Belgium: an EU "innovation leader"

The annual European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) and the Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS) have recently been published. These reports assess EU Member States' (and selected third countries') research and innovation performances and the relative strengths and weaknesses of their research and innovation systems. A revised measurement framework was used for this year's edition, including new indicators for digitalisation and sustainable innovation.

Overall, EU innovation performance has increased since 2014. Belgium in particular is outperforming the EU average, more so than in the previous couple of years. Belgium’s strengths are in its attractive research systems, the use of information technologies, and linkages. Belgium has now been labelled an "innovation leader", mainly because of a different methodological approach (a change in cut-off points between categories). This being said, this fact does not diminish Belgium's excellent overall innovation performance: Belgium does belong to Europe's top four performers (see figure 1).

Source: European Innovation Scoreboard 2021, European Commission

For more detail:

The report over Belgium: https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/45905
The interactive EIS tool: https://interactivetool.eu/EIS/EIS_2.html