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European Commission study: ICT hubs in Europe



The [European Commission](#) has published a study identifying the European ICT hotspots with an atlas showing where digital economies flourish. The study examines the factors contributing to the success of these regions and highlights the fact that even smaller ones can succeed, such as the regions of Leuven or Cambridge.

The key elements to reach such a digital success include access to top universities and research & development centers, together with funding opportunities. ICT successful regions are generally industrial areas, with a high standard in the education field. They also have long-term policies on research and innovation.

The aim of this report is to address the EU Strategy to reinforce Europe's industrial and technology leadership in ICT. It will also inspire future EU policies about the technological innovation in the Union and feed the EURIPIDIS project, which focuses on ICT innovation policy and on transferring the best research ideas to the market.

The report analyzed all EU regions on the basis of their ICT activities and gave scores according to their relative weight: 14% of the EU regions scored above 20 points and the top 34 scored between 41 and 100. In particular, the report was based on three main elements: business activity, R&D and innovation in the ICT area on the basis of their intensity, internationalization and networking.

The findings of this report relied on a Composite Indicator bringing together 42 indicators to evaluate ICT activities. Related to this report, it is interesting to highlight the European ICT Poles of Excellence (EIPE) Project, in which the [DG Connect](#) and the [Joint Research Center](#) are involved. More information about the EIPE Project can be found [here](#). The EU Atlas of ICT spots, with an interactive map, can be found [here](#).

Ecommerce Europe welcomes the presentation of the study, but stresses that the findings should be evaluated critically and concrete policy goals should be the aim. Europe has a great potential and much ground to gain when it comes to digital competitiveness in a global perspective. Ecommerce Europe stresses that with digital issues, an integrated approach is needed.



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