



EU Insight - The Innovation Scoreboard 2014 and the Innovation Convention

The Innovation Scoreboard 2014 released in early March 2014 and the Innovation Convention held back-to-back on March 10 and 11 of March show the great importance and big role of innovation for Europe.

The Innovation Scoreboard 2014

The annual Innovation Union Scoreboard published by the European Commission found that Europe is improving its innovation performance. The differences between the member states are becoming smaller again, although at a modest rate. The impact of the economic crisis is not as severe as expected.

The measurement framework used in the Innovation Union Scoreboard distinguishes between 3 main types of indicators (Enablers, Firm activities and Output) and 8 innovation dimensions, capturing in total 25 different indicators.

The Enablers capture the main drivers of innovation performance external to the firm and cover 3 innovation dimensions: Human resources, Open, excellent and attractive research systems as well as Finance and support. Firm activities capture the innovation efforts at the level of the firm, grouped in 3 innovation dimensions: Firm investments, Linkages & entrepreneurship and Intellectual assets. Outputs cover the effects of firms' innovation activities in 2 innovation dimensions: Innovators and Economic effects.

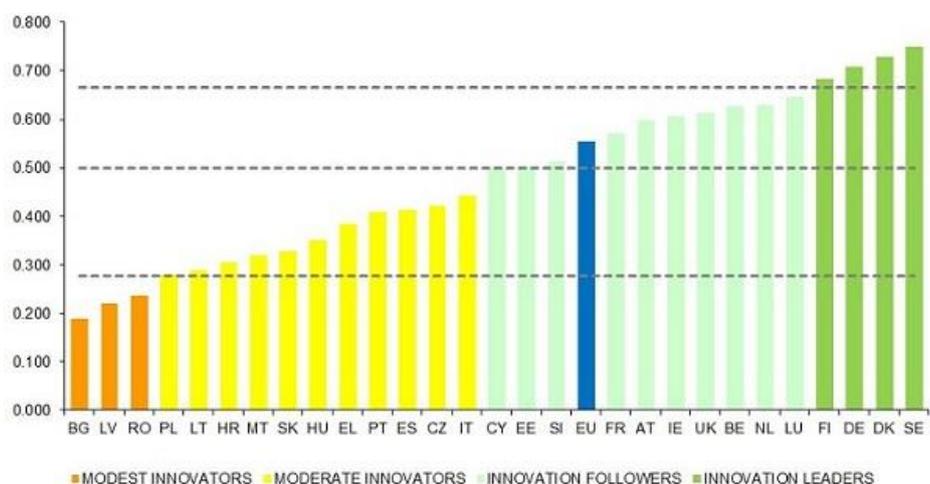


Figure 1: EU Member States' innovation performance [6]

When looking at performance of innovation systems in a global context, South Korea, the US and Japan have a performance lead



over the EU. The United States and South Korea outperform the EU both by 17% and Japan by 13%. While the gap between the US and Japan is decreasing, it widens with South Korea.

The top innovation leaders US, Japan and South Korea are particularly dominating the EU in indicators capturing business activity as measured by R&D expenditures in the business sector, Public-private co-publications and PCT patents but also in educational attainment as measured by the Share of population having completed tertiary education.

The EU is still ahead of its other international partners in terms of innovation performance, with China catching up.

The Innovation Convention 10-11 March 2014

Different event formats with real live stories being told, real examples of innovation on show provided various starting points for fruitful discussions between the actors at the conference.

The second edition of the Innovation Convention took place on 10 and 11 March 2014 in Brussels, with an audience ranging from high-level policy-makers to top researchers, business leaders and the general public. The Innovation Convention is organized by the European Commission's Directorate-General Research and Innovation. The first edition took place in December 2011.

It provides a platform to debate policies that will contribute towards the building of a research and innovation eco-system in Europe.

At the opening of the Innovation Convention, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, stressed the importance of innovation for the future of Europe:

The Capital of Innovation Award and the Women Innovators Prize were two of the prizes awarded at the Convention illustrating two of the barriers to address in Europe, the need for sustainable cities and the need for gender balance, respectively.

Women Innovators prize 2014

The competition celebrates women who have combined their scientific excellence with a head for business to set up innovative enterprises. It is open for women who have benefited from EU research and innovation programmes.

Although the proportion of female researchers in Europe is increasing, the under-representation of women in scientific disciplines and careers still persists.

Women represent only 33% of European researchers, 30% of full professors and 15.5% of heads of institutions in the HE sector. Similar, on average, women make up 30% of the entrepreneurs in the EU, but often face greater difficulties than men in starting up businesses and in accessing finance and training.

First prize winner Saskia Biskup is co-founder of the CeGaT GmbH for the development of biomarkers. For more information on second and third prize winners Laura van 't Veer and Ana Maiques please visit [this website](#).



Barcelona is “iCapital” of Europe

With the Capital of Innovation Award, the Commission is recognizing those cities, which are making major efforts to promote innovation and improving the quality of their citizens' lives.

Barcelona was awarded the “iCapital” of Europe. It was chosen by a panel of independent experts in a close competition with Grenoble (France) and Groningen (The Netherlands). The €500,000 iCapital prize will be used to scale up and expand Barcelona's efforts on innovation.

The new technologies introduced in Barcelona to foster economic growth and the welfare of its citizens as part of the “Barcelona as a people city” project of 2011 include:

- open data initiatives
- sustainable city growth initiatives on smart lighting, mobility and residual energy
- social innovation
- promotion of alliances between research centres, universities, private and public partners within the scope of the project
- providing better ‘smart services’ in a flexible, continuous and agile way through ICT

Sources:

- [1] [Innovation Union Scoreboard](#)
- [2] [Speech by President Barroso at the Second Innovation Convention](#)
- [3] [Woman innovators prize](#)
- [4] [Barcelona is “iCapital” of Europe](#)
- [5] [Innovation Convention Programme](#)
- [6] [Press Programme Innovation Convention](#)