NORTH MACEDONIA is an Emerging Innovator with performance at 45.6% of the EU average. Performance is below the average of the Emerging Innovators (50.0%). Performance is increasing (12.0%-points) at a rate higher than that of the EU (9.9%-points). The country’s performance gap to the EU is becoming smaller.

**Relative strengths**
- Foreign doctorate students
- Environment-related technologies
- Medium and high-tech goods exports
- Non-R&D Innovation expenditures
- Population with tertiary education

**Relative weaknesses**
- Employed ICT specialists
- Design applications
- R&D expenditure in the business sector
- Government support for business R&D
- Lifelong learning

**Strong increases since 2015**
- Foreign doctorate students
- Job-to-job mobility of HRST
- Environment-related technologies

**Strong decreases since 2015**
- R&D expenditures in the public sector
- Enterprises providing ICT training
- Doctorate graduates

**Strong increases since 2021**
- Environment-related technologies
- Foreign doctorate students
- Knowledge-intensive services exports

**Strong decreases since 2021**
- Job-to-job mobility of HRST
- Enterprises providing ICT training
- Resource productivity
The graph on the left shows the evolution of innovation performance over time against the performance of the country in 2015. Innovation performance started to increase in 2017 with further strong increases in 2018, 2021 and 2022, leading to an overall improvement of 32% between 2015 and 2022.

The graphs below show the evolution of innovation performance in the different innovation dimensions against the performance of the country in 2015. Performance increased strongest for Research systems, Linkages, Intellectual assets and Environmental sustainability and declined for Human resources, Finance and support and Information technologies.

**Structural differences** with the EU are shown below:

- North Macedonia has lower per capita income. Manufacturing takes up a larger share of the economy, with SMEs accounting for a larger share of turnover.
- FDI net inflows and add positively to the innovation climate, entrepreneurial activity and the absence of top R&D spenders add negatively.
- Information on Innovation profiles is not available.
- Ease of starting a business is above the EU average and entrepreneurial training and government procurement are above the EU average as drivers of research and innovation.
- Information on Climate change related indicators is not available.