



# The EU Regional Competitiveness Index 2.0

2022 Edition

# A Regional Competitiveness Index (RCI) for all EU regions

- Within the RCI framework, territorial competitiveness is defined as:

The ability of a region to offer an attractive environment for **firms** and **residents** to live and work

- The index aims at:
  - Helping regions to better target their development strategies and to benchmark themselves with their peers or the rest of the EU
  - Facilitating mutual learning between regions by:
    - Summarising information into an index and its components
    - Visualising the data in an interactive manner
    - Providing easy access to underlying data

# From RCI to RCI 2.0 – An updated framework

- A number of indicators are no longer collected or are no longer relevant; new indicators have been added to capture new issues.
- The changes in the NUTS regions of Croatia, Ireland, Lithuania and Poland have created breaks in the time series.
- This is also the first edition of the index that doesn't include the United Kingdom.
- RCI 2.0 maintains the structure of the previous editions but uses an updated methodological framework, to facilitate comparisons over time.
- EU average always set equal to 100, to ease benchmarking with the EU
- The indices for 2016 and 2019 have been recalculated using the new methodology
- A new set of interactive online tools have been created for RCI 2.0

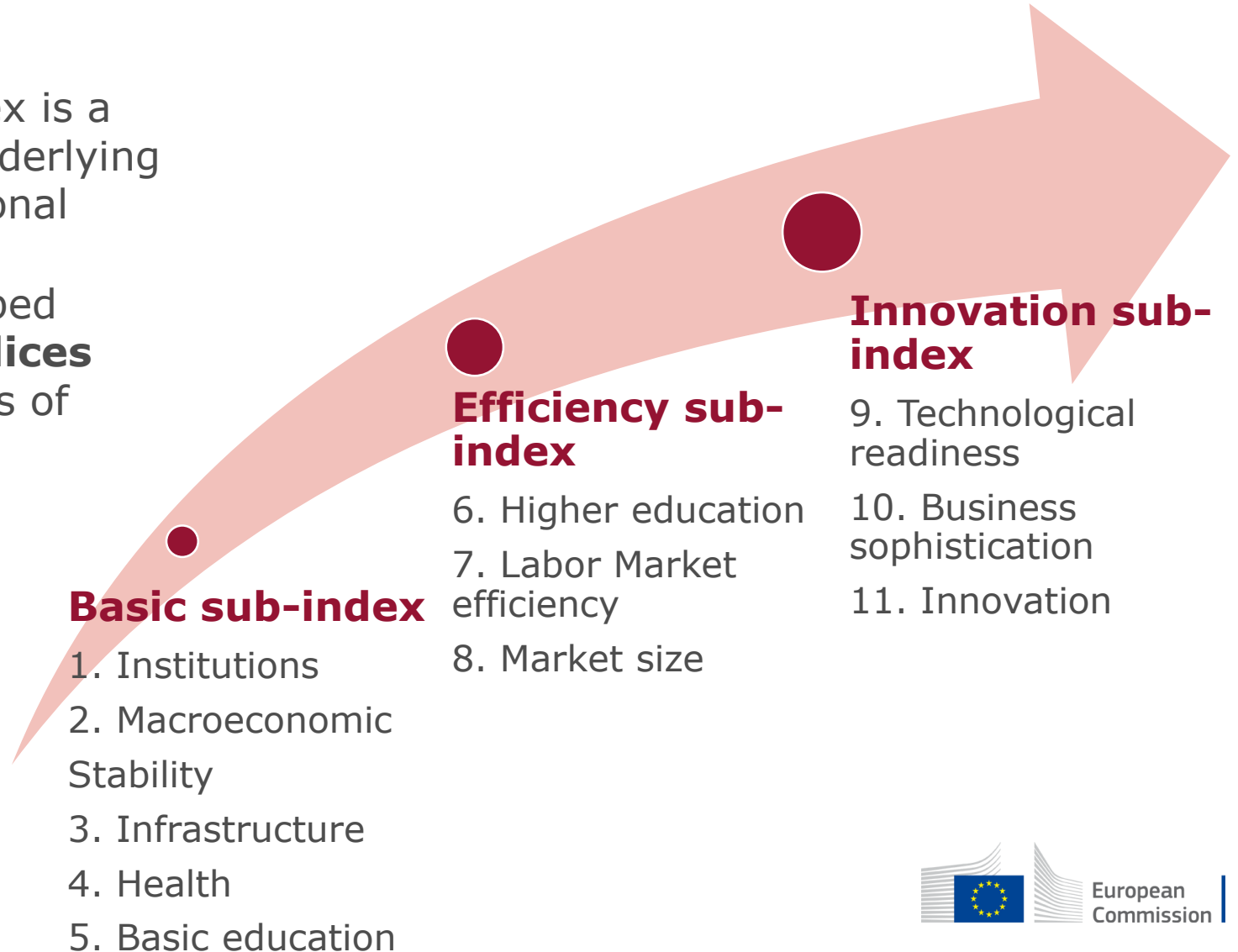
# How is the RCI 2.0 constructed?

The EU Regional Competitiveness Index is a composite measure, building on 68 underlying indicators, of which 48 are at the regional level.

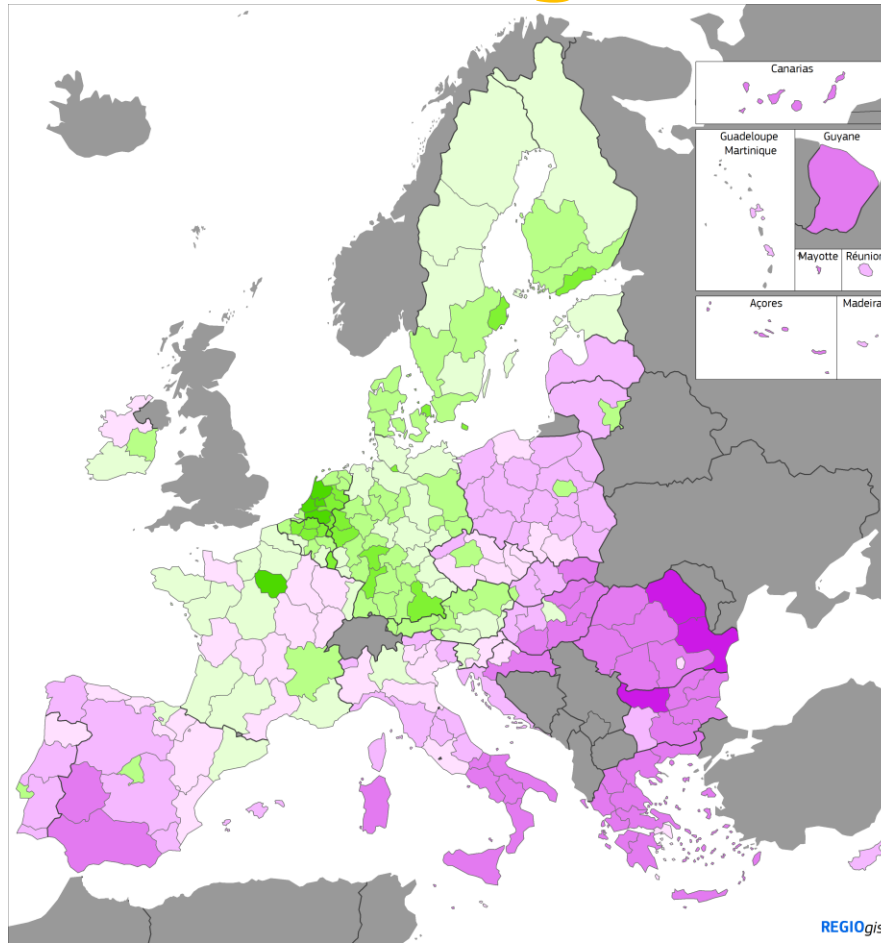
The underlying 68 indicators are grouped into **11** different pillars and **3 sub-indices** gradually moving from enabling factors of competitiveness to cutting edge ones

EU regions are divided into three development stages, based on GDP per head.

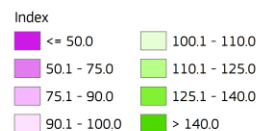
More weight is assigned to **basic factors** of competitiveness in less-developed regions and to **cutting-edge** factors in more-developed regions



# RCI 2.0 – 2022 edition: a marked spatial pattern across EU regions....



Regional Competitiveness Index 2.0, 2022 edition



Revised, May 2023  
EU-27 = 100

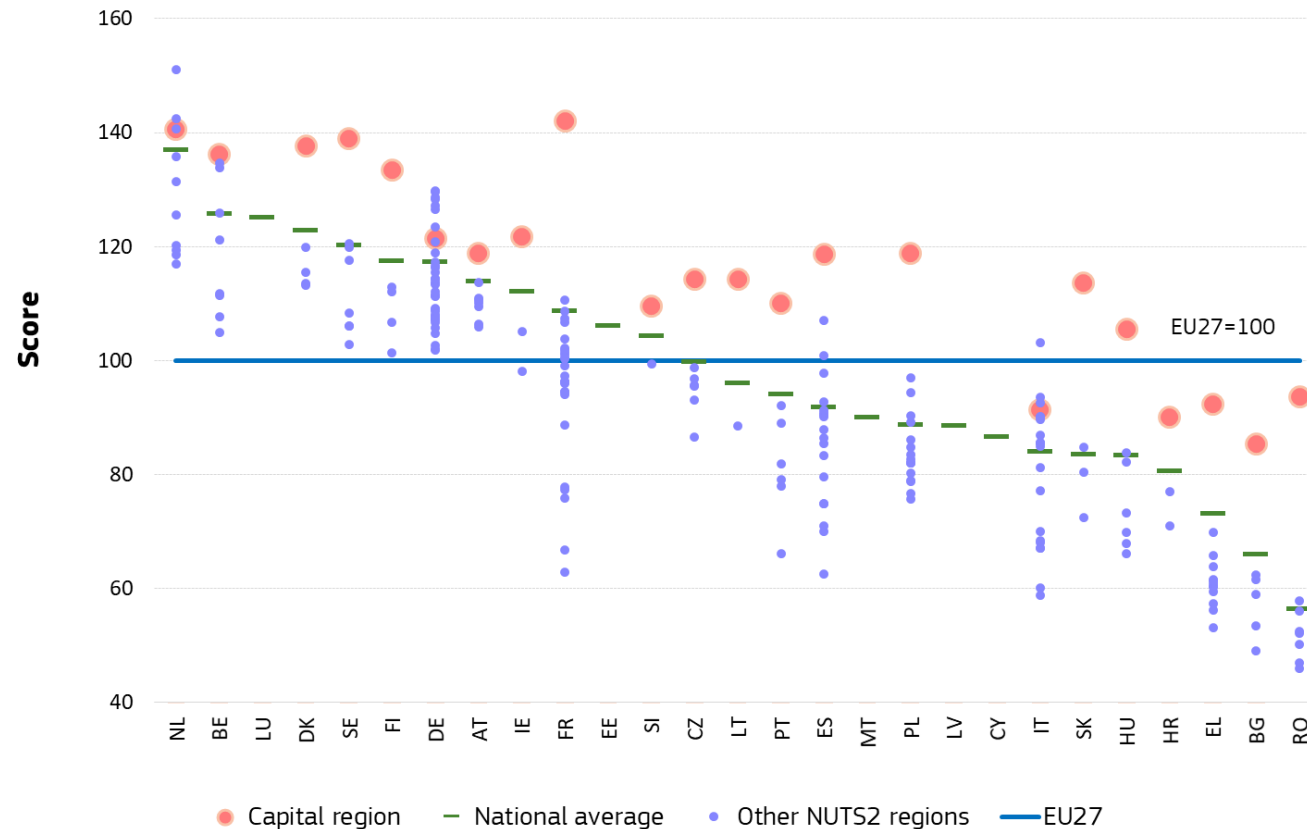
0 500 km

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- Regional competitiveness is above the EU average in all regions in Austria, the Benelux, Germany and the Nordic Member States.
- In contrast, all eastern regions, except most capital city regions, score below the EU average.
- Southern EU regions tend to score below the EU average with only five exceptions: Cataluña, Madrid and País Vasco in Spain, Lombardia in Italy and Lisboa in Portugal.
- Ireland and especially France have a mix of regions above and below the EU average.
- The top performer of the 2022 edition of the RCI is the region of Utrecht (NL), followed by Zuid-Holland (NL) and the French capital region of Ile-de-France.
- In most EU MS the capital region is the most competitive region

# RCI 2.0 – ...but also large within country variation

RCI 2.0 – 2022 edition: within-country variation

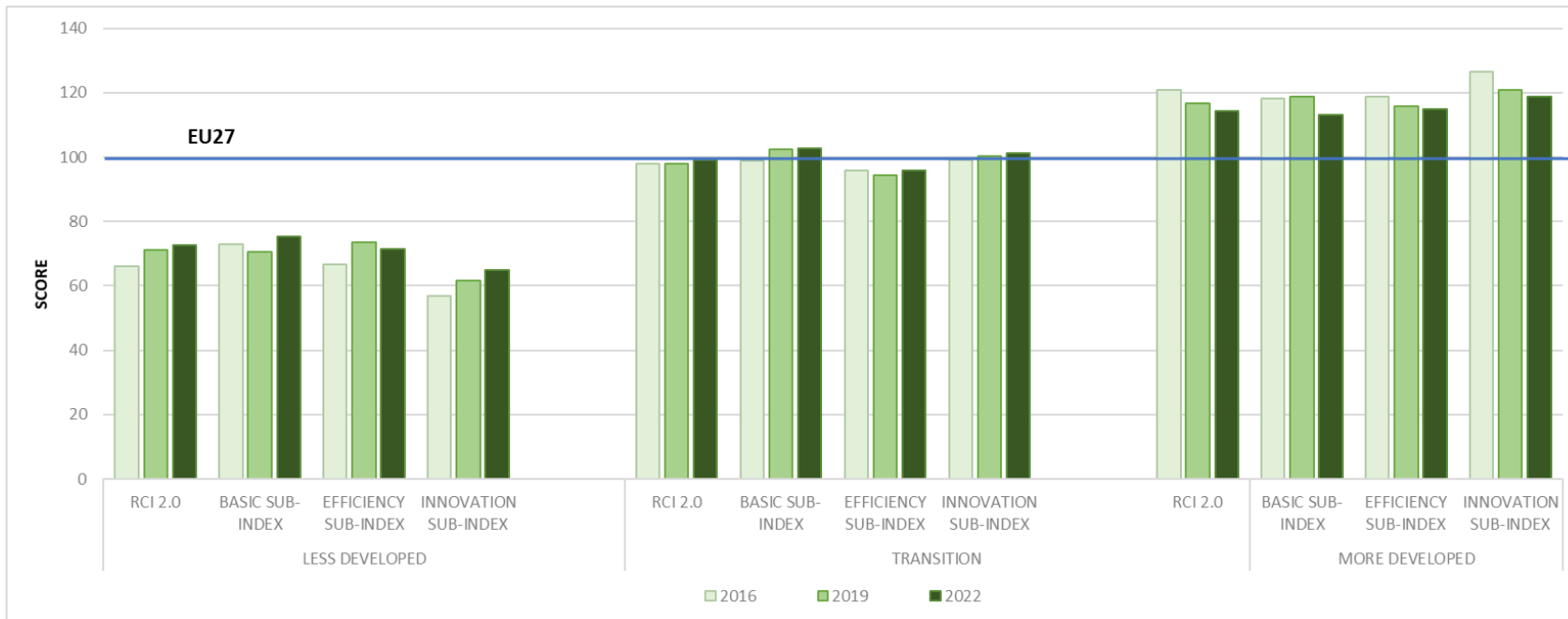


- Across EU Member States, the capital city region tends to be the most competitive in the country, with only a few exceptions (in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands).
- More competitive countries tend to have a smaller gap between their capital city region and its other regions. They also have smaller differences between all their regions.

# Less developed regions are catching-up

- **Upward convergence** across EU regions in terms of competitiveness
  - Overall, competitiveness in the EU is increasing over time
  - Regional disparities in the EU are decreasing, less developed regions are catching-up
    - not only in the least advanced components of competitiveness (i.e. the Basic sub-index) but also in the most advanced ones (Innovation sub-index).

RCI 2.0: Evolution over time (2016, 2019 and 2022), by stage of development

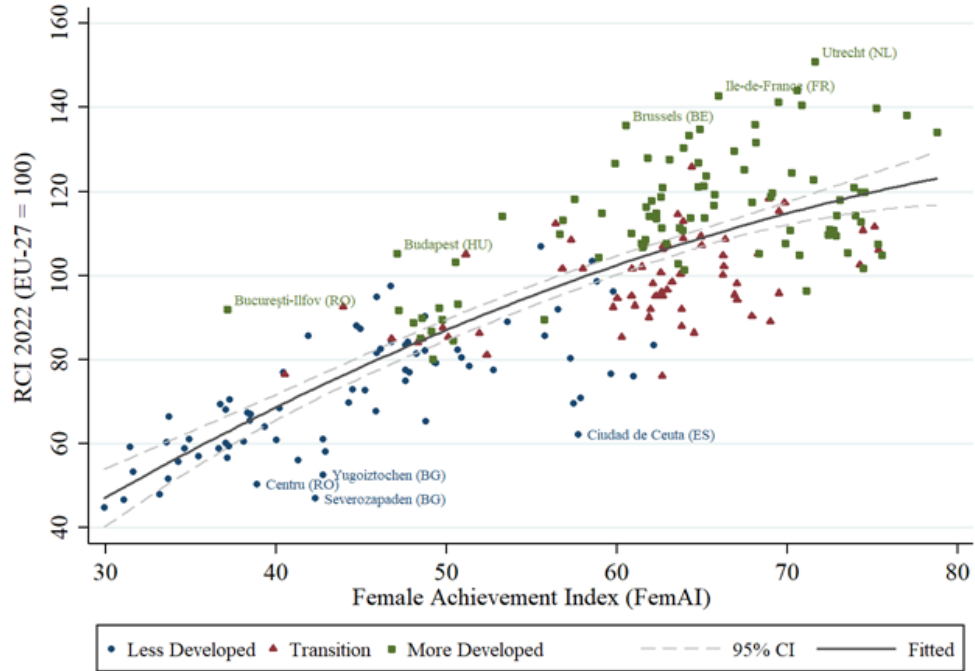


# Beyond competitiveness

- More competitive regions have significant advantages in economic development and beyond.
  - In more competitive regions, the GDP per capita is higher.
  - Women also perform better in more competitive regions, with higher achievements and lower NEET rates.
  - Finally, more competitive regions are particularly attractive for recent graduates, as it is easier to find a job there.



## Relationship between RCI and female achievement index



Women achieve more in more competitive regions

Recent graduates find jobs faster in more competitive regions

## Relationship between RCI and employment rates of recent graduates



# RCI 2.0: A publication and a powerful online analytical tool

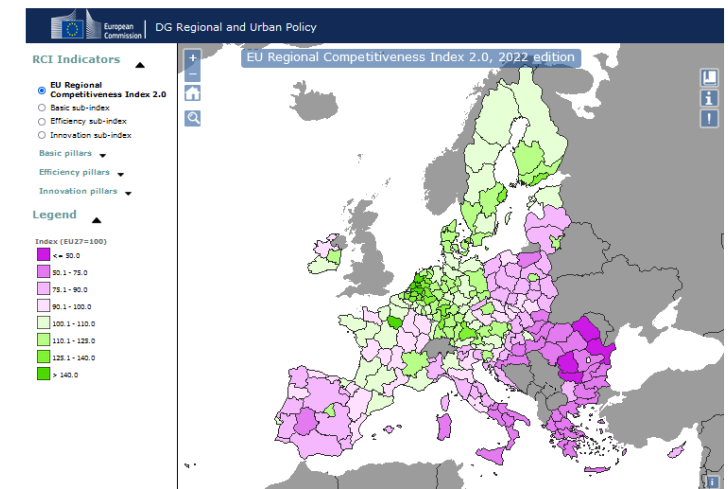
- EU RCI 2.0 interactive tools available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/information-sources/maps/regional-competitiveness\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/maps/regional-competitiveness_en)
- To analyse regional competitiveness for all NUTS2 regions in the EU
- To compare with regions in the same country, and other regions in the EU
- In addition, interactive scorecards provide an overview on how a region performs and compares with its peers



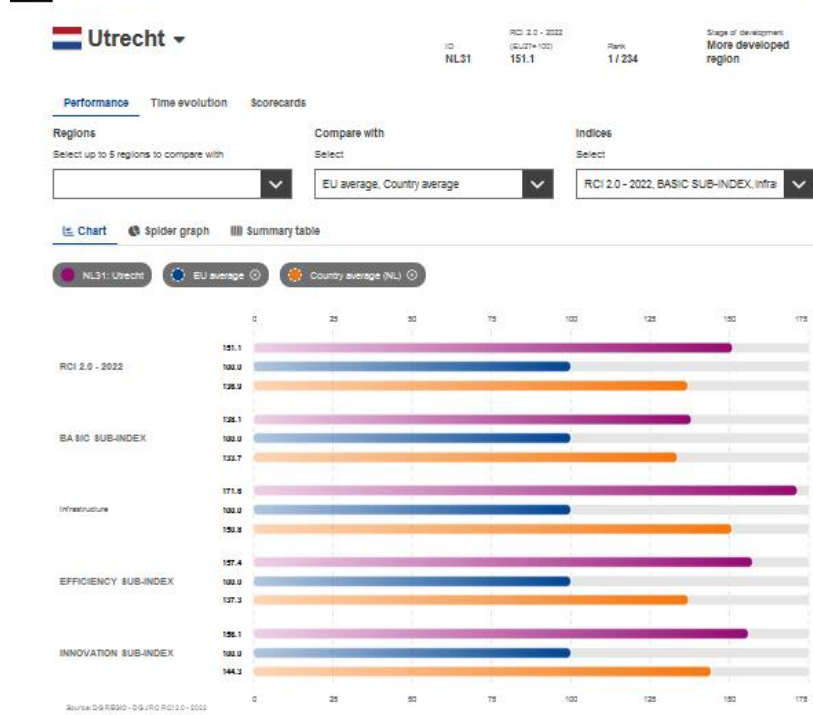
## EU Regional Competitiveness Index 2.0 - 2022 edition

### Introduction

Since 2010, the EU Regional Competitiveness Index (RCI) has been measuring the major factors of competitiveness for all the NUTS-2 level regions across the European Union. The Index measures, with a rich set of indicators, the ability of a region to offer an attractive environment for firms and residents to live and work. The 2022 edition of the index builds on an updated methodology and therefore it is referred to as RCI 2.0. The publication of RCI 2.0 is accompanied by a set of interactive tools. Click on a region in the map below to access the interactive tools.



# Regional profiles

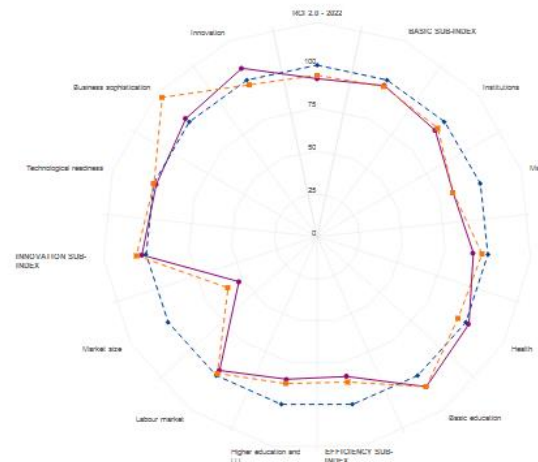


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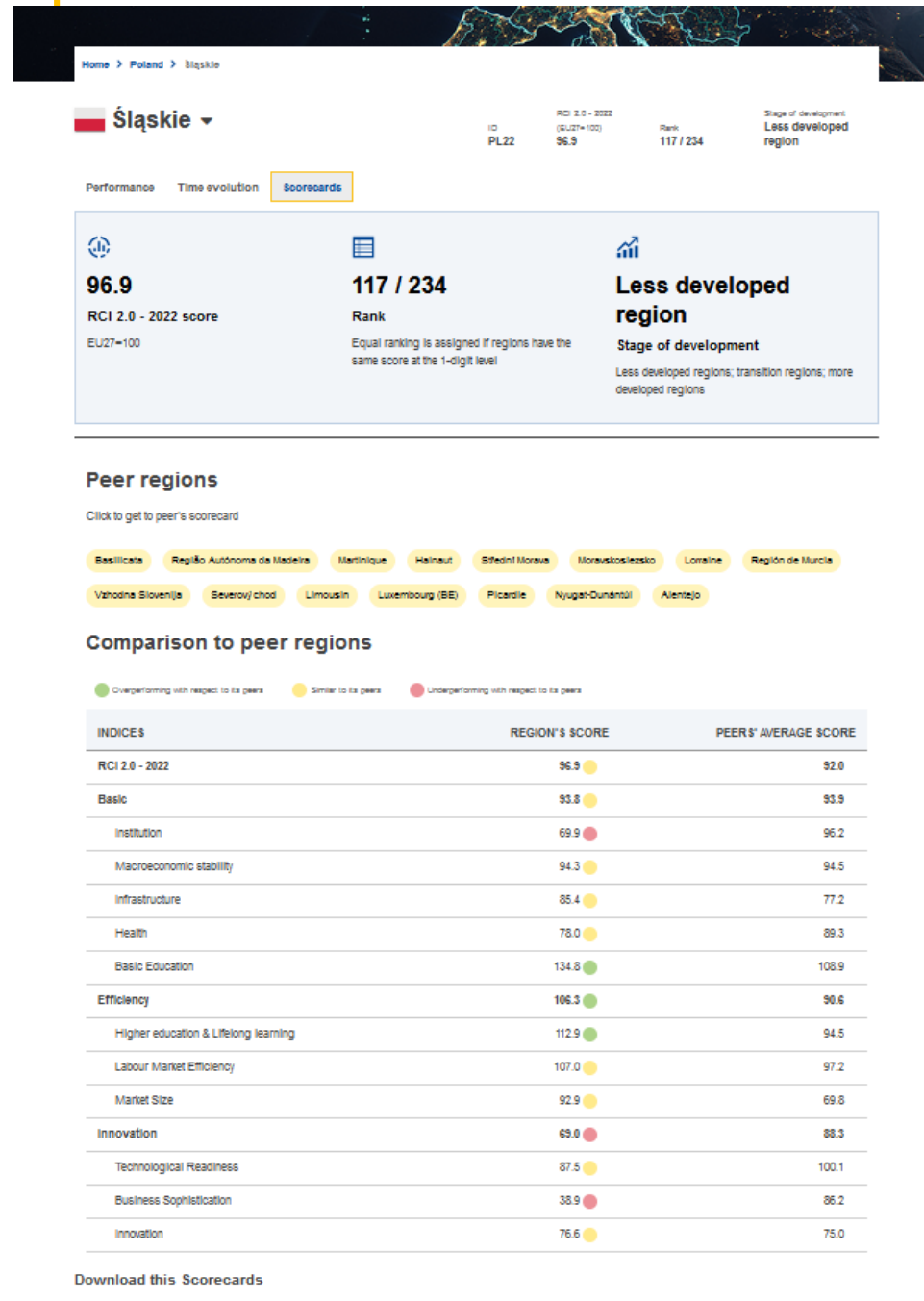


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A powerful tool to:

- Analyse the performance of your region
- Compare to other regions, to your own country or the EU
- Analyse regional competitiveness across the different dimensions of RCI 2.0



# Regional Scorecards

- They facilitate the comparison of each region with its peers
- Scorecards are factsheets presenting a region's scores and rankings for the RCI index, the three sub-indices and the 11 pillars.
- The region's performance is compared with that of a group of economic peers
  - Peers are identified based on GDP
  - Cross lights indicate on which pillar the region is overperforming (green), underperforming (coral) or performing equally with respect to its peers (yellow).

## EU Regional Competitiveness Index 2.0 - 2022 edition

Home > Sweden

 Sweden ▾

### Indices

Select

RCI 2.0 - 2022

### Compare with

Select

EU average, Country average

### Sort by


Select how to sort regions

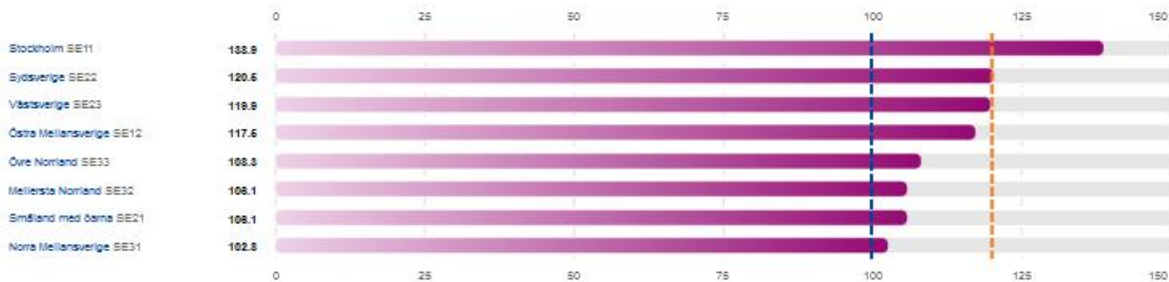
Ranking

[Chart](#) [Summary table](#)

RCI 2.0 - 2022

 EU average 100

 Country average 120.2



Source: DG REGIO - DG JRC, RCI 2.0 - 2022

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# Country profile

- You can visualise the performance of all regions in a country, for the overall index, its sub-indices and pillars
- Compare with EU or country average

# Conclusions

- Large disparities in regional competitiveness remain, but the disparities have been shrinking
- The capital city region tends to be the most competitive region, but the gap with the other regions is smaller in more competitive Member States
- More competitive regions tend to have a higher GDP per head and higher female achievements.
- In more competitive regions, it is also easier to find a job as a young graduate
- The launch of RCI 2.0 is accompanied by a set of interactive tools to help regions to monitor competitiveness and its driving factors.

