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Western Europe

▼ Overall Performance

Index score

71.7
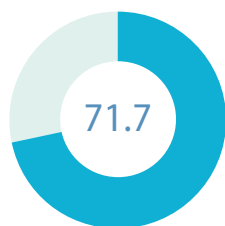
SDG Rank

13 / 31

▼ Performance by SDG

Belgium
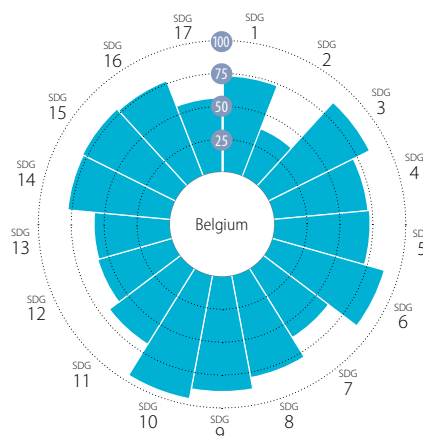
▼ Current Assessment – SDG Dashboard

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

■ SDG achieved   ■ Challenges remain   ■ Significant challenges remain   ■ Major challenges remain   ■ Data unavailable

▼ SDG Trends

1 NO POVERTY ↗	2 ZERO HUNGER →	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ↗	4 QUALITY EDUCATION ↗	5 GENDER EQUALITY ↗	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION ↗	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY ↗	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ↑	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ↑
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES ↑	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES ↗	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION →	13 CLIMATE ACTION →	14 LIFE BELOW WATER ↑	15 LIFE ON LAND →	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS ↗	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS →	

↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement   ↗ Moderately improving   → Stagnating   ↓ Decreasing   •• Data unavailable
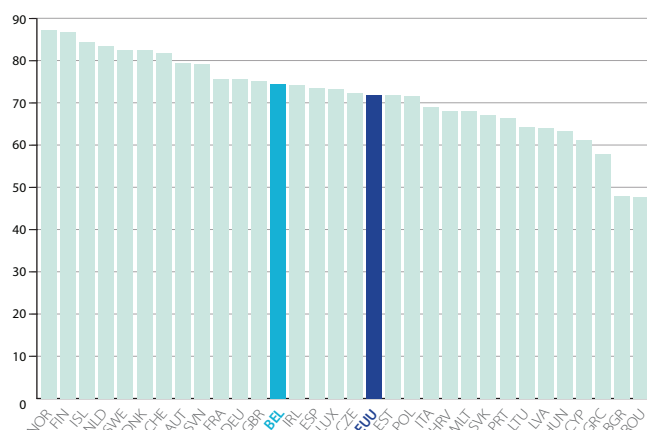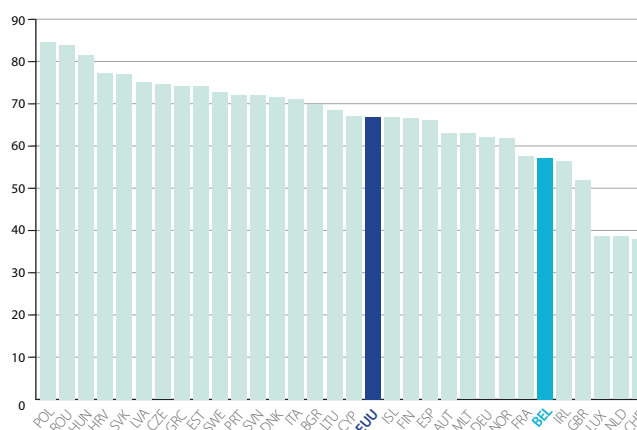
▼ Leave No One Behind Index

100 (best) to 0 (worst)

▼ Spillover Index

100 (best) to 0 (worst)

Notes: The full title of Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" is "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". The full title of each SDG is available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals. Detailed results and methodology available online at https://www.sdgindex.org/EU

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Performance by Indicator

SDG1 – No Poverty

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
People at risk of income poverty after social transfers (%)	16.4	2018	yellow	↓
Severely materially deprived people (%)	4.3	2019	green	↑
Poverty headcount ratio at $5.50/day (%)	0.4	2020	green	↑

SDG2 – Zero Hunger

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% of adult population)	22.1	2016	orange	↓
Human Trophic Level (best 2–3 worst)	2.4	2017	orange	↗
Yield gap closure (%)	77.2	2015	green	•
Gross nitrogen balance on agricultural land (kg/hectare)	132	2015	red	↗
Ammonia emissions from agriculture (kg/hectare)	46.9	2017	red	→
Exports of pesticides banned in the EU (kg per 1,000 population)	487.2	2019	red	•

SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Life expectancy at birth (years)	81.7	2018	green	↑
Gap in life expectancy at birth among regions (years)	4.0	2018	green	↑
Population with good or very good perceived health (% of population aged 16 or over)	74.9	2018	green	↑
Gap in self-reported health, by income (p.p.)	28.2	2018	yellow	↗
Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care (%)	1.8	2018	green	↑
Gap in self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care, by income (p.p.)	5.5	2018	yellow	↑
Gap in self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care, urban vs rural areas (p.p.)	0.0	2018	green	↑
New reported cases of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	8.0	2018	green	↑
Age-standardised death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease (per 100,000 population aged 30 to 70)	11.4	2016	green	↑
Suicide rate (per 100,000 population)	15.4	2017	yellow	↑
Age-standardised death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	16	2016	green	•
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	3.7	2018	green	↑
People killed in road accidents (per 100,000 population)	5.3	2018	green	↑
Surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	96	2018	green	↑
Alcohol consumption (litre/capita/year)	9.4	2018	green	↑
Smoking prevalence (%)	19	2017	green	↑
People covered by health insurance for a core set of services (%)	98.7	2018	green	↑
Share of total health spending financed by out-of-pocket payments (%)	19.1	2018	green	↑
Subjective Wellbeing (average ladder score, worst 0–10 best)	6.8	2019	green	↑
Cumulative Covid-19 tests performed, Feb-June 2020 (per 1,000 population)	10.8	2020	orange	•

SDG4 – Quality Education

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Participation in early childhood education (% of population aged 4 to 6)	98.5	2018	green	↑
Early leavers from education and training (% of population aged 18 to 24)	8.4	2019	green	↑
PISA score (worst 0–600 best)	500.0	2018	green	↑
Underachievers in science (% of population aged 15)	20.0	2018	green	↑
Variation in science performance explained by students' socio-economic status (%)	20.0	2018	orange	↓
Resilient students (%)	30.7	2018	yellow	↑
Tertiary educational attainment (% of population aged 30 to 34)	47.5	2019	green	↑
Adult participation in learning (%)	8.2	2019	yellow	↑
Mean numeracy score in the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) (worst 0–500 best)	280.4	2019	green	•

SDG5 – Gender Equality

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Unadjusted gender pay gap (% of gross male earnings)	6.0	2018	green	↑
Gender employment gap (p.p.)	8.0	2019	green	↑
Population inactive due to caring responsibilities (% of population aged 20 to 64)	17.2	2019	green	↑
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	42.4	2019	green	↑
Positions held by women in senior management positions (%)	35.9	2019	yellow	↑
Women who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live (%)	53	2019	orange	↓

SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household (%)	0.1	2018	green	↑
Population connected to at least secondary wastewater treatment (%)	83.0	2017	green	↑
Freshwater abstraction (% of long-term average available water)	7.3	2017	green	↑
Scarce water consumption embodied in imports (m³/capita)	38.6	2013	orange	↗
Population using safely managed water services (%)	99.5	2017	green	↑
Population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	97.1	2017	green	↑

SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Population unable to keep home adequately warm (%)	3.9	2019	green	↑
Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (%)	9.4	2018	red	→
CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion per electricity output (MtCO₂/TWh)	1.1	2017	yellow	↑

SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Protection of fundamental labour rights (worst 0–1 best)	0.8	2020	green	↑
Gross disposable income (€/capita)	25,911	2018	green	↑
Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (% of population aged 15 to 29)	11.8	2019	green	↑
Employment rate (%)	70.5	2019	yellow	↑

SDG8 – (continued)

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Long term unemployment rate (%)	2.3	2019	yellow	↑
People killed in accidents at work (per 100,000 population)	1.7	2017	green	↑
In work at-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	5.1	2018	green	↑
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (per 100,000 population)	1.9	2010	yellow	↑

SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% of GDP)	2.8	2018	green	↑
R&D personnel (% of active population)	1.8	2018	green	↑
Patent applications to the European Patent Office (per million population)	211.5	2019	green	↑
Households with broadband access (%)	88	2019	green	↑
Gap in broadband access, urban vs rural areas (p.p.)	0	2019	green	↑
Individuals aged 55 to 74 years with basic or above digital skills (%)	40	2019	green	↑
Logistics performance index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (worst 1–5 best)	4.0	2018	green	↑
The Times Higher Education Universities Ranking: Average score of top 3 universities (worst 0–100 best)	63.4	2020	green	•
Scientific and technical journal articles (per 1,000 population)	1.4	2018	green	↑

SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Gini coefficient adjusted for top income	29.4	2015	green	↑
Palma ratio	0.9	2017	green	↑
Elderly poverty rate (%)	7.8	2017	yellow	↑

SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Share of green space in urban areas (%)	15.4	2012	yellow	•
Overcrowding rate among people living with below 60% of median equivalised income (%)	18.7	2018	green	↑
Recycling rate of municipal waste (%)	54.6	2018	green	↑
Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation or rot in window frames or floor (%)	17.9	2018	yellow	→
Satisfaction with public transport (%)	58.5	2019	green	↓
Exposure to air pollution: PM2.5 in urban areas (µg/m³)	12.9	2017	yellow	↑
Access to improved water source, piped (% of urban population)	99.0	2017	green	↑

SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Circular material use rate (%)	17.8	2017	yellow	↓
Gross value added in environmental goods and services sector	1.0	2017	orange	→
Production-based SO₂ emissions (kg/capita)	54.5	2012	yellow	•
Imported SO₂ emissions (kg/capita)	13.7	2012	red	•
Nitrogen production footprint (kg/capita)	51.7	2010	red	•
Net imported emissions of reactive nitrogen (kg/capita)	17.8	2010	red	•

SDG13 – Climate Action

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Greenhouse gas emissions per capita	10.8	2018	red	→
CO₂ emissions embodied in imports (tCO₂/capita)	2.4	2015	red	→
CO₂ emissions embodied in fossil fuel exports (kg/capita)	0.0	2019	green	↑

SDG14 – Life Below Water

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Bathing sites of excellent quality (%)	87.8	2018	green	↑
Fish caught from overexploited or collapsed stocks (% of total catch)	NA	NA	grey	•
Fish caught by either trawling or dredging (%)	50.3	2016	red	↑
Fish caught that are then discarded (%)	4.1	2016	yellow	↑
Marine biodiversity threats embodied in imports (per million population)	0.2	2018	yellow	•
Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	91.7	2019	green	↑

SDG15 – Life on Land

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	84.2	2019	yellow	→
Mean area that is protected in freshwater sites important to biodiversity (%)	93.0	2019	yellow	↑
Biochemical oxygen demand in rivers (mg O₂/litre)	2.6	2017	orange	↓
Nitrate in groundwater (mg NO₃/litre)	29.4	2017	yellow	↓
Red List Index of species survival (worst 0–1 best)	1.0	2019	yellow	→
Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity threats embodied in imports (per million population)	4.7	2018	red	•

SDG16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Death rate due to homicide (per 100,000 population)	1.1	2017	green	↑
Population reporting crime in their area (%)	12.3	2018	yellow	↑
Gap in population reporting crime in their area, by income (p.p.)	10.1	2018	red	↓
Access to justice (worst 0–1 best)	0.7	2020	yellow	↑
Timeliness of administrative proceedings (worst 0–1 best)	0.7	2020	yellow	↑
Constraints on government power (worst 0–1 best)	0.8	2020	green	↑
Corruption Perception Index (worst 0–100 best)	75	2019	green	↑
Unsentenced detainees (% of prison population)	35.6	2018	yellow	↓
Exports of major conventional weapons (TIV constant 1990 million USD per 100,000 population)	0.2	2019	green	•
Press Freedom Index (best 0–100 worst)	12.1	2019	green	↑

SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Indicator	Value	Year	Rating	Trend
Official development assistance (% of GNI)	0.4	2019	orange	→
Shifted profits of multinationals (billion USD)	-15.2	2016	orange	•
Corporate Tax Haven Score (best 0–100 worst)	67.8	2019	orange	↑

Institute for European Environmental Policy

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Europe Sustainable Development Report 2020