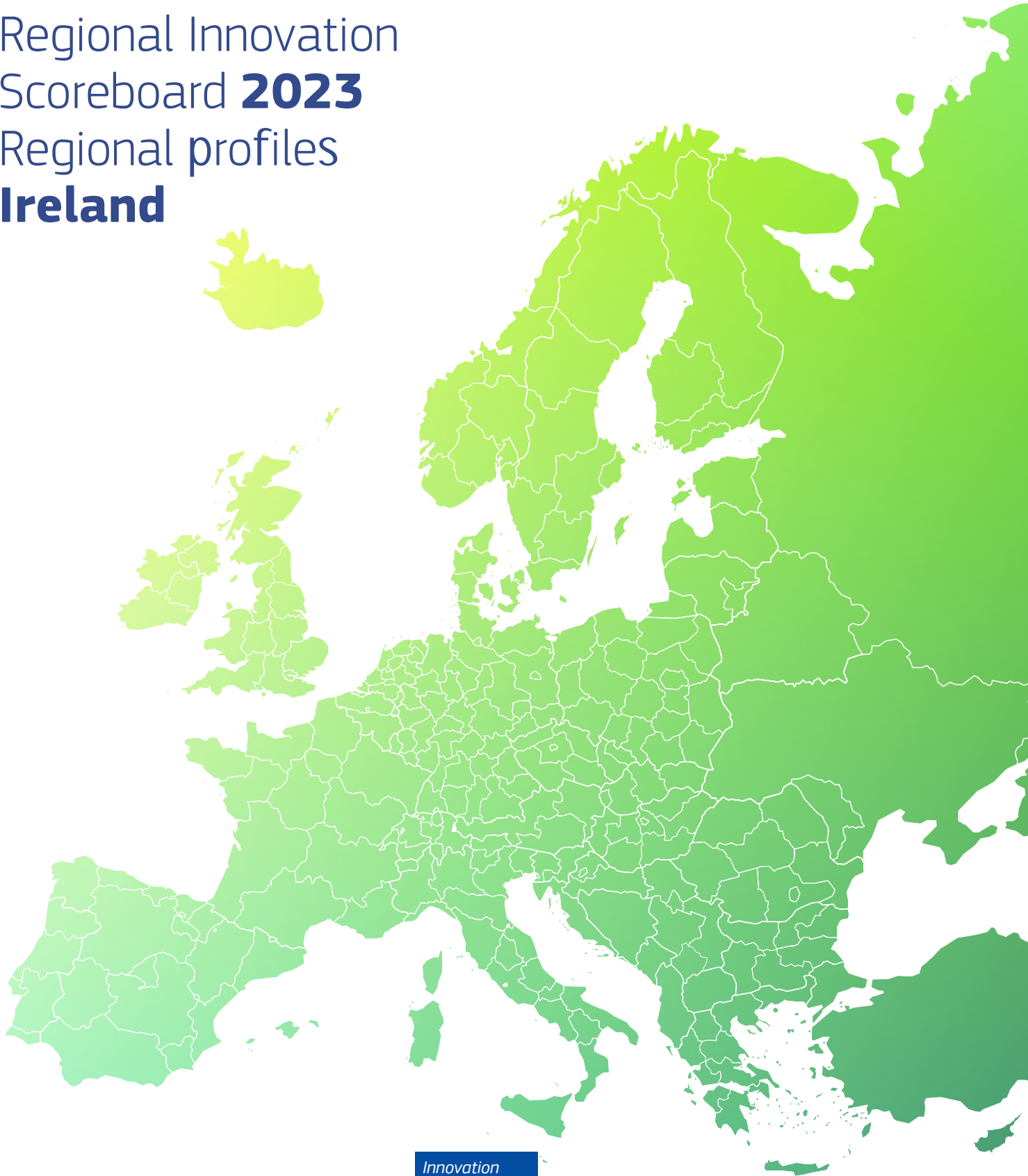# Regional Innovation Scoreboard **2023**
Regional profiles
Ireland

Innovation

Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2023 – Regional profiles Ireland

Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2023

Regional profiles Ireland

The report was prepared by

Hugo Hollanders

(Maastricht University – UNU-MERIT)

as part of the European Innovation Scoreboard project

for the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation under

Framework Contract N° 2018/RTD/A2/OP/PP-07001-2018 Lot 2 (EDAR)
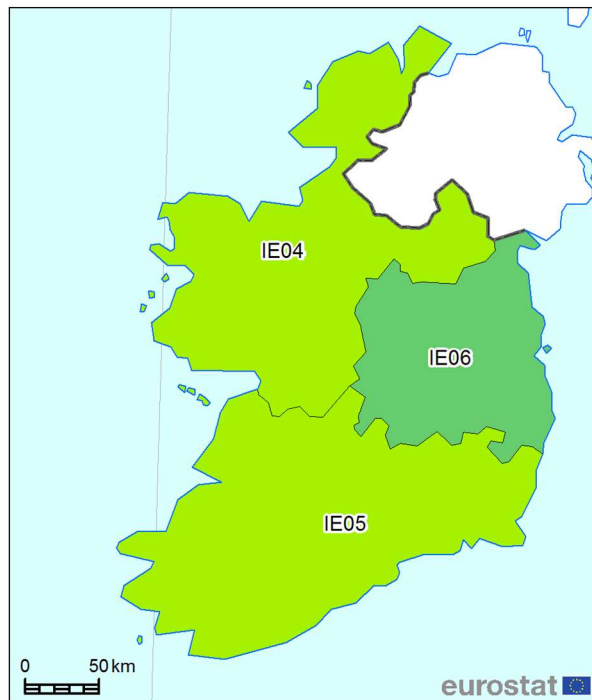
IRELAND

Map administrative boundaries: ©EuroGeographics ©UN-FAO ©Turkstat

NUTS	Region	RII	Rank	Group	Change
IE	Ireland	115.8	--	Strong Innovator	2.3
IE04	Northern and Western	104.5	90	Strong Innovator −	5.2
IE05	Southern	105.4	86	Strong Innovator −	-6.7
IE06	Eastern and Midland	124.0	42	Strong Innovator +	4.3

Ireland is a Strong Innovator and includes three regions.

Eastern and Midland (IE06) is a Strong Innovator +. Both *Northern and Western* (IE04) and *Southern* (IE05) are a Strong Innovator −with performance scores about 20%-points below that of *Eastern and Midland* (IE06).

Performance has decreased for *Southern* (IE05) and increased for the other two regions. For all regions performance has increased (or even decreased) at a lower rate than that of the EU (8.5).

Northern and Western (IE04)

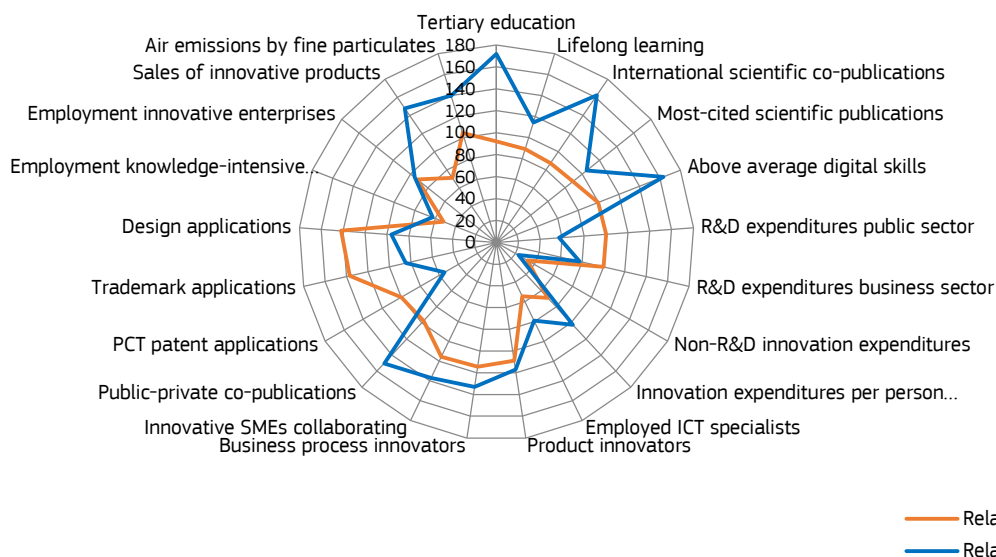|	Data	Normalised score	Relative to	
			IE	EU
Tertiary education	58.2	0.902	92	172
Lifelong learning	12.2	0.424	89	114
International scientific co-publications	2060	0.498	87	162
Most-cited scientific publications	1024.3	0.574	89	105
Above average digital skills	39.5	0.768	99	163
R&D expenditures public sector	0.32	0.325	100	57
R&D expenditures business sector	0.91	0.524	100	78
Non-R&D innovation expenditures	±	0.094	33	23
Innovation expenditures per person employed	±	0.616	69	102
Employed ICT specialists	3.7	0.416	54	79
Product innovators	±	0.654	109	117
Business process innovators	±	0.858	114	133
Innovative SMEs collaborating	±	0.667	116	137
Public-private co-publications	313.0	0.590	97	150
PCT patent applications	0.96	0.336	100	55
Trademark applications	6.23	0.422	137	85
Design applications	3.65	0.556	142	96
Employment knowledge-intensive activities	11.7	0.355	52	63
Employment innovative enterprises	±	0.546	92	95
Sales of innovative products	±	0.711	71	148
Air emissions by fine particulates	6.4	0.839	104	140
Average normalised score	--	0.556	--	--
Country EIS-RIS correction factor	--	1.030	--	--
Regional Innovation Index (RII) 2023	--	0.572	--	--
Performance 2023 relative to EU in 2023	--	--	90.3	104.5
Performance 2023 relative to EU in 2016	--	--	--	113.4
Regional Innovation Index (RII) 2016	--	0.546	--	--
Performance 2016 relative to EU in 2016	--	--	87.8	108.2
Performance change over time	--	--	2.5	5.2

± Scores are not shown as these would allow recalculating confidential regional CIS data.

Northern and Western (IE04) is a Strong Innovator –. Innovation performance has increased over time (5.2%). The first 21 rows and two data columns in the table on the left show the values and the normalised scores per indicator. The last two data columns show relative performance of the normalised scores compared to Ireland and the EU. The next 7 rows show the calculation of the Regional Innovation Index (RII), the RII relative to both Ireland (90.3) and the EU (104.5) in 2023, the RII in 2023 relative to the EU in 2016 (113.4), and the RII in 2016 relative to both Ireland (87.8) and the EU in 2016 (108.2). The last row shows performance change between 2016 and 2023 compared to Ireland (2.5%) and to the EU (5.2%).

The radar graph shows relative strengths compared to Ireland (orange line) and the EU (blue line), showing relative strengths (e.g. Tertiary education) and weaknesses (e.g. Non-R&D innovation expenditures).

The table below shows data highlighting possible structural differences, e.g. Employment in Agriculture & Mining (above EU average) and Urbanisation (below EU average).

	IE04	IE	EU
Share of employment in:			
Agriculture & Mining (A-B)	8.0	4.5	4.4
Manufacturing (C)	14.6	11.4	16.4
Utilities & Construction (D-F)	7.6	7.2	8.3
Services (G-N)	64.6	71.7	63.7
Public administration (O-U)	5.1	5.2	7.2
Average number of employed persons per enterprise	n/a	5.9	5.1
GDP per capita (PPS)	27,100	70,900	32,400
GDP per capita growth (PPS)	2.0	7.2	2.5
Population density	34	72	106
Urbanisation	23.1	58.1	75.8
Population size (000s)	880	5,010	447,210

Southern (IE05)

	Data	Normalised score	Relative to IE	Relative to EU
Tertiary education	60.1	0.945	96	180
Lifelong learning	12.0	0.417	87	112
International scientific co-publications	1748	0.422	74	138
Most-cited scientific publications	1191.0	0.685	106	125
Above average digital skills	38.6	0.748	97	159
R&D expenditures public sector	0.32	0.325	100	57
R&D expenditures business sector	0.91	0.524	100	78
Non-R&D innovation expenditures	±	0.272	95	67
Innovation expenditures per person employed	±	0.655	73	109
Employed ICT specialists	4.4	0.520	68	99
Product innovators	±	0.597	99	107
Business process innovators	±	0.727	97	113
Innovative SMEs collaborating	±	0.659	114	135
Public-private co-publications	278.3	0.556	92	142
PCT patent applications	0.96	0.336	100	55
Trademark applications	2.40	0.161	52	32
Design applications	0.51	0.208	53	36
Employment knowledge-intensive activities	17.2	0.616	90	108
Employment innovative enterprises	±	0.612	103	107
Sales of innovative products	±	1.000	100	208
Air emissions by fine particulates	7.5	0.783	98	131
Average normalised score	--	0.560	--	--
Country EIS-RIS correction factor	--	1.030	--	--
Regional Innovation Index (RII) 2023	--	0.577	--	--
Performance 2023 relative to EU in 2023	--	--	91.0	105.4
Performance 2023 relative to EU in 2016	--	--	--	114.3
Regional Innovation Index (RII) 2016	--	0.611	--	--
Performance 2016 relative to EU in 2016	--	--	98.1	120.9
Performance change over time	--	--	-7.1	-6.7

± Scores are not shown as these would allow recalculating confidential regional CIS data.

Southern (IE05) is a Strong Innovator –. Innovation performance has decreased over time (-6.7%).
The first 21 rows and two data columns in the table on the left show the values and the normalised scores per indicator. The last two data columns show relative performance of the normalised scores compared to Ireland and the EU. The next 7 rows show the calculation of the Regional Innovation Index (RII), the RII relative to both Ireland (91) and the EU (105.4) in 2023, the RII in 2023 relative to the EU in 2016 (114.3), and the RII in 2016 relative to both Ireland (98.1) and the EU in 2016 (120.9). The last row shows performance change between 2016 and 2023 compared to Ireland (-7.1%) and to the EU (-6.7%).
The radar graph shows relative strengths compared to Ireland (orange line) and the EU (blue line), showing relative strengths (e.g. Tertiary education) and weaknesses (e.g. Trademark applications).
The table below shows data highlighting possible structural differences, e.g. Employment in Agriculture & Mining (above EU average) and Population density (below EU average).

	IE05	IE	EU
Share of employment in:			
Agriculture & Mining (A-B)	6.3	4.5	4.4
Manufacturing (C)	14.8	11.4	16.4
Utilities & Construction (D-F)	7.5	7.2	8.3
Services (G-N)	67.1	71.7	63.7
Public administration (O-U)	4.2	5.2	7.2
Average number of employed persons per enterprise	n/a	5.9	5.1
GDP per capita (PPS)	84,500	70,900	32,400
GDP per capita growth (PPS)	7.3	7.2	2.5
Population density	56	72	106
Urbanisation	44.8	58.1	75.8
Population size (000s)	1,650	5,010	447,210

Relative to country
Relative to EU
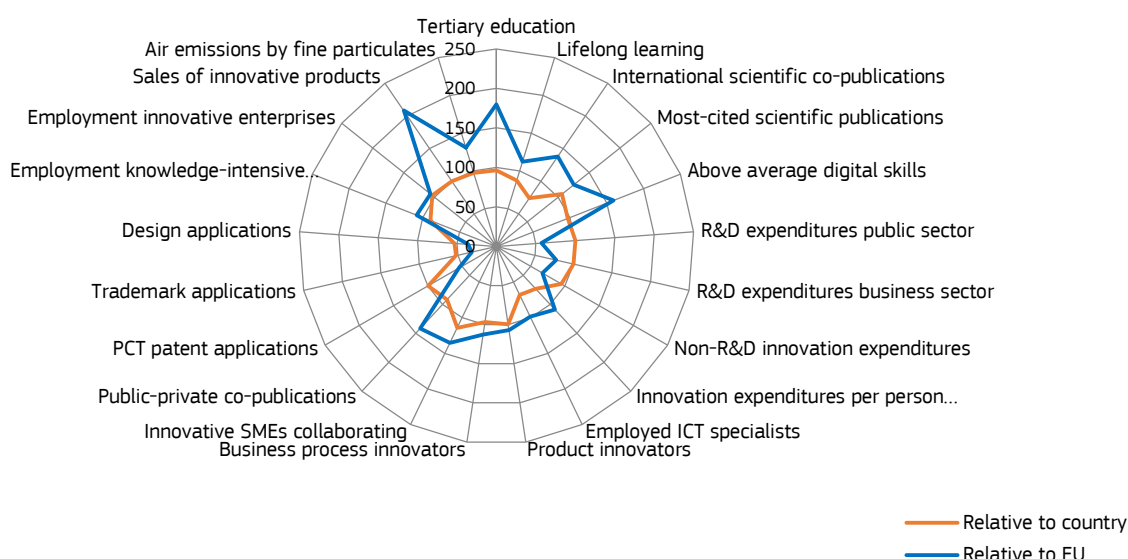
Eastern and Midland (IE06)

	Data	Normalised score	Relative to IE	Relative to EU
Tertiary education	63.6	1.000	102	190
Lifelong learning	15.0	0.530	111	143
International scientific co-publications	3032	0.733	129	239
Most-cited scientific publications	1160.2	0.664	103	122
Above average digital skills	40.5	0.791	102	168
R&D expenditures public sector	0.32	0.325	100	57
R&D expenditures business sector	0.91	0.524	100	78
Non-R&D innovation expenditures	±	0.300	104	74
Innovation expenditures per person employed	±	1.000	112	166
Employed ICT specialists	8.3	1.000	131	190
Product innovators	±	0.591	98	106
Business process innovators	±	0.741	99	115
Innovative SMEs collaborating	±	0.521	90	107
Public-private co-publications	428.9	0.690	114	176
PCT patent applications	0.96	0.336	100	55
Trademark applications	5.98	0.405	131	81
Design applications	2.57	0.466	119	80
Employment knowledge-intensive activities	21.8	0.834	121	147
Employment innovative enterprises	±	0.590	100	103
Sales of innovative products	±	1.000	100	208
Air emissions by fine particulates	7.1	0.804	100	134
Average normalised score	--	0.659	--	--
Country EIS-RIS correction factor	--	1.030	--	--
Regional Innovation Index (RII) 2023	--	0.679	--	--
Performance 2023 relative to EU in 2023	--	--	107.1	124.0
Performance 2023 relative to EU in 2016	--	--	--	134.5
Regional Innovation Index (RII) 2016	--	0.657	--	--
Performance 2016 relative to EU in 2016	--	--	105.5	130.1
Performance change over time	--	--	1.5	4.3

± Scores are not shown as these would allow recalculating confidential regional CIS data.

Eastern and Midland (IE06) is a Strong Innovator +. Innovation performance has increased over time (4.3%).
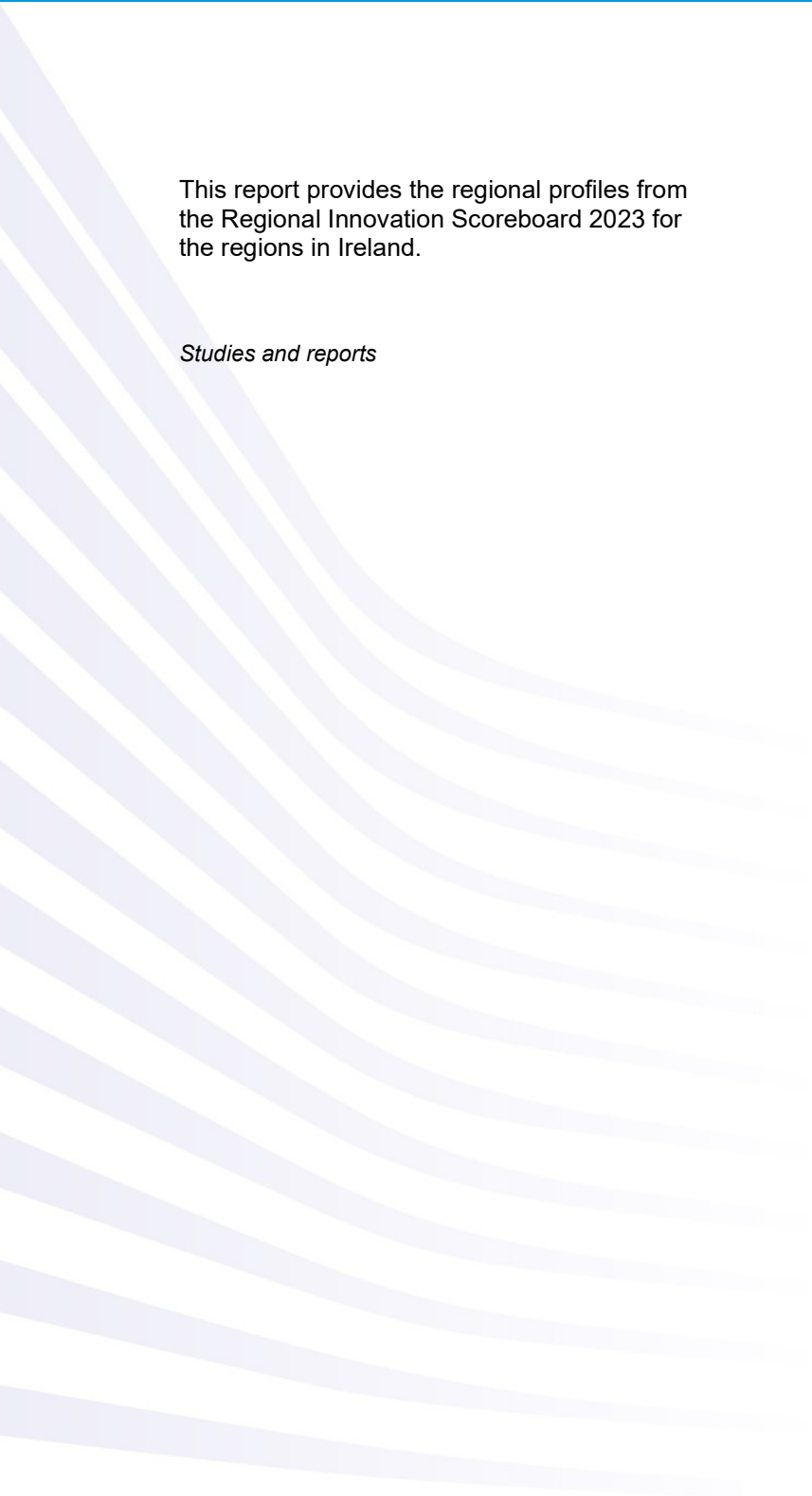
The first 21 rows and two data columns in the table on the left show the values and the normalised scores per indicator. The last two data columns show relative performance of the normalised scores compared to Ireland and the EU. The next 7 rows show the calculation of the Regional Innovation Index (RII), the RII relative to both Ireland (107.1) and the EU (124) in 2023, the RII in 2023 relative to the EU in 2016 (134.5), and the RII in 2016 relative to both Ireland (105.5) and the EU in 2016 (130.1). The last row shows performance change between 2016 and 2023 compared to Ireland (1.5%) and to the EU (4.3%).

The radar graph shows relative strengths compared to Ireland (orange line) and the EU (blue line), showing relative strengths (e.g. International scientific co-publications) and weaknesses (e.g. PCT patent applications).

The table below shows data highlighting possible structural differences, e.g. Population density (above EU average) and Employment in Agriculture & Mining (below EU average).

	IE06	IE	EU
Share of employment in:			
Agriculture & Mining (A-B)	2.2	4.5	4.4
Manufacturing (C)	8.3	11.4	16.4
Utilities & Construction (D-F)	6.8	7.2	8.3
Services (G-N)	76.9	71.7	63.7
Public administration (O-U)	5.8	5.2	7.2
Average number of employed persons per enterprise	n/a	5.9	5.1
GDP per capita (PPS)	77,400	70,900	32,400
GDP per capita growth (PPS)	7.9	7.2	2.5
Population density	171	72	106
Urbanisation	80.0	58.1	75.8
Population size (000s)	2,470	5,010	447,210
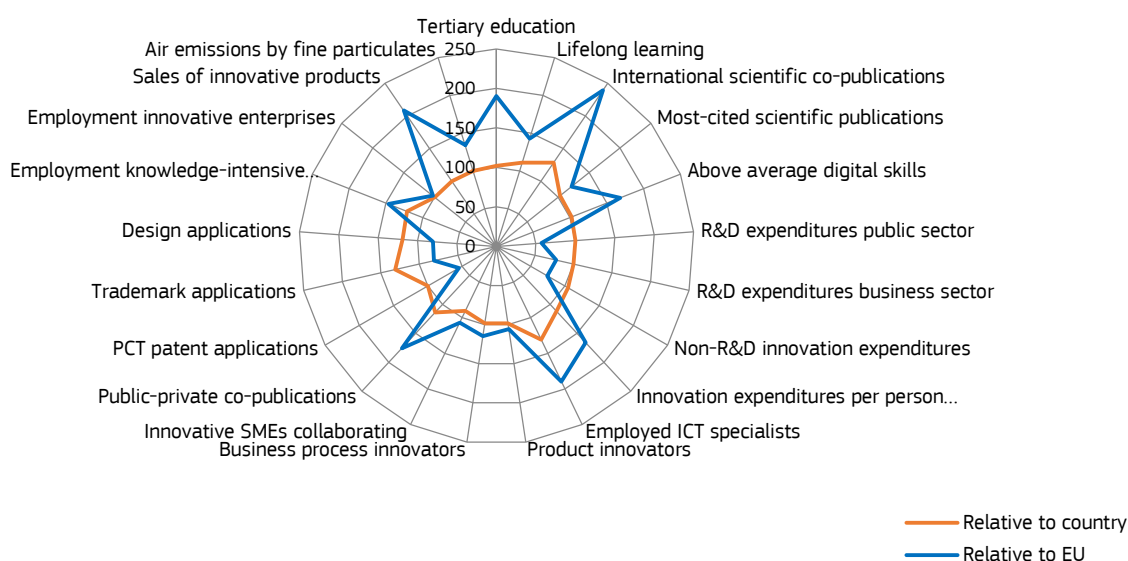
This report provides the regional profiles from the Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2023 for the regions in Ireland.

Studies and reports