

During the [European Council](#) in Lisbon in March 2000, [European Union](#) leaders launched a **Lisbon Strategy** aimed at making the EU the world's most competitive economy by 2010.

This strategy, developed at subsequent meetings of the European Council, rests on three pillars:

- An *economic pillar* laying the groundwork for the transition to a competitive, dynamic, knowledge-based economy. There is a strong emphasis on adapting quickly to changes in the information society and to investing in research and development.
- A *social pillar* designed to modernize the European social model by investing in human resources and combating social exclusion. The Member States are expected to invest in [education](#) and training, and to conduct an active policy for [employment](#), making it easier to move to a knowledge economy.
- An *environmental pillar*, added at the Göteborg European Council in June 2001, which urges a decoupling of economic growth from the use of natural resources.

Further information

- [European Commission - Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs](#)