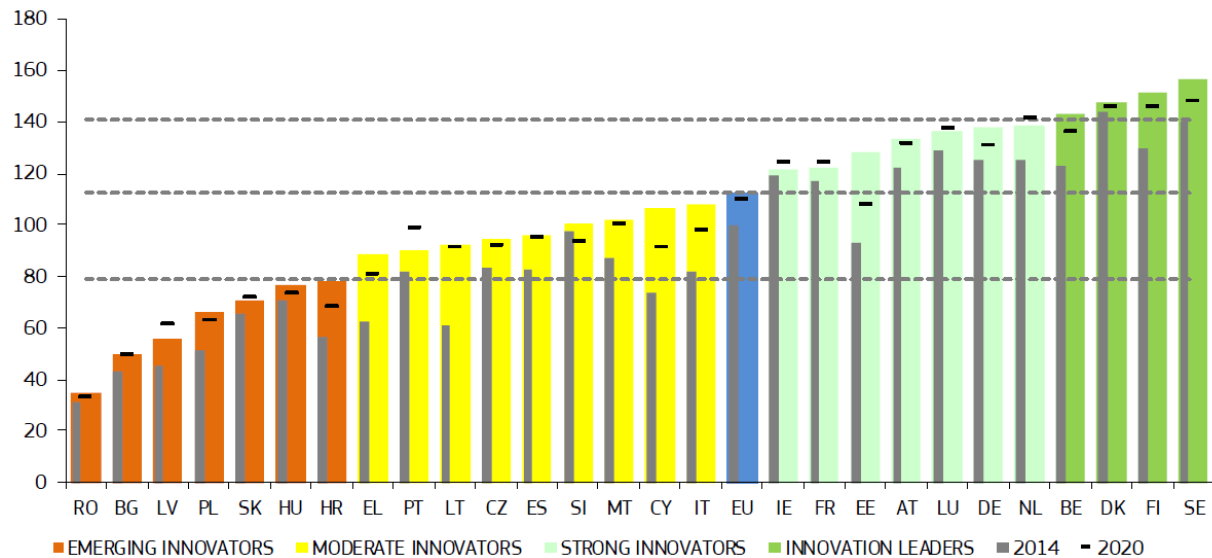


## Belgium: an EU "innovation leader"

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).

Figure 1: Global performance



Coloured columns show countries' performance in 2021, using the most recent data for 32 indicators, relative to that of the EU in 2014. The horizontal hyphens show performance in 2020, using the next most recent data, relative to that of the EU in 2014. Grey columns show countries' performance in 2014 relative to that of the EU 2014. For all years, the same measurement methodology has been used. The dashed lines show the threshold values between the performance groups, where the threshold values of 70%, 100%, and 125% have been adjusted upward to reflect the performance increase of the EU between 2014 and 2021.

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](https://interactivetool.eu/EIS/EIS_2.html)