

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/the-european-green-deal-an-opportunity-to-lift-everyone-up/>

- December 12, 2019
- European Green Deal (proposed by Timmermans) can lift Europe out of climate emergency
 - Carbon neutrality by 2050
 - Supports workers and industry, and address housing, mobility, energy concerns
- Integration of UN sustainable development goals
 - Will put economic, social, environmental targets on equal footing
- EP must work cooperatively

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/in-work-poverty-increasing-in-spite-of-economic-growth-study-reveals/>

- November 13, 2019
- Study released by SOLIDAR – social inequality is on the rise since 2008 financial crisis
- To combat this, in 2017 EU created European Pillar of Social Rights
 - And before this, added social indicators into the EUROSEM (2014)
- Within the CSRs – too many macroeconomic indicators and not enough social objectives
 - Says SOLIDAR sec. general
- (soon-to-be) Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights says what is weak is the ownership
 - The recommendations are good, implementation is poor
 - Need to involve civil society, social partners, and governments in the semester process

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/middle-ground-politics/interview/finnish-social-minister-europe-needs-a-paradigm-shift-towards-the-economy-of-well-being/>

- August 19, 2019
- Interview with Aino-Kaisa Pekonen - minister for social affairs and health in Finland
- Pekonen proposed to strengthen social dimension of EUROSEM
- She says:
 - Finnish presidency takes place at crucial time and has potential to influence long-term decisions
 - Need for a better balance between economic progress and social cohesion
 - Emerging challenges would be best dealt with if interdependence between well-being and economy are recognized

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/transport/news/how-the-eu-wants-countries-to-tweak-transport-policy/>

- June 6, 2019

- As part of 2019 EUROSEM
 - Many CSRs involve supporting investment in sustainable transportation and infrastructure
- Germany's Recommendations include:
 - "Low levels of R&D in SMEs are having a negative impact on sustainable transport development and other green technologies"
 - Need for cleaner energy to improve air quality – which EU cites as serious concern
 - "traffic accounts for 60% of harmful NOx in urban areas"
 - Need to invest in batteries
 - "Congestion and time looking for parking spaces costs €110bln per year or 4% of GDP"
- Italy's Recommendations Include:
 - Most in-depth assessment of transport and infrastructure
 - Very limited progress has been made
 - "Admin delays, spending inefficiencies, procurement shortcomings and litigation"
- Railway connections between Portugal and Spain widely underused

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/health-consumers/news/lawmakers-stakeholders-see-delivering-economics-of-well-being-as-next-health-challenge/>

- March 26, 2019
- Green MEP calls EUROSEM (under Finnish presidency) a golden opportunity for health to play greater role in economic decisions of EU
- "A real coefficient between economics and well-being"
- All policy areas should contribute to well-being of citizens
- President of EPHA gave example of how health is cross-sectional – using example of housing
 - "Horizontal work on housing is needed because homelessness is a source of illness and health emergency costs, but building stocks also have a major impact on energy consumption"

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/the-franco-german-proposal-for-a-eurozone-budgetary-instrument-in-detail/>

- February 25, 2019
- Franco-German – eurozone budgetary instrument
- Goal is foster competitiveness and convergence
 - To do this, fund will finance costs directly related to investment in priority areas identified within EUROSEM
- Commission would have to approve the plans as part of the EUROSEM

- Money to be dispersed dependant on progress made in implementing the reforms
- Commission would control it, and CSRs would be a starting point of whole process

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/middle-ground-politics/news/two-centuries-to-close-the-economic-gender-gap/>

- December 17, 2019
- Gender wage gap significantly worsened since last year
- 55% of women, compared to 78% of men – engaged in labour market
- 36% of senior private sectors managers are women
- Study points to a need to create more inclusive labour cultures – could be done through social pillar of EU
- Large disparities in wage persist in member states
- Employment rate even lower for women with children
- Shows that social pillar of EU must be strengthened

General Sources (via LexisNexis) 2019:

Isabelle Mateos y Lago. (September 5, 2019 Thursday). Tinkering with European fiscal rules will not be enough. *Financial Times (London, England)*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X02-KHK1-DYTY-C29Y-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- September 5, 2019
- Essentially, to solve Eurozone debt, need to use systems of policy coordination similar to that of EUROSEM
 - As well, continued transparency, shift away from sanctions that do not work
- “Today, average eurozone debt is more than 80 per cent of GDP and the yield on the same Bund is well below zero”
 - Tells us things:
 - “The rules have not been effective at all in containing debt ratios below 60 per cent”
 - “The world's asset holders are so starved for the safety of government debt that instead of getting paid handsomely they are now content to be charged for such lending”
 - “Fiscal rules are widely documented to have led, more often than not, to policies that add fuel to expansions and pain to recessions”
 - what needs to be done:
 - “Arbitrary debt and deficit ceilings to a broader concept of long-term debt sustainability that takes account of the current and likely future ultra-low level of interest rates and the quality of spending”

- “The focus needs to encompass both the eurozone-wide, and the national, level. Then when, in aggregate, the eurozone needs a looser fiscal stance and monetary policy is severely constrained, those members with more space for stimulus should be expected to undertake it”
- “EU growth and the appetite for further integration will benefit far more from such a fiscal framework than from blind adherence to one-size-fits-all numerical targets enforced without political legitimacy”

(December 7, 2019 Saturday). Did EU know? European Semester. *Impact News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XPC-1NX1-JDG9-Y4C3-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- December 7, 2019
- European Disability Forum release
- Because EU does not have exclusive competence in most social areas – makes it difficult for EDF to intervene
- Two ways in which EU can have direct influence
 - Using EU funds, such as Social Funds or Regional Development Funds – to develop member states directly
 - By using EUROSEM – and applying pressure when members are not meeting recommendations
- In 2019, disability was addressed in 18 countries CSRs
 - Including Netherlands and Italy
 - Focused mainly on increasing employment among people with disability, social protection, and adequate income

(October 3, 2019 Thursday). S&D backtracks on compromise on European semester. *Impact News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X69-1J11-FOYC-NOVW-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 3, 2019
- Release from European People’s Party
- EMF committee rejected EP’s annual report on EUROSEM – previously agreed compromises were rejected by Socialists and Democrats
- EPP says as long as S&D retracts on promises, not much will be achieved in coming years
- Spokesman for EMF says if EP is unable to deliver clear positions on issues, it (EP) will become irrelevant in policy debate

(April 10, 2019 Wednesday). LOCAL LEADERS WANT COHESION TO BE PRIORITY OF EU 27 ECONOMIC POLICIES. *US Fed News*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X69-1J11-FOYC-NOVW-00000-00&context=1516831>.

[com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VW0-JW81-F12F-F375-00000-00&context=1516831](https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VW0-JW81-F12F-F375-00000-00&context=1516831).

- April 10, 2019
- Release from European Union's Committee of the Regions
- Strengthening link between cohesion funds and EUROSEM can only succeed if local and regional are made to be a priority
- Local and regional leaders calling for more involvement in EUROSEM
 - Especially now that EUROSEM directly influences and gives guidance to Cohesion policy
- The move to tie cohesion policy and EUROSEM more tightly together is in hope that it will increase implementation of CSRs
- Between 2021-2027 – Commission wants to make EUROSEM more binding
 - Taking into account CSRs when adopting partnership agreements
 - Potentially provides stronger role for regional authority, but also risks centralization of Cohesion policy
- EUROSEM is a tool that could potentially bring EU closer to member states, and the regions and local authorities within them

Targeted News Service. (February 15, 2019 Friday). Cities and Regions Must Play a Lead Role in Shaping Investment and Economic Reform Plans. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VF8-GW01-DYG2-R4X8-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- February 15, 2019
- Release from European Union's Committee of the Regions
- European Committee of the Regions' (CoR) commission for economic policy (ECON) pass unanimous opinion that regional authorities must play leading role in development of CSRs
- Rob Jonkman - rapporteur of the CoR's opinion on the **European Semester** and Cohesion Policy and Member of the Executive Council of Opsterland:
 - Cities and regions are recognized as partners in the distribution of Cohesion policy funds, however, they are largely ignored in EUROSEM
- Regional authorities must have structured and permanent role in EUROSEM
- Side-lining regional authorities – who ultimately have to implement the recommendations – jeopardizes the entire project, as we have seen lack of ownership over CSRs, leading to low rates of implementation

(June 12, 2019 Wednesday). Banking Union: Non-performing loans in the EU continue to decline. *Premium Official News*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WB6-DMM1-DXCW-D2GJ-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- June 12, 2019
- Commission release
- Important strides made to full implementation of EU's action plan to tackle the high stocks of Non-performing loans
 - "However, Commission calls on "co-legislators" to agree to proposed measures of national loan enforcement and insolvency frameworks and to develop sharper focus on insolvency within EUROSEM"
- EU has been addressing NPL's through tools like the EUROSEM

(February 27, 2019 Wednesday). Brussels says Portugal is better but remains unbalanced. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VHN-DNS1-JCMP-534B-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- February 27, 2019
- Under EUROSEM reports, Portugal found to be making process
 - Country is still vulnerable
- Public and private debt are declining, but remain high
- Portuguese economy increasingly dependent on performance of exports
- Must address imbalances within the service market

(December 6, 2019 Friday). Eeva Raevaara: Striving to create an equal Europe. *Nordic Daily*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XPC-MDJ1-FOYC-N29Y-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- December 6, 2019
- Government of Finland release
- EU as a whole scores 67.4/100 on gender equality scale
- There is relationship between economy and gender
 - Gender equality as part of sustainable growth
 - Economic policy as supporter of gender equality
- Conference called Europe for Gender Equality: Taking Stock – Taking Action – held in Finland
 - Keynote speaker underlined how effective social services must be in place for sustainable and equal economic growth
 - Discussed how EUROSEM could work for both economic growth and gender equality
 - Because of focus on fiscal goals, and the recent emergence of Social Rights
- Shows how gender equality is become a more discussed issue, as social rights become more engrained and integral to EUROSEM

(January 4, 2019 Friday). PCP: "Euro does not serve Portugal". *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5V4S-9M11-JCMP-52H3-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- January 4, 2019
- Communist Party in Portugal supports abandoning European project
- “Euro has proved to be an instrument contrary to national interests”
- Measures by ECB did not work and public debt remains at an unsustainable level
- Supports abandoning many European creations, including EUROSEM
- *Shows politicians in our countries of interest showing utter disdain towards EUROSEM*

(December 13, 2019 Friday). Growing interest in artificial intelligence in public employment services. *Nordic Daily*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XRF-7T51-JDG9-Y2NM-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- December 13, 2019
- Network of Public Employment Services’ cooperation with Employment Committee is being intensified in relation to the European Semester
 - Network offers support to PES member states in implementing CSRs which relate to public employment and to promote employment and growth

(May 28, 2019 Tuesday). Brussels on the way to open new Italy excessive deficit procedure. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W6V-R9J1-F03R-W42M-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- May 28, 2019
- Under EUROSEM – Brussels could send letter to Rome to open set of sanctions
- Commission will re-evaluate Italy’s compliance with Stability and Growth Pact
- Italian Deputy PM Salvini responds with heavy criticism of EU
 - Wants to redefine role of ECB

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