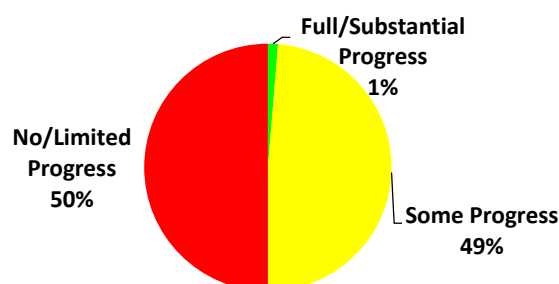


Implementation of the 2017 Country-Specific Recommendations

Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) provide guidance to EU Member States on macro-economic, budgetary and structural policies in accordance with Articles 121 and 148 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). These recommendations, issued within the framework of the European Semester since 2011, are aimed at boosting economic growth and job creation, while maintaining sound public finances and preventing excessive macroeconomic imbalances. As to the process, they are proposed by the Commission and discussed by the various Council formations. As a rule, the Council is expected to follow the Commission proposal or explain its position publicly (“comply or explain” principle). After being endorsed by the European Council and formally adopted by the ECOFIN 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](#) based on Article 136 of the TFEU¹. The Council and the Commission closely monitor the implementation of CSRs and take further actions as appropriate.

Figure 1: Implementation of the 2017 Country Specific Recommendations



Source: [EGOV calculations](#) based on the Commission [Country Reports](#) (March 2018).

Notes: (1) Based on Commission's assessment of actions taken (rather than outcomes that may materialise with a lag), assigning identical weights to all CSRs across and within Member States (i.e. irrespective of their institutional and political sensitivities). Where applicable, this overall assessment does not include an assessment of compliance with the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) that will be made in spring 2018 once the final data will be available. (2) Calculations abstract from two CSRs entirely related to the compliance with the SGP (to be assessed in spring 2018). Consequently, the total number of CSRs amounts to 76 rather than 78 (see Table 1 overleaf for more details).

Figure 1 shows that EU Member States made at least some progress on 50% of recommendations under the 2017 European Semester (as compared to 45% under the [2016 Semester cycle](#)). Euro area Member States have had, taken together, a stronger implementation record than non-euro area Member States (this conclusion does not necessarily hold at individual country level). As depicted in Table 1, countries whose currency is the euro made at least some progress on nearly 60% of the 2017 CSRs (31 out of 53), as compared to about 30% for non-euro area Member States (7 out of 23).

¹ Since the 2016 European Semester, the Commission proposes its recommendations on the economic policy of the euro area at the start of the cycle (in November) to better integrate the euro area dimension into CSRs (issued in May) - see a separate [EGOV note](#) for more details.



Table 1: Implementation of the 2017 recommendations by EU Member States

European Semester 2017	Full/Substantial Progress	Some Progress	No/Limited Progress	Sub-total	Not yet assessed	Total
Belgium	0	1	2	3		3
Bulgaria	0	3	1	4		4
Czech Republic	0	2	0	2		2
Denmark	0	0	1	1		1
Germany	0	0	2	2		2
Estonia	0	2	0	2		2
Ireland	0	3	0	3		3
Greece	Economic Adjustment Programme					
Spain	0	1	2	3		3
France	0	2	2	4		4
Croatia	0	0	5	5		5
Italy	0	3	1	4		4
Cyprus	0	1	4	5		5
Latvia	0	3	0	3		3
Lithuania	0	2	1	3		3
Luxembourg	0	1	1	2		2
Hungary	0	0	2	2	1	3
Malta	0	2	0	2		2
Netherlands	0	1	1	2		2
Austria	0	1	1	2		2
Poland	0	0	3	3		3
Portugal	0	2	2	4		4
Romania	0	0	3	3		3
Slovenia	0	2	1	3		3
Slovakia	0	2	1	3		3
Finland	1	1	1	3		3
Sweden	0	0	1	1		1
United Kingdom	0	2	0	2	1	3
EU 28	1	37	38	76	2	78
<i>Out of which:</i>						
EA-19 Member States	1	30	22	53	0	53
Non EA Member States	0	7	16	23	2	25
Euro Area CSRs	-	-	-	5		5

Source: [EGOV calculations](#) based on the Commission [Country Reports](#) (March 2018).

Notes: (1) For a detailed description of the categories the Commission uses in its assessment of the CSRs implementation, see the last page of a separate [EGOV note](#). (2) Where applicable, this overall assessment does not include an assessment of compliance with the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) that will be made in spring 2018 once the final data will be available. In particular, CSR 1 for Hungary and the United Kingdom are entirely related to the compliance with the requirements under the preventive arm of the SGP.

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Contact: egov@europarl.europa.eu

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