

Analysis of supporting indicators for innovation in Romania compared to neighboring EU countries

Bungau Constantin^{1,*}, Gherghea Ion Cosmin¹

¹University of Oradea, Engineering and Management Department, Romania

Abstract. The paper presents a comparative study of indicators which targeting the facilities and support for the innovation process. The study targets indicators regarding human resources, support structure / infrastructure and legislative provisions. The analysis is carried out over the last 5 years, comparing the indicators in Romania and the neighboring countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia and Poland) and highly developed countries (Germany and France). Based on this study, will be drawing conclusions for improvement of these indicators. The indicators that will be taken into consideration are: Availability of scientists and engineers, Researchers, Quality of the education system, Researchers in Research and Development, Research and development expenditure, Firm-level technology absorption, University-industry collaboration in Research & Development, Quality of scientific research institutions, Gross domestic spending on Research and Development, Property rights, Intellectual property protection.

1 Introduction

There is a significant distinction between invention and innovation. The invention is the process of creating a new idea or a new concept, while innovation is transforming the new concept into a commercial success. In conclusion, the applied invention is an innovation. The innovation process starts from identifying an existing problem, looking for new solutions that then implement it contributes to increasing profitability and competitiveness. [1]

Innovation has an important role in the development of a society, as Tim Stock et all considers that innovation is the "growth engine" of society. In the same paper Tim Stock defines innovation as a multi-stage process, and creativity, motivation and knowledge are the main factors leading to the first phase of innovation. [2].

The literature presents various studies that measure the innovation performance in Romania. [3- 6].

2 Research methodology

In order to carry out this study, there were analysed 11 indicators that aim and support the innovation process, which were structured in 3 groups: human resources, structure support / infrastructure and legislative provisions (according to Table 1). Statistical data was accessed from the World Bank website [7]. The analysis of the indicators has been carried out over the last 5 years, comparing the indicators of Romania with the neighboring countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia and Poland) and the highly developed countries (Germany and France). As a result of data processing,

have been generated line graphs that show the upward or downward trend in the last 5 years of each indicator [7].

Table 1. Structuring the analyzed indicators on three groups [7].

Groups	Indicators	Acronym
Human resources	Availability of scientists and engineers	ASE
	Researchers	R
	Quality of the education system	QES
	Researchers in R&D	RRD
Support structure / Infrastructure	Research and development expenditure (% of GDP)	RDE
	Firm-level technology absorption	FLTA
	University-industry collaboration in Research & Development	UICRD
	Quality of scientific research institutions	QSRI
	Gross domestic spending on R&D	GDSRD
Legislative provisions	Property rights	PR
	Intellectual property protection	IPP

3 Data analysis

3.1 Group 1 – Human resources

3.1.1 Availability of scientists and engineers (ASE)

In 2013, Romania ranks last in terms of the ASE indicator, registering a score of 3.64 on a scale of 1 to 7, but it can

* Corresponding author: bungau@uoradea.ro

see a slight increase by 2015, when it scored 4.13, after which it drops slightly by 2017, recording a score of 3.78, but keeping it higher than in 2013. Although Romania has declined by the past two years, there is an increase in the hierarchical level. From the last ranked in 2013, in 2017 it climbed to 5th place in the 8 countries analyzed. In 2017 it is worth noting the high level of Germany which registered a significant increase, surpassing Romania by 36.24%.

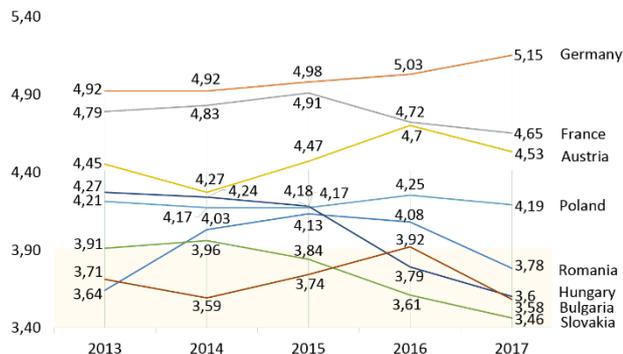


Fig. 1. Availability of scientists and engineers (ASE) [7]

3.1.2 Researchers (R)

Regarding R indicator, we analyzed the available data onto the last 5 years, namely the period 2011-2015. Data onto Bulgaria is missing from this study. This indicator is measured taking into account the number of researchers per 1000 employees. It is also important to note that the data are incomplete in some analyzed countries, according to the chart below. Taking these issues into account, the situation in 2013, the year in which the values of each analyzed country (with the exception of Bulgaria) are identified. In 2013, Romania ranks 6th, registering a score of 27.6. Germany ranks first with 549.28 points, with 49.95% above second place (France) and 1890.14% more than Romania, which is a big difference between the two countries.

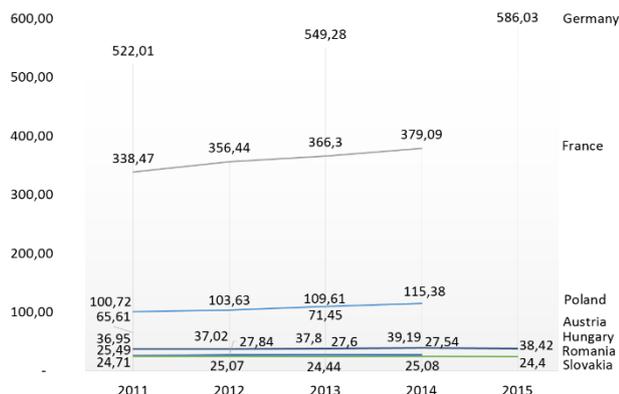


Fig. 2. Researchers (R) [7]

3.1.3 Quality of the education system (QES)

In 2013, Romania ranks 7th in terms of QES indicator, at a close distance from Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria, recording a score of 3.25 on a scale of 1 to 7, and in 2014

it is ranked 4th, then decreasing easy, going down to 7th in 2017.

In terms of QES, in 2017 Germany leads the standings ranking, being at the top of the ranking with a score of 5.37, followed by France and Austria. Compared with Romania, Germany is 91.78% above Romania.

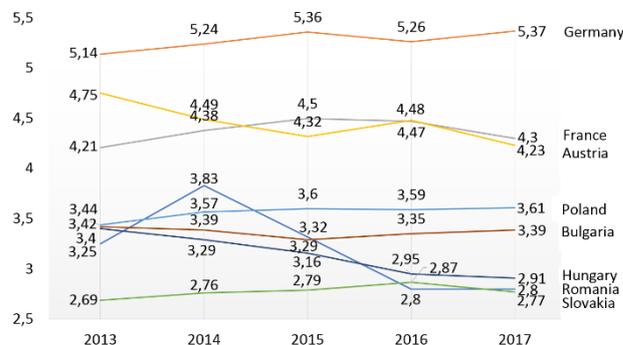


Fig. 3. Quality of the education system (QES) [7]

3.1.4 Researchers in R&D (RRD)

Starting from 2010 until 2014, Romania ranks last in terms of RRD indicator. In 2014, register a scores of 0.92 on a scale of 1 to 7, with 98.91% below Bulgaria which is the next ranked. The top 3 positions are Austria with a score of 4.81, followed by Germany with 4.38 and France with 4.2.

Compared with Romania, the first ranked Austria is above Romania with 422.82%.

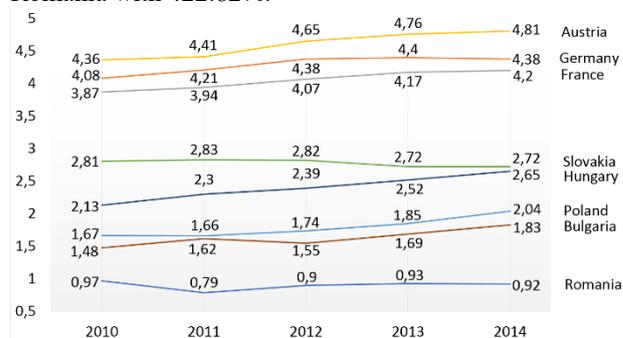


Fig. 4. Researchers in R&D (RRD) [7]

3.2 Group 2 – Support structure/ Infrastructure

3.2.1 Research and development expenditure (RDE)

Starting from 2010 to 2014, Romania ranks last in terms of RDE indicator. In 2014, registering a scores of 0.38 on a scale of 1 to 7, with 110.52% below Bulgaria which is the next ranked. The first 3 positions are Austria with 2.99, followed by Germany with 2.87, and 3rd place France with 2.26.

Compared with Romania, the first ranked Austria is above Romania with 686.84%.

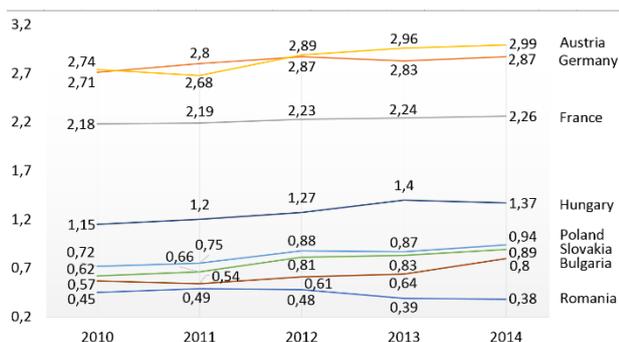


Fig. 5. Research and development expenditure (% of GDP) (RDE) [7]

3.2.2 Firm-level technology absorption (FLTA)

In 2012, Romania ranks 7th from 8 countries in terms of FLTA indicator, recording a score of 4.05 on a scale of 1 to 7, but it can see a slight increase until 2015 when recording a score of 4.44, maintaining the same level in 2016 (the last year analyzed), surpassing Poland and Bulgaria, thus rising to the 6th place.

On the first 3 positions are Germany with 5.74, followed by Austria with 5.68, and 3rd place is France with a score of 5.45.

Compared with Romania, the first ranked Germany is 29.27% above Romania.

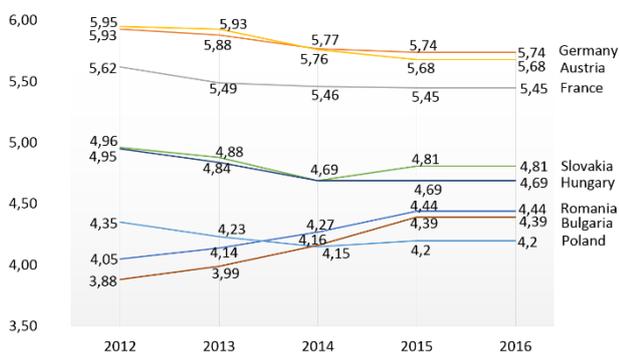


Fig. 6. Firm-level technology absorption (FLTA) [7]

3.2.3 University-industry collaboration in Research & Development (UICRD)

In 2013, Romania ranks 6th out of 8 countries in the UICRD indicator, registering a score of 3.33 on a scale of 1 to 7, then in 2014 and 2015 has increased to 3.59, and then dropped on the last place in 2017, reaching a score of 3.14. Compared to the neighboring countries it is at a relatively small distance.

On the first 3 positions are Germany with 5.37, followed by Austria with 4.81, and third place is France with a score of 4.22.

Compared to Romania, the first ranked, Germany, is with 71.01% above Romania.

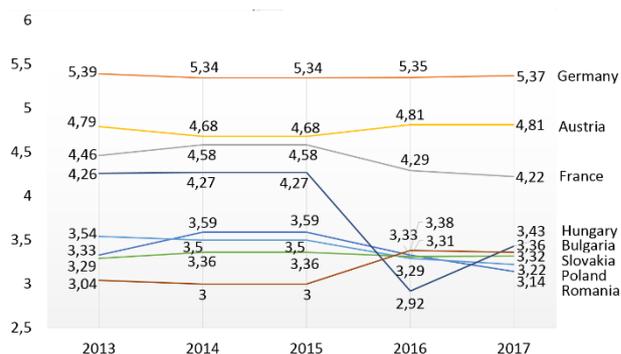


Fig. 7. University-industry collaboration in Research & Development (UICRD) [7]

A detailed study of university-industry collaboration in Research & Development is presented in publications 8 and 9 [8, 9].

3.2.4 Quality of scientific research institutions (QSRI)

In 2013, Romania ranks 6th in terms of QSRI indicator, registering a score of 3.74 on a scale of 1 to 7, and the next year rose slightly overtaking Poland, then dropped to 7th. In 2017 it is again on the 6th place with a score of 3.98, surpassing Bulgaria and Slovakia.

On the first three positions are France with a score of 5.78, followed by Germany with 5.67, and Austria with a score of 5.36.

Compared with Romania, the first ranked France is with 45.22% above Romania.

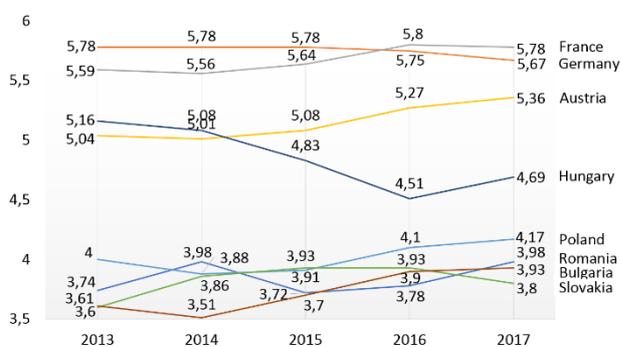


Fig. 8. Quality of scientific research institutions (QSRI) [7]

3.2.5 Gross domestic spending on R&D (GDSRD)

Regarding the GDSRD indicator, it was analyzed the available data onto the last 5 years (2011-2015). This indicator is measured in millions of USD and as a percentage of GDP. It is also important to note that the data onto Bulgaria are missing from this indicator.

In the first analysis, in 2011, Romania ranked 6th out of the 7 analyzed countries, registering a score of 1.67 over Slovakia.

In 2015 Germany leads the ranking with a score of 101.68, over the place occupied by France with 86.56%, and compared to Romania is over 5195.83%, representing a very large difference between the two countries.



Fig. 9. Gross domestic spending on R&D (GDSRD) [7]

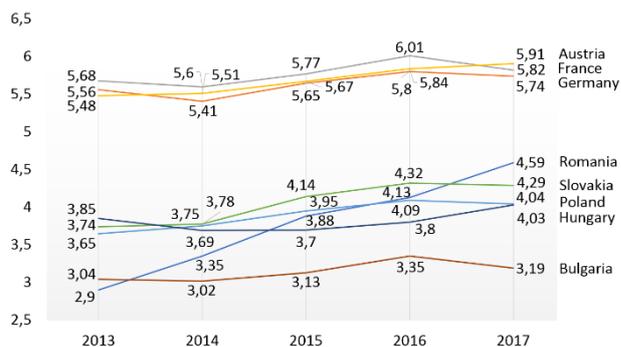


Fig. 11. Intellectual property protection (IPP) [7]

3.3 Group 3 – Legislative provisions

3.3.1 Property rights (PR)

In 2013, Romania ranks 5th in terms of PR indicator, registering a score of 3.94 on a scale of 1 to 7, at the same level as Slovakia.

In the following year, 2014, registered a slight increase exceeding Slovakia, then dropped in 2015, then rose slightly until 2017, registering a score of 4.38 points when it surpassed Slovakia and Poland, ranked 4th and also topped the reported ranking to the neighboring countries. On the first three positions are Austria with a score of 5.86, followed by Germany with 5.56, and 3rd place is France with a score of 5.37.

Compared with Romania, the first ranked Austria is with 33.78% above Romania.

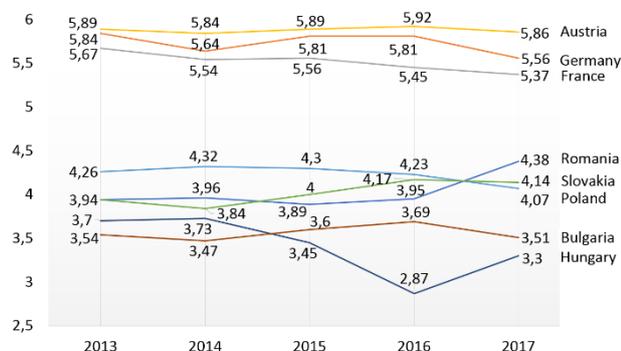


Fig. 10. Property rights (PR) [7]

3.3.2 Intellectual property protection (IPP)

In 2013, in terms of IPP indicator, Romania ranks last from the eight countries analyzed, registering a score of 2.9 on a scale from 1 to 7.

In the following year, 2014 grew slightly beyond Bulgaria, after which it climbed steadily until 2017 when it surpassed all of neighboring countries, being ranked among 4th and also topping the ranking of neighboring countries, recording a score of 4.59.

On the top three positions are Austria with a score of 5.91, followed by France with 5.82, and Germany with 5.74.

In comparison with Romania, the first ranked Austria, is with 28.75% above Romania.

4 Conclusions

The objective of this study was to analyze the 11 indicators that aim and support the innovation process, which were structured in 3 groups, namely human resources, structure support / infrastructure and legislative provisions.

Conclusion Group 1 – Human resources

In terms of the ESA indicator, Romania is ranked 5th in the eight countries analyzed. Compare with the first ranked, Germany, Romania is over 36.24%. As for the comparison of Romania with the neighboring countries, Romania is located above Slovakia, Bulgaria and Hungary, but under Poland with 10.84%.

From the point of view of the R indicator, from the 8 countries analyzed, Romania ranks 6th. Compare with the first ranked, Germany, Romania is surpassed by 1890.14%. Regarding the comparison of Romania with the neighboring countries, Romania is situated above Slovakia, being overtaken by the other neighboring countries.

In terms of the QES indicator, out of the 8 countries analyzed, Romania ranks 7th. Compare with the first ranked, Germany, Romania is surpassed by 91.78%. Regarding the comparison of Romania with the neighboring countries, Romania is located above Slovakia, but under Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland. As for Poland, the top of the ranking among the neighboring countries Romania is at a distance of 28.92%.

From the point of view of the RRD indicator, out of the 8 analyzed countries, Romania ranks last. Compare with the first-ranked, Austria, Romania is surpassed with 422.82%. Regarding the comparison of Romania with the neighboring countries, Romania is located under all of the neighboring countries. Slovakia, the first ranked among the neighboring countries, Romania is at a distance of 195.65%.

From the point of view of human resources, Romania is best positioned to the ASE indicator, ranking 5th out of the 8 analyzed countries, and the weakest indicators is RRD.

The biggest difference between Romania and the first ranked country in the 1st group is the Resource (R) indicator, where Germany records a rate of 1890.14% above Romania.

Conclusion Group 2 – Support structure/Infrastructura

From the point of view of the RDE indicator, out of the eight analyzed countries, Romania ranks last. Compare with the first-ranked, Austria, Romania is surpassed with 686.84%. Compare with the neighboring countries, Romania is situated under all of the neighboring countries. Compared with Hungary which is on top of the ranking among the neighboring countries, Romania is at a distance of 260.52%.

In terms of the FLTA indicator, out of the 8 countries analyzed, Romania ranks 6th. Compare with the first ranked, Germany, Romania is surpassed with 29.27%. Regarding the comparison of Romania with the neighboring countries, Romania is located above Bulgaria and Poland, but under Hungary and Slovakia. Slovakia, at the top of the ranking among the neighboring countries, compared to Romania is at a distance of 8.33%

In terms of the UICRD indicator, out of the 8 analyzed countries, Romania ranks last. Compare with the first-ranked, Germany, Romania is surpassed with 71.01%. Compared with the neighboring countries, Romania is situated under all of the neighboring countries, regarding Hungary, which is on top of the ranking among the neighboring countries, Romania is at a distance of 9.23%. Romanian researchers have a very high potential (many new methods and applications are published in relevant specialist journals, but the major problem is the low financial capacity of universities to promote inventions, to be taken over and then applied on a large scale in production, industry, agriculture, etc.) [10, 11, 12].

In terms of the QSRI indicator, out of the 8 countries analyzed, Romania ranks 6th. Compare with the first ranked, France, Romania is surpassed with 45.22%. Compared with the neighboring countries, Romania is located above Slovakia and Bulgaria, but under Hungary and Poland. Regarding Hungary which is on the top of the ranking among the neighboring countries, Romania is at a distance of 17.83%.

In terms of the GDSRD indicator, out of the 7 analyzed countries (because the data for Bulgaria are missing), Romania is ranked 6th. Compare with the first ranked, Germany, Romania is surpassed with 5195.83% (which is a big difference). As for the comparison of Romania with the neighboring countries, Romania is situated above Slovakia, but under the other neighboring countries, and compared to Poland which is on the top of the ranking among the neighboring countries, Romania is at a distance of 386.45%.

In terms of Support structure, Romania is best placed to the FLTA and QSRI indicators, ranking 6th out of the 8 analyzed countries, and the worst indicators are RDE and UICRD.

The biggest difference between Romania and the first ranked country within Group 2 is indicator 7, Gross domestic expenditure on R & D (GDSRD), where Germany records a 5195.83% over Romania.

Conclusion Group 3 – Legislative provisions

From the point of view of the PR indicator, out of the 8 countries analyzed, Romania ranks 4th. Compare with the first ranked, Austria, Romania is surpassed with 33.78%. Compare with the neighboring countries, Romania is located above all of neighboring countries, surpassing the next neighboring country, Slovakia with 5.79%.

From the point of view of the IPP indicator, out of the 8 countries analyzed, Romania ranks 4th. Compare with the first ranked, Austria, Romania is surpassed with 28.75%. Regarding the comparison of Romania with the neighboring countries, Romania is located above all the neighboring countries, surpassing the next neighboring country, Slovakia with 6.99%.

From the point of view of legislative provisions, Romania is best placed on the IPP indicator, being on the 4th place, surpassing Slovakia by 6.99%, and the weakest place on the PR indicator, being also on the 4th place, surpassing Slovakia with 5.79%.

The biggest difference between Romania and the first ranked country within Group 3 is the indicator 1, property rights (PR), where Austria records a percentage of 33.78% over Romania.

In conclusion, out of the three groups of indicators analyzed, Romania is best placed in terms of Group 3 - Legislative provisions, averaging 31.26% compared to the first rank, followed by group 1 - human resources with an average of 610.24%, and the worst ranking is Group 2 - support structure / infrastructure, averaging 1205.63% compared with the first ranked countries.

The field of innovation and ethical criteria in research should not be neglected [13-25].

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