradually increased, from 74.3 % in 2012, to 75.4 % in 2015 and up to 77.5 % in 2018. It remains, however, below pre-crisis levels (79.0 % in 2007). Denmark has adopted a series of active labour market reforms in recent years, with the overall purpose of increasing the supply of labour, promote the incentives to work and reduce the number of social benefit recipients. These measures are expected to contribute to closing the 2.5 percentage point gap from Denmark's national Europe 2020 employment target (80 %).
	R&D set in the NRP	3%	3.03% (2018)	Research and development (R&D) intensity in Denmark has been above 3 % of GDP since 2015. In 2018, R&D intensity reached 3.03 % of GDP, a slight decrease from the previous year figure of 3.05 %. Business R&D investments in the country account for around 2/3 of total R&D expenditure, while there is a political commitment to keep public R&D intensity at least at 1 % of GDP.
	Early school/training leaving	10%	10.2%	Since 2016, the school drop-out rate of the population aged 18-24 has increased. It rose from 8.8 % in 2017 to 10.2 % 2018, reaching a level above the <10 % target for the first time in eight years (11 % in 2010).
	Tertiary education	40%	49.1% (2018)	The more-than-40 % target has been reached and even surpassed by 9.1 percentage points. The share of the population aged 30-34 which has successfully completed tertiary studies has increased from 39.2 % in 2008 to 49.1 % in 2018.



Denmark	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	reduce the number of people in households with low work intensity by 22 000 compared to 2010 (433 000)	+26 000	The number of people living in low-work intensity households rose from 433 000 in 2010 to 459 000 in 2018, corresponding to an increase of 26 000 persons. The gap to the national Europe 2020 target in the area of poverty and social exclusion (reducing the number of persons living in low work intensity households with 22 000 by 2020) is thus far from being closed. Denmark has introduced a strategy to progress towards its ten social mobility goals (May 2016), aiming among others to reduce the number of vulnerable persons and increasing their employability and the participation rates in education and training. Denmark is making progress on some of these goals (e.g. crime rates for marginalised young persons) but lagging behind on others (e.g. share of marginalised young people attending upper secondary education).
Estonia	Employment rate set in the NRP (20-64)	76%	79.5% (2018)	The target was already reached in 2015 (76.5%) and it increased further to 79.5% in 2018.
	R&D set in the NRP	3% of GDP	1.38% of GDP (2018)	In 2018, expenditure on R&D reached 1.38% of GDP, of which 0.59% by the private sector. Public expenditure increased to 0.79% of GDP in 2018 (from 0.66% in 2017).
	Early school/training leaving	9.5% of the 18-24 year-olds with at most lower secondary education and currently not in further education or training	11.3% (2018)	Estonia is moving away from the target, the rate deteriorated to 11.3 in 2018 (from 9.7% in 2017). Gender differences are significant.
	Tertiary education (age 30-34)	40%	47.2% (2018)	With 47.2% in 2018, Estonia is well above its national target
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty	15% in 2020 (from 17.5% in 2010)	21.9% (2018)	Overall at-risk-of-poverty rate increased to 21.9% in 2018 (from 21% in 2017).
	Employment rate set in the NRP	78%	76.1% (October 2019)	
	R&D in the NRP	4% of GDP	2.75% of GDP	According to Statistics Finland, R&D expenditure amounted to €6.4 billion in 2018. Expenditure had increased by as much as €265 million from the previous year. This was the biggest increase in volume terms since 2008. Growth occurred in all sectors: in the business sector it was 5%, in the public sector 2% and in the higher education sector 4% compared to 2017. This was the second favourable year in a row following the decreasing trend of R&D expenditure that lasted for 5 years before that. The GDP proportion of R&D expenditure in 2018 was 2.75% (cf. 2.73% in 2017). At its highest, the proportion was 3.75% in 2009. Although Finland's proportion has dropped by 1 pp. over the past 10 years, it is still significantly above the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and EU average.

Finland				<p>In 2018, businesses accounted for 66% of R&amp;D expenditure and for 61% of R&amp;D funding. The business sector's proportion of total R&amp;D expenditure has declined markedly from 2008 when it was 74%. The public sector is responsible for 9% of R&amp;D expenditure. However, for R&amp;D funding, its proportion is 32%, including basic funding for the higher education sector provided by the Ministry of Education and Culture.</p> <p>According to the official estimates by Statistics Finland, the GDP proportion of R&amp;D will decrease again in 2019. Although R&amp;D expenditure will most likely grow in 2019 by over €110 million, the GDP proportion will go down to 2.71%. This is because the growth rate of the economy is higher than that of R&amp;D expenditure. According to recent estimates from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the proportion will remain at the level of 2.70-2.75% over the next few years.</p>
	Early school/training leaving	8%	8.3% (2018)	
	Tertiary education (age 30-34)	42%	44.2% (2018)	
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-770 000 compared to 2010 (911 000)	+41 000 in 2017 compared to 2016	The latest statistics (May 2019) show that 890,000 Finns, or 16.4% of the household population, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2017 (compared to 849,000 in 2016). Most of the people that are at risk of poverty or social exclusion live in low income households, which made up 12.1% of the population. The second most at risk group of poverty or social exclusion were those who live in households with low work intensity, affecting 7.6% of the population. Only 2.6% of households in Finland suffer from severe material deprivation.
	Employment rate (age 20-64)	75%	71.7% (third quarter of 2019)	<p>The employment rate for workers aged 20-64 was 71.3% in 2018, up from 70.6% since 2017.</p> <p>It has stabilised in the third quarter of 2019 with a 71.7% employment rate in metropolitan France in the third quarter. However, the 75% target remains out of reach at this stage, in spite of continued job creations in the private sector.</p>
	R&D	3% of GDP	2.20% of GDP (2018)	<p>R&amp;D intensity in 2018 was at 2, 20% up from 2, 02% in 2007 and at 2.19% in 2017, a decrease from 2016, where it stood at 2.24 (EU average is 2.11%)</p> <p>Public R&amp;D intensity has been stable the last two years and stood, at 0.73% in 2018 and at 0.73% in 2017, however with a decrease from 0.78% recorded for 2016 (EU average is 0.69%)</p> <p>Business R&amp;D intensity has increased since 2007 where it stood at 1. 28% and since 2012, has remained rather stable, from 2016 (1.43%), 2017 (1.42%) and 1.44% in 2018 (EU average is 1.41%)</p>
	Early school/training leaving	9.5%	8.9% (2018)	The French early school leaving rate remained stable at 8.9 % in 2018 from 8.9 % in 2017, remaining under the Europe 2020 target.

France				Despite an early school leaving rate below the EU average, significant regional disparities remain. There are still too many young people who leave education with at most a lower secondary level diploma, particularly in the outermost regions, where the labour market prospects have not significantly improved, in respect of metropolitan France.
	Tertiary education	50% of population aged 17-33	46.2% of population aged 30-34 (2018)	The French tertiary education attainment rate for the population aged 30-34 years was 46.2% in 2018, further increasing from 44.3% in 2017. This is above the EU tertiary education target of 40%. Women (51.2%) are consistently outperforming men (41.0%) in the attainment rate.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-1 900 000 in cumulative terms since 2007	-106 000 compared to 2008	The number of people at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion decreased in cumulative terms from 2008 of 106,000 units, marking a regression in respect of previous years' improvements.
Germany	Employment rate (20-64 years old)	77%	79.9% (2018), 80.5% (second quarter of 2019)	
	Employment rate (55-64 years old)	60%	71.4% (2018), 72.3% (second quarter of 2019)	
	Employment rate of women	73%	75.8% (2018), 76.2% (second quarter of 2019)	
	R&D	3% of GDP by 2020, 3.5% by 2025 (of which one-third public and two-third private)	3.13% (2018), 76.2% (second quarter of 2019)	
	Early school leaving	<10%	10.3% (2018)	At 10.3% in 2018, Germany is close to the European target and to the national target. Still, it has actually moved away from the target as in 2017 the early school leaving rate was at 10.1%.
	Tertiary education	42%	34.9% (2018)	Germany is continuing to increase tertiary attainment, which stood at 34.9% in 2018 but remained below the EU average of 39.9% and the EU target of 40.7%. The national target of 42% also includes ISCED level 4 (unlike the EU target) and has thus been met (49.8% in 2018).
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-20% of long-term unemployed people by 2020 as compared with 2008 (-320,000)	-63% between 2008 and 2018	The number of long-term unemployed people (LFS definition) fell from 1.63 million to 0.6 million between 2008 and 2018 (by about 63%).
	Employment rate (age 20-64)	70%	61.2% (first three quarters of 2019)	The employment rate for workers aged 20-64 was 59.5% in 2018, up from 57.8% in 2017. This rise continued in 2019, with an average 61.2% employment rate in the first three quarters. However, the 70% target remains out of reach at this stage, in spite

Greece				of continued job creation. The employment rate is very low and significantly below the EU average (73.2% in 2018).
	R&D	1.30% of GDP	1.18% of GDP (2018)	In 2018, Greece reached a research and development intensity of 1.18% of GDP, according to provisional data by Eurostat (compared to 1.13% of GDP in 2017). In 2018, research and development intensity was composed of 48% private investment (0.57% of GDP) and 51% public investment (0.60% of GDP).
	Early school leaving	10%	4.7% (2018)	At 4.7% in 2018, the share of early school was well below the EU average of 10.6% and the national target of 10%
	Tertiary education (age 30-34)	32%	44.3% (2018)	At 44.3% in 2018, Greece is well above the EU average (40.7%) and the national target. However, the attainment gap between foreign- and native-born students (33pps) is one of the largest in the EU and skills mismatches are pronounced.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-450 000 compared to 2008	+302 000	Greece targeted to lift out 450 thousand people from poverty or social exclusion by 2020 with 2008 as a baseline year. Greece is far from achieving its target as in 2018 still 302 thousand more people lived at risk of poverty compared to 2008.
Hungary	Employment rate set the NRP	75%	75.4% (third quarter of 2018)	The employment rate of the 20-64 age group continued to improve and reached 74.4% in 2018 and 75.4% in the third quarter of 2018. It is above the EU average (73.2% in 2017).
	R&D set in the NRP	1.8% of GDP	1.53% of GDP	Expenditure on R&D increased by 0.18 percentage points to 1.53% of GDP in 2018.
	Early school/training leaving	Below 10%	12.5%	In 2018, the early school leaving remained at 12.5%, above the EU average of 10.6%. The rate has not improved since 2010.
	Tertiary education (age 30-34)	34%	33.7%	The tertiary education attainment rate for 30-34-year olds increased to 33.7% in 2018, which is close to the national target, but significantly below the EU average of 40.7%.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion (compared to 2008)	-450 000	-908 000	In 2018, the population at risk of poverty or exclusion was 908,000 lower than in 2008. Hungary significantly overachieves its national target.
	Employment rate set in the NP	69-71%	74.1% (2018)	The employment rate for 20-64 years old workers increased up to 74.1% in 2018, 0.9 pps above the EU average (73.2%) and 1.8 pps below the upper Europe 2020 target (75%) for 2020. The employment rate for women aged 20-64 stood at 68.1%, slightly below the 69%-71% national target for Ireland.
	R&D set in the NRP	2.5% of GNP	Aiming at reaching the goal in 2025 only	Ireland is now aiming to reach a target of GERD as 2.5% of GNP only in 2025 instead of 2020. Although public and business research funding are increasing in absolute terms, public research funding is still below the level in 2009.
	Early school/training leaving	8%	5% (2018)	The rate of early school leaving (18-24 years old) stood at 5.0% in 2018, ranking among the lowest in the EU and well below the Irish Europe 2020 target.

<b>Ireland</b>	Tertiary education (age 30-34)	60%	56.3% (2018)	In 2018, the share of 30-34 year-old tertiary graduates increased to 56.3%. It is well above the EU average (40.7%), but 3.7 pps below the Europe 2020 national target
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-200 000 compared to 2010	-197 000	The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has decreased since 2013. In 2018, 1 023 000 people were at risk of poverty and social exclusion, compared to 1 220 000 in 2010, getting therefore close to the national Europe 2020 target.
<b>Italy</b>	Employment rate set in the NRP	67-69%	63.6% (third quarter of 2019)	The employment rate has increased to 63.6% in Q32019, still lower than the national target and substantially below the EU average (73.8 %).
	R&D set in the NRP	1.53% of GDP	1.39% of GDP (2018)	Italy has achieved limited progress in the last years, and it is not on track to meet its target. In 2018 R&D intensity corresponds to 1.39% of GDP
	Early school/training leaving	16%	14.5% (2018)	The early school leaving rate in 2018 was 14.5%, below Italy's Europe2020 target, but above the EU average of 10.6%
	Tertiary education (age 30-34)	26-27%	26.9% (2018)	At 26.9% in 2018, the share of 30-34 year-olds with tertiary educational attainment was in line with the national target, but was the second-lowest in the EU (EU average: 39.9%).
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-2.2 million compared to 2010 (15.1 million people)	+1.3 million compared to 2008	With an increase of more than 1.3 million people at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) compared to 2008, Italy has not met this target. In 2018, the AROPE rate declined to 27.3 %, down from 28.9 % in 2017. However, it remains well above both pre-crisis levels (25.5 % in 2008) and the EU average (21.9 %)
<b>Latvia</b>	Employment rate	73%	76.8% (2018)	The employment rate (for the 20-64 age group) increased further to 76.8% in 2018 from 74.8% in 2017
	R&D	1.5% of GDP	0.64% of GDP (2018)	R&D expenditure was 0.64% of GDP in 2018, up from 0.51% of GDP in 2017. Latvia is not on track to meet its target.
	Early school leaving	10%	8.3% (2018)	The share of early school leavers from education and training decreased from 8.6% in 2017 to 8.3% in 2018.
	Tertiary education	34%	42.7% (2018)	The already high tertiary attainment rate decreased slightly in 2018 reaching 42.7% from 43.8% in 2017. Gender disparities remain strong, with the tertiary attainment rate at 30.6% for men and 55.2% for women.
	Reduction of the number of people at risk of poverty and/or living in jobless households	-121 000 compared to 2008	-104 000	After having reached its target in 2017, Latvia has again fallen below it in 2018. The number of people living at risk of poverty and/or living in jobless households reached 471 000 in 2018, resulting in a reduction of 104 000 compared to 2008, less than the target.
	Employment rate	72.8%	77.8% (2018)	The employment rate reached 77.8% in 2018, above the national target and the EU average.

<b>Lithuania</b>	R&D set in the NRP	1.9% of GDP (half from the private sector)	0.88%	In 2018 Lithuania's R&D investment decreased to 0.88 % of GDP compared to 0.9 % the previous year. Private investment is at 0.33 % of GDP for a second consecutive year. R&D investment is unlikely to reach the target level by 2020.
	Early school/training leaving	<9%	4.6% (2018)	Lithuania continues to perform well in preventing early leaving from education and training and is placed among the leading EU Member States. In 2018 the rate fell to 4.6% (EU average:10.6%) which is well below the Europe 2020 target of 10%
	Tertiary education	48.7%	57.6%	In 2018, tertiary attainment among people aged 3034 was 57.6%, the highest in the EU. This exceeds the EU average of 40.7% and the national target.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-170 000 compared to 2008 and limit to 814 000 in 2020	-116 000	In absolute numbers, the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion was 794 000 (the target was to limit the number to 814 000). This achievement must be assessed in the context of decrease in total population. The cumulative difference from 2008 was -116 000 people (target: -170 000).
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Employment rate set in the NRP	73%	72.1% (2018)	The overall employment rate of the resident population continued to slightly increase, from 71.5% in 2017 to 72.1% in 2018, but it is still below both its Europe 2020 target and the EU average of 73.2%.
	R&D set in the NRP	2.3-2.6% (0.7-0.9% for public spending and 1.6-1.7% for the private sector)	1.21% of GDP (0.54% public and 0.68% private)	In 2018, investment in research and development decreased further to 1.21% of GDP and reached its lowest point compared to the last decade. It is therefore far below its national target of 2.3% of GDP (Eurostat) and the EU average of 2.11% of GDP. Business enterprise expenditure in research and development is further decreasing (0.68% of GDP) compared to the EU average of 1.41% of GDP in 2018. Luxembourg has not reached its 2020 target for public expenditure on research and development (0.7% to 0.9%) which decreased slightly to 0.54% of GDP from 0.56% of GDP in 2017.
	Early school/training leaving	9.5%	6.3%	Early school leaving stood at 6.3 % in 2018, well below the EU average of 10.6 %.
	Tertiary education (age 17-33)	50%	56.2% (2018)	The rate of tertiary attainment reached 56.2 % in 2018, well above the EU average of 40.7 %, but below the national target of 66 %.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-6 000 compared to 2008	+54 000	In 2018, 126 000 people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, 54 000 more than in 2008
	Employment rate set in the NRP	70%	75,5% (2018)	
	R&D set in the NRP	2% of GDP	0.55% of GDP (2018)	The set-up target will not be reached, the total R&D expenditure stood only at 0.55 % of GDP in 2018 and has decreased since 2012. The R&I system lacks public and private support both in terms of investment and dedication to the field.
	Early school/training leaving	10%	17.4% (2018)	Despite recent progress, Malta is still far from the target with an early school leaving rate of 17.4% in 2018.

<b>Malta</b>	Tertiary education (age 30-34)	33%	34.7% (2018)	Malta has reached the target with 34.7% of the population aged 30-34 having completed tertiary education in 2018.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-6 560 compared to 2010 (2 008)	+9 000 compared to 2008 -10 000 compared to 2015	In 2018, 89,000 persons were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In absolute terms, this is 9,000 more people than in 2008, but 10,000 less than in 2015. This represents a 19% share of the total population
<b>Netherlands</b>	Employment rate set in the 2016 NRP	80%	80.3% (third quarter of 2019)	The employment rate is on an upward trend, reaching about 80.3% in Q3-2019. The Netherlands has thus achieved its target.
	R&D set in the NRP	2.5% of GDP	2.16% of GDP (2018)	At 2.16% of GDP in 2018, the Netherlands appears unlikely to reach its 2020 R&D intensity target.
	Early school/training leaving	<8%	7.3% (2018)	After achieving the target in 2016, the percentage of early school leavers has been further reduced. In 2018, the percentage stood at 7.3%.
	Tertiary education	>40%	49.4% (2018)	The rate was 49.4% in 2018, which is well above the national target and the EU average.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-100 000 compared to 2008	-97 000	The number of people in jobless households was 1 516 000 in 2017. This is 97 000 less than in 2008 (1 613 000). Thus the target has almost been reached.
<b>Poland</b>	Employment rate set in the NRP	71%	72.2% (2018)	In 2018, the employment rate in Poland reached 72.2%, thereby achieving the national target.
	R&D set in the NRP	1.7% of GDP for 2020	1.21% (2018)	Poland has not reached its R&D target. In 2018, R&D was 1.21 % of GDP, a 24.6% increase in relation to the previous year (1.03 % of GDP). The intensity of business expenditure on R&D (0.8% of GDP) grew by 19.6% annually in the period 2010-2018 and is double the intensity of the public expenditure on R&D (0.4%). In spite of this growth, BERD in Poland continues to be below the EU average (1.4% of GDP).
	Early school/training leaving	4.5%	4.8% (2018)	The rate at each students leave school/training early reached 4.8% (a decrease of 0.2 pp compared to 2017), well below the EU average.
	Tertiary education	45%	45.7% (2018)	Poland is among the EU countries with a high level of tertiary educational attainment. The share of the population aged 30-34 who have successfully completed tertiary studies have been increasing for the past few years. The rate was 45.7 % in 2018 (the same as in 2017); therefore the national target was met.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-1 500 000	-4.5 million	Poland has achieved the target since 2012. By 2018 the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion declined by 4.5 million.
	Employment rate set in the NRP	75%	76% (second quarter of 2019)	The positive trend of labour market developments continues although at a slower pace. The employment rate kept growing steadily up to 76 % in Q2-2019 (above the Europe 2020 target of 75 %).



<b>Portugal</b>	R&D set in the NRP	2.7% of GDP	1.4% of GDP (2018)	R&D intensity had been on decline since 2010, but the negative trend was reversed in 2016. However, at 1.4 % of GDP in 2018, R&D intensity remains well below both the national and the EU R&D intensity targets. In 2018, the R&D intensity of Portugal was composed of 52% (0.69% of GDP) private investment and 48% (0.64% of GDP) public investment.
	Early school/training leaving	10%	11.8% (2018)	Considerable progress was made in the last decade in reducing the early school leaving rate (from 30.9 % in 2009 to 11.8 % in 2018); rates are, however, much higher in the autonomous regions of Madeira and Azores (28.3% in Azores compared vs. 11.2% in the continental area, in 2018). Large gender disparities also exist (14.7% for men against 8.7% for women in 2018).
	Tertiary education	40%	33.5% (2018)	Portugal's tertiary educational attainment level among the 30-34 years old cohort (33.5 % in 2018) is still below the EU average (39.9 %) but increased significantly in the last decade (21.3% in 2009). The tertiary education attainment rate of people with disabilities is below the EU average (25.5 % vs. 30.3 % in the EU). Foreign-born students have higher attainment rate than native (36.8% vs. 33.1%).
	Reducing the number of person in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion	-200 000 in 2020 (compared to 2008)	-535 000	The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2018 was 535,000 less than in 2008, meaning that Portugal has already surpassed the target of 200,000.
<b>Romania</b>	Employment rate set in the NRP	70%	70.5% (second quarter of 2019)	The national target is considered to have been already achieved, as the employment rate in the age group 2064 is at 70.5% in Q2-2019, showing a steady increase over recent years.
	R&D set in the NRP	2% of GDP	0.51% (2018)	Romania will not achieve the R&D intensity target by 2020. The country's R&D intensity in 2018 was only 0.51% of GDP, thus ranking last in the EU. The country has consistently ranked at the bottom of the EU in recent years. Public expenditure on R&D has continuously fallen since 2011 from 0.32% of GDP to 0.20% in 2018. On the other hand, business enterprise expenditure on R&D (BERD) has increased from 0.12% of GDP in 2013 to 0.30% in 2018. EU-funded investments in R&D infrastructure are slowly taking off, but they are unlikely to address the chronic under-funding of the research and innovation system
	Early school/training leaving	11.3%	16.4% (2018)	The rate of early school leaving decreased to 16.4% in 2018, but the target is still far from being achieved. Albeit the decrease from 2017 was significant (1.7 points), the rate has stagnated overall since 2009 and Romania still has one of the highest early school leaving rates in the EU.
	Tertiary education	26.7%	24.6% (2018)	In 2018, the progress made on tertiary attainment in the past decade has been reversed, and the rate has decreased compared to 2017 from 26.3% to 24.6%, remaining the lowest rate in the EU



	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-580 000 compared to 2010 (8.4 million)	-2.755 million	The national target is considered to have already been achieved. In absolute terms, the number of people no longer at risk of poverty or social exclusion since 2008 had already hit 2,755,000 in 2018.
<b>Slovakia</b>	Employment rate set in the NRP	72%	73.3% (second quarter of 2019)	The employment rate has already met the target in Q1-2018 (72.1%) and continued to grow towards 73.3% in Q2-2019.
	R&D set in the NRP	1.2% of GDP	0.84% of GDP (2018)	Total R&D expenditure stood at 0.84 % of GDP in 2018 and it does not appear likely that the target of 1.2% will be reached. R&I ecosystem lacks a boost in both public and private expenditure. However, an increase in investment has to be coupled with appropriate reforms to set Slovak R&I on the right path.
	Early school/training leaving	6%	8.6%	The school dropout rate is rising and there are large regional disparities. The rate of early school leaving is at 8.6%, still below the EU average, but it has strongly deteriorated from 5.3% in 2012. Eurostat data show sizeable regional variation. The highest and fastest-rising drop-out rate is seen in Eastern Slovakia, where the rate is close to 14%, while in Western Slovakia it stands at 6.3%.
	Tertiary education	40%	37.7% (2018)	The tertiary educational attainment rate is steadily growing. It grew by 11.7 pps since 2010 to 37.7% in 2018, which is close to the target. The gap to the EU average has been narrowing over time, from 15.3 pps in 2007 to only 3 pps in 2018. Women (at 44.6%), for whom the national target was met, strongly outperformed men (at 31.1%). The gender gap in favour of women at 13.5 pps is above the EU average of 10.1 pps.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	17.2% (compared to 20.6% in 2008)	156.3% (2018)	The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion remained at 16.3% in 2018. Regional disparities are substantial and are to a large extent driven by pronounced levels of poverty in marginalised Roma communities.
<b>Slovenia</b>	Employment rate	75%	75.4% (2018)	Target achieved. Employment rate stood in 2018 at 75.4%, above the Europe 2020 target and the EU average (73.2%).
	R&D set in the NRP	3% of GDP	1.95% of GDP (2018)	In 2018, R&D spending was 1.95% of GDP, slightly below the EU average of 2.11%. Business R&D spending was 1.45% of GDP (EU average 1.41%) and public R&D spending was 0.5% of GDP.
	Early school/training leaving	5%	4.2% (2018)	Target achieved. In 2018, the early-school-leaving rate in Slovenia was 4.2%, 0.8 pps under the national target and 0.1 pps better than in 2017. Early-school-leaving in Slovenia is among the lowest in the EU.
	Tertiary education	40%	42.7% (2018)	Target achieved. Tertiary attainment was 42.7% in 2018, above the Europe 2020 target and the EU average, though it has decreased by 3.7 pps in relation to 2017.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-40 000 compared to 2010 (360 000)	-34 000	In 2018, the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion fell for the fourth consecutive year. However, 326,000 people were still at risk of poverty or social exclusion (minus 34,000 compared to base year).

<b>Spain</b>	Employment rate (age 20-64)	74%	68% (first three quarters of 2019)	The employment rate for 20-64 age group increased to 68.0% in the first three quarters of 2019, remaining 6.7 pps below the EU average (72.2%) and 6.0 pps below the Europe 2020 target for Spain.
	R&D set in the NRP	2% of GDP	1.24% of GDP	With an overall R&D spending of 1.24%, reaching the 2% national R&D intensity target in 2020 remains practically unattainable.
	Early school/training leaving	15%	17.9% (2018)	The rate of early school leaving (ESL) (18-24 years old) decreased by 0.4 pps in 2018 to 17.9%, still the highest in the EU and almost 3 pps above the Spanish Europe 2020 target. The indicator varies greatly across regions and it is especially high for students with disabilities and non-EU born background
	Tertiary education	44%	42.4% (2018)	In 2018, the proportion of 30-34 year-old tertiary graduates increased further to 42.4%. It is above the EU average (40.7%) and not far from the Europe 2020 national target of 44%.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	-1 400 000 compared to 2008	+1 261 000	Although the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is decreasing since 2014, in 2018 it was still 1,261,000 more than in 2008. The Europe 2020 target is therefore far from reach
<b>Sweden</b>	Employment rate	80%	82.4% (2018)	Sweden has passed its target in 2014 and remained above target ever since registering an 82.4% employment rate in 2018 and 82.0% rate in the first three quarters.
	R&D set in the NRP	4% of GDP	3.31% of GDP (2018)	Sweden remains the country with the highest R&D spending in the EU. However, there is a slight decrease in R&D Intensity (GERD as % of GDP) from 3.37 (2017) to 3.31 (2018), mainly due to a reduction in the business enterprise expenditure on R&D (BERD) as % of GDP from 2.4 (2017) to 2.35 (2018). Sweden will reach its national target for R&D intensity only if the stagnation in public R&D intensity can be overcome and if business R&D intensity can be increased.
	Early school/training leaving	<7%	9.3% (2018)	Early leavers from education and training (share of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and not in further education or training) in 2018 was 9.3%. It has risen continuously since 2014, and more sharply (by 1.6 pps) between 2017 and 2018 (2017: 7.7%; 2016: 7.4%; 2015: 8%; 2014: 6.7%). The share is 2.3 pps above the national target of 7%.
	Tertiary education	45-50%	52% (2018)	Tertiary educational attainment (share of population 30-34 having successfully completed tertiary education) in 2018 was 52% (2017: 51.3%; 2016: 51%; 2015: 50.2%; 2014: 49.9%). The target of 45-50% has been achieved and the trend remains good
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	Well under 14% the number of people aged 20-64 who are not in the labour force (except full-time	10.8% (2018)	The corresponding indicator has continued to decrease, reaching 10.8% in 2018, according to feedback from national authorities (2017: 11.4%; 2016: 12.0 %; 2015: 12.4 %; 2014:12.6 %; 2013: 12.7 %). While the target has been reached, the decreasing trend is likely to change, as long-term unemployment is on the rise.

		students), long-term unemployed or on long-term sick leave.		
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Employment rate	None	7.8% (2018)	
	R&D	None	1.71% (2018)	R&D intensity rose marginally to 1.71% in 2018. Public sector R&D intensity was 0.49% and business R&D intensity 1.18%.
	Early school leaving target	None	10.7% (2018)	The rate of early school leavers remained stable at 10.7% in 2018, marginally above the EU average.
	Tertiary education	None	48.8% (2018)	The tertiary attainment rate of 30-34 year olds reached 48.8% in 2018, increasing by 0.6pps from 2017. This is significantly above the EU average of 40.7%.
	Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion	None	23.6% (2018)	The 'at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate' stood at 23.6% in 2018, a sharp increase from the 2017 figure of 22%.

### Annex IV: Country-by-country overview of progress on the education-related Country Specific Recommendations 2019-2020

COUNTRIES	CSRs	NO PROGRESS	LIMITED PROGRESS	SOME PROGRESS	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
Austria	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Shift taxes away from labour to sources less detrimental to inclusive and sustainable growth. Support full-time employment among women, including by improving childcare services, and boost labour market outcomes for the low skilled in continued cooperation with the social partners. Raise the levels of basic skills for disadvantaged groups, including people with a migrant background.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shift taxes away from labour to sources less detrimental to inclusive and sustainable growth.</li> <li>- Support full-time employment among women, including by improving childcare services,</li> <li>- and boost labour market outcomes for the low skilled in continued cooperation with the social partners.</li> <li>- Raise the levels of basic skills for disadvantaged groups, including people with a migrant background.</li> </ul>	X	X	X X	
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and development, innovation, digitalisation, and sustainability, taking into account regional disparities. Support productivity growth by stimulating digitalisation of businesses and company growth and by reducing regulatory barriers in the service sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and development, innovation,</li> <li>- digitalisation,</li> <li>- and sustainability, taking into account regional disparities.</li> <li>- Support productivity growth by stimulating digitalisation of businesses and company growth</li> <li>- and by reducing regulatory barriers in the service sector.</li> </ul>			X X	X X X
	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.6 % in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Continue</p>				

<b>Belgium</b>	<p>reforms to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the long-term care and pension systems, including by limiting early exit possibilities from the labour market. Improve the composition and efficiency of public spending, in particular through spending reviews, and the coordination of fiscal policies by all levels of government to create room for public investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue reforms to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the long-term care and pension systems, including by limiting early exit possibilities from the labour market</li> <li>- Improve the composition and efficiency of public spending, in particular through spending reviews</li> <li>- and the coordination of fiscal policies by all levels of government to create room for public investment</li> </ul>	X	X			
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Remove disincentives to work and strengthen the effectiveness of active labour market policies, in particular for the low-skilled, older workers and people with a migrant background. Improve the performance and inclusiveness of the education and training systems and address skills mismatches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remove disincentives to work and strengthen the effectiveness of active labour market policies, in particular for the lowskilled, older workers and people with a migrant background</li> <li>- Improve the performance and inclusiveness of the education and training systems and address skills mismatches</li> </ul>		X	X		
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport, including upgrading rail infrastructure, the low carbon and energy transition and research and innovation, in particular in digitalisation, taking into account regional disparities. Tackle the growing mobility challenges, by reinforcing incentives and removing barriers to increase the supply and demand of collective and low emission transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport, including upgrading rail infrastructure,</li> <li>- the low carbon and energy transition</li> <li>- and research and innovation, in particular in digitalisation, taking into account regional disparities</li> </ul>	X	X	X		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tackle the growing mobility challenges, by reinforcing incentives and removing barriers to increase the supply and demand of collective and low emission transport.</li> </ul>		X		
Bulgaria	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation , transport, in particular on its sustainability , water, waste and energy infrastructure and energy efficiency, taking into account regional disparities, and improving the business environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation,</li> <li>- transport, in particular on its sustainability,</li> <li>- water, waste and energy infrastructure and energy efficiency, taking into account regional disparities,</li> <li>- and improving the business environment.</li> </ul>		X  X X	X	
	<p><b>CSR 4:</b> Strengthen employability by reinforcing skills, including digital skills. Improve the quality, labour market relevance, and inclusiveness of education and training, in particular for Roma and other disadvantaged groups. Address social inclusion through improved access to integrated employment and social services and more effective minimum income support. Improve access to health services, including by reducing out-of-pocket payments and addressing shortages of health professionals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen employability by reinforcing skills, including digital skills.</li> <li>- Improve the quality, labour market relevance, and inclusiveness of education and training, in particular for Roma and other disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>- Address social inclusion through improved access to integrated employment and social services</li> <li>- and more effective minimum income support</li> <li>- Improve access to health services, including by reducing out-of-pocket payments and addressing shortages of health professionals</li> </ul>		X  X X	X  X	
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Deliver on the education reform and improve both access to education and training at all levels and their quality and labour market relevance. Consolidate social benefits and improve their capacity to reduce poverty. Strengthen labour market measures and institutions</p>			X	

<p><b>Croatia</b></p>	<p>and their coordination with social services. In consultation with the social partners, introduce harmonised wage-setting frameworks across the public administration and public services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver on the education reform and improve both access to education and training at all levels and their quality and labour market relevance.</li> <li>- Consolidate social benefits and improve their capacity to reduce poverty.</li> <li>- Strengthen labour market measures and institutions and their coordination with social services.</li> <li>- In consultation with the social partners, introduce harmonised wage-setting frameworks across the public administration and public services.</li> </ul>		<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p>	
<p><b>Cyprus</b></p>	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Complete reforms aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the public employment services and reinforce outreach and activation support for young people Deliver on the reform of the education and training system, including teacher evaluation, and increase employers' engagement and learners' participation in vocational education and training, and affordable childhood education and care. Take measures to ensure that the National Health System becomes operational in 2020, as planned, while preserving its long-term sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete reforms aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the public employment services and reinforce outreach and activation support for young people</li> <li>- Deliver on the reform of the education and training system, including teacher evaluation, and increase employers' engagement and learners' participation in vocational education and training,</li> <li>- and affordable childhood education and care.</li> <li>- Take measures to ensure that the National Health System becomes operational in 2020, as planned, while preserving its long-term sustainability.</li> </ul>		<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p> <p>X</p>	
	<p><b>CSR 4:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport, environment, in particular waste and water management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, digitalisation, including digital skills, and research and innovation, taking into account territorial disparities within Cyprus. Adopt legislation to simplify the procedures for strategic investors to obtain necessary permits and licences. Improve access to finance for SMEs and resume the implementation of privatisation projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport,</li> </ul>		<p>X</p> <p>X</p>		





Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.1% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6% of GDP. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework.</li> </ul>		X		
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Address skills shortages and foster innovation by improving the capacity and labour market relevance of the education and training system. Improve the adequacy of the social safety net and access to affordable and integrated social services. Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including by improving wage transparency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Address skills shortages and foster innovation by improving the capacity and labour market relevance of the education and training system.</li> <li>- Improve the adequacy of the social safety net and access to affordable and integrated social services.</li> <li>- Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including by improving wage transparency.</li> </ul>		X (social services)	X X (social safety net) X	
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport and energy infrastructure, including interconnections, on fostering research and innovation, and on resource and energy efficiency, taking into account regional disparities.</p>		X		
Finland	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.9% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.5% of GDP. Improve the cost-effectiveness of and equal access to social and healthcare services. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.9% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.5% of GDP. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Improve the cost-effectiveness of and equal access to social and healthcare services.</li> </ul>		X		
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Improve incentives to work and enhance skills and enhance active inclusion, notably through well-integrated services for the unemployed and the inactive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve incentives to work</li> <li>- and enhance skills</li> </ul>		X	X X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- and enhance active inclusion, notably through well integrated services for the unemployed and the inactive.</li> </ul>			<b>X</b>	
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, taking into account regional disparities, focus investment-related economic policy on low carbon and energy transition, taking into account regional disparities, and focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport, taking into account regional disparities</p>		<b>X</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, taking into account regional disparities,</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- focus investment-related economic policy on low carbon and energy transition, taking into account regional disparities,</li> <li>- and focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport, taking into account regional disparities</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>		
	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary expenditure does not exceed 1,2 % in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP. Use windfalls gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Achieve expenditure savings and efficiency gains across all sub-sectors of the government, including by fully specifying and monitoring the implementation of the concrete measures needed in the context of Public Action 2022. Reform the pension system to progressively unify the rules of the different pension regimes, with the view to enhance their fairness and sustainability.</p>		<b>X</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary expenditure does not exceed 1,2 % in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Use windfalls gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Achieve expenditure savings and efficiency gains across all sub-sectors of the government, including by fully specifying and monitoring the implementation of the concrete measures needed in the context of Public Action 2022.</li> <li>- Reform the pension system to progressively unify the rules of the different pension regimes, with the view to enhance their fairness and sustainability</li> </ul>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		

France	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Foster labour market integration for all job seekers, ensure equal opportunities with a particular focus on vulnerable groups including people with a migrant background and address skills shortages and mismatches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster labour market integration for all job seekers, ensure equal opportunities with a particular focus on vulnerable groups including people with a migrant background and address skills shortages and mismatches.</li> </ul>		X		
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation (while improving the efficiency of public support schemes, including knowledge transfer schemes), renewable energy, energy efficiency and interconnections with the rest of the Union, and on digital infrastructure, taking into account territorial disparities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation (while improving the efficiency of public support schemes, including knowledge transfer schemes)</li> <li>- renewable energy, energy efficiency and interconnections with the rest of the Union,</li> <li>- and on digital infrastructure, taking into account territorial disparities.</li> </ul>		X	X	
Germany	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> While respecting the medium-term budgetary objective, use fiscal and structural policies to achieve a sustained upward trend in private and public investment, in particular at regional and municipal level. Focus investment-related economic policy on education; research and innovation; digitalisation and very-high capacity broadband; sustainable transport as well as energy networks and affordable housing, taking into account regional disparities. Shift taxes away from labour to sources less detrimental to inclusive and sustainable growth. Strengthen competition in business services and regulated professions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While respecting the medium-term budgetary objective, use fiscal and structural policies to achieve a sustained upward trend in private and public investment, in particular at regional and municipal level.</li> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on education;</li> <li>- research and innovation;</li> <li>- digitalisation and very-high capacity broadband;</li> <li>- sustainable transport</li> <li>- as well as energy networks</li> </ul>		X	X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- and affordable housing, taking into account regional disparities</li> <li>- Shift taxes away from labour to sources less detrimental to inclusive and sustainable growth.</li> <li>- Strengthen competition in business services and regulated professions.</li> </ul>	X	X X		
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Reduce disincentives to work more hours, including the high tax wedge, in particular for low wage and second earners. Take measures to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the pension system, while preserving adequacy. Strengthen the conditions that support higher wage growth, while respecting the role of the social partners. Improve educational outcomes and skills levels of disadvantaged groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce disincentives to work more hours, including the high tax wedge, in particular for low wage [earners] and second earners.</li> <li>- Take measures to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the pension system, while preserving adequacy</li> <li>- Strengthen the conditions that support higher wage growth, while respecting the role of the social partners.</li> <li>- Improve educational outcomes and skills levels of disadvantaged groups.</li> </ul>		X  X X	X  X  X	
<b>Greece</b>	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport and logistics, environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy and interconnection projects, digital technologies, research and development, education, skills, employability, health, and the renewal of urban areas, taking into account regional disparities and the need to ensure social inclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport and logistics,</li> <li>- Environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy and interconnection projects,</li> <li>- Digital technologies,</li> <li>- Research and development,</li> <li>- Education,</li> <li>- Skills,</li> <li>- Employability,</li> <li>- Health</li> </ul>		X  X  X X X X	X  X  X X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- And the renewal of urban areas, taking into account regional disparities and the need to ensure social inclusion.</li> </ul>		X		
<b>Hungary</b>	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Continue the labour market integration of the most vulnerable groups, in particular through upskilling, and improve the adequacy of social assistance and unemployment benefits. Improve education outcomes and increase the participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma in quality mainstream education. Improve health outcomes by supporting preventive health measures and strengthening primary healthcare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue the labour market integration of the most vulnerable groups, in particular through upskilling, and</li> <li>- improve the adequacy of social assistance and unemployment benefits</li> <li>- Improve education outcomes and increase the participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma in quality mainstream education.</li> <li>- Improve health outcomes by supporting preventive health measures and strengthening primary healthcare.</li> </ul>	X	X  X  X		
<b>Ireland</b>	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Provide personalised active integration support and facilitate upskilling, in particular for vulnerable groups and people living in households with low work intensity. Increase access to affordable and quality childcare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide personalised active integration support and facilitate upskilling, in particular for vulnerable groups and people living in households with low work intensity.</li> <li>- Increase access to affordable and quality childcare.</li> </ul>			X  X	X
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on low carbon and energy transition, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable transport, water, digital infrastructure and affordable and social housing, taking into account regional disparities. Implement measures, including those in the Future Jobs strategy, to diversify the economy and improve the productivity of Irish firms - small and medium enterprises in particular - by using more direct funding instruments to stimulate research and innovation and by reducing regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on low carbon and energy transition, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,</li> <li>- sustainable transport,</li> </ul>			X  X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- water,</li> <li>- digital infrastructure</li> <li>- and affordable and social housing, taking into account regional disparities.</li> <li>- Implement measures, including those in the Future Jobs strategy, to diversify the economy and improve the productivity of Irish firms - small and medium enterprises in particular - by using more direct funding instruments to stimulate research and innovation</li> <li>- and by reducing regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship.</li> </ul>			<p>X X X X</p> <p>X</p>	
Italy	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Ensure a nominal reduction of net primary government expenditure of 0.1% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6% of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Shift taxation away from labour, including by reducing tax expenditure and reforming the outdated cadastral values. 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. Implement fully past pension reforms to reduce the share of oldage pensions in public spending and create space for other social and growth-enhancing spending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure a nominal reduction of net primary government expenditure of 0.1% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6% of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Shift taxation away from labour, including by reducing tax expenditure and reforming the outdated cadastral values.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Step up efforts to tackle undeclared work. Ensure that active labour market and social policies are effectively integrated and reach out notably to young people and vulnerable groups. Support women’s participation in the labour market through a comprehensive strategy, including through access to quality childcare and long-term care. Improve educational outcomes, also through adequate and targeted investment, and foster upskilling, including by strengthening digital skills.</p>		X		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Step up efforts to tackle undeclared work.</li> <li>- Ensure that active labour market and social policies are effectively integrated and reach out notably to young people and vulnerable groups.</li> <li>- Support women’s participation in the labour market through a comprehensive strategy, including through access to quality childcare and long-term care.</li> <li>- Improve educational outcomes, also through adequate and targeted investment, and foster upskilling, including by strengthening digital skills.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, and the quality of infrastructure, taking into account regional disparities. Improve the effectiveness of public administration, including by investing in the skills of public employees, by accelerating digitalisation, and by increasing the efficiency and quality of local public services. Address restrictions to competition, particularly in the retail sector and in business services, also through a new annual competition law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, and the quality of infrastructure, taking into account regional disparities</li> <li>- Improve the effectiveness of public administration, including by investing in the skills of public employees, by accelerating digitalisation, and by increasing the efficiency and quality of local public services.</li> <li>- Address restrictions to competition, particularly in the retail sector and in business services, also through a new annual competition law.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	
	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3.5% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.5% of GDP. Reduce taxation for low-income earners by shifting it to other sources, particularly capital and property, and by improving tax compliance. Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3.5% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.5% of GDP. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Reduce taxation for low-income earners by shifting it to other sources, particularly capital and property, and by improving tax compliance.</li> </ul>			<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	

Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework.</li> </ul>				X
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Address social exclusion notably by improving the adequacy of minimum income benefits, minimum old-age pensions and income support for people with disabilities. Increase the quality and efficiency of education and training in particular of low-skilled workers and jobseekers, including by strengthening the participation in vocational education and training and adult learning. Increase the accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Address social exclusion notably by improving the adequacy of minimum income benefits, minimum old-age pensions and income support for people with disabilities.</li> <li>- Increase the quality and efficiency of education and training in particular of low-skilled workers and jobseekers, including by strengthening the participation in vocational education and training and adult learning.</li> <li>- Increase the accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system.</li> </ul>			X	
Lithuania	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Improve quality and efficiency at all education and training levels, including adult learning. Increase the quality, affordability and efficiency of the healthcare system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve quality and efficiency at all education and training levels, including adult learning.</li> <li>- Increase the quality, affordability and efficiency of the healthcare system</li> </ul>		X		
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on innovation, energy and resource efficiency, sustainable transport and energy interconnections, taking into account regional disparities. Stimulate productivity growth by improving the efficiency of public investment. Develop a coherent policy framework to support science-business cooperation and consolidate research and innovation implementing agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on innovation,</li> <li>- energy and</li> <li>- resource efficiency,</li> <li>- sustainable transport and</li> </ul>		X		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- energy interconnections, taking into account regional disparities.</li> <li>- Stimulate productivity growth by improving the efficiency of public investment.</li> <li>- Develop a coherent policy framework to support science-business cooperation and consolidate research and innovation implementing agencies.</li> </ul>		X X X	X	
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus economic policy related to investment on fostering digitalisation and innovation, stimulating skills development, improving sustainable transport, and increasing housing supply, including by increasing incentives and lifting barriers to build.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus economic policy related to investment on fostering digitalisation and innovation,</li> <li>- stimulating skills development,</li> <li>- improving sustainable transport,</li> <li>- and increasing housing supply, including by increasing incentives and lifting barriers to build.</li> </ul>		X	X X X X	
<b>Malta</b>	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, natural resources management, resource and energy efficiency, sustainable transport, reducing traffic congestion and inclusive education and training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation,</li> <li>- natural resources management,</li> <li>- resource and energy efficiency,</li> <li>- sustainable transport, reducing traffic congestion and</li> <li>- inclusive education and training</li> </ul>		X	X X X X	
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Reduce the incentives for the self-employed without employees, while promoting adequate social protection for the self-employed, and tackle bogus self-employment. Strengthen comprehensive lifelong learning and upgrade skills notably of those at the margins of the labour market and the inactive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce the incentives for the self-employed without employees, while promoting adequate social protection for the self-employed,</li> <li>- and tackle bogus self-employment.</li> <li>- Strengthen comprehensive life-long learning and upgrade skills notably of those at the margins of the labour market and the inactive.</li> </ul>		X  X X	X	

<p><b>Netherlands</b></p>	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> While respecting the medium-term budgetary objective, use fiscal and structural policies to support an upward trend in investment. Focus investment-related economic policy on research and development in particular in the private sector, on renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies and on addressing transport bottlenecks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While respecting the medium-term budgetary objective, use fiscal and structural policies to support an upward trend in investment.</li> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and development in particular in the private sector,</li> <li>- on renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies</li> <li>- and on addressing transport bottlenecks.</li> </ul>		<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	
	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.4% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6% of GDP. Take further steps to improve the efficiency of public spending, including by improving the budgetary system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.4% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6% of GDP <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Take further steps to improve the efficiency of public spending, including by improving the budgetary system.</li> </ul>		<p>X</p>		
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> 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. Take steps to increase labour market participation, including by improving access to childcare and long-term care, and remove remaining obstacles to more permanent types of employment. Foster quality education and skills relevant to the labour market, especially through adult learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>		

Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take steps to increase labour market participation, including by improving access to childcare and long-term care, and remove remaining obstacles to more permanent types of employment.</li> <li>- Foster quality education and skills relevant to the labour market, especially through adult learning.</li> </ul>		X		
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Strengthen the innovative capacity of the economy, including by supporting research institutions and their closer collaboration with business. Focus investment-related economic policy on innovation [Focus investment-related economic policy on] transport, notably on its sustainability [Focus investment-related economic policy on] digital [infrastructure] [Focus investment-related economic policy on] energy infrastructure [Focus investment-related economic policy on] healthcare [Focus investment-related economic policy on] cleaner energy, taking into account regional disparities Improve the regulatory environment, in particular by strengthening the role of consultations of social partners and public consultations in the legislative process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen the innovative capacity of the economy, including by supporting research institutions and their closer collaboration with business.</li> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on innovation</li> <li>- [Focus investment-related economic policy on] transport, notably on its sustainability</li> <li>- [Focus investment-related economic policy on] digital [infrastructure]</li> <li>- [Focus investment-related economic policy on] energy infrastructure</li> <li>- [Focus investment-related economic policy on] healthcare</li> <li>- [Focus investment-related economic policy on] cleaner energy, taking into account regional disparities</li> <li>- Improve the regulatory environment, in particular by strengthening the role of consultations of social partners and public consultations in the legislative process.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X
	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2020, taking into account the allowance linked to unusual events for which a temporary deviation is granted. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Improve the quality of public finances by prioritising growth-enhancing spending while strengthening overall expenditure control, cost efficiency and adequate budgeting, with a focus in particular on a durable reduction of arrears in hospitals. Improve the financial sustainability of state-owned enterprises, while ensuring more timely, transparent and comprehensive monitoring.</p>		X		

<b>Portugal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2020, taking into account the allowance linked to unusual events for which a temporary deviation is granted. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Improve the quality of public finances by prioritising growth-enhancing spending while strengthening overall expenditure control, cost efficiency and adequate budgeting, with a focus in particular on a durable reduction of arrears in hospitals.</li> <li>- Improve the financial sustainability of state-owned enterprises, while ensuring more timely, transparent and comprehensive monitoring.</li> </ul>		X		
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Adopt measures to address labour market segmentation. Improve the skills level of the population, in particular their digital literacy, including by making adult learning more relevant to the needs of the labour market. Increase the number of higher education graduates, particularly in science and information technology. Improve the effectiveness and adequacy of the social safety net.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adopt measures to address labour market segmentation.</li> <li>- Improve the skills level of the population, in particular their digital literacy, including by making adult learning more relevant to the needs of the labour market</li> <li>- Increase the number of higher education graduates, particularly in science and information technology</li> <li>- Improve the effectiveness and adequacy of the social safety net.</li> </ul>			X	
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, railway transport and port infrastructure, low carbon and energy transition and extending energy interconnections, taking into account regional disparities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation,</li> <li>- railway transport and port infrastructure,</li> <li>- low carbon and energy transition and extending energy interconnections, taking into account regional disparities</li> </ul>		X		
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education, in particular for Roma and other disadvantaged groups. Improve skills, including digital, notably by increasing the labour market relevance of vocational education and training and higher education. Increase the</p>		X		

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Romania</b></p>	<p>coverage and quality of social services and complete the minimum inclusion income reform. Improve the functioning of social dialogue. Ensure minimum wage setting based on objective criteria, consistent with job creation and competitiveness. Improve access to and cost-efficiency of healthcare, including through the shift to outpatient care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education, in particular for Roma and other disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>- Improve skills, including digital, notably by increasing the labour market relevance of vocational education and training and higher education.</li> <li>- Increase the coverage and quality of social services</li> <li>- Complete the minimum inclusion income reform.</li> <li>- Improve the functioning of social dialogue.</li> <li>- Ensure minimum wage setting based on objective criteria, consistent with job creation and competitiveness.</li> <li>- Improve access to and cost-efficiency of healthcare, including through the shift to outpatient care.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Slovakia</b></p>	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education at all levels and foster skills. Enhance access to affordable and quality childcare and long-term care. Promote integration of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education at all levels and foster skills.</li> <li>- Enhance access to affordable and quality childcare and long-term care.</li> <li>- Promote integration of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>		
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on healthcare, research and innovation, transport, notably on its sustainability, digital infrastructure, energy efficiency, competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, and social housing, taking into account regional disparities. Increase the use of quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria in public procurement operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on healthcare,</li> <li>- research and innovation,</li> <li>- transport, notably on its sustainability,</li> <li>- digital infrastructure,</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- energy efficiency,</li> <li>- competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises,</li> <li>- and social housing, taking into account regional disparities.</li> <li>- Increase the use of quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria in public procurement operations.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;">X X</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">X  X</p>	
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2020. Adopt and implement reforms in healthcare and long-term care that ensure quality, accessibility and long-term fiscal sustainability. Ensure the long-term sustainability and adequacy of the pension system, including by adjusting the statutory retirement age restricting early retirement and other forms of early exit from the labour market. 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2020. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Adopt and implement reforms in healthcare</li> <li>- and long-term care that ensure quality, accessibility and long-term fiscal sustainability.</li> <li>- Ensure the long-term sustainability and adequacy of the pension system, including by adjusting the statutory retirement age restricting early retirement and other forms of early exit from the labour market</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	X	<p style="text-align: center;">X  X  X</p>		
	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, low carbon and energy transition, sustainable transport, in particular rail, and environmental infrastructure, taking into account regional disparities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation,</li> <li>- low carbon and energy transition,</li> <li>- sustainable transport, in particular rail, and</li> <li>- environmental infrastructure, taking into account regional disparities.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;">X  X  X</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">X  X</p>	
	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.9% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.65% of GDP. Take measures to strengthen the fiscal and public procurement frameworks at all levels of</p>		X		

<b>Spain</b>	<p>government. Preserve the sustainability of the pension system. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. (MIP relevant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.9% in 2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.65% of GDP. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> <li>- Take measures to strengthen the fiscal framework</li> <li>- and public procurement frameworks at all levels of government.</li> <li>- Preserve the sustainability of the pension system.</li> <li>- Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></li> </ul>	X	X		
	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Ensure that employment and social services have the capacity to provide effective support. Foster transitions towards open-ended contracts, including by simplifying the system of hiring incentives. Improve support for families, reduce fragmentation of national unemployment assistance and address coverage gaps in regional minimum income schemes. Reduce early school leaving and improve educational outcomes, taking into account regional disparities. Increase cooperation between education and businesses with a view to improving the provision of labour market relevant skills and qualifications, in particular for information and communication technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that employment services have the capacity to provide effective support.</li> <li>- Ensure that social services have the capacity to provide effective support.</li> <li>- Foster transitions towards open-ended contracts,</li> <li>- including by simplifying the system of hiring incentives.</li> <li>- Improve support for families,</li> <li>- reduce fragmentation of national unemployment assistance</li> <li>- and address coverage gaps in regional minimum income schemes</li> <li>- Reduce early school leaving</li> <li>- and improve educational outcomes, taking into account regional disparities</li> <li>- Increase cooperation between education and businesses with a view to improving the provision of labour market relevant skills and qualifications,</li> <li>- in particular for information and communication technologies.</li> </ul>		X		X X

	<p><b>CSR 3:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on fostering innovation, resource and energy efficiency, upgrading rail freight infrastructure and extending electricity interconnections with the rest of the Union, taking into account regional disparities. Enhance the effectiveness of policies supporting research and innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment-related economic policy on fostering innovation,</li> <li>- Resource efficiency</li> <li>- and energy efficiency</li> <li>- upgrading rail freight infrastructure</li> <li>- extending electricity interconnections with the rest of the Union, taking into account regional disparities.</li> <li>- Enhance the effectiveness of policies supporting research and innovation.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X X X X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	
<b>Sweden</b>	<p><b>CSR 2:</b> Focus investment related economic policy on education and skills, maintaining investment in sustainable transport to upgrade the different transport modes, in particular railways , and research and innovation, taking into account regional disparities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus investment related economic policy on education and skills,</li> <li>- maintaining investment in sustainable transport to upgrade the different transport modes, in particular railways,</li> <li>- and research and innovation, taking into account regional disparities.</li> </ul>			<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	X
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<p><b>CSR 1:</b> Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.9% in 2020-2021, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6% of GDP. <b>[NOT ASSESSED]</b></p> <p><b>CSR 2:</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, housing, training and improving skills, sustainable transport and low carbon and energy transition, taking into account regional diversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research and innovation</li> <li>- Boosting housing supply</li> <li>- Training and improving skills</li> <li>- Sustainable transport</li> <li>- Low carbon and energy transition</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	