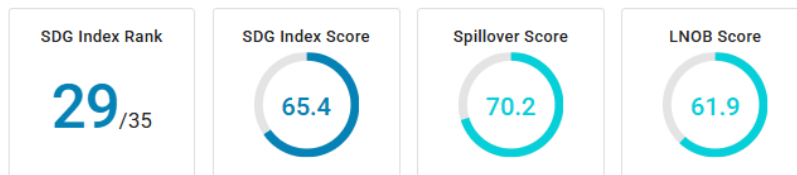


Sustainability at a Glance in Greece 2024-2025

Although the E.U. and Nordic countries in particular, continue to lead in the adoption of the SDGs and on the Leave-No-One-Behind (LNOB) index, progress across the region is characterized by stagnation, with no country on track to achieve all 17 goals by 2030. Major challenges for the E.U. remain particularly on SDG13 - Climate action, SDG14 - Life under water, SDG15 - Life on land, SDG12 - Sustainable consumption and production, SDG2 – No hunger and particularly on the issue of sustainable agriculture. According to the [Europe Sustainable Development Report 2026](#) (ESDR 2026), stagnation and existing challenges are attributed to a very big extend on the Declining Political Commitment, and Geopolitical Pressures that have introduced rising spending on defense spending and cuts to development budgets. The report highlights that the region's historic role as a global leader in poverty reduction, climate resilience, and social welfare is increasingly under pressure. On the positive side, the region demonstrates better performance on SDG1- No poverty, SDG3 - Good health and well-being, SDG6 - Clean water and sanitation.

The current assessment addresses the performance of Greece in relation to the [UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) for the period 2024 – 2025. At [OECD](#) level Greece ranks 27th in 180 countries while at EU level is rated 29th in 35 countries (E.U. Member States, candidate, EFTA and former EU countries) that have provided data for the European Index, and remains in the position in E.U. as in 2024 with a score of 65.4 in 100.



SDG Dashboards and Trends

Click on a goal to view more information.



Dashboards: ● SDG achieved ● Challenges remain ● Significant challenges remain ● Major challenges remain ● Information unavailable

Trends: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↑ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing ** Trend information unavailable

Status of SDG targets for Greece (% trend indicators)



Source: [Europe Sustainable Development Report 2026](#) (ESDR 2026)

Greece demonstrates SDG performance below the EU average in most SDGs and better than EU average just in 2 SDGs. The SDG indexes of Greece in comparison to other European countries' performance, according to the Eurostat Report- 2025 edition [Sustainable development in the European Union Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context](#) are:

Better than EU	SDG 6, SDG 7
Similar to EU	SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 13, SDG 17
Below EU average	SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 15, SDG 16
Mixed/uncertain	SDG 3, SDG 14

The spillover indicators (related to how one countries' efforts to achieve SDG targets jeopardize other countries' ability to do so and addresses the countries' support to UN-based multilateralism) has improved since 2024 scoring 70.2, however, overall, SDGs see stagnation or at best moderate progress with remaining challenges, while SDG 16 demonstrates decreasing performance. In addition, on the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) that refers to issues of equalities and inclusiveness Greece scores 61.9 and is placed 32 out of the 35 assessed countries.

Observed strengths in comparison to the EU average

SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation, demonstrates good observed status.

Water management is an important issue in Greece due to climate conditions and tourism pressures that contribute to increasing water stress and drought risks. Despite the water scarcity and climate pressures in the country, high access to clean water and sanitation services places Greece at average scores higher than the EU average.

SDG 7- Affordable and Clean Energy. Greece has made strong efforts in energy transition, demonstrating rapid growth of renewable energy, especially solar and wind, and reduction in coal-based electricity production. However, the country is facing energy affordability challenges due to the recent regional and global energy crisis. Despite the strong policy commitment to renewable energy and the good performance in relation to the EU average, Greece sees moderate progress. Energy poverty remains a major challenge, with many households unable to afford adequate heating. In 2023, 19.2% of the Greek population reported being unable to adequately heat their homes, compared with 10.6% across the EU. Emphasis must be placed on combining energy efficiency improvements with targeted financial support for vulnerable households. Expanding renewable energy investments, upgrading the electricity grid, and improving building energy efficiency could reduce energy costs and support climate goals.

Performances similar to the EU

SDG 2 - No Hunger, with remaining challenges relating to limited sustainable agricultural practices.

Continued pressures from agricultural environmental impacts exist, including biodiversity loss and the limited sustainable agricultural food production. Agricultural productivity remains stable but structural challenges are noticed in rural regions. Overall, progress is characterized as moderate.

SDG 4 - Quality Education

Education outcomes in Greece have improved due to increased attainment to tertiary education and the implementation of the new law that allows for non-profit private university legal entities to be founded and operate in the country. Still challenges remain especially related to basic skills performance among students, and participation in lifelong learning programs (significantly lower than the EU average). The moderate progress can be improved through emphasis on digitalization, lifelong learning and micro-credential programs.

SDG 13 - Climate Action, similar to EU especially due to climate mitigation.

Greece faces increasing climate risks, including heatwaves, risk of wildfires, and droughts. Strengthening climate adaptation strategies and investing in sustainable land management will be crucial. Integrating climate resilience into infrastructure and urban planning will further support sustainable development.

SDG 17 - Partnership for the Goals. Greece contributes to international cooperation within the EU framework. There is growing digital connectivity and international partnerships, at a moderate level following the EU average.

Below EU average performance

SDG 1 – No Poverty and *SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities*. Although many countries see improvement in SDG 10, Greece is below the EU average and demonstrate significant stagnation.

Despite gradual economic recovery after the sovereign debt crisis, Greece continues to experience higher poverty and inequality levels than the EU average, with high share of population at risk of poverty (26%) or social exclusion, high youth unemployment and income inequalities. Gaps also exist in the targeted social protection programs, the minimum income schemes, and support of the vulnerable households. Increasing labour market participation, particularly among young people and women, could reduce poverty risks and inequalities and strengthen social cohesion. Investment in affordable housing and improvement in social services are essential to address severe material deprivation and overcrowded housing conditions.

SDG 3 – Good Health and well-being.

While Greece has relatively high life expectancy compared with many EU countries, access to healthcare remains uneven. A significant proportion of the population reports unmet medical needs due to cost (11%), waiting times, geographical barriers in remote areas, rising prevalence of chronic diseases and obesity. Strengthening primary healthcare systems, expanding digital health services, and increasing

healthcare funding could improve accessibility and efficiency. Preventive healthcare initiatives and environmental health policies aimed at reducing air pollution (premature mortality from air pollution for example from exposure to fine particulate matter PM2.5 is almost double in comparison to EU average) would also improve population well-being. Progress is mixed with accessibility challenges persisting.

SDG 5 – Gender Equality

Although gender equality indicators show gradual improvement, due to increased female participation in the labour market, still Greece is behind the EU average. The country scores 57.0 points out of 100 in the Gender Equality Index and holds the 22nd position in the EU. This is due to low performance in the domains of time (26th) and work (21st). Although representation of women in management positions has increased it is still below equality rates (35%). Similarly, women continue to graduate in tertiary education more than men and the rate of women graduates in scientific disciplines have increased, the rates remain below equality standards. Disparities in earnings between women and men have widened: women living in couples earn on average 72 % of their partner's earnings. For the domain of Gender based violence based on the EU-GBV survey Greece's score is 24.6 points, which is lower than the EU average. The score for the subdomain of prevalence is 20.8 points, the subdomain of severity is 36.6 points and the subdomain of disclosure is 16.5 points. Additional data for Greece include that 37 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since the age of 15 (6 % higher than the EU-27 average that is 31 %), some 52 % of women have experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15, around 16 % of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not talked about the incident with anyone (on a par with Poland, this rate is the lowest in the EU-27).

SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth

Greece's GDP per capita and employment rates remain below EU averages. Youth unemployment is 24% in contrast to 11% in the EU. Challenges also exist related to low productivity and precarious employment. Support of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which represent a large share of the Greek economy, should be enhanced as well as investments in digital infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and vocational training could improve labour market outcomes and reduce youth unemployment. Moreover, aligning economic growth strategies with sustainability objectives will help ensure long-term resilience.

SDG 9 - Boosting Innovation and Research Investment

Innovation remains one of Greece's most significant structural weaknesses. Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a share of GDP is considerably lower than the EU average. Increasing public and private investment in research, strengthening collaboration between universities and industry, and promoting technology transfer initiatives could enhance Greece's innovation capacity. Participation in European research programs and innovation clusters could also support technological advancement.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

Despite urban sustainability issues being increasingly important, Greece demonstrates mixed progress, with high air pollution levels in urban areas, particularly in Athens (high rates of premature deaths due to exposure to particulate matter) and increasing pressures from urbanization and tourism. Road accidents

still remain higher than the EU average, while sustainable practices relating to waste management remain significantly below EU averages.

SDG 12 – Sustainable Consumption and Production

Greece's circular material use rate (5% for Greece vs 11.8% EU average) and recycling levels are substantially below the EU average. The EU aims to double the circular material use rate by 2030, highlighting the need for stronger progress. Improving waste management systems, expanding recycling infrastructure, and promoting sustainable consumption practices should be policy priorities. Incentives for eco-design, reuse, and resource efficiency could reduce environmental pressures while creating new economic opportunities in the green economy.

SDG 14 – Life Below Water

The country has demonstrated significant progress in expanding the marine protected areas with 2 new marine national parks, one in the Ionian and one in the Aegean, increasing the size of marine protected areas by 80% aiming to achieve the 30 by 30 biodiversity goal for the protection of the oceans (protecting 30% of the ocean area and biodiversity by 2030). Despite the announcement on the marine parks in 2024, there is no significant progress in the actual implementation, while there are persistent pressures from overfishing and marine pollution.

SDG 15 – Life on Land

Biodiversity and land degradation challenges persist in Greece. The overall trend is negative and below the EU average due to environmental degradation (forest area coverage is 30% in Greece vs 39% EU average); there is increased wildfire frequency and intensity, and loss of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. Despite the expansion of protected areas, there is limited recovery of ecosystems.

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Institutional indicators show mixed outcomes. Although the key trends show improvements in the digitalization of public administration, and declining crime rates in many regions, concerns regarding corruption and judicial efficiency persist. According to the [Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#) that measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be based on views of experts and businesspeople, Greece scores 50/100, is in position 56 in 182 countries and has improved by just 1 position globally. On the contrary, according to the [Reporters without Borders](#) (RwB) Press Freedom Index, Greece is ranking 89 out of 180 countries and has dropped by 1 position since 2014. According to the RwB, press freedom has suffered a systemic crisis since 2021 in the country due to the scandal of the wiretapping of journalists by the National Intelligence Service (EYP) and the case of the murder of a veteran crime reporter in the same year, both cases have not yet cleared up. Constitutional guarantees and new laws passed by Parliament in response to the Predatorgate wiretapping scandal, have been considered to fall short of European standards. The grazing land scandal and the illegal subsidies by OPEKEPE (the agency responsible for distributing European Union agricultural subsidies in Greece) that has not been fully assessed, is expected to contribute further to the low country score on SDG 16. On the other hand, a historic decision that unanimously ruled that the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party operated as a criminal organization was taken early 2026. This is expected to affect SDG 16 performance in a positive way. Strengthening transparency, improving public administration efficiency, and combating corruption

must be key priorities. In addition, digital government services and open-data initiatives could improve accountability and citizen engagement.

Overall, Greece has made notable progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in economic recovery and renewable energy deployment. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain in social inclusion, environmental sustainability and innovation capacity. Achieving the 2030 Agenda will require stronger circular economy policies, improved social protection mechanisms, investment in innovation and green infrastructure, enhanced climate resilience strategies and aligning national policies with EU sustainability objectives.