



**Country Specific Recommendations 2019**  
**of the European Semester in the education and training field**

*June, 2019*

## 2019 CSR package in the area of education

(one CSR may cover several policy fields):

Theme	EU Countries
Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation	CY, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MT, NL, PT, SK, SI, SE, UK
VET and adult learning (including skills shortages to improve employability)	CY, EE, FI, FR, IE, IT, LV, LT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI
Quality and inclusive education, access and educational outcomes for the most disadvantaged	AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, IT, RO, SK
Labour market relevance of education	BG, HR, EE, PL, PT, RO, SI
Digital skills	BG, CY, CZ, IT, PT, RO, SI
Early childhood education and care	AT, CY, CZ, IE, IT, PL, SK
Enhance the efficiency of public services/public spending	BE, IT, LV, LT, PL, PT
Governance: Social Partners' involvement	AT, DE, HR, PL, RO
Early school leaving / low basic skills	ES, LU, SK, UK
Focus investment-related economic policy on education and training	DE, DK, EL, SE
Cooperation between businesses and universities	ES, LT, PL
Fair taxation	EE, IT, LV
Teachers	CY, CZ
Higher Education	PT, RO
Education system reform	CY, HR

EU country - Relevant documents	<b>Country Specific Recommendations 2019</b>
<b><u>Austria</u></b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR</a>	2. Shift taxes away from labour to sources more supportive for inclusive and sustainable growth. Support full-time employment among women, including by improving childcare services, and boost labour market outcomes for the low skilled, <b>in cooperation with the social partners. Raise the levels of basic skills for disadvantaged groups</b> , including people with a migrant background.
<b><u>Belgium</u></b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - FR - EN - NL</a>	1. [...] Improve the composition and efficiency of public spending, notably through <b>spending reviews</b> , and the coordination of fiscal policies by all levels of government to create room for public investment.  2. 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. <b>Improve the performance and inclusiveness of the education and training systems and address skills mismatches.</b>
<b><u>Bulgaria</u></b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">BG - DE - EN - FR</a>	4. Strengthen employability by <b>reinforcing skills, including digital skills</b> . Improve the <b>quality, labour market relevance, and inclusiveness of education and training</b> , 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.
<b><u>Croatia</u></b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR - HR</a>	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.</b> Consolidate social benefits and improve their capacity to reduce poverty. Strengthen labour market measures and institutions and their coordination with social services. <b>In consultation with the social partners, introduce harmonised wage-setting frameworks across the public administration and public services.</b>
<b><u>Cyprus</u></b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">CY - DE - EN - FR</a>	3. Complete reforms aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the public employment services and reinforce outreach and activation support for young people. <b>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.</b> Take measures to that the National Health System becomes operational in 2020, as planned, while preserving its long-term sustainability.

	<p>4. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on</b> sustainable transport, environment, in particular waste and water management, energy efficiency and renewable energy, digitalisation, including <b>digital skills, and research and innovation</b>, taking into account territorial disparities within the Member State. Adopt legislation to simplify the procedures for strategic investors to obtain necessary permits and licences. Improve access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises, and resume the implementation of privatisation projects.</p>
<p><b>Czech Republic</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">CS</a> - <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FR</a></p>	<p>2. Foster the employment of women with young children, including by improving access to affordable childcare, and of disadvantaged groups. <b>Increase the quality and inclusiveness of the education and training systems</b>, including by <b>fostering technical and digital skills</b> and <b>promoting the teaching profession</b>.</p>
<p><b>Denmark</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DA</a> - <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FR</a></p>	<p>1. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on education and skills, research and innovation</b> to broaden the innovation base to include more companies, and on sustainable transport to tackle road congestion.</p>
<p><b>Estonia</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">ET</a> - <a href="#">FR</a></p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.1% in 2020, corresponding to an <b>annual structural adjustment</b> of 0.6% of GDP. Ensure effective supervision and the <b>enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework</b>.</p> <p>2. <b>Address skills shortages</b> and foster innovation by <b>improving the capacity and labour market relevance of the education and training system</b>. 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> <p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on</b> sustainable transport and energy infrastructure, including interconnections, on <b>fostering research and innovation</b>, and on resource and energy efficiency, taking into account regional disparities.</p>
<p><b>Finland</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FI</a> - <a href="#">FR</a> - <a href="#">SV</a></p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.9% in 2020, corresponding to an <b>annual structural adjustment</b> of 0.5% of GDP. Improve the cost-effectiveness of and equal access to social and healthcare services.</p> <p>2. Improve incentives to accept work and <b>enhance skills</b> and active inclusion, notably through well-integrated services for the unemployed and the inactive.</p> <p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation</b>, low carbon and energy transition and sustainable transport, taking into account regional disparities.</p>

<p><b>France</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">FR</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">DE</a></p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary expenditure does not exceed 1.2% in 2020, corresponding to an <b>annual structural adjustment</b> 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> <p>2. 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 <b>address skills shortages and mismatches</b>.</p> <p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation (while improving the efficiency of public support schemes, including knowledge transfer schemes)</b>, renewable energy, energy efficiency and interconnections with the rest of the Union, and on digital infrastructure, taking into account territorial disparities</p>
<p><b>Germany</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FR</a></p>	<p>1. While respecting the medium-term budgetary objective, use fiscal and structural policies to achieve a sustained upward trend in private and public investment, notably at regional and municipal level. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on education; research and innovation</b>; 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 more supportive for inclusive and sustainable growth. Strengthen competition in business services and regulated professions.</p> <p>2. 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. <b>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.</b></p>
<p><b>GREECE</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EL</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FR</a></p>	<p>2. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on</b> sustainable transport and logistics, environmental protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy and interconnection projects, digital technologies, <b>research and development, education, skills, employability, health, and the renewal of urban areas</b>, taking into account regional disparities and the need to ensure social inclusion.</p>
<p><b>Hungary</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FR</a> - <a href="#">HU</a></p>	<p>2. Continue the labour market integration of the most vulnerable groups in particular by upskilling, and improve the adequacy of social assistance and unemployment benefits. <b>Improve education outcomes and increase the participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma in quality mainstream education.</b> Improve health outcomes by supporting preventive health measures and strengthening primary health care.</p>

	<p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation</b>, low carbon energy and transport, waste infrastructure and energy and resource efficiency, taking into account regional disparities. Improve competition in public procurement.</p>
<p><b>Ireland</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FR</a></p>	<p>2. Provide personalised active integration support and <b>facilitate upskilling</b>, in particular for vulnerable groups and people living in households with low work intensity. Increase access to affordable and quality childcare.</p> <p>3. 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 - <b>by using more direct funding instruments to stimulate research and innovation</b> and by reducing regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship.</p>
<p><b>Italy</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FR</a> - <a href="#">IT</a></p>	<p>1. Ensure a nominal reduction of net primary government expenditure of 0.1% in 2020, corresponding to an <b>annual structural adjustment</b> of 0.6% of GDP. Use windfall gains to <b>accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio</b>. Shift taxation away from labour, including by reducing tax expenditure and reforming the outdated cadastral values. <b>Fight tax evasion</b>, 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 old-age pensions in public spending and create space for other social and growth-enhancing spending.</p> <p>2. 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. <b>Improve educational outcomes, also through adequate and targeted investment, and foster upskilling, including by strengthening digital skills.</b></p> <p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation, and the quality of infrastructure</b>, 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>
<p><b>Latvia</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE</a> - <a href="#">EN</a> - <a href="#">FR</a> - <a href="#">LV</a></p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3.5% in 2020, corresponding to an <b>annual structural adjustment</b> 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. <b>Ensure effective supervision and the enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework.</b></p>

	<p>2. Address social exclusion notably by improving the adequacy of minimum income benefits, minimum old-age pensions and income support for people with disabilities. <b>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.</b> Increase the accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system.</p>
<p><b>Lithuania</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR - LT</a></p>	<p>2. <b>Improve quality and efficiency at all education and training levels, including adult learning.</b> Increase the quality, affordability and efficiency of the healthcare system.</p> <p>3. Focus investment-related economic policy on innovation, energy and resource efficiency, sustainable transport and energy interconnections, taking into account regional disparities. <b>Stimulate productivity growth by improving the efficiency of public investment. Develop a coherent policy framework to support science-business cooperation</b> and consolidate research and innovation implementing agencies.</p>
<p><b>Luxembourg</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">FR - DE - EN</a></p>	<p>3. <b>Focus economic policy related to investment on fostering digitalisation and innovation, stimulating skills development,</b> improving sustainable transport, and increasing housing supply, including by increasing incentives and lifting barriers to build.</p>
<p><b>Malta</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR - MT</a></p>	<p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation,</b> natural resources management, resource and energy efficiency, sustainable transport, reducing traffic congestion and inclusive education and training.</p>
<p><b>The Netherlands</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR - NL</a></p>	<p>2. Reduce the incentives for the self-employed without employees, while promoting adequate social protection for the self-employed, and tackle bogus self-employment. <b>Strengthen comprehensive life-long learning and upgrade skills</b> notably of those at the margins of the labour market and the inactive.</p> <p>3. While respecting the medium-term budgetary objective, use fiscal and structural policies to support an upward trend in investment. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on research and development in particular in the private sector,</b> on renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies and on addressing transport bottlenecks.</p>
<p><b>Poland</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR - PL</a></p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.4% in 2020, corresponding to an <b>annual structural adjustment</b> of 0.6% of GDP. Take further steps to <b>improve the efficiency of public spending,</b> including by improving the budgetary process.</p>

	<p>2. 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. <b>Foster quality education and skills relevant to the labour market, especially through adult learning.</b></p> <p>3. <b>Strengthen the innovative capacity of the economy, including by supporting research institutions and their closer collaboration with business.</b> Focus investment-related economic policy on innovation, transport, notably on its sustainability, digital and energy infrastructure, healthcare and cleaner energy, taking into account regional disparities. Improve the regulatory environment, in particular by <b>strengthening the role of consultations of social partners and public consultations in the legislative process.</b></p>
<p><b>Portugal</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">PT - EN - DE - FR</a></p>	<p>1. 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>Improve the quality of public finances by prioritising growth-enhancing spending while strengthening overall expenditure control, cost efficiency and adequate budgeting,</b> 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> <p>2. Adopt measures to address labour market segmentation. <b>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.</b> Increase the number of higher education graduates, particularly in science and information technology. Improve the effectiveness and adequacy of the social safety net.</p> <p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation,</b> railway transport and port infrastructure, low carbon and energy transition and extending energy interconnections, taking into account regional disparities.</p>
<p><b>Romania</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR - RO</a></p>	<p>3. <b>Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education,</b> in particular for Roma and other disadvantaged groups. <b>Improve skills, including digital, notably by increasing the labour market relevance of vocational education and training and higher education.</b> Increase the coverage and quality of social services and complete the minimum inclusion income reform. <b>Improve the functioning of social dialogue.</b> 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>
<p><b>Slovakia</b> Commission Recommendation</p>	<p>2. <b>Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education at all levels and foster skills.</b> Enhance access to affordable and quality childcare and long-term care. Promote integration of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma.</p>

<p><a href="#">SK - EN - DE - FR</a></p>	<p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on healthcare, research and innovation</b>, 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>
<p><b>Slovenia</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR - SI</a></p>	<p>1. 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 and restricting early retirement. Increase the employability of low-skilled and older workers by <b>improving labour market relevance of education and training, lifelong learning</b> and activation measures, including through better <b>digital literacy</b>.</p> <p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation</b>, low carbon and energy transition, sustainable transport, in particular rail, and environmental infrastructure, taking into account regional disparities.</p>
<p><b>Spain</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - ES - EN - FR</a></p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.9% in 2020, corresponding to an <b>annual structural adjustment</b> of 0.65% of GDP. Take measures to strengthen the fiscal and public procurement frameworks at all levels of government. Preserve the sustainability of the pension system. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio.</p> <p>2. Ensure that employment and social services have the capacity to provide effective support. <b>Foster transitions towards open-ended contracts</b>, including by simplifying the system of hiring incentives. Improve support for families and address coverage gaps in national unemployment assistance and regional minimum income schemes. <b>Reduce early school leaving and improve educational outcomes</b>, taking into account regional disparities. <b>Increase cooperation between education and businesses with a view to improving the provision of labour market relevant skills and qualifications</b>, in particular for information and communication technologies.</p> <p>3. <b>Focus investment-related economic policy on fostering innovation</b>, resource and energy efficiency, upgrading rail freight infrastructure and extending energy interconnections with the rest of the Union, taking into account regional disparities. <b>Enhance the effectiveness of policies supporting research and innovation</b>.</p>
<p><b>Sweden</b> Commission Recommendation <a href="#">DE - EN - FR - SV</a></p>	<p>2. <b>Focus investment related economic policy on education and skills</b>, maintaining investment in sustainable transport to upgrade the different transport modes, in particular railways, and <b>research and innovation</b>, taking into account regional disparities.</p>

**United Kingdom**

Commission  
Recommendation

[DE](#) - [EN](#) - [FR](#)

1. 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.

**2. 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.