



1 EU Insight – The European Union and the UNESCO Science Report, Towards 2030

What is the state of investment in science, technology and innovation in the world today? How does Europe rank in relation to other regions and countries? Answers to questions such as these can be found in the pages of the recently published [UNESCO Science Report](#).

The report

Published every five years to ensure a focus on long-term trends, rather than just fleeting transitions which occur from year to year, the UNESCO Science Report 2015 is a detailed examination of the state of activities related to STI as it exists around the world. As noted in its forward, the report seeks to understand how these trends in innovation and mobility contribute to solving major global challenges. Compiled by a multinational team of experts, the 820-page report is broken down into three core sections and a series of three annexes, starting off with the most important emergent issues concerning science and technology in policy sectors and in different institutional contexts, followed by a global overview of key trends and approaches related to innovation, mobility and gender, and ultimately a look at these same topics from a country and region perspective.

The EU in the Report

According to this report, the European Union stands out in many ways in relation to its global counterparts. For one thing, Europe still leads the rest when it comes to producing researchers, and is seen as a “pole of excellence” and a leader of international excellence and basic research. Currently, out of over 7 million researchers active in the world, over 22% stem from the European Union, while the remaining 50% stem collectively from China, Japan, Russia and the United States. Thus, not only is the EU in the top five countries, it leads all others (China and the United States with 19.1% and 16.7% follow respectively). In addition to this positive data, the European Union is also responsible for the largest number of scientific publications globally, with 34% of all publications stemming from Europe being reported.

In regard to Europe, the Report also lauds its current framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020, for the support it provides to research and innovation. In particular, attention is given to the establishment of the European Research Council as a highly successful model programme for the support of frontier (i.e., basic) research and the ERC Grant programme with its various schemes. Also mentioned is the importance of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and how they encourage mobility and offer support at all stages of a researchers' career.

To read more about the report's findings, click [here](#).



Sources:

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University World News, Global Edition. Issue 390. 14 November 2015

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