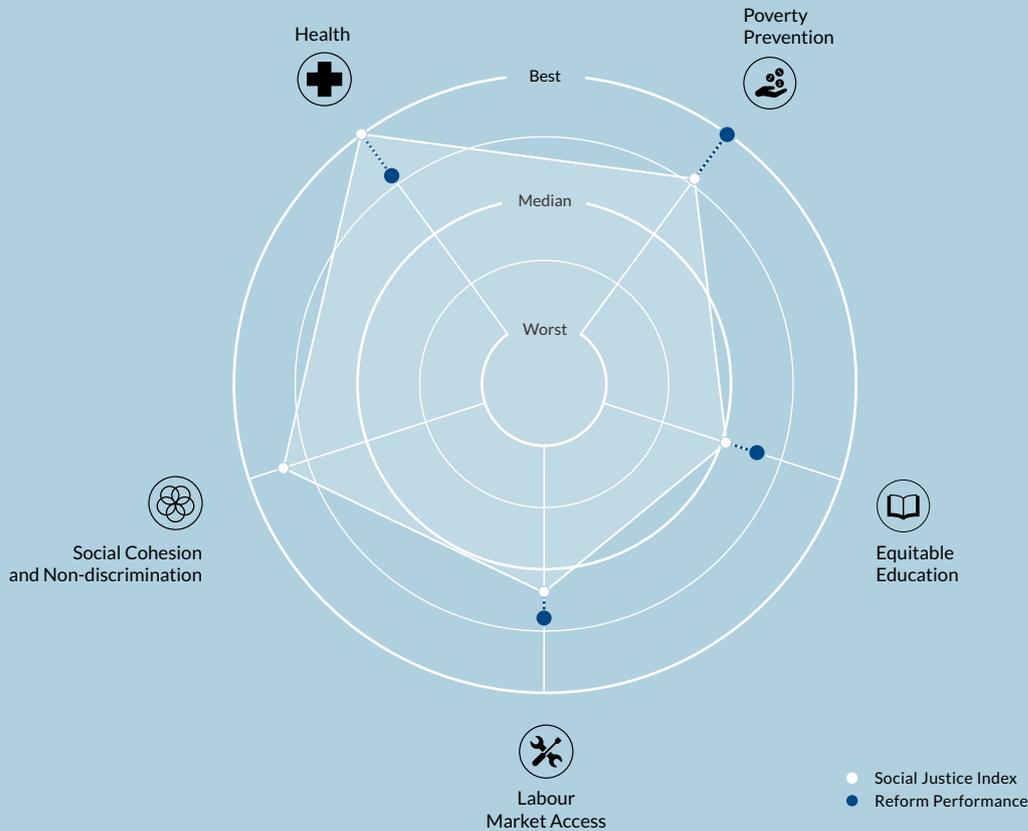


Findings by Country

Luxembourg

How does the country rank in the EU?



Overall Findings

Need Luxembourg's need for policy reform is close to the EU median need of 2.18, ranking the country 11th out of 23 assessed EU member states. Based on the experts' assessments, the country performs fairly well on the dimensions of Labour Market Access (2.05, rank 6/19) and Health (1.90, rank 5/20). In fact, Luxembourg has one of the best health care systems in the EU. In the dimension of Health, the country ranked 1st in the 2015 Social Justice Index (SJI), receiving a score of 7.88 out of 10.

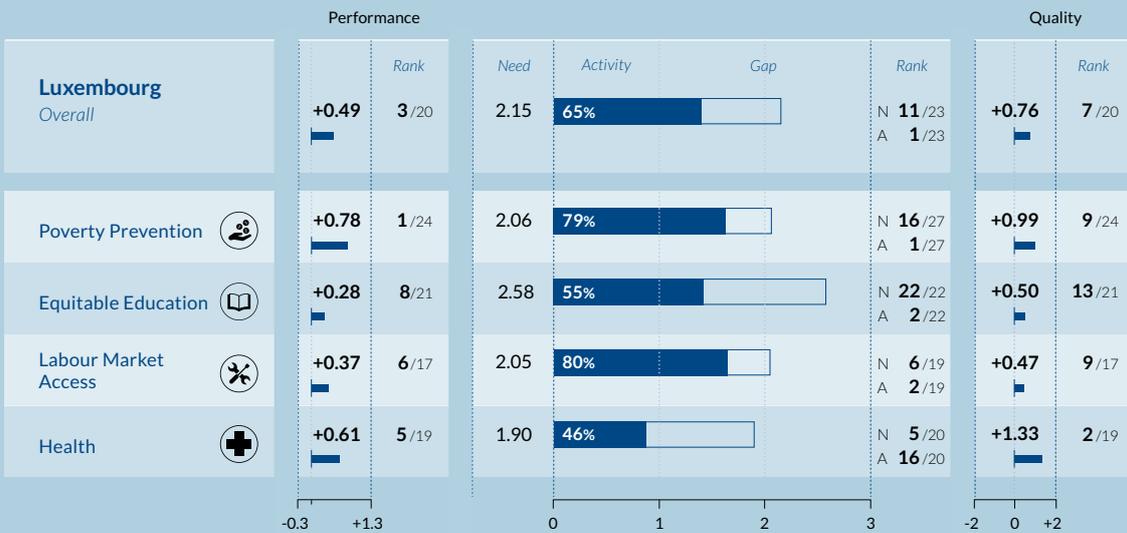
In contrast, the experts see a pressing need for policy change in the area of Equitable Education, which is assessed at 2.58, ranking Luxembourg in last place among 22 countries. Their assessment is that more reform also has to be introduced with regard to Poverty Prevention, even though Luxembourg ranked among the top 10 in this dimension for its policies in the 2015 SJI.

Activity Luxembourg has the highest activity rate, both overall (65%, rank 1/23) as well as in the dimension of Poverty Prevention (79%, rank 1/27). Furthermore, it shows the second-highest activity rate with regard to Equitable

Overall Reform Performance Ranking



Overview of Reform Barometer Scores



Education (55%, rank 2/22) and Labour Market Access (80%, rank 2/19). Fewer policy reforms were introduced for improving the Health system (46%), ranking the country only 16th out of 19 countries. However, Luxembourg already has a very good health system in place and, therefore, a rather low need for the introduction of policy changes.

Quality The overall quality of policy reforms in Luxembourg was evaluated as being relatively high (0.76), ranking the country nearly within the top third (rank 7/20). Though only a few steps were taken towards improving the health system, the experts were very optimistic that these actions were advancing public health even further (1.33, rank 2/19). With regard to Poverty Prevention, the experts expect the reforms to have also quite positive effects (0.99, rank 9/24). Equitable Education was assessed to be in the greatest need of reform, compared to both other policy objectives and other EU member states. While governmental action addressing this pressing issue is the second highest out of 22 EU member states, the experts only expect slim improvement (0.50, rank 13/21).

Dimension Findings



Poverty Prevention

Need Luxembourg shows a comparatively high need for policy reform with regard to Poverty Prevention. While the need is relatively low for the total population (1.33) and senior citizens (0.56), the experts assessed that certain demographic and societal groups are at high risk of poverty. A strong need for policy change was assessed for single parents (2.44) and children (2.63). Moreover, reforms addressing poverty prevention among Luxembourg's foreign-born population (2.67) and refugees fleeing to the country (2.71) are even more urgently needed. Concerning this issue, one expert stressed that the need for reform in the dimension of Poverty Prevention is closely linked to that in Equitable Education. Poverty can only be prevented if education is improved, specifically by ensuring universal access to education and allowing for the use of different languages in primary school – objectives which would greatly benefit the aforementioned groups. However, Equitable Education remains a dimension in which Luxembourg also shows a very high need for reform (2.58, rank 22/22).

Activity Luxembourg shows the highest activity rate among the 27 assessed EU member states in the dimension of Poverty Prevention. Regarding the above-mentioned at-risk groups, the activity rate was also remarkably high: 58 percent and 81 percent of the need for poverty prevention policies addressed the foreign-born population and refugees, respectively, which are among the highest activity rates compared to other countries. Addressing the need for single parents was even assessed as at a remarkable 100 percent, and at 88 percent for children.

Quality The quality of the policy reforms introduced was rated as being at an above-average level (0.99, rank 9/24). The experts are even more optimistic about the impact of policies addressing poverty prevention for refugees (1.67, rank 1/13).



Equitable Education

Need Luxembourg has the highest need for reform in the dimension of Equitable Education among the 22 assessed EU member states (2.58, rank 22/22). Across all six policy objectives, the country performs below the EU average. However, the most pressing challenges are ensuring equal opportunities (2.28, rank 22/25), ensuring the independence of learning success from children's socioeconomic background (3.00) and integrating refugees (3.00). As mentioned above, these three pressing issues also contribute to putting refugees and foreign-born people at a very high risk of poverty. According to the experts, reviewing language policies and the use of tracking (streaming) in the secondary education system are at the forefront of what needs to be done next. The experts described tracking as being particularly harmful to foreign-born students. Making it easier to switch between streams, postponing tracking to an older age, or even reducing the number of streams in secondary education are described as possible solutions.

Activity The activity rate in the dimension of Equitable Education is 55 percent, which ranks Luxembourg in 2nd place out of 22 assessed countries. With regard to the three most urgent policy objectives for Luxembourg mentioned above, a similarly high activity rate can be seen. While activities ensuring equal opportunities are just above average (44%, rank 11/25), a lot is being done towards ensuring the independence of learning success from a person's socioeconomic background (67%, rank 4/21) and integrating refugees (67%, rank 2/18).

Quality Though the need for education reform is high and the experts assessed a high activity rate, especially regarding the most pressing challenges, they were less optimistic about the impacts of the policy changes introduced. Though they anticipate a positive influence (0.50, rank 13/21), they expect it will be rather minor.

Labour Market Access

Need The need for reforms addressing Labour Market Access in Luxembourg is comparatively low (2.05), ranking the country within the top third. However, the experts assessed a greater need for reform concerning the objective of increasing employment for youth (3.00) as well as for women, the long-term unemployed, low-skilled workers and foreigners (2.67 each). Significantly less need was assessed for creating job opportunities for the total population and senior citizens (1.67 each). This corresponds with the need to prevent poverty for certain groups, as discussed above.

Activity Again, the activity rate is very high: 80 percent of the need for policy reform was addressed, which is the second-highest rate in this dimension. A lot of governmental action was also undertaken to improve job opportunities for certain groups, such as women and foreigners (75% each) as well as for refugees (63%) and young people (67%). However, more needs to be done regarding long-term unemployment (38%).

Quality The experts assess the reforms introduced to have positive but moderate impacts (0.47, rank 9/17).

Health

Need With a good health system in place, reforms are less needed in Luxembourg when compared with 19 assessed EU member states (1.90, rank 5/20). A slightly higher need was assessed for the policy objective of accessibility and range of health services (2.00, rank 7/19). For this objective, the experts remarked that access to health care still depends on social status, and that it needs to be improved for certain societal groups, such as homeless people and drug addicts.

Activity The activity rate was relatively low (46%, rank 16/20). While it was high regarding improvements to public health and the quality of health care (63 and 67%, respectively), little was done to improve the accessibility and range of health services (38%).

Quality The quality of health care reform was assessed as being the second highest out of 19 evaluated EU member states (1.33).