References to

Research and Innovation


Croatia
Introduction

This document is a compilation of the Research and Innovation (R&I) references extracted from the European Semester Country Report 2016. It offers a quick overview of the analysis done by the European Commission on the reforms undertaken by the country in research and innovation and the progress made towards the Europe 2020 target on R&D.

References to research and innovation

1.1. Additional references to R&I

[3.1. Investments, pp. 66-67]

In 2014, Croatia had the fourth lowest R&D intensity level in the EU. At 0.8 % of GDP, it was well below the 2 % EU average and the 2020 target of 1.4 %. Public R&D spending has decreased from 0.44 % of GDP in 2008 to 0.33 % of GDP in 2014. This relative decrease is even more pronounced against the background of a shrinking GDP in that period. Private R&D intensity level has decreased somewhat since 2008, but bounced back to 0.34 % of GDP in 2014. Sub-critical scale, fragmentation, relative isolation and a mismatch between academic curricula and labour market needs continue to affect public research. Public-private cooperation remains at a relatively low level, as shown by the number of public-private co-publications or the share of public research financed by business. Croatia is classified as a moderate innovator and is performing below the EU average in most innovation dimensions1. Research and innovation in Croatian enterprises is hindered by the structural orientation of the economy towards low and medium-tech sectors, the small size of knowledge intensive sectors, limited business R&D capacities, unfavourable incentive structures, lack of qualified personnel and limited internationalisation of companies pursuing innovation investments.

Policies in support of innovation are characterised by the lack of a coherent and integrated R&I policy framework and a lack of financing. There are weaknesses in the monitoring of research and innovation policies and the governance of public research and higher education institutions. The need to strengthen the private sector R&I capability is addressed by the Croatian Smart Specialisation Strategy (2015) and by the National Innovation Strategy (adopted December 2014).

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1 Cf. Innovation Union Scoreboard, 2015, European Commission.