

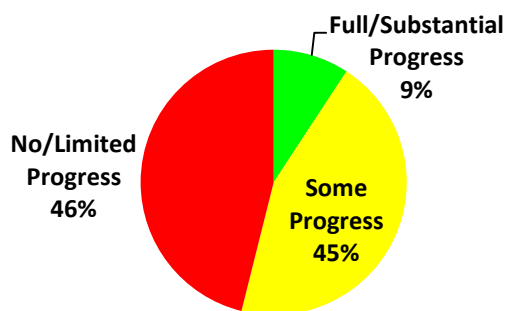
## AT A GLANCE

# Implementation of the 2013 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 Semester<sup>1</sup> 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 Survey<sup>2</sup>. 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.

According to the June 2014 European Council conclusions, the implementation of the CSRs is key to accelerate growth. Based on the principles of national ownership and social dialogue, Member States should follow these recommendations in their forthcoming decisions on budgets, structural reforms and employment and social policies. The Council and the Commission will closely monitor CSRs' implementation and take further actions, as appropriate, including possible sanctions for euro area Member States under the Excessive Deficit Procedure or the Excessive Imbalance Procedure.

**Chart 1: Implementation of the 2013 CSRs based on the June 2014 Commission's assessment**



Source: European Commission and [EGOV calculus](#).

According to the qualitative assessment provided in [the June 2014 Commission's Staff Working Documents](#), EU-28 Member States fully/substantially implemented 13 out of 141 recommendations (or equivalently about 10%)<sup>3</sup> received in 2013. Some progress has been registered on approximately 45% of the CSRs, while almost equally large proportion of the recommendations has not been implemented at all or only in a limited manner. As regards differences between euro area and non-euro area Member States, countries whose currency is euro made full/substantial or some progress

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Out of 23 countries which received CSRs in 2013, 12 implemented fully/substantially at least one recommendation. Only 2 Member States made full/substantial or some progress on all their respective CSRs (Spain and Finland).

on approximately 60% of the recommendations (52 out of 86), compared to about 44% in case of non-euro area Member States (24 out of 55). However, non-euro area countries fully/substantially implemented 11% of the CSRs, while euro area Member States did so only for 8% of the recommendations. Note that the Council adopted 6 recommendations to the euro area as a whole (for which the Commission did not provide an overall assessment).

**Table 1: Implementation of the 2013 CSRs based on the June 2014 Commission's assessment**

	Full/Substantial Progress	Some Progress	No/Limited Progress	Total
BE	0	3	4	7
BG	0	1	6	7
CZ	0	1	6	7
DK	1	1	1	3
DE	0	2	2	4
EE	1	3	1	5
IE		Economic Adjustment Programme		
EL		Economic Adjustment Programme		
ES	1	8	0	9
FR	0	4	2	6
HR		EU entry on 1 July 2013		
IT	0	1	5	6
CY		Economic Adjustment Programme		
LV	1	5	1	7
LT	1	3	2	6
LU	0	1	5	6
HU	0	2	5	7
MT	0	3	2	5
NL	1	2	1	4
AT	0	6	1	7
PL	1	4	2	7
PT		Economic Adjustment Programme		
RO	1	2	5	8
SI	1	2	6	9
SK	0	2	4	6
FI	2	3	0	5
SE	1	1	2	4
UK	1	3	2	6
<b>Total CSRs to Member States</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>141</b>
<i>Out of which:</i>				
EA-18 Member States	7	45	34	86
Non EA Member States	6	18	31	55
<b>Euro Area CSRs</b>				<b>6</b>
<b>Total CSRs</b>				<b>147</b>

Source: European Commission and [EGOV calculus](#).

Note: In its assessment of CSRs implementation, 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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