

## 4. Maths, science & technology graduates

### BENCHMARK:

The total number of MST graduates in the EU should increase by at least 15%, gender imbalance should decrease.

TRENDS: The number of MST graduates increased by 33.6% since 2000 and the female share from 30.7% to 31.9% in 2007.

BEST EU PERFORMERS (growth since 2000): Portugal, Poland, Slovakia

2007	Cumulative growth in MST graduates 2000-2007*	% women 2000	% women 2007
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>31.9</b>
Belgium	42.8	25.0	27.2
Bulgaria	14.6	45.6	39.3
Czech Republic	96.0	27.0	29.3
Denmark	20.0	28.5	36.0
Germany	39.7	21.6	29.8
Estonia	79.8	35.7	38.7
Ireland	-3.6	37.9	31.3
Greece	82.5	:	44.2
Spain	12.4	31.5	29.9
France	7.4	30.8	28.1
Italy	112.5	36.6	37.0
Cyprus	63.4	31.0	31.5
Latvia	21.2	31.4	32.7
Lithuania	36.3	35.9	32.5
Luxembourg	:	:	32.0
Hungary	29.4	22.6	26.8
Malta	69.3	26.3	37.8
Netherlands	40.2	17.6	18.9
Austria	54.6	19.9	23.8
Poland	123.3	35.9	39.2
Portugal	164.0	41.9	34.8
Romania	58.6	35.1	40.0
Slovenia	8.3	22.8	25.0
Slovakia	129.9	30.1	35.4
Finland	23.2	27.3	28.9
Sweden	14.3	32.1	33.1
United Kingdom	17.6	32.1	31.1
Croatia	41.9	:	34.9
MK**	26.1	41.6	39.8
Turkey	57.3	31.1	31.1
Iceland	29.9	37.9	34.2
Norway	9.8	28.4	28.6

Source: Eurostat (UOE)

TOP PERFORMERS LOW PERFORMERS

\*Cumulative growth extrapolated from years with available data;  
\*\*MK= former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

## 5. Participation of adults in Lifelong learning

### BENCHMARK:

The EU average level of participation in lifelong learning should at least reach 12.5% of the working age population (25-64)

TRENDS: On an EU level participation increased from 7.1% in 2000 to 9.5% (males:8.7%, females: 10.4%) in 2008. As a result of a break in series around 2003, growth is, however, overstated.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Denmark, Sweden, Finland.

	2000	2007	2008
<b>EU 25</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>9.5<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>9.5<sup>p</sup></b>
Belgium	6.2	7.2 <sup>b</sup>	6.8
Bulgaria	1.4 <sup>1</sup>	1.3	1.4
Czech Republic	5.6 <sup>2</sup>	5.7	7.8 <sup>p</sup>
Denmark	19.4	29.2 <sup>b</sup>	30.2
Germany	5.2	7.8	7.9
Estonia	6.5	7.0	9.8 <sup>p</sup>
Ireland	5.5 <sup>2</sup>	7.6 <sup>b</sup>	7.1
Greece	1.0	2.1 <sup>b</sup>	2.9
Spain	4.1	10.4 <sup>b</sup>	10.4
France	2.8	7.5 <sup>b</sup>	7.3
Italy	4.8	6.2 <sup>b</sup>	6.3
Cyprus	3.1	8.4 <sup>b</sup>	8.5
Latvia	7.3 <sup>2</sup>	7.1	6.8
Lithuania	2.8	5.3 <sup>b</sup>	4.9
Luxembourg	4.8	7.0 <sup>b</sup>	8.5
Hungary	2.9	3.6 <sup>b</sup>	3.1
Malta	4.5	6.0 <sup>b</sup>	6.2
Netherlands	15.5	16.6 <sup>b</sup>	17.0
Austria	8.3	12.8 <sup>b</sup>	13.2
Poland	4.3 <sup>1</sup>	5.1 <sup>b</sup>	4.7
Portugal	3.4	4.4 <sup>b</sup>	5.3 <sup>p</sup>
Romania	0.9	1.3 <sup>b</sup>	1.5
Slovenia	7.3 <sup>1</sup>	14.8 <sup>b</sup>	13.9
Slovakia	8.5 <sup>2</sup>	3.9 <sup>b</sup>	3.3
Finland	17.5	23.4 <sup>b</sup>	23.1
Sweden	21.6	32.4 <sup>b</sup>	:
United Kingdom	20.5	20.0 <sup>b</sup>	19.9
Croatia	1.9 <sup>2</sup>	2.4	2.2
MK*	:	2.8	2.5
Turkey	:	1.5	1.8
Iceland	23.5	27.0 <sup>b</sup>	25.1
Norway	13.3	18.0	19.3

Source: Eurostat (LFS)

TOP PERFORMERS LOW PERFORMERS

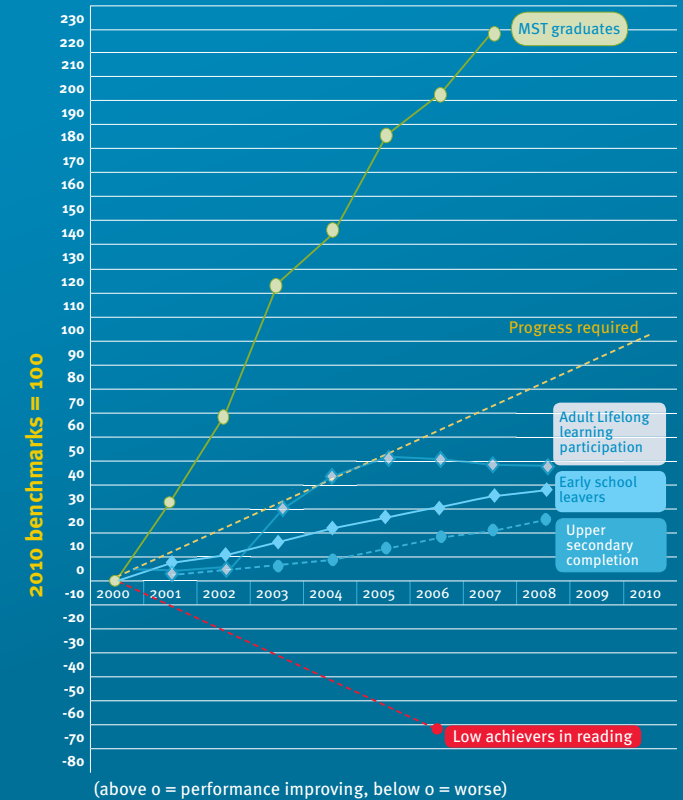
b= break in time series, p= provisional  
1)=2001, 2)= 2002

\*MK= former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



## Five Education Benchmarks for Europe TRENDS 2000-2008

Progress towards meeting the 5 benchmarks (EU average)



The curves show progress in each benchmark.  
Progress required to reach the benchmark in 2010 is set at 100.  
The dotted line shows annual progress needed.

Brussels, November 2009

More information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc34\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc34_en.htm)



Publications Office

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## 1. Low achievers in reading

### BENCHMARK:

By 2010 the percentage of low achieving 15-year olds in reading literacy in the EU should decrease by at least 20%.

TRENDS: in the EU (comparable data available for 18 countries) performance deteriorated from 21.3% low performers in reading in 2000 to 24.1% (girls: 17.6%, boys: 30.4%) in 2006.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Finland, Ireland and Estonia

	2000	2003	2006
<b>EU (18)</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>24.1</b>
Belgium	19.0	17.9	19.4
Bulgaria	40.3	:	51.1
Czech Republic	17.5	19.4	24.8
Denmark	17.9	16.5	16.0
Germany	22.6	22.3	20.0
Estonia	:	:	13.6
Ireland	11.0	11.0	12.1
Greece	24.4	25.2	27.7
Spain	16.3	21.1	25.7
France	15.2	17.5	21.7
Italy	18.9	23.9	26.4
Cyprus	:	:	:
Latvia	30.1	18.0	21.2
Lithuania	:	:	25.7
Luxembourg	(35.1)	22.7	22.9
Hungary	22.7	20.5	20.6
Malta	:	:	:
Netherlands	(9.5)	11.5	15.1
Austria	19.3	20.7	21.5
Poland	23.2	16.8	16.2
Portugal	26.3	22.0	24.9
Romania	41.3	:	53.5
Slovenia	:	:	16.5
Slovakia	:	24.9	27.8
Finland	7.0	5.7	4.8
Sweden	12.6	13.3	15.3
United Kingdom	(12.8)	:	19.0
Croatia	:	:	21.5
Turkey	:	36.8	32.2
Iceland	14.5	18.5	20.5
Norway	17.5	18.2	22.4
Liechtenstein	22.1	10.4	14.3

Source: OECD (PISA)

TOP PERFORMERS LOW PERFORMERS

() = not comparable

Cyprus and Malta have not yet participated in the survey

## 2. Early school leavers

### BENCHMARK:

By 2010 a share of early school leavers of no more than 10% should be reached.

TRENDS: In EU 27 the share of early school leavers (population 18-24) declined from 17.6% in 2000 to 14.9% (females: 12.9%, males: 16.9%) in 2008.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia

	2000	2007	2008
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>14.9</b>
Belgium	13.8	12.1	12.0
Bulgaria	20.5 <sup>1</sup>	14.9	14.8
Czech Republic	5.7 <sup>2</sup>	5.2	5.6
Denmark	11.7	12.5	11.5
Germany	14.6	12.5	11.8
Estonia	15.1	14.4	14.0
Ireland	14.6 <sup>2</sup>	11.6	11.3
Greece	18.2	14.6	14.8
Spain	29.1	31.0	31.9
France	13.3	12.6	11.8
Italy	25.1	19.7	19.7
Cyprus	18.5	12.5	13.7
Latvia	19.9 <sup>2</sup>	15.1	15.5
Lithuania	16.5	7.4	7.4
Luxembourg	16.8	12.5	13.4
Hungary	13.9	11.4	11.7
Malta	54.2	38.3	39.0
Netherlands	15.4	11.7	11.4
Austria	10.2	10.7	10.1
Poland	7.4 <sup>1</sup>	5.0	5.0
Portugal	43.6 <sup>P</sup>	36.9 <sup>P</sup>	35.4 <sup>P</sup>
Romania	22.9	17.3	15.9
Slovenia	6.4 <sup>1</sup>	4.1 <sup>u</sup>	5.1 <sup>u</sup>
Slovakia	6.7 <sup>2</sup>	6.5	6.0
Finland	9.0	9.1	9.8
Sweden	7.3	11.4 <sup>P</sup>	11.1 <sup>P</sup>
United Kingdom	18.2	16.6	17.0
Croatia	8.0 <sup>2</sup>	3.9 <sup>u</sup>	3.7 <sup>u</sup>
MK*	:	19.9	19.6
Turkey	59.3	48.2	46.6
Iceland	29.8	23.2	24.4
Norway	12.9	18.4	17.0

Source: Eurostat (LFS)

b = break in time series, p = provisional, u = unreliable, 1) = 2001, 2) = 2002

Slovenia probably among best performers but recent data unreliable.

\* MK= former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

TOP PERFORMERS LOW PERFORMERS

## 3. Upper secondary attainment

### BENCHMARK:

By 2010 at least 85% of 22 year-olds in the EU should have completed upper-secondary education.

TRENDS: Since 2000 upper secondary attainment in the EU increased from 76.6% of people aged 20-24 to 78.5% (females 81.3%, males 75.6%) in 2008.

BEST EU PERFORMERS: Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland

	2000	2005	2008
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>78.5</b>
Belgium	81.7	82.6	82.2
Bulgaria	75.2	83.3 <sup>b</sup>	83.7
Czech Republic	91.2	91.8	91.6
Denmark	72.0	70.8 <sup>b</sup>	71.0
Germany	74.7	72.5 <sup>bP</sup>	74.1
Estonia	79.0	80.9	82.2
Ireland	82.6	86.7	87.7
Greece	79.2	82.1	82.1
Spain	66.0	61.1	60.0
France	81.6	82.5 <sup>bP</sup>	83.4
Italy	69.4	76.3	76.5
Cyprus	79.0	85.8	85.1
Latvia	76.5	80.2 <sup>b</sup>	80.0
Lithuania	78.9	89.0 <sup>b</sup>	89.1
Luxembourg	77.5	70.9 <sup>b</sup>	72.8
Hungary	83.5	84.0 <sup>b</sup>	83.6
Malta	40.9	55.5 <sup>b</sup>	53.0
Netherlands	71.9	76.2	76.2
Austria	85.1	84.1	84.5
Poland	88.8	91.6	91.3
Portugal	43.2	53.4	54.3
Romania	76.1	77.4	78.3
Slovenia	88.0	91.5	90.2
Slovakia	94.8	91.3	92.3
Finland	87.7	86.5	86.2 <sup>P</sup>
Sweden	85.2	87.2 <sup>b</sup>	87.9
United Kingdom	76.7	78.1	78.2
Croatia	90.6 <sup>2</sup>	95.3	95.4
MK*	:	79.2	79.7
Turkey	:	46.4	47.8
Iceland	46.1	52.9	53.6
Norway	95.0	67.9 <sup>b</sup>	70.1

Source: Eurostat (LFS)

b = break in time series, p = provisional, 1) = 2001, 2) = 2002

\* MK= former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

TOP PERFORMERS LOW PERFORMERS