

## **New Innovation Scoreboard published by the European Commission**

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The scoreboard published on 1<sup>st</sup> February is a new tool for evaluating innovation performance in EU member states. It shows weak and strong points within the area in individual member states as well as helps improve innovative performance within the frames of national reform programmes in the context of the "Europe 2020" strategy.

In terms of innovation performance, the European Union is still failing to close the gap with its main international competitors: the US and Japan. Although the trends in most EU member States are promising despite the economic crisis, progress is not fast enough. While the EU still maintains a clear lead over the emerging economies of India and Russia, Brazil is making steady progress, and China is catching up rapidly. Within the EU, Sweden is the most impressive performer followed by Denmark, Finland and Germany. The UK, Belgium, Austria, Ireland, Luxembourg, France, Cyprus, Slovenia and Estonia, in that order, form the next group.

The 2010 innovation scoreboard is based on 25 indicators within the scope of research and innovation systems in EU27 Member States as well as Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland. Indicators are grouped into three main categories:

- - "Enablers" – i.e. the basic building blocks which allow innovation to take place (human resources, finance and support, open, excellent and attractive research systems);
- - "Firm activities" which show how innovative Europe's firms are (firm investments, linkages & entrepreneurship, intellectual assets); and
- - "Outputs" which show how this translates into benefits for the economy as a whole (innovators, economic effects).

The Scoreboard places Member States into the following four country groups:

- Innovation leaders: Denmark, Finland, Germany, Sweden all show a performance well above that of the EU27 average.
- Innovation followers: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovenia and the UK all show a performance close to that of the EU27 average.
- Moderate innovators: The performance of Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain is below that of the EU27 average.
- Modest innovators: The performance of Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania is well below that of the EU27 average.

Full version of the report is available through the following links:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/facts-figures-analysis/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/facts-figures-analysis/index_en.htm)  
and <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/metrics> .

Source: European Commission