

# 2024 BASQUE COUNTRY COMPETITIVENESS REPORT

INCLUSION: MOTOR OF  
COMPETITIVENESS AND WELLBEING  
Executive summary



The activities of Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness of the Deusto Foundation are possible thanks to the support and contributions of:

Basque Government; SPRI Group; Provincial Council of Alava; Provincial Council of Bizkaia; Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa; Bilbao City Council; Ente Vasco de la Energía; BBK Banking Foundation; Iberdrola; Repsol-Petronor.

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<https://www.orkestra.deusto.es/en/>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18543/OIJE4604>

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Translated from Spanish with use of AI tools.

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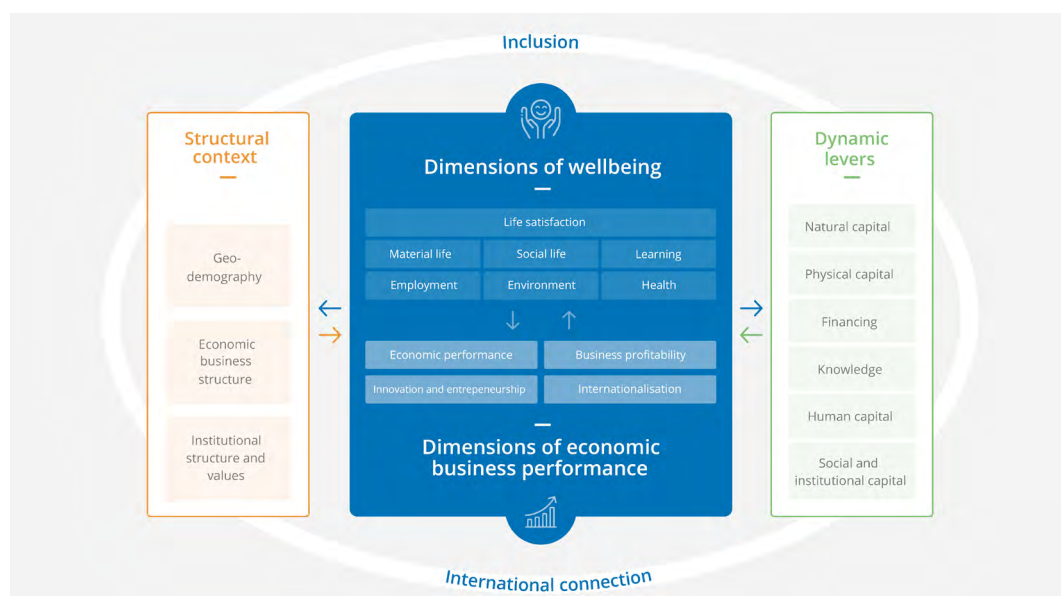
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# Executive summary

The importance of inclusion for territorial development is reflected in the growing discourse of international organisations, such as the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation or the European Commission, on the need to promote a “just transition”. It is common to speak of a triple transition that is both “green, digital and social” (OECDa, 2023), and in the new European Commission formed in September 2024 a Vice-Presidency has been given explicit responsibility for promoting a “clean, just and competitive” transition.

Inclusion is incorporated in Orkestra's competitiveness for wellbeing framework as a transversal axis because it has an intrinsic relationship with the three parts of the framework: (i) inclusion is reflected in the context of a territory; (ii) it affects the levers that determine its competitiveness and well-being; and (iii) it is integrated in the results that the territory is able to achieve.

## COMPETITIVENESS FOR WELLBEING FRAMEWORK



Inclusion is multidimensional, addressing people's gender, age, origin, different abilities and economic resources, among other dimensions. On the one hand, at a time when we are aware of

the economic and political consequences of rising inequalities, it is particularly important to understand how our competitiveness and wellbeing outcomes change for different groups. On the other hand, in a context where we face critical challenges related to demographic changes and the scarcity of human capital, it is important to understand how competitiveness levers are affected by aspects such as gender inequality, relations between generations or the integration of immigrants in society.

The 2024 Competitiveness Report explores the transversal axis of inclusion with the aim of reflecting on the challenges we face to ensure inclusive competitiveness that can generate inclusive wellbeing. The Report begins with an analysis of the Basque Country's global performance in competitiveness and wellbeing, presenting the most recent evolution in 66 indicators organised by our territorial competitiveness for wellbeing framework. We then combine conceptual reflection on the importance of inclusion in sustaining a territory's competitiveness and wellbeing with empirical analysis of three dimensions of inclusion — place of origin, gender and age — in the competitiveness and wellbeing of the Basque Country.

## Current competitiveness and wellbeing in the Basque Country

Our assessment of the current state of competitiveness and wellbeing in the Basque Country is based on the analysis of a panel of 22 indicators of economic-business performance, 20 indicators of wellbeing performance, and 24 indicators reflecting the dynamic levers of competitiveness and wellbeing. The following three tables summarise the main results of the three blocks of indicators analysed.

Economic and business performance	
Economic performance	GDP per capita (PPP) has continued its growth trajectory in 2023, widening the positive gap with the EU-27 average (111 %) and significantly reducing the negative gap with Germany (96 %). This performance is marked by improvements in productivity, both in the economy as a whole and in the manufacturing sector. In all productivity indicators, the Basque Country is above Spain and the EU-27, but below Germany and the benchmark regions of Upper Austria and Baden-Württemberg.
Business profitability	Business profitability grew in 2023, reaching values of 6.6 % in economic profitability (ROA) and 11.8 % in financial profitability (ROE), alongside a strong reduction in the Unit Labour Cost (ULC) of the manufacturing sector. Gross operating surplus has remained stable at around 43 % in the Basque Country, slightly above the level of Spain and the EU-27 and well above that of Germany.
Innovation and entrepreneurship	The percentage of SMEs doing both product innovation (26.1 %) and process innovation (32.6 %) has increased. However, this is still an area of weakness, especially in the case of small companies and in organisational and marketing innovation. The strategies adopted by Basque SMEs are low-risk and low-disruptive, and the barriers they perceive to innovation have more to do with the high costs of innovation and the existence of other priorities rather than those related to knowledge. In entrepreneurship, although the overall rate is still below Spanish or European levels, the Basque Country performs well in technological entrepreneurship and high-growth companies. Likewise, the number of companies with more than 5 employees is growing, which means that the average size of companies is increasing.

### Economic and business performance

Internationalisation	International exports of goods decreased in 2023 in the Basque Country from 37.9 % of GDP to 35.8 %, with a decrease in both energy and non-energy exports. This trend is also observed in Spain, Germany and the EU-27, and the positioning of the Basque Country with respect to the European average has improved considerably over the last few years, and even in 2023. Moreover, the trade balance has improved, indicating that international imports of goods have fallen proportionally more than exports, both in energy and non-energy goods.
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### Wellbeing outcomes

Life satisfaction	Life satisfaction decreased slightly in the Basque Country in 2023. Its level is very similar to the EU-27 average and above Germany and Spain.
Material life	The proportion of people at risk of poverty or exclusion continues its downward trend to 15.5 %, lower than the EU-27 average (21.4 %), and economic inequality remains stable. However, median household income has fallen in the last two years, and the proportion of people who cannot afford to keep their home at an adequate temperature rose in 2023 to stand slightly above the EU average.
Employment	The unemployment rate (7.6 %), although above the EU-27 average (6.1 %), is narrowing the gap year by year. There are also improvements in job satisfaction (7.4 out of 10). However, the gender pay gap per hour worked, after a continuous decrease since 2017, has increased in the last year, standing at 8.8 %.
Social life	People's satisfaction with their free time is stable after the increases of the last decade, and trust in people has increased, recovering part of the decline experienced during the pandemic. On the other hand, although the level of crime remains significantly below the EU-27 average, crime against property per 100 000 inhabitants reached 895 in the Basque Country in 2022, an increase of 31 % over the previous year.
Learning	The proportion of the population aged 25-64 with upper secondary or tertiary education continues its upward trajectory and at 78.8 % has almost reached the European average (79.8 %). On the other hand, the Basque Country maintains its leadership in lifelong learning, with 18.2 % of the population aged 25-64 having participated in training or apprenticeship activities. However, the results of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) show a decline in the average score in mathematics, reading and science that is greater than that experienced in the EU-27 average.
Health	Despite the slight decrease in the proportion of the population who perceive their state of health as good or very good (from 74.8 % to 73.4 %) and the increase in premature deaths due to particle pollution (from 30.9 per 100 000 inhabitants to 31.3), the Basque Country maintains its leadership with respect to the EU-27 average in these two indicators and in life expectancy (83.5 years).
Environment	Both greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions increased in 2022 due to the increase in economic activity. In the case of greenhouse gases, the 5 % increase has opened a negative gap with the EU-27 average, whose emissions decreased by 1.3 %. However, with an increase that places the urban waste recycling rate at 47.4 % in 2022, the Basque Country has almost closed the negative gap with the European average.

Dynamic levers for competitiveness and wellbeing	
Natural Capital	Although the Basque Country is above the European average in most of the indicators analysed, progress in the last year has been worse than in the EU-27. The greatest challenge has to do with the share of renewable energies (18.2 %), which has worsened and is below the European average (23 %) with a difference that has not been reduced in the last decade.
Physical Capital	The Basque Country is well positioned with respect to the European average and Germany in the indicators of gross capital formation and capital stock. However, both gross capital formation as a percentage of GDP and the stock of physical capital fell slightly in 2023. Within gross capital formation, what did increase was the proportion allocated to capital goods, standing at 40.1 % and positively increasing the gap with respect to the other territories (30.6 % in Germany and 29.5 % in the EU-27).
Finance	Net worth, a structural indicator that refers to the funds that shareholders have invested in companies, has been improving and now stands at 49 %. On the other hand, the level of outward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) (95 % of GDP) is clearly higher than in economies such as Spain or even Germany, associated with the high degree of internationalisation of Basque companies. However, the inward stock of investment (FDI), which is already structurally low, fell slightly in the last year, in contrast to what happened in other territories.
Knowledge	The orientation of patents in environmental technologies (18.7 %) and the level of scientific publications (3,373 per million inhabitants) are clearly above the EU-27 average. Challenges come from the level of R&D expenditure and patents, which are below the European and German average and have fallen in the last year. As far as digitalisation is concerned, the Basque Country has strengths in terms of the digital skills of the population and digital infrastructures, as well as certain elements of the digitalisation of public services. However, it has shortcomings in terms of ICT specialists and some aspects of business digitalisation, such as the use of big data, the cloud and AI, as well as in the accessibility of public administration websites.
Human Capital	The indicator of medical personnel per 100 000 inhabitants, which broadly reflects the ability of a territory to maintain its human capital in health, has remained stable at 560, 40 % above the EU-27 average (397). On the other hand, the employment rate, which captures the intensity with which a territory makes use of available human capital, has improved in 2023 more than the EU-27 average, closing the gap that previously existed to be at a par (70 %). The two indicators that capture the general skills of the younger population have maintained the improving trend of recent years and are above the EU-27 average.
Social and Institutional Capital	23.4 % of Basque SMEs cooperated in R&D in 2022, a significantly higher proportion than the EU-27 average, but only 2.4 % of scientific publications in the Basque Country are in cooperation with industry, much less than the EU-27 average (4.3 %). On the other hand, the quality of governance index shows, after a steady rise in previous editions, a considerable drop in its most recent edition, in which the Basque Country has fallen from first to sixth position among Spanish regions.

## Inclusion: Driver of competitiveness and wellbeing in a changing demographic context

In 2024 we find ourselves in the Basque Country with a very different population to that of the early 1970s. On the one hand, although the proportion of people of working age is similar (60 %), the high percentage of young people has been replaced by a larger group of older people. On the other hand, while at the beginning of this century only 2 % of the population of the Basque Country were foreign-born, in 2023 this was 12 %. Finally, the profile of people of foreign origin has been diversifying. Currently, out of every 10 people of foreign origin, approximately 3 are women of American origin, 2 are men of American origin, another 2 are men from the rest of the world (especially the Maghreb) and the other 3 are a woman from the rest of the world and a man and a woman of European origin.

The combination of a much older population and a much more diverse population in terms of place of origin has important implications for the role of inclusion in the competitiveness and wellbeing of our territory. Inclusive competitiveness is understood as the process by which all people in a territory can participate by giving the best of themselves in the generation of value, both within the market and outside it. Thus, in territories with inclusive competitiveness, all people can participate in the construction of the wellbeing results that they also enjoy.

To analyse the cross-cutting axis of inclusion as a driver of competitiveness and wellbeing, it is crucial to address both participation and access. Inclusion as access is associated with wellbeing outcomes, while inclusion as participation relates to the dynamic levers of competitiveness, especially human and social capital.

### INCLUSION AS PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS



For empirical analysis of inclusion in the Basque Country we focus on the region's people, those who ultimately experience inequality and exclusion and who can participate in the construction of competitiveness and wellbeing.

## Inclusion as participation in the processes of building competitiveness

Age, gender and place of birth have an impact on people's decisions to enter the labour market or train or undertaking studies, and their working conditions. The analysis of inclusion in the levers of human and social capital in the Basque Country reveals a complex panorama, but understanding it is critical to work towards the inclusion of all people in the processes of competitiveness and wellbeing of the territory. The main features of this panorama can be summarised as follows:

- **Employment rates:** They are generally lower among women and among foreign-born persons. On the one hand, the greater dedication of women than men to care-related tasks has a direct impact on their incorporation into the labour market. On the other hand, foreign-born people face other obstacles to finding work, such as work experience, level of education and the process of regularising their residency and/or citizenship status.
- **Occupational activity:** Men are more likely to work in the industrial sector and women in public administration (education and health). Men and women from America and the rest of Europe are more likely to be employed in commerce, transport and hotels and restaurants, and men born in the rest of the world are more likely to work in construction. Foreign women, and in particular American women, have a greater presence in other services, a category that includes domestic workers. In terms of occupational category, people of local origin have occupations that require higher levels of skills, as they are in managerial, professional and technical positions, while foreign-born people tend to work in more elementary occupations. It is only in the sectors of Professional, scientific, technical and administrative activities, and Public administration, education and health where women predominate in management, professional and technical positions, and the growing incorporation of women into the business world has not been accompanied by a growth in their presence in decision-making positions.
- **Type of contract:** Temporary contracts affect more women than men, and among men they are more prevalent among those of foreign origin. This type of contract is also more common among the younger population. Moreover, full-time contracts are more common among men and among older people, while women have a higher rate of undesired part-time work. Among people of foreign origin, the presence of jobs without a contract or without social security affiliation stands out, probably due to their irregular legal situation, which limits their access to legal contracts and calls into question their levels of legal and social protection.
- **Skills:** The population of local origin has higher educational levels than that of foreign origin. Furthermore, while the percentage of women is higher than men in tertiary education and in continuing education, the percentage of men is higher in post-compulsory non-tertiary education. As for STEM studies, these are chosen by 28 % of university students (34 % of whom are women) and 51 % of vocational training students (11 % of whom are women). Finally, men (11.8 %), women (16.4 %) and people of foreign origin (21.8 %) report that their educational level is higher than that required for their job. Therefore, people's skills — and especially those of women and people of foreign origin — are not being used to the full, potentially impacting both their own wellbeing and the competitiveness of the territory.

- **Social and institutional capital:** People of foreign origin have less trust in general than people born in the Basque Country, but more trust in institutions. Local people have wider personal networks in which to seek support and better access to financial, health and emotional support. On the other hand, or as a result of the above, people of foreign origin have greater personal independence than local people. While interest in socio-political issues is very similar regardless of origin, the regulation of voting rights means that people of foreign origin participate less in elections.

## Inclusion as access to wellbeing outcomes

Our analysis of inclusion by gender, age and place of origin has also explored access to wellbeing outcomes in five dimensions:

- **Life satisfaction:** There are no major differences in life satisfaction between women and men, but satisfaction declines as people get older.
- **Material life:** Women generally have lower incomes than men and real poverty is higher in female-headed households. Incomes are lower and poverty higher also among younger people, but it is households headed by people of foreign origin that are most susceptible to poverty. There is a 34.3 % wage gap for people of foreign nationality, and a 27.9 % gap for the 25-34 age group compared to people aged 55 and over. These results translate into difficulties in accessing housing: owning a home is difficult, especially for young people, and this difficulty is even greater for people of foreign origin. On the other hand, the housing used by people of foreign origin is in worse condition in terms of humidity and cold.
- **Employment:** Women have lower job satisfaction, but job satisfaction has worsened more among men. Women also have fewer conflict situations at work than men.
- **Social life:** Inequality is detected in the division of domestic work between men and women, mainly in terms of childcare, with employed women having a higher daily dedication than men. Moreover, while the degree of satisfaction with the daily time spent on the different forms of domestic work is similar for both genders, there are indications that men are more satisfied with the overall division of tasks than women.
- **Health:** Men have a better self-perception of their health than women at all ages. In addition, the prevalence of symptoms of anxiety and depression, which can have an impact on social, emotional and work relationships, is higher among women than men, and is also higher in the 45-64 age group.

## Recommendations

The Report presents a vision of a territory with comparatively good and relatively inclusive results in economic competitiveness and wellbeing. Reinforcing the results of previous years' reports, the major challenges lie in the levers of knowledge and natural capital, and in innovation and environmental performance. To work on these and other competitiveness challenges in our current and changing demographic scenario, it is especially important to actively work on the inclusion of all people in competitiveness processes, making better use of existing capabilities and enhancing them through lifelong learning. It also implies learning how to effectively manage diversity in our companies and organisations and generating the right leadership in contexts of diversity.

There are multiple plans and policies dedicated to different dimensions of inclusion, each with a role in this process. In the search for inclusive competitiveness to generate inclusive well-being, it will be particularly important to work on the connections, contradictions and synergies between these actions to align the needs of the territory from an economic-business competitiveness perspective with the wellbeing needs of its people. In this context, the Report's analysis provides recommendations in six specific areas.

- I. ***Build on the capacities of all people:*** The analysis indicates that we are not taking advantage of the participation or capacities of all people living in the Basque Country, particularly women and people of foreign origin. It points to the need to work on the obstacles to the participation of these groups, in line with their capacities and the needs of the territory. In the case of women these barriers include the distribution of care tasks, while in the case of people of foreign origin it is especially important to seek solutions to their administrative situation, to foster their personal networks, and to ensure access to support and training opportunities that are well aligned with the needs of companies (in particular, through the vocational training system).
- II. ***Embrace diversity:*** In a changing demographic scenario, it is particularly important to actively work towards the inclusion of all people in competitiveness processes. This inclusion, by gender, of immigrants, of different ages, etc., increases the likelihood of increasing activity rates and meeting the challenges faced by companies in their generational transitions and in the search for talent of all kinds, thus contributing to the generation of competitiveness and well-being. In addition, it is important to learn how to effectively manage (and lead) this diversity in companies and other organisations to harness its potential benefits for organisational performance, innovation, and internationalisation.
- III. ***Strengthen digital-technological-green competitiveness:*** Without forgetting the other levers of competitiveness and wellbeing, there is a clear need to prioritise actions and strategies, on the part of the different actors in the Basque ecosystem, that strengthen the levers of natural capital and knowledge. Investment in R&D and the commercialisation of new knowledge must be accompanied by a special sensitivity to sustainability and digitalisation so that our industry can position itself at the forefront of the transition towards a new digital-technological-green competitiveness. Moreover, the challenge of moving towards an energy system with a higher share of renewable energies implies technological, social and behavioural changes. These can favour inclusive wellbeing in several ways, such as consumer empowerment, the generation of new employment opportunities or positive effects on air quality and people's health.
- IV. ***Foster innovation and productivity:*** Innovation in SMEs is a strategic issue due to its critical role in generating sustained increases in the productivity of the economic fabric in the medium and long term. It is necessary to continue fostering an innovative culture, supporting the reduction of costs associated with innovation, simplifying regulation and bureaucracy, and promoting the organisational and marketing innovations that are complementary to product and process innovations. In particular, it is necessary to focus these efforts on smaller companies.
- V. ***Address threats to well-being:*** Despite high levels of wellbeing achieved in the Basque Country, and improvements made in recent years in a weak area like employment, it is important to be aware of threats to this wellbeing. These include negative trends and inequalities in aspects of health, the difficulties of access to housing, and the educational performance of young people. The challenges are especially acute in the environmental dimension of wellbeing. Here, in line with the conclusions of our previous Competitiveness Report (Orkestra, 2023), there is a need to accelerate, in an ordered way, the green transition of our society, being mindful of the social impacts of this transition.

**VI. Increase inclusion in well-being outcomes:** In a context of high overall levels of wellbeing, there are some aspects of access to various dimensions of wellbeing by different groups in society that demand attention to achieve truly inclusive wellbeing. In particular, the need to continue to address the gender gap in income, to find solutions to the great difficulties faced by young people and people of foreign origin in accessing housing, and to better understand the causes of the higher prevalence of mental health problems among women.

## Panel of Territorial Competitiveness Indicators for Well-being

The panel collects the latest available data for 66 indicators of: (i) economic and business performance; (ii) welfare performance; and (iii) dynamic competitiveness levers. For each indicator, performance is characterised in terms of its evolution over the last year for which data are available and its position relative to the European average, both in absolute terms and in terms of its relative evolution over the last year. Green represents a positive result and red represents a negative result. In the first and second coloured columns, the presence of one symbol indicates that the difference is between 1 % and 5 %, and the presence of two symbols indicates that the difference is greater than 5%. In the third column, one symbol indicates that the change in the Basque Country differs between 0.5 and 3 percentage points with respect to the change in the EU-27 and two symbols indicate that the difference is greater than 3 percentage points. In all three cases, if the difference is less than the values indicated, it is indicated with an equal sign.

It is possible to access a dynamic version of this panel, with the option of generating evolution graphs for each indicator for the Basque Country and the reference territories at: <https://www.orquestra.deusto.es/competitiveness-observatory/es/ES21/report-table>.

## ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

Indicator	Year	Value	Evolution (last year)	Relative positioning EU-27	
				Level	Change
ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS RESULTS					
Economic and business performance					
GDP per capita (PPP-€)	2023	42 159	→→	↑↑	+
Apparent productivity of labour per person employed (k€ / person)	2023	78.7	→	↑↑	-
Apparent productivity of labour per hour worked (€/hour)	2022	46.6	→→	↑↑	++
Apparent productivity of labour per hour worked (€/hour)	2022	84.6	→→	↑↑	++
Apparent productivity of labour per hour worked in Manufacturing (€/hour)	2022	50.6	→→	↑↑	++
Corporate profitability					
Unit Labour Cost in the total economy (ULC) (% per person employed)	2022	59.1	→	↑	+
Unit Labour Cost (ULC) in the manufacturing sector (% per person employed)	2022	58.2	→→	↓↓	++
Gross operating surplus (% GDP)	2023	43.1	=	↑	+
Economic return on assets (ROA) (median; %)	2023	6.6	→→	n/d	n/d
Financial profitability (ROE) (median; %)	2023	11.8	→→	n/d	n/d
Innovation and entrepreneurship					
Total innovative SMEs (% CORE est.)	2022	42.4	→→	↓↓	--
SMEs with product innovation (% CORE est.)	2022	26.1	→→	↓↓	++
SMEs with process innovation (% est. CORE)	2022	32.6	→→	↓↓	--
Sales of new/improved products by innovative SMEs (% total sales)	2022	11.1	←←	↑↑	-
Entrepreneurial activity rate (% population 18-64 years)	2023	5.5	→→	n/d	n/d
High growth companies (% companies with more than 10 employees)	2022	9.2	←←	↑↑	--
Internationalisation					
International exports of goods (% GDP)	2023	35.8	←←	↓↓	+
International trade balance of goods (% GDP)	2023	6.4	→→	↑↑	++
International exports of non-energy goods (% GDP)	2023	33.6	←	↓↓	+
International trade balance of non-energy goods (% GDP)	2023	11.7	→→	↑↑	--
International exports of goods and services (% GDP)	2023	40.2	←	↓↓	++
International trade balance of goods and services (% GDP)	2023	6.3	→→	↑↑	++

Source:

## WELFARE OUTCOMES

Indicator	Year	Value	Develop- ments (last year)	Relative positioning EU-27	
				Level	Change
WELFARE OUTCOMES					
Satisfaction with life					
Satisfaction with life (0-10)	2023	7.3	←	=	--
Material life					
Equivalent median annual household income (€)	2022	19 920	←	↑	--
Share of people at risk of poverty or exclusion (AROPE) (%)	2023	15.5	→	↑↑	=
Ratio of S80/S20 quintiles by income	2023	5.0	=	↓↓	=
People who cannot afford to keep the dwelling at an adequate temperature (%)	2023	11.5	←←	↓↓	--
Employment					
Unemployment rate (% of population 15-74 years)	2023	7.6	→→	↓↓	++
Level of job satisfaction (0-10)	2023	7.4	→	n/d	n/d
Gender pay gap per hour worked (%)	2022	8.8	←←	n/d	n/d
Social life					
Satisfaction with the time available (0-10)	2022	6.9	=	n/d	n/d
Trust in people (0-10)	2023	6.3	→	↑↑	-
Property crime rate (per 100 000 inhabitants)	2022	895	←←	↑↑	--
Learning					
Upper secondary or tertiary education (% population 25-64 years)	2023	78.8	→	↓	+
Lifelong learning (% population 25-64 years)	2023	18.2	→	↑↑	--
PISA average scores in maths, reading and science	2021	476	←	=	-
Health					
Perceived health status (% of people in good or very good health)	2022	73.4	←	↑↑	=
Life expectancy at birth (years)	2022	83.5	=	↑	-
Premature deaths due to air pollution (PM2.5) (per 100 000 inhabitants)	2021	31.3	←	↑↑	++
Environment					
Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent per capita)	2022	8.4	←←	↓↓	--
Air pollution (annual average concentration of particulate matter PM2.5 in ug/m3)	2022	9.5	←←	↑↑	--
Municipal waste recycling rate (%)	2022	47.4	→	↓	++

Source:

## DYNAMIC LEVERS OF COMPETITIVENESS

Indicator	Year	Value	Evolution (last year)	Relative positioning EU-27	
				Level	Change
LEVERS					
Natural capital					
Energy intensity (tonnes of oil equivalent/M€)	2022	85.8	→	↑↑	--
Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (%)	2022	18.2	←←	↓↓	--
Environmental tax revenue (% GDP)	2021	1.75	→	↓↓	++
Empleo en el sector de bienes y servicios medioambientales (% empleo total)	2021	2.06	→	↑↑	--
Employment in the environmental goods and services sector (% total employment)	2021	1.95	←	↑↑	--
Physical capital					
Gross capital formation (% GDP)	2023	24.3	←	↑↑	--
Physical capital stock (times GDP)	2023	3.2	←	↑↑	--
Gross capital formation in capital goods (% total gross capital formation)	2023	40.1	→	↑↑	+
Funding					
Equity to assets (median, %)	2023	49.0	→	n/d	n/d
Stock de entrada de inversión extranjera directa (IED) (% PIB)	2022	26.6	←←	↓↓	--
Stock de salida de inversión extranjera directa (IED) (% PIB)	2022	95.1	→→	↑↑	++
Knowledge					
Total R&D expenditure (% GDP)	2022	2.08	←	↓↓	-
EPO scientific patents per million inhabitants (three-year average)	2022	49.6	←←	↓↓	++
WOS scientific publications per million inhabitants (three-year average)	2022	3 814	←	↑↑	=
Percentage of EPO patents in environmental technologies (% total patents)	2021	18.7	→	↑↑	++
Human capital					
Medical personnel (per 100k inhabitants)	2021	560	=	↑↑	-
Population aged 25-34 with upper secondary or tertiary education (ISCED 3-8) (%)	2023	87.7	→	↑	++
Population aged 25-34 with tertiary education (ISCED 5-8) (%)	2023	67.6	→→	↑↑	+
Employment rate (% population 15-64 years)	2023	69.9	→	=	+
Percentage of employed people with ICT skills (%)	2023	5.3	→	↑↑	=
Percentage of ICT graduates (%)	2022	4.8	→→	↑↑	-
Social capital					
Quality of Governance Index	2024	0.05	←←	↑	n/d
SMEs cooperating in R&D (% CORE est.)	2022	23.4	→	↑↑	++
Publications with industry cooperation (three-year average) (% publications)	2022	2.44	→	↓↓	++

Source:





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