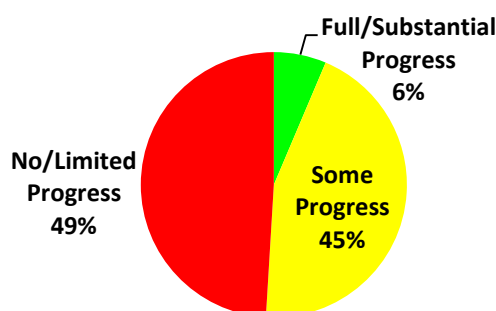


AT A GLANCE

Implementation of the 2014 Country Specific Recommendations

[Country Specific Recommendations](#) (CSRs) provide guidance on budgetary and macro-structural measures in accordance with Articles 121 and 148 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). These recommendations aim at boosting economic growth and job creation, while maintaining sound public finances. They are proposed by the Commission within the framework of the European Semester¹ based on its assessment of Member States' medium-term budgetary plans and economic reform programmes in light of broad policy priorities outlined in the Annual Growth Survey². After being endorsed by the European Council and adopted by the Council, CSRs are to be taken into account by Member States in the process of national decision-making. The Commission also proposes policy recommendations to the euro area as a whole based on Article 136 of the TFEU. The Council and the Commission closely monitor the implementation of CSRs and take further actions as appropriate.

Figure 1: Implementation of the 2014 CSRs by EU-28 Member States



Source: [European Commission](#) (26 February/18 March 2015 assessment) and [EGOV calculations](#).

According to the qualitative assessment provided in [the 2015 Commission's Staff Working Documents](#), EU-28 Member States fully/substantially implemented 10 out of 157 recommendations (or equivalently about 6.0%)³ received in 2014 (see Figure 1). Some progress has been registered on approximately 45% of the CSRs, while almost half of the recommendations have not been implemented at all or only in a limited manner⁴. As depicted by Table 1, euro area Member States have had, taken together, a stronger implementation record than non-euro area Member States⁵ - countries whose currency is the euro made full/substantial or some progress on approximately 60% of the recommendations (62 out of 102), as compared to about a third in case of non-euro area Member States (18 out of 55).

¹ The European Semester together with a "National Semester" form a yearly cycle of economic policy coordination and surveillance within the EU introduced in 2010.

² A Commission document that outlines a set of EU policy priorities based on the analysis of economic and social developments. The Annual Growth Survey launches each new European Semester.

³ Out of 26 countries which received CSRs in 2014, 10 implemented fully/substantially at least one recommendation. No Member State made full/substantial or some progress on all its CSRs.

⁴ Two Member States (Bulgaria and Hungary) made limited/no progress on all their respective CSRs.

⁵ This conclusion does not necessarily hold at individual country level.

The Council also adopted four CSRs to the euro area as a whole, which have been assessed for the first time using the grid applied at a country level. Remarkably, the euro area as a whole made substantial or some progress on all the 2014 recommendations - an implementation record that has not been achieved by any individual Member State during that Semester cycle.

Table 1: Implementation of the 2014 CSRs at Member State and euro area levels

	Full/Substantial Progress	Some Progress	No/Limited Progress	Total
BE	1	2	3	6
BG	0	0	6	6
CZ	0	2	5	7
DK	1	1	1	3
DE	0	1	3	4
EE	0	3	2	5
IE	0	5	2	7
EL		Economic Adjustment Programme		
ES	0	7	1	8
FR	0	3	4	7
HR	1	2	5	8
IT	0	4	4	8
CY		Economic Adjustment Programme		
LV	0	4	1	5
LT	1	2	3	6
LU	0	1	4	5
HU	0	0	7	7
MT	1	3	1	5
NL	1	2	1	4
AT	1	1	3	5
PL	0	3	3	6
PT	1	6	1	8
RO	0	1	7	8
SI	1	6	1	8
SK	0	1	5	6
FI	0	4	1	5
SE	0	2	2	4
UK	1	4	1	6
Total CSRs to Member States	10	70	77	157
<i>Out of which:</i>				
EA-19 Member States	7	55	40	102
Non EA Member States	3	15	37	55
Euro Area CSRs	1	3	0	4
Total CSRs				161

Source: [European Commission](#) (26 February/18 March 2015 assessment) and [EGOV calculations](#). On 18 March 2015, the Commission modified its assessment for Slovenia (with CSR 3 and CSR 4 assessments being changed from "substantial progress" to "some progress").

Note: In its assessment of the implementation of CSRs, the Commission distinguishes the following categories:

- *No progress*: The Member State has neither announced nor adopted any measures to address the CSR. This category also applies if a Member State has commissioned a study group to evaluate possible measures.
- *Limited progress*: The Member State has announced some measures to address the CSR, but these measures appear insufficient and/or their adoption/implementation is at risk.
- *Some progress*: The Member State has announced or adopted measures to address the CSR. These measures are promising, but not all of them have been implemented yet and implementation is not certain in all cases.
- *Substantial progress*: The Member State has adopted measures, most of which have been implemented. These measures go a long way in addressing the CSR.
- *Fully addressed*: The Member State has adopted and implemented measures that address the CSR appropriately.

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