

The  
Economist

INTELLIGENCE  
UNIT



# Global Food Security Index 2020

## Regional report: Europe

SUPPORTED BY



# Europe

## Introduction

This edition of the Global Food Security Index examines 26 European countries: 20 high-income countries, five upper-middle-income countries and one lower-middle-income country. Europe has the second-best food security environment (surpassed only by North America) and represents the biggest concentration of food security leaders in the world. The region is led by Finland, Ireland and the Netherlands, the top three global leaders. While all European countries ranked in the top half of the global index, there are contrasts between the leaders and Serbia and Ukraine (ranking 52nd and 54th).

Low poverty rates coupled with high and equitable incomes ensure high levels of food affordability across the region, while the presence of robust safety nets ensures that the vulnerable are protected from food insecurity. Europe leads the world in providing access to finance and diversified financial products for farmers, and food security is supported by high levels of social and political stability overall. However, some areas are prone to corruption and political instability, especially in the eastern nations that are not part of the European Union (EU). Ukraine's conflict, in particular, is the cause of unparalleled food insecurity in the region. European countries are global leaders in combating food waste, and in food quality and food safety. In terms of climate change, Europe is exposed to droughts and flooding, and its water resources are threatened. However, Europe—and particularly the EU—is a world leader in driving policy commitment to adaptation, a beacon of regional co-operation and a source of best practices in food security and sustainability.

## About The Global Food Security Index 2020

The Global Food Security Index (GFSI), developed by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and supported by Corteva Agriscience, considers food affordability, availability, quality and safety, alongside natural resources and resilience, across 113 countries. The index is based on a dynamic benchmarking model constructed from 59 qualitative and quantitative indicators that measure the drivers of food security in developing and developed countries.

This edition of the GFSI incorporates the “Natural Resources and Resilience” category into the main index. This category assesses a country's exposure to the impacts of a changing climate, its susceptibility to natural resource risks and how the country is adapting to these risks, all of which affect food security. The category was first introduced into the GFSI in 2017 as an adjustment factor. In recognition of its increasing importance, it has been included as a main category in the index for the first time this year.

This report is based on research conducted by The EIU between April and September 2020. The EIU bears sole responsibility for the content of this report. The findings and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the partners and experts.

The 113 countries included in the GFSI cover five regions: Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, and North America. Regional reports provide the highlights and an analysis of each region's performance in the 2020 index. This report presents the key findings for the 26 countries in Europe that are included in the GFSI.

The GFSI 2020 model, the global research report and all five regional reports are available online at <https://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/>. Please visit the website for more information on the global rankings, key findings and 2020 methodology.

# Key takeaways from the GFSI 2020

→ In Europe, low poverty rates coupled with high and equitable incomes ensure high levels of food affordability. Europe also has robust food safety nets that protect the vulnerable from food insecurity, and it leads the world in providing access to finance and diversified financial products for farmers.

→ The region's food supply is above the global average in most cases. However, there are gaps to overcome in some parts of (relatively poorer) Eastern Europe. The volatility of agricultural production in Europe is above the global average and acts as a barrier to predicting and planning for a consistent food supply. However, the region may be able to compensate with more infrastructure and technical knowledge to generate efficiencies.

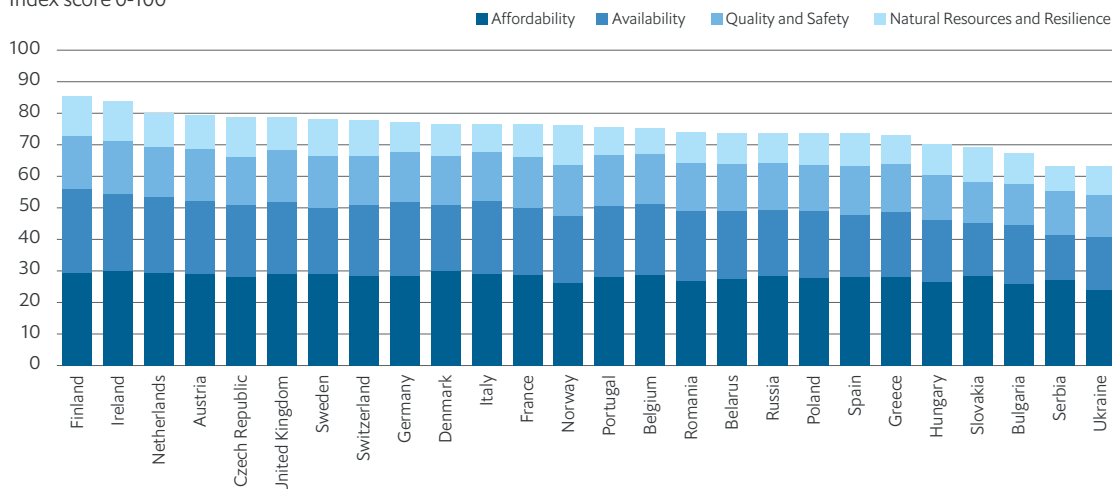
→ A global leader in managing food loss, the region has reduced food loss for the third consecutive year and innovative practices abound. The EU's 2020 "Farm to Fork Strategy" is the bloc's latest co-ordinated initiative to tackle food loss. It offers a platform for further regulatory action on food loss and is based on a food lifecycle approach and the principles of fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food systems.<sup>1</sup>

→ Although Europe achieves high levels of food security, defined food security strategies and dedicated food security agencies are limited across most countries in the region. Only Finland achieved a perfect score in this area. "Food 2030" is the Finnish national food policy, the objective of which is to guarantee national food security and good nutrition for every resident in the country.<sup>2</sup> Food security strategies and dedicated food security agencies should not be neglected as they help to prioritise food security in national agendas and co-ordinate support for vulnerable populations, especially during crises. During the COVID-19 emergency, food security has been compromised even in wealthy nations, resulting in cases of food price volatility and food access barriers (primarily for vulnerable groups).

**Figure 1**  
**Overall food security environment scores for countries in Europe**

The overall score is the weighted average of the four categories: Affordability, Availability, Quality and Safety, and Natural Resources and Resilience.

Index score 0-100



Source: Global Food Security Index 2020.

---

→ Some European countries are world leaders in dietary diversity and the availability of nutrients. While most of the countries in Europe have implemented nutritional standards like national dietary guidelines and nutritional labelling, Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia still have work to do. Food safety standards are high across the region, but some infrastructure gaps remain, particularly in poorer Eastern European countries. In countries like Romania, Russia and Serbia, infrastructure investments are required to extend water networks across the whole national territory.

---

→ In terms of climate change, Europe is especially exposed to droughts and flooding. There are also important risks to natural resources, particularly water shortages and damage to oceans, rivers and lakes. However, Europe is the leading region in driving policy commitment to adaptation. Members of the EU, in particular, offer examples of cross-country collaboration, through initiatives such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the General Union Environment Action Programme and the common commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

# Regional performance

## Average regional scores

Score/100

1	North America	77.4
<b>2</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>74.9</b>
3	Middle East and North Africa	62.6
4	Asia Pacific	61.1
5	Latin America	60.9
6	Sub-Saharan Africa	43.8

## Top 5 ranked countries in the region

Rank/113

1	Finland	1
2	Ireland	2
3	Netherlands	3
4	Austria	4
5	Czech Republic	5

## Lowest 5 ranked countries in the region

Rank/113

26	Ukraine	54
25	Serbia	52
24	Bulgaria	44
23	Slovakia	40
22	Hungary	36

## Regional statistics

### GDP per capita (PPP)

US\$

Highest	Ireland	86,736
Lowest	Ukraine	12,710

### Total regional population

Highest	Russia	149m
Lowest	Ireland	4.9m

### Prevalence of undernourishment

Highest	Slovakia	6.1%
Lowest	22 countries	<2.5%

### Prevalence of obesity

Highest	United Kingdom	29.5%
Lowest	Switzerland	21.2%

# Overview of findings

Europe is a global leader in food affordability (along with North America) and stands out for food quality and safety. It is the second-best region in the world in terms of food availability and the leading region in the natural resources and resilience category of the GFSI. This year the region's overall food security environment deteriorated marginally, with slight deteriorations in food affordability and in food quality and safety. Food availability remained static, and there was a small improvement in the management of natural resources and resilience. Since 2012, when the first edition of the GFSI was published, Europe's food security environment has experienced sustained gains, driven by improvements in food availability, as well as in natural resources and resilience.

## Key strengths

→ Europe has high levels of food affordability across most of the countries in the region, primarily due to low levels of poverty and low to moderate levels of inequality. Well-funded safety nets support access to food for vulnerable populations across most of the countries.

→ Multiple factors contribute to ensuring food sufficiency in the region, including advanced infrastructure (for efficient production, preservation and distribution of food) and relative social and political stability. As a result, the region has minimal dependency on foreign food aid, with many countries functioning as aid donors instead.

→ Good coverage of basic services, varied diets and implementation of national nutritional standards create an environment of favourable food quality and safety across most of the region.

→ Although there is much more work to be done, the region leads the world in policy commitments to adaptation, especially regarding the development of early warning measures or climate-smart agriculture, as well as climate change adaptation plans focused on the agricultural sector.

## Key gaps

→ European countries have varying levels of public investment in agricultural research and development (R&D), which can be crucial in ensuring a stable and sufficient food supply in the future. Although the region features some global leaders, government spending in this field could be expanded in several countries.

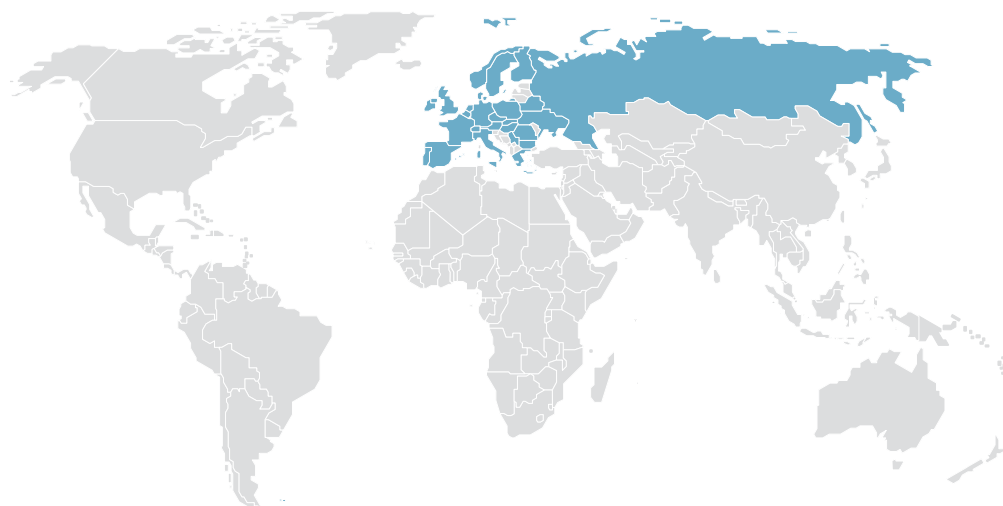
→ Defined food security strategies and dedicated food security agencies are limited across most countries in the region. These instruments are important for prioritising food security in national agendas, and for co-ordinating support for vulnerable populations.

→ Nutritional dietary guidelines, as well as nutritional monitoring and surveillance of the population, are still lacking or need to be updated in some of the countries.

→ The region is especially exposed to droughts and water shortages, and oceans, rivers and lakes are at risk of degradation. In most countries, disaster risk management strategies have not been articulated with climate change adaptation plans, which calls for an urgent policy response.

## Europe: Overview of findings

Rank		Score/100
1	Finland	85.3
2	Ireland	83.8
3	Netherlands	79.9
4	Austria	79.4
5	Czech Republic	78.6
6	United Kingdom	78.5
7	Sweden	78.1
8	Switzerland	77.7
9	Germany	77.0
10	Denmark	76.6
10	Italy	76.6
12	France	76.5
13	Norway	76.2
14	Portugal	75.7
15	Belgium	75.2
16	Romania	74.2
17	Belarus	73.8
18	Russia	73.7
19	Poland	73.5
20	Spain	73.4
21	Greece	73.0
22	Hungary	70.1
23	Slovakia	69.2
24	Bulgaria	67.4
25	Serbia	63.2
26	Ukraine	63.0



# Affordability

The first category in the GFSI measures food affordability by assessing the ability of consumers to purchase food (based on incomes and food costs), financial services for farmers, and the presence of programmes and policies to protect the population when shocks occur. Food affordability is one of Europe's strengths, as all of the countries in the region ranked in the top half of the global scale, and 14 of the 20 top-ranked countries in the world are European. Denmark and Ireland tied at the top of the global ranking, followed by the Netherlands and Finland. The lowest ranking countries in the region in this category were Bulgaria and Ukraine (41st and 54th). This year the region experienced a marginal deterioration in food affordability. Norway and Sweden experienced visible declines, and Ukraine and Romania experienced the strongest improvements. Norway experienced the most pronounced increase in food price inflation in the region—a development linked to the country's currency depreciation in an environment of low oil prices.<sup>3</sup> Ukraine, meanwhile, registered a fall in food prices, especially vegetables and fruit,<sup>4</sup> amid broader inflation reduction trends.

## Key regional findings

→ **Low poverty rates coupled with high and equitable incomes ensure high levels of food affordability in Europe.** Compared with other regions in the world, the proportion of people living below the US\$3.20-a-day poverty line is minimal in Europe. However, poverty affects a significant portion of the population in Romania and Serbia. Similarly, all of the countries in the region ranked in the top half of the global scale based on income inequality. However, there are contrasts within the region: Nordic Norway and Denmark are global leaders in equality, while Serbia, Bulgaria and Ukraine, for example, are not only poorer but are also more unequal (making segments of their populations susceptible to economic shocks and food insecurity).

→ **Food prices have increased across most countries in the region this year.** Even though price inflation is still relatively modest for the region as a whole, 18 out of 26 European countries recorded food price increases. In particular, spikes were observed in Hungary, Portugal, Belgium and Norway. In Belgium, this has been attributed to supply chain disruptions and heightened demand amid the COVID-19 emergency.<sup>5</sup> Ukraine experienced a drop in food prices, aligned with a broader inflation reduction programme implemented by the Central Bank of Ukraine.<sup>6</sup> At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, food supply in EU countries faced threats from consumer behaviours, such as panic buying of essentials. However, the bloc's food systems have largely managed to cope, including those in poorer

eastern countries.<sup>7</sup> Nonetheless, as an importer of supplies such as wheats, pulses and oils, the region still faces vulnerabilities if supply chains or international trade are disrupted.<sup>8</sup> Such disruptions would likely be reflected in food shortages and price volatility.

→ **Europe has robust food safety nets that protect the vulnerable from food insecurity.** With the exception of Ukraine, all countries in the region have robust safety net programmes, encompassing adequate planning, nationwide reach and autonomy from foreign aid. (Ukraine has a safety net programme but it lacks appropriate funding and coverage.) The COVID-19 emergency is putting safety nets under stress, even in wealthy Western European countries. In the UK, for example, as poverty affects a growing segment of the population, concerns about food insecurity among children have triggered a national debate on the expansion of school meal programmes.<sup>9</sup>

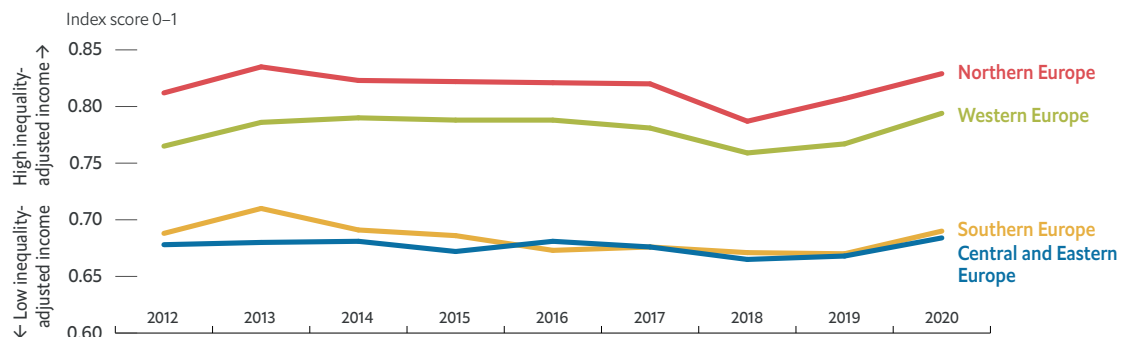
→ **The region leads the world in providing access to finance and diversified financial products for farmers.** Most countries offer widespread access to traditional and diversified finance programmes (i.e. other than savings and credit) for farmers. However, in Ukraine these services are still not available to all farmers, and in both Ukraine and Romania there is no universal coverage of diversified products. Since 1962 the Common Agricultural Policy has been supporting and financing farmers across the EU, which helps to ensure a stable supply of affordable food. In addition to providing income support to farmers, the CAP provides funds for rural development.<sup>10</sup>

## Europe: Affordability rankings

Rank		Score/100
1	Denmark	92.2
1	Ireland	92.2
3	Netherlands	90.7
4	Finland	90.6
5	Italy	89.8
6	United Kingdom	89.7
7	Austria	89.5
8	Sweden	89.2
9	France	88.3
10	Belgium	88.2
11	Slovakia	88.1
12	Switzerland	87.9
13	Germany	87.7
14	Russia	87.2
15	Portugal	87.0
16	Greece	86.9
17	Czech Republic	86.3
17	Spain	86.3
19	Poland	85.1
20	Belarus	85.0
21	Serbia	83.2
22	Romania	82.8
23	Hungary	81.7
24	Norway	81.1
25	Bulgaria	80.0
26	Ukraine	74.4

**Figure 2**  
**Inequality adjusted-income index for Europe**

The Inequality adjusted-income index is a metric by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which adjusts for inequality while measuring the individual income levels in a country. A score of 0 implies lowest income after adjusting for inequality levels and a score of 1 means highest income after accounting for inequality.



Source: United Nations Development Programme.

Note: **Central and Eastern Europe** includes Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, Czech Republic and Serbia.

**Northern Europe** includes Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. **Southern Europe** includes Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

**Western Europe** includes Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland\*.

\* Publications office of the European Union. Available at:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/th-concept-scheme/-/resource/eurovoc/100277?uri=http://eurovoc.europa.eu/100277>

# Availability

The second category in the GFSI measures food availability by assessing factors including the sufficiency of the national food supply; the risk of supply disruption (due to national political and social instability); the infrastructure for food production, preservation and distribution; and policy commitments to and research efforts for sustained food security. Europe is the second-best region in terms of food availability, after North America. Although European countries mostly ranked above the global average, four countries appeared in the bottom half of the global rankings: Bulgaria, Slovakia, Ukraine and Serbia. Underperformance in these countries is driven by lags in agricultural infrastructure, food security policy, and in the case of Ukraine, social and political barriers (notably the risk of armed conflict and corruption). The COVID-19 emergency recently affected food supply in the region by reducing input availability due to a shortage of seasonal migrant workers. Getting food to where it is most needed has also been a challenge because of the closure of food businesses and export restrictions.<sup>11</sup>

## Key regional findings

→ **Food supply in the region is above the global average in most cases. However, there are gaps to overcome in some parts of Eastern Europe.** Twenty-two out of the 26 European countries included in the GFSI appeared within the top half of the global rankings for food supply sufficiency. Indeed, many countries are food aid donors, and only two (Serbia and Ukraine) rely on some form of foreign food aid. It has been estimated that more than 500,000 people are food insecure in eastern parts of Ukraine as a result of conflict and displacement. In 2019 the country received over \$4m in food assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).<sup>12</sup>

→ **Agricultural production in Europe is more volatile than in the rest of the world, which acts as a barrier to predicting and planning for a consistent food supply.** Serbia, Slovakia and Norway face highly volatile agricultural production, potentially as a result of climate change. Slovakia's agricultural land is becoming increasingly sensitive to drought, especially the maize-producing regions; and the country's growing season is gradually shifting towards the months with high levels of heat stress.<sup>13</sup> Slovakia has introduced a plan to prevent and mitigate droughts, which involves modernising irrigation systems, changing forest structures and harvesting rainwater for better climate change resilience.<sup>14</sup> Agriculture is also vulnerable to droughts and floods in Serbia. Intense rainfall in the summer of 2020 adversely affected the quality of wheat, and some areas have produced low yields because of droughts in the spring.<sup>15</sup>

→ **Food security in the region is supported by social and political stability. However, some areas are prone to corruption and political risk.** The risk of armed conflict is low in most European countries, with the exceptions of Russia and Ukraine. Only Belarus, Russia and Ukraine have high levels of political instability, with a disputed election causing protests in Belarus this year.<sup>16</sup> There is also a high risk of corruption in some Southern and Eastern European countries. Gender equality in Europe is generally above the global average, but there is room for improvement especially in Eastern European countries such as Hungary, Ukraine and Romania.

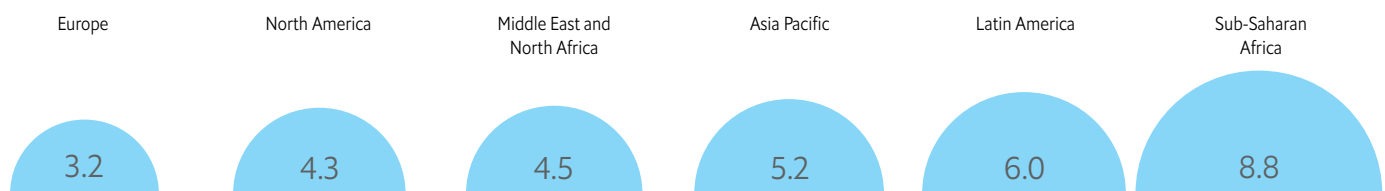
→ **Europe has reduced food loss for the third consecutive year and is a global leader in this area.** Ireland, Switzerland and Norway are the top performers in successfully managing food loss, with governments and civil society organisations collaborating to mitigate food waste. In Norway, food waste in the manufacturing, wholesale and grocery sectors was reduced by 12% between 2015 and 2018. Food banks redistribute surplus food to non-profit organisations that help marginalised groups, and public campaigns raise awareness about food waste.<sup>17</sup> The Norwegian government and the country's food industry have entered into an agreement to halve food waste across the food value chain by 2030, relying on strategies such as lowering prices on products nearing the "best by" date and discouraging bulk purchases.<sup>18</sup> Bulgaria and Greece are exceptions in the region, with food loss performance below the global average.

## Europe: Availability rankings

Rank		Score/100
1	Finland	82.0
2	Ireland	75.7
3	Netherlands	74.5
4	Germany	71.6
5	Italy	71.4
6	Austria	70.8
7	Czech Republic	70.4
8	United Kingdom	70.0
9	Belgium	69.6
10	Portugal	68.5
11	Switzerland	68.4
12	Romania	67.9
13	Belarus	65.8
13	France	65.8
13	Poland	65.8
16	Norway	65.0
16	Sweden	65.0
18	Russia	64.7
19	Denmark	64.1
20	Greece	63.6
21	Spain	61.0
22	Hungary	60.6
23	Bulgaria	57.3
24	Slovakia	51.7
25	Ukraine	51.6
26	Serbia	43.9

Figure 3  
Food loss across regions

Total food loss as a % of total domestic supply



Source: Global Food Security Index 2020.



# Quality and safety

The third category in the GFSI measures the variety and nutritional quality of the average diet, national policies for nutrition and food safety mechanisms. Food quality and safety is one of Europe's strengths in the GFSI. All countries in the region ranked in the top half of the global scale, with Austria, Ireland and Finland the regional leaders. Ukraine, Bulgaria and Slovakia recorded the weakest performance (46th, 47th and 49th, respectively). This year the region experienced a small deterioration in food quality and safety, with Greece and Poland recording the strongest declines, following a deterioration in the implementation of nutritional standards (especially regarding the monitoring and surveillance of the population's nutritional status). Austria showed the greatest gains, following improvements to national dietary guidelines.

## Key regional findings

→ **Some European countries are world leaders in dietary diversity and the availability of nutrients.** Europe performs well above the global average in dietary diversity (measured as the percentage of non-starchy food in food consumption) and the availability of nutrients (vitamin A, iron, zinc and protein). Culture and geography may play an important role in this achievement; Mediterranean diets, for instance, are renowned for their advantages and have been proven to benefit cardiovascular health and ageing.<sup>19</sup> While most countries across the region have good levels of food quality, there are some contrasts. Eastern European countries (some of the less wealthy in the region) have the lowest levels of dietary diversity, particularly Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine. Poor diets (with high intakes of saturated fat, sugar and complex carbohydrates) have been observed in Central and Eastern European Countries.<sup>20</sup>

→ **While most of the countries in Europe have implemented nutritional standards, Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia are yet to catch up.** All of the 26 European countries included in the GFSI have a nutrition plan or

strategy, as well as a requirement for nutritional labelling. However, nine countries do not have updated national dietary guidelines in place. These guidelines can help to create awareness among the public and set standards for balanced and nutritious diets. Nutritional monitoring and surveillance programmes for the population are also lacking in nine countries. Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia are the countries with the most visible gaps in nutritional standards overall. They could learn best practices from numerous European countries that are world leaders in this area, such as France, Germany or the UK.

→ **Food safety standards are high across the region, but some infrastructure gaps remain.** All countries in the region have achieved full electrification of their territories, enabling safe food storage. However, there are some striking gaps in access to safely managed drinking water. These are particularly visible in Eastern European Romania, Russia and Serbia. Infrastructure investments should be prioritised in basic service networks to improve food safety standards across national territories. Technical innovations in off-grid solutions for water and electricity could also be considered to achieve coverage in remote areas.

## Europe: Quality and safety rankings

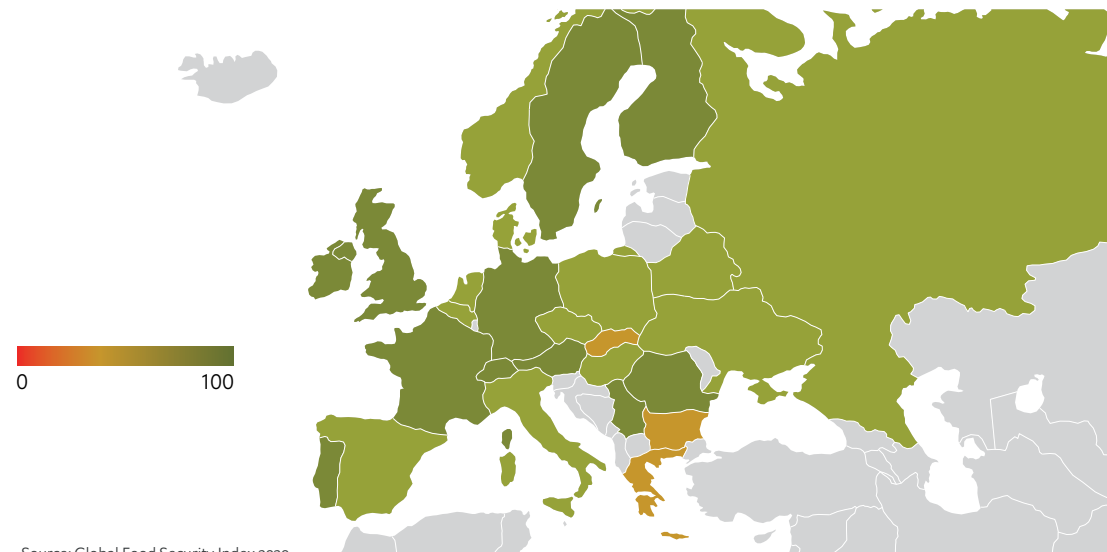
Rank		Score/100
1	Austria	94.3
2	Ireland	94.0
3	Finland	93.8
4	United Kingdom	92.8
5	Portugal	92.3
5	Sweden	92.3
7	France	92.0
8	Germany	91.3
9	Norway	90.6
10	Denmark	89.7
11	Switzerland	89.6
12	Netherlands	88.7
13	Belgium	88.4
14	Italy	88.0
15	Spain	87.5
16	Romania	87.2
17	Czech Republic	87.1
18	Belarus	85.5
18	Greece	85.5
20	Russia	84.1
21	Poland	83.6
22	Hungary	80.9
23	Serbia	80.3
24	Ukraine	75.3
25	Bulgaria	74.1
26	Slovakia	72.9

Figure 4

## Nutritional standards in European countries

Presence of national dietary guidelines, a national nutritional plan or strategy, nutritional labelling, and nutritional monitoring and surveillance in 26 European countries included in the GFSI.

Score 0-100, Low score implies weak nutritional standards, whereas high score implies robust nutritional standards.



Source: Global Food Security Index 2020.

# Natural resources and resilience

The fourth category in the GFSI measures the state of natural resources and the longer term sustainability of countries' food systems. It uses metrics such as exposure to climate shocks, management of water and land resources, economic sensitivity to climate shocks, population pressures and policy commitments to address the impacts of climate change on agriculture. It positions natural resources as a critical and central factor underpinning food security.

Although this is Europe's weakest area in the index, it still manages to outperform all other regions. Europe features numerous global leaders, especially Norway, Finland, Ireland and the Czech Republic. Belgium and Serbia are the region's laggards (51st and 72nd, globally). The region as a whole did record a small improvement in this area in this year's index. Russia, Belarus and Bulgaria recorded the strongest improvements, while Norway and Ireland registered modest deteriorations, although they continue to lead the rankings. In Russia, improvement was driven by increased political commitment to adaptation (having issued its first national climate change adaptation plan, with a section on agriculture).<sup>21</sup> Norway's performance was negatively affected by its increased dependency on food imports.

## Key regional findings

→ **In terms of climate change, Europe is especially exposed to droughts and flooding.** Half of the countries in the region face a high risk of drought, and these countries are found across sub-regions. For example, prolonged heat and dryness during the summer of 2018 led to droughts in countries across Western and Northern Europe (Denmark, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Norway and Sweden).<sup>22</sup> EU countries provided financial assistance, advance payments and derogations from specific greening requirements to farmers affected by heatwaves and extreme weather events.<sup>23</sup> Most countries also face a risk of flooding that is higher than the global average. This is particularly problematic in Finland, Sweden and Russia.

→ **There are important risks in terms of natural resources, particularly water shortages and damage to oceans, rivers and lakes.** More than half of the 26 countries are at high risk of water shortages, including Spain and Italy in the Mediterranean, Germany in Central Europe, and Russia and Serbia in Eastern Europe. Water quality is good in the region overall but is comparatively worse in Eastern European Serbia, Russia and Ukraine. The risk of damage to oceans, rivers and lakes is above the global average. The risk of eutrophication is high in all but two countries (Finland and

Sweden), and the majority of countries were positioned in the bottom half of the global rankings for risk to marine biodiversity. While the challenges are pressing, EU countries provide an example of regional co-ordination. The bloc has produced numerous policies to address these problems, including the "Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources" and the "Marine Strategy Framework Directive".<sup>24</sup>

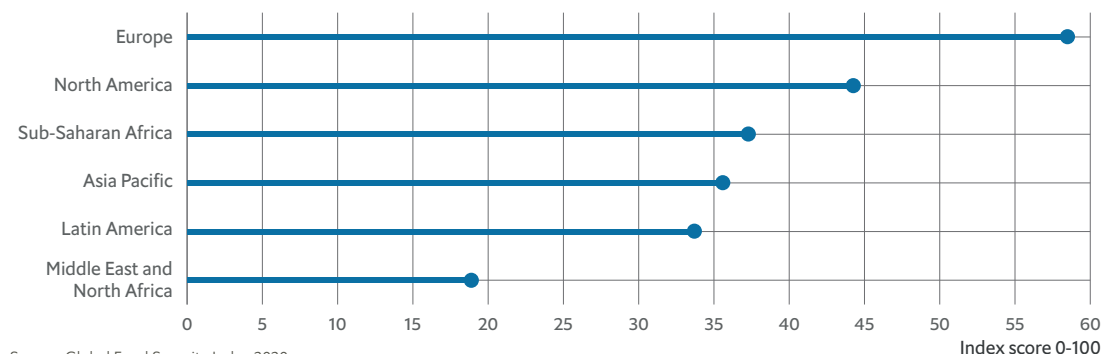
→ **Europe leads the world in driving policy commitment to climate change adaptation.** 23 out of 26 countries in the region show a strong commitment to developing early warning measures or climate-smart agriculture, which can improve a country's resilience to climate and natural resource risks. (Belarus, Serbia and Ukraine are the exceptions.) A majority of the European countries have also committed to addressing agriculture-related climate exposure and natural resource management via Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), and all but four countries have climate change adaptation strategies that address the agricultural sector (Belarus, Bulgaria and Russia made strides this year). The EU provides a useful example of regional collaboration. For instance, region-wide policies are helping to curb the high rates of greenhouse emissions by European countries. The EU Common Agricultural Policy has contributed to reducing emissions from the EU farm sector in the past three decades.<sup>25</sup>

## Europe: Natural resources and resilience rankings

Rank		Score/100
1	Norway	73.5
2	Finland	73.2
2	Ireland	73.2
4	Czech Republic	70.9
5	Sweden	67.4
6	Switzerland	64.2
7	Slovakia	62.9
8	Austria	61.8
9	Netherlands	61.5
10	United Kingdom	59.4
11	France	59.0
12	Spain	58.4
13	Denmark	57.6
14	Romania	56.7
15	Poland	56.5
16	Belarus	56.3
17	Bulgaria	56.0
18	Hungary	55.6
19	Russia	55.0
20	Germany	52.9
21	Greece	52.5
22	Portugal	51.8
23	Italy	50.7
24	Ukraine	50.3
25	Belgium	48.2
26	Serbia	45.0

**Figure 5**  
**Political commitment to adaptation in Europe**

Political commitment to adaptation is a GFSI indicator that includes a commitment to early-warning measures and climate-smart agriculture, a commitment to managing exposure, a national agricultural adaptation policy and disaster risk management by country.



Source: Global Food Security Index 2020.

# Endnotes

- 1 European Commission. "Farm to Fork Strategy - for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system". Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en)
- 2 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland. "Food 2030: Finland feeds us and the world". Available at: [https://mmm.fi/documents/1410837/1923148/lopullinen03032017ruoka2030\\_en.pdf/d7e44e69-7993-4d47-a5ba-58c393bbac28](https://mmm.fi/documents/1410837/1923148/lopullinen03032017ruoka2030_en.pdf/d7e44e69-7993-4d47-a5ba-58c393bbac28)
- 3 The Local. "Coronavirus and oil send Norway's krone plummeting to new low". 2020. Available at: <https://www.thelocal.no/20200309/coronavirus-and-oil-send-norways-krone-plummeting-to-new-low>
- 4 bne IntelliNews. "Ukraine's inflation slows to 2.3% in September, as food prices fall". 2020. Available at: <https://www.intellinews.com/ukraine-s-inflation-slows-to-2-3-in-september-as-food-prices-fall-194011/?source=ukraine>
- 5 The Brussels Times. "Belgian groceries up to 10% more expensive due to pandemic". 2020. Available at: <https://www.brusselstimes.com/economics/129224/belgian-groceries-up-to-10-more-expensive-due-to-pandemic/>
- 6 bne IntelliNews. "Ukraine's inflation still falling, consumer prices growth slows to 2.4% y/y in February". 2020. Available at: <https://www.intellinews.com/ukraine-s-inflation-still-falling-consumer-prices-growth-slows-to-2-4-y-y-in-february-178355/#:~:text=March%2012%2C%202020-,Ukraine's%20consumer%20prices%20dropped%200.3%25%20m%2Fm%20and%20to%202.4.Service%20reported%20on%20March%2010>
- 7 OECD. "COVID-19 crisis response in South East European economies". 2020. Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-crisis-response-in-south-east-european-economies-c1aacb5a/>
- 8 European Data Portal. "Threats to food security: Is another pandemic lingering on the horizon?" 2020. Available at: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/en/impact-studies/covid-19/threats-food-security-another-pandemic-lingering-horizon>
- 9 Farquharson C. "No free lunch? Some pros and cons of holiday free school meals". Institute for Fiscal Studies. 2020. Available at: <https://ifs.org.uk/publications/15148>
- 10 European Commission. "The common agricultural policy at a glance". Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-glance\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-glance_en)
- 11 FAO. "The impact of COVID-19 on food and agriculture in Europe and Central Asia and FAO's response". 2020. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ne001en/ne001en.pdf>
- 12 USAID. "Food assistance fact sheet - Ukraine". 2019. Available at: <https://www.usaid.gov/ukraine/food-assistance>
- 13 Climate Change Post. "Slovakia". Available at: <https://www.climatechangepost.com/slovakia/agriculture-and-horticulture/>
- 14 Reliefweb. "Can drought be prevented? Slovakia aims to try". 2018. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/slovakia/can-drought-be-prevented-slovakia-aims-try>
- 15 Agroberichten Buitenland. "Weather severely impacts Serbian agriculture". 2020. Available at: <https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/07/03/weather-severely-impacts-serbian-agriculture>
- 16 DW. "Belarus protesters face crackdown, as protest draws tens of thousands". 2020. Available at: <https://www.dw.com/en/belarus-protesters-face-crackdown-as-protest-draws-tens-of-thousands/a-55467124>
- 17 Matsentralen. "Food waste reduction in Norway 2019". 2020. Available at: <https://www.matsentralen.no/post/food-waste-reduction-in-norway-2019>
- 18 FoodHero. "How Norway is reducing food waste by 50%". 2019. Available at: <https://foodhero.com/blogs/norway-is-reducing-food-waste>
- 19 Harvard School of Public Health. "Diet review: Mediterranean diet". Available at: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/healthy-weight/diet-reviews/mediterranean-diet/>
- 20 Boylan S, Welch A, Pikhart H, Malyutina S, Pajak A, Kubinova R, et al. "Dietary habits in three Central and Eastern European countries: The HAPIEE study". BMC Public Health. 9, 439: 2009. Available at: <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2458-9-439>
- 21 Devyatkin P. "The Russian government takes a major step to join the world community in recognising the threat of climate change". High North News. 2020. Available at: <https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/russia-unveils-climate-change-adaptation-plan>
- 22 Di Liberto T. "A hot, dry summer has led to drought in Europe in 2018". NOAA Climate.gov. 2018. Available at: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/hot-dry-summer-has-led-drought-europe-2018>
- 23 D'Agostino V. "Drought in Europe summer 2018: Crisis management in an orderly chaos". Farm Europe. 2018. Available at: <https://www.farm-europe.eu/blog-en/drought-in-europe-summer-2018-crisis-management-in-an-orderly-chaos/>
- 24 European Environment Agency. "Water and marine environment". Available at: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water>
- 25 European Commission. "Study on the CAP and climate change: The case for a stronger common agricultural policy for climate action". 2019. Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/study-cap-and-climate-change-2019-may-27\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/study-cap-and-climate-change-2019-may-27_en)

Whilst every effort has been taken to verify the accuracy of this information, neither The Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd. nor the sponsor of this report can accept any responsibility or liability for reliance by any person on this report or any of the information, opinions or conclusions set out in the report.

**LONDON**

20 Cabot Square  
London, E14 4QW  
United Kingdom  
Tel: (44.20) 7576 8000  
Fax: (44.20) 7576 8500  
Email: london@eiu.com

**GENEVA**

Rue de l'Athénée 32  
1206 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: (41) 22 566 2470  
Fax: (41) 22 346 93 47  
Email: geneva@eiu.com

**NEW YORK**

750 Third Avenue  
5th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
United States  
Tel: (1.212) 554 0600  
Fax: (1.212) 586 1181/2  
Email: americas@eiu.com

**DUBAI**

Office 1301a  
Aurora Tower  
Dubai Media City  
Dubai  
Tel: (971) 4 433 4202  
Fax: (971) 4 438 0224  
Email: dubai@eiu.com

**HONG KONG**

1301 Cityplaza Four  
12 Taikoo Wan Road  
Taikoo Shing  
Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 2585 3888  
Fax: (852) 2802 7638  
Email: asia@eiu.com

**SINGAPORE**

8 Cross Street  
#23-01 Manulife Tower  
Singapore  
048424  
Tel: (65) 6534 5177  
Fax: (65) 6534 5077  
Email: asia@eiu.com