

# Eco-Innovation Scoreboard: the 2012 results

## Eco-innovation brief #13

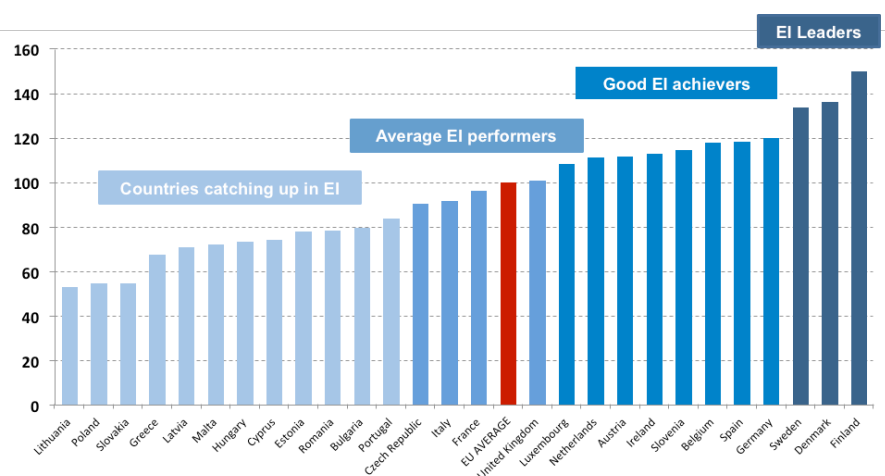
12 December 2012

*The Eco-Innovation Scoreboard (Eco-IS) is the first tool to assess and illustrate eco-innovation performance across the 27 EU Member States. It aims at capturing the different aspects of eco-innovation by applying indicators grouped into five thematic areas. The Eco-IS thereby shows how well individual Member States perform in different dimensions of eco-innovation compared to the EU average and points to strengths and weaknesses. The Eco-IS complements other measurement approaches of innovativeness of the EU and EU countries and aims to promote a holistic view on economic, environmental and social performance.*



The 2012 update of the Eco-Innovation Scoreboard (Eco-IS) shows that Finland, Denmark and Sweden have the relatively highest eco-innovation performance of all European countries, as measured with a total of 16 eco-innovation-related indicators, which are combined in the overall scoreboard index. Apart from this group of **Eco-innovation leaders**, the scoreboard reveals three other groups of countries. **Good eco-innovation achievers**, comprising 8 Western European countries, which build the bridge between the top-performers and the **average eco-innovation performers** (4 countries). The latter group of countries has an eco-innovation index close to the EU average value. The final group are 12 countries **catching up in eco-innovation**, which is the largest group of countries in the Eco-Innovation Scoreboard 2012.

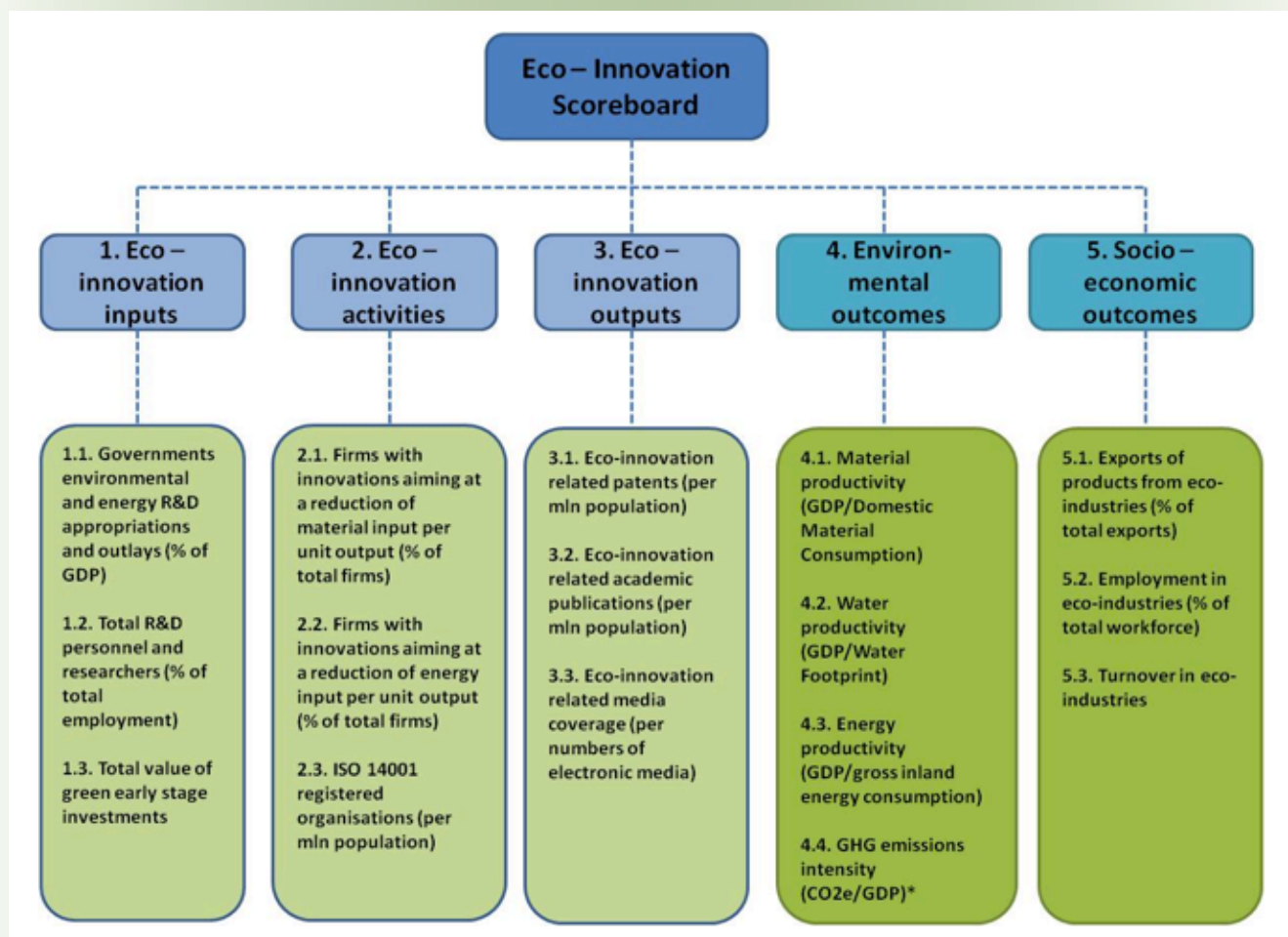
Figure 1: EU-27 Eco-Innovation Scoreboard 2012: the composite index



## How we measure the eco-innovation performance of EU countries

The 2012 version of the Eco-Innovation Scoreboard (Eco-IS) consists of 16 indicators from 8 different data sources, which were the same sources used for the 2011 version. The indicators in the scoreboard are grouped into five components: Eco-innovation inputs, Eco-innovation activities, Eco-innovation outputs, Environmental outcomes and Socio-economic outcomes. Compared to version of 2011, 10 of the 16 indicators were updated with information for the 2012 version.

Figure 2: The structure and indicators of the Eco-Innovation Scoreboard



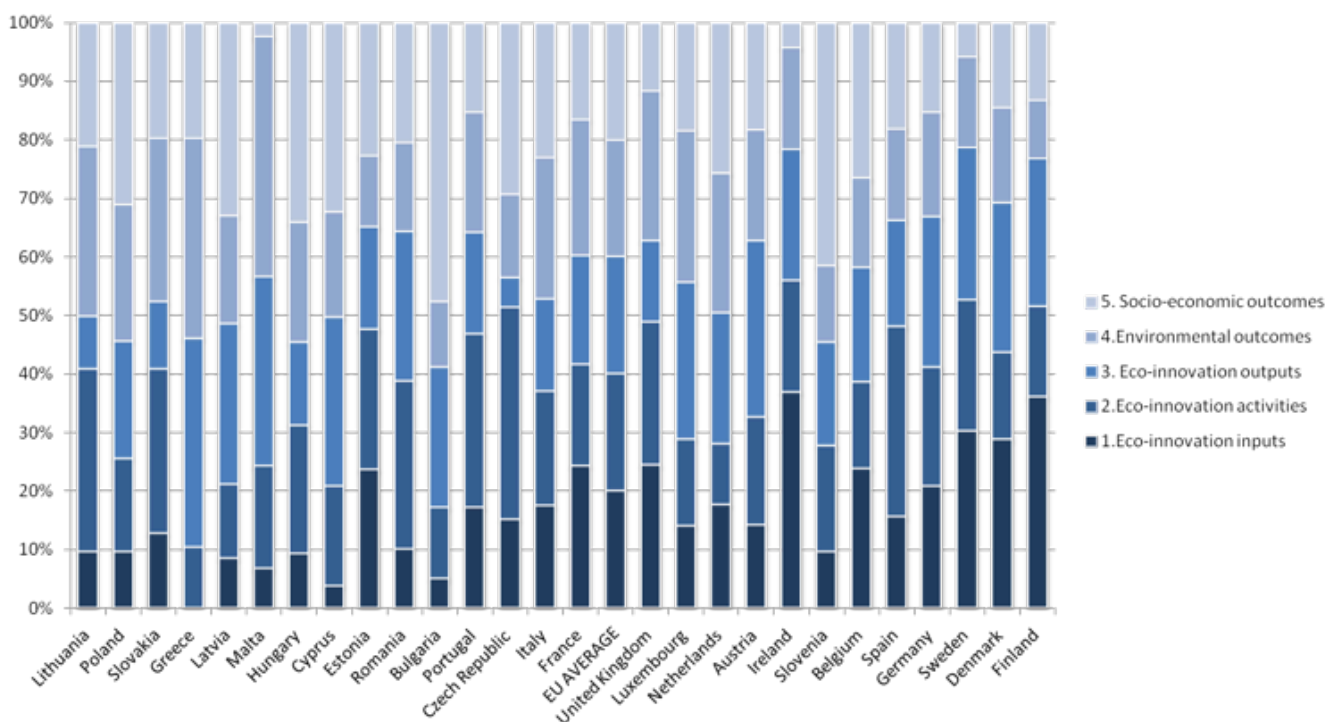
## The contribution of different areas to the overall scoreboard

Analysing the contribution of the different areas of the Eco-Innovation Scoreboard to the overall score, we see that **no single country achieves a strong performance in all five pillars**. Some countries perform well with regard to eco-innovation inputs, but this is not translating into high scores in the socio-economic outputs. Other countries have particularly high performance regarding the socio-economic indicators despite a low performance in eco-innovation inputs. Thus, there is no single role model for good eco-innovation performance in the EU and options for improving the performance need to take into account the specific circumstances in each Member State.

A **possible connection between high scores for the eco-innovation inputs and high overall eco-innovation performance** can be observed. This tendency is visible for most of the countries above the EU average (EI Leaders and Good EI achievers). It might thus be asserted that a good performance in eco-innovation inputs is required to achieve a top position regarding the overall eco-innovation performance.

It is also important to highlight the relatively low share of environmental outcomes' score of countries with high overall eco-innovation performances. This shows that high eco-innovation performance is not automatically linked to high resource efficiency and low levels of absolute resource use – an aspect, which is further explored in the EIO Annual Report 2012.

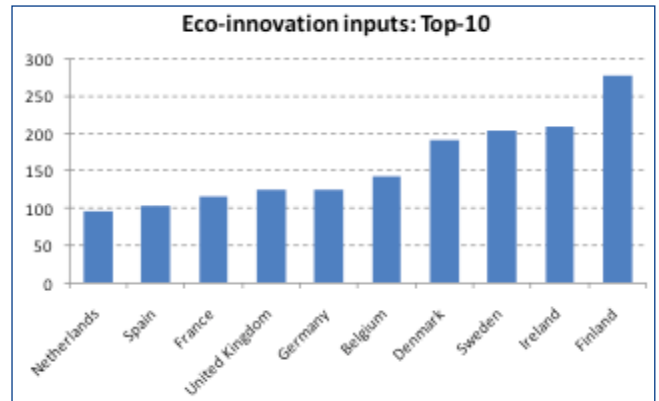
Figure 3: Contribution of the five scoreboard pillars on the overall performance



# Results from the Eco-Innovation Scoreboard 2012

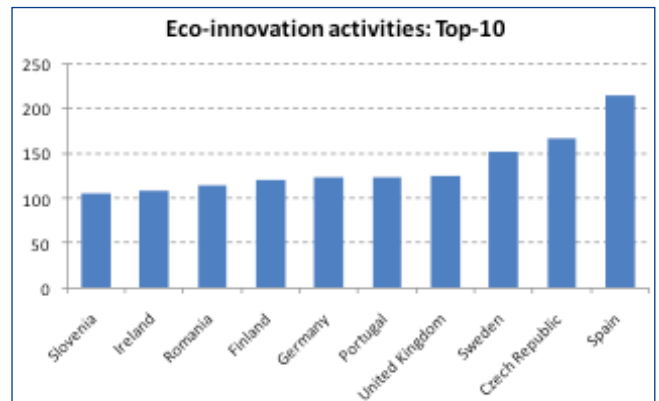
## Eco-innovation inputs

Similar to the results in 2011, Finland has the best performance in the three indicators in this sub-category, showing a particularly high score for the indicator “Total value of green early stage investments”, which is four times higher than the average EU performance. Ireland, Sweden and Denmark follow with scores significantly ahead the other EU Member States.



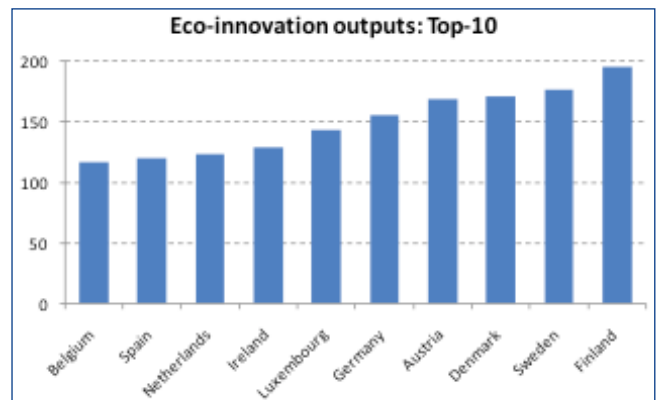
## Eco-innovation activities

Spain, the Czech Republic and Sweden have the highest scores in this component of the scoreboard. The results of this sub-category are mostly influenced by the ISO 14001 indicator (ISO-registered organisations per million population), where these three countries perform more than two times better than the EU average.



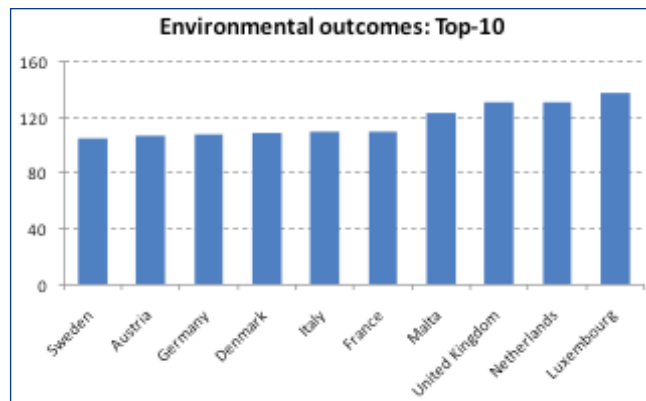
## Eco-innovation outputs

In 2012 Finland, Sweden and Denmark are positioned as leaders in eco-innovation outputs. Finland has a score of eco-innovation related publications three times higher than the EU average. The three top-performing countries all have a good performance in patents (2-3 times higher than the EU average score), but very low results regarding eco-innovation-related media coverage.



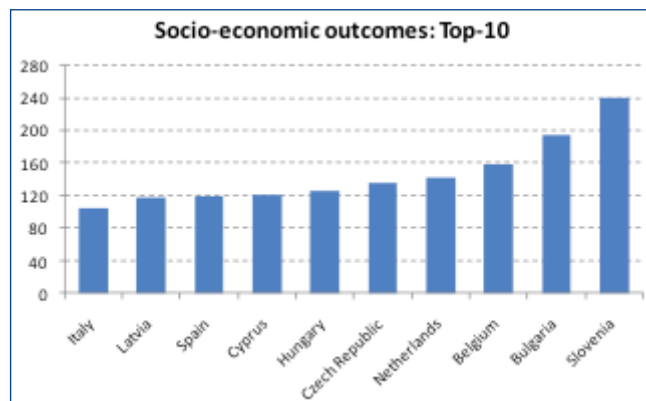
### Environmental outcomes

Similar to the 2011 edition of the scoreboard, the three countries that perform best in the category of environmental outcomes are Luxembourg, Netherlands and UK. The three countries are leaders mainly due to their high material productivity values (between 3 and 5 € per kilogram of material consumption).



### Socio-economic outcomes

In the area of socio-economic outcomes, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Belgium score better than the other EU countries. Slovenia and Bulgaria have a particular high performance in turnover of eco-industries as percentage of total GDP and in employment in eco-industries. Low performances in those three countries can be found in relation to export of products from eco-industries.



### Further links and resources



- The Eco-IS visualization tool is available at <http://database.eco-innovation.eu>
- Detailed analyses of eco-innovation in EU Member States are available at [www.eco-innovation.eu/countries](http://www.eco-innovation.eu/countries)
- Analytical, thematic and foresight reports are available at <http://www.eco-innovation.eu/reports>
- Eco-innovation good practices repository: <http://www.eco-innovation.eu/practice>
- Database: <http://database.eco-innovation.eu/>
- News stream: <http://www.eco-innovation.eu/news>
- Glossary: <http://www.eco-innovation.eu/glossary>