



## PRESS RELEASE

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### The 2025 Sustainable Report – the state of the SDGs in Cyprus

It is with some concern that SDSN Cyprus has analysed the Cyprus results of the **Sustainable Development Report (SDR) for 2025**, which was published earlier this summer. Cyprus ranks 56th out of 167 countries globally, and most notably, last among EU Member States, with an overall Score of 73.8, a slight improvement from 72.9 in 2024.

In this report, a streamlined SDG Index (SDGi), which uses 17 headline indicators to track overall SDG progress, was introduced. Cyprus' progress since 2015 is 4.3 percentage points (p.p.), where the regional average progress is 5.1 p.p.

Earlier this year, SDSN Cyprus also analysed the results of the **European Sustainable Development Report (ESDR) 2025**, published in January. Cyprus ranked **32nd out of 34 countries in Europe**, with a score of **62.7**, again placing among the lowest. Despite methodological differences between the global and European reports, both paint a consistent picture of Cyprus facing **serious structural challenges** across key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Some of the most problematic indicators in the global report include:

- **Excessive nitrogen use in agriculture** (SDG 2)
- **Low women's representation in parliament** (SDG 5)
- **Water consumption embodied in imports** (SDG 6)
- **Low share of renewables in final energy consumption** (SDG 7)
- **Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports** (SDG 8)
- **Low investment in research and development as a percentage of GDP** (SDG 9)
- **High inequality (Palma ratio)** despite some progress (SDG 10)
- **Poor electronic waste recollection and plastic waste exports** (SDG 12)
- **High CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** (SDG 13)
- **Overfishing and limited protected natural areas** on land and at sea (SDGs 14 & 15)
- **Exports of conventional weapons and issues with press freedom** (SDG 16)
- **Low levels of Overseas Development Assistance and poor tax haven score** (SDG 17)

These findings are largely in line with those from the **European SDR**, which also flagged nitrogen use, gender imbalance, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and waste management as critical weak spots. However, the **global report highlights additional areas of concern**, such as **overfishing**, **press freedom**, and **workplace safety** indicators embedded in imports.

It is important to note that some limitations in the data exist, for example some of the data sources are from previous years, not from 2024, and some of the poor scores can be explained by the unique situation of Cyprus. For example, the divided status of the island can partially, but not entirely, explain the poor performance in terms of the percentage of the surface area which is protected for wildlife, while Climate Change and the geographical situation of the island can explain the scarcity of water resources.



Nevertheless, **most of the problematic indicators can, and must, be improved through national policy, institutional coordination, and civic engagement.** Particular attention should be paid to Climate Action (SDG 13), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG12) and Life Below Water (SDG 14).

Despite the challenges, there are **reasons for cautious optimism.** Cyprus is assessed as having **achieved SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 4 (Quality Education).** Moreover, **strong progress** is observed for SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Over the past few years, [SDSN Cyprus](https://sdsn.cyprus.cyi.ac.cy) has worked with all sectors of society to improve the country's performance in implementing the SDGs, collecting and disseminating best practices, raising awareness, promoting sustainable development education, engaging with youth, and assisting the authorities, the private sector and civil society organisations in mainstreaming the SDGs into their daily operations.

If you want to know more, or you simply want to help make the SDGs a reality in Cyprus, visit our website (<https://sdsn.cyprus.cyi.ac.cy>), our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SDSNCyprus>), or e-mail us at [sdsn.cyprus@cyi.ac.cy](mailto:sdsn.cyprus@cyi.ac.cy). The SDSN 2025 Sustainable Development Report can be found at: <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/>

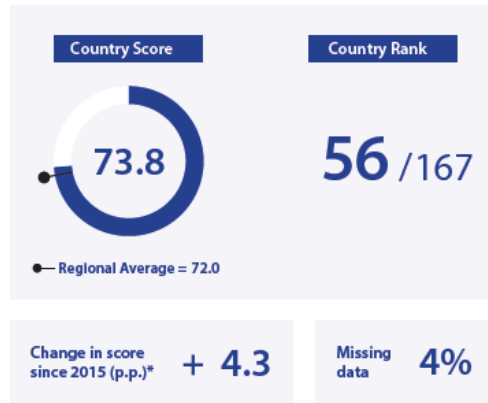
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**ILLUSTRATION (Source: SDSN Sustainable Development Report, 2025)**

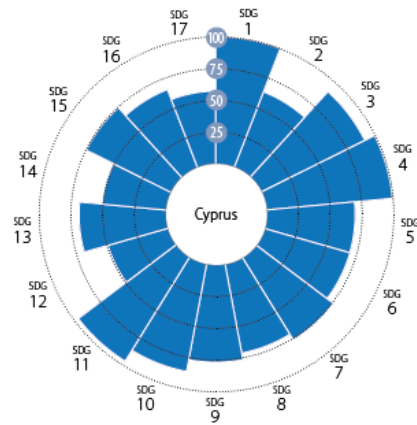
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Eastern Europe and Central Asia

## Overall Performance



## Average Performance by SDG



## SDG Dashboard and Trends

