



Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group
July 2020–June 2021

years of V4



TOWARDS EUROPE 2020





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Dear Readers,

It is now 30 years since four countries – Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia – formed an alliance to advance cooperation in creating democratic structures and free market economies and, in the long run, to participate in the process of European integration. Since then, the so-called Visegrad Group has been increasingly present on the European arena. It has become a recognisable international brand and a sign of an effective regional cooperation. The Visegrad cooperation in the field of statistics was further strengthened in 2018 by signing a Memorandum of Understanding on successful cooperation, exchange of experiences, and more effective sharing of methodological improvements.

The Polish presidency of the Visegrad Group coincides both with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the alliance and the end of the Europe 2020 strategy, which has significantly contributed to the EU's socio-economic development since its launch in 2010. It seems thus to be an appropriate moment for a summary of the progress made by the Visegrad Group countries, especially in relation to the principles of smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth set by the Europe 2020 agenda.

On this occasion, Statistics Poland, jointly with the Czech Statistical Office, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic aims to present the "V4 towards Europe 2020" publication. It outlines the socio-economic achievements of the Visegrad Group countries over the past ten years with regard to the Europe 2020 strategy's goals. On the basis of the headline indicators developed to monitor the strategy, the progress made towards the targets has been assessed in the following key areas: employment, research and development, climate change and energy, education, poverty and social exclusion.

Join us on this statistical journey and find out in which of the above areas the V4 countries have achieved the most progress, and which continue to pose a challenge for them.

Enjoy your reading!

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NOTE TO THE READER

This publication presents information summarising the achievements of the Visegrad Group countries (Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) towards the goals set in the Europe 2020 strategy. The content is based on the Europe 2020 headline indicators selected to monitor progress towards the targets defined under the three mutually reinforcing priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Additional breakdowns focusing on specific subgroups of society or the economy were used to make the statistical picture more complex.

Data were derived from official statistics produced within the European Statistical System and disseminated by the Eurostat database. Data for the Visegrad Group countries are fully comparable with those for the EU, however they may differ slightly from those presented in other publications of the National Statistical Institutes of the V4 countries. Data for the EU, regardless of the year presented, refer to 28 countries.

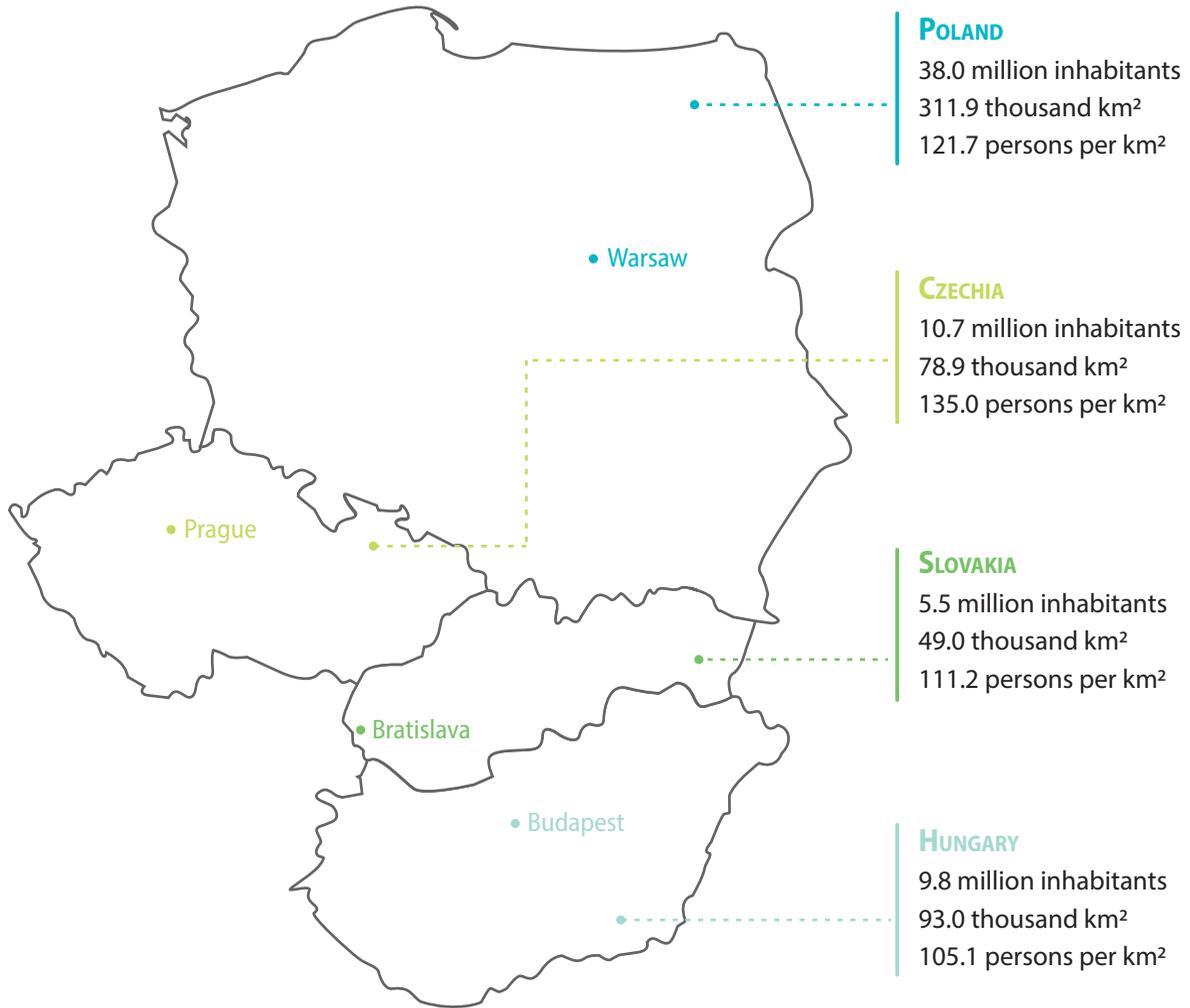
The publication used the most recent data available as of February 2021. The years 2010–2019 were selected for the basic research period, although in some cases the presented figures may refer to some other periods due to limited data availability. The calculations of percentages were performed in the Statistical Products Department of Statistics Poland. Some data (e.g. on population) were presented with rounding. The sum of the individual values may slightly differ from the aggregated value.

Detailed methodological notes concerning the basic concepts and indicators used in the publication can be found at the Eurostat website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>), both in the database and in the Statistics Explained tab.

CHAPTER 1

V4 at a glance in 2019





Specification	EU-28	Czechia	Hungary	Poland	Slovakia
Unemployment rate of persons aged 20–64 (%)	6.1	2.0	3.3	3.2	5.6
HICP (2018=100)	101.5	102.6	103.4	102.1	102.8
Production in industry (2018=100)	99.2	99.6	105.6	104.4	100.5
Production in construction (2018=100)	102.6	102.6	120.7	103.8	96.7
GDP in EUR billions	16 490.5	224.0	146.1	532.3	93.9
GDP per capita (in EUR)	32 030	20 990	14 950	13 870	17 210
GDP per capita in PPS (EU-28=100)	100.0	92.2	72.7	72.4	69.7
GDP (constant prices, 2018=100)	101.5	102.3	104.6	104.5	102.3
GDP (constant prices, 2010=100)	114.7	123.8	130.1	137.7	126.8
Imports in EUR billions (intra-EU-28)	3 512.5	121.8	79.3	163.6	65.0
Imports in EUR billions (extra-EU-28)	2 057.7	38.2	28.4	73.4	15.4
Exports in EUR billions (intra-EU-28)	3 585.9	149.3	90.4	190.4	67.9
Exports in EUR billions (extra-EU-28)	2 037.1	28.6	20.2	47.8	12.1
Share of high-tech exports in total exports ^a (%)	17.9	17.8	15.6	8.4	9.6

a Data for 2018.

CHAPTER 2

Europe 2020 in V4
– summary of achievements



Europe 2020 – a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

The Europe 2020 strategy was adopted by the European Council in 2010 to boost economic growth in the European Union after the worldwide economic and financial crisis. Its goal was to set a path of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for all the EU Member States. Therefore, the strategy focused on a knowledge-based, low-emission and resource-efficient economy, which simultaneously promotes environmentally friendly technologies, creates new green jobs and ensures social cohesion.

To support the strategy, the following seven flagship initiatives for the EU were launched: “Innovation Union”, “Youth on the Move”, “A digital Agenda for Europe”, “Resource Efficient Europe”, “An industrial Policy for the globalisation era”, “An agenda for New Skills and Jobs”, and “European Platform Against Poverty”.

The Europe 2020 strategy is the first strategic plan in the history of the EU, which set quantified targets to be reached within a decade. Eight headline targets – for employment, research and development, climate change and energy, education and combating poverty – were selected for the EU as a whole. They were designed to be attained by the joint effort of all the Member States; however, each Member State formulated its own targets that were challenging but feasible, according to this particular state’s individual characteristics.

All governments have been mobilised to work together towards fulfilling the Europe 2020 strategy by a special mechanism called the European Semester, which required annual reports and regular monitoring of the achievements and plans of the Member States. Data-based approach made it possible to assess the extent to which the targets for the decade have been fulfilled. To provide transparency and factuality the progress was measured by means of official statistics.

Targets for the European Union	
Smart growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• investing 3% of gross domestic product in research and development• reducing the proportion of early school leavers to less than 10%• increasing the percentage of people aged 30–34 with higher education to at least 40%
Sustainable growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%• increasing the share of renewable energy to 20% of the total energy mix• moving towards a 20%-increase in energy efficiency
Inclusive growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• achieving the employment rate of people aged 20–64 at the minimum of 75%• ensuring 20 million people at risk of poverty or social exclusion less

Employment

Chart 1. Employment rate of persons aged 20–64

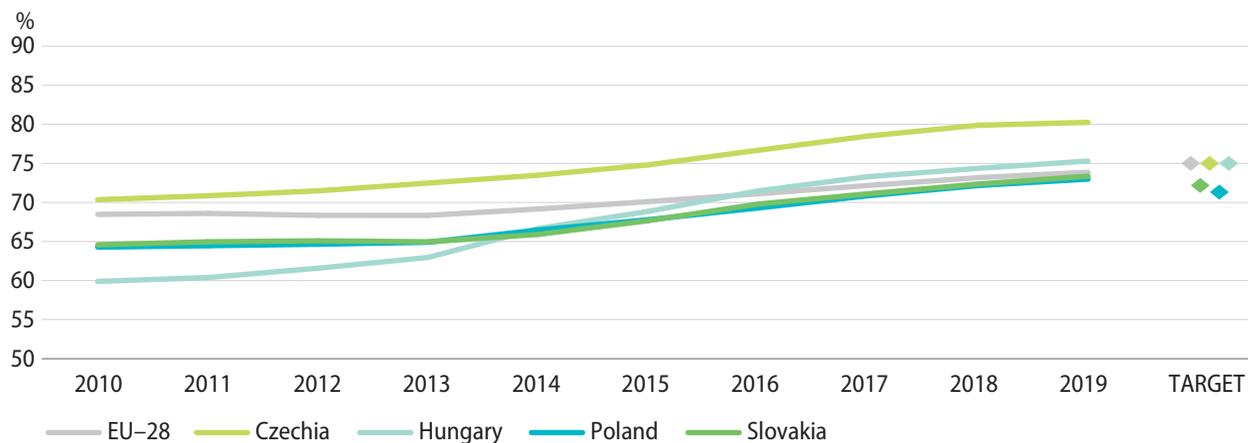
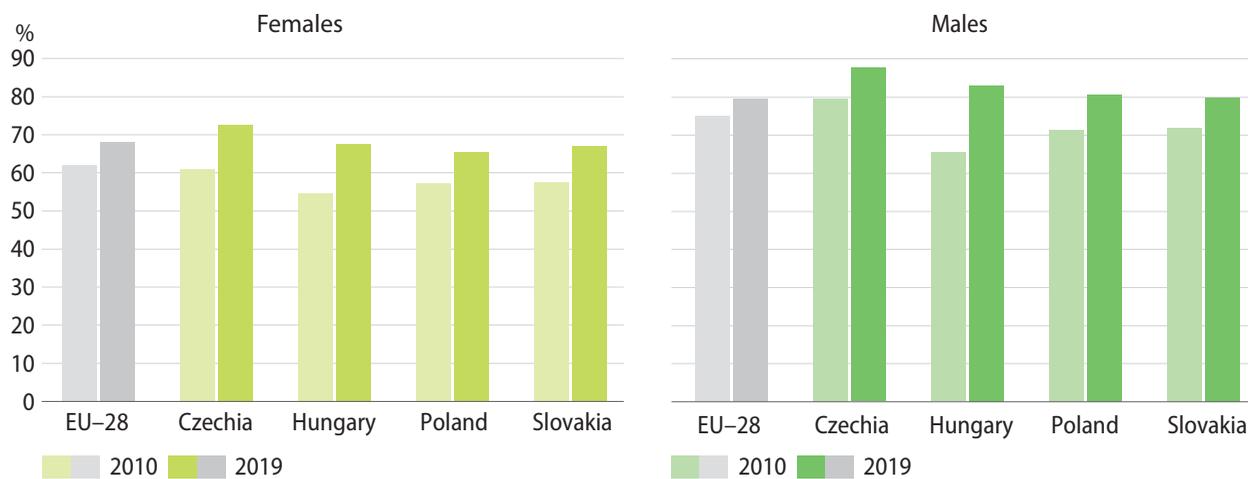


Chart 2. Employment rate of persons aged 20–64 by sex

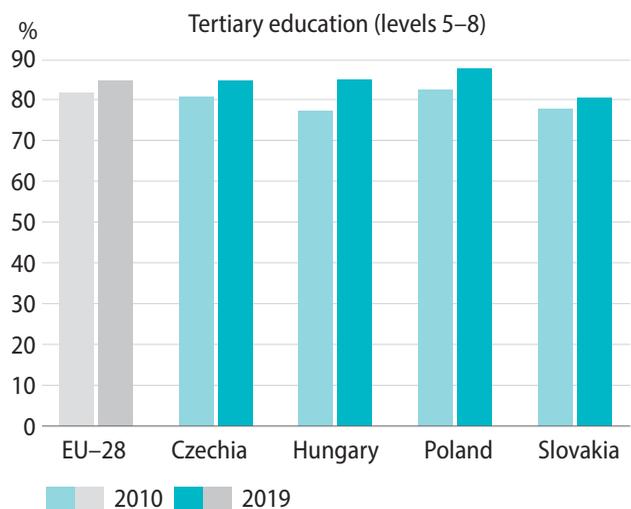
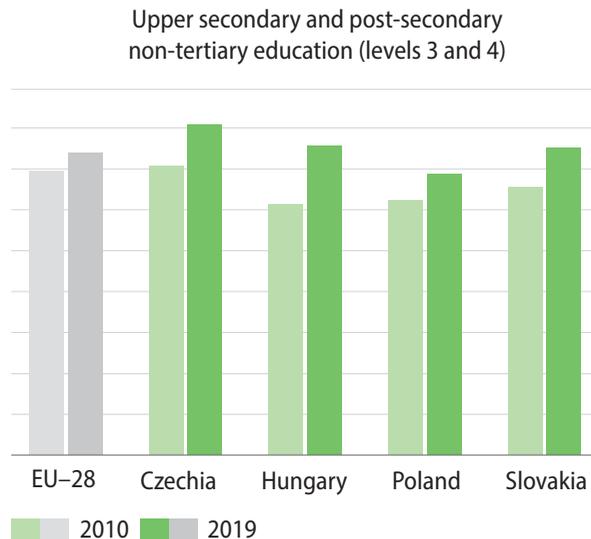
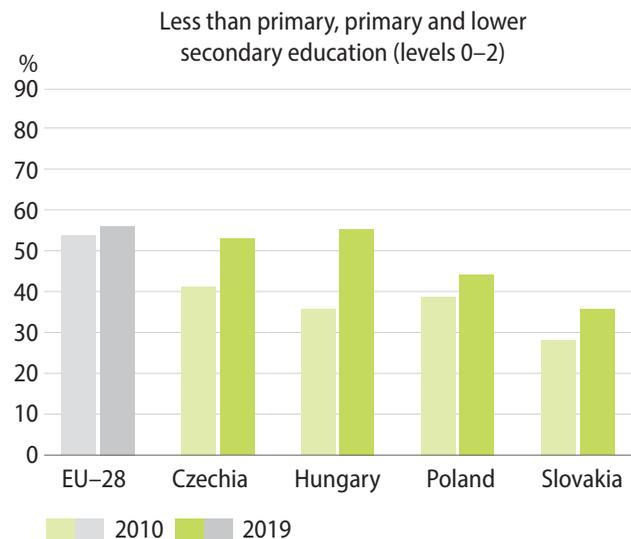


An agenda for New Skills and Jobs

aims to modernise labour markets, raise employment and labour productivity. These principles are realised by empowering people through the life-long development of new skills that enables potential career shifts and ensures better matching of labour supply and demand, as well as by facilitating and increasing intra-EU labour mobility. The agenda also promotes gender equality, active ageing policies, new forms of work-life balance and encourages the recognition of non-formal and informal learning.

Chart 3. Employment rate of persons aged 20–64 in 2019
Gender gap to the disadvantage of women (in pp)



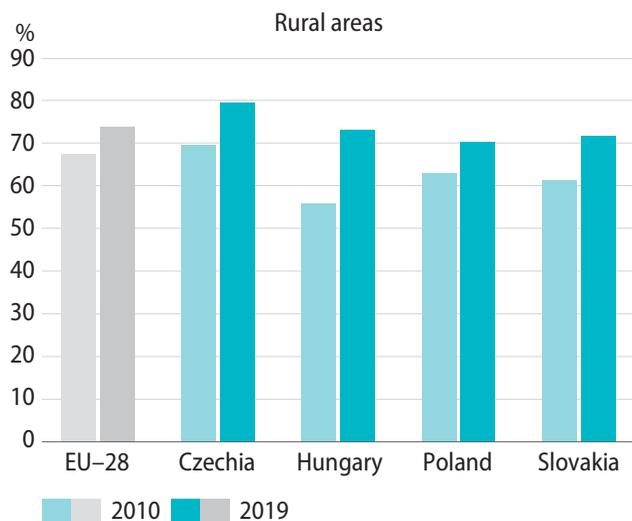
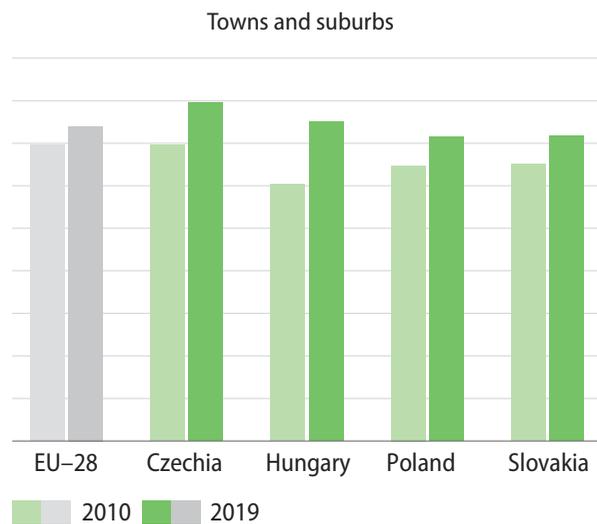
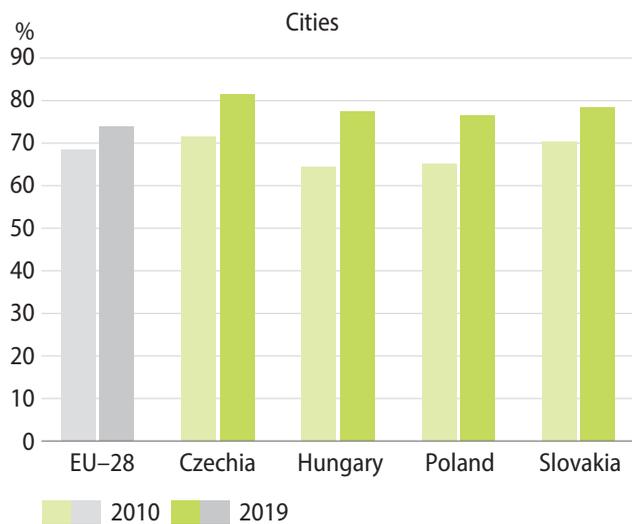
Chart 4. Employment rate of persons aged 20–64 by educational attainment level (according to ISCED 2011)

An industrial Policy for the globalisation era

is a flagship initiative that aims to support the development of a strong, diversified, resource-efficient and green economy-oriented industry, which is able to boost growth and jobs in Europe, as well as to successfully compete on the global market. The initiative also concentrates on SME's which were especially impacted by economic crisis, and sets out a strategy for promoting a favourable business environment for small and medium-sized enterprises by facilitating their access to credit, reduction of administrative burden of companies and promoting internationalisation.

Table 1. Employment rate by age groups

Specification	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019
	20–64 years		20–29 years		30–54 years		55–64 years	
	in %							
EU-28	68.5	73.9	61.7	65.6	78.7	82.0	46.2	60.0
Czechia	70.4	80.3	58.4	66.6	84.1	88.8	46.5	66.7
Hungary	59.9	75.3	50.1	64.1	73.7	85.6	33.6	56.7
Poland	64.3	73.0	59.9	68.9	77.9	83.5	34.1	49.5
Slovakia	64.6	73.4	53.0	61.1	77.5	83.3	40.5	57.0

Chart 5. Employment rate of persons aged 20–64 by degree of urbanisation

Research and development

Innovation Union

aims to create a more conducive environment for innovation by improving conditions and access to finance for research and development so that new and bold ideas can be turned into products and services that boost economic growth and create new workplaces. It promotes knowledge partnerships between research and innovation, education and business. Its another priority is to re-focus R&D on improving quality of life and creating solutions against long-term and up-to-date challenges of modern society, such as climate change, energy and resource efficiency, health hazards and demographic change.

Chart 6. Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD)

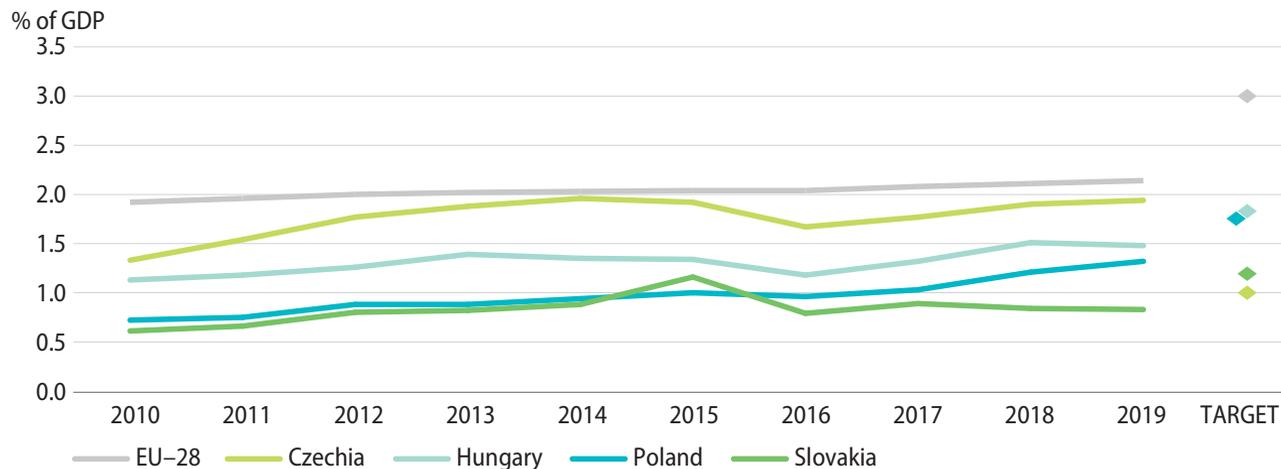
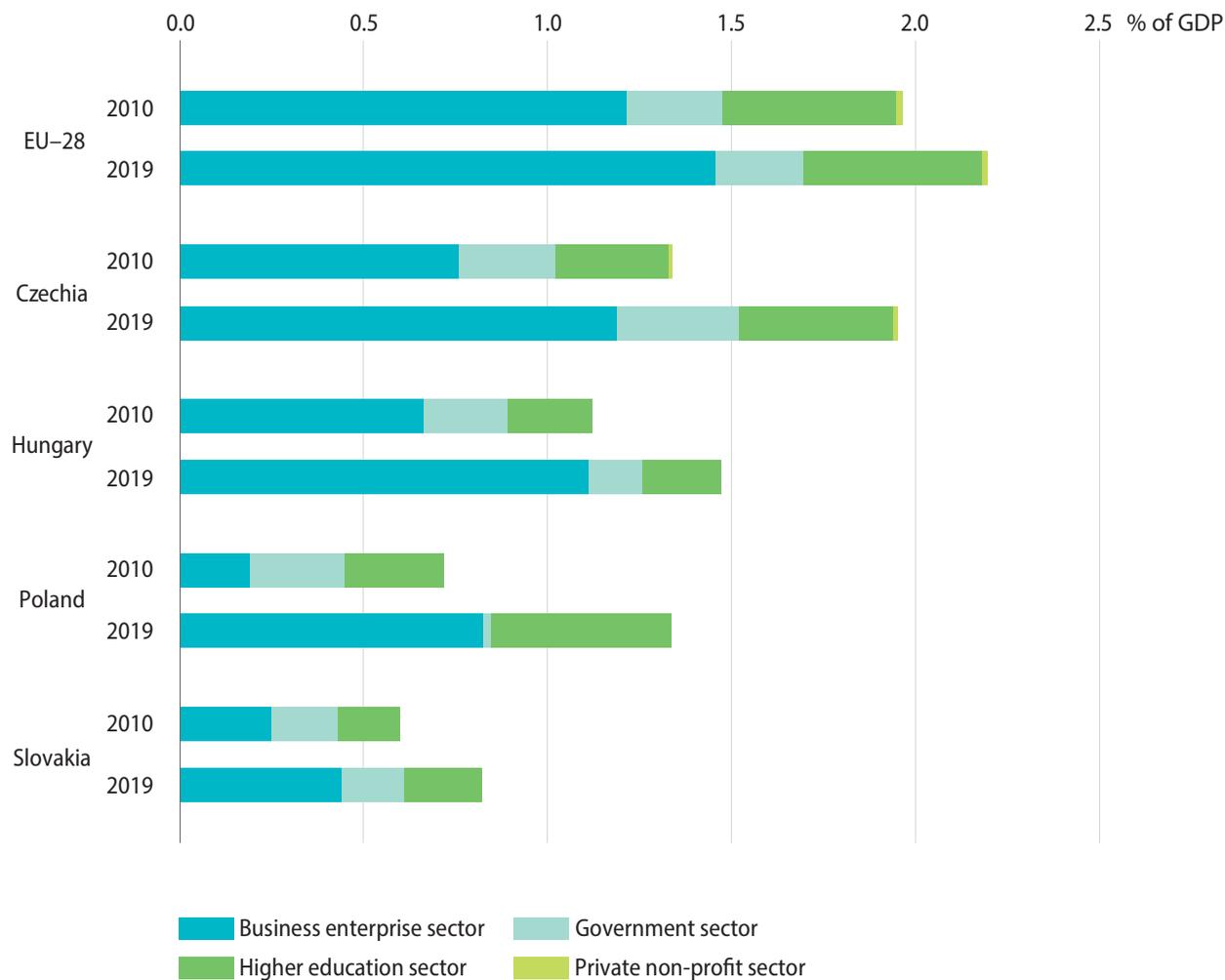


Chart 7. Gross domestic expenditure on R&D by sectors of performance



A digital Agenda for Europe

aims to accelerate the wide accessibility of high-speed internet across the EU and reap economic and social benefits from a Digital Single Market based on fast and ultra-fast internet usage in European households and firms. The initiative emphasis on stable legal framework to stimulate investments in an open and competitive high speed internet infrastructure, promotes internet access for all European citizens and promotes actions for increasing digital literacy as well as usage of modern online services (e.g. e-government, online health, smart home).

Table 2. R&D expenditure by sectors of performance (calculated from EUR data)

Specification	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019
	business enterprise sector		government sector		higher education sector		private non-profit sector	
	in % of total R&D expenditure							
EU-28	61.9	66.6	12.9	10.8	24.2	21.8	1.0	0.8
Czechia	57.7	61.6	21.7	16.3	20.0	21.8	0.6	0.3
Hungary	59.8	75.1	18.5	10.0	19.9	14.2	.	.
Poland	26.6	62.8	35.9	1.3	37.2	35.6	0.3	0.3
Slovakia	42.1	54.8	30.0	20.0	27.6	25.2	0.3	0.0

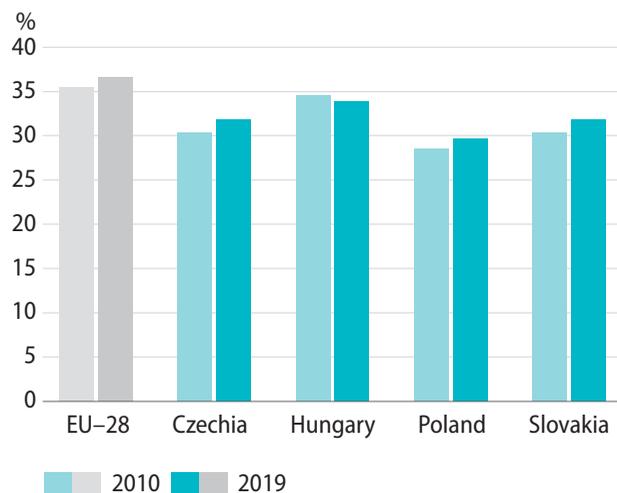
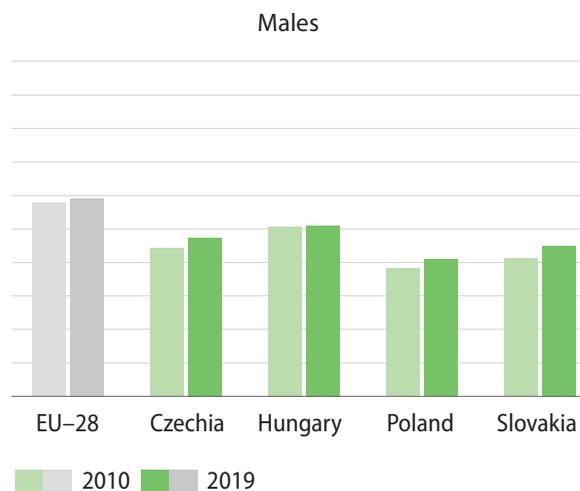
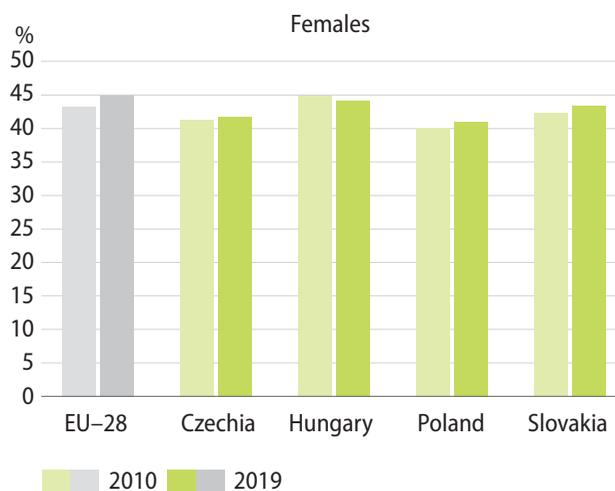
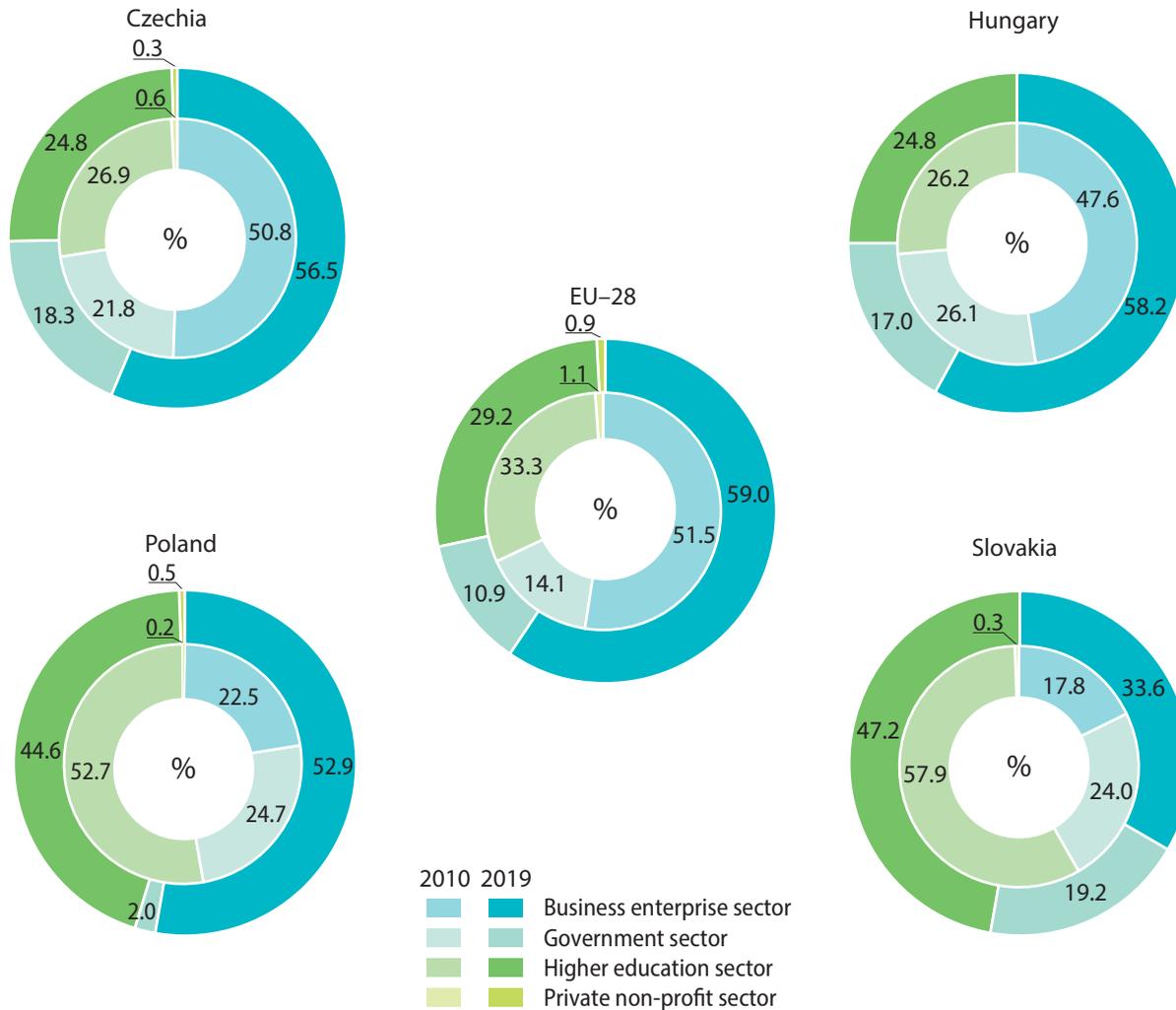
Chart 8. Employment in knowledge-intensive activities (in % of total employment)**Chart 9. Employment in knowledge-intensive activities by sex (in % of employment of a given sex)**

Chart 10. Distribution of R&D personnel by sectors of performance (in % of total R&D personnel, in full-time equivalents)



Climate change and energy

Chart 11. Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption

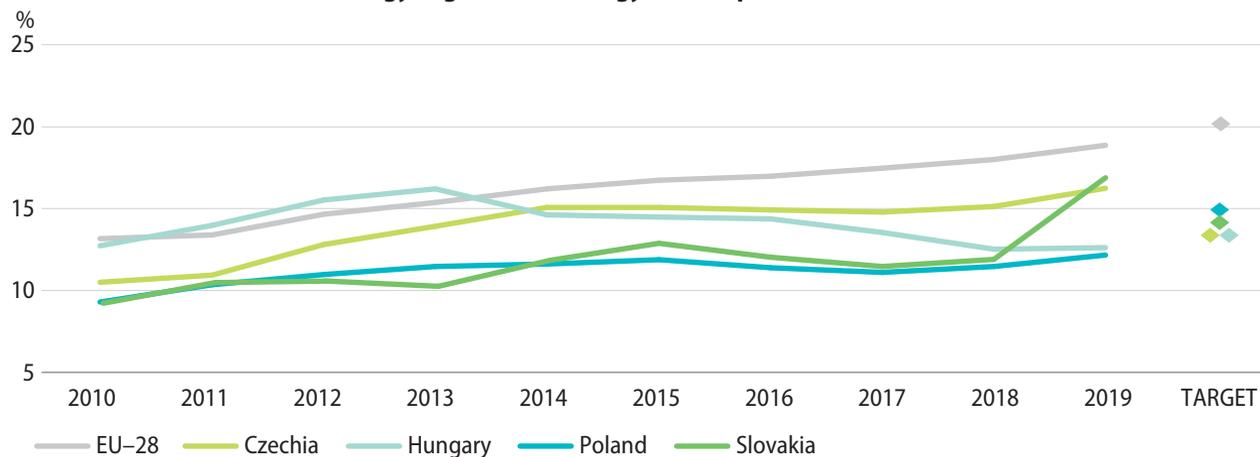


Table 3. Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption by sector

Specification	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019
	total		in electricity		in heating and cooling		in transport	
	in %							
EU-28	13.2	18.9	19.7	34.2	15.5	20.5	5.2	8.9
Czechia	10.5	16.2	7.5	14.0	14.1	22.7	5.2	7.8
Hungary	12.7	12.6	7.1	10.0	18.1	18.1	6.2	8.0
Poland	9.3	12.2	6.6	14.4	11.8	16.0	6.6	6.1
Slovakia	9.1	16.9	17.8	21.9	7.9	19.7	5.3	8.3

Resource Efficient Europe

aims to separate economic growth from the use of natural resources and minimise its negative impact on the environment. Its main goal is to deliver greater value with less input. It promotes the transition towards resource-efficient and low carbon economy by increasing use of renewable energy sources, development of new, green technologies and energy efficiency. Other key priorities are the environment protection oriented modernisation of transport sector (especially in its urban dimension) and preservation of biodiversity.

Chart 12. Greenhouse gas emissions (1990=100)

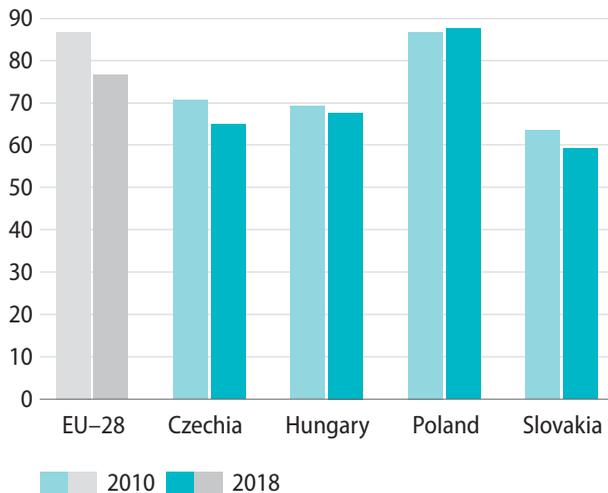


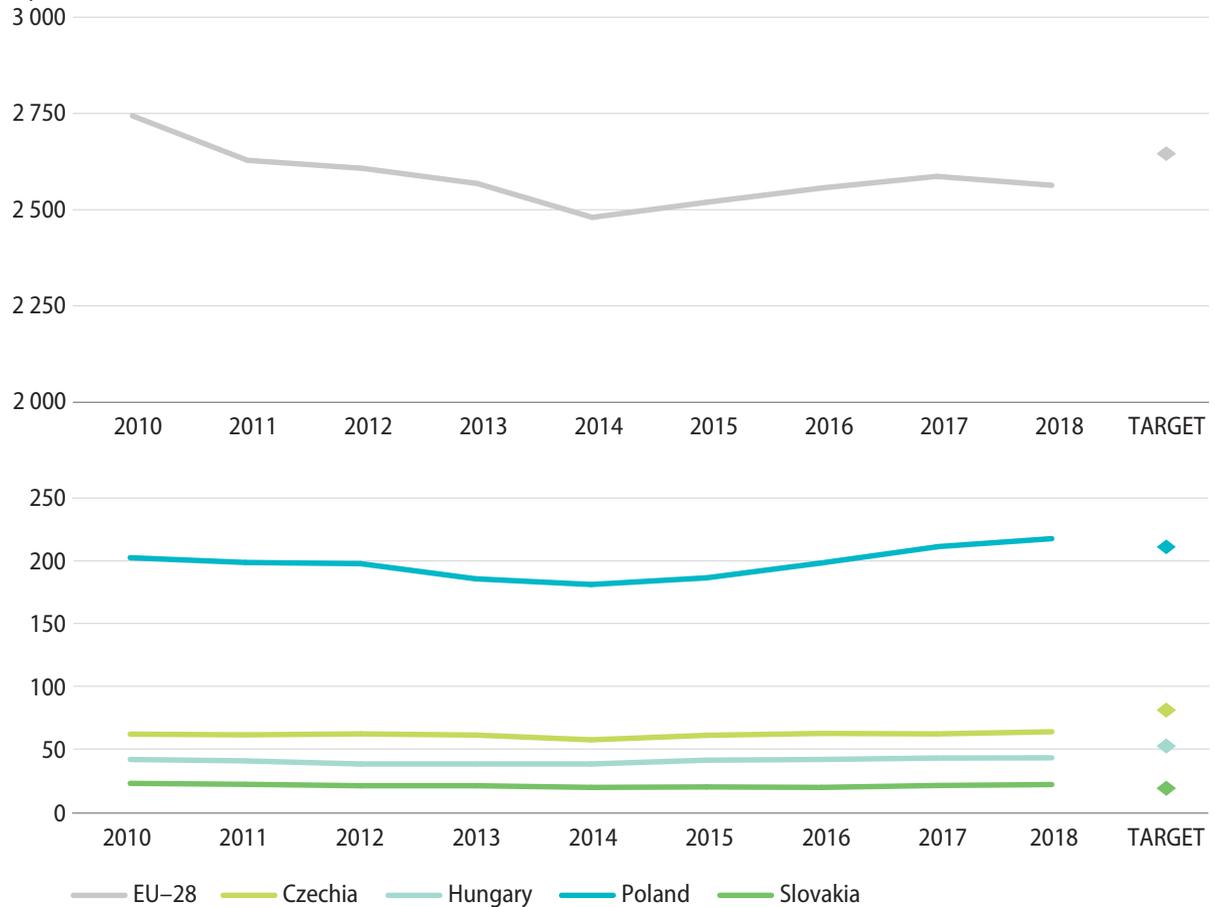
Chart 13. Greenhouse gas emissions in Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) sectorsmillion tonnes
CO₂ equivalent

Chart 14. Primary energy consumption

million tonnes
of oil equivalent (TOE)

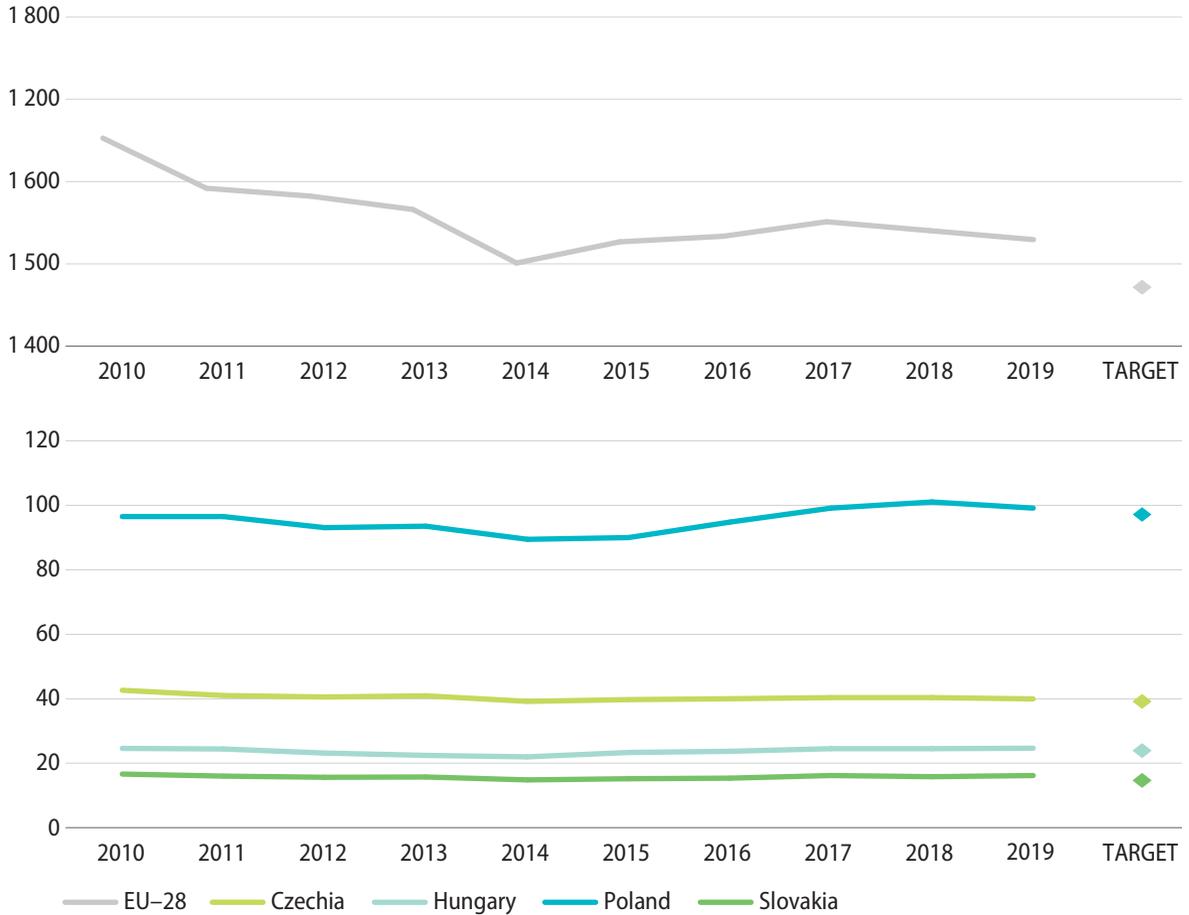


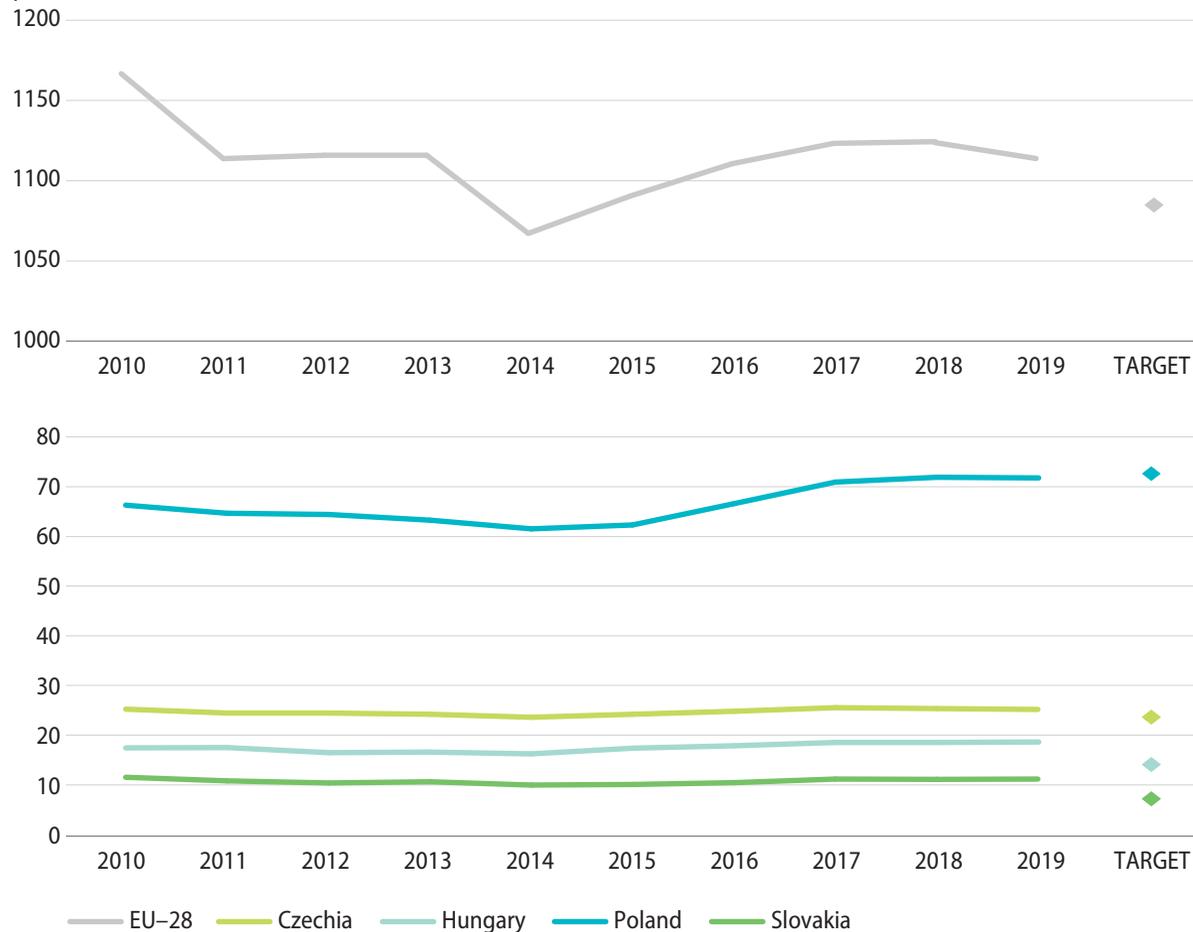
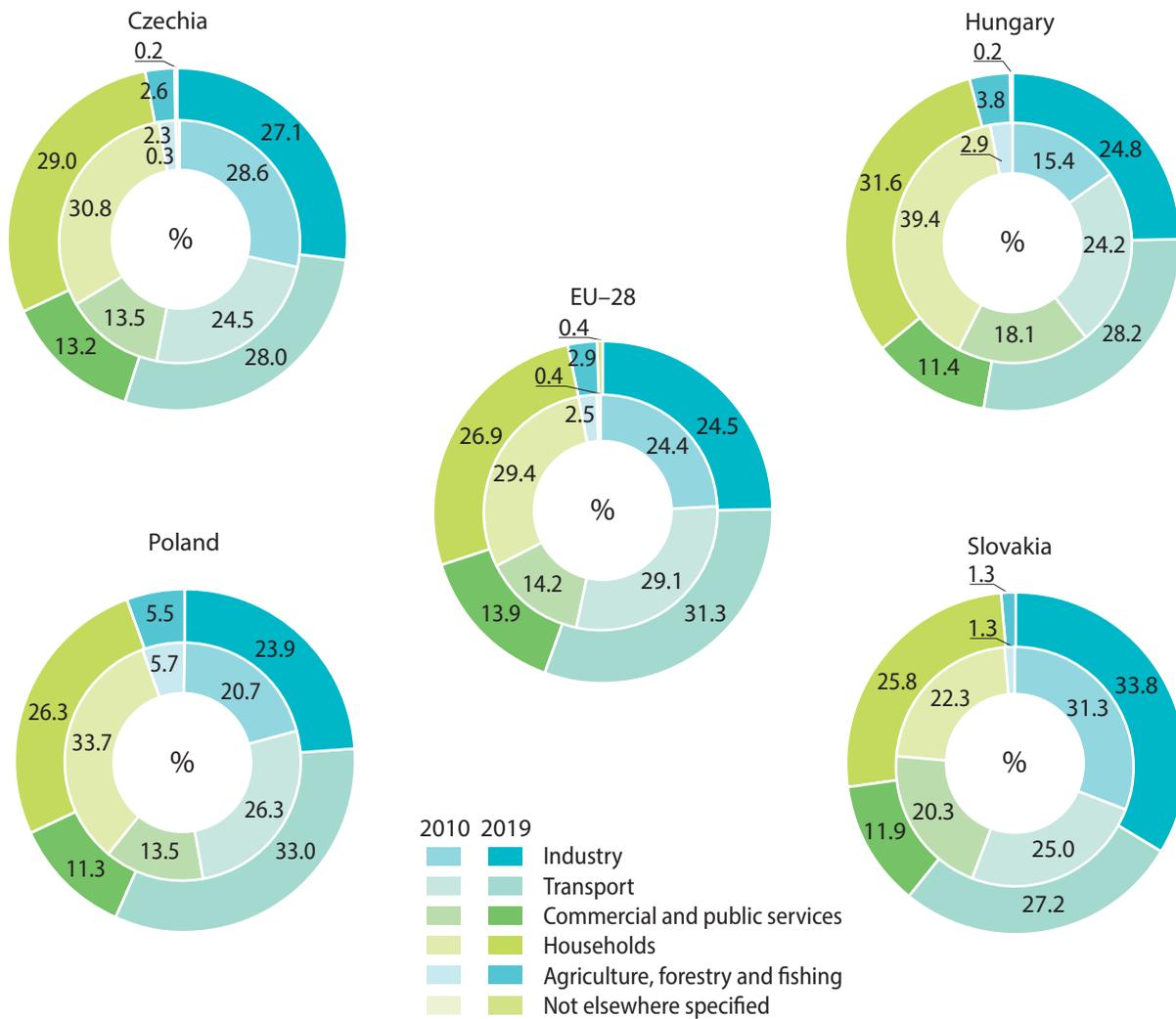
Chart 15. Final energy consumptionmillion tonnes
of oil equivalent (TOE)

Chart 16. Final energy consumption by sectors



Education

Chart 17. Tertiary educational attainment of persons aged 30–34 (in % of the population of the corresponding age group)

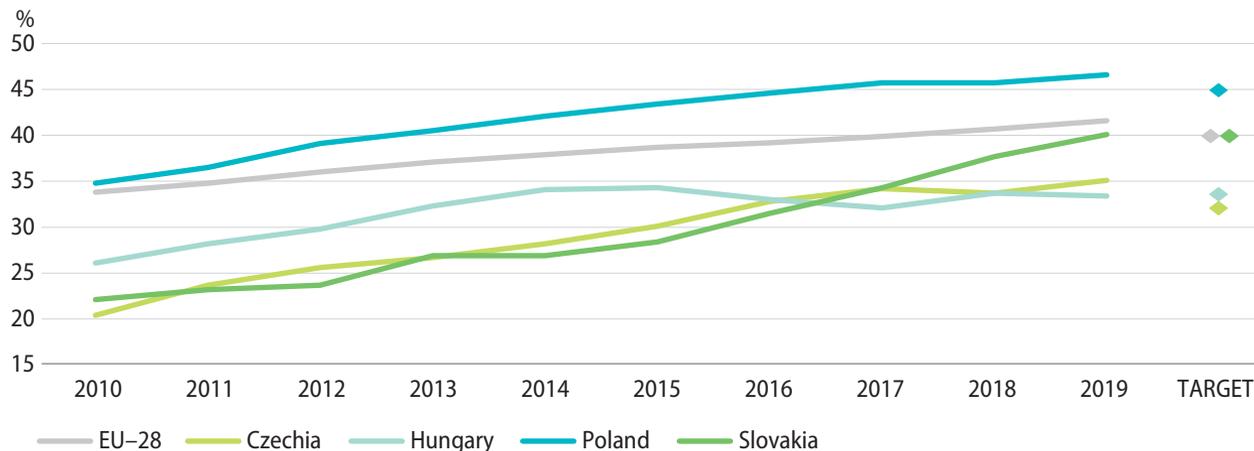


Chart 18. Tertiary educational attainment of persons aged 30–34 by sex (in % of the population of the corresponding age group of a given sex)

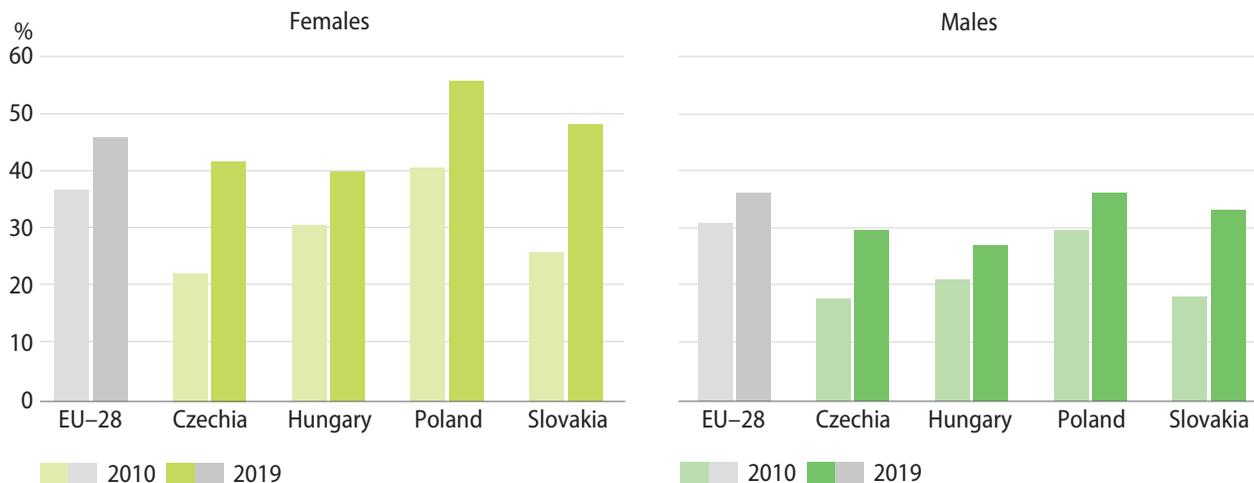


Chart 19. Early leavers from education and training (in % of population aged 18–24)

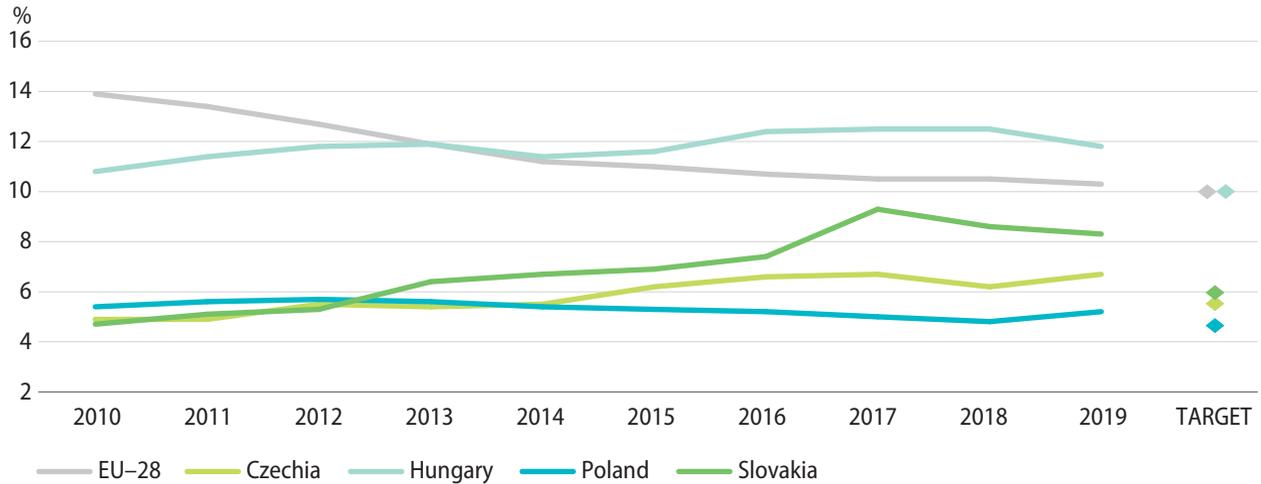
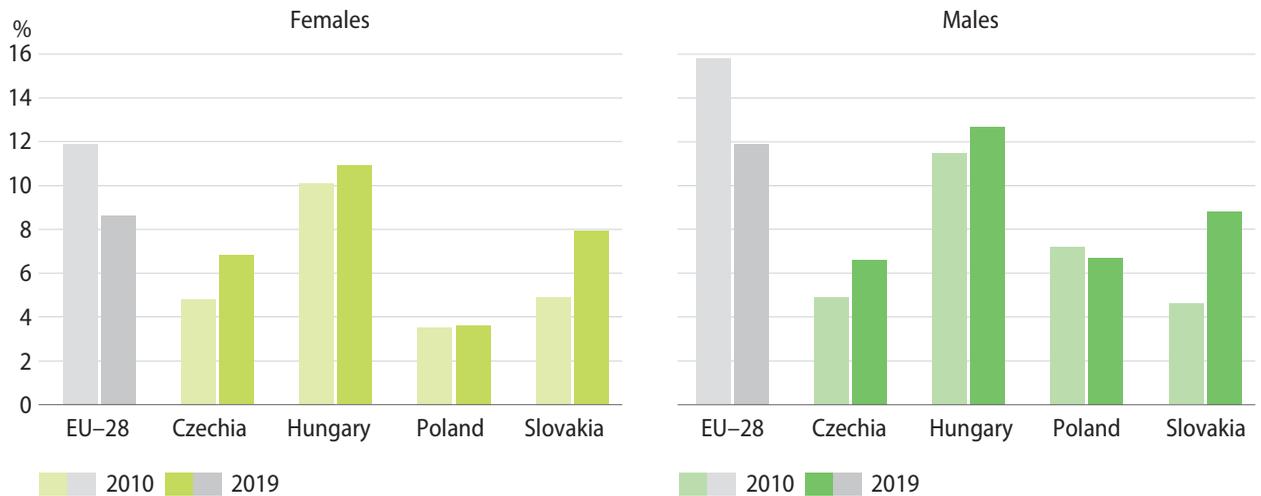


Chart 20. Early leavers from education and training by sex (in % of population aged 18–24 of a given sex)



Youth on the Move

aims to improve the performance and international attractiveness of Europe's higher education institutions and raise the overall quality of all levels of education and training in the EU. The main goal is facilitating the integration of young people into the labour market and reduction of youth unemployment rates. These principles are realised by EU-funding of studies and ensuring student and trainees' mobility through learning and training programmes (such as for example "Erasmus", "Erasmus Mundus" or "Tempus"). The initiative also encourages young people's entry into the labour market through various domestic and international apprenticeships and stages and promotes the recognition of non-formal and informal learning.

Table 4. Early leavers from education and training by labour status

Specification	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019	
	employed persons		not employed persons						
			total	persons would like to work		persons do not want to work			
	in % of population aged 18–24								
EU-28	6.4	4.8	7.5	5.5	5.2	3.3	2.3	2.2	
Czechia	1.7	3.6	3.2	3.2	1.6	0.9	1.6	2.3	
Hungary	3.5	5.1	7.4	6.7	4.1	3.4	3.3	3.3	
Poland	2.0	2.6	3.4	2.6	2.1	0.9	1.3	1.7	
Slovakia	1.0	1.9	3.7	6.5	2.2	3.1	1.5	3.3	

Chart 21. Employment rate of recent graduates (population aged 20–34 with at least upper-secondary education)

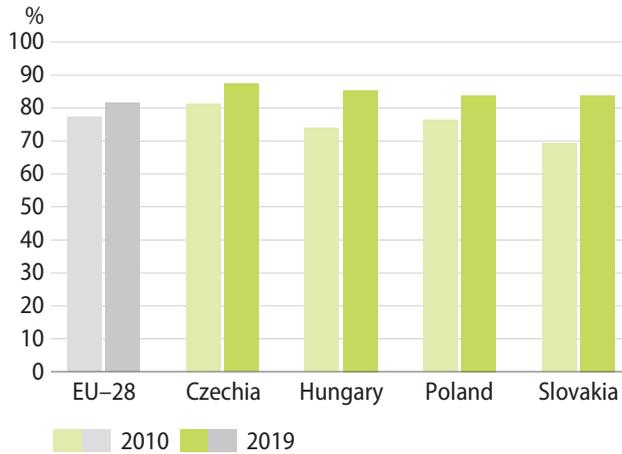


Chart 22. Participation in early childhood education from age 4 to the starting age of compulsory education at primary level (in % of the population of the corresponding age group)

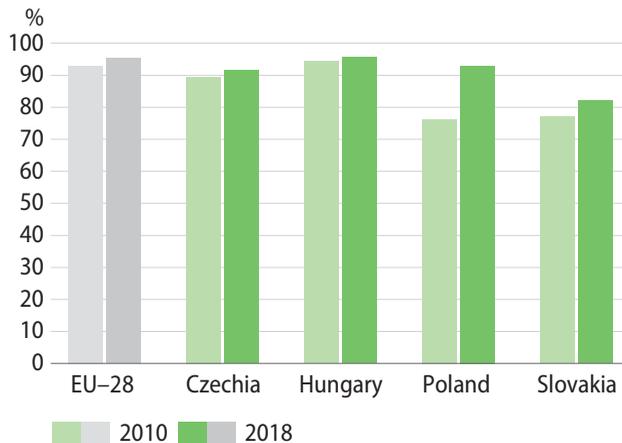
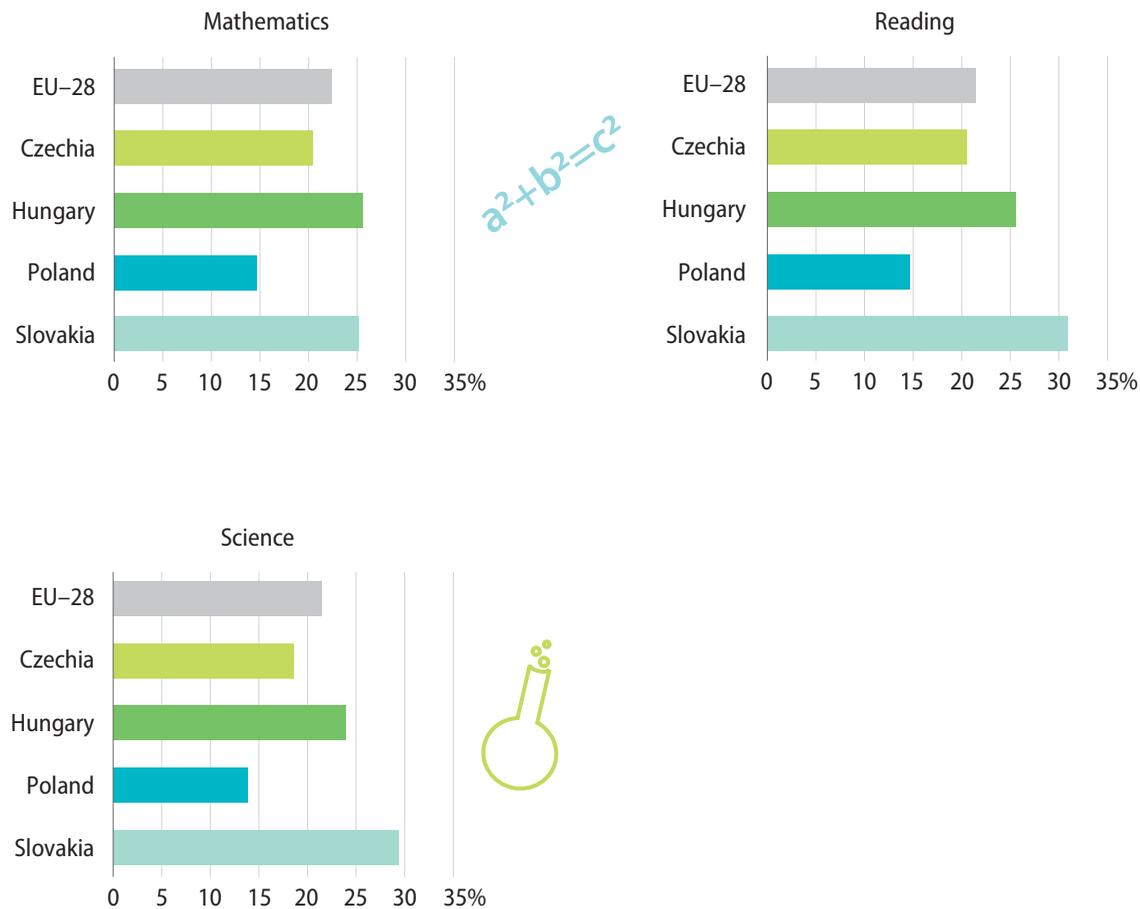


Chart 23. Underachieving 15-years-old students by field in 2018 (according to PISA survey)

Poverty and social exclusion

Chart 24. People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (in % of total population)

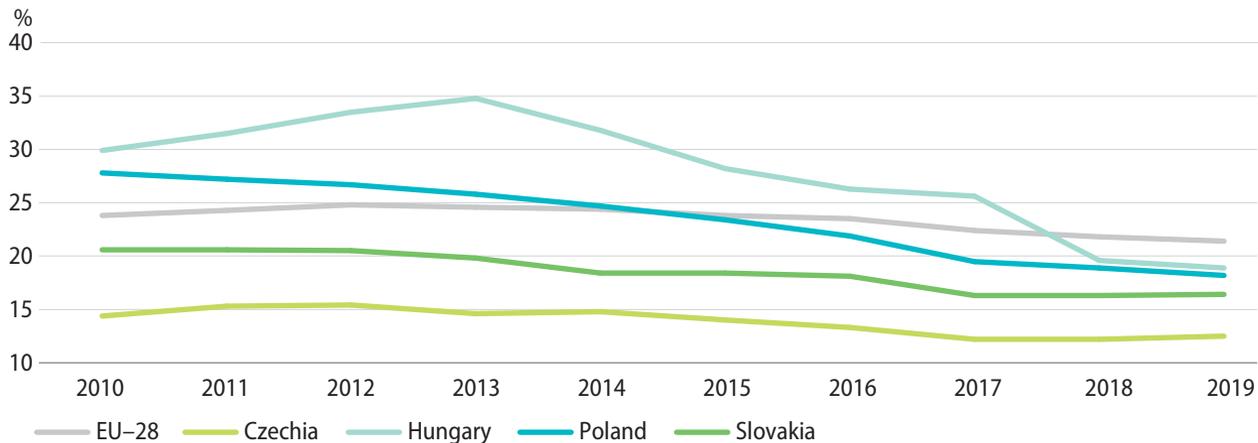
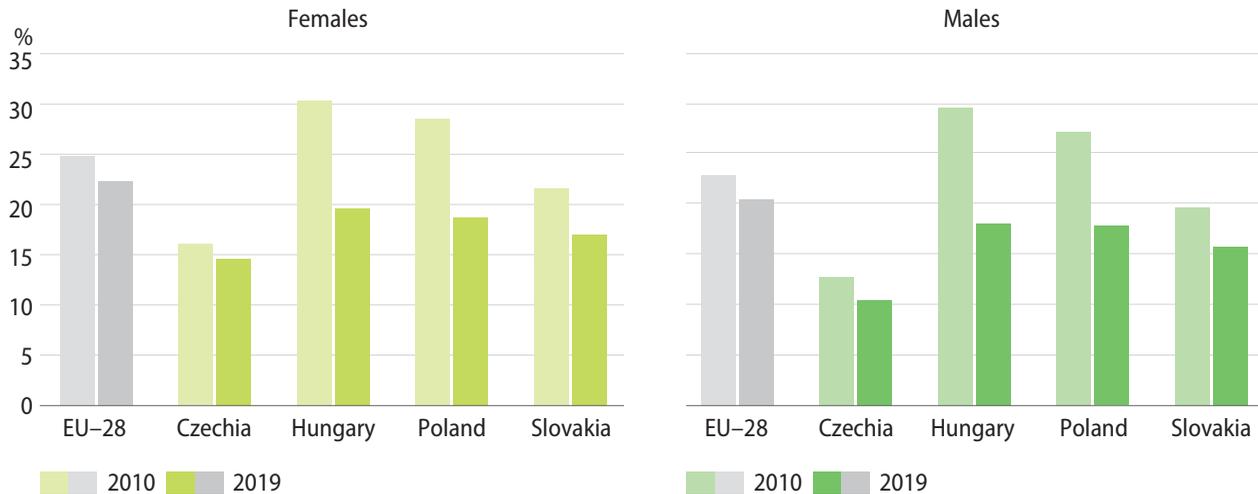


Chart 25. People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by sex (in % of population of a given sex)



European Platform Against Poverty

aims to combat poverty and social exclusion by improving access to education, training, employment and health care system for marginalised part of the population (such as for example minorities, people with disabilities, homeless, migrants) and to fight discrimination. The goal of agenda is also to raise awareness and recognition of the fundamental rights of deprived communities to live in dignity and take an active part in the society.

Chart 26. People living in households with very low work intensity (in % of population aged less than 60)

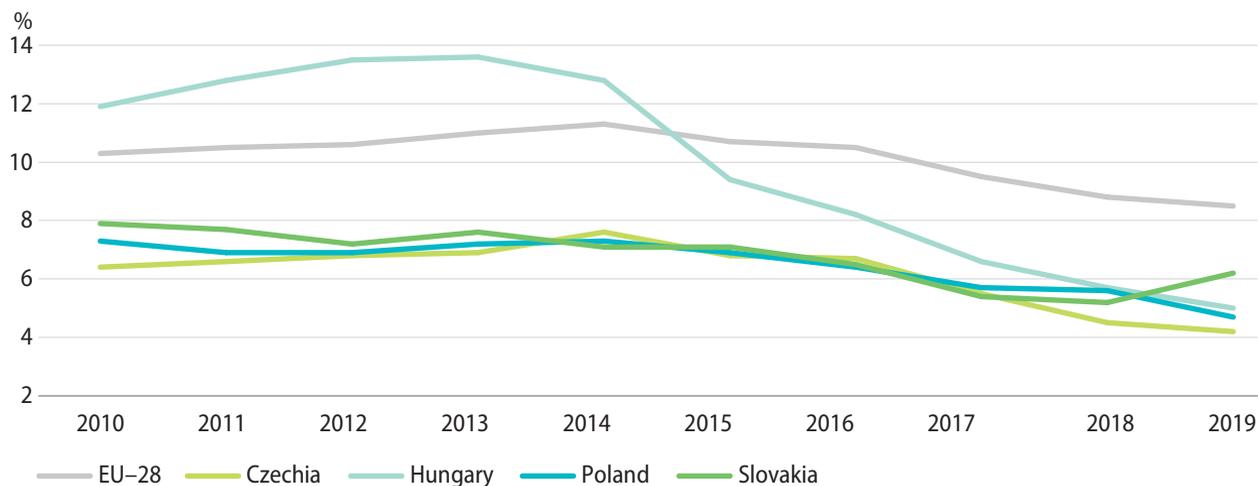


Chart 27. People at risk of poverty after social transfers (in % of total population)

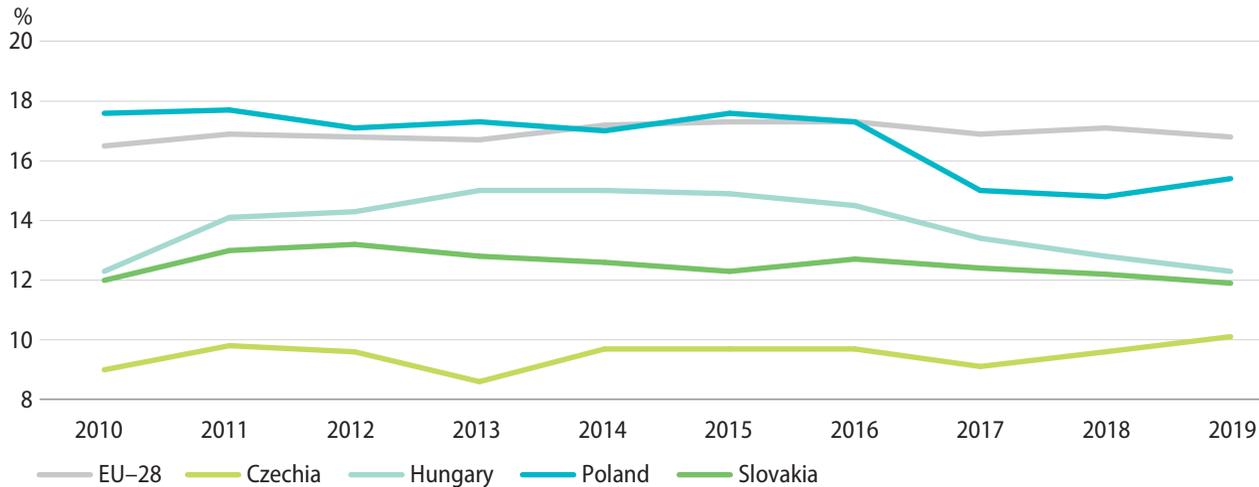


Chart 28. People severely materially deprived (in % of total population)

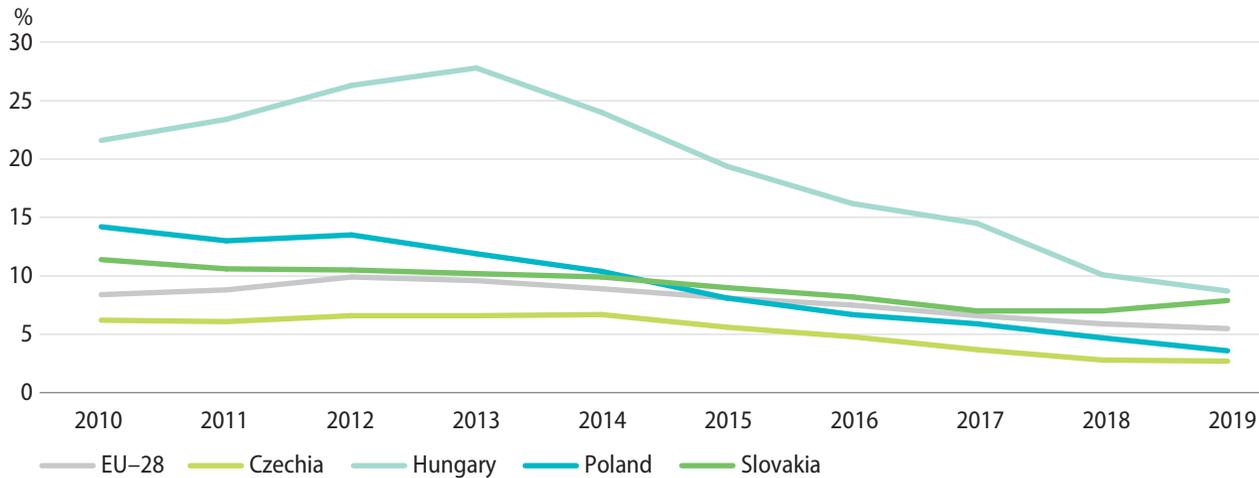


Chart 29. People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by population aged 18 and over by educational attainment level (according to ISCED 2011)

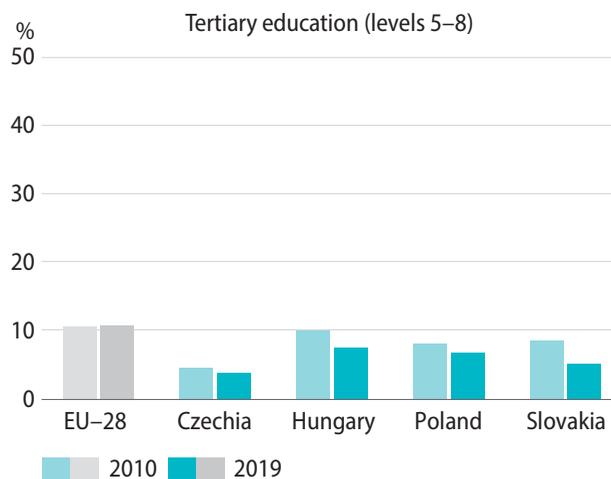
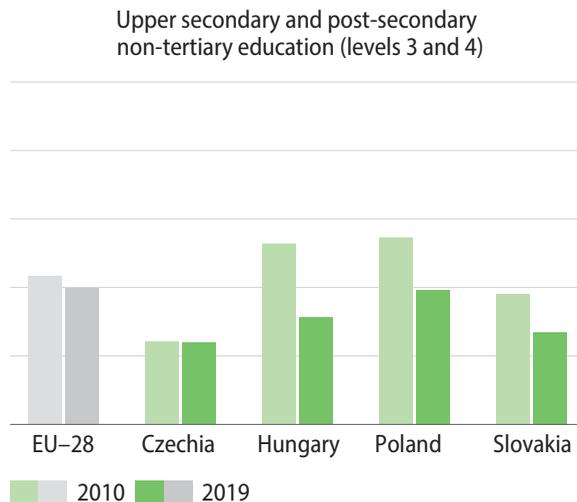
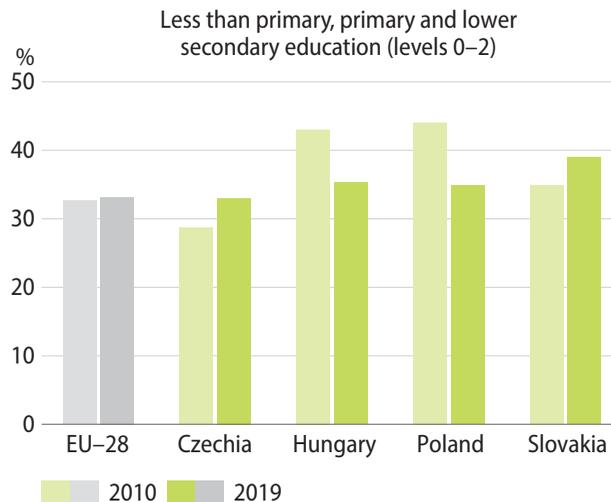


Table 5. People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age groups

Specification	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019	2010	2019
	less than 18 years		18–24		25–49		50–64		65 years or over	
	in % of population of a given age group									
EU–28	27.6	23.4	29.4	28.1	22.0	19.8	24.0	22.0	20.1	18.9
Czechia	18.9	13.0	16.1	11.8	12.9	9.5	15.4	12.8	10.1	17.7
Hungary	38.7	22.4	36.2	22.4	29.3	16.9	29.6	20.8	16.8	14.4
Poland	30.8	16.0	30.4	24.3	24.8	15.4	31.2	22.2	24.4	19.2
Slovakia	25.3	22.0	22.8	18.7	19.1	14.4	20.8	15.7	16.7	14.2

Chart 30. People with disability at risk of poverty or social exclusion (in % of population aged 16 or over)

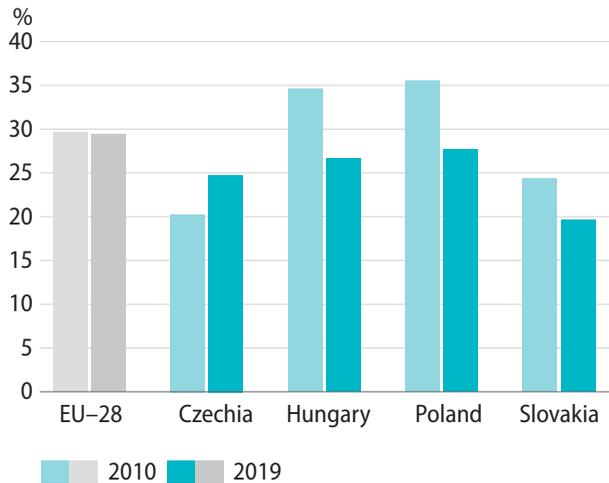
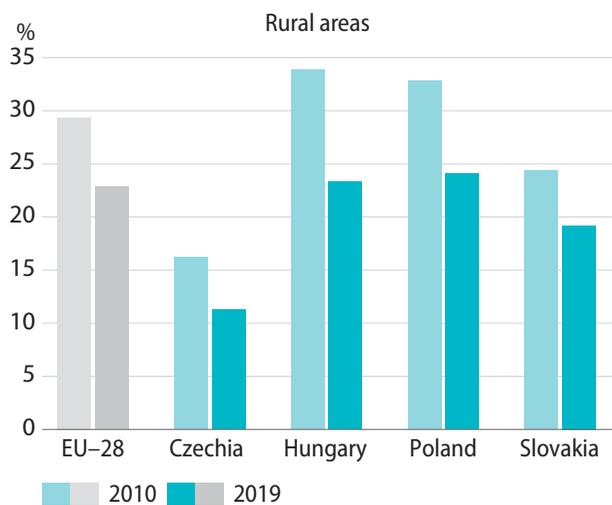
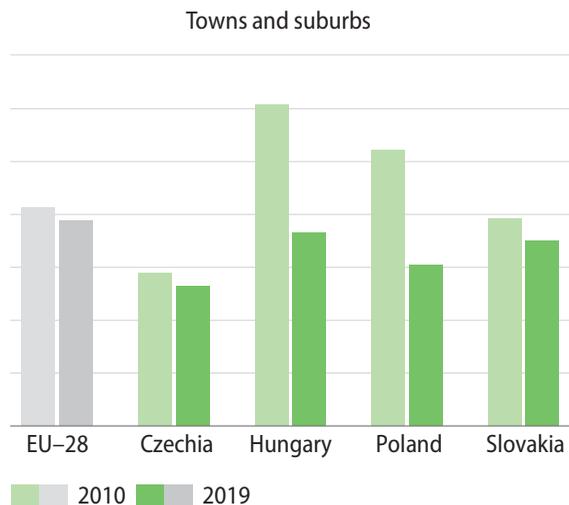


Chart 31. People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by degree of urbanisation (in % of population living in a given area)



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