# 2.4 The situation of the European Union with regard to the SDGs

For its annual report, ASviS updates the composite indicators used to monitor the performance of the European Union and its member states regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. Following last year's update of national indicators, the list of European indicators has been updated in this report. This has a twofold objective: to improve the quality of the information disseminated, using the new information made available by the EU statistical office (Eurostat), and to standardise, as far as possible, the European and national measurement systems<sup>96</sup> presented in Chapter 3.

This analysis is based on data published by Eurostat regarding over 80 elementary indicators, aggregated into 16 composite indicators<sup>97</sup>, which enable assessment of progress and critical areas in individual countries in comparison with the EU average. This information must be considered in the definition of EU policies and is useful for monitoring the EU's progress towards achieving the objectives of the Green New Deal<sup>98</sup>. Due to the unavailability of data, it is not possible to assess the performance of the EU and its member states compared to 2020, and therefore the impact of the pandemic on the Agenda's Goals has not been assessed.

For most of the SDGs, these aggregate results are determined by very different situations in the member states. Therefore, two different approaches are adopted:

- an analysis of composite indicators for the European Union as a whole, including with reference to the simple indicators that, for each Goal, present the greatest strengths or weaknesses;
- individual states' performances and differences over time, also with reference to the values of the composite as well as the elementary indicators that define their performance and level. The values for each composite indicator calculated for the EU are determined by the level and performance of the elementary indicators for the individual countries, which are in turn aggregated, thereby producing composite indicators for each Goal at the individual country level. For

each Goal, a bar graph showing the levels of the composite indicators in 2010 and 2019 is also presented.

Based on this analysis, between 2010 and 2019, the European Union, the area of the world that has made most progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, shows signs of improvement for 12 Goals (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16), deterioration for two (Goals 15 and 17) and substantial stability for two (Goals 6 and 10). Between 2018 and 2019, however, positive performances were registered for 10 Goals (Goals 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16), negative performance for one (Goal 15) and unchanged performance for five (Goals 2, 4, 6, 10, 17).

Based on this analysis, Italy is below the European average for 10 of the 16 indicators analysed (Goal 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17), in line for three (Goal 3, 13 and 15) and above average for three (Goal 2, 7 and 12). This fully confirms our report's assessment of a critical situation for Italy about the SDGs.

Taking a medium-term view, between 2010 and 2019 the situation in Europe improves for the following Goals:

#### **GOAL 1 - NO POVERTY**

The composite indicator deteriorated between 2010 and 2014, followed by a more significant improvement from 2017 to 2019. In 2019, the indicator is at a better level than in 2010, mainly due to a decrease in the number of people living in dwellings with structural problems (down 3.6 percentage points between 2010 and 2019). The indicators regarding poverty risk, material deprivation and low work intensity also improve. The only indicator that is worse in 2019 than in 2010 is the share of people in work at risk of poverty, which rose from 8.5% in 2010 to 9% in 2019.

#### **GOAL 2 - ZERO HUNGER**

The composite indicator is stable between 2010 and 2015, followed by an improvement between 2016 and 2019, primarily due to reduced use of pesticides and an improvement in agricultural profitability (from €13,317 per hectare in 2010 to €16,186 in 2018). However, compared with 2010, the use of fertilisers increased and ammonia emissions were largely stable. Finally, it should be

noted that the share of organic crops increased by 2.6 percentage points between 2012 and 2019, reaching 8.5% of the total, still a long way from the target set by the Farm to Fork Strategy of reaching 25% by 2030.

### GOAL 3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

With the exception of 2015, the composite indicator improved between 2010 and 2019. Between the first and the last year analysed, road accidents (1.6 fewer deaths per 100,000 inhabitants) and preventable mortality fell, while life expectancy improved (from 79.8 to 81.3 years). It should be noted that in 2019, also in comparison with 2010, the share of the population over 65 vaccinated against influenza (down 6.9 percentage points), as well as the number of hospital beds per capita (41.9 fewer beds per 100,000 inhabitants) decreases, with their indicators standing at 42.4% and 532 beds per 100,000 inhabitants respectively in 2019.

#### **GOAL 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION**

The composite indicator improved throughout the period under review, driven by an increase in the share of university graduates (from 32.2% to 39.5%) and a fall in the share of early school leavers from 13.8% to 10.2%. The share of university graduates, although increasing, is still 11.5 percentage points below the EU target of 50% by 2030, whereas the share of early school leavers (10.2% in 2019) is significantly closer to the target share of 10% set by the European Education Area, to be reached by 2030. Critical issues are highlighted regarding students' reading, mathematics and science skills. The indicator - which is the only one of the analysed indicators that worsened over the period analysed - shows an increase of 3.6 percentage points between 2012 and 2018 in the share of students who do not achieve basic skills; in particular, reading skills deteriorate by 4.5 percentage points, and science skills by 5.5 points.

### **GOAL 5 - GENDER EQUALITY**

The composite indicator improved throughout the observed time series, mainly due to increases in the share of women in managerial positions (up 16.6 percentage points between 2010 and 2019), and in the share of female members of national parliaments (up from 24.0% in 2010 to 32.1% in 2019). However, regarding the latter the EU is still a long way from the target share set by the European Pact for Gender Equality (50% by 2030). The share of women who are inactive due to care responsibilities also deteriorates (up 6.1 percentage points between 2010 and 2019), amounting to 32.3% in the last year observed.

# GOAL 7 - CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY

The composite indicator consistently improves between 2010 and 2019, due to an improvement in both the elementary indicators used. Energy productivity rises from €6.8 to €8.4 per kilogram of oil equivalent. The share of renewable energy increases by 5.3 points to reach 19.7% of the total, but is still a long way from the 40% target set by the European Renewable Energy Directive, to be achieved by 2030.

# GOAL 8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The composite indicator is largely stable between 2010 and 2013, followed by an improvement between 2015 and 2019. All of the indicators analysed are at a higher level in 2019 than in 2010, although several of them deteriorated in the early years of the series. Disposable income (up €4,101 per capita between 2010 and 2019), and the number of people killed in accidents at work, which fell from 2.3 to 1.8 deaths per 100,000 workers between 2010 and 2018, performed particularly well. The number of NEETs (down from 15.4% to 12.6%) and the employment rate (up from 67.9% to 73.2%) also improved between 2010 and 2019, although both indicators still fall short of the relative targets set by the European Pillar for Social Rights (9% and 78% respectively), to be achieved by 2030.

# GOAL 9 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The indicator improves between 2010 and 2019, driven by increases in the shares of households with a VHCN connection (15.7% in 2013, 49.8% in 2019), employees specialised in science and technology (40.0% in 2010, 46.9% in 2019), and

research and development personnel (1.07% in 2010, 1.41% in 2019). The share of GDP spent on research and development (up from 2.0% in 2010 to 2.2% in 2019) improves slightly, although this is still far from the EU target of 3% by 2030, while industrial sector emissions and the share of passengers using public transport are substantially in line with 2010 levels. Finally, the indicator for the share of freight transported by rail deteriorates, declining from 25.4% in 2010 to 23.7% in 2019, a far cry from the target set in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, which calls for this share to be doubled<sup>99</sup> by 2050.

# GOAL 11 - SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The composite indicator shows improvement between 2010 and 2014 and substantial stability between 2015 and 2019, albeit with an upturn in the last year. The slight but overall improvement in the composite indicator between 2010 and 2019 is due to a decrease in the population's exposure to air pollution by particulate matter, which fell from 27.2 to 20.5 µg/m3 between the first and last years considered. An improvement was also registered in the overcrowding rate, which has fallen from 19.1% in 2010 to 17.1% in 2019. The share of passengers using a car for travel is unchanged over the decade (82.8% in 2019).

### GOAL 12 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Except for 2011, the composite indicator shows constant improvement. The most significant improvements between 2010 and 2019 regard the share of electric cars (reaching 264.3 cars per 100,000 in 2019), and the recycling rate of municipal waste, which rose from 38.0% in 2010 to 47.7% in 2019, for which a European target of reaching 55% by 2025 has been set (Circular Economy Package Directive). The only indicator that deteriorates between 2010 and 2018 is waste production, which stands at 1,820 kg per capita in 2018 (up 5.8% compared to 2010).

#### **GOAL 13 - CLIMATE ACTION**

Greenhouse gas emissions, the headline indicator used for this Goal, fluctuates during the time se-

ries analysed. Emissions decline between 2010 and 2014, corresponding to the economic crisis, followed by a largely stable period between 2015 and 2017, and a further reduction in emissions in the last two years observed.

# GOAL 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The composite indicator fluctuates between 2010 and 2015, and then shows a consistent improvement between 2016 and 2019. The homicide rate and the share of the population reporting occurrences of crime and violence in their area decline in comparison with 2010. The number of people carrying out e-government activities also rises (from 20% in 2010 to 36% in 2019) and prison overcrowding declines (from 105.3 % in 2010 to 98.1 % in 2019). However, the average duration of civil and commercial proceedings, which rose from 265.8 days in 2010 to 311.3 in 2018, marks a deterioration.

The situation regarding two Goals deteriorates:

#### **GOAL 15 - LIFE ON LAND**

The composite indicator steadily declines throughout the time series analysed. The critical issues regarding this Goal relate to the continuous increase in land consumption. Soil sealing increased from 1.7% in 2012 to 1.8% in 2018, while the indicator that measures indexed land use in hectares rose from 103.5 points in 2012 to 108.3 points in 2018. The only indicator that improves over the period under review is forest cover, which rose from 42.6% to 43.5% of European land between 2012 and 2018.

### GOAL 17 - PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

The index shows an overall deterioration, mainly due to a reduction in imports from developing countries which fell from 5.4% to 3.7% of GDP between 2010 and 2019, and a decrease in the share of environmental taxes (down from 6.2% to 5.9%). The share of official development assistance, albeit variable, is unchanged between the beginning and the end of the observation period (0.41% of GNI), while public debt improves, falling from 80.5% in 2010 to 77.5% in 2019.

Finally, the situation is stable for two Goals:

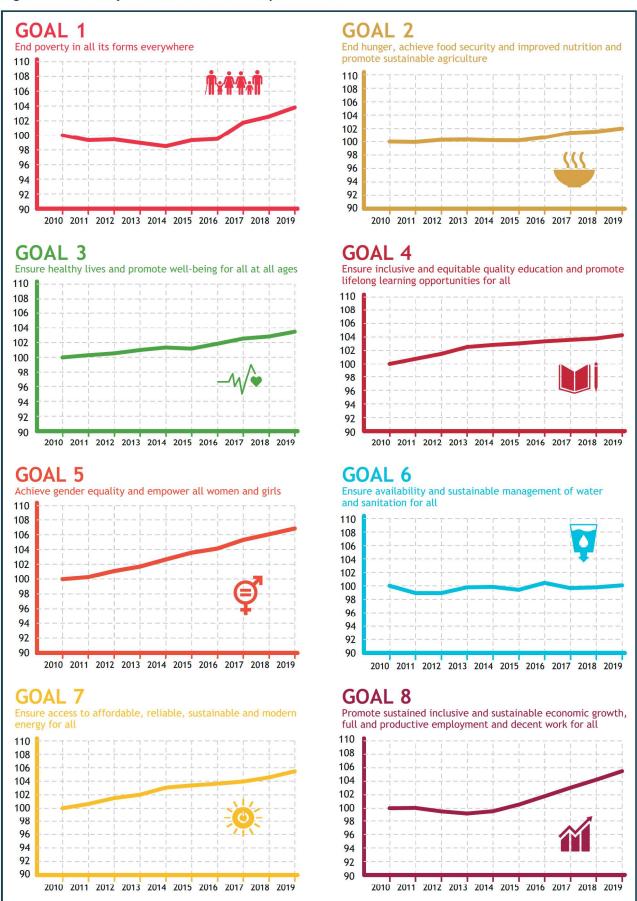
# GOAL 6 - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

The composite indicator fluctuates over the observed period, standing in 2019 at a level broadly similar to the level registered in 2010. The stability of the composite indicator arises from offsetting of opposing trends observed in the elementary indicators: the water exploitation index deteriorates (up from 6.3% in 2010 to 8.4% in 2017), whilst the indicators regarding people without sanitary facilities in their home (down from 2.9% in 2010 to 1.6% in 2019) and wastewater treatment (up from 78.1% in 2010 to 79.7% in 2018) improve slightly.

### **GOAL 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES**

The composite indicator deteriorates between 2010 and 2014, corresponding to the economic crisis, and registers an improvement between 2015 and 2019, when it returns to a level substantially similar to 2010. The most critical issues, compared to 2010, regard the income distribution index: in 2019, the income of the richest 20% of the population is 4.99 times higher than the income of the poorest 20%. Finally, the percentage ratio between the youth employment rate and the total employment rate fell from 72.2 in 2010 to 70.1 in 2019.

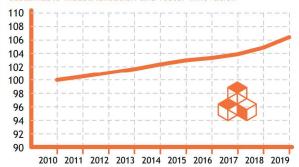
Figure 2 - Summary indicators for the European Union





### GOAL 9

Build resilient infrastructure, and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



### GOAL 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



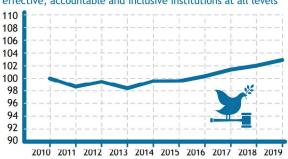
### GOAL 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts 108 106



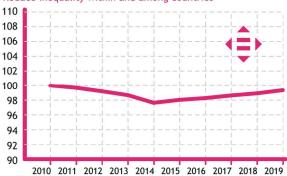
### GOAL 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



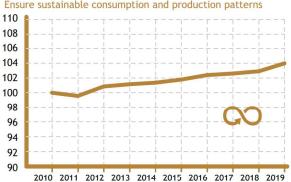
### GOAL 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries



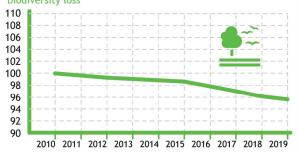
### GOAL 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



### GOAL 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



### GOAL 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

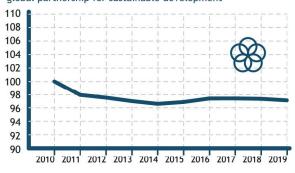
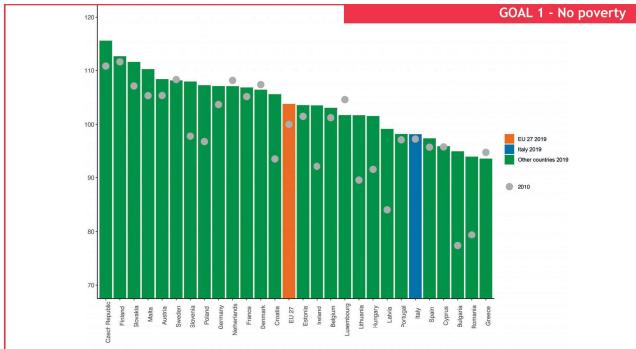


Table 1 - List of elementary indicators used to calculate composite indicators for European countries, and their positive (+) or negative (-) "influence" on the performance of the composite indicators

Indicator	+/-
GOAL 1 nivêrin	
People at risk of poverty after social transfers	-
Severely materially deprived people	-
People living in households with very low work intensity	-
In work at-risk-of-poverty rate	-
Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation or rot in window frames of floor	-
GOAL 2   GOAL 2	
Gross value added of the agricultural industry	+
Agricultural factor income per annual work unit	+
Government support to agricultural research and development	+
Area under organic farming Ammonia emissions from agriculture	+
Harmonised risk indicator for pesticides	-
Consumption of inorganic fertilizers	
GOAL 3 -√v	
Road traffic deaths	
Standardised preventable and treatable mortality	-
Life expectancy	+
Infant mortality rate	-
Smoking prevalence	-
Vaccination against influenza	+
Self-reported unmet need for medical care	-
Hospital beds	+
GOAL 4 🔰	
Early leavers from education and training	
	+
Participation in early childhood education	
Participation in early childhood education Adult participation in learning	+
	+
Adult participation in learning	
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment	+
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment Underachievement in reading, maths and science At most lower secondary educational attainment	+
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment Underachievement in reading, maths and science	+
Adult participation in learning  Tertiary educational attainment  Underachievement in reading, maths and science  At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 ©  Seats held by women in national parliaments	+
Adult participation in learning  Tertiary educational attainment  Underachievement in reading, maths and science  At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 ©  Seats held by women in national parliaments  Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction	-
Adult participation in learning  Tertiary educational attainment  Underachievement in reading, maths and science  At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5   Seats held by women in national parliaments  Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction lnactive female population due to caring responsibilities	+
Adult participation in learning  Tertiary educational attainment  Underachievement in reading, maths and science  At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5   Seats held by women in national parliaments  Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction lnactive female population due to caring responsibilities  Female employment rate	+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
Adult participation in learning  Tertiary educational attainment  Underachievement in reading, maths and science  At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 ©  Seats held by women in national parliaments  Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction lnactive female population due to caring responsibilities  Female employment rate  Gender pay gap	+ + + + +
Adult participation in learning  Tertiary educational attainment  Underachievement in reading, maths and science  At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5   Seats held by women in national parliaments  Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction lnactive female population due to caring responsibilities  Female employment rate	+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment Underachievement in reading, maths and science At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 © Seats held by women in national parliaments Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction lnactive female population due to caring responsibilities Female employment rate Gender pay gap Positions held by women in senior management positions	+ + + + +
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment Underachievement in reading, maths and science At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 © Seats held by women in national parliaments Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction linactive female population due to caring responsibilities Female employment rate Gender pay gap Positions held by women in senior management positions  GOAL 6 © GOAL 6 ©	+ + + + +
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment Underachievement in reading, maths and science At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 © Seats held by women in national parliaments Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction Inactive female population due to caring responsibilities Female employment rate Gender pay gap Positions held by women in senior management positions  GOAL 6 © Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household	+ + + + +
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment Underachievement in reading, maths and science At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 © Seats held by women in national parliaments Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction linactive female population due to caring responsibilities Female employment rate Gender pay gap Positions held by women in senior management positions  GOAL 6 © Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household Population connected to at least secondary waste water treatment	+ + + + +
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment Underachievement in reading, maths and science At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 © Seats held by women in national parliaments Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction Inactive female population due to caring responsibilities Female employment rate Gender pay gap Positions held by women in senior management positions  GOAL 6 © Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household	+ + + + +
Adult participation in learning  Tertiary educational attainment  Underachievement in reading, maths and science  At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 ©  Seats held by women in national parliaments  Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction linactive female population due to caring responsibilities  Female employment rate  Gender pay gap  Positions held by women in senior management positions  GOAL 6 ©  Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household  Population connected to at least secondary waste water treatment  Water exploitation index	+ + + + +
Adult participation in learning Tertiary educational attainment Underachievement in reading, maths and science At most lower secondary educational attainment  GOAL 5 © Seats held by women in national parliaments Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction linactive female population due to caring responsibilities Female employment rate Gender pay gap Positions held by women in senior management positions  GOAL 6 © Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household Population connected to at least secondary waste water treatment	+ + + + +

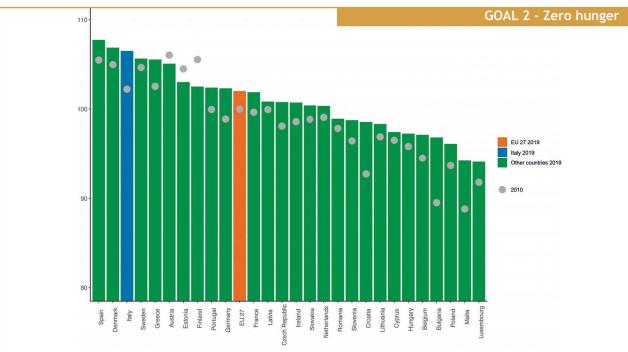
GOAL 8 🎢	
Real GDP per capita	+
Investment share of GDP	+
Adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita	+
Young people neither in employment nor in education and training	-
Employment rate	+
Long-term unemployment rate	•
Share of involuntary part-time employment	-
People killed in accidents at work	
GOAL 9 👶	
**	
Share of rail and inland waterways activity in total freight transport	+
Share of busses and trains in total passenger transport	+
High-speed internet coverage	+
Air emissions intensities from industry	-
Enterprises that provided training to develop/upgrade ICT skills of their personnel	+
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D Human resources in science and technology	+
R&D personnel	+
Rab personner	+
GOAL 10 ♠	
•	
Income distribution	-
Income share of the bottom 40 % of the population	+
Ratio between rural and urban graduation rate	+
Ratio between non EU citizen and EU citizen income poverty rate after social transfers  Ratio between youth (15-29) and total (15-64) employment rate	+
Ratio between youth (15-29) and total (15-64) employment rate	
GOAL 11 🚛	
Exposure to air pollution PM10	
Use of cars for passenger transport	-
Overcrowding rate	
GOAL 12 ♥	
Resource productivity  Material consumption	+
Circular material use rate	-
Share of electric cars	+ +
Generation of waste	T
Recycling rate of municipal waste	+
	T
GOAL 13 🚱	
Greenhouse gas emissions	
51501110000 544 01110010110	
GOAL 15 👱	
Share of forest area	+
Surface of terrestrial sites designated under Natura 2000	+
Soil sealing	
Soil sealing index	
son searing mack	
GOAL 16 🔀	
Standardised death rate due to homicide	2
Population reporting occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area	-
Population with confidence in EU istitutions	+
Corruption Perceptions Index	+
	+
F-government activities of individuals via websites	The state of the s
E-government activities of individuals via websites  Civil and commercial litigious cases duration	
Civil and commercial litigious cases duration	
Civil and commercial litigious cases duration Prisons overcrowding	-
Civil and commercial litigious cases duration	
Civil and commercial litigious cases duration Prisons overcrowding Percentage of pre-trial prisoners over total prisoners	
Civil and commercial litigious cases duration Prisons overcrowding Percentage of pre-trial prisoners over total prisoners  GOAL 17	-
Civil and commercial litigious cases duration Prisons overcrowding Percentage of pre-trial prisoners over total prisoners  GOAL 17	+
Civil and commercial litigious cases duration Prisons overcrowding Percentage of pre-trial prisoners over total prisoners  GOAL 17	-

#### Analysis of disparities between European countries with regard to the 2030 Agenda



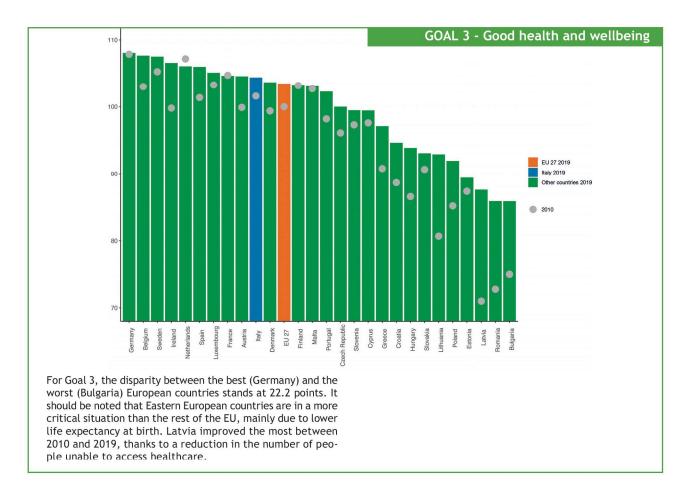
For Goal 1, the disparity between the composite indicator for the best performer, the Czech Republic, and the country at the bottom of the ranking (Greece) was 22.1 points. Bulgaria is the country with the most significant improvement between 2010 and 2019, thanks to sharp declines in the number of people at risk of poverty from 49.2% in 2010 to 39.8% in 2019, and in the number of materially deprived people (down from

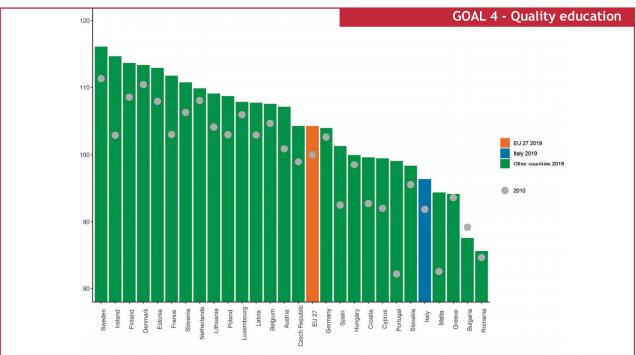
45.7% to 20.9%). Luxembourg registers the greatest deterioration between 2010 and 2019, due to an increased risk of inwork poverty. Between 2010 and 2019 Italy is largely stable, whilst registering one of the most critical situations in the EU in 2019, which primarily reflects a higher share of people affected by poverty or social exclusion (25.6% compared with 20.9% in the EU).



For this Goal, the disparity in the composite indicators between the best and worst performers is 13.6 points, the lowest recorded among the Goals analysed. Croatia registers the greatest improvement due to an increase in the share of land under organic farming (up from 2.4% in 2012 to 7.2% in 2019) and a reduction in the use of pesticides and fertilisers. Finland registers the most significant deterioration due to a reduction

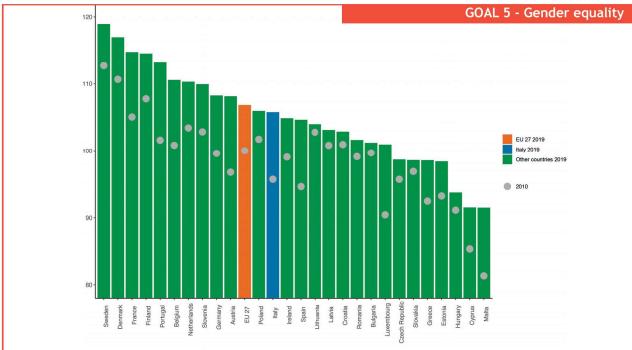
in government support for agriculture (down from €18.6 per inhabitant in 2010 to €10.3 in 2019). Italy is well above the European average, just behind Spain and Denmark, thanks to the higher added value of the agricultural sector and a larger share of crops under organic farming, amounting to over 15% in Italy in 2019 compared to the European average of around 8%





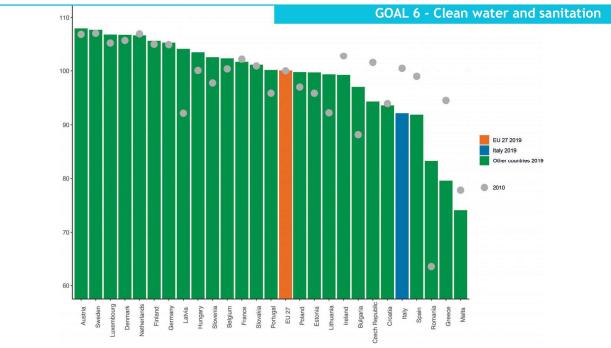
Goal 4 shows large disparities between countries, with a gap of 30.5 points between the best (Sweden) and the worst (Romania) European countries. Portugal registers the most significant improvement due to a large reduction in early school leaving. Bulgaria, on the other hand, is the only country to register a poorer performance in 2019 than in 2010, due to a deterioration in students' skills, which stood at 46% in 2018,

more than double the European average. In 2019, Italy registered one of the most critical situations in the EU, mainly due to a lower share of university graduates (around 28 % compared to the EU average of around 39%) and a higher share of people without a high school diploma (37.8% in Italy compared to the EU average of 21.6%).



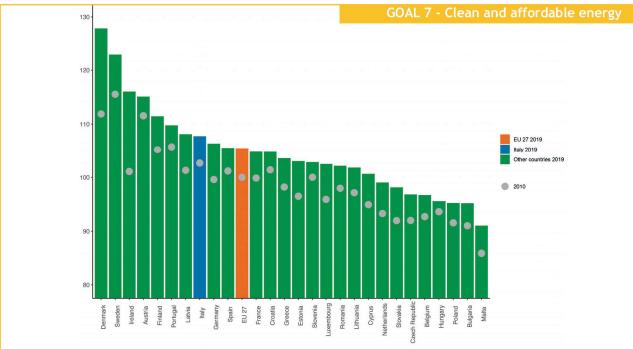
Goal 5 also shows large disparities between member countries, registering a gap of 27.4 points between Sweden and Malta. Portugal reports the greatest improvement, due to increases in the percentages of women holding managerial positions (up from 5.4% to 24%) and parliamentary seats (up from 30.4% to 40.4%), as well as in the female employment rate. On the other hand, Lithuania registered more modest im-

provement, mainly as the result of an increase in the number of women who are inactive due to caring responsibilities (up 10.2 percentage points from 2010 to 2019). Despite the progress made during the period under review, Italy is still below the European average due to a female employment rate that stood at 53.8% in 2019, compared to the EU average of 67.4%.



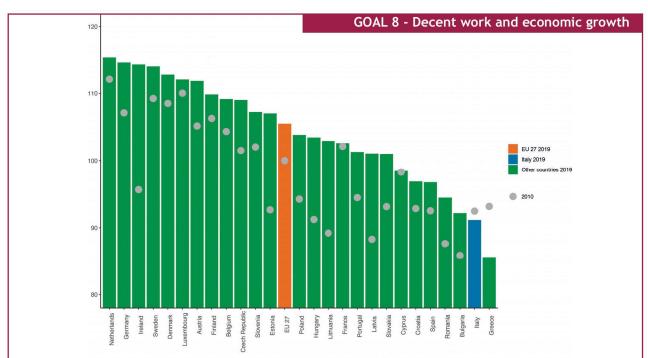
Goal 6 shows large disparities between the north and the south of the EU, both in terms of performance and levels observed in 2019 (a gap of 33.9 points was registered between Austria and Malta), which underlines the vulnerability of southern European countries to climate change. Romania shows the most significant improvement, mainly due to a decline in the number of people without sanitary facilities.

Greece, on the other hand, registers the most serious deterioration due to a sharp rise in the water exploitation index, which stood at 39.4% in 2017, more than four times the EU average. Critical issues are also registered in Italy which, in 2019, was well below the average due to a lower share of treated wastewater and greater water exploitation (15.6% compared to an EU average of 8.4%).



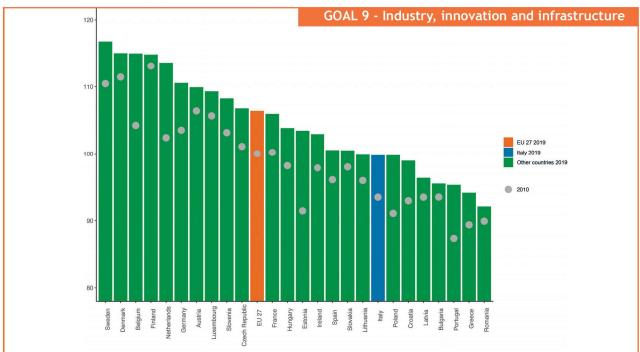
Regarding Goal 7, all countries improved between 2010 and 2019. However, the analysis shows a large disparity of 36.8 points between the best (Denmark) and the worst (Malta) countries. Denmark shows the greatest improvement, thanks to increases in the share of renewable energy (up 15.3 percentage points between 2010 and 2019) and energy productivity (up 39.1% between 2010 and 2019). Hungary, on the

other hand, shows the least improvement due to its unchanged share of renewable energy. Italy's improvements are in line with the EU average, ranking higher in 2019 thanks to improved energy intensity ( $\le$ 10.3 per Kgoe<sup>100</sup> compared to the EU average of  $\le$ 8.4).



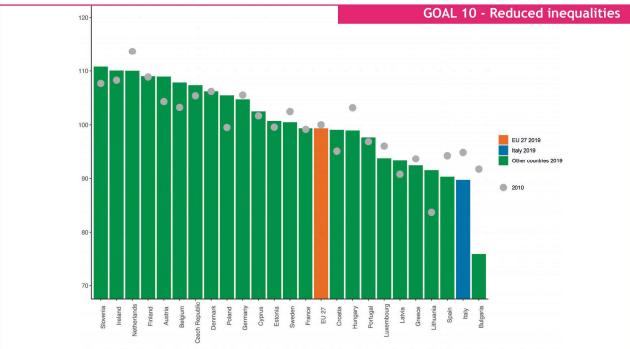
Goal 8 shows a large disparity of 29.8 points between the best (the Netherlands) and the worst (Greece) European country. Ireland shows the most significant improvement thanks to an increase in GDP per capita (up 63.8% from 2010 to 2019) and a reduction in the share of NEETs (down 10.3 percentage points). On the other hand, critical issues were revealed in Greece, which saw deterioration of almost all the indicators analysed. Italy, to-

gether with Greece, is the only European country to register a lower level in 2019 than in 2010, ranking it in second to last position in the last year observed. This is due to higher shares of NEETs (22.2% in 2019 compared with the EU average of 12.6%) and involuntary part-time workers (65.8% compared with the EU average of 26.5%) registered in Italy, and a lower employment rate (63.5% in 2019 compared with the EU average of 73.2%).



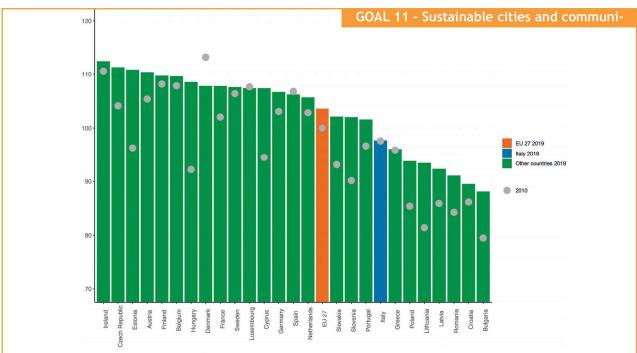
For Goal 9, all the countries analysed show an improvement between 2010 and 2019, and the distance between the best (Sweden) and worst (Romania) countries stands at 24.7 points. Estonia shows the greatest improvement due to a reduction in industrial emissions intensity (down 70% from 2010 to 2018) and, in the last year with available data, is still well above the EU average (440 grams per €1000 compared to the EU average of 80 grams). Finland shows the smallest improvement

due to a reduction in R&D expenditure (down from 3.7% of GDP in 2010 to 2.8% in 2019). Italy shows improvements in line with the other countries, which is insufficient to close the gap with the EU average in 2019. This unfavourable situation is mainly due to Italy lagging behind in R&D expenditure (1.5% compared with the EU average of 2.2%) and human resources in science and technology (37.3% in Italy compared with the EU average of 46.9%).



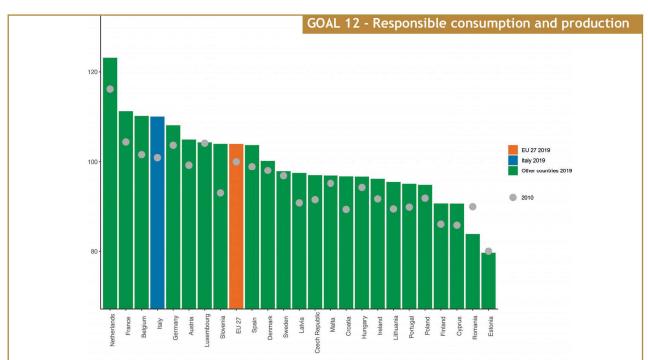
Goal 10 shows wide disparities within the EU, as evidenced by the 35-point gap between Slovenia and Bulgaria. Lithuania shows the greatest improvement, thanks to an increase in the ratio between youth and total employment rates (up 10.8 percentage points) and income inequality, which improves by 12.4%. However, in Bulgaria the latter indicator declines by 38.2% from 2010 to 2019, reaching 8.1% in 2019 compared to

the EU average of 5.0%. The situation in Italy deteriorates, with the country ranking second to last in Europe in 2019. This is due to declines in the ratio between youth and total employment rates (52.0% in 2019 compared to the EU average of 70.1%), and in income inequality of 6.0% in 2019, compared to the EU average of 5.0%.



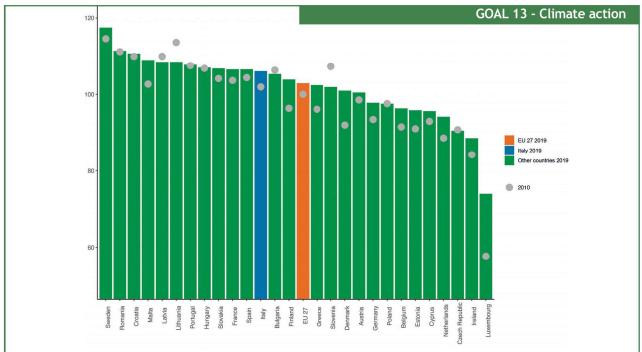
For Goal 11, the disparity between the best (Ireland) and the worst (Bulgaria) countries is 24.4 points. Hungary shows the greatest improvement between 2010 and 2019, thanks to a reduction in the overcrowding rate (down 26.9 percentage points) and the population's exposure to air pollution by particulate matter (down 22.0%). Denmark, on the other hand, shows the least improvement, due to a deterioration in all

the elementary indicators taken into account, including the share of passengers using a car for travel (up 3.0 percentage points). Italy does not show substantial improvement, ranking below the EU average in 2019. This is due to a higher overcrowding rate (28.3% compared to the EU average of 17.1%), and greater exposure to air pollution by particulate matter (25.5  $\mu g/m3$  compared to the EU average of 20.5).



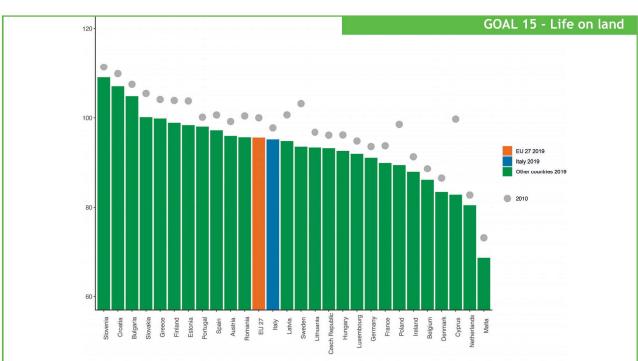
Among the Goals analysed, Goal 12 shows the greatest disparity between the best performer (Holland) and the worst performer (Estonia), amounting to 43.6 points. Slovenia shows the greatest improvement, thanks to increases in the recycling rate of municipal waste (up 36.8 percentage points) and in the circular material use rate (up 5.5 percentage points). Romania, on the other hand, registers the greatest deterioration,

due to a sharp increase in material consumption, which more than doubled from 2010 to 2019. Italy posts an above-average performance, ranking it among the best EU countries in 2019. Italy's favourable situation is primarily due to the country's lower material consumption (8.1 tonnes per capita in 2019 compared to the EU average of 14.1) and a higher circular material use rate (19.5% compared to the EU average of 11.8%).



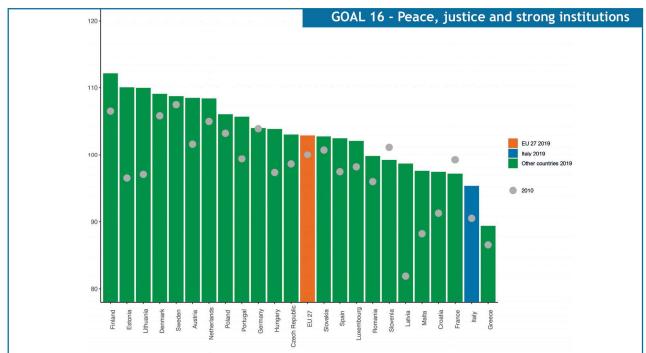
Goal 13 also shows wide disparities between the best performer (Sweden) and the worst performer (Luxembourg), amounting to 43.5 points. Luxembourg, which was last in terms of emissions between 2010 and 2019, nevertheless shows the most significant improvement. Greenhouse gas emissions, the headline indicator used to calculate the Goal 13 composite indicator, fall from 26.4 to 19.7 tonnes per capita, but are still higher

than the EU average (7.8 in 2019). Slovenia deteriorates the most, rising from 6.0 tonnes per capita in 2010 to 8.2 tonnes per capita in 2019. Italy is in line with the EU average (1.7 fewer tonnes per capita compared with the EU average of 1.2 fewer tonnes per capita) and, in 2019, ranks just above the EU average, registering an emission level of 6.5 tonnes per capita compared to the EU average of 7.8 tonnes per capita.



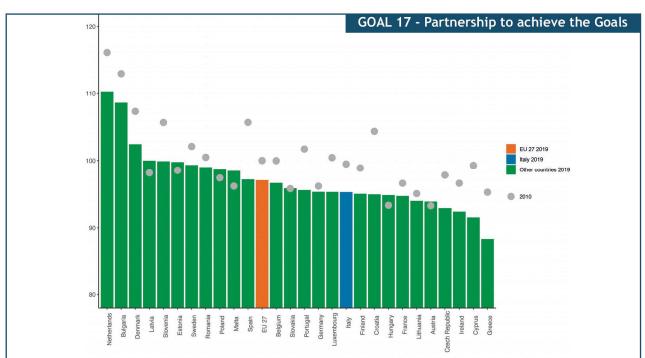
Of all the Goals, Goal 15 shows the most critical situation, as all EU countries register a deterioration between 2010 and 2019. In particular, Cyprus posts the worst performance, due to an increase in land consumption, the largest of any European country (up 22.9% from 2006 to 2018 compared to the EU average of 8.3%). Portugal shows the least deterioration, thanks to an increase in the share of forest area, from 41.9%

in 2012 to 49.9% in 2018. During the same period, Italy's performance in the last year is in line with the average registered in European Union countries.



For Goal 16, the disparity between the composite indicators of Finland (best performer) and Greece (last in the ranking) is 22.8 points. Latvia shows the greatest improvement between 2010 and 2019: the perception of crime decreases (from 23.8% to 6.1%) and the use of online government services increases (from 14.0% to 56.0%). France, on the other hand, together with Slovenia, is the only country to show de-

terioration from 2010 to 2019 due to an increase in the average duration of civil and commercial proceedings from 278 days in 2010 to 420 days in 2018. In 2019, Italy is in second last place, due to the duration of civil and commercial proceedings<sup>101</sup> (527.0 days in 2018 compared to an EU average of 311.3), and the amount of use of online government services (14.0% compared to the EU average of 36.0%).



Goal 17 shows a deterioration between 2010 and 2019 for most EU countries. Among the few countries showing an improvement, Malta register the best performance, due to a reduction of public debt (down from 65.3% to 42.0% of GDP) and an increase in the share of official development assistance (up from 0.18% to 0.30% of GNI). Croatia, on the other hand, shows the worst performance, caused mainly by a reduction

in the share of imports from developing countries, which fell from 8.2% of total imports to 1.4%. Italy shows a deterioration from 2010 to 2019, ranking the country below EU average due to its higher public debt to GDP ratio (134.6% compared to the EU average o 77.5%) and a lower share of GNI allocated to ODA $^{102}$  (0.22% compared to the EU average of 0.41%).

#### **NOTES**

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- <sup>2</sup> ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/delivering\_on\_uns\_sustainable\_development\_goals\_staff\_working\_document\_en.pdf
- <sup>3</sup> eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0219&from=EN
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  - eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R2093&from=EN
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- $^{21}\ ec. europa. eu/info/sites/default/files/it\_-\_dichiarazione\_comune\_sulla\_conferenza\_sul\_futuro\_dell.pdf$
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- $^{24}$  Taken from President David Sassoli's speech at the opening of the conference on 9 May 2021
- <sup>25</sup> Committee of the Regions Resolution of 7 May 2021 webapi2016.cor.europa.eu/v1/documents/cor-2021-01674-00-00- restra-it.docx/content
- <sup>26</sup> European Economic and Social Committee Resolution of 27 April 2021 www.eesc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/files/qe-08-21-138-en-n.pdf
- <sup>27</sup> www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0352\_IT.pdf
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- Regarding Italy, there has been a gradual increase in the number of infringement proceedings opened: from 12 in 2017, to 36 in 2020. In 2020, the areas where the most proceedings were opened concerned mobility and transport (11 cases) and the environment (8 cases). In 2020, 18 new proceedings were also opened for late transposition of directives.
  - A total of 86 procedures are still open against Italy in the five-year period 2016-2020, 53 of which for incorrect transposition or inadequate application of directives.
  - Italy is fourth in the ranking for the highest number of open infringement procedures, or third excluding the UK post-Brexit. The area most affected is the environment (21 cases), followed by mobility and transport (13 cases). eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:432:FIN&qid=1627050609440
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- 95 https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/en/
- <sup>96</sup> The synthetic indicators created at Italian and European level are not comparable, due to varying availability of data and the different territorial units taken into account.
- 97 It was not possible to measure the performance of Goal 14 due to the scarcity of data on "life below water".
- <sup>98</sup> As of this report, the United Kingdom is excluded from the analysis, which will therefore focus on the 27 states currently comprising the European Union.
- <sup>99</sup> The Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy envisages doubling the share of freight transported by rail by 2050 compared with the levels observed in 2020.
- 100 Kilogram oil equivalent.
- <sup>101</sup> The EU figure is not comparable with the Italian figure.
- 102 Official development assistance.

#### For further information see:

- www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/it/be-heard/eurobarometer/future-of-europe
- www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/it/be-heard/eurobarometer/spring-2021-survey
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