

Reader's guide

The *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2012* country profiles present the individual science, technology and innovation (STI) performance of OECD countries and some non-OECD countries, their national context and current major policy issues. Profiles describe national STI priorities and recent STI policy developments in each country on the basis of the responses provided by countries to the *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook* policy questionnaires 2010 and 2012, as well as various additional OECD and non-OECD sources (including the EC-ERAWATCH database).

The *STI Outlook* country profiles are linked to the *STI Outlook* policy profiles which present the main global STI policy trends. They focus on the same issues of policy interest and areas of public policy intervention: national STI strategy and priorities; STI governance and evaluation; the science base (public-sector research); support to business R&D and innovation (direct and indirect financing, targeted programmes, demand-side policies); support to start-ups and entrepreneurship; public-sector innovation; deployment of information and communication technologies (ICT) and scientific infrastructures; clusters; support to knowledge flows and commercialisation (open science, technology transfer, intellectual property rights); globalisation (international STI linkages); and human resources (education, policies and innovation culture). Special attention is paid to emerging fields of technology and green innovation.

A box reports the “hot STI issues” for the country, usually the three or four most topical issues currently discussed in policy making circles as they are seen as sources of risk or opportunities, *e.g.* barriers to innovation, main areas and directions for investment, reform, etc. The issues were identified from countries’ responses to the *OECD STI Outlook* policy questionnaire.

A table with selected key figures presents the country’s economic performance (labour productivity), environmental performance, the size of the research system (gross domestic expenditure on R&D-GERD), the share of GERD that is publicly financed, and changes in these indicators over the past five years.

The first (double) graph reflects each country’s strengths and weaknesses compared to other OECD countries. A standard set of indicators is used to describe national innovation systems and their performance in different areas: science base, business R&D and innovation, entrepreneurship, Internet infrastructure, knowledge flows and commercialisation, and human resources. The dot represents the country’s position compared to the five top and bottom five OECD values and to the median of OECD values. Non-OECD countries are also compared to OECD countries and may therefore appear out of range (*e.g.* lower than the lowest OECD country). Indicators have been normalised (by GDP or population) to take account of the effect of the country’s size and are presented in indices (median = 100) to make them comparable. Methodological notes, data sources, description of the indicators and statistical tables are provided in Annex A and Annex B.

The second graph shows the structural composition of business enterprise expenditure on R&D (BERD) according to various dimensions: main industries of performance, firm size and national affiliation. It reflects the country's industry structure and positioning in terms of innovation.

The third graph presents the country's revealed technological advantage (RTA) as measured by international patent applications (filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty) in key technology fields (bio- and nano-technology, ICTs and environment-related technologies), and indicates the role played by universities and public research institutions in patenting in these fields.

The fourth graph gives an overview of the country's innovation policy mix, i.e. orientation and funding modes of public research and features of public financial support to business R&D and innovation. It also illustrates how the policy mix may have changed over the past five years.

Where data are not available, substitute charts may be included.

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