

Tips and Common issues for Common Indicator Reporting (January 2024)

The Common Indicators are designed to reflect the progress towards the objectives of the Facility under the reforms and investments included in the recovery and resilience plans (RRPs). Ensuring the quality and reliability of the common indicator reporting requires a joint effort by the Commission and Member States. The data reporting is 'owned' by the Member States. When reporting, we encourage Member States to ensure that data submitted is reliable and plausible, cross-checking with their knowledge of the implementation of the plan. The Commission may request Member States to provide clarifications on the plausibility of reported indicators. Common examples of plausibility issues include dramatic increases/decreases in values from one reporting round to the next; values covering a very high percentage of the population; use of incorrect units of input.

For specific questions in relation to the Common Indicators, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to ECFIN-RRF@ec.europa.eu. The Commission will provide written explanations and answers to such questions via email.

Below, we outline some issues frequently encountered, and provide tips and suggestions to support Member States in improving the quality of common indicator reporting. Please note that further complementary information is available in the Statistical guidance for Member States, the Q&A document, and the sections of the FENIX manual relating to the bi-annual reporting on Common Indicators (all are downloadable in FENIX).

1. Reporting Period

As per the RRF Regulation, reporting occurs each February and August and covers data collected during the preceding semester. For example, data submitted in the February 2024 reporting round should only include data of interventions where outputs and results were achieved and/or have become operational between July 1st – December 31st 2023, and data submitted in the August 2024 reporting round should only include data from January 1st – June 30th 2023. Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2106 sets out the deadlines for the reporting on the Common Indicators on 28 February and 31 August each year. The respective reporting rounds are therefore opened in FENIX from 1st - 28/29th February and from 1st - 31st August.

2. Implementation of milestones and targets

The purpose of the Common Indicators is to reflect concrete progress with respect to the implementation of the plans. In some cases, Member States have reported data on what is expected to be achieved in line with the provisional timeline in the CID Annex and not necessarily what has been achieved on the ground during the reporting period. As per the guidance on Common Indicators, data reported for the Common Indicators should only include RRF-supported interventions once they are completed or, in the case of infrastructure, once it is operational. Importantly, the reported value should not reflect progress which is expected to be achieved by the end of the implementation of the RRFs (i.e., by the end of 2026). Where no progress has been achieved in a given reporting period, Member States should report 0.

Ensuring that data is only reported when measures are completed or operational is also one of the recommendations of the European Court of Auditors' special report on the performance monitoring framework of the RRF.

3. Stock Vs Flow indicators

7 indicators are defined as stock indicators and a further 7 as flow indicators. Stock indicators are cumulative and therefore increase over time. The baseline for the stock indicator in the first reporting round is 0. Member States should ONLY report incremental values in each reporting round. FENIX will generate a new cumulated value for each round which will be equal to the sum of the previous baseline and incremental value reported. FENIX will bring this new cumulated value forward and display it as the new baseline value in the subsequent reporting round. Member States therefore do not need to report cumulative values. An example of a stock indicator is CI-02 on additional renewable energy capacity measured in MW capacity installed.

Flow indicators relate to the performance within the given 6-month reporting period ONLY and may therefore fluctuate quite a bit between rounds. The baseline is displayed as 0 in every reporting and no cumulative values are displayed. An example of a flow indicator is CI-06 on enterprises supported to develop or adopt digital products, services and processes.

Some indicators have been mistakenly reported in the past as stock indicators rather than flow indicators (e.g. CI-07 and CI-09). For example, some Member States have reported cumulative figures for CI-07 - Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes.

Stock Indicator	Flow Indicator
CI-01: Savings in annual primary energy consumption	CI-06: Enterprises supported to develop or adopt digital products, services and processes
CI-02: Additional operational capacity installed for renewable energy	CI-07: Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes
CI-03: Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/recharging points)	CI-08: Researchers working in supported research facilities
CI-04: Population benefiting from protection measures against floods, wildfires, and other climate related natural disasters	CI-09: Enterprises supported (of which: small – including micro, medium, large)
CI-05: Additional dwellings with internet access provided via very high-capacity networks	CI-10: Number of participants in education or training
CI-12: Capacity of new or modernised health care facilities	CI-11: Number of people in employment or engaged in job searching activities
CI-13: Classroom capacity of new or modernised childcare and education facilities	CI-14: Number of young people aged 15-29 receiving support

4. Reporting data ONLY from RRF support

The Common Indicators are designed for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating progress under the Facility towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives. As such only progress achieved through the support of the RRF should be included in the data submitted for the Common Indicators. This includes all measures in the RRFs, irrespective of whether they are fully or partially financed by the RRF or have no estimated costs attached to them.

There is a risk in some cases that the impact of the RRF may be overstated via the Common Indicators if data submitted reflects total progress in the country towards a goal rather than only the progress made through RRF support. For example, *CI-03 on Alternative fuels infrastructure or CI-05 on Additional dwellings with internet access provided via very high-capacity networks*.

5. Estimated data

Where real data is not (yet) available, Member States should endeavour to provide estimates. When providing estimates, Member States MUST (i) tick the box marked “estimated value” in FENIX, AND (ii) upload a document outlining the estimation methodology and calculations. This document should contain an appropriate level of detail and be clearly understandable.

Clicking ‘estimated value’ will allow the possibility for the Member State to update the data independently at a later date via a change request.

6. No data yet Vs Zero

If the measure has not produced any tangible results in the reporting period, Member States should report the value 0.

If implementation is ongoing and tangible results have been produced in the reporting period but data is not yet available because, for instance, there is a time lag in the data collection, Member States should tick the box ‘no data yet’.

Clicking ‘no data yet’ will allow the possibility for the Member State to update the data independently at a later date via a change request.

7. Change request

If the boxes ‘No data yet’ or ‘Estimated value’ have been ticked in a specific round, the reported values can be updated by the Member State at any time.

As soon as real data becomes available, Member States should proactively introduce a ‘change request’ in FENIX, by selecting the relevant indicator and reporting period and by clicking “Add change request.” The change request should include the new value and a justification or comment in the field text field to provide an explanation if necessary.

8. Gender and age disaggregation

As per the RRF Regulation, Recovery and Resilience Plans are expected to contribute to and mainstream gender equality and equal opportunities across all objectives. To this end, a number of Common Indicators feature a gender disaggregation i.e., CI-08, CI-10, CI-11, CI-14 and additionally an age disaggregation i.e. CI-10 and CI-11

Where real data on gender or age disaggregation is not available, Member States should provide estimated values per gender and age group, following the same procedure as outlined above for reporting estimates. It is important that the estimation methodology is plausible and where feasible not a simple estimate based on gender balance or age cohorts in general population e.g. the overall gender balance in research institutes across the Member State could be used.