

Snapshot Report: SDGs in the UNECE region





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Disclaimer

This document provides a brief snapshot of some aspects of SDG performance in the UNECE region. It covers the SDGs that will be discussed at the 2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region but it does not attempt to provide an exhaustive assessment. It only uses the available information in the UN SDG Global Database and the sources referenced there to illustrate a selected number of SDG issues. In a very few cases, when no data is available from this database and associated sources, information from other international organizations is used to provide some context to the discussions.

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4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The goal on education includes multiple targets, which address both domestic and international cooperation dimensions. It emphasises the importance of meeting specific learning outcomes and hence the critical dimension of the **quality of education**, as opposed to just formal enrolment. Education is relevant for **all age groups**, so the goal also considers the **acquisition of skills** by adults.

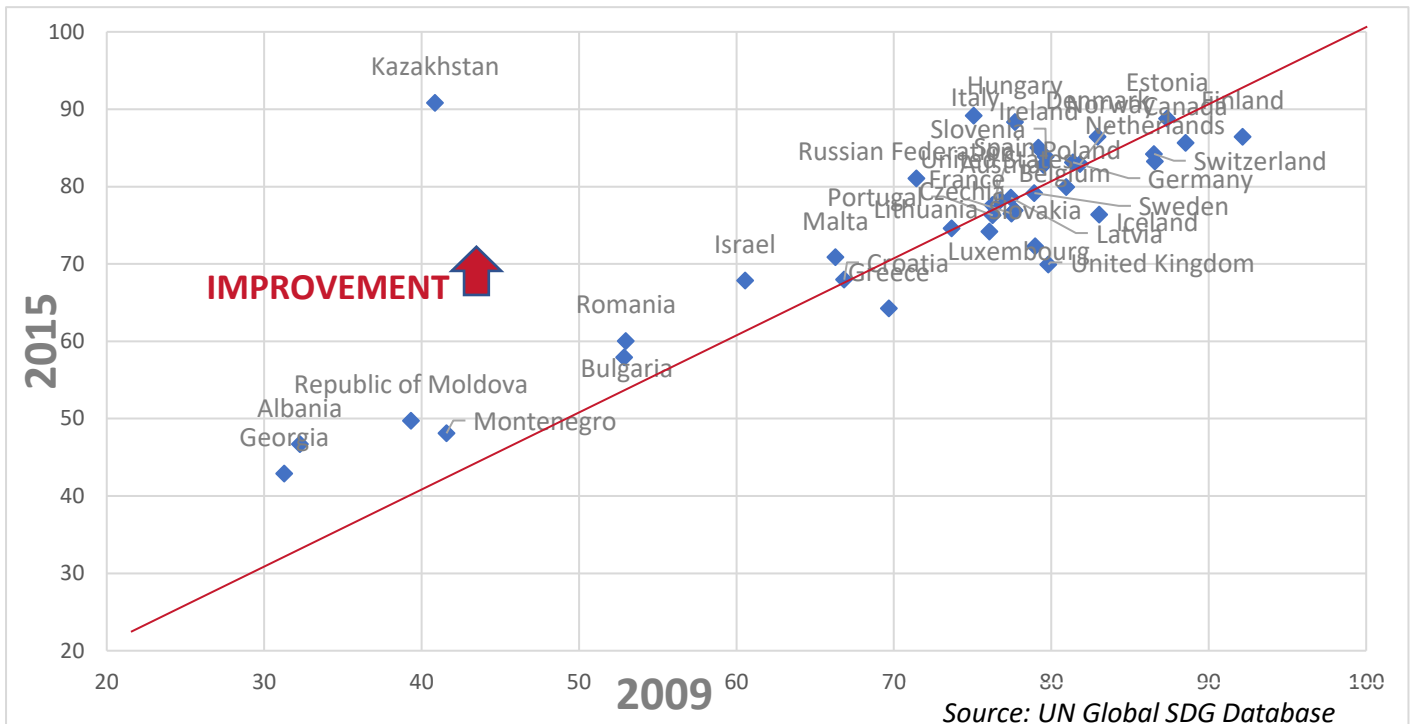
Particular attention is paid to ensuring **equitable access** to all types of education and the elimination of disparities in educational outcomes among all groups, including in particular those that affect the most vulnerable.

Good quality education requires **appropriate infrastructure** that is also adapted to the needs of students with disabilities and provides a gender-sensitive and safe environment. It also demands a supply of well-trained teachers. For some of the countries in the UNECE region, official development assistance can provide additional opportunities to students.



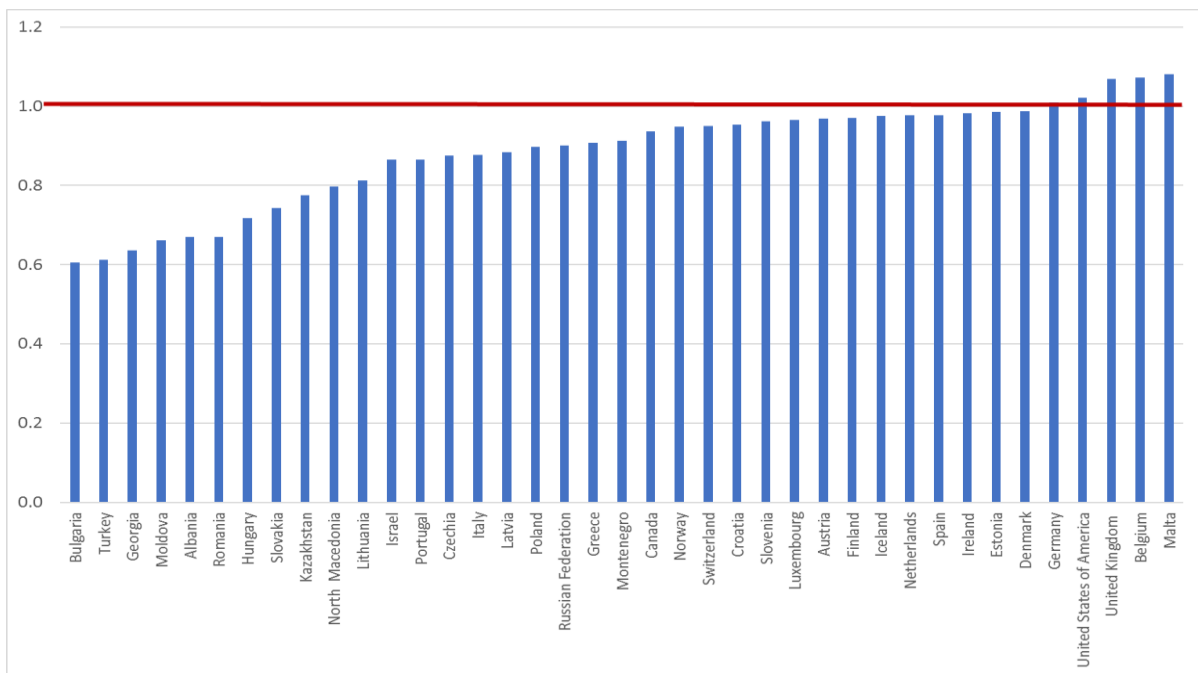
In most countries of the UNECE region, mathematics proficiency has improved but there are large country differences across the region.

Figure 4.1: Selected countries: Children at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency in mathematics, percentage, 2009 and 2015



Evidence suggests a rural-urban divide in educational achievement in most countries

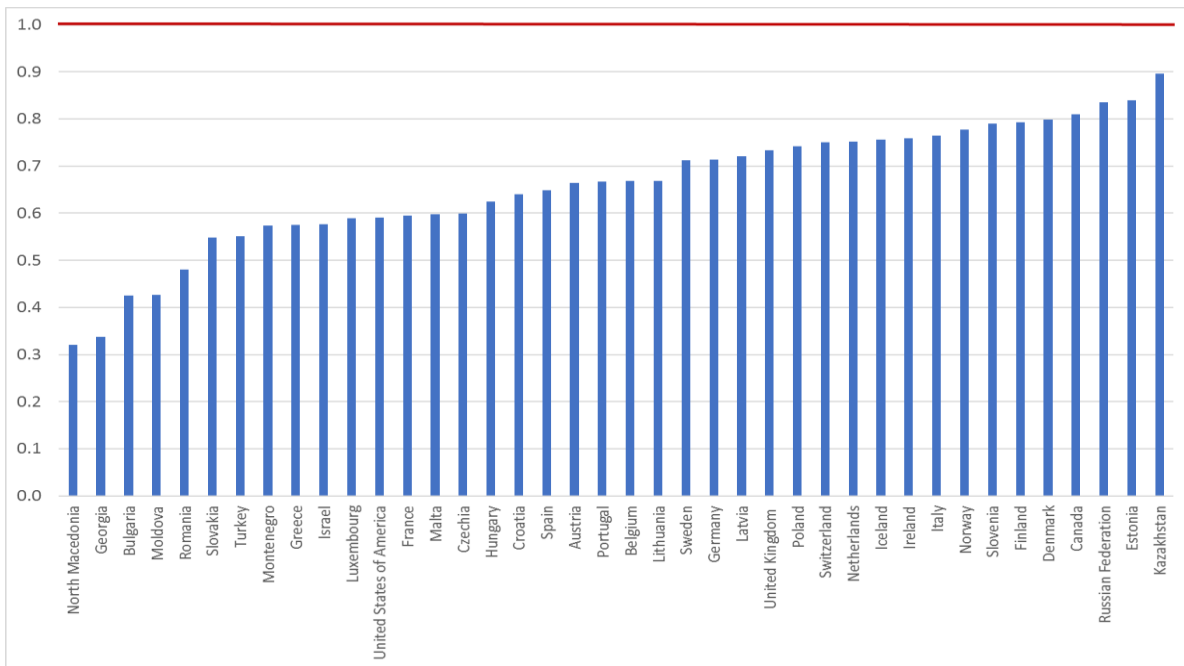
Figure 4.2: Rural to urban parity index for achievement in reading, lower secondary education (ratio), 2015





Lower socio-economic status has a strong influence on underperformance

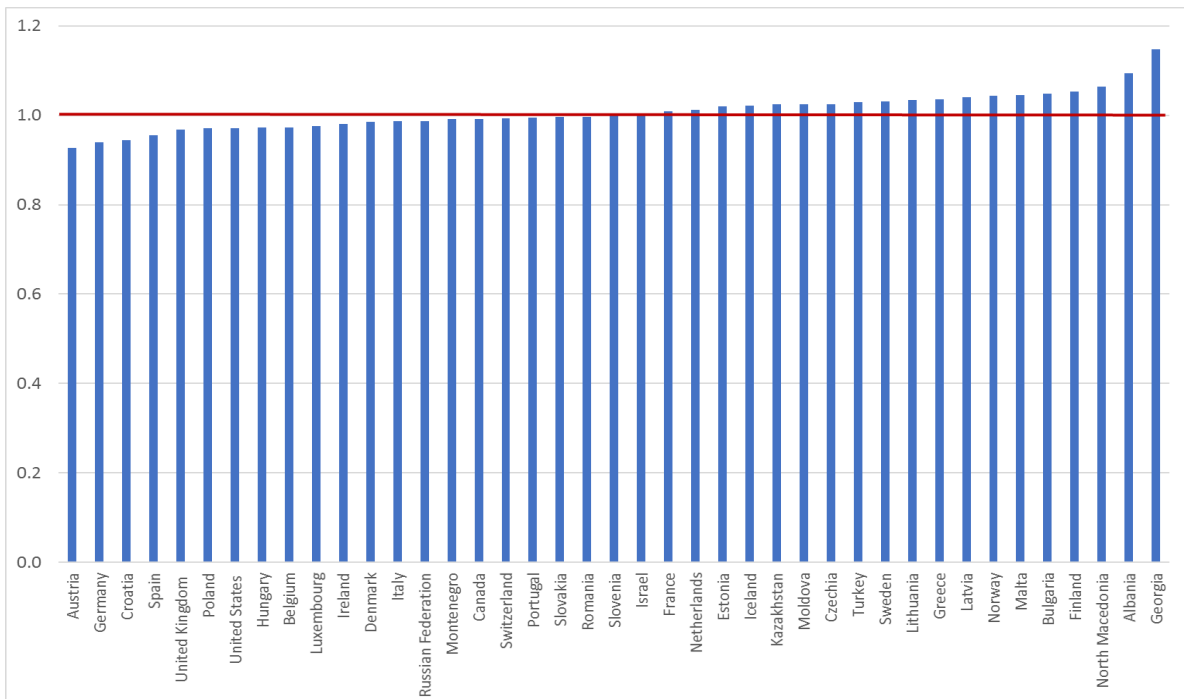
Figure 4.3: Low to high socio-economic parity status index for achievement in mathematics, secondary education level (ratio), 2015



Source: UN Global SDG Database

Girls overperform boys in mathematics...

Figure 4.4: Gender parity index for achievement in mathematics, lower secondary (ratio), 2015

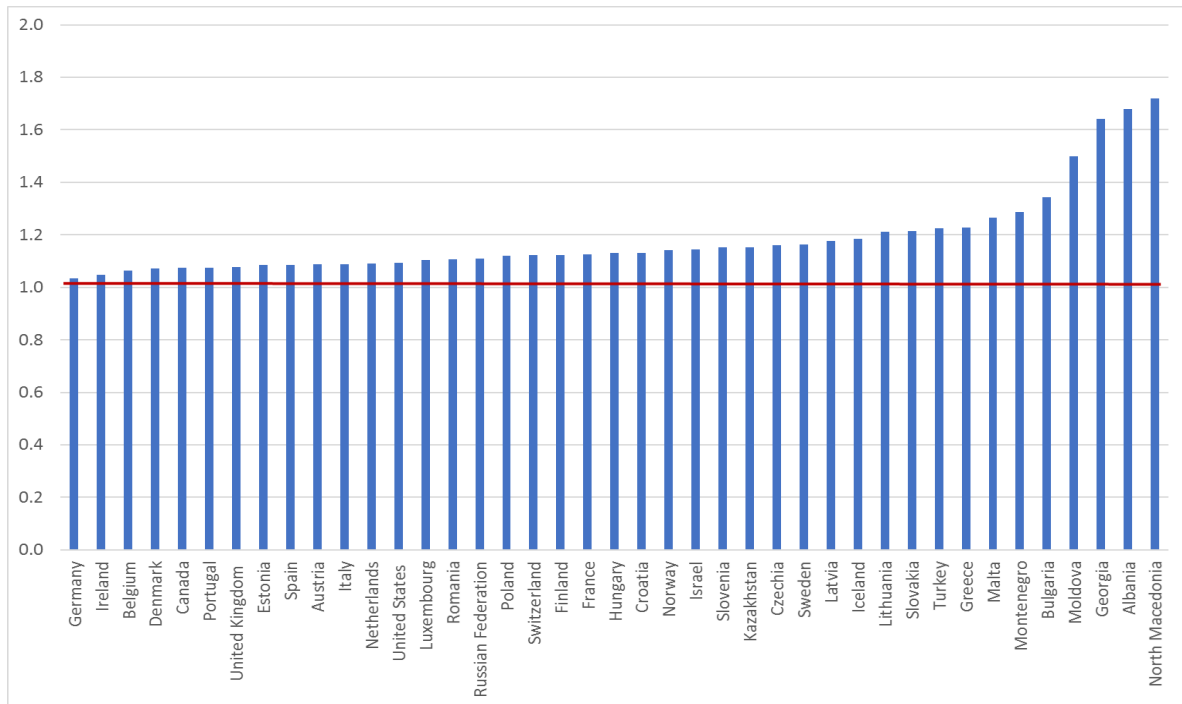


Source: UN Global SDG Database



....and girls' overperformance is generally stronger for reading

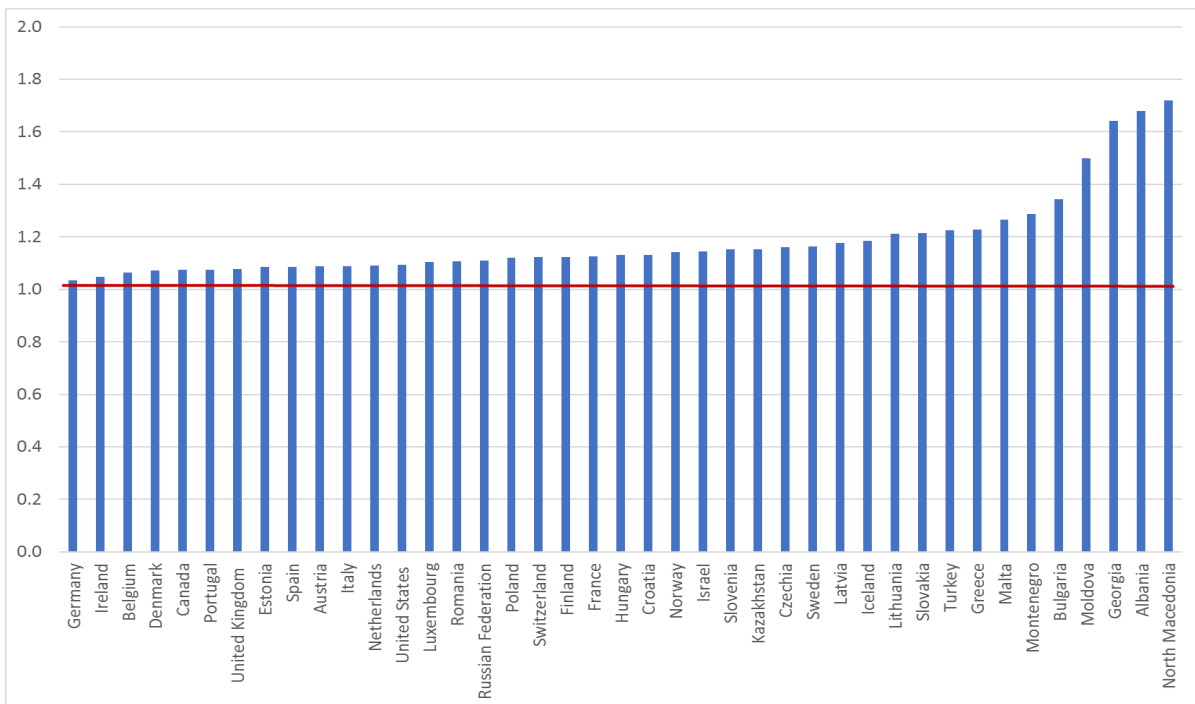
Figure 4.5: Gender parity index for achievement in reading, lower secondary (ratio), 2015



Source: UN Global SDG Database

Migrants fall behind in educational performance in most countries

Figure 4.6: Native parity index for achievement in reading, lower secondary (ratio), 2015

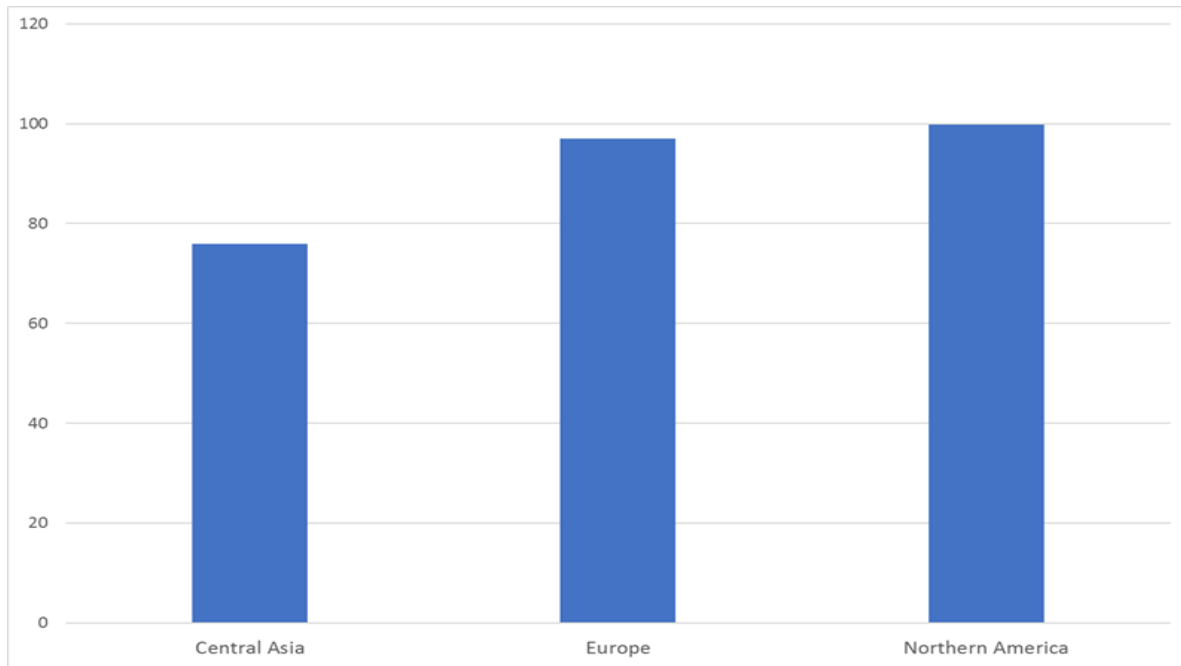


Source: UN Global SDG Database



Schools have access to Internet but there are still gaps in parts of the region

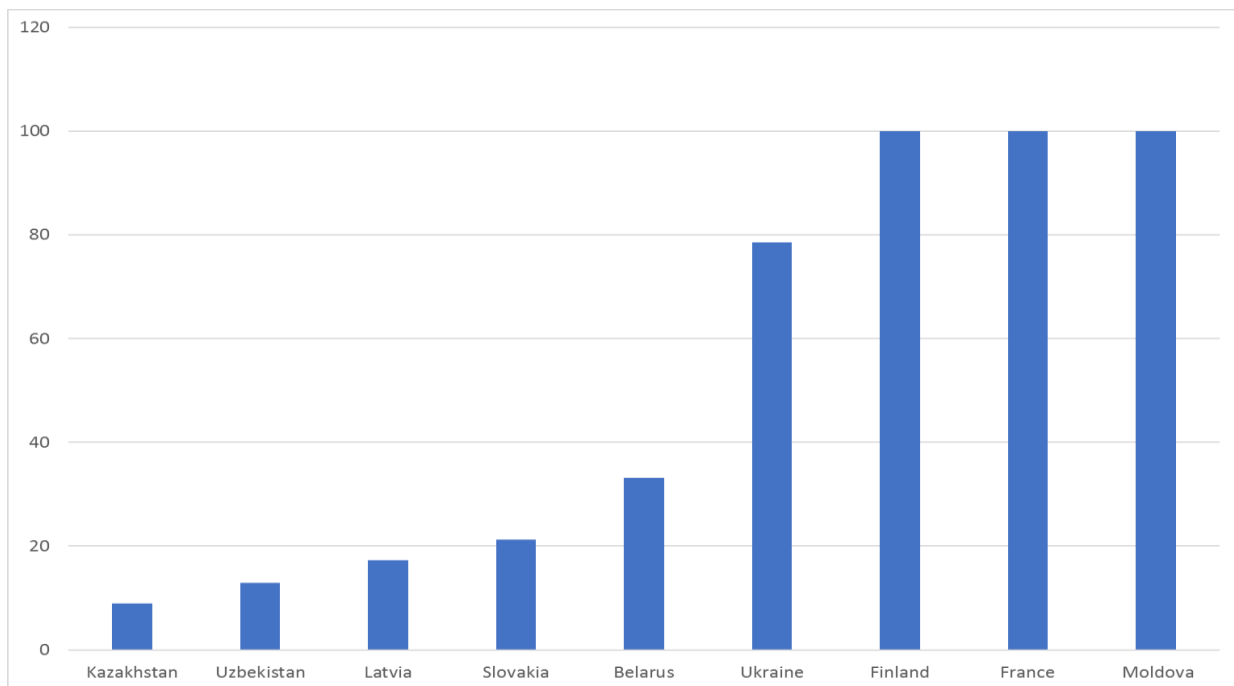
Figure 4.7: Proportion of lower secondary schools with access to Internet for pedagogical purposes



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Large gaps in accessibility for students with disabilities remain

Figure 4.8: Selected countries: Proportion of schools with access to adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, low secondary, 2016 or 2017, percentage

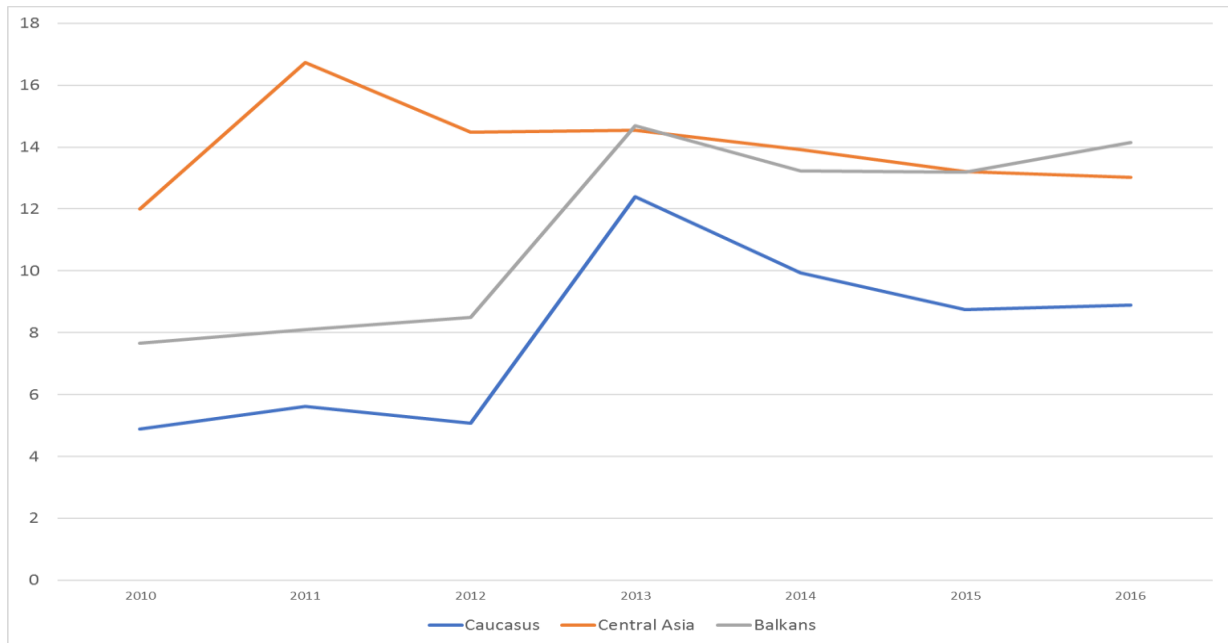


Source: UN Global SDG Database



Subregional dynamics of ODA for scholarships differ

Figure 4.9: Official development assistance flows for scholarships, constant prices, USD million



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Economic growth and increased productivity result in rising incomes and facilitate tackling multiple developmental challenges. The Goal is also concerned with **decent job** creation and the formalization of employment.

But growth needs to be **environmentally respectful**, decoupling economic expansion from environmental degradation and increasing resource efficiency in both production and consumption.

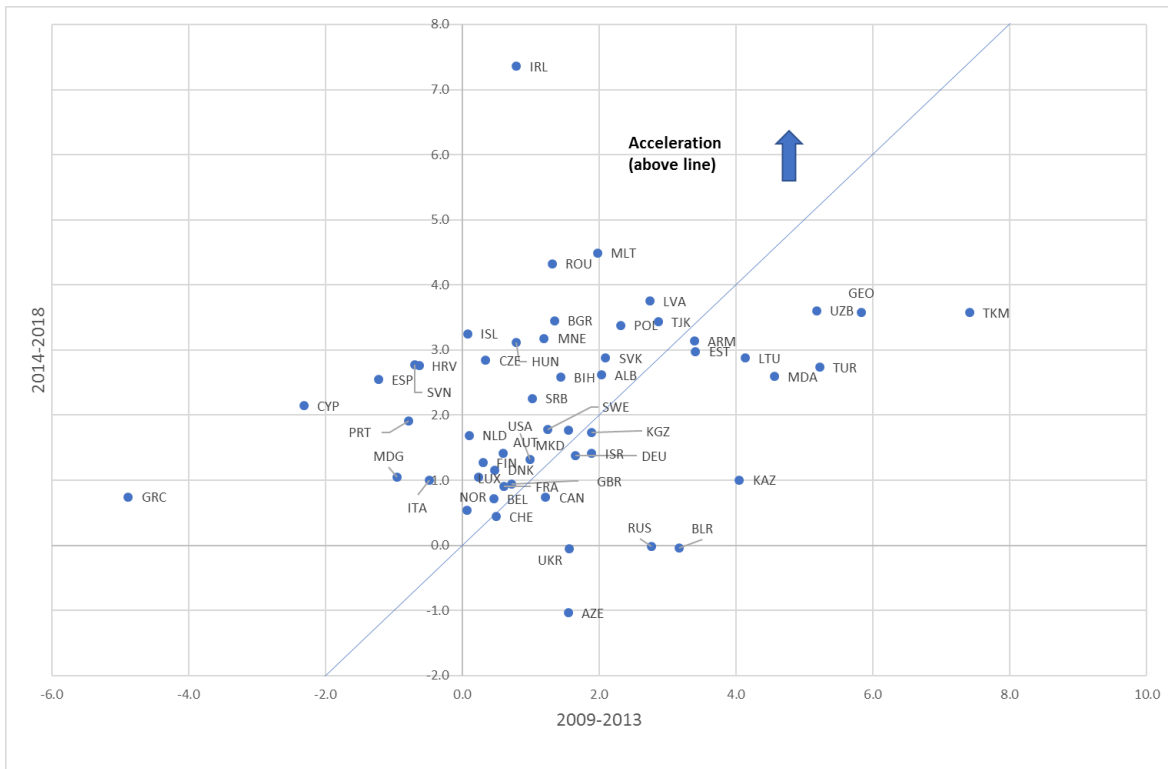
Economic growth should also be **inclusive**, eliminating discrimination and providing opportunities for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities. The plight of the youth that are not in employment, education or training, is a particularly pressing concern.

The Goal also seeks the protection of labour rights and the promotion of **safe and secure working environments** for all workers, including migrant workers and those in precarious employment.



Patterns of recovery after the global financial crisis differ across the region

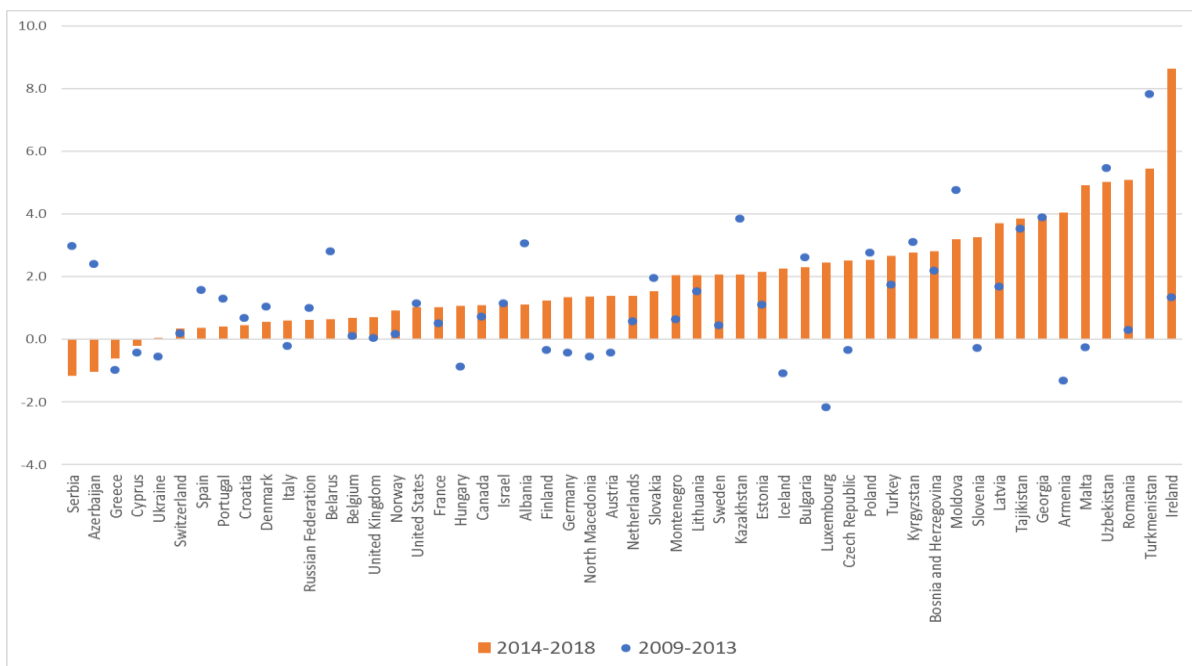
Figure 8.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita, 2009-2013 vs 2014-2018



Source: UN DESA

The dynamics of output per employed person are mixed

Figure 8.2: Average annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person, percentage, 2009-2013 vs 2014-2018

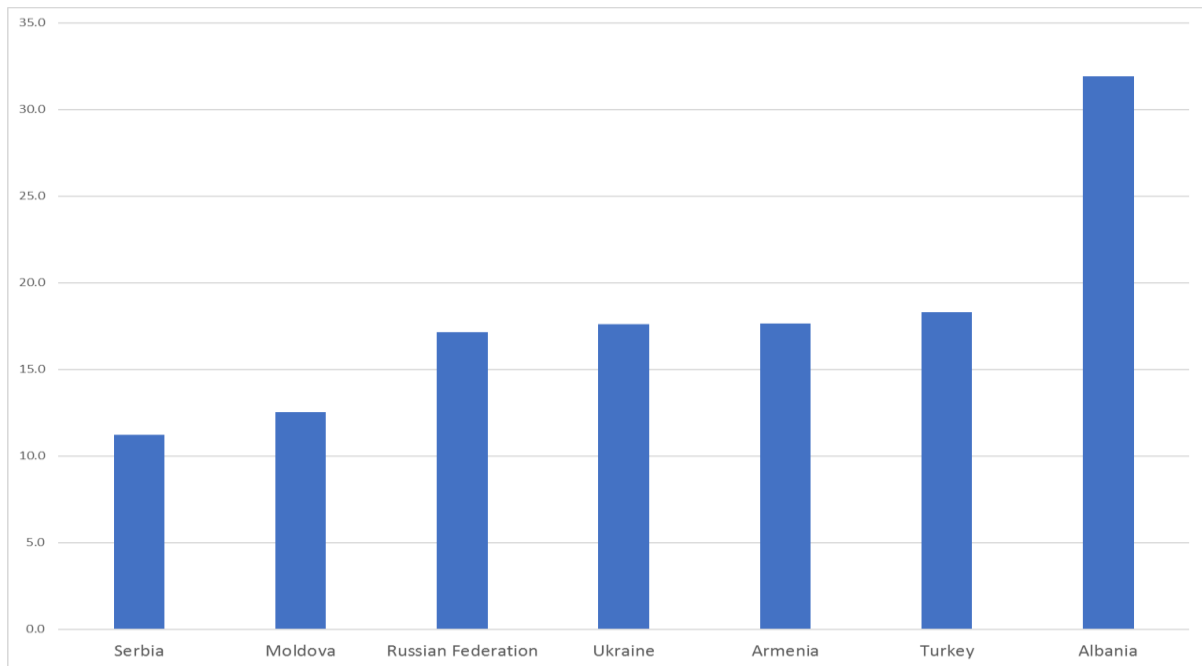


Source: ILOSTAT, UN Global SDG Database



Informal employment outside the agricultural sector remains important in some countries

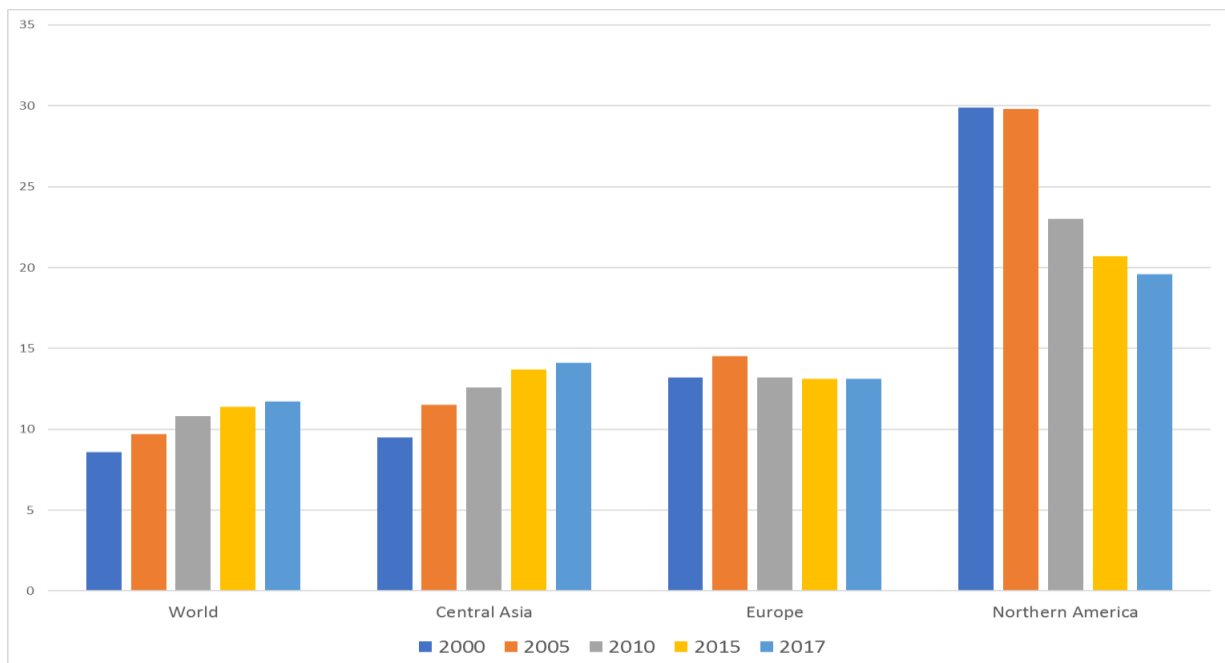
Figure 8.3: Proportion of informal employment in non-agricultural employment in selected countries, 2014 or later



Source: ILOSTAT, UN Global SDG Database

Domestic material consumption has declined in parts of the region where is higher...

Figure 8.4: Domestic material consumption per capita, tonnes, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2017

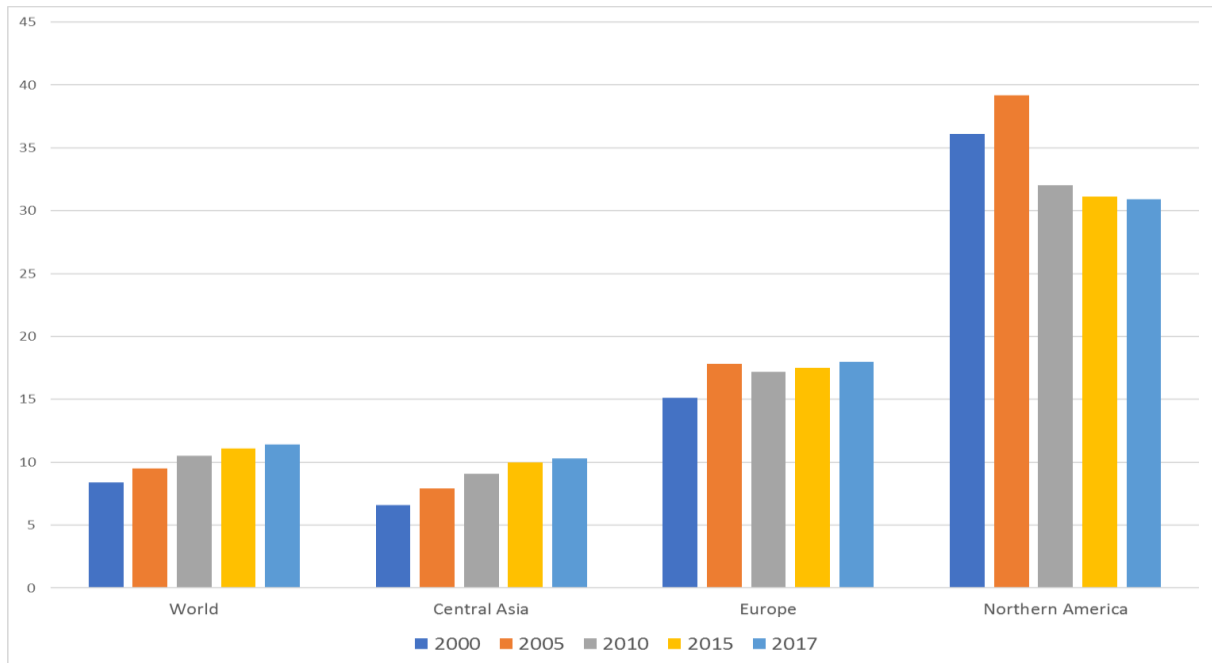


Source: Environment Live database, UNEP; Global Material Flows Database, International Resources Panel, UN Global SDG Database



...but the overall material footprint per capita remains comparatively elevated

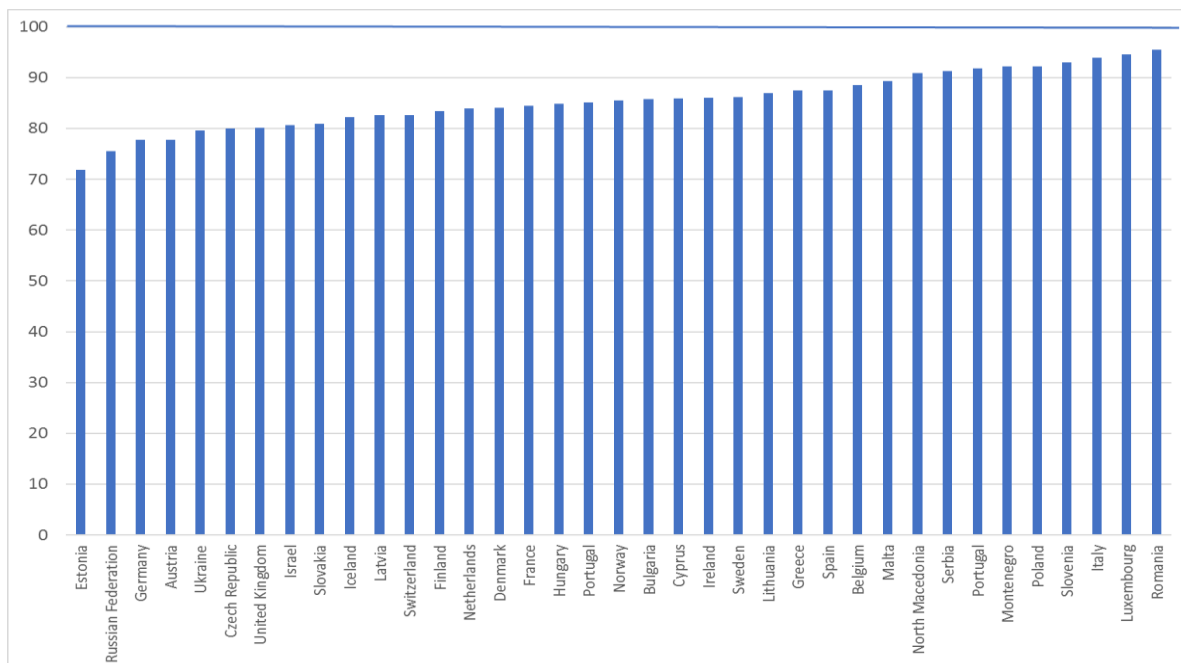
Figure 8.5: Material footprint per capita, tonnes, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2017



Source: Environment Live database, UNEP; Global Material Flows Database, International Resources Panel, UN Global SDG Database

Women earnings fall well short of men's

Figure 8.6: Average hourly earnings of female employees as percentage of male employees, 2014 or later

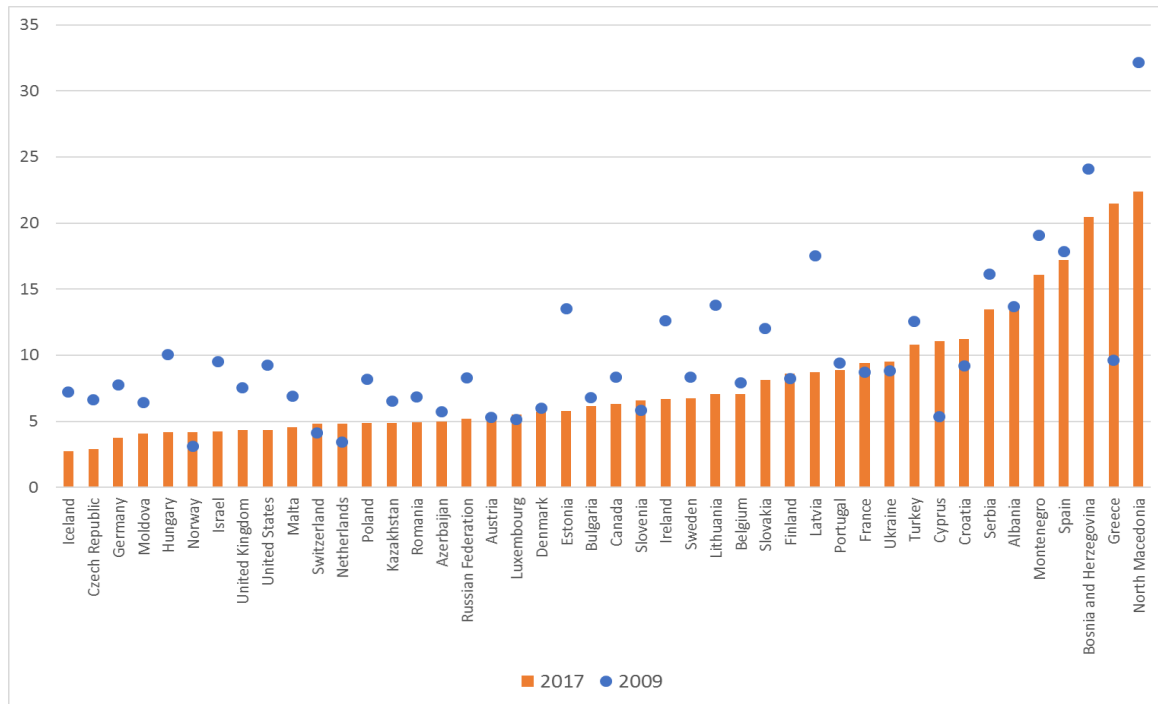


Source: ILOSTAT, UNECE calculations



Unemployment has fallen across the region but remains very high in some countries

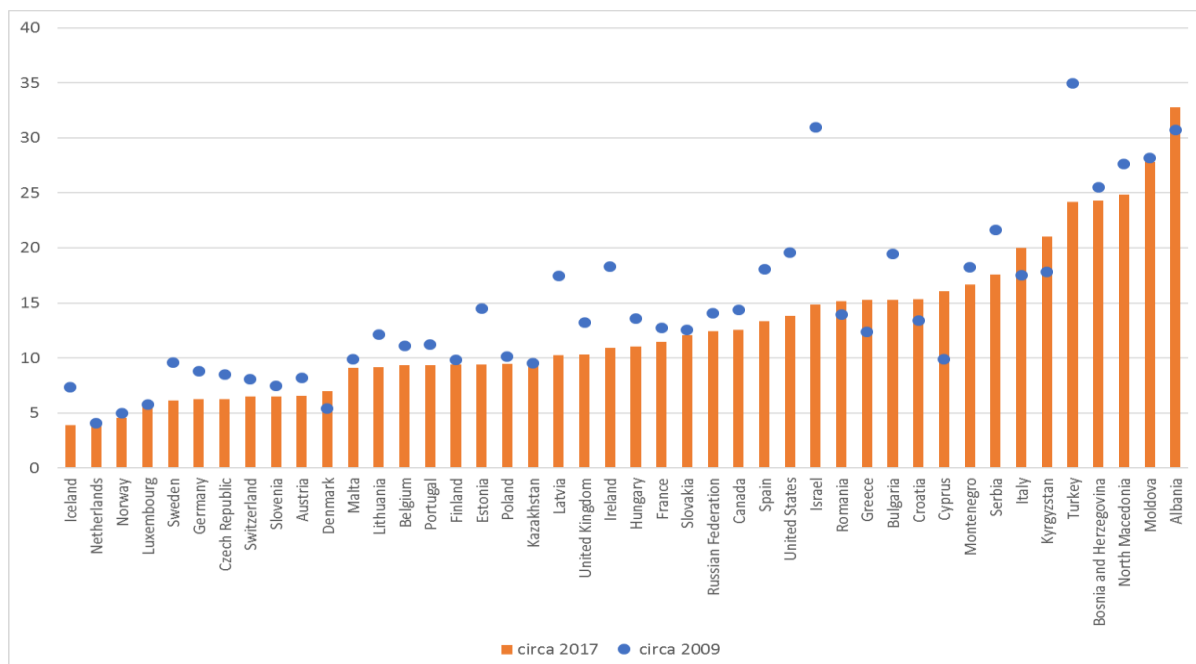
Figure 8.7: Unemployment rate, percentages, 2009 and 2017



Source: ILOSTAT, UN Global SDG Database

Despite some progress, the share of young people not working or studying is high

Figure 8.8: Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training, circa 2009 and circa 2017

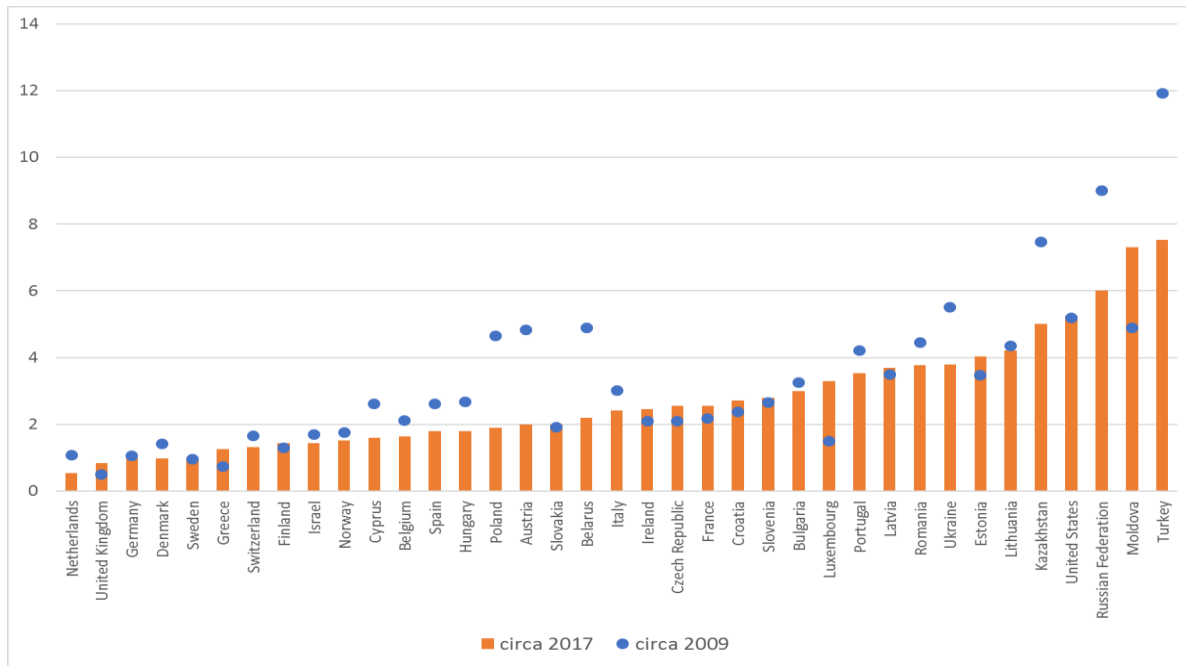


Source: ILOSTAT, UN Global SDG Database



Work safety has improved in countries with the worst performance

Figure 8.9: Fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, circa 2009 and circa 2017



Source: ILOSTAT, UN Global SDG Database

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 10 aims to **reduce inequalities** in income as well as those based on factors such as sex, disability or ethnicity within a country.

The reduction of inequality within countries implies faster income growth at the lower end of the income distribution. This requires the promotion of social, economic and political **inclusion** of all and the adoption of appropriate policies, especially fiscal, wage and **social protection** policies. Addressing inequality demands paying attention to both equal opportunity and inequalities of outcome.

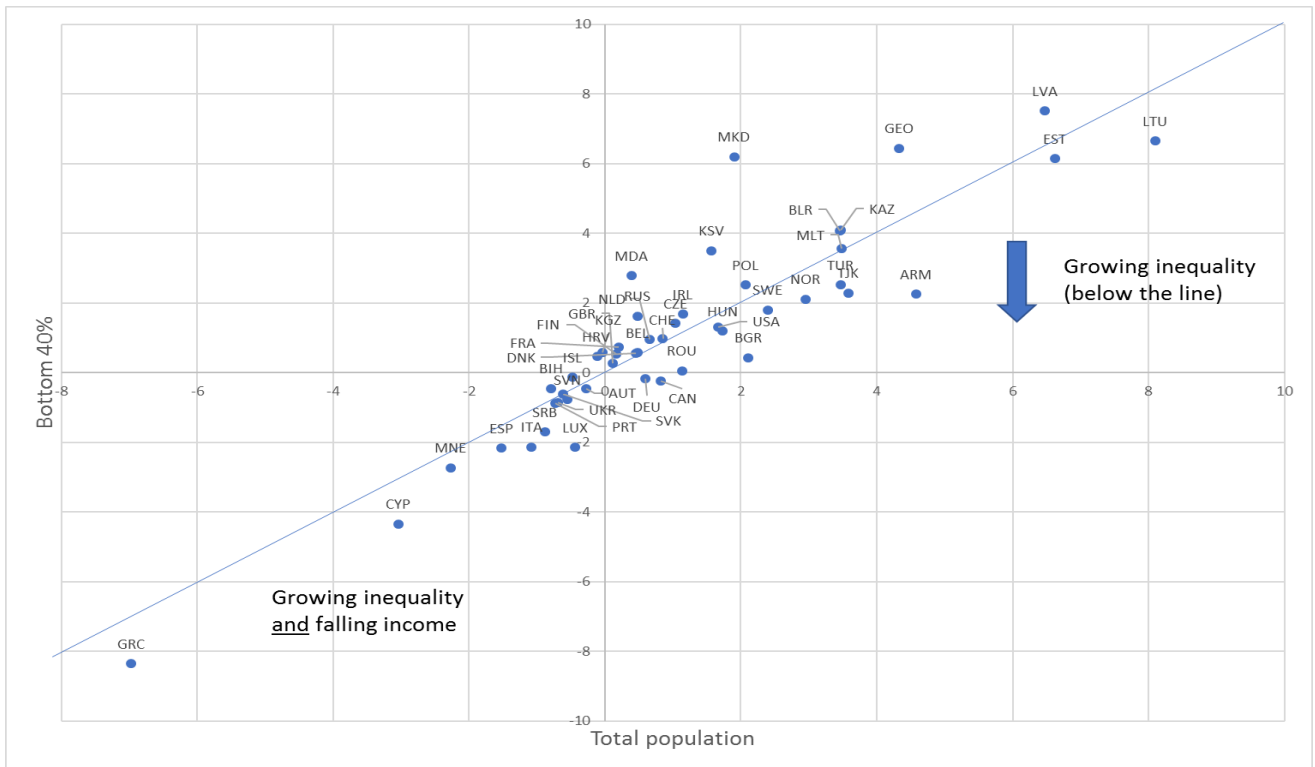
The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to **representation**. The opportunities created by trade and migration can contribute to reduce these inequalities.

Resource flows for development are important to reduce inequality among countries. These flows include not only official development assistance but also foreign direct investment and other public and private flows.



In some countries, growing inequality has gone together with falling income for the poorest

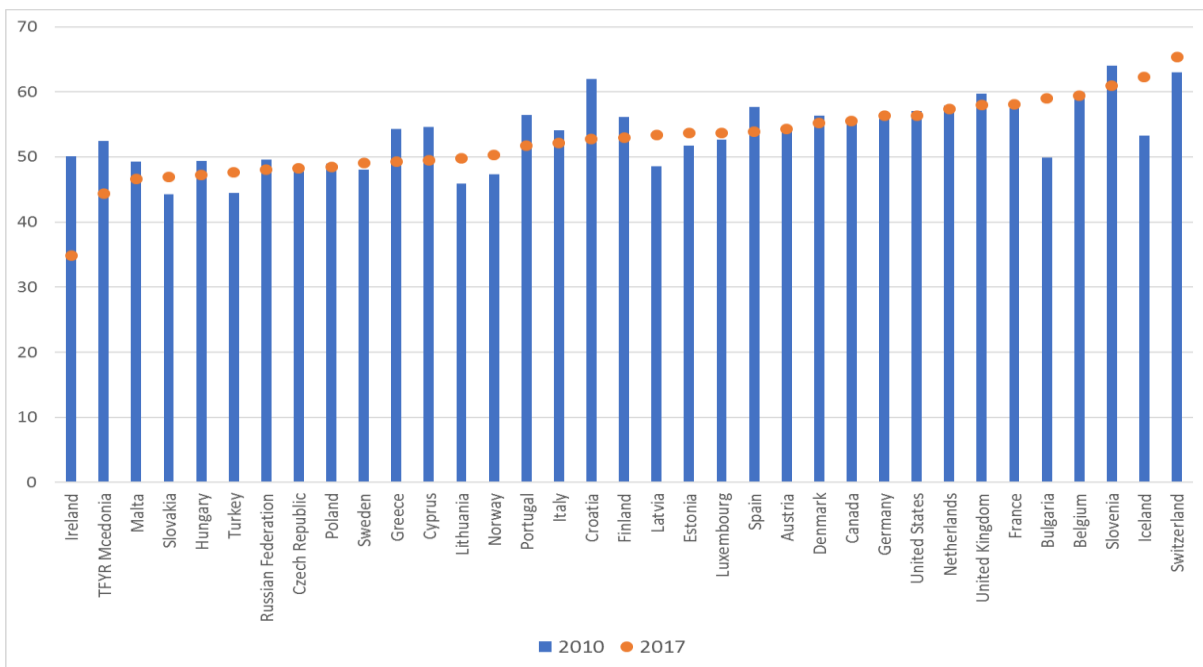
Figure 10.1: Annualized growth of real income, bottom 40% and total population, circa 2010-2015



Source: World Bank; UN Global SDG Database

A declining labour share of GDP suggests growing inequality trends

Figure 10.2: Labour share of GDP, percentages, 2010 and 2017

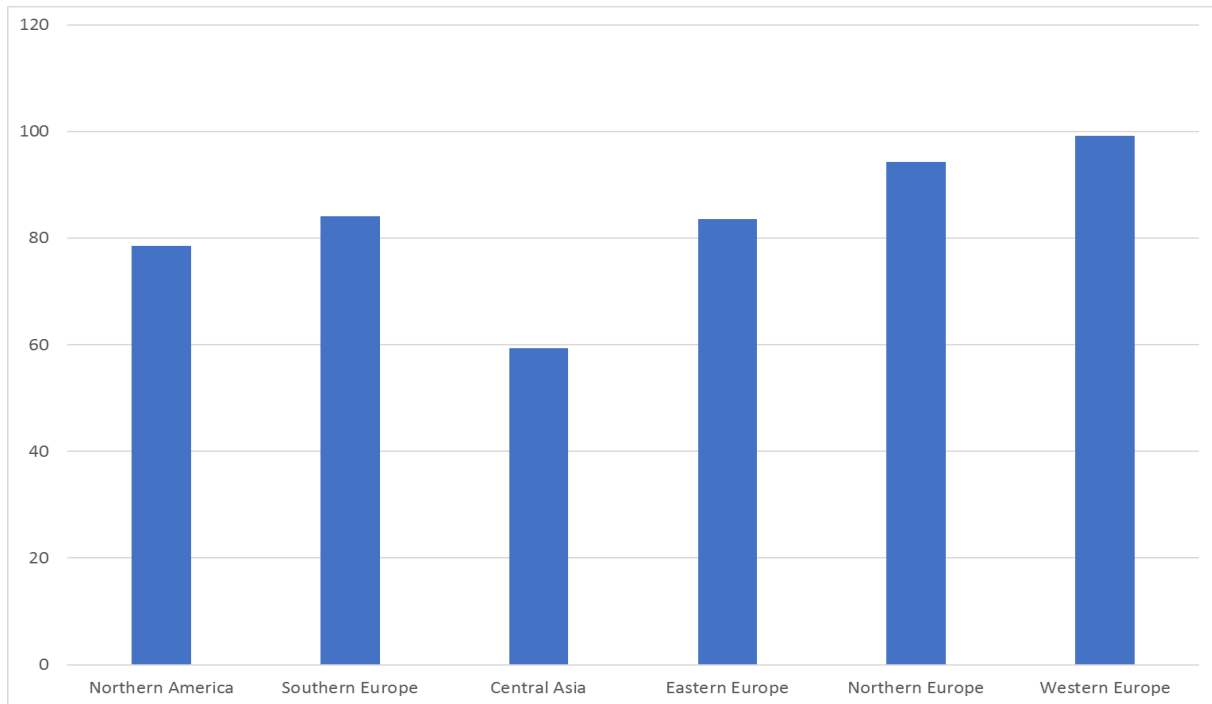


Source: ILOSTAT, UN Global SDG Database



The coverage of social protection systems is unequal across the region

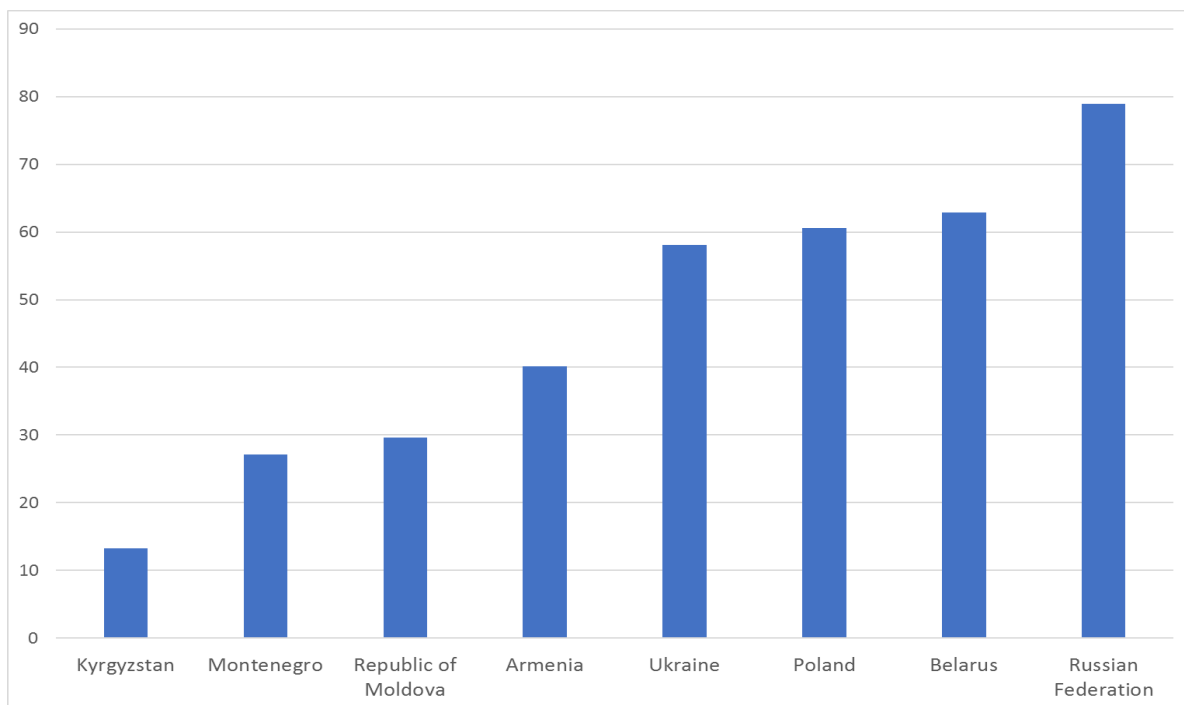
Figure 10.3 : Population covered by at least one social protection benefit, percentage, 2016



Source: ILO Social Security Inquiry/World Social Protection Database; UN Global SDG Database

Reaching out the poorest sectors of the population remains a challenge

Figure 10.4: Poorest quintile covered by social assistance programmes, percentages, selected countries, latest year available in 2012-2016

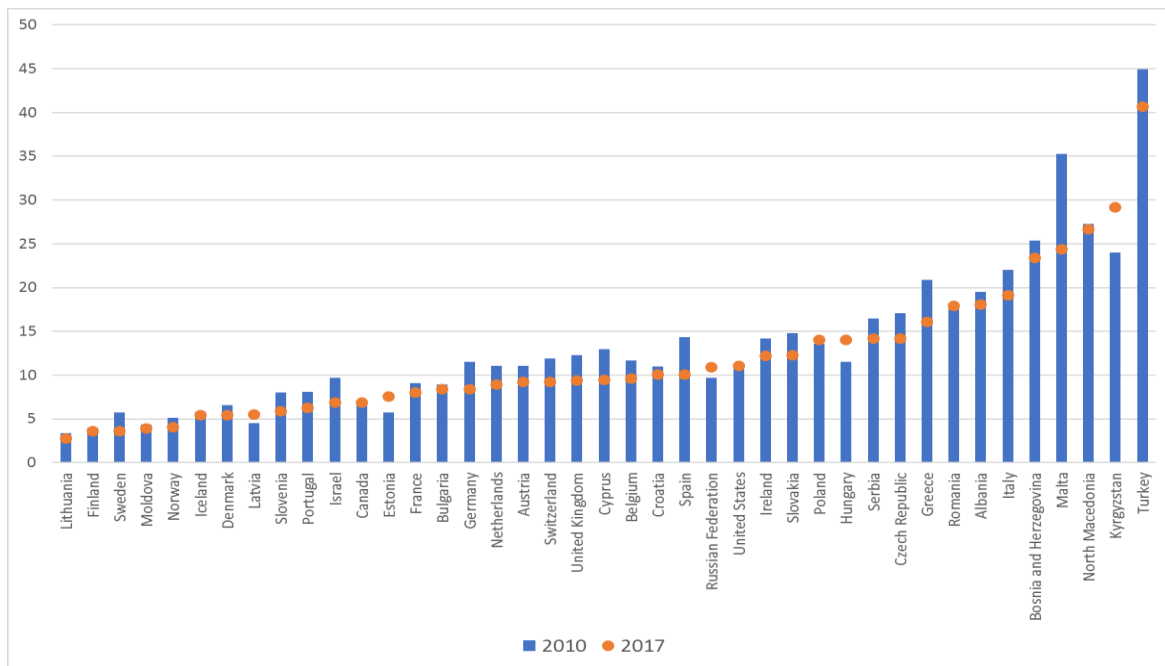


Source: World Bank; UN Global SDG Database



Gender gaps in labour participation are widespread and persistent

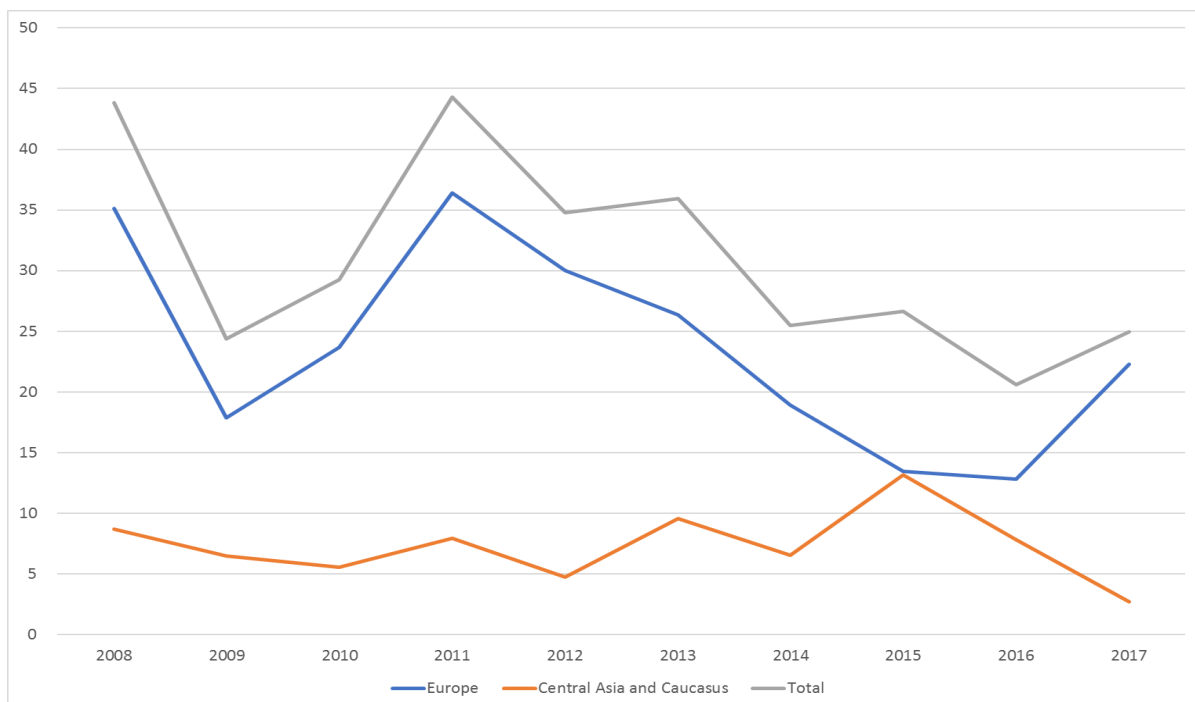
Figure 10.5: Gender gap in labour participation rates, percentage points, 2010 and 2017



Source: ILOSTAT, UN Global SDG Database

The recovery of resource flows for development is limited and unequal

Figure 10.6: Total resource flows for development, recipient countries, \$bn, 2010-2017

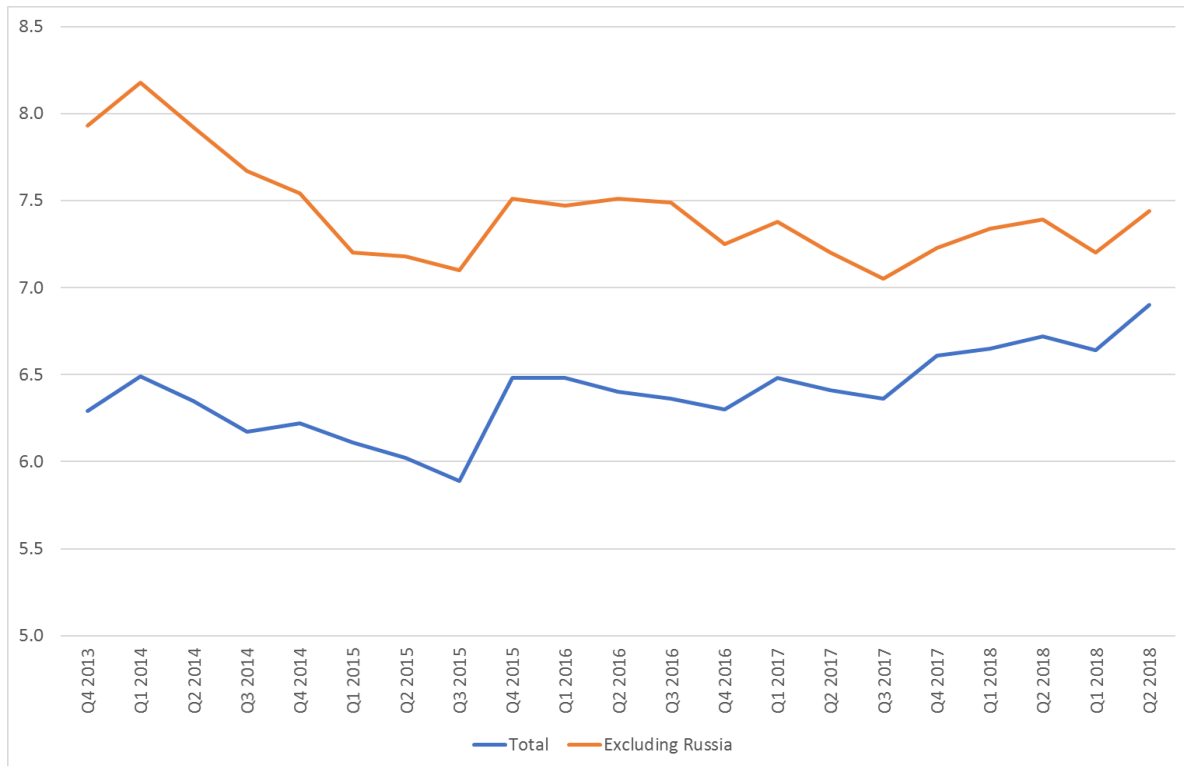


Source: OECD DAC Statistics Database; UN Global SDG Database



There is no recent progress in reducing the cost of remittances

Figure 10.7: Average cost of remittances in Europe and Central Asia, percentages, Q2 2013-Q2 2018



Source: World Bank Remittance Prices database

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Climate change is leading to increased climate-related hazards and natural disasters, which requires **strengthening resilience** and adaptive capacity.

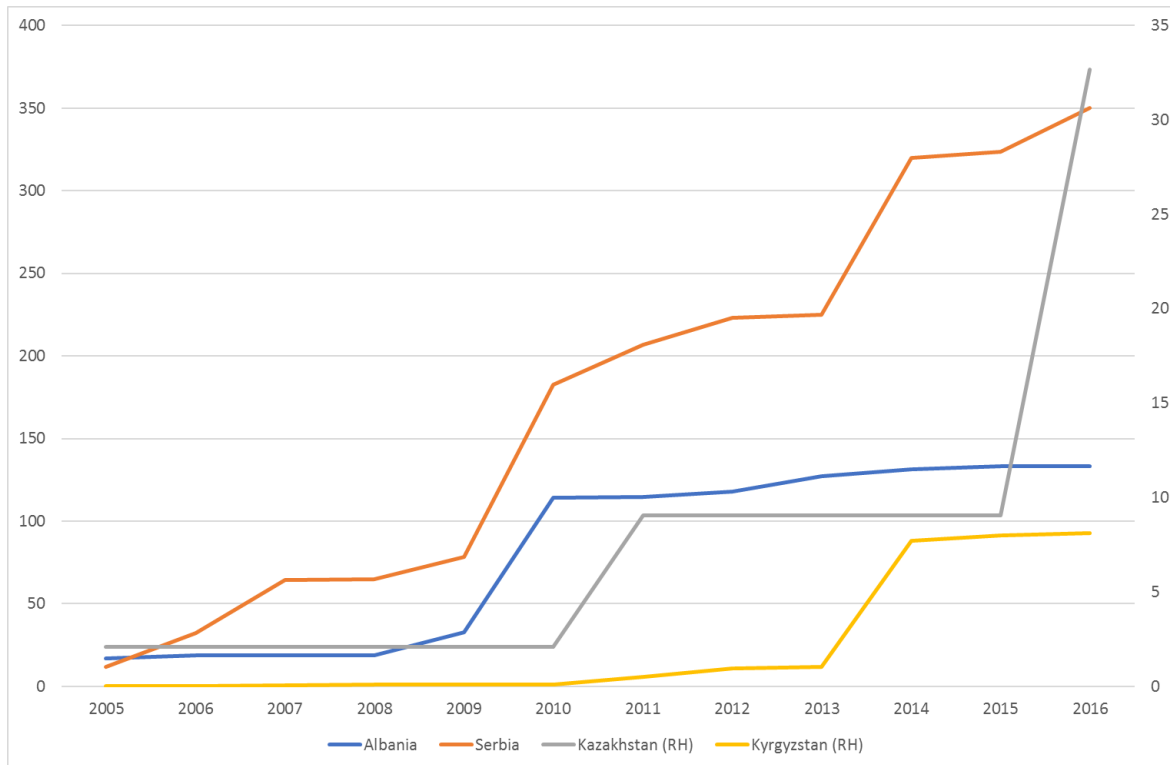
Addressing climate change requires the integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. But education and awareness-raising are also critical to advance not only **climate change mitigation** and **adaptation** but also impact reduction and early warning.

Mobilising appropriate finance is critical to reconcile the need to address climate change with continued economic development, in particular in less advanced countries.



The frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters has increased

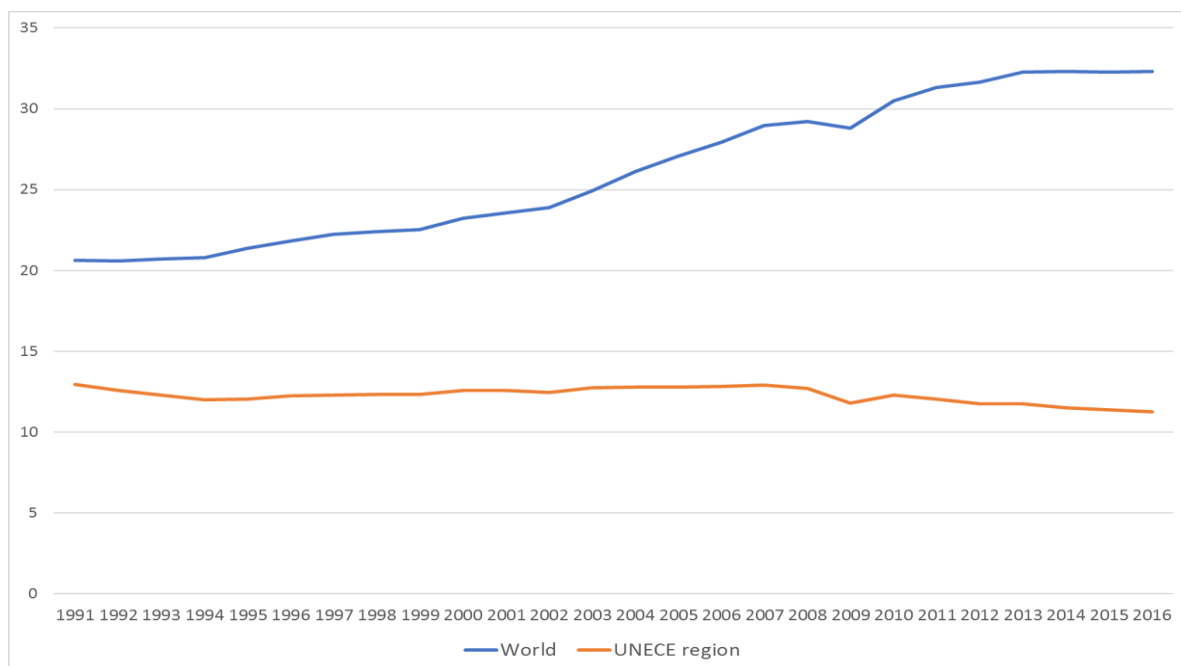
Figure 13.1: Selected countries: number of people affected by disasters, 2005-2016 annual, cumulative



Source: UNISDR (2018). Sendai Framework Monitor: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Global SDG Database

Progress in reducing CO₂ emissions in the UNECE region is slow but its global share is declining...

Figure 13.2: CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion, billion tonnes, 1991-2016

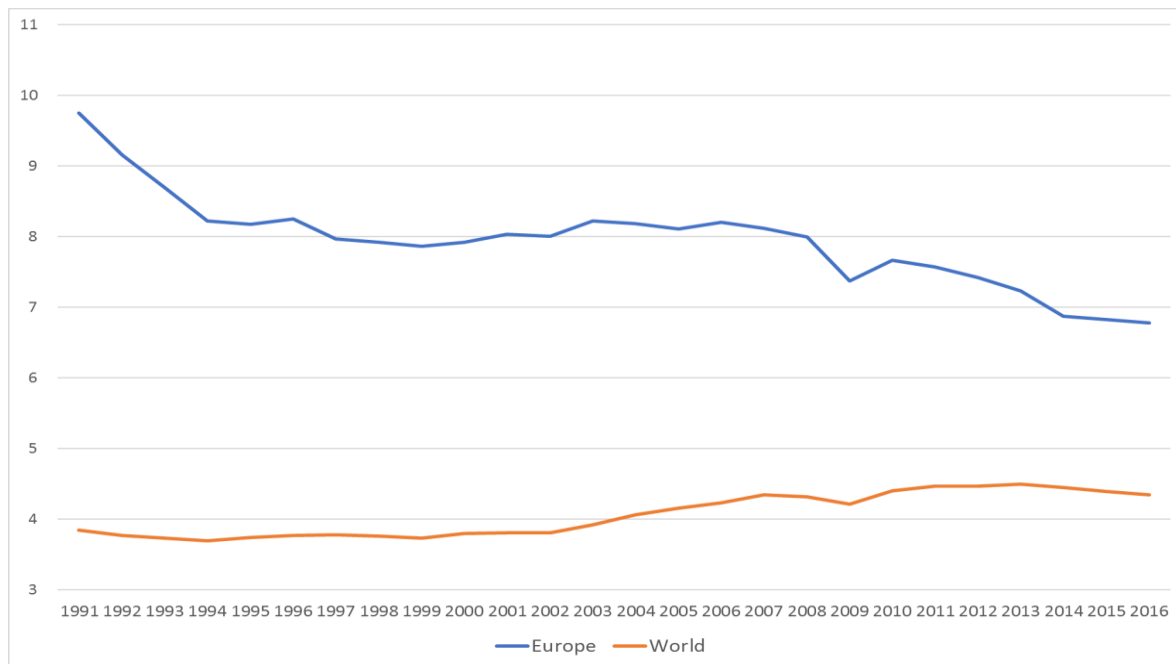


Source: IEA CO₂ Emissions from Fuel Combustion, OECD/IEA, Paris, 2018.



...although emissions per capita remain much higher than global averages

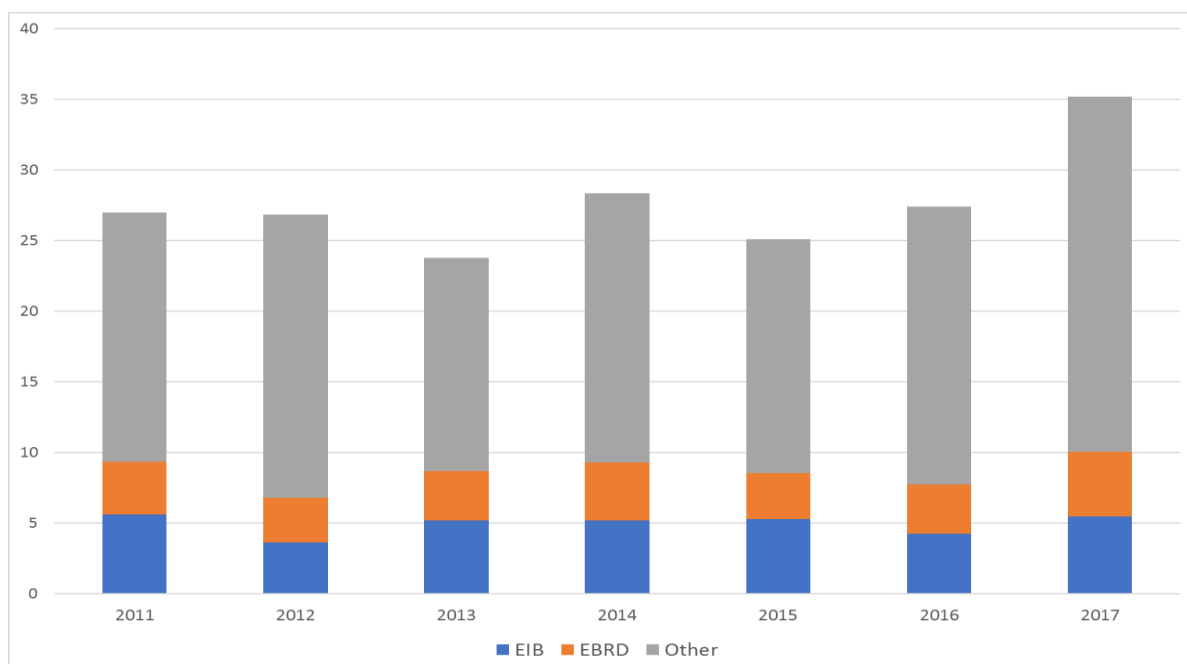
Figure 13.3: CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion per capita, tonnes, 1991-2016



Source: IEA CO₂ Emissions from Fuel Combustion, OECD/IEA, Paris, 2018.

Climate finance commitments from multilateral banks have increased...

Figure 13.4: Total reported multilateral development banks climate finance commitments, \$bn, 2011-2017

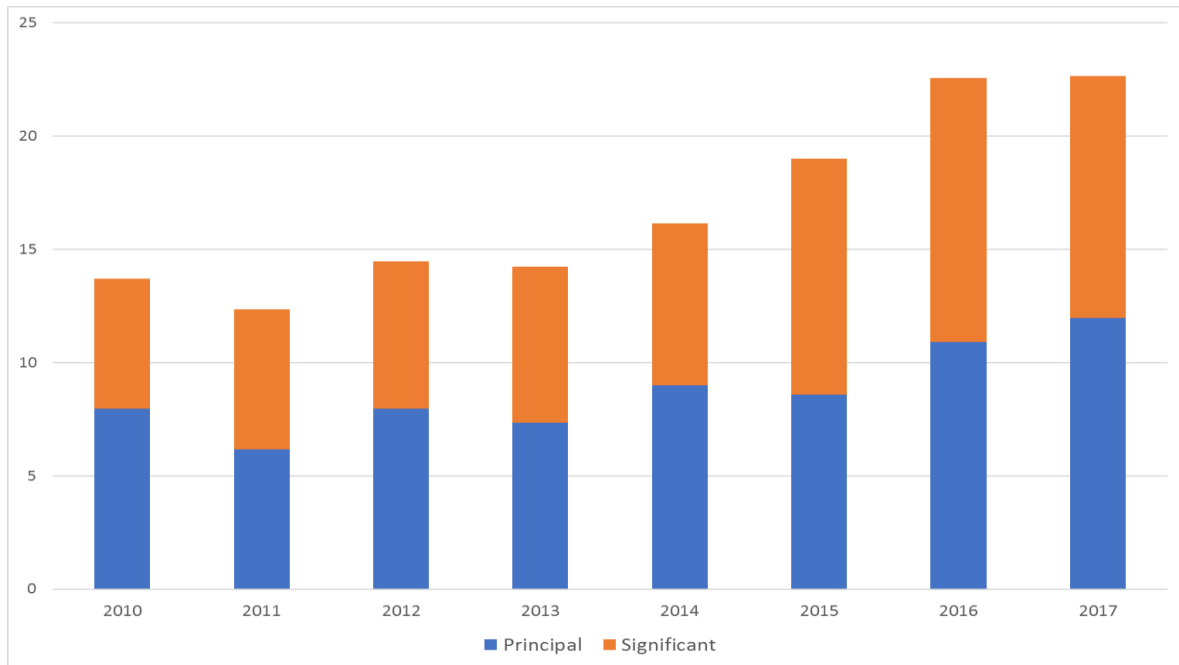


Source: 2017 Joint Report on Multilateral Development Banks's Climate Finance



...and climate-related bilateral development finance from UNECE countries is stable

Figure 13.5: Climate-related bilateral development finance from UNECE countries by objective, USD billion, 2010-2017



Source: OECD

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



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

This Goal envisages the reduction of all forms of violence. It seeks to promote the **rule of law** and ensure **equal access to justice** for all.

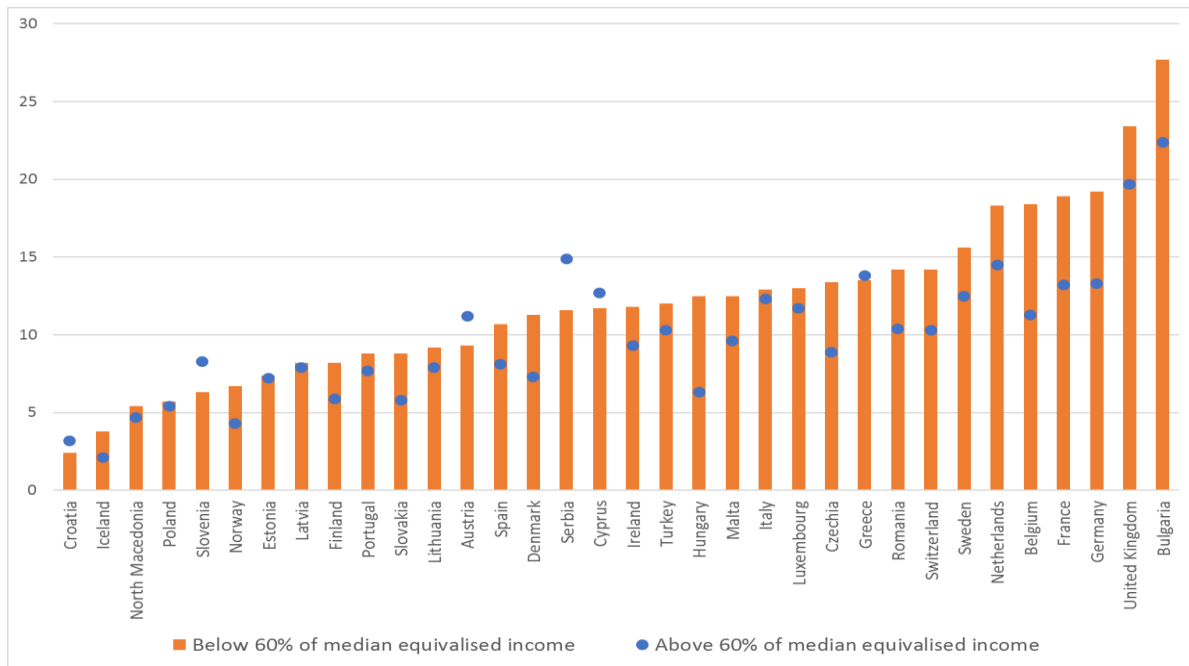
Addressing all forms of corruption and bribery would have a positive effect on sustainable development.

The development of **effective, accountable and transparent institutions** is supported by inclusive and representative decision-making at all levels. Public **access to information**, including on environmental issues, is essential to ensure accountability, transparency and well-founded, inclusive, public decisions.



Insecurity is suffered more strongly by the poorer

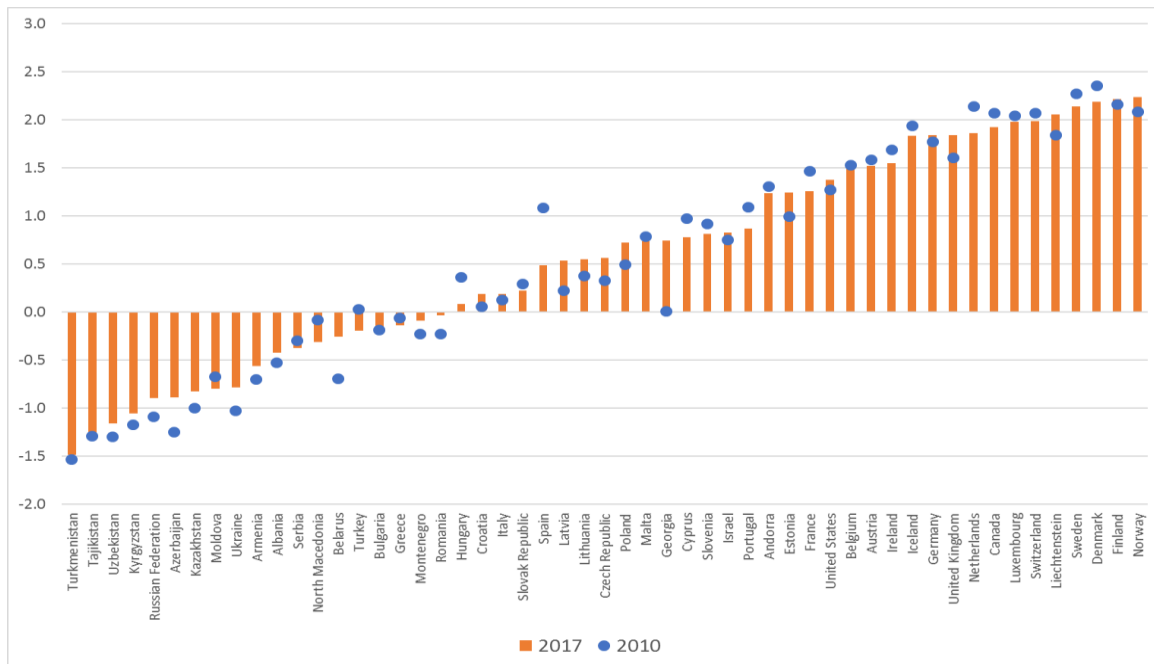
Figure 16.1: Population reporting occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area by poverty status, percentages, 2016 or 2017



Source: Eurostat

The control of corruption shows some improvement through the region

Figure 16.2: Control of corruption indicator: -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) governance performance, 2010 and 2017

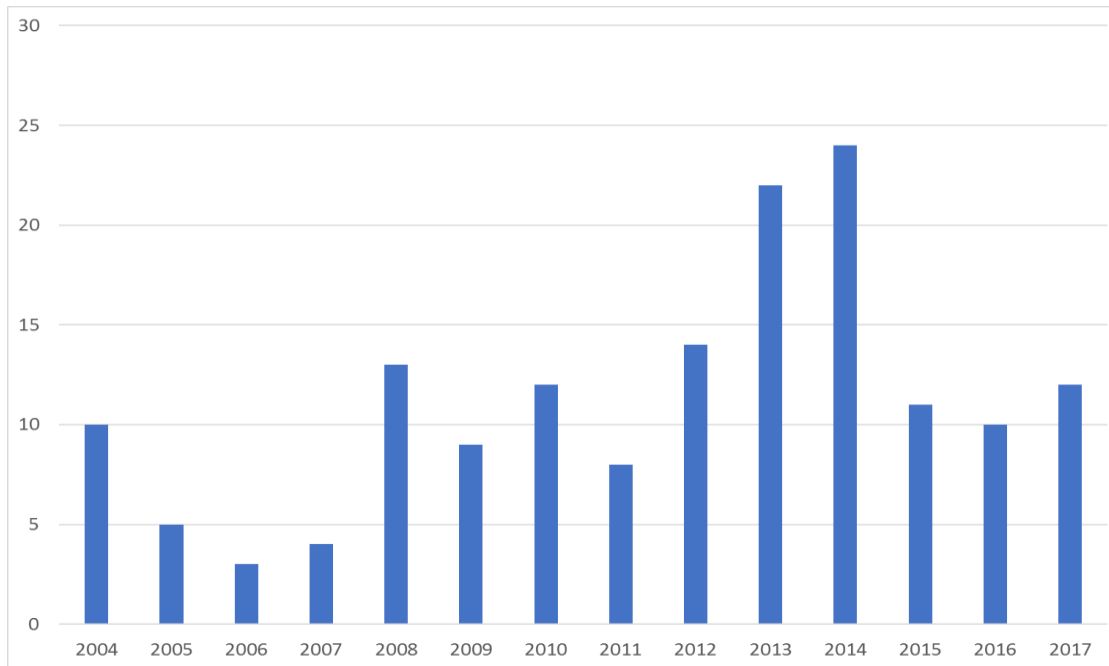


Source: World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators



The compliance mechanism of the Aarhus Convention is actively used by the public

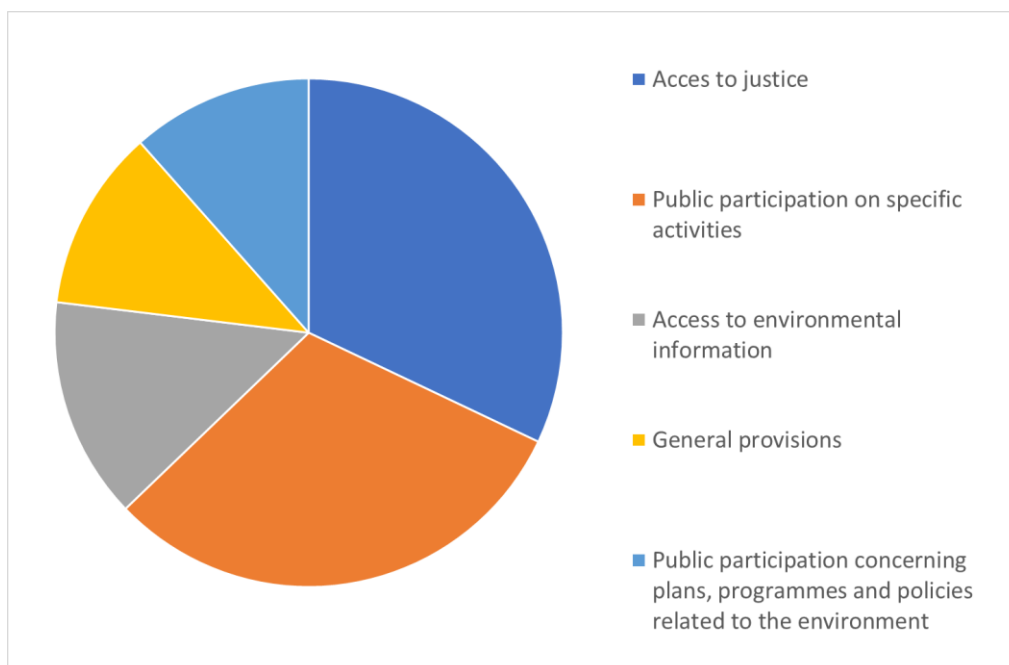
Figure 16.3: Communications submitted by the public to the Compliance Committee, 2004-2017



Source: <https://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/com.html>

Most instances of non-compliance relate to access to justice and public participation

Figure 16.4: Provisions of the Aarhus Convention found not to have been complied with, 2004-2014



Source: ECE/MP.PP/2014/9 and ECE/MP.PP/2017/31

Note: General provisions include Governments' obligation to assist the public to exercise their environmental rights without any discrimination and to protect environmental defenders. Public participation in specific activities refer to large infrastructure projects, energy (nuclear, wind turbines, other powerplants), waste management, transport and mining.