EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Strasbourg, 16.6.2026
COM(2026) 824 final

ANNEX 4

ANNEX

to the

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE COURT OF AUDITORS

Annual Management and Performance Report for the EU Budget – 2025 financial year

Important: this annex will be published as a website

In line with the European Commission's digital strategy, and with the objective of improving the accessibility of performance information and the user experience, the 'Programme performance statements' annex will be published on the Europa website.

The present annex has been prepared in the current format with the objective of allowing its adoption by the College of Commissioners and its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

The PDF document to be published following the adoption of the Annual Management and Performance Report will feature the links to the web pages as illustrated below. Please note that the current links lead to the web pages from the previous year.

Programme Performance Statements home page

Heading 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital

Horizon Europe

Euratom Research and Training Programme

ITER

InvestEU

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

Digital Europe Programme

Single Market Programme

EU Anti-Fraud Programme

Cooperation in the field of taxation (FISCALIS)

Cooperation in the field of customs (CUSTOMS)

European Space Programme

Secure Connectivity Programme

Heading 2: Cohesion and Values

Regional Policy

Support to the Turkish Cypriot community

Recovery and Resilience Facility

Technical Support Instrument

Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting (Pericles IV)

Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)

EU4Health

European Social Fund+

Erasmus+

European Solidarity Corps

Justice Programme

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme

Creative Europe

Communication

Heading 3: Natural Resources & Environment

Common Agricultural Policy

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Fisheries organisations and agreements

Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Just Transition Mechanism

Heading 4: Migration & Border Management

Asylum Migration and Integration Fund

Integrated Border Management Fund

Heading 5: Security & Defence

Internal Security Fund

Nuclear Decommissioning (Lithuania)

Nuclear Safety and Decommissioning

European Defence Fund

Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP)

EU Defence Industry Reinforcement through Common Procurement Act (EDIRPA)

Heading 6: Neighbourhood & the World

Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation

Humanitarian Aid

Common Foreign and Security Policy

Overseas Countries and Territories

Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA)

Pre-Accession Assistance

Ukraine Facility

Western Balkans Facility

Growth Plan for Moldova

Special instruments and outside the MFF

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers

European Union Solidarity Fund

Innovation Fund

Brexit Adjustment Reserve

Social Climate Fund

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HORIZON EUROPE 6

EURATOM RESEARCH AND TRAINING 27

ITER 35

INVESTEU 42

CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY 59

DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME 76

SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME 89

ANTI-FRAUD 106

FISCALIS 116

CUSTOMS 125

EU SPACE PROGRAMME 134

EU SECURE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMME 151

REGIONAL POLICY 162

TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY 182

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY 195

TECHNICAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENT 209

PERICLES IV 223

CIVIL PROTECTION 231

EU4HEALTH 242

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND+ 252

ERASMUS+ 273

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS 287

JUSTICE PROGRAMME 301

CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES PROGRAMME 313

CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME 326

COMMUNICATION 342

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY 352

EUROPEAN MARITIME, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FUND 368

RFMOs and SFPAs 382

LIFE 390

JUST TRANSITION MECHANISM 408

ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND 425

INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT FUND 433

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND 444

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING (LITHUANIA) 454

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING 459

EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND 467

ACT IN SUPPORT OF AMMUNITION PRODUCTION (ASAP) 477

EU DEFENCE INDUSTRY REINFORCEMENT THROUGH COMMON PROCUREMENT ACT (EDIRPA) 484

NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT – GLOBAL EUROPE 491

EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFETY COOPERATION 522

HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAMME 533

COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY 545

DECISION ON THE OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION, INCLUDING GREENLAND 553

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MACRO-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 566

INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA) III 573

EUROPEAN GLOBALISATION ADJUSTMENT FUND FOR DISPLACED WORKERS 591

EUROPEAN UNION SOLIDARITY FUND 600

INNOVATION FUND 607

BREXIT ADJUSTMENT RESERVE 617

SOCIAL CLIMATE FUND 621

UKRAINE FACILITY 624

REFORM AND GROWTH FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS 640

GROWTH PLAN FOR MOLDOVA 654

HORIZON EUROPE

PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Concrete examples of achievements

> 10 000 innovative outputs (products, services, processes, methods, intellectual property right applications, etc.) were reported by the end of 2025.	> EUR 20 billion is the estimated contribution to sustainable development goal (SDG) 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure' by the end of 2025.	~ EUR 13 billion was spent on digital technologies by the end of 2025, which is the amount reached at the end of Horizon 2020.	EUR 12.9 billion in total co-investment (private and public) was collected from participants in Horizon Europe grants by the end of 2025.
> EUR 3 billion of leverage in additional equity investments for every euro was invested in start-ups by the European Innovation Council (EIC) Fund until 2025.	> 134 000 Horizon Europe researchers were involved in training, mobility and access to research and innovation infrastructures by the end of 2025.	22 500 peer-reviewed scientific publications were reported by the end of 2025 – a threefold increase since last year.	EUR 9 billion was spent on actions that have gender equality as a main or important objective by the end of 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	11 507.6	12 240.2	12 435.1	12 909.9	12 771.3	12 994.5	12 841.0	87 699.5
NextGenerationEU	1 772.0	1 776.8	1 828.3	13.1	9.7	7.3	4.9	5 412.1
Decommitments made available again (*)	20.0	117.3	148.8	95.3	115.9	0.0	0.0	497.2
Contributions from other countries and entities	843.2	796.7	934.0	3 375.6	3 671.3	0.0	0.0	9 620.9
Total	**14 142.8**	**14 931.0**	**15 346.2**	**16 393.9**	**16 568.1**	**13 001.8**	**12 845.9**	**103 229.7**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	75 667.4	103 229.7	73.3%
Payments	45 512.6	0.0	44.1%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Horizon Europe peer-reviewed scientific publications	0	**13%**	179 000 in 2030	22 746 by 2025 compared to a target of 179 000	On track
Researchers involved in upskilling (activities in framework programme projects)	0	**54%**	250 000 in 2030	135 765 by 2025 compared to a target of 250 000	On track
Research outputs shared through open knowledge infrastructure	0	**85%**	95% in 2030	80.6% in 2025 compared to a target of 95%	Moderate progress
Innovative products, processes or methods from framework programme and intellectual property right applications	0	**> 100%**	8 900 in 2030	10 156 by 2025 compared to a target of 8 900	On track
Full-time equivalent jobs created, and jobs maintained in beneficiary entities for the framework programme project	0	**33%**	288 185 in 2027	95 798.7 by 2025 compared to a target of 288 185	Moderate progress
Public and private investment mobilised with the initial framework programme investment	0	**65%**	20.0 in 2030	EUR 12.9 billion by 2025 compared to a target of EUR 20 billion	On track

Outputs aimed at addressing identified EU policy priorities and global challenges	0	**99.6%**	100% until 2030	Milestones not achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 99.6% compared to a milestone of 100%)	On track
Outputs in specific research and innovation missions	0	**71%**	6 outputs annually until 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 9 calls launched compared to a milestone of 6)	On track
Framework programme projects where EU citizens and end users contribute to the co-creation of research and innovation content	0	**81%**	50% in 2030	40.7% in 2025 compared to a target of 50%	On track

Research and innovation results often take time to show measurable impact. Horizon Europe's '**Key impact pathways**' track progress towards objectives over time using a set of 27 indicators. This programme performance statement reports on nine output indicators, as these are currently the only ones advanced enough to meaningfully assess progress.

Scientific objectives

The number of reported **peer-reviewed publications** has tripled compared to last year and now stands at over **22 500**. Based on trends observed in previous research and innovation framework programmes, the tally is expected to increase exponentially towards the end of funded activities, including beyond the end of the implementation period. Between 2021 and 2025, eight European Research Council (ERC) grantees have received a Nobel Prize – the latest being Philippe Aghion in 2025. Impactful publications have also been funded by collaborative research projects, such as the top climate research paper by media exposure in 2025.

Horizon Europe projects comprise at least **134 000 researchers involved in upskilling activities**. The figure is expected to increase further in the next years, especially after the total number of research fellows in training and mobility under Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions is added to the tally.

As a general requirement, programme beneficiaries should ensure **open access** to scientific publications and underlying research data. As of the end of 2025, over **80%** of all publications, datasets and software produced by Horizon Europe projects are available in open access. While

annual trends are positive, this value is still not sufficiently close to the ambitious target currently set for the programme (95%).

Horizon Europe also supports the activities of the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)**, whose direct research in non-nuclear fields was financed with EUR 285 million in 2025. Performance indicators on publications and innovative outputs also include the contribution of JRC researchers.

Societal objectives

Horizon Europe contributes to all **policy priorities** of the EU. Almost all project outputs are relevant for one or more policy priorities, including **SDGs. EU missions** are a major instrument oriented towards societal impact. Achievements include the following.

- The '**Cancer**' **mission** has developed **25 multi-country clinical trials**, 42 new tools for prevention, detection and treatment, and over 850 collaborations across research, healthcare and policy.
- In the '**Cities**' **mission**, 103 cities have formally committed to climate neutrality, with an expected **reduction of carbon dioxide emissions** equal to approximately **6.2% of the EU total** in 2023.
- The community of practice of the '**Adaptation to climate change**' **mission**, bringing together over 600 active members, offered technical assistance to 236 regions and local authorities in 2025.
- The '**Ocean and waters**' **mission** supports the development by 2030 of the 'European Digital Twin Ocean', a powerful infrastructure for data analysis, modelling development and scenario analysis.
- The '**Soil**' **mission**, through projects and support for the JRC's EU Soil Observatory, is making progress towards more harmonised and complete monitoring of key soil-health parameters.

More than 3 150 projects include **engagement activities with citizens or end users**. Despite a relative slowdown in comparison to 2024, the programme is still assessed to be on track towards reaching its 2030 target of 50% of all projects.

Economic and technological objectives

Horizon Europe projects are reporting a substantial number of **innovative outputs**, including intellectual property right applications. Over **10 000** were reported – already above the final target set for the programme. Projects have supported almost **100 000 full-time equivalent jobs**. The number is likely higher, but monitoring of this metric is limited by the increasing adoption of lump sum grants, which do not require beneficiaries to report personnel costs. While information about the total impact of the programme on growth and employment in funded companies is not yet available, preliminary estimates for the **EIC Accelerator** indicate a positive impact on sales (+ 37%), number of employees (+ 27%) and investments received.

Moreover, Horizon Europe projects have brought in **EUR 12.9 billion** in private and public **co-investment**, representing approximately 20% of total project costs, on track with objectives.

Around EUR 7 billion of this co-investment comes from private for-profit companies. Alongside this sum, the **EIC Fund** crowded in over EUR 3 billion of additional investment into EIC-supported companies, with a leverage effect of over EUR 3.5 of co-investment for every euro of equity invested by the EU.

Much of the direct financial leverage brought in by Horizon Europe comes from **European partnerships**. As a major feature of the collaborative parts of Horizon Europe, they represent 42% of the budget allocated to Pillar II, below the 50% limit set in the regulation. There are currently 54 European partnerships, with six more expected to be launched during the remainder of Horizon Europe implementation.

European partnerships also encompass the **Knowledge and Innovation Communities** of the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology** (**EIT KICs**). The KICs brought together more than 4 000 organisations from business, research and education, and launched over 3 000 new products and services on the market. EIT-backed start-ups have raised around EUR 15 billion in external investments and have an overall combined valuation exceeding EUR 100 billion.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	4 515.7	4 739.8	4 945.0	4 988.9	4 590.4	4 792.0	4 168.8	32 740.5	35.0%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	792.9	1 178.3	1 350.2	1 118.1	1 133.1	1 269.7	1 178.7	8 020.9	8.6%

To achieve the aim of making the EU the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050, the Horizon Europe Regulation states that actions under this Programme shall contribute at least 35% of the expenditure to **climate** objectives.

The 2026–2027 Horizon Europe Work Programme will continue to allocate at least 35% of its funding to climate objectives. Figures available today however suggest that as a whole – also including bottom-up actions and "open portfolios" – Horizon Europe would get very close to meeting the objective but is not yet assured to reach it. **The Commission will propose an amendment to the last Work Programme to ensure that the target is reached**.

An important role in promoting green objectives is played by Pillar II's **Cluster 5**, whose actions on climate, energy and mobility contribute almost in their totality to climate action (more than EUR 1 billion per year) and **Cluster 6**, the most significant contribution to the biodiversity spending target. Furthermore, the Industry part of **Cluster 4** is assessed to contribute around EUR 650 million each year to green objectives, notably decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries; circularity across manufacturing and process industries; sustainable extraction of raw materials; secondary raw materials; and safe-and-sustainable by design for materials and chemicals. The EIC is also assessed to have committed over EUR 1 billion to support clean technologies.

Horizon Europe contributed at least EUR 4.4 billion to activities supporting **biodiversity** by end 2024. An additional EUR 3.6 billion is forecast to be committed by 2027. However, this level is insufficient to meet the biodiversity expenditure target of 10% set for the last two years of Horizon Europe. To address this gap, a dedicated budgetary reserve of EUR 230 million has been established through a proposed amendment to the Work Programme 2026–2027 to fund a horizontal biodiversity call. If the amendment is adopted, **Horizon Europe will fund more research and innovation relevant to biodiversity than ever before.**

Horizon Europe strategically aligns with the EU's green spending objectives and the **EU taxonomy** by prioritising sustainable investment. The programme ensures that funded activities contribute to

key environmental goals, such as **climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation**, while adhering to the '**do no significant harm**' principle to prevent adverse impacts. At the programming stage, the Horizon Europe work programme is co-created to support research and innovation activities that respect the climate and environmental priorities of the EU and cause no significant harm to them, where applicable. However, large parts of Horizon Europe are not directly relevant to the taxonomy, such as activities in the health, security or digital sectors.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	77.1	87.8	142.6	161.6	58.7	527.8
1	1 176.1	1 985.8	2 040.0	1 475.5	1 789.1	8 466.5
0*	9 782.1	9 770.5	10 252.5	11 272.8	8 610.3	49 688.2
0	472.3	396.1	0.0	0.0	2 313.1	3 181.5
Total:	11 507.6	12 240.2	12 435.1	12 909.9	12 771.3	61 864.0

Gender equality is a cross-cutting priority of Horizon Europe. Under the Programme, research and innovation contribute to gender equality primarily through the effective integration of the gender dimension in R&I content, i.e. the consideration of sex and gender differences in research objectives, methodologies, data collection, analysis, and results. For this reason, the integration of the gender dimension is a default requirement for most Research and Innovation Actions (RIA), Innovation Actions (IA) and COFUND actions.

The total budget for actions where gender equality is the main objective (**score 2**) is **EUR 161.6 million** in **2024** (revised up from EUR 103.8 million in last year's PPS) and **EUR 58.7 million** in **2025**. Overall, between 2021 and 2024, the budget of actions assigned a score 2 has increased by around 110%.

Key contributions are observed from the following programme parts:

Programme part	Score 2, 2024 (updated, million EUR)	Score 2, 2025 (estimate, million EUR)
Cluster 2 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society'	8.629	20.4
European Research Council (ERC)	16.431	13.594
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)	6.034	5.597
Cluster 1 (Health)	64.351	0
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	34.657	*not yet available*

Examples of projects where gender equality is the main objective:

- The **IMPROVE** project supports victims of domestic violence—particularly those from marginalised groups—by developing AI tools for reporting, detection, and assistance.

- The **GRASS Ceiling** project (Cluster 6) addresses gender inequalities by co-designing solutions with rural women innovators. Through community hubs, it brings together women farmers, enterprise officers, financial institutions, and researchers to identify barriers, co-create support systems, and generate new businesses, partnerships, and policy recommendations.

Programme parts for which gender equality is an important but not main objective (**score 1**) had a total budget of **EUR 1 475.5 million** in 2024 (revised up from EUR 1 391.2 million in last year's PPS) and **EUR 1 789.1 million** in 2025. Between 2021 and 2024, the budget assigned a score 1 has increased by around 25%, with a further increase forecast for 2025. The following programme parts had, in either 2024 or 2025, the highest budget assigned a score 1:

Programme part	Score 1, 2024 (updated, million EUR)	Score 1, 2025 (estimate, million EUR)
Cluster 1 (Health)	227.4	540.0
Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment)	66.6	329.9
Missions	152.5	171.45
WIDERA (Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area	85.02	151.75
European Innovation Council (EIC)	350.2	109.0

Gender disaggregated information:

- As of January 2026, women coordinated 32% of Horizon Europe projects (6 281 women). There are large variations across the programme: the share of women is higher in social science-oriented actions (Cluster 2: 45%) and lower in industry-focused ones (Cluster 4: 23%).
- Women represent 53.1% of members of Horizon Europe boards and expert groups, with 55.6% in official expert groups (70 women) and 49.3% in special groups (40 women).
- Among Horizon Europe researchers, women accounted for 38.3% (101 142), compared to 61.6% men (162 705), while 0.05% identified as non-binary (128).
- European Research Council (ERC): in 2024, the ERC funded 85 women principal investigators under Advanced Grants, 212 under Starting Grants and 123 under Consolidator Grants.
- European Innovation Council (EIC): under the 2025 Accelerator March cut-off, women-led companies (female CEO or Chief Technology Officer or Chief Scientific Officer) represented 33% of funded start-ups (13 out of 39), an increase of 3 percentage points over 2024 receiving EUR 32 million in grants, while companies with women chief executive officers represented 23% of funded companies.

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): among fellows recruited under the 2024 calls, 42.7% were women (562 out of 1 315). Among researchers in MSCA research teams, women accounted for 38% of reported researchers.

Methodological note

For actions where the integration of the gender dimension in R&I content is mandatory, an *ex post* assessment is needed to determine whether and how this requirement has been fulfilled. Until this evidence becomes available, these actions are assigned a **score 0***, meaning a likely but not yet clear positive impact on gender equality. From this year, no 0* scores are assigned for parts of the programme where integration of the gender dimension is not mandatory – for example, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, the European Research Council and the Joint Research Centre.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of 2021-2025
Digital contribution	-*	2 452.9	4 297.1	3 588.0	2 494.1	12 832.1	18.9%

* Differently from last year, the distribution above is based on the date of signature of grant agreements, and there were no digital-relevant grants signed in 2021. In line with the average time-to-grant of Horizon Europe grants (approximately 220 days from call closure to grant signature), only 27 grants were signed in 2021 in Horizon Europe overall.

Digital-relevant expenditure is estimated based on a project-level tracking system applied to grants that are relevant for the EU's digital agenda. Based on this tracker, **Horizon Europe has almost reached the objective** stated in the Regulation of at least **EUR 13 billion spent on main digital activities**, the level attained in Horizon 2020. Expenditure in digital activities in signed grants is estimated to be at least EUR 12.8 billion out of the Horizon Europe voted budget, which increases to EUR 14.9 billion if third country contributions to the programme budget are considered.

The strategic plan for 2025-2027 continues this focus, directing research and innovation towards tackling global challenges such as the digital transition.

Horizon Europe places a strong emphasis on **digital innovation**, reflecting the EU's strategic priorities for digital transformation. It includes significant investments in areas such as AI, data and robotics, advanced computing, quantum technologies, virtual worlds, cloud, future networks, photonics and emerging technologies. The programme is designed to foster technological advancements and support Europe's digital transition, contributing to overall **competitiveness and resilience**.

Pillar II's **Cluster 4**, 'Digital, Industry and Space' is providing almost EUR 8 billion in 2021-2027 for digital priorities, including support through Joint Undertakings for chips, high-performance computing, and smart networks and services. In addition, the funding focusing on industry provides almost EUR 1.5 billion in 2021-2027 (about a third of the total) for the digitalisation of industry. **The EIC** has committed over EUR 1.5 billion in support for start-ups and technologies in critical digital areas for Europe's future competitiveness and economic security, including AI, Quantum and Semiconductors.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- In line with Regulation (EU) 2024/795 (the STEP Regulation), Horizon Europe is one of the EU budget instruments under direct management mobilised under the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European Union in critical technology areas, fostering innovation, industrial leadership and strategic autonomy. As stipulated in Article 4 of the STEP Regulation, Horizon Europe is one of the programmes that can award the STEP (Sovereignty) Seal under its calls for proposals.

- The European Innovation Council (EIC) is the main programme through which STEP is implemented in Horizon Europe, focusing on supporting innovation in critical STEP sectors, boosting investment and reducing strategic dependencies.
- In 2025, EIC Accelerator "Challenges" and the very first EIC STEP Scale-up call set aside a total budget of EUR 550 million in support of technologies that fell within the scope and objectives of the STEP. Support under the Accelerator comes in the form of grants, equity or through a blend of grants and equity while equity-only support was provided under the STEP Scale Up call.
- As of end-2025, and cumulatively since the inception of the implementation of STEP, a total of 83 project proposals has been awarded the STEP Seal under the STEP-relevant actions of the EIC.
- In 2025, under Horizon Europe, STEP-relevant calls for proposals were also concluded under Pillar II – Cluster 3 (EUR 3 million) and Cluster 1 (EUR 80 million), under the Chips Joint Undertaking (JU) (EUR 150 million), under the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (EUR 105 million) and under the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (EUR 150 million).
- Out of these calls for proposals, as of end-2025, only the submissions under the Clean Hydrogen JU had been evaluated, resulting in the award of the STEP Seal to 46 project proposals.
- STEP-relevant calls for proposals in the Space sector implemented within Pillar II – Cluster 4 of Horizon Europe are covered in the programme performance statement of the Space programme.

Contribution to reforms

The **Horizon Europe** Policy Support Facility **(PSF)** has provided national policymakers with access to independent high-level expertise to help them design and implement reforms that enhance the quality of their R&I investments, policies and systems, contributing to the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA) policy agenda. With EUR 6 million in funding from the Horizon Europe budget between 2021 and 2025, the PSF delivered **21 exercises across 30 countries** – EU Member States and countries associated to Horizon Europe. These included 8 Country Reviews, 11 Mutual Learning Exercises (MLEs) and 2 PSF Open Activities.

The country-specific PSF exercises (PSF Country and PSF Open) have been effective in **driving reforms in several national R&I systems**. In Romania, Greece, Croatia, and candidate country Moldova, recommendations from the PSF Country and PSF Open exercises led to concrete policy changes, legislative reforms, and new funding initiatives. For instance, PSF Country and PSF Open in Greece informed the design and implementation of a new national support programme for research infrastructures embedding principles of open science, digitalisation, and performance-based funding.

The multi-country **PSF Mutual Learning Exercise** (MLE) promotes mutual learning between national R&I policymakers and the identification of **best practices** regarding the design and implementation of national R&I policies on a specific topic of common interest, resulting in a significant positive impact on national policy initiatives. The PSF MLE on foreign interference

informed Ireland's national approach to research security, in particular how Irish authorities are engaging with the national R&I community.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 2.809 billion Funded under Cluster 2 (Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society), the PREFIGURE project (grant agreement No 101132777), with an EU contribution of € 2.78 million, addresses the housing and energy crisis in Europe by targeting **energy poverty** and **housing inequalities** through innovative policies and social initiatives. The project supports an inclusive green transition by focusing on equitable renovation practices and **vulnerable communities**, helping to reduce **social disparities**.
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 3.272 billion Funded under Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment), the AfriFOODlinks project (grant agreement No 101084322), with an EU contribution of € 11.82 million, improves **food and nutrition security** through urban food system pilot actions in 15 African and 5 European cities and engaging more than 40 network cities. The project promotes **healthy and sustainable diets** via inclusive multi-actor governance and support for **women- and youth-led agri-food businesses**, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 13.188 billion Funded under Cluster 1 (Health), the HEREDITARY project (grant agreement No 101137074), with an EU contribution of € 9.99 million, supports **early disease detection** by advancing secure integration and analysis of **multimodal health and genetic data**. Research supported in part by HEREDITARY has contributed to the **identification of blood-based protein markers** associated with **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)**, enabling detection significantly earlier than current clinical diagnosis. In 2025, through Horizon Europe's direct actions, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) published a **European Quality Assurance Scheme** for **Breast Cancer services**. By standardising protocols for **early detection** and **treatment**, the scheme aims to reduce the variation in survival rates, thereby reducing **premature mortality** and **strengthening health systems**.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 5.870 billion Funded under Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility), the project IMP_ACT (grant agreement No 101137351) supports **quality education for sustainability and climate action** by developing recommendations to **measure learning outcomes** in climate change education. With an EU contribution of € 5.00 million, the project focuses on **action competence** and **action-oriented learning**, providing a framework that strengthens feedback loops between **research, policy and educational practice**.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 6.155 billion Funded under the European Research Council (ERC), project GENCOERCTRL (grant agreement No 101088427) examines **conflict-related coercive control against women** through qualitative research in Colombia, Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka. With an EU contribution of € 2.00 million, the project develops **feminist methodologies** and an ecological analytical framework to make **gendered harms** visible and to inform **accountability and transitional justice** approaches addressing **violence against women**.

SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 4.356 billion With an EU contribution of € 56.93 million, the co-funded partnership Water4All (grant agreement No 101060874) supports progress towards **water security** by coordinating a European research and innovation partnership of 90 partners from 33 countries. The partnership strengthens **water R&I collaboration**, supports the development and uptake of **innovative water resilience solutions**, and promotes participatory and coordinated **water management** across policy, research and practice.
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 8.746 billion Funded under Pillar 2 – Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, the ASCEND project (grant agreement No 101096571), with an EU contribution of € 19.99 million, supports **affordable and clean energy** in cities by delivering two **Positive Clean Energy Districts** in Lyon and Munich and engaging eight partner cities to prepare replication. The project develops and disseminates scalable, cost-effective **district-level energy solutions** to accelerate **urban energy transitions**.
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 10.782 billion Funded under Cluster 2 (Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society), the Link4skills project (grant agreement No 101132476) addresses rapidly changing **labour markets** by using advanced **AI tools** that match skills with Europe's current and future needs. With an EU contribution of € 3.00 million, the project focuses on **migration skill corridors** between EU countries and destinations including Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines and Ukraine. It developed an **AI-Assisted Skill Navigator** to support stakeholders in making informed decisions about skill identification, recruitment and workforce planning.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrializatio n and foster innovation	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 20.220 billion Funded under Cluster 4 (Digital, Industry and Space), the PRIMUS project (grant agreement No 101057067), with an EU contribution of € 6.93 million, strengthened **Europe's plastic value chains** by enabling the safe **recycling of underutilised and hazardous plastics**. The project developed compliant **technologies** to remove harmful substances, improve recyclate quality and support **circular industrial processes**, reducing **material losses**, and enhancing **European manufacturing capacity**. The JRC Innovation Centre for Industrial Transformation and Emissions (INCITE) scans for **breakthrough technologies** in **decarbonisation**, **depollution**, **resource efficiency** and **circularity**. INCITE promotes the uptake of these **innovative technologies** in large industrial plants, supporting **sustainable industrial innovation** and the development of Europe's regulatory framework in step with technological progress.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 5.302 billion Funded under Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment), the INSPIRE project (grant agreement No 101136592), with an EU contribution of € 5.00 million, supports **social inclusion** and **well-being** in European **rural areas** by improving access to **social services** for **vulnerable groups**. The project strengthens **social entrepreneurship**, establishes **Smart Village Labs**, and enhances **inclusive governance** and evidence-based policymaking, helping to reduce **territorial** and **social inequalities**.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 10.295 billion Funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), the GreeNexUS project (grant agreement No 101073437), brings together 20 institutions from 9 European countries in a multidisciplinary research and training programme focused on urban environments. With an EU contribution of € 2.63 million, the project develops evidence and approaches to support **urban greening**, **territorial regeneration** and **safer, more accessible** and **walkable infrastructures**, contributing to **healthier** and more **inclusive cities**.

SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 10.786 billion The European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator project STOP WASTIN' ME (grant agreement No 190149727), with an EU contribution of € 2.50 million, developed a technology to **recover heavy metals** from **industrial wastewaters without generating toxic sludge**, using a supercritical water process. By enabling **high-purity metal recovery and reuse** while **reducing waste** and chemical inputs, the project supported more **circular** and r**esource-efficient industrial production**.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 16.759 billion Funded under Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility), the IM4CA project (grant agreement No 101183460), with an EU contribution of € 14.74 million, strengthens **climate action** by improving Europe's capacity to monitor and understand **methane emissions**. By combining **satellite** and **ground-based observations**, the project provides data and methods to better quantify **methane sources**, **sinks**, and **trends**, supporting evidence-based **mitigation** and progress towards EU and global **climate targets**. In parallel, the wildE project (grant agreement No 101081251), with an EU contribution of € 8.5 million, promotes **climate-smart rewilding** as a **nature-based solution**. It enhances **carbon storage** and **biodiversity**, providing projections and decision-support tools for policymakers and stakeholders to foster **resilient ecosystems** and support **socio-economic objectives**.
SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 4.044 billion The EIC Accelerator project BLUESURVEY (grant agreement No 190175727), with an EU contribution of € 2.49 million, developed an automated hardware–software system for **high-resolution seafloor mapping**, improving the quality and transparency of data used in **marine environmental assessments**. By deploying this technology through a lease-license model to stakeholders in the **blue economy**, the project supports **evidence-based ocean management** and the **protection of marine ecosystems**.

SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 6.412 billion Biodiversa+ (grant agreement No 101052342) is a co-funded European **biodiversity research and innovation** partnership involving 75 organisations from 37 countries. With an EU contribution of € 105.00 million, the partnership strengthens **biodiversity monitoring**, supports coordinated research programmes, and provides science-based evidence to inform **biodiversity conservation and restoration policies** in line with the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**. In 2025, the partnership launched its 5th yearly call, focused on **nature restoration**. Under its previous call on **biodiversity** and **transformative change**, it funded 35 research projects.
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 3.207 billion Funded under the European Research Council (ERC), the project TransLitigate (grant agreement No 101039648) analyses **transnational strategic litigation** through four comparative case studies covering **climate change**, **land use**, **extractive pollution** and **biodiversity protection**. With an EU contribution of € 1.47 million, the project develops evidence on how **cross-border collaborations** among lawyers and civil-society actors shape **environmental governance** and **access to justice**, supporting stronger and more **accountable legal institutions**.
SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Yes	Total EU contribution tagged for this SDG: € 10.127 billion The project MSCAdvocacy (grant agreement No 101059907) supported **international research partnerships** by providing **strategic alignment** support for 20 partner countries and 6 regions under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. With an EU contribution of € 2.00 million, the project strengthened **cooperation** between **EU external R&I policy objectives** and **national and regional MSCA mechanisms** through policy reviews, coordination missions and recommendations for **long-term international collaboration**.

The estimated budget allocation to each sustainable development goal is based on a tagging system applied to Horizon Europe R&I topics, integrated with structured information reported by beneficiaries. The projects in the spotlight have been selected based on expert input and on a text mining algorithm internal of the Commission, which assigns an SDG relevance score for each project proposal and document. Several ERC examples have also been published in a 2024 study, "Transformative change for a sustainable future".

EURATOM RESEARCH AND TRAINING

RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

Concrete examples of achievements

14 302 people have benefited from upskilling activities (training, mobility and access to infrastructure) since 2021.	2 760 scientific publications on nuclear research in peer-reviewed journals have been funded by Euratom since 2021.	770 doctorates in fusion sciences have been completed by students supported by Eurofusion since 2021.	622 masters' degrees in fusion sciences have been completed by students supported by Eurofusion since 2021.
9 361 researchers have had access to research infrastructures through support from the Euratom programme since 2021.	102 training sessions have been delivered to nuclear safeguards inspectors and front-line officers since 2021.	EUR 547 million in public and private investment has been mobilised since 2021.	41 certified reference materials on nuclear technologies and nuclear measurements have been delivered by the Joint Research Centre since 2021.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	264.7	269.7	286.0	279.9	287.8	293.8	304.5	1 986.5
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Contributions from other countries and entities	15.1	8.9	0.5	0.0	13.2	0.0	0.0	37.7
Total	**279.8**	**278.6**	**286.5**	**279.9**	**301.0**	**293.8**	**304.5**	**2 024.2**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 458.0	2 024.2	72.0%
Payments	1 175.2	0.0	58.1%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of Euratom-funded peer-reviewed scientific publications	0	**61%**	4 500 in 2027	2 760 by 2025 compared to a target of 4 000	Moderate progress
Reference materials delivered and reference data incorporated into a library	0	**75%**	55 in 2027	41 by 2025 compared to a target of 42	On track
Number of outputs contributing to modifying international standards	0	**80%**	10 in 2027	8 by 2025 compared to a target of 8	On track
Number of technical systems provided and in use	0	**74%**	50 in 2027	37 in 2025 compared to a target of 40	Moderate progress
Number of people having benefited from upskilling	0	**72%**	20 000 in 2027	14 302 in 2025 compared to a target of 6 000	On track

activities under the Euratom programme					
Number and share of Euratom projects producing policy-relevant findings	0	**94%**	50% for 2027	47% compared to a target of 50%	On track
Amount of public and private investment mobilised with the initial Euratom investment	0	**68%**	EUR 800 million in 2027	EUR 547 million in 2025 compared to a target of EUR 500 million	On track
Number of full-time-equivalent jobs created and jobs maintained in beneficiary entities for the Euratom project	0	**n/a**	11 000 in 2025	n/a	No data
Progress in the implementation of the fusion roadmap – percentage of the fusion roadmap's milestones established for the 2021-2025 period reached by the Euratom programme	0	**88%**	95% in 2027	84% in 2025 compared to a target of 95% in 2027	Moderate progress

The Euratom research and training programme's budget is distributed among:

- indirect action in fusion research and development;
- indirect action in nuclear fission (nuclear safety, radiation protection, waste management); and
- direct action undertaken by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

In 2025, the Euratom programme made progress towards achieving its objectives. Of the 8 core indicators reported, 5 are on track, and 3 show moderate progress. Following the Council's adoption of Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304, which extended the programme to cover the 2026-2027 period, the Commission revised the targets to cover a seven-year period instead of the five years initially planned.

The following section highlights the major achievements of the different actions carried out in 2025.

In the area of indirect action in fusion research and development, Euratom continued to play a pivotal role.

In 2025, the Eurofusion co-funded partnership advanced Europe's fusion roadmap by achieving record long-duration, high-performance plasmas across key research facilities. A formalised partnership with the ITER Organization has accelerated joint technical work and training, while the 2025 researcher and engineering grants continue to expand Europe's specialised workforce for future fusion power plants.

In parallel, the go4fusion project prepared the ground for a future fusion public–private partnership by launching a European Fusion Stakeholder Platform, drafting a strategic research and innovation agenda (due in 2026) and progressing an industry-led association and memorandum of

understanding for signature by the Commission in 2026. Euratom also worked with the European Innovation Council to establish a dedicated Fusion EIC Accelerator call for 2026–2027 to support high-technology-readiness-level projects led exclusively by small and medium-sized enterprises.

In nuclear fission research, the Euratom co-funded partnerships continued to play a key role. The Pianoforte co-funded partnership, bringing together 108 partners across 26 countries, advanced European radiation protection research through its third transnational open call, which selected six projects on the health effects of dose variations, integrated environmental risk assessment and the application of artificial intelligence and big data for emergency response. It also updated its strategic research and innovation agenda through stakeholder consultation and launched new training and doctorate calls to support the long-term sustainability of the radiation protection workforce.

The EURAD-2 co-funded partnership on radioactive waste management entered its first full year of operation, launching a second wave of research activities and hosting its first annual event in Bologna, Italy. It opened its mobility programme, contributed to the FISA-EURADWASTE 2025 conference and published its first deliverables. With 121 participating organisations, EURAD-2 is consolidating its role as a major European platform for the safe long-term management of radioactive waste.

The CONNECT-NM co-funded partnership, dedicated to accelerating innovation in relation to nuclear materials, successfully completed its first open call with a Euratom contribution of EUR 13.5 million, selecting 17 collaborative projects involving over 70 participants. The projects address advanced materials development and manufacturing, qualification, monitoring and predictive modelling.

Concerning direct action, the Joint Research Centre has continued to advance nuclear research and produced technical and scientific outputs, including 105 new peer-reviewed publications, 80% of which are available via open access. In terms of technical outputs, six reference materials and reference measurements were delivered, serving to improve nuclear standards. Four new technical systems were developed, supporting Euratom inspectors in performing their duties in relation to nuclear safeguards.

In 2025, the Joint Research Centre also strengthened nuclear expertise, skills and knowledge in Europe by delivering 51 specialised training sessions across nuclear fields to 842 beneficiaries, including students, young professionals, national officials and researchers. More specifically, 26 courses on nuclear safeguards and nuclear security directly contributed to advancing the capabilities of 113 nuclear safeguards inspectors and 99 front-line officers. Additionally, through the Joint Research Centre's open access programme, 69 users from European research organisations were able to access the 11 nuclear research infrastructures to conduct strategic experimental research, thereby fostering greater collaboration and capacity building. The demand for both training and access to the Joint Research Centre's specialised research facilities remains high, and represents an essential asset for the European researcher community.

The Joint Research Centre has also implemented policy support activities to monitor compliance with Euratom legislation. These activities have been provided thanks to 16 service agreements with Commission services in the areas of nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Concrete examples include the analysis of eight Member States' nuclear projects communicated under Article 41 of the Euratom Treaty. In support of the Nuclear Safety Directive (Directive 2009/71/Euratom), the

Joint Research Centre contributed to the topical peer review on fire protection at nuclear installations coordinated by the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group. National reports and programmes were also reviewed to monitor the implementation of the directive on the safe and responsible management of radioactive waste and spent fuel (Directive 2011/70/Euratom). Joint Research Centre experts supported projects under the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation. The centre has been assisting in the effective implementation of Euratom safeguards by analysing samples, conducting in-field measurements and providing operational support at the on-site laboratory in La Hague, France, and by cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Joint Research Centre also provided technical assistance to partner countries under the EU chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear centres of excellence initiative. Finally, it conducted a benchmark exercise with Ukrainian authorities to assess radiological and nuclear risks and strengthen emergency preparedness, and continued to inform the consecutive amendments to Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures targeting Russia. Additional policy support highlights include the contribution to the eighth nuclear illustrative programme, which forecast nuclear investment needs in Europe.

All of the abovementioned activities entailed the mobilisation of significant resources, both in terms of staff and to guarantee the continued maintenance and operation of the Joint Research Centre's nuclear research infrastructure. Throughout the current programme, resources have been constrained by higher operation costs due to persistent inflation and associated cumulative effects. These factors have pressured the Joint Research Centre into adapting and recentring its research capacities towards priority areas, leading to fewer technical outputs and decreased engagement in research and development with a low level of technical readiness, while still striving to continue to provide quality services to the Commission and the Member States, despite increased demand for nuclear expertise.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Total**	**% of the total envelope**
Climate mainstreaming	121.3	125.1	140.1	148.9	145.0	126.0	140.5	947.0	47.7%

The 2021-2027 Euratom research and training programme contributes to climate mainstreaming, as the programme's general objective provides for complementing the achievement of Horizon Europe's objectives, inter alia, in the context of the energy transition (Article 3 of Council Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304 of 25 June 2025).

- 100% of the expenditure for fusion energy research contributes to the climate change mitigation effort of the EU budget.

Research and innovation in fusion technology are pivotal to advancing the climate transition. Research activities carried out by Eurofusion consortium, such as supporting the ITER project and its successor, demonstrate that fusion power plants can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change. Investment in fusion technology supports the development of reliable, carbon-free energy solutions that can help meet the world's growing energy demands while minimising environmental impact. By driving advancements in fusion research, the EU is paving the way for a cleaner and more sustainable future.

- 40% of the fission-research-related expenditure contribute to the climate effort of the EU budget. For instance, a portfolio of 11 projects supported with EUR 50 million of Euratom grants during 2021-2025 provides knowledge and solutions for safe long-term operation of existing EU nuclear power plants. These projects address a broad spectrum of challenges: the need to further support the understanding of degradation and aging of different installations; new safety innovations that can be retrofitted in existing installations; but also leveraging advanced computational tools to produce more accurate and detailed data, which is essential for validating and refining safety margins in nuclear power plants.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	264.7	269.7	286.0	279.9	287.8	1 388.1
Total:	264.7	269.7	286.0	279.9	287.8	1 388.1

- Gender equality is a cross-cutting priority in the Euratom programme, as stated in recital 19 of Council Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304. The integration of the gender dimension into research and innovation content is a default requirement for all Euratom-funded research actions. Furthermore, the Euratom programme is promoting gender equality through sustainable institutional change by requesting that applicants (public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments) have in place a gender equality plan as an eligibility criterion for research proposals (requirement shared with Horizon Europe).
- The gender equality dimension is integrated into Euratom research and innovation and is considered through at all stages of the research cycle. However, actions under the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2021-2027 are classified as non-targeted interventions, meaning they are not expected to have a significant impact on gender equality. As a result, no specific disaggregated data on gender impacts are available.

Contribution to the digital transition

- The Commission places strong emphasis on the digital transition in Euratom calls for research proposals. In particular, 7 of the 11 topics (64%) under the 2023-2025 call in nuclear safety, radiation protection and waste management include, where appropriate, requirements for digitalisation and deployment of artificial intelligence, robotics, internet of things and big data. A specific contribution to the digital transition cannot be quantified, as it is not the main objective of these actions and no granular tracking system is in place.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Euratom programme supports research on the nuclear energy technologies (fission and fusion) which are included in the STEP initiative. Pursuant to Article 2(1) of the STEP

Regulation, it concerns net-zero technologies, including nuclear, as defined by the Net Zero Industrial Act in its Article 4.

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

ITER

EUROPEAN JOINT UNDERTAKING FOR ITER AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUSION ENERGY

Concrete examples of achievements

39 500 annual jobs were directly or indirectly created by the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project between 2018 and 2024.	EUR 5.62 billion in additional gross value added between 2018 to 2024, compared with a situation where ITER-related spending did not occur and funds were instead saved.	77% of companies that supplied goods or services to Fusion for Energy (F4E) between 2018 and 2024 reported significant learning effects such as new skills and improved technical know-how.	1 648 publications were directly linked to F4E since its establishment, and up to 5 388 when supplier outputs are included. Overall, the evidence underlines F4E's role as a catalyst for research, technological upgrading and cross-sector innovation in high-tech industries.
1st joint EU–Japan Tokamak will resume operation in 2026 after a period of repair and enhancement in 2025. The JT-60SA is the biggest and most advanced tokamak fusion reactor in the world. It has been built and will be operated jointly by the EU and Japan under the Broader Approach cooperation agreement.	47% of F4E spending is allocated to high-tech components such as magnets, vacuum vessels, blankets and cryoplants. The rest is dedicated to infrastructure, reflecting the EU's role as ITER host.	88% of the joint objectives agreed between the ITER Organisation (IO) and F4E for 2025 were achieved.	2nd European sector of the vacuum vessel was delivered in November 2025. The three other sectors to be provided by Europe will be delivered between March and October 2026.

Budget implementation

Budget programming **(million EUR):**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	864.0	710.1	549.8	436.3	486.5	852.4	663.0	4 562.1
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Total	**864.6**	**710.1**	**549.8**	**436.3**	**486.5**	**852.4**	**663.0**	**4 562.7**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	3 048.1	4 562.7	66.8%
Payments	1 750.5	0.0	38.4%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
The ITER Organisation (IO) schedule performance index is a measure of the	0	**> 100% in 2025**	100%	Target not achieved in 2024 and achieved in 2025	On track

conformance of actual progress to the planned progress					
The IO cost performance index is a measure of the conformance of the actual work completed to the actual cost incurred	0	**> 100% in 2025**	100%	Target achieved in 2024 and 2025	On track

- Since 2021, the ITER project has experienced major delays and cost overruns, mainly caused by: (i) the fact that the previous baseline, i.e. the scope, schedule and cost of the project, was overly ambitious with an underestimation of the 'first-of-a-kind' nature of many components and activities, (ii) supply chain disruptions following the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, which delayed the delivery of key components, (iii) the lack of quality of key components delivered by domestic agencies, and that required repairs, and (iv) licensing issues.
- This led to the revision of the ITER baseline – the project's schedule, costs and scope – for the third time. Its last version was presented by the ITER Organisation (IO) in 2024 and approved by the ITER Council. According to the new baseline (baseline 2024), the start of the deuterium–tritium experiments is postponed from 2035 to 2039.
- In 2025, the IO and domestic agencies continued to make good progress in the implementation of the baseline 2024. For the period from January 2024 (start of the baseline 2024) until December 2025, the ITER construction project reached a schedule performance index of 1.02 (102%) and a cost performance index of 1.12 (112%). Taken together, these performance values indicate that the overall work execution is on and slightly ahead of schedule and, as a whole, the work done by the IO is being executed under base estimate cost.
- The performance of F4E in 2025 is comparable to the record level achieved by end-2024. F4E achieved 91% of its milestones for 2025, which is a constant and significant improvement with respect to previous years: 57% of the milestones were achieved in 2022, 67% in 2023 and 84% in 2024. Of the 98 joint objectives for 2025 agreed between the IO and F4E, 86 were achieved in 2025 – an increase of 27 since the previous reporting period.
- Recent progress at the ITER site has included preparing additional sectors of the vacuum vessel (sub-parts of the vessel in which the fusion reaction will occur) for installation in the tokamak pit and implementing the updated strategy for welding. Notably, the vacuum vessel sector module #8 was lowered into the tokamak pit, making it the fourth sector module to complete this operation.
- The critical ITER path activities were preserved, with important achievements in areas such as divertor cassette bodies and buildings. In 2025, the project benefited from a closer integration between the IO and F4E, in particular on the vacuum vessel deliveries. However, design changes – which are often required for projects like ITER – complicate on-time delivery and generate additional costs. F4E works closely with the IO to mitigate their impact.

- With this level of performance, the timely delivery of in-kind components is crucial, as are the payments of in-cash contributions by the members, so that this does not become a constraint on executing the baseline 2024 in the coming years.
- In recent years, rapid advances in fusion research – driven by both private investment and growing global concern over climate change – have generated renewed optimism. Many voices, including some within the fusion community, have begun to suggest that the commercialisation of fusion energy may be imminent. While this optimism provides motivation and attracts investment, it can also obscure the scale of the technical and financial challenges ahead. Unrealistic expectations risk not only causing disappointment but also eroding public and political confidence, which could in turn slow the very progress that ITER aims to accelerate. While extraordinary efforts have been made to incorporate within ITER as many reactor-relevant technologies as possible – including superconducting magnets, actively cooled plasma-facing components, tritium handling and remote maintenance systems – its mission remains fundamentally experimental. ITER's objective is to explore and master the physics of long-pulse burning plasma operation, not to close all the technological gaps required for a commercial fusion power plant. Several key technology gaps will remain beyond ITER's scope and will need to be addressed through complementary research and development. Cost remains one of the most significant barriers to fusion's long-term success. Public and political expectations should remain aligned with technical and physical reality, avoiding the risks posed by overpromising.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Total**	**% of the total envelope**
Climate mainstreaming	857.1	703.0	548.5	429.2	481.6	844.0	655.0	4 518.4	99%

- The Commission considers that 100% of the ITER-related expenditure for the 2021-2027 period contributes to the climate effort of the EU budget. The project does not, however, contribute to biodiversity mainstreaming or the clean air budgeting priorities.

- The climate-related expenditures are mainly mitigation measures. Indeed, the objective of the ITER project is to construct and operate an experimental fusion reactor, to explore and demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of sustainable fusion power generation. The successful realisation of ITER would determine whether fusion can become a major sustainable energy source, contributing to the EU's strategy for long-term security in energy supply. Fusion could play a major role in the decarbonisation of our economies, as it can be a source of low-carbon, safe, reliable and predictable energy.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	864.0	710.1	549.8	436.3	486.5	3 046.7
Total:	864.0	710.1	549.8	436.3	486.5	3 046.7

- The ITER agreement does not include any objectives or reporting in terms of gender equality.
- However, the IO and the Fusion for Energy Joint Undertaking have set targets to improve the representation of women in management positions. Between 2018 and 2025, the proportion of female managers in F4E has progressively increased from 10% to 25%. In IO, this proportion has recently dropped to 9%.
- Specific programmes have also been put in place to encourage female engineers to pursue a career in the nuclear field (e.g. a partnership agreement between F4E and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme).

Gender disaggregated information:

- No information on gender-disaggregated information is collected under this programme.

Contribution to the digital transition

- The ITER agreement does not include any objectives or reporting in terms of the digital transition.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- ITER is an international research programme that aims to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion as a future source of sustainable energy. A global framework has been established among seven international partners (Euratom, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and the United States) to construction and the future operation of ITER; The European contribution to ITER is delivered through the Fusion for Energy (F4E) Joint Undertaking.
- While the nuclear fusion is a technology that could qualify as critical in the sense of the Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), the ITER programme is not eligible for financing under this initiative.

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	ITER is a key project for developing fusion energy, which has the potential to provide a virtually limitless source of clean energy.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	A big number of direct and indirect jobs are created through ITER. The project supports the development of a skilled workforce.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	ITER falls under the category of Research and Innovation, both of which underpin the implementation of SDG9. Furthermore, ITER involves a significant investment in innovation and infrastructure development.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	ITER contributes to a clean energy transition while boosting jobs and growth in the area of energy and climate.

INVESTEU

Concrete examples of achievements

EUR 397.11 billion was mobilised for investment between 2022 and 2025, of which 67 % from the private sector.	7.7 million jobs were created and supported between 2022 and 2025.	3 million additional households and public or commercial premises improved their energy consumption through investments in energy generation between 2022 and 2025.	150 558 small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-caps were supported under InvestEU's small and medium-sized enterprises window between 2022 and 2025.
2.1 million additional households, enterprises or public facilities obtained access to high-speed internet between 2022 and 2025.	3.8 million people were covered by improved healthcare infrastructure between 2022 and 2025.	3 313 new engagements for advisory support to public and private counterparts were carried out via the InvestEU advisory hub between 2022 and 2025.	1 747 new investment project proposals were published on the InvestEU Portal between 2021 and 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming (*)	693.0	1 430.2	504.5	1 201.0	598.2	1 022.7	291.5	5 741.1
NextGenerationEU	1 745.5	1 852.4	2 474.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	6 074.0
Decommitments made available again (**)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.8	35.9	255.6	283.7	455.0	0.0	0.0	1 030.9
Total	**2 439.3**	**3 318.5**	**3 234.2**	**1 485.2**	**1 053.7**	**1 023.2**	**292.0**	**12 846.0**

(*) Including shared management funds

(**) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Total 2021-2027	
Complementary budget (*)	**1 958.0**
Common provisioning fund – blending operations	1 731.5
Advisory Hub – top-up from other programmes	226.5

(*) The following amounts are not included in the total budget of InvestEU above. They represent amounts delegated from other programmes for the InvestEU Fund blending operations and the Advisory Hub top-ups for 2021-2027

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	11 393.3	12 846.0	88.7%
Payments	8 263.0	0.0	64.3%

Implementation and performance ([1])

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Investment mobilised (EU compartment) (*)	0	**88%**	EUR 427 billion in 2027	EUR 363.82 billion by 2025 compared to a target of EUR 427 billion	On track
Multiplier effect achieved (EU compartment) (*)	0	**> 100%**	14.7 in 2027	17.85 in 2025 compared to a target of 14.7	On track
Investment supporting climate objectives	0	**> 100%**	30% in 2027	48.5% in 2025 compared to a target of 30%	On track
Number of households and public and commercial premises with an improved energy consumption classification	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 million by 2025	N/A
Additional households, enterprises or public buildings with broadband access of at least 100 megabits per second upgradeable to gigabit speed, or the number of Wi-Fi hotspots created	0	N/A	N/A	2.1 million by 2025	N/A
Number of enterprises supported under the small and medium-sized enterprises window	0	N/A	N/A	150 558 by 2025	N/A
Number of engagements of the InvestEU advisory hub	0	N/A	N/A	3 313 by 2025	N/A
Number of projects published on the InvestEU portal	0	**> 100%**	1 000 in 2027	1 747 by 2025 compared to a target of 1 000	On track

(*) The reported figures exclude performance guarantee operations.

([1]) The indicated reporting figures are based on the latest available data as of end-2025 with the exception for the data reported by one InvestEU implementing partner which is referring to end-November 2025.

- The InvestEU programme uses an EU budget guarantee to increase investment by lowering risk for financial institutions and attracting private capital. At the end of 2025, the volume of InvestEU operations approved by implementing partners reached EUR 83.88 billion, corresponding to an EU budget guarantee of EUR 29.1 billion. The approved InvestEU operations are expected to mobilise investments of EUR 397.11 billion, with 67% of this coming from the private sector. At the same time, the investments supporting climate goals account for 48.5% of the signed operations. The overall multiplier effect of the programme is 17.18, which means that, on average, every EUR 1 of EU budget funds mobilises EUR 17.18 of investment. The programme's overall multiplier effect demonstrates its success in mobilising investment across key strategic sectors.
- Under the InvestEU Fund, the EU provides funding support through an EU budgetary guarantee of an initial amount of EUR 26.2 billion and increased by EUR 2.9 billion to EUR 29.1 billion following the entry into force of the Omnibus II Regulation ([2]). The InvestEU Fund covers potential losses of the international financial institutions and national promotional banks and institutions (NPBIs) implementing the fund's support in the marketplace ('implementing partners')..
- At the end of 2025, the total amount of guarantee under the programme stands at EUR 34 billion, with EUR 4.9 billion added to the initial allocation and coming from three sources.
    - **Member State compartments (EUR 2.8 billion).** Member States can use it to increase the offer of financial products in their jurisdictions by means of financial contributions, using the Recovery and Resilience Facility, cohesion funds or contributions from national funds. So far, eight Member State compartments have been signed: Bulgaria, Czechia, Greece, Spain, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Finland.
    - **Contribution from other EU programmes, i.e. for blending operations (EUR 1.6 billion).** Nine EU programmes are expected to provide extra resources to InvestEU: EU4Health, Innovation Fund, Horizon Europe, European Defence Fund, European Space programme, Creative Europe, Digital Europe, European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and European Social Fund.
    - **Non-EU country contributions (EUR 0.5 billion).** Iceland and Norway made contributions to the InvestEU Fund on the basis of Article 81 of the European Economic Area Agreement.
- As of the end of 2025, almost 95% of the original EUR 26.2 billion EU guarantee was signed with 18 implementing partners through guarantee agreements. This includes the agreement with the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund (representing a 75%

([2]) Regulation (EU) 2025/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2025 amending Regulations (EU) 2015/1017, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695 and (EU) 2021/1153 as regards increasing the efficiency of the EU guarantee under Regulation (EU) 2021/523 and simplifying reporting requirements, OJ L, 2025/2005, 23.12.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2005/oj.

share of the EU budget guarantee, i.e. EUR 19.6 billion, signed in March 2022) plus 16 guarantee agreements with other implementing partners.

- Currently, under the programme, implementing partners provide over 55 different financial products in the form of debt, equity and guarantees. Some of these products are implemented directly, and others indirectly through financial intermediaries.
- For the EU compartment (including the European Free Trade Association country contributions and blending operations), the expected investment mobilised is EUR 363.82 billion, of which 67% comes from the private sector. For the EU compartment, the multiplier reaches 17.9.
- The volume of operations signed (hence the amount of the InvestEU operation signed between the implementing partner and the final recipient or financial intermediary) amounts to EUR 57.9 billion, of which EUR 17.6 billion corresponds to the EU guarantee.
- In 2025, the EUR 474.8 million commitments included the provisioning of the Common Provisioning Fund under the EU compartment, from which future calls on the EU guarantee are to be paid. This includes EUR 312.5 million from the EU general budget and EUR 136.8 million of internal assigned revenue from predecessor financial instruments and the InvestEU Fund. Furthermore, EUR 25.5 million was committed as external assigned revenue from the European Free Trade Association country contributions to the InvestEU Fund.
- In 2025, EUR 108.8 million worth of commitments were carried out under the blending operations that combine InvestEU support with support provided under other EU programmes, allocated to the European Investment Bank, and to the European Investment Fund for top-up operations. In addition, EUR 150 million was allocated from Horizon Europe to the European Investment Bank for non-repayable transactions under the 'Green premium agreement' in 2022-2025. Furthermore, EUR 20 million was allocated from the European Social Fund to the European Investment Fund and the Council of Europe Development Bank for operations supporting microfinance and in the form of non-repayable support.
- By the end of 2025, Common Provisioning Fund compartments were also set up for the receipt of the relevant amounts needed to provision the EU guarantee implemented under the InvestEU Member State compartment. The compartment was included in the guarantee agreements signed with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Fund. Moreover, separate guarantee agreements were signed in 2023 with the Bulgarian Development Bank (Bulgaria) and the National Development Bank (Czechia) to implement financial products under the Member State compartment.
- Under the InvestEU Guarantee (Member State compartments of the Common Provisioning Fund), EUR 427.4 million was transferred as external assigned revenue from six Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Finland, Spain and Portugal), according to the schedules laid down in the contribution agreements. As set out in the partnership agreements and contribution agreements, EUR 16.2 million was also committed in 2025 as contributions to the InvestEU Fund from the European Regional Development Fund for Czechia and Malta.

- At the end of 2025, the InvestEU advisory hub provided advisory support under 30 advisory initiatives, covering all InvestEU policy windows and a diverse range of sectors, and had 3 313 ongoing or completed assignments.
- In 2025, the following commitments were made: EUR 59.3 million for the InvestEU advisory hub (including EUR 49.3 million for the European Investment Bank and EUR 10 million for other advisory partners), EUR 2.8 million for the InvestEU Portal and accompanying measures, and EUR 113 million for support expenditure. In addition, under the advisory agreement with the European Investment Bank, funds from several EU programmes were committed as top-ups, for a total envelope for the European Investment Bank of EUR 37 million.
- Following the second call for expression of interest, an additional amount of EUR 5 million was committed in 2025 through advisory agreement with InvestNL, the Dutch national promotional bank and institution, and another EUR 5 were to be committed to another selected partner institution, which subsequently withdrew its application in early 2026. Furthermore, negotiations were initiated with another new advisory partner institution: National Development Bank, the Czech national promotional bank and institution.
- In 2025, the InvestEU Portal continued the strategic partnerships with Bpifrance/Euroquity and the European Business Angels Network, which involved participation in four physical events, virtual pitching sessions, workshops and online coaching sessions. The InvestEU Portal also maintained a strong presence at major start-up events to increase visibility and commitment to supporting the start-up community, including at 'Bits and Pretzels', 'WebSummit', 'Nexus2050' and 'TNW Conference'.
- In 2024, the interim evaluation of InvestEU ([3]) concluded that the programme is proving crucial in addressing investment needs across Europe. This allows the implementing partners to efficiently finance higher-risk activities, enabling investments in sectors such as space, semi-conductors, the blue economy and quantum computing, laying the groundwork for the EU's long-term competitiveness. The evaluation also found that the InvestEU advisory hub plays a key role by supporting project developers in preparing, developing and implementing investment projects, whereas the InvestEU Portal has the potential to add value to the wider investment ecosystem through matchmaking and pitching events funded by the EU. At the same time, the interim evaluation found that reporting requirements burden affects the operational efficiency of InvestEU. The Omnibus II Regulation aimed at addressing this issue, inter alia, by simplifying reporting requirements.

([3]) https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/performance-and-reporting/programme-performance-statements/investeu-performance_en#note-1.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	1 181.5	1 589.2	1 536.7	735.4	478.3	307.0	87.6	5 915.8	46.1%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	13.0	17.7	17.2	7.9	5.6			61.4	0.5%

- To be noted that the climate contribution reported as of end-2025 amounts to 48.5%. The estimates for the period from 2025 to 2027 are calculated based on the 30% InvestEU climate target.
- InvestEU places strong emphasis on investments that have a positive impact on the climate and the environment. The programme aims to allocate 30% of its overall financial envelope to climate objectives, while 60% of investments from the sustainable infrastructure window are expected to support the EU objectives on climate and the environment. These targets provide strong incentives for financial institutions to develop financial products, in line with the climate ambition of the programme.
- As of the end of 2025, the investment supporting climate objectives represented 48.5% of the volume of operations signed both at the programme level and the EU compartment level. Under the sustainable infrastructure window, the investment supporting climate and environmental objectives amounted to 83.3% of the volume of operations signed under this policy window. Overall, InvestEU is expected to help mobilise more than EUR 110 billion to meet EU climate goals. At present, the EIB Group and several international financial institutions and national promotional banks are already deploying dedicated green products.
- To guide the implementation of the InvestEU financial products, the Commission has published sustainability proofing guidance (2) and climate- and environment-tracking guidance (3). Investments above EUR 10 million are subject to sustainability proofing to identify, assess and mitigate climate, environmental or social risks. All InvestEU-supported investment will be tracked in terms of environmental and climate impact against the methodology issued by the Commission. Both guidance documents integrate, where possible, the EU taxonomy framework.

- InvestEU implementing partners have a choice to track the achievement of the climate and environmental targets under the sustainable infrastructure window using the EU-taxonomy-aligned criteria or the InvestEU climate and environmental markers. As of 31 December 2025, 42.2%of the aggregate InvestEU signed financing was tracked using EU-taxonomy-aligned criteria for the purpose of determining the climate and environmental objectives. The EU-taxonomy-compliant financing for the implementing partners who use the EU-taxonomy-aligned criteria amounts to 74% of their volume of signed InvestEU operations.
- The reported investment on biodiversity (amounting to EUR 308.4 million) results in an estimated EU contribution of EUR 61.44 million as of end 2025.
- In addition to these ambitious climate targets, the InvestEU Fund set up a dedicated scheme to generate additional investment for the benefit of just transition territories – those territories that will be the most affected by the socioeconomic consequences of the green transition – as a complement to the Just Transition Fund and the Public Sector Loan Facility. The investments supporting just transition backed by InvestEU amount to EUR 10.3 billion as of the end of 2025. By mid-2025, the InvestEU Advisory Hub had provided advisory support for 68 assignments, assisting investment projects in territories identified in the territorial just transition plans with a total funding allocation of EUR 7.3 million.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	66.3	136.9	48.3	115.0	57.3	423.7
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	626.7	1 293.3	456.2	1 086.0	540.9	4 003.1
Total:	693.0	1 430.2	504.5	1 201.0	598.2	4 426.9

- (*) Based on the applied gender contribution methodology, the following scores are attributed at the most granular level of intervention possible:
- 2: interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality;
- 1: interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention;

- 0: non-targeted interventions (interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality);
- 0*: score to be assigned to interventions with a likely but not yet clear positive impact on gender equality.
- As of end 2025, the total InvestEU programme contribution to gender equality assigned with score 1 amounts to EUR 407.4 million. The remaining amount of EUR 3.82 billion is marked with score 0, since InvestEU is a demand-driven instrument and there was no specific budget allocation to gender equality.
- InvestEU contributes to the achievement of priorities set out in the EU gender equality strategy 2020-2025. Gender mainstreaming is ensured through the design and implementation of targeted financial products and advisory initiatives. These initiatives include the following items:
    - The gender smart advisory initiative, which provides tailored advice and capacity-building to improve access to financing for female-founded and female-led companies. Its key objectives include increasing female representation in the investment community (notably by identifying barriers, strengthening women's capacity, challenging unconscious biases, etc.), and increasing awareness of the funding gap and of missed opportunities. This is being done through activities such as an annual 'Empowering Equity Conference' for women investors, a mentorship programme for fund managers, a study of financial products by banks and other lenders focusing on women and women-led businesses, and a gender-data learning programme for banks focusing on strengthening commercial banks capabilities on collecting and using gender data and improving access to finance for women entrepreneurs launched in 2025.
    - EIF equity financing, where gender smart financing is one of the horizontal topics implemented across the different thematic policy areas supported by the fund's equity products across all policy windows. At least 25% of equity financial intermediaries supported by InvestEU through the EIF have to comply with the gender criteria. The EIF has already exceeded this target, reporting 37% in October 2025.
- In 2024, the methodology for additional key performance indicator on investment supporting gender equality was adopted by the InvestEU Steering Board. InvestEU implementing partners can now report on a best effort basis, on the impact of InvestEU operations across all policy windows on gender equality. As of the end of 2025, implementing partners had reported EUR 5.6 billion of investment supporting gender equality.

Gender disaggregated information: Not applicable.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	223.1	303.6	295.9	135.9	96.4	1 054.9	9.1%

- As of the end of 2025, InvestEU had mobilised EUR 24.4 billion worth of operations supporting digitalisation.
- Several implementing partners are implementing financial products to support digitalisation. Amongst others, the EUR 3.64 billion allocated to the EIF 'Innovation and digitalisation guarantee' financial product of the small and medium-sized enterprises window support innovation- and digitalisation-driven small and medium-sized enterprises and small mid-caps. The EU guarantee supports, among other things, innovative business models, supply chain management, the acquisition of digital skills and support to service providers that enable and support companies in the digitalisation of value chains, as long as the service providers focus predominantly on the provision and adoption of digital products and services.
- Moreover, the joint small and medium-sized enterprises / research, innovation and digitalisation window equity product implemented by the EIF includes a sub-product that supports investments fostering the development of digital, cultural and creative industry solutions.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- No new product dedicated to STEP was launched as of December 2025. However, by design, on the basis of its existing portfolio of financial products, InvestEU can support projects consistent with the STEP objectives, in particular within its Research and Innovation Window and using relevant financial products such as the thematic financial products implemented by the EIB and certain venture capital financial products implemented by the EIF. In addition, top-ups to InvestEU from other EU programmes (such as the Innovation Fund, Horizon Europe, EU4Health, the European Defence programme and the Digital Europe programme) also support STEP-relevant investments. Thus, InvestEU is already making a substantial contribution to support STEP-relevant sectors of (a) digital technologies and services and deep-tech innovation, including within the digital connectivity infrastructure; and (b) clean and resource-efficient technologies within the energy eligible area / environment eligible area.
- The STEP Regulation allows Member States to allocate up to 6% of their Recovery and Resilience (RRF) envelope to the InvestEU Member State Compartment to support projects that contribute to STEP objectives (this is in addition to the 4% of the RRF envelope that Member States can deploy via InvestEU towards more general objectives). This option would allow the use of these RRF resources to stipulate financing contracts beyond the RRF deadline (31 December 2026). As of December 2025, no Member State has made use of this increased opportunity for STEP.

Contribution to reforms

- Non applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)

SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Y	The InvestEU programme supports sustainable and inclusive/social investments, economic progress and job creation through micro-entrepreneurship, social economy, education, training and skills and investments in social infrastructure that contribute to alleviating poverty. A total of 13 369 social or affordable housing units were built or renovated through InvestEU support since the start of the implementation of the programme in 2022. In the same period, 116 863 recipients of microfinance and 4 238 social enterprises were supported.
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Y	InvestEU aims to contribute to better healthcare through investments in renovation and expansion of health infrastructure, and financial support dedicated to medical research. For example, InvestEU finances a project that covers the construction of 12 new long-term care centres, three rehabilitation hospitals and four assisted-living facilities in Spain.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Y	InvestEU support for inclusive and equitable education and lifelong learning opportunities is channelled via social investments for educational purposes, including infrastructure in support of education. As of the end of 2025, 42 551 individuals have benefited from educational programmes financed under InvestEU.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Y	InvestEU has backed total investments of EUR 5.6 billion supporting gender equality as of December 2025. Also, the InvestEU Advisory Hub aims to provide tailored advisory support and capacity-building to improve access to finance for female-founded and female-led companies.

SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Y	InvestEU operations contribute to the sustainable management of water resources by helping projects in the fields of water supply and wastewater treatment. As of December 2025, implementing partners signed around EUR 979.4 million worth of operations supporting water resources.
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Y	Through the energy efficiency measures of the InvestEU supported projects, the programme has contributed to the production of over 43 372 megawatts of electricity from renewable energy sources.
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Y	InvestEU projects can support meaningful advancements towards promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and full and productive employment and decent work for all.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Y	Under the InvestEU Fund, several implementing partners (for instance the EIB Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Nordic Investment Bank) finance innovative projects and companies and sustainable infrastructure investments, thus building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Y	The InvestEU programme provides financing and advisory support for projects that might otherwise struggle to secure private investment, enabling development in countries with less-developed capital markets, where financial barriers exist.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Y	The dedicated investments in economic and social infrastructure projects under InvestEU support advancement towards promoting resilient and inclusive infrastructure, and further efforts to support service-rich integrated infrastructure projects contribute to making cities more inclusive and sustainable.
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Y	InvestEU support to inclusive business practices and small and medium-sized enterprise growth and development contributes to promoting sustainable production and consumption practices.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Y	Several implementing partners (e.g. the EIB Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Nordic Investment Bank and the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations) finance clean energy investments with low or zero emissions, thus combating climate change and its impacts.
SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Y	InvestEU is providing support to activities related to the sustainable use of marine resources, aquaculture and other elements of the wider bioeconomy. As of 31 December 2025, implementing partners signed around EUR 231.13 million for operations in the area of the blue economy and the sustainable blue economy finance principles.

SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Y	InvestEU contributes to sustainable forest management, in line with the biodiversity-related priority areas which are to be supported under various financial products deployed under the InvestEU programme. As of December 2025, implementing partners signed around EUR 308.36 million for operations supporting biodiversity and ecosystems.

CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY

Concrete examples of achievements

4 898 alternative fuel supply points were supported by the CEF during 2021-2027. Under CEF I (2014-2020) and CEF II (2021-2027), the deployment of 21 000 alternative fuel supply points has been supported.	518 electric locomotives were equipped with the European Railway Traffic Management System under CEF II. Under CEF I and CEF II, 1 324 locomotives in total were supported. Additionally, almost 3 000 kilometres of European Railway Traffic Management System track-side infrastructure were deployed under CEF I and CEF II.	220 kilometres of railway lines were addressed through closed studies and works under CEF II, and 4 700 kilometres in total under CEF I.	13 000 megawatts of electricity transmission capacity were added since 2021 to interconnect electricity networks and to facilitate the integration of renewable energy.
28 504 digital devices for smart electricity grids were installed via CEF II actions.	222 new networks were added under CEF II for socioeconomic drivers, enabling very high-quality connections for local communities.	11 635 kilometres of CEF-funded transport corridors covered by 5G connectivity infrastructure (passive and/or active network elements) were added at the EU level, for roads, rail and inland waterways under CEF II.	10 326 terabits per second of additional capacity was created under CEF II, by deployed backbone networks, including submarine cables.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	4 517.5	4 570.8	4 839.1	4 586.8	4 747.7	5 034.8	5 170.9	33 467.6
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**4 517.5**	**4 570.8**	**4 839.1**	**4 586.8**	**4 747.7**	**5 034.8**	**5 170.9**	**33 467.6**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	23 259.7	33 467.6	69.5%
Payments	12 063.9	0.0	36.0%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of cross-border and missing links addressed with the support of the programme	0	**83%**	77 in 2029	64 cross-border and missing links by 2025 compared to a target of 77	On track
Number of programme-supported actions contributing to the digitalisation of transport, in particular through the deployment of the European Rail Traffic Management System, the river information services, the intelligent transport systems, the vessel traffic management information system / e-maritime services and the single European sky air traffic management research programme	0	**> 100%**	130 in 2027	136 actions by 2025 compared to a target of 130	On track
Number of alternative fuel supply points built or upgraded with the support of the programme	0	**13%**	38 000 in 2029	4 898 alternative fuel supply points by 2025 compared to a target of 38 000	On track
Number of transport infrastructure components adapted to civilian–military dual-use requirements	0	**21%**	140 in 2029	29 components by 2025 compared to a target of 140	On track
Number of programme actions contributing to projects interconnecting Member State networks	0	**42%**	95 in 2030	40 actions by 2025 compared to a target of 95	On track

and removing internal constraints					
Number of programme actions contributing to the improvement and digitalisation of grids and increasing energy storage capacity	0	**64%**	25 in 2030	16 by 2025 compared to a target of 25	On track
Number of programme actions contributing to the cost-efficient reaching of the target for EU shared renewable energy sources on the basis of cross-border cooperation in the area of renewables	0	**35%**	48 in 2030	17 actions by 2025 compared to a target of 48	On track
Number of programme actions enabling 5G connectivity along transport paths	0	**67%**	46 in 2028	31 actions by 2025 compared to a target of 46	On track

- Between 2021 and the end of 2025, EUR 23.7 billion of the total EUR 25.8 billion Connecting Europe Facility **transport** sector budget has been allocated to projects, representing 92% of the available budget. This amount (EUR 23.7 billion) corresponds to the total legal obligation arisen from the grants signed by the Commission as of 31 December 2025. Part of this amount will be committed in 2026-2027 using the principle of the annual instalments, in accordance with Article 4(5) of the CEF Regulation.
- Following the 2023 update to the CEF 2021-2027 work programme, the majority of these funds were allocated to the 2023 and 2024 project calls. This strategic allocation resulted in no remaining budget for new calls in 2025. Furthermore, the military mobility envelope of EUR 1.7 billion was fully allocated by 2024. Any unused funds that become available in 2026 through the 'use it or lose it' principle will be redistributed via new funding opportunities, known as 'reflow calls'. In 2023, the Commission adopted a revised CEF Transport work programme, outlining the final funding opportunities within the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework for the years 2023 and 2024. The 2024 CEF calls, which closed in January 2025, attracted 258 submissions totalling EUR 9.5 billion in requested funds, well beyond the available budget. EUR 3.02 billion was allocated to projects during the summer of 2025 for initiatives advancing a sustainable, intelligent, eco-friendly and resilient transport network. This final allocation exhausts the remaining funds under the current financial framework. With the 2024 call for proposals, 72.8% of the CEF Transport budget was allocated to projects developing railways, including cross-border connections. Among others, projects under the solidarity lanes initiative were supported to improve transport connectivity with Moldova and Ukraine.

- The military mobility envelope of EUR 1.7 billion had also already been fully allocated in 2024. Any unused funds that become available in 2026 through the 'use it or lose it' principle will be redistributed through reflow calls.

- The CEF Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility blends grants with financial instruments from international financial institutions and national promotional banks. The second call under the facility was launched in February 2024, with cut-offs in September 2024, June 2025 and March 2026. In 2025, the project selection for the first cut-off granted EUR 422 million to 39 projects and EUR 600 million to about 70 projects for the second cut-off. These projects support charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure, the electrification of airports, onshore power supply in ports and other alternative fuels infrastructures for the maritime sector. The third cut-off was cancelled due to exhaustion of funds.
- The first grant agreements under CEF II were signed in the third quarter of 2022. Therefore, the first projects have been in full implementation for less than four years. Some smaller projects, such as the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure or preparatory studies, have been

completed. However, large-scale construction projects take longer and are currently in full implementation.

- As regards the **Energy** strand, in the first window for the development of projects of common interest, CEF eligibility is limited to projects of common interest and projects of mutual interest that belong to a given infrastructure category (essentially electricity, natural gas, hydrogen or carbon dioxide networks). In the first five annual calls for proposals under this window for projects of common interest and projects of mutual interest, the Commission awarded approximately EUR 1 billion (2021), EUR 600 million (2022), EUR 570 million (2023), EUR 1.2 billion (2024) and EUR 650 million (2025). In this period, CEF Energy grants were awarded for 72 actions (24 for construction works, with a total of more than EUR 3.6 billion, and 48 for studies, with a total of less than EUR 460 million). Out of these 72 grants, 21 concerned electricity projects and smart electricity grids (EUR 2.6 billion), 4 natural gas (EUR 150 million), 19 carbon dioxide facilities (EUR 850 million) and 28 hydrogen projects, including electrolysers (EUR 420 million). Among the projects selected for funding, there are electricity interconnectors (Great Sea Interconnector, Aurora Line, ELMED), storage sites that contribute to security of supply and enable a greater integration of renewables, and the first building blocks of a future EU-wide carbon dioxide transport value chain. Following the revision of the TEN-E Regulation in 2022, the 2024 call was the first one where hydrogen projects were eligible, while support to natural gas projects was phased out.
- In 2025, the Commission awarded approximately EUR 650 million to 14 cross-border energy infrastructure projects. For the first time, CEF Energy was used to finance a dedicated resilience measure for electricity infrastructure relating to the Baltic Synchronisation. Also under this call, CEF provided the first grant for works for a hydrogen project: Hydrogen Storage Gronau-Epe RWE in Germany. Among the projects selected for funding, 6 are related to electricity infrastructure including smart electricity grids (4 for works and 2 for studies) and 8 are hydrogen infrastructure investments (1 works and 7 studies).
- Regarding the second window for cross-border renewable energy projects, seven calls for funding proposals were launched between 2021 and 2025, with 17 actions awarded in total (EUR 166.9 million) providing funding for preparatory studies and for technical studies and works. The programme window is reinforcing its pipeline of viable projects (13 in Q1 2026) with the organisation of an annual call for status proposals. There is a growing interest from promoters (6 status applications received in the status call that just closed in February 2026), which already translates into higher subscription rates for the funding calls (1.4 average for the past three calls).
- The first **CEF Digital** multiannual work programme, covering the calls for 2021-2023, was adopted in December 2021 and amended in April 2023, to take into account the evolution of stakeholder preparedness and demand, along with the latest developments in policy priorities. Notwithstanding the initial late start, the four calls followed the yearly planning schedule, with good budget absorption, in particular for certain topics (such as submarine cables). The second

CEF Digital multiannual work programme (covering 2024-2027) was adopted in October 2024 ([4]) and, based on that, the fourth call for proposals (2024 budget) was opened on 22 October 2024 with a closing date of 13 February 2025. In addition to the previous topics (global gateways and 5G connectivity), the fourth call also supports quantum communication (EuroQCI). The grant agreements for the projects following the fourth call had a 1.54 budget oversubscription rate and a total awarded amount of EUR 389 million. Almost all grant agreements, for projects concerning the deployment of global gateways (mainly submarine cables), deployment of 5G Large Scale Pilots in smart communities and along major transport paths and EuroQCI, were concluded in autumn 2025. The first four CEF Digital calls sum up (in commitments) to over 63% of the total EUR 1.6 billion budget for CEF Digital.

([4]) https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/connecting-europe-facility-cef-multiannual-work-programme-2024-2027.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	3 192.2	3 604.9	3 734.8	3 542.9	3 657.7	3 893.0	2 639.0	24 264.5	72.5%

- Under the **CEF Transport strand**, the projects mainly aim at completing and upgrading the railway and inland waterway infrastructure along the trans-European transport network and support the take-up of alternative fuels through the co-funding of charging infrastructure, hence contributing to the Green Deal agenda for the decarbonisation of the transport sector. As a result, appropriations committed to the co-funding of these projects correspond to around 78% of the overall Transport strand allocation. Notably, under the CEF 2024 call for proposals, more than 72,8% of the budget was allocated to railway projects. Over 76% of the allocated CEF Transport funding contributes to climate objectives, exceeding the 60% obligation in the CEF Regulation.
- These investments in the development of electrified railway infrastructure (including associated signalling subsystems), along with the deployment of infrastructure for zero-emission vehicles, like electric charging points, and the installation of shore-side electricity for ships at berth are all taxonomy-aligned activities.
- The programme's **Energy** strand contributes to climate performance by supporting electricity, smart grid and carbon dioxide transport infrastructure and cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy. While CEF Energy contributed to climate objectives to 84% under the previous multiannual financial framework, the climate contribution of the CEF II Energy strand is estimated at over 90%. In addition, the Energy strand complies with the legislation on biodiversity objectives, as stated in recital 5 of the CEF Regulation.
- Because of their nature, the programme's Digital strand projects will contribute to the digitalisation of other infrastructures and services, reducing their carbon footprint and making them energy-efficient.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	4 517.5	4 570.8	4 839.1	4 586.8	4 747.7	23 261.9
Total:	4 517.5	4 570.8	4 839.1	4 586.8	4 747.7	23 261.9

- The programme has a 0 score for its contribution to gender equality. Based on the nature of the infrastructure projects, it is not possible to disaggregate gender-specific data. Therefore, the programmes is all classified under score 0.

- The programme, which supports basic infrastructural investments, does not have gender equality as a deliberate objective. Also, at the present time and based on CEF I- and CEF II-related regulations, the collection of gender-balance disaggregated data is not feasible for any of the three strands.

- In the **CEF Transport** sector, the investments mainly concern major infrastructure projects on the trans-European transport corridors, such as the development of railway infrastructure, port infrastructure, digitalisation of transport, deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, etc. Transport of goods plays an important role for many of the projects, so users will not necessarily be individuals. Compared to transport infrastructure at the local or regional levels, which can have gender relevance depending on which concrete communities and locations the infrastructure is connecting, CEF-financed infrastructure is not gender-specific and it is not possible to disaggregate the data concerning gender.

- Similarly, the **CEF Energy** strand has supported investments for large infrastructure such as electricity interconnectors, electricity storage sites, smart electricity grids, hydrogen network infrastructure, and cross-border carbon dioxide networks, for which it is not possible to have a disaggregation of gender-specific data.

- As for the **Digital strand**, it supports the deployment of physical digital connectivity infrastructures. It is not possible to have disaggregated gender-specific data on the subsequent use of these connectivity infrastructures.

r

-

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	0.0	485.4	481.1	549.9	732.3	2 248.7	9.7%

- The digital contribution of **CEF Transport** was calculated based on the grants signed following the calls for proposals launched in 2024. It is foreseen that this contribution will remain stable in 2026. The 2024 CEF transport calls closed in January 2025, and the grant agreements have been signed by end October 2025.

- As a result of the 2024 Transport calls for proposals for 'Actions related to smart and interoperable mobility', 45 actions with programme co-funding of more than EUR 805 million have been awarded. In particular, support has been provided to the digitalisation of the trans-European transport network railway network, through the support to the European Railway Traffic Management System technology.

- The **Energy** strand contributes to digitalisation of the energy system and further integration of renewable electricity, notably by reducing bottlenecks in connection requests, improving grid controllability and enabling innovative market solutions, as one of the main objectives of the trans-European networks for energy priority thematic area of smart electricity grids. These projects aim to modernise the grids so that consumers are empowered to become more active players in the market, producing much of their own energy needs while offering a cost-effective solution to balancing energy supply and demand. In the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025

calls for projects of common interest and projects of mutual interest under the first window of CEF Energy, five cross-border smart grid projects have been awarded grants for works and studies worth more than EUR 400 million in total.

- Through its specific support to the deployment of digital connectivity infrastructure, the **Digital strand** will contribute in its entirety to the digital transition policy goals, specifically to achieve the targets set in the Digital Decade policy programme in terms of digitalisation of businesses, public services and citizens. By supporting projects of common interest relating to the deployment of safe, secure, sustainable and very high-capacity digital networks, including 5G systems and EuroQCI, the programme's digital actions contribute to the transformation and modernisation of vertical sectors such as health, education and training, tourism, manufacturing, transport or logistics, and to reinforce the protection of Europe's governmental institutions, their data centres, hospitals, energy grids, etc... by using innovative quantum communication technologies.

- Enhanced digital connectivity will contribute to the digital readiness and competitiveness of the EU's businesses and the industrial and public services ecosystem. It will give all citizens and businesses new opportunities to benefit fully from the digital single market and accelerate economic recovery and growth. The Digital strand will contribute to the inclusiveness of outermost regions and overseas countries and territories by connecting them with up-to-date submarine backbones and ensuring that they can also benefit from advanced fixed and mobile connectivity. It is financing coordination and support actions to promote the best practice projects addressing the deployment and take-up of 5G systems to support services of general interest in local, rural communities, contributing to the digital and green transitions of public services and businesses.**Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)**

- Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	YES	**CEF Energy** supports SDG7 by promoting investments contributing to the further integration of the internal energy market and to sustainable development, by the integration of energy from renewable sources and the development of smart energy grids. An example is the commissioning, in 2025, of the Baltic Synchronisation project, which increases the transmission capacity between the Baltic countries and connect them to the European grid, thus strengthening the internal electricity market, increasing security of supply in the region and improving integration of renewable energy sources in the region.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	YES	CEF Transport supports SDG9 through investments in sustainable, resilient and inclusive transportation systems, in particular infrastructure. For example, 2024 saw the finalisation of a CEF I project improving the rail access infrastructure of the Port of Gdańsk (Poland) by the reconstruction of over 70 kilometres of tracks, 13 railroad and pedestrian crossings, the replacement of 221 switches and the modernisation of 3 bridges, 2 viaducts and 18 culverts. Another action implemented European Rail Traffic Management System level 2, baseline 3 upgrades on one international prototype trainset (type Stadler Flirt 3C) operating on the Rhine Alpine corridor and partially on the North Sea Baltic Core Network corridors, between Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. The CEF Digital strand supports SDG9 by funding actions enabling uninterrupted connectivity along transport corridors and high-capacity networks for digital global gateways. Funded actions are already deploying 5G (passive/active) infrastructure along the major trans-European transport network corridors that would potentially enable seamless 5G connectivity on highways and/or railways fostering the adoption of connected and automated mobility. Another example is the deployment of submarine cables connecting remote areas with the EU and increasing networks' capacity, resilience and security.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	YES	CEF Transport supports sustainable cities and communities. In 2024, a CEF I project resulted in the preliminary designs for the new Milan Segrate East Gate high-speed rail station, and the metro line connection to Milan Linate Airport metro station.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	YES	The CEF programme contributes to the EU's climate-related goals, as indicated in the European Green Deal communication and the European Climate Law adopted in 2021. The **Transport strand** strongly supports climate-related investments, with 76% of the budget being dedicated to those projects. For example, since 2014, 21 000 supply points for alternative fuels have been supported along the trans-European transport network. CEF is financing electric charging points for cars and trucks as well as electricity supply for vessels at berth in ports. **CEF Energy** supports SDG13 by financing actions that contribute to the decarbonisation of the energy system, inter alia through the integration of renewable energy into the grid and the transmission of renewable generation to major consumption centres and storage. For example, the interconnection between Finland and Sweden (Aurora line), which was completed in 2025, will further guarantee security of supply and also allow for better integration of renewable energy in the overall region.

2014-2020 – Connecting Europe Facility

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	28 100.9	29 875.9	94.1%
Payments	23 615.3	0.0	79.0%

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
CEF Transport – lines in service equipped with the European Railway Traffic Management System	0	**54%**	5 491 in 2024	2 946 by 2025 compared to a target of 5 491	Moderate progress
CEF Transport – number of supply points for alternative fuels	0	**75%**	21 272 in 2024	15 586 by 2025 compared to a target of 21 272	On track
CEF Energy – system resilience – number of Member States	0	**91%**	22 in 2020	20 in 2025 compared to a target of 22	On track
Number of Wi-Fi hotspots supported by CEF	0	**>100%**	90 700 in 2023	92 570 in 2022 compared to a target of 90 700	Achieved

- Under the predecessor programme for the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework, more than 1 000 actions signed under the **Transport strand** have been supported with an EU contribution of EUR 23 billion, triggering around EUR 50 billion of private and public investments. These have strongly contributed to paving the way for the achievement of the key trans-European transport network and wider EU policy objectives addressing the removal of bottlenecks and enhancing interoperability, ensuring sustainable and efficient transport systems and optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes.

- So far, the majority of grant agreements for projects under CEF Transport 1 have been closed. These projects have utilised 93% of their allocated budgets, compared to the amount of the latest grant agreement in force. The fact that the projects effectively used almost all the budget means that these projects successfully met their objectives as defined in their grant agreements, demonstrating efficient management and execution.

- In 2025, 309 projects were still ongoing corresponding to more than EUR 9 billion of the budget. Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the geopolitical crisis in Ukraine leading to increased prices for construction materials and a lack of workforce, the maximum duration of the programme's Transport actions was extended to the end of 2024. As of that date, all grant agreements have ended and are in the process of closing.

- Not all projects have submitted an admissible final report by 31 December 2025, with European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency following up on 90 final reports still pending.

- The CEF-T 1 extension policy has supported projects in addressing delays generally (in planning, permitting, procurement, technical aspects, and financing), although it has not been possible to address all delays fully. Many projects were particularly impacted and delayed by the COVID pandemic and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. This extension has partially allowed the projects to overcome these delays and maximise the absorption of CEF-T funding.

- In terms of performance, during the 2014-2020 period, **CEF Energy** provided a total of EUR 4.672 billion in funding to 149 actions contributing to 107 projects of common interest. By the end of 2025, 132 of these actions were completed: 62 on electricity and storage, 61 on gas, 3 on smart grids and 6 on carbon dioxide networks.

- The Commission closely monitors the progress of the projects of common interest, through action status reports submitted by beneficiaries to the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, but also through the yearly monitoring by national competent authorities and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators under the TEN-E Regulation. It should be noted that a number of these large cross-border infrastructure projects have faced technical challenges (e.g. for submarine electricity interconnectors), delays in permitting procedures (sometimes caused by appeals) or supply chain issues (e.g. a limited number of suppliers for equipment such as high-voltage cables).

- Under CEF I, 77% of the actions were studies, accounting for 10% of the total commitments under the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework, as preparatory studies are normally much less budget-intensive than construction works. The largest share of CEF I funding goes to works (90%), representing 23% of the total number of actions. Compared to CEF I, under the calls organised so far under CEF II (2021-2024), 72% of the actions have been studies and 28% have been works, with the latter absorbing 86% of the available commitments.

- In general, the Energy core performance indicators for 2014-2020 reflect different angles of the achievements of the EU's energy policy, such as the end of Member States' isolation, the interconnection target levels (reflecting a Member State's interconnection capacity as a ratio of its internal electricity system), the increase of energy system resilience and the diversification of gas supply sources, which are of the utmost relevance in minimising the effect of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine on energy markets.

- CEF Energy's impact is measured in the long term, considering the time it takes to implement large-scale energy infrastructure projects (between 5 and 10 years). In 2025, no further progress was registered in terms of commissioned projects reducing Member States' energy isolation (six projects of common interest failing to reach the target), system resilience (two Member States failing to reach the target), and level of interconnectivity (16 Member States complying with the 15% interconnection target). The interconnectivity level, which is the same

as last year, is affected by the increase in installed generation capacity (notably from renewable energy sources) across all Member States (renewable energy generation projects generally take less time to develop than electricity infrastructure projects).

- The success of the numerous actions for the implementation of energy infrastructure projects of common interest and their contribution to the policy objectives of the Trans-European Networks for Energy strategy is not yet fully reflected in the indicators, due to the long implementation time for large and technically complex energy infrastructure projects. In addition, delays have occurred because of external factors such as the COVID-19 sanitary crisis, the need to secure sufficient co-funding (from national or other sources), public procurement issues (e.g. complaints/appeals during tender procedures) and legal and environmental issues (e.g. permitting, spatial planning, other authorisations and land acquisition).
- For **CEF Telecom**, the WiFi4EU programme implementation ended in 2023 and resulted in 7 237 municipalities rolling out 9 152 networks with 93 181 access points. Municipalities committed to keeping these networks active for at least three years.
- By the end of 2025, although 98% of municipalities had already passed the 3-year monitoring period, 84% of them kept their networks active.

DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME

Concrete examples of achievements

19 artificial intelligence (AI) factories and 13 antennas were set up in 2024 and 2025 to drive progress in AI applications across various sectors.	> 5 000 people were using two high-precision digital twins of the earth for climate resilience at scale and advanced weather forecasts by the end of 2025.	> 6 million digital objects from 4 000 institutions across Europe, with a particular focus on 3D data, were available on the Cultural Heritage Data Space by the end of 2025.	> 1 quintillion (*) operations per second were achieved in 2025 by Jupiter, the first European exascale supercomputer, empowering researchers to advance large-scale AI development, climate modelling, biomedicine, etc.
> 61 000 people had benefited, by the end of 2025, from advanced digital skills training to become the ICT experts of the future.	5 semiconductor pilot lines were launched in 2025 as pioneering, state-of-the-art facilities where European industry can test, experiment and validate next-generation chip technologies and designs.	> 500 public authorities and private companies have been piloting the EU Digital Identity Wallet across more than 20 use cases (e.g. opening bank accounts, digital driving licenses, digital travel credentials) since 2024.	> 250 tools were in place to support the cyber resilience of the EU by end of 2025, including tools relating to cybersecurity awareness, infrastructure, application vulnerability scanning and phishing mitigation services.

(*) One quintillion = 1 000 000 000 000 000 000.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	1 130.5	1 232.8	1 340.8	1 265.4	1 067.3	969.9	1 063.7	8 070.4

NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	30.5	31.3	40.1	73.5	62.0	0.0	0.0	237.3
Total	**1 161.0**	**1 264.1**	**1 380.9**	**1 338.8**	**1 129.3**	**969.9**	**1 063.7**	**8 307.7**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	6 219.5	8 307.7	74.9%
Payments	3 809.0	0.0	45.8%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
High-performance computing infrastructures jointly procured	7	**87%**	30 in 2029	26 by 2025 compared to a target of 30	On track
Co-investment in sites for experimentation and testing	0	**> 100%**	EUR 180 million in 2027	EUR 188 million by 2023 compared to a target of EUR 180 million	On track
Use of common European libraries or interfaces to libraries of algorithms, use of common European data spaces and use of sites for experimentation and testing related to activities under this regulation	0	**72%**	1 600 in 2030	1 151 by 2025 compared to a target of 1 600	On track
Users and communities getting access to European cybersecurity facilities	0	**> 100%**	400 in 2028	2 659 by 2025 compared to a target of 400	On track
People who have received training to acquire advanced digital skills	0	**94%**	65 000 in 2027	61 111 by 2025 compared to a target of 65 000	On track
People reporting an improved employment situation after the end of the training supported by the programme	0	**19%**	26 200 in 2027	5 090 by 2025 compared to a target of 26 200	On track
Extent of alignment of the national interoperability framework with the European interoperability framework (on a scale of 1 to 4)	3.75	**> 100%**	3.78 in 2025 ([5])	3.79 in 2025 compared to a target of 3.78	On track

Businesses and public sector entities that have used the European digital innovation hub services	0	**32%**	287 400 in 2029	93 085 by 2025 compared to a target of 287 400	On track

([5]) The value presents three limitations. KPI 22 (DESI - Digital Public Services Dimension) currently reflects the most up-to-date data available online (reference period: April 2024 to April 2025). In addition, KPI 33 (Total number of language resources in different Member States) currently reflects 2023 data. Considering that the previous ELRC-based data collection mechanism has been discontinued, data collection now falls under the Common European Language Data Space (LDS) and updated figures are expected but not yet available yet. Finally, data for 4 Member States are currently missing due to pending responses and reported as 'N/A'.

The digital Europe programme had delivered key flagship achievements in each of its specific objectives by the end of 2025.

- Nineteen **AI factories** started to be deployed in 16 Member States, offering AI start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises and researchers access to AI-optimised high-performance computers, AI training and technical expertise to promote cutting-edge research and AI applications. AI factories benefit from the world-leading public supercomputing network established by the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking. The first **EU exascale supercomputer**, Jupiter, has now reached its full performance of one exaflop, or more than 1 trillion operations per second, officially ranking number four on the latest TOP500 list of the world's supercomputers. Its architecture delivers unprecedented capability for large-scale simulations and advanced AI workloads. Additionally, the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking has inaugurated four **quantum computers** and procured two more to address currently unsolvable scientific problems.
- EU-funded supercomputers are crucial for climate simulations under the **Destination Earth** initiative. Central to this are two **AI-driven digital twins** – the extremes digital twin and the climate change adaptation digital twin – which provide high-resolution simulations for predicting short-term extremes and long-term climate impacts. To support the development of AI and boost innovation, four highly specialised large-scale **testing and experimentation facilities** for AI in the areas of agri-food, health, manufacturing and smart cities/communities have been set up, in which more than 240 innovators have tested and/or validated AI-based products, generating more than 50 new customers for these AI tools.
- **Fourteen common European data spaces** are being deployed. For instance, the Cancer Image Europe platform provides a public catalogue of 83 medical imaging datasets (of around 106 968 subjects) for nine cancer types, to aid in the development of AI-based cancer solutions and thus shape the future of cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- Digital transformation needs to be accompanied by coordinated measures to ensure the EU's critical infrastructure is protected against increasingly complex cyber threats. For this purpose, 27 national cybersecurity competence centres, 26 cybersecurity infrastructures (cyberhubs) and over 250 cybersecurity tools have been deployed.
- To develop a workforce skilled in using these advanced technologies, digital Europe has funded more than 1 580 new education and training programmes enabling over 61 000

participants to acquire expertise in key digital technologies, such as AI and data, cybersecurity, semiconductors, cloud computing and robotics.

- To boost the digital transformation of start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises, mid-caps and public organisations, a network of 166 **European digital innovation hubs** has been set up across all of the EU Member States and 10 associated countries. These hubs have delivered over 67 000 services related to training (32%), networking (22%), technology testing (28%) and funding (18%), and have reached thousands of organisations through more than 9 800 events.
- To strengthen Europe's semiconductor capacities, **five semiconductor pilot lines** were launched in 2025 as pioneering, state-of-the-art facilities where EU industry can test, experiment and validate next-generation chip technologies and designs. These facilities bridge the gap between laboratory research and industrial-scale manufacturing, accelerating Europe's semiconductor innovation capacity.
- Digital Europe supports many other activities too, such as developing a European Digital Identity Wallet, enhancing digital public administrations through interoperability measures (e.g. the Interoperability Test Bed reached a total of 4.4 million validations and the Interoperable Europe Portal hosts more than 2 900 interoperability solutions) or ensuring that minors are protected when surfing online.
- The digital Europe budget is also being implemented through **financial instruments**. EUR 83.63 million has been committed to support strategic digital technologies, such as AI, quantum and cybersecurity. Under the Chips Fund, EUR 98 million has been committed for investments in semiconductor technologies and applications. These investments are expected to mobilise 14.2 times the amounts committed, facilitating access to finance for key companies across Europe. Additional investments were unlocked through the InvestEU Programme, with the digital Europe reinforcing its impact by blending resources with the EU guarantee.
- The findings of the interim evaluation indicate that digital Europe has made substantial progress and has also brought benefits to beneficiaries and users of the infrastructure that has been developed, such as in the areas of market positioning, networking and organisational development. However, challenges have nevertheless been identified, including a lack of awareness of the programme; difficulties in combining regional, national and EU funds; and administrative burdens when applying security restrictions to funded entities to protect the EU's security. The Commission has organised several activities aimed at addressing these challenges, for instance outreach activities to ensure the smooth application of security restrictions and seminars for Member States and beneficiaries to facilitate the combination of funding.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	95.6	154.5	82.9	56.8	21.6	21.2	43.6	476.2	5.9%

- Digital Europe contributes to climate adaptation mainly through the **destination earth initiative**. One and a half years after its launch, destination earth has a vibrant community of over 5 000 registered users and offers access to two digital twins, 30 services and 200 datasets. The extremes digital twin provides information on extreme weather events a few days ahead, at very high spatial resolution (4.4 km globally, 500–750 m over Europe). The climate change adaptation digital twin produces global multi-decadal climate projections and simulates long-term climate impacts at very high spatial resolutions (currently up to 2050 and from 5 to 10 km).
- A small number of other actions are expected to have a non-marginal positive contribution to climate change mitigation or adaptation objectives, for instance:
  - The **Digital Product Passport** is an information system that provides data on a product's sustainability and environmental impact throughout its life cycle, from design to disposal. The project has been conducting 13 pilots to test the passport in four value chains: textile, electrical and electronic equipment, tyres and construction material.
  - In addition, the **EU energy saving reference framework** will help conserve electricity when there is a shortage of energy supply. The framework was validated across 17 pilots in Europe, covering 56 use cases, such as energy savings, carbon footprint reduction and grid resilience
  - The **Green Deal Data Space,** currently being set up, will offer access to a variety of data related to the environment and the EU's climate objectives, for instance, by providing detailed data on geospatial systems, localised water, soil and air pollution and energy supply and consumption. This will support environmental monitoring, sustainable production and circular economy objectives.
  - The **Agricultural Data Space** will enable the agricultural sector to transparently share and access data promoting its economic and environmental performance.

- Similarly, the **Energy Data Space** will provide access to data to foster the development of innovative energy services to optimise the electricity grids and improve energy efficiency.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.7	50.5	90.2
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	1 130.5	1 232.8	1 340.8	1 223.7	1 016.8	5 944.6
Total:	1 130.5	1 232.8	1 340.8	1 265.4	1 067.3	6 036.9

- In line with the Commission's methodology to track gender equality related expenditure, the programme has been attributed a gender score of 0 for most of its activities. The programme, however, contributes to gender equality in the context of some of the training initiatives to promote advanced digital skills organised under the 'advanced digital skills' specific objective, in line with Article 7 of the Digital Europe Regulation, under which gender balance should be taken into account.
- More specifically, the 2023-2024 Digital Europe work programme introduced activities (EUR 8 million in total) to boost the development of digital skills from an early age, particularly for girls, and to promote gender convergence in information and communications technologies.
- The 2025-2027 Digital Europe work programme continues to fund activities to increase the number of women in ICT. It supports, for instance, outreach activities, consultancy services and workshops, to attract more women to ICT (EUR 3.5 million). In addition, projects to set up four sectorial skills academies in quantum, AI, semiconductors and virtual worlds (EUR 36 million) will also promote the participation of women in these academies.
- Organisations involved in the specialised educational programmes in key capacity areas (funded under all digital Europe work programmes) also take steps to attract more women in the funded academic courses, for example, through outreach activities and targeted marketing activities aimed at women.

Gender disaggregated information

- Gender-disaggregated data are available for the newly designed education and training programmes covering key digital areas, such as AI, data science, cybersecurity, cloud computing, high-performance computing, quantum technologies, blockchain, semiconductors and robotics, as well as

interdisciplinary programmes in strategic sectors, such as agriculture, health, finance, business and manufacturing.

- By the end of 2025, a total of 61 111 participants took part in advanced digital education and training opportunities. Out of these participants, 19 333 were women, accounting for 32% of total enrolments. This percentage is higher than the percentage of women currently employed as ICT specialists in the EU (20%). The funded training sessions attracted more women in 2025 compared to 2024, where the percentage of women was 26%.
- The percentage of enrolments of women in higher-education programmes accounts for 30%, compared to 16% in self-standing academic modules and 34% in specialised short-term training courses for employees.
- The funding also covers financial support for participants, for instance, in the form of scholarships, fee waivers or internships. Financial support was offered by higher-education institutions to 1 188 students, of whom 600 were female, representing 51% of the supported students.
- Under the EU Code Week initiative over 152 000 activities were conducted to promote coding and algorithmic thinking attracting young participants from all over Europe, around half of which were girls.
- The year 2025 marked the launch of the annual Women in Digital Index, tracking the progression of women in ICT and digital careers across the EU and selected benchmark countries, highlighting gaps, and opportunities from education to leadership.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	1 130.5	1 232.8	1 340.8	1 265.4	1 067.3	6 036.9	100.0%

The full envelope of the digital Europe programme contributes to the digital transition. The contribution is therefore 100% of the budget committed in a given year.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- In line with Regulation (EU) 2024/795 (the STEP Regulation), digital Europe is one of the EU budget instruments in direct management mobilised under the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy. As stipulated in Article 4, Digital Europe is also among the programmes authorised to award the STEP (Sovereignty) Seal under its calls for proposals.
- In 2025, Digital Europe launched and closed three calls for proposals addressed to digital technologies, for a total of four STEP-relevant topics, targeting European Digital Innovation Hubs and the development of skills in the fields of generative AI, virtual worlds and quantum

technologies. As such, digital Europe dedicated a total budget of EUR 208 million for 2025 STEP-relevant actions. objectives.

- As of end-2025, and cumulatively since the inception of the implementation of STEP, a total of 119 project proposals have been awarded the STEP Seal under STEP-relevant calls for proposal of the digital Europe programme. This resulted in awarded grants for EUR 259.9 million.

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	Digital Europe is expected to contribute to this SDG through the support provided for the digitalisation of the health sector, in particular through the uptake of digital health solutions and services. Over EUR 100.9 million of digital Europe funds were invested by the end of 2025 in health-related activities, such as the uptake of digital tools in healthcare, a framework for digital twins and the European Health Data Space, which enable the secure access to health data to promote research, innovation, public health policy and healthcare delivery across the EU. Additionally, the Testing and Experimentation Facility for Health offers public and private organisations the opportunity to test and validate AI innovations for the health sector in real-life settings. Other topics might also marginally contribute with positive externalities, although healthcare is not their main objective. Such is the case for support for specialised education programmes in key digital technologies for professionals in various areas, including the health sector.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	Digital Europe promotes learning opportunities in advanced digital skills in key capacity areas like data and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum and high-performance computing. The support targets training opportunities for future experts and upskilling of the existing workforce through short-term training sessions reflecting the latest developments in the abovementioned key capacity areas. An example of such investment would be bachelor's and master's programmes and academic modules in advanced digital skills with a total support of over EUR 196 million and involving over 600 organisations by the end of 2025.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	Digital Europe is expected to contribute to bridging the investment gap in Europe and to generate jobs and economic growth. The programme is supporting the promotion of the advanced digital skills needed for the deployment of the technologies funded by the programme. An example of such investment would be the Cybersecurity Skills Academy involving over 40 beneficiaries with an investment of over EUR 11.4 million by the end of 2025.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	Digital Europe is contributing to the broader digital transformation of areas of public interest and of industry. The acquisition and deployment of advanced supercomputing capabilities aim to enhance Europe's industrial competitiveness. Moreover, the established network of European Digital Innovation Hubs contributes to the digitisation of industry and addresses issues of technological accessibility, ensuring that businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises, have access to cutting-edge technologies and finance for adapting to digital change. The interoperable Europe action supports the development of reusable interoperability infrastructure/solutions, with the view to support the digital transformation of the public sector and create capacity for public authorities to collaborate effectively to set up seamless cross-border services. As well, one example for an infrastructure supporting competitiveness would be the 5 semiconductor pilot lines launched in 2025 as pioneering, state-of-the-art facilities where European industry can test, experiment, and validate next-generation chip technologies and designs with a total investment of over EUR 38 million.

SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	A number of activities funded by digital Europe are expected to contribute to more inclusive and sustainable cities and communities. One example is the data space for tourism (over EUR 9.3 million and over 60 participants), which aims to enable more efficient crowd management at tourist destinations, among other outcomes. This goal is also supported by the data space for smart communities (with over EUR 18.9 million in funding), allowing cities to have the right data to model, for instance, energy use in buildings or infrastructures. In addition, digital Europe is supporting the large-scale roll-out of local digital twins across the EU (EUR 19.9 million in funding). As a further step, virtual reality/ augmented reality and metaverse technology (over EUR 13.6 million involving over 50 beneficiaries) will be introduced, creating an immersive environment for citizens and businesses: the 'Citiverse' can be used for virtual/real spatial planning, management or navigation while also enhancing the social, architectural, green and cultural heritage dimensions of living spaces.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	A small number of actions under digital Europe contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation. The destination earth initiative contributes through the deployment of very high-precision digital models of the earth enabling visualising, monitoring and forecasting natural and human activity on the planet in support of sustainable development. digital Europe's investment into destination earth exceeds EUR 480 million by mid-2028. The destination earth initiative is being implemented via contribution agreements by the European Space Agency, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and the European Operational Satellite Agency for Monitoring Weather, Climate and the Environment from Space.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	Contributions to this goal are expected from selected topics that aim to support the digitalisation and interoperability of public administrations, piloting of AI applications in law enforcement domain, and the digital transformation of justice and consumer protection. The digital transformation of public administrations shall foster trust in online services, improve service delivery and the convenience of services for European businesses and citizens, and reduce digital administrative barriers. An example of such investment would be the work strand supporting the digitalisation of justice and consumer protection with EU budget support of EUR 32.5 million until 2024 and a planned budget of EUR 33 million for 2025-2027.

SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME FOR SINGLE MARKET, COMPETITIVENESS OF ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES, AND EUROPEAN STATISTICS

Concrete examples of achievements

21 891 non-compliant products circulating on the single market were detected by EU market surveillance authorities in 2025.	285 judges were trained in 2025 under the grant programme for training of judges in EU competition law.	808 000 SMEs have been supported directly or used advisory services from the main projects in 2025.	25 044 European standards were successfully implemented across the EU in 2025.
98% of the international financial reporting standards were endorsed in the EU in 2025.	168 000 consumers received personalised assistance from the European Consumer Centre Network in 2025, which helped them recover over EUR 11.25 million from non-compliant traders.	102 training sessions were organised in 2025 under the better training for safer food programme, with 3 578 total participants. In addition, 9 440 people participated in e-learning courses.	905 000 people in total were following Eurostat's social media channels, notably Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X in 2025.

Single market programme

Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and european statistics

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	583.1	687.6	633.8	603.6	614.4	624.0	619.6	4 366.2
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	35.1	14.4	24.9	22.3	20.4	0.0	0.0	117.1
Total	**618.2**	**702.0**	**658.8**	**626.0**	**634.7**	**624.0**	**619.6**	**4 483.3**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	3 227.9	4 483.3	72.0%
Payments	2 422.3	0.0	54.0%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of cases of non-compliance in the area of goods, including online sales	9 606	**N/A**	N/A	21 891 by 2025	N/A
Number of entrepreneurs benefiting from mentoring and mobility schemes, including young, new and female entrepreneurs, and other specific target groups	0	**31%**	22 000 in 2027	6 746 by 2025 compared to a target of 22 000	Moderate progress
Percentage of international financial reporting and auditing standards endorsed by the EU	0	**98%**	100% in 2027	97.56% in 2025 compared to a target of 100%	On track
Number of position papers and responses to public consultations in the field of financial services from beneficiaries	0	**68%**	371 in 2027	251 in 2025 compared to a target of 371	On track
Number of successfully implemented national veterinary programmes	0	**> 100%**	> 90% in 2027	100% in 2024 compared to a target of > 90% (*)	On track

Number of successfully implemented national phytosanitary programmes	0	**> 100%**	95% in 2027	100% in 2024 compared to a target of 95% (*)	On track
Number of web mentions and positive/negative opinions	480 000	**> 100%**	542 900 in 2028	653 900 in 2025 compared to a target of 542 900	On track

(*) Data for 2025 is not yet available from the Member States.

The **Single Market Programme** (SMP) is the EU funding programme designed to help the single market reach its full potential. The SMP was established by Regulation (EU) 2021/690 ([5]) for the period of the 2021-2027 EU long-term budget. It serves as the EU's principal funding instrument for maintaining and advancing the single market. The SMP's strategic focus on fostering economic growth, reducing barriers and boosting cooperation aligns with its overarching objectives of ensuring a robust and integrated single market.

Regarding programme performance in 2025, each pillar's key actions suggest some degree of **effectiveness** in achieving the general and specific objectives of the SMP. The implementation of the programme continues to aim for **efficient** resource allocation and cost-effectiveness.

The mid-term evaluation (2021-2024) has shown that the SMP demonstrates internal **coherence**, and the implementation in 2025 indicates that this trend has continued. There are no overlaps between its pillars and areas of action, with each pillar focusing on different policy fields with distinct regulatory frameworks. Alignment with other multiannual financial framework programmes, whose activities are not duplicated by the SMP, and the EU regulatory framework, EU strategies and broader objectives highlight its consistency (external coherence).

The programme has been shown to generate **EU added value**, which funding at the national level could not have achieved. The financed activities allow the Commission to fulfil its legal obligations to address issues falling within its competence remit or due to the nature of the challenges and needs pertaining to the good functioning of the single market.

The objectives of the SMP and the activities implemented within all its pillars remain **relevant** to the needs of the single market and prove some degree of adaptability to respond to emerging and unforeseen challenges (e.g. COVID-19, Ukraine), even with a comparatively modest budget.

([5]) Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014, OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, pp. 1–47, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj.

The potential of the SMP for **flexibility** has brought some positive results, yet it has not been fully exploited. In 2025, transfers of appropriations within the programme allowed to achieve 99.96% implementation in commitments and 99.70% in payments (for appropriations expiring in 2025).

Considering the **limited budget** of the programme and a fixed programming schedule, accommodating new policy priorities may pose a **challenge** without a substantially increased budget.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	46.7	61.0	74.1	53.5	32.9	56.2	56.8	381.3	8.7%

There is no expenditure tracking relevant for Climate mainstreaming at programme level. However, the objectives of the SMP are inherently linked to the success of the twin transitions for their achievement and activities are aligned with the EU policy priorities including the European Grean Deal mainly with

indirect impact. Funding fostering sustainable competitiveness while ensuring the protection of consumers and citizens in the EU contributes to the transition towards a greener and more digital internal market.

Internal Market:

Grants to EFRAG (previous name: the European financial reporting advisory group) support the development of European sustainability reporting standards as provided for by the corporate sustainability reporting directive, adopted on 14 December 2022. The directive is a key instrument to support the EU sustainable finance agenda and important to meet the objectives of the European Green Deal. EFRAG submitted the first set of 12 final draft European sustainability reporting standards (ESRS) on 22 November 2022 covering 10 topical sustainability matters including climate change, pollution, own work force and affected communities. The Commission adopted the standards on 31 July 2023 and they apply as of 1 January 2024. EFRAG continued developing further draft standards and implementation guidance during 2023 and 2024 (the focus in 2024

being on additional guidance aiming at providing support to companies for the implementation of ESRS).

In 2025, EFRAG's work was dominated by the Commission's new mandate to produce a draft set of simplified ESRS, following the publication of the first "Omnibus" proposal for amendments to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive of February 2025). After termination of a few workstreams under the 2024 workplan (particularly draft sector standards for prioritised high-risk sectors, preparing technical replies for the ESRS Q&A platform, implementation guidance on transition plans) during the first quarter of 2025, EFRAG had to re-orient its complete work program following the new Commission mandate. EFRAG needed to focus its resources on the development of a set of simplified ESRS. EFRAG delivered the draft revised ESRS at the end of November 2025. The delivery of the draft standard was supplemented by a cost-benefit-analysis and a comprehensive basis of conclusion to the revised set of ESRS.

SMEs:

Supporting the green transition is a key objective of the 'Eurocluster' initiatives. At least 20% of the budget of this action supports climate goals. This is achieved mainly by providing direct financial support to SMEs (via cascading calls) to assist their adoption of new technologies leading to higher sustainability. Some of the projects also enable market access to SMEs offering green products and services. A total of EUR 30 million has been awarded in cascading calls to 2 000 SMEs. 1 700 innovative products/processes were identified, tested, or introduced, and 3 500 SMEs benefited from internationalisation services.

The European Raw Materials Academy and the European Solar Academy were set up under the SME pillar following the Net-Zero Industry Act and the Critical Raw Materials Act. The academies enable further training modules to be provided for educating and training workforce. This provides opportunities for SMEs across the solar value chain and in critical raw materials.

Enterprise Europe Network reporting notes that sustainability requests represent around 20% of client queries, whereby client SMEs specifically come to the network to improve their sustainability and digitalisation skills. Over 1/3 of innovation support services aim to improve the competence of companies to innovate and manage change processes. 5 244 SMEs benefiting from third party finance participate in projects for enhancing their competitiveness, sustainability, digitalisation, and/or for innovating business processes. The tourism sector is supported by a variety of ongoing actions, such as sustainable growth and building resilience in tourism and the European Green Pioneer of Smart Tourism, rewarding smaller destinations that have implemented successful strategies to boost sustainable tourism through green transition practices.

In 2025 the SME Pillar did not directly contribute to biodiversity mainstreaming. However, in the 'SME fund', an intellectual property rights project, a community plant variety voucher (up to EUR 1 500) is available. This voucher is used for registering plant varieties in order to protect them in the EU.

Standardisation:

Standardisation activities continue to support the green transition through targeted 2025 grants that promote sustainability, climate action and resource efficiency. This includes preparatory work to map needs and assess feasibility for future standards on biotechnology, bio-based materials and bio-based and wood-derived products, helping to underpin sustainable value chains and circular design. Support is also provided for standardisation in the field of accessible recharging stations for electric road vehicles, facilitating interoperable and user-friendly charging infrastructure across the Single Market. In addition, work on requirements and recommendations for minimum CO_2 purity contributes to the reliability and safety of CO_2 value chains (including capture, transport, utilisation and storage), while particle number size distribution standardisation strengthens measurement and comparability in areas relevant to emissions and air quality, reinforcing evidence-based environmental policy and enforcement.

Consumers:

The consumers pillar further supported consumers in the green transition by operationalising the new, harmonised consumer information tools introduced under the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (Directive (EU) 2024/825). In particular, the Commission adopted the harmonised **notice on the legal guarantee of conformity** and the harmonised **label for the commercial guarantee of durability**, setting out their design and content to ensure consistent, clear information at the point of sale across the Union (including in online settings). These tools help consumers better understand their rights and facilitate informed choices in favour of more durable products, thereby supporting more sustainable consumption patterns and circular business models. This work was supported by the publication of a dedicated **behavioural research study** underpinning the development of the harmonised notice and label, and by targeted engagement with Member States (including dedicated exchanges/workshops) to facilitate consistent implementation and enforcement.

In 2025, the consumer pillar concluded grant agreements for nine **consumer education projects**. The funded projects collaborate with schools, families, municipalities and other consumer groups to empower minors and other vulnerable consumers with consumer rights information. In Finland, online news raises awareness of online fraud targeting the elderly. Initiatives in Norway, Belgium and Hungary expand educational activities on sustainable food consumption and repair rights, engaging thousands of consumers through innovative methods like gamified learning and storytelling campaigns. Projects in Portugal and Catalonia focus on reaching underprivileged communities with festive travelling stalls. The consumer pillar also funded activities of grant beneficiaries such as studies, publications and seminars/workshops in the area of financial services aiming at enhancing consumer representation and awareness raising in sustainable finance and sustainable and transition investing

By establishing European networks for sharing best practices and educational strategies, these projects not only foster collaboration among stakeholders but also effectively increase consumer

knowledge and resilience, reduce food waste, and enhance digital and financial literacy, paving the way for more informed and sustainable consumer practices across the EU. In parallel, the consumer pillar continued to promote repair and longer product lifetimes through follow-up work related to the Directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods (Right to Repair), to be applied from 31 July 2026. An awareness raising campaign to promote the new consumer rights and an EU online tool to facilitate consumer use of repair offers, including cross-border, was financed in this respect.

European Statistics:

Eurostat offers grants for national authorities to develop statistics about the environment and climate change. Also included are developments of environmental accounts, which is a statistical framework that integrates economic and environmental data to assess how the environment contributes to the economy and how economic activities affect the environment. Policy topics include climate change mitigation, circular economy, natural capital, forestry and water.

Food and Feed:

In 2025, the Programme continued supporting measures to reduce food waste, fight against antimicrobial resistance, combat animal diseases, zoonoses and plant pests through annual and multi-annual grants to stakeholders, including Member State competent authorities. Emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases, zoonoses, and plant pests contribute to halting biodiversity decline. Antimicrobial use affects microbial diversity and potentially threatens the health of ecosystems; therefore the EU is taking action to ensure prudent use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. All these actions contribute to the transition towards more sustainable food systems which are key for combating climate change and environmental degradation and are in line with Commission priorities.

In 2025, 92 workshop training sessions and 10 webinars were organised under the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme with 3578 total participants and 9440 people participating in BTSF eLearning courses. In addition, training sessions on the use of antimicrobials in farmed animals took place in 10 Member States. In total, 802 farmers and veterinarians participated physically, and 320 farmers and veterinarians followed the training online.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

0	583.1	687.6	633.8	603.6	614.4	3 122.6
Total:	583.1	687.6	633.8	603.6	614.4	3 122.6

Gender equality is not a deliberate objective of the programme nor for any of its pillars. This said, certain actions may be identifiable for possible indirect gender impact, however only partly and limited tracking is feasible to aim for a quantification of any impact on gender. Evidently, measures supported under the SMP respect gender equality principles and take the gender dimension into account.

Activities below in the strands of SME, Statistics produce gender related data or *reporting, however in most cases the funded interventions will not be marked 1 or 2. Gender perspective is usually a sub-task and tools, therefore justifying the marking of "0" score.*

SMEs:

Women entrepreneurs are supported through the 'Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs' and other smaller specific actions dedicated to female entrepreneurship. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs has equal participation rates among men and women for new entrepreneurs and 70% male versus 30% female participation rates for host entrepreneurs.

European Statistics:

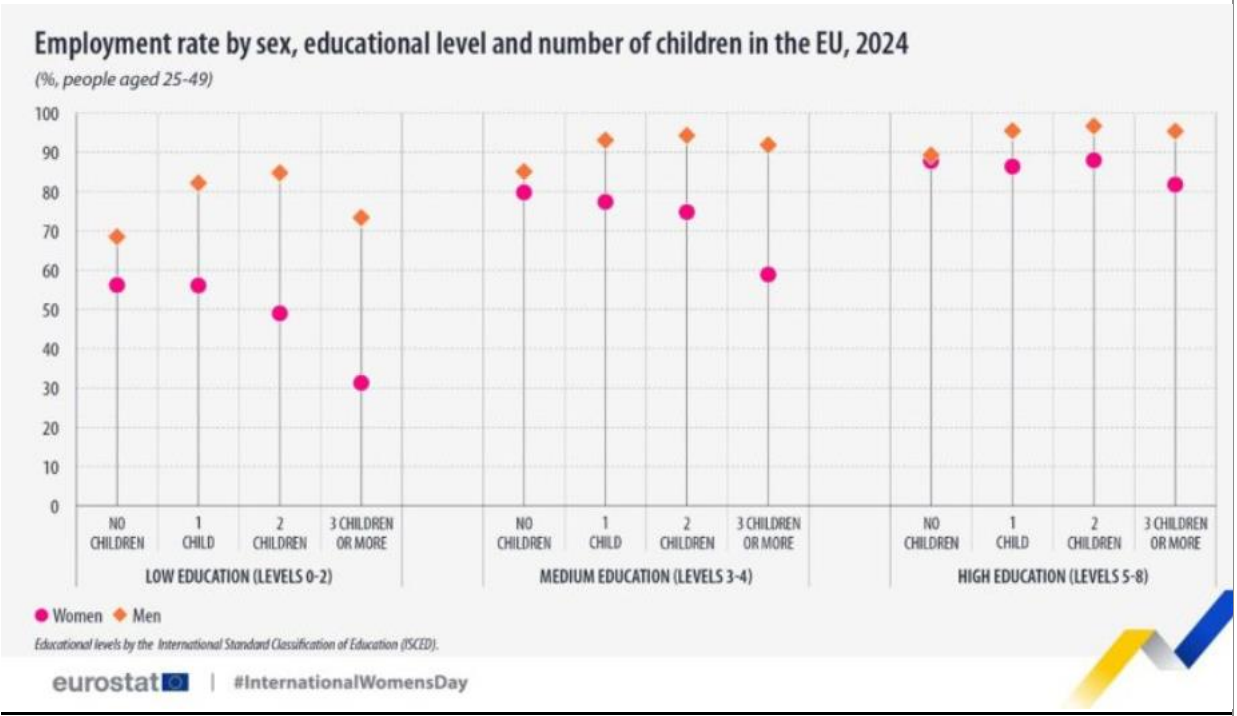
Eurostat systematically provides sex-disaggregated socio-economic indicators across a wide range of statistical domains, including income and living conditions, labour market, health, education and training, digital skills, and societal participation.

Recent developments have expanded this evidence base. In 2025 EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions indicators on self-reported experiences of discrimination in access to services were released. Additionally, the working paper 'Gender pay gaps in the European Union – 2025 edition - Statistical working papers - Eurostat' analysed various factors influencing the unadjusted gender pay gap. There is also EU-wide data available on gender-based violence, alongside new time-use indicators on unpaid activities like household and family care, childcare, and indicators on unmet needs for formal childcare services.

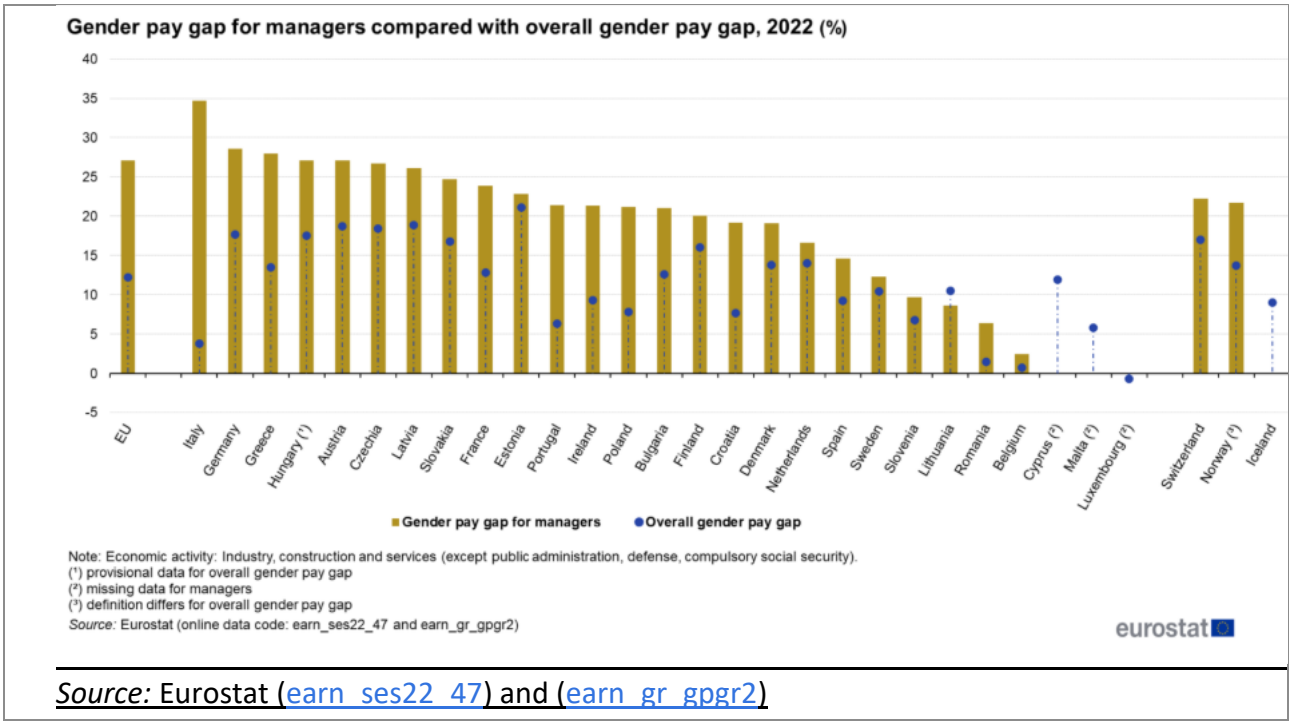
To address emerging policy needs, the equality and non-discrimination statistics task force is working on improving data coverage and comparability. This involves developing clearer concepts, systematic disaggregation and common methodological approaches concerning sex and gender identity.

Gender disaggregated information:

- European statistics: Eurostat, in addition to domain-specific databases, is disseminating gender equality statistics via the following dedicated section on equality: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/equality-non-discrimination/overview.
- The page focuses on an intersectional approach with data presented by multiple breakdowns. Women are not a homogeneous group and may face multiple and intersectional inequalities shaped by factors such as age, migration background, disability and socioeconomic situation. Below, are two examples of gender disaggregated data.



Source: Eurostat (lfst_hheredch)



Source: Eurostat (earn_ses22_47) and (earn_gr_gpgr2)

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of 2021-2025
Digital contribution	5.4	5.5	5.2	6.0	8.0	30.1	1.0%

The SMP does not include support to activities with direct and explicit contribution to the goals of the digital transition. However, the SMP ensures coordinated EU-level actions to tackle common challenges such as the green and digital transition, and improve the functioning of the single market. To some extent, some funding may be considered to contribute to the digital transformation indirectly, supporting the resilience of the Single Market towards achieving the green and digital transition of Europe's industrial ecosystems. Digital tools embedded in the SMP pillars are in line with the Commission's digital strategy.

Competition:

The European Commission aims to establish innovative and optimised digital solutions to make competition enforcement more effective. In 2025, the modernisation of DG Competition's case management landscape progressed further with the migration of the Antitrust instrument to the new system (CASE@EC) and by end Q1/2026 the last key instrument (Mergers) have also been migrated successfully. The implementation of a new solution (eAidRegister) to support

Member States in complying with the updated state aid de-minimis regulations was completed and made available on 1 January 2026. Also, a pilot of a new eDiscovery solution with AI capabilities was completed successfully in 2025, with a scale-up to production level foreseen in 2026.

Internal Market Governance Tools:

By integrating more single market topics into the scope of the single digital gateway (such as repairability of consumer goods), and expanding the coverage of topics already in scope (like consumer guarantees and social security) the Your Europe portal continues to streamline and simplify information provision and to curb the proliferation of overlapping portals and websites. The number of national government webpages linked to Your Europe has increased to over 60.000. The Internal Market Information System supports digital information exchanges between 12 000 national authorities for 103 administrative cooperation procedures in 21 policy areas of the single market. It therefore replaces the need for at least 21 different information technology systems and also ensures that digital tools are available to national authorities to enforce single market rules for the benefit of citizens and businesses.

Market Surveillance:

The European Commission has developed several IT tools to support national Market Surveillance Authorities (MSA), and to increase the surveillance capacity of MSA inspectors. These tools are based on AI functionalities. The first system developed is a web crawler meant to detect non-compliant and dangerous products sold online. The second tool supports inspectors in the verification of mandatory documents accompanying the products, like the declaration of conformity. Both tools went live in 2025, and are currently used by 1500 users. The Web Crawler, is now used e.g. for the inspection of food products sold online and for the detection of counterfeit products sold online.

SME

The Enterprise Europe Network's service package includes advice to help SMEs prepare for and implement the digital transition by adapting their processes, using digital technologies and developing new products and services using new digital means. As of 2023 for instance, the Enterprise Europe Network, the European digital innovation hubs and cluster organisations have worked together to create guidelines on how to provide joint services to SMEs on digitalisation. The Enterprise Europe Network provides basic services, and the hubs provide more advanced services with the support of digital clusters. The scope of such collaboration is to create a single-entry point for digitalisation-related services and thus accelerate the uptake of digital solutions by SMEs. Within the Euroclusters projects, some have multiple aims, amongst which are digitalisation services and solutions. Examples are projects to make the textile industry more circular, digital and competitive (projects ELEVATEX and FutureProofTextile). As of December 2025, 5 244 SMEs undertook business process innovation tied to technological adoption, leading to higher sustainability or digitalisation.

Standardisation

European Standardisation advances the digital transition through targeted 2025 grants strengthening cybersecurity, interoperability and the deployment of trusted digital solutions across the Single Market. Work on cyber resilience supports the timely development of standards underpinning the Cyber Resilience Act and reinforcing baseline cybersecurity requirements for products with digital elements. AI standardisation for widespread adoption promotes trustworthy and interoperable AI practices, supporting innovation and uptake across the European economy. Further actions promote interoperability and scalable digital architectures through local digital twin architecture and MIMs specifications, and support EUDI Wallet standardisation and technical specifications, contributing to trusted digital identity and secure, user-centric cross-border services.

Consumers:

The consumer pillar remains committed to supporting consumers and ensuring they fully benefit from the digital transformation that is radically changing their lives, offering opportunities while addressing emerging challenges, particularly for vulnerable consumers. This includes initiatives aimed at strengthening consumer protection in the digital realm, such as e-Enforcement Academy project, which supports Member State authorities by providing expertise and practical toolkits. At the same time, the consumer pillar addresses product safety by developing and constantly improving tools that enable national authorities (Safety Gate) and consumers (Consumer Safety Gateway) to report unsafe products. These tools are particularly important, because they allow authorities to carry out their enforcement activities more quickly and efficiently.

Other initiatives, such as the Coordinated Actions on the Safety of Products (CASP), support market surveillance authorities in a variety of ways: including through joint product safety testing, which promotes the exchange of best practices and mutual learning, while also helping authorities address emerging risk linked to new technologies . At the same time, the consumer pillar helps develop processes and working methods, such as CASP Customs, which focuses on strengthening collaboration between market surveillance and customs authorities, an area of high importance in the current e-commerce environment. On the international front, the consumer pillar allowed for projects with interntiaonal partners like UNCTAD that supported the development of a handbook to implement product safety legislation across the world, based on an EU-initiated UN resolution. To support evidence-based enforcement and policy actions, various studies have also been carried out in different fields, including product safety in circular products, e-vulnerability, and new digital technologies (study by the OECD). While the majority of the research (including interviews, stakeholder workshops, and presentation of preliminary results at conferences) took place in 2025, the studies will be published in 2026.

The funded activities also support tackling unfair online practices, such as dark patterns, unfair personalisation, influencer marketing (including guidelines and tools for influencers and influencer agencies on how to comply with relevant pieces of consumer legislation), and addictive design of digital products – particularly when consumer vulnerabilities, especially those of children, are exploited for commercial purposes. Additionally, the consumer pillar supports enforcement actions

such as sweeps, i.e. coordinated and simultaneous investigations across Member States in which national enforcement authorities check compliance with consumer protection laws on websites and online marketplaces. These actions focus in particular on social media influencers, misleading practices, unsafe products, and non-transparent or fraudulent online practices. Moreover, the consumer pillar financed studies, publications and events on digitalisation of financial services, including on topics such as the use of AI in financial services and online investing with a view to raise awareness, examine consumer protection issues and suggest ways to resolve them at a policy level. The consumer Pillar also financed research supporting the impact assessment for the proposed Digital Fairness Act, which aims to strengthen consumer protection in the digital environment by addressing unfair online practices and ensuring greater transparency and fairness for consumers.

European Statistics

Eurostat is contributing to this pillar through several major digital transformation initiatives, including a project for the modernisation of its information technology systems for the production of statistics, an innovative project on traffic and mobility data, and through a project for the creation of a privacy-preserving computation platform for the processing of confidential data across statistical organisations. Eurostat's digital contribution in 2025 amounts to a total of EUR 2 100 000.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	yes	SMP supported grants on debt advice that helps prevent and mitigate over-indebtedness, arrears, evictions, and the slide into poverty.
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	yes	Initiatives such as emergency measures for animal and plant disease control, EU Reference Laboratories and the EU vaccine bank for animal diseases, directly reduce risks to food security by ensuring sustainable agricultural production and resilience against outbreaks of diseases like African swine fever, avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, peste des petits ruminants and sheep pox and goat pox. SMP supports the European Food Bank Federation's (FEBA) activities to facilitate food donation and increase the share of surplus food made available for human consumption, thereby addressing both food security and preventing food waste. The annual grant helps increase FEBA's capacity to redistribute food. SMP funded training of veterinarians and farmers contributes to prudent use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals, thereby curbing the development of AMR, promoting sustainable food systems and ensuring food security.
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	yes	The setting up of national systems for the collection of data on the sales and use of antimicrobials in animals, funded by SMP, contributes to the global fight against antimicrobial resistance, by enabling an integrated analysis following the One Health approach.

SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	YES	The solar skills academy provides training for SMEs and contributes to affordable and clean energy and the availability of domestically produced solar photovoltaic components. Euroclusters contribute through projects like 'ELBE Eurocluster of Blue Energy' and 'building resilience and accelerating transition to green and digital transition in energy-intensive industries' (Ingenious).
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	YES	The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs scheme supports business exchanges and allows mutual learning between new and experienced entrepreneurs in the SME pillar. The Enterprise Europe Network supported 731,878 SME clients with information, advisory and partnership services and over 52,000 SMEs receiving advanced, resource-intensive expert support with clients reporting an average increase in turnover of nearly 20%.
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	yes	The grants for Member States and stakeholders to improve measurement of food waste and help implement food waste prevention actions contribute to the achievement of the SDG 12.3 Target. Action grants supporting consumer education and awareness-raising in sustainable consumption in general, as well as more targeted action aimed at promoting repair, and sustainable food consumption and reducing food waste targeted at children. Behavioural research study that supported development of a new harmonised label for commercial guarantee of durability and a new harmonised notice for legal guarantee.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	YES	Up to 40% of Eurocluster call actions support SMEs adopting new technologies leading to increased sustainability. The tourism call for sustainable growth and to build resilience, support SMEs to find innovative solutions and projects to facilitate the exchange of best practices.
SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	YES	Eurostat regularly monitors progress towards the SDGs in the EU context and coordinates the development of the EU SDG indicator set (around 100 indicators). Its annual review ensures highest quality and relevance of this indicator set so that the most policy-relevant indicators are included. Two thirds of the indicators are produced by the European Statistical System. An annual report monitors the progress of the EU towards the UN SDGs, complemented by other communication products to target different user groups. Eurostat analyses spillover effects on non-EU countries. A graphical overview of status and progress of each Member State towards the SDGs is included in the country reports of the European semester. Trainings are provided for the National Statistical Institutes on producing harmonised and comparable social and environmental statistics, national accounts, etc.

ANTI-FRAUD

THE UNION ANTI-FRAUD PROGRAMME

Concrete examples of achievements

1	**1**	**10.3 tonnes**	**4**
customs patrol vessel (of the 'cutter' type) was delivered in 2025, co-financed by the technical assistance part of the programme, allowing improved operations at sea, preventing smuggling and protecting the EU's finances and external borders. Project value: EUR 1 840 000.	web-based tool financed by the programme was put in place and modernised in 2025, enabling the collection of shadow-economy spatial data from various sources and facilitating the sharing of results from the data analysis ([6]). Project value: EUR 506 460	of contraband cigarettes were seized in one Member State during a single operation in 2025, made possible by the use of an unmanned aerial system (mini drone) acquired with programme funding. Project value: EUR 635 383.	access keys allowing entry by multiple users to external (private) commercial databases were provided in 2025 to all 27 Member States' law enforcement authorities, financed by the programme. This included access to company data, vessel movement tracing and trade statistics' databases. Programme intervention value: EUR 1 034 661.

([6]) https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7577767807754220ae28b1eaac12e3b9.

EUR 20 417 621	**1**	**3**	**9**
worth of financial damage to the EU budget was recovered in 2025 through 130 investigations and surveillance activities in one Member State, supported by the use of tools financed by the programme. Project value: EUR 501 280.	co-funded two-day conference titled 'The Future of the Anti-Fraud Architecture' was organised in 2025 with support from the programme at a pivotal moment, as the EU's anti-fraud framework underwent significant redefinition and recalibration. Project value: EUR 88 672.	information technology tools were financed for use by the Member States in 2025, including customs data-analysis tools and tobacco product identification tools. Programme intervention value: EUR 803 477.	joint customs operations were financially supported through the programme in 2025, facilitating the fight against counterfeit medicines and other goods, illegal pesticides, waste and wildlife trafficking.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	24.1	24.4	24.9	25.5	27.4	26.9	28.7	181.7
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**24.1**	**24.4**	**24.9**	**25.5**	**27.4**	**26.9**	**28.7**	**181.7**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	124.6	181.7	68.6%
Payments	84.1	0.0	46.3%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Satisfaction rate of activities organised and financed through the programme	0	71%	95% annually from 2026 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 95% compared to a milestone of 94%)	On track
Percentage of Member States receiving support in each year of the programme	81%	71%	87% in 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 100% compared to a milestone of 85%)	On track
User satisfaction rate for the use of the Irregularity Management System	72%	100%	72% annually until 2024	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 74.5% compared to a milestone of 72%)	Achieved
Number of mutual assistance information items made available and number of supported mutual-assistance-related activities	18 639	> 100%	24 000 in 2024	58 192 in 2025 compared to a target of 24 000	Achieved

- In line with Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Commission publishes an annual report on the protection of the EU's financial interests. In relation to the programme implementation – by OLAF, the European Anti-fraud Office, on behalf of the European Commission - of the technical assistance activities financed by the programme, the Customs Control Equipment Instrument (managed by Directorate-General Customs and Taxation) allowed the programme to continue its focus on advanced tools and technologies (including data analysis) and generated valuable synergies and complementarity across the two programmes, while avoiding any overlap.
- The programme's first anti-fraud measures support component (Hercule) provides grants to national competent authorities to enhance their capabilities in investigating threats to the EU budget, including acquiring technical equipment and facilitating training.
  By funding diverse activities such as staff exchanges and specialised training, the Hercule component promotes stakeholder collaboration and ensures that law enforcement organisations keep their digital forensic skills up to date.
- The Irregularity Management System (IMS) is an electronic platform created by the Commission (and managed by OLAF) for national authorities to report any irregularities, including suspected or confirmed fraud, detected in areas where the EU funds its policies aimed at Member States and candidate countries.
  Building on the major upgrade to its underlying technology already in 2024, several further developments were deployed in 2025 (with a value of EUR 479 327), in particular one that allows for the dynamic adaptation of the values of certain fields, in relation to the fund and the programming period concerned.
- The financial assistance offered through the (OLAF managed) Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS, financed by the programme) supports a technical information technology infrastructure that covers several applications. It aims to facilitate the proper enforcement of EU law in customs and agriculture by fostering information exchange and mutual administrative cooperation. IN 2025, several major releases on the different IT-tools covered by AFIS went live.

  (1) Several new versions of the Import, Export and Transit directory, to improve the processing of duplicated, updated and deleted messages, adding new transit message formats and daily updates from the SURV3 system.

  (2) A new version of the Mutual Assistance System, implementing the retention and anonymisation of cases and displaying additional information/details.

  (3) A new, technologically updated version of the Container Status Message directory with additional features, new carriers and new container trip

information models for existing carriers. A publication zone was prepared for the fraud analytical platform. Furthermore, in 2025, the Anti-Fraud Information System also supported nine joint customs operations.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

- Programme-funded projects have no direct relevance for climate or biodiversity policy.

Contribution to gender equality (million EUR) (*)

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	24.1	24.4	24.9	25.2	27.4	125.9
Total	24.1	24.4	24.9	25.5	27.4	126.1

(*) Based on the applied gender contribution methodology, the following scores are attributed at the most granular level of intervention possible:

- 2: interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality;
- 1: interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention;
- 0: non-targeted interventions (interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality);
- 0*: score to be assigned to interventions with a likely but not yet clear positive impact on gender equality.

- The programme falls under the gender score 0. This is because around 80% of the programme's yearly budget is used to finance the purchase of specialised technical equipment, including information technology tools. Overall, the programme has no significant bearing on the promotion of gender equality. However, with regard to the procured training events, and more specifically the

ones directly organised by the Commission's European Anti-Fraud Office OLAF, with financial support from the programme, Member State authorities are encouraged to aspire to a better gender balance in their selection of training participants to these events.

Gender-disaggregated information

The European Anti-Fraud Office does not have any gender disaggregated data collected during the implementation of the programme.

Meanwhile, the Office does encourage the participation of a significant percentage of female law enforcement officers to the digital forensic analysis and analyst training (DFAT) events. In 2023, 30.8% of training participants were women, with 32.5% female participation in 2024.

In 2025, women represented 35.5% of the total number of successfully selected applicants, or an increase of 9.3% compared to 2024. In total, 65 women were selected (out of 192) to participate in the 2025 training sessions.

Contribution to the digital transition (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	11.6	12.6	11.6	12.1	15.2	63.1	50.1%

- The programme contributes to the Commission's priority of digital transition through its three components, as described below. The 'technical assistance activities' part of the first component is considered to contribute by funding those 'digitalisation' projects that are related (only) to the purchase and implementation of hardware and software, including updates and maintenance

of the related information technology material to run such hardware or software. In 2025, the programme granted 10 such projects (out of 21) for a total grant value of EUR 5.5 million (representing 80% of the eligible costs).

- The second and third components (the Irregularity Management System and the Anti-Fraud Information System) are considered to contribute in full to the digital transition (policy support of law enforcement authorities in beneficiary countries), since they are information technology platforms and tools that allow the partners and the Commission to receive and share data and information. In that sense, these two systems contribute to a more efficient and more user-friendly management of data and information in all 27 participating Member States, by improving the digital transition of their administrations.
- The budgeted amounts adopted in 2025 for the Anti-Fraud Information System and the Irregularity Management System (respectively EUR 8.75 million; EUR 1.018 million) have been considered for the calculation of the contribution in 2025. This means that the overall total programme contribution to the digital transition amounts to EUR 15.2 million.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG10 Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes	The financial support provided by 20 technical assistance (TA) projects, to be granted by the 2025 budget of the Union anti-fraud programme, indirectly assists in harmonising differentiated levels of (financial) resources and (budgetary) capacities, helping to reduce as such inequality within and among Member States' administrations. It should be noted that Ukraine has been associated with the Union anti-fraud programme since 2024. **EUR 10.986 million** is the total proposed amount to grant 20 selected projects in 2025, which usually start effective implementation in Y + 1 (i.e. 2026 and beyond).

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	The programme indirectly helps building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions in the Member States at various levels of national and/or local administrations (law enforcement agencies), in particular through support given leading to an enhanced digital transition. Nearly EUR 9.77 million has been allocated in 2025 to run, develop and manage the Irregularity Management System and the Anti-Fraud Information System. To this amount, the 5 grants in 2025, selected for technical assistance projects in the field of IT and digitalisation of law enforcement agencies should be added, or a value of EUR 3.36 million, resulting in a total amount of: **EUR 13.1 million compared to EUR 12.09 million in 2024** (or an increase of 8.6%). The mentioned projects will run in 2026 and continue beyond, in 2027.

Support for reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Anti-fraud

The union anti-fraud programme

FISCALIS

ACTION PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TAXATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Concrete examples of achievements

2 183 million messages were exchanged on the key European electronic systems in 2025.	326 modules for e-learning on taxation (different linguistic versions) were in use in 2025.	30 European electronic systems were in operation in 2025.	9 889 million consultations were carried out in the different common components of the European electronic systems in 2025.
99.92% was the availability of the European electronic systems (in time percentage terms) in 2025.	5 786 participants took part in 438 virtual and physical meetings organised in 2025 under the general collaboration actions grant.	195 online collaboration groups were supported by the programme in 2025.	

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	34.8	36.9	37.7	38.4	39.2	40.0	40.7	267.7
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.8
Total	34.8	37.0	37.8	38.8	39.5	40.0	40.7	268.5

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	185.5	268.5	69.1%
Payments	142.0	0.0	52.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
EU law and policy application and implementation index – number of actions under the programme organised in this area	0	**71%**	23 annually in 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 37 compared to a milestone of 23)	On track
Learning index – number of tax officials trained by using common training material	0	**> 100%**	96 400 in 2027	219 499 by 2025 compared to a target of 96 400	Achieved
Availability of European electronic systems	0	**71%**	99.50% annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 99.9% compared to a milestone of 99.5%)	On track
Availability of the common communication networks	0	**43%**	99.80% annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021, 2023 and 2025. Milestones not achieved in 2022 and 2024 (2025: 99.9% compared to a milestone of 99.8%)	On track
Information technology simplified procedures for the national administrations and economic operators – number of economic operators registered	0	**65%**	41.4 million in 2027	27.1 million by 2025 compared to a target of 41.4 million	On track
Information technology simplified procedures for the national administrations and economic operators – number of applications	0	**70%**	5.6 million in 2027	3.9 million by 2025 compared to a target of 5.6 million	On track

Collaboration robustness index – number of online collaboration groups	0	**29%**	206 annually from 2024 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021 and 2022. Milestones not achieved for 2023, 2024 and 2025 (2025: 195 compared to a milestone of 206)	On track

- In 2025, the programme continued to contribute to the overall EU priorities, including the digital transition. Throughout the year, the programme sustained its support to tax authorities and taxation in order to enhance the functioning of the internal market and protect the economic and financial interest of the EU.
- The programme's collaborative activities provided a forum to exchange expertise and best practices among participating countries on one hand, and between them and the Commission on the other. These exchanges touched mostly upon taxation and policy measures, including their implementation.
- In 2025, the support to the development and maintenance of the European electronic systems for taxation remained a key point of the programme. Nearly 60% of the Fiscalis programme budget was devoted to the common components of the European electronic systems, demonstrating the importance of the programme in the context of the digital transition and simplification of public services in the area of taxation. Due to the signature of the collaborative activities grant in 2025, which will be running until the end of the current multiannual financial framework and related budget commitment, the percentage of the budget devoted to the European electronic systems appears to be lower than in previous years.
- 30 European electronic systems funded by the programme were operational in 2025. The programme was instrumental in guaranteeing business continuity via these systems for taxation and the common communication networks CCN and CCN2. The availability of the networks and the European electronic systems remained high without service disruptions, at 99.96% and 99.91% respectively.
- 2025 saw a slight increase of physical meetings, even though online collaboration remained strong and in overall balance with in-person interactions, hence aligned with the Commission's greening efforts. The increasing proportion of physical meetings allowed for closer human interaction and networking. Physical meetings are considered essential by many participants to guarantee the networking opportunities created by the programme: nearly 83% of the participants reported strong satisfaction with the networking possibilities offered through the programme. With the programme in full swing, the collaboration activities bore a high number of outputs and recommendations that were reported as useful and well-used in the administrations.
- In terms of training, the number of tax officials trained through the common learning event programme has increased considerably, resulting from a robust programme in the taxation area. In addition, 326 e-learning modules were in use during 2025, of which 32 were in English and 294 in other languages.
- Concerning the participation of non-EU countries in the Fiscalis programme, there are currently nine candidate and potential candidates taking part in the programme, while negotiations are

ongoing with Armenia. The programme offers enlargement countries the possibility to cooperate with the tax authorities of Member States and other candidates, and to learn the sector-specific EU legislation and operational good practices from their peers, which should help not only the *acquis* harmonisation but also its implementation. Several Fiscalis programme activities were opened up for participation of enlargement candidate countries and potential candidates for the first time in 2025.

- The overall progress of the performance indicators is on track, with some even significantly surpassing the annual milestones.
- The number of active online groups on the Programme Information and Collaboration Space platform decreased slightly compared to last year. The life cycle of a group on this space often follows that of a specific project, meaning that once the project is completed, the corresponding Programme Information and Collaboration Space groups also cease their activity. Therefore, slight increases and decreases are considered normal.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		4.1	1.5%

- As shown in the above table, during 2025 there were no actions that specifically contributed to green budgeting priorities. However, the programme continued indirectly supporting the green deal by means of reinforced digitalisation of taxation systems and related cooperation actions.
- In addition, the collaborative actions promoted greening priorities through the emphasis given to online or hybrid collaboration and networking, which accounted for almost half (46%) of all meetings in 2025.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	34.8	36.9	37.7	38.4	39.2	187.0
Total:	34.8	36.9	37.7	38.4	39.2	187.0

- Most of the Fiscalis programme funding (approximately 58% of the programme's budget) relates to digital expenditure, in particular to the development and operation of European electronic systems, which are non-targeted interventions regarding gender equality.
- The remaining types of expenditure (approximately 42% of the programme's budget) relates to collaboration activities, training sessions, studies and communication. None of these activities have had any bearing on gender equality.
- Gender equality is relevant in the taxation policy domain, in light of, inter alia, taxation redistribution and multiplier effects. This potential relevance at the policy level is however not related to expenditures under the Fiscalis programme.

Gender disaggregated information:

The gender-disaggregated information is not applicable for the Fiscalis programme, considering that the programme consists of interventions that are expected to have no bearing on gender equality (score 0). However, figures on female and male participants in a specific type of programme action (meetings of the general collaborative action grant) are available for 2025 ([7]). It should be noted that these activities represent 11% of the programme's total implemented budget:

- 2 685 participants are indicated in the activity reporting tool as female; and
- 3 119 as male.

([7]) The main beneficiaries of the programme are the tax authorities in the participating countries. In particular for the collaborative activities grant, tax authorities decide at their own discretion whom they delegate to the specific programme events according to the activity's tax-specific agenda and objectives. The data reflects the information available in the activity reporting tool on 3 February 2026.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	22.2	34.7	31.6	33.7	22.5	144.9	77.5%

- The Fiscalis programme contributes – directly and indirectly – to the EU agenda for economic recovery and long-term growth and fair taxation while advancing the digital transition.
- The programme allocates most of the budget to information technology capacity-building actions, defined as a priority in the programme's regulation (recital 12). Among the information technology capacity-building actions supported by the programme, priority is given to the European electronic systems that are necessary for the implementation of the general and specific objectives of the programme.
- In 2025, the committed expenses for the development and maintenance of European electronic systems were EUR 22.5 million (representing 58% of the programme's budget for the year). This volume is in line with the committed budget to information technology procurement under the programme. The cumulative commitment appropriations devoted to the European electronic system represented approximately 77.5% of the total envelope of the Fiscalis programme.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

The Fiscalis programme is not per se a technical assistance programme, although the collaborative actions under the programme could contribute to technical assistance. The Fiscalis programme's collaborative or cooperation activities allow for bringing together national tax authorities of participating countries, by means of:

1. meetings and similar ad-hoc events such as seminars workshops, working/study visits and
2. project-based structured collaboration such as networks, project groups, expert teams, task forces, and monitoring activities.

Collaborative activities are a useful tool to implement the policy objectives and exchange best practices. Both the participating countries and the Commission services can initiate such collaborative activities.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	The Fiscalis programme supports tax authorities to enhance the functioning of the internal market, foster competitiveness, fight tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance and improve tax collection. These are important elements for compliant businesses to reap the benefits of the internal market and sustain the Union economic growth. The Programme secures this contribution through the support to digitalisation, efficiency of the EU tax administrations, as well as to the development of human competency and training for tax officials. As an example, in 2025, 113 766 professionals (including tax officials and other tax professionals) benefitted from the training opportunities offered in the customs & tax EU learning portal developed with the support of the programme.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	58% of the Fiscalis programme budget in 2025 was devoted to the development and operation of the common components of the European electronic systems, a key element in the digitalisation and in the simplification process of public services in the area of taxation. The programme funded in 2025 several new releases and updates of the common components of the European Electronic Systems in the area of taxation. Moreover, in 2025, the Fiscalis programme funded projects in the area of artificial intelligence for tax purposes.

CUSTOMS

ACTION PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CUSTOMS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Concrete examples of achievements

69 European electronic systems in the field of customs were in operation in 2025.	9.4 billion messages were exchanged on the key European electronic systems in 2025.	99.94% availability of the Common Communication Network (CCN/CCN2) in 2025.	85% Percentage of participants that made use of a working practice/guideline developed with the support of the programme in 2025.
6 003 participants took part in 286 virtual and physical meetings organised under the general collaboration actions grant in 2025.	438 392 customs officials and other customs professionals were trained in 2025.	857 e-learning modules (including linguistic versions) were in use in 2025.	84.3% quality scored by participants in e-learning courses in 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	125.5	130.4	121.6	135.7	198.4	140.3	142.2	994.1
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.1	3.5	1.8	2.0	0.0	0.0	7.3
Total	125.5	130.5	125.1	137.5	200.4	140.3	142.2	1 001.5

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	711.1	1 001.5	71.0%
Payments	504.0	0.0	50.3%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
EU law and policy application and implementation index – number of actions under the programme in this area	0	**14%**	20 annually from 2022 to 2027	Milestone achieved for 2021. Milestones not achieved from 2022 to 2025 (2025: 16 compared to a target of 20)	Moderate progress
Learning index – number of customs officials trained by using common training material	0	**> 100%**	186 140 in 2027	1.2 million by 2025 compared to a target of 186 140	On track
Use of key European electronic systems – number of messages exchanged on the key European electronic systems / system components	0	**> 100%**	20 billion in 2027	29.3 billion by 2025 compared to a target of 20 billion	On track
Use of key European electronic systems aimed at increasing interconnectivity and moving to a paper-free Customs Union – number of records consulted in key databases	0	**72%**	1.2 billion by 2027	864 million by 2025 compared to a target of 1.2 billion	On track
Union Customs Code completion rate	75%	**91%**	100% in 2025	97.63% in 2025 compared to a target of 100%	On track
Best practices and guideline index – percentage of participants that made use of a working practice/guideline developed with the support of the programme	0	**67%**	75% annually from 2022 till 2027	Milestones achieved for 2022 till 2025 (2025: 85% compared to a milestone of 75%)	On track

- In 2025, the programme's different strands ([8]) continued to provide a platform to discuss the most pressing issues for the Customs Union, including the challenges identified in the customs reform proposal ([9]), such as e-commerce and the future Customs Data Hub, and supporting enlargement countries in their task of integration into EU customs legislation and its application.
- The reporting period also demonstrated the continued vital role of digital systems in customs procedures and processes and witnessed the work towards full delivery of the systems under the Union Customs Code in 2025 ([10]). In this respect, support to the development of the European digital customs environment remained a focal point of the programme (69 systems supported) and a top priority in the Customs Union. In 2025, 88% of the programme budget was dedicated to supporting the development and maintenance of the European electronic systems for customs.
- The high demand for these networks and systems is evidenced by the volume of messages and consultations via these applications. In 2025, the number of messages continued to rise, with 9.4 billion exchanged. Similarly, consultations increased and, with the growing use of the digital customs environment, we can expect further growth in the coming years, particularly after the full implementation of the Union Customs Code systems.
- The availability of CCN/CCN2 remained high without service disruptions, at 99.98% and 99.91% respectively. Values are above the target set for 2025 (set at 99.8%). Furthermore, in 2025 the CCN availability was challenged but successfully coped with, considering the significantly increased data volume compared to 2024 due to system deployment related to the Union Customs Code, mainly including the import control system, the central electronic system of payment information and e-commerce data in surveillance.
- The Union Customs Code completion rate is 97.63%. This indicator is based on the revised Union Customs Code work programme of 2023 ([11]) and reflective of the progress achieved for common components, along with the effort required to support national administrations for the testing, deployment and conformance requirements. It is slightly below the target due to the impact of the delays in Member States in transitioning their national systems into operations which requires a continuation of the activities on the common components. Among the 17 Union Customs Code projects, 12 are in operation. The New Computerised Transit System (NCTS P6) and Centralised Clearance for Import (CCI P1/P2) projects are in the deployment phase with Member States, albeit with delays. Three Union Customs Code projects are exclusive national projects (UCC Notification of arrival, Presentation notification and Temporary storage, UCC Special procedures and UCC National import systems upgrade).

([8]) Programme groups; working visits; seminars; training opportunities; common digital systems; expert teams.

([9]) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013, COM(2023) 258 final of 17.5.2023, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52023PC0258.

([10]) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2879 of 15 December 2023 establishing the Work Programme relating to the development and deployment for the electronic systems provided for in the Union Customs Code, OJ L, 2023/2879, 22.12.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2023/2879/oj.

([11]) See footnote 3.

- 100% of IT projects were in 'green' status, i.e. in line with the requirements provided for in the multiannual strategic plan for customs.
- In 2025, the number of actions in the area of EU law and policy reflect the move towards more inclusive, macro-level actions, leading to the establishment of fewer actions, while the actual volume of activity behind these actions is at a stable high level.
- Actions promoting best practices continued to be above the target in 2025, accounting for 51 out of a total of 86 actions. A significant proportion of these actions consisted of working visits between Member States, or between enlargement countries and Member States. This demonstrates the added value of the Customs programme, actively fostering collaboration betweenbeneficiaries.
- As in previous years, the number of recommendations and guidelines – 1 723 – continued to be above the target (428), indicating the clear benefit associated with the actions ([12]). This was reflected in the percentage of participants that made use of a working practice or guideline developed, which continued to increase and was above the target at 85%.
- 167 online collaboration groups were active in 2025, where discussions could take place on a range of customs issues, such as the digital systems mandated by EU law, training, sanctions, etc.
- In 2025, out of the total 286 meetings, 145 were online, 136 were physical and 5 were hybrid. The high proportion of online meetings reflects the Commission's greening agenda. Despite the small decrease of in-person meetings compared to 2024, survey respondents indicated that the activities they took part in provided them with good networking opportunities (79%).
- In terms of training, 438 392 customs officials were reported as having been trained in 2025 ([13]). In addition, counting also the various linguistic releases, 857 e-learning modules were in use, facilitating participation across the customs community. As regards the quality of e-learning courses provided in 2025, the satisfaction rate recorded was 84.3%, which is above the target (75%) and the highest during the current programme period. In particular, the good result for content can be explained by the development in 2025 of new courses in the areas of the New Computerised Transit System, the Customs Risk Management System (CRMS2) and the Customs Control Equipment Instrument.
- The programme also continued building synergies with and contributing to the Commission's horizontal priorities, such as the digital transition and green budgeting priorities.

([12]) Action managers providing feedback explained their difficulties to quantify the number of working practices/guidelines and recommendations, given the wide range of activities supported by the programme and their specificities. The numbers reported can thus be explained given the broad interpretation of the indicator.

([13]) The data includes the number of professionals who followed the courses in the EU portal, together with the number of tax officials who participated in common learning event programme activities and digital training sessions supported by the programme, as recorded in the activity reporting tool. The number has to be understood not as unique officials and professionals trained, but as the number of officials and other professionals trained in different courses. These figures depend heavily on estimates provided by the end users at the time of download regarding the potential number of officials using the courses. For example, some administrations estimate that fewer officials will use individual training courses, while others provide higher estimates.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	4.1	0.1	0.0	0.0			4.1	0.4%

- In accordance with the table above, there were no actions that specifically contributed to green budgeting priorities in 2025. However, the programme continued indirectly supporting the Green Deal by means of reinforced digitalisation of electronic systems in the field of customs and related cooperation. These systems ensured strong links with greening, climate and environmental protection, specifically the EU single window environment for customs, and also through systems such as quotas, surveillance, the risk management applications and export control systems (e.g. in terms of waste exports).
- In addition, the collaborative actions promoted greening priorities through the emphasis given to online or hybrid collaboration and networking, which accounted for more than half (52.45%) of all meetings in 2025.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	125.5	130.4	121.6	135.7	198.4	711.6
Total:	125.5	130.4	121.6	135.7	198.4	711.6

- The majority of the Customs programme —accounting for 88% of the budget in 2025—related to digital expenditure. This focused particularly on the development and operation of European electronic systems, which are non-targeted interventions regarding gender equality.
- The remaining types of expenditure, relates to collaboration activities, training sessions, studies and communication. None of these activities has had any bearing on gender equality.
- Gender equality is relevant in the customs policy domain, among others, in light of the different impacts, challenges and opportunities that customs and trade policies can have on people, and of the importance of diversity and inclusion regarding the performance and quality of service within customs administrations. This potential relevance at the policy level is however not related to expenditures under the Customs programme.

Gender disaggregated information:

The gender disaggregated information is not applicable for the Customs programme, considering that the programme consists of interventions that are expected to have no bearing on gender equality (score 0). However, figures on female and male participants in a specific type of programme action (meetings of the general collaborative action grant) ([14]) are available for 2025. It should be noted that these activities represent less than 1% of the programme's total implemented budget, and shows a fairly balanced breakdown, although, as in previous years, there is a prevalence of male officials designated by national customs to attend meetings:

- 2718 participants are indicated in the activity reporting tool as female; and
- 3285 as male.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	116.6	125.3	113.4	131.7	175	662.0	93.0%

- The programme allocated the majority of its budget (88% in 2025) to the digital transition, which is defined as the top priority in the programme's regulation (recital 16). Among the information technology capacity-building actions supported by the programme, priority is given to the European electronic systems that are necessary for the implementation of the general and specific objectives of the programme. In 2025, nearly EUR 175 million were allocated to information technology procurement from the Customs programme and this volume is in line with the committed budget under the programme.

([14]) The main beneficiaries of the programme are the customs/tax authorities in the participating countries. In particular for the collaborative activities grant, customs/tax authorities decide at their own discretion whom they delegate to the specific programme events according to the activity's customs/tax-specific agenda and objectives. The data reflects the information available in the activity reporting tool on 5.2.2026.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Non-applicable

Contribution to reforms

- The Customs programme is not per se a technical assistance programme, although the collaborative actions under the programme could contribute to technical assistance. The Customs programme's collaborative or cooperation activities allow for bringing together national customs administration officials of participating countries, by means of:
    - meetings and similar ad-hoc events such as seminars workshops, working/study visits and
    - project-based structured collaboration such as networks, project groups, expert teams, and monitoring activities.

  Collaborative activities are a useful tool to implement the policy objectives and exchange best practices. Both the beneficiariesand the Commission can initiate such collaborative activities.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	YES	The Programme's contribution to the development of efficient, modern customs is an essential element to ensure a proper balance between effective controls and safety within the Single Market, and the facilitation of legitimate trade through paperless, efficient customs processes, a cornerstone for the economic prosperity of the EU. The programme secures this contribution through the support to digitalisation, efficiency of the Customs Union and operations, as well as at developing human competency and training for customs officials. As an example, 857 eLearning modules were used in 2025, 128 in English, and 729 in different languages. Extending the global reach of the training offered undoubtedly contributes towards the objectives of the programme, and ultimately, to the Customs Union's performance.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	YES	88% of the Customs programme budget in 2025 was devoted to the development and operation of the common components of the European Electronic Systems, a key element in the digitalisation of public services in the area of customs to ensure the Customs Union can respond to 21st century challenges and protect the Single Market in a context of growing and complex international trade. The Programme excelled in delivering common components of the European Electronic Systems (EES), reflecting significant economies of scale and positively impacting cost-effectiveness and operational efficiency. For example, the Programme has advanced its digital infrastructure by implementing key systems like the New Computerised Transit System Phase 5. This expansion extends to 42 countries, illustrating progress in facilitating efficient and cost-effective customs operations.

EU SPACE PROGRAMME

Concrete examples of achievements

620 spacecraft were protected thanks to EU space surveillance and tracking in 2025.	35 GOVSATCOM governmental resource products formed part of the initial common Union pool by 2025, including raw capacity and end-to-end capacity services, acquired by 5 resource providers: Greece, Spain, France, Italy and Luxembourg.	74 activations of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service in 2025.	450 000 registered users of the Copernicus climate change service. This corresponds to an increase of 90 000 compared to the previous year.
760+ companies were supported by CASSINI actions (matchmaking, business accelerator). In 2025, over 170 CASSINI-backed companies raised over EUR 850 million of investment, had an opportunity to attend 11 matchmaking events and held over 1 100 meetings with investors, corporates and other customers.	24 Galileo satellites were active and operational.		

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	1 977.3	2 008.2	2 045.1	2 088.0	2 050.7	2 094.4	2 124.1	14 387.7
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	123.4	103.0	115.9	276.7	254.2	0.0	0.0	873.2
Total	**2 100.7**	**2 111.2**	**2 161.0**	**2 364.7**	**2 304.9**	**2 094.4**	**2 124.1**	**15 260.9**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	10 922.3	15 260.9	71.6%
Payments	9 231.9		60.5%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of EGNOS and LPV-200 procedures published	690	**96%**	1 150 in 2027	1 104 in 2025 compared to a target of 1 150	On track
EU user satisfaction: Galileo services	80%	**96%**	90% in 2027	86% in 2025 compared to a target of 90%	On track
EU user satisfaction: EGNOS services	85%	**98%**	90% in 2027	88% in 2025 compared to a target of 90%	On track
Share of Galileo-enabled receivers worldwide	64%	**100%**	70% in 2027	70% in 2025 compared to a target of 70%	On track
Share of EGNOS-enabled receivers worldwide	63%	**97%**	65% in 2027	63% in 2025 compared to a target of 65%	Moderate progress
Amount of data generated by the Sentinel satellites (petabytes per year)	35 million	**70%**	125 million in 2029	88 million in 2025 compared to a target of 125 million.	On track

Galileo

Activities focused on ensuring the continuity of service provision. In 2025, a dual-satellite launch added two new satellites to the constellation, bringing the total to 24 satellites in nominal slots and 3 satellites in spare slots (hence making Galileo ready for the declaration of the Galileo open service full operation capability). Extensive work was done for the preparation of this capability, which is planned for 2026. The Galileo open service navigation message authentication initial service was declared in July 2025, while the Galileo high accuracy service and the Galileo search and rescue service continue to provide excellent performance. The Galileo emergency warning satellite service continued its pilot test phase, with 12 Member States already participating. In addition, new signals (the 'Quasi-Pilot' in E5 frequency) started to be broadcast from four satellites in 2025, with eight more satellites to come in 2026.

EGNOS

EGNOS continued to deliver quality services, despite unfavourable space weather conditions in 2025 due to the solar cycle peak (and the consequent increase in solar eruptions). The development of the new generation (EGNOS V3) continued, with discussions with industry to stabilise the development schedule and reduce significant risks. A new development plan is planned for early 2026. Finally, despite more than 10 years of continuous high quality service provision, EGNOS suffered a service interruption in October 2025 of limited duration (four days). A dedicated inquiry board analysed the causes and issued recommendations, which will be implemented.

EU Earth observation component – Copernicus

The Copernicus programme prioritised continuity of satellite data and services, development of additional missions, and increased market uptake of its data. Operations and services ran uninterrupted throughout 2025, with all EU contribution agreements in place. Four new Copernicus Sentinel satellites/instruments were launched. The Copernicus Climate Change Service ranked 2025 as the third-warmest year on record, after 2023 and 2024. By Q3 2025, the Copernicus Emergency Management Service was activated nearly 74 times, notably during the exceptional 2025 wildfire season. A new dynamic purchasing system improved agility and lowered barriers for new European space companies. Uptake of Copernicus data was further boosted through the Copernicus data space ecosystem, supporting machine learning and AI use. International efforts focused on implementing existing partnerships and contributing to UN programmes. **The Earth Observation Governmental Service** is proposed under the European Competitiveness Fund Regulation proposal for the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework as an Earth observation component alongside Copernicus.

Space situational awareness

The Space Situational Awareness component addresses space hazards through three subcomponents:

- **Space surveillance and tracking**: in 2025, registered satellites increased to over 600, including many non-EU operators. Information-sharing with mega-constellations advanced,

re-entry services were opened globally, and preparations to add four new Member States to the EU SST Partnership progressed, raising the partnership membership from 15 to 19 in 2026.

- **Space weather events**: preparations for an EU space weather service advanced, with procurement planned for early 2026 and operations expected in late 2026.
- **Near-Earth objects**: activities focused on preparedness, including studies on deflection missions, research networking and the development of a European catalogue.

Space surveillance and tracking also underpinned the EU space traffic management approach, with progress in stakeholder coordination, voluntary measures, capacity-building and international cooperation in 2025.

Governmental satellite communications component (GOVSATCOM)

The framework for the GOVSATCOM component of the Space Programme was completed with the implementing acts adopted until 2025, defining the service portfolio, operational and security requirements and ground infrastructure ([15]). By 2025, the ground infrastructure for initial services was fully developed, validated and security-accredited, ahead of the start of operations expected in Q1 2026. Procurement of existing governmental satellite communication resources for the initial **GOVSATCOM common Union pool** was finalised in 2025, with contracts signed with five Member States (one of the contracts was signed in January 2026). Users will access 35 service products across multiple frequency bands and wide geographical coverage. Research supporting service uptake and technology development continues through EUSPA and ESA.

CASSINI

All CASSINI actions were fully deployed in 2025 to strengthen the EU space sector competitiveness. The CASSINI Investment Facility expanded to 19 supported venture capital funds. The CASSINI Investment Facility has also contributed to the InvestEU Programme through blending with the EU guarantee, helping to mobilise additional investments. The Commission organised 11 matchmaking events, engaging over 170 start-ups and 230 investors and corporates. Winners of the CASSINI Challenges were announced in October 2025, with 32 companies sharing EUR 1.15 million in prizes. Two hackathons on space applications for healthcare and consumer experience attracted over 800 participants from 20 countries. The CASSINI Business Accelerator continued supporting 40 EU space small and medium-sized enterprises annually, reaching 120 companies by 2025. New talent initiatives included the launch of CASSINI Space Camps for teenagers and the Space Career

([15]) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/1054 of 30 May 2023 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the service portfolio for the Governmental Satellite Communications services offered by the system established under the Union Space Programme, OJ L 141, 31.5.2023, pp. 49–56, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2023/1054/oj;
Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/1055 of 30 May 2023 setting out the rules on the sharing and prioritisation of satellite communication capacities, services, and user equipment to fulfil the function referred to in Article 66(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ L 141, 31.5.2023, pp. 57–66, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2023/1055/oj;
Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/3195 of 18 December 2024 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the location of the GOVSATCOM Hub, OJ L, 2024/3195, 20.12.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/3195/oj.

Launchpad, which awarded vouchers to 59 applicants in 2025. The Space Career Launchpad supports student and graduate placements in the space sector and helps companies recruit talent. In 2025, 59 applicants received prize vouchers worth EUR 1 000–2 000 for securing positions through the platform.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	254.9	296.9	324.3	336.1	367.6			1 579.8	11.0%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	165.0	165.0	930.0	6.5%

- The EU space programme (and the EU Secure Connectivity programme) places great emphasis on the sustainability of the space sector and the green transition and has a key role to play. On one hand, EU space data and services enable other sectors to achieve their green ambitions and harness the potential of the green transition; on the other hand, the EU space industry sector itself must transform and adapt to comply with the EU environmental policies and legislation and hence improve its practices throughout its entire value chain. To reduce the environmental impact of space activities and set out a standardised method to assess environmental impacts, a European Parliament-backed pilot project was rolled out in 2024, aimed at developing a sector-specific life cycle assessment method – Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) for the space sector. In 2025, space companies were invited through an open call to participate in the supporting studies which are conducted as part of the development of PEFCR for Space (26 June – 30 September 2025). By the end of 2025, an open consultation on the first draft document of the Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for the space sector (PEFCR4Space) was conducted (15 October - 1 December 2025). The received feedback (over 200 contributions) will be analysed and integrated into the evolved draft of the PEFCR for the space sector that will be subject to a second consultation in 2027. To support the implementation of the PEFCR4Space once finalised (by 2027), an open call for tender was launched on 29 October 2025 for PEFCR4Space support measures.

- Copernicus contributes significantly to the implementation and monitoring of the EU's climate policy, both in terms of climate mitigation and climate adaptation. This includes honouring the EU's international obligations, such as those under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Copernicus' land monitoring, marine environment monitoring and atmosphere monitoring services notably contribute to this, and the Climate Change Service is fully dedicated to supporting climate change policies and the transition to a carbon-neutral society and economy.
- Remote sensing and the services offered by Copernicus, in particular the land monitoring service, the climate change service and the marine environment monitoring service play an increasingly important role in supporting biodiversity conservation and restoration. Today, products and tools offered by these services contribute to monitoring changes in ecosystems and biodiversity loss and are used in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the Convention on Biological Diversity and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	1 977.3	2 008.2	2 045.1	2 088.0	2 050.7	10 169.3
Total:	1 977.3	2 008.2	2 045.1	2 088.0	2 050.7	10 169.3

- In 2025, no dedicated budget was allocated specifically for gender equality. However, several initiatives contributed to its promotion.
- The European space sector is on an upward trajectory but faces many challenges in terms of workforce. A comprehensive analysis identified that the industry is aging, male dominated and there is a critical gap between the hard and soft skills provided by current educational curricula. To answer the needs of the industry the Commission launched in 2024 and concluded in 2025 the pilot phase of the Space Career Launchpad [16], a platform aimed at university students and young graduates to give them experience through internships, with a particular focus on New Space companies. By offering a wide range of internships and entry level jobs in various fields, and by actively encouraging participation from underrepresented groups, including women, the Commission wants to spark

[16] https://starseu.net/spacecareer/

interest in the space sector and show the exciting career opportunities. The goal is to bridge the skills gap and foster a skilled, inclusive, and diverse workforce.

- To spark interest in pursuing a vocation in the space sector, the Commission has also designed a pilot version of the CASSINI Space Camps, in 2025. With the support of local ecosystems, from companies to educational/training entities and other relevant actors, the camps offer exciting opportunities for cooperation, learning and sharing experiences.
- The CASSINI Space Camp is built on a five-pillar foundation (5 I's) – Innovative, Inclusive, Impactful, Interdisciplinary, and Inspirational - and aims to inspire young girls as much as boys by showcasing diverse role models from the space sector and highlighting the contributions of women in space science and technology. Activities and materials are developed to appeal to all genders, ensuring that teenage girls feel equally welcomed and encouraged to participate It is targeted at teenagers in the age group of 14-18 and the goal is to teach them about the space industry, the use of space on Earth and the European space programmes.
- In January 2025, DG DEFIS launched the DIVERIS Network, aiming at promoting equal opportunities and inclusive practices in the space and defence sectors by bringing together individuals, companies, research organisations, public bodies, and civil society actors across Europe. Its work focuses on building a resilient and diverse workforce, increasing representation, attracting and retaining talent, raising awareness, and contributing to EU policies aligned with post-2025 equality strategies. By the end of 2025, the network had a total of 63 members.

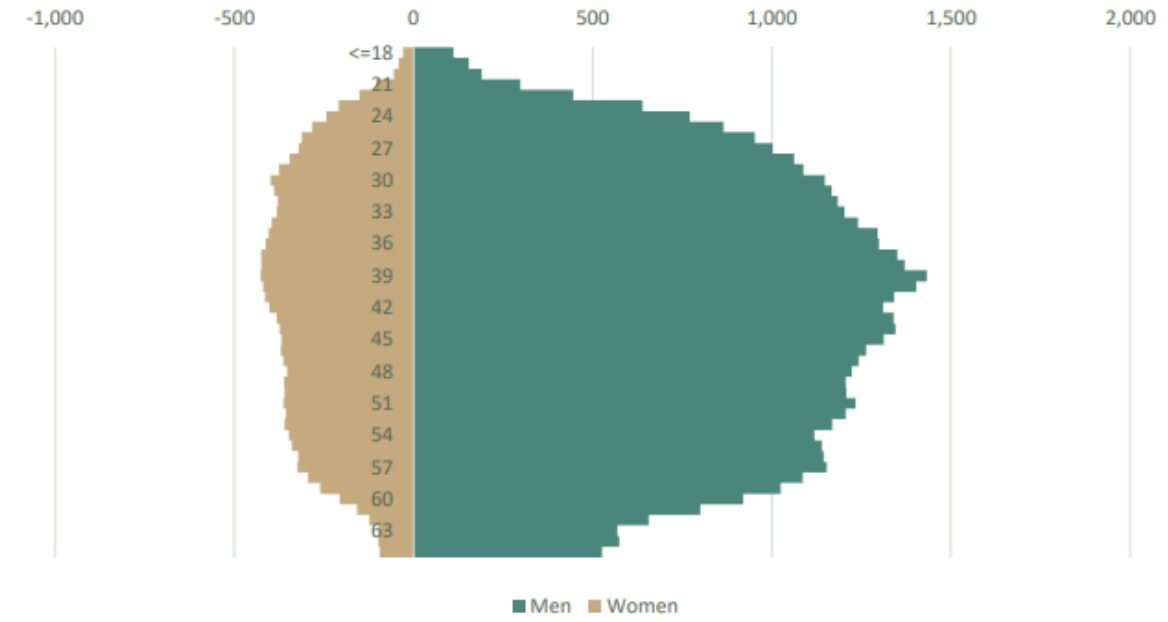
Gender-disaggregated data:

- The European space industry is quite specific in terms of age and qualification structures. The industry maintains a rather stable age structure. The employment distribution by age exhibits a larger proportion of employees in the 49-58 age range, with an average age of employees around 44, with a slight difference between women and men. About a fifth of space industry employees are women.
- Women accounted for roughly 23% of employment in the upstream segment in Europe in 2024 a share that has remained stable over the last decade.

Space industry employees age and gender characteristics

Total employment	**62659**
Average age (women)	42,42
Average age (men)	43,44
Average (all)	**43,21**
Women in % of total	22,89%
Men in % of total	77,11%

Space industry employees age pyramid



(Source: ASD Eurospace (2024))

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	334.3	487.5	369.6	708.6	704.6	2 604.7	25.6%

- The services that will be provided under the GOVSATCOM component of the EU space programme are expected to boost the digital transition in Europe and worldwide. Programme activities are aimed at facilitating the further development of high-speed broadband and seamless connectivity, and secure and cost-effective satellite communications services for governmental satellite communication users.
- Copernicus Earth observation data are inherently digital, similarly the Copernicus information products are made available in digital format. These products have been enablers of the digitalisation of concerned administrative workflows and for the stakeholders involved. Copernicus contributes to significant reduction of reporting and documentation burden and delays. Further the evolution of Copernicus will involve technologies such as artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, digital twins.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- In line with Regulation (EU) 2024/795 (the STEP Regulation), Horizon Europe is one of the EU budget instruments in direct management mobilised under the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy. As stipulated in Article 4, Horizon Europe is also among the programmes that can award the STEP (Sovereignty) seal under its calls for proposals.
- In 2025, five topics under one call for proposals were flagged under Horizon Europe's Cluster 4 – Space programme as contributing to STEP objectives. The specificity of these calls is that they are for cross-country multi-beneficiary projects. The total budget allocated to these topics amounts to EUR 53 million and Article 22(5) of the regulation establishing Horizon Europe applied to both calls. The article provides for the possibility to exclude from the calls for proposals entities controlled by non-associated non-EU countries or by entities established in such countries.
- Since the inception of STEP implementation in early 2024 and as of end-2025, a total of 7 STEP-relevant Space projects have been awarded the STEP (Sovereignty) Seal and funded with EUR 32.4 million. These correspond to the projects awarded under the STEP-relevant Space calls of 2024: as of the end of the 2025, the evaluation of the submissions to the STEP-relevant Space calls of 2025 had not yet been concluded.

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Yes	The Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) offers a Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL), a strategic knowledge infrastructure to make human presence on Earth visible, measurable, and actionable. GHSL provides global, open, and comparable data on population, built-up areas, and settlements, empowering institutions worldwide to make informed decisions in urban development, risk management, climate action, and sustainable planning. Built on cutting-edge Earth Observation, open science, and methodological transparency, GHSL transforms complex global challenges into shared, evidence-based understanding, supporting risk exposure mapping and poverty risk mitigation.
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Yes	The EU space programme is providing innovative solutions with huge potential of making agriculture more productive and sustainable. For example, Earth Observation data provided by the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) help national institutions in monitoring crop conditions, providing early warnings on failing crops and predicting crop yields. This enables a considerable improvement in the use of fertilizers, fuel and pesticides resulting in healthier food and a reduced environmental impact. Galileo and EGNOS, in turn link data to specific geographical coordinates and provide geolocation, tracking and positioning in support of smart agriculture.

SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	EU space services provided by Galileo and Copernicus are key for the development of smart health apps benefiting users worldwide. For example, there are numerous consumer apps for checking daily sport and fitness activity and performance levels, encouraging a healthy lifestyle. There are apps used for patients monitoring like for instance for localizing patients with Alzheimer's, to oversee patients with cardiac conditions and help with issuing emergency call warnings if needed, or apps used for guidance to assist the visually impaired. The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service issues daily air quality forecasts at global scale accounting for pollutants' emissions or the consequences of events such as large wildfires or volcanic eruptions. This is valuable and reliable information for assessing health impacts. The eCall initiative helps saving lives by speeding up the emergency response times in case of a road accident. This initiative requires all new car types sold in the European Union to be fitted with eCall devices that are using space data from Galileo and EGNOS. eCall devices automatically dial the European emergency number 112 to alert rescue services in the event of an accident while also communicating their accurate and exact location. It is estimated that eCall, in its first 10 years of operation, will save more than 2 000 lives in Europe, avoid almost 20 000 severe injuries and significantly reduce the severity of injuries in 15% of all accidents involving damage to health.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	The EU Space Programme, particularly through Copernicus, advances SDG 4 by providing open-access satellite data that enrich educational resources, helping students and educators develop skills in data analysis and environmental sciences. It supports research opportunities and offers training initiatives, equipping learners with competencies for careers in technology and environmental fields. By enhancing curricula and fostering innovation, Copernicus significantly contributes to quality education.

SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	The EU Space Programme, with Copernicus at the forefront, contributes to SDG 5 on gender equality by promoting inclusivity and diversity within STEM fields, historically underrepresented by women. It supports initiatives and educational programmes aimed at encouraging girls and women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including space and Earth observation sectors. By ensuring equitable access to training and resources, Copernicus helps dismantle gender barriers and fosters an environment where women can thrive as researchers, innovators, and leaders in the space industry. These efforts contribute to more balanced representation and empowerment in scientific and technological domains.
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	EU space technologies play a crucial role in optimizing drinking water processing operations to achieve higher quality. For example, the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) systematically provides real time information on the state of global inland water bodies and their seasonal replenishment, lake and river water levels, temperature, turbidity and trophic state, including potential water availability from snow and ice cover. Better information and forecasts help a broad range of water managers adapt their strategies when dealing with water allocation, flood management, ecological status and industrial water use to mitigate the effects of climate change.
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	The EU Space Programme, including Copernicus, plays a key role in advancing clean energy by providing critical satellite data that supports environmental monitoring and sustainable energy initiatives. Copernicus offers Earth observation data that tracks climate change, maps renewable energy resources, and monitors air quality, helping to optimize energy production from renewable sources like wind, solar, and hydropower. By offering accurate, real-time information on environmental conditions, the programme aids decision-making, promotes energy efficiency, and supports the transition to a low-carbon economy across Europe.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	The EU Space Programme, including Copernicus, boosts competitiveness and economic growth by providing valuable satellite data that enhances decision-making across various sectors. Copernicus offers Earth observation data that supports industries such as agriculture, transport, and disaster management, driving innovation, efficiency, and cost savings. By enabling businesses to access precise, real-time information, the programme fosters the development of new technologies, services, and applications, creating new market opportunities and enhancing the EU's global economic position. This data-driven approach not only strengthens existing industries but also spurs the growth of emerging sectors in the digital economy.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	The EU space-based technologies are key enablers for smart and sustainable transport and, in particular, for connected and autonomous driving. In road transport, using navigation and positioning services by Galileo leads to a range of innovative applications that enable smart mobility and multi-mode transport digitalisation with optimised travel routes, in turn allowing for a reduction in CO2 emissions. In air transport, using EGNOS for efficient definition of flight routes helps reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. Copernicus data and information will be used to assess the energy efficiency of residential areas and to monitor the impact of the related energy efficiency policies.

SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	EU space services provided under the EU space programme are key enablers for smart cities, making urban planning more efficient. By using Galileo and EGNOS for navigation, positioning and timing, city services that are essential for instance for operating and managing public transportation, power supply, connectivity, waste management, and much more, can be considerably improved and at a lower cost. Copernicus provides valuable satellite images and insights about urban areas. These include information about land use and land cover classification, urban growth and urban green areas, which policymakers use to improve life in cities. The Copernicus Climate Change Service provides information on city-scale climate helping city planners to mitigate the effects of heat waves for their citizens. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) provides information for emergency response in relation to different types of disasters, including floods, as well as for related prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities.
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Yes	The development of PEFCR4Space establishes clear Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for the space sector, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 12 by promoting sustainable consumption and production through standardised environmental impact assessments and improved resource efficiency.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	The Copernicus Climate Change Service routinely monitors the Earth's climate and its evolution. It provides routine access to key indicators on a number of Essential Climate Variables (temperature, sea-ice, CO2, etc.) and is therefore a powerful tool to monitor the success of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Copernicus Atmosphere Service provides already today information on greenhouse gas concentrations and on sources. A new application for monitoring methane hotspots was launched in 2025.

SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Yes	Copernicus is helping governments identify the sources of oil pollution. It is also a powerful tool used by fisheries control administrations from across the EU, to make maritime surveillance more effective. The combined use of Copernicus satellite images with vessel positioning information provided by Galileo reinforce the monitoring activities and help authorities detect and track movements and activities in restricted fishing grounds. The Copernicus Marine Service reported on Sustainable Development Goal 14 ('Life below water') regarding the impact of climate on waters acidification and eutrophication, which have a direct impact on marine ecosystems.
SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Yes	The EU space programme provides reliable services and reports supporting the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies to protect natural environments and biodiversity (EU biodiversity strategy for 2030). Benefiting users worldwide, the Copernicus Climate Change Service develops tailored information products on key indicators such as temperature, sea ice and CO2 levels. In addition, the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service uses near-real-time observations of the location and intensity of active wildfires to estimate the emissions of pollutants that may impact biodiversity in the affected areas.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	The EU space programme contributes to this SDG by providing trustworthy data, products, applications and services in support of EU's soft diplomacy. Copernicus, by offering vital Earth observation data, supports transparency, informed decision-making, and evidence-based policy. This information aids governments and institutions in effectively managing resources, monitoring borders, and responding to crises, thereby promoting peace and stability. Additionally, by supporting initiatives that enhance data accessibility and collaboration, Copernicus fosters trust among international entities, strengthening justice and the development of robust, accountable institutions.
SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Yes	The EU space programme, in particular via Copernicus services, has developed numerous partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels with institutional, non-governmental and private actors to support the implementation of the SDGs.

EU SECURE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMME

Concrete examples of achievements

1 concession contract was signed with SpaceRISE in December 2024, for establishing an innovative public–private partnership for a duration of 12 years, to develop, deploy and operate the IRIS² satellite constellation.	16 EU Member States ([17]) signed an administrative arrangement on IRIS² frequency filings by the end of 2025.	13 legislative initiatives on IRIS² were adopted by 2025, including acts addressed to other institutions and other autonomous acts (Commission Implementing Decisions and internal Commission Decisions) and amendments.	6 IRIS² exploitation workshops were organised in Member States during 2025 to explore the opportunities for potential national user communities.
17 competent secure connectivity authorities were designated by Member States ([18]) and followed preparatory onboarding activities, allowing them to be connected to the GOVSATCOM hub so as to manage and determine access rights to users.			

([17]) Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia, Finland.

([18]) Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Finland.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.0	0.0	186.3	213.4	404.6	320.7	243.0	1 367.9
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**186.3**	**213.4**	**404.6**	**320.7**	**243.0**	**1 367.9**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	804.2	1 367.9	58.8%
Payments	439.4	0.0	32.1%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Member State governments and EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies can access an initial set of governmental services in 2024 (*)	No access		TBD	NA	NA
Member State governments and EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies can access full operational capability that meets the user needs and demand determined in the service portfolio in 2027 (*)	No access		TBD	NA	On track
Percentage of geographical availability of all deployed governmental services within Member State territories (*)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Programme participants and number of non-EU countries and international organisations participating in the programme in accordance with Article 39 of the programme regulation	0	0	3	0	On track

Programme participants participating in the programme in accordance with Article 11 of the programme regulation	0	0	TBD	0	On track
Number of satellites per orbital slot (in 2025, 2026 and 2027)	0	0	1	0	On track
Number of start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-caps involved in the programme and the related percentages of contract value	0	NA	TBD	NA	NA
Greenhouse gas footprint of development, production and deployment of the programme	0		TBD	22.6	On track

(*) IRIS^2 initial services are expected to begin in 2029. In the meantime, initial governmental satellite communication services will be provided as from 2026 under the GOVSATCOM component of the EU space programme, which constitutes the first building block of IRIS^2. For more information on GOVSATCOM, see the 'EU Space Programme' programme performance statement.

- Delivering on the Union secure connectivity priority flagship, the development of a multi-orbital satellite constellation of around 290 satellites – **IRIS² (Infrastructure for resilience, interconnectivity and security by satellite)** – continued at full speed on the basis of a competitive and innovative public–private partnership established under a 12-year concession contract signed with the SpaceRISE consortium in 2024. The main concessionaire will be responsible to develop, deploy and operate IRIS². Activities are on track, working towards confirming the system design and for ensuring that all Member States have guaranteed access to sovereign satellite communication connectivity under full European control as soon as possible.
- During 2025, several important sub-contracts were signed with core consortium team members and key suppliers. The system requirement review, a key milestone for consolidating the baseline for the overall system design of the IRIS² infrastructure, was concluded on 19 November 2025, followed by the IRIS² service review that started on 24 November 2025 and is expected to conclude by early 2026.
- IRIS² services will be provided using a phased approach. Initial governmental services are expected in 2026 under the GOVSATCOM component of the EU space programme – a system designed to pool and share satellite communication services with Member States and authorised users – and which constitutes the first building block of IRIS². The start of GOVSATCOM operations was announced on 14 January 2026.
- Building on this framework, a broader range of satellite communication services with global coverage, featuring secure and low-latency connectivity, will be gradually made available for governmental, defence and commercial users. Commercial GOVSATCOM services are expected by 2027 and initial IRIS² services by 2029. The goal is to provide connectivity and sovereignty for all of Europe, with guaranteed access for all Member States and under full European control.
- A Commission Implementing Decision was adopted in April 2024, determining the location of the IRIS² control centres ([19]) in France, Italy and Luxembourg. A gradual deployment of activities is underway to complete the space and ground infrastructure of the IRIS² space constellation, aiming to meet the needs of governmental users.
- Activities took place to ensure a high level of security for IRIS². A Commission decision on the location of security monitoring sites for IRIS² and GOVSATCOM was adopted on 17 November 2025.
- To ensure the availability of frequencies, an administrative arrangement on IRIS² frequency filings has been active since 2024, with 16 Member State signatories by the end of 2025. The IRIS² programme relies on the continuation of existing frequency licences from some Member States, signed over to the Commission for the IRIS² governmental ('Hardgov') services. Filings for the IRIS² commercial ('Lightgov') services will be covered by private initiatives, which will be managed by the SpaceRISE consortium.
- As regards market uptake activities, a preparatory action to develop innovative and interoperable user terminals for European secure satellite communication services was under

([19]) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1067 of 12 April 2024 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2023/588 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the location of the control centres belonging to the ground infrastructure of the Union Secure Connectivity Programme, OJ L, 2024/1067, 16.4.2024, http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/1067/oj.

definition, seeking to enable production and market penetration through the use of open standards. A preliminary market consultation was conducted from July to September 2025, allowing interested market players to provide feedback and support the development of terminals that can be used with the EU's satellite communication systems.

- Negotiations with third parties were pursued in view of establishing international agreements with Norway and Iceland for their participation in the Union secure connectivity programme and in GOVSATCOM. A similar process is underway to allow for the opening of formal negotiations with Ukraine.
- Overall, the programme is monitored closely on the basis of a set of indicators intended to measure the extent to which the specific objectives of the programme have been achieved, and with a view to minimising administrative burdens and costs. To that end, the annex to Regulation (EU) 2023/588 establishes a set of key performance indicators. Data and results for the key performance indicators relating to the IRIS^2 system and services performances will only become available once the IRIS^2 infrastructure starts to be deployed (space, ground and user segments). In addition, the service definition document applicable to the programme will define more detailed key performance indicators with minimum performance levels to allow for tracking results, once available.
- The programmatic risks are closely monitored and mitigated. Based on the experience from the first years of implementation of the programme, the main challenges related to the simplification of the complex governance structures, which came about under the SpaceRISE consortium, the acceleration of activities whilst countering possible delays for ongoing activities (i.e. when defining baselines or selecting sub-contractors) and redressing concerns about the technological readiness of the space sector to deliver on innovative and cost-efficient solutions.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0			0.1	0.0%

- The EU secure connectivity programme (and the EU space programme) places great emphasis on the green transition and has a key role to play. On one hand, EU space data and services enable other sectors to achieve green ambitions and harness the potential of the green transition; on the other hand, the EU space industry sector itself must transform and adapt to

comply with the EU environmental policies and legislation and hence improve its practices throughout its full value chain.

- While the space-based assets do not themselves emit greenhouse gases while in use, their manufacturing and associated ground facilities do have an environmental impact. Procurements and contracts related to the EU secure connectivity programme therefore include provisions on environmental and space sustainability measures aimed at minimising and offseting the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the development, production and deployment of the infrastructure, as well as provisions establishing a scheme to offset the remaining greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon offsetting should be preferably done via carbon removal, applying consensus methods on accounting for greenhouse gas removal as soon as they become available.

- Green procurement principles were pursued to set in place the infrastructure that will be providing communication through space and avoiding the deployment of ground networks, submarine cables, high power cables or fibres (buried in the ground or above the ground). No significant harm will therefore be done to the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources.
- In addition, procurements and contracts will include provisions on measures to prevent light pollution, the use of appropriate collision-avoidance technologies for spacecraft and the submission and implementation of a comprehensive debris mitigation plan to ensure the avoidance of debris by the satellites of the constellation.
- To reduce the environmental impact of space activities and set out a standardised method to assess environmental impacts, a European Parliament-backed pilot project rolled out in 2024 and continued in 2025, aimed at developing a sector-specific life cycle assessment method – Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) for the space sector. In 2025, space companies were invited through an open call to participate in the supporting studies which are conducted as part of the development of PEFCR for Space (26 June – 30 September 2025). By end 2025, an open consultation on the first draft document of the Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for the space sector (PEFCR4Space) was conducted (15 October - 1 December 2025). The received feedback (over 200 contributions) will be analysed and be integrated in the evolved draft of the PEFCR for space that will be subject to a second consultation in 2027. To support the implementation of the PEFCR4space once finalised (by 2027), a open call for tender was launched on 29 October 2025 for PEFCR4Space supportive measures.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	0.0	0.0	186.3	213.4	404.6	804.3
Total:	0.0	0.0	186.3	213.4	404.6	804.3

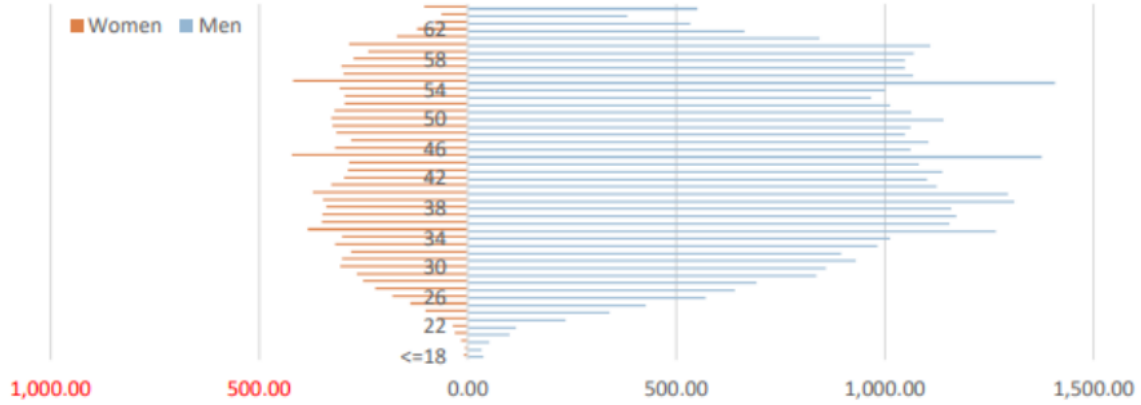
- The regulation states that the programme should contribute to the development of advanced skills in space-related fields and support education and training activities, along with promoting equal opportunities, gender equality and women's empowerment, in order to realise the full potential of EU citizens in that area. In this respect, the Commission will promote and encourage the increased participation of women.
- In 2025, no dedicated budget was allocated specifically for gender equality. However, several initiatives contributed to its promotion.
- The European space sector is on an upward trajectory but faces many challenges in terms of workforce. A comprehensive analysis identified that the industry is aging and male-dominated, and that there is a critical gap between the hard and soft skills provided by current educational curricula. To answer the needs of the industry, the Commission launched in 2024 and concluded in 2025 the pilot phase of the Space Career Launchpad ([20]) platform aimed at university students and young graduates to give them experience through internships, with a particular focus on 'new space' companies. By offering a wide range of internships and entry-level jobs in various fields, and by actively encouraging participation from under-represented groups, including women, the Commission wants to spark interest in the space sector and showcase its exciting career opportunities. The goal is to bridge the skills gap and foster a skilled, inclusive and diverse workforce.
- In January 2025, DG Defence Industry and Space launched the DIVERIS network, aiming at promoting equal opportunities and inclusive practices in the space and defence sectors by bringing together individuals, companies, research organisations, public bodies and civil society actors across Europe. Its work focuses on building a resilient and diverse workforce, increasing representation, attracting and retaining talent, raising awareness and contributing to EU policies aligned with the post-2025 equality strategies. At the end of 2025, the network had a total of 63 members.
- The Commission will also support initiatives to raise awareness of gender equality in the area of space.

([20]) https://starseu.net/spacecareer/.

Gender disaggregated information:

- The European space industry is quite specific in terms of age and qualification structures. The industry maintains a rather stable age structure. The employment distribution gender shows that about a fifth of space industry employees are women.
- Women accounted for roughly 23% of employment in the upstream segment in Europe in 2021, a share that has remained stable over the last decade.

Space industry employees age pyramid



Source: Eurospace, 2022.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	0.0	0.0	186.3	213.4	404.6	804.3	100%

- The services that will be provided under the programme are expected to boost the digital transition in Europe and worldwide. The programme was adopted in 2023 and the first activities were rolled out in 2025, following the signature of the main concession contract in December 2024. The concessionaire is expected to support and facilitate the further development of worldwide high-speed broadband and seamless connectivity under the IRIS^2 programme.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	In 2025, DG DEFIS launched the DIVERIS Network aimed at promoting equal opportunities and inclusive practices in the space and defence sectors, to build a resilient workforce and attract and retain talent. The network brings together individuals, companies, research organisations, public bodies, and civil society actors across Europe.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	The services that will be provided under the EU secure connectivity programme are expected to contribute to several goals of sustainable development by connecting remote areas and areas with limited terrestrial connectivity infrastructure. A major programme objective is to improve secure connectivity over geographical areas of strategic interest of the EU, in particular Africa and the Arctic, and support the sustainable development and social cohesion in these regions. Ensuring environmental and space sustainability is another key programmatic focus where the new European constellation will satisfy space sustainability criteria and be an example of good practices in space traffic management and in space surveillance and tracking promoting responsible behaviour in space.
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Yes	The development of PEFCR4Space establishes clear Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for the space sector, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 12 by promoting sustainable consumption and production through standardised environmental impact assessments and improved resource efficiency. Also, in line with the Secure connectivity Regulation (EU) 2023/588 and it Article 8 on Environmental and space sustainability, the EU secure connectivity will mitigate and offset GHG emissions linked to the manufacturing and launch activities of the space system.

REGIONAL POLICY

COHESION FUND AND EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

500 000 businesses are covered by selected projects toto receive support for innovation, growth and competitiveness in the form of grants, equity, guarantees, loans and advice.	1.63 million households are covered by selected projects to provide access to very-high-capacity broadband.	224 000 enterprises are covered by selected projects to provide access to very-high-capacity broadband , boosting productivity and competitiveness.	318 000 households are covered by selected projects to save energy and costs through improved efficiency.
59.8 million people are covered by selected projects to benefit from new or modernised health services.	45 million people are covered by selected projects to be better protected against climate-related natural disasters.	65 million hectares of land are covered by selected projects to be protected against wildfires.	

Note: The above values represent cohesion policy achievements by the end of December 2025 and are aggregated from the ERDF/CF and Interreg Europe programmes based on data reported as of March 2026. Up-to-date values are available on the Cohesion Open Data Platform.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	255.2	42 624.6	44 863.5	46 093.4	47 324.7	40 613.2	42 023.0	263797.7
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	234.7	120.2	135.7	0.0	0.0	490.6
Total	**255.2**	**42 624.6**	**45 098.2**	**46 213.6**	**47 460.4**	**40 613.2**	**42 023.0**	**264 288.3**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Budget programming REACT-EU (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NextGenerationEU	24 038.5	5 904.7	38.4	3.0	22.0	0.0	0.0	30 006.6
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**24 038.5**	**5 904.7**	**38.4**	**3.0**	**22.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**30 006.6**

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate

Commitments	178 777.8	264 288.3	67.6%
Payments	43 693.9		16.5%

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 REACT-EU (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	29 988.0	30 006.6	99.9%
Payments	29 888.5	30 006.6	99.6%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Enterprises supported to innovate	0	Actual results: 25.18%, selected operations: 63.7%	126 000 in 2029	31 714 enterprises (selected operations: 80 458 enterprises) by 2025 compared to a target of 126 309 enterprises	On track
Small and medium-sized enterprises supported to enhance growth and competitiveness	0	Actual results: 29.6%, selected operations: 73.1%	450 000 in 2029	132 993 small and medium-sized enterprises (selected operations: 328 668 small and medium-sized enterprises) by 2025 compared to a target of 449 656 small and medium-sized enterprises	On track
Additional dwellings and enterprises with very-high-capacity broadband access	0	Actual results: 14.4% for dwellings and 16.5% for enterprises, selected operations: 70% for dwellings and 90.7% for enterprises	2.3 million dwellings and 247 500enterprises in 2029	335 148 dwellings (selected operations: 1 630 241 dwellings) by 2025 compared to a target of 2 329 960 and 40 945 enterprises (selected operations: 224 536 enterprises), compared to a target of 247 532 enterprises	On track
Savings in annual primary energy consumption	296 144 570 MWh/year in 2021	Actual results: 5%, selected operations: 25.1%	70 848 915 MWh/year (target value of 225 million megawatt-hours/year in 2029 compared to the baseline of 296 144 570 MWh/year in 2021)	3 559 194 MWh/year (selected operations: 17 804 186 MWh/year) by 2025 compared to a target of 70 848 915MWh/year	Moderate progress

Additional production capacity for renewable energy	0	Actual results: 16.9%, selected operations: 55.1%	8 500 megawatts in 2029	1 434 MW (selected operations: 4 687 MW) by 2025 compared to a target of 8 501 MW	On track
New, upgraded, reconstructed or modernised TEN-T railways	0	Actual results: 8.2%, selected operations: 62.5%	4 140 kilometres in 2029	340 km (selected operations: 2 591 km) by 2025 compared to a target of 4 143 km	On track
New or modernised capacity for healthcare facilities	0	Actual results: 13.3%, selected operations: 87.4%	68 million people/year in 2029	9 million people/year (selected operations: 59.7 million people/year) by 2025 compared to a target of 68.3 million people/year	On track
Population covered by strategies for integrated territorial development	0	Actual results: 15.9%, selected operations: 71%	168 million people in 2029	26.7 million people (selected operations: 119.5 million people) by 2025 compared to a target of 168 million people	On track

Based on SFC2021 data as transmitted by Member State / managing authority and available on 13 March 2026.

The 2021-2027 programme implementation is accelerating. As of the end of 2025, Member States had selected operations amounting to 63.4% of their European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) / Cohesion Fund (CF) allocation (including Interreg Europe), EUR 185 billion under the ERDF and EUR 37 billion under the CF (including national co-financing).

The 2021-2027 selection rate is comparable to the previous programming period, considering that the 2021-2027 programmes were adopted on average more than seven months later than those in 2014-2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the energy crisis. At the same time, the simultaneous implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility with shorter implementation deadlines created challenges relating to the administrative capacity of the Member States.

As of 31 December 2025, total net payments (including pre-financing) of EUR 39.9 billion had been disbursed (15.2% of the ERDF and CF allocations). While payment rates for the ERDF and the CF increased significantly in 2025, they somewhat fell behind in comparison with 2014-2020. Reasons for this include the delayed start of the 2021-2027 programme implementation and the large backlog of unpaid claims at the end of 2025, which resulted in EUR 9.5 billion in interim payments being made only in 2026. ERDF and CF payment rates are expected to continue accelerating in 2026. Based on the latest Member State forecasts submitted at the end of January 2026, and considering the effects of the midterm review of cohesion policy, by the end of 2026, implementation should fully catch up and even exceed the implementation level of the 2014-2020 period (sixth year of implementation).

The midterm review of programmes in 2025 opened up an opportunity to reallocate available financial resources to the strategic investment priorities: competitiveness; defence and civil preparedness, with priority given to dual use; water resilience; sustainable and affordable housing; and energy security, with a focus on energy interconnectors and related infrastructure. The respective amendment of the ERDF/CF Regulation ([21]) entered into force in September 2025, and 25 Member States had proposed financial reallocations amounting to 34.6 billion via 186 programme amendments . Reallocations were supported by various incentives such as additional pre-financing, higher rates of co-financing and longer eligibility periods, with even stronger levels of support for eastern border regions in recognition of their heightened security challenges. Further simplification measures included faster selection for projects awarded the seals of excellence and for important projects of common European interest, along with the easing of rules for thematic concentration, climate contribution and investment in large enterprises across more regions.

In order to ensure a smooth implementation, the Commission is in close contact with counterparts in the Member States and is monitoring the situation closely. Mitigation measures for those programmes experiencing difficulties entail reprogramming in particular (including in the context of the midterm review), but also streamlining procedures and promoting simplification through the use of financing not linked to costs, simplified cost options and financial instruments, with a positive impact on implementation prospects.

In the 2025 budget, the allocation for the ERDF and the CF together was EUR 47.1 billion for mainstream programmes (EUR 40.1 billion for the ERDF and EUR 7.0 billion for the CF) in commitment appropriations. Of this amount, EUR 46.1 billion has been committed, representing 97.8% of the total allocation. The remaining amount corresponds to suspended commitments for three Hungarian programmes ([22]) (EUR 1 billion).

The performance data reported by programmes ([23]) at the end of 2025 show notable progress in implementation compared to the previous year. in particular the corporate common indicators ([24]) linked to the support for small and medium-sized enterprises aimed at boosting innovation and competitiveness, as well as investments in digitalisation, energy, transportation, health and education infrastructure. 18 out of 25 corporate common output indicators are on track and show sufficient progress to achieve their planned targets by the end of the programming period. A limited number of corporate common output indicators linked to social and environmental digital and physical infrastructure) show pronounced progress compared to the previous year.

([21]) Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1058/2025-09-20).

([22]) Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principle of the rule of law in Hungary (OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2022/2506/oj).

([23]) In line with the provisions of Article 42, Annex VII and Annex XVII of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060/2025-10-25).

([24]) As defined in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/1058.

The midterm evaluation of the 2021-2027 programming period, carried out in 2025, confirms that the ERDF, the CF and the Just Transition Fund are well suited to addressing regional disparities and territorial challenges, and the multilevel governance model allowing the involvement of regions and local authorities in programming and implementation has clear added value in enhancing the effectiveness, ownership and impact of ERDF / CF / Just Transition Fund programme implementation. The evaluation also confirmed the importance of administrative capacity as a key prerequisite for effective implementation, and of capacity-building actions where needed.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	91.7	15 323.2	16 128.1	16 570.2	17 012.9	14 600.1	15 107.0	94 833.3	35.9%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	15.6	2 611.0	2 748.1	2 823.5	2 898.9	2 487.8	2 574.1	16 159.1	6.1%

Cohesion policy uses a 'categorisation system' to capture information of the thematic content of the 2021-2027 programmes. The multiannual thematic allocations are used to calculate the indicative share of investments under each annual commitment, as set out above. There are several tracking tools (e.g. climate, biodiversity, clean air, gender, digital).

The legislation set up minimum thresholds for two of the tracking mechanisms: climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

For climate mainstreaming, the ERDF and the CF will contribute 30% and 37% respectively of the EU contribution. Following the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2025/1914 ([25]), if either fund exceeds its climate contribution target, the excess can be counted toward helping the other fund meet its own climate contribution target. Based on the adopted 2021-2027 programmes, the planned targets have, in any case, largely been exceeded, reaching 33% for the ERDF and 56% for the CF. This climate tracking data story presents in detail the cohesion policy support for climate action.

For biodiversity, the ambition is to provide 7.5% of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to the funds governed by Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (the Common Provisions

([25]) Regulation (EU) 2025/1914 of the European Parliament and of the European Council of 18 September amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1058 and (EU) 2021/1056 as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review (OJ L, 2025/1914, 19.9.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1914/oj).

Regulation). Based on the adopted programmes, 6.1% has been earmarked so far for activities tackling the loss of biodiversity. This biodiversity tracking data story, available on the Cohesion Open Data Platform, presents in more detail the cohesion policy investments benefiting biodiversity.

For clean air, based on the adopted 2021-2027 programmes, 18% of the planned EU amounts will be used to support interventions with a main objective of improving air quality, or with a substantial co-benefit for improving air quality.

The allocations to the different green budgeting objectives overlap to some extent. The amounts for the different cross-cutting priorities should not be directly aggregated to avoid double counting. Data stories on the Cohesion Open Data Platform present the data and the methods for tracking in more detail.

In relation to the taxonomy for sustainable activities, the Cohesion Policy Funds system of 193 intervention fields has undergone an alignment with the taxonomy in the context of NextGenerationEU green bond reporting. As a result, groups of intervention fields were assessed as 'fully aligned', 'substantially aligned', 'partially aligned' or 'not covered'. According to the planned values from the adopted cohesion policy programmes and from the taxonomy perspective, around EUR 79.87 billion was assessed as being fully aligned, EUR 37.29 billion as partially or substantially aligned, while EUR 146.36 billion was assessed as not covered.

Under the climate tracking methodology, both mitigation and adaptation measures are supported. Mitigation measures include significant investments in renewable energies, energy efficiency and clean urban transport measures. Adaptation includes risk prevention linked to adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change. However, no explicit assignment of the different intervention fields to mitigation or adaptation has been made and there is some overlapping. Finally, there is likely to be under-reporting of adaptation measures where they are linked to infrastructures that bear a 0% climate coefficient.

In addition to climate tracking, the 'do no significant harm' principle was applied by national authorities in the assessment of the investment priorities contained in the programmes before adoption. Member States are responsible for the implementation of this principle.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	1.5	245.1	257.9	265.0	272.1	1,041.6
1	17.8	2,971.6	3,127.7	3,213.4	3,299.3	12,629.9
0*	-	-	-	-	-	-
0	236.0	39,407.9	41,477.9	42,614.9	43,753.4	167,490.1
Total	255.2	42,624.6	44,863.5	46,093.4	47,324.7	181,165.5

Cohesion policy uses a 'categorisation' information system, which includes a gender equality dimension to capture information on the gender contribution of the 2021-2027 programmes. These multiannual thematic allocations are used to calculate the indicative share of investments under each annual commitment as set out above.

Based on the adopted programmes, close to 8% of the planned ERDF/CF EU amounts will be used to support interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality or interventions that have gender equality as an objective.

For example, the Women Business HUB project contributes to a better business environment for women in border regions between Croatia and Serbia. Based on data that indicates a higher percentage of unemployed women and obstacles for women to start their own businesses, the partnership of the WBH project is determined to foster economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs and minimise the impact of these obstacles.

The gender tracking data story, available on the Cohesion Open Data Platform, presents in detail the cohesion policy support for gender equality based on the latest adopted programmes. .

Gender-disaggregated information

There is no information available, as the data is not disaggregated by gender.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	30.0	5 010.9	5 274.1	5 418.7	5 563.4	21 297.0	11.5%

Based on the adopted programmes, close to 12% of the planned EU amounts will be used to finance interventions that support the digital transition.

The calculation of the amount for the digital transition is based on coefficients applied to the intervention fields in Annex 1 to the Common Provisions Regulation. In the case of digital tracking, the amounts calculated are based on the assessment by Commission services of the relevance of planned thematic allocations. The reported amounts are based on the planned amounts in adopted programmes at the end of 2025. The cumulative planned contribution to this horizontal objective is presented proportionately to financial implementation of annual budgetary commitments.

The digital tracking data story, available on the Cohesion Open Data Platform, presents in detail the cohesion policy support for the digital transition.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

The ERDF is one of the EU programmes mobilised to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy, in line with the STEP Regulation. STEP investments can be supported under existing priority axes and/or under new STEP-dedicated priorities, if a Member State amends one or more of its ERDF programmes.

As of 31 December 2025, the Commission has adopted 77 programme amendments, including STEP-dedicated priorities, amounting to EUR 10.8 billion of ERDF allocations (in addition to amounts reprogrammed under the European Social Fund Plus and the Just Transition Fund).

Eighteen Member States made use of this possibility through programme amendments (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain). Italy has allocated the most significant amounts to STEP – about 30% of the total STEP reallocations – followed by Spain (16%) and Germany (12%).

The biggest share of the STEP ERDF allocation is used for productive investments in all three STEP sectors (EUR 6.6 billion). Research- and innovation activities received EUR 2.7 billion, while skills development was allocated EUR 410 million. Around EUR 1.1 billion of the STEP investments go to other activities, such as technology transfer and support for business incubation, spin-offs and start-ups, along with services linked to the low-carbon economy and resilience to climate change.

Zooming into productive investments by type of enterprise, large enterprises account for EUR 3.7 billion and small and medium-sized enterprises for EUR 2.8 billion of the reprogrammed amounts. The distribution of allocations across STEP sectors is quite proportionate: digital technologies and deep-tech innovation are set to receive EUR 2.3 billion, clean and resource-efficient technologies EUR 2.3 billion and biotechnologies EUR 1.9 billion.

Contribution to reforms

Under cohesion policy, reforms are supported via the enabling conditions. These ensure that the necessary conditions for the effective and efficient use of the funds are in place. These cover:

- policy and strategic frameworks, to ensure that the strategic documents at the national and regional levels which underpin investments are of high quality and in line with EU standards;
- regulatory frameworks, to ensure that implementation of operations co-financed by the funds complies with the EU *acquis*.

The progress in the fulfilment of these conditions since the adoption of programmes in 2022 is significant. At the end of December 2025, only 1.3% of the ERDF/CF/ESF+ allocations remain blocked by unfulfilled enabling conditions, compared to 22.3% at the time of adoption.

The mid-term evaluation of the 2021-2027 programming period showed that enabling conditions were instrumental in establishing strategic policy frameworks, systems and other arrangements, thus ensuring the funds' effective and efficient implementation. At the same time, the European Semester has provided an effective mechanism for improving coherence between national and subnational policies and strategies and common priorities of Member States.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	yes	**No poverty.** In Budapest (Hungary), the Affordable Housing for All (AHA) project**,** supported under the European Urban Initiative (EUI)'s Innovative Actions, addresses the dual challenge of the energy and housing affordability crises by developing an Integrated Housing Service Model. The initiative combines the repurposing of an unused public building into near-zero energy social housing with a set of flexible, affordable and energy-efficient housing solutions tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups. At the heart of the project is the DemoHub, which will transform a former school building into 26 high-quality, energy-efficient housing units co-designed with community input. In parallel, AHA is developing a service portfolio to support energy efficient and flexible housing. Community engagement plays a central role, with awareness campaigns, placemaking events and collaboration with social workers and NGOs. Total ERDF budget granted: EUR 5 million
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	yes	**Good health and well-being.** The TRUST project in Salamanca (Spain) aims to modernise the care system for dependent people by integrating AI-based voice recognition, IoT sensors, and predictive analytics. The project seeks to streamline administrative procedures, improve service coordination, and provide dedicated support for informal caregivers through a Caregiver Support Programme. All solutions will be demonstrated in the Innovation & Care Centre, a renovated municipal hub for training, testing, and community engagement. Through these measures, TRUST strengthens the city's care system, enhances personalised care, and improves support for both professional and informal caregivers. Total ERDF budget granted: EUR 4.4 million

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	yes	**Quality education.** The Carmen Sylva project in Eforie Sud (Romania) aims to improve the quality of life by creating a multifunctional centre for education, culture, and recreation and upgrading urban road infrastructure. The centre will offer high-quality learning environments and educational programs for residents, supporting lifelong learning, skills development, and social inclusion, particularly for vulnerable groups. By combining educational, cultural, and recreational services in a single, accessible facility, the project strengthens human capital, encourages community engagement, and enhances the usability and attractiveness of public spaces for both permanent residents and Romanian and foreign tourists, promoting long-term sustainable development. Total ERDF budget granted: EUR 4.4 million
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	yes	**Gender equality.** The Digital Skills for Women project in Rotterdam (Netherlands) aims to increase labour mobility and employment opportunities for women by providing training in digital skills and ICT (information, communication and technology) functions. The project targets women working in vulnerable professions, such as care and administration, offering accessible digital skills workshops and tailor-made reskilling pathways into ICT roles, with guaranteed job opportunities upon completion. By focusing on women with migrant backgrounds, the initiative promotes inclusivity while addressing the local ICT labour shortage. Through these interventions, the project supports more generally sustainable career development, enhances participation in the digital economy, and strengthens social and economic inclusion for women. Total ERDF budget granted: EUR 640 000

SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	yes	**Ensure clean water and sanitation for all.** In Sardinia (Italy) the island's public water company has digitalised and centralised its water service, providing drinking water to over 1.6 million residents. It has improved its service quality by developing a centralised data control and acquisition system that enables real-time monitoring, remote management, and tools for simulating and optimising water resource flows. This will enable better planning of targeted interventions to ensure water availability in the context of increasing water stress in the region. Thanks to significant funding from cohesion policy over the last two programming periods, the area of Castelli Romani, Italy has been equipped with three new sewage treatment plants capable of providing an additional service for approximately 75 000 equivalent inhabitants, as well as a new sewer network, spanning approximately 70 kilometres. Total EU amount planned for this goal: EUR 13.4 billion
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	yes	**Affordable and clean energy.** Interleuven, together with the municipality of Tervuren (Belgium), is developing the Keiberg-Vossem sustainable business park as an energy-self-sufficient site. It is powered mainly by solar energy and supported by heat storage. The project uses PV panels and solar collectors to generate heat in sunny periods, which is stored in large underground water basins and later used for heating during colder months, significantly reducing reliance on the electricity grid. The park aims to form a renewable energy community and serve as a reference model for sustainable energy solutions for business parks, residential areas, and other developments. Total budget of the project: EUR 2.6 million, total allocation for this goal: EUR 45 billion up to 2029

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	yes	**Decent work and economic growth**. InnoRenew CoE is a research institute in Slovenia focused on renewable materials and sustainable buildings, emphasizing innovative wood-based solutions and the transfer of scientific knowledge to industry. InnoRenew CoE advances the regional forest-based industry through research–industry collaboration and promotes sustainable economic growth. The institute was selected as a finalist in the New European Bauhaus Prizes 2024 for its integration of sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusivity. Total amount planned for this goal: EUR 29.4 billion
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	yes	**Industry, innovation and infrastructure.** In Coimbra region in Portugal, the project 'Innovation Hub Lavoisier' developed a Circular Economy Innovation Humb to create a comprehensive and strong innovation ecosystem in the field of Circular Economy, enabling the development and transfer of knowledge and technology to the market. The total budget of the project was EUR 1.6 million. Total amount planned for this goal: EUR 112.7 billion.

SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes	**Reduced inequalities.** The Tatary District Revitalisation project in Lublin (Poland) aims to reduce socio-economic inequalities by modernising degraded urban areas, namely the expansion and reconstruction of an amphitheatre and the construction and redesign of a square. The project incorporates accessible design, including ramps, profiled slopes, and removal of architectural barriers, and uses energy-efficient and nature-inspired solutions such as LED lighting and wooden elements in small architecture. The revitalised area, part of a larger green recreational zone dating from the 1960s-70s, will provide a safe, inclusive, and attractive public space for the community. The project enables the organisation of outdoor cultural and educational events and encourages local engagement, activating and integrating residents while improving urban functionality and public order. Total ERDF budget granted: EUR 2.4 mill
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	yes	**Sustainable cities and communities.** In Athens (Greece), the Cooling Havens project, supported under the European Urban Initiative's (EUI) Innovative Actions, reintroduces water as a key element of urban resilience. It turns water-sensitive design into a strategic response to extreme urban heat and flash floods. By installing blue-green features such as rainwater gardens, bioswale wetlands and sewer-mining water systems in neighbourhoods, the project cools public spaces, enhances local climate comfort, and revives shared community assets. Beyond physical interventions, the initiative fosters environmental stewardship through the creation of a new Athens Water School and a Digital Lab for Water Memories, providing educational programmes that build skills among students, citizens and municipal officials. Total ERDF budget granted: EUR 5 million

SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	yes	**Responsible consumption and production.** The project 'SMARTFARM' is a research and development project in the region of Nitra Region in Slovakia. It generates original scientific knowledge, innovative approaches and technological solutions for the sustainability and competitiveness of primary agricultural production. Total budget for the project is EUR 11.5 million. Total amount planned for this goal: EUR 7.7 billion
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	yes	**Climate action.** The urban areas of Riba-Roja and Paterna (Valencia, Spain), share the protected wildland zone 'La Vallesa', which is part of the Natural Park 'Parque Natural del Turia', located in a highly urbanised environment. The wildland-urban interface between this park and these two cities is subject to the growing risk posed by forest fires, further impacted by the effects of climate change. The GUARDIAN project addresses wildfire risk by combining the use of recycled water for fire mitigation and protection, providing water spraying patterns automatically programmed. Furthermore, soil and vegetation works (reduction of tree density, ladder fuels, pruning, shrub spacing, slash and vegetation debris reduction etc.) are carried out, improving the ecologic conditions and the fire resilience of the Vallesa forest. Total amount planned for this goal: EUR 120 billion
SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Yes	**Life Below Water.** The Interreg project 'PlasticBusters MPAs' has contributed to maintaining biodiversity and preserving natural ecosystems in pelagic and coastal Marina Protected Areas. Regions in Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Croatia and Albania participate in this project which defines and implements a harmonized approach against marine litter. It entails actions that address the whole management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation. Total budget for this project is EUR 5 million.

SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Yes	**Life on land.** The project Urban Biodiversity Parks in Turku (Finland) reflects the New European Bauhaus principles by promoting urban ecological restoration and regeneration through the creation of biodiversity parks and pilot green spaces. It reflects Turku's ambition to become one of the world's leading 'nature and climate cities'. The project aim is to establish a 20-hectare biodiversity park, providing a recreational area – while also serving as a platform for community engagement and experiential learning. The concept is being piloted in Turku's Skanssi area, with more, smaller pilots planned in other suburban neighbourhoods. Total amount planned for this goal: EUR 9.5 billion.

2014-2020 – Regional policy

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	261 575.20	261 575.20	100.00%
Payments	261 049.02		99.80%

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	0	>100%	94 430 in 2023	134 500 in 2023	Achieved
Enterprises receiving support	0	>100%	2.493 million in 2023	2.991 million in 2023	Achieved
Additional employment in supported enterprises	0	>100%	381 200 in 2023	503 300 in 2023	Achieved
Population covered by improved health services	0	>100%	103 million in 2023	144.9 million in 2023	Achieved
Additional capacity of renewable energy production	0	>100%	8 900 in 2023	13 400 in 2023	Achieved
Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0	>100%	38 million in 2023	47 million in 2023	Achieved
Households with an improved energy consumption classification	0	>100%	596 500 in 2023	841 800 in 2023	Achieved
Trans-European transport networks – total length of new and reconstructed railway lines	0	>100%	2 900 in 2023	3 000 in 2023	Achieved

Total length of new or improved tram and metro lines	0	>100%	500 in 2023	1 445 in 2023	Achieved

Figures provided above are based on the data transmitted by the programmes in their Final Implementation Reports and available to the Commission on 13/03/2026.
Given the eligibility end date of 2023, the 2014-2020 programmes are in the closure process.
The total net payment rate as of 31 December 2025 is 99.8%.

TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

EU AID PROGRAMME FOR THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

Concrete examples of achievements

99 primary and secondary schools were modernised between 2021-2025.	153 kilometres of sewerage network were renovated between 2021-2025.	958 small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural businesses received grants worth over EUR 10.7 million between 2021-2025.	683 Turkish Cypriots were given educational opportunities in EU Member States through EU scholarships between 2021-2025.
48 grants totaling almost EUR 10 million were awarded to Cypriot civil-society organisations between 2021-2025.	104 cultural heritage sites across Cyprus were renovated, restored and protected between 2021-2025, with EU support reaching over EUR 12 million.	500 kilowatt-peak is the capacity of solar panels installed between 2021-2025.	

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	32.0	34.3	33.6	34.3	35.5	36.2	36.2	242.0
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	32.0	34.3	33.6	34.3	35.5	36.2	36.2	242.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	169.5	242.0	70.1%
Payments	90.2	0.0	37.3%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Cross-Green-Line trade volume	0	**56%**	EUR 9.0 million in 2029	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 14.4 million compared to a milestone of 7.0 million)	On track
Number of civil-society organisations having received EU support in the form of a grant	0	**92%**	52 in 2029	48 by 2025 compared to a target of 52	On track
Number of individuals having benefited from a scholarship	0	**33%**	145 annually from 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021, 2022 and 2025, but not for 2023 or 2024 (2025: 142 compared to a milestone of 140)	On track

The aid programme for the Turkish Cypriot community is allocated a budget of EUR 241 million under the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. In 2025, it met its financial targets and delivered results across its six objectives in a challenging operational environment.

Implementation of the Commission's largest confidence-building measure in Cyprus with major economic impact, the bi-communal Halloumi/Hellim EU protected designation of origin scheme, continued. By 2025, 4 Turkish Cypriot producers and 24 farms were certified. Bureau Veritas achieved full accreditation for undertaking public health and animal health inspections in the community. Delays in the start of these inspections negatively impacted the motivation of Turkish Cypriot stakeholders to take part in the protected designation of origin scheme. The Commission raised the issue with the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus throughout the year with a view to ensure progress.

Long-standing efforts to strengthen EU-aligned food safety and animal health management, agriculture and rural development in the Turkish Cypriot community showed progress. The first ever sheep and goat breeding programme was launched in 2025 and the EU Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System brought opportunities to a key economic sector. Since 2024, 19 farms and 7 dairies were awarded grants to improve their standards. Thanks to long-term EU assistance, the Turkish Cypriot community mobilised quickly to roll out emergency actions to contain a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in December 2025. Given the severity of the disease and its economic impact, long-term EU support to this sector is to be anticipated.

Given their key role in economic development, the Commission continued to invest in upgrading the production standards and systems of small and medium-sized enterprises, specifically those with potential for trade across the Green Line. A total of 932 grants with a value of EUR 8 million

were awarded since 2021, The bi-communal 'StartUps4Peace' programme celebrated its 10th anniversary with a record number of applications received.

In terms of infrastructure development, 153 kilometres of sewerage pipes were laid to replace damaged septic tanks that can contaminate groundwater. More recent investments included water/wastewater management, energy efficiency, air quality and noise measurement measures and the launch of bi-communal projects such as the rehabilitation of the Pedios river/Kanlidere, supporting people-to-people contact across communities.

Education continued to be a key priority area for the aid programme, with assistance focusing on vocational education and training, lifelong learning and the professional development of teachers. During 2021-2025, 683 scholarships were awarded to Turkish Cypriots to study in a Member State, contributing to bring the community closer to the EU.

In terms of confidence-building measures, 104 cultural heritage sites were restored or conserved across the island during 2021-2025. The Commission continued its support to the Committee on Missing Persons and the bi-communal technical committees established by the leaders of the two communities. Civil society was boosted through 48 grants provided during 2021-2025, while 18 young Turkish Cypriots were granted scholarships in 2025 to study at the United World Colleges.

The technical assistance and information exchange instrument enabled more than 250 expert mobilisations from Member States helping draft EU-aligned local legal texts, conduct studies and improve knowledge of EU *acquis*. They ensured that plant products traded across the Green Line meet EU standards. The total value of all products traded across the Green Line amounted to EUR 14.4 million in 2025.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Total**	**% of the total envelope**
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.6%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	2.5	1.0%

The aid programme is strictly related to the reunification of Cyprus and operates in relation to six fixed objectives. Although green budgeting priorities are not featured among the six objectives, the programme has contributed to greening priorities directly as follows:

- Implementation of infrastructure development initiatives in the area of the environment. The aid programme has undertaken significant investments in constructing, installing, refurbishing or extending major water, wastewater and waste infrastructure including sewage networks, wastewater treatment plants in Nicosia, Famagusta and Morphou. This has had a direct impact on the state of the environment of the Turkish Cypriot community, encouraging sustainable management of natural resources and preventing contamination. Support has also included promotion of the use of renewable energies, including through the installation of solar panel systems;
- Technical assistance to ensure long-term capacity in the Turkish Cypriot community in the area of the environment;
- Grants awarded to civil-society organisations, including projects contributing to sustainable fisheries, wildfire management, wetlands conservation as well as environmental management, awareness raising and educational activities.

Given the emphasis on the environment as one of the infrastructure areas to be supported under the aid programme, it is to be noted that the infrastructure objective has received a third of the total resources allocated to the aid programme since its inception. The investments that have been made since the establishment of the taxonomy, which are aligned with the specific objectives of Regulation (EC) No 389/2006, are listed in the table below (for the period between 2022 and 2025).

Climate change mitigation	EUR 2 152 855,00

Climate change adaptation	EUR 250 000,00
Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources	EUR 1 638 800,00
Transition to a circular economy	EUR 941 300,40
Pollution prevention and control	EUR 3 113 960,00
Protection of biodiversity and ecosystems	EUR 4 517 700,00

The amounts come from different apportionment levels to the specific objectives of the total investment values. The apportionment factors are assigned when projects make a substantial contribution to the specific objectives, do not harm others and comply with the minimum safeguards and technical criteria.

The projects funded in 2022 include the establishment of a capacity-building programme on the environment and air quality, environmental inspection and monitoring supplies as well as the production of a geochemical agent map in the western part of Cyprus and measures to increase energy efficiency in local communities. In 2023, additional investment was made to bolster local energy-efficiency strategies and to provide a grant for a research project on marine pesticides. In 2024, two projects aimed at increasing the environmental monitoring and noise-control capabilities of the Turkish Cypriot community were financed. In 2025, the EU funded the Pedieos river/Kanlidere linear park project, dedicated to the conservation of the riverbank and the creation of green spaces for the residents of the divided city of Nicosia. Equally, it funded a photovoltaic park for the wastewater treatment plants of Famagusta and Morphou, and a set of weather monitoring stations for climate change adaptation.

The principles established in the taxonomy are considered at the following stages in the project management cycle.

- At the time the financing decision is programmed and drafted.
- At the time of commitment (when certain amendments are inevitable or more specificity is needed in terms of objectives and targets).
- When catering for all reporting needs (before, during and after project implementation).

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

0	31.7	34.3	32.9	34.3	35.5	168.7
Total:	32.0	34.3	33.6	34.3	35.5	169.7

The aid programme is strictly related to the reunification of Cyprus and operates in relation to six fixed objectives. Gender priorities are not featured among the objectives. However, the programme contributes to gender equality in the following ways:

- promoting the inclusion of women in social and economic life;
- promoting EU values and inclusiveness, particularly in schools;
- providing direct support (via grants) to civil-society organisations addressing equality issues (including women, young people, older people, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ people and vulnerable groups); promoting gender equality education, prevention of domestic violence and sexual health education in schools; and
- participation of women in the peace-building process, including through support to the bi-communal technical committee on gender.

Gender equality is a critical consideration for many aid programmes funded civil-society projects. The programme funds civil society actions whose main objective is to advance gender equality and actions which contribute to gender equality.

The following civil society grants aiming to promote gender equality were successfully completed in 2025:

- 'The helix project' (EU budget EUR 199 924,32) contributed to better safeguarding the human rights of LGBTIQ persons,
  'United action against human trafficking' (EU budget EUR 190 000) focused on joint bi-communal action for the protection and support of survivors of human trafficking.

The on-going grants that contribute to gender equality by targeting LGBTIQ rights, the fight against human trafficking, the protection and the economic and political empowerment of women are:

- "Human rights platform" (EU budget EUR 1 450 000),
- 'Women to support living' (EU budget EUR 199 473,39),
- 'Partnership for improving women's access to productive resources' (EU budget EUR 165 000),
- 'Increasing women economic inclusion and women economic partnership across the Green Line' (EU budget EUR 156 933,96),
- 'Sustainable wetlands initiative for Famagusta's transformation' (EU budget EUR 125 000),
- 'Women making peace - a grassroots intervention for a united Cyprus' (EU budget EUR 124 940,74).

The structural impact of these activities on gender equality in the Turkish Cypriot community has not been measured, given that the main focus of the programme remains the reunification of the island.

Gender disaggregated information:
Not applicable

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	1.0	2.6	0.0	1.4	0.0	5.0	2.9%

The aid programme is strictly related to the reunification of Cyprus and operates in relation to six fixed objectives. Digital priorities are not featured among the objectives. However, the programme contributes to digital priorities in the following ways:

- The Commission is funding the digitalisation and online accessibility of the cultural heritage of Cyprus, creating digital resources including the 3D models of four monuments and 360 ° virtual tours for 29 others. A multiplayer game based on the Othello Tower was developed and a digital archive featuring 67 monuments established, preserving important historical data. The initiative is integrated into the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage's website for enhanced user experience. The total investment amounts to EUR 229 610.
- A digital database developed under the EU legal and linguistic support project monitors and stores EU-supported legal texts and includes templates and training materials. The total value of this investment is EUR 29 060. In addition, a bilingual educational game on the Minecraft platform is being developed to teach young people about Cyprus' linguistic heritage, promoting multilingualism by incorporating Greek and Turkish languages The cost of the game is estimated at EUR 40 000, and the end of 2025 marked the final stages of development and further implementation.
- A contract worth EUR 207 740 for technical assistance in transitioning to digital broadcasting and freeing the 700 MHz frequency band was signed in 2022, followed by a EUR 2 383 878.91 supply contract. The project enhanced digitalisation of television in the Turkish Cypriot community, improving bandwidth efficiency, image and audio quality, channel capacity and compatibility with computers and the internet.
- In 2022 a EUR 186 400 contract was signed for technical assistance in deploying an island-wide animal identification database in Cyprus followed by a EUR 1 299 511 contract in 2024, for its development in the Turkish Cypriot community. This integrated digital management system is in the process of being developed. Once finalised, it will support animal health and well-being while enhancing agricultural and livestock productivity and sustainability.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Yes	**Zero Hunger.** The multiannual action eunite-Uniting Cyprus for Business funded under the aid programme encompasses two strands which contributed to SDG2: (i) eunite: Halloumi/Hellim PDO aims to improve public and animal health in the Turkish Cypriot community (TCc), and promotes EU food safety standards in the dairy sector and (ii) eunite: AgriBusiness strengthens the Turkish Cypriot agriculture and rural development sectors by implementing an Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), including support to high-potential value chains. The total budget allocated to these two strands of the programme between 2021-2025 amounted to more than EUR 20 million.
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	**Good health and well-being.** A series of civil society grants promoting health and well-being were funded under the aid programme between 2021 and 2025 for approximately EUR 1.6 million. These included actions relating to awareness raising and advocacy on patients' rights, elderly rights, LGBTIQ inclusivity in the education and health sectors, children's health and wellness, empowering people with disabilities and research on the effects of dysmenorrhea on women's quality of life in Cyprus.

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	**Quality education.** The aid programme has provided support for curriculum reform, the continuous professional development of teachers and the modernisation of vocational education and training, along with improved labour-market practices. The Curriculum Development for VET, a 5-year long project reforming VET was successfully concluded in 2025, with a total EU investment of over EUR 2.6 million. As a result of the programme a methodology to transform VET education into a modularised education programme was introduced in the Turkish Cypriot community and local capacity was built to strengthen the sustainability of the reforms.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	**Gender Equality.** On-going civil society grants funded under the aid programme target the protection and the economic and political empowerment of women are: 'Women to support living' (EU budget EUR 199 473,39) 'Partnership for improving women's access to productive resources' (EU budget EUR 165 000), 'Increasing women economic inclusion and women economic partnership across the Green Line' (EU budget EUR 156 933,96), 'Sustainable wetlands initiative for Famagusta's transformation' (EU budget EUR 125 000), 'Women making peace - a grassroots intervention for a united Cyprus' (EU budget EUR 124 940,74) and 'Human rights platform' (EU budget EUR 1 450 000).
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	**Ensure clean water and sanitation for all.** The aid programme has prioritised under its infrastructure objective the upgrading of water treatment, distribution and sanitation infrastructure. In 2025, construction works for the new sewerage line of Mandres/Hamitkoy, with 13.6 km of pipes, has been completed. Around 1300 families will be able to connect to the sewage system, and they will not use anymore the septage tanks, which represents a financial burden for the inhabitants as well as an environmental risk. A new septage acceptance station to allow proper discharge of household septage to the bi-communal wastewater treatment plan of Nicosia was completed in 2025 at a cost of EUR 2.1 million.

SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	**Affordable and clean energy.** The aid programme has supported the increased uptake of renewable energies throughout its lifetime. In 2023 and 2024, 500 kWp of solar PV systems were commissioned in Lefka/Lefke (EUR 320 000), Kormakitis (EUR 20 000), and at the Agricultural Research Institute of Morphou (EUR 362 682). Works for the installation of a 1 018 kWp solar PV system at the bi-communal wastewater treatment plan of Nicosia commenced at the end of 2025.
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	**Decent work and economic growth**. The multiannual action eunite-Uniting Cyprus for Business funded under the aid programme encompasses one strand which contributed to SDG8: eunite:SME with a total budget of more than EUR 8 million. eunite:SME aims to support companies and other actors across various value chains to meet EU standards, to support innovation and encourage entrepreneurship. A total of 45 companies were awarded grants close to EUR 2 million in 2024, to start or grow their business across the Green Line.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	**Sustainable cities and communities.** The bi-communal Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage contributes specifically to SDG 11.4 'Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage'. The committee received more than EUR 12 million in EU support in the 2021-2025 period (representing around 80% of the committee's budget).

SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Yes	**Life on land.** Six grants with a total EU contribution of EUR 783 760 were awarded in 2025 under the Civil Society call, covering issues related to sustainable fisheries, green waste management, reducing the damage of wildland fires on biodiversity, ecological sustainability of the wetlands, legal activism and advocacy for environmental protection.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	**Peace, justice and strong institutions.** The aid programme is supporting bi-communal projects that promote confidence building and reconciliation between the two Cypriot communities. As of 2021, 23 bi-communal projects, were selected funding under the civil society calls for proposals (to a total amount of EUR 2.25 million). The projects support bi-communal dialogue and civic engagement in the areas of confidence building, human rights protection and anti-discrimination, fighting human trafficking, health, environment, culture and sports. The 'Human rights platform' grant (EU budget EUR 1 450 000) focuses on five thematic areas: anti-human trafficking; refugee rights; LGBTIQ rights; democratic participation in decision-making; detention conditions and freedom from torture. A direct grant allocated in 2024 to the 'Cyprus Dialogue Forum: strengthening collaborative spaces for dialogue and shared knowledge creation' project (EU budget EUR 1 700 000) brings together around 80 stakeholders, such as political parties, trade unions, professional associations and civil-society organisations from both communities, to create joint visions and instruments that support a wider peace process in Cyprus.

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

Concrete examples of achievements

37 568 052 mega watt-hours/year of total savings in annual primary energy consumption by mid-2025 (Common indicator 1).	4 909 834 enterprises, including small and micro, medium and large ones, supported through both monetary and in-kind support by mid-2025 (Common indicator 9).	62 444 megawatts of additional operational capacity of renewable energy installed by mid-2025 ([26]) (Common indicator 2).	36 840 373 people benefited from protection measures against climate-related natural disasters by mid-2025 (Common indicator 4).
17 565 216 additional dwellings gained access to very high-capacity internet networks by mid-2025 (Common indicator 5).	940 866 newly installed or upgraded refuelling and recharging points for clean vehicles by mid-2025 (Common indicator 3).	2 402 256 254 users of new and improved public digital services, products and processes by mid-2025 (Common indicator 7).	12 676 811 young people aged 15-29 received support through the programme, including monetary and in-kind support, such as education, training and employment support, by mid-2025 (Common indicator 14).

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	98 034.0	136 389.6	104 552.6	2 524.7	1 069.0	23.7	14.0	342 607.5
NextGenerationEU loans	153 876.2	12 211.9	110 211.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	276 300.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

([26]) In comparison to the total megawatts of additional installed operational capacity of renewable energy reported for 2024, the indicator decreased. This is linked to a downward revision of this common indicator for one Member State in the last reporting round, which impacted the overall indicator.

Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	20 000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20 000.0
Total	**251 910.2**	**148 601.5**	**234 764.5**	**2 524.7**	**1 069.0**	**23.7**	**14.0**	**638 907.5**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	342 607.5	342 607.5	100.0%
Payments	237 500.0	0.0	69.3%

Cumulative budget implementation for additional grants at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	19 986.5	20 000.0	99.9%
Payments	14 414.1	0.0	72.1%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Savings in annual primary energy consumption	n/a	n/a	n/a	37.6 megawatt-hours/year	n/a
Alternative fuels infrastructure	n/a	n/a	n/a	940 866	n/a
Additional dwellings with internet access provided via very high-capacity networks	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.6 million	n/a
Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.4 billion	n/a

Enterprises supported	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.9 million	n/a
Number of participants in education or training	n/a	n/a	n/a	30.7 million	n/a
Capacity of new or modernised healthcare facilities	n/a	n/a	n/a	60.2 million	n/a
Number of young people aged 15–29 receiving support	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.7 million	n/a

- The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is an innovative, performance-based instrument, where funds are disbursed solely on the basis of the progress in the achievement of the reforms and investments that Member States committed to implement in their recovery and resilience plans.
- In June 2025, the Commission published the communication 'NextGenerationEU – The road to 2026' ([27]), adopted on 4 June 2025, in which it called on Member States to streamline their recovery and resilience plans (RRPs) to maximise impact in light of implementation delays and the approaching end of the RRF in 2026. As a result of requests for amendments submitted by Member States, the Council adopted 18 simplified Council Implementing Decisions by end-2025. This resulted in the removal of 543 milestones and targets, a 20% reduction in the outstanding number of milestones and targets left to assess in the final phase of the RRF.
- The streamlining of the plans in 2025 led to a EUR 13.7 billion reduction in the overall amount of loan support across seven Member States. In addition, in December 2025 the Commission adopted a proposal for an amended Council Implementing Decision for Spain, reducing the loan support by EUR 60.5 billion. To a large extent, the reduction of loan support reflects implementation issues with some measures that led to their removal from the plan, and the need to ensure maximum absorption of the grants committed for the recovery and resilience plan.
- Overall, the Council adopted 50 Council Implementing Decision revisions in 2025 where measures were adjusted or replaced by more suitable alternatives. The last REPowerEU chapter of Bulgaria was adopted by the Council in 2025.
- All revised RRPs comprise reforms and investments that contribute to the six policy pillars of the RRF, and most exceed the climate and digital contribution targets set in the RRF Regulation (Article 18(4)). For the RRF as a whole, the estimated climate contribution amounts to about 42% of the total allocation and the digital contribution to more than 25% of the RRF total allocation.
- In 2025, the Commission assessed 34 payment requests submitted by 24 Member States. These covered 1 163 milestones and targets in total (783 milestones and 380 targets).

([27]) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – NextGenerationEU – The road to 2026, COM(2025) 310 final/2 of 4 June 2025, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0310&qid=1776332986450.

- Upon assessment of these payment requests, the Commission disbursed a total of EUR 87.3 billion in 2025 (out of which EUR 40.1 billion in grants and EUR 47.2 billion in loans). The total disbursements made from 2021 to 2025 amounted to EUR 393.4 billion, out of which EUR 237.5 billion were grants (66% of the total EUR 360 billion RRF grant envelope by end-2025) and EUR 155.9 billion in loans (56% of the total EUR 277 billion RRF loan envelope by end-2025).
- Eleven milestones and targets were assessed as not satisfactorily fulfilled in 2025 and part of the related disbursements was subsequently suspended. This concerned payment requests submitted by Bulgaria, Spain and Romania. The Commission also lifted the suspension for three milestones and targets in 2025 for Czechia, Spain and Cyprus, as the necessary actions were taken to satisfactorily fulfil the related milestones and targets.
- The Commission reduced one Member State's (Czechia) financial contribution in accordance with Article 24(8) of the RRF Regulation for one milestone that remained non-satisfactorily fulfilled by the end of the suspension procedure. In the case of Belgium, while a suspension decision was adopted in 2024, the suspension was rescinded in 2025 as the RRP was subsequently revised.
- The Commission also assessed that a milestone that was previously satisfactorily fulfilled had been reversed by Spain, leading to the suspension of EUR 626.6 million on 7 July 2025. Spain had six months from the adoption of the suspension decision to take corrective measures and ensure that the milestone can again be assessed as satisfactorily fulfilled.
- By the end of 2025, 50% of all milestones and targets with an indicative due date up until Q4 2025 had been assessed as fulfilled by the Commission and an additional 26% were reported by the Member States as completed.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	104 166.6	61 447.6	97 076.7	1 044.0	442.0	9.8	5.8	264 192.5	41.5%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	4 020.9	2 371.9	3 747.2	40.3	17.1	0.4	0.2	10 198.0	1.6%

- The RRF is expected help achieve the EU's targets to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and to reach climate neutrality by 2050. The RRF regulation requires that at least 37% of the total allocation of each RRP shall support measures that contribute to climate objectives. Overall, adopted RRPs have exceeded the target, with more than 42% of the total plans' allocation contributing to climate objectives (as calculated according to the climate tracking methodology, using Annex VI of the RRF regulation).
- The implementation of measures related to the green transition has made progress, with 1202 out of 2815 milestones and targets (42.7%) contributing to the green transition pillar assessed as fulfilled as of end-2025, and 411 or 14.6% reported as completed by Member States.
- Payment requests in 2025 included 436 fulfilled milestones and targets linked to the green transition pillar. 299 related to investment measures and 137 to reform measures. They aimed, among other things, at continuing energy-efficiency renovations of buildings, adapting regions to climate change, decarbonising industrial processes, supporting the green hydrogen value chain, and fostering innovation and research projects in green solutions.
- The RRF makes a significant contribution to environmental sustainability in the broader sense by addressing climate change and pollution, protecting nature, biodiversity and water resources and promoting circular economy while not doing any significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy. The assessment of the measures under the Taxonomy criteria is possible with the use of intervention fields. Some of them set conditions that are fully, substantially or partially aligned with the criteria defined in the Taxonomy regulation, which have to be reflected in the scope and design of the measures for being eligible under the respective intervention fields. Measures with an estimated cost of EUR 199.5 billion are fully or substantially aligned with the Taxonomy sustainable contribution criteria for climate change mitigation and adaptation, while measures with further EUR 56.1 billion estimated costs are partially aligned with these criteria.

- In 2025, the Council adopted the REPowerEU chapter for Bulgaria, making additional resources available to support measures contributing to REPowerEU. This brought the total number of REPowerEU chapters to 27, accounting for total estimated costs of EUR 57.6 billion.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	4 894.4	2 887.2	4 561.3	49.1	20.8	12 412.7
1	2 240.2	1 321.5	2 087.7	22.5	9.5	5 681.3
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

0	244 775.6	144 392.8	228 115.6	2 453.2	1 038.7	620 775.9
Total:	251 910.2	148 601.5	234 764.5	2 524.7	1 069.0	638 869.9

- In order to report on the number of measures with a focus on gender equality and the share of such measures included in each RRP, the Commission, in consultation with Member States, has assigned a tag to measures with a focus on gender equality[28]. Following the recent simplification efforts,[29] measures contained in the RRPs were streamlined and their number significantly reduced. However, measures with a gender flag were not particularly affected by the simplification, as they diminished from 136 to 130. Of these, 8 measures support children and the youth, 19 contribute to climate objectives, and 19 to digital objectives, with one of them supporting green and digital objectives at the same time.
- The 123 gender flagged measures contained in RRPs include 72 investments and 51 reforms, mirroring the unique feature of the RRF which combines reforms and investments to optimise the long-lasting impact of the EU budget on the ground. These measures include 207 milestones and targets in 25 RRPs, of which 117 are already assessed by the Commission as fulfilled, and 35 are reported by Member States as completed.
- As set out in Article 4 of the RRF Regulation, mitigating the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women is a clear objective of the Facility. Member States are required to explain how the measures in their RRPs contribute to gender equality and equal opportunities for all and the mainstreaming of these objectives.
- RRPs contain a wide range of measures contributing to gender equality. These include investments and reforms specifically designed to tackle inequalities based on gender (score 2, contributing to this objective with around EUR 12.4 billion over the lifetime of the RRF) and other type of investments and reforms which are directly or indirectly contributing to gender equality (score 1, corresponding to around EUR 5.7 billion. An example of RRP measure specifically designed to tackle gender-inequalities is the Portuguese reform to combat inequalities between women and men, which awards a seal to companies with a narrow gender pay gap. An example of RRP measures directly or indirectly contributing to gender equality include investments and reforms improving the access to and the quality of long-term care, for which women traditionally take a disproportionate burden in households (such measures feature in the RRPs of AT, CY, CZ, EE, LT, PL, SK, SI, ES).

Gender disaggregated information:

- Member States report gender disaggregated data for results and outputs achieved with RRF support within common indicators 8, 10, 11 and 14.
- For example, research facilities supported by the RRF, employed 34 900 male, 23 400 female researchers full-time equivalent in 2025 (common indicator 8).
- So far, participants in education and training supported by the RRF amounted to a total of 12.9 million participants across all age groups. Out of the total, 7.7 million female, 5.2 million male were reported (common indicator 10).

[28] Based on the methodology set out in the Delegated Act on social expenditure reporting under the RRF (Delegated Regulation 2021/2105)

[29] Commission Communication "NextGenerationEU - The road to 2026" (June 2025)

- The total number of 7 million people in RRF-supported employment or job searching activities, is subdivided into 3.7 million female, 3.3 million male across all age groups (common indicator 11).
- The number of young people aged 15-29 receiving support by the RRF, amounted to 863 200 male, and 893 400 female (common indicator 14).

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	59 518.3	35 109.8	55 467.4	596.5	252.5	150 944.6	24.4%

- The Recovery and Resilience Facility significantly contributes to the digital transformation in the EU. The RRF regulation requires that at least 20% of the total allocation in each RRP support digital objectives. The adopted RRPs exceed this target, with around 25% of the total allocation of the plans contributing to the digital transformation (as calculated according to the digital tagging methodology set out in Annex VII of the RRF regulation).
- By the end of 2025, important steps had been taken to implement digital measures, for example those related to the digital transformation of social services, the digital equipment of educational facilities, or the creation of cybersecurity platforms. At the end of 2025, 987 or close to half of digital-related milestones and targets were assessed by the Commission as fulfilled, and 330 (15%) were reported by Member States as completed.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- In line with Regulation (EU) 2024/795 (the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Regulation), the RRF is one of the instruments mobilised under STEP to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy. By integrating STEP priorities into their RRPs, Member States can channel resources towards the development and scaling up of critical technologies.
- The STEP Regulation amended the RRF Regulation, allowing Member States to allocate up to 6% of their RRF financial allocation to their InvestEU Member State compartment, specifically for measures supporting investment operations contributing to STEP objectives. This allocation is in addition to the existing option of transferring up to 4% of a Member State's financial allocation to the Member States' InvestEU Member State compartment for broader purposes, allowing a combined total transfer of up to 10%. Furthermore, when revising their RRPs, Member States are required to consider projects awarded the STEP Seal (Sovereignty Seal) as a priority.
- As of 31 December 2025, no RRPs had been amended to include a project awarded with the STEP Seal and no Member State had made use of the increased opportunity to use the InvestEU Member State compartment to support STEP objectives.

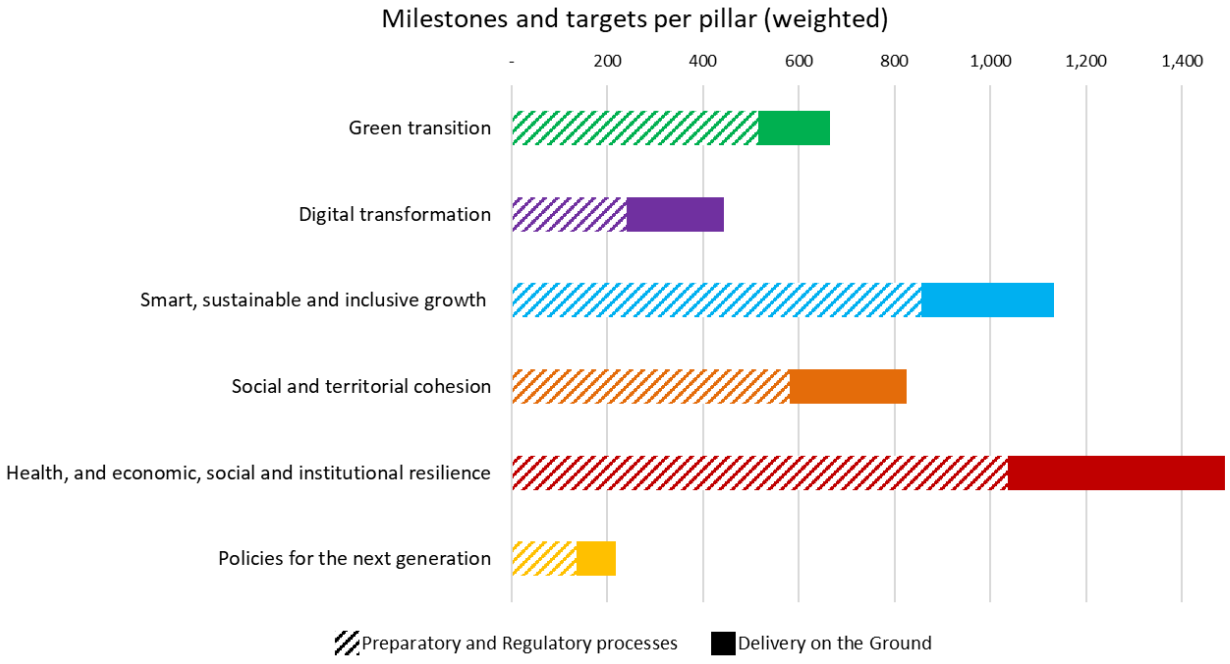
Contribution to reforms

- In the framework of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), Member States are delivering on the reforms and investments included in their RRPs. The RRF brought about a new stimulus and financial incentives for implementing critical and long-awaited reforms, thanks to the requirements of the Regulation and to the novel link between reforms and investments.

- The implementation of reform measures tends to be frontloaded compared to that of investments, across all RRF policy pillars, as reforms often serve a "preparatory" function vis-à-vis the relevant investments, notably to maximise the impact of the latter[30].

- Reforms are distributed across the six RRF policy pillars, with a greater number of measures under the pillars covering growth-and resilience-enhancing policies (see chart 1). The pillars represent many EU priorities reflected in the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) addressed by the Council to Member States in the context of the European Semester. As such, RRF-supported reforms are expected to successfully address long-standing challenges identified in the CSRs.

Chart 1: Milestones and targets per pillar (weighted)



Source: European Commission

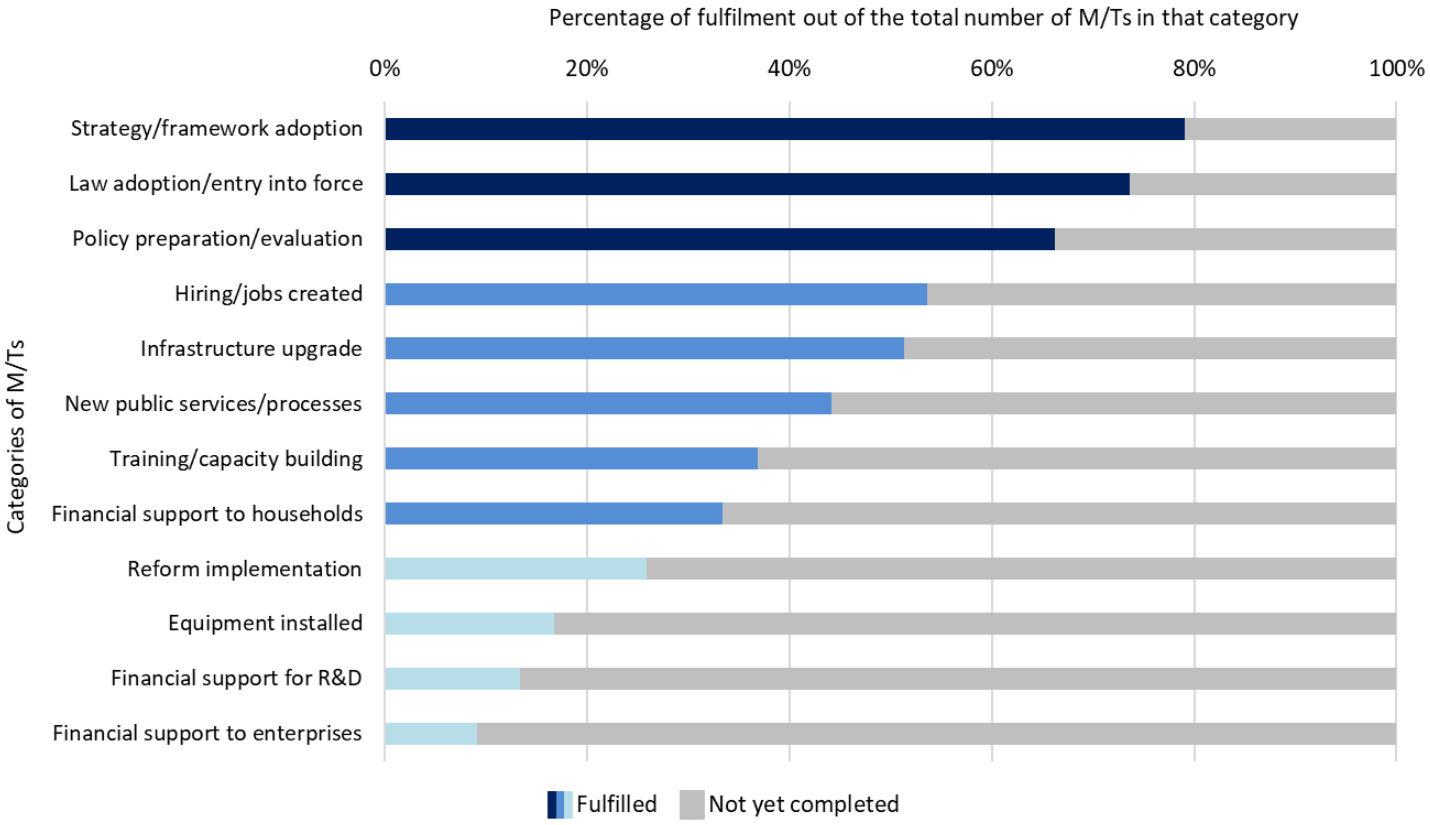
- The CSR assessment published as part of the 2025 European Semester Spring package (COM(2025) 200 final) demonstrates an increase in the implementation of CSRs adopted in 2019 and in 2020 compared to the implementation before the RRF. By June 2025, the share

[30] The six policy pillars include "Green transition"; "Digital transformation"; "Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth"; "Social, territorial cohesion"; "Health and economic, social and institutional resilience" and "Policies for the next generation". A measure can contribute to multiple pillars at the same time, having a main and a secondary policy pillar, which can themselves vary between sub-measures.

of CSRs adopted in 2019-2020 and recording at least some progress reached 79%. By comparison, before the RRF, 62% of the CSRs adopted in 2015-2016 had recorded at least some progress in 2021 (i.e. after the same amount of time for implementation). This shows that the incentives provided by the RRF, with its performance-based approach and link between payments and reform implementation, contributed to reinforcing the implementation of CSRs.

- RRF policy pillars such as “Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” or “Health, and economic, social and institutional resilience” show the fastest implementation progress so far. These have a relatively larger share of reform-related milestones and targets, compared to pillars on “Green transition” and “Digital transformation” which comprise a higher share of investment-related milestones and targets.
- Milestones and targets can be divided in two broad categories, respectively those related to “Preparatory and regulatory processes” - the majority in reform measures - and those resulting in the “Delivery on the ground” of a concrete outcome, with the latter more tied to investment measures (see chart 2).
- Reform-related milestones and targets fulfilled by the end of 2025 concern firstly the entry into force of new legislation (745) as well as the adoption of strategies or frameworks (283), and the preparation or evaluation of policies (214). These three categories display the highest share of fulfilled milestones and targets, consistent with the implementation logic of the RRF: preparatory and regulatory processes are implemented first and they are followed by on-the-ground delivery and tangible results as the implementation of milestones and targets progresses.
- The reform milestones and targets related to “Delivery on the Ground”, show a lower rate of progress. This is in line with the type of projects covered by these milestones and targets. For instance, projects offering financial support often have a longer implementation timeline and will only be completed towards the end of 2026.

Chart 2: Fulfilled milestones and targets per each category



Note: The different colours highlight different sub-groups: "Preparatory and regulatory processes" (dark blue), "Delivery on the ground" (medium blue) and "Delivery on ground" (lighter blue). To be noted that "delivery on the ground" milestones and targets mostly encompass investment measures, not shown in the chart above.
Source: European Commission analysis

To illustrate such preparatory reform measures which are followed by delivery on the ground:

- Estonia approved a Strategic framework for Hospital Network Development Roadmap and changed the reimbursement system for doctors and pharmacists in order to incentivise the health workforce to work in remote areas. This was followed by an increase in the number of people enrolled in nursing training.
- Poland modernised applicable rules and process on renewable energy permitting and deployment. This was followed by the mobilisation of private sector investments in renewable energy capacity.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the entry into force of a Reform of the Minimum Income Scheme in Bulgaria.
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported research and innovation projects on plant-based organic food production in Denmark.
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the modernisation of public healthcare through the extension of the Invasive Radiology Unit and the enhancement of Paphos General Hospital in Cyprus.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the strengthening of the dual education system in Italy, combining formal education and learning experience in the workplace, the transformation of classrooms in digital learning environments and the strengthening of STEM programs in schools.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported a reform to reduce the gender pay gap in Portugal.
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the deployment of more efficient and effective drinking water supply and saving infrastructures in Greece.
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the construction of low-energy housing in Latvia.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported improvements to the labour legislation with the aim to reduce the number of temporary contracts and to increase the levels of minimum wage relative to average wage in Croatia.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the upscaling of a biomethane industrial installation in Ireland.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the implementation of solutions for digital public services to persons with disabilities in Lithuania.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported a reform obliging large cities in Poland to purchase only zero-emission buses.
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the installation of photovoltaic capacity in business premises in Luxembourg.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the adoption of an energy taxation reform adjusting electricity and gas tariffs to incentivise businesses and households to limit their energy consumption, switch to more climate-friendly sources of energy and reduce CO_2 emissions in the Netherlands.
SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the restoration of over 100 kilometres of coastline to protect and restore maritime eco-systems in Spain.
SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported the reforestation of forests that are resilient to climate change in Czechia.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	By the end of 2025, the RRF supported a reform transferring prosecution cases from the police to the Attorney General's office and supporting the recruitment of additional offices to the Attorney General's office in Malta.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENT

Concrete examples of achievements

300 requests for reform support projects were introduced by 27 Member States under the 2026 Technical Support Instrument (TSI) call.	30 reform support projects translating into 176 reforms (national components of projects) were selected under the 2026 TSI call.	8 multi-country projects were selected under the 2026 TSI call, and will address common challenges faced by Member States through the development of common approaches, peer learning and exchanges of good practices.	66 exchanges under a single project of public administration cooperation exchanges were selected under the 2026 TSI call.
109 reforms were selected in 2025 to help the Member States to improve their business environments, close the innovation gap, build a net-zero economy and promote the EU's security.	130 reforms were selected in 2025 to support the Member States regarding the digital transition in 2025, with a particular focus on artificial intelligence and innovative technologies.	Almost 2 000 people from the 27 Member States attended the 2025 TSI Annual Conference in Brussels, both in person and online.	98% of the projects selected for funding under the 2024 and 2025 calls were either running or had been completed at the end of 2025.

Budget programming and implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	116.4	118.7	121.1	123.5	121.0	52.5	112.2	765.3
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.4
Total	**116.4**	**125.1**	**121.1**	**123.5**	**121.0**	**52.5**	**112.2**	**771.70**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate

Commitments	606.50	771.7	78.6%
Payments	420.7		54.5%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Cooperation and support plans concluded	0	**> 100%**	20 annually from 2021 to 2027	The TSI provided support to all Member States (27)	On track
Number of support measures	0	**> 100%**	250 in 2021 till 120 in 2027	Average results (182) from 2021-2025 versus average milestones (177)	On track
The objectives set in the cooperation and support plans, which have been achieved due, inter alia, to the technical support received	0	**> 100%**	70% annually from 2021to 2027	Average results (80%) from 2021-2022 versus average milestones (70%)	On track

2025 was the fifth year of implementation of the TSI programme, following the adoption of the programme regulation in February 2021. Throughout the five TSI annual cycles (2021-2025), more than 900 projects supported close to 1 600 cutting-edge reforms in all 27 Member States in a vast array of public policy areas, which contributed to good progress in the achievement of TSI objectives.

The TSI projects are helping the Member States to address reforms in key priority areas to **strengthen the EU's resilience and competitiveness** and to have a positive impact on citizens' lives across the EU. In 2025, two thirds of the projects aimed at addressing common reform needs across the EU, such as to improve the quality of public administration, provide a better business environment for small and medium-sized enterprises or make energy systems fit for the green and digital transitions.

In line with the key priority to strengthen the EU's **competitiveness**, in 2025 the TSI supported 109 reforms to help Member States improve their business environment, close the innovation gap, build a net-zero economy and promote the EU's economic security. Of those, the TSI supported 38 reforms in 22 Member

States to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens for small and medium-sized enterprises, to promote start-ups and scale-ups and to enable them to be more productive, competitive and resilient.

Increasing the **capacity of Member States' public administrations and their cross-country collaboration** is vital for the modernisation of the EU. Within the framework of the TSI 2025 exercise, 119 reforms assisted all Member States in strengthening their public administrations to effectively tackle current and future challenges. In line with the communication on enhancing the European administrative space, adopted in October 2023, the TSI supports efforts by the Member States to converge on closing skills gaps, enabling digital transformation and preparing administrations to lead the green transition, as shown in the project video.

The design of the programme continues to address common challenges for Member States through **40 multi-country projects** in the 2025 TSI to promote the development of common approaches and include peer learning and the exchange of best practices. For example, 14 Member States (Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Greece, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden) joined forces to participate in a TSI multi-country project that focuses on improving Member States' capacity to effectively implement EU tax legislation at a minimum level of 15% for large corporations in the European Union. The objective of the project is to ensure the high-quality, timely and effective implementation of this legislation.

On 12 May 2025, the TSI midterm evaluation was released, providing key insights into the implementation of the TSI. The evaluation was conducted halfway through the TSI's implementation period (2021-2027) to assess its early progress and impact. It covers projects implemented between 2021 and 2023 in all 27 Member States, scrutinising a total of 611 technical support projects with an overall budget of EUR 359 million. The evaluation found the TSI's implementation to be broadly successful, and that it effectively addressed Member States' needs and strengthened their administrative capacity. Multi-country projects and flagship initiatives also fostered collaboration and supported EU policy goals. However, the evaluation stresses that achieving long-term sustainable results depends on consistent and systematic follow-up by Member States on the technical support provided.

TSI projects usually last between one and three years after the adoption of the financing decision. The final results and the assessment of the level of achievement of the project outcomes are then captured via the TSI feedback mechanism within 18 months of the closure of the project.

The reported progress on the result and impact indicators demonstrates that the TSI programme is delivering in line with expectations in helping Member States to design reforms, implement EU legislation and modernise their public administrations. It should be noted that, while the TSI is by nature an on-demand instrument, all Member States have consistently requested support since 2021.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation				Estimates				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	22.9	23.1	18.2	24.7	16.2			105.1	13.7%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	1.6	1.5	6.9	6.7	5.3			22.0	2.9%

In 2025, the TSI continued to support Member States in the implementation of the **European Green Deal**. Technical support has helped Member States design and implement reforms on climate change mitigation, biodiversity, tackling green washing and sustainability reporting, climate change adaptation, energy, environment and the circular economy, sustainable mobility and the just transition.

The TSI programme's contribution to the green budgeting priorities covered a broad number of actions such as the following.

- In line with the **EU climate goals**, TSI focused also on accelerating the **transition to clean and sustainable energy.** TSI worked in close collaboration with NextGenerationEU to support Romania in reforming its energy sector, strengthening energy independence and deploying renewables - as new onshore wind and photovoltaic projects - at scale, as shown in the project video.
- As the EU Member States' annual **energy renovation** rates should at least double by 2030 according to the European Commissions' Renovation Wave Strategy, the TSI gave guidance to Austria, Ireland and Lithuania to address their specific barriers to **building renovation and decarbonisation**.
- In the area of green public finance, the TSI continued supporting Member States **in developing and strengthening green budgeting practices**. The TSI supported Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, France, Ireland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain in improving how public budgets integrate climate and environmental priorities, through tools such as green budget tagging, spending reviews, performance frameworks, and stronger governance and administrative capacity. The project also supports peer learning through exchanges among national administrations to share practical experience in applying green budgeting methods.
- In terms of climate **change adaptation**, the TSI continued supporting Member States to adapt and update their **national climate adaptation strategies and action plan**, and to achieve their targets. For example, Cyprus and Slovakia received EU Technical support to assess climate risks and design 120 adaptation measures, from nature-based solutions to better coordination across sectors, as shown in the project video.
- With regard to **climate mitigation**, TSI addressed the social impacts by supporting the preparation of the **Social Climate Plans** in ten Member States**.** Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia were supported in developing robust and effective

Social Climate Plans, protect vulnerable households, transport users and, micro-enterprises from price impacts of the EU Emissions Trading System.

- The TSI supports **biodiversity** through a multi-country project focused on integrated environmental monitoring and adaptive management of coastal wetlands, helping Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain, in analysing site-specific pressures for marine spatial planning and adaptive protected area management. This integrated approach is essential for implementing the EU Nature Restoration Law, as it promotes habitat restoration and ecosystem recovery while delivering solutions that transcend national boundaries and address shared cross-border challenges.

Since the TSI regulation does not specify targets related to green expenditure and TSI is a demand-driven instrument, it is not possible to provide an estimate on the future thematic expenditure.

Due to its nature, the programme is not covered by the EU taxonomy regulation for sustainable activities. None of the eligible actions for technical support listed in Art. 8 of the Technical Support Instrument Regulation is aligned with the economic activities described in Annex 1 of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2139. Therefore, there is no taxonomy relevant expenditure financed by the programme to declare.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.4	6.2	16.2	21.2	2.3	46.3
1	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.1	1.9	3.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	116.0	112.5	103.8	102.1	116.9	551.3
Total:	116.4	118.7	121.1	123.5	121.0	600.6

Under the TSI programme, a broad array of actions has been taken to promote **gender equality in institutional and legislative reforms**. The TSI emphasises gender equality as a cross-cutting priority, promoting the integration of the gender dimension in projects. .

The TSI continues shaping tailor made expertise to ten Member States (Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, and Spain), embedded into national reform programmes under the TSI Flagship project Gender mainstreaming in public policy and budget processes. The objective is to support these administrations in applying **gender mainstreaming and gender impact assessment**, and in bolstering their budgeting policies through gender-responsive budgeting.

Additionally, the **TSI programme supports the Equality bodies of three Member States** (Belgium, Finland and Portugal) to assess the implications of artificial intelligence technologies on discrimination and equality. Through this Technical Support project, equality bodies are expected to increase their readiness to uncover discrimination in public administration's deployment of artificial intelligence, including providing legal assistance to those who are discriminated against by artificial intelligence, in line with the EU and Council of Europe standards and national legislation.

As well, the TSI is improving girls' and women's interest and participation in ICT in Poland with different tools and proposals, complementing the ongoing work started under the Digital Competence Development Programme (DCDP). The project allows Poland to better understand and monitor the reasons behind the low participation of women in ICT, monitor the changes in social awareness and perceptions and, ultimately, increase the number of women in the ICT sector.

Other gender equality projects aim to enhance the national strategy and frameworks to support victims of crimes in Estonia, Portugal and Malta, and facilitating the financial independence of young people in Greece.

The 'Gender Flagship Capitalisation Conference – Best Practices & Lessons Learned' took place in October 2025 and showcased how the TSI supports gender mainstreaming.

Gender-disaggregated information

Not available.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	15.2	28.0	35.6	35.0	35.8	149.6	24.9%

In 2025 the TSI has been providing Member States with support in a number of projects related to the **digital transition**, in line with the **Europe fit for the digital age action plan** and the communication strategy on the **2030 digital compass: the European way for the digital decade**.

In 2025, 130 reforms to support the **digital transition** have been selected, with a strong focus on **artificial intelligence** and innovative technologies. supporting Member States to reap the productivity gains from technology towards tomorrow's economy.

Several digital transition projects started recently. For example, the project “FutureProof Education” supports schools in Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Luxemburg and Sweden to develop guidance for the responsible and meaningful use of **artificial intelligence in schools**, as well as to set up artificial intelligence literacy programmes.

Launched in October 2022, the **EU Supervisory Digital Finance Academy** continues to support in his Second edition (2025-2028) the Member States' financial supervisors in tackling the risks and making the most of the benefits associated with the **digital transformation in the area of finance**. This multi-country project involves 37 supervisory authorities from 26 Member States.

Additionally, the **TSI supported Spain implementing measures to set up the semantical and technical bases for the Statistical Interoperability Node** for data exchange across government bodies at the regional and national level. In addition, it piloted with the National, Canarian, and Andalusian Statistics Institutes to test and evaluate the feasibility of the proposed architecture through the design and development of an operational proof of concept. The initiative enhanced data interoperability, streamlined processes, and supported evidence-based decision-making, as shown in the project video.

A TSI flagship initiative on **digital financial literacy** will support Croatia, Finland, France, Latvia and Lithuania to address the challenges arising from the increasing use of digital channels to complete complex financial transactions.

The TSI supported Poland's **digital farming transformation project**, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of breakthrough technologies and providing recommendations and capacity-building initiatives to enhance farmers' awareness and uptake.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	Under the TSI 2025, the 'Safe and Supportive Schools Project' improves the institutional capacity of the Romanian education system to foster a healthy school environment in which social and emotional learning, psychosocial support, well-being and mental health is entirely part of a whole-school approach. The project ensures a secure and nurturing learning environment for students, while addressing the lack of preventive measures and cooperation between services, as well as the need for socio and emotional learning programs in schools.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	The TSI promotes equal access to inclusive education across Italy, Portugal and Spain. The programme provides support to the three countries in their efforts to improve their inclusive education systems and practices, strengthening their systems' capacity and making sustainable changes. Stakeholders at all levels were involved in sharing knowledge and experience with other countries. The technical support supports the education authorities to improve the design and increase the quality and consistency of the implementation of the policy measures fostering inclusive education.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	Under the TSI 2025, a number of new gender related projects started recently. For instance, the TSI project on the 'Assessment on the effectiveness of work-life balance and gender equality policies in the labour market' is helping Portugal to address its demographic challenges and, to promote a more inclusive and equitable society, contributing to the country's sustainable economic development and competitiveness.

SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	The TSI supports Croatia in reducing water losses in the supply of drinking water, thereby increasing water efficiency, reducing water stress and improving availability of clean water. The project foresees the development of methodologies to break down at local level the adopted National Plan for water loss reduction. The TSI previously gave technical support for the development of the National Plan, which was adopted in May 2024.
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	In 2025, the TSI supported Cyprus to study photovoltaic installation in dams and reservoirs, including Energy Storage Systems. The project assisted Cyprus in assessing the feasibility and potential of floating photovoltaics, pumped hydroelectric energy storage solutions, and offshore renewables. In particular the project delivered technical specifications and recommendations for adjustments in the respective legal frameworks, identified relevant funding instruments, as well as good practices from other EU Member States.
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	The TSI project 'Enhancing EU Mining Regional Ecosystems to Support the Green Transition and Secure Mineral Raw Materials Supply', aims at enhancing the EU's mining regional ecosystems to contribute to the green transition and the EU Strategic Autonomy in mineral raw materials, while improving citizens' well-being in mining regions. The project focuses on the mining ecosystems of 10 regions across Greece, Finland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The project delivers a common Framework of Action to protect the environment and enhance social acceptance, enhancing innovation and sustainable practices, supporting circular economy and regional growth, resilience and long-term value creation.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	The TSI project 'Rail Baltica' contributes to the development of common approaches for the effective cross border management of the Rail Baltica to connect Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia to the central EU rail network. For instance, enhancing common approaches in Public Service Obligations (PSOs), infrastructure management and in particular the rail access charging framework ,as well as the development of a successful financial model for the Rail Baltica.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes	The TSI, in collaboration with the Council of Europe, supported Finland's national and local stakeholders in enhancing the inclusive integration of Third Country Nationals by improving multi-level multi-stakeholder cooperation. The project improved the community relations in Finland in a range of areas including, migrant's participation, education, cultural and social life, urban planning, business, labour market, anti-discrimination and multilingualism.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	The TSI supports the City of Rome to mitigate and adapt to climate-related risks, particularly the urban heat island (UHI) effect. The project mapped the areas facing higher UHI risks and delivered draft action plans for two pilot areas, drawing on international good practices and a co-design process with key stakeholders. To ensure the sustainability of the technical support, the project also provided dedicated trainings, strengthening their technical and operational capacity to implement UHI measures. The project also supported peer-to-peer exchanges with cities facing similar UHI challenges, through a workshop and two study visits organised under the TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) instrument.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	The TSI supports Cyprus and Slovakia on the revision and update of their National Strategy Adaptation to climate change and align them with the updated EU framework on climate adaptation. Support measures included revising the national strategy using new climate information, conducting risk assessments, strengthening institutional capacities, engaging stakeholders, and assessing nature-based solutions

SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Yes	The TSI supported Portugal to identify opportunities to strengthen its maritime strategy. The project delivered recommended actions, policy options and governance tools to inform the development the Strategic Plan 2030, with a particular focus on advancing three strategic objectives: decarbonisation, digitalisation, and sustainability. These recommendations were grounded in an assessment of existing capacities and operations and informed by consultations with stakeholders.
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	In 2025 the TSI supported Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, , Latvia, Lithuania, and the Netherlands in the project 'Building capacity for evidence-informed policymaking in governance and public administration in a post-pandemic Europe' The project aims to build capacity of participating EU Member States to improve the effectiveness of their public administration, through greater capacity for supply and uptake of scientific knowledge, evaluation and evidence in policy making.

SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Yes	This multi-country TSI project 'Building Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)' supports bridging existing gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Austria, Italy and Slovakia. The project enhances policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD). It encompassed measures to implement policy coherence principles and practices, enhancing the approaches to address global challenges.

Support to reforms

By bringing together **expertise from different backgrounds**, such as from international organizations, the private sector, and from other Member States, the Technical Support Instrument helps Member States to carry out reforms that create jobs, inclusive societies and sustainable growth.

In 2025, the Technical Support Instrument continued to support **smart, sustainable and socially responsible reforms** in a wide range of policy areas while strengthening all types of administrative capacities, especially the internal administrative mechanisms for reforms across the EU. For instance, the TSI multi-country project 'Sustainability in Local Public Finances - SLPF' focuses on developing the foundations for "SDG Budgeting" in local governance systems. The project supported delivering city-specific and joint reports assessing SDG budgeting practices, while developing tailored methodologies, KPIs, and action plans with a view to improve budgeting coherence, transparency, and resource allocation. This helped lay the groundwork for institutionalized SDG-oriented financial management benefiting around 5 million residents and serving as a transferable model for other EU municipalities.

The TSI support to **EU's competitiveness** continues to show significant results, as recently reported in the TSI Annual Report 2024. The programme contributed to the achievement of a wide range of competitiveness drivers, fostering the functioning of the single market to improving capacity of Member States to deliver reforms for trade and open strategic autonomy. For example, **the** public administration cooperation exchange **multi-country flagship project** aims to promote cooperation and cross-border exchanges among Member States to build administrative capacity and prepare the next generation of policymakers in the EU, giving the opportunity to more than 800 civil servant to exchange experience between 2023 and 2025. It leverages **Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)** between administrations of different Member States.

Furthermore, in the framework of 2026 the TSI will provide support regarding the implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSR) and crucial reforms in the Member States. The programme will address technically difficult-to-implement CSRs targeting highest implementation needs and challenges.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

Not applicable

PERICLES IV

EXCHANGE, ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE EURO AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

Concrete examples of achievements

444 000 counterfeit euro banknotes were detected in 2025 (*).	335 290 counterfeit euro coins were detected in 2025 (*).	11 illegal workshops (mints and print shops) were dismantled in 2025 (*).	11 competent authorities applied to the programme from 2021 to 2025.
99.64% of respondents across actions taking place in 2025 indicated being satisfied or highly satisfied.	97.80% of respondents across actions taking place in 2025 indicated that the programme has a moderate or high impact on their activities in protecting the euro against counterfeiting.		

(*) These indicators, while linked to the protection of the euro, should be considered as 'context' indicators, as the results are greatly influenced by factors external to the programme, such as counterfeiting activity and the detection rate consequence of the activities or the competent national and EU authorities.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	6.2
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**0.9**	**0.9**	**0.8**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**6.2**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	4.3	6.2	69.3%
Payments	3.4	0.0	54.4%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Counterfeit euro banknotes detected in circulation	0	**0%**	671 000 annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones not achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 444 000 compared to a target of 671 000)	Moderate progress
Counterfeit euro coins detected in circulation	0	**0%**	174 112 annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones not achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 335 290 compared to a target of 174 112	Moderate progress
Illegal workshops dismantled	0	**0%**	22 annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones not achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 11 compared to a target of 22)	Moderate progress
Competent authorities applying to the programme	0	**46%**	24 in 2027	11 by 2025 compared to a target of 24	Moderate progress
Satisfaction rate of participants in the actions financed by the programme	0	**71%**	75% annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 99.6% compared to a target of 75%)	On track
Feedback of participants on the impact of the programme on their activities in protecting the euro against counterfeiting	0	**71%**	75% annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 97.8% compared to a target of 75%)	On track

- In 2025, Pericles IV continued to support the Member States and to assist the competent national and EU authorities in protecting euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud.
- While the number of counterfeit coins detected exceeded the set target, the number of counterfeit banknotes detected was lower than the target but has followed an increasing trend. At the same time, the number of illegal workshops dismantled was lower than expected. It should be underlined that the link between the programme and these indicators is only indirect, as a variety of external factors (including the progress of police investigations, the amount of counterfeit production and the methods of distribution) play an important role in the development of the indicators.
- The indicators that are more directly linked to the programme, such as the satisfaction rate of participants in the actions taking place in 2025 and the feedback from those who have already participated in previous Pericles actions, showed very positive results. While the number of unique applicants to the programme is increasing, it remains lower than the target.
- 2025 saw the implementation of 10 Pericles IV projects.
    - Two projects funded under procurement (contracts):
        - a seminar on legislative and institution building to protect the euro in Ukraine (June 2025),
        - the seminar 'Enhancing detection of unfit euro coins' (November 2025);
    - Eight projects funded under a call for proposals (grants).
        - Purchasing equipment (video spectral comparator) by the Polícia Judiciária (Portuguese Criminal Investigation Police) for the Cape Verdean Criminal Police (Polícia Judiciária) and a technical training course (in March 2025) on using this equipment (project Counteract).
        - In March 2025, the Bank of Portugal organised the 'Euro Protection 2025' conference (one-day seminar and two days of workshops with case studies) in Lisbon, Portugal. It involved participants from Angola, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Mozambique, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Portugal, São Tomé and Principe, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Türkiye.
        - A technical training course on combating currency counterfeiting was organised by the Investigation Brigade of the Bank of Spain in November 2025 in Quito, Ecuador. There were participants from 11 Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) and from Spain, France and Italy.
        - Croatian National Bank experts provided eight technical training courses in 2025, in Montenegro (in February), North Macedonia (in February), Serbia (in March), Albania (in June), Türkiye (in April), Kosovo ([31]) (in May), Bosnia and Herzegovina (in May) and Greece (in June). A final meeting took place in Türkiye (in September) with the countries where the training courses took place.

([31]) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- A technical training course was organised (in June 2025) by the Bank of Spain (BDE) for participants from 12 Member States, 4 candidate countries and 1 potential candidate country with the title 'Training activity on counterfeit coins analysis for technical experts (TA-coins 2025)'.
- The Currency Anticounterfeiting Unit of the Italian National Gendarmerie organised a staff exchange (February to December 2025) entitled 'SEITACC5', which involved 3 Member States (Greece, Italy and Austria), 2 candidate countries (Moldova and North Macedonia), 1 potential candidate country (Kosovo) and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- A staff exchange (title: NCO (National Central Office) Uruguay Project) was organised by the Investigation Brigade of the Bank of Spain with Uruguay which ran in two phases: in May 2025, staff from Spain visited Uruguay and, at the end of June/beginning of July 2025, participants from Uruguay visited Spain.
- A staff exchange (project 2024-IT-INTEGRATE) with Türkiye was organised by the Guardia di Finanza (Italy) in February and April 2025.

- The 3 94 participants in Pericles IV projects came from 50 countries: 40% from euro-area Member States, 3% from non-euro-area Member States, 25% from non-EU countries in Europe, 16% from Latin America, 6% from EU institutions, 9% from Africa and 1% from other regions.
- With respect to the professional background of participants, members of police forces represented 46% of the total. Experts from national central banks represented 37%, members of the judiciary 3%, national mints 1%, customs 1%, the coin-processing machine industry 5%, EU institutions 6% and other categories 1%.
- The implementation of the programme therefore met the transnational and multidisciplinary dimensions required under Regulation (EU) 2021/840 ([32]), displaying a high degree of diversification.
- During its fifth year of implementation, a total of 10 projects (seven grants and three procured projects) were committed under the Pericles IV programme.
- The interim evaluation of the Pericles IV Programme concluded that the programme is delivering on its objective of contributing to the prevention and combating of euro counterfeiting, thereby preserving the integrity of euro banknotes and coins. The programme has ensured an efficient use of resources and has proven effective in improving information exchange, technical skills, institutional frameworks and operational capabilities in combating euro counterfeiting, both in EU Member States and in non-EU countries. It has successfully facilitated networking and collaborative investigations, leading to significant achievements such as investigations resulting in the seizure of counterfeit euros and the dismantling of criminal organisations. By providing technical training, seminars, staff exchanges and studies,

([32]) Regulation (EU) 2021/840 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting for the period 2021-2027 (the 'Pericles IV' programme), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 331/2014, OJ L 186, 27.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/840/oj.

the programme has supported measures undertaken by Member States, especially where national funding is limited.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

- N/A

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	4.4
Total:	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	4.4

The programme targets experts in protection of the euro against counterfeiting irrespective of gender. The programme is thus all classified under score 0.

Gender disaggregated information:

Gender-disaggregated data is not collected under this programme.

Contribution to the digital transition

- N/A

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- N/A

Contribution to reforms

- N/A

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	By preventing and combating counterfeiting and related fraud, Pericles preserves the integrity of the euro banknotes and coins, thus strengthening the trust of citizens and business in the genuineness of these banknotes and coins and therefore enhancing the trust in the Union's economy, while securing the sustainability of public finances.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	Pericles contributes to innovation in the development of secure currency and anti-counterfeiting technologies.

CIVIL PROTECTION

UNION CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM

Concrete examples of achievements

103 new requests for assistance were received and processed by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre in 2025. Furthermore, Ukraine updated 39 existing requests and an additional 19 other requests, opened in 2022-2024, continued to be active during 2025.	27 prevention and preparedness projects in the EU Member States and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) participating states were selected for funding in 2025, and two peer reviews (Italy and Land Brandenburg) were completed under the UCPM peer review programme in 2025.	9 million people are estimated to have benefited from energy-related donations deployed under the UCPM to Ukraine in 2025.	38 UCPM experts were deployed from 17 Member States and participating states, in addition to 15 Emergency Response Coordination Centre liaison officers.
61 training activities were delivered in 2025, including 45 training courses, workshops and training-of-trainers courses, with 821 course places offered to experts, and 12 EU module exercises and one full-scale exercise.	153 response capacities were committed to the European Civil Protection Pool by the end of 2025, of which 118 were available for immediate deployment as registered response capacities under the pool.	729 patients from Ukraine were supported through medical evacuation operations in 2024. These operations have supported a total of 4 800 patients since 2022.	1 new strategy – the preparedness union strategy – was launched in 2025. This flagship initiative, launched by the Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, aims to strengthen the EU's capacity to anticipate, prevent and respond to an increasingly complex risk landscape. The strategy is supported by a 63-item action plan.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	182.6	354.3	253.0	240.3	211.5	202.7	180.0	1624.5
NextGenerationEU	678.9	684.6	683.1	2.8	2.3	3.9	3.5	2 059.1
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	23.7	22.5	26.7	9.4	12.2	0.0	0.0	94.4
Total	885.2	1 061.4	962.8	252.5	226.0	206.6	183.5	3 778.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	3 388.0	3 778.0	89.7%
Payments	2 396.6		63.4%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Response time of the UCPM to a request for assistance in the EU	0	14%	Three hours annually	Milestone achieved in 2024, but not in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2025 (2025: 7 hours compared to a target of 3 hours)	Deserves attention
Response time of the UCPM to a request for assistance outside of the EU	0	29%	10 hours annually	Milestone achieved in 2023 and 2024, but not in 2021, 2022 and 2025 (2025: 71 hours compared to a target of 10 hours)	Deserves attention
Adequacy of response of the UCPM in the EU	0	71%	90% annually from 2024	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 100% compared to a milestone of 90%	On track
Adequacy of response of the UCPM outside of the EU	0	43%	86% annually	Milestones achieved for 2021-2023, but not in 2024 and 2025 (2025: 78% compared to a target of 86%)	Deserves attention
Number of committed and certified capacities included in the European Civil Protection Pool	60	57%	> 60 annually	Milestones achieved for 2021-2023 and 2025, but not in 2024 (2025: 117 compared to a target of 60)	On track
Number of Member States that provided the Commission with a summary of risk assessments and an assessment of risk	27	29%	27 annually	Milestone achieved in 2024 and 2025, but not for 2021-2023 (2025: 27 compared to a target of 27)	On track

management capability					
Level of awareness of EU citizens on the level of risk of their region	N/A	N/A	> 64%	N/A	No data

- In 2025, the Commission has been working towards strengthening overall preparedness and resilience in Europe in an all-hazard, whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach. The preparedness union strategy was adopted in March 2025 along with a 63-item action plan. Out of these 63 actions, 30 aim to embed a 'preparedness by design' approach across EU policies and instruments.
- One of the first deliverables of the strategy is the cross-sectoral EU stockpiling strategy, which was adopted in July 2025 together with the strategy on medical countermeasures.
- The European Civil Protection Pool was further strengthened as the primary reserve of response capacities available for UCPM response operations. The number of certified and registered European Civil Protection Pool resources increased by 19.4% in the past year. In 2025, these capacities were deployed for consular and medical evacuations, forest firefighting and emergency medical support.
- Through the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, the UCPM continued to increase the level of preparedness of emergency response operations. The year 2025 saw a significant increase in events and engagement, particularly on the Knowledge Network Platform, with the number of community members growing by 45%, from 1 291 to 1 875 during 2025.
- To support resilience in Member States and other countries participating in UCPM, in 2025 the EU budget co-financed 27 prevention and preparedness projects, including 13 under the single-country grants to disaster risk management authorities (Track 1) and 14 under the multi-country grants known as 'KAPP'.
- The Technical Assistance Financing Facility entered its second year of implementation, in partnership with the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. Under the knowledge and capacity building component of the Technical Assistance Financing Facility, a series of reports published in 2025 set out practical measures to strengthen Europe's preparedness for wildfires and earthquakes. In addition, the Technical Assistance Financing Facility is supporting two actions of the preparedness union strategy, both focusing on population preparedness.
- The year continued to be marked by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the response to the situation in the Middle East, the European wildfire season, a major earthquake in Myanmar and hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean. The emergency response to Ukraine, which includes 39 updated requests in 2025, is the largest operation under the mechanism so far, with over 156 584 tonnes of life-saving assistance delivered since the conflict started.
- Following continued massive bombardments of critical infrastructure in Ukraine, the UCPM kept deploying critical energy infrastructure for repairs, including large transformers and an entire thermal power plant donated by Lithuania, along with generators and other electrical

material. The operation is the largest, most complex operation implemented under the UCPM so far.

- During the 2025 European wildfire season, the UCPM was activated 18 times in response to wildfires, with 16 activations in Europe and two outside of Europe. The countries affected included Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, Portugal, Spain and Syria. The programme co-financed the standby availability of rescEU aerial forest firefighting capacities, including 18 firefighting planes and four helicopters in case of requests for assistance.
- Four out of seven indicators reached their targets in 2025. The ones that did not were 'Adequacy of response of the UCPM in the EU' and the two indicators on response time of the UCPM. Civil protection is a Member State capacity based on solidarity. The EU can only encourage responses from Member States. Furthermore, the number of types of hazards responded to (wildfires, conflicts, floods, etc.) has increased, as has the geographic expanse of the mechanism. Not all hazards have the same time sensitivity, nor is responding in geographically distant areas always sufficiently viable.
- The amount of assistance requested through the UCPM has continued to grow, as has the duration of civil protection operations. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre has managed a high number of simultaneously open requests for assistance (approximately averaging 20 at any given time). The types of assistance requested have become more complex and diverse. The response to Ukraine has increased in logistical complexity and the centre is coordinating growing numbers of medical evacuation operations from Gaza and Ukraine.
- With future challenges linked to climate change and the ongoing evolution of the risk landscape, including security-related risks, an increase in the number of activations with deployments to high-risk areas is expected. The security set-up for high-risk areas (e.g. Egypt/Sinai, Ukraine) has been enhanced, and further discussions are ongoing to strengthen the Emergency Response Coordination Centre.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	78.1	289.6	191.5	111.6	139.4			810.3	22.1%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	43.1	30.3	14.8	74.4	65.8			228.4	6.2%

- The mechanism will continue contributing to the overall Commission objective of climate mainstreaming through its various activities. A key achievement since 2019 has been the creation ofthe dedicated reserve of rescEU capacities in the area of forest firefighting through the rescEU.
  transition phase, resulting in a total of 28 additional capacities to support Member States in forest
  firefighting activities. This additional support aims to reduce the devastation caused by wildfires –
  including increased carbon dioxide emissions – and is considered a key climate-related achievement.
- In 2025, investment in early warning and information systems linked to climate-related hazards has continued. Stable contributions to the development of the early warning component of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service enabled the upgrading and continuous uninterrupted operation of systems, despite increased needs (e.g. record burned areas in Europe stretching EFFIS capacities). As a part of a comprehensive process and analysis, two lessons learned meetings took place in 2025 focusing exclusively on operations caused by climate related hazards, identifying challenges and bringing forth best practices for preparedness and response.

Contribution to gender equality (*)

Gender Score	2021	20	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	182.6	354.3	253.0	240.3	211.5	1 241.7
Total:	182.6	354.3	253.0	240.3	211.5	1 241.7

(*) Based on the applied gender contribution methodology, the following scores are attributed at the most granular level of intervention possible:

- 2: interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality;
- 1: interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention;
- 0: non-targeted interventions (interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality);
- 0*: score to be assigned to interventions with a likely but not yet clear positive impact on gender equality.

- One of the aims is gender-sensitive civil protection, including addressing specific vulnerabilities and exchanges on the issue of support for victims of gender-based violence during disasters. Gender equality is promoted throughout the disaster risk cycle and raises awareness of the principles of non-discrimination and inclusiveness, alongside a gender-inclusive approach in response activities and ensures that the gender component is considered.
- In 2025 two dedicated UCPM eLearning modules on EU Academy target the topics on “Cultural sensitivity and Gender” and “Exploring the core themes of Diversity & Inclusion” took place, thereby offering an online training to the UCPM community on the principles of Diversity and Inclusion and how to create an inclusive and safe environment in EU civil protection working context, both with affected population on missions as well as within the teams.

Gender disaggregated information:

- No sets of data disaggregated by gender are compiled under the UCPM. As a result, the voted budget implementations committed to the mechanism haven been preliminarily marked in the 0 category.

Contribution to the digital transition

The objective of the programme is to promote solidarity in face of disasters. The programme therefore does not contribute to the digital horizontal priority.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	On top of the Medevac (medical evacuations) operations occurring almost every week since early 2022 in the context of Russia´s war of aggression against Ukraine (729 patients transported from Ukraine to EU hospitals in 2025), other Medevac operations took place in 2025, notably Palestinian patients directly evacuated from Gaza (344 patients and 941 relatives) by 14 hosting countries. The UCPM also supported in 2025 the response of epidemics (Mpox, Marburg, Ebola) in countries such as Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leona, Uganda and Rwanda.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	The EU has commissioned a new comparative study to identify the extent to which preparedness is integrated into early childhood and primary school curricula, including teacher education and teaching materials, across the EU Member States as well as selected Participating States to the UCPM and comparable third countries, as well as a repository of good practices and teachers' resources. The study will constitute the base for the development of guidelines for the inclusion of preparedness in early childhood and primary education curricula in 2026.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	

SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	The EU provides safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene support through its humanitarian aid and Civil Protection Mechanism, with its main objective to save and preserve life and alleviate the suffering of populations facing severe environmental health risks and water insecurity in the context of anticipated, ongoing and recent humanitarian crises, for example in Ukraine. The UCPM has also been active in responding to flooded areas with non-food items, health and Water Access, Sanitation and Hygiene material, such as the response to Melissa Hurricane in the Caribbean (Jamaica, Cuba) and in earthquake affected areas such as Myanmar. These donations were offered by Member States and the Emergency Response Coordination Centre co-funded transport and deployment costs.
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	The UCPM has continued to provide energy related support to Ukraine, including an entire Thermal Power Plant donated by Lithuania, large equipment donated by Germany and Sweden and other electrical material and generators. These donations allow Ukraine to repair and restore energy production and transmission.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes	The UCPM Training, Exercises and Exchange of Expert Programmes promote gender balance, equality and consideration of vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities, including in exercise projects and scenarios. Further, the UCPM deployable training curricula mainstreams Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) in all training courses, with dedicated D&I learning objectives and simulated exercise scenarios and injects on D&I, accompanied by a 1) D&I Handbook, 2) D&I Manual for UCPM trainers, as well as 3) Training of Trainers for all UCPM training staff.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes

EU4HEALTH

EU PROGRAMME FOR A HEALTHIER AND SAFER UNION

Concrete examples of achievements

100 high-standard Comprehensive Cancer Centres covering all EU Member States will collaborate in an EU network launched in 2025 by the Joint Action 'European Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres' to ensure that by 2030, 90% of eligible patients across the EU have access to high-quality cancer care.	**2.66 million** patients with rare conditions benefited from access to diagnosis and treatment in the 24 European reference networks by the end of 2025.	**16** EU Member States and Norway are exchanging Patient Summaries and ePrescription cross-border using the MyHealth@EU infrastructure.	**30** joint inspections of medical device manufacturers took place between 2024-2026 under the Joint Action on Reinforced Market Surveillance for Medical Devices and In Vitro Diagnostics to implement the relevant rules under the regulatory framework for medical devices and in vitro diagnostics.

33

countries are participating in the Joint Action for Scaling-up of National Systems for Vector Threat Detection and Control Capacity,

align with EU health and climate goals, to develop and implement countermeasures for control of disease-transmitting vectors, including physical, biological and chemical methods.

12

beneficiaries from seven Member States have established the European Vaccine Hub

by aligning existing nationally funded vaccine research and development investments into a collaborative network for end-to-end vaccine delivery, leveraging their extensive expertise in vaccine discovery, development, clinical trials and manufacturing.

4

loan agreements have been signed

under the HERA Invest mechanism to support the research and development of medical countermeasures and technologies to address priority cross-border health threats.

325 million

doses of vaccines or monoclonal antibodies

could be produced using reserved manufacturing capacities, with priority manufacturing rights activated in the event of a future public health emergency, to ensure the timely availability of suitable medical countermeasures for EU citizens.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	329.1	839.4	739.3	753.4	582.6	687.9	635.3	4 567.0
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	8.7	20.9	21.4	27.3	16.6	0.0	0.0	95.0
Total	337.8	860.4	760.6	780.7	599.2	687.9	635.3	4 661.9

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	3 337.4	4 661.9	71.6%
Payments	1 789.1	0.0	38.4%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of Member States implementing best practices regarding health promotion, disease prevention and addressing health inequalities	0	**> 100%**	20 in 2031	26 in 2025 compared to a target of 20	Achieved
Preparedness and response planning of the EU and of Member States for serious cross-border threats to health	0	**94%**	32 in 2027	30 in 2025 compared to a target of 32	On track
Number of actions aimed at increasing the security and continuity of the global supply chains and addressing dependence on imports from non-EU countries for the production of essential active pharmaceutical ingredients and medicinal products in the EU	1	**25%**	13 in 2027	4 in 2025 compared to a target of 13	On track
Number of production facilities with enhanced capacities in increasing security and continuity of supply for medical countermeasures, raw materials and components at the EU level	0	**80%**	5 in 2027	4 in 2025 compared to a target of 5	On track
Number of audits conducted in the EU and in non-EU countries to ensure good manufacturing practices and good clinical practices	10	**> 100%**	65 in 2027	75 in 2025 compared to a target of 65	Achieved
Number of healthcare and public health staff trained	0	**54%**	3 050 in 2027	1 649 in 2025 compared to a target of 3 050	Moderate progress
Number of Member States participating in the European	7	**50%**	27 in 2031	17 in 2025 compared to a target of 27	On track

health data space					
Number of studies supporting the evaluations of legislative and non-legislative health union policies	0	**52%**	25 in 2027	13 in 2025 compared to a target of 25	Deserves attention
Number patients diagnosed and treated by the members of European reference networks	1 million	**> 100%**	2.66 million in 2027	2.66 million in 2025 compared to a target of 2 million	Achieved

The Commission adopted the interim evaluation report on 25 November, accompanied by a staff working document, and the 2024 Programme Performance Statement on 19 June 2025.

The 2025 budget for investments in **crisis preparedness and response actions** represents **more than half** of the annual budget. The investments significantly support the implementation of obligations under Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threats to health. These include increasing preparedness, prevention and response planning against vector-borne diseases, setting up EU Reference Laboratories, improving integrated surveillance systems in participating countries and providing training to (public) health professionals. The programme also supports several actions to help participating countries reach the UN sustainable development goal as regards HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis. Further investments strengthen the EU Early Warning and Response System.

Despite the EUR 1 billion budgetary reduction for EU4Health, actions are in line with the expected planning, supporting new projects while sustaining and expanding ongoing activities. The threat prioritisation process guides the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority's support for the development of crisis-related products, with a focus on innovation of medical countermeasures for various health threats (pathogens with pandemic potential, chemical-biological-radiological-nuclear materials and agents, vector-borne threats and antimicrobial resistance).

Investments have targeted supporting innovation (HERA Invest, access to critical products during potential future health emergencies ('EU-FAB' call) and upscaling human resources knowledge (training programme for public health officials). The EU4Health programme has also contributed to the InvestEU Programme through blending with the EU guarantee, which contributed to the mobilisation of additional investments. In particular, the programme contributed EUR 130 million via an InvestEU top-up for EIB investments into innovative life science projects in the area of medical countermeasures.

For setting up a coordinated surveillance system under the 'One Health' approach for cross-border zoonotic pathogens that threaten the EU, EU4Health has financed nine direct grants (around EUR 20 million) to Member States (from 22 Member States and Norway); the European Food Safety Agency assessed that One Health surveillance has substantially improved early detection capacity, geographical coverage and cross-sectoral collaboration for avian influenza and other zoonoses.

The actions on health promotion and disease prevention are on track to reach their targets, contributing to reduction of the burden of non-communicable diseases and addressing health determinants. The Joint Action 'Prevention-oriented Rights-based Approach to Support Mental Health in Vulnerable Population Groups' is supporting a mental-health-in-all-policies approach ([33]) ([34]) through the implementation of three best practices by 17 participating Member States. Additionally, 662 professionals across various sectors were trained in adopting a comprehensive approach to mental health, focusing on vulnerable groups. In 2025, the Joint Action on Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes supported the safe hearts plan, delivering a framework for standardised, evidence-based screening programmes for cardiovascular diseases. Support was also provided for the implementation of tobacco-control legislation.

The **health systems and healthcare workforce** supports policies that aim to generate country-specific and cross-country knowledge on health systems, to strengthen the resilience of Member States' health systems, including by transferring best practices in primary care, and to enhance access to healthcare. In 2025, the fifth cycle of the 'State of health in the EU' project delivered 29 country health profiles (also for Iceland and Norway), highlighting the latest challenges and policy responses in national health systems. Moreover, an interactive dashboard was launched, allowing for dynamic analyses of country health profile data. In 2025, three EU4Health actions concluded the development of guidelines for Member States on how to assess and improve affordability and access to healthcare services, and produced evidence on the role of healthcare in reducing poverty.

EU4Health is financing a framework contract to fund the Member States in implementing the Health Technology Assessment Regulation. The implementation of these actions is on track. In 2025, 13 joint clinical assessments were initiated and 40 patients and clinicians were consulted. The Health Technology Assessment IT platform is fully operational, with 1 044 users onboarded in 2025. Seven joint scientific consultations have already been finalised. Several joint clinical assessment reports are expected to be published by the end of 2026.

The EU4Health programme includes initiatives supporting the implementation of the pharmaceutical strategy and legislation, such as the Joint Action 'Increasenet' ([35]). This Join Action is progressing very well and is significantly contributing to the implementation of the pharmaceutical legislation through building competence of assessors in national competent authorities by means of e-learning materials, and a practical toolkit to facilitate the authorities' interaction with academia and on-the-job learning, and a coaching pilot programme that currently supports 78 trainee assessors, 48 shadow assessors and 3 Increasenet teams. However with respect to other areas of implementation of legislation, more efforts have to be made to meet the needs of healthcare systems, improve resilience of supply chains and avoid shortages of medicines.

([33]) JA MENTOR project website (n.d.), https://ja-mentor.eu/.
([34]) European Commission (n.d.), 'Best Practice Portal' website, https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal/.
([35]) JAZMP (n.d.), Increasenet project website, https://www.jazmp.si/en/eu-projects/increasenet/.

EU4Health actions have significantly contributed to support work on innovation, preparedness and training of national authorities under the regulation on substances of human origin ([36]), along with building awareness among professionals (more than 5 000 establishments across the EU).

The EU4Health programme is funding actions supporting the implementation, evaluation and revision of the medical devices and in vitro diagnostics regulations, such as the EU database on medical devices (Eudamed), the monitoring of availability of devices and diagnostics, 30 joint inspections of manufacturers and the strengthening of notified bodies' capacity. The implementation of these actions is on track and work is progressing very well, with more than 13 000 certificates issued and the first four Eudamed modules becoming mandatory for use in May 2026. Funding is also provided for the designation of seven European Reference Laboratories, which are significantly contributing to the safety assessment of in vitro diagnostics.

The Joint Action 'Global Health Impact' established mechanisms for closer coordination between the EU institutions and Member States and therefore strengthens the EU's leadership in global health. Adequate monitoring and regular contacts were put in place throughout 2025, ensuring thorough implementation oversight, including a follow-up action to ensure the continuation of coordination and monitoring of the global health strategy implementation.

EU4Health investments addressing rare diseases have targeted IT tools for diagnosis and treatment, such as the telemedicine tool CPMS 2.0 – Clinical Patients Management System. The European reference networks system was further developed, also supported by EUR 77.4 million in EU4Health grants (2023-2027), and efforts to integrate this system into national healthcare systems (through the Joint Action on Integration of ERNs into National Healthcare Systems) continued, with deliverables expected in early 2027. The Orphanet review found that the 24 European Reference Networks cover 97% of the 6 352 classified rare diseases, leaving only 3% (approximately 190) to be addressed.

The **digital** strand spending in 2025 helped to facilitate the preparations for the implementation of the European health data space, showing good progress in reaching the 2027 targets. The financial support focused on supporting Member States' work on preparing for the connection to the cross-border digital health infrastructure for primary use of data MyHealth@EU and developing the secondary-use cross-border digital health infrastructure HealthData@EU. Two new Member States joined MyHealth@EU in 2025, making a total of 17 countries (including Norway) participating in cross-border exchange of health data. Grants were established for setting up and expanding the capabilities of health data access bodies for enabling the reuse of health data, as a follow-up action to the 2022 direct grants currently supporting 21 countries (20 Member States and Norway). The timely implementation of this strand depends on resources and specialised technical expertise in Member States. To address this need, the Commission is providing extensive support to Member States through the eHealth Network, in the eHealth Member States Expert Group and the Community of Practice for secondary uses of health data.

In all, 24 actions were successfully launched in 2025 under the implementation of the **cancer** cross-cutting approach, which is well on track to achieve the objectives of Europe's beating cancer plan. For example, collaborative work in the field of cancer is ongoing under the Joint Action

([36]) Regulation (EU) 2024/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on standards of quality and safety for substances of human origin intended for human application and repealing Directives 2002/98/EC and 2004/23/EC, OJ L, 2024/1938, 17.7.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1938/oj.

'Enhancing the Digital Capabilities of Cancer Centres in Europe to Improve Prevention and Care' to improve e-health, telemedicine and remote monitoring systems, and to enhance access to and exchange of health data in existing and future cancer centres.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	7.3	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.0			8.9	0.2%

The 2025 annual work programme provides programmed funding for 15 initiatives addressing environmental risk factors and contributing to adaptation/resilience to consequences of climate change, in a 'One Health' approach under the crisis preparedness strand. The initiatives funded under EU4Health programme do not have a direct contribution to the climate, biodiversity and clean air horizontal priorities. However, for ensuring a high level of human health protection in all EU policies the initiatives funded by the programme are implemented, where applicable, in line with the 'one health' approach, which recognises that human health is connected to animal health and to the environment, and that measures to tackle threats to health must consider those three dimensions. The funds programmed for 'one health' measures in 2025 amounted to about EUR 147 million and this amount will be revised once the actions are signed. The amounts have varied over the last five years, with a total budget of about EUR 586 million during that period.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9	7.9
1	15.0	75.9	23.3	20.0	13.9	148.1
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	314.1	763.5	716.0	733.4	560.9	3 087.9
Total:	329.1	839.4	739.3	753.4	582.6	3 243.9

(*) Based on the applied gender contribution methodology, the following scores are attributed at the most granular level of intervention possible:

- 2: interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality;
- 1: interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention;
- 0: non-targeted interventions (interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality);
- 0*: score to be assigned to interventions with a likely but not yet clear positive impact on gender equality.

The EU4Health programme aims to keep all people healthy and active for longer, irrespective of gender. Several initiatives focus on gender specific medical conditions or devices (such as prostate cancer or women-health silicone-containing medical devices) and provide relevant information for the purpose of gender tracking under the EU4Health programme. The European Cancer Inequalities Registry initiative provides sound and reliable data to identify inequalities in cancer prevention and care across the Member States, Norway and Iceland. One of the inequality dimensions explicitly addressed is differences between men and women, through the inclusion of data on the cancer burden and certain risk factors disaggregated by sex. Certain other topics address a specific policy focus on gender differences (cancers caused by infections, vaccine-preventable cancers, addressing communicable diseases) and on equity dimension, aiming at reducing inequalities and differences across population groups (particularly women, children and other groups) in various fields (e.g: cardiovascular health, non-communicable diseases). The 2025 annual work programme budget allocated around EUR 21.5 million to initiatives considered relevant to gender, which is around the average annual contribution of the first four programming years. The data that will allow disaggregation by gender are expected to become available in late 2026.

Gender disaggregated information:

Where relevant information on the gender dimension will be retrieved from the collection of data on several indicators that focus on gender-predominant related diseases (such as prostate cancer, vaccination coverage for human papillomaviruses in eligible girls – (indicator 7.3)). In addition, in the case of certain indicators (the age-standardised five-year net survival rate for paediatric cancer and the percentage of the population covered by cancer registries reporting information on colorectal and paediatric cancer stage at diagnosis), relevant data that can be disaggregated.

In the case of other indicators, very limited gender disaggregation may be possible when data become available (the indicators 'Number of actions addressing the prevalence of major chronic diseases per Member State, by disease, gender, and age', 'Number of actions addressing the age prevalence of tobacco use, if possible, differentiated by gender' and 'Number of actions addressing the prevalence of harmful use of alcohol, if possible, differentiated by gender and age'). Future collection of action-level indicators may provide relevant information on gender dimension/equality of funded initiatives throughout the implementation of the programmed actions, and data will be reported accordingly.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	86.1	140.1	67.0	80.8	72.4	446.3	13.8%

The EU4Health programme has contributed substantially to the digital transition between 2021-2025 with a total programmed budget of EUR 502 million supporting actions in the following intervention fields: (i) human capital – information technology services and applications for digital skills and digital inclusion; support for the development of digital skills; (ii) digital public services – government information and communications technology solutions, e-services and applications; e-health services and applications (including e-Care, immersive virtual reality to improve health literacy, dedicated IT platforms to support SOHO oversight activities for authorities and ensure interoperability among national competent authorities, development of databases (e.g., EUDAMED) the internet of things for physical activity and ambient assisted living), and digitalisation in healthcare (such as developing predictive models and screening tools for cardiovascular diseases and diabetes risk).

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

In line with **Regulation 2024/795** (the "STEP" Regulation), **EU4Health** is one of the EU budget instruments in direct management and indirect management mobilized under the **Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)** to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy. As stipulated in **Article 4**, EU4Health is also among the programmes authorized to award the **STEP (Sovereignty) Seal** under its calls for proposals.

In 2025, **six actions were considered as relevant for Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), for a total budget of EUR 254 million**. In line with the mission of HERA, these actions aim to support the development and supply of medical countermeasures, new diagnostic tests for vector borne diseases and financing manufacturing investments and capacity.

In 2025, EU4Health did not award any grant or STEP seal under STEP-relevant actions: results for two calls for proposals launched and closed in 2025 are expected to come in 2026.

Contribution to reforms

Initiatives funded by EU4Health relate to reforms that Member States need to carry out in response to country-specific recommendations issued under the European Semester. Initiatives implemented across all of the strands of EU4Health contribute to Member States' efforts to address country-specific recommendations relating to improving the resilience, accessibility and effectiveness of health systems; ensuring the supply of critical medical products; addressing shortages of health

professionals; supporting the reskilling and upskilling of the health workforce; strengthening primary care; taking forward the deployment of e-health services; and supporting disease prevention measures.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	YES	The EU4Health programme and its annual work programmes deliver actions to implement the 'Healthier together' initiative, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the comprehensive approach to mental health, and addresses key risk factors to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases. The Programme also funds actions that are producing guidance to improve healthcare access, contributing to SDG 3.8. The Programme also funds actions to address SDG 3.3 to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases. The Programme funds actions to address SDG 3.D to strengthen the capacity of countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	YES	Under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the EU4Health programme and its annual work programmes contributes to the European Cancer Inequalities Registry initiative. This provides sound and reliable data to identify inequalities in cancer prevention and care across the EU27, Norway and Iceland. The EU4Health programme supports actions that identify and implement cost-effective and evidence-based practices to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases and address health inequalities between Member States.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND+

Concrete examples of achievements

16 million people had been supported by the end of 2025 thanks to the shared management strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).	**4.9 million** participants in the ESF+ have entered employment, have gained a qualification, are in education or training or are actively searching for a job.	**1.7 million** participants had found a job (including being self-employed) by the end of 2025 thanks to the shared management strand of the ESF+.	**2.2 million** participants had gained a qualification by the end of 2025 thanks to the shared management strand of the ESF+.
660 000 participants were in education or training by the end of 2025 thanks to the shared management strand of the ESF+.	**342 000** participants engaged in job searching upon completing their interaction with the ESF+.	**31 million** people benefited from food assistance in 2025 under the shared management strand of the ESF+.	**7 689** job placements were created under the direct management strand of the ESF+ (employment and social innovation) in the 2021-2025 period (EURES targeted mobility scheme).

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	174.0	15 967.8	16 373.9	16 816.3	17 232.3	14 154.6	14 561.8	95 280.7
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	7.2	2.6	2.9	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0	19.9
Total	**181.2**	**15 970.4**	**16 376.8**	**16 819.8**	**17 235.9**	**14 154.6**	**14 561.8**	**95 300.6**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Budget programming REACT-EU (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NextGenerationEU	15 434.9	5 151.8	11.5	1.3	13.5	0.0	0.0	20 613.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	15 434.9	5 151.8	11.5	1.3	13.5	0.0	0.0	20 613.0

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	66 343.1	95 300.06	69.5%
Payments	14 315.8	0.0	15.0%

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 REACT-EU (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	20 596.0	20 613.0	99.9%
Payments	20 246.5	0.0	98.2%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Unemployed participants reached	0	26%	21.5 million in 2029	5.5 million by 2025 compared to a target of 21.5 million	On track
Number of participants aged 55 years and above reached	0	25%	6.4 million in 2029	1.6 million by 2025 compared to a target of 6.4 million	On track
Participants with lower-secondary education or less reached	0	26%	31.1 million in 2029	8.2 million by 2025 compared to a target of 31.1 million	On track
Participants considered part of disadvantaged groups reached	0	42%	10.9 million in 2029	4.6 million by 2025 compared to a target of 10.9 million	On track
Total number of end recipients benefiting from food, material or voucher/card support	0	26%	135.7 million in 2029	35.2 million by 2025 compared to a target of 135.7 million	On track
Number of children below 18 years of age benefiting from food, material or voucher support	0	18%	43.6 million in 2029	7.9 million in 2025 compared to a target of 43.6 million	On track
Number of information-sharing and mutual-learning activities	0	63%	191 in 2029	120 by 2025 compared to a target of 191	Moderate progress
Number of social experimentations	0	93%	14 in 2029	13 by 2025 compared to a target of 14	On track

The performance of programmes is regularly discussed during the annual performance review meetings, in accordance with Article 41 of the Common Provisions Regulation. As the ESF+ programmes were adopted in late 2022, the time available to achieve the milestones was reduced from four years to just over two years; however, managing authorities were aware of the challenges involved in setting milestones under these conditions.

From the second half of 2024, implementation began to accelerate, and managing authorities reported the selection of over EUR 23 billion in projects (16% of the total ESF+ budget) from June to December 2024. In

2025, budget implementation continued, with nearly EUR 7 billion in interim payment requests submitted by Member States and paid out. By 2025, the number of cost claims received had caught up with the levels observed at the same stage of the previous two multiannual financial framework periods, confirming that implementation is gaining momentum and supporting our assessment that the indicators can be considered to be on track even though the actual results are lagging somewhat behind the milestones and targets. Project selection continued to expand thereafter, reaching about EUR 92.5 billion by December 2025 (around 66% of the budget). This strong expansion of the project pipeline confirms that implementation on the ground has gained momentum.

This positive trend is further reinforced by the simplification measures introduced to facilitate delivery and accelerate absorption, which are expected to support progress towards the targets and underpin the 'on track' assessment. In 2025, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion continued to work towards simplifying the implementation of the ESF+. According to the data from the study on the uptake of simplified cost options and financing not linked to costs, almost 50% of the ESF+ budget is implemented through their use, thus making it the frontrunner among all funds encompassed by the Common Provisions Regulation. Whereas the use of simplified cost options had already been a reality for the last several years, the uptake of financing not linked to costs has also been increasing. In 2025, five new schemes for financing not linked to costs in Croatia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania (two schemes) were approved by the Commission. By the end of January 2026, 13 schemes for financing not linked to costs had been adopted by the Commission in 10 Member States (Estonia, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary (2), Poland (2), Portugal and Romania (2)), amounting to EUR 5.1 billion. To support Member States in preparing such schemes, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion provides continuous support and guidance, including by making available nine models for schemes relating to financing not linked to costs (one on individual learning accounts; three based on existing RRF measures in the fields of education and skills, employment and social inclusion; two for the integration of migrants and refugees; and three using common indicators as triggers for payment). In addition, within the framework of the Transnational Network on Simplification, six other models were prepared by the Member States' representatives.

Since the adoption of the legislative framework for cohesion policy, including the ESF+, major geopolitical and economic events have reshaped certain EU strategic priorities. The midterm review in 2025 therefore provided an opportunity not only to assess the state of implementation but also to refocus programmes on emerging challenges and strategic priorities, while further accelerating delivery through simplification. In this context, 50 programme amendments were initiated, mobilising EUR 1.54 billion from the ESF+ for the development of skills in the areas of civil preparedness, the defence industry and cybersecurity, and for adaptation linked to decarbonisation and newly created STEP priorities.

In parallel with the acceleration in financial implementation and the simplification efforts described above, the pace at which results are delivered has also picked up compared to 2024. The ESF+ continues to promote sustainable and quality employment, education and social inclusion, having supported 16.0 million participants by the end of 2025 ([37]). Participation is distributed across the three thematic objectives, with 4.6 million participants in the broad policy area of employment, 6.5 million in education and training operations and 4.8 million under social inclusion objectives.

Overall, this has resulted in 4.9 million positive short-term results, meaning that participants have entered employment, have gained a qualification, are in education or training or are actively searching for a job.

The ESF+ primarily reaches those who are out of work due to inactivity or unemployment, accounting for 11.8 million participants. More than half of all participants (8.2 million) are low-skilled, with lower secondary

([37]) The monitoring of outputs and results in ESF+ is based on the single participation record. For ease of reading, the terms 'participation', 'participant' and 'person' are used interchangeably in this document.

education or less (ISCED 0-2). With 3.6 million children and 3.9 million young people aged 18 to 29 supported, the ESF+ provides significant assistance to younger generations. Vulnerable groups also benefit substantially from ESF+ support, including 1.3 million people with disabilities, 2 million non-EU nationals and 312 000 homeless participants to date.

The implementation of the ESF+ direct and indirect management (employment and social innovation – EaSI) strand is globally on track, and is improving as execution progresses. The number of EaSI/ESF+ information-sharing and mutual-learning activities is making progress, with 30 activities in 2024 and 26 in 2025. This number will increase, as further commitments can still be made in 2026. The number of jobs created under the targeted mobility scheme is expected to rise further in the coming years, as confirmed by a clearly rising trend (the number of jobs created in 2023 increased by 26% compared to 2022, and 27% if we compare 2023 with 2024). Transnational cooperation activities to accelerate the transfer and scaling up of social innovations are taking place under the ESF+ social innovation initiative. With a current budget of EUR 132 million, this initiative is implemented under indirect management by the Lithuanian European Social Fund Agency and was officially launched in November 2022. In 2025, this agency launched two calls for proposals (implementing the disability employment package and piloting a skill guarantee for workers in transition) and continued implementing the five calls for proposals that were launched in previous years.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Total**	**% of the total envelope**
Climate mainstreaming	0.4	1 263.7	1 303.7	1 396.6	1 370.5	817.8	843.2	6 996.0	7.3%

The ESF+ supports the climate change objectives by promoting green skills and jobs and contributing to the green economy. Climate actions can be undertaken under the majority (if not all) of the ESF's investment priorities (whether in the context of support for small and medium-sized enterprises, vocational education and training systems, lifelong learning or youth employment measures, among other things). It is for this reason that the Commission decided to add a dimension to the ESF to track climate change expenditure: the ESF+ secondary theme. All expenditure under the ESF secondary theme has a 100% coefficient.

This contribution corresponds to the amount earmarked for the secondary theme (01) 'Contributing to green skills and jobs and the green economy' in the ESF + programmes.

Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) introduced two new intervention fields, including145b (Support for the development of skills or access to employment in clean and resource-efficient technologies), which is dedicated for actions specific to the strategic technologies and also have a 100% contribution coefficient for climate change objectives.

Regulation (EU) 2025/1913 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges introduced – among others – financial incentives and flexibilities to provide support for training aiming at skilling, upskilling and reskilling with a view to adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change contributing to the decarbonisation of production capacities under dedicated priorities, with the objective of maintaining competitiveness, sustainability and innovation during the green transition.

The ESF+ promotes green skills and jobs and contributes to the green economy by:

- supporting the labour force by enhancing knowledge and skills to develop, produce, use and apply new efficient and low-carbon technologies in a broad range of sectors and by matching these skills to jobs;
- offering support to the labour force to alleviate any negative impact on employment as a result of shifting to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, namely job cuts in energy-intensive industries;
- facilitating the industrial adjustment linked to the decarbonisation of production processes and products, while supporting skilling, job maintenance and quality job creation throughout the decarbonisation process. Through this type of investment, the programme also partially supports the development of biodiversity-relevant skills and jobs. However, the contribution of the ESF+ to biodiversity is marginal compared to the broader contribution to climate.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	507.5	1 439.4	688.6	706.0	3 341.4
1	0.0	14 775.4	13 384.2	14 162.1	14 521.5	56 843.1
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	174.0	685.0	1 550.3	1 965.6	2 004.8	6 379.7
Total:	174.0	15 967.8	16 373.9	16 816.3	17 232.3	66 564.3

The ESF+ Regulation provides for the obligation of the Member States and the Commission to support specific targeted actions to promote gender equality mainstreaming and increase the participation of women in employment, to support the improvement of work/life balance and combat the feminisation of poverty and gender discrimination in the labour market, education and training. Once the targeted measures are included in the programme, the specific thematic enabling condition requires the Member States to put in place a national strategic policy framework for gender equality.

Moreover, when selecting operations, Member States must set and apply criteria and procedures that are non-discriminatory and transparent, ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, ensure gender equality and take account of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

ESF+ allows Member States to develop work-life balance policies, including in the workplace, ensure gender-sensitive policies, increase the labour-market participation of women, provide access to affordable and accessible care services for children, older persons or persons with disabilities, as well as tackle gender stereotypes.

ESF+ is the biggest cohesion policy contributor to gender equality, with almost EUR 85 billion planned to contribute to gender equality through gender mainstreaming and around EUR 4.3 billion to support actions targeting gender equality.

As regards the reporting requirements, the Member States are obliged to report, where relevant, the indicator data broken down by gender (women, men and non-binary, in accordance with the national law).

The amounts provided correspond to those earmarked for the gender codes of the Common Provisions Regulation: '01' for gender targeting (corresponding to a score of 2), '02' for gender mainstreaming (corresponding to a score of 1) and '03' for gender neutral (corresponding to a score of 0).

Gender equality is also a horizontal priority for the direct and indirect management strand of the ESF+ and should be taken into account in all activities. To identify to what extent the employment and social innovation strand is successful in mainstreaming horizontal principles in EaSI-supported

activities, the performance framework of the strand includes an indicator on the percentage of stakeholders who declare that the activities funded through EaSI promote gender equality and non-discrimination. This indicator is directly linked to sustainable development goal 5: gender equality.

Gender-disaggregated information

- All common indicators on participants are broken down by gender. In ESF+ shared management, Member States transmit data twice a year on supported participants with a gender breakdown. By the end of 2025, ESF+ had supported 16 million participants, of whom 8.4 million were women, 7.5 million were men and 118 000 were non-binary.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	0.0	55.5	686.3	1001.4	1 728.5	3 471.2	5.2%

The digital transition is supported by the ESF+ through its investment in digital skills and jobs. In particular, the amounts provided correspond to those allocated for 'Developing digital skills and jobs' (secondary theme 02) in ESF+ programmes. For tracking digital expenditure, the intervention field grid from Annex VI of the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation is used.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

In line with Regulation (EU) 2024/795 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), the ESF+ is one of the EU budget instruments under shared management mobilised to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy. STEP investments under ESF+ can be supported through existing priority axes or through new STEP-dedicated priorities, following amendments to one or more ESF+ programmes by Member State.

The regulation also introduced important changes to ESF+ financing to facilitate the implementation of STEP initiatives. It provides for an exceptional pre-financing rate of 30% for programme priorities dedicated to STEP objectives, aimed at accelerating the launch of projects contributing to the EU's technological advancement and strategic autonomy. In addition, the maximum co-financing rate for these priorities has been increased to 100%, encouraging Member States to implement STEP-related projects and supporting faster uptake of critical technologies across the EU. In December 2025, the Defence Mini-omnibus Regulation extended the scope of STEP to a fourth sector covering investments in defence.

In line with ESF+ objectives, STEP also supports actions addressing skills shortages and promoting up- and re-skilling of workers.

By the end of December 2025, Member States have programmed EUR 2.1 billion of ESF+ funding to support STEP measures.

The STEP Regulation has introduced a new ESF+ secondary theme – 11: Contributing to skills and jobs in digital technologies and deep tech innovation, clean and resource-efficient technologies, and biotechnologies, as well as two new intervention fields: 145a Support for the development of skills or access to employment in digital technologies and deep tech innovation, biotechnologies and 145b Support for the development of skills or access to employment in clean and resource-efficient technologies. The latter has a 100% coefficient for the calculation of support for climate change objectives and 40% coefficient for the support to environmental objectives.

On 31 December 2025, the selected operations for STEP priorities amounted to just over EUR 80 million (EU and national contributions combined), with the vast majority directed towards intervention field 145a, related to skills in digital, deep tech and biotechnologies.

Contribution to reforms

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion commissioned the Study supporting the impact assessment of the future European Social Fund proposal – Achieving structural change: conditions for success in the areas of ESF+ intervention, published in 2025, that provides a comprehensive analysis of how the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) facilitates systemic reforms across the EU. Between 2014 and 2022, the research identified 293 distinct reforms within the Member States, mapping the specific causal mechanisms and conditions that enable successful policy shifts. The study underscores the role of the ESF+ as a strategic instrument in the European social policy landscape, evaluating its contribution to long-term structural change alongside other national and EU funding streams.

The findings detail the diverse levels of financial investment provided by the ESF and ESF+ across these 293 identified reforms. The data show that the fund provided a significant backbone for many initiatives, with 5.1% of reforms receiving 75-100% of their support from the ESF/ESF+, and another 5.8% supported at a level of 51-75%. Furthermore, the ESF/ESF+ contributed between 25% and 50% of the support for 12.7% of the identified reforms, while for 25% of the reforms, the fund provided up to 25% of the necessary support.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)

SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+** (shared management) In Bulgaria, the ESF+ supports a project modernising social protection systems, with the goal of improving access for vulnerable groups, including children and people with disabilities. By enhancing the capacity of staff, the Agency of Social Assistance (ASA) will ensure adequate care by offering those in need competent and multi-component support, in line with new technologies and ensuring an improvement in their quality of life. The establishment of a single call centre in the ASA with a toll-free telephone number for users connected to all territorial structures, will ensure centralised processing of queries and rapid response to issues. This initiative ensures faster, more efficient support, helping prevent social isolation and improve quality of life. **Member State:** Bulgaria **EU Contribution:** EUR 13 508 946.96 **Duration:** 24 February 2025 – 24 January 2028
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+** (shared management) In Greece, the Social Solidarity Network is tackling extreme poverty by providing essential food and material assistance to those in need. Through the project 'Grid of Actions to Address Material Deprivation', the Region of Peloponnese is delivering basic supplies to vulnerable households while offering social inclusion support. Beneficiaries, including recipients of the Guaranteed Minimum Income, receive not just aid but also administrative and integration assistance. **Member State:** Greece **EU Contribution:** EUR 25 353 903.44 **Duration**: 2 April 2024 – 31 December 2029

SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+** (shared management) In Poland, the Active Despite Cancer project is supporting cancer patients aged 18-64 in Wielkopolska region through comprehensive rehabilitation. Led by the Alina Pienkowska Cancer Prevention and Epidemiology Centre in Poznań (OPEN), the project builds on a successful pilot to improve physical fitness, mental well-being, and employability for 2 500 patients. The initiative offers physiotherapy, dietetics, psychological support, and training for medical staff. By enhancing rehabilitation services, the project helps patients regain independence and return to work. **Member State:** Poland **EU Contribution:** EUR 3 856 221.23 **Duration:** 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2028
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+** (shared management) In France, the ESF+-co-financed 'Visa métiers' qualifications training scheme (2022–2023) aims to strengthen the skill needs of low-qualified individuals and support economic actors in the region by providing targeted professional training. The initiative, implemented by the Pays de la Loire Region's professional and continuing training service, focuses on sectors facing labour shortages, including industry, construction, agriculture/landscape, logistics transport, and services to people. The scheme primarily targets jobseekers and individuals under judicial supervision, offering them personalised training pathways tailored to their skills and competencies. By fostering professional integration and qualification, the 'Visa métiers' project seeks to empower individuals who are distant from the labour market, contributing to the region's economic development and social inclusion, aligning with the goal of promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. **Member State:** France **EU Contribution:** EUR 26 965 800.00 **Duration**: 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2025

SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+** (shared management) In Austria, the project 'FairPlusService', co-financed by the ESF+, aims to enhance the professional development and further training of formally low-skilled and unqualified women, fostering equal opportunities and empowerment. The initiative targets women with limited formal qualifications, offering a range of measures to support employment, such as providing compact training and short learning units to stimulate continuous skill development, as well as tailored consulting and coaching services for both Austrian companies and the women themselves. The project focuses on key sectors such as trade, tourism, health and social care, and education, where advisory services are delivered to bridge skill gaps and promote career advancement. These services are complemented by comprehensive outreach efforts and broad knowledge-sharing initiatives to ensure long-term impact. Overall, the project seeks to promote long-term employment stability, gender equality, and labour market participation for some of Austria's most vulnerable women. **Member State:** Austria **EU Contribution:** EUR 2 408 047.46 **Duration:** 14 November 2023 – 13 November 2028

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+** (shared management) The ESF+ supports a project designed to integrate unemployed individuals, employed persons with disabilities, and economically inactive residents into the labour market. The initiative targets vulnerable groups, including long-term unemployed individuals, persons with disabilities or mental health conditions, refugees, individuals over 55, and young adults under 29. The project offers a range of measures to facilitate employment, such as creating subsidised jobs in collaboration with employers, adapting workplaces for persons with disabilities, and providing financial support for regional mobility to help participants cover transport and accommodation costs during their first four months of employment. The project also includes professional suitability assessments, skills development programs for young adults and persons with disabilities, and support for overcoming addictions through therapy and counselling. Psychological and mentorship services are provided to boost participants' confidence and help employers better understand the needs of these target groups. Overall, the project aims to promote long-term employment stability, social integration, and labour market participation for some of Latvia's most vulnerable populations. **Member State**: LatviaEU **Contribution:** EUR 43 537 650.00 **Duration:** 1 June 2023 – 30 June 2028

SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+** (shared management) The ESF+ funds a three-year project in Gothenburg focused on reducing child poverty by enhancing children's and young people's participation in school and leisure activities. The project specifically targets children aged 6-18 living in Gothenburg neighbourhoods with high relative poverty rates. It involves close collaboration with the City of Gothenburg's school and social services, housing companies, volunteer organisations, and local stakeholders. This initiative builds upon the 'School as Arena/Lights On' framework, which aims to equalise opportunities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and ensure their right to a fulfilling childhood. By providing structured leisure activities under the supervision of trusted adults, the project creates safe environments that positively influence children's academic success and future development, helping reduce the gap of opportunity with their peers. **Member State:** Sweden **EU Contribution:** EUR 971 592.70 **Duration:** 1 March 2023 – 28 February 2026
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+** (shared management) In Romania, the ESF+ funds a project aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion among marginalised Roma and non-Roma communities, with a particular focus on the Roma minority population. The initiative operates under the Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) mechanism, implementing integrated measures to provide quality, sustainable, and affordable services. These include housing support, person-centred care and modernisation of social protection systems, with special attention to children and disadvantaged groups, with the goal of fostering inclusive growth and improved living conditions for vulnerable populations in the region. **Member State:** Romania **EU Contribution:** EUR 834 674.40 **Duration**: 1 January 2024 – 29 December 2029

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	YES	**2021-2027 ESF+, EaSI strand** (direct management) The NewEcoSmart project aims to create an inclusive social innovation approach to reskill and upskill adults in rural areas, helping them adapt to the green and digital transitions in their current jobs or find new employment opportunities within habitat-related sectors. The initiative also promotes social entrepreneurial skills to encourage sustainable business models aligned with circular and socially responsible practices. The project brings together industry representatives, vocational training institutions, and social innovation actors, with support from public authorities, educational providers, and third-sector organisations. Focusing on rural regions in Spain, Portugal, and Italy with strong manufacturing traditions, NewEcoSmart identifies and addresses the green, digital, and entrepreneurial skill gaps among adults over 45, small and medium-sized enterprises, and micro-firms. It develops a digital transformation toolkit for social economy actors to adopt innovative approaches that support the twin transition, tests and validates these methods in selected territories, and expands its impact through prizes and grants. **Member State:** Italy, Spain, Portugal **EU Contribution:** EUR 812 159.54 **Duration:** 1 August 2023 – 31 July 2025

2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework – European Social Fund (ESF)

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	93 619.5	93 630.6	100.0%
Payments	93 242.4	0.0	99.6%

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving the ESF intervention	14%	> 100%	24% in 2023	35% of participants in 2023 compared to a target of 24%	Achieved
Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving the ESF intervention in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	0	> 100%	23% in 2023	26% of participants in 2023 compared to a target of 23%	Achieved
Inactive young people not in employment, education or	0	> 100%	0.26 million in 2020	0.33 million inactive participants in 2023	Achieved

training gaining a qualification or in employment upon leaving the youth employment initiative intervention		compared to a target of 0.26 million

By the end of 2023, a total of 76 million ([38]) participations were reported in ESF interventions with objectives focusing on employment, education and social inclusion. Of these participations, a total of 25.5 million were reported to have gained a qualification, entered employment or education, or became engaged in job-searching, translating to an overall success rate of around 34 %.

The ESF (excluding YEI) has been successfully promoting sustainable and quality employment (in line with specific objective 1). Operations that promote sustainable and quality employment supported more than 16 million participations and led to 6.7 million positive short-term results (i.e. people either found a job, gained a qualification or otherwise improved their labour market position). 3.5 million participants entered employment after participating in an ESF-supported intervention, which amounts to a total of 35% of participations recorded for unemployed and inactive persons. This is well above the target of the core performance indicator set in the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework for this objective (24%).

In the field of social inclusion (specific objective 2), the ESF contributes to reducing poverty in the EU, typically through attention for active inclusion, by targeting specific groups such as low-skilled people, (long-term) unemployed, older people, people with disabilities, and people with a migrant/foreign background. At the end of 2023, this specific objective had supported more than 17 million participations and led to almost 5 million positive results. Around 0.8 million inactive participants were engaged in job searching upon leaving, which amounts to 12.5% of all participations recorded for inactive persons.

In the area of education and training (specific objective 3) almost 27 million participations were recorded for all operations in education, of which 9 million had achieved an individual short-term result by the end of 2023. Almost 7 million participants gained a qualification through ESF investments with an education objective, which represents 26% of all participations recorded in this objective. This is above the target defined as core performance indicator by 2023 (23%). Another 1.5 million persons were in education/training when they left the intervention. As expected, the numbers of people engaged in education were higher than those engaged in job search or those that had entered employment.

Institutional capacity investments (specific objective 4) have supported projects targeting public administrations or public services at the national, regional or local level. Interventions mainly contributed to public officials gaining a certain type of qualification (0.5 million out of 1.1 million

([38]) The monitoring of outputs and results in ESF is based on the single participation record. For ease of reading, the terms 'participation', 'participant' and 'person' are used interchangeably in this document.

participants). The most meaningful results were procedural, such as improvements in the administrative time required for certain procedures, or specific positive results for organisations, public administrations, the judiciary, and civil society organisations. Good examples include the numbers of institutions implementing certain IT systems, revised and/or simplified procedures, and increased regulatory scrutiny.

In the field of support for young people not in employment, education or training (specific objective 5), by the end of 2023 a total of 7.4 million young people had benefited from YEI support. Of these, almost 1.8 million were in education/training, gained a qualification or were in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving the YEI supported intervention.

Regarding fostering crisis repair and resilience, the programme amendments across the EU after the introduction of REACT-EU in 2020 resulted in an aggregated additional EUR 19.6 billion of European funds available for implementation of ESF across the various objectives (EUR 20.2 billion when including national co-financing). Most of these funds were allocated to supporting employment objectives (EUR 12.5 billion), followed by investments in education (EUR 3.4 billion) and social inclusion (EUR 2.4 billion). Remaining investments were reserved for institutional capacity (EUR 0.7 billion) and other support (EUR 0.6 billion).

While the investments under this objective are directed to existing investment priorities, they focused transversally on crisis repair and fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as future-oriented investments. They were also used to finance emergency support measures for Ukrainian refugees in 2022.

Under the 2014-2020 programming period, investments through CARE and FAST-CARE amounted to EUR 1.428 billion of which EUR 972 million came from the ESF (EU contribution: EUR 949 million).

REACT-EU investments have been almost completed by the end of 2023, with a total of EUR 20.3 billion (over 100%) selected and over 50% had been declared as expenditure already. Implementation of the transversal REACT-EU investments with employment objectives show slightly lower implementation rates as expenditure declared (43%).

Operations under the REACT-EU thematic objective reached an additional 7 million participations, leading to more than 7.2 positive short-term results.

2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework – Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate

Commitments	3 813.7	3 813.7	100.0%
Payments	3 645.2	0.0	95.6%

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of people receiving assistance from the fund	0	> 100%	12.7 million annually from 2015 to 2020	14 million in 2023 compared to a target of 12.7 million	Achieved

Around 14 million people benefited from FEAD in 2023, with more then 300 000 tonnes of food and almost 67 million meals distributed. More than 950 000 people were supported through basic material assistance and almost 50 000 people received vouchers.

Among the persons benefitting, 49% were women; 26% were children; 11% were above 65 years old; 20% were migrants, people with a foreign background or minorities; 7.5% were people with disabilities; and around 3% were homeless. Compared to the preceding years, slightly less people benefited from FEAD type support and the amount of distributed food was lower. This has to be seen in the context of overlapping support in the year 2023, where some Member States already started the implementation of ex-FEAD type activities under the ESF+.

By the end of 2023, FEAD had successfully delivered assistance in 27 Member States, making good progress towards its objectives. Most Member States (23 out of 27) had distributed food and/or basic material assistance together with accompanying measures (operational programme I) and four Member States continued to run social inclusion programmes (OP II).

ERASMUS+

Concrete examples of achievements

More than 1.5 million participants took advantage of Erasmus+ mobility in 2025.	Close to 61 900 unique organisations were involved in Erasmus+ projects in 2025.	More than 51 000 Ukrainian nationals have participated in Erasmus+ mobility programmes since 2022.	4.4 million European student cards had been issued by universities and other institutions by the end of 2025.
35% of Erasmus+ cooperation partnerships supported digital transformation in 2025.	43% of budget cooperation projects supported the environment and climate change in 2024.	More than 13 500 Erasmus Mundus scholarships have been awarded since 2021.	19% was the estimated share of participants with fewer opportunities in learning mobility activities in 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	2 663.0	3 420.7	3 684.0	3 806.1	3 977.2	4 284.3	4 578.4	26 413.8
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	256.0	209.2	243.9	304.1	291.3	0.0	0.0	1 304.5
Total	2 919.0	3 630.0	3 927.9	4 110.2	4 268.5	4 284.3	4 578.4	27 718.3

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	18 768.3	27 718.3	67.7%
Payments	16 381.4	0.0	59.1%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of participants in learning mobility activities – learners (education and training)	0	**77%**	5 million in 2027	3.8 million by 2025 compared to a target of 5 million	On track
Number of participants in learning mobility activities – staff (education and training)	0	**88%**	1.4 million in 2027	1.3 million by 2025 compared to a target of 1.4	On track
Number of participants in virtual learning (education and training)	0	**> 100%**	224 300 in 2027	411 998 by 2025 compared to a target of 224 300	On track
Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the programme (youth)	0	**61%**	156 210 in 2027	95 824 by 2025 compared to a target of 156 210	On track
Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the programme (sport)	0	**76%**	11 422 in 2027	8 624 by 2025 compared to a target of 11 422	On track
Number of small-scale partnerships supported by the programme (education and training)	0	**76%**	8 700 in 2027	6 605 by 2025 compared to a target of 8 700	On track
Share of projects addressing climate objectives under cooperation projects (youth)	0	**71%**	25% in 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021 till 2025 (2025: 33% compared to a milestone of 20%)	On track

- In 2025, the Erasmus+ programme continued to support transnational learning mobility, cooperation between organisations and policy development.
- The programme continued to roll out the numerous initiatives contributing to achieving the European education area and initiatives under the union of skills following the adoption of the Commission communication on the latter in March 2025. The programme supported flagship initiatives such as Erasmus+ teacher academies, European universities and centres of vocational excellence.
- On 15 July 2025, the Commission adopted the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme and the final evaluation of the predecessor programme. The interim evaluation showed that the programme is on track to achieve its key outputs, results and impacts, despite significant disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic in its early stages. It also identified some areas for improvement, in particular regarding monitoring and evaluation arrangements, which will inform the next stages of programme implementation and the post-2027 programme.

Delivering on main priorities

- In 2025, the programme also continued to focus on its four main cross-sector priorities (inclusion and diversity, environment and the fight against climate change, digital transformation and participation in democratic life, and common values and civic engagement) by supporting projects and specific activities. More information on the green and digital priorities can be found below (in the 'Contribution to horizontal priorities' section).
- The inclusion priority is measured through a varied set of indicators, tracking the number of participants with fewer opportunities taking part in the different strands of the programme, but also showing the inclusiveness of the programme through the number of newcomer organisations reached thanks to the simplification measures introduced in the new programme. The Commission thoroughly revised the funding rules for learning mobility participants in 2023-2024, adapting unit cost rates to improve the programme's inclusiveness in times of rising inflation.
- The programme framework of inclusion measures was adopted in 2021 to reinforce inclusion measures that had already been implemented and to help adapt them to different circumstances in the Member States. With these measures in place, which also include the setting up of national inclusion plans and the nomination of inclusion contact points in each national agency, the programme opens up opportunities for many people to have a learning experience in another country, in particular by reaching out to increasing numbers of people with fewer opportunities. These measures are starting to bear fruit, with an estimated share in 2025 of 19% of participants with fewer opportunities under key action 1 of the programme (compared with 13% in 2022).
- SALTO (support advanced learning and training opportunities) resource centres provide support to both national agencies and beneficiaries for the quality implementation of the

four priorities across Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, fostering synergies among the programmes.

Democratic participation and EU values

- In line with Regulation (EU) 2021/817 (the Erasmus+ Regulation), the 2025 Erasmus+ annual work programme reaffirmed the key role of the programme in strengthening European identity and values and in contributing to a more democratic EU. Entities that are beneficiaries of EU projects have the obligation to commit to and ensure the respect of EU values. In 2025, 4 382 projects under key action 2 supported democratic participation. In addition, 94% of participants in mobility activities declared that they feel more European, while 92% were more aware of European values.
- In 2025, Jean Monnet actions in other fields of education and training aimed to (1) empower teachers to teach about the EU and (2) improve learning outcomes on EU matters, strengthen EU literacy and create interest in the EU and democratic processes among learners, thus promoting active citizenship education. The Jean Monnet actions in the field of higher education continued to stimulate teaching, learning and research in European integration matters; promote policy debates inside and outside Europe; and contribute to spreading knowledge about the EU through the 246 selected projects.
- Youth participation activities aim to enhance young people's skills and competences and to foster active citizenship. This initiative complements the existing support for non-formal learning activities, such as youth exchanges, which bring together young people from different countries to meet, share experiences and learn outside their formal educational system. From 2021 to 2025, almost EUR 120 million was devoted to this initiative, and it was expected to generate participation opportunities for more than 640 000 young people.

The international dimension

- Erasmus+ continues to deliver strong results in its international action, as reflected in consistently high budget absorption rates. As budget allocations have remained broadly stable over the years, similar results are expected in 2026 to those achieved in 2025. In particular, in 2025, the programme supported around 1 200 international credit mobility projects aiming to provide opportunities to more than 50 000 higher education students and staff to take advantage of the opportunity for mobility worldwide. Also in 2025, through Erasmus Mundus actions, around 139 higher education institutions from 31 countries were involved in the development of joint international master's degree programmes. Some 2 400 Erasmus Mundus scholarships were also granted to students from more than 140 countries during the year, and since the launch of the programme in 2004 some 39 000 such scholarships have been awarded. Furthermore, 321 capacity-building projects were selected in 2025 to promote cooperation among institutions and organisations engaged in higher education, vocational education and training, and youth and sport.

Continuing support for Ukraine

- Since the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Erasmus+ programme has mobilised more than EUR 200 million, thanks to its built-in flexibility, to support projects promoting educational activities and facilitating the integration of people fleeing the war into their new learning environments. Participating organisations have been encouraged to tailor their activities to address these challenges effectively. Key action 1 (learning mobility) projects have been mobilised, given their capacity to support incoming mobility from Ukraine and facilitate the integration of learners and staff, with over 51 000 Ukrainian nationals participating in mobility projects since 2022. Sector-specific priorities under 'partnerships for cooperation' (key action 2) in the fields of education, training and youth are specifically aimed at supporting those affected by the war. Grants supporting this priority have amounted to EUR 48 million since 2023. Additionally, the international dimension of the programme has provided support to organisations, learners and staff in Ukraine through activities such as capacity-building projects in higher education, vocational education and training, and youth and sport, with a total of EUR 31 million contracted in grants for Ukrainian organisations since 2022.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Total**	**% of the total envelope**
Climate mainstreaming	228.3	385.4	444.8	477.0	529.3			2 064.9	7.8%

- The actions supported by the programme contribute to the overall climate objective, both by the prioritisation of the green transition in the cooperation activities and by the promotion of green practices at the project level throughout the programme.
- In this respect, the programme supports the use of innovative and awareness-raising practices to make learners, staff and youth workers true factors of change (e.g. save resources, reduce energy use and waste, compensate carbon footprint emissions, opt for sustainable food and mobility choices).
- Funding rules have been revised so that from 2024, sustainable travel became the default option, with the programme offering stronger incentives for those who travel in a sustainable way. Participants in learning mobility activities are thus encouraged to prioritise green travel as their first choice when planning their trip.

- The framework for implementing the green priority in Erasmus+, prepared in cooperation with the relevant thematic SALTO and in consultation with many stakeholders, was published at the end of 2024. It outlines the importance of the priority on the EU's political agenda and provides an overview of the measures and mechanisms to implement it in the programme.

The yearly contribution to climate objectives is based on beneficiary organisations' applications for receiving funding for the cooperation of projects (Key action 2) with climate-related topics. The environment and the fight against climate change are among the horizontal priorities of the programme which aim to support, across all sectors, awareness-raising about the green transition, environmental and climate-change challenges. Examples of cooperation projects addressing climate objectives can be found in the Erasmus+ annual report 2024 and the Erasmus+ project result platform.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	291.8	292.1	360.9	283.7	158.7	1 387.2
1	457.8	705.8	782.3	916.0	1 014.2	3 876.1
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	1 913.4	2 422.8	2 540.9	2 606.4	2 804.3	12 287.8
Total:	2 663.0	3 420.7	3 684.0	3 806.1	3 977.2	17 551.1

- In line with the principles of the 2020-2025 gender equality strategy, Erasmus+ contributes to fostering equality, including gender equality, in all of the sectors it addresses. The programme seeks, inter alia, to help overcome gender stereotypes in education and educational careers and strengthen the promotion of participation of women in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, especially in engineering, information and communication technologies and advanced digital skills. For instance, the programme contributes to fostering gender balance in higher education institutions, across fields of study and in leadership positions; in the vocational education and training sector, it supports targeted measures promoting gender balance in traditionally 'male' or 'female' professions and addressing gender and other stereotypes. The main programme indicators are disaggregated by gender when relevant and possible.
- Regarding interventions of which the principal objective is to improve gender equality (score 2), the yearly contribution to gender is based on beneficiary organisations' applications for receiving funding for cooperation projects (Key action 2) with gender-related topics.
- Regarding interventions with a neutral impact on gender equality (score 0), the yearly contribution to gender is the difference between the programme's budget as indicated in the relevant annual work programme and the yearly contribution to gender based on beneficiary organisations' applications for receiving funding for cooperation projects (Key action 2) with gender-related topics.
- The data are provisional, as the final results will only be available upon completion of the projects (normally 2-3 years after they start).
- Due to the specificities of the Erasmus+ programme, it is not possible to fully discern gender contribution from voted budget implementation commitments only. The split presented in the table above represents a pro-rata repartition based on the score proportions of the total implementation included in the relevant annual work programmes. This total of

EUR 5 263 million ([39]) includes other sources of funding on top of the voted budget implementation.

Gender-disaggregated information

- Erasmus+ supports gender equality and encourages all genders to participate in mobility activities. In 2024, 60% of the provided mobility opportunities were taken up by women. The gender distribution varies depending on the field of education; adult education has the highest percentage of women (69.3%), followed by school education (65.3%), higher education (60.4%), youth (57.6%), vocational education and training (54.3%) and sport (41.7%). Examples of cooperation projects addressing inclusion and diversity, including gender equality, can be found in the Erasmus+ Annual Report 2024 and on the Erasmus+ project result platform.

([39]) Linked to interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality (i.e. a gender score of 2) and to interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective, but not as the main reason for the intervention (i.e. a gender score of 1).

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	531.7	777.3	873.1	427.8	254.0	2 863.8	16.3%

- Erasmus+ is heavily mobilised to respond to the necessary digital transformation of education and training, youth and sport. The year 2022 saw the launch of the SALTO digital resource centre, with the aim of supporting the qualitative implementation of the digital priority in the programme and for bringing programme and policy closer in the field of digital education. To this end, relevant guidelines for the creation and implementation of a digital strategy in Erasmus+ were launched in 2024.
- The mobility actions of the programme provide an increased number of opportunities to acquire and develop digital skills, through initiatives such as the digital opportunity traineeships scheme. The programme also complements physical mobility by promoting distance and blended learning. Moreover, it has a broad offer of learning opportunities focusing on basic and advanced digital competence development and virtual exchanges, and it supports cooperation projects on digital education.
- The programme supports the implementation of the 2021-2027 Digital Education Action Plan. In line with the action plan priorities, the programme contributes to the development of digital skills and competences, promotes accessible and high-quality digital learning, fosters teachers' capacity to use digital tools, services and content to enhance student learning and develop student digital skills, provides blended learning opportunities (combinations of more than one approach to the learning process, blending school-site and distance-learning environments, and digital and non-digital learning tools). Erasmus+ also supports European online platforms for virtual cooperation and digital education.
- Following the 2023 adoption of the digital education and skills package, consisting of two Council recommendations, one on key enabling factors for successful digital education and training and one on the provision of digital skills and competences, two expert groups were set up on: (i) the development of guidelines and quality requirements for accessible, well-designed and high-quality digital education content, and (ii) the development of guidelines on high-quality informatics. In the Communication on the Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027, the Commission committed to undertake its comprehensive review in 2024 and propose additional or new measures if necessary. Consultation activities were launched in April 2024, and a series of stakeholder-focused events took place throughout 2024 and 2025. Additional consultation activities will be carried out in the first half of 2026. The results of the consultation process and evidence gathering will be published as a Commission Staff Working Document, which will accompany the 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills. Throughout 2024, the Commission continued to implement the 'SELFIE'

tool ('self-reflection on effective learning by fostering the use of innovative educational technologies'), which currently has been used by 6.7 million users in 32 875 schools in 88 countries.

- The European Digital Education Hub was launched in 2022. In December 2024, the hub community counted 6 000 members. Six squads were established, gathering around 25 members focusing on topics such as hybrid learning spaces, safety and security, immersive learning, digital wellbeing, featuring and explainable AI. The higher education interoperability workgroup, established within the hub, produced in December 2024 a draft version of the higher education interoperability framework, offering practical guidelines and tools to enable interoperability among learning and teaching systems in higher education. These guidelines and tools were tested by the workgroup, in preparation for the framework's official launch in February 2025.
- The European Student Card Initiative aims at making it as easy as possible for students across Europe to be mobile. Through its key components –the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the European Student Card and the digitalisation of student mobility management via Erasmus Without Paper– the initiative constitutes a real revolution for the simplification of the way higher education institutions manage student mobility. By the end of 2025, the Erasmus+ Mobile App had been downloaded more than 275 000 times and 4.4 million European Student Cards had been produced. The Erasmus Without Paper network has become the default option for higher education institutions to prepare intra-European student mobility for studies. By the end of 2025, a total of 290 000 interinstitutional agreements and 540 000 learning agreements had been digitally exchanged and approved by partners.
- The yearly contribution to digital objectives is, among others, based on beneficiary organisations' applications for receiving funding for cooperation projects (Key action 2) with digital-related topics. Results also include centralised projects supporting digital education and managed directly by DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, and digital platforms supporting learners, staff and organisations.
- The data are provisional as the final results will only be available upon completion of the projects (normally 2-3 years after they start).

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	x	The mobility project 'staying strong' has been designed to support the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of young people by promoting healthy ways to manage stress and anxiety. Through workshops, sports, creative activities, and non-formal education, participants developed confidence, healthy habits, and important soft skills. By working together and sharing their experiences locally, they learned how small lifestyle changes can improve personal well-being and strengthen their communities.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	x	The 'share the music for inclusive learning in education' (Smile) project was designed to support teachers in addressing this challenge by providing a practical framework and showcasing best practices for managing inclusion and diversity in education. Its primary goal is to offer pre-primary and primary school teachers new knowledge, key competencies and ready-to-use educational materials to effectively use music as a pedagogical tool for inclusive education. Additionally, the project aims to help teachers develop their social and digital skills through its digital repository and online training resources. While the project has been designed for teachers, the ultimate beneficiaries are the students, whose well-being and academic performance are expected to improve as a result of these integrated inclusive practices.

SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	x	The general objective of the project 'step forward for women in basketball' (Promise) is to promote the inclusion and participation of girls and women in basketball at all levels of responsibility through the design, implementation and evaluation of a holistic intervention programme. The project is fully aligned with the Erasmus+ Sport specific priority 'combating violence and tackling racism, discrimination, and intolerance in sport (including gender equality)'. It conducts focus groups involving all participant federations and 216 European stakeholders to assess the current situation of women in basketball, along with the programme methodology, which will be implemented in all six of the countries involved (Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Kosovo ([40]), Portugal and Spain).
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	x	The project 'fast-tracking women into new tech careers and supporting successful female-led start-ups' (Femme forward) is a forward-looking project targeting the low representation of women in digital jobs and start-ups. Through an innovative and comprehensive training programme, women with various backgrounds are empowered to either start a career in tech or employ their experience and knowledge to set up a tech start-up. The project supports women with various backgrounds with a special focus on: migrants and refugees whose qualifications are not recognised in the EU; professionals and women who want to change careers for better job prospects; young graduates with non-tech degrees who want to move into tech positions; women who have a tech business idea and want to make it a reality; women re-entering the labour market after maternity, etc.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	x	The project 'youth and city' aims to provide training and resources to empower young people to actively participate in the development of their cities. By involving them in the planning process, the project hopes to create more inclusive and environmentally friendly communities.

([40]) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	x	'La jeunesse européenne contre la crise de l'eau' is a youth project aimed at mobilising European youth to address the water crisis affecting several European countries by working collaboratively to promote awareness, education, community action, and the implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions for water management. .
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	x	The project 'digitally for climate' (Digi4clima) established international cooperation to contribute to raising awareness of two global issues – the fight against climate change and digital transformation. It aimed at developing and promoting a digital learning tool on climate change that provides knowledge, raises awareness of environmental sustainability and promotes digital literacy. The tool supports teachers when educating primary school students about the dangerous effects of climate change on earth, developing a caring attitude towards nature, making them aware of the consequences of their daily actions, and encouraging them to live in a more environmentally friendly way.
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	x	Under the action for 'Capacity building in higher education', the project 'Academic alliance for reconciliation in the field of higher education in peace, conflict transformation, and reconciliation studies in the Middle East and North Africa' aimed at building capacity in the field of higher education in peace, reconciliation and conflict transformation studies in the Middle East and North Africa.

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

Concrete examples of achievements

More than 1 100 000 young people have expressed an interest in joining the European Solidarity Corps by registering since the launch of the new-generation programme in 2021.	More than 12 000 projects have received programme grants since the launch of the programme in 2021.	Nearly 5 500 organisations have participated in projects supported by the programme since its launch in 2021.	More than 120 000 opportunities for young people have been created under the programme since 2021.
More than 50% of participants in volunteering activities since 2021 have been people with fewer opportunities.	About 63% of the total number of programme participants since its launch in 2021 have been women.		

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	135.7	141.4	144.2	144.0	146.9	149.8	152.9	1 015.0
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	11.0	7.0	7.4	8.2	9.3	0.0	0.0	42.9
Total	**146.7**	**148.4**	**151.6**	**152.2**	**156.2**	**149.8**	**152.9**	**1 057.8**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	738.4	1 057.8	69.8%
Payments	612.3	0.0	57.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of participants in solidarity activities	0	**66%**	187 688 in 2027	124 789 by 2025 compared to a target of 187 688	On track
Number of organisations holding a quality label	0	**77%**	5 155 in 2027	3 958 by 2025 compared to a target of 5 155	On track
Share of participants with fewer opportunities	0	**71%**	30% annually from 2022	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 54.2% compared to a milestone of 30%)	On track
Share of activities that address climate objectives	0	**71%**	20% annually from 2025	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 45% compared to a milestone of 20%)	On track

- After five years of implementation, the programme's volunteering projects are using the allocated budget to a very large extent, due to the high demand by young people for volunteering opportunities. However, the number of young people who can be supported with the available budget is lower than initially expected. This is due to the lower-than-estimated take-up of short-term volunteering activities, which are less costly, and the higher-than-estimated take-up of long-term activities.
- Short-term activities, lasting two weeks to two months, cost on average 8–10 times less than long-term activities, which last several months to one year. While the original budget split was estimated at 35% for short-term and 65% for long-term activities, it was assessed in real terms to be closer to 15% and 85% respectively, largely explaining the implementation figures in terms of volunteer numbers. Inflation and a higher-than-expected level of participation by young people with fewer opportunities also contributed. The resulting reduction in participant numbers was partly offset by the co-delegation of Horizon Europe mission funds to the European Solidarity Corps in 2023 and 2024, a concrete example of effective programme synergy. This co-delegation ended in 2025 for the remainder of the current multiannual financial framework.
- Rising inflation and overall hosting costs have put increased pressure on the costs of corps participants. The Commission increased individual support rates for the 2023 European Solidarity Corps call to help participants cope with rising living costs. In 2024, funding rules were further revised to strengthen inclusiveness and ensure full support for volunteers through their host organisations. Funding for volunteering teams was also improved by removing the cap that had previously been applied. This should help to increase the number of participants in the corps for the final years of the programme. As a tangible result, the ratio of participants has now reached 20% for short-term and 80% for long-term activities.
- The programme focuses, via support for projects and for specific activities, on four main transversal priorities: promoting inclusion and diversity; contributing to the green and digital transitions; contributing to democratic participation; and contributing to EU values. In 2021, a specific priority, 'Prevention, promotion and support in the field of health', was added to mobilise volunteers in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery. In 2022, two priorities were indicated: 'Promoting healthy lifestyles' and 'Preservation of cultural heritage'. In 2023, relief for people fleeing armed conflicts and other victims of natural or human-made disasters was added. The latter was maintained in 2024, and was seconded by fostering positive learning experiences and outcomes for young people with fewer opportunities. In 2025, promoting waste management and recycling solutions was added to the list of annual priorities.
- The programme and its entire community once again showed extreme resilience and adaptability by quickly mobilising to provide relief to Ukrainian residents fleeing Russia's war of aggression, along with communities across the EU that offered them a safe haven.
- Launched in 2022, the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps is a centralised initiative that allows the deployment of young volunteers in non-EU countries. The first call for proposals was published in the 2022 programme guide, enabling organisations that had been awarded the specific quality label to request funding for volunteering opportunities in support of humanitarian aid projects. As 2023 was the first year of implementation, and based on the results of the first three calls, we can make more accurate estimates for the following years, notably regarding deployment in teams, which is much lower than had initially been expected. In practice, the number of volunteers is now expected to be much lower than the initial estimate, but their deployments are expected to last longer.
- The 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps final evaluation and the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps interim evaluation were adopted on 1 April 2025 ([41]). The evaluations highlight the significant

([41]) Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps and final evaluation of the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps, COM(2025) 144 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-

impact of the European Solidarity Corps in promoting inclusion, diversity and democratic participation, reinforcing European identity and values:
    - 71% of participants would not have found similar opportunities without the programme;
    - the participation of young people with fewer opportunities has steadily grown, from 25% in 2018 to 40% in 2023;
    - the programme's impact has doubled, proving cost-effective despite challenges such as inflation, which led to increased unit costs in 2023 and 2024;
    - the humanitarian aid strand has seen overwhelming interest, with nearly 200 000 expressions of interest since its launch in 2023, vastly outnumbering the available placements.
- While the programme has demonstrated remarkable success, the evaluation outlines a number of challenges in key areas that require attention.
    - **Inclusion.** Outreach and support for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds could be strengthened.
    - **Funding.** The budget needs to be aligned with growing demands to sustain impact.
    - **Digital efficiency.** IT systems should be further improved and administrative burdens should be reduced.
    - **Geographical balance.** Wider participation across all EU Member States should be encouraged.
    - **Non-EU nationals.** Possible improvements to visa arrangements should be considered.
    - **Alignment of the humanitarian aid strand.** The purpose of the humanitarian aid strand should be clarified and the age limit of that strand aligned with the rest of the programme.

content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2025:144:FIN; Commission staff working document – Evaluation – Accompanying the document 'Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps and final evaluation of the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps', SWD(2025) 75 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025SC0075.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	20.8	15.8	16.5	17.8	19.5			90.4	8.9%

- The programme contributes to the mainstreaming of climate action by targeting organisations and young people wishing to tackle current societal challenges, including climate action, through projects that benefit people and communities across Europe and beyond. A coefficient of 40% is applied to the relevant projects' budgets, in accordance with the EU climate coefficients methodology. Young people between the ages of 18 and 30 can take part in a wide range of solidarity activities, such as tackling societal challenges, supporting vulnerable people and contributing to positive change in communities across Europe and beyond, all while gaining valuable skills. Climate action, the environment and nature protection are increasingly popular areas within the programme. A strategic approach towards carbon-neutral and more environment-friendly post-2020 EU programmes for education, training, youth, sport and solidarity is under preparation. Meanwhile, the programme already supports sustainability and climate action in the following ways:
    - supporting projects with the themes of climate action and sustainability;
    - assigning a dedicated priority in its specific calls for 'Volunteering teams in high-priority areas' to climate change and sustainability;
    - promoting sustainable awareness among programme participants.
- Since 2021, the programme has supported projects and activities aiming to protect, conserve and enhance natural capital, to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and to enable behavioural changes linked to individual preferences, consumption habits and lifestyles. The programme supports initiatives aimed at preventing, mitigating or repairing the adverse effects of extreme weather events and natural disasters, along with activities that provide support to affected communities in the aftermath of such events or disasters.
- In general, the programme promotes the incorporation of green practices into all projects, regardless of the main focus of their activities. Organisations and participants involved with the programme should have an environment-friendly approach when designing their activities. Activities contributing to other existing EU initiatives in the area of environmental sustainability (e.g. the new European Bauhaus) are highly encouraged. In 2025, a climate related topic (Promoting waste management and recycling solutions) was included in the list of priorities for the Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas.

- Funding rules have been revised so that, from 2024, sustainable travel became the default option, and the programme offers stronger incentives for those who travel in a sustainable way. Participants are encouraged to prioritise green travel as their first choice when planning their trip.
- Combining funding from the programme and Horizon Europe EU missions in 2023 and 2024 further mobilised young citizens to give their time to climate and environmental projects and to health projects, linked to the goals of the missions. The extra budget allocated from these missions to the programme addressed the following priorities: green, health, digital, culture, civil security and food bioeconomy. As a result, 2023 saw a 18% increase of volunteers participating in projects addressing the green priority. However, in 2025 the Horizon Europe Programme Committee decided to discontinue the co-delegation agreement between the Corps and Horizon Europe Missions, prioritising funding for core research and innovation topics.
- The yearly contribution to climate objectives is based on beneficiary organisations' applications for receiving funding for projects with climate-related topics. The environment and the fight against climate change are among the horizontal priorities of the programme, which aims to support awareness raising about the green transition and about environment and climate-change challenges. Examples of European Solidarity Corps projects addressing the climate objectives can be found in the European Solidarity Corps – Report 2021-2023 and on the European Solidarity Corps projects results platform.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	17.3	50.8	80.5	59.8	68.1	276.5
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	118.4	90.6	63.7	84.2	78.8	435.7
Total:	135.7	141.4	144.2	144.0	146.9	712.3

- The programme aims to promote social inclusion by facilitating access for young people with fewer opportunities. In some cases, young people need additional support in facing obstacles such as gender-based discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence. A number of solidarity and volunteering projects address issues such as the promotion of gender equality, the fight against sexual violence, the promotion of LGBTIQ+ equality, etc.
- Regarding interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality (score 2), the total yearly contribution to gender is based on beneficiary organisations' applications for receiving funding for projects with gender-related topics (e.g. of which promotion of equality between women and men in the fields of arts and sports, fighting violence and discrimination against women and girls).
- From the beginning of the programming period, 20 970 were women, representing 61% of all participants in this group.
- Regarding interventions with a neutral impact on gender equality (score 0), the total yearly contribution to gender is the difference between the programme budget as indicated in the relevant annual work programme and the yearly contribution to gender, based on beneficiary organisations' applications for receiving funding for projects with gender-related topics.
- Due to the specificities of the European Solidarity Corps programme, it is not possible to fully discern gender contributions from voted budget implementation commitments only. The split presented in the table above represents a pro rata distribution based on the scores' proportions of the total implementation included in the relevant annual work programmes. This total of EUR 276.5 million ([42]) includes administrative credits on top of the voted budget implementation.

([42]) Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps and final evaluation of the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps, COM(2025) 144 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2025:144:FIN; Commission staff working document – Evaluation – Accompanying the document 'Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps and final evaluation of the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps', SWD(2025) 75 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025SC0075.

European solidarity corps

Gender-disaggregated information

- The European Solidarity Corps supports gender equality and encourages women to participate in volunteering and solidarity projects. 63% of the total number of programme participants since the launch of the programme in 2021 are women, while 36% are men. See also the European Solidarity Corps – Report 2021-2023. Examples of gender-related projects addressing gender equality can be found on the European Solidarity Corps project results platform .

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	11.8	32.2	50.3	44.7	40.5	179.5	25.2%

- The programme aims to help Europeans, regardless of their gender, age and background, to live and thrive in the digital age through projects and activities that help to improve digital skills in general or foster digital literacy, and to develop an understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.
- In general, the programme promotes the use of appropriate information, communication and technology tools in all projects, regardless of the main focus of their activities.
- The yearly contribution to digital objectives is based on beneficiary organisations' applications for funding for projects with digital-related topics.
- 2022 saw the launch of the Digital SALTO (Support Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities) with the aim of supporting the qualitative implementation of the digital priority in the programme and of bringing the programme and youth policy closer towards the digital objectives.
- The European Solidarity Corps also supports virtual cooperation and digital education through the European Solidarity Portal embedded in the European Youth Portal, which manages the registration and implementation of volunteering and solidarity activities. In 2025, the European Solidarity Corps portal counted 284 243 new registrations. The European Solidarity Corps App was analysed during 2025 and although it continued to be downloaded and used with a total of 11 682 unique users in 2025 (compared to 13 315 in 2024), the quality of content posted by users did not satisfy the objectives that had been initially set. After consultation with National Agencies, it was decided to decommission the ESC APP. Continuous improvements are being made to the European Youth Portal mobile version to align with the App features for young people seeking opportunities.
- The digital transformation is among the horizontal priorities of the programme, which aims to improve digital skills in general, or foster digital literacy, and to develop an understanding of the risks and opportunities regarding digital technology. Examples of European Solidarity Corps projects addressing the digital transformation can be found in the European Solidarity Corps – Report 2021-2023 and on the European Solidarity Corps project results platform.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	x	The programme plays an important role in supporting health and social care systems, improving people's experience of care, building stronger relationships between services and communities. Through its activities, it also aims at mobilising volunteers around key health challenges, such as those related to cancer, mental health and wellbeing overall.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	x	The programme aims, among other things, at developing the skills and competences of participants for professional, social and civic development. In addition, given its strong focus on inclusion, this includes young people with fewer opportunities (38.9% of the total participants in 2025, including young people with disabilities.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	x	The programme aims at removing social obstacles for participation of people facing gender-based discrimination, among other reasons. It also supports projects dealing with the issue of gender equality, such as focusing on changing mentalities, sensitising communities to gender and diversity or contributing to breaking down barriers for women's access to employment. For example, Humanitarian Aid Volunteers can be recruited as gender experts to promote gender sensitivity and mainstreaming of gender considerations in disaster risk management in affected communities.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	x	All programme actions contribute to increase the employability of the young people who participate, as shown by several studies. This is achieved through a combination of outcomes, for example the acquisition of new skills, increased autonomy, increased knowledge of foreign languages. Additionally, solidarity projects can further help the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of young participants. Finally, the emphasis on inclusion aims to ensure that everyone can reap these benefits, including people with fewer opportunities.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	x	Through its activities, the programme aims to strengthen cohesion and solidarity. It supports projects and activities actively addressing the issue of inclusion in society. Special attention ensures that activities supported by the programme are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. To this end, special measures are in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of the outermost EU regions and overseas countries and territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the programme. These include – wherever possible and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and EU law on the entry and residence of non-EU nationals – resolving administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	x	Through its activities aiming at addressing societal challenges, the programme supports efforts to promote sustainable development of urban areas, and to protect and safeguard Europe's cultural heritage. In call year 2023, 85 solidarity projects have been awarded, with a focus on the development of disadvantaged rural and urban areas.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	x	The programme aims at integrating green practices into all projects and activities, and promoting environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour among participants and participating organisations. Organisations and participants should thus have an environment-friendly approach when designing and implementing their activities. The programme also supports projects and activities addressing the topics of environmental protection, sustainability and climate goals, and aiming to protect, conserve and enhance natural capital, as well as raising awareness about environmental sustainability and enabling behavioural changes for individual preferences, consumption habits and lifestyles.

JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Concrete examples of achievements

5 million exchanges of information occurred in 2025 in the European criminal records information system.	17 173 justice professionals were trained in 2024 through cross-border training activities funded by action grants and training provided by the European Judicial Training Network under its operating grant.	4.3 million Visits were made to pages addressing the need for information on cross-border civil and criminal cases on the European e-Justice Portal in 2025.	455 civil-society organisations involved in action and operating grants funded under the three specific objectives of the justice programme were reached by support and capacity-building activities in the 2021-2025 period.
More than 1.3 million people are expected to be reached through the activities funded by the justice programme in 2025 alone.			

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	46.7	43.6	39.8	41.8	41.9	41.7	41.4	297.0
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3
Total	46.7	43.6	39.8	42.0	42.0	41.7	41.4	297.3

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	213.6	297.3	71.9%
Payments	169.2	0.0	56.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Exchanges of information in the European criminal records information system	4.1 million	**79%**	6 million in 2027	Average result in 2021-2025: 4.8 million compared to a target of 6 million	On track
Members of the judiciary and judicial staff who have participated in training activities	0	**>100%**	15 000 in 2027	17 173 in 2024 compared to a target of 15 000	On track
Hits on the European e-Justice Portal / pages addressing the need for information on cross-border civil and criminal cases	1.4 million	**90%**	2.8 million in 2027	Average result in 2021-2025: 2.7 million compared to a target of 2.8 million	On track
Facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters: civil-society organisations reached by support and capacity-building activities	0	**>100%**	105 in 2027	112 by 2025 compared to a target of 105	On track
Support and promote judicial training: civil-society organisations reached by support and capacity-building activities	0	**>100%**	154 in 2027	182 by 2025 compared to a target of 154	On track
Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all: civil-society organisations reached by support and capacity-building activities	0	**59%**	273 in 2027	161 by 2025 compared to a target of 273	On track

Justice programme

The justice programme's implementation in 2025 ran smoothly. Under the three open calls for proposals (action grants on judicial cooperation, judicial training and access to justice/e-justice), with a total indicative budget of EUR 15.4 million, 165 project proposals were submitted and 94 projects were selected for funding (the evaluation of the biennial call for proposals on access to justice is still ongoing). The programme also funded operating grants to justice framework partners and the European Judicial Training Network. In 2025, the programme continued to support action by the Council of Europe in the area of justice: the network of prison-monitoring bodies, the delivery of the SPACE report (an annual report on prison statistics providing clear insights into the detention situations in the Member States) and the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice annual study on the efficiency, quality and independence of justice systems among the EU Member States. In addition, procurement contracts, for a total of EUR 9.2 million, were concluded in 2025 to support the development and maintenance of IT tools and key EU policies in the justice field through activities such as a study to support the impact assessment for the revision of the Eurojust Regulation, along with various other studies and EU-level conferences.

In 2025, no specific challenges significantly affected the performance of the programme, mainly due to its flexibility and efficient financial management. Where beneficiaries encountered implementation challenges, targeted amendments to the grant agreements were introduced to adjust activities or timelines. These changes provided the necessary flexibility for projects to continue delivering results, while maintaining full compliance with the grant agreement and ensuring the sound financial management of EU funds. The use of lump sums strengthened efficient financial management by shifting the focus from detailed cost verification to the delivery of quality outputs. This simplification reduces errors and allows for a greater focus on results and effective implementation. The introduction of lump sums for all justice action grant calls is still relatively recent, and in 2025 applicants remained in the learning phase. However, experience shows clear progress: applicants are increasingly able to define clear, measurable outputs, providing more detailed descriptions of deliverables and better justifying cost estimates. The overall understanding of the lump-sum scheme has improved, contributing to higher-quality projects being funded, as the EU's contribution is now paid based on the implementation of the work packages rather than as a reimbursement of costs.

The indicators that measure the performance of the justice programme show that the programme's objectives are on track.

Indicators for specific objective 1: judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

In 2025, the Member States exchanged almost 5 million messages through the European criminal records information system, a decentralised IT system operated by the central authorities of the Member States. This shows steady growth since the post-COVID-19 period. In total, in the 2021-2025 period, 112 civil-society organisations, funded via action and operating grants under this specific objective, were reached by support and capacity-building activities.

Indicators for specific objective 2: judicial training

The justice programme is a key player in the area of judicial training, where the results demonstrate an improvement in the impact of the programme's measures in this field. In 2024, 6 252 justice professionals took part in training supported by the justice programme's action grant for judicial training. Moreover, under the specific annual training programmes of the European Judicial Training Network, which are also supported via the programme, the number of participants increased from 9 320 in 2023 to 10 921 in 2024. The data for 2025 will be available by December 2026, following the preparation of the annual report on European judicial training. However, the network's work plan anticipates reaching 10 000 participants, including 3 000 through pure training activities. In total, in the 2021-2025 period, 182 civil-society organisations, funded via action and operating grants funded under this specific objective, were reached by support and capacity-building activities.

Indicators for specific objective 3: access to justice

In 2025, the number of hits on the pages of the European e-Justice Portal relating to cross-border civil and criminal topics set a new record, reflecting the significant demand for information on these issues and the relevance of these web pages in ensuring access to justice for all EU citizens. Although the 2024 milestone had already been surpassed in 2022, visits continue to grow, with the average number of monthly visits doubling since 2024.

In total, in the 2021-2025 period, 161 civil-society organisations funded via action and operating grants funded under this specific objective (access to justice) were reached by support and capacity-building activities.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%

All projects funded under the justice programme must align with EU policy interests and priorities, including environmental objectives. Beneficiaries are encouraged to limit the number of participants from each co-beneficiary attending in-person meetings, to organise project meetings in blended ways (in person, online or hybrid) and to prefer rail travel when it is an efficient alternative to air travel. Activities should also contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the Commission communication on the European Green Deal.

In 2025, no projects funded under calls for proposals for judicial cooperation, judicial training and access to justice/e-justice specifically targeted climate or environmental issues or directly contribute to climate or biodiversity mainstreaming, as the work programme includes no ‘green’ priorities.

Several procurement contracts in 2025 supported the ‘do no significant harm’ principle through their implementation methods (such as online meetings, IT services, and web applications). However, none were identified as directly contributing to climate or environmental goals based on their content.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.7
1	14.9	20.1	7.5	19.6	18.6	80.9
0*	15.1	11.4	19.6	6.5	10.9	63.5
0	16.7	12.1	12.4	15.4	12.2	68.7
Total:	46.7	43.6	39.8	41.8	41.9	213.8

Gender score 2. Unlike in 2023 and 2024 where an awarded project contributed to score 2, in 2025 no such project was identified in the justice programme (typically score 2 projects may be awarded under the access-to-justice call for action grants victims' rights priority and this call's evaluation was not completed in 2025).

Gender score 1. In 2025 all priorities (judicial cooperation, judicial training, and access to justice) contributed to score 1. Projects scoring 1 accounted for about 45% of the total budget, a similar level to last year which shows continuous attention to gender equality. Funding to the European Judicial Training Network remains a major contributor of the total budget contributing to score 1. The network receives an operating grant and fosters a shared understanding of EU legislation across Europe, while also helping justice professionals develop non-judicial skills, including gender expertise. By training justice professionals of all genders, the network strengthens their capacities and promotes gender equality.

Gender score 0*. About 26% of the budget was allocated to score 0*. Around two-thirds of action grants promoting judicial cooperation show potential to advance gender equality, highlighting judicial cooperation as a valuable tool in this area. However, to contribute more directly to gender mainstreaming, judicial cooperation activities could be strengthened by integrating specific gender-focused objectives and providing targeted training on gender issues. Similarly, around two-thirds of the operating grants show comparable potential, although their contribution to gender mainstreaming will be reassessed at the end of 2026.

Gender score 0. 29% of the budget is allocated to score 0. This part of the budget funds procurement contracts that focus to a very large degree on IT tools development and management. In fact, 99% of the procurement budget of around EUR 9.8 million is allocated to this score.

Under the exercise for the 2025 budget, the gender scores from finished projects awarded in past years that initially received a 0* score were revisited, and in case the projects realised their potential to promote gender equality a new score was assigned (on the basis of final project reporting) and its budget reassigned to contribute to the new score total.

Gender-disaggregated information

- The programme collects gender-disaggregated data on the target audience, as follows. First, the number of participants (people involved in or targeted by projects), disaggregated by gender, is collected through a dedicated form that is filled in by the beneficiaries at the start of their projects. Thus, the data are best estimates of the beneficiaries implementing the projects. The data inserted are tracked via key performance indicators on how awareness-raising, mutual-learning and training activities have reached the programme's target group. The data are disaggregated by gender and encompass data on female, male and non-binary people. In 2025, 308 988 participants were reached through awareness-raising activities, of whom 196 407 were female, 107 734 male, and 4 847 non-binary. 110 539 participants were reached through mutual learning activities, of whom 46 181 were female, 64 035 male and 323 non-binary.
- Overall, the programme reaches people of all genders. About half of the people estimated to have been reached by the programme identify as female. Somewhat less than 50% identify as men. The remainder of the people estimated to have been reached, about 1%, identify as non-binary. The balance in the share of women and men that are estimated to have been reached by the programme reflects the inclusiveness of the programme's activities.
- Second, through the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values, the programme collects sex-disaggregated data. For example, survey data provide an insight into the percentage of respondents indicating that they are engaged in civic activities at the local, national or EU levels. The survey is accessible to all participants in justice-programme-funded activities at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Justice_2021-2027.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	6.1	6.6	11.0	10.6	10.3	44.5	20.8%

The digital transition is a cross-cutting objective of the programme, embedded across all three specific objectives. An enhanced focus on digitalisation and digital technologies, including the development of digital skills for the judiciary and judicial staff, is essential to ensure that the justice programme remains relevant for its target groups. This is reflected in the share of the programmes' budget dedicated to the digital transition, through grants and procurement contracts.

Regarding the **contribution of grants to the digital transition**, several projects with a clear digital focus were awarded under the various calls for proposals, reflecting a strong need in this area.

In the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, the iSupport project in particular will facilitate the take up of its digital tool by improving training, in particular with the use of information technology, thus enhancing the digital skills of legal practitioners and users. Moreover, by preparing the advent of the EU Digitalisation Regulation and assessing the feasibility of further connections to iSupport with courts, citizens, and legal practitioners, the project will advance the digitalisation of justice systems across the EU.

In the area of judicial training, the JUST AI-BLOC EU project provides hands-on training on AI and Blockchain technologies, equipping judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and judicial officers with essential digital skills for the evolving justice landscape. By promoting practical use of AI-powered analytics and Blockchain-based evidence management systems, it actively supports the digitalisation and modernisation of justice systems across the EU.

The call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the field of e-justice, victims' rights and procedural rights is still under evaluation. It is expected to significantly contribute to the digital transition, with one of its main objectives being the digitalisation of justice systems at the EU and national levels (as far as they have an EU dimension).

Regarding the **contribution of procurement contracts to the digital transition**, several digitalisation-related contracts were signed in 2025, amounting to approximately EUR 7.1 million. These funds mainly financed information and communication technology contracts, as well as the maintenance of the e-Justice Portal.

While the justice programme increasingly supports the digital transition, high digitalisation costs put significant pressure on its limited budget, requiring careful resource planning and close budget monitoring. Despite these challenges, the programme continues to advance the EU's digital transformation by expanding digital initiatives and modernising judicial cooperation, making justice

systems more efficient, accessible, and interconnected. This is supported by the November 2025 adoption of the DigitalJustice@2030 strategy and the 2025-2030 European judicial training strategy, which provide a long-term policy framework for the systematic digital transformation of justice across the EU.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

The justice programme only indirectly supports the STEP objectives. It does so in two ways:

- in general, the programme contributes to strengthening respect for rule-of-law principles, which is also a precondition for creating the right conditions for a stable environment for investment in strategic technologies;
- more specifically, in terms of strategic technologies, the programme is raising awareness on artificial intelligence applications in the field of justice to ensure that their use respects fundamental rights and EU values, along with transparency and fairness.

Contribution to reforms

The justice programme contributes indirectly to national reforms by supporting initiatives at the EU level that equip Member States and their judicial systems with the necessary knowledge, tools and skills to be active players in the EU area of justice.

Training of judicial practitioners can indirectly support reforms in Member States by improving the consistent application of EU law, promoting the exchange of best practices, and strengthening professional networks across jurisdictions. These effects can influence judicial practice and institutional approaches over time, thereby facilitating the adoption or effective implementation of reforms at national level.

Judicial cooperation can indirectly support reforms in Member States by revealing practical obstacles in cross-border procedures, encouraging alignment with EU standards, and facilitating the exchange of institutional practices among judicial authorities. These interactions may influence national legal frameworks and contribute to improvements in the functioning of justice systems over time

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes, the justice programme contributes to SDG3	By supporting organisations working with victims of crime, the justice programme contributes to improved health outcomes.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes, the justice programme contributes to SDG5	The Justice Programme Regulation stipulates in Article 4 that gender equality should be promoted in all funded activities. This is particularly the case for the 'access to justice' specific objective, which promotes activities that support victims' rights and helps victims of crime to receive gender-sensitive support. Also, under the 'judicial training' specific objective training activities funded by the programme help legal practitioners and judicial staff to build gender expertise and raise awareness of gender aspects when applying and interpreting EU law. Projects for which gender equality is a significant, though not the principal, objective and awarded in 2025 have a total value of over EUR 16 million.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes, the justice programme contributes to SDG10	Thanks to the cross-border nature of the activities supported under its three specific objectives, the justice programme mainly supports transnational projects involving justice professionals from various Member States. By supporting judicial cooperation, funding the sharing of good practices, providing training on EU law and promoting awareness-raising activities, the programme contributes to reducing inequality and discrimination among EU citizens and among Member States in the justice field.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes, the justice programme contributes to SDG16	One of the three specific objectives of the justice programme is to facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, including by electronic means (e-justice).
SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Yes, the justice programme contributes to SDG17	The programme contributes to the goal as it is particularly successful in building long-lasting partnerships and in fostering the creation and awareness of EU-level networks. This ensures that projects funded by the programme have a long-term impact and that cooperation between Member States on justice matters across the EU is strengthened and sustained. In 2025, the programme supported justice framework partners and continued its support for the European Judicial Training Network. In total, the justice programme provided nearly EUR 15.8 million in support to these EU-level networks.

CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES PROGRAMME

Concrete examples of achievements

More than 6 500 civil-society organisations have been supported by the citizens, equality, rights and values programme since 2021.	49 European citizens' initiatives were registered between 2021 and 2025.	At least 79 million people are expected to be reached by 2021-2025 citizens, equality, rights and values programme projects.
More than 2 000 projects were funded between 2021 and 2025.	93.4% of participants assessed the events in which they participated in 2025 as good or very good.	62 calls for proposals took place between 2021 and 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	98.9	214.9	214.3	218.6	237.7	291.9	311.9	1 588.3
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.8
Total	**99.0**	**214.9**	**214.3**	**219.0**	**238.1**	**291.9**	**311.9**	**1 589.0**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	985.4	1 589.0	62.0%
Payments	658.8	0.0	41.5%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Civil-society organisations reached by support and capacity-building activities under the EU values strand	0	**71%**	6 300 in 2027	4 499 by 2025 compared to a target of 6 300	On track
Civil-society organisations reached by support and capacity-building activities under the equality, rights and gender equality strand	0	**> 100%**	847 in 2027	1 291 by 2025 compared to a target of 847	On track
Civil-society organisations reached by support and capacity-building activities under the citizen's engagement and participation strand	0	**> 100%**	2 372 in 2027	5 124 by 2025 compared to a target of 2 372	On track
Civil-society organisations reached by support and capacity-building activities under the Daphne strand	0	**> 100%**	1 120 in 2027	1 438 by 2025 compared to a target of 1 120	On track
Transnational networks and initiatives focusing on European	0	**90%**	1 500 in 2027	1 346 by 2025 compared to a target of 1 500	On track

memory and heritage as a result of programme intervention	

The citizens, equality, rights and values (CERV) programme continues to deliver strong results and is progressing well towards achieving its objectives. This was confirmed by the programme's midterm evaluation, which shows that most performance indicators have met or exceeded their milestones.

By 2025, CERV had supported 6 737 civil-society organisations across all Member States and eligible non-EU countries through operational support and capacity-building initiatives. Between 2021 and 2025, 2 155 projects were funded, and they are expected to reach at least 79 million people, thereby demonstrating the programme's wide outreach and strong EU added value.

Implementation remained robust in 2025, reflecting the programme's operational maturity and its capacity to manage a growing portfolio under direct management. In particular, CERV successfully launched and managed 11 calls for proposals in 2025 with a total budget exceeding EUR 130 million, while continuing to monitor a large number of ongoing projects across the four strands. Interest in CERV funding continued to increase, with 4 675 applications submitted in 2025, confirming the programme's strong relevance for civil-society organisations, public authorities and local actors. Several large calls launched in 2025 – particularly under the equality, charter and European remembrance strands – were still under evaluation or contractualisation at year end; their results are expected to further strengthen programme performance in the next period.

CERV also supported high-visibility award schemes that promote accessibility, inclusion and equality at the local level. Through the Access City Award and the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award, the programme recognised cities and towns across the EU in relation to concrete initiatives advancing accessibility for people with disabilities and fostering inclusive, discrimination-free communities. Examples include Zaragoza, Valencia and Rennes for accessibility, and Utrecht, Bilbao and Kraków for inclusion and diversity. These awards contributed to raising awareness, sharing good practices and encouraging peer learning among local authorities, thereby amplifying the programme's impact beyond direct beneficiaries.

Support for participatory democracy remained a key achievement. In 2025, CERV allocated over EUR 1.9 million to support the European citizens' initiative. Six new initiatives were registered during the year, addressing topics such as sustainable food systems, building renovation, air passenger rights and human rights in the EU's external action. Between 2021 and 2025, 49 initiatives were registered, with a record four initiatives reaching the threshold of 1 million signatures, confirming growing citizen engagement at the EU level.

At the same time, implementation highlighted various challenges. The demand for funding continues to exceed the available resources, particularly in areas such as equality, gender equality and fighting violence against women and children, which may limit the programme's capacity to fully respond to needs. To address this, calls increasingly prioritised initiatives with the highest expected level of impact and encouraged the use of re-granting schemes, allowing intermediary organisations to redistribute EU funding to a larger number of small grassroots organisations. In

addition, clearer guidance and information for applicants helped improve the quality and focus of proposals submitted under highly competitive calls.f
Operational challenges persist for some applicants, in particular grassroots organisations and small municipalities, including difficulties relating to proposal-submission IT tools. The continued use of lump-sum funding and re-granting schemes also required that additional support be given to applicants and intermediaries to ensure high-quality proposals and effective implementation.

Overall, CERV shows strong performance in relation to its key performance indicators, high demand and growing visibility, while continuing to adapt its delivery tools to maximise impact and accessibility within the existing budgetary framework.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	2.8	2.8	5.9	2.2	0.0	0.0	13.7	0.9%

- While CERV's core mission is to promote EU values, fundamental rights, equality and citizens' participation — and not to deliver climate mitigation or adaptation policies, projects contributed to raising citizens' and stakeholders' awareness of environment-related topics through a variety of activities, events, conferences, summer-camps and debates. These initiatives have sparked meaningful discussions on sustainability, the EU Green Deal, and eco-culture, helping to foster community engagement on environmental issues. Projects addressed a wide range of topics, including the circular economy, climate resilience (such as the right to repair), urban sustainability, energy transition and energy poverty, biodiversity, sustainable food systems, waste management, fast fashion and ethical consumption. The climate and environmental justice were also at the core of several projects, underlining the unequal impacts of climate change on vulnerable or marginalised people.
- The main challenges projects faced, revolved around ensuring inclusive participation and representation of diverse stakeholders, as well specific target groups such as single women in vulnerable situation and minorities, addressing environmental issues in a context of competing interests and reaching out to rural communities in order to foster active engagement in remote areas.
- Overall, projects enhanced democratic participation in environmental policy-making by bringing citizens' ideas to local-, national- and EU-level stakeholders through structured

dialogue, thus fostering citizens' ownership of the EU and environmental policies. The projects will continue to provide opportunities for citizens led environmental action, participation and engagement in addressing environmental issues and promotion of sustainable practice.

- While the programme does not include dedicated calls on climate change mitigation or adaptation, many initiatives contributed indirectly to these objectives by promoting sustainable behaviours, supporting Community resilience and encouraging innovative, participatory responses to environmental challenges.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	22.0	35.7	28.3	46.4	59.4	191.8
1	68.9	141.5	126.3	120.5	128.3	585.6
0*	0.0	10.6	45.9	31.9	23.8	112.2
0	8.0	27.1	13.7	19.8	26.1	94.7
Total:	98.9	214.9	214.3	218.6	237.7	984.4

- Gender score 2. CERV contributed strongly to the three pillars of the EU Gender Equality Strategy, with 25% of the programme's budget having gender equality as a primary objective. In 2025, this was mainly driven by the Daphne call, which aims to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children where EUR 15.4 million out of EUR 23 million contributed to score 2. Award of grants under the EQUAL call is not yet completed resulting in a lower contribution to score 2 compared to previous years. Procurement activities such as the LGBTQI subgroup, the European Network of Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination, and training seminars for judges and legal practitioners on EU gender equality and non-discrimination legislation, also contributed to score 2, with EUR 4.7 million out of EUR 24.4 million.
- Gender score 1: Overall, approximately 54% of the programme budget was allocated to gender score 1, demonstrating strong gender mainstreaming across programme initiatives. Several calls contributed significantly to gender score 1 by integrating gender equality as an important cross-cutting objective, such as the Child rights call, supporting the implementation of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child with 81% of its EUR 17 million budget, and the Citizens' Engagement and Participation call, promoting inclusive democratic participation and civic engagement with 79% of its EUR 33 million budget.
  Operating grants supporting organisations working on disability rights and EU values also contributed substantially, with EUR 23.5 million allocated.
- Gender score 0*: Although the CERV programme promotes equality, non-discrimination and participation in an intersectional manner, some initiatives have limited direct contribution to gender equality, with around 10% of the programme budget receiving a score of 0*. In 2025, this was mainly linked to certain projects where the primary focus of funded activities was not specifically gender-related. Nevertheless, there remains potential to further strengthen gender mainstreaming in these initiatives, notably through more systematic gender-sensitive project implementation, data collection and evaluation.
- Gender score 0: Only a low share of around 11% of the programme's budget is allocated to score 0. Within this score are included the programme's administrative budget as well as

programme elements that do not contribute to gender equality such as support from the Commission to national data protection authorities via a specific call for proposals to promote data protection and collaboration between competent authorities in the EU. Under the exercise for the 2025 budget, the gender scores from finished projects awarded in past years that initially received a 0* score were revisited, and in case the projects realised their potential to promote gender equality a new score was assigned (on the basis of final project reporting) and its budget reassigned to contribute to the new score total.

Gender-disaggregated information

The programme collects gender-disaggregated data on the target audience as follows.

- The number of participants (people involved or targeted by projects), disaggregated by gender, is collected through a dedicated form that is filled in by the beneficiaries at the start of their projects. Thus, the data are best estimates of beneficiaries implementing the projects. The data inserted are tracked via key performance indicators tracking how awareness raising, mutual learning, and training activities have reached the programme's target group disaggregated by gender and encompassing data on female, male and non-binary people. For example, based on the 2025 estimates reported by beneficiaries of CERV-funded projects, awareness-raising activities reached around 300 000 participants, including approximately 190 000 women, 105 000 men and around 5 000 non-binary participants. In addition, mutual-learning activities reached around 110 000 participants, including approximately 46 000 women, 64 000 men and around 300 non-binary participants.

  Overall, the programme reaches people of all gender. Based on the estimated data, a bit more than half of the people estimated to have been reached are female, while a bit less than 50% of people estimated to have been reached are male. Approximately 1% of the people reached were estimated to be non-binary. Considering the programme dedicated support for non-binary people, their comparative low share on the people the programme reached could be based on factors such as social acceptance bias when making estimates. Taking the potential bias in estimates into account, the data still indicate that the programme's design promotes gender equality as people of all gender are reached and women and men are approximately equally involved in the programme's activities.
- Second, through the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values, accessible to all participants in CERV-funded activities at https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CERV_2021-2027 the programme collects sex-disaggregated data on various areas such as the percentage of respondents indicating that they are engaged in civic activities at the local, national or EU levels.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of 2021-2025
Digital contribution	1.1	5.1	1.6	1.4	18.2	27.3	2.8%

- The CERV programme contributes to the digital transition by supporting initiatives that strengthen democratic participation and citizens' empowerment through digital means. This includes in particular:
  (1) the development and use of digital and e-democracy tools to enhance citizens' engagement in democratic life;
  (2) media literacy and counter-disinformation initiatives, enabling citizens to critically engage in the online information environment; and
  (3) support for the European citizens' initiative, notably through its online platform, enabling secure and accessible digital participation by citizens, including through electronic identification (e-ID).
- In 2025, CERV support to digital objectives increased significantly, mainly driven by the Citizens engagement and participation (CIV) call. The CIV 2025 call budget increased to EUR 33 million, compared to EUR 25.4 million under the previous call, and included a dedicated priority on countering disinformation and promoting media literacy. Based on the analysis of awarded projects, 51 projects, representing an estimated EUR 16.25 million, include initiatives contributing to digital indicators, notably in the areas of e-democracy, media literacy and digital skills.
- Digital aspects are cross-cutting across CIV 2025 priorities, as projects widely rely on online tools and platforms to foster citizens' participation and engagement in democratic processes at the local, national and European levels.
- In addition, the CERV programme contributes to digital objectives through the European Citizens' Initiative, with around EUR 2 million in 2025 dedicated to the operation and further development of the online platform of the European citizens' initiative, strengthening the digital infrastructure underpinning participatory democracy at the EU level.

Contribution to reforms

- The CERV programme may contribute to national reforms indirectly, by supporting initiatives implemented at the EU level that strengthen the capacity of Member States and relevant stakeholders to apply EU law and uphold EU values. In particular, projects funded under the EU values strand support activities such as training, peer learning, exchange of practices, development of guidance materials and practical tools for public authorities, judicial actors and civil society organisations.

- For example, several projects support training and capacity-building activities for judges, lawyers and civil society organisations on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including workshops and guidance materials to improve the use of EU fundamental rights standards in national proceedings. Other projects facilitate peer-learning and exchange of practices between civil society organisations and national authorities on protecting civic space and promoting the rule of law, including the development of practical toolkits and monitoring methodologies that can be used by stakeholders at the national level.
- These initiatives may contribute to addressing structural challenges identified in EU-level processes, including follow-up to findings and recommendations of the Rule of Law Reports, by enhancing awareness, administrative practices and implementation capacity at the national level. Through such support, CERV complements national reform efforts while not directly financing or steering reform measures.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	x	The programme supports projects for the inclusion of all to quality education, including minority groups such as Roma youth or people living with a handicap, and organisations promoting lifelong learning opportunities at all ages.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	x	The programme made specific contributions to gender equality by providing dedicated funding to support Member States to transpose the Pay Transparency directive. The programme also bolstered with its long-term investments in two- to three-year long projects the capacity of organisations fighting gender-based violence. Through its scheme for financial support to third parties under the EU values strand, the programme provides funding via intermediaries to European small and grassroot organisations enabling them to engage at the local level and promote an active civil society, empower active and informed citizens to counter gender-based discrimination and promote gender equality. In 2025, about every fourth euro the programme committed had the primary goal to promote gender equality. The results of the programme's interim evaluation confirm that the programme helped build gender expertise among its stakeholders and is effective in promoting gender equality.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Via the equality, rights and gender equality strand, the programme supports projects for equal access to work, equal participation in labour market, diversity in public and private sector organisations and the elimination of barriers to career progression in all sectors.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Reduce inequality within and among countries	The programme, through transnational projects sharing good practices, trainings and awareness rising activities, contributes to the reduction of inequalities and eliminating discrimination between EU citizens and among countries.
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	x	Via the citizens' engagement and participation strand and the EU values strand, the programme promotes inclusive society and the rule of law. Funds support entities which contribute to make our common values, rights and equality and rich diversity alive and vibrant

SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	x	The programme contributes to the goal, especially through the re-granting calls, which aim to build capacity of small and grass-roots civil-society organisations and also promotes strong partnerships for the intermediaries.

CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME

Concrete examples of achievements

15 Oscar nominations were received for six films supported by the programme's media strand and released in 2025, including nine for *Sentimental Value* (which also won in Cannes and received six European Film Awards and a Golden Globe). Additionally, 13 video games whose development was supported by the media strand received 34 nominations in the most important industry competitions in 2025 ([43]).	**7 274** artists and cultural professionals had benefited from mobility by the end of 2025 thanks to the culture moves Europe initiative.	**42** projects had been supported through the perform Europe open call by the end of 2025. Projects comprised more than 187 partners showing 63 artistic works from all performing arts disciplines across all of the creative Europe countries.	**The 40th anniversary** of the European Capitals of Culture initiative was celebrated in 2025. Since 1985, more than 70 cities have used the title to celebrate diversity, strengthen their European identity and shape their future through culture.
616 films have been released in cinemas across Europe, outside of their production country, thanks to the distribution grants signed in 2022.	**EUR 340 million** was committed by the end of 2025 by private investors in the European audiovisual and video game sectors thanks to the four contracts already signed between MediaInvest and investment funds, out of a target of EUR 400 million by 2027.	**150** investigative journalism projects, involving more than 250 journalists, are supported for up to 2024 months since their selection in 2025 in two cascading grants for journalism partnerships.	**15.6 million** cinemagoers saw a non-national European film in one of the more than 1 200 cinemas belonging to the Europa Cinemas network in 2025.

([43]) The Game Awards, Indie Game Awards, Tribeca Games, Game Developers Choice Awards, IGF, DEVGAMM, A Maze, Swedish Game Awards, Golden Joystick Awards, TIGA Awards, Venice Immersive and VR Awards.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	306.4	406.5	332.8	334.8	352.2	397.0	417.3	2 547.1
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	10.1	13.3	11.5	14.7	12.0	0.0	0.0	61.6
Total	**316.5**	**419.8**	**344.3**	**349.5**	**364.2**	**397.0**	**417.3**	**2 608.7**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 790.6	2 608.7	68.6%
Payments	1 402.6	0.0	53.8%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Transnational partnerships created with the support of the programme	0	**>100%**	990 in 2027	1 066 by 2025 compared to a target of 990	On track
The number of projects supported by the programme addressed to socially marginalised groups	0	**>100%**	279 in 2027	301 by 2025 compared to a target of 279	On track
The number of participants in learning activities supported by the programme who consider that they have improved their competences and increased their employability	0	**56%**	15 760 in 2027	8 895 compared to a target of 15 760	On track
The number of people accessing European audiovisual works from countries other than their own and supported by the programme	0	**71%**	93 million in 2027	65.7 million by 2024 compared to a target of 93 million	On track

- In 2025, calls for 'cooperation projects' and 'circulation of European literary works' took place: the call for cooperation projects received a record number of applications (1 648), with 122 projects selected. Regarding the circulation of European literary works action (with a budget of EUR 5 000 000), the call selected 46 projects, out of 180 proposals received, to translate 473 literary works by 578 writers. These works are to be translated by 528 translators. The books originate from 37 source languages and will be translated into 24 target languages.
- Culture moves Europe reached an important milestone with the conclusion of its first implementation phase (2022-2025) in July 2025. The scheme confirmed significant demand and impact, with more than 15 000 applications submitted, and mobility grants were awarded to 7 274 individual artists and cultural professionals, supporting 3 666 projects under the individual mobility strand and funding 282 residency projects. Building on these results, a new contribution agreement was signed in July 2025 with the Goethe-Institut, ensuring the continuity of the scheme for the 2025-2028 period.
- New selections took place for two cultural prizes supported by the programme (the Music Moves Europe Awards and the European Union Prize for Literature) recognising artistic excellence at the European level, highlighting artists and authors with cross-border reach. Furthermore, the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards recognised 30 outstanding cultural heritage achievements from 24 European countries, and 13 new sites were selected for the European Heritage Label, further strengthening the network of places recognised for their symbolic European value. The preparatory work to launch the new Simone Veil Prize was successfully concluded with the nomination of a consortium. The new annual award will spotlight how cultural heritage can serve as a catalyst for civic engagement and social cohesion, while also reflecting the important contribution of Jewish cultural heritage to Europe's identity. The first award ceremony is expected to take place in the last quarter of 2026.
- The culture strand continued in 2025 to provide strong and visible support to Ukrainian cultural and creative sectors: the second special call for Ukraine, launched with an initial budget of EUR 5 million, was reinforced by the Commission during the Ukraine Recovery Conference in July 2025, bringing its total budget to EUR 7 million. Four projects were ultimately selected.
- The media strand carried out 14 calls (including one that was still ongoing in January 2026). With a budget of EUR 182 million, they attracted 2 165 eligible proposals, requesting 3.6 times more than could be accommodated. This showed a year-on-year increase in demand, from 2.8 times the budget requested in 2024. In fact, in order to satisfy the requests of only those 672 applicants whose projects were assessed as being of high quality (an evaluation score of above 70%), but were rejected due to insufficient funding, the budget would have to be doubled (they requested EUR 180 million; a sixfold increase since 2021). Notably, the success rate has dropped sharply in diverse calls such as co-development (from 41% in 2021 to 12% in 2025), video game development (from 59% to 15%), skills (from 57% to 17%) and innovative business models (from 45% to 9%). A total of 739 grants were signed by the end of 2025. Out of the 97 grants signed with more than one beneficiary, 36 brought together

partners from countries with a different audiovisual capacity. Altogether, 743 different companies benefited as indirect grantees of collaborative projects.

- As every year, numerous works created with the support of the media strand received international professional recognition. Some key achievements include, in the 2024/2025 winter award season, six films supported by the media strand gathering 16 Oscar nominations. *Flow* and *Emilia Perez* each won both an Oscar and a Golden Globe. Of the films premiering in 2025, eight films won 12 prizes at the Berlinale, including two key awards (the Golden Bear for *Dreams* and the Silver Bear for *El Mensaje*). Five films won five awards in Cannes (including the Grand Prix for *Sentimental Value* and the Jury Prize for *Sirat*). Two key animation prizes went to *Arco* and *Little Amelie in Annecy*. In Venice, 19 works were featured, including two in the main competition and two in the Venice Immersive section of the festival. In early 2026, six films were nominated for Oscars, in 15 categories (*Sentimental Value*, *Sirat*, *The Ugly Stepsister*, *Cutting Through Rocks*, *Arco* and *Little Amelie*), and five films won 10 awards at the European Film Awards.
- The cross-sectoral strand carried out five calls, which attracted 391 eligible applicants (100 more than in the previous year) requesting almost 11 times the value of the EUR 27 million budget. This included 67 proposals, notably on news media collaborations and media literacy, for a value of EUR 41 million, that were assessed as being of high quality but were not funded due to insufficient funds. Success rates in journalism partnerships and in media literacy were at the lowest level since 2021, at 7% and 5% respectively. Twenty-six grants had been signed by the end of 2025, of which 21 were partnerships, involving 111 partners. Nine out of the 21 grants with multiple beneficiaries featured partners from countries with different capacities. The growing needs of the news media sector and its strategic role for European democracies was reflected in the announcement of a media resilience programme by the President of the European Commission in September 2025.
- Ukraine joined the media and cross-sectoral strands of creative Europe in 2025, benefiting from support from the former to distribute Ukrainian films in the EU and to strengthen media pluralism.
- The MediaInvest blending tool, supported in 2025 with EUR 10 million from the media strand, encourages private investment from venture capital and equity investors into the audiovisual and video game sectors. It blends public funds – from Creative Europe, InvestEU and the European Investment Fund – with private investments to obtain commercially viable projects. Implementation is on track to surpass the targeted EUR 400 million of private investment mobilised in audiovisual and games between 2022 and 2027.
- The joint final evaluation of creative Europe for 2014-2020, the interim evaluation of creative Europe for 2021-2027, the interim evaluation of the European Capitals of Culture initiative for 2020-2033 and the evaluation of the European Heritage Label were successfully adopted in 2025, covering key initiatives and policy frameworks supported under creative Europe. Together, these evaluations assessed effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value, providing robust, evidence-based findings to support ongoing implementation and to inform the preparation of the next multiannual financial framework and future legal bases.
- Evidence collected within the framework of the evaluation showed that the culture strand's support for mobility, cultural networks and platforms helped to reinforce capacity and skills in

the cultural and creative sectors and to internationalise the careers of many cultural professionals. The culture strand funded almost 300 000 mobility days between 2014 and 2020, and more than 160 000 between 2021 and 2023. It also encouraged cultural diversity and the circulation of European cultural works, with over 4 500 translations of literary works between 2014 and 2023. Through its intrinsic European dimension, the strand played an important role in fostering cross-border partnerships, with 4 200 organisations getting involved in transnational projects between 2014 and 2020, and 2 500 between 2021 and 2023. Furthermore, it helped the cultural and creative sectors attract new audiences beyond national and linguistic borders. For the 2014-2020 period, cultural activity funded under the culture subprogramme was accessed (online or offline) at least 91.5 million times. The strand also participated in the EU's efforts to tackle major issues such as sustainability, social inclusion and gender equality, and it contributed to the EU diplomatic efforts in the field of culture. It showed a great capacity for adaptation when various crises hit the cultural and creative sectors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine.

- The evaluation showed that the media strand has appreciably strengthened the transnational circulation of European films and series, in a sector significantly fragmented along national borders. On average, EU films and series supported by this strand could be viewed by audiences in 9.5, 6.6 and 3.2 more Member States – across TV, cinema and video-on-demand respectively – than comparable EU works that did not receive funding from the media strand. EU films and series supported by the media strand attracted at least 241 million more admissions across borders than works that were not supported. The Europa Cinemas network, supported by this strand and responsible for 40% of tickets sold for non-national European films, increased its geographical coverage by 32% to reach over 750 municipalities. The share of supported European co-productions has increased substantially from 36% under the first creative Europe programme to 84% under the second, significantly higher than the market average for works that are not supported (13.7%). This included an increase from 5% to 30% in co-productions between countries with different capacities between the first and second programmes. Works that were supported during development were more likely to be released than the market average.
- Under the cross-sectoral strand, the evaluation highlighted the essential role played by the creative Europe desks in the effective operation of the programme. Desks are well regarded and used by beneficiaries for information about the programme, in line with their objective to provide information about support available through the programme and to assist potential beneficiaries in application processes, including applicants with less experience of creative Europe. Regarding initiatives under the cross-sectoral strand implemented in the form of open calls for proposals, the evaluation found that the creative innovation lab has gradually provided added value by funding multidisciplinary projects that address common challenges, in particular reaching wider audiences and monetisation, through the harnessing of digital applications. Similarly, the new news media initiatives responded with high added value to the problems of this sector. The evaluation found that the introduction of market-led instruments into creative Europe in 2017 was very successful. The Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility leveraged almost EUR 2 billion in loans and reduced the shortfall in access to debt finance by up to 30%. This line of activity has been developed in 2021-2027 period in the form of MediaInvest.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	80.8	96.7	85.0	105.1	67.1			434.7	17.1%

- In the 2021-2027 programme, ecological concerns are taken into account in the design and implementation of all funded projects, as a cross-cutting issue, in order to reduce their impact on the environment. The programme does not directly support climate mitigation initiatives; however, environmental sustainability remains one of the priorities of the programme and is referred to in all of its calls.
- In 2025, the Commission continued looking into ways to introduce environmental, sustainable, and proportional measures effectively and efficiently in creative Europe actions, addressing the objectives of the European Green Deal, while respecting the core values of the programme. A new document focused on the quality assessment of green aspects in creative Europe (culture strand) projects was published. This document offers valuable guidance for both applicants and evaluators, covering key concepts, essential questions, and basis to assess environmental sustainability aspects included in projects. The work of the network of greening contact points among the creative Europe desks (culture strand only) set up in 2023 continued in 2025 as well, offering capacity building and exchanges of ideas and good greening practices.
- The culture strand continued to play a crucial role in building attitudes to tackle the climate challenge by integrating sustainability into the cultural and creative sectors: in 2025, a new consortium has been selected, following the Music Moves Europe call on greening of the music sector, and will start as from January 2026 working to address the sector's environmental footprint, conducting research, building capacity and providing financial support for green innovation.
- Media and cross-sectoral strands: almost all proposals submitted within the media strand are requested to provide a strategy to improve the greening of the industry (except for two actions where this is not applicable). Changes implemented in the markets and networks action and the media 360° action meant that supported events (49 yearly) had to start the process of obtaining sustainability certification. A focus on greening was also proposed in the talent and skills action, in order to improve greening skills within the audiovisual industry. 14/25 training projects supported in 2025 included a greening component.

- In 2024, the Commission procured a European carbon calculator to standardise and compare carbon dioxide measurement in audiovisual productions across the Member States. The Media Carbon Calculator was officially launched in November 2025. It is free for use to audiovisual producers and greening consultants in all Member States and complements existing national calculators through a 'plug-in' approach. Following a six-month beta-testing phase, outreach activities have been organised with producers, existing calculators and stakeholders, involving over 500 industry professionals across the Member States.
- The programme will step up its action in the years to come to support climate mitigation in the design of its annual work programmes.
- The yearly contribution to climate objectives is based on beneficiary organisations' applications for funding for projects with climate-related topics.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	24.4	21.4	15.3	147.8	64.2	273.1
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	282.0	385.1	317.5	187.0	288.0	1 459.6
Total:	306.4	406.5	332.8	334.8	352.2	1 732.7

- Under the programme, special attention is given to applications presenting adequate strategies to ensure gender balance, a cross-cutting priority in all strands as of the 2021 annual work programme.
- The culture strand is anchored in policy development and EU policy cooperation in the field of culture, in line with the 2018 new European agenda for culture, the 2019-2022 Council work plan for culture and the culture compass for Europe, the new overarching strategic framework aimed at giving direction, coherence, and ambition to EU cultural policy, adopted by the College in November 2025.The programme mainstreams inclusion and diversity, and supports the 2020-2025 gender equality strategy. Special attention is given to applications presenting adequate strategies to ensure gender balance, inclusion, diversity and representativeness. Many projects aim at strengthening gender equality in cultural and creative projects, including mentorships or sector-specific evaluations. These projects and their results are shared through programme supported networks. Furthermore, the cooperation scheme includes an inclusiveness priority encouraging projects to focus on gender issues: explore, test and disseminate innovative gender equality practices.
- For the media and cross-sectoral strands, the 2021-2027 strategy of the audiovisual sector envisages policy development by including gender activities in all actions. Its focus has moved from gender alone to a broader concept of diversity. Since 2021, the media strand has encouraged companies to include gender and inclusiveness strategies, and the 2021-2022 evaluations show that almost all applicants have applied this. Applicants are requested to show actions to support diversity and gender equality. Since 2022, the training scheme includes a module targeting women, based on capacity building and mentoring opportunities.
- Due to the specificities of the programme, it is not possible to fully discern gender contribution from voted budget implementation commitments only for the years 2021-2023. The split presented in the table above represents a pro-rata repartition based on the score proportions of the total implementation included in the relevant annual work programmes. This total of EUR 61.1 million includes administrative credits on top of the voted budget implementation.

- Data for 2024 and 2025 have been calculated by a new corporate reporting system called KPI Tool. The reason for the exponential increase is that in the KPI Tool, the selection of priorities is available both at the application and reporting stages. In 2025, 189 projects with a budget of EUR 67.1 million addressed the Commission sub-priorities 'An economy that works for people – Social fairness' and 'An economy that works for people – A union of equality' ([44]).
- In the media strand, 570 projects which can be tied to an individual title in 2025 (development, TV/VOD production and Films on the Move grants) supported gender equality. Women were directors of 47% of them and authors of the script in 48%. These numbers outperform market standards and oscillate around those values since 2021 (for directors the number went from 42% in 2021; for scriptwriters it peaked at 51% in 2024, from 43% in 2021). Additionally, 1% of the directors and scriptwriters identified as non-binary.

Gender disaggregated information

The participation of women in the programme is reported in the following three indicators:

- number of artists and cultural and/or creative players (geographically) mobile beyond national borders due to programme support, by country of origin: in 2025, the initial results, encompassing both direct and indirect (culture moves Europe) actions, indicate that around 56% of the grantees were women;
- number of participants in the creative innovation labs call and news media actions activities: in 2025, the results show that 51% of the participants were women;
- number of participants in audiovisual learning activities supported by the programme who assess they have improved their competences and increased their employability: the results from 2022-2024 show that 58% of the respondents who gave positive feedback were women.

([44]) Data on 2025 are subject to change.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	151.9	202.0	147.8	285.1	119.6	906.5	52.3%

- Regulation (EU) 2021/818 sets out that the creative Europe programme contributes to the digital transition of the cultural and creative sectors.
- The culture compass for Europe, the new overarching strategic framework for cultural policy, highlights the need to turn towards an EU that draws on cultural and creative sectors to be more competitive and resilient, among other, harnessing digital technologies and AI. In the cooperation projects under the culture strand, the digital priority to help the European cultural and creative sectors to undertake or accelerate their digital transition is included as the first or second priority in the project application. Several cooperation projects work on digital innovation, developing, testing and adapting technological tools based on AI to better address the challenges and needs of the sectors, while creative Europe networks have (among others) an objective to help the European cultural and creative sectors to fully take advantage of new technologies to enhance their competitiveness and to seize the opportunities that AI offers for them, from protecting the discoverability of European cultural content, to developing audiences and supporting human creativity.
- Many schemes under the media strand encompass a strong digital dimension. The 'innovative tools and business model' scheme supports the use of innovative tools to improve content creation; monetisation, exploitation, discoverability and reach more audiences. The 'Video games and immersive content' scheme is dedicated to supporting the development of digital content The 'Talents and skills' scheme was revamped to foster the adaptation of audiovisual and gaming professionals to the digital transition. Support is also given to television and online content for exploitation by digital platforms and TV broadcasters. In addition, European video-on-demand networks are supported in their efforts to screen a significant proportion of European works. In distribution, both theatrical and online channels are funded. Support for film markets and festivals has been adapted to support hybrid events online and promote videogames and immersive content.
- In 2025, several proposals were designed to bridge creative Europe objectives and the AI Continent Action Plan to foster uptake of AI in creative sectors. The selected proposals, to be implemented in 2026, cover interactive and immersive storytelling, discoverability of media, music and literary content. This group may be further enlarged in 2026.
- Under the cross-sectoral strand, the Creative Innovation Labs call encourages innovative approaches for content creation and distribution, taking into account the opportunities of the digital transition. In addition, support for news media collaborations focuses on addressing the digital transformation in the production and monetisation of quality journalism. Some

noteworthy projects ongoing in 2025 which help the news media industry adapt to the digital economy are Do-Jo (Collaborative Donation Solution for Journalism), which built up the business model of micro-donations and revenue sharing and IQ Media upskilling journalists in AI and big data.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

- Participation in the media and cross-sectoral strands is subject to fulfilment of the conditions set out in the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. Through that, the creative Europe media strand accelerates regulatory alignment of non-EU countries participating in the programme in the area of audiovisual regulation. Moreover, by supporting the work of the newly created Media Services Board, the creative Europe media and cross-sectoral strands underpin the implementation of the EU media regulatory *acquis* in the EU Member States.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	x	The Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility financed a study on the social impact of news media in 2021. Results show that healthy, thriving news media ecosystems increase the wellbeing of citizens. Support for cross-border journalism projects and media literacy projects in the cross-sectoral strand increases the diffusion of knowledge in society and helps mutual understanding. The media strand supports a network of cinemas (Europa Cinemas) which are local community centres. Collective experience of attending cinema increases wellbeing and having a cinema in the community is valued even by those who do not go there often. Participation and access to cultural activities, two of the pillars of the programme, have a significant impact on health in general, as well as on mental health.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	x	The skills and talents action in the media strand is an example of promoting lifelong learning – it supports courses, training sessions, workshops, etc. directed at audiovisual and gaming professionals to adapt to new creative market and digital developments.

SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	x	As described in the cross-cutting issues of the programme – gender equality section. For example, the films supported under the media strand with 'Films on the move' show a higher average share of key female creators than in the market. Several projects funded under the European Cooperation Projects scheme are relevant to this sustainable development goal, in particular the one addressing gender inequalities in the cultural and creative sectors. creative Europe networks of cultural and creative organisations also contribute to the sharing of good practices promoting gender equality in the sector.
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	x	Through the support provided to artists and cultural professionals, creative Europe promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. For example, the European platforms for emerging artists promote fair, inclusive, and diverse frameworks supporting emerging artists careers. Platforms must develop in their strategies effective ways to ensure and promote better working conditions and fairer remuneration, skill development and life-long learning as well as artistic freedom. Support for audiovisual and media industries has multiplier effects on competitiveness, and thus economic growth.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	x	All creative Europe actions have an international collaboration aspect. On the European scale, the media strand introduced an array of measures to ensure a more level playing field in the European audiovisual ecosystem, broadening participation and promoting collaborations among countries with different capacities). The share of supported works involving collaborations between low capacity and high-capacity countries has increased from less than 5% in 2014-20 to around 30% between 2021-2023.

SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	x	In the 2022 creative Europe work programme, the creative innovation labs call had a special angle: the projects should contribute to the New European Bauhaus framework for inclusive and sustainable product and experience design. The programme also develops synergies with the New European Bauhaus with projects such as the medium-scale European cooperation project 'ARCH-E, European Platform for Architectural Design Competitions', which aims to promote high-quality architectural solutions for the built environment by increasing the use of architectural design competitions in Europe.
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	x	See the cross-cutting issues section – environmental requirements. The programme promotes green solutions, especially on the supply side, through bonus points that can be obtained in applications having sustainable working modalities (in the media strand). The same strand also launched a carbon calculator translation tool to make it easier for co-producers to comply with different carbon regulation regimes in 2025. The culture strand supports projects promoting sustainability and greener practices: in 2025 a new consortium has been selected to work on the greening of the music sector, conducting research, building capacity and providing financial support for green innovation.
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	x	Creative Europe decides on the distribution of the grants transparently and on a merit basis. Audits are established across the programmes and overseen by the Commission and other implementing institutions. The work programme for each year is accepted by Member States. Access to the programme is encouraged through a network of country desks, which reach out and explain to potential applicants how to apply. Actions supporting news media under the cross-sectoral strand will strengthen media freedom and pluralism. Access to trustworthy information will also be enhanced by actions promoting news media production and distribution.

SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	x	The media strand supports co-production funds located in the EU supporting international coproductions. With support from this strand, 98 international films were supported between 2021 and 2025.

COMMUNICATION

FINANCIAL INTERVENTION OF THE COMMUNICATION POLICY AREA

Concrete examples of achievements

47 seconds was the estimated actual YouTube engagement rate in 2025, based on YouTube Analytics data.	25 000 political reporting products were provided by the Commission's Representations, covering reactions on EU topics in all Member States in 2025.	1 265 audiovisual products (messages, interviews, statements, clips) were provided to the College of Commissioners in 2025.	90% of users were satisfied with the answers received from the Europe Direct contact centre in 2025.
89 000 people (including virtual visitors) visited the visitors' centre in 2025.	9 636 information and engagement activities were performed by the Europe Direct centres in 2025.	80.69% of the target audience was reached by corporate campaigns.	

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	106.7	107.6	108.5	109.5	110.4	111.4	112.2	766.3
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	106.7	107.6	108.5	109.5	110.4	111.4	112.2	766.3

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	542.6	766.3	70.8%
Payments	509.1	0.0	66.4%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Political reporting products provided by the Representations covering reactions on EU topics in all Member States	0	**56%**	1 200 annually from 2022 to 2029	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 2 500 compared to a target of 1 200)	On track
Audiovisual products provided to the College of Commissioners	0	**56%**	1 000 annually from 2022 to 2029	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 1 265 compared to a target of 1 000)	On track
Target audience able to recall the messages of corporate campaigns	0	**44%**	25% annually from 2024 to 2029	Milestones achieved for 2021-2023 and 2025 (2025: 81% compared to a target of 25%)	On track
Users satisfied with the answers received from the Europe Direct contact centre	0	**56%**	86% annually from 2024 to 2029	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 90% compared to a target of 86%)	On track
Engagement rate on social media	0	**11%**	60 seconds annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones not achieved for 2021, 2022, 2024 or 2025. Milestone achieved for 2023 (2025: 47 seconds compared to a target of 60)	On track

For indicator 3, the methodology measuring the percentage of target audience reached by corporate campaigns has changed.

Communication

Financial intervention of the communication policy area

The communication actions in 2025 ensured that the College received up-to-date communication advice and intelligence. Information and communication services addressed citizens directly, with messages aligned with the Commission's policy priorities.

In 2025, the programme continued to communicate on the seven headline ambitions of the von der Leyen Commission, set out in 'Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029'. In particular, the communication focused on two strands. The first central strand aims at strengthening, improving and further targeting the efforts to communicate effectively to the media and about the Commission's and the EU's political priorities. The second, local strand, aims at engaging more widely with citizens and stakeholders on the ground through its Representations and local networks. In particular, through Representations in Member States, a series of local campaigns werte designed and launched to showcase the benefits of the EU budget and the upcoming discussions on the next multiannual financial framework, providing concrete examples of the results of the implementation of NextGenerationEU and focusing on specific subjects of relevance at the national level.

The Representations reported regularly to the College of Commissioners with intelligence on the ground across the Member States while cooperating at the national, regional and local levels.

The number of audiovisual products (messages, interviews, statements, clips) in 2025 exceeded the target of 1 000. Due to the increase in visits from members of the College outside Brussels (requiring audiovisual coverage), and the fact that the new College had taken office, the drop in audiovisual products registered in 2024 was mostly recovered in 2025, with an increase of the production of audiovisuals of 15% compared to 2024.

Overall, users were satisfied with the answers received from the Europe Direct contact centre in 2025. The satisfaction rate in 2025 was 90% against a target of 86%.

In 2026, the new model of Europa Direct centres will be launched, involving different geographical coverage, new contractors and a new relationship with the citizen. Although the aim of the new model is to better inform citizens at the local level, it is unknown, above all in the first period of deployment of the new model, whether citizen satisfaction will still be at the current satisfactory level.

In 2025, the average view duration on YouTube was 47 seconds against a target of 60 seconds (down from 52 seconds in 2024). DG Communication started to produce shorter videos (maximum 1 minute) because that has become the current practice on social media (e.g. reels on YouTube). This explains the shorter engagement time on YouTube. We cannot exclude that, if the strategy to shorten the videos to increase their effectiveness continues, in the future the target value will need to be revised as not fully reflecting the new communication strategy of the platform.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	4.2	1.6	0.5	0.7	0.0	n/a	n/a	6.9	0.9%

DG Communication uses all available communication channels (notably via the Representations) to disseminate different corporate communication messages, including messages on climate change and the effect of this change on people.

DG Communication's activities contribute to both climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation by raising awareness about clean, home-grown energy and energy independence, emphasising their benefits to the planet, climate, security, and shared values. Therefore, DG Communication is taxonomy-compliant.

One very relevant example is the NextGenEU local campaigns, which communicated on the benefits of funded project in various areas, namely clean energy, reduction of energy consumption, reforestation, etc.

The main communication campaigns currently planned do not focus on greening contribution, although messages on the importance of the greening priorities and the Commission's action on this policy priority might be present in these campaigns.

This is without prejudice of possible unplanned requests of campaigns and communication on climate, greening and climate mainstreaming. No forecast is carried out internally in DG Communication with this granularity.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	106.7	107.6	108.5	109.5	110.4	542.7
Total:	106.7	107.6	108.5	109.5	110.4	542.7

Currently, DG Communication is not systematically collecting data on indicators with sex/gender disaggregation dimensions, since the communication actions developed by are of a horizontal nature and generally not directed to specific groups based on sex/gender (i.e. other criteria are used to define target groups).

However, DG Communication is committed to ensuring equality mainstreaming. To this end, the working group on equality was created in March 2021 and includes representatives from all DG Communication directorates. The group produced a working plan on equality, endorsed by senior management, and monitors its implementation.

The equality working plan covers external communication and aims at mainstreaming equality in communication practices, also in support of the work of other Directorates-General. The equality plan also covers internal communication and aims at mainstreaming equality.

Some of its objectives are shown below.

- Facilitate community management on social media across Commission services with respect to diversity of EU societies and in line with EU messaging on equality. The repository is available for consultation by all Directorates-General.
- Ensure that people with disabilities have improved access to documents and publications managed by DG Communication, including Representations. Progress is monitored by the Equality Coordinator in DG Communication with regular reporting to the Task Force on Equality, in coordination with the Publication Office (OP) (OP indicator: the percentage of accessible publications out of all general publications produced by the Office; OP target 2029: 65%).
- Facilitate inclusive and accessible communication practices by all Directorates-General using DG Communication framework contracts. Progress is monitored by the Equality Coordinator with regular reporting to the Task Force on Equality.
- Contribute to promoting equality topics to EU audiences. Management indicator: number of equality topics included in CN agendas or information products. Target: four per year.

- Improve awareness among staff of equality issues relating to management and internal communication practices and external communication practices. Information should be available to all staff and promoted regularly.

Gender disaggregated information:

- Not available.

Contribution to the digital transition

Contribution to digital transition is only indirect, through communication activities. The digital transition embraces a large array of aspects (such as tools for a common industry strategy, tools for technology transfer, commercialisation of research and development and better integration in value chains, development of skill capabilities for digitalisation, support to entrepreneurial discovery processes, cooperation between academia and businesses) which are not mapped and/or measured. There is no envisaged dedicated communication actions on the digital transition but it communicates separately on these aspects: it is not possible to gauge the impact of this communication on the various aspects of its priority.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

Communication activities make substantial contribution in communicating the positive impact of the RRF in Member States.

Our NextGenerationEU local and national campaigns demonstrate how RRF is boosting Europe's economy and making our societies stronger and more resilient, delivering tangible results for Europeans through its many projects. As the largest ever stimulus package undertaken in the EU, it is leading by example and setting the blueprint for a new growth model based on a clean, innovative and inclusive economy and digital and tech sovereignty.

By investing in healthcare, NextGenerationEU is contributing to a fairer, more caring society, equipped for the challenges that lie ahead.

By supporting education and skills, it is helping prepare our workforce for new opportunities in a tech-driven world.

By assisting our SMEs and young entrepreneurs, it is also nurturing innovation, creating jobs and spurring future growth.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Indirectly	Through the NextGenerationEU corporate ("Make it Strong" theme). Corporate campaigns, content and messages remain in general at top level, addressing the general public and communicating on broad political issues, showcasing for example how NextGenEU supports the modernisation of education. These address issues relevant to the sustainable development goal 4.
SDG7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Indirectly	Through the NextGenerationEU local campaigns (lie the campaign 'Go Circular in Ireland), DG Communication corporate campaigns, content and messages remain in general at top level, addressing the general public and communicating on broad political issues, showcasing for example how NextGenEU supports access to affordable and clean energy. This addresses issues relevant to SDG7.
SDG8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Indirectly	Through the NextGenerationEU corporate ("Make it Strong" theme). Corporate campaigns, content and messages remain in general at top level, addressing the general public and communicating on broad political issues, showcasing for example how NextGenEU supports businesses, research and skills. These address issues relevant to the sustainable development goal 8.
SDG9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Indirectly	Through the NextGenerationEU corporate and local campaigns ("Make it Strong" theme). DG Communication corporate campaigns, content and messages remain in general at top level, addressing the general public and communicating on broad political issues, showcasing for example how NextGenEU supports businesses, research and skills. These address issues relevant to the sustainable development goal 9.

SDG11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Indirectly	Through the NextGenerationEU corporate campaign (“Make it Green” and “Make it Digital” themes). DG Communication corporate campaigns, content and messages remain in general at top level, addressing the general public and communicating on broad political issues. These may address issues relevant to the sustainable development goal 11 but there is no direct link between the two.
SDG13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Indirectly	Through the NextGenerationEU local campaigns. DG Communication local campaigns, content and messages address the general public and communicate on broad political issues, showcasing for example how NextGenEU supports clean energy transition. These address issues relevant to the sustainable development goal 13.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Concrete examples of achievements

5.5 million farmers benefited from direct payments in 2024.	311 500 young farmers (including 90 000 women) were supported in setting up businesses and receiving complementary income support in 2024.	Over 24 million livestock units (20.5% of the total) benefited from common agricultural policy (CAP) support for improved animal welfare in 2024.	41 million hectares (25.3% of EU farmland) were covered by biodiversity conservation and restoration commitments in 2024.
11.3 million hectares (7% of EU farmland) were provided with CAP support for organic farming in 2024.	40 million hectares in areas with natural constraints (24.7% of EU farmland) received additional income support for natural constraints in 2024.	19.1 million children benefited from school schemes in the 2024/2025 school year.	2.1 million beneficiaries accessed advice or training or took part in EIP-AGRI operational group projects in 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	55 712.9	53 096.6	53 626.9	53 673.1	53 199.1	53 341.9	53 999.9	376 650.4
NextGenerationEU	2 365.7	5 688.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	8 055.6
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**58 078.6**	**58 785.0**	**53 627.2**	**53 673.4**	**53 199.5**	**53 342.3**	**53 999.9**	**384 706.0**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	277 534.4	384 706.0	72.1%
Payments	276 539.0	0.0	71.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Agricultural factor income	2021: 129	**n/a**	Overall increase in the long term	Index above the baseline each year from 2022 to 2025 (2025 index value: 149)	n/a
Farm modernisation: share of farms receiving investment support to restructure and modernise, including to improve resource efficiency	0	**26%**	4.17% in 2029	1.1% in 2024 compared to a target of 4.17%	Moderate progress
Better supply chain organisation: share of farms participating in producer groups, producer organisations, local markets, short supply chain circuits and quality schemes supported by the CAP	0	**39%**	7.49% in 2029	2.9% in 2024 compared to a target of 7.49%	On track
Contributing to climate change mitigation: greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture	2021: 375	**n/a**	Overall decrease in the long term	Index under the baseline each year from 2022 to 2023 (2023 index value: 360)	n/a
Carbon storage in soils and biomass: share of utilised agricultural area under supported commitments to reduce emissions or to maintain or enhance carbon storage	0	**33%**	34.74% in 2029	Milestones achieved for 2023 and 2024 (2024: 38.2% compared to a milestone of 31.28%)	On track
Number of hectares under environmental practices (conditionality, eco-schemes, agri- and forest-environment-climate management commitments)	0	**n/a**	n/a	148 million in 2024	n/a
Agricultural area under organic farming	0	**n/a**	n/a	10.81% in 2023	n/a

Generational renewal: number of young farmers benefiting from setting up with support from the CAP	0	**83%**	377 470 in 2029	311 563 by 2024 compared to a target of 377 470	On track
Leader coverage: share of rural population covered by local development strategies	2022: 62.59%	**99%**	66.27% in 2029	65.7% in 2024 compared to a target of 66.27%	On track
Improving animal welfare: share of livestock units covered by supported actions to improve animal welfare	0	**96%**	22.69% in 2029	21.7% in 2024 compared to a target of 22.69%	On track
Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation: number of persons benefiting from advice, training, knowledge exchange or participating in European Innovation Partnership operational groups supported by the CAP	0	**32%**	6.6 million in 2029	2.1 million by 2024 compared to a target of 6.6 million	On track

On 19 February 2025, the European Commission adopted the Commission communication 'A vision for agriculture and food'. This communication presents a roadmap to guide EU action towards achieving an attractive, competitive, resilient, future-oriented and fair agri-food system for current and future generations of farmers and agri-food operators. Aligned with the EU competitiveness compass, the vision calls for a reduction in unnecessary red tape to enhance competitiveness. Farmers across the EU face several challenges due to excessive administrative obligations that often fail to reflect the realities on the ground. This regulatory burden slows down farm operations, drains resources, discourages innovation and investment and leads to a low level of acceptance of requirements by farmers.

The legislative amendments to the CAP that were adopted in December 2025 tackle these challenges, targeting the administrative burden, streamlining on-farm controls and fostering their replacement by technology based on monitoring implementation, crisis response and investment needs. They include the on-farm simplification of requirements; better recognition of diverse farming practices, such as organic farming; streamlined support for small and medium-sized farms through simplified payments; and action to boost competitiveness, including enhanced access to financial tools. The Commission also published a roadmap for further simplification action, which set out the planned initiatives, the tools and an indicative timeline required to deliver further improvements on the CAP's secondary legislation and on areas outside of agriculture impacting farmers.

The Commission adopted a proposal for the amendment of the organic basic act on 16 December 2025. It aims to simplify certain rules of the basic act to enhance the competitiveness of the organic sector, while upholding its high standards. As part of the comprehensive approach to burden reduction for farmers, operators and public authorities, the Commission presented a roadmap for further action aimed at reviewing additional elements of the organic legal framework, in particular the organic secondary legislation.

The EU–Mercosur Agreement is part of a broader strategy to diversify markets and impact sources in times when we can rely less on our traditional agri-food partners. Farmers' interests remain central to the EU's approach.

Performance results in 2025 (2024 production year) – preliminary analysis

The CAP strategic plans cover the period between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2027. Member States submit their annual performance reports covering the implementation of their respective CAP strategic plans during the previous financial year, and in so doing report their progress in achieving the goals of the set indicators. This report concerns the implementation of CAP strategic plans in the financial year that ran from 16 October 2024 to 15 October 2025, covering the 2024 production year. Please note that the indicator values presented here show the EU values and that they are still **preliminary**.

Economic sustainability

The CAP plans support the economic sustainability of the agriculture sector in many ways. Member States have programmed interventions to provide income support to farmers, with specific attention being paid to small farms, farms in specific areas where farming is less profitable (e.g.

mountain areas) and farms that are active in specific sectors facing difficulties. To improve viability in the event of significant production or income losses, some Member States have programmed risk management schemes to help farms cover risks that are inherent to agriculture. Similarly, interventions have been programmed to support investment and to improve the position of farmers in the value chain by supporting cooperation between farmers.

Overall, the interventions supporting economic sustainability are being implemented according to plan. Income support interventions have been part of the CAP for a long time, and their continuation in the CAP plans was rather straightforward for the Member States. 91% of the agricultural land in the EU is covered by income support interventions.

However, some parts of the CAP plans are implemented less successfully. This concerns, in particular, interventions in the area of risk management, and to a lesser extent interventions that target farm modernisation. As for interventions in other areas, the simultaneous implementation of the rural development plans (under the previous period, running until 2025) had an impact on the implementation of interventions under CAP plans. Regarding farm modernisation, implementation has picked up compared to last year, but it is still modest compared to what was planned. This can partly be explained by the difficult economic situation in many Member States, which has led to higher interest rates and high inflation, thus delaying the decision to invest in new assets. It is expected that the uptake of this measure will gather pace in the coming year and that Member States will reach their targets, while also benefiting from the flexibilities introduced in the simplification package (e.g. the use of simplified cost options).

Climate and environmental sustainability

Member States have programmed interventions to provide support to farmers and other beneficiaries, contributing to European climate action (mitigation and adaptation to climatic changes), protecting natural resources and improving biodiversity in agricultural areas. The combination of compulsory requirements (conditionality) and support for voluntary initiatives (e.g. area-related schemes, green and non-productive investments, innovation, knowledge exchange and cooperation) aims at enhancing the uptake of farming practices that benefit the climate, natural resources and biodiversity.

The interventions supporting climate and environmental sustainability are being implemented according to plan. Preliminary data from Member States for the 2025 financial year show diverse, but overall good, progress in meeting the annual milestones in the plans for most environmental and climate-related result indicators, with a further increase in utilised agricultural area covered by farming practices contributing to the various objectives. As examples, measures to enhance carbon sequestration and storage in soils and biomass have been carried out on 38% of the EU's agricultural area. Further progress has been achieved towards protecting and improving soils, with 53% of the EU's agricultural area covered by relevant practices. More sustainable use of pesticides was implemented, with relevant practices covering 32% of the EU's total agricultural area. Likewise, commitments on sustainable nutrient management were carried out on 16% of the EU's agricultural area.

However, although interventions for the development of organic agriculture and the preservation of habitats and species remain slightly below the average planned targets, progress compared to the previous year is noted (with 7% and 25% of the related area covered by support, respectively).

With regard to non-productive investment relating to natural resources and biodiversity, the planned targets have been exceeded. By contrast, investment in renewable energy from agriculture and forestry is still lagging behind set targets. For several interventions under rural development, many Member States were still finalising the implementation of equivalent initiatives within the former rural development programmes for the 2014-2022 period, delaying the implementation of the respective interventions under the CAP strategic plans. This mainly concerns forestry initiatives such as investment in restoring wooded areas and afforestation.

Social sustainability

The social sustainability of the CAP extends from supporting generational renewal to promoting social inclusion and smart villages. It also covers the Leader (liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale – links between activities for the development of rural economy) initiative.

In terms of installation aid for young farmers, significant progress has been made, exceeding expectations. The number of young farmers who received support in 2025 was higher than planned, reaching 311 000 beneficiaries in 2025, 45% of the total value for the entire programming period. 70% of the final target (supporting 448 000 young farmers) has already been reached. Support for growth and jobs in rural areas also saw strong progress, with over 270 000 jobs created in 2025, overshooting what was initially planned by 6%.

The implementation of Leader was also well on track, with a growing coverage rate, slightly above the planned value and showing steady progress from 2024.

The share of the rural population benefiting from improved access to services and infrastructure (connecting rural Europe) demonstrated a strong upward trend, advancing from below the planned result in 2024 to slightly exceeding the value in 2025 by reaching a coverage rate of more than 16%.

Similarly to other forms of economic or environmental investment, the implementation of these interventions in 2025 has been affected by the closure of 2014-2020 measures for rural development plans and various external circumstances, such as the current economic context (high inflation, supply delays, stagnating economic growth and limited access to external financing). This is still leading to delays, in particular in the implementation of rural development investment.

For measures relating to animal health and welfare, both the reduction in antimicrobial use and the support for improved welfare reached the planned values, with steady progress over the programming period.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	17 083.6	17 557.3	13 086.5	24 134.1	24 563.3	24 549.1	24 607.7	145 581.7	37.8%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	9 943.2	9 236.2	9 033.8	8 791.1	9 236.7	9 236.7	9 236.7	64 714.4	16.8%

The enhanced green architecture of the 2023-2027 CAP includes a range of instruments that can contribute to protecting and restoring natural resources and biodiversity and to the fight against climate change. This is in line with the CAP's specific objectives on these areas.

The reinforced conditionality links area- and animal-based support to meeting a number of statutory management requirements and nine standards for good agricultural and environmental conditions. Conditionality is also the baseline for other incentive measures supported by the CAP. The wide area coverage (90% of EU farmland) and the compulsory nature of conditionality amplify its positive effects. In addition, the eco-schemes – the new instrument put in place by the 2023-2027 CAP and representing at least 25% of direct payments – are being used by Member States to contribute to various environmental objectives, including climate change and biodiversity.

Moreover, rural development measures such as agri-environment-climate commitments, organic farming, Natura 2000 payments and non-productive investments make an important contribution to biodiversity and climate objectives. So do measures for knowledge building, innovation and cooperation, and training and provision of farm advice.

According to the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation, from 2023 onwards, measures under the CAP are expected to contribute 40% of the overall financial envelope of the CAP, at the EU level, to climate-related objectives. Using information provided by Member States, the Commission will account for the CAP contribution using the EU climate coefficients. This climate-relevant expenditure serves as input to monitor progress on the goal for climate mainstreaming across all EU programmes, with a target of 25% of EU expenditure contributing to climate objectives.

The methodology developed to track the biodiversity contribution of the 2023-2027 CAP takes into account the CAP architecture and its increased green ambition. As from the draft budget 2024, the contribution of the CAP to biodiversity is estimated by the Commission through the application of EU coefficients (100%, 40% and 0%) and weighting factors (100%, 70% and 50%) that aim to reflect the differentiated contribution of each type of intervention towards the biodiversity

objective. This includes direct and indirect contributions, including whether the support is subject to conditionality. The CAP is the policy with the highest level of support for biodiversity, representing 57% of the support from the multiannual financial framework.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	113.2	113.2	226.5
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	55 712.9	53 096.6	53 626.9	53 559.9	53 085.9	269 082.1
Total:	55 712.9	53 096.6	53 626.9	53 673.1	53 199.1	269 308.6

The 2023-2027 CAP includes, for the first time in the history of the policy, a specific reference to the need to enhance the participation of women in farming and to improve the situation of rural women.
As a result, attention was paid to recognising the importance of gender issues and the need to increase the participation of women in farming and to improve the socioeconomic situation of rural women. Member States were encouraged and requested to improve the participation of women and young people in the governance structures of local action groups.
In the vision for agriculture and food, the Commission announced the creation of Women in Farming Platform. It is meant to strengthen women's engagement and equal opportunities in the farming sector thanks to the initiatives undertaken by the platform's members. It will serve as a forum to discuss and exchange good practices and experience in order to attract more women to farming. The Commission is finalising preparations to launch the platform in March this year.

Two Member States introduced specific interventions that aim to enhance gender equality; therefore, those interventions should receive a gender score of 1.
The Spanish CAP strategic plan introduced complementary income support for young farmers, where the aid amount is increased by 15 percentage points in each of the 20 regions in the case of female owners applying for this aid. In addition, some regions apply enhanced support rates for women under rural development interventions, such as investments in holdings (Galicia, Aragon, Baleares), investments in infrastructure (Aragon), participating in quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (Basque Country and Aragon) or investments in agri-food industries (Valencia). However, calculating Rural Development indicative financial allocations specifically earmarked for gender equality purposes is not feasible and this is not included in the estimate.
Ireland introduced three interventions with a clear gender mainstreaming component.

- **Farm capital investments.** The target agriculture modernisation scheme provides women farmers with a higher support rate for aid.

- **European innovation partnerships.** Support under stream A of this intervention will be provided for bottom-up innovative projects including approaches to support gender balance in farming in Ireland. One example is the 'making farms work for women' project, which addresses the specific needs of women in areas such as machinery handling and livestock management.
- **A knowledge transfer programme.** To address the cross-cutting CAP policy objective of gender balance, knowledge transfer groups can be set up for participation by women only.

Gender mainstreaming works in particular when women are involved and empowered in the decision-making process. In this light, the majority of Member States imposed a requirement for Leader decision-making bodies to be composed of at least 50% women. In the sample of data for the monitoring and evaluation of local action groups ([45]), out of the total of 27 183 people, there were 10 543 women. Currently these data cannot be associated with the budgets, but it will be possible in 2026, when local action groups will add their budgets to the database. Furthermore, according to the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation, Member States must organise a partnership including, where relevant, bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, gender equality and non-discrimination. Most Member States committed explicitly in their CAP strategic plans to include organisations representing the rights of women in CAP partnerships and monitoring committees. Finally, the 2023-2027 CAP strengthened the collection of data disaggregated by gender.

Gender-disaggregated information

Total number of farmers receiving CAP support directly (provisional data for 2024): 5 604 178:

- women: 1 768 426 (31.56%);
- men: 3 553 350 (63.41%);
- non-binary: 250 (0.00%);
- no prevalence: 209 340 (3.74%);
- prefer not to say: 72 812 (1.30%).

([45]) Shared fund management common system data for monitoring and evaluation cover local action groups selected in 2023: *n* = 1 775 out of an expected total of approximately 2 600 local action groups; data from 20 Member States on the number of women in decision-making bodies for local action groups. This information is available by local action group and by Member States. More data will be available by end of April 2025 for the local action groups selected in 2024.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of 2021-2025
Digital contribution	66.8	61.7	69.2	180.9	0.0	378.5	0.1%

Digitalisation of the agricultural sector and rural areas can be regarded as instrumental in strengthening their competitiveness and contributing to several sustainability-related policy objectives, including environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

The 2023-2027 CAP brings forward digitalisation in agriculture as it forms an inherent part of its cross-cutting objective on 'Modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas, and encouraging their uptake'. For the first time, Member States set out digitalisation strategies under their CAP strategic plans outlining how they intend to support the sustainable digital transformation of agriculture and rural areas under the CAP and in synergy with other programmes, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Connecting Europe Facility, Horizon Europe and the digital Europe programme.

The CAP supports digitalisation mainly through investments, but also though eco-schemes and agro-environmental-climate commitments. It also supports the expansion of broadband connectivity in rural areas, the development of digital skills, and advisory services on digital matters though knowledge exchange and cooperation.

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development made an important contribution to support broadband infrastructure and various ICT solutions in rural areas. This has had a positive effect on the quality of life of EU citizens, with nearly 13 million people living in rural areas benefiting from improved access to ICT services and infrastructure. In addition, smart villages initiatives are supported under Leader. The CAP also stimulates the digital transformation of public administrations, enabling the integration of digital technologies into agricultural administrative systems, such as the integrated administration and control system.

Methodology.

- **2021-2023.** Declared expenditure for focus area 6C on enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies in rural areas.
- **2024.** Data are retrieved from the annual performance for all interventions linked with R3 'Digitalising agriculture': share of farms benefiting from support for digital farming technology through CAP. Quantifying the exact amount of expenditure directly associated with the digital-related interventions is not feasible for the moment. Most of the interventions linked with R3 are also linked to other result indicators.

- **2024.** Data for 2024 are an estimate of the total gross realised expenditure (EU funds).

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Yes	The CAP is supporting productivity and efficiency gains, and thereby contributing to SDG 2.The EU school scheme supports the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk to schools across the European Union as part of a wider programme of education about European agriculture and the benefits of healthy eating. The consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and of milk in the EU does not meet international or national nutritional recommendations, while that of processed food that is often high in added sugar, salt, fat or additives is on the rise. Unhealthy diets, together with low physical activity, result in overweight and obesity. This is why the EU takes action to help children follow a healthy diet and lead healthy lifestyles. In the 2023/2024 school year, 18.0 million children benefited from this scheme, with a budget of EUR 200 million in 2025.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	

SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	The CAP offers explicit support for setting up, expanding and improving broadband infrastructure and for the provision of broadband internet access (i.e. improved connections to infrastructure) and access to e-government. The contribution from the CAP budget to the digital transition for the 2021-2024 period amounted to at least EUR 378 million (some support for digitalisation under the CAP cannot be tracked yet), as part of the EU's broader efforts to modernise and innovate agricultural practices and rural development. This allocation supports the implementation of digital technologies in areas such as precision farming, smart rural services and digital infrastructure development, contributing to the EU's goals for a more sustainable and competitive agricultural sector.

SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Yes	
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	
SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Yes	Recent production and market trends show the importance that the area of organics has gained over the last decade. Organic farming responds to specific consumer demand for sustainable food products, promoting more sustainable farming practices and contributing to the protection of the environment and improved animal welfare. The share of the EU's agricultural area under organic farming increased from 5.9% in 2012 to 10.8% in 2023, corresponding to an increase from 9.5 million to 17.4 million hectares, both conversion and maintenance. The financial allocation for specific area or animal-based payments for organic farming planned in the CAP Strategic Plans amounts to EUR 14.7 billion.

EUROPEAN MARITIME, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

6 397 fishing vessels benefited from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) between 2022 and 2024. 45% of the vessels supported belonged to the small-scale coastal fishing fleet.	231 businesses achieved a higher turnover with support from EMFAF between 2022 and 2024.	2 691 actions contributing to good environmental status were selected between 2022 and 2024. These include nature restoration, conservation, protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, and animal health and welfare.	2 009 tonnes per year of new production capacity has been created in fisheries and aquaculture since 2022.
115 new jobs have been created as a result of EMFAF support since 2022.	608 jobs have been maintained as a result of EMFAF support since 2022.	18 046 entities benefited from promotion and information activities with EMFAF support between 2022 and 2024.	

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	109.1	1 134.4	1 103.1	1 070.2	946.3	803.5	812.9	5 979.4
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**109.1**	**1 134.4**	**1 103.1**	**1 070.2**	**946.3**	**803.5**	**812.9**	**5 979.4**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	4 360.3	5 979.4	72.9%
Payments	1 128.6	0.0	18.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Businesses created	0	**2%**	491 in 2029	9 by 2024 compared to a target of 491	On track
Jobs maintained	0	**4%**	17 266 in 2029	624 by 2024 compared to a target of 17 266	On track
Persons benefiting	0	**8%**	177 415 in 2029	15 074 by 2024 compared to a target of 177 415	On track
Actions contributing to good environmental status, including nature restoration, conservation, protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, and animal health and welfare	0	**12%**	22 010 in 2029	2 691 by 2024 compared to a target of 22 010	On track
Energy consumption leading to carbon dioxide emissions reductions	0	**62%**	9.26 kWh per tonne litres/h in 2029	5.74 in 2024 compared to a target of 9.26	On track
Number of small and medium-sized enterprises supported	0	**36%**	14 000 in 2029	5 025 by 2024 compared to a target of 14 000	On track
Number of small-scale coastal fisheries vessels supported	0	**42%**	7 000 in 2029	2 905 compared to a target of 7 000	On track

Challenges in implementation

With the 2014-2020 programming period implementation phase completed, and with the transition to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund programme closure process, Member States were able to devote increased attention to EMFAF programme implementation in 2024. Accordingly, EMFAF support (committed funding) increased from 9% (EUR 560 million) to almost 25% (EUR 1 516 million) of the total fund allocation during the year. This can be further broken down into rates of 24% for shared management and 32% for direct and indirect management.

EMFAF expenditure (total eligible EMFAF expenditure declared by the final beneficiaries, as verified by the managing authority and on the basis of which the beneficiary will be paid) rose from 2% to just over 8% (EUR 505 million). In 2024, the number of operations increased substantially, from 3 883 to 17 527. The EMFAF midterm evaluation concludes that EMFAF 'appears to be more advanced than the [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund] in the middle of the programming period', signalling faster implementation.

Achievements and challenges regarding programme performance

The EMFAF midterm evaluation

The achievements and challenges relating to performance are directly connected to those of implementation. The EMFAF midterm evaluation, which assessed the position as of 30 June 2024, focused primarily on the progress up to that date, given that implementation was still at an early stage at that time.

The evaluation cited the effective level of stakeholder involvement during EMFAF programme preparation, but indicated that delivery systems could be simplified further at the Member State level. Increased legal flexibility in the Common Provisions Regulation (notably regarding audit and control requirements) and an improvement in the EMFAF monitoring system (most notably via enhanced indicators and associated guidance) were seen.

The evaluation also noted improved coherence between EMFAF and the common fisheries policy: EMFAF sets minimum targets for specific common fisheries policy areas, such as biodiversity protection and data collection and control, and offers increased aid intensity rates in key areas (in particular for the landing obligation, small-scale coastal fisheries and outermost regions). It also shows good alignment with other Common Provisions Regulation funds, common agricultural policy funds and LIFE programmes.

The evaluation found that, overall, EMFAF provides the incentives to support research, data collection and fisheries control and to facilitate the adoption of sustainable fishing practices, with programmes taking due account of the needs of local communities. Thanks to the investments made by fishers and national administrations, and through the support of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and subsequently of EMFAF, fishing has become more sustainable and far fewer

stocks are now overfished in the EU, but greater efforts are needed to restore stocks to healthy levels, including with the help of the fund.

EMFAF faces challenges, notably in terms of organisational capacity, the need for consistent training and skills development, especially at the national level, while there is still room to simplify and optimise the effectiveness of the delivery system and to address the social aspects and challenges of the sector.

Shared management implementation and indicators

EMFAF is making significant contributions in the areas of small-scale coastal fishing (EUR 274 million committed) and the landing obligation (EUR 174 million committed), and to other priorities.

Although the data remain limited, positive trends are seen across all indicators. The 2029 targets have been compiled using the targets set by Member States in their programmes. For some (e.g. the number of small and medium-sized enterprises supported, the number of vessels equipped with specific devices), progress has so far been very good. For others (e.g. jobs created and maintained, persons benefiting), the trend will become clearer over time.

The main challenge in assessing performance is the time lag between the receipt of validated data (from which anomalies have been identified and removed) and the (more recent) position on the ground as periodically reported by Member States. The latest provisional data, for 2025, are reassuring, as they show substantial increases, most notably in the first four indicators listed above, and thus significant progress in performance.

In 2025, a total of EUR 554.9 million was paid to the Member States under shared management (EUR 26.7 million in pre-financing and EUR 528.2 million in payments relating to cost claims).

Direct management implementation

The primary aim of operations implemented under direct and indirect management is to help fishing communities strengthen their resilience, to innovate and to adapt to the changing environment. This includes making better use of the support available through EU funding instruments. In particular, this covers support for innovation and the diversification of economic activities, support for the energy transition, and increased gear selectivity.

In 2025, all commitment appropriations under direct management were implemented. The initiatives supported were in the field of maritime policy, scientific advice, international ocean governance, regional fisheries organisations and activities delegated to the agencies under the umbrella of the United Nations.

For shared management at the level of specific objectives, the highest commitment rates can be observed for the specific objectives ‘Technical assistance’ and ‘Control and data collection’, respectively with 36% (in 2023, 15.4%) and 34% (in 2023, 14.6%) of the total available allocations provided for these specific objectives.

Under EMFAF **priority 1 (fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources)**, scientific advice is an essential element of decision-making under the common fisheries policy. The provision of scientific advice to the Commission and to some regional fisheries management organisations (notably the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission) has been ensured by renewing the various contractual arrangements in place, such as the grant agreement with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre and the 121 ad hoc contracts signed with the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries.

Regional fisheries management organisations are vital for promoting sustainable fisheries under international law. The EU's voluntary contributions to 17 regional fisheries management organisations have supported scientific knowledge, improved fisheries governance, enhanced compliance and helped combat illegal fishing.

Under EMFAF **priority 2 (fostering sustainable aquaculture activities and processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the EU)**, several initiatives were financed, including an Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (with a budget of EUR 1 210 030 over two years, from July 2024 to June 2026); continuing the operations of the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (with an annual budget of EUR 3 648 000, renewed automatically three times); and maintaining the information system on commercial designations of fishery and aquaculture products (with an annual budget of EUR 265 000, renewed automatically three times). The EU Aquaculture website offers information about different kinds of aquaculture in the Member States, but also a detailed knowledge database that makes results from relevant research projects available to the sector and the broader public. This should support further innovation and competitiveness in the sector. Two market-related projects (the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products and the information system on commercial designations of fishery and aquaculture products) allow the Commission to meet its legal obligation to provide market intelligence to the attention of stakeholders and policymakers, as provided for by Article 42 of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products.

Under **priority 3 (enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities)**, in 2025, the fund continued to finance the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Platform and the Blue Forum for sea users, aiming to hold a dialogue between stakeholders in different blue economy sectors to develop synergies between their activities and reconcile competing uses of the sea. The 2025 edition of European Maritime Day took place in Cork, Ireland, in May. The event, which brings together a wide range of European maritime stakeholders to discuss matters of common interest, has been running annually since 2008.

2025 saw the launch of four regional flagship projects supporting the sustainable blue economy in EU sea basins, focusing on smart specialisation and on regenerative ocean farming and algae innovation: Seagrow, ocean gardens, MED-Hubs and Atl.A-HUB.

The European Marine Observation and Data Network has continued to provide marine data on a findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable basis, resulting in annual benefits of between EUR 150 million and EUR 400 million through increased productivity and innovation for users of the data and reduced uncertainty on the state and dynamics of our seas and oceans.

In 2025, the Union also financed the blue economy observatory, which will continue to provide relevant economic analysis, data and knowledge.

Additional investments were mobilised under the InvestEU Programme, with the EMFAF contributing through blended financing alongside the EU guarantee. Since 2021, EMFAF has contributed the amount of EUR 77.5 million to a thematic financial instrument blended with guarantees under the InvestEU programme and contributions from the European Investment Bank for a sustainable blue economy. It is expected to leverage equity investment from other private and public investors for European blue-economy entrepreneurs by 2028.

Under **priority 4 (strengthening international ocean governance)**, the programme continued to promote the objectives of the EU's international ocean governance agenda by providing support to international organisations and regional and sectoral bodies that are active in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean. It also supported the implementation of the EU's Arctic policy, notably through the successful EU Arctic Forum and dialogues in June 2025 in Kittilä, Finland.

In 2025, EMFAF contributed to the ratification of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) through a grant to the Trust Fund of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. This enabled delegates from developing countries to attend the meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the BBNJ Treaty. In addition, financial support was provided to the interim Secretariat of the BBNJ (i.e. the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea) for its operation and for the organisation of four regional workshops to support ratification and early implementation.
https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htmThe BlueInvest Africa event in Togo in 2025 generated great interest, with pitching applications and business-to-business meetings. Entrepreneurs' feedback has been very positive, fostering a growing BlueInvest Africa community, which will lead to the development of a BlueInvest platform. The EU continued to support the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by promoting international instruments and tools, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization's Agreement on Port State Measures, the Compliance Agreement, the UN Fish Stock Agreement and guidelines relating to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Additionally, the EU enhanced the participation of developing countries in relevant meetings and assisted the Food and Agriculture Organization in advancing the Guidelines on Sustainable Aquaculture and cooperation on small-scale fisheries. During the year, the EU also signed an agreement with the World Bank to contribute to their Global Program for the Blue

Economy (ProBlue Trust Fund), with the aim of boosting the implementation of EU priorities in the field of the sustainable blue economy and ocean preservation.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	34.7	598.1	588.0	591.0	482.5	423.0	428.5	3 145.8	52.6%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	52.5	339.0	331.9	320.9	279.0	245.9	246.6	1 815.9	30.4%

EMFAF programmes do not finance taxonomy-relevant expenditure, as the programmes focus on the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the marine environment, with no corresponding fisheries categories covered by the Taxonomy Regulation. However, EMFAF is strongly linked with the preservation and restoration of marine biodiversity for healthy ecosystems. The most recent available data show that, of the EUR 2.9 billion envisaged as contributing to climate mainstreaming across all the EMFAF shared management programmes, EUR 1.3 billion has been committed and EUR 555 million spent. For biodiversity, almost EUR 1.5 billion has been allocated, EUR 653 million committed, and EUR 271 million spent. Furthermore, EMFAF is structured in such a way that all operations financed fall under the 'do no significant harm' principle on which the taxonomy is based.

As of December 2024, 6 118 operations under shared management, worth EUR 600 million, were reported by Member States as dealing with climate change (2023: 883 operations worth EUR 180 million). The contribution of EMFAF to EU climate and environmental objectives is tracked through the application of environmental and climate markers and reported on regularly within the monitoring framework of the fund.

In relation to biodiversity, management and monitoring of marine protected areas has received the largest tranche of support, followed by restocking of aquatic species. Retrieval and disposal of marine litter continue to rank highly. Regarding operations on climate change, investments in sustainable aquaculture continue to feature strongly, but have been eclipsed by operations in respect of permanent and temporary cessation (the latter two areas account for over half (3 129) of the 611 operations cited above).

Under the operations implemented through direct and indirect management, EUR 217 million is expected to contribute to climate change objectives (in 2021-2027), and EUR 329 million for biodiversity (in the same period) mainly driven by maritime policy, regional fisheries management

organisation grants and scientific advice action. EMFAF does not have objectives relating to clean air. No data are available in this respect.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.5
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	109.1	1 134.4	1 100.6	1 070.2	946.3	4 360.6
Total:	109.1	1 134.4	1 103.1	1 070.2	946.3	4 363.1

(*) Based on the applied gender contribution methodology, the following scores are attributed at the most granular level of intervention possible:

- 2: interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality;
- 1: interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention;
- 0: non-targeted interventions (interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality);
- 0*: score to be assigned to interventions with a likely but not yet clear positive impact on gender equality.

As of December 2024, Member States reported the contribution to gender equality at EUR 218 million (committed) and EUR 33 million (paid to beneficiaries) under EMFAF (shared management and direct and indirect management). 1 834 operations were concerned.

Gender inequality in the fisheries sector is influenced by the following factors:

- the participation of women and men in fisheries subsectors;
- women's invisible work in the fisheries sector;
- women's participation in decision-making.

The EU's fisheries policy promotes sustainable fish stocks and sustainable marine ecosystems as a precondition for a competitive European fishing industry. Although the gender-equality dimension is not present in EMFAF in the form of gender-specific objectives and measurable gender

commitments, the fund covers broader gender-related aspects in line with the equality provisions set out in the Common Provisions Regulation.

Of the two 'women in the blue economy' projects supported under direct management since May 2023 for a total amount of EUR 2.57 million, the project WIN-BLUE was completed in July 2025, while WIN-BIG is expected to be fully implemented by end of September 2026.

Of the EMFAF support provided as of December 2024 (EUR 1 517 million), 90% (EUR 1 372 million) was provided to legal persons. The EUR 145 million of support for natural persons comprised EUR 120 million for those who defined themselves as male, EUR 14 million for those defining themselves as female, EUR 5 million for non-defined and, with EUR 6 million attributable to multiple individuals. In terms of the number of operations, however, 43% were attributed to natural persons, with a predominance of male beneficiaries.

Gender disaggregated information
n/a

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	4.5	95.1	92.1	87.9	78.0	357.6	8.2%

The digital contribution envisaged for EMFAF to EUR 453 million, or 9%, of the total allocation to the Member States (for the 2021-2027 programming period). The digital contribution relating to EMFAF operational expenditure under direct and indirect management is estimated at EUR 33 million (for the same period).

Most of the commitments were made to actions supporting control and enforcement; to data collection and analysis, and the promotion of marine knowledge; and to maritime surveillance and security.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

Not applicable.

Contribution to reforms

Not applicable.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	YES	See SDG 2 below.

SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	YES	By promoting the conservation of the marine living resources and the protection of the marine ecosystem, EMFAF contributes to the sustainability of the EU fisheries sector's production of healthy, high-quality food, and thus to SDG 2 and SDG 3. One example concerns the transformation of local trout, tuna, and line-caught mackerel into high-value smoked products and zero-waste rillettes, creating reliable seafood protein sources for regional gastronomy and international markets amid global food scarcity pressures. The company diversifies sustainable fish utilisation, boosting its turnover growth by 32% while supporting small-scale fishers and coastal food security through short supply chains. The project fosters stakeholder cooperation across local fisheries, processing, and culinary sectors.
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	YES	See above, SDG 2.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	YES	See the section on gender equality above.

SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	YES	The main objective of EMFAF is to support the implementation of the common fisheries policy and the integrated maritime policy, thereby contributing first and foremost to SDG 14. One example is a project that protects marine ecosystems by creating artificial reef habitats that rapidly attract 50+ fish species and benthic organisms, relieving fishing pressure through strict bans while generating EUR 200 000 in annual diving tourism revenue. The patented reefs spark marine revival on degraded sandy bottoms, combining research from Hellenic Centre for Marine Research with coastal entrepreneurship to enhance biodiversity and sustainable blue growth.

RFMOs and SFPAs

REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Concrete examples of achievements

96% of conservation measures adopted by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) in 2025 for the management of the stocks under their purview were in line with scientific advice.	19 out of 20 tuna and tuna-like stocks targeted by the EU fleet in 2025 were fished at a sustainable level.	21 500 jobs are created or maintained through sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) each year (6 500 direct, 15 000 indirect).	30% of estimated spending under SFPAs was used directly to support sustainable fisheries policies in non-EU countries.
91% of stocks are not experiencing overfishing.	87% of the total commercial tuna catch comes from stocks at healthy levels of abundance.		

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	151.6	159.3	116.8	129.9	117.1	160.5	175.6	1 010.8
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**151.6**	**159.3**	**116.8**	**129.9**	**117.1**	**160.5**	**175.6**	**1 010.8**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	674.6	1 010.8	66.7%
Payments	650.3	0.0	64.3%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Sustainable fisheries agreements in force	12	**43%**	15 annually from 2026 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2023, not in 2024 and 2025 (2025: 12 compared to a milestone of 14)	On track
Fishing possibilities for EU vessels – tuna	129	**71%**	150 annually from 2026 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 145.4 compared to a milestone of 140)	On track
Fishing possibilities for EU vessels – mixed	264	**57%**	300 annually from 2026 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2023 and 2025, not in 2024 (2025: 281 compared to a milestone of 280)	On track
Conservation measures based on scientific advice adopted, for all species under the purview of RFMOs of which the EU is a member	0	**80%**	90% annually from 2021 to 2025, except for 2024 where the target was 95%	Milestones achieved for 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025, not 2023 (2025: 96% compared to a milestone of 90%)	On track
Sustainable management of emblematic tuna and tuna-like species as per relevant scientific advice; in particular, highly significant tuna and tuna-like species are fished at sustainable levels	17	**100%**	19 in 2025	19 in 2025 compared to a target of 19	Achieved

Overall, the EU remains one of the key drivers of progress in RFMOs, increasing their performance with concrete proposals. The EU's voluntary contributions to RFMOs played a key role in their provision of scientific advice.

The EU budget continued to deliver on the commitment of the EU to achieve more sustainable fisheries worldwide: for the current reporting period, 50 out of 52 conservation measures adopted by RFMOs for key species fished by the EU fleet were in line with scientific advice (i.e. 96% of all conservation measures adopted by RFMOs of which the EU is a member). This result shows an improvement since 2023 (88%) and is above the target of 90%.

In total, 19 out of 20 tuna and tuna-like stocks fished by the EU fleet are in good shape. This is set against an overall context whereby, in 2025, 65% of tuna and tuna-like stocks were at a healthy level of abundance, 9% were overfished and 26% were at an intermediate level. In terms of exploitation, 91% of the stocks are not experiencing overfishing, 4% are experiencing overfishing and 4% are at an intermediate level. In relation to catch, 87% of the total catch comes from healthy stocks in terms of abundance. This is because skipjack stocks contribute to more than half of the global catch of tuna, and most of this fish stock is in a healthy state. Regarding exploitation, 90% of the total catch comes from stocks that are not experiencing overfishing.

Regarding SFPAs, the general objective has been to implement and renew the network of agreements and active protocols to contribute towards resource conservation and the sustainable exploitation of marine resources in the waters of the partner non-EU countries, and to promote continuity in the activities of the EU's long-distance fishing fleet in non-EU waters, while supporting the development of a sustainable fisheries sector in the partner countries.

On some occasions, negotiations took longer than expected because the financial expectations of the partner countries could not be met, which implied some disruption in the activities of the EU fleet in these territorial waters. The fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing also had an impact. For example, the renegotiation of the protocol with Senegal was suspended due to the identification of Senegal as a non-cooperating country. Finally, certain protocols (e.g. regarding Morocco ([46])) were impacted by judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union, which also led to the interruption of fishing activities.

In the context of the implementation of the protocols, which is an important part of the programme's performance and concerns both access conditions for EU vessels and the monitoring of sectoral support, joint committee meetings were held regularly with all partner countries.

Direct employment generated by SFPAs includes crew on board EU vessels benefiting from fishing opportunities in SFPAs and covers both EU and non-EU nationals. In 2025, this employment had an annual average of 6 500, including 3 650 EU nationals and 2 850 nationals of non-EU countries. As for indirect jobs, the activities of EU vessels under SFPAs are estimated to support an additional

([46]) Judgment of the Court of Justice of 27 February 2018, **Western Sahara Campaign UK**, C-266/16, ECLI:EU:C:2018:118, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62016CJ0266&qid=1776172606271.

annual average of 15 000 jobs in the fish processing sector of the partner non-EU countries, 9 000 of which are jobs for women. SFPA protocols have also reinforced the provisions regarding the social dimension of fishing and the social rights benefiting fishers.

The horizontal SFPA study completed in 2023 shows that SFPAs generate substantial revenue for the EU and the partner countries. A percentage of the catches made within the framework of SFPAs is landed in non-EU countries, where the catch is processed, thus generating added value for the local economy and job opportunities. Certain SFPAs were also able to generate economic benefits for the partner countries in sectors such as shipyards and port activities.

Regarding the budget implementation, 5.5% of the 2025 commitments (all of which have now been paid) was spent on paying membership fees to RFMOs. The rest of the appropriations were spent on fishing access for the EU fleet to the waters of non-EU countries, mostly in West Africa and in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and on contributing to the sustainable development of their local fishing activities.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	15.7	17.7	9.5	9.3	0.0	22.3	22.3	106.0	10.5%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	18.8	21.1	13.3	15.3	16.4	26.3	26.4	137.5	13.6%

Climate change

The actions financed by the European Commission support the integration of climate change considerations in the management of the marine biological resources and their ecosystems, with the final objective of promoting their adaptation and resilience to climate change, in RFMOs and at a bilateral level through SFPAs.

Climate change considerations are, where appropriate and available, incorporated into the scientific and stock management discussions in RFMOs. They are also incorporated into the SFPAs.

In total, in the 2021-2027 period, SFPAs and RFMOs will contribute an estimated EUR 109.9 million to this priority. The contribution of the SFPAs represents 40% of the sectoral support, whereas the contribution of the RFMOs represents 40% of the total amount allocated.

Biodiversity

The actions financed by the European Commission in RFMOs are consistent with the objectives of the EU biodiversity strategy to conserve marine stocks, prevent the loss of biodiversity and protect fragile ecosystems. RFMOs promote the sustainability of the stocks and their ecosystem. This includes not only the sustainable management of targeted species, but the implementation of mitigation measures for by-catch species (turtles, vulnerable shark species, rays, seabirds, etc.) and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (e.g. corals).

An area where the EU actions on climate change and biodiversity come together is the support for the development of management procedures and management strategy evaluation frameworks for key fish stocks, that are robust to uncertainties, including those introduced or exacerbated by climate change. In that regard, the EU will promote the development of dedicated robustness tests that could provide meaningful proxies for designing future management procedures that are resilient to stressors driven by climate change.

Likewise, SFPAs support some actions to enhance the scientific capacity of non-EU countries in areas covering both the conservation of marine resources and the assessment of the effect of climate change, with concrete measures regarding, for example, the management of marine protected areas.

In addition, actions supported through the sectoral support component of SFPAs promote long-term resource conservation, ecosystem protection measures, the fight against illegal fishing and the sustainable development of our partners' local fisheries sector, with a positive effect on biodiversity.

In total, in the 2021-2027 period, SFPAs and RFMOs will contribute an estimated EUR 137.5 million to this priority. The contribution of the SFPAs represents 40% of the sectoral support, whereas the contribution of the RFMOs represents 100% of the total amount allocated.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	151.6	159.3	116.8	129.9	117.1	674.7
Total:	151.6	159.3	116.8	129.9	117.1	674.7

(*) Based on the applied gender contribution methodology, the following scores are attributed at the most granular level of intervention possible:

2: interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality;

1: interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention;

0: non-targeted interventions (interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality);

0*: score to be assigned to interventions with a likely but not yet clear positive impact on gender equality.

Gender-disaggregated information.
Not available.

Contribution to the digital transition

RFMOs and SFPAs do not target projects with a digital component.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	YES	The programme promotes the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for example by improving management measures adopted following scientific advice and by promoting healthy tuna stocks in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and through the governance framework established by SFPAs with a number of non-EU countries.

LIFE

PROGRAMME FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Concrete examples of achievements

About 5 000 000 cubic metres of water are saved every year.	Over 5 000 000 citizens are breathing cleaner air across Europe.	Over 14 000 000 tonnes fewer greenhouse gas emissions have been produced.	Over 8 000 gigawatt-hours of energy are saved every year.
3 600 000 citizens are less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.	Over 2 000 000 hectares of natural habitats have been restored by LIFE projects	Over 3 000 gigawatt-hours more renewable energy is produced every year.	500 000 kilograms less dangerous chemicals are being used per year.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	738.8	755.5	758.4	767.7	782.3	813.6	845.7	5 462.1
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	3.6	0.0	0.0	8.8
Total	**739.9**	**756.6**	**759.8**	**769.3**	**786.0**	**813.6**	**845.7**	**5 470.7**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	3 808.4	5 470.7	69.6%
Payments	1 528.0	0.0	27.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Population benefiting from an improvement in air quality	2.5 million	**> 100%**	4.6 million in 2030	5.3 million by 2025 compared to a target of 4.6 million	Achieved
Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes of CO_2 equivalent per year)	12 million	**47%**	16.5 million in 2030	14.1 million by 2025 compared to a target of 16.5 million	On track
Population benefiting from a reduction in their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change	1.7 million	**> 100%**	3.1 million in 2030	3.6 million by 2025 compared to target of 3.1 million	Achieved
Additional annual renewable energy production (gigawatts per year)	0	**71%**	4 463 in 2030	3 153 by 2025 compared to a target of 4 463	On track
Habitats where loss of biodiversity is being halted or reversed (hectares)	1.6 million	**30%**	3.1 million in 2030	2 million by 2025 compared to a target of 3.1 million	On track
Additional annual primary energy savings (gigawatts/year)	0	**99%**	8 344 in 2030	8 332 by 2025 compared to a target of 8 344	On track
Reduction in the production and use of dangerous chemicals (kilograms per year)	300 000	**78%**	543 121 in 2030	489 205 by 2025 compared to a target of 543 121	On track
Area of land with improving soil quality (hectares)	4 200	**> 100%**	7 500 in 2030	10 637 by 2025 compared to a target of 7 500	Achieved

LIFE comprises four subprogrammes: (1) nature and biodiversity; (2) circular economy and quality of life; (3) climate change mitigation and adaptation; and (4) clean energy transition.

In 2021-2024, the LIFE programme financed around 900 projects that mobilised more than EUR 4.3 billion, including EUR 2.4 billion of LIFE funds and EUR 1.9 billion from other sources.

In 2025, the programme saw a record level of demand, reaching around 1 100 applications across all subprogrammes, with increases of 125% for circular economy and quality of life, 56% for nature and biodiversity, 38% for climate mitigation and adaptation and 35% for clean energy transition, compared to 2023. The overall EU funding requested exceeded EUR 3.1 billion, including EUR 940 million each for nature and biodiversity and for circular economy and quality of life, EUR 600 million for climate mitigation and adaptation and about EUR 660 million for clean energy transition.

The nature and biodiversity subprogramme has financed 170 projects, contributing to improved conditions for around 560 wild species and more than 2 million hectares of habitats. Notable examples include the EUR 4.8 million mosaic of LIFE project, restoring over 550 hectares of grassland habitats across eight Natura 2000 sites in Croatia; the EUR 8.5 million LIFE riverflow project, improving river connectivity across eight rivers in Latvia and restoring over 1 034 km of waterways; and the EUR 17 million Repeat project, restoring 1 044 hectares of raised bogs and fens in three Natura 2000 sites in the Hannover region.

In response to the calls for proposals from 2021 to 2024, the circular economy and quality of life programme funded 180 projects focused on resource efficiency, air and soil quality, water resilience and the management of waste and dangerous chemicals. These projects represent an investment exceeding EUR 1 billion, with LIFE contributing EUR 530 million. They include innovative initiatives aimed at advancing circular economy practices, such as solutions for plastics, textiles, waste management and the recovery of critical raw materials. These include innovative initiatives such as the EUR 5.7 million Sircular project, which will pioneer a new industrial-scale technology to recycle end-of-life solar panels, recovering high-purity silicon and silver that are usually lost. By combining innovative physical and hydrometallurgical processes, the project intends to turn waste into valuable raw materials while drastically cutting energy, water use and carbon dioxide emissions. This solution contributes to Europe's circular economy and will allow new sustainability standards to be set for the fast-growing solar sector. Other examples include the EUR 3 million waste4growth project, which aims to transform insect farm waste into high-value biostimulating organic fertilisers, unlocking the hidden potential of insect frass, which is an unused insect farm by-product. Through an innovative recycling and microbial enrichment process, the project aims to convert 1 500 tonnes of frass per year into products that improve soil health, boost crop resilience and replace synthetic fertilisers. This scalable solution is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create green jobs and strengthen Europe's circular and climate-resilient agriculture. The EUR 2.8 million Hermes project will test in situ an innovative on-site solution to permanently stabilise mercury in contaminated soils, avoiding excavation and transport risks. The technology will be demonstrated at former major European mining sites in Spain and Italy. It is expected to reduce mercury leaching by over 90% and to drastically cut air and groundwater pollution. By

restoring polluted land and enabling safe revegetation, the project has the potential to turn toxic legacy sites into valuable, reusable territories.

Since the beginning of the programming cycle (2021-2024 calls), the **climate change mitigation and adaptation subprogramme** has financed 123 projects, including 112 standard action projects and 11 strategic integrated projects. Across the programming period, this corresponds to a total project value of EUR 681 million and a requested EU contribution of EUR 399.2 million. The projects selected in 2025 from the 2024 calls for proposals include 24 standard action projects, which will receive EUR 66 million, and two strategic projects, which will receive EUR 25.8 million. Calls for standard action projects and strategic projects launched in 2025 are set to award EUR 61.5 million and EUR 30 million respectively to successful proposals.

Successful projects under the climate change mitigation and adaptation subprogramme include the NEW HYTS project, which is receiving EUR 4.6 million in funding. It will demonstrate the possibilities for the local production, distribution and use of green hydrogen for road transport in the Netherlands, helping create the right conditions for a rapid uptake of green-hydrogen-fuelled heavy-duty vehicles of different kinds. Another remarkable initiative is the EUR 1.9 million Flopres project, which is set to develop participatory decision-making processes in Poland and Slovakia for the management of water risks and disasters, based on up-to-date information, increased knowledge and strengthened collaboration among stakeholders, experts and the public.

Finally, the clean energy transition subprogramme received 309 eligible proposals, with a total value of EUR 433 million and a requested EU contribution of EUR 408 million (94%), representing an increase of more than 13% compared to 2024 and a substantial increase of 38% compared to 2023.

Since its inception in 2021, this subprogramme has funded 267 projects, with a total EU contribution of EUR 427 million addressing capacity building, investment mobilisation and market uptake to support the clean energy transition.

One such initiative is the EUR 1.8 million Exquisheat project, creating a framework to standardise heat pump solutions for the food industry across six countries, with at least 20 new installations, aiming at strengthening EU competitiveness and manufacturing capacity of strategic net-zero technologies. Other examples include the EUR 1.8 million IncentEU project, supporting new district heating and cooling networks in Tallinn (Estonia), Barcelona (Spain) and Strasbourg (France) using low-temperature renewables and waste heat; the EUR 1.7 million BAIL-RENOV project, building an integrated service for property owners in France with a renovation one-stop shop, end-to-end support and tailored financing; and the EUR 1.8 million SHINE project, equipping local and regional authorities with operational support services to expand energy communities in four pilot countries and 11 ambassador countries.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Total**	**% of the total envelope**
Climate mainstreaming	440.4	434.7	457.8	463.9	421.6	468.7	485.6	3 172.7	58.1%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	353.3	382.6	393.4	377.3	387.2	404.5	433.7	2 732.0	50.0%

The LIFE programme is the European Union's dedicated financial instrument for environment, nature, and climate action. Over more than three decades, it has served as a catalyst for the implementation of EU environmental and climate legislation, supporting the transition toward a sustainable, climate-neutral, and nature-positive Europe.

LIFE finances projects that accelerate decarbonisation, protect and restore ecosystems, promote sustainable resource use, and support the shift toward clean energy. A defining strength of the programme lies in the synergies it fosters between climate and nature objectives, recognising that biodiversity loss and climate change are deeply interconnected and that solutions addressing both simultaneously generate the most durable outcomes. LIFE plays a particularly important role in bridging the gap between policy ambition and on-the-ground implementation, supporting public authorities, businesses, non-governmental organisations and civil society in all Member States and, increasingly, in a few candidate countries.

As clarified in the LIFE multiannual work programme for 2025-2027, and in line with the LIFE Regulation, the Commission seeks to ensure that each action financed by the LIFE programme lives up to the green oath to 'do no harm' and does not undermine any of the objectives of the other LIFE subprogrammes, while looking for the development of synergies with other programmes and policies with a view to pursuing a holistic vision of the environment.

A significant share of LIFE funding is directed toward activities qualifying as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy Regulation, contributing to the six environmental objectives defined by the Taxonomy framework without causing significant harm to others. For instance, the LIFE programme launches call every year under the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and the Clean Energy Transition Subprogrammes, which specifically target two of the six EU Taxonomy objectives.

While an evaluation at programme level would be necessary, it is assumed that all standard action projects (except those targeting climate and environment governance and information) are taxonomy relevant, as they provide a substantial direct contribution to the Taxonomy environmental objectives. Therefore, based on a high-level analysis all standard action projects are considered as a first approximation to LIFE expenditure that is relevant to Taxonomy1.

The results delivered by LIFE are substantial and measurable. On climate, LIFE projects have achieved a reduction of 14 162 593 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent per year, annual primary energy savings of 8 332 gigawatt-hours, and additional renewable energy production of 3 153 gigawatt-hours per year. Over 3.5 million citizens have benefitted from reduced vulnerability to climate change.

On nature and biodiversity, biodiversity loss has been halted or reversed across 2 048 647 hectares of habitats, and 557 species have benefitted from conservation efforts.

Beyond these figures, LIFE has generated significant multiplier effects, catalysing additional investment, influencing policy frameworks, and producing transferable methodologies replicated across Member States.

Notwithstanding these achievements, the programme faces several challenges, as covered below.

- The available funding remains modest relative to the overall investment gap and the number of competing priorities. As a result, many good proposals cannot be supported – leaving expectations unmet, stakeholders frustrated and promising initiatives without support.
- The capacity to absorb funding effectively continues to pose challenges in certain Member States.
- The transition between programming periods, compounded by ongoing negotiations on the multiannual finance framework, creates operational uncertainty that requires proactive management, with the post-2027 framework that is not fully clarified.
- Measuring and communicating impact at programme level requires improvement. Significant results – such as governance improvements, knowledge transfer, and catalytic effects – remain largely invisible in aggregate reporting.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	2.1	2.5	1.0	2.1	1.9	9.6

0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	736.7	753.0	757.4	765.6	780.4	3 793.1
Total:	738.8	755.5	758.4	767.7	782.3	3 802.7

While the LIFE programme's primary focus is on climate and environment, rather than gender equality as such, a gender dimension is nonetheless considered where relevant. In certain areas of intervention, understanding how men and women relate differently to environmental, climate and energy issues – such as exposure to harmful chemicals including endocrine disruptors and persistent organic pollutants, unequal vulnerability to climate impacts, and disparities in access to and benefits from the clean energy transition – helps to identify and address specific gender vulnerabilities. The gender equality perspective can also be included as component of multidimensional projects. An example is GENDER4POwer project (which mobilises EUR 2.0 million), a project that focuses on contrasting energy poverty by piloting gender-responsive, citizen-driven building renovations, across six countries, in alignment with the Gender Equality Strategy and the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Gender-disaggregated information

- Given that collecting data on contributions to gender equality would generally require a level of granularity that does not align with the principle of proportionality, gender-disaggregated data are not systematically collected, except in cases where gender equality constitutes a significant focus of a project as a whole.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	11.0	7.5	6.0	0.0	2.8	27.3	0.7%

While the LIFE programme's primary focus remains on environmental, climate and clean energy objectives, it increasingly contributes to the digital transition by supporting projects that harness digital technologies as enablers of more effective and scalable solutions. Digital tools – including remote sensing, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and digital monitoring platforms – are being integrated into LIFE-funded projects to improve the collection and use of environmental data, enhance the management of ecosystems and natural resources, optimise energy systems, and strengthen climate monitoring and reporting capacities. Concerning specifically clean energy transition projects, the EUR 1.8 million LiveBetter project puts emphasis on the digital transition. The project aims at accelerating digital transformation and decarbonisation of the building sector by piloting a dedicated platform and Artificial Intelligence based services for certification, inspection, performance management, renovation and demand-response activation, across six countries.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP):

Not applicable.

Contribution to reforms

- The LIFE programme plays a key role in supporting environmental reform across EU Member States, primarily by helping to translate EU-level environmental and climate strategies into concrete national action.
- At the heart of this effort, LIFE Strategic Projects were specifically created to catalyse the implementation of EU environmental and climate plans and strategies at the Member State level.
- Such projects help Member States make better and more coordinated use of other EU funding sources, including agricultural, structural, regional and research funds, as well as national funds and private sector investments.
- In addition, they strengthen the strategic capacities of authorities and stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability of project actions and results

- The European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 25/2025 on LIFE Strategic Projects recognised their role in bridging the gap between strategy and implementation, specifically acknowledging their role in involving key stakeholders, mobilising additional funding, and promoting continuity even in the face of national policy shifts and budgetary uncertainty — thereby underscoring their significance in advancing the EU's environmental and climate objectives.
- In this context, the draft Council conclusions on the Special Report further acknowledged the importance of LIFE Strategic Projects in supporting the implementation of the EU's environmental and climate plans and the strategies of each Member State, and call upon the Commission to reflect on the effectiveness and added value of both the Strategic Projects and the LIFE programme, recognising the successful results they have achieved so far.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere	The LIFE programme does not aim to **end poverty**. However, some projects may include activities directed at not leaving anyone behind and/or to promote social justice in reaching climate neutrality.	The 'Addressing local energy poverty through the creation of energy renovation offices' (ReHABITA) project aims to alleviate energy poverty by promoting deep energy renovations of energy inefficient homes of vulnerable families in municipalities Spain, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia and Croatia. It deploys one-stop-shops (the ReHABITA Offices) to deliver integrated home renovation services, guiding citizens through the process of energy-refurbishing their houses. The objective is to renovate 500 dwellings, providing benefits to 1 250 citizens through these renovation works and generating a 37% reduction or 2 144 MWh/year in energy consumption per household.
SDG2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	The LIFE programme promotes **sustainable agriculture** in some of its projects.	The main objective of the 'LIFE TRIPLET: Digitalisation of efficient fertigation management for a sustainable agriculture' (LIFE TRIPLET) project is to implement, demonstrate and disseminate a digital crop-monitoring tool to optimise the sustainable fertigation strategy and to promote its large-scale use in woody crops in water-scarce Mediterranean agroecosystems. The project will test the tool on farms in different regions of Spain, integrating Artificial Intelligence techniques as well as real-time pest and disease monitoring in the pilot plots. The project expects the proposed technology to reduce production costs by more than 10% through saving water, energy and nutrients, while also increasing crop yields by 20%.

SDG3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	The LIFE programme aims to **ensure healthy lives**, as it supports pollution reduction.	The 'innovative technologies to monitor and reduce non-exhaust emissions, particles and microplastics of vehicles and pavements to improve air quality and human health' (Neeve) project focuses on improving air quality by reducing the emissions from wearing down motor vehicle brake pads, tires, roads themselves, and unsettling of particles on the road (non-exhaust emissions). These pollutants contribute significantly to particulate matter concentrations in the air and pose environmental and health risks. The project develops and demonstrates innovative methods for measuring and reducing these emissions, including by designing, developing and testing low-polluting vehicle and road components like brake pads/discs. The project will also implement strategies to promote and replicate the innovations across the EU.
SDG4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	LIFE promotes **lifelong learning**, specifically on sustainable practices and green skills. Several projects implement knowledge sharing, awareness raising and training activities.	The project BUILD UP Skills United (BUSUnited) is a collaborative initiative under the Clean Energy Transition subprogramme. It builds upon the success of the Buildskills projects, which support training and qualification initiatives for the energy transition, particularly addressing energy efficiency in buildings, heating and cooling, and on-site renewable energy. Such projects are implemented inter alia in Ireland, Spain, France, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Austria and Poland The BUSUnited project aims to create a community of practice (CoP), integrating previous efforts and enhancing the capacity of national and EU-level stakeholders through coordinated knowledge sharing, capacity building, and cross-sectoral collaboration. The project starts with a pilot of 10 CoPs focused on critical areas such as sectoral skills needs, demand-side mechanisms and national skills roll-out, resulting in outputs such as guidelines, training tools, policy briefs, funding recommendations, and digital platforms to support the dissemination and uptake of best practices

SDG6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	LIFE aims to **ensure sustainable water management**, as it supports pollution prevention, the climate-resilient, sustainable use and management of water, and the improvement of the ecological status of water bodies.	The 'desalination for environmental sustainability and LIFE' (Desalife) project aims to demonstrate and validate a groundbreaking zero-emission desalination technology using wave energy. The project pilots a small fleet of innovative devices called 'desalination buoys' at the Arucas-Moya desalination plant in the Canary Islands. Each buoy is expected to produce 500 cubic metres of fresh water per day. With four buoys operational by the end of the project, they will produce 2 000 cubic metres of fresh water daily – equivalent to the daily water consumption of approximately 15 000 households. The project thus supports equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, to address water scarcity, and to share knowledge and build capacity in developing countries regarding water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes.
SDG7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	LIFE aims to **ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**, specifically thanks to its subprogramme for the clean energy transition.	The 'consumers leading the EU's energy ambition response through uptake of heat pumps' (Clear-HP) project aims to facilitate consumers' access to heat pumps – a decarbonised solution for heating. The project accompanies consumers throughout the whole purchasing journey and addresses financial and regulatory barriers. The project engages at least 43 000 consumers in collective purchase campaigns across seven countries and brings them together with European and international consumer organisations and heat pump associations to empower consumers for the clean energy transition. They provide information on the availability and suitability of heat pumps for their homes; identify available financing opportunities; develop partnerships with heat pump suppliers and installers; launch collective purchase schemes; and upskill installers of heat pumps. The project triggers EUR 3.5 million of new investments in renewable energy sources technologies, two gigawatt hours of primary energy savings, and reductions of 639 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in greenhouse gas emissions within the project duration.

SDG8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	LIFE is a catalyst for investments in innovative green businesses that will help generate more jobs, both directly and indirectly, and thereby contribute **sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth**.	
SDG9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	LIFE aims to **foster innovation** by catalysing investments into innovative green solutions.	The 'BIOfabricated cellulose for personal CARE and quality of LIFE' (BIOCARE4LIFE) project proposes a new cost-effective, biobased and biodegradable substance, EcoFLEXY, to replace fossil-based carbomers (also known as microplastics) to be used in the personal care industry. The project focuses on scaling production, optimising processes, and securing commercial validation of EcoFLEXY. By the project's end, EcoFLEXY will prevent the release of 259 tons of microplastic annually, with this figure rising to 1 289 tons per year by 2034. The project supports the transition for a circular economy as well as the elimination of hazardous chemicals to human health (i.e. carbomers), the protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems from microplastics and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

SDG10 Reduce inequalities within and among countries	In specific cases, LIFE can help to **reduce inequalities within and among countries** by supporting adequate policies, laws and regulations responding to the environment, climate and energy emergencies and tackling economic and social injustice.	The 'Public Building Renovation Accelerator Network' (RENOVA) project aims to support small and medium-sized public authorities in overcoming competence and organisational barriers to public building renovation in Italy. It proposes the establishment of a national network of local hubs, starting with four pilots in Vincenza, Rome, Naples and Brindisi, with a central hub for support. The local hubs will deliver standardised, high-quality supportive services to public authorities, covering technical, legal, and financial aspects, and promote industrialised renovation solutions and Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs). Until its end, the project estimates to engage 50 municipalities as well as promote the renovation of 14 public buildings (residential, educational) to nearly-Zero energy/Zero-emission standards, with potential to reach 1 835 buildings within 5 years post-project. The project will trigger EUR 14.4 million investments during implementation, scaling to EUR 2 000 million within 5 years.
SDG11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	LIFE aims to **make cities and human settlements more resilient and sustainable**.	The 'beautifying cities through nature: implementation of biodiversity-friendly NBS framed by the New European Bauhaus in 3 pilot neighbourhoods of Spain, Italy and Hungary' (Seedneb) project applies solutions of the New European Bauhaus and nature-based solutions in three municipalities: Lorquí (Spain), Potenza (Italy) and Dunaújváros (Hungary). The project will demonstrate urban strategies and onsite interventions based on nature, such as green roofs and facades. These can foster biodiversity, reduce the impact of heat waves and improve the well-being of their residents. The project will re-naturalise three buildings and their surroundings (cultural centre, private housing block, school), provide technical and administrative for the implementation of nature-based solutions in private buildings, develop local communication strategies to raise close-to-nature behaviour and increase capacity while involving citizens.
SDG12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	LIFE aims to **ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**, specifically through its subprogramme circular economy and quality of life.	The main objective of the 'fibre to fibre full circularity in the textile sector through novel polyester recycling technologies' (Politex) project is to reduce and eliminate the amount of polyester textiles that are currently sent to landfills or incinerated, thereby moving to a more circular textile production process. The project implements new recycling methodologies for polyester polyethylene terephthalate and processes to depolymerise polyester textiles into their basic constituents.

SDG13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	LIFE aims **to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**, specifically through its subprogramme climate change adaptation and mitigation.	The 'Fast recharging energy service everywhere on the road' (FREESVEE) project supports the transition to electric mobility by offering high-level technology solutions for public ultra-fast charging of electric vehicles anywhere. Through the deployment of two different solutions for charging stations, both in highly and sparsely populated areas, with or without grid connection, the project will reduce the costs of deploying infrastructure for sustainable mobility, thus accelerating the energy transition away from fossil fuels in road transport. It is expected to contribute to renewable energy production – more specifically 314.78 gigawatt-hours/year – by the end of the project.
SDG14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	LIFE aims to enhance the **conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development** by specific projects on nature and biodiversity.	The project 'Improving connectivity, hydrology, habitats and water resilience in aquatic ecosystems' (ImproveAquaticLIFE) supports Sweden in improving the conservation status of species and habitats listed in the Habitats Directive and reach a 'good' ecological status as defined by the Water Framework Directive and Marine Framework Directive. The project covers 20 catchments, 4 coastal areas, 67 Natura 2000 sites and 9 County Administrative Boards across 15.5% of the entire country. By carrying out large-scale restoration work across river basins and coastal areas in southern Sweden, the project is expected to restore over 135 hectares of habitats and species to a more natural conditions and contribute to creating blue-green infrastructure covering more than 1.3% of the EU target to restore 25 000 km of free-flowing rivers by 2030.

SDG15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	LIFE aims to **protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertificatio n, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**, specifically through its subprogramme on nature and biodiversity.	The 'Model care for forest habitats and species associated with forest habitats and trees' (LIFE Model Forest) project establishes a comprehensive model for the care of diverse forest habitats and the species associated with them. It aims to address issues related to the historical dominance of monocultures, especially related to pine and spruce, over large areas in Czech Republic and Poland. The project will be implemented across 20 Natura 2000 sites, with the aim of improving forest habitats conditions over an area of at least 1 900 hectares and non-forest habitats over an area of at least 26 hectares through the planting of native tree and shrub species, protection of seedlings, eradication of invasive plant species, and maintenance of treeless areas. It also engages a wide variety of forest management stakeholders – namely, government bodies, forest managers, forest landowners – through workshops, excursions and conferences to increase awareness on emerging trends in forest ecosystem management within Natura 2000 sites, especially regarding the impacts of climate change.
SDG16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	LIFE promotes **access to justice** on environmental matters by increasing the capacity of an EU network of environmental prosecutors and supporting projects on environmental governance.	The 'supporting governance action to improve the prevention, prosecution and law enforcement of wildlife crime' (Wildlifecrime) project supports the recovery of endangered species by preventing wildlife crime. This can be achieved by enabling the necessary governance conditions for successful wildlife crime investigations along the law enforcement chain, starting with civil society and competent authorities under investigation until judiciary. Geographically, the project focuses on six hotspots in Germany and Austria. It tackles prevention, case management, prosecution and conviction of any crimes detected. It identifies bottlenecks and shortcomings to improve effectiveness at all stages. The project will help to: strengthen reliable cooperation between supportive non-governmental organisations and governance authorities against wildlife crime; improve the subsequent steps along the governance process and boost replication among governance partners across Europe; and support the shaping of adequate policies to effectively and efficiently fight wildlife trade.

SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	LIFE does not have an objective to **revitalise global partnership for sustainable development**.	

JUST TRANSITION MECHANISM

Concrete examples of achievements

5 years of existence of the Just Transition Platform have marked half a decade of continuous support to regions most severely hit by consequences of the transition towards climate neutrality.	54 territories have benefited from advisory support through the Just Transition Platform and the Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions partnership.	EUR 5.7 billion of funding has been granted to projects supporting economic diversification and businesses.	EUR 2.3 billion of public investments have been mobilised by the Public Sector Loan Facility (3rd pillar of the JTM) in Czechia, Greece, Spain, France, the Netherlands and Sweden.
EUR 2.1 billion of funding has been granted to projects supporting skills, education and labour market assistance.	11 900 companies are earmarked to receive support from the Just Transition Fund (JTF).	19 290 participants gained a qualification through projects funded under the JTF.	28 900 jobs are aimed to be created through projects selected under the JTF.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	4.0	1 534.8	1 610.2	1 635.7	1 611.8	1 337.2	1 365.0	9 098.6
NextGenerationEU	5.4	4 982.1	5 815.5	6.0	59.5	0.0	0.0	10 868.5
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	46.3	121.5	104.6	252.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	524.7

Total	**55.6**	**6 638.3**	**7 530.3**	**1 894.1**	**1 671.3**	**1337.2**	**1 365.0**	**20 491.8**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	17 176.9	20 491.8	83.8%
Payments	7 601.3		37.1%

Implementation and performance (*)

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Enterprises supported	0	**Actual results: 7.2%.** **Selected operations: 37.9%**	31 400 enterprises in 2029	2 267 enterprises (Selected operations: 11 911 enterprises) compared to a target of 31 402 enterprises	On track
Additional production capacity for renewable energy	0	**Actual results: 8.6%.** **Selected operations: 37%**	3 094 megawatts in 2029	267 megawatts (Selected operations: 1 145 megawatts) compared to a target of 3 094 megawatts	Moderate progress
Additional capacity for waste recycling	0	**Actual results: 0%.** **Selected operations: 4.5%**	877 822 tonnes/year in 2029	0 (Selected operations: 39 307 tonnes/year) compared to a target of 877 822 tonnes/year	Moderate progress
Jobs created in supported entities	0	**Actual results: 2.7%.** **Selected operations: 55.4%**	52 152 in 2029	1 387 (Selected operations: 28 915) compared to a target of 52 152 jobs created in supported enterprises	On track

Annual users of new or modernised public transport	0	**Actual results: 0%.** **Selected operations: > 100%**	17.5 million users/year in 2029	0 (Selected operations: 17.8 million users/year) compared to a target of 17.5 million users/year	Moderate progress
Overall investment mobilised	0	**Actual results: 3.1%. Selected operations: 51.7%**	EUR 5 268 million in 2029	EUR 162 million (Selected operations: EUR 2 722 million) compared to a target of EUR 5 268 million	Moderate progress
Greenhouse gas emissions reduced, where relevant	0	**Actual results: 38%**	9 086 000 tonnes CO_2 equivalent/year in 2029	3 479 876 tonnes CO_2 equivalent/year (Selected operations: 1 811 587 tonnes CO_2 equivalent/year) compared to 9 086 286 tonnes CO_2 equivalent/year	On track

(*) Based on SFC2021 data as transmitted by Member States / Managing Authorities and available on 13 March 2026.

Pillar I – the Just Transition Fund

The JTF is implemented in all EU Member States through 70 territorial just transition plans, which support 96 territories strategically selected to maximise the fund's impact. This framework provides a solid basis for achieving the fund-specific objective of mitigating the negative effects of the transition to climate neutrality. All investments must demonstrate a link with transition pathways, resulting in negative impacts, challenges and needs in the most-affected territories.

The initial implementation of the JTF experienced a relatively slow start, mainly due to the time required to establish programme frameworks, approve territorial just transition plans and develop a sufficiently mature project pipeline. However, implementation has since accelerated. At the end of 2025, the selection of projects at the EU level stood at 57.8% of the total allocation (an increase of 20% compared with 38.1% in December 2024), showcasing a project pipeline with the potential to translate into spending and the achievement of output and result targets. The EU payment rate amounts to 37.7% of the total JTF budget at the end of 2025. JTF performance is monitored by the Commission in various ways, including through active participation in programme monitoring committees, annual performance reviews and data regularly transmitted by Member States, along with the mid-term evaluation exercise.

The Commission published the mid-term evaluation of the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes, incorporating a review of the JTF as required by Article 14 of the Just Transition Fund Regulation. This review highlights the JTF's effectiveness in enhancing a place-based, partnership-driven and integrated approach beyond the current framework used for other funds.

Moreover, the JTF's partnership strategy ensured effective participatory planning. Additionally, the review underscores that the JTF provided incentives to accelerate decarbonisation by linking EU funding to decarbonisation commitments.

The Commission continues to address implementation challenges. This is particularly important in view of the strict payment deadline for the NextGenerationEU resources by the Commission at the end of 2026. The Commission has been working with Member States to identify and promote the take-up of targeted acceleration measures and is closely monitoring the situation. The Commission promotes these options through a series of technical meetings organised for implementing bodies in Member States.

The 2025 mid-term programme review presented an opportunity to reallocate resources and expand the scope of activities eligible under the JTF. The mid-term review of programmes regulatory amendment enabled water investments, widened the scope of housing investments and facilitated support to 'Seal of Excellence' projects. Programmes with JTF allocation could also take advantage of extended eligibility and decommitment deadlines, along with additional pre-financing in case of sufficient reallocations towards new mid-term review of programmes investment priorities (for housing and the strategic technologies for Europe platform (STEP)).

Technical assistance through the Just Transition Platform (JTP), deployed by the Commission, focused on advising lagging Member States to accelerate JTF implementation. Additional streams of support were available via the Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions partnership and the Technical Support Instrument.

Pillar II – Just transition scheme under InvestEU (under the lead of DG Economic and Financial Affairs)

To implement Pillar II under the JTM, a dedicated just transition scheme under the InvestEU programme has been established to support investment benefiting the territories identified in the territorial just transition plans. The scheme focuses on economically viable investments aligned with just transition objectives.

By mid-2025, the InvestEU advisory hub partners reported 68 assignments providing advisory support for a total of EUR 7.3 million to projects benefiting territories identified in the territorial just transition plans.

As of the end of December 2025, the InvestEU Fund implementing partners reported a total of EUR 10.33 billion of investment mobilised by operations under the JTM. These operations are supporting projects in territories identified in territorial just transition plans, or projects that benefit the transition of those territories, even if they are not located in the territories themselves, but only when funding outside the just transition territories is key to the transition in those territories.

Pillar III – the Public Sector Loan Facility

The first call for proposals was launched in July 2022. Its final submission deadline took place in September 2025. During this call for proposals, 16 grant agreements (18% of the budget of the grant component) were signed in six Member States (Czechia, Greece, Spain, France, the

Netherlands and Sweden) in five different sectors (sustainable transport, healthcare, energy efficiency, cultural and social infrastructure and economic diversification).

An additional 22 projects, corresponding to 24% of the budget, have been selected by the Public Sector Loan Facility (PSLF) evaluation committee. The European Investment Bank's assessment of the corresponding loans is ongoing and must be finalised before grant agreements can be signed.

The total public investment mobilised by the PSLF until 2025 amounts to EUR 2.3 billion, of which EUR 210 million in grants awarded by the Commission, EUR 1.3 billion in loans from the European Investment Bank and EUR 830 million from other sources of funding.

The initial call for proposals under the PSLF has exceeded expectations, given its anticipated role as an instrument with stronger uptake towards the end of the programming period. The interim evaluation of the PSLF, covering implementation until early 2025, concluded that the facility is relevant but that its uptake had been limited due to competition from higher grant-rate instruments, complex dual grant–loan procedures and minimum loan size constraints, especially for smaller projects. In addition, national allocations have not matched demand across Member States. However, projects amounting to 42% of the total PSLF grant budget have already been selected.

In terms of technical assistance, the PSLF has been aiding Member States' public authorities since 2022 in developing investment plans and tangible projects, which are expected to substantially boost investment volumes benefiting from PSLF support in 2026 and 2027, and fully consume the budget available under the second call of the PSLF, which was launched in October 2025.

In the context of amendments to simplify and optimise the use of several investment programmes including InvestEU, the European Fund for Strategic Investments and legacy financial instruments, the budget of the PSLF grant component was reduced by EUR 175 million in 2025. After these redeployments, the maximum budget available for the PSLF grant component was recalculated at EUR 1.141 billion, together with the estimated European Investment Bank loan contribution ranging between a maximum of EUR 6 billion and EUR 8 billion.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	9.1	6 317.4	7 198.4	1 591.5	1 620.1	1 296.2	1 323.2	19 356.0	96.9%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	0.4	245.4	279.7	61.8	62.9	50.4	51.4	752.0	3.8%

Cohesion policy uses a categorisation information system to capture information on the thematic content of the 2021-2027 programmes. These multiannual thematic allocations are used to calculate the indicative share of investments under each annual commitment, as set out above. There are several tracking tools (e.g. climate, biodiversity, clean air, gender, digital).

The allocations to the various green budgeting objectives overlap to some extent. The amounts for each priority should not be directly aggregated, as that would result in double counting. Data stories on the Cohesion Open Data Platform present the data and the methods for tracking in more detail; see for example the climate tracking data story available on the platform.

In relation to the EU taxonomy of sustainable activities, the JTM directly helps to deal with the negative social, economic, environmental, demographic and health impacts of the climate transition. While all Member States can benefit from the JTM, funding is targeted at those regions most negatively affected by the transition towards climate neutrality. For these reasons, the JTF is considered under climate tracking using a 100% climate coefficient for all allocations under the intervention fields.

Taking a more conservative approach in relation to the JTF assessment under the taxonomy for sustainable activities, REGIO has used the cohesion policy funds system of 182 intervention fields, which have undergone an analysis of alignment with the taxonomy in the context of NextGenerationEU green-bond reporting. As a result of that analysis, groups of intervention fields were assessed as 'fully aligned', 'substantially aligned' / 'partially aligned' or 'not covered'. This system is used under cohesion policy shared management as an alternative to project-based analysis, not least because of the burden of assessing tens of thousands of projects over a programme period. When applying the results of this assessment to the 2021-2027 JTF budget, the following financial amounts can be reported: EUR 2.15 billion is 'fully aligned',

EUR 5.24 billion is 'substantially/partially aligned' and EUR 12.25 billion is 'not covered' (these are primary interventions to support economic diversification and the reskilling of workers).

For biodiversity investment and mainstreaming in the 2021-2027 period, Member States plan expenditure totalling 3.8% of the total JTF envelope.

In addition to climate tracking, the 'do no significant harm' principle is applied. Member States are responsible for the implementation of this principle throughout the programming period. The JTM supports those regions facing the most serious socioeconomic challenges due to the transition process. These regions will need to phase out certain activities and restructure their industries.

By addressing the investment needs of the territories that are most negatively impacted by the transition towards a climate-neutral economy, the PSLF will provide a key contribution to mainstream climate action. It covers a wide range of sustainable investments, including in relation to biodiversity, provided that such investments contribute to meeting the development needs of territories that are caused by the transition towards the EU's 2030 climate target - as established in Regulation (EU) 2021/1119(2) - and climate neutrality in the EU by 2050, as described in the TJTPs. The PSLF is implemented by a call for proposals. Therefore, its final contribution to climate, biodiversity and clean air is subject to the applications and advisory support requests it receives.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	9.1	10.3	2.3	2.3	24.0
1	2.2	1 539.7	1 754.5	387.9	394.9	387.9
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	7.1	4 968.1	5 660.9	1 251.5	1 274.1	1 251.5

The JTM aims at ensuring that the transition to a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind, independent of gender and age. Territorial just transition plans should, where relevant, address demographic challenges in the regions affected by the transition. Investments (e.g. in reskilling/upskilling and diversification of the economy) should take into account the equal treatment of all genders.

In 2025, gender equality expenditure was at 23.6% of total allocation. Numerous JTF projects support gender mainstreaming by addressing issues of energy poverty, energy efficiency in housing, reskilling of the workforce and diversification of economy-supporting start-ups led by women.

For the third pillar, the contribution to gender equality is specifically mentioned in the application form that the applicants need to complete. Among other things, applicants are asked to explain the project's impact on gender equality and how they approach this issue. They also have to explain how the project helps to fill gender gaps that may be linked to just transition, how the activities will contribute to improve the situation and how it will contribute to the promotion and advancement of gender equality and non-discrimination mainstreaming. For each proposal, the elements will be analysed by the Commission as part of the assessment of the 'Relevance and impact' award criteria.

Among the projects supported by the PSLF up to now, investments in mobility supported in France are in line with public transport providers' gender equality strategies. For example, Nantes's public transport provider has adopted an integrated gender equality approach, notably to ensure a gender security dimension in the use of public transport, but also to achieve a gender-balanced participation in employment and training. Lille's public transport provider is implementing a multi-year action plan that focuses on professional equality and combating stereotypes. It aims to ensure equal opportunities by implementing diversity policies that prevent gender-based discrimination and undertakes specific actions against gender-based harassment. In Sweden, gender mainstreaming is ensured in PSLF-supported investments in the sector of affordable housing, in line with Swedish law.

Regarding gender categorisation, the JTF uses a categorisation information system, which focuses specifically on the gender equality dimension, to capture information on the gender contribution of

the 2021-2027 programmes. These multiannual thematic allocations are used to calculate the indicative share of investments under each annual commitment. Based on the adopted programmes, about 25% of the planned EU amounts will be used to improve gender equality or interventions that have gender equality. For the 2021-2027 period, the gender tracking data story available on the Cohesion Open Data Platform presents cohesion policy support for gender equality in more detail.

Gender disaggregated information:

No data are available for gender disaggregation. All JTF programmes have to describe the social impact of the transition to climate neutrality: how it is primarily linked to employment, with direct consequences for the livelihoods of households and families, social exclusion and gender implications.

For the PSLF, two indicators are disaggregated by gender: in terms of the estimated number of jobs created by the PSLF for the signed grant agreements, 50% (6 042 out of 12 232) are declared by applicants to be filled by women. In terms of the individuals which should be reached by the signed PSLF projects, 51% (EUR 2 211 730 out of EUR 4 312 161) are estimated to be women.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	1.2	866.2	986.9	218.2	222.1	2 294.7	13.3%

The reported amounts are based on the planned amounts in adopted programmes at the end of 2025. The cumulative planned contribution to this horizontal objective is presented proportionately to financial implementation of annual budgetary commitments.

Addressing the impacts of the transition towards a climate-neutral economy also means digitalisation. By the end of 2025, almost EUR 2.3 billion was invested in digitalisation, including for the digitalisation of public and private service. By investing over EUR 150 million in digitalisation of businesses, a special focus was made on small and medium-sized enterprises (business development and internationalisation, including productive investments, e-commerce, digital innovation hubs and digital processes) and on innovation clusters, including businesses, research organisations and public authorities and business networks.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- In line with the STEP Regulation, the JTF is one of the EU programmes in shared management mobilising significant STEP investments strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy. Six programme amendments were adopted in 2025 (Denmark, France, Germany, Greece and Spain), adding new STEP dedicated priorities or topping up the existing ones for EUR 325 million. A total JTF support mobilised so far for pursuing STEP objectives amounts to EUR 946 million.
- The biggest share of STEP support under the JTF is used for productive investments (around EUR 662 million). Investments in research and innovation-related activities cover EUR 107 million and investments in skills development cover around EUR 35 million. Around EUR 141 million of the STEP investments go to other activities, such as supporting business incubation, spin-offs and start-ups or promoting the circular economy research and innovation processes.
- The productive investments can be further broken down by type of enterprise (small and medium-sized enterprises for around EUR 354 million and large enterprises account for around EUR 308 million) and by the three STEP target investment areas (digital technologies and deep-tech innovation projects to receive EUR 178 million, clean and resource-efficient technologies around EUR 409 million, and biotechnologies around EUR 75 million).

Contribution to reforms

As a result of its conditionality (granting the funding only if a transition process towards a climate-neutral economy has been demonstrated in a given territory), the JTF has been key in speeding up coal phase-out in the EU. Several Member States (e.g. Czechia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia) did not have a coal phase-out date before the establishment of the fund. The TJTPs provide a clear decarbonisation commitment at the national level and outline the transition pathway, including in terms of job creation and preservation.

For the carbon-intensive regions, the JTF was an opportunity to reflect on how the transformation of carbon-intensive industries (such as steel, cement or chemicals) could be achieved without creating negative spillovers in communities and places. The JTF played a transformative role in local economies of JTF territories. Moreover, the JTF was instrumental in examining the impacts of the transition on workers, skills and communities, beyond a mere focus on technologies and innovation. For insular and archipelago-type regions, the JTF provided a new opportunity for the transition to decarbonisation of certain fossil-fuel activities.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	yes	**No poverty.** Bulgaria received EUR 1.2 billion from the JTF to create new jobs and economic activities for a just transition in the Bulgarian regions of Stara Zagora, Kyustendil and Pernik. They face the biggest socio-economic challenges in phasing out coal and reducing CO2 emissions. Energy efficiency measures in residential buildings focused on energy-poor households and vulnerable consumers will help tackle energy poverty.
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	yes	**Good health and well-being.** In the Netherlands, the JTF will support the elderly population through project development for a Health Tracker. It will observe heath issues as chronical illness at the workplace and do research on how an early drop out of the labour market can be prevented and how to improve occupational health. In Galicia, Spain, the PSLF finances the expansion and modernisation of the A Coruña university hospital complex, significantly strengthening the region's public healthcare system. Through a nearly EUR 60 million EU grant combined with an EIB loan and regional funding, the project delivers state-of-the-art, sustainable medical infrastructure that will provide more efficient, accessible and high-quality healthcare services to around 564 000 people. By improving healthcare capacity and quality, addressing the needs of an ageing population, and enhancing resilience and accessibility of health services, the PSLF directly contributes to better health outcomes and quality of life, while also supporting a just transition through job creation and long-term socioeconomic stability in the region.

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	yes	**Quality education.** One of the main goals of JTF investments is to support workers in the coal- and carbon- intensive industries with extensive training programmes for up- and reskilling to the new green sectors and to be prepared for the economic diversification planned for the regions. Overall, JTF aims to support classroom capacity of education facilities for 162 368 persons. In Poland, in Slaskie region, a social and educational activity centre is created on brownfield site after the former Rozbark mine by building new functions: socio-educational, commercial and sanitary areas along with the surrounding area as a zone of socio-educational activities.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	yes	**Gender equality.** JTF aims to address gender-related challenges during the transition to a climate-neutral economy, through direct measures and mainstreaming. It focuses on promoting women's participation in upskilling, entrepreneurship and workplace representation. For instance, in the Netherlands, the JTF support for the project 'Women in Technics' addresses labour mobility challenges by unlocking opportunities for women in technology. The aim is to employ 100 women in the IJmond region, fostering innovation and diversity.

SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	yes	**Affordable and clean energy.** Germany is utilising EUR 2.5 billion from the JTF to support regions heavily impacted by the coal phase-out, such as North Rhine-Westphalia, Brandenburg, Saxony, and Saxony-Anhalt. The funding supports the structural transition away from coal-fired power generation, particularly in the Rhenish coalfield and the northern Ruhr area. It includes investing in renewable energy and rehabilitating former carbon-intensive sites. Thanks to JTF the Northern part of the Ruhr area will move from a coal-based industry to an industry based on renewable energy. The PSLF supports the expansion of Mijnwater's sustainable district heating and cooling network in Zuid-Limburg, Netherlands, enabling the large-scale deployment of reliable, low-carbon and renewable energy solutions. The project reduces dependence on natural gas by using geothermal energy from disused mine tunnels and smart, demand-driven energy exchanges that recycle waste heat and cold. By extending the network to over 5 400 households and businesses, including social housing, the PSLF improves access to affordable, clean and modern energy services, enhances energy efficiency, lowers CO_2 emissions, and supports a just and inclusive energy transition aligned with national and EU climate objectives.
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	yes	**Decent work and economic growth.** In Spain the JTF is fostering economic growth by supporting regions heavily affected by the closure of coal mines and power plants, allocating EUR 869 million for 2021–2027. The support focuses on diversifying economy and retraining workers in areas like Asturias. Asturias receives over one-third of the JTF funding, with significant investments also directed towards Andalusia to transform industrial ecosystems. The JTF promotes local business creation, the circular economy, and the rehabilitation of industrial sites, as well as support reskilling workers, providing job search assistance, and investing in renewable technologies to facilitate employment transitions.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	yes	**Industry, innovation and infrastructure.** Estonia is utilizing EUR 354 million from the JTF for 2021-2027 to drive industrial innovation, primarily in the Ida-Viru region, to move away from oil shale. Key initiatives include investing in rare-earth magnet production, sustainable materials R&D, and economic diversification. EUR 18.75 million JTF investment supports a new rare-earth magnet factory in Narva, aiming to create 1 000 jobs and foster a R&D center. Moreover, JTF supports R&D activities at the University of Tartu for greener technology, digital innovation, and clean energy solutions.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	yes	**Reduced inequalities.** The JTF supports the territories most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality to avoid regional inequalities growing. Across all 27 Member States, the JTF focuses on supporting the workers and regions most impacted by the transition, investing in new employment opportunities and in training and reskilling for workers and their families. The objective is to enable them to benefit from the economic diversification brought by renewable energy and modern, competitive industries.

SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	yes	**Sustainable cities and communities.** In Poland, the city Katowice receives JTF support to be more sustainable and for local initiatives such as the Nikiszowiec Just Transition Centre to help diversify the local economy and support retraining and innovation. In Ireland's Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Roscommon and other local districts), dozens of local community initiatives have received JTF funding to boost sustainable development. The PSLF supports integrated investments that make cities more inclusive, accessible, resilient and environmentally sustainable, particularly in regions undergoing structural transition. Through projects such as the construction of seven energy-efficient housing complexes in Skellefteå (Sweden) providing around 750 affordable social housing units, the PSLF helps cities accommodate population growth linked to the green industrial transition. Complementary support in Czech regions further strengthens sustainable communities through energy-efficient student housing, upgraded public spaces and multifunctional community infrastructure.
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	yes	**Responsible consumption and production.** In France, the JTF will support a project to develop an industrial unit for recycling lithium-ion batteries. The project is based on a breakthrough, eco-efficient technology for recycling end-of-life batteries and production waste from battery manufacturing plants. Its solution is based on the extractive capacities of carbon dioxide. The aim of this approach is to recover critical metals in an environmentally friendly way, so that they can then be reused industrially. The JTF is providing funding for the removal of technological barriers to enable the innovative recycling process to be transposed to industrial scale.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	yes	**Climate action.** All 27 Member States are supported by JTF to mitigate the socioeconomic consequences of the transition process towards climate-neutrality. For instance, Romania received over EUR 2 billion from the JTF to support climate action and transition away from coal by 2032. The funds target regions heavily reliant on carbon-intensive industries—specifically Hunedoara, Gorj, Dolj, Galați, Prahova, and Mureș—focusing on economic diversification, worker retraining, and environmental rehabilitation.
SDG15	yes	**Life on land.** The Just Transition Fund supports the economic diversification and reconversion of the territories concerned by transition towards climate-neutrality in all 27 Member States. In Czechia, Moravian-Silesian Region, an old coal mine is transformed into a family-friendly educational and recreational park. The site will also include a carbon-neutral information centre building, that will feature educational spaces.

ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

38 935 places in reception accommodation infrastructure were set up in line with the EU *acquis* between 2021 and 2025.	33 672 people were trained in asylum-related topics between 2021 and 2025.	126 015 people participated in pre-departure measures or received pre-departure assistance between 2021 and 2025.	39 829 people were resettled between 2021 and 2025.
58 251 people received reintegration assistance between 2021 and 2025.			

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	497.6	1 398.7	1 484.3	1 502.4	1 914.8	2 091.1	2 151.2	11 040.1
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0,00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**497.6**	**1 398.7**	**1 484.3**	**1 502.4**	**1 914.8**	**2 091.1**	**2 151.2**	**11 040.1**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

From 2021 onward, the initial financial programming for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) has undergone several modifications.

In terms of reductions, a total of EUR 4.3 million was transferred to other shared management funds through Article 26 of the Common Provisions Regulation – specifically, EUR 1.1 million to the Border Management and Visa Policy Instrument and EUR 3.2 million to the Internal Security Fund. In addition, AMIF was reduced by EUR 48.1 million to finance a legislative initiative requiring additional resources for the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice to develop the Eurodac database in the context of the Pact on Asylum and Migration. A further EUR 4.5 million was also transferred to the support expenditure budget line.

In terms of reinforcements, AMIF has been considerably strengthened through various measures. It received EUR 81 million via annual budget procedures and absorbed EUR 93 million of unused appropriations from home affairs agencies (the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Union Agency for Asylum). Further reinforcements included EUR 21 million under the pact and Ukraine specific action, EUR 74 million from the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve, EUR 100 million mobilised from the margin of heading 4 of the multiannual financial framework, EUR 1 million from technical assistance and EUR 128 million through the national programme midterm review of the Thematic Facility. Furthermore, as part of the midterm revision of the

multiannual financial framework, AMIF was further reinforced by EUR 810 million for the 2025-2027 period.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	6 811.1	11 040.1	61.7%
Payments	3 818.2	0.0	34.6%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of people placed in alternatives to detention	0	**4%**	10 443 in 2029	453 by 2025 compared to a target of 10 443	Deserves attention
Number of participants in language courses who have improved their proficiency level in the host-country language upon leaving the language course by at least one level in the common European framework of reference for languages or the national equivalent	0	**11%**	379 378 in 2029	41 089 by 2025 compared to a target of 379 378	On track
Number of participants who applied for long-term status	0	**>100%**	9 024 in 2029	15 635 by 2025 compared to a target of 9 024	On track
Number of returnees voluntarily returned	0	**44%**	242 269 in 2029	107 739 by 2025 compared to a target of 242 269	On track

Number of returnees who were removed	0	**7%**	220 489 in 2029	14 602 by 2025 compared to a target of 220 489	Moderate progress
Number of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another	0	**67%**	7 133 in 2029	4 771 by 2025 compared to a target of 7 133	On track
Number of people resettled	0	**74%**	53 827 in 2029	39 829 by 2025 compared to a target of 53 827	On track
Number of people admitted through humanitarian admission	0	**55%**	65 879 in 2029	36 068 by 2025 compared to a target of 65 879	On track

- The AMIF is implemented under shared, direct and indirect management. The largest share of resources (56%) is allocated to the Member States' programmes under shared management. The remaining share (44%) is allocated to the Thematic Facility, which is programmed by the Commission to support priorities with high EU added value, with evolving challenges and that respond to emerging or unforeseen needs.
- The 2025 voted budget for AMIF amounted to EUR 1 914.8 million in commitment appropriations. ([47]) This amount included EUR 972.9 million for initial allocations to Member States' programmes; EUR 223.8 million for the midterm review; EUR 715 million for the Thematic Facility covering EU measures, the European Migration Network, emergency assistance, relocation and resettlement; and EUR 3.2 million for technical assistance.
- **The programmed initiatives** under the **Thematic Facility** to be implemented under direct/indirect management include calls for proposals to support, for example, the protection of migrant children; support for the EU Talent Pool to recruit skilled jobseekers from non-EU countries; and support for policy dialogue and operational cooperation with non-EU countries in the field of migration. In 2025, the Thematic Facility provided emergency assistance to a Member State dealing with a situation of exceptional migratory pressure. The Thematic Facility also provided additional support to Member States to implement the Pact on Migration and Asylum and to host displaced people from Ukraine benefiting from temporary protection.
- As regards **performance** in direct **management and indirect management**, in view of their specific nature and legislative objectives, the performance of transnational EU actions and emergency measures cannot be fully captured by the key performance indicators. However, they effectively complement the implementation of the policy objectives at the national level through Member States' programmes by developing policy analyses, innovations, transnational mutual learning and partnerships, and by testing new initiatives and measures across the EU and providing financial assistance to address urgent and specific needs in the event of duly justified emergency situations.

([47]) These amounts exclude transfers related to Article 26 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

- The largest share of the **EU's financial contribution to Member States' programmes** is allocated to specific objective 1 on strengthening and developing all aspects of the common European asylum system (36%). This is followed by specific objective 2 on strengthening and developing legal migration, and promoting and contributing to the effective integration and social inclusion of non-EU nationals (28%); specific objective 3 on contributing to countering irregular migration, enhancing effective, safe and dignified return and readmission, and promoting and contributing to the effective reintegration in non-EU countries (18%); and specific objective 4 on enhancing solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibility between the Member States (13%).
- **Financial implementation** in Member States' programmes is progressing well across all specific objectives, with specific objective 4 demonstrating the highest commitment rate (95%) and the highest financial implementation rate (66%) of the AMIF objectives. The majority of commitments under this objective are dedicated to resettlement and humanitarian admission.
- While **indicator performance** varies in Member State programmes, positive progress is observed under specific objectives 1, 2 and 4. Overall, the indicators under specific objective 3 demonstrate the least progress. Nonetheless, the indicators on returnees voluntarily returned, returnees who have received reintegration assistance and participants in training activities are performing well.

- **Overall, AMIF continues to demonstrate progress in both financial and performance terms.** By the end of 2025, AMIF had reached a total commitment rate of 70% and a total implementation rate of 31% in the Member States' programmes across all specific objectives. While progress across the AMIF indicators varies, advancements are clear across all specific objectives.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0%

- The programme regulation aligns the EU's overarching commitment to the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, acknowledging – without prescribing

fixed target – the EU's broader ambition to allocate at least 30% of its total budget to climate action and 7.5% to biodiversity in 2024 (rising to 10% in 2026-27).

- Recognising the interplay between climate and biodiversity objectives, contributions might materialise through measures such as sustainable procurement for small-scale assets, IT infrastructure or building upgrades (e.g. renewable energy adoption, insulation improvements), provided these adhere to criteria favouring low-climate-impact solutions. While no binding requirements yet govern national programming or project selection, Member States are invited to give preference to environmentally sustainable initiatives where feasible.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	497.6	1 398.7	1 484.3	1 502.4	1 914.8	6 797.8
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total:	497.6	1 398.7	1 484.3	1 502.4	1 914.8	6 797.8

- The programme is committed to the horizontal approach of the EU budget, in which equality between women and men, rights and equal opportunities for all and the mainstreaming of these objectives should be considered and promoted throughout the preparation, implementation and monitoring of relevant programmes, as stipulated in Article 6 of the programme regulation.

- In the broader context, to receive payments from the Commission, the Member States' programmes for Home Affairs funds will have to comply with several horizontal enabling conditions, one of which concerns the effective application and implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including the equality of men and women. The horizontal enabling conditions must be fulfilled throughout the entire programming period, and Member States must report on their application to the programme monitoring committee and the Commission.

- The programme regulation specifically stipulates that eligible measures need to consider the human-rights-based approach to the protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and should, in particular, ensure that special attention is paid to, and a dedicated response is provided for, the specific situation of vulnerable persons, in particular women, unaccompanied

minors and victims of trafficking in human beings. AMIF may have an important impact on gender equality, but any interventions supported from the fund do not have gender equality as their principal objective. Therefore, the interventions contributing to gender equality are reported under gender score 1.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

- It is considered that activities under the following specific objectives of the programme may partially contribute to the goal of digital transition:
  - strengthening the common European asylum system;
  - strengthening and developing legal migration to the Member States;
  - contributing to countering irregular migration.
- However, since the legal basis for the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and the programme regulation did not envisage that expenditure contributing to the goal of digital transition should be tracked, it is not possible to develop a tracking methodology to estimate the amount of such expenditure.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable.

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)

SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	'**The children's rights check digital – improved quality for sheltering refugee children' runs from 2023 to 2026, with a total budget of EUR 1 649 758** (of which, an EU contribution of EUR 1 215 208). The project aims to improve reception and accommodation conditions for refugee children and their families. To achieve this, accommodation operators and authorities need to be able to evaluate the accommodation situation. Children, parents and professionals can be interviewed digitally easily with the Child Rights Check. To this end, the previous child rights check tool will be further developed as a digital self-evaluation tool.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	The project 'SchlaUA – Das Beste von beidem' ran from 2022 to 2024, with a total budget of EUR 2 214 853 (of which, an EU contribution in the agreement of EUR 1 974 345). **This project transitioned into the new project 'SchlaUA 2.0' running from 2024 to 2027, with a total budget of EUR 7 130 487** (of which, an EU contribution of EUR 6 417 437). The project aims to provide Ukrainian students with a Ukrainian degree in Munich (Atestat Pro Povnu Zagal'nu Serednyu Osvitu). This is done in cooperation with two partner schools in Ternopil, the education authority there and the Ministry of Science and Education of Ukraine.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes	**Regional development and protection programme North of Africa phase 7 is running from 2025 to 2028 with a budget (EU grant amount maximum) of EUR 37 500 000.** The main objective of the proposed action is to help non-EU countries in North Africa and across the Atlantic and Mediterranean migration route to consolidate their migration and asylum systems and build their capacity to provide adequate reception, protection and durable solutions for vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. In line with the concept of the programme, the priorities identified in the 2023-2025 AMIF annual work programme for EU actions, the proposal builds on and expands the ongoing projects implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia under the previous programmes with specific reference to the protection component.

INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

15 046 pieces of equipment were purchased for border crossing points and border surveillance purposes in 2021-2025.	18 890 780 visa applications were made using digital means in 2021-2025.	1 634 means of land transport for border control tasks were purchased in 2021-2025.	
259 information-technology functionalities for visa processing purposes were developed, maintained or upgraded in 2021-2025.	1 558 pieces of customs control equipment were purchased with Customs Control Equipment Instrument funds and put into use at EU border crossing points and customs laboratories by the end of 2025.	58.67% border crossing points and customs laboratories with equipment that meets the common list of equipment that should be available per customs laboratory for 2025, close to the target of 60% for the first half of the Customs Control Equipment Instrument's implementation.	100% is the satisfaction rate for programme management support and guidance (information collected via an annual online survey addressed to recipients of Customs Control Equipment Instrument funds).

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	289.0	999.2	1 205.3	1 257.8	1 344.6	1 345.1	2 014.7	8 455.8
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.5	0.0	0.0	176.8	88.7	0.0	0.0	266.0
Total	**289.5**	**999.2**	**1 205.3**	**1 434.6**	**1 433.3**	**1 345.1**	**2 014.7**	**8 721.8**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

The Integrated Border Management Fund comprises two components: the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) and the Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI).

From 2021 onward, the initial financial programming for the BMVI has undergone several modifications.

In terms of reductions, a total of EUR 5.7 million was transferred from the BMVI to the Internal Security Fund through Article 26 of the Common Provisions Regulation. In addition, the BMVI was reduced by EUR 500.1 million to finance various legislative initiatives requiring additional resources for home affairs agencies (the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, the European Union Drugs Agency). Further reductions included EUR 21 million under the pact specific action, EUR 3.2 million transferred to the support expenditure budget line, and EUR 0.02 million transferred to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

In terms of reinforcements, the BMVI has been substantially strengthened through various measures. It received almost EUR 620.8 million from the Structural Funds within the framework of the Greek Partnership Agreement. Further reinforcements included EUR 107.5 million through annual budget procedures, EUR 49.6 million from unused appropriations from home affairs agencies (the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of

Freedom, Security and Justice), EUR 1.1 million from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund through Article 26 of the Common Provisions Regulation, EUR 0.83 million from technical assistance, EUR 78 million through the national programme midterm review of the Thematic Facility and EUR 181 million stemming from fines in 2025. The BMVI will be further reinforced by the Schengen associated countries' contribution in 2026-2027. Furthermore, as part of the midterm revision of the multiannual financial framework, the BMVI was further reinforced by EUR 1 billion for the 2025-2027 period.

As for the CCEI, its total budget for the entire 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework amounts to EUR 930 307 000. This represents a EUR 76 100 000 decrease from the original CCEI budget following a reinforcement in commitment appropriations for the customs programme, to support the implementation of new political initiatives in the field of centralised customs systems, and a reinforcement in commitment appropriations for the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, linked to information technology investments to deliver on the simplification measures proposed by the Commission in February 2025. These reinforcements have been compensated by an equivalent reduction in commitment appropriations from the CCEI.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	5 227.1	8 721.8	59.9%
Payments	2 379.9	0.0	27.3%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of items of equipment registered in the technical equipment pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	0	**16%**	2 777 in 2029	456 by 2025 compared to a target of 2 777	On track

Number of items of equipment put at the disposal of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	0	**40%**	1 492 in 2029	592 by 2025 compared to a target of 1 492	On track
Number of initiated/improved forms of cooperation of national authorities with the Eurosur National Coordination Centre	0	**1.5%**	134 in 2029	2 by 2025 compared to a target of 134	Deserves attention
Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen evaluations and from vulnerability assessments in the area of border management	0	**5.5%**	2 875 in 2029	157 by 2025 compared to a target of 2 875	N/A
Number of new/upgraded consulates outside the Schengen area	0	**27%**	810 in 2029	222 by 2025 compared to a target of 810	On track
Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen evaluations in the area of the common visa policy	0	**16%**	2 610 in 2029	423 by 2025 compared to a target of 2 610	N/A
Number of visa applications using digital means	0	**29%**	64.2 million	18.9 million by 2025 compared to a target of 64.2 million	On track
Percentage of border crossing points and customs laboratories with equipment that meets the common list of equipment that should be available per customs laboratory / type of border crossing	0	**73%**	80% in 2027	58.7% by 2025 compared to a target of 80%	On track

The BMVI is implemented under shared, direct and indirect management. The majority of resources, totalling EUR 4.38 billion (55%), are allocated to Member States' programmes under shared management. The remaining share of EUR 3.57 billion (45%) is allocated to the Thematic Facility, a financial instrument managed by the Commission and offering flexibility in the management of the BMVI in addressing priorities with a high level of EU added value or responding to urgent needs.

The midterm review of the Member States' programmes under the BMVI Regulation, and the revision of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, provided additional budgetary resources to support the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. In particular, the revision of the multiannual financial framework provided an additional EUR 1 billion for the BMVI.

The 2025 voted budget for the BMVI amounted to EUR 1232.9 million in commitment appropriations. ([48]) This amount included EUR 528.2 million for initial allocations to Member States' programmes, EUR 171 million for the midterm review, EUR 530.9 million for the Thematic Facility, covering specific actions, EU actions and emergency assistance, and EUR 2.7 million for technical assistance.

The largest share of the EU's financial contribution in Member States' programmes is allocated to specific objective 1 on European integrated border management (87%), reaffirming the focus on enhancing control of the EU external borders. Of these allocated resources, 39% relates to border surveillance purposes, and in particular to equipment – including means of transport – for border surveillance. It is followed by specific objective 2 on the common visa policy (8%), under which the main achievements relate to the digitalisation of visa processing, the deployment of staff to consulates in non-EU countries and the development or upgrading of large-scale information technology systems.

While supporting key initiatives across both specific objectives, the largest share of Thematic Facility resources is allocated to specific objective 1, representing approximately 94% of the Thematic Facility envelope for the BMVI. Within this allocation, a substantial portion is dedicated to the pact specific action (57%), supporting Member States' preparedness for the full implementation of the Pact for Asylum and Migration. Additional allocations support the technology- and equipment-focused specific actions (42%) mentioned above, along with the special transit scheme for Lithuania (1%).

Financial implementation shows overall progress, with both specific objectives showing a 59% commitment rate, suggesting that implementation will likely accelerate towards the end of the programming period. Under specific objective 2, the greatest progress was seen in operations supporting the visa information system (around EUR 120 million of EU resources committed, amounting to 75% of the allocation for this type of intervention).

As regards performance in direct management and indirect management, in view of their specific nature and legislative objectives, the performance of transnational EU actions and emergency measures cannot fully be captured by the key performance indicators. However, these indicators effectively complement the implementation of the policy objectives at the national level through Member States' programmes by developing policy analyses, innovations, transnational mutual learning and partnerships, and by testing new initiatives and measures across the EU and providing financial assistance to address urgent and specific needs in the event of duly justified emergency situations.

As of 2025, most indicators demonstrated solid progress, especially output indicators. Specific objective 2 has already exceeded its target for projects supporting visa digitalisation (109.68%), while specific objective 1 shows strong implementation regarding asylum applications at border crossing points. Result indicators are progressing more gradually, but the revised 2029 targets reflect increased ambition following the midterm review.

Customs Control Equipment Instrument

([48]) These amounts exclude transfers related to Article 26 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

The instrument's funding committed until the end of 2025, after the first two calls in 2021 and 2023, amounts to EUR 558 million for a total of 88 grants awarded to customs administrations in all 27 Member States. It aims to improve the overall performance of the customs union by focusing on five priorities in order to (1) ensure EU safety and security; (2) strengthen the capacity of customs services to mitigate and adapt to international crises; (3) address the challenges in dealing with the exponential growth in e-commerce; (4) contribute to the European Green Deal; and (5) continue to promote innovation in customs control equipment, including the interoperability of the equipment. Although no work programme was finalised for the year 2025, with its adoption being postponed to 2026 to integrate the results of the equipment risk assessment exercise and priority control areas actions, the CCEI has made substantial progress towards achieving its objectives of supporting the customs union and helping customs authorities act as one to protect the interests of the EU by following and supporting the implementation of CCEI projects from the first and second calls.

Key achievements

- **Successful project implementation.** Since the programme was initiated, 88 grant agreements have been signed, supporting the long-term aim of the harmonised application of customs controls by the Member States by co-financing the purchase, maintenance and upgrading of relevant and reliable state-of-the-art customs control equipment that is secure, safe and environmentally friendly. This equipment is strategically deployed at high-traffic areas including seaports, airports and other critical transportation hubs, and at customs laboratories, contributing to adequate and equivalent customs control results across the customs union.

- **Improved key performance indicator results.** The result of the CCEI's main indicator improved significantly compared to previous years as a result of a change in the method of data collection applied by DG Taxation and Customs Union for border crossing points. Under the new method, Member States were requested to provide the Commission with details on the availability of equipment at each border crossing point, significantly simplifying and streamlining the complex background calculation used previously. The overall result for 2025 (58.67%) is considered reliable, and it makes realistic the objective of reaching the envisaged target of 80% by the end of the programme. The overall result for customs laboratories is 51.27% ([49]).

- **Financial commitment.** Approximately EUR 510.5 million has been allocated to support Member States in acquiring state-of-the-art equipment. This financial commitment underscores the programme's crucial role in modernising EU customs operations.

- **Operational milestones.** The projects funded by the CCEI are multiannual by nature (the average length being three years) and, by the end of 2025, eight additional projects had

([49]) The customs control equipment available at each customs laboratory is checked against the ideal common list of equipment required for the analysis of specific types of samples. To calculate the degree of adherence to this ideal list, the methodology was slightly modified this year to determine the level of adherence at the Member State level, in accordance with their common practices. Nevertheless, the common list of equipment should be further refined to account for new equipment types that could be equally effective for analysing samples.

been finalised, making a total of 19 projects completed so far out of the 88 grants agreement signed (with four additional projects in their final reporting stage) ([50]). The presence of over 1 500 pieces of CCEI-funded equipment already in operation at EU border crossing points (915 new items of equipment) and customs laboratories (643 new items of equipment) is a testimony to the programme's impact.

- **Adaptability to external factors.** The programme has shown flexibility in responding to external geopolitical and economic shifts, in particular through amendments and by tailoring the project requirements for the upcoming invitation to submit proposals.

Main challenges

- **Procurement delays.** National procurement procedures launched following the CCEI funding agreed for Member State projects faced significant delays due to security and cybersecurity concerns and budgetary constraints. These delays have affected the timely execution of certain projects, challenging the overall implementation timeline.

- **Complex geopolitical influences.** Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent EU sanctions have affected trade flows at some border crossing points and made the programme's implementation more complex.

- **Security challenges from non-EU vendors.** The fact that some critical equipment vendors are non-EU-owned entities poses security risks.

Mitigation measures

- To address procurement challenges, the CCEI Coordination Group provided **enhanced guidelines on security**, while the Commission continued to proactively engage in **providing steering to support Member States** in their project implementation.

- The **activation of enhanced monitoring protocols** for projects deemed by the Commission to be at higher risk of partial implementation failure aims to ensure better compliance with reporting obligations and maintain project progression, mitigating the impact of delays and incomplete reports.

- The **EU coordinated risk assessment on detection equipment.** The assessment, performed and finalised in 2025 under the NIS2 Directive in cooperation with experts from the 27 Member States and competent Commission services, provided for a coherent EU approach to the security of the detection equipment. Specifically, it allowed an approach to be developed to deal with high-risk suppliers and stricter security requirements to be integrated into all stages of procurement, ultimately ensuring the integrity of the equipment and related sensitive data and supply chains.

In conclusion, the CCEI has demonstrated notable progress in achieving its strategic objectives, contributing positively to harmonised, secure and effective customs operations across the EU.

([50]) Nineteen additional CCEI projects are expected to end between 2026 and 2027.

Despite external challenges, the programme's strategic initiatives continue to support the Member States in navigating complex environments, thus ensuring the continued protection of the EU's financial and economic interests. The insights gained from ongoing evaluations and risk assessments will play a crucial role in refining future action, emphasising security and customs harmonisation aligned with the evolving global landscape.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			0.2	0.0%

- The programme regulation aligns the EU's overarching commitment to the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, acknowledging - without prescribing fixed target - the EU's broader ambition to allocate at least 30% of its total budget to climate action and 7.5% to biodiversity in 2024 (rising to 10% in 2026-27).
- Recognising the interplay between climate and biodiversity objectives, contributions might materialise through measures such as sustainable procurement for small-scale assets, information technology infrastructure or building upgrades (e.g. renewable energy adoption, insulation improvements), provided these adhere to criteria favouring low-climate-impact solutions. While no binding requirements yet govern national programming or project selection, Member States are invited to give preference to environmentally sustainable initiatives where feasible.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

0	289.0	999.2	1 205.3	1 257.8	1 344.6	5 096.0
Total:						

- The Integrated Border Management Fund and the BMVI are committed to the horizontal approach of the EU budget, in which equality between women and men, rights and equal opportunities for all and the mainstreaming of these objectives should be considered and promoted throughout the preparation, implementation and monitoring of relevant programmes.
- In the broader context, to receive payments from the Commission, the Member State programmes for Home Affairs funds have to comply with the horizontal enabling conditions, one of which concerns the effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, including the equality of women and men. The horizontal enabling conditions must be fulfilled throughout the entire programming period, and Member States must report on their application to the programme monitoring committee and the Commission.
- As regards the types of action supported by the BMVI, gender-specific issues are not specifically tackled. The interventions supported from the fund do not significantly support gender equality and managing authorities have not submitted gender-disaggregated data. Therefore, no contribution to gender equality is reported (score 0).
- The CCEI does not have activities that contribute to the Gender Equality goals.

Gender-disaggregated information
Reporting on gender disaggregated data is not mandatory under the BMVI. Managing authorities can decide, if they wish, to transmit gender-disaggregated data for indicators focusing on individuals. As of 2025, no managing authorities had opted to transmit gender-disaggregated data.

Due to the nature of the programme, the CCEI was excluded from reporting on gender-disaggregated data.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	51.8	290.6	359.2	376.0	453.7	1 531.2	30.0%

- It is considered that activities under the following specific objectives of the Integrated Border Management Fund and the BMVI may partially contribute to the goal of digital transition by:
    - supporting effective European integrated border management at the external borders;
    - supporting the common visa policy.

- The amounts contribute to activities and interventions relating to the digitalisation of administration (government information and communications technology solutions, e-services, etc.) covering dimensions of digitalisation of public services (e.g. the visa information system) and skills (information technology training) by supporting investments in large-scale information technology systems (such as the entry/exit system, the European travel information and authorisation system, the Schengen information system and the visa information system), interoperability between systems, the Eurodac database, automated border surveillance (such as automated border control gates) and identification systems at borders.

- The CCEI does not have activities that contribute to the goals of the digital transition.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable.

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	yes	**EURLO Vietnam 2** running from 2025 until 2026 with a total budget (EU grant amount) of EUR 0.9 million and **EURLO CENTRAL ASIA 2** running from 2026 until 2028 with a total budget (EU grant amount) of EUR 1.5 million. The actions contribute indirectly to **SDG 10**, by strengthening international cooperation on migration management. Through capacity-building, networking of Immigration Liaison Officers, and improved cooperation with non-EU-country migration authorities, the projects support more effective and coordinated migration governance, facilitating orderly and responsible migration management between the EU and partner countries.

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

174 joint investigation teams were in action between 2021 and 2025.	43 projects were implemented in the area of crime prevention between 2021 and 2025.	4 751 staff were involved in cross-border operations between 2021 and 2025.	3 635 items of equipment were purchased in the areas of preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalisation and managing security-related incidents, risks and crises between 2021 and 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	70.0	254.1	309.9	322.8	340.1	330.4	286.4	1 913.8
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**70.0**	**254.1**	**309.9**	**322.8**	**340.1**	**330.4**	**286.4**	**1 913.8**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

From 2021 onward, the initial financial programming for the Internal Security Fund (ISF) has undergone several modifications. The initial ISF envelope amounted to EUR 1.93 billion ([51]).

In terms of reductions, the ISF was reduced by EUR 36 million to finance legislative initiatives requiring additional resources for home affairs agencies (the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice) and the EU centre to prevent and combat child sexual abuse. It was further reduced by EUR 1.6 million through a transfer to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training.

In terms of reinforcements, the ISF was strengthened by EUR 8.9 million through Article 26 of the Common Provisions Regulation – specifically, EUR 3.2 million from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and EUR 5.7 million from the Border Management and Visa Instrument. It also received an additional EUR 7 million between 2021 and 2026 through various annual budget procedures and absorbed EUR 4.5 million of unused appropriations from the following home affairs agencies: the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and the European Union

([51]) Commission staff working document – Evaluation – Mid-term evaluation of the Internal Security Fund (ISF) for the 2021-2027 programming period, SWD(2025) 274 final of 16 September 2025, https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/api/files/SWD(2025)274_0/090166e52237d25e?rendition=false.

Drugs Agency. Further reinforcements included EUR 0.9 million from technical assistance and EUR 61 million through the national programme midterm review of the Thematic Facility.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 296.2	1 913.8	67.7%
Payments	681.4	0.0	35.6%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of information and communication technology systems made interoperable in the Member States / with security-relevant EU and decentralised information systems / with international databases	0	**6%**	775 in 2029	48 by 2025 compared to a target of 775	On track
Number of administrative units that have set up new or adapted existing information exchange mechanisms/procedures/tools/guidance for the exchange of information with other Member States / EU agencies / international organisations / non-EU countries	0	**5%**	176 in 2029	9 by 2025 compared to a target of 176	Moderate progress

Estimated value of assets frozen in the context of cross-border operations	0	**4%**	EUR 331 million in 2029	EUR 13 million by 2025 compared to a target of EUR 331 million	Moderate progress
Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations by type of product	0	**10%**	214 997 kg in 2029	22 196 kg by 2025 compared to a target of 214 997 kg	Moderate progress
Quantity of weapons seized in the context of cross-border operations by type of weapon	0	**11%**	2 774 in 2029	302 by 2025 compared to a target of 2 774	On track
Number of initiatives developed/expanded to prevent radicalisation	0	**15%**	114 in 2029	17 by 2025 compared to a target of 114	On track
Number of critical infrastructures / public spaces with new/adapted facilities protecting against security-related risks	0	**6%**	942 in 2029	56 by 2025 compared to a target of 942	On track

- The fund is implemented under shared, direct and indirect management. The largest share of the resources (68%) is allocated to the Member States' programmes under shared management. The remaining share (32%) is allocated to the Thematic Facility, a financial instrument managed by the Commission offering flexibility to support priorities with high EU added value, with evolving challenges and that respond to emerging or unforeseen needs.
- The 2025 voted budget for the ISF amounted to EUR 336.6 million in commitment appropriations. ([52]) This amount included EUR 195.5 million for initial allocations to Member States' programmes; EUR 54.7 million for the midterm review; EUR 84 million for the Thematic Facility covering specific actions, EU actions and emergency assistance; and EUR 2.45 million for technical assistance.
- The largest share of the EU's financial contribution in Member States' programmes is allocated to specific objective 3 on strengthening Member States' capabilities in fighting organised crime and terrorism (41%), followed by specific objective 1 on the exchange of information (39%). Specific objective 2 on operational cross-border cooperation accounts for the smallest share (14%).
- While supporting key initiatives across all objectives, the largest share of the Thematic Facility's funding (59%) for specific actions (shared management part of the Thematic Facility) has been allocated to specific objective 2, to mitigate the imbalance in funding

([52]) These amounts exclude transfers related to Article 26 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

allocation, for example to develop information systems, such as the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (specific objective 1); to develop long-term activities under the European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats (specific objective 2); and to enhance the uptake of innovative digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, by law enforcement authorities (specific objective 3).

- Financial implementation shows strong overall progress at this stage of the programming period, following a relatively slow start. Specific objective 1 has a high commitment rate (70%) and the highest financial implementation rate at 31% among the three objectives, which is particularly notable given the technical complexity of the information-systems-driven initiatives. The even higher level of commitments (77%) under specific objective 3 indicates that implementation will likely accelerate towards the end of the programming period. In contrast, specific objective 2 remains the objective with both the smallest EU contribution (EUR 175 million) and the lowest commitment rate (58%), reflecting Member States' prioritisation of the other objectives.
- By the end of 2025, the fund showed positive progress in terms of indicator performance. Output indicators generally showed good progress across all objectives, with specific objective 2's equipment purchases (59%) and cross-border operations (73%) performing particularly well. Conversely, result indicators were progressing more slowly. In particular, some Member States had raised their 2029 target indicators compared to the previous year, reflecting growing ambitions in parallel with increased resources following the midterm review.
- As regards performance in direct and indirect management, in view of their specific nature and legislative objectives, the performance of transnational EU actions and emergency assistance cannot be fully captured by the key performance indicators focused on capacity building and intensifying cross-border cooperation. However, these instruments effectively complement the implementation of the policy objectives at the national level through Member States' programmes by developing policy analyses and innovations, transnational mutual learning and partnerships, and by testing new initiatives and measures across the EU or addressing urgent and specific needs in the event of duly identified emergency situations.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			0.0	0.0%

- The programme regulation aligns with the EU's overarching commitment to the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, acknowledging – without prescribing a fixed target – the EU's broader ambition to allocate at least 30% of its total budget to climate action and 7.5% to biodiversity in 2024 (rising to10% in 2026-27).

- Recognising the interplay between climate and biodiversity objectives, contributions might materialise through measures such as sustainable procurement for small-scale assets, IT infrastructure or building upgrades (e.g. renewable energy adoption, insulation improvements), provided these adhere to criteria favouring low-climate-impact solutions. While no binding requirements yet govern national programming or project selection, Member States are invited to give preference to environmentally sustainable initiatives where feasible.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	70.0	254.1	309.9	322.8	340.1	1 296.9
Total:	70.0	254.1	309.9	322.8	340.1	1 296.9

- The programme is committed to the horizontal approach of the EU budget, in which equality between women and men, rights and equal opportunities for all and the mainstreaming of these objectives should be considered and promoted throughout the preparation, implementation and monitoring of relevant programmes.
- In the broader context, to receive payments from the Commission, the Member States' programmes Home Affairs funds must comply with several horizontal enabling conditions, one of which concerns the effective application and implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including the equality of men and women. The horizontal enabling conditions must be fulfilled throughout the entire programming period, and Member States must report on their application to the programme monitoring committee and the Commission.
- As regards the types of action supported by the programme, gender-specific issues are not specifically tackled. The interventions supported by the ISF do not significantly support gender equality, and managing authorities have not submitted gender-disaggregated data. Therefore, no contribution to gender equality is reported (score 0).

Gender-disaggregated information

- Reporting on gender-disaggregated data is not mandatory under the ISF. Managing authorities can decide, if they wish, to transmit gender-disaggregated data for indicators focusing on individuals. As of 2025, no managing authorities had transmitted gender-disaggregated data.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	29.9	108.7	132.6	138.1	145.5	554.8	42.8%

- It is considered that activities under all specific objectives of the programme may partially contribute to the goal of digital transition by:
    - improving and facilitating the exchange of information between and within competent authorities and relevant EU bodies, offices and agencies and, where relevant, with non-EU countries and international organisations;
    - improving and intensifying cross-border cooperation, including joint operations, between competent authorities in relation to terrorism and serious and organised crime with a cross-border dimension;
    - supporting the strengthening of Member States' capabilities in relation to preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalisation, and managing security-related incidents, risks and crises.
- The amounts contribute to activities and interventions relating to the digitalisation of administration by improving and facilitating the **exchange of information** between and within law enforcement authorities and other bodies (e.g. passenger name record – advanced passenger information, Schengen information system II, secure information exchange network application, Prüm II, etc.); improving and intensifying **cross-border operational law enforcement cooperation**; and supporting the strengthening of Member States' **capabilities in relation to preventing and combating serious and organised crime, cybercrime, terrorism and radicalisation.**

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable.

Contribution to reforms

- Not applicable.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	**ALUNA – Child-protection based strategies to fight against sexual abuse and exploitation crimes' is running from 2023 till 2025 with a budget (EU grant amount) of EUR 3 599 886.** Child sexual abuse and exploitation are among the worst forms of violence against children and constitute serious crimes that know no borders. The fight against these awful crimes is a global fight that involves governments, law enforcement agencies, civil society, communities, and, of course, companies. ALUNA project proposes an innovative, ambitious, interdisciplinary, international child-protection-centred approach to fight against child sexual abuse. ALUNA focuses on the three main components (Prevention, Investigation, and Victim Assistance) to establish a coordinated contribution with law enforcement authorities to develop an appropriate approach addressing specific needs and providing protection to childhood.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING (LITHUANIA)

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME OF THE IGNALINA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN LITHUANIA

Concrete examples of achievements

100% of fuel assemblies were removed from the pools and are safely stored in casks in the interim spent fuel storage facility by the end of 2022.	45% of materials (out of 180 000 tonnes of materials) were dismantled from the reactor buildings, controlled areas and clean areas by December 2025.	100% of optioneering studies and conceptual designs for reactor core dismantling were delivered by July 2025. The following stages are on track.	100% of decommissioning licenses were issued for Unit 1 and Unit 2 by October 2024.
1 848 reactor channels (out of 2 052) have been dismantled at Unit 1.	447 tonnes of materials have been removed from reactor areas R1 and R2 at Unit 2.	2 026 tonnes of materials have been removed from reactor areas R1 and R2 at Unit 1.	

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	72.5	98.9	68.8	67.1	74.7	74.6	82.4	539.0
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**72.5**	**98.9**	**68.8**	**67.1**	**74.7**	**74.6**	**82.4**	**539.0**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	382.0	539.0	70.9%
Payments	73.9	0.0	13.7%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Very low radioactivity waste disposed of	0	40%	29 020 m^3 in 2030	11 665 by 2025 compared to a target of 29 020	On track
Low and intermediate radioactivity waste disposed of	0	28%	9 202 m^3 in 2030	2 606 by 2025 compared to a target of 9 202	On track
Metal dismantled	0	57%	4 341 tonnes in 2028	2 473 by 2025 compared to a target of 4 341	On track

- In the 2020-2027 period, the decommissioning operator will remove all peripheral components from the reactor shafts. The transfer of the last fuel assemblies in 2022 from the reactor buildings into storage casks and then to the interim spent fuel storage facility opened the way to the dismantling of the reactor core systems, starting with the R1 and R2 zones (upper and bottom part, ongoing), followed by the R3 zone (central part, not yet started). Dismantling is now proceeding at a good pace, with an average of 4 000 tonnes of metallic waste coming from the dismantling of structures, systems and components per year. About 82 000 tonnes out of 180 000 tonnes (estimated total amount of structure, systems and components) have been dismantled by the end of 2025.
- For the dismantling of the reactor shafts (R3D project), given the first-of-kind nature of the activity, two international and experienced companies were requested to deliver an optioneering study and a following conceptual design, to prove the feasibility of the activity. The optioneering studies were delivered in July 2024 and the conceptual designs in July 2025.
- Concerning radioactive waste management, the landfill repository was completed in 2021 and went into operation in 2022. Currently, about 11 665 m^3 out of 15 000 m^3 of class A waste have been disposed of. The low-level and intermediate-level waste produced so far

is temporarily in storage buildings on site, waiting for the availability of the near surface repository. The contract for the construction of the repository was signed in April 2024 and it is expected to start operation in 2029.

- In August 2024, the contract for the dismantling of steam drum separators entered into force and progressed as planned throughout 2025.
- The results of the R3D optioneering studies and subsequent conceptual designs highlighted the need to revise the overall decommissioning baseline. The initial estimation of 2018 did not rely on a detailed study – since the Ignalina decommissioning is a first-of-a-kind operation – and appeared to be quite optimistic. After the involvement of two experienced companies, the need to revise the schedule emerged as absolutely necessary. This exercise is still ongoing and will result in a shift of the decommissioning end date; the operator is putting in place adjustments and strategic decisions to minimise the impact.

Contribution to horizontal priorities.

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

This programme does not provide a specific contribution to the green budgeting priorities.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	72.5	98.9	68.8	67.1	74.7	382.0
Total:	72.5	98.9	68.8	67.1	74.7	382.0

- The gender equality perspective was considering in developing Council Regulation (EU) 2021/101. Nonetheless, nuclear decommissioning is the primary and sole objective of the programme, which, as such, has no significant impact on gender equality and does not collect gender-disaggregated data.

Contribution to the digital transition

- There is no specific contribution to digital transition provided by this programme

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Yes	The programme aims at optimising waste management, following a waste hierarchy approach whereby disposal is the last resort, after having maximised opportunities for re-use and recycling. This involves increasing the circularity of materials in the economy, reducing the amount of waste ending up in landfills. Such an approach not only reduces environmental pressure but also provides economic and social benefits. Special efforts are put to remove any residual radioactive contamination from dismantled and removed materials (concrete, steel, metals in general), thorough verification of compliance with clearance levels in line with Euratom Basic Safety.

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING

FINANCIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE (BULGARIA, SLOVAKIA AND THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE)

Concrete examples of achievements

4 pressurisers of the primary circuit were decontaminated at units 1-4 of the Kozloduy (Bulgaria) nuclear power plant by mid-2025.	126 is the average factor of radioactive waste volume reduction achieved by the plasma melting facility during the campaign of 2025.	2 reactors and all associated circuits were completely dismantled at the Bohunice (Slovakia) V1 nuclear power plant.	98% of metals issued from the dismantled Bohunice rectors were decontaminated, verified and recycled as non-radioactive material by the end of 2025.
19 steam generators were dismantled from the Kozloduy (Bulgaria) units 1-4 by the end of 2025.	1 048 tonnes of radioactive waste and materials were processed at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) Ispra site between 2021 and 2025.	50% of all radioactive waste was managed and removed at the JRC Geel site between 2021 and 2025.	35 decommissioning knowledge products were shared between 2021 and 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	69.2	43.9	56.5	60.5	70.5	78.6	89.8	469.0
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**69.2**	**43.9**	**56.5**	**60.5**	**70.5**	**78.6**	**89.8**	**469.0**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	297.3	469.0	63.4%
Payments	146.3	0.0	31.2%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Kozloduy – radioactive waste stored or disposed of (tonnes)	0	21%	10 240 in 2030	2 204 by 2025 compared to a target of 10 240	Deserves attention
Kozloduy – metal dismantled (tonnes)	0	71%	10 868 in 2030	7 669 by 2025 compared to a target of 10 868	On track
Bohunice – low-level radioactive waste disposed of (tonnes)	0	77%	1 943 in 2027	1 497 by 2025 compared to a target of 1 943	On track
Bohunice – metal dismantled from reactor buildings and components (tonnes)	0	26%	31 792 in 2027	8 341 by 2025 compared to a target of 31 792	Deserves attention
JRC Ispra – radioactive waste processed (metric tonnes)	0	28%	3 725 in 2027	1 048 by 2025 compared to a target of 3 725	Moderate progress
JRC Geel – fraction of materials and radioactive waste removed	0	50%	100% in 2027	50% in 2025 compared to a target of 100%	Moderate progress
JRC Karlsruhe – materials/waste managed and removed	0	66%	80% in 2027	66% in 2025 compared to a target of 80%	On track
JRC Petten – materials and radioactive waste removed	0	40%	100% in 2027	40% in 2025 compared to a target of 100%	Moderate progress

Number of knowledge products disseminated ([53])	0	61%	57 in 2027	35 by 2025 compared to a target of 57	On track

- Kozloduy programme.

  - Despite some delays at the start of its implementation, the Kozloduy programme is making good progress with dismantling and radioactive waste management. Improvements in sorting and processing materials allowed the planned fraction of free-released materials to be exceeded. This partly explains the significantly lower amount of radioactive waste stored or disposed of.
  - Dismantling activities inside the reactor buildings are progressing according to the detailed decommissioning plan. The activity had started at a slower pace than planned in the 2014-2020 period but is now recovering steadily. It still remains too slow, however, and the timely achievement of the objectives for 2021-2027 is still at risk.
  - In 2025, the Commission continued its actions launched in 2024 regarding the programme management capacities of the decommissioning operator SE RAW. After a dedicated 3-day workshop organised by the Commission, the operator produced a fully resourced and project-based programme schedule, reorganised its organisational structure for delivering the decommissioning programme, supplied its critical decisions regarding the decommissioning strategy with the necessary justifications and performed a risk analysis at the programme level.
  - The programme has also made progress in dismantling the auxiliary buildings. The plasma melting facility has now been in industrial operation for several years and the construction works for the national disposal facility are being finalised. As its hot commissioning seemed to be further delayed for no justified reasons, the Commission imposed 1 April 2026 as the ultimate start date for the hot commissioning of the national disposal facility.
  - The similar designs of the Kozloduy and Bohunice reactors provide an opportunity to share experiences, methods and tools, thus reducing risks and costs. In practice, it has allowed the decontamination of the primary circuits of Kozloduy nuclear power plant units 1-4 to be completed below budget and faster than planned, following on from experience at the Bohunice V1 nuclear power plant, by reusing the decontamination equipment transported from the Bohunice site. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to also transfer the technology for the fragmentation of the steam generators.
  - In accordance with the performance baseline, the completion date for the Kozloduy programme remains 2030. However, a probabilistic analysis showed that the schedule had a less than 1% probability of success. This led the decommissioning operator to rethink its decommissioning strategy and prepare a new programme baseline. The operator submitted the proposed updated baseline in Q4 2025, which would extend the programme completion date to the end of 2032. An evaluation by the Commission and external experts indicated that the updated baseline was much more realistic. It will be implemented in the work programme from 2026 onwards.

- Bohunice programme.

  - The dismantling of the large components in the Bohunice V1 reactor building has been completed.
  - Significant unforeseen additional radioactive contamination of the concrete of the reactor shafts and the spent fuel pools resulted in higher amounts of very-low-level radioactive waste, which is partially being disposed of in the Mochovce (Slovakia) disposal facility and partially on site as material for backfilling.

([53]) Such as guidance notes, case studies and reports.

- Concerning the other indicators for Bohunice, namely the low-level radioactive waste disposed of and the metal dismantled from the reactor building, the results were on track in relation to the planned values for 2025.
- The delay was essentially caused by the fact that competitors in the tender filed complaints and appeals against the decisions taken, which led to an extremely long tendering process. The contract was signed at the end of 2024 and during 2025 the activities focused on the detailed planning of the demolition and preparing the regulatory approval.

- JRC's decommissioning programme.

  - At the Ispra site, progress in 2025 on the three main work streams (nuclear material and waste management, and decommissioning) included:
    - the start of dismantling activities of two facilities: the old liquid effluents treatment station and the hot-cell laboratory (in which the dismantling works are well advanced);
    - the preparation of operational plans for the decommissioning of the ESSOR nuclear research reactor, with the aim to submit them in 2026 as soon as the global decommissioning plan is approved;
    - progress in the licensing tasks for the alienation of fresh nuclear material and completion of the preliminary revamping works in hot cells to centralise storage of irradiated nuclear material;
    - preparation of batches and completion of all authorisation processes for radioactive metal melting;
    - the update of the design for the recovery of the so-called 'Roman pits' (i.e. underground concrete ducts in which metallic radioactive waste was disposed of);
    - the signature of a contract for the construction of the grouting station;
    - the conclusion of a call for tender for decommissioning support on all JRC sites, and supplying a first lot of final waste package containers.
  - At the Geel site, life cycle management of nuclear installations continued with systematic integration of end-of-life and decommissioning constraints. In parallel, preparatory technical actions for dismantling were initiated, including the preparation of glove boxes for future dismantling operations, increased characterisation of low-level radioactive waste to improve waste stream definition and downstream management readiness, and advancement of decommissioning planning for Building 010 through preparatory activities and supporting technical assumptions.
  - At the Petten site, an additional set of historical radioactive wastes was disposed of in 2025, and waste-specific contractual activities progressed, with one contract fully completed and all related waste evacuated and transferred to the COVRA processing and storage facility. In parallel, the strategic assessment of governance and management scenarios for the decommissioning of the High Flux Reactor was finalised and provides a technical basis for structured discussions with the Dutch authorities, while preparatory work to update the decommissioning plan towards the 2027 milestone was initiated.
  - At the Karlsruhe site, work progressed on consolidating the decommissioning strategy, including the definition of decommissioning and waste management approaches and the structuring of the associated waste inventory. In parallel, following the reopening of the KTE waste treatment pathway, a significant reduction of the legacy waste backlog was achieved through the processing and evacuation of 62 waste drums and the emptying and preparation for dismantling of 10 glove boxes, alongside continued preparation of additional glove boxes and increased characterisation of low-level radioactive waste and the completion of a specific contract defining the terms of reference for the update of the decommissioning plan.

- Finally, in 2025, JRC has almost reached its goals in terms of number of knowledge products shared (such as guidance notes, case studies and reports). In 2026, the JRC will increase the generation and sharing of knowledge products linked to decommissioning and waste management. These knowledge products cover, for example, application of remotely-operated equipment for cutting pipelines in reactor sub-flow areas and removing radioactive sources from storage facilities, V1 NPP Operation termination strategy, public awareness approaches for nuclear decommissioning and radioactive waste management, and incineration of radioactive waste in bitumen matrix.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation				Estimates				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.3	0.2	0.7	3.2	0.0			4.5	1.0%

- This programme provides no specific contribution to the green budgeting priorities

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	69.2	43.9	56.5	60.5	70.5	300.7
Total:	69.2	43.9	56.5	60.5	70.5	300.7

- The gender equality perspective was considered in developing Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100. Nonetheless, nuclear decommissioning is the sole objective of the programme, which, as such, has no significant impact on gender equality.

Contribution to the digital transition

- This programme provides no specific contribution to the digital transition.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	x	One of the objectives of the programme is to demonstrate the feasibility of decommissioning nuclear power reactors and other nuclear facilities. As such, the programme has a direct impact on the sustainability of the nuclear production of energy in the EU (25% of the EU's electricity production) and on the public acceptability of nuclear energy within Europe, hence contributing integrally to the SDG on Affordable and clean energy.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	x	Part of the programme is oriented to developing radioactive waste treatment and management routes in the beneficiary MS, including the construction or the improvement of radioactive waste disposal facilities. Examples that illustrate the contribution of the programme to SD9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) include the installation of a Plasma Melting Facility for volume reduction of the radioactive waste, construction of disposal facilities for very low level, low level and intermediate level radioactive waste, etc. …

EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

> EUR 4.1 billion was allocated to the European Defence Fund (EDF) for the 2021-2024 period to support collaborative defence research and development projects focused on technologies and products addressing Member States' needs in line with commonly agreed priorities.	26 Member States, plus Norway and Ukraine, hosted the 1 653 legal entities participating in the EDF projects awarded from 2021 to 2024.	43% of the unique legal entities participating in the 225 projects supported under the EDF in the 2021-2024 period were self-declared small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).	EUR 590 million was allocated to support collaborative research and development under the EDF precursor programmes from 2017 to 2020, namely the preparatory action on defence research and the European defence industrial development programme.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	945.7	940.4	945.7	1 023.8	1 388.7	999.6	1 042.3	7 286.2
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	23.7	22.0	25.9	34.2	37.0	0.0	0.0	142.8
Total	**969.4**	**962.4**	**971.6**	**1 058.0**	**1 425.7**	**999.6**	**1 042.3**	**7 429.0**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	5 392.5	7 429.0	72.6%
Payments	2 597.9	0.0	35.0%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Collaborative research: number of funded actions	0	n/a	n/a	132 from 2021 to 2024	n/a
Collaborative research: share of recipients that did not carry out research activities with defence applications before the entry into force of the fund	0	n/a	n/a	81% ([54]) from 2021 to 2024	n/a
Collaborative capability development: share of number of funded actions that address the capability shortfalls identified in the capability development plan	0	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a
Job creation/support: defence research and development employees supported in funded actions	0	n/a	n/a	22 500 from 2021 to 2024 ([2])	n/a

[1] The value corresponds to the newcomers to the EDF (participants in awarded research and development projects). It does not necessarily mean that these newcomers had not previously carried out research activities with defence applications before the entry into force of the fund (12 May 2021), for which consolidated information is not available.

[2] A macroeconomic study conducted as part of the EDF interim evaluation estimates that the EDF will contribute to the creation of around 35 000 jobs across the EU by 2030.

European Defence Fund

- The EDF fosters the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the European defence technological and industrial base by **supporting collaborative defence research and development** actions. Over the last years, through its incentives for cross-border cooperation, the EDF has made a major contribution to reducing fragmentation within the European defence technological and industrial base. To date, **225 EDF projects involve 1 634 unique participants from 26 Member States, Norway and Ukraine**, including entities from regions where defence industry activity has traditionally been limited.
- In April 2025, the European Commission selected for funding **63 new defence industrial projects under the EDF 2024 calls.** These projects focus on critical technologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and air defence, with the potential to drive transformative change in the European defence sector. The EDF continues to be a major entry point for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), mid-caps and research organisations. **SMEs account for 39% of unique participants** and receive around 27% of EU funding. **Mid-caps represent 4% of participants** and receive around 6% of funding. The **EDF Work Programme 2025** was published on 30 January 2025, allocating close to EUR 1 billion to support collaborative research, development and innovation in Europe's defence sector. By 16 October 2025, the Commission had received a record **410 project proposals** in response to the EDF 2025 calls for proposals, leading to funding awards exceeding EUR 1 billion. This marked an unprecedented level of interest since the fund was launched in 2021 and represented an **increase of 38% compared to 2024**, demonstrating the growing relevance and attractiveness of the EDF. To stimulate disruptive innovation and attract new market entrants, the EDF 2025 calls included dedicated funding under the European Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS), allocating over **EUR 400 million to support defence innovation,** among which over 140 million to **support small-and medium- sized enterprises** in developing, prototyping and testing breakthrough defence technologies.
- In 2025, EUDIS continued to strengthen support for non-traditional defence actors, with a particular focus on SMEs and start-ups. Two **EUDIS Hackathons** were organised across 16 locations in Europe, bringing together more than 800 participants. In 2025, EUDIS launched its **Business Accelerator and Matchmaking** initiatives. The first cohort of the EUDIS Business Accelerator supported 20 innovative companies. EUDIS Matchmaking delivered five in-person events in different EU countries and two online events, facilitating targeted connections between innovators, investors, corporates and end-users. EDF has also contributed to the InvestEU Programme through blending with the EU guarantee, which contributed to the mobilisation of additional investments. In particular, EDF contributed EUR 80 million via an InvestEU top-up to the equity instrument, which is under indirect management by the European Investment Fund for the target area of defence. Under the **Defence Equity Facility** the European Investment Fund, approved ten operations and signed investment agreements with eight funds (venture capital, private equity and private debt), strengthening access to finance for defence SMEs and small midcaps.

- On 17 December 2025, the Commission adopted the **EDF Work Programme 2026**, earmarking EUR 1 billion for collaborative research and development in the field of defence. Commonly agreed critical defence capability priorities remain at the forefront, with half of the budget dedicated to major capability developments.
- In June 2025, the Commission published the **EDF Interim Evaluation**, which confirmed that the fund has significantly reduced duplication, strengthened SME participation and fostered pan-European cooperation. The findings also underlined the **need for a substantial increase in defence research and development resources** under the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework.
- The EDF continued to deliver **strong value for money**. A macroeconomic study conducted as part of the EDF Interim Evaluation indicates significant long-term impacts on the defence industry and the labour market. It estimates that every euro invested is expected to generate **more than EUR 4.5 in economic return by 2040**, even before accounting for spillovers into civilian technologies and wider industrial innovation. The study also estimates that the EDP will support the **creation of more than 35 000 jobs across the EU by 2030**. These projections are underpinned by the EDF's contribution to reducing financial and technical risks for industry and to strengthening cross-border collaboration along defence supply chains.
- The EDF Interim Evaluation identified a set of **challenges** that particularly relate to the need to simplify procedures and facilitate access for new entrants, while maintaining a balanced participation across the defence ecosystem. In addition, further reflection is required on how to better ensure **continuity of effort across the full development cycle**, from lower to higher technology readiness levels and prototyping and, more broadly, between research and development, industrialisation, production ramp-up and procurement. Finally, the evaluation underlined the importance of strengthening support for defence innovation and exploring options for **faster and leaner funding cycles** in order to integrate innovative solutions more rapidly, including in the context of the next multiannual financial framework.
- Building on the findings of the EDF Interim Evaluation, DG Defence Industry and Space has started to pursue additional **simplification measures up to 2027** and in preparation for the next multiannual financial framework.
- In line with the 'White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030', the Commission proposed major simplification initiatives through the **mini-omnibus** and the **Defence Readiness Omnibus**. Two key measures will already apply from 2026. First, the administrative burden linked to company ownership verification has been significantly reduced by **extending the validity of ownership control assessments** from 18 to 36 months. Second, EDF grant award criteria have been simplified, notably for SMEs and disruptive non-thematic calls, to provide simpler, faster and more flexible support to innovators. These changes **reduce application documentation requirements by around half**, allowing companies to save substantial time and resources. Taken together, these measures are expected to generate total **cost savings exceeding EUR 100 million per year** for both industry and the Commission.
- In addition, **all EDF projects will be able to use the Financial Support to Third Parties mechanism**, further facilitating the participation of start-ups and SMEs through simplified access to funding and easier integration into collaborative projects.

- Building on the EDF Interim Evaluation outcomes, the combined effect of these simplifications and the shorter **duration of disruptive projects** is expected to accelerate the integration of new defence solutions and enable more cost-efficient development of innovative technologies, with the **potential to shorten overall timelines by up to 28 months**.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming ([55])	82.8	19.3	25	40	93	50	N/A	310.1	4.3%

- The overall budget for EDF implementation is not specifically intended to target climate and biodiversity mainstreaming or clean air directly. However, it may generate indirect positive climate effects, as capability development projects and defence research increasingly take into account the importance of sustainability in defence activities.
- The budget allocated to EDF calls under the category of action 'Energy resilience and environmental transition' for the period 2021-2024 amounts to EUR 167.1 million.
- Over the period 2021-2024, a number of projects funded under the European Defence Fund have demonstrated strong potential to contribute to energy resilience and environmental transition in the defence sector. These initiatives address challenges related to energy efficiency, sustainable resource management, and a reduced environmental footprint in military operations. Notable examples include the INDY project, which develops a strategic roadmap for **energy independence and efficient deployable military camps**; NOMAD, which focuses on next-generation electrical **energy storage solutions** for forward operating bases; and NEUMANN, which explores **energy-efficient propulsion** and advanced electrical and thermal management systems for future air dominance platforms. Further initiatives include HEGAPS, developing **hybrid energy grid and propulsion** coordination systems; MINEFIELD, which advances **energy-autonomous smart textiles** capable of generating and storing power for soldier systems; and ARCHYTAS, which investigates novel **artificial intelligence accelerators**

([55]) Data are based on the EDF Multiannual Indicative Budget Summary presented in the EDF Work Programme 2026 for the category of action 'Energy resilience and environmental transition'.

designed to optimise energy consumption and computational efficiency. Additional projects such as CALIPSO address innovative **emission-reducing propulsion solutions** for land and naval platforms, while IMMUNE focuses on lighter and more **sustainable personal protection equipment**. Complementing these efforts, ZEROWASTE explores circular approaches to **transform military equipment waste into energy** and food resources, and S.W.I.F.T. investigates advanced **water reuse and purification technologies** to ensure a safe and sustainable water supply for deployed forces. Together, these projects illustrate the growing integration of energy efficiency and environmental considerations within defence research and innovation supported by the European Defence Fund.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	945.7	940.4	945.7	1 023.8	1 388.7	5 244.3
Total:	945.7	940.4	945.7	1 023.8	1 388.7	5 244.3

- In line with the EDF Regulation, the Commission seeks to achieve a balanced composition within the independent expert groups, including on gender balance.
- Efforts are continuously made to seize all relevant opportunities related to the promotion of gender equality, e.g. side events and workshops or including gender equality aspects in communication activities and events.
- In January 2025, DG DEFIS launched the DIVERIS Network, aiming at promoting equal opportunities and inclusive practices in the space and defence sectors by bringing together individuals, companies, research organisations, public bodies, and civil society actors across Europe. Its work focuses on building a resilient and diverse workforce, increasing representation, attracting and retaining talent, raising awareness, and contributing to EU policies aligned with post-2025 equality strategies. At the end of 2025, the network had a total of 63 members.

Gender disaggregated information

- Not applicable.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution ([56])	240.9	224.5	245.0	284.0	0.0	994.4	19%

The EDF supports digital transition across multiple categories of action, including digital transformation, cyber, disruptive technologies, and information superiority, as well as air combat, ground combat, and naval combat, where collaborative combat technologies and systems are developed.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- In line with **Regulation 2024/795** (the "STEP" Regulation), the **European Defence Fund (EDF)** is one of the directly managed EU budget instruments mobilised under the **Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)** to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy. In accordance with Article 4, the EDF is also one of the programmes authorised to award the **STEP (Sovereignty) Seal** under some of its calls for proposals.
- To date, **STEP-relevant EDF projects have been funded with EUR 406.93 million**, with a total of 29 EDF project proposals awarded a STEP Seal by the European Commission.
- As a result of the entry into force on 23 December 2025 of the 'Defence mini-omnibus EU Regulation: incentivising defence-related investment in the EU budget to implement the ReArm Europe Plan', the scope of STEP, initially focusing on digital, clean, and bio technologies, was **extended to a fourth sector, namely defence technologies**.
- This extension was complemented by a recent mid-term **review of the cohesion policy regulatory framework**, which aims to support funding in EU-selected priorities, including competitiveness (through STEP) and defence.

([56]) Data are based on the EDF Multiannual Indicative Budget Summary presented in the EDF Work Programme 2026, representing the cumulative value of amounts corresponding to the categories of action 'Digital transition', 'Cyber', 'Information superiority', and 'Disruptive technologies'.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all The EDF supports research and development projects focused on increasing the energy efficiency of military equipment and facilities, and energy-saving technologies for defence applications. The budget allocated to EDF calls under the category of action 'Energy resilience and environmental transition' for the period 2021-2024 amounts to EUR 167.1 million.
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all The EDF investments in defence research and development stimulate economic growth by supporting and creating highly qualified jobs and fostering innovation in the defence industry throughout the EU, Norway and Ukraine.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation The EDF supports projects aimed at fostering innovation in defence technology and infrastructure. This includes research into advanced materials, cybersecurity solutions, autonomous systems, and other cutting-edge technologies relevant to defence applications. By investing in these areas, the EDF helps strengthen Europe's industrial base and improve its technological capabilities.

ACT IN SUPPORT OF AMMUNITION PRODUCTION (ASAP)

THE EU PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT THE EU INDUSTRY IN RAMPING UP ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITIES IN AMMUNITION AND MISSILES

Concrete examples of achievements

31 projects were launched in 2024 under the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP) programme.	16 EU Member States, and Norway, are participating in the programme in 2024-2027.	> EUR 1.5 billion in total investment is expected to be leveraged by the end of 2027 through EU funding, combined with contributions from the European defence industry, Member States and Norway.	2 million is the objective at the European level for the annual production capacity of 155 mm artillery shells, to which projects supported under ASAP are already contributing.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.0	0.0	157.0	343.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	500.0
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.9
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**157.0**	**358.9**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**515.9**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	515.9	515.9	100.0%
Payments	225.9	0.0	43.8%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of single entities in the selected projects	0	n/a	n/a	31 unique participants by 2025	n/a
Number of Member States in which these entities are established	0	n/a	n/a	16 Member States and Norway by 2025	n/a
Number of proposals submitted	0	100%	82	82 proposals submitted by 2025	Achieved
Number of funded projects	0	n/a	n/a	31 projects funded by 2025	n/a
Value and share of contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-caps	0	n/a	n/a	EUR 182.9 million, or 35.7% of the overall budget, by 2025	n/a

Act in support of ammunition production (asap)

The EU programme to support the eu industry in ramping up its production capacities in ammunition and missiles

ASAP fosters the efficiency and competitiveness of the EU's defence technological and industrial base to support the ramping up of production capacity and the timely delivery of relevant defence products through industrial reinforcement.

The ASAP work programme was adopted on 18 October 2023, with a total budget of EUR 500 million, supplemented by an additional contribution of approximately EUR 16 million from Norway.

Five calls for proposals were launched on 18 October 2023. The European defence industry demonstrated significant interest, submitting 82 proposals across all calls. Once these proposals had been evaluated, **31 projects** were selected for funding with a budget in excess of EUR 500 million to stimulate the production of ammunition. The award decision for ASAP projects was announced in June 2024, with all grant agreements being signed by the end of 2024.

The programme is currently supporting the implementation of projects in the following areas.

- **Explosives.** Seven projects, with a portfolio budget of around EUR 124 million.
- **Powder.** Eleven projects, with a portfolio budget of around EUR 248 million.
- **Shells.** Seven projects, with a portfolio budget of around EUR 90 million.
- **Missiles.** Five projects, with a portfolio budget of around EUR 50 million.
- **Testing and reconditioning.** One project, with a portfolio budget of around EUR 2 million.

The selected projects will address bottlenecks throughout the ammunition and missile supply chains in the EU and Norway by supporting the industry in rapidly adjusting to new market trends and reducing dependencies. For instance, ASAP will help with extending or modernising existing lines, creating new lines, setting out plans to repurpose old ammunition, securing value chains and addressing skills gaps.

In general, projects are expected to be completed within a maximum of 36 months after grant signature. To avoid potential delays to industrial initiatives contributing to ensuring the effective supply and timely availability of ammunitions and missiles, ASAP provides for a retroactivity clause so that initiatives that began after 20 March 2023 may be eligible for EU support.

An evaluation report, as provided for in the ASAP Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/1525 on supporting ammunition production), was published on 8 July 2024. ASAP's implementation has demonstrated the effectiveness of an emergency instrument in the European defence industry, one of its key achievements being the contribution to reaching the production capacity target of over 2 million artillery shells per year, a milestone expected to be achieved by the end of 2026.

The main challenges in ASAP implementation include potential delays caused by supply chain disruptions, logistical difficulties and environmental permitting requirements for new industrial production facilities.

In order to address ASAP implementation challenges, the defence readiness roadmap 2030, presented in October 2025, outlines measures to secure critical materials, streamline permitting and authorisation processes and support Member States in overcoming administrative or procedural bottlenecks that could delay implementation.

Building on this approach, future initiatives under the European defence industry programme will continue the same logic, reinforcing industrial capacities in the production of defence equipment and ammunition.

A further evaluation report to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on the implementation of ASAP is envisaged for the fourth quarter of 2026.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

- The overall budget for ASAP implementation was not specifically intended to target climate or biodiversity mainstreaming directly. However, it may have indirect positive effects on climate by benefiting certain industrial entities participating in the programme.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	0.0	0.0	157.0	343.0	0.0	500.0
Total:	0.0	0.0	157.0	343.0	0.0	500.0

- ASAP is not directly targeted at gender equality initiatives. However, it continues to make indirect contributions by gradually raising awareness of the related aspects within the EU's defence technological and industrial base.

Gender-disaggregated information

- Not applicable

Contribution to the digital transition

- The overall ASAP budget was not specifically intended to directly target the digital transition, but it takes related aspects into account, considering new technological developments within the EU's defence technological and industrial base. This includes, for example, technological advancements related to the modernisation of production lines and the establishment of new ones.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	ASAP will support the extension and modernisation of existing production lines, as well as the establishment of new ones based on new construction & operational standards.

EU DEFENCE INDUSTRY REINFORCEMENT THROUGH COMMON PROCUREMENT ACT (EDIRPA)

PROGRAMME TO ADRESS THE EU'S MOST URGENT AND CRITICAL DEFENCE CAPABILITY GAPS AND INCENTIVISE THE EU MEMBER STATES TO PROCURE DEFENCE PRODUCTS JOINTLY

Concrete examples of achievements

EUR 310 million is the total budget of the EU Defence Industry Reinforcement through Common Procurement Act (Edirpa) programme for 2024-2026, which will facilitate access for participating Member States to urgently needed defence products.	EUR 11 billion is the procurement value of defence products for the armed forces of Member States expected to be leveraged by the programme.	5 cross-border projects have been chosen to support more coordinated and efficient defence procurement among EU Member States.	20 Member States were involved in the preparation of projects under Edirpa, some of which are engaging in common defence procurement for the first time.

EU defence industry reinforcement through common procurement act (edirpa)

Programme to adress the eu's most urgent and critical defence capability gaps and incentivise the eu member states to procure defence products jointly

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.0	0.0	0.0	250.2	40.0	0.0	0.0	290.2
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	9.8
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**258.9**	**41.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**300.0**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	300.0	300.0	100.0%
Payments	63.0	0.0	21.0%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress (*)	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of proposals submitted by applicants	n/a	n/a	n/a	12 at the end of 2024	n/a
Number of projects selected for funding	n/a	n/a	n/a	5 at the end of 2024	n/a
Average number of Member States involved in a consortium / associated countries involved in a consortium concerning the projects selected for funding	n/a	n/a	n/a	6 at the end of 2024	n/a
Estimated value of the common procurement contracts by consortia of Member States and associated countries	n/a	n/a	n/a	EUR 11 billion at the end of 2024	n/a
Actual financial contribution of the EU to each action	n/a	n/a	n/a	EUR 60 million per action at the end of 2024	n/a

EU defence industry reinforcement through common procurement act (edirpa)

Programme to adress the eu's most urgent and critical defence capability gaps and incentivise the eu member states to procure defence products jointly

- Edirpa was adopted by the co-legislators on 18 October 2023 and is implemented through a single work programme that was adopted by the Commission on 15 March 2024.
- The Edirpa Instrument will facilitate access for all Member States to defence products that are urgently needed. By rewarding defence procurement cooperation among Member States, Edirpa aims to offset the complexity often associated with common procurement.
- On 14 November 2024, the European Commission approved funding for five cross-border projects related to the common procurement of air and missile defence systems, ammunition and platforms to support more coordinated and efficient defence procurement among Member States, as follows.
    - **Procurement of air and missile defence systems.** Two projects will bolster joint air and missile defence capabilities. The Mistral project supports the common procurement of Mistral very-short-range air defence systems by seven Member States (Denmark, Estonia, Spain, France, Cyprus, Hungary and Romania). Another project, JAMIE (joint air missile defence initiative in Europe), will support the common procurement of IRIS-T SLM medium-range air defence systems by five Member States (Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Latvia,and Slovenia). These are systems for protection against air threats such as combat aircraft, attack helicopters and unmanned air systems.

      Procurement of modern armoured vehicles. Edirpa will also support the procurement of the Common Armoured Vehicle System, a modern armoured carrier for protected troop transport, by four Member States (Germany, Latvia, Finland and Sweden). These modern armoured vehicles offer high performance and unprecedented mobility.
    - **Procurement of ammunition.** In two further projects, Edirpa will support the common procurement of 155 mm artillery ammunition, namely the CPoA 155mm project, involving six Member States (Denmark, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Poland), and the HE 155mm project, involving four Member States (Germany, Denmark, Estonia and the Netherlands).
- Aggregating EU demand on a wider scale will provide the defence industry in the EU with stronger and more long-term signals to ramp up its manufacturing capacities and make the defence market ready to face a changed security environment. Buying more, together and European-made will also improve the interoperability of EU defence systems and capabilities.
- Edirpa was designed as a short-term instrument to incentivise collaborative procurement by Member States through financial support from the EU.
- Following the adoption of the award decision, the Commission engaged with the participating Member States to prepare the implementation phase, including the drawing up of grant agreements and the clarification of procedural and contractual steps required at the national level.
- During 2025, the Commission coordinated with the national authorities responsible for the procurement procedures to monitor the progress of the preparatory work and to ensure alignment with the requirements of the programme.
- It is expected that all procurement measures will enter the implementation phase by the end of 2026, with meaningful reporting data likely to become available gradually.

- The main challenges in implementing Edirpa stem from the complexity of common defence procurement and the need for effective coordination between Member States within the contractual framework.
- To address implementation challenges, the defence readiness roadmap 2030, presented in October 2025, also highlighted the importance of secure supply chains, harmonised permitting procedures and smoother national approval processes for procurement contracts. This reinforces Edirpa's objective to enable collaborative acquisitions across Member States and to minimise delays linked to administrative or regulatory hurdles.
- Future actions under the European defence industry programme will continue this logic, ensuring that collaborative procurement efforts translate effectively into operational outcomes.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

The overall budget for Edirpa implementation was not intended to target climate and biodiversity mainstreaming directly.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	0.0	0.0	0.0	250.2	40.0	290.2
Total:	0.0	0.0	0.0	250.2	40.0	290.2

Edirpa is not directly targeted at gender equality initiatives. Nevertheless, indirect contributions supporting the gradual raising of awareness of this horizontal Commission priority are continually made as opportunities arise.

Gender-disaggregated information

Not applicable

Contribution to the digital transition

Edirpa is not directly targeted at the digital transition; however, it takes the digital transition into account in view of emerging technological developments within the EU defence technological and industrial base. In this context, the award criteria include elements related to the competitiveness of the EU defence technological and industrial base and its adaptation to structural changes, including technological transformation.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

Edirpa indirectly supports and contributes to some SDGs, but the programme was not created directly to deliver on all 17 SDGs.

NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT – GLOBAL EUROPE

Concrete examples of achievements

220 000 extremely vulnerable Sudanese people (in particular women and young people) were assisted by emergency response rooms in 2025.	1.3 million refugees from 280 000 households in Türkiye received cash transfers as beneficiaries of the social safety net programme in 2025.	5 734 793 migrants, refugees and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities were protected or assisted between 2021 and 2025.	120 000 new jobs have been created and 80 000 small and medium-sized enterprises have been supported through the EU4Business initiative in the Eastern Neighbourhood since 2023.
400 journalists and media employees of 17 media outlets were supported in Moldova in 2024-2025, to counteract foreign information manipulation and interference in the context of elections.	276 859 smallholders were able to increase their sustainable production, access to markets or land security between 2021 and 2025.	420 schools were restored and 59 constructed across Tunisian governorates from 2018 to 2025, thanks to EUR 22.5 million in EU support under the school modernisation programme.	5 295 545 people were given access to improved drinking water sources or sanitation facilities between 2021 and 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	12 259.0	12 424.0	12 016.8	11 364.5	11 103.1	9 881.9	10 284.8	79 334.1
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	6.0	33.1	1 037.8	77.7	31.7	0.0	0.0	1 186.3
Total	**12 265.0**	**12 457.1**	**13 054.6**	**11 442.2**	**11 134.7**	**9 881.9**	**10 284.8**	**80 520.7**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	61 886.1	80 520.7	76.9%
Payments	29 826.4	0.0	37.0%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Proportion of population below the international poverty line	8.08%	8%	3.9% in 2030	7.7% in 2024 compared to a target of 3.9%	Moderate progress
Number of individuals with access to improved drinking water sources and/or sanitation facilitation with EU support	0	21%	25.6 million in 2030	5.3 million in 2025 compared to a target of 25.6 million	On track
Number of students enrolled in education: primary education, secondary education, and number of people who have benefited from institution- or workplace-based vocational education and training / skills-development interventions, supported by the EU	0	3%	116.7 million in 2030	3 million in 2025 compared to a target of 116.7 million	Moderate progress

Number of migrants, refugees and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or assisted with EU support	0	22%	25.1 million in 2030	5.7 million in 2025 compared to a target of 25.1 million	On track
Number of countries and cities with climate-change and/or disaster-risk-reduction strategies with EU support	0	3%	730 in 2030	22 in 2025 compared to a target of 730	On track
Greenhouse gas emissions avoided with EU support (Ktons of CO_2 equivalent)	0	0%	62.8 million in 2030	2 432 in 2025 compared to a target of 62.8 million	Moderate progress
Leverage of investments and multiplier effect achieved	12	0%	10 in 2030	0 in 2024	No data
Number of individuals directly benefiting from EU-supported interventions that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict, peacebuilding or conflict prevention	0	> 100%	49.6 million in 2033	50.8 million in 2024 compared to a target of 49.6 million in 2033	Achieved

Neighbourhood, development and international cooperation instrument – Global Europe

- In 2025, the European Commission advanced the EU's Global Gateway initiative, strengthening strategic partnerships worldwide through sustainable investment. Key milestones included the EU–African Union Summit and the Global Gateway Forum, scaling up the Africa–Europe investment package and implementing the Samoa Agreement with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. The EU–Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Summit solidified ties with Latin America and the Caribbean, with more than 80 projects advancing under the Global Gateway Investment Agenda, including regional electricity integration and sargassum valorisation. In Asia and the Pacific, the EU–Central Asia Summit secured a EUR 12 billion investment package, while Indo-Pacific partnerships (e.g. with Australia and Japan) focused on connectivity and critical raw materials.
- In the digital sector, the EU International Digital Strategy drove initiatives like the EU–Latin American and Caribbean supercomputing network and Mozambique's Digital Economy Package. Climate action saw progress via the Africa–Europe Green Energy Initiative, NaturAfrica and Just Energy Transition Partnerships, alongside circular economy and critical raw materials supply chain investments.
- Transport infrastructure projects prioritised green shipping, railways and urban mobility, aligning with the Sustainable Transport Investment Plan. Human development efforts included health system strengthening (e.g. the Gavi Pledging Summit), education (12% budget allocation over 2021-2024 of International Partnerships actions), and water-sanitation programmes. Migration governance improved through partnerships with Mauritania and Senegal, while fragile contexts (e.g., Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo) received EUR 121.5 million for resilience and peacebuilding.
- Multilateralism was reinforced via cooperation with the United Nations (UN) and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including a new EU–World Bank agreement, and the Team Europe approach remained central, ensuring private sector engagement and human-rights-based investment.
- EU support in the Eastern Neighbourhood continued to advance EU policy objectives on the rule of law, connectivity, energy and local development, despite a challenging geopolitical environment. Key achievements include the launch of a rule-of-law practitioners' community through the Warsaw workshop with the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and continued support for justice reforms via the Venice Commission's Quick Response Mechanism, which funded six opinions for Armenia and Moldova. Energy transition efforts progressed through the EU4Energy programme, supporting Moldova's and Ukraine's alignment with the EU energy *acquis* on the enlargement track. The Covenant of Mayors East attracted growing numbers of signatories, particularly in Moldova and Ukraine. The Mayors for Economic Growth programme advanced local economic development through mission-oriented portfolios and targeted energy resilience support in Moldova's security zone. However, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and regional instability continue to constrain implementation timelines and absorption capacity.
- The European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) performed its central role in delivering on the Global Gateway by sharing the risks of development finance partners when they mobilise their own resources, thereby attracting additional investors, particularly from the private sector.

- The EU budget extended guarantee covers for European Investment Bank loans of approximately EUR 4 billion, which are expected to leverage EUR 14 billion in total investment, and open architecture guarantees for EUR 2.5 billion, with an estimated total investment of at least EUR 5 billion. Blending operations of the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus, in the same period, amounted to an EU contribution of EUR 1.5 billion and are projected to leverage EUR 23 billion in investment.
- The Commission continued to strengthen its engagement in the Middle East. In Syria, post-Assad-regime developments led to reinvigorated EU relations and increased support for the country's recovery efforts. Further EU support contributed to Syria recording its largest-ever number of primary education students in 2025. In Lebanon, the Commission focused its efforts on supporting the country's reform agenda and post-conflict recovery action. A Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership was signed with Jordan, backed by a financial and investment package for 2025-2027, estimated at EUR 3 billion. Further EU support contributed to the highest number of students enrolled in primary education recorded in 2025 in Syria.
- The Commission advanced the EU's strategic goals in the Gulf region with an emphasis on energy, digital, investment, research and people-to-people exchanges. This included launching Strategic Partnership Agreements with Gulf Cooperation Council countries. In Yemen, the focus is on providing support for mediation and humanitarian assistance together with support for livelihoods and social protection. In 2025, Yemen had the largest number of people (within the Middle East and North Africa region) benefiting from vocational education and training to develop skills with EU assistance.
- The Commission continued to uphold peace and stability in 2025 through 85 new crisis-response interventions, to the amount of EUR 228.85 million, and 35 new thematic interventions, to the amount of EUR 112.45 million. This included responding to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, supporting the Middle East peace process, addressing instability in Lebanon, Sudan and Syria and fighting disinformation in Moldova and the Sahel. Interventions focused on peace mediation, conflict prevention, demining, maritime security and cybersecurity, energy resilience, fighting terrorism and organised crime, and human rights accountability.
- Additionally, the Commission implemented 16 new interventions, to the amount of EUR 42.71 million, to support EU foreign policy needs in 2025, leveraging the EU's worldwide influence in areas such as environmental protection, foreign information manipulation and interference, and public and cultural diplomacy.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation			Estimates					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	1 909.4	3 570.1	3 208.5	3 036.9	2 790.2	2 684.0	2 759.0	19 958.2	25.2%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	529.7	920.8	1 020.6	1 112.9	880.4	1 017.8	1 017.9	6 500.1	8.2%

- The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI – Global Europe) Regulation states that actions under NDICI – Global Europe are expected to contribute 30% of its overall financial envelope to climate objectives. According to preliminary estimates, the EU has allocated approximately XX% of its NDICI – Global Europe funding to actions that contribute to addressing climate change during the 2021-2025 period.
- In the next years, it is important to sustain the strengthening of the climate change dimension in Global Gateway investments and other NDICI – Global Europe funded actions to ensure that they continue contributing to the green transition in all relevant sectors such as sustainable energy, urban mobility, transport, agriculture/value chains, digital, circular economy and waste management, water infrastructure, land and integrated coastal management.
- Robust processes and tools are in place to ensure effective mainstreaming of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction considerations across relevant actions, including by checking and reviewing all actions at early stage. The European Commission developed a comprehensive toolbox to better mainstream environment and climate change in EU cooperation, the Greening EU cooperation toolbox which aligns with the European Green Deal as well as the Global Gateway strategy. Capacity building of Commission staff in headquarters and delegations is being ensured through a series of training sessions and webinars.
- The EU is actively advancing the green transition in the Eastern Partnership through targeted programmes delivering concrete results. The EU4Climate Resilience programme (EUR 17 million) provides technical support and pilot projects to strengthen climate adaptation at municipal level, helping partner countries meet their Paris Agreement commitments and align with EU legislation. Building on this, the EU4Ggreen Recovery East programme (EUR 21.3 million), launched in 2025, supports water management, approximation of the EU environmental *acquis*, and the promotion of circular economy practices within the private sector.

- Regarding the biodiversity objective more specifically, the programme contributed 7.22% over the 2021-2024 period. Preliminary calculations for 2025 indicate a slightly increased aggregated contribution of 7.34% over the 2021-2025 period. However, these efforts will need to be sustained during the remaining period of the Multiannual Financial Framework, with a view to support the Commission's political ambitions for biodiversity and the achievement of the 10% overall MFF target for 2026 and 2027. Therefore, a comprehensive approach—combining the development of a substantial portfolio of biodiversity-related measures with the mainstreaming of biodiversity across relevant sectors and initiatives—should be further strengthened to reverse the downward trend observed in 2025 and comply with the Commission's ambitions.
- The New Pact for the Mediterranean seeks to enhance collaboration on clean energy and technology to foster a shared space of peace and prosperity in the Mediterranean region. Using the advantages of the region's renewable resources, the Trans-Mediterranean Energy and Clean Tech cooperation initiative aims to attract substantial private sector investments in renewable energy and clean technology within the Middle East and North Africa region. Key objectives include improving energy efficiency, boosting renewable energy and hydrogen production, integrating electricity markets, and strengthening the region's energy resilience and diversification. A focus on circular economy principles presents economic opportunities and incentivises research and innovation. Addressing subsidies in some countries' energy systems to improve macroeconomic stability, and ensuring biodiversity and ecosystem risks are assessed, is crucial.
- In the realm of Mediterranean forest governance, the proposal addresses challenges stemming from intense wildfires and socio-economic factors such as urbanisation, inadequate environmental governance, and rural depopulation. These exacerbate climate impacts and negatively influence biodiversity, soil, and regional development. Enhanced forest governance emphasises prevention through sustainable management rather than fire suppression. Drawing from European expertise, the programme targets the restoration of 8 million hectares of degraded land, focusing on land productivity and ecosystem services. Efforts include implementing harmonised policies, facilitating participatory, science-based policymaking, and promoting gender-sensitive approaches. The initiative aims to safeguard biodiversity, water security, and climate resilience by fostering cooperation across borders and improving forest management to reduce socio-economic disparities.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	178.5	143.9	630.0	427.8	119.8	1 500.0
1	8 658.5	11 337.3	10 948.4	9 560.8	8 420.8	48 925.8
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	3 422.0	942.8	438.4	1 375.9	2 562.5	8 741.6
Total:	12 259.0	12 424.0	12 016.8	11 364.5	11 103.1	59 167.4

- The NDICI – Global Europe Regulation requires that at least 85% of all new external actions under the instrument contribute to gender equality as a significant (a gender policy marker score of G1 from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee) or principal objective (a score of G2) and that at least 5% of those actions should target gender equality as principal objective.
- Between 2021 and 2025, the share of external actions contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment reached 83%, and of those, 4.7% (about 90 programmes at the country, regional and global levels) had gender equality as principal objective.
- For instance, among the actions scoring G2, the Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action (ACT) Programme is a EUR 22 million initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by UN Women. The programme strengthens women's rights movements to advocate and work with public authorities on policy and legal reforms and accountability mechanisms to end all forms of violence against women and girls, particularly in contexts of shrinking civic space.
- In 2025, through the advocacy, coalition building and transformative feminist action programme, women' rights organisations and activists shaped more than 20 global and regional normative and policy processes, such as the adoption of the Mercosur Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures for Women in Situations of Gender-Based Violence, the ratification of ILO Convention 190, and continental justice and accountability frameworks, notably the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls.
- In March 2025, The African Union Commission, the United Nations, and the European Union signed the regional agreement on the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme 2.0, which aims to drive action against Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), harmful practices, and to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights across Africa.
- Gender equality continues to be mainstreamed across Global Gateway flagships initiatives. Examples are the FinnFund's Africa Connected Programme, marked G1, which is in its second year of implementation and deploys one third of the EU guarantee to reduce the gender digital gap divide in rural areas. The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Platform and its successor EDFI MSME Plus support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in sub-Saharan Africa and the EU Neighbourhood with a target job creation rate of 50% for women.

- A recent independent evaluation of the implementation of GAP III published in December 2025 points to existing leeway for increasing the impact of EU actions through political dialogue, gender mainstreaming and targeted measures supported by a strong Team Europe approach as well as the need to further integrate gender lenses in Global Gateway sectorial investments.
- The EU has driven measurable progress on gender equality across the Eastern Partnership. Through the EU4 Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk (2021-2025), 3 149 government employees strengthened their skills in gender-responsive budgeting, gender mainstreaming, and gender impact assessments. The EU4 Gender Equality component, implemented by UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund, reached over 8.2 million people in 2025 with messages challenging gender stereotypes and preventing violence against women and girls, while 3 505 participants across five partner countries engaged in innovative activities including Fathers' Schools and community dialogues. Policy dialogue advanced through the fourth Eastern Partnership Working Group on Gender Equality in Moldova, focusing on women's access to justice, and a high-level event co-organised by the European Commission and SIDA in Brussels, which highlighted the need for systemic transformation and showcased gender-lens investing initiatives supporting women-owned businesses and women in non-traditional professions.
- In 2025, the EU also supported gender-sensitive conflict and resilience analyses to underpin responses to crises (e.g. in the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Israel/Palestine ([57]), Mozambique, Somalia and Ukraine). It also influenced peace processes such as that in the Middle East to incorporate gender equality objectives. Supporting women's organisations within peace structures, like the Women's Advisory Council for Middle East Peace, the EU strengthens women's role in conflict prevention and resolution, which makes peacebuilding more inclusive and sustainable.
- The Commission supported women's role in counterterrorism through their inclusion in law enforcement, investigation and prosecution activities. It will help set up a practitioners' network to share best practices and peer support.

Gender-disaggregated information

Not applicable

([57]) This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

Neighbourhood, development and international cooperation instrument – Global Europe

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	1 493.4	2 986.4	2 176.9	1 998.6	2 011.4	10 666.8	18.0%

- In 2025, the EU strengthened the implementation of the Global Gateway digital pillar and the EU's role as a trusted partner for human-centric digital transformation in partner countries. The adoption of the EU International Digital Strategy provided a strategic framework for an integrated EU tech business offer, combining secure connectivity, trustworthy artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, space-based services, trusted digital infrastructure and Digital Public Infrastructure. This translated into key initiatives such as the EU-LAC supercomputing network, the Blue Raman flagship and the Digital Economy Package launched in Mozambique. The D4DHub remained a key platform to facilitate investments at scale in a Team Europe approach and deliver a sustainable and human-centric digital transformation globally. Also, the EU initiated a new program to strengthen digital partnerships and digital cooperation in the Asia and the Pacific region in areas such as the digital economy, connectivity, governance, entrepreneurship, skills, standardisation, and security of technologies and infrastructure, including subsea cables.
- The EU advanced the digital transition across the Eastern Partnership (EaP) through flagship programmes delivering tangible impact. The EU4Digital Facility accelerated regulatory alignment, supported Moldova's and Ukraine's integration into the EU roaming area, and developed an innovative AI tool to facilitate *acquis* transposition in candidate countries. Its EU4Digital Academy equipped users across the region with essential digital skills through free online training. The Eastern Partnership's connect programme strengthened research collaboration by providing high-speed internet to universities and research institutes across the region. EU4Innovation East fostered entrepreneurship by organising major Startup Summits in Armenia and Moldova and providing incubation and early-stage funding to local startups.
- In the Mediterranean region, the Hannibal project, adopted in 2024 is supporting Tunisia with the financing of over EUR 200 million worth of investment in the country's network, including connection to the EU via the Medusa submarine cable, fibre roll-out and fibre backbone modernisation, the upgrading of mobile networks and investment in a new cybersecure 5G mobile core infrastructure.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	yes	The EU-funded Strengthening Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen (SIERY) project, implemented by UNDP in Yemen, drives poverty reduction through targeted economic and institutional interventions amid the country's severe crisis, where millions face food insecurity and unemployment. By empowering local authorities and communities, it creates sustainable livelihoods without relying solely on short-term aid. SIERY generates jobs via grants to -sized enterprises and skills training for thousands, including women entrepreneurs, boosting household incomes in conflict zones. Infrastructure like schools, water systems, and agri-centres improves access to essentials, reducing daily hardships for over 7 million people. Local governance strengthening ensures equitable service delivery, fostering self-reliance and economic recovery in districts hit hardest by poverty. Revolving funds and market linkages, such as in Hadramaut's export sectors, enable ongoing business growth and resilience against shocks. The EU contribution to this programme was EUR 69.8 million in 2020 to 2025.

SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	yes	Extreme poverty and hunger are predominantly rural, with smallholder farmers and their families making up a significant proportion of the poor and hungry. Understanding and acting on the interlinkages between supporting sustainable agriculture, empowering small farmers, promoting gender equality, ending rural poverty, ensuring healthy lifestyles, adequate nutrition, and tackling climate change is thus key to achieving SDG2. The degree of complexity requires investments across diverse sectors, stakeholders and objectives, and a robust Team Europe dynamic. For example, in 2025 at the Nutrition for growth event in Paris, the EU pledged EUR 3.4 billion to support nutrition for 2024-27. A 2025 compendium highlighted the complementary initiatives of the European Commission and 14 Member States, and showed that 73% of GAIN's Nourishing Food Pathway (NFP) programme budget comes from the European Commission and the governments of Germany, the Netherlands and Ireland, demonstrating Team Europe's strong engagement on nutrition. The NFP programme currently operates in 11 countries, where assistance specifically aims to enhance the consumption of safe and nutritious foods in a sustainable manner. It encompasses six key workstreams: policy coherence, amplifying the voices of youth and women, improving market access, leveraging private sector finance, integrating nutrition with environmental considerations, and conducting monitoring and evaluation.

SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	yes	The Team Europe initiative on manufacturing and access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies (MAV+) collaborates with African partners to enhance local pharmaceutical systems and manufacturing capacity. This initiative adopts a comprehensive approach across supply, demand, and enabling environment, with six key work streams focusing on industrial development, market shaping, regulatory strengthening, technology transfer, access to finance, and research and development. Its goal is to facilitate access to quality, safe, effective, and affordable health products, aligning with the United Nations' SDG target 3.8. With over EUR 2 billion mobilised, MAV+ operates through 89 projects and 42 implementing partners, ensuring coordination among stakeholders. It supports specific countries like Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa, Ghana, Egypt, and Nigeria in strengthening their pharmaceutical ecosystems and production capabilities. MAV+ aims for continent-wide benefits, leaving no one behind and fostering collaboration with the African Union and its health agencies. At the regional level, MAV+ contributes to consolidating initiatives such as the Africa CDC Platform for Harmonised African Health Manufacturing and the African Medicines Agency. It addresses financing gaps through partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms such as Human Development Accelerator financial vehicle, a collaboration between the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and the Gates Foundation. By December 2025 the instrument has provided innovative funding to support the development of the pharma and health industry in Africa for a total of EUR 237 million.

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	yes	EU investments 2021-2024 through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) have contributed to giving 5 951 302 girls and boys access to a primary education and 1 925 000 students to secondary education. GPE is the largest global fund and unique multistakeholder partnership solely dedicated to transforming education in lower-income countries to ensure that every girl and boy in all partner countries can get 12 years of quality education plus one year of preschool. The partnership currently includes approximately 90 partner countries, while most financial support goes to the lowest income and crisis-affected countries, making sure no child is left behind. In its contribution to SDG4, the EU has put a specific emphasis on supporting teachers. During the first two years of implementation, the EUR 100 million Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa has already mapped the status of teacher policies in 40 countries, carried out research on teachers' job satisfaction. In the Eastern Neighbourhood region, the programme 'Supporting Education Reforms in the Eastern Partnership region' is the first regional programme in the education sector, promoting education reforms and Quality Education. The objective of this action is to support the strengthening of education systems in the Eastern Partnership countries, with a particular focus on the governance and the financing of the education systems. This programme contributes to improved equity, gender equality, quality and performance of education systems.

SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	yes	The NDICI – Global Europe Regulation requires at least 85% of all new external actions under the instrument to contribute to gender equality as a significant or principal objective. At least 5% of those actions should target gender equality as the principal objective. Between 2021 and 2024, the share of external actions contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment reached 84%, very close to the target, and of those, 4% (over 80 programmes at country, regional and global levels) had gender equality as principal objective. For instance, the Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action (ACT) Programme is a EUR 22 million initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by UN Women. The programme strengthens women's rights movements to advocate and work with public authorities on policy and legal reforms and accountability mechanisms to end all forms of violence against women and girls. Additionally, the EU's support for the Global Survivor's Fund has resulted in advancing reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and driving historic national policy breakthroughs (e.g. Ukraine's world-first wartime reparation law) while strengthening the global reparations ecosystem through research, advocacy, and innovation. More than 4 000 survivors and their families – almost 26 000 individuals – in 26 countries have received interim reparative measures since 2020, with new projects in South Sudan, Nigeria, and Timor Leste for 2025. 96% of survivors in Guinea, 92% in Iraq, and 85% in Türkiye have reported an improved sense of dignity, autonomy and agency. In the Eastern Neighbourhood region, the EUR 7.7 million EU4Gender Equality programme (Phase II, 2023–2026) continues to promote equal rights and opportunities for women and men. The programme focuses on challenging gender stereotypes, preventing gender-based violence, and encouraging men's participation in care work. In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the European Commission continued to support women's economic empowerment, through bilateral and regional initiatives, combining policy dialogue, support for women's entrepreneurship and employment, and access to finance with financial instruments. A new regional EU-UN Women initiative was prepared,

		aiming at boosting women employment in the Middle East and North Africa through private sector engagement in the care, green and STEM economies.
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	yes	To work on all dimensions of SDG6, and notably target 6.5 to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, in 2025 the EU continued the implementation of the Team Europe initiative on transboundary water management for sustainable development and regional integration in Africa with the commitments of 2 new programmes around the Mono river and the presentation of its first implementation report that highlighted an increase of 60% in contributions to EUR 672 million with 56 actions. The Commission, together with the EIB, continued to develop actions to reach its target to support improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation to 70 million people by 2030. For instance, in 2025 the EU further developed phase III of the Bakheng water access programme. The treatment plant with a total cost of EUR 609 million, financed at over 80% by Team Europe (EU, EIB, AFD), supplies clean water to the rapidly growing urban population of 2.3 million and industry in Phnom Penh. Since its launch in 2022, the EU4Environment – Water and Data programme (EUR 12.75 million) has already delivered tangible results, notably pioneering COVID-19 monitoring in urban wastewater across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova. Additionally, the EU is supporting Water Security in Jordan, including through a Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Water that is covering both support for infrastructure and reforms. It notably includes the flagship initiative 'Amman-Aqaba Water Desalination and Conveyance project', a EUR 5 billion investment programme, that the EU is supporting through a EUR 97 million grant plus EUR 300 million loan.

SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	yes	In 2025, accelerating the global energy transition remained a top priority for the implementation of the Global Gateway, which made significant progress in several regions. The Africa–Europe Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI) is the main Global Gateway Team Europe initiative to support renewable energy generation, energy access, grid connection, the just transition, energy efficiency including clean cooking and green hydrogen and derivatives in Africa. The initiative advanced with key projects including the launch of the construction of the Zambia-Tanzania Interconnector (620 km), the launch of the first zero-emissions green-iron hydrogen project in Namibia (Hylron) and the Mpatamanga Hydro Power Project (350 MW) on Malawi's Shire River. In November 2025, at the margin of the G20 in South Africa, President von der Leyen and the President of South Africa Ramaphosa co-hosted the final pledging conference under Scaling up Renewables in Africa campaign. Running from November 2024 to November 2025, the campaign was able to secure a total EUR 15.5 billion, as well as additional commitments, in clean energy generation and access for households to electricity in Africa. In Central Asia, continuous progress has been made, namely with the Rogun Hydropower Plant Project which will serve as an anchor for a regional electricity market in the region, and the Kambar Ata Dam Project, which will ensure the region's sustainable water supply. In South Asia, the implementation of the Regional Energy Connectivity Global Gateway Flagship project, which aims to increase cross-border electricity trade, moved forward. In Southeast Asia work continued implementing the Just Energy Transition Partnerships in Indonesia and Vietnam aiming at decarbonising the energy generation sector in just and sustainable manner. In Latin America and the Caribbean, during the CELAC-EU Summit held in November 2025 in Colombia, LAC partner countries endorsed the EU's Regional Electricity Integration initiative to support the electricity integration of the region through clean electricity generation, transmission and interconnection infrastructure. As part of this initiative, the EIB signed an EUR 1 billion financing initiative to strengthen electricity transmission and generation infrastructure in Central America. The EU continues to support the emerging green hydrogen economy in the

region, including through the Euroclima program in Chile, Brazil or Uruguay.

In Eastern Partnership countries the EU4Energy programme continued to provide technical assistance in aligning with the EU energy *acquis* and standards. By helping these countries develop robust and sustainable regulatory frameworks, the programme fostered an investment-friendly environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency, contributing to enhanced energy security, broader access to affordable energy, and an accelerated energy transition across the region. Complementing these efforts, EU-supported investments in energy and transport interconnectivity between
Eastern and Central European countries and the EU are strengthening infrastructure resilience against climate change, environmental challenges, and hybrid threats. The EU's energy agreement with Azerbaijan further supports these objectives.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	yes	Private sector development has been at the heart of the EU's action in partner countries for years and is at the core of Global Gateway strategy. Engaging the private sector is key to make Global Gateway investments truly impactful. Sustainable investments in core sectors such as infrastructure, energy, digital, health, education and research rely on local companies, generating jobs and supporting the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. For example, the flagship Team Europe Initiative 'Invest in Young Businesses in Africa' (IYBA), launched in 2021, helps young businesses and entrepreneurs in Africa grow strong, sustainable, and inclusive businesses. It aims to create decent jobs and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystems. Its focus is on entrepreneurs, especially on women and youth throughout Africa, notably in the most fragile countries. Until 2025, under the umbrella of the Team Europe Initiative 'Invest in Young Businesses in Africa', regional programmes were active in Benin, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi and Cameroon. For instance, the IYBA Women Entrepreneurship for Africa programme was launched as a pilot in 2020. Its first phase (2020-2023) enabled to train 2 420 women entrepreneurs, who received seed capital of USD 5 000 each, while 99 women entrepreneurs received second stage financing up to EUR 50 000. In total, 10 565 jobs were secured and 6 371 additional decent jobs were created in supported businesses. The programme is now in its second phase (2024-2027) with 1 971 women having completed an entrepreneurship training and 751 of them having received a USD 5 000 grant each so far. The regional Team Europe Initiative on Jobs through Trade and Investment in the Southern Neighbourhood currently brings together more than 90 projects with a combined budget of approximately EUR 3 billion, implemented by the Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the EBRD and the EIB. The initiative aligns European support for trade and investment promotion, skills development, vocational training and entrepreneurship to foster decent job creation in the Middle East and North Africa region.

SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	yes	In 2025, the EU continued to support the digital transition in the Eastern Partnership region through a number of bilateral and regional actions. For example, the EU4Digital Facility continued to provide technical support to accelerate regulatory alignment and the adoption of the digital transformation *acquis*, including in support of Ukraine and Moldova's integration into the EU roaming area (which came into effect on 1 January 2026). The EU4Digital Facility also supported the establishment of an artificial intelligence tool to ease the transposition of the EU *acquis* in candidate countries' domestic legislation (eAccession). It further launched a regional digital skills platform (EU4Digital Academy), providing free-of-charge online classes on cyber-security, digital marketing and digitalisation of businesses to more than 11 000 users in all Eastern Partnership countries. In addition, the Global Gateway flagship initiative EU-Africa-India Digital Corridor (Blue Raman, EUR 37 million) supports the development of a 11 700 km long trusted and secure intercontinental submarine cable system, connecting Europe to India with intermediate landings in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Eastern Africa, in line with the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Blue Raman will provide secure, trusted and ultra high-speed digital connectivity contributing to increased digital resilience for Europe and its partners, bridging the digital divide and fostering development and innovation solutions. The project is co-developed with GÉANT, the European Investment Bank and partner institutions in India and Eastern and Southern Africa, while deployment and manufacturing are driven by the private sector, leveraging European technology.

SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	yes	NDICI – Global Europe finances a growing number of global, regional and country initiatives that support inequality reduction in partner countries. To ensure that inequality reduction is systematically integrated, the Inequality Marker (I-Marker) was developed to track the contribution of EU external action to SDG 10. In 2025, 62% of our initiatives contributed to reducing inequalities, compared to 59% in 2024, with strong integration across regions including sub-Saharan Africa (76%) and Latin America (62%). In 2025, over 35 countries were supported through bilateral programmes to strengthen their social protection systems, while a further 19 countries received technical assistance to accelerate the digitalisation of these systems through the Digital Convergence Initiative. For example, with the Team Europe Initiative on Trade, Investment and Connectivity for Agriculture and Forestry (TICAF), the EU is supporting targeted interventions that reduce structural inequalities along coffee, tea and forest-based value chains. Through the Green CUP project, co-funded and implemented with Agence Française de Développement, approximately 4 300 smallholder coffee and tea producers in northern Lao PDR are being supported to improve household incomes, skills and market access, notably through strengthened cooperatives and fair-trade models that promote more equitable benefit-sharing and inter-ethnic cohesion. Particular attention is paid to women's economic empowerment: over 1 200 women coffee producers have already been trained through the Women-Leaders Programme, enhancing their participation and leadership within value chains.

SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	yes	City-to-city cooperation is central to the EU's efforts to deepen partnerships and foster resilience. EU urban and local initiatives enable European and North American cities and municipalities to collaborate on shared priorities, exchange expertise, and tackle urban challenges. These programmes enhance local capacities, build enduring networks, and support innovation, creating a strong foundation for mutually beneficial partnerships and deeper EU engagement with North American cities. Concrete initiatives include projects such as the EU Cities Gateway (EUR 4 million since 2025) and the Transatlantic Sustainable Transition Initiative (EUR 4 million since 2024). To support the shift towards clean and inclusive urban mobility worldwide, the MobiliseYourCity Partnership was established in 2015. With over 100 partners, it leads globally in sustainable urban mobility planning, policy development, and investment in transport for developing and emerging economies. It includes 79 member cities across 39 countries, totalling over 155 million people, along with 16 member countries, and has allowed member cities and countries to leverage EUR 1.75 billion for implementation. Moreover, in 2025, the EU launched the third phase of its flagship initiative Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG, 2025-2028, EUR 8 million), implemented by UNDP, reinforcing its support for local economic development across the Eastern Partnership since 2017. This new phase empowers cities and towns in Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine to tackle challenges such as rural depopulation, job creation, climate change, and the digital transition, with a strengthened focus on local economic development planning and access to finance. In 2025 alone, M4EG unlocked approximately EUR 1 million to support local governments in leading their own economic transformation.

SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	yes	NDICI – Global Europe finances a growing number of global, regional and country initiatives that support sustainable consumption and production and the transition to inclusive green and circular economies in partner countries, thereby also contributing to tackle the root causes of climate change and biodiversity loss. In 2025, the EU contributed to the implementation of SDG12 with circular economy actions in over 40 countries through global initiatives, and in more than 80 additional countries via EU-supported regional and national initiatives in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, the project Green Recycling Enterprises Engaging in New Technology for a Circular Economy in Zambia (GREEN Tech4CE), dedicated to fostering sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Zambia, launched financial support for enterprises, business development service providers through calls for applications aiming to catalyse EUR 20 million in new investment. The EUR 20.9 million SWITCH to Circular Economy Value Chain (SWITCH2CE) project, coordinated by UNIDO, has continued to work with EU multinational companies to support small and medium-sized enterprises(suppliers) within selected value chains (textiles, electronics and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), plastic and plastic packaging) to adopt circular economy practices. For example, in Bangladesh pilots with multinationals from the textiles sector demonstrated strong proof of concept for valorising textiles production waste. Over 16 700 tons of textiles waste have been digitally mapped, 10% traced to recycling and up to 150 000 garments produced from recycled input. Furthermore, the EU facilitated multilateral cooperation on sustainable consumption and production. This included contributions to global and regional initiatives, such as the launch of the African Union Circular Economy Action Plan in July 2025, the completion of a joint publication on national circular economy roadmaps in Latin America and the Caribbean in May 2025.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	yes	In 2025, the commitments and disbursements under the Team Europe Initiative on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Africa far exceeded the initial EUR 1 billion announced at its launch, demonstrating Team Europe's strong political support for addressing regional priorities in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction across sub-Saharan Africa. To date, the Team Europe Initiative has unified forty interventions to enhance risk and asset data, strengthen governance and early-warning systems, promote access to finance, and increase financial protection against climate risks. In 2025, two major initiatives were launched: The EUR 100 million Regional Responses to Climate Displacement in sub-Saharan Africa programme aims to strengthen the resilience of displacement-affected communities in the Lake Tanganyika basin and the Southern Africa/South-West Indian Ocean tropical cyclone basin. The Africa–EU Space Partnership enhances the adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable populations by utilising space-based technologies to monitor environmental changes, forecast extreme weather events, and support early warning systems. The EU is driving local climate action in the Eastern Neighbourhood through the third phase of the Covenant of Mayors East. The programme supports local authorities in securing finance for the implementation of their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans and continues to expand the network of signatories committed to the 2030 targets. Crucially, it empowers local communities, with a particular focus on women and youth, to take an active role in climate action, while responding to war-related needs and building local resilience and capacity. Further, the 'Sustainability Pathways for EU Business Ties with Argentina, Colombia and Brazil' projects (EUR 2.7 million since 2024) foster transatlantic cooperation and regulatory alignment on green technologies, deforestation and environmental regulation by engaging stakeholders across government, industry, and civil society to enhance awareness of the EU regulatory landscape, facilitate information exchange, and promote innovative tools, including digital and satellite technologies.

SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	yes	In 2025, the EU continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to the achievement of SDG14 with the launch of a technical assistance facility under the Global Ocean Programme to support involvement of partner countries in protection and sustainable use of areas beyond national jurisdictions. Implementation of regional ocean programmes has started in the Pacific (EUR 20 million), Western Indian Ocean (EUR 58 million), Central Africa (EUR 42 million), West Africa (EUR 59 million) and Southern Africa (EUR 11 million), aiming at strengthening regional ocean governance, sustainable blue economy development and conservation of marine areas, in an integrated seascape approach. A programme has also been launched regarding ocean prediction capacities in sub-Saharan Africa (EUR 7 million), in alignment with target SDG 14.a on developing research capacity and transfer marine technology. Through the project European Union for Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EU4EMBLAS), the EU played a key role in assessing the consequences of the oil tanker accidents in the Black Sea in December 2024, while continuing to advance education and awareness efforts to strengthen the knowledge about and protection of the Black Sea ecosystem.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	yes	Through the EuroMed Justice VI programme (EUR 6 million – 2024-2027), Southern Neighbourhood countries continue enhancing cross-border judicial cooperation for the countering of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, and the confiscation of crime proceeds and asset recovery. The programme contributes to protecting citizens in EU neighbouring countries against criminal activities through strengthened international judicial cooperation in respect of the rule of law, human, and fundamental rights. It has helped create sustainable mechanisms for cross-regional cooperation, as well as strengthen regional judicial training platforms, and develop practical tools for technical assistance, reporting, and cooperation. Target countries are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. In Ukraine, the EU supports justice and victim rehabilitation, to ensure accountability for atrocity crimes. It enables the documentation, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of crimes related to the deportation of children, while supporting the reintegration of returned children. In Syria, the EU ensures the safe return and protection of civilians by clearing mines and unexploded ordnance and facilitating an accountable weapons and ammunition management system. With almost 1 000 incidents and 1 800 casualties caused by explosive ordnance since December 2024, more than 60% of them in agricultural land and grazing areas, this remains a priority area for the EU. Support includes mapping stockpiles and contaminated areas, securing unsecured weapons and curbing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. More than EUR 41 million was allocated to contribute to human security, safety, stability, and the prevention of violence in Syria in 2025. In Gaza, the unprecedented scale of destruction following the 2023-2025 hostilities generated more than 61 million tonnes of debris. The EU is supporting the risk-managed removal, recycling and reuse of post-war debris while ensuring the dignified recovery, forensic documentation and identification of human remains uncovered during debris-clearance operations. More than EUR 31 million was directly targeted in 2025 to restore safe access to basic services and enable early recovery for crisis-affected

communities in Gaza, while reducing safety, environmental, and public-health risks associated with conflict-generated debris.

In Armenia, the EU supported resilience to hybrid threats, including countering foreign information manipulation and interference and cyberattacks through improved monitoring, detection, analytical and response capabilities, as well as awareness raising and strategic communication efforts. This initiative also promotes cross-border media cooperation, working with journalists and editors from Armenia and Azerbaijan, to mitigate foreign information manipulation and interference risks to the peace process.

SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	yes	In line with SDG17, the EU maintained its support for policy coherence and coordination as well as dialogue with regional organisations, notably the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) as the main institutional interlocutor, but also with other actors, such as the Anna Lindh Foundation and the League of Arab States. The EU's support for the UfM Secretariat contributes to enhancing multistakeholder partnerships which mobilise and share expertise aiming at the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15, among others) in the Euro-Med countries. In 2025, the UfM held several events, with the support of the European Commission, emphasising its role in engaging in dialogue and contributing to the formulation of the Pact for the Mediterranean. The support for the Anna Lindh Foundation contributes to the promotion of more inclusive and pluralistic societies through its support for civil society and its focus on cultural diversity. In addition, the EU continued to support civil society organisations and local authorities through its Framework Partnership Agreements with global civil society networks and associations of local authorities as well as through the Policy Forum on Development established since 2013 as a space for multistakeholder dialogue on EU development policies. Partnering with these actors on agreed common objectives contributes to effective implementing policies and programmes that meet people's needs, reduce inequalities, and fulfil the central commitment of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. It promotes multistakeholder partnerships which mobilise and share expertise aiming to the achievement across all the SDGs. In 2025, the EU also strengthened its collaboration with civil society and local authorities by organising side event with civil society and Youth in the context of joint summits with regional organisations such as CELAC and the African Union.

Support for reforms

In delivering on the Global Gateway through NDICI – Global Europe, the Commission promotes reforms to support the investment enabling environment in partner countries, in accordance with the EU policy priorities and in complementarity with all Team Europe stakeholders. These reforms relate to the country economic governance (e.g. public procurement, public investment management or debt management) or are considered enablers for successful Global Gateway flagship projects (e.g. upgrading the regulatory framework for the production/commercialisation of solar or wind power, or for operators in strategic transport corridors). More examples can be found in the 2025 Management plan ([58]) on the implementation of the EU's external action instruments.

The support for investment enabling environment is also pursued through the 360-degree approach applied by the Commission in its rollout of the Global Gateway. This approach entails the systematic application, tailored to the context, of the six key principles set out in the Global Gateway Communication, which guide the selection, implementation and monitoring of all Global Gateway investments: (1) democratic values and high standards; (2) good governance and transparency; (3) equal partnerships; (4) green and clean; (5) security-focused; and (6) catalysing private sector investment. Several of these principles are linked to legal obligations, notably mainstreaming human rights, democracy, rule of law, gender equality, environmental protection and the fight against climate change, in line with the Treaty and the NDICI – Global Europe Regulation.

Incentives for reforms are also provided by the favourable financing conditions offered through budget support, the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus that aims to unlock public or private investments, or thanks to technical assistance fostering domestic capacities for reforms.

In conjunction with the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), budget support is a powerful instrument to support policy dialogue with partner countries. It promotes critical reforms creating an enabling environment for Global Gateway investments, by enhancing prudent macroeconomic management (including debt sustainability), sound public policies, better allocation of resources, results monitoring and accountability. Budget support also creates capacity for establishing policy, regulatory, and institutional preconditions for sustainable investments (e.g. tariff frameworks, state-owned enterprises governance, public investment management systems) and contributing to capacity development. It comes with technical assistance and is increasingly considered in coordination with, or in preparation for, investments backed by the EFSD + (guarantees and/or blending).

Budget support promoted regulatory reforms in Vietnam's, Benin's, and Solomon Islands' energy sectors. It encouraged renewable energy, notably by allowing EU development finance institutions (DFIs) to fund these investments directly with EU blending support. In the context of Global Gateway

([58]) European Commission: Directorate-General for International Partnerships, 'Management plan 2025', https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/46e1fbbe-01db-4e9d-a80f-d516a61000c5_en?filename=intpa_mp_2025_en.pdf&prefLang=de.

Flagship projects, such synergies are also sought, for instance, in Kyrgyzstan and Jamaica for digitalisation, Liberia, Rwanda and Uzbekistan for agriculture value chains and Mauritania for green hydrogen.

In Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Armenia, this effort to promote reforms is complemented by dedicated Strategic and Comprehensive Partnerships. In March 2025, the Regulation establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Republic of Moldova was adopted. Financial support under the Facility is disbursed upon the successful implementation of reforms in the Reform Agenda. In the neighbourhood region, macro-financial assistance financed by NDICI – Global Europe plays an equally important role to promote reforms.

In both Morocco and Jordan, a large budget support portfolio promotes reforms in various sectors such as renewable energies, circular economy water, skills, social protection or public administration modernisation/digitalisation for a more conducive business environment et upgraded regulatory frameworks. In Jordan, this is articulated with the macro-financial assistance. In Egypt, reform promotion is supported through macro-financial assistance only, along its three pillars (economic stabilisation; competitiveness and business environment; green transition). In Palestine, the support provided to the Palestinian Authority (Pegase) comes with a reform matrix and, in other fragile/recovery contexts in the Middle East and North Africa region, the EU contributes to strengthening core administrative and public finance management functions are always being supported (Libya, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq and, since 2025, Syria).

This support for reforms with capacity development is coordinated with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and EU Member States.

In the Neighbourhood region, twinning and TAIEX helped modernising public administrations through analysis and policy development, legal guidance, technical expertise, drafting laws and regulations, system and procedure design and development, as well as facilitating job shadowing, workshops, and study visits. Twinning is deployed to support the transition towards a green, digital and inclusive economy and covers all sectors of the EU body of legislation.

Several indicators of the Global Europe Results Framework (GERF) measure reforms and demonstrate the following in 2025:

- 21 countries supported by the EU to strengthen revenue mobilisation, public financial management and/or budget transparency (GERF 2.19)
- 16 countries and cities with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies: (a) developed or (b) under implementation (GERF 2.5)
- 5 countries supported by the EU to (a) develop and/or revise, (b) implement digital-related policies/strategies/laws/regulations (GERF 2.10) a) 4 and b) 1
- 3 countries supported by the EU to strengthen investment climate (GERF 2.16)
- 215 government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support (GERF 2.29)
- 17 countries supported by the EU to conduct elections and/or improve their electoral process (GERF 2.26)

EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFETY COOPERATION

Concrete examples of achievements

3 457 people participated in the training and tutoring programme between 2014 and 2025 with the support of the instrument.	29 countries benefited from EU assistance in relation to nuclear safety between 2014 and 2025.	163 legal and regulatory documents were prepared, introduced and/or revised in the beneficiary countries with the support of EU expertise between 2022 and 2025.	52 nuclear waste management and strategy documents were developed between 2022 and 2025 thanks to the support of the instrument.
3 nuclear master's courses were implemented by the education programme financed by the INSC in 2025.	4 out of 7 priority sites have been fully remediated in Central Asia, thanks to the instrument's contributions to the Environmental Remediation Account managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development by 2025.	63% of all destroyed or looted critical equipment was restored or replaced in key facilities within the Chornobyl exclusion zone in Ukraine, excluding the New Safe Confinement, by 2025.	

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	37.6	38.6	39.9	41.8	44.3	47.2	50.9	300.2
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**37.6**	**38.6**	**39.9**	**41.8**	**44.9**	**47.2**	**50.9**	**300.8**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	229.0	300.8	76.1%
Payments	100.2	0.0	33.3%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of countries benefiting from EU support in developing a culture of safety for nuclear energy	0	95%	20 in 2027	19 in 2025 compared to a target of 20	On track
Number of regulatory documents produced in beneficiary countries with the support of EU expertise	0	> 100%	20 in 2027	153 in 2025 compared to a target of 20	Achieved
Number of nuclear safeguards authorities benefiting from Commission-funded projects	0	> 100%	3 in 2027	47 in 2025 compared to a target of 3	Achieved

European instrument for international nuclear safety cooperation

The European Instrument for International Safety Cooperation (INSC) builds on the recognised and successful assistance and cooperation with partner countries that has been in place since 1991 within the scope of the Euratom treaty.

Improvements in the governmental, legal and regulatory frameworks that ensure the safe use of nuclear energy is based on the transfer of regulatory practices used in the EU Member States.

The reaction to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine since February 2022 demonstrated that the instrument can meet the needs of partners under challenging and constantly evolving conditions. The provision of support to Ukraine to address the consequences of the unprovoked Russian invasion and continued aggression is a priority. This includes restoring stolen, looted and destroyed nuclear and radiation protection related infrastructure in Ukraine.

The INSC-funded programmes in Ukraine continued to be implemented without delays, despite war-related hardship conditions such as insecurity and frequent electricity blackouts. These achievements were made possible due to the determination and resilient efforts of the Ukrainian beneficiaries, the implementing partners and the coordination efforts of the EU through its support organisations in Ukraine.

The main implementation modalities used by the INSC include direct management (37%) with non-profit organisations and the private sector and indirect management (63%) via Member State agencies such as Enabel, Expertise France, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and international organisations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The main achievements of the INSC until 2025 are as follows.

- The EU's contribution to the International Chornobyl Cooperation Account, managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the reconstruction of nuclear-safety-related infrastructure in Ukraine, allowed the bank to start its ambitious programme to support continued infrastructure development at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant and to procure firefighting equipment and vehicles for the safe management of radioactive waste in the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone.
- The EU has contributed to the financing of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which facilitated permanent missions, and other expert missions to Ukrainian nuclear facilities, including the permanent mission to the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.
- In Armenia, the EU purchased emergency cooling pumps to ensure continued core cooling in case of a beyond-design-basis accident, financed by the INSC, as part of the implementation of the recommendations of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group post-Fukushima stress tests of the nuclear power plant in Medzamor.
- The environmental remediation in Central Asia, as implemented via the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development through the Environmental Remediation Account, addresses the legacy of former uranium mining and milling legacy sites. So far, four sites have been fully remediated: Min-Kush and Shekaftar in Kyrgyzstan and Charkesar and Yangiabad in Uzbekistan. Mailuu-Suu's remediation in Kyrgyzstan is ongoing. Funding from both the previous and present multiannual financial framework nuclear safety instruments have been used.

- In Iran, the instrument continued to fund the implementation of the EU's commitment under Annex III of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the 'Iran Nuclear Deal', relating to civil nuclear cooperation with Iran until the re-imposition of sanctions in September 2025.
- In Ghana, INSC support continued for the development of a strategy on regulatory assessment in case of the potential introduction of small modular reactors.
- In Egypt, a new contract for EU support under the instrument was signed to support the Egyptian Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	7.3	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.0			8.9	0.2%

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%

- The amount committed under climate mainstreaming relates to the environmental remediation programme in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), aiming at cleaning up and restoring former uranium legacy sites. So far, four sites have been fully remediated, i.e. Min-Kush and Shekaftar in Kyrgyzstan and Charkesar and Yangiabad in Uzbekistan, Mailuu-Suu's remediation, in Kyrgyzstan is ongoing.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	34.3	31.5	35.1	38.9	42.9	182.7
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	3.3	7.1	4.8	2.9	1.4	19.5
Total:	37.6	38.6	39.9	41.8	44.3	202.1

- The INSC continues to promote gender equality through its training, tutoring and education programme, where the gender balance is encouraged in the selection of participants from partner countries.

Gender disaggregated information:

- In 2025, 20 students followed the master's degree level course in Masters in Decommissioning (Decomplex) financed by the INSC, 5 of whom were women, and 25 started the third session of the master's degree level in nuclear safeguards (SaTE) financed by the INSC, 12 of whom were women. SaTE started in 2022 and Decomplex in 2025.
- In the Tutoring & Training Programme financed under INSC, 329 people were trained, 135 of whom were women (41%).

Contribution to the digital transition

- Not applicable

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	Transfer of EU experience in the area of nuclear safety, radiation protection, radioactive waste management, decommissioning and nuclear safeguards
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	Activities are gender sensitive
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	Environmental remediation and radiation protection contributes to reduced risk of pollution

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	Nuclear safety regulators in partner countries are enforced in their independence New contract to support the Egyptian Nuclear & Radiological Regulatory Authority Contribution to Strengthening of Nuclear Safeguards Regulatory Regime in EU candidate countries.
SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Yes	International coordination in particular with the International Atomic Energy Agency is a design feature of the instrument.

Support for reforms

The Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation has among its the objectives to transfer the EU Acquis, which includes the nuclear safety directive with one of the main provisions to have an independent safety regulator. The engagement with third countries aims therefore to strengthen the independence of nuclear safety, radiation protection radioactive waste management and safeguards regulators in line with Euratom standards and best practices. The engagement is implemented by EU experts who support the alignment and the development of procedures, guidelines, directives, regulations, laws and strategic plans in countries like Egypt,

Jordan, South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana. With candidate and accession countries, INSC engages to harmonise their nuclear legislative framework further with Euratom's *acquis*, as in Armenia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine and Türkiye.

HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAMME

Concrete examples of achievements

EUR 2.56 billion of humanitarian aid was provided to the most vulnerable in 2025.	110 countries received humanitarian aid from the EU in 2025.	2.8 million girls and boys benefited from the education in emergencies initiative in 2025.	6 780 tonnes of humanitarian aid material were transported via 127 chartered flights, along with sea and land routes, through reliefEU in 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	2 168.1	2 441.8	2 408.0	2 494.8	2 568.9	1 962.5	1 962.4	16 006.6
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	9.9	5.7	11.9	11.0	5.7	0.0	0.0	44.2
Total	**2 178.0**	**2 447.5**	**2 419.9**	**2 505.9**	**2 574.6**	**1 962.5**	**1 962.4**	**16 050.8**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	12 118.3	16 050.8	75.5%
Payments	12 237.9	0.0	76.2%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Geographical coverage of the EU humanitarian aid: percentage of countries in need of humanitarian assistance benefiting from EU-supported operations	0	**14%**	100% annually from 2022 to 2027	Milestone achieved for 2021. Milestones not achieved for 2022-2025 (2025: 9% compared to a target of 100%)	Moderate progress
Percentage of humanitarian aid funding targeting actions in forgotten crises	0	**71%**	> 15% annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 25% compared to a target of 15%)	On track
Number of interventions of humanitarian aid operations funded by the EU budget	0	**71%**	177 annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 265 compared to a target of 177)	On track
Percentage of the initial budget for humanitarian aid allocated to education in emergencies	0	**71%**	10% annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021-2024, but not in 2025 (2025: 10% compared to a target of 10%)	On track
Number of children reached with EU education in emergencies assistance	0	**57%**	1.86 million children annually from 2021 to 2027	Milestones achieved for 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025. Milestone not achieved for 2023 (2025: 2.8 compared to a target of 1.86)	On track
Percentage of humanitarian assistance grants including elements of disaster preparedness, resilience and disaster risk reduction	0	**0%**	75% from 2024 to 2027	Milestones not achieved for 2021-2025 (2025: 42.7% compared to a target of 75%)	Deserves attention

- The EU humanitarian aid programme performed well in 2025 in providing emergency assistance to people worldwide, particularly those most vulnerable who had been hit by human-induced disasters and the impact of natural hazards. Together, the EU and its Member States are providing around 33.8% of the global share of committed humanitarian aid contributions. Following the foreign aid policy shift in the United States, and the closing of USAID, the EU's role as the key global humanitarian donor is growing rapidly.
- Owing to the strong operational knowledge and technical expertise of its unique network of humanitarian field offices, and working through a range of humanitarian partners, EU humanitarian assistance has been delivered even in those areas most difficult to reach. In 2025, more than 25% of the EU initial humanitarian budget was spent on forgotten crises, one in three operations included disaster preparedness and 10% of the budget was allocated to safe and quality education.
- There are multiple global drivers of humanitarian disasters. The hardened geopolitical context is most urgently felt by those in need, with widespread violations of international humanitarian law and a disregard for human dignity. The same can be said for the impacts of climate change, which are exacerbating tensions and fuelling existing regional conflicts and protracted crises.
- As Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine entered its fourth year, with drone strikes and long-range strikes daily, around 12.7 million people required urgent humanitarian assistance. In 2025, the EU allocated EUR 220 million to humanitarian needs, bringing the total amount of humanitarian assistance provided by the EU budget to EUR 1.25 billion since February 2022. EUR 220 million was committed to address the needs of Palestine ([59]). The entire population of Gaza (2.1 million) are facing acute food insecurity. Sudan continues to be the world's largest displacement crisis; in 2025, the EU allocated over EUR 273 million in response to the crisis. The eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has experienced dramatic conflict escalation, and human rights violations, international humanitarian law violations and sexual and gender-based violence occur daily. Over EUR 129 million in humanitarian aid funding and through EUHAB flights, was allocated to the African Great Lakes region in 2025.
- In 2025, ReliefEU capacities responded to 20 crises affecting 18 countries, deploying a range of air and multimodal transportation services, including 127 chartered flights, and logistics services with seven warehouses operating in Chad, Lebanon and Palestine. ReliefEU funding was mobilised 118 times in 60 countries, providing a total of EUR 53.5 million in first-line emergency humanitarian funding.
- In delivering humanitarian aid, the following three main risk areas are repeatedly considered in activities under the programme.
    - Access risk, referring to the increasing number of countries where authorities are limiting access to populations needing assistance, for instance in Ethiopia, Myanmar/Burma, Palestine and Ukraine.
    - Safety and security risks in humanitarian operations, i.e. the complex and multifaceted threats faced by humanitarian personnel. These include violence, kidnapping and sexual assault, with local staff often being most vulnerable. 2025 saw a record number of aid

([59]) This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

workers killed, which underscores the urgent need for strengthened security risk management systems.

- The significant humanitarian financial crisis, exacerbated by the 2025 policy shift in the United States, which has further reduced life-saving assistance worldwide, increased vulnerability among affected populations and forced aid organisations to scale back or suspend critical operations. In 2025, humanitarian policies – in particular gender and equality, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, greening and addressing the impact of climate change – were especially threatened by the policy shift.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	840.5	1 017.7	965.7	1 012.1	1 023.4			4 859.5	30.4%

- The figure for 2025 is the result of the application of the methodology to track spending contributing to climate mainstreaming. The Commission is implementing central tracking at the commitment level, to improve the accuracy and reliability of data on climate action. The tracking is based on the EU's climate-marker methodology, made up of three scores (0%, 40% and 100%). Generally, humanitarian aid projects have climate adaptation as a 'significant objective' (40% coefficient) with some exceptions (such as ECHO Flight, Epidemics or communications actions, which have a 0% contribution to climate), while preparedness actions within humanitarian aid have a 100% contribution to climate, as its objective has climate adaptation objectives as fundamental in the design, or the motivation for the activity.
- In 2025, a booklet of good practice projects on greening humanitarian aid, covering all sectors and regions was released. It built on good practices gathered through workshops for partners in 2024.
- The EU/ECHO acts as Secretariat of the Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and Environment, publishing the 3rd annual progress report in 2025. As part of the overall support for the Donor Declaration, the Commission co-led the development of the Common Donor Priority Actions for Greening Humanitarian Aid and endorsed them in June 2025.
- Following the signing of an administrative arrangement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management in October 2024, in 2025, the related action plan was agreed upon and successively updated. Its implementation has proceeded as planned, with exchange of good practices and increased coordination on disaster preparedness issues.

- As part of the efforts to adapt to climate change, the disaster preparedness budget line steadily increases every year. It reached EUR 81 million in 2025.

Contribution to gender equality (*)

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	2 168.1	2 441.8	2 408.0	2 494.8	2 568.9	12 081.6
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total:	2 168.1	2 441.8	2 408.0	2 494.8	2 568.9	12 081.6

(*) Based on the applied gender contribution methodology, the following scores are attributed at the most granular level of intervention possible:

- 2: interventions the principal objective of which is to improve gender equality;
- 1: interventions that have gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention;
- 0: non-targeted interventions (interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality);
- 0*: score to be assigned to interventions with a likely but not yet clear positive impact on gender equality.

- The Commission is committed to ensuring that EU humanitarian aid considers the different needs and capacities of women and men of all ages. Through the Commission methodology for gender expenditure tracking, a gender score of 1 has been assigned to the total voted humanitarian aid budget implementation for 2025. This is a Commission methodology for the whole EU budget and differs from other assessment methods used to track humanitarian funding, such as the Commission's humanitarian gender–age marker and the gender equality marker used by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The third assessment report on the gender–age marker for the years 2018-2021 (published in 2023) confirmed that in the 2018-2021 period, over 90% of humanitarian aid projects included gender and age considerations ([60]), and this was the case for around 87% in 2023 and 2024.
- The EU continued mainstreaming gender and age across all sectors of intervention in humanitarian crises, as well as activities calling for reinforced child protection, including advocacy and addressing the specific needs of children in armed conflicts.
- The provision of sexual and reproductive healthcare and the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence was increased in humanitarian aid (from EUR 79 million in 2024 to EUR 114 million in 2025), in response to the needs of several acute and protracted crises. This includes three innovative, global actions under the Enhanced Response Capacity to enhanced gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive healthcare global response capacity, to equip partners with the knowledge and tools to systematically foster a survivor-centred approach, and to strengthen adolescent sexual and reproductive healthcare in multisectoral humanitarian responses.

([60]) European Commission: Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), *Gender-Age Marker – Assessment report 2018-2021*, 2023, https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender-age_marker_2018-2021_web.pdf.

Gender-disaggregated information

- Number of beneficiaries by age and sex reached by humanitarian aid operations available in EvA actions' operational data (such data reflect information encoded in fichops and in HOPE ([61])). According to this database, the percentage of beneficiaries disaggregated by gender in 2025 is as follows: 50% female, 42% male, 8% unknown.

Contribution to the digital transition

Not applicable

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

Not applicable

Contribution to reforms

Not applicable

([61]) Fichops are forms containing the operational information of every humanitarian project. Data from fichops are consolidated in HOPE, an internal Commission platform.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Yes	In Mali, a pilot approach with Action Against Hunger Spain is underway, aiming to complement rapid response with a resilience component. This project aims to strengthen emergency livelihoods for the most vulnerable individuals affected by conflict, both internally displaced persons and host communities, focusing on the resumption of agricultural production and the restoration of livestock. These activities, intended to rehabilitate productive assets and enhance the economic resilience of beneficiaries, could ensure a smooth transition between emergency and recovery phases.
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Yes	In the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean the EU enhanced child health and nutrition by improving access to quality child health services and nutritional support in El Niño-affected districts in Lesotho, Namibia and Angola and in Mozambique, in both conflict and natural hazard-affected districts.
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	As part of the humanitarian response to epidemic outbreaks and health crises, ECHO mobilised both reliefEU funding and capacities on multiple occasions. During an outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2025, reliefEU deployed a specially equipped helicopter as part of the EU Humanitarian Air Flight operation and delivered a temporary office and accommodation set-up in the most affected Bulape province. Furthermore, in 2025 reliefEU facilitated the delivery of 263 080 doses of MPOX vaccine, donated by EU Member States, in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda. In total, over 234 tonnes of health-related material were donated from reliefEU stocks to various partners intervening in Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar/Burma, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Syria and Yemen .

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	In Iraq, 17.5% of the 2025 allocation was for education in emergencies and child protection. Activities included educational activities, with a focus on non-formal education in the form of basic literacy and numeracy classes, catch-up classes and remedial classes, as well as child protection activities such as psychosocial support, life skills and activities aimed at facilitating access to education through documentation. Priority schools were in areas with a high number of children in protracted displacement, both internally displaced persons and asylum seekers and refugees, notably from Syria.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Yes	In Niger, an action plans to strengthen the capacity of municipalities and technical services in the management of drinking water and the monitoring of aquifers through. This is related to the results of their assessment showing that water contamination is a serious risk. It will contribute to the sustainable management of the structures and the maintenance of alert for any possible pollution of the aquifers to preserve the population and the environment.
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	
SDG15	Yes	In Uganda, the EU budget finances a programmatic partnership, contributing to the restoration of forests and woodlots, as well as facilitating access to clean cooking, among other actions (EUR 4.5 million over three years, 2023-2025). To mitigate the effect of deforestation, partners of the EU will continue promoting tree planting within settlements through establishment of wood lots, planting boundary trees and encouraging refugees to grow fruit trees within their homes. UNHCR in partnership with the National Forestry Authority will continue to raise quality tree seedlings for planting, restore and protect Central Forest Reserves, wetlands and water catchment areas close to refugee settlements and promote alternative cooking fuels other than woody biomass among refugee households.
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	

SDG17 Strengthen the means of implement ation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainabl e Developme nt	Yes	The EU budget supports local actors and partners in reinforcing both their capacities, security of staff and ability to reach communities in hard-to-reach areas. This work is further empowered by our commitment to inclusiveness in coordination mechanisms wherever possible. In Myanmar, one third of the budget goes to local organisations, with many programmes operating through large networks of local partners that ensure principled, context-sensitive and timely humanitarian assistance, even in highly constrained and insecure environments. These partnerships strengthen local ownership, improve access and acceptance at community level, and contribute to more sustainable humanitarian outcomes in line with SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Concrete examples of achievements

3 167 patrols were conducted by 72 ceasefire monitors of the European Union Mission in Armenia in 2025 to improve human security along the Armenia–Azerbaijan border, financed under CFSP.	50 public hearings on serious crimes committed during and in the aftermath of the conflict in Kosovo (*) were conducted in 2025 and streamed in the three languages of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, financed under CFSP.	3 457 surplus or confiscated small arms and light weapons were destroyed worldwide under CFSP non-proliferation projects in 2025.	EUR 6 million worth of equipment, including information technology equipment, vehicles, medical equipment and radios, was provided in 2025 to Ukrainian civilian security sector authorities by the European Union Advisory Mission in Ukraine and financed under CFSP.

(*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	352.2	361.7	371.8	384.7	393.3	404.2	414.7	2 682.6
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7
Total	**352.2**	**361.7**	**371.8**	**384.7**	**393.9**	**404.2**	**414.7**	**2 683.2**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 866.2	2 683.2	69.5%
Payments	1 901.9	0.0	70.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Percentage of contribution agreements with EU special representatives and civilian CSDP missions signed within four weeks after the adoption of the Council decision	0	75%	100% in 2028	Average for 2021-2025: 74.8%, compared to a target of 100%.	On track
Percentage of civilian CSDP missions coordinating with interventions financed under other EU instruments	0	100%	100% annually between 2021 and 2027	Average for 2021-2025: 100%, compared to a target of 100%.	On track
Percentage of relevant non-proliferation and disarmament actions that are complementary to actions funded under the peace, stability and conflict prevention programme of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe	0	100%	100% annually between 2021 and 2027	Average for 2021-2025: 100%, compared to a target of 100%.	On track

Common foreign and security policy

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) pursues the objectives of the EU external action as defined by Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including safeguarding the EU's values, interests and security, preserving peace, preventing conflicts, strengthening international security, consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law and promoting an international system based on stronger multilateral cooperation.

In 2025, the CFSP pursued these objectives through the following actions financed from the EU budget:

- **13 civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions**, which supported partner countries by advising and capacity building on security sector reforms, rule of law or border management or by monitoring the situation on the ground (85% of 2025 CFSP budget commitments, including a commitment for the Kosovo Specialist Chambers under the EULEX Kosovo Mission);
- **11 EU Special Representatives**, who contributed to peace, stability and security and promoted EU values and interests in various regions of the world by supporting mediation and conflict resolution initiatives, maintaining contacts with regional stakeholders and representing the EU and communicating on EU goals (5% of 2025 CFSP budget commitments);
- **30 ongoing non-proliferation and disarmament (NPD) actions**, including 12 new actions launched in 2025, which prevented the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, combatted the illicit spread of small arms and light weapons and promoted effective arms export controls by supporting the universalisation and effective implementation of relevant international treaties and conventions, along with the role/work of responsible international organisations (8% of the 2025 CFSP budget commitments).

The CFSP actions mentioned above are implemented on the basis of Council decisions under the relevant provisions of the Treaty on European Union. The proposals for the CFSP Council decisions are prepared by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and submitted by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The decisions define the objectives and mandates of the actions. The civilian CSDP missions, EU Special Representatives and organisations implementing non-proliferation and disarmament report on the progress on the objectives to the Council and to the EEAS. The Commission is responsible for ensuring the sound financial management of the funds entrusted to the entities under contribution or grant agreements concluded between them and the Commission.

The implementation of CFSP actions has been impacted by the volatile political and security situation in certain partner countries, including Ukraine, in the Middle East and in the Sahel region. For example, in 2025 the staff of the European Union Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform in Ukraine faced an increased intensity of Russian missile and drone attacks on Kyiv and its energy infrastructure, which caused disruptions of electricity and heating supply.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

CFSP actions are not designed to tackle the green priorities, as is the case with action documents under cooperation instruments.

Some entities have internal procedures favouring green procurement. However, as operations mainly focus on providing advice and developing capacities in the civilian security sector, their impact on the abovementioned horizontal issues remains very limited.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	291.9	281.7	264.0	298.0	360.4	1 496.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	60.3	80.0	107.8	86.7	32.9	367.7
Total:	352.2	361.7	371.8	384.7	393.3	1 863.7

The European External Action Service (EEAS) assessed that civilian CSDP missions have gender equality as an important objective (Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Gender equality marker 1). This assessment is based on several elements. First, the Missions have full-time gender advisers and gender focal point networks. In addition, the missions implement guidelines on gender mainstreaming. The missions also collect sex-disaggregated data, they provide training courses on gender mainstreaming and on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and they conduct operational activities to advance gender equality and/or implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Finally, the EEAS and Member States are committed to enhancing the share of female staff in the missions. The 2023 Civilian CSDP Compact sets a target of 40% women among international mission staff by end-2027. The selection procedures prioritise women over men in selection procedures.

Apart from the civilian CSDP Missions, a number of CFSP non-proliferation and disarmament actions contribute also to gender equality by implementing specific activities designed, for example, to increase the participation of women in nuclear security or non-proliferation.

Gender disaggregated information:

- As of 31 December 2025, 76% of international staff of civilian CSDP Missions were male and 24% female.

Contribution to the digital transition

Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	CSDP Missions have full-time gender advisers and gender focal point networks. In addition, the missions implement guidelines on gender mainstreaming and provide training courses on gender mainstreaming and Women, Peace and Security, and they conduct operational activities to advance gender equality and/or implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Finally, the EEAS and Member States are committed to enhancing the share of female staff in the missions. Apart from the civilian CSDP Missions, several CFSP non-proliferation and disarmament actions contribute also to gender equality by implementing specific activities designed, for example, to increase the participation of women in nuclear security or non-proliferation efforts
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	CFSP actions contribute to the preservation of peace, conflict prevention, strengthening of international security, consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law and human rights by advising and building capacity on security sector reforms, rule of law or border management, by supporting mediation and conflict resolution initiatives or by supporting the universalisation and effective implementation of international treaties and conventions addressing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or conventional weapons.

Support to reforms

Advisory civilian CSDP Missions contribute to the security sector reforms in partner countries by providing advice on policies, strategies, and legislation.

Given the division of responsibilities between the Council, the EEAS, and the Commission with regard to the implementation of the CFSP, based on the provisions of the Treaty on European Union, the Commission is not in a position to assess the contribution of the Missions to the reforms, as the Missions report on the implementation of their mandates to the Council and the EEAS and not to the Commission.

DECISION ON THE OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION, INCLUDING GREENLAND

Concrete examples of achievements

11 865 international tourists visited Saint Pierre and Miquelon in 2025, a 17% increase from 2024, thanks to EU support for sustainable tourism.	Only 19 months after the 'Coastal resilience needs assessment' project, financed under the EU resilience, sustainable energy and marine biodiversity programme in Sint Maarten, many actions have been put in place, including research, education and training to strengthen the island's ability to manage its natural resources.	90% of the population in Saint Barthélemy could access Wi-Fi in crisis situations in 2025, as a result of the disaster risk seduction budget support programme under the DOAG.	6 000 breeding seabird pairs are now recorded annually on Tromelin Island (French Southern and Antarctic Lands), following restoration efforts under the EU-funded *Restauration des écosystèmes insulaires de l'océan Indien* project.
130 participants of various business-to-business and business-to-government meetings that took place during the first EU–Greenland Week in Brussels in November 2025, organised by the EU and funded by the DOAG.	76.9% of lower secondary education pupils obtained satisfactory marks in English in 2024, compared with 68.8% in 2022, thanks to budget support provided by the EU to Greenland as a way to raise the academic level of pupils in lower secondary education.		

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	67.0	69.0	70.0	71.4	73.5	74.3	75.4	500.6
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.0
Total	**67.0**	**69.0**	**105.0**	**71.4**	**74.8**	**74.3**	**75.4**	**535.6**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	345.6	535.6	64.5%
Payments	192.1	0.0	35.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
For OCTs except Greenland, exports of goods and services as a percentage of gross domestic product	19.2%	N/A	N/A	35.3% in 2024	N/A
For OCTs except Greenland, total government revenue as a percentage of gross domestic product	26.9%	N/A	N/A	22.9% in 2024	N/A
For Greenland, exports of goods and services as a percentage of gross domestic product	26.4%	N/A	N/A	40.8% in 2024	N/A
For Greenland, the percentage of the fisheries sector in total exports	91.4%	N/A	N/A	96.0% in 2025	N/A

The indicators presented above are based on data from various statistical sources in each OCT. The baseline was established by calculating a proxy based on available data, with the year 2020 serving as the reference point. Progress is shown using the most recent data available from each OCT, which in most cases is from 2024. It is important to note that a direct contribution by the cooperation provided for under the DOAG to the achievement of these indicators cannot be established, as most of the cooperation programmes do not directly support exports of goods and services, and only indirectly support government revenue generation (through cooperation on public financial management). Therefore, no targets are set.

Over the past years, cooperation between the EU and Greenland has expanded beyond education and fisheries to cover sustainable tourism, digital connectivity, raw materials, renewable energy and the environment.

In 2025, 15 small and medium-sized enterprises across Greenland were awarded targeted business development mini-grants, and 72 small and medium-sized enterprises or start-ups benefited from personalised business coaching focusing on specific challenges of planning, budgeting, fundraising, taxation and digital marketing.

In this framework, the first-ever EU–Greenland Week took place in November 2025 in Brussels, with strong participation from Greenland and the EU, gathering public and private stakeholders for high-level sessions to advance partnerships in key strategic sectors.

In 2025, EU-OCT cooperation focused on strengthening the investment agenda and expanding regional cooperation. Pacific OCTs participated in the first EU–Pacific Business Forum held in Fiji in September 2025, while several Caribbean OCTs attended the Sargassum Conferences and the EU–LAC Business Forum in November 2025.

In New Caledonia, following the violent political crisis in May 2024, which severely impacted both the population and the economy, additional assistance of EUR 1 million was granted in 2025 as a top-up to the existing budget support, supporting the territory's energy transition plan. Furthermore, EUR 5 million was mobilised for an additional measure to strengthen resilience and social cohesion.

EU-OCT cooperation continued to deliver tangible results. As part of the implementation of Saint Barthélemy's disaster risk reduction policy, supported by the EU with EUR 2.5 million, by 2025 the territory had acquired four rescue and assistance vehicles, carried out training courses on search and rescue and installed a tsunami alert system.

In Saint Pierre and Miquelon, where the EU is supporting sustainable tourism with EUR 27 million, 2025 saw steady progress and tourism growth. The EU's support allowed to increase accommodation capacity, promote tourism among young people and adopt a strategy for coastal protection. As a result, 11 865 international tourists visited Saint Pierre and Miquelon, a 17% increase compared with 2024.

The implementation of EU-OCT cooperation for 2021-2027 continued to progress well. In 2025 all territorial programmes were effectively under implementation except for Curaçao and Sint Maarten, for which decisions should be adopted respectively in 2026 and 2027.

The total amount of actions adopted up to 2025 was EUR 366.3 million, i.e. over 73% of the total DOAG envelope of EUR 500 million. In 2025, the first three actions were adopted for a total of EUR 4.8 million: one intra-regional programme for the French Southern and Antarctic Lands, a programme dedicated to culture and a support measures programme, both covering all OCTs.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation	Estimates	

Overseas Countries and Territories – Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland (OCT-DOAG)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	53.6	50.2	13.1	6.9	2.3	3.5	129.6	25.8%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	0.0	12.9	29.1	19.9	13.7	1.0	2.0	78.5	15.6%

The Green Deal is pivotal to the EU–OCT cooperation. The DOAG, with its EUR 500 million envelope for 2021-2027, includes specific targets on priority areas of mutual interest, such as climate change and biodiversity. Given the vulnerabilities of the OCTs as islands, the Green Deal is considered a key priority of the EU–OCT cooperation for 2021-2027. 10 out of 12 bilateral multiannual indicative programmes have a strong Green Deal focus (Bonaire, Curaçao, French Polynesia, Greenland, New Caledonia, Saba, Saint Barthélemy, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, Wallis and Futuna), along with the three regional multiannual indicative programmes (Indian Ocean–French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Pacific and Caribbean). Around 40% of the overall resources will be mobilised for Green Deal related sectors, such as renewable energy, water, disaster risk reduction, sustainable agriculture and green growth, including sustainable tourism.

As regards climate change, the Commission supported the drafting in 2025 of a report on carbon capture storage (CCS) potential in Greenland, under the Capacity Facility for Greenland (established under Council Decision (EU)2012/137). This report aimed to support the Government of Greenland in making necessary strategic decisions about pursuing CCS in Greenland. As this study concluded that CCS was only financially viable in a very optimistic scenario, it recommended the Government of Greenland to move forward with a detailed feasibility study and a phased approach to reduce financial risks.

Other examples, with the 11th EDF regional Caribbean programme RESEMBID includes:

- In Sint Maarten, a modernised disaster management systems connect various entities in Sint Maarten for better communication and coordination during disasters, improving national response capabilities to the benefit of a population of 103 700 people.
- In Curaçao, 26 802 persons were reached via public awareness and engagement campaign to raise awareness and identify solutions on the issue of plastic pollution in the marine environment

As regards biodiversity, through the same project RESEMBID, in Aruba, 150 contractors and park rangers were trained in marine biodiversity and restoration techniques. In Saint-Barthélémy, 450 trees were planted in deforested areas, 5 persons were trained in artificial reef construction and monitoring, 150 coral fragments implanted on three artificial reefs and over 8 900 residents reached through public education campaigns

Within the framework of the Green Growth Programme under the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for Greenland, the Commission supports a project to strengthen and expand a program aiming at mapping and monitoring seabed living communities, also known as the benthic ecosystem, in Greenland. It also supports the preparatory work around the establishment of the West Greenland National Park.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	60.0	2.4	64.7	69.5	64.0	260.7
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	7.0	66.6	5.3	1.9	9.5	90.3
Total:	67.0	69.0	70.0	71.4	73.5	351.0

While no specific target was set for 2021-2027 EU–OCT cooperation concerning gender equality, the DOAG programme explicitly states that this horizontal priority should be mainstreamed into all initiatives as a key contribution to the successful achievement of the sustainable development goals. Consequently, all new initiatives aim to ensure that gender aspects are considered to the best extent possible, notably through sex-disaggregated data. All new 2025 cooperation initiatives have gender equality as a significant objective, while there are no initiatives that focus specifically on gender equality. A score of 0 represents support measures and measures relating to the French Southern and Antarctic Lands, where there are no inhabitants.

In Saba, the technical assistance is conducting a sectoral gender analysis in the framework of the design of this next Energy Strategy, ensuring gender-sensitivity and raising awareness with the local stakeholders.

Gender disaggregated information:

-

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.5	16.5	36.0	10.2%

The Caribbean OCTs were involved in the Global Gateway initiative EU–Latin America and Caribbean Digital Alliance, with Caribbean OCTs attending the EU-LAC Digital Alliance Week in Guatemala in 2025. The Caribbean OCTs' intraregional envelope under the DOAG will be used for digital connectivity and cybersecurity. In 2025, a feasibility study was launched to prepare it, covering the Greater Caribbean, including the seven OCTs and the four Outermost regions.

In 2025, EUR 19.4 million were being implemented for the digital transition, through the Aruba e-government project, as well as the Greenland education project, which includes a significant digital component

In Aruba, the EU is supporting the territory's e-government strategy with EUR 14.2 million. It entails the building of an e-government organisation, an e-ID development and implementation, and national cybersecurity development. The overall objective of the action is thus to contribute to Aruba's economic, social and environmental sustainable development through the digital transformation of government services.

The EU–Greenland Education Partnership supports the digital transition in education by strengthening distance learning and digital teaching capacities across the system. Through budget support, it contributes to the implementation of the Information Technology (IT) Strategy 2025–2029 (Digital Primary & Lower Secondary Schools II), which focuses on infrastructure, teachers' digital skills and responsible use of technology. In primary and lower secondary education, initiatives such as the Kivitsisa programme promote digital tools, remote learning and teacher mentoring networks to improve teaching quality across Greenland's dispersed communities. At upper secondary level (GUX), digital solutions such as the eGUX distance-learning programme help expand access and support higher completion rates. Together, these initiatives improve inclusive access to quality education throughout Greenland.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)

SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	x	The OCTs share vulnerabilities, resulting in a complex set of food security and nutrition challenges. For 2021-2027, the EU is supporting sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition in the Pacific region (regional multiannual indicative programme, EUR 36 million), the Caribbean OCTs (regional multiannual indicative programme, EUR 21 million) and in Sint Eustatius (EUR 2.9 million).
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	x	Access to quality education fosters equality and is an essential pre-condition for achieving sustainable growth and jobs. This is the rationale of one of the two priority areas of the EU cooperation with Greenland in 2021-2027. EUR 202.5 million is earmarked for education cooperation in Greenland, to increase the quality, the access, and the efficiency of the territory's education system, which is facing a number of complex challenges (lack of skilled staff, geography, social issues). Through the Erasmus+ programme, the EU also supports the OCTs in facilitating mobility of individuals and reinforcing intercultural dialogue and understanding.
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	x	In French Polynesia, the programme (EUR 31.1 million) is contributing to the achievement of sustainable development objectives aiming at guaranteeing access to drinking water and sanitation while ensuring an integrated management of water resources in the face of climate change constraints. In Bonaire (EUR 4.6 million) and Curaçao (EUR 18.6 million), the population and economic growth (notably linked to the tourism sector) led to increased production of wastewater and solid waste and more pressure on ecosystems. The programmes are therefore aiming to improve water management and increase access to sustainable sanitation.

SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	x	In New Caledonia, the sustainable energy transition programme (EUR 31.9 million) is contributing to the decarbonisation of the mining industry, which is the lungs of the economy and responsible for 77% of the territory's total energy consumption. Furthermore, New Caledonia aims at energy autonomy for the territory, based on reliable, decarbonised, resilient and affordable energy. The programme in Saba (EUR 4.1 million) is accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy building on in the previous 11th European Development Fund action which substantially improved the energy mix of Saba with 40% of renewable energy produced. More action is needed to increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (objective of 60% production) and energy efficiency (with the launch of a programme to promote the use of LED technologies and solar water heaters). In Greenland, the cooperation aims at increasing the percentage of renewable energy in the public electricity provision to 90%, and there are initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of current and future economic developments.
SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	x	In Saint Pierre and Miquelon, the programme on sustainable tourism (EUR 27 million) is contributing to the sustainable economic diversification of the territory, relying on the potential and multiplier effect for sustainable growth of the tourism sector. It reinforces the attractiveness of the territory bringing decent jobs and new opportunities, including for local youth and women. In 2021-2027 the EU teams up with Aruba to implement its e-government-strategy (EUR 14.2 million). This entails the building of an e-government organisation, an e-ID development and implementation, national cyber security development and the creation and implementation of the national digital payment infrastructure. Aruba's digital transformation is contributing to secure the digital access to government services and unlocking new economic opportunities for all, including women and youth. In Greenland, within the green growth programme (EUR 22.5 million) the EU is supporting initiatives to make the territory's natural richness more accessible to foreign tourists in a manner that is sustainable and respectful of the unique environment, while supporting local populations.

SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	x	In Greenland, inequality is tackled with the improved access of all children to pre-school education, which lays the ground for future economic security independent of starting conditions
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	x	A new programme on Culture will enable all the OCTs to foster an inclusive and sustainable economic development, by strengthening the Cultural and Creative Industries and the sustainable tourism sectors. It will include activities on preserving the rich cultural heritage of the OCTs.
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	x	The EU's 2021-2027 support for Bonaire and Curaçao on water management and sanitation aims to expand the application of the circular economy in water resources management, as a mechanism to achieve greater environmental and health protection (via increased sanitation coverage and greater wastewater treatment capacities as well as reuse of wastewater resources).

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	x	The OCTs are especially vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation due to their geographical locations and characteristics. The ongoing all-OCT thematic programme Green Overseas and the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific regional programmes (for a total of EUR 97.8 million) from the 11th European Development Fund are all dedicated to ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, protecting biodiversity, and supporting climate initiatives and resilience, showing the vital importance of these areas to all OCTs. The regional initiatives under DOAG (EUR 36 million for the Pacific OCTs, EUR 21 million for the Caribbean OCTs and EUR 4 million for the French Southern and Antarctic Lands) will build on these achievements. EU support to protect biodiversity will continue to be the priority area for cooperation with the French Southern and Antarctic Lands in 2021-2027 (EUR 4 million), aiming at improving the surveillance and observation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the French Southern and Antarctic Lands, restoring ecosystems, and reinforcing impact prevention mechanisms. The new intraregional programme with the Reunion (EUR 1.15 million) aims at conserving the island ecosystems and indigenous animal and plant species. Saint Barthélemy (EUR 2.5 million) in 2021-2027 supports disaster risk management and climate adaptation. The BEST LIFE programme 2021-2027 continues to scale up the initiatives in OCTs on biodiversity and nature conservation. All these programmes focus therefore on translating Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and 15 into effective results on the ground and will prepare the work for the future.

SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	x	Same as SDG 13
SDG15	x	Same as SDG 13
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	x	EU-funded initiatives in the OCTs intend to reinforce the capacity, the accountability and inclusiveness of their institutions. Budget support is generally a preferred implementation modality for OCTs' territorial allocations. It is an efficient way of addressing long-term and structural challenges, of improving the performance and accountability of administrations while focusing on the effective achievement of results of territorial policies and of maintaining a constructive policy dialogue. Practice confirms that this modality provides satisfactory results in OCTs through a high level of appropriation from local authorities. This is also supported via a specific technical assistance, that OCTs have access to.

SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	x	The special relationship between the EU and the OCTs is based on the association of the OCTs with the EU, which constitutes a partnership. This principle of partnership is embedded in DOAG, which is the framework for political and policy dialogue and cooperation on issues of common interest. Recently, the partnership has been further reinforced by including dedicated cooperation on youth engagement. The OCT Youth Network, an initiative of over EUR 560 000 was launched in July 2022 by the EU with the aim of increasing the ties between young people living in the OCTs and the EU, and of enhancing the knowledge and involvement of young people in the EU–OCT partnership. Three network meetings took place as of mid-2025.

Support to reforms

The EU financed the development of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon's Strategic Development Plan for the period 2026-2029, which was adopted by the territory's council in December 2025.

EU budget support of EUR 2.9 million has contributed to the development of a plan for the restructuring and development of the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department of Sint Eustatius, to create government capacity that can deliver support for improving agriculture, livestock and fishery. The plan was adopted in 2025 by the City Council.

In French Polynesia, the EUR 31.1 million EU budget support programme for the sustainable water management policy has contributed to advancing structural sector reforms and strengthening public governance. Concrete reform progress includes the development and dissemination of tools supporting municipalities in delivering water and sanitation services, the strengthening of environmental monitoring systems, and the production and validation of governance and policy documents.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MACRO-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Concrete examples of achievements

11 macro-financial assistance (MFA) operations were adopted between 2021 and 2025, for a total of EUR 49.3 billion in loans and EUR 75 million in grants, to support five candidate and neighbourhood partner countries with their urgent financing needs following global shocks and increased geopolitical tensions.	EUR 18.1 billion In loans were provided to Ukraine in 2025 as part of the G7 Exceptional Revenue Acceleration (ERA) loans initiative, in the light of Russia's intensified war of aggression against the country.	EUR 2.25 billion in loans have been disbursed to Egypt and Jordan since the summer of 2024 to support the countries' challenging economic situations, aggravated by the turmoil in the region.	EUR 75 million in grants was disbursed to Moldova in 2022-2024 in the context of the energy crisis and the repercussions of the war in Ukraine.	10 partner countries were supported through MFA operations during the COVID-19 crisis, helping beneficiary countries in the EU neighbourhood to cushion the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and safeguard macroeconomic stability.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming - grants	56.4	50.0	56.7	57.4	59.3	61.5	64.5	405.8
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MFA loans provisioning	152.5	205.9	196.7	155.2	135.0	161.7	407.9	1 415.0
Total	**208.9**	**255.9**	**253.4**	**212.6**	**194.3**	**223.3**	**472.4**	**1 820.8**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

MFA loans that are officially part of the budget lines of NDICI – Global Europe and IPA are excluded for reporting in NDICI – Global Europe and IPA and relinked to the MFA PPS (amounts included in this table).

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	922.0	1 820.8	50.6%
Payments	718.1	0.0	39.4%

Implementation and performance

Main highlights of the macro-financial assistance programme in terms of implementation and performance, with a focus on the year 2025

- MFA is a form of EU financial aid for partner countries experiencing a balance-of-payments crisis, helping to restore their external stability and to bring their economies back to a sustainable path. By relieving the partner country of some financial stress, the MFA operation increases the country's fiscal space, improves its debt sustainability and allows it to focus on driving necessary reforms.

- MFA is predominantly provided in the form of loans, backed by provisioning from the EU budget (except for the most recent operations regarding Ukraine, namely the EUR 18 billion MFA+ and the EUR 18.1 billion extraordinary revenue acceleration MFA loan, which are backed by the headroom) for a total of EUR 1 415.0 million through the multiannual financial framework programming period. A smaller share of EUR 405.8 million is dedicated to grants through the multiannual financial framework programming period. In 2025, EUR 18 365.7 million in MFA funds was disbursed in loans, while no grants were disbursed as the latest operation including a grant element was completed in 2024. The budget lines for commitments related to the provisioning of MFA loans in 2025 amounted to EUR 135.0 million.

- In March 2025, an MFA operation regarding Egypt of up to EUR 4 billion was adopted by the co-legislators to urgently support the country's challenging economic situation, aggravated by the turmoil in the region. A first disbursement of EUR 1 billion occurred in January 2026, and two further disbursements are expected in 2026-2027.

- In October 2023, the Jordanian authorities submitted a request for MFA referring to challenging global economic prospects, restrictive credit conditions, inflationary pressures and the repercussions of the Syrian refugee crisis. MFA of up to EUR 500 million in loans was adopted by the co-legislators in April 2025. The first instalment of EUR 250 million was disbursed on 19 September 2025. The two following instalments are expected in 2026-2027, if the conditions attached to the memorandum of understanding are fulfilled.

- In view of the escalating turmoil in Jordan's immediate neighbourhood, the Jordanian authorities submitted an additional request for MFA in January 2025. In January 2026, the co-legislators adopted an additional MFA operation (MFA V) of EUR 500 million, increasing the total amount of MFA to the country to EUR 1 billion in loans. The Commission is currently working on a memorandum of understanding to be signed with the Jordanian authorities later this year.

- In the light of Russia's intensified war of aggression, the G7 leaders agreed in June 2024 to provide financial assistance to Ukraine through extraordinary revenue acceleration loans of up to EUR 45 billion, leveraging the extraordinary revenues generated from immobilised Russian assets. On 28 October 2024, the regulation establishing the Ukraine Loan Cooperation

Mechanism and providing new MFA to Ukraine came into force. The mechanism collects the windfall profits to support Ukraine in repaying the up to EUR 45 billion of loans to be provided by G7 partners. The MFA loan of EUR 18.1 billion represents the EU's contribution to the extraordinary revenue acceleration initiative. This amount was fully disbursed in 2025, with a final disbursement in November 2025 successfully concluding this MFA operation.

Support for reforms

- MFA helped the EU to entrench macroeconomic stability in its neighbourhood by promoting crucial structural reforms and sound macro-fiscal policies.

- The *ex-post* evaluations of MFA operations carried out so far have concluded that MFA operations do contribute to achieving structural reforms through conditionality and to improving external sustainability and macroeconomic stability in the recipient country, albeit sometimes modestly and indirectly.

- In most cases, MFA operations had a positive effect on the balance of payments of the beneficiary countries and contributed to relaxing their budgetary constraints. They also helped maintain or regain market access and led to slightly higher economic growth. *Ex post* evaluations concluded that the standard availability period of 2.5 years for MFA support creates an overall framework that incentivises reforms and their implementation. In addition, the setting of policy conditions, determined as a package of reforms, was assessed as ensuring a comprehensive reform effort. The chosen policy areas, their degree of ambition and their impact on long-term sustainability, along with the sequencing of reforms, were found to be appropriate and important ingredients for successful operations.

- One important attribute of the EU's MFA compared to alternative sources of financing is its highly concessional terms, i.e. relatively low interest rates, long maturity and a long grace period. This generates fiscal space and contributes to public debt sustainability in the beneficiary countries.

- The *ex-post* evaluations also confirm that previous MFA programmes were implemented efficiently, and were well coordinated with other EU programmes and with the programmes of other donors (notably the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank). MFA policy conditionality is separate from International Monetary Fund conditionality, but is complementary to and reinforces it.

- The most recent *ex post* evaluation examined the COVID-19 MFA package, which supported 10 enlargement and neighbourhood partner countries facing severe external and fiscal pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Totalling EUR 3 billion in loans, this operation was at the time the largest-ever MFA operation in both size and geographic scope. The *ex post* evaluation concluded that the package successfully achieved its objectives by delivering swift, highly concessional financial support, thereby helping beneficiary countries to safeguard macroeconomic stability in a global pandemic. It also showed that bundling the 10 operations

under a single legislative act allowed the Commission to streamline the legislative process in a situation of urgency, while ensuring the full involvement of the co-legislators. The use of procedural flexibilities facilitated the swift adoption of the proposal, illustrating the political significance of EU support for partner countries and the flexibility of the MFA instrument.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

MFA funds are not allocated to specific projects or spending categories and their final destination, unless otherwise specified, is left to the national authorities to decide.

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

- Not applicable

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	208.9	255.9	253.4	212.6	194.3	1 125.1
Total:	208.9	255.9	253.4	212.6	194.3	1 125.1

- Score 0 as MFA operations are non-targeted interventions (interventions that are expected to have no significant bearing on gender equality).
- MFA funds are not allocated to specific projects or spending categories and their destination, unless otherwise specified (in the memoranda of understanding signed with partner countries), is left to the national authorities to decide.
- Disaggregated data of any type do not exist and thus cannot be collected.

Contribution to the digital transition

- Not applicable.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- Not applicable.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

- Not applicable.

INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA) III

Concrete examples of achievements

10.7 million primary healthcare consultations were provided for refugees in **Türkiye** in 2025 under the Sihhat health care programme financed under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III).	9 200 Individuals in **Albania**, including 2 300 children and 3 000 families, benefited from new or expanded community-based services in 2025, thanks to the EU4socialcare programme financed by IPA III.	Over 40 000 new geo-referenced data points were collected in **Montenegro** in 2025 on habitats, plants, animals, and birds thanks to IPA III, providing a scientific basis for establishing the future Natura 2000 network, in line with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.	40 800 households in **Kosovo** ([62]) received subsidies in 2025 for energy efficiency renovations, electrical appliances, efficient heating equipment, and solar systems while 200 000 households (80 000 vulnerable) benefitted of conditional assistance, achieving lower bills and major resource savings thanks to IPA III.

([62]) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Over 830 individuals in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** have been successfully employed after participating in the targeted training, upskilling, and reskilling programmes funded by IPA III.	233 students enrolled at the Kiro Burnaz regional centre for vocational education and training in Kumanovo, **North Macedonia**, in 2024/2025 thanks to IPA III, which financed the revitalisation of its facilities and the enhancement of the learning environment and living conditions in the students' dormitory.	50 specialised firefighting and disaster response vehicles, an interactive hazard risk map and advanced display equipment, and the establishment of disaster risk register and the training of 1 100 stakeholders substantially improved disaster-management readiness and response in **Serbia** in 2025, thanks to IPA III.	2 national platforms were established in **North Macedonia** in 2025, one for interinstitutional cooperation and joint action against cultural heritage crimes, and another for environmental crimes, from the twinning project on "strengthening institutional capacities in dealing with cultural heritage and environmental crimes" financed under IPA III.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	1883.7	1984.8	2 529.6	2 110.7	2 185.4	2 143.0	2 076.2	14 913.4
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	56.0	0.0	0.0	56.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	31.3	3.8	4.2	4.9	10.6	0.0	0.0	54.8
Total	**1 914.9**	**1 988.6**	**2 533.8**	**2 115.6**	**2 252.0**	**2 143.0**	**2 076.2**	**15 024.1**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	10 662.0	15 024.1	71.0%
Payments	4 4170.5	0.0	29.4%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Composite indicator on political criteria – Western Balkans	2.1	86%	2.8 in 2027	2.4 in 2025 compared to a target of 2.8	Moderate progress
Composite indicator on political criteria – Türkiye	1.8	75%	2.0 in 2027	1.5 in 2025 compared to a target of 2.0	Deserves attention
Readiness of enlargement countries on public administration reform – Western Balkans	2.5	84%	3.0 in 2027	2.53 in 2025 compared to a target of 3.0	On track
Readiness of enlargement countries on public administration reform – Türkiye	2.5	83%	3.0 in 2027	2.5 in 2025 compared to a target of 3.0	Deserves attention
Composite indicator on EU acquis alignment – western Balkans	2.5	>100%	2.7 in 2027	2.72 in 2025 compared to a target of 2.7	Achieved
Composite indicator on EU acquis alignment – Türkiye	2.9	95%	3.1 in 2027	2.94 in 2025 compared to a target of 3.1	On track
Composite indicator on economic criteria – Western Balkans	2.3	93%	3.0 in 2027	2.79 in 2025 compared to a target of 3.0	On track
Composite indicator on economic criteria – Türkiye	4.5	90%	5.0 in 2027	4.5 in 2025 compared to a target of 5.0	Deserves attention

The implementation of IPA III has been significantly influenced by external factors, most notably Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In response, IPA III programming was adjusted to address emerging needs. In December 2022, the Commission adopted a EUR 1 billion Western Balkans energy support package to mitigate via the Western Balkans Investment Framework the impact of the war, implemented through two equal components: budget support (EUR 500 million) and investments (EUR 500 million). Implementation of the budget support component has been completed for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro, while final payments for Serbia and North Macedonia remain conditional upon the successful implementation of their national energy action plans. The budget support has provided relief to vulnerable households while improving energy security, the share of renewable energy, and energy infrastructure. The investment component is being implemented through the Western Balkans Investment Framework, supporting the energy transition and energy security across the region: six renewable energy flagship projects have been approved for public sector investments, three private sector blending projects combining EU budget grants with loans from other donors have started implementation, and three out of six signed European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus open architecture guarantees are contributing to the objectives of the energy support package.

In 2025, the Commission finalised the programming of IPA III bilateral and multi-country multiannual action plans in favour of the Western Balkans and Türkiye, with the exception of Kosovo. The following new action plans were adopted: a multi-country and civil society facility and media multiannual action plan for 2025–2027 (EUR 553.9 million); a multiannual action plan covering bilateral actions in favour of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia for 2025–2027 (EUR 491.9 million); a multiannual action plan in favour of Türkiye for 2025–2027 (EUR 311.7 million); and a multiannual action supporting essential needs for refugees and migration management in Türkiye for 2025–2027 (EUR 1.15 billion).

Through these action plans, the Commission is implementing its new approach to EU financial assistance for the 2025–2027 period [63]. Bilateral priorities were agreed with IPA III beneficiaries to ensure complementarity with the Western Balkans Reform and Growth Facility, which entered into force in 2024. For the Western Balkan countries, assistance in 2025–2027 from the IPA III focuses on EU accession priorities, including acquis alignment, the rule of law, fundamentals and democracy, and improved governance, while promoting inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development. Multi-country priorities were selected to prepare beneficiaries for future EU membership, with a focus on rule of law, regional cooperation, governance, the green and digital transitions, and territorial cooperation.

The Global Gateway in the Western Balkans has been implemented through the economic and investment plan (2020-2024) and, since May 2024, through the growth plan via its Reform and Growth Facility. By November 2025, the EU had mobilised EUR 18 billion of expected investments in Global Gateway projects, including EUR 6 billion in EU grants, covering 73 investments supported through the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

Regarding Kosovo, the implementation of EU assistance has been impacted by the measures put in place following the 2023 escalation in the north of the country. In 2025, following de-escalation efforts, the Commission took steps to gradually lift these measures and announced its intention to

[63] Starting in 2025, IPA III funds have been programmed through multi-annual and multi-country financing decisions for 2025 to 2027, allowing for further predictability and flexibility of EU assistance delivery.

lift all remaining measures in early 2026. The programming of the last IPA III funds for Kosovo, totalling EUR 181 million, encompassing EUR 104 million planned for 2025-2027 and EUR 77 million of re-programming from the 2021–2024 period, is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2026.

The assistance provided to Türkiye reflects the state of the EU's relations with the country and focuses on strategic sectors such as the green and connectivity agendas. The Turkey Investment Platform, established in 2022, supports investment proposals in the areas of decarbonisation, digitalisation, access to finance, innovation, and green investments, leveraging more than EUR 2.4 billion through EU budget guarantees. The 2025–2027 multiannual programming further encompasses support in areas such as the environment, transport, energy, competitiveness, employment, and education, alongside support for fundamental rights, civil society, refugees and host communities.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Total**	**% of the total envelope**
Climate mainstreaming	624.5	580.1	503.3	510.1	453.2	568.0	568.0	3 807.2	25.4%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	33.1	77.5	50.0	74.8	37.7	97.0	102.0	472.2	3.2%

IPA III supports the EU's climate objectives, with its regulation stipulating that at least 18% of its financial envelope should contribute to climate goals, set to increase to 20% by 2027. In 2025, 16% of IPA III funding was allocated to climate financing. Preliminary results for 2021-2025 indicate that IPA III is on track to exceed its climate spending targets, with climate financing accounting for 24.7% of the spending during this period, totalling EUR 2.67 billion. Overall, IPA III is expected to contribute around EUR 4 billion to climate objectives from 2021 to 2027, representing 25% of the programme's total envelope.

This overachievement reflects both the inherently climate-oriented design of IPA III's Western Balkans Investment Framework programming and the large-scale energy response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Under the Western Balkans Investment Framework, EU4 green and digital transition and EU4 green growth programmes directed significant resources towards renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmental infrastructure, while the sustainable transport connectivity action supported greener transport along trans-European transport network corridors.

For biodiversity, it is estimated that IPA III measures will contribute around EUR 0.5 billion to biodiversity actions in the 2021-2027 period. According to the completed quality review covering until 2025, IPA III contributed EUR 273.2 million to biodiversity in 2021-2025. This means that so far biodiversity-relevant actions represent 2.5% of the total IPA III instrument, below the target 7.5 % in 2024 and 10 % in 2026 and in 2027. The Commission is committed to continue its efforts to achieve the biodiversity target by the end of the multiannual financial framework. In particular, the annual programme review and targeted internal technical assistance are being used to identify gaps and support the quality check of programmes to better integrate biodiversity objectives in the remaining programming years.

Instrument for pre-accession assistance (ipa) iii

IPA III supports the beneficiaries in their efforts to align themselves with the EU environmental and climate acquis and in the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal. Under thematic window 3 of the IPA III programming framework, financing goes towards the implementation of the Green Agenda for the western Balkans, where biodiversity, ecosystem protection and restoration are priorities. Under the environment and climate change operational programme launched in 2024, a total of EUR 38.8 million in EU grants is supporting Montenegro's progress towards closing the accession benchmarks for Chapter 27, with investments in municipal water and waste management infrastructure, nature protection, including the Ulcinj Salina Nature Park, and climate change adaptation, alongside capacity building across all levels of government.

Measures under other thematic windows of the IPA III programming framework, such as the 'competitiveness and inclusive growth' window supports enterprises and industries to reducing pollution, decarbonise, protect biodiversity, be resource efficient and build a circular economy. Most support is channelled via the Western Balkans Investment Framework, the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus and the Green for Growth Fund. In Kosovo, a EUR 55 million IPA III grant is supporting two landmark renewable energy projects, helping the country diversify away from its near-total dependence on coal. The first project, Solar4Kosovo, installs a 100 MW solar photovoltaic plant on former ash dump fields, near Kosovo A thermal power plant. It is the first large-scale solar installation in the country and is expected to produce 152 GWh annually, saving 152 000 tonnes of CO2. Building on this, the project second phase, extends the benefits of solar energy into Pristina's district heating system. A 50 MW solar heating facility will directly benefit up to 38 000 residents through network expansion measures.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	11.0	4.0	41.7	0.0	56.7
1	525.8	1 142.3	1 252.3	796.5	793.1	4 510.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	1 357.9	831.5	1 273.3	1 272.5	1 392.3	6 127.5

- The gender action plan III stipulates that a minimum of 85% of all new actions shall have gender equality as a significant or the principal objective and that there should be at least one action with gender equality as a principal objective supported in each country and region. The approach and objectives set out by the gender action plan III are referenced in the IPA III Regulation and programming framework.
- The Commission applies the gender equality scoring system of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee. Significant (marked 1) means that gender equality is an important objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the action, while principal (marked 2) means that gender equality is the main objective.
- There has been a significant increase in actions marked with a score of 1 or 2 compared to the previous multiannual financial framework, with a positive trend observed since 2021, strengthening even further in 2025. As a result, 35% of all actions adopted between 2021-2025 under IPA III have gender as a significant or principal objective and an increasing number of country and regional actions have gender equality as a principal objective. This is the result of continued political and policy dialogue, improved gender mainstreaming across all implementing modalities, including the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus, through Team Europe initiatives, and new, ambitious targeted actions. These targeted actions include, amongst others, the fight against gender-based violence in North Macedonia through the "WE CARE: United We Stand to Fight Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence" action, which empowers civil society organisations to encourage positive behavioural change across society for the effective protection of women. In Albania, the EU supports equal participation and leadership through the "EU for Gender Equality II - Gender Equality Facility in Albania", which seeks to promote the consistent application of gender-responsive governance by national authorities, to strengthen equality, combat discrimination, and enhance women's empowerment and human rights, in line with the EU Acquis on Gender Equality.

Gender disaggregated information:

Under the IPA III Results Framework [64], gender disaggregation is a cross-cutting requirement applicable across relevant indicators at all levels. Operational managers and implementing partners are responsible for reporting on these indicators at least once a year through the internal reporting tool, OPSYS. To the extent that available data allowed, figures on gender-disaggregated results have been aggregated across a group of IPA III-financed interventions.

Core indicator	Female	Male
Number of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or assisted with EU support	2 016	76 032
Number of people directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that aim to reduce social and economic inequality	202 532	191 068
Number of people reached with EU-funded awareness raising campaigns (disaggregated by sex and age)	102 638	102 285
Number of judges trained with EU support (of which, trained on European standards and EU Acquis)	19	13
Number of prosecutors trained with EU support (of which, trained on European standards and EU Acquis)	21	25
Number of court staff trained with EU support (of which, trained on European standards and EU Acquis)	40	27
Number of other categories of legal professionals (e.g. probation staff, ...) trained with EU support (of which, trained on European standards and EU Acquis)	17	69
Number of individuals from key national and local authorities and civil society organizations trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their knowledge and/or skills for preventing and countering corruption, or organised crime, or violent extremism or environmental crime	371	262
Number of people who benefit from access to digitalised public and private services thanks to EU support	74	52

[64] Commission staff working document – The Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) results framework, SWD(2022) 445 final of 20 December 2022, https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/library/ipa-results-framework-staff-working-document-ipa-iii-0_en.

	2021 implementation	2022 implementation	2023 implementation	2024 implementation	2025 implementation	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	75.6	92.0	1.8	155.8	193.2	518.4	4.8%

Contribution to the digital transition

- Digitalisation and the digital transition are structural to the common regional market action plan supported by IPA III, which aims to establish a regional digital area in the Western Balkans. This plan focuses on the four pillars of the Digital Compass: (1) digital skills, (2) secure and sustainable digital infrastructures (including roaming), (3) digital transformation of businesses, and (4) digitalisation of public services. These efforts have been an important part of IPA III's digital contribution between 2021-2025. Digital has also been recognised as an enabler and has been integrated as a component in measures across different sectors.
- In 2024, a quality review was launched on the period 2021-2024 period to assess the application of the OECD methodology to monitor digital-related projects supported. Thanks to this review, it was possible to correct past reported numbers. Since 2021, IPA III has contributed around EUR 518.4 million to digital transition, including EUR 193.2 million allocated in 2025. This represents around 5% of IPA III committed financing. While digital transition is a strategic priority, the relatively modest share reflects capacity constraints in programming digital-related interventions at both headquarters and delegation level. To address this, in 2023 the Commission launched the Digital Training Initiative, a capacity building programme, aimed at strengthening the expertise needed to identify, design and report on digital-related projects.
- In 2025, the Commission adopted the EU4Green and Digital Transition programme, allocating EUR 33 million from IPA III to accelerate the digital transition across the Western Balkans. The programme advances the Digital Agenda for the region by strengthening connectivity, including 5G deployment and the expansion of WiFi4WB project, digitalising public services and the business sector, in full alignment with the Growth Plan and Reform and Growth Facility priorities.
- Projects supported by IPA III also include digital skills. Under the Western Balkans Investment Framework, IPA III supports the improvement of Montenegrin Educational Infrastructure to modernised 13 education facilities, while promoting digital transformation and improving learning conditions across kindergartens and schools. In Albania, the EU supports the establishment of 684 Smart ICT Labs in 627 schools, increasing the availability of computer labs for students in their pre-university cycles and enhancing computer programming skills.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Yes	In Albania, the EU Commission, together with UNICEF and World Vision as implementing partners, is strengthening via EU4socialcare (total EUR 3 million) municipal and central level capacities in 14 municipalities to establish and deliver social care services for citizens, and in alignment with EU standards, ensuring equitable and effective support for citizens at risk of social exclusion.
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Yes	In Serbia, EUR 12 million were invested in reconstructing and equipping three laboratories for biologically safe agent processing, implementing international quality standards, developing emergency response procedures, manuals and instructions, digitalizing the public health system, and incorporating public health risks into the Disaster Risk Register. In Kosovo, the EU funding allowed the Center for Independent Life to support 30 young people and adults with mental health issues with the necessary skills to live as independently as possible. The regional project 'Strengthening health systems resilience in the Western Balkans' supports progress towards SDG 3 targets, by strengthening all-hazard emergency response capacities, helping to reform health financing systems to ensure universal health coverage, and increasing vaccination levels. In 2025, its final year of implementation, the project contributed to support the preparation of risk and capacity assessments, the implementation of information management systems, and supported the preparation of national plans on health security; produced reports and publications on financial protection based on data collection and analysis, and further diffused the use of an online platform to track progresses on affordable health care, which is very relevant for policymakers in the health sector. The project helped to recover routine immunisations disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic through catch-up vaccination, development of national action plans and normative guidance for national immunisation programs, and improvement of information systems.

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	In Albania, the EU Commission, together with UNDP as the implementing partner, is providing assistance via "EU4Schools I and II" (total EUR 75.8 million) to the repair and reconstruction of education in 11 municipalities, thus offering better services to more than 25 000 students and teachers in communities affected by the 2019 earthquake. In Kosovo, EU funding of EUR 20.2 million supports quality and inclusive education trough construction of two schools in Prizren and Ferizaj/Uroševac, and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Pristina, along with strengthening of teachers self-evaluation and the review of textbooks in Albanian and Mathematics, improving the quality of teaching and learning, and the education opportunities for children from non-majority groups and children with special needs. At the regional level, IPA III funded the establishment of the Western Balkans School Exchange Scheme with a total of EUR 9 million. This initiative aligns with SDG4 by promoting quality education, enhancing mutual understanding and trust among students in the region, and strengthening the capacities of schools, teachers, and educators to address gaps in essential skills such as critical thinking. By March 2025, 3 479 students and 242 schools have benefitted from the programme.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	In Kosovo, the Gender Equality Facility, implemented by UN Women, supports the aligning of Kosovo's legislation with the EU and international standards, ensuring responsive budgeting and planning, enhancing the gender perspective in the operations of the central and local authorities, and mainstreaming gender in programming of the EU funds. The Kosovo Program for Gender Equality will shape Kosovo's policy for the next 10 years, together with the Guidelines on Language and on Gender equality in the areas of Justice and Digitalisation and ICT. The Gender Equality Manual, developed in cooperation with the Assembly of Kosovo, improves the Parliamentary governance in the country. On 07.2025 the Commission has signed with EIGE a new initiative at regional level on gender, amounting to EUR 1.5 million and carrying on the activities of the previous initiative that just ended. This new initiative "Increased capacity of EU candidates and a potential candidate in the Western Balkans and Türkiye to monitor and mainstream gender equality (2025-2029)" is currently in its first year of implementation.

SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	In Kosovo the EUR 75 million energy support package provided subsidies to over 32 000 households and 154 businesses for heating equipment, household appliances and solar panels. The Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund has subsidised energy efficiency renovation for over 4 000 single houses In Albania, the EUR 83.4 million project “Albania-North Macedonia Power Interconnection (I): Grid Section in Albania” will be key to improve the electricity transmission line, to be adapted to the increased consumption and production, in particular the expansion of the renewable energy supply, mainly solar and wind. It will also contribute to smooth management of supply/demand peaks by improving the electricity trade between Albania and North Macedonia, and all along Corridor VIII. It aims to be completed by mid-2026. The Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) under the Western Balkans Investment Framework, and financed through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, since its launch in 2013, has provided grants for the renovation of 540 public buildings across the region. REEP has also supported households and the private implement energy efficiency measures. For instance, by the end of 2025, more than 34 000 households and 2,000 small and medium-sized enterprises were supported in their investing in energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations, using specialised credit lines and EU grants.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	The project 'EU 4 Labour Market Inclusion' in Albania, implemented with UNDP, Arbetsformedlingen and the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation, aims to support various typologies of community and social care services and models of active labour measures and inclusive practices in vocational education for groups at risk. The action intends to strengthen inclusive and active employment and skills models in 19 municipalities, while enhancing the partnership of the National Agency for Employment and Skills (NAES) with the municipalities to establish and deliver inclusive and integrated employment, skills development for vulnerable groups, in collaboration with labour market actors. Started in 2023, it is running until December 2026 with a total value of EUR 3 million. The regional project 'Supporting the development of a modern payment system and a regional investment area in the Western Balkans', implemented by the World Bank, supports the Western Balkan partners to join the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA). In 2025 North Macedonia and Serbia joined SEPA's geographical scope, after Albania and Montenegro who had already joined at the end of 2024. Moreover, as of October 2025 Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia started enjoying SEPA's concrete benefits by joining its payment schemes. This resulted in faster transactions and in a reduction of transaction costs by up to ten times. It is estimated that full SEPA's implementation in the Western Balkan region could potentially save up to EUR 500 million per year for individuals and businesses.
SDG9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure	Yes	In Kosovo, the EU-supported eID (electronic identification system) was completed in 2025 and is expected to support the competitiveness of Kosovo's information and communication technology (ICT) sector by enabling secure digital services and innovation.
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	Yes	The regional projects in support of Roma inclusion 'Roma Integration (Phase III)' and 'Support to Roma Entrepreneurship (Phase II)' contributes to the reduction of inequalities of Roma communities within the general populations of the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The project 'Roma Integration (Phase III)' with the Council of Europe provides technical assistance to the beneficiary governments to achieve their commitments for Roma Inclusion taken as part of the 2019 Poznan Declaration of the Berlin Process (and subsequent commitments of the Berlin Process Roma Ministerial) and the EU accession process' chapters 23 on anti-discrimination. The project 'Support to Roma Entrepreneurship (Phase II)' further contributes to achieving results in the beneficiary geographies to reduce income inequality by enhancing labour-market access, formal entrepreneurship and access to finance for Roma individuals.

SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	In Serbia, EU funding of EUR 27 million contributed to increasing social inclusion of the women and men, girls and boys experiencing poverty and social exclusion enabling them to live in dignity and take an active part in society. Project was also aiming to improve living conditions for the most vulnerable women and men, girls and boys living in inadequate/insecure conditions in a sustainable and accountable manner to a better inclusion across Serbia. Project is ongoing in 20 municipalities in Serbia. In North Macedonia, six new branded CNG buses for the City of Skopje were delivered and handed-over to the final beneficiary - JSP Skopje. With capacities of 96 passengers per bus, 67 standing and 29 seats, as well as dedicated spaces for passengers with special needs, these buses reflect the latest eco-friendly technology and meet the EURO 6 standard, expected to reduce emissions of CO_2 and individuals' footprint with an estimated 9 grams per kilometre per passenger.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	In Serbia, EU funding of EUR 11 million supported the construction of a new high energy-efficient building of the City of Belgrade Emergency Medical Institute building complex. From 2021 through 2025, under the EU4Energy Transition: Covenant of Mayors (CoM) in the Western Balkans and Türkiye, the EU supported a group of ambitious cities in joining the CoM and defining climate targets for 2030 and beyond. The development of 21 Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) and the implementation of 12 pilot projects ensured the implementation of same EU methodology and models. Further, multi-level governance platforms were created to ensure local government presence at national level, and national and local plans – National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and SECAPs – were linked. The conditions for the further expansion of the CoM network in the Western Balkans were created and the foundations for the CoM-SEE office within Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) were laid. All activities set the basis for the expansion of the initiative, increasing membership and implementing plans.
SDG15 – Life on land	Yes	In Serbia, EUR 3.7 million of EU assistance supported the oral vaccination of foxes and other wild carnivores against rabies, to achieve 0 cases of rabies in 2025.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	In North Macedonia, the EU-funded Twinning project 'Strengthening Institutional Capacities in Dealing with Cultural Heritage and Environmental Crimes', implemented by the Italian Carabinieri Corps and Eutalia in partnership with the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia, has delivered tangible and sustainable results in strengthening the rule of law and institutional cooperation in the context of EU accession. This project aims at addressing crimes that threaten cultural heritage, environmental sustainability, and public safety. The project supported national authorities in aligning their practices with EU standards and best practices. The regional EU Support to Strengthen the Fight against Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans which provides operational support to law enforcement authorities in the Western Balkans, has supported a major investigation that was carried out under a Europol taskforce in 2025. This investigation has led to the dismantling of an internationally active human trafficking network. The criminal network is believed to have sexually exploited over 50 victims in Albania and Croatia, trafficked from South America to Europe. This investigation has involved the Albanian State Police and was supported by the Italian Ministry of Interior under EU4FAST. The investigation resulted in a simultaneous action day in Albania and Colombia on 1 October 2025 and led to 16 house searches (7 in Albania and 9 in Colombia), 17 arrests of suspected human traffickers (7 in Albania and 10 in Colombia), the identification of 54 victims originating from South America (44 in Albania, 5 in Croatia and 5 in Colombia), as well as seizures of evidence and equipment.
SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Yes	Cross-border cooperation (CBC) under IPA III, supported by EUR 88.2 million over the programming period, has fostered multi-stakeholder partnerships across the Western Balkans that deliver tangible socio-economic results. By 2025, over 2 400 organisations had participated in cross-border partnerships, leading to the creation of 1 300 new jobs and 465 new businesses. Beyond economic outcomes, CBC programmes have strengthened good neighbourly relations and reconciliation between communities, building the institutional trust and cooperative frameworks that underpin sustainable regional integration and EU accession.

Support to reforms

IPA III is designed as a performance-based instrument, differentiating assistance in scope and intensity according to the performance of beneficiaries, thereby incentivising commitment to fundamental reforms. This approach aligns with the 2020 Communication on the revised enlargement methodology, which proposed increased funding for countries making progress on agreed reform priorities. Performance assessment is embedded in the annual bilateral programming process, drawing on Commission enlargement reports, external expert assessments, implementation track records, and reporting against the IPA III results framework indicators.

IPA III has been instrumental in driving reform progress across the Western Balkans. Through targeted support to the rule of law, the region has seen improvements in the functioning of the judiciary, with notable progress in Albania and Montenegro, and in freedom of expression. IPA III-funded TAIEX and Twinning activities have directly contributed to these advances, helping countries meet interim benchmarks on judiciary and fundamental rights, strengthen anti-corruption frameworks, and align legislation with EU standards. The Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and the implementation of country-specific Reform Agendas have added further momentum, with IPA III translating these reform priorities into concrete action across public administration, financial services, digital connectivity, and competitiveness. This complementarity is visible in practice: in Kosovo, IPA III provides European expertise and know-how support on its European path, while the Facility creates fiscal space to anchor new legal frameworks systems and practice; in Montenegro, Reform Agenda targets on digital service delivery build directly on IPA-funded Public Administration Reform, with the Facility incentivising the legislative steps needed to scale up results.

Cross-border cooperation, accounting for around 4% of IPA III committed funds, has fostered good neighbourly relations and reconciliation. By 2025, over 2 400 organisations had participated in cross-border partnerships, leading to the creation of 1 300 new jobs and 465 new businesses, demonstrating the tangible socio-economic impact of IPA III support.

On the green and digital agenda, IPA III investments have contributed to improved air quality across both the Western Balkans and Türkiye, progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and improved digital skills, notably in Montenegro (44.20%) and Serbia (42.02%), where the share of individuals with basic or above basic digital skills, is at the same level as or even exceed that of some EU Member States. These investments are expected to yield further results in the later stages of implementation. Economic convergence continues to advance in the Western Balkans, with improved readiness regarding the economic criteria, rising from 2.3 in 2018 to 2.79 in 2025, and increased employment rates, at 64.1%[65] in 2024, and social protection expenditure, at 18.8%[3] of GDP, in 2023, both above expected target for the region.

In contrast, most indicators for Türkiye have stagnated or backslid since 2021, reflecting persistent challenges in the judiciary, the fight against corruption and organised crime, and freedom of expression, which has impacted the level of IPA III assistance provided. The latest indicators for agriculture, forestry, and fishing point to a decline in value added in both the Western Balkans and Türkiye, highlighting remaining challenges in these sectors.

[65] No data available for Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro.

EUROPEAN GLOBALISATION ADJUSTMENT FUND FOR DISPLACED WORKERS

Concrete examples of achievements

30 applications were received between 2021 and 2025.	23 784 workers were offered assistance between 2021 and 2025.	EUR 100.1 million was requested in contributions from the EGF by nine Member States between 2021 and 2025.	45% is the average rate of beneficiaries who found employment following an EGF intervention between 2021 and 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	181.3	201.3	205.4	33.8	34.5	35.1	35.9	727.2
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**181.3**	**201.3**	**205.4**	**33.8**	**34.5**	**35.1**	**35.9**	**727.2**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	73.6	727.2	NA*
Payments	73.1		NA*

* The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers is not part of the Multiannual Financial Framework, and its budget is a ceiling, not a spending target. Therefore, a percentage implementation rate is not applicable.

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Total EGF beneficiaries in a given case	NA	NA	NA	2 707 by 2025	NA
Percentage of EGF beneficiaries who gained a qualification	NA	NA	NA	58% by 2025	NA
Percentage of EGF beneficiaries in education or training	NA	NA	NA	3% by 2025	NA
Share of workers reintegrated into employment as dependent workers	NA	NA	NA	39.3% by 2025	NA
Share of workers reintegrated into employment as self-employed	NA	NA	NA	6.5% by 2025	NA

- The main sources of information on the EGF's results are: (1) the final reports submitted by the Member States seven months after the end of implementation, and (2) the beneficiary surveys conducted six months after the implementation of the case.
- As a point of comparison with the 2021-2027 period, between 2014 and 2020 the EGF received 54 applications and provided support to 60 176 people, including 56 807 workers and 3 369 young people not in employment, education or training. In the 2021-2027 programming period, young people not in employment, education or training are no longer eligible for EGF support. Over the 2014-2020 period, around EUR 168 million from the EGF was mobilised.
- Even though the EGF's main aim is sustainable reintegration into quality employment, a simple comparison of reintegration rates is not sufficient to measure its performance. This is due, among other factors, to differences in the characteristics of the beneficiaries receiving assistance and in the socioeconomic situations of the regions concerned. For this reason, beneficiary surveys were introduced as a new tool in the 2021-2027 period. These surveys help assess the extent to which the assistance provided has had an impact on the perceived change in beneficiaries' employability or, for those who have already found employment, on the quality of the job obtained, for example in terms of changes in working hours.
- Considering the delayed start of the 2021-2027 programming period and the fact that the implementation of an EGF case takes 24 months from the date of the decision on the mobilisation of the fund, the information necessary to assess the EGF's performance became available only from mid-2024 for the 2021 cases.
- There is also an age-related bias in participation in the measures. While the percentage of beneficiaries in the under-30 and 30-54 age groups is aligned with the percentage of targeted workers, the share of workers over 54 years of age is six percentage points higher among targeted workers than among beneficiaries. Proximity to retirement age may discourage job search or participation in measures supporting job transitions.
- Over the 2021-2025 period, 69% of beneficiaries have upper secondary education or higher, and about one in four has tertiary education. Most beneficiaries, 58%, consider that the EGF helped them to gain new skills or qualifications. Eighteen beneficiaries, representing 1.4% of the total, continued in education or training after the 24-month implementation period of EGF support.
- Results vary widely from case to case, with reintegration rates ranging from 90.5% to 16.1%. The average reintegration rate into the labour market for the 2021-2025 period is 46% across 10 cases. Most beneficiaries, 86%, found employment as dependent workers, while 14% opted for self-employment and started a new business. These differences reflect a combination of factors that vary between interventions. The timing of the start of support can influence outcomes. When support begins soon after dismissals, it often includes workers who already have stronger prospects of finding a new job, which tends to result in higher reintegration rates. In other cases, support may start later and focus more on workers who face greater barriers to re-employment, such as those with lower qualifications or those approaching retirement age, which can lead to lower rates. Results are also influenced by the economic context of the region where the intervention takes place, as labour market conditions differ significantly across Member States and regions. The local economic situation, including the presence of multiple restructuring processes in the same territory, can also affect employment prospects. Age composition among beneficiaries is another important factor, as a higher share of workers close to retirement may reduce reintegration rates. Reflecting these challenges, four in ten workers feel disadvantaged in the labour market, and among them two thirds attribute this to their age. Among

beneficiaries who have not yet completed their job transition, the share feeling disadvantaged in the labour market rises to 65%.

- Around 42% of beneficiaries who have not yet completed their labour market transition and remain unemployed consider that, following their participation in the measures co-financed by the EGF, they are better qualified for work and that the support received helped them gain greater confidence in their abilities.
- As regards the quality of the job obtained, most workers who returned to employment as dependent workers did so in full-time jobs, 88%, and seven in ten obtained permanent contracts. For most people, working conditions in the new job are better or the same as before (56%). Only three in ten workers rate the new working conditions as worse, even though half (50%) report a lower salary in their new role. Meanwhile, seven in ten workers experience the same or fewer unpaid overtime hours.
- In terms of employment stability, four in ten workers have held the same job for two years or more, and three in ten for between one and two years.
- Eight in ten people who returned to employment as self-employed did so on a full-time basis. Half of the businesses have been operating for two years or more and one in three for between 12 and 24 months. Around one in five businesses employs persons other than the owner.
- The earnings of most self-employed workers, 79%, are lower than in their previous job, and earnings are higher for only 7% of the self-employed. However, more than half of those reporting lower earnings consider that their working conditions have improved.
- Regarding the role of the measures co-financed by the EGF in their job transition, half of dependent workers consider that the support received helped them obtain their current job, while the other half consider that it did not. By contrast, 76% of self-employed workers consider that the support received helped them become self-employed.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

N/A

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	181.3	201.3	205.4	33.8	34.5	656.3

Total:	181.3	201.3	205.4	33.8	34.5	656.3

The EGF Regulation provides that the Commission and the Member States must ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective are integral to, and promoted throughout, all stages of the implementation of the financial contribution from the EGF. To this end, Member States formally confirm compliance with this principle at the time of application by providing gender-disaggregated information on the workers expected to benefit from the programme's assistance. Where necessary, the Commission requests additional information on the gender dimension during its assessment of an application.

This is a horizontal principle applied throughout the implementation and final reporting of EGF cases, and the estimation of specific budget contributions is not relevant in this context. Evaluations of the EGF systematically include an analysis of gender-disaggregated data as well as qualitative information, such as beneficiary surveys and interviews with implementers, to assess potential gender discrimination. External contractors conducting case studies for each EGF case are also required to take the gender perspective into account. Past evaluations have not identified gender discrimination in either the delivery of measures or the targeting of beneficiaries.

In addition, some interventions include contributions towards the cost of carers for dependent persons, aiming to remove barriers to participation caused by caring responsibilities — responsibilities that disproportionately affect women—. Member States also promote participation in qualifying training to acquire the skills needed for jobs that are significantly gender-imbalanced, through the provision of training allowances. National authorities also seek to support participants in overcoming gender stereotypes when searching for a new job. About 21% of beneficiaries consider that the EGF co-financed support encouraged them to overcome gender stereotypes in job selection or increased their awareness of gender discrimination. However, 41% neither agree nor disagree with this statement.

Gender disaggregated information:

- 65% of those offered EGF assistance are men and 35% are women.
- Women account for 27% of the participants in the measures.
- Women account for 26% of the people reintegrated into employment.

Between 2021 and 2025, many redundancies occurred in sectors that employ a high proportion of men such as metalworking, automotive, transport equipment, or basic metal, hence 65% of those offered EGF assistance were men and 35% were women. Participation of women in the measures vary greatly case by case by underrepresenting or overrepresenting. However, summing up the results available so far (10 cases), the percentage of women who benefited from the EGF support (27%) is 8 percentage points (pp) lower than the percentage of women who were targeted for assistance. However, in terms of reemployment, the percentages by gender are aligned to the percentages of participation in the measures with a variation of around 1 percentage points.

Contribution to the digital transition

The EGF does not have any indicators that specifically measure the contribution to the digital transition. The indicators are general result indicators. However, the dissemination of digital skills is a horizontal element for the design of coordinated packages of measures. The need for and level of training is adapted to the qualifications and skills of each beneficiary. Every beneficiary is thus expected to have received some sort of digital skills training. One in two EGF beneficiaries considers that the support received helped them to gain new digital skills. While workers with jobs requiring high digital skills, such as pilots, consider that such training was not applicable to them (two in ten beneficiaries).

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	YES	Under SDG 4, the 2022 TNT EGF case in Belgium promoted lifelong learning through a combination of reskilling training, a 'back-to-school' allowance and a bonus to improve digital skills. The allowance encouraged workers to continue their education and upgrade their competences in order to facilitate their reintegration into employment that better matches their profiles. The digital skills bonus aimed to reduce inequalities linked to the digital divide, which particularly affects older workers. **EGF Contribution:** EUR 1.9 million
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	YES	In line with SDG 5, the 2022 Alu Ibérica EGF case in Spain integrated equal opportunities as a cross-cutting principle throughout all phases of implementation. Although the redundancies occurred in the basic metals sector, which employs a high proportion of men and therefore resulted in few women being offered EGF assistance, specific efforts were made to promote gender equality. These included the systematic use of non-sexist language in documentation and communication, targeted support actions for female workers taking into account caregiving responsibilities and public transport availability, and the dissemination of institutional support measures for female self-employment, including aid from the Spanish Women's Institute, the Institute for Equal Opportunities and regional grant programmes. **EGF Contribution:** EUR 1.2 million
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	x	The EGF supports SDG 10 is particularly relevant in small labour markets such as Sardinia, where insularity, distance from the mainland and low population density limit alternative employment opportunities. The island faced two major restructuring events simultaneously: the cessation of activities at Porto Canale, Cagliari's container terminal (EGF 2021/003, 198 beneficiaries and EUR 1.5 million mobilised), and Air Italy (EGF 2021/002, 611 beneficiaries and EUR 3.8 million mobilised). Through upskilling and reskilling measures, workers were prepared for new labour market demands, helping to stabilise the population and contribute to regional growth.

European globalisation adjustment fund for displaced workers

EUROPEAN UNION SOLIDARITY FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

Over EUR 1 338 million of European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) assistance was approved to assist with disasters that occurred in 2024 and 2025.	9 EUSF applications were assessed in 2025.	Over EUR 480 million was paid out in 2025: EUR 338 million to five Member States to support the recovery and reconstruction of the regions affected by the natural disasters; and EUR 142 million as advances to five Member States.	5 new natural-disaster-related EUSF applications were received in 2025.

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	803.4	743.8	1 351.3	1 362.8	1 348.0	50.0	50.0	5 709.3
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**803.4**	**743.8**	**1 351.3**	**1 362.8**	**1 348.0**	**50.0**	**50.0**	**5 709.3**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	4 197.8	5 709.3	73.5%
Payments	4 197.8	0.0	73.5%

The EUSF is a special instrument. Its annual budgetary allocation is laid down in the multiannual financial framework as a ceiling rather than a spending target. Financial assistance from the EUSF is mobilised on a proposal by the Commission and approval by the European Parliament and the Council over and above the normal EU budget appropriations following justified requests by affected EU and accession countries.

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Population of EUSF-supported countries and regions	0	n/a	No targets	88.1 million in 2025	n/a
Number of countries supported by the EUSF	0	n/a	No targets	8 in 2025	n/a

In 2025, the Commission finalised the assessment of nine applications relating to natural disasters that occurred in 2024 and 2025, as follows.

- Three 'major natural disaster' applications relating to:
  - floods in Czechia in September 2024;
  - floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2024;
  - floods in Spain in October 2024.
- Four 'regional natural disaster' applications relating to:
  - floods in Poland in September 2024;
  - floods in Moldova in September 2024;
  - a cyclone in Mayotte, France, in December 2024;
  - a cyclone in Réunion, France, in February 2025.
- Two 'neighbouring country natural disaster' applications relating to:
  - floods in Austria in September 2024;
  - floods in Slovakia in September 2024.

The Commission made two EUSF mobilisation proposals to the European Parliament and the Council based on these applications. Based on the Commission's first proposal, over EUR 280 million was awarded to Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Moldova, Poland and Slovakia (all for floods). Based on the Commission's second proposal, EUR 1 057 million was mobilised for Spain (floods) and France (two cyclones).

In terms of payments, over EUR 348.8 million was paid out in 2025 to five Member States: Italy (Valle d'Aosta floods in 2024) received EUR 4 million in June 2025; Germany (Bavaria floods in 2024) received EUR 112 million in October 2025; Poland (floods in 2024) was paid EUR 76 million in November 2025; Czechia (floods in 2024) received EUR 114 million in December 2025; and Austria (floods in 2024) was paid EUR 42.8 million in December 2025.

In total, the Commission received five natural disaster applications in 2025, as follows.

- Three 'major natural disaster' applications relating to:
    - floods in Romania in May 2025;
    - wildfires in Cyprus in July 2025;
    - wildfires in Spain in August 2025.
- Two 'regional natural disasters' applications relating to:
    - a cyclone in Mayotte, France, in December 2024;
    - a cyclone in Réunion, France, in February 2025.

The assessment of the French applications was concluded in 2025. The assessment of the applications from Romania, Cyprus and Spain began at the end of 2025 and is continuing in 2026.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

Not available

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	803.4	743.8	1351.3	1 362.8	1 348.0	5 573.3
Total:	803.4	743.8	1351.3	1 362.8	1 348.0	5 573.3

Due to the nature of the special instrument, the EUSF has no significant bearing on gender equality.

Gender-disaggregated information

Not available

Contribution to the digital transition

Not applicable

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	yes	As part of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, Regulation (EU) 2020/461 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 March 2020 amended the EUSF regulation by including major public health emergencies within the scope of the EUSF. Since April 2020, EU Member States and accession countries have been able to apply for support from the EUSF for public health emergency reasons, to alleviate the burden from the first-response measures
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	yes	Solidarity is one of the core values of the European Union and a guiding principle of the European integration process. The EUSF is an instrument designed to provide financial means expressing EU solidarity by contributing to post-disaster relief in Member States and accession countries confronted with devastating natural disasters and major public health emergencies.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	yes	The EUSF contributes to post-disaster emergency relief in Member States and accession countries confronted with devastating natural disasters, which often can be seen as manifestations of climate change.

INNOVATION FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

EUR 11.7 billion had been committed in grants for innovative clean-tech projects that were under implementation or completed by the end of 2025.	**197** projects were under implementation or completed at the end of 2025.	**EUR 58 billion** of investment has been mobilised through projects that were under implementation or completed at the end of 2025.	**A 962-million-tonne** reduction in carbon-dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gases was planned over the first 10 years of operation by projects that were under implementation or completed at the end of 2025.
42 projects under implementation or completed had reached their financial close by the end of 2025.	**20** projects under implementation or completed had entered into operation by the end of 2025.		

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	3 816.2	2 897.4	1 633.6	2 069.0	3 099.7	0.0	0.0	13 515.9
Total	**3 816.2**	**2 897.4**	**1 633.6**	**2 069.0**	**3 099.7**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**13 515.9**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	8 878.3	13 515.9	65.7%
Payments	717.6	0.0	5.3%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Absolute greenhouse gas emissions avoidance planned (tonnes of CO_2 equivalent)	0	N/A	N/A	962 million tonnes by 2025	N/A
Absolute greenhouse gas emissions avoidance achieved (tonnes of CO_2 equivalent)	0	N/A	N/A	72 813 tonnes by 2025	N/A
Participants in knowledge events on clean-tech solutions	0	88%	2 000	1 769 in 2025 compared to a target of 2 000	On track
Number of projects supported through grants	0	N/A	N/A	197 by 2025	N/A
Investment mobilised by Innovation Fund grants: planned	0	N/A	N/A	EUR 58.7 billion by 2025	N/A
Investment mobilised by Innovation Fund grants: achieved	0	N/A	N/A	EUR 10.4 billion by 2025	N/A
Investment mobilised via financial instruments	0	N/A	N/A	EUR 286.8 million by 2025	N/A

Technology sectors covered	0	100%	22 in 2030	22 by 2025 compared to a target of 22	Achieved

Innovation fund

Through the combination of calls for regular grants and auctions, the Innovation Fund responds to its objectives to support projects that demonstrate highly innovative technologies, processes or products that are sufficiently mature and that have a significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and projects that are aimed at scaling up innovative technologies. In 2025, 83 decarbonisation projects signed their grant agreements following the announcement of the 2023 Innovation Fund call results in October 2024. The 2024 Innovation Fund net-zero technology call officially closed on 24 April 2025 and received a remarkable total of 359 project proposals, signalling European industry's unwavering commitment to the EU's journey towards climate neutrality while boosting competitiveness. Following this call, the Commission announced EUR 2.9 billion in funding for 61 cutting-edge net zero technology projects preselected for grant agreement preparation in November 2025. The projects aim to strengthen Europe's technological leadership and speed up the deployment of innovative decarbonisation solutions.

The call for electric vehicle battery manufacturing, which also closed in April 2025, received 14 proposals, requesting EUR 1.6 billion in EU funding, thus exceeding the EUR 1 billion budget. A total of five projects signed grant agreements, benefiting from a total of EUR 643 million to help deploy their groundbreaking decarbonisation solutions, which will support key segments of the battery value chain with advanced material production, cell manufacturing, recycling technologies and second-life applications.

Six projects signed their grant agreements in 2025 under the Innovation Fund auction for renewable hydrogen production, receiving a total of EUR 270.6 million. Two of these projects were selected under the dedicated maritime topic, receiving more than EUR 35 million to supply renewable hydrogen to maritime off-takers. The auction, which followed an initial pilot project that was launched a year earlier, operated under the domestic pillar of the European Hydrogen Bank, which aims to scale up European hydrogen production and strengthen market integration.

The projects supported are large and complex. They are being implemented in a challenging market context that is seeing a significant increase in costs due to inflation, Russia's war against Ukraine, supply-chain disruption, permitting and off-take uncertainties resulting from the novelty of the products and the evolving regulatory environment. By the end of 2025, 197 projects were under implementation or already completed, of which 42 had reached their financial close and 20 had entered into operation, while 28 additional projects had terminated their grant agreement. Of these 28 projects, four had already reached their financial close and one had entered into operation. More information on the portfolio of ongoing projects can be found in the interactive Innovation Fund dashboard.

In December 2025, the Commission and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency launched three new calls for proposals under the Innovation Fund, with a total budget of EUR 5.2 billion distributed as follows: EUR 2.9 billion for net-zero technologies; EUR 1.3 billion for the third auction for renewable fuel of non-biological origin hydrogen and low-carbon hydrogen production in the context of the European Hydrogen Bank; and EUR 1 billion for a pilot auction on industrial process heat decarbonisation. The latter targets one of the biggest sources of EU industrial carbon dioxide emissions: process heating. This refers to the heat used to transform raw materials into products, from melting plastics and metals to driving chemical reactions. These processes are largely powered by fossil fuels. All industrial sectors have such processes and can bid in the pilot auction.

Innovation fund

The Innovation Fund has been responding to urgent policy priorities and offers financial support tailored to the market needs and risk profiles of eligible projects, while attracting additional public and private resources. The grants provided continue to have a leverage effect of approximately five times, with EUR 11.7 billion of Innovation Fund support enabling the mobilisation of around EUR 58 billion in investment. Furthermore, through the auctions-as-a-service and grants-as-a-service features of the calls, where Member States have the possibility to contribute national support towards projects in their territory that are evaluated positively in the Innovation Fund but cannot be funded due to budget limitations, the Innovation Fund has the potential to attract and enable additional public resources. In 2025, the auctions-as-a-service feature was used by Spain and Austria within the framework of the 2024 Innovation Fund renewable hydrogen auction. The Innovation Fund has also contributed to the InvestEU Programme through blending with the EU guarantee, which contributed to the mobilisation of additional investments.

Lastly, the fund's revenues are managed in accordance with the objectives of the EU emissions trading system to cost-effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. An additional EUR 3.8 billion was provided to repowerEU in 2025 as part of the total contribution of EUR 12 billion by 2026, amounting to around EUR 8.7 billion in total so far.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation				Estimates				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	146.2	2 944.8	3 520.8	478.4	1 788.1			8 878.3	65.7%

The entire Innovation Fund contributes to green budgeting priorities, with a specific focus on climate change mitigation investments.

In terms of taxonomy-relevant expenditure, the Innovation Fund only finances the most innovative decarbonisation projects on the basis of their potential for greenhouse gas emission reduction. Since the revision of the Emissions Trading System Directive in 2023, projects are also assessed on the basis of their contribution to environmental and circularity objectives.

From the 2025 Innovation Fund calls launched in December 2025, only projects that meet the 'do no significant harm' criteria contained in the EU Taxonomy will be eligible for support from the Innovation Fund.

The Innovation Fund is not part of the multiannual financial framework and does not count towards the achievement of the 30% climate spending target.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	146.2	2 944.8	3 520.8	478.4	1 788.1	8 878.3
Total:	146.2	2 944.8	3 520.8	478.4	1 788.1	8 878.3

Gender-disaggregated information

Gender balance is not relevant for the programme, as it does not target gender policies. The programme may have a likely positive impact on gender equality, however no specific data is collected under the programme to analyse this matter.

Contribution to the digital transition

- The Innovation Fund does not target the digital transition.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

In line with Regulation 2024/795 (the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Regulation), the Innovation Fund is one of the EU instruments in direct management contributing to strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the European economy. As stipulated in Article 4, the Innovation Fund is also among the programmes authorized to award the STEP (Sovereignty) Seal under its calls for proposals.

The Innovation Fund objectives contribute fully to STEP priorities and its regular grant calls are the biggest single contributors towards them until now in terms of budget. In 2025, all five topics of the net-zero technologies call as well as the call on batteries for electric vehicles were considered to be STEP-relevant, representing a total budget of EUR 3.4 billion earmarked by the Innovation Fund to support STEP objectives.

To date, the Innovation Fund awarded the STEP Seal to 316 projects: 149 projects following the 2023 Innovation Fund Call 'net-zero technologies', 6 following the 2024 call for Electric Vehicle Batteries and 161 projects following the 2024 Innovation Fund Call 'net-zero technologies'.

The Commission has been working with Member States to raise awareness of the importance of the STEP projects and to identify additional funding mechanisms at EU or national level.

Looking forward, eligible proposals that exceed the evaluation thresholds will be awarded the STEP Seal for the IF25 call for proposals for regular grants – 'net-zero technologies', which were published in December 2025 (evaluation results expected in the fourth quarter of 2026).

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	The Innovation Fund contributes to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all through funding renewable energy or energy storage projects, such as Waga 4 World (W4W) project aims at producing cost competitive and grid-compliant biomethane from landfill gas; ACCEPT – industrialisation of five new lithium-ion battery cell production lines for electric vehicles (EV); VianaWave: 10 MW wave energy innovative technology; RjukanH2 – green hydrogen production facilities in Norway, designed to accelerate maritime decarbonisation.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	The Innovation Fund supports energy intensive industries to foster innovation, such as these projects: STEGRA – integrated steel plant in Boden, Northern Sweden, for the large-scale production of renewable hydrogen, green iron and green steel; Volta project – Hybrid mid-sized pilot furnace for flat glass in Czechia, with the objective to design and build a novel hybrid glass furnace combining electric melting with oxy-gas combustion; EO2: Energy Observer 2 – The world's lowest carbon cargo ship powered by liquid hydrogen.
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	Europe

BREXIT ADJUSTMENT RESERVE

Concrete examples of achievements

17 Member States have submitted their applications.	EUR 2.8 billion is the total amount of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve envelope.		

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	1 574.9	964.0	257.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2 796.7
NextGenerationEU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**1 574.9**	**964.0**	**257.8**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**2 796.7**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	2 796.7	2 796.7	100.0%
Payments	2 796.7	0.0	100.0%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
No indicators					

Following the submission of applications by 17 Member States (by 30 September 2024), the Commission is assessing the eligibility of the measures proposed to be supported by the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR). The assessment involves continued exchanges with Member States to clarify outstanding issues. On this basis, implementing acts setting out the total accepted amounts, including any unused resources from provisional allocations, are planned to be adopted by the fourth quarter of 2026. The overall assessment process is expected to be concluded by the end of 2026.

The BAR was designed under conditions of high uncertainty regarding the scale and impact of Brexit. With hindsight, several elements stand out. While Brexit formally took effect five years ago, its economic and political consequences continue to unfold. At the same time, multiple crises and the implementation of larger EU instruments limited administrative capacity, leading to significant transfers from the BAR to REPowerEU and a reduction in the overall BAR envelope from EUR 5.5 billion to EUR 2.8 billion (in current prices).

The Commission will evaluate the BAR by June 2027 and submit an implementation report to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union by June 2028.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

Given the very specific and targeted purpose of the BAR, there is no pre-established requirement for Member States regarding the level of contributions to achieve climate objectives.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	1 574.9	964.0	257.8	0.0	0.0	2 796.7
Total:	1 574.9	964.0	257.8	0.0	0.0	2 796.7

Due to its specific nature, the BAR does not contribute to gender equality. However, the objectives of the BAR should be pursued in line with the principles set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights, including the inherent contribution to the elimination of inequalities and to the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, while ensuring respect for fundamental rights.

Gender-disaggregated information
Not available

Contribution to the digital transition

Due to its specific nature, the BAR does not contribute to the digital transition.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

Not available

SOCIAL CLIMATE FUND

Concrete examples of achievements

The Social Climate Fund is in its early stages. It will disburse funds in the 2026-2032 period, based on the achievement of targets and milestones outlined in the social climate plans, as submitted by Member States and assessed by the Commission. Member States are currently in the process of drafting and submitting their respective plans. Implementation will start gradually in 2026.

Budget implementation

The Social Climate Fund is implemented by the Commission under direct management, in accordance with its performance-based nature and the principle of sound financial management.

To access resources under the programme, Member States must submit their social climate plans. The Commission then assesses the plans, verifying their compliance with the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence criteria outlined in the Social Climate Fund Regulation. During the assessment period, the Commission may make observations or request additional information, and the Member State may revise the plan. The assessment and review period for the plan is expected to be five months, with the possibility for the Member State and the Commission to agree to extend this deadline, if necessary. The Commission adopts the plans through an implementing decision.

The plans should include milestones and targets corresponding to the measures and investments. According to the performance-based logic of the Social Climate Fund, upon achievement of the milestones and targets, the Member States can submit payment requests to the Commission (up to twice a year). The Commission will assess the satisfactory achievement of the milestones and targets and make the payment. In the case of unsatisfactory achievement of milestones and targets, the corresponding amounts will be suspended until the Commission decides on their satisfactory achievement.

To monitor the implementation of the plans, the Member States should use the common indicators provided by the Social Climate Fund Regulation. The Member States must report to the Commission on their social climate plans on a biennial basis.

In 2025, the first plan, produced by Sweden, was officially adopted in December. Other Member States have begun informal negotiations with the Commission on their plans, with adoption expected in 2026. Reporting on performance will be available after the adopted plans are implemented, starting from 2026.

Budget programming (million EUR):

No data available since the implementation of the Social Climate Fund will only start in 2026.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

No data available yet since the implementation of the Social Climate Fund will only start in 2026.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

No data available yet since the implementation of the Social Climate Fund will only start in 2026.

The Social Climate Fund contributes to the horizontal climate expenditure objectives of the Commission by financing measures and investments intended to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through increased energy efficiency of buildings, decarbonisation of heating and cooling of buildings, including through the integration into buildings of renewable energy and storage and through granting improved access to zero- and low-emission mobility and transport.

The measures and investments outlined in the social climate plans are intended to be in line with the target that at least 30% of the total amount of the EU budget for the years 2021-2027 should be spent on mainstreaming climate objectives. Furthermore, the regulation states that the fund should support measures and investments that fully respect the climate and environmental priorities of the EU and comply with the 'do no significant harm' principle.

The Social Climate Fund is generally aligned with the EU taxonomy due to its overall contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the nature of the eligible measures and investments to be included in the social climate plans. A more detailed methodology for tracking climate expenditure will be established when the programme begins in 2026.

Contribution to gender equality

No data available since the implementation of the Social Climate Fund will only start in 2026.

Contribution to the digital transition

No data available since the implementation of the Social Climate Fund will only start in 2026.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

No data available since the implementation of the Social Climate Fund will only start in 2026.

UKRAINE FACILITY

Concrete examples of achievements

EUR 6.9 billion in EU guarantee cover and blended grants were allocated under the Ukraine Investment Framework until end-2025 and is expected to enable up to EUR 21.8 billion in new public and private investment in Ukraine.	68 reform steps set out in the Ukraine Plan were successfully met until end-2025, triggering the release of EUR 26.8 billion in grants and loans.	1 300 companies, banks and investors attended the European Business Summit in April 2025, and 500 participants attended the EU–Ukraine conference within the 'ReBuild Expo' in Warsaw, Poland in November 2025.	700 students can enjoy a secure place to continue off-line learning in the first facility completed in 2025 under the programme 'New Bomb Shelters for Ukrainian Schools'.
EUR 96 million was disbursed through the Ukraine Energy Support Fund. Among the deliverables: 3 thermal power plants restored, 2 gas turbines installed (each with 30 megawatt capacity), 2 solar and 1 wind power plants repaired.	100 000 claims were received by end-2025 by the Register of Damage for Ukraine for damage caused by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.		

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.0	0.0	0.0	4 767.5	4 320.4	3 895.2	4 016.9	17 000.0
Loans	0.0	0.0	0.0	13 111.5	10 051.9	0.0	0.0	23 163.4
Decommitments made available again (*)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	0.0	0.0	152.1	513.0	0.0	0.0	665.1
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**18 031.1**	**14 885.3**	**3 895.2**	**4 016.9**	**40 828.5**

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	9 698.4	17 665.1	54.9%
Payments	5 675.9	0.0	32.1%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Number of key reforms and investments set out in the Ukraine Plan and backed by EU support	0	50%	137 in 2027	68 by 2025 compared to a target of 137	On track
Investments mobilised by the Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF)	N/A	58%	EUR 9.5 billion in 2027	EUR 5.5 billion in 2025 compared to a target of EUR 9.5 billion	On track
Number of government policies developed or revised with EU support under Pillar III of the Ukraine Facility	N/A	N/A	N/A	24	N/A

Pillar I – The Ukraine Plan

- The Ukraine Facility contributes to Ukraine's macro-financial stability with a combination of non-repayable support and highly concessional loans disbursed against the fulfilment of pre-agreed conditionalities ('steps') set out in the **Ukraine Plan**. In 2025, 45 steps were positively assessed, triggering the disbursement of EUR 10.7 billion to Ukraine's state budget. For example, in November 2025 Ukraine adopted key amendments to the **Law on Local State Administration**; this step directly contributes to public administration reform, a core priority under the 'Fundamentals' cluster of the accession process. Performance is largely evolving as expected, with a cumulative **total** of **68 steps in 2024-2025** (EUR 26.8 billion).
- The **scoreboard** for the plan was established in February, following the adoption of a delegated Regulation, and provides easy public access to the assessment of reforms as captured in the Council Implementing Decisions underpinning the payments throughout the year.
- In 2025 there was the first case of **partial fulfilment of steps**. The performance-based mechanism of the Plan proved to be effective: Ukraine managed to catch up with 2 out of 7

missed steps already before year-end; 5 reforms remain pending, that could still unlock payments for up to EUR 1.8 billion (net of clearing of pre-financing). In parallel, the EU accepted some **changes to the Plan** to make it more practical and effective in the context of the ongoing war: conditionalities remain robust and ambitious, while some implementation deadlines were readjusted.

Pillar II – The Ukraine Investment Framework

- In 2025, the **Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF)** allocated up to EUR 5.5 billion in **EU guarantee cover** and **blended finance** (technical assistance and investment grants). This included the special 'window' dedicated to the partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB) mandated by the Ukraine Facility Regulation (Article 31.6). Throughout the year, 12 eligible financing institutions submitted successful proposals to the UIF Steering Board, spanning from support to municipal investments and micro and small business to housing, recovery and financial inclusion. A strong focus on **energy resilience** in 2025 was largely driven by unfolding war-related events. For example, the EU provided EUR 100 million in grants to support EUR 250 million in loans from the German Development Bank, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), for repairing, war-proofing and modernising the electricity grid. The funds are used to restore destroyed transformers and build shelters for key infrastructure, ensuring a more stable power supply.
- In total, **up to EUR 6.9 billion** is now booked under the UIF, corresponding to 70% of the current UIF overall capacity of EUR 9.5 billion. This is expected to enable up to EUR 21.8 billion of public and private investments. The UIF website went live in 2025, offering live information and data on planned and ongoing investments enabled by the Facility.

Pillar III – EU accession assistance and related support measures

- **Project-based assistance** under Pillar III of the Facility complements this architecture with the **Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF)**. Thanks to its flexible internal allocation mechanism, the Technical Cooperation Facility facilitated collaboration, joint implementation and co-funding of 'flagship initiatives' with EU Member States in a Team Europe spirit. For example, the project 'Ukraine2EU' brings together Denmark, Lithuania and Sweden to support Ukraine's path to EU accession and strengthen its integration efforts. This and other projects helped Ukraine, among other things, to develop or revise **24 policies**, for example on 'Electronic identification and electronic trust services', 'Reforming local self-government and territorial organisation' and the promotion of small business and export. In addition, the Technical Cooperation Facility enabled the EU to support **urgent energy repairs**, and in 2025 it proved instrumental to calibrating the EU local response to other actors' unplanned disengagement from key sectors, such as direct support to **civil society** and **media freedom**.
- As of 2024, the Ukraine Facility finances the EU contribution to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Register of Damage for Ukraine caused by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The register is a key building block of the international community's effort in ensuring Russia's accountability for the vast damage it has inflicted on Ukraine and its people, and it has already received 100 000 claims.

- In 2024 and 2025, the Facility financed the subsidy for the interest rate charges due by Ukraine in relation to the loans of the exceptional macro-financial assistance of 2022 and, as of 2025, also the borrowing costs incumbent on Ukraine for the loans disbursed under Pillar I. This freed up a fiscal space of around EUR 195 million in Ukraine's state budget in 2024, and around EUR 495 million in 2025.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	0.0	0.0	0.0	340.0	1 279.8	510.7	510.7	2 641.2	15.5%
Biodiversity mainstreaming								0.0	0.0%

- The Facility should, to the extent possible, contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, and to the green transition. That contribution should, to the extent possible in a war-torn country, account for **at least 20 %** of the overall amount corresponding to support under the Ukraine Investment Framework and to investments under the Ukraine Plan.

- The estimated contribution to climate mainstreaming is based on the above-mentioned target. For the Ukraine Plan, it considers that at least 80 % of all investments in transport infrastructure and at least 60 % of all those in energy infrastructure. For the Ukraine Investment Framework, it is expected that half of the overall contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, and to the green transition will target climate change. Additional contributions might be possible, but there is no sufficient information yet to quantify them.

- The Ukraine Facility is focused primarily on Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and modernisation needs in the context of a war-torn country. The Commission has not yet performed a thorough assessment as to whether actions under the Facility will contribute positively to biodiversity. In the absence of such an assessment, the Commission prefers to provide a prudent estimate of zero contribution, which we may update once further information is available.

- The Ukraine Plan contains a chapter on **green transition and environmental protection** and other chapters also refer to **green priorities**. In order to meet the steps of the Plan, for example, in 2025 Ukraine adopted a new law on State Climate Policy which defines the key mechanisms and goals for climate governance. Ukraine also adopted the second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement; an Action Plan for the

Establishment of a National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading System; and the National Waste Management Plan until 2033. After suspension in 2022, the mandatory monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for greenhouse gas emissions at installation level was resumed. For future reporting purposes, components of the Ukraine Plan may be assessed regarding contributions to horizontal priorities, and reporting updated accordingly.

- The Strategic Orientations endorsed by the Steering Board of the UIF contain both a dedicated section on 'Green transition and environmental protection' as a key area for investment and a section on 'Do no harm: environment, climate and biodiversity' as a horizontal principle applying to all investments supported by the UIF.
- In the context of support provided to a war-torn country, there is no specific target for contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming under the Ukraine Facility. Biodiversity is however, included in the target of 20% of investments made under the Facility contributing to greening and the green transition (climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental protection, including biodiversity conservation, and to the green transition).

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	246.2	393.8	639.9
0*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17 632.8	13 978.5	31 611.3
Total:	0.0	0.0	0.0	17 879.0	14 372.3	32 251.2

- The **Ukraine Plan** sets the principles of inclusivity, gender equality and social cohesion as important cross-cutting areas of attention, and a special focus on issues linked to human capital and business environment. In order to meet the steps of the Plan, for example, in 2025 Ukraine adopted a law on **preschool education**: this reform contributes to more involvement of women with small children in the labour force. A new law on **vocational education** mandates that State and regional policy in this field is formed and implemented based – among other – on the principle of gender equality. A new SME (small- and medium-sized enterprises) Strategy and its Action Plan address **women's entrepreneurship** in direct link with Ukraine's 'State Strategy for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men until 2030'. However, due to the financial setup, a direct link between disbursements and actions towards gender equality cannot be established, thus commitments under this pillar were assigned a gender score 0. Should additional information arise during the implementation, the score will be reassessed. For future reporting purposes, components of the Ukraine Plan may be assessed regarding contributions to horizontal priorities, and reporting updated accordingly.

- The **UIF** is implemented through partnerships with financial institutions, which are responsible for gender mainstreaming in line with international and EU commitments to GEWE (gender equality and women's empowerment). GEWE are targets in the strategic orientations of the UIF and will be assessed in the monitoring of investment programmes. However, this level of information is not yet available and thus commitments under this pillar were assigned a gender score 0. Should additional information arise during the implementation, the score will be reassessed.

- **Project-based assistance** under pillar III is channelled through a single action called Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF). For example, the project 'Gender Equality Facility (GEF) in Ukraine' has been assigned a gender score 2 as its principal objective is to support the Government of Ukraine in ensuring that through the EU accession process, gender

equality is mainstreamed across EU Chapters, sectors, policy areas, and levels of government. Several other projects have been assigned a gender score 1 as they will ensure consideration of gender impacts in the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine.

Gender disaggregated information:

Given that EU financial commitments translate into concrete interventions on the ground with a certain time lag, gender-disaggregated data for 2025 implementation is not yet available. Additional information will be included when available.

Contribution to the digital transition

- The Ukraine Plan contains a chapter on **digital transformation**, which appears also as a crosscutting area. In order to meet the steps of the Plan, for example, in 2025 Ukraine adopted a reform to strengthen the **cyber security** capabilities of state information resources and critical information infrastructure. As another example, the **Digital Restoration Ecosystem for Accountable Management (DREAM)** was implemented serving as a unified digital platform for managing public investment projects at all levels of government.
- The strategic orientations endorsed by the Steering Board of the **UIF** contain a dedicated chapter on digital transformation.
- **Project-based assistance** is channelled through a single action called Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF).

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	yes	
SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	yes	
SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	yes	

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	yes	Entry into force of legislation on preschool education
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	yes	
SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	yes	
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	yes	Introduction of a market-based framework for renewable energy

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	yes
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	yes
SDG10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries	yes

SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	yes	
SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	yes	
SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	yes	Adoption of the Action Plan for the Establishment of a National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading System
SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	yes	

SDG15	yes
SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	yes
SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	yes

Support to reforms

- The **Ukraine Plan** represents the overarching reference framework for the entire Ukraine Facility. More particularly, the Council implementing decision on the approval of the assessment of the Plan sets out a detailed roadmap of conditions, in the form of qualitative and quantitative steps linked to reforms and investments, with a specific timetable for monitoring and implementation. Fulfilment of these conditions can trigger direct EU support to Ukraine's budget (Pillar I of the Ukraine Facility).
- The Plan includes 151 steps organized around 15 sectoral chapters (public administration reform; public financial management; judiciary; fight against corruption and money-laundering; financial markets; management of public assets; human capital; business environment; decentralisation and regional policy; energy; transport; agri-food; management of critical raw materials; digital transformation; green transition and environmental protection) and 3 horizontal chapters (reconstruction and modernisation processes across all levels of the government; mechanisms and arrangements to protect the financial interests of the Union; stakeholders' consultation during the preparation of the Plan).
- Ukraine fulfilled a total of **45 steps** due during 2025 across several chapters of the Plan, triggering the disbursement of **EUR 10.7 billion** in grants and loans. Since the roll-out of the Facility, we have disbursed in total EUR 26.8 billion against 68 steps (including the 5 steps reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding for the exceptional bridge financing). Reforms Ukraine accomplished in 2025 range across several areas: human capital (5 steps), agri-food (5 steps), management of critical raw materials (5 steps), decentralisation and regional policy (4 steps), digital transformation (4 steps), green transition and environmental protection (4 steps), business environment (3 steps), energy (3 steps), public financial management (2 steps), judiciary (2 steps), financial markets (2 steps), management of public assets (2 steps), transport (2 steps), public administration reform (1 step), and fight against corruption and money-laundering (1 step).
- For example, in the area of green transition and environmental protection a new law 'On the Basic Principles of State Climate Policy' now defines the key mechanisms and goals for climate governance. Another key step in this area was the adoption of a more ambitious second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement. In the area of human capital, a reform of the preschool education now pursues access to quality preschool education with the aim of increasing the participation of women with preschool children in the labour force. On decentralisation, Ukraine adopted key amendments to the Law on Local State Administration; this step directly contributes to public administration reform, a core priority under the 'Fundamentals' cluster of the accession process. The fight against corruption and money-laundering was strengthened through the entry into force of a law reforming the Asset Recovery and Management Agency (ARMA), which introduced several improvements to the management and functioning of the Agency.

REFORM AND GROWTH FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

Concrete examples of achievements

6 reform agendas have been adopted and now cover all of the beneficiaries, with Bosnia and Herzegovina's adoption of the reform agenda in 2025.	39 reform steps have been achieved across six policy areas: business environment, energy and green transition, digital transition, human capital, fundamentals and rule of law and, governance).	EUR 396.4 million Is the total amount released to the beneficiaries, consisting of EUR 184.4 million of repayable support directly to the treasuries and EUR 212.0 million of repayable and non-repayable support channelled to the Western Balkans Investment Framework.	4 strategies and action plans have been adopted, Covering 'S3' smart specialisation, building renovation, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing, and medium-term revenue, strengthening **Albania's** policy and legislative alignment with the EU acquis.
+20% and +15% are the respective increases in Labour Inspectorate and Market Inspectorate inspections In **North Macedonia** compared to the 2020-2023 average, with a sectoral risk-based focus on construction, tourism and agriculture.	2 countries advanced their energy reforms: **Albania** made the intra-day electricity market operational in line with Energy Community requirements, while **Montenegro** operationalised its guarantees of origin system and developed methodology and monitoring tools to protect energy-poor and vulnerable customers.		

Budget implementation

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Non repayable support	-	-	-	501.0	499.0	500.0	500.0	2 000.0
Of which provisioning of the loans	-	-	-	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	360.0
Of which administrative support	-	-	-	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	30

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

Loans (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Loans	-	-	-	1 000.0	1 000.0	1 000.0	1 000.0	4 000.0

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 320.8	2 000.0	66.0%
Payments	77.5		3.9%

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Percentage of steps (key reforms and / or investments) achieved in the reform agenda / plan and backed by EU support	0	**6%**	80% in 2027	5% in 2025 compared to a target of 80%	Deserves attention
Investments mobilised in million EUR by the Ukraine Investment Framework / Western Balkans Investment Framework / Neighbourhood Investment Platform	0	**0%**	2 400 in 2027	0 in 2025 compared to a target of 2 400	Deserves attention
Number of steps developing or revising government policies with EU support under the facilities	0	**16%**	145 in 2027	23 in 2025 compared to a target of 145	Deserves attention
Megawatts of new renewable energy capacities installed (cumulative in energy mix for solar and wind)	11 306	**73%**	15 406 in 2027	11 306 in 2024 compared to a target of 15 406	On track
Degree of readiness on the economic criteria: existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the EU	0.6	**75%**	0.8 in 2027	0.6 in 2025 compared to a target of 0.8	On track
Worldwide Governance Indicator: Control of Corruption	40.64	**96%**	42.1 in 2027	40.6 in 2025 compared to a target of 42.1	On track

In 2025, EUR 396 million was released under the Western Balkans Reform and Growth Facility (RGF), combining pre-financing and amounts released in the decisions adopted in July and October. Across all beneficiaries, 39 reform steps were assessed as achieved, corresponding to 5% of the total steps under the facility. Excluding Kosovo ([66]) and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which could not close any steps in 2025 due to their facility agreements not yet being in force, the achievement rate rises to 8%. While this remains modest, it reflects the early stage of implementation: as a new instrument, the Facility carries an inherent learning curve, which the European Commission is actively addressing through targeted technical assistance to strengthen beneficiary capacity. In addition, the Commission intends to activate, in line with Article 21 of Regulation(EU) 2024/1449 ([67]), a top performer incentive mechanism, redistributing unused funds to reward the strongest reformers.

Albania reported in July 2025 on steps due in December 2024 and June 2025, and anticipatively on some due in December 2025. Among these, 21 of 41 steps were assessed as achieved, leading to EUR 99 million released, plus EUR 65 million in pre-financing. Among the achieved steps, Albania adopted the innovative entrepreneurship strategy alongside legal acts on innovation support instruments, aligning its framework with EU practices.

Montenegro achieved 12 of 25 steps due in December 2024 and June 2025, resulting in EUR 18 million released and EUR 27 million in pre-financing. On energy, Montenegro announced a three-year auction plan of at least 400-megawatts and launched the first auction, operationalised its guarantees of origin system, and adopted a long-term renovation strategy and action plan, with retrofitting of existing public buildings underway in line with the 3% annual renovation target.

North Macedonia achieved 6 of 21 steps due in December 2024 and June 2025, with EUR 24 million released and EUR 53 million in pre-financing. On public financial management, North Macedonia's Parliament adopted the Public Internal Financial Control Law, strengthening the legal framework for public internal financial control.

For Serbia, a decision releasing EUR 111 million in pre-financing was adopted in June 2025. No other release decisions linked to payment requests were taken in 2025.

In Kosovo, the legal arrangements necessary for disbursements under the facility could not be finalised in 2025 due to the domestic political situation throughout the year.

For Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a result of a delay in submitting the reform agenda for approval by the Commission, in July 2025 the initial indicative allocation was reduced by 10%, from EUR1 085 million to EUR 977 million. The Commission subsequently endorsed the reform agenda submitted in November 2025. The Commission is actively engaged with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to support them in finalising the legal procedures required to sign and ratify their

([66]) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

([67]) Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans, OJ L, 2024/1449, 24.5.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1449/oj.

facility and loan agreements. It is important to note that the implementation phase for Bosnia and Herzegovina will start after the entry into force of these agreements.

In relation to the release of the Western Balkans Reform and Growth Facility (RGF) funds channelled to the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) to support investments in infrastructures in the Western Balkans, the WBIF Board approved grants of EUR 87.7 million for eight clean-energy investments in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia, worth a total investment value of EUR 487.3 million. However, as the signature of the respective contribution arrangements with financial institutions did not occur in 2025, no funds have been mobilised yet to support the implementation of those projects.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities (EUR million):

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total	% of the total envelope
Climate mainstreaming	-	-	-	-	1.9	298.1	300.0	600.0	30%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	-	-	-	-	0.0	100.0	100.0	200.0	10%

Activities under the Facility aim to help advance progress towards EU social, climate and environmental standards, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The Facility supports activities that fully respect EU climate and environmental standards and the principle of 'do no significant harm' within the meaning of Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with Article 33(2)(d) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509).

The Facility aims to meet the target of 30% of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives, and 10% in 2026 and 2027 supporting biodiversity objectives. At least 37% of non-repayable financial support channelled through the Western Balkans Investment Framework is to be dedicated to climate objectives, calculated using Rio markers and reported in line with EU international climate finance obligations to the OECD. The reform agendas align with beneficiaries' accession priorities and relevant documents, including the Stabilisation and Association Agreements, National Energy and Climate Plans, and Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, reflecting the shared ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050. Each reform agenda explains the expected contributions to climate and environmental objectives and their compatibility with the 'do no significant harm' principle.

Of the non-repayable financial support component channelled through the Western Balkans Investment Framework, no funds have been mobilised in 2025 to support the implementation of Western Balkans Investment Framework investments, therefore no climate expenditure figures are available for reporting this year in that component of the Reform and Growth Facility. Of the repayable financial support component, channelled both to the beneficiaries treasury and to the Western Balkans Investment Framework, in 2025, a first review of achieved steps was carried out to assess climate and biodiversity contributions from the repayable support component, applying Rio marker classifications. This exercise was indicative and not yet quality assessed. A full climate

and biodiversity tracking exercise will be conducted in 2026, across all beneficiaries and instrument components.

Among the 2025 achieved steps with direct relevance to green transition objectives, Albania made the intra-day electricity market operational in line with Energy Community requirements, advancing electricity market integration and enabling greater uptake of renewable energy. In Montenegro, a three-year auction plan of at least 400 MW was announced and the first renewable energy auction launched, alongside the operationalisation of the guarantees of origin system.

No contribution to biodiversity objectives has been identified at this stage. While no biodiversity contribution from achieved steps has been identified at this stage of implementation, these measures are expected to generate positive biodiversity outcomes as the Reform Agenda advances.

Contribution to gender equality (EUR million):

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	-	-	-	0.0	4.8	4.8
0*	-	-	-	0.0	0,0	0.0
0	-	-	-	1 501.0	1 494.2	2 995.2
Total:	-	-	-	1 501.0	1 499.0	3 000.0

- In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2024/1449, beneficiaries and the Commission must ensure that gender equality and the integration of a gender perspective as indicated in the Reform Agendas are taken into account and promoted throughout the implementation of the Facility. They must take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission will report on these measures in the context of its regular reporting under the Gender Action Plans.
- Each Reform Agenda includes an explanation of the extent to which the measures are expected to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the promotion of women and girls' rights.
- Of the non-repayable financial support component channelled through the Western Balkans Investment Framework, no funds have been mobilised in 2025 to support the implementation of Western Balkans Investment Framework investments, therefore no gender-related expenditure figures are available for reporting this year, in that component of the Reform and Growth Facility.
- Of the repayable financial support component channelled both to the beneficiaries treasury and the Western Balkans Investment Framework, a first indicative non-quality assessed review of achieved steps was carried out in 2025 to assess gender contributions. As with the climate and biodiversity tracking exercise, a full quality assessment will be conducted in 2026, across all beneficiaries and instrument components.
- Several achieved steps demonstrate direct relevance to gender equality objectives. In Albania, the diversification of Active Labour Market Programmes explicitly targets vulnerable groups including long-term unemployed jobseekers with no prior education, with women in areas without employment office presence identified as a priority beneficiary group, supported through specialised counselling, vocational training, and financial assistance. Montenegro also adopted a Strategy for Deinstitutionalisation identifying a minimum package of guaranteed social services and an approach to their sustainable financing, supporting a shift towards community-based care with positive implications for unpaid care work borne predominantly by women.

Gender disaggregated information:

- The design of the Facility presents inherent limitations for gender-disaggregated tracking. A significant share of the financial support is disbursed directly to beneficiary treasuries upon achievement of reform steps, rather than being tied to specific projects or beneficiaries. This makes it difficult to attribute expenditure to particular population groups or to collect the disaggregated data necessary for robust gender reporting.
- A similar challenge applies to the WBIF component, where the link between disbursed funds and individual investments is established only at a later stage of implementation. Until contribution arrangements are signed and investments are contracted, it is not possible to systematically track who benefits from the supported interventions or to report on gender outcomes in a meaningful and verifiable way.

Contribution to the digital transition (EUR million):

	2024 implementation	2025 implementation	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	0.0	3.9	3.9	0.4%

- Digitalisation is one of the key components of the Facility, representing both a central area for reforms under the Reform Agendas and a key priority for investments under the Western Balkans Investment Framework. The digital transition features in the specific objectives of the Facility, in particular the promotion of digital transformation and digital skills as an enabler of sustainable development and inclusive growth, as well as the boosting of innovation, research, and cooperation between academic institutions and industry.
- The Facility supports investments and reforms that promote the beneficiaries' path to digital transformation of the economy and society, in line with the EU vision for 2030 presented in the Commission communication '2030 Digital Compass'.
- Each Reform Agenda contains an explanation of the extent to which the measures are expected to contribute to digital transformation. Of the non-repayable financial support component channelled through the Western Balkans Investment Framework, no funds have been mobilised in 2025 to support the implementation of Western Balkans Investment Framework investments, therefore no digital-related expenditure figures are available for reporting this year, in that component of the Reform and Growth Facility. Of the repayable financial support component channelled both to the beneficiaries treasury and the Western Balkans Investment Framework, a first indicative and not yet quality review of achieved steps was carried out in 2025, applying the same tracking methodology used for green and gender contributions. A full quality assessment will be conducted in 2026, across all beneficiaries and instrument components.
- Among the achieved steps, Albania implemented regulatory and institutional capacity measures to secure 5G infrastructure roll-out in compliance with the EU 5G cybersecurity toolbox; Montenegro adopted a plan for full deployment of transactional national and local level public electronic services for 2025–2027, with the e-government platform and interoperability of registers made functional; and North Macedonia adopted and began implementing a cybersecurity legislative framework fully aligned with EU cybersecurity policy and the NIS acquis.

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Yes	In its Strategy for Deinstitutionalization, Montenegro included a minimum package of guaranteed social services and an approach to their sustainable financing.
SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Yes	Albania completed a reform step focused on offering diversified new Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs) targeting jobseekers' beneficiaries of economic aid, long-term unemployed jobseekers and long-term unemployed jobseekers with basic/no prior education.
SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Yes	In the context of the measures undertaken by Albania to strengthen the efficiency of the Unemployment Policy Scheme, women living in administrative areas without presence of employment office were a priority target of new Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs), including specialised employment/self-employment counselling, vocational training, and financial assistance.
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	Albania advanced in its implementation of the electricity integration package by making operational the intra-day electricity market, in line with Energy Community requirements. Montenegro implemented measures aimed at protecting energy poor and vulnerable customers including developing methodology to define energy poor groups and monitoring tools.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Yes	In North Macedonia, the number of inspections increased for the Labour Inspectorate by at least 20% and for the Market Inspectorate by at least 15% compared to the 2020-2023 period average. Inspections were carried on the principle of sectorial risk with a focus on construction, tourism, and agriculture.
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Yes	Albania adopted its S3 Strategy, as well as a comprehensive Road Map to finalise the digitisation processes for cadastral ownership titles.
SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Yes	Montenegro's Parliament adopted the Spatial Plan.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Yes	Montenegro operationalised the system of guarantees of origin. Albania adopted the long-term building renovation strategy, with earmarked necessary financing for 2025 and 2026 to fulfil the 3% annual renovation goal in existing government public buildings.
SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Yes	Albania adopted the laws on Animal Health and on Plant Health fully in line with the EU acquis.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Yes	Albania adopted a new National Strategy on prevention of Money Laundering and Countering Terrorism Financing and its Action Plan 2024- 2030. North Macedonia adopted the Public Internal Financial Control law, aiming at strengthening its Public Internal Financial Control.
SDG17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Yes	Albania adopted its updated Medium-Term Revenue Strategy to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and thereby improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

Support to reforms

The nature of this programme is such that its performance is linked to the achievement of reforms steps by the beneficiaries. The Facility works in complementarity with IPA III, which provides the technical assistance, TAIEX and Twinning support that helps countries build the capacity needed to advance reforms, while the Facility creates the fiscal incentive to legislate and implement them. For a full overview of reform progress, please refer to the implementation and performance section.

GROWTH PLAN FOR MOLDOVA

Concrete examples of achievements

1 Reform Agenda adopted: in May 2025, the Commission adopted the Reform Agenda for Moldova	4 reform steps have been achieved - three of these steps planned for December, had already been achieved by June 2025.	EUR 314.9 million has been released in total, consisting of EUR 216.7million in repayable support provided directly to the treasury, EUR72.2million in repayable support for cofinancing under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, and EUR 26million in non-repayable support, channelled through that platform.	2 of the steps achieved contribute to advancing an open and competitive electricity market: **Moldova** has designated a nominated electricity market operator and partially harmonised its value added tax law with EU legislation, strengthening the legal and institutional foundations for electricity market integration.

Budget implementation

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

Budget programming (million EUR):

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Non repayable support	-	-	-	-	220.9	171.2	127.9	520.0
Of which provisioning of the loans	-	-	-	-	45	45	45	135
Of which administrative support	-	-	-	-	1.4	1.4	1.4	4.2

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

Loans (million EUR)[68]:

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Loans	-	-	-	-	262.7	562.7	674.6	1 500

Cumulative budget implementation at the end of 2025 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	220.1	520.0	42.3%
Payments	0.3		0.1%

[68] Amount of loans (gross) linked to the steps in the Reform Agenda by implementation deadline (not by time of disbursement)

Implementation and performance

Key performance indicators

	Baseline	Progress	Target	Results	Assessment
Percentage of steps (key reforms and/or investments) achieved in the Reform Agenda/Plan and backed by EU support	0%	**4%**	80% in 2027	3% in 2025 compared to a target of 80%	On track
Investment mobilised in million EUR by the Ukraine Investment Framework /Western Balkans Investment Framework/Neighbourhood Investment Platform (loans and grants)	0	**24%**	408 in 2027	98.2 in 2025 compared to a target of 408	On track
Number of steps developing or revising government policies with EU support under the facilities	0	**5%**	22 in 2027	1 in 2025 compared to a target of 22	On track
Megawatts of new renewable energy capacity installed (cumulative in energy mix for solar and wind)	580	**>100%**	652[69] in 2027	932.81 in 2025 compared to a target of 652	Achieved[70]
Degree of readiness on the economic criteria: the existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with	0.4	**40%**	1 in 2027	0.4 in 2025 compared to a target of 1	On track

[69] The target is set at 112.5% of the baseline, as per the standard methodology, which equals to 652. It is not therefore linked to any formal target set by the beneficiary or the Commission.

[70] This indicator had already been achieved in the first year of implementation. It should be noted that the indicators under the Facility serve a dual function: they track both the performance of the Facility's implementation and its broader impact on the beneficiaries' reform trajectories. The indicator on megawatts of new renewable energy capacities installed (cumulative in the energy mix for solar, wind, biogas and hydro) in particular is an impact indicator, reflecting structural changes in the energy mix that result from a combination of policy reforms, investments, and market developments extending beyond the direct implementation of the Facility. Its early achievement therefore reflects pre-existing momentum in renewable energy deployment in the region rather than an attribution of results solely to the Facility.

competitive pressures and market forces within the EU						
Worldwide Governance Indicator: Control of Corruption		42	**83%**	50.5 in 2027	42 in 2025 compared to a target of 50.5	On track

- In March 2025, Regulation (EU) 2025/535 establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for Moldova was adopted. This created a new financing instrument of EUR 1.9 billion to implement the growth plan for Moldova. The disbursement of the funding is conditional on Moldova's fulfilment of reforms agreed between the EU and the government of Moldova in the Reform Agenda, which was approved by the latter in May 2025.
- In July 2025, Moldova received EUR 270 million in loans pre-financing, corresponding to 18% of the overall loan for whole period under the facility. In September 2025, the European Commission made the first regular payment under the facility, following its assessment that Moldova had met four reform steps from its Reform Agenda, unlocking funding in loans worth EUR 18.9 million.
- Moldova met the only step due by June 2025 and achieved three additional steps ahead of schedule. The achieved steps promote the advance of open and competitive electricity and gas markets: Moldova designated a nominated electricity market operator, partially harmonised its VAT law with EU legislation, appointed a supplier of last resort and a universal gas supplier through a transparent and non-discriminatory procedure, and advanced the certification process for Vestmoldtransgaz regarding transmission system ownership unbundling.
- By the end of 2025, EUR 98.2 million in loans and grants had been released for investments, under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP). The projects under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform are currently being contracted from the 2025 funding, with implementation foreseen in 2026.

Contribution to horizontal priorities

Contribution to green budgeting priorities:

	Implementation					Estimates			
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**Total**	**% of the total envelope**
Climate mainstreaming	-	-	-	-	0.1	78.0	78.0	156.1	30%
Biodiversity mainstreaming	-	-	-	-	0.0	26.0	26.0	52.0	10%

- Activities under the Facility support progress towards EU social, climate and environmental standards, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and should not contribute to environmental degradation or cause harm to the environment or climate. Measures funded under the Facility should be in line with Moldova's national energy and climate plan, its nationally determined contribution and ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050.
- The Facility aims to contribute to the achievement of an overall target of 30% of EU budget expenditure supporting climate objectives and 7,5% in 2025 and 10% in 2026 and 2027 biodiversity objectives. At least 37% of the non-repayable financial support, including part of the provisioning, specifically the part provided to investment projects approved under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, one of the regional investment platforms referred to in Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe Regulation ((EU) 2021/947) should be attributed to climate objectives. That amount should be calculated using the Rio markers following the obligation to report the EU's international climate finance to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as obligations under other international agreements or frameworks.
- Of the repayable financial support component, channelled both to the beneficiaries treasury and to the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, in 2025, a first indicative and not yet quality assessed review of achieved steps was carried out, applying Rio marker classifications. A full and quality assessed will be conducted in 2026. As example of a step contributing indirectly to climate objectives is the designation of a nominated electricity market operator.
- No contribution to biodiversity objectives has been identified at this stage. While no biodiversity contribution from achieved steps has been identified at this stage of

implementation, measures are expected to generate positive biodiversity outcomes as the Reform Agenda advances.

Contribution to gender equality

Gender Score	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
2	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
1	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
0*	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
0	-	-	-	-	483.6	483.6

- In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2025/535, Moldova and the Commission must ensure that gender equality and the integration of a gender perspective as indicated in the Reform Agenda are taken into account and promoted throughout the implementation of the Facility. They must take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission will report on these measures in the context of its regular reporting under the gender action plans.
- The Reform Agenda includes an explanation of the extent to which the measures are expected to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the promotion of their rights. Of the repayable financial support component, channelled both to the beneficiaries treasury and to the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, a first indicative and not yet quality assessed review of total commitments made in 2025 was carried out to assess gender contributions, applying relevant scoring classifications. As the four steps assessed as achieved in 2025 all relate to energy market reform, no provisioning under the repayable support component is estimated to be linked to steps for which gender equality is an important and deliberate objective. This reflects the composition of the first assessment cycle rather than the overall gender ambition of the Reform Agenda.
- As implementation advances, the Reform Agenda is expected to generate meaningful contributions to gender equality. For instance, one upcoming step, to achieved by December 2027, requires that at least 50% of active technical and vocational education programmes are delivered by teachers who have attended in-service training and make use of gender and disability-sensitive teaching and learning materials.

Gender disaggregated information:

- The design of the Facility presents inherent limitations for gender-disaggregated tracking. A significant share of the financial support is disbursed directly to beneficiary treasuries upon achievement of reform steps, rather than being tied to specific projects or beneficiaries. This makes it difficult to attribute expenditure to particular population groups or to collect the disaggregated data necessary for robust gender reporting.

- A similar challenge applies to the Neighbourhood Investment Platform component, where the link between disbursed funds and individual investments is established only at a later stage of implementation. Until contribution arrangements are signed and investments are contracted, it is not possible to systematically track who benefits from the supported interventions or to report on gender outcomes in a meaningful and verifiable way.

Contribution to the digital transition

	2021 implementation	2022 implementation	2023 implementation	2024 implementation	2025 implementation	Total	% of the 2021-2025 envelope
Digital contribution	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0

- Digitalisation is one of the key components of the Facility, representing both a central area for reforms under the Reform Agenda and a key priority for investments to be approved by the Neighbourhood Investment Platform. The digital transition features in the specific objectives of the Facility, in particular the promotion of digital transformation and digital skills as an enabler of sustainable development and inclusive growth, as well as the boosting of innovation, research, and cooperation between academic institutions and industry.
- The Facility supports investments and reforms that promote Moldova's path to the digital transformation of the economy and society, in line with the EU vision for 2030 presented in the Commission's communication 2030 Digital Compass.
- Moldova's Reform Agenda includes an explanation of the extent to which measures are expected to contribute to digital transformation. Of the repayable financial support component, channelled both to the beneficiaries treasury and to the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, a first indicative and not yet quality assessed review of total commitments made in 2025 was carried out to assess digital contributions, applying relevant scoring classifications. As the four steps assessed as achieved in 2025 all relate to energy market reform, no provisioning under the repayable support component is estimated to be linked to steps contributing to digital transformation. A full quality assessment will be conducted in 2026.
- As implementation advances, the Reform Agenda is expected to generate contributions to digital transformation. For instance, one upcoming step, expected to be achieved in December 2026, aims to improve identity framework in line with eIDAS 2 and integrate at least 20 Moldovan e-services under EVO, Moldova's national application.

Contribution to strategic technologies (STEP)

- n/a

Contribution to sustainable development goals

SDG	Does the programme contribute to the goal?	Example (only for the most relevant SDGs)
SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Yes	Key achievements include the development of open and competitive electricity and gas markets, as well as measures to guarantee energy security. (four steps achieved as part of the first release under the Reform and Growth Facility for Moldova).

Support to reforms

The nature of this programme is such that its performance is linked to the achievement of reforms steps by the beneficiaries. Therefore, for an overview of the state of play of the support to reforms please refer to the performance and implementation section.