

### Is the financial effort for research and development improving?

Among the MSSD objectives concerning the efficient use of natural resources, development of environmentally friendly techniques as well as the economic and social valorisation of the know-how and diversity of the Mediterranean are essential.

It means increasing expenses on research and development, together with the private sector, in order to get closer to the average level of the countries with equivalent incomes by 2015.

Most countries in the world spend between 0.25% and 1% of GDP on R&D. Expenses in the EU-27 countries is about 2% of GDP in 2006.

*The amount of national expenses on research and development expressed as a percentage of the GDP is increasing in all of the Mediterranean countries but remains low overall.*

Apart from Israel where national expenses on research and development is about 5 % of the GDP, they are between 1 and 2 % in France, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Spain and less than 1% in the other Mediterranean countries.

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Reported to the population, public expenses on research and development are equivalent to 1100 dollars maximum in Israel.

The share of expenses on research and development in the private sector GDP is high in many countries but cannot be analysed for the whole Mediterranean region.

#### Definition

This indicator is made up of two sub-indicators that can be defined as:

- The share of the operational budget of the public sector allocated to R&D;
- The share of R&D expenditures vs. private sector GDP.

The expenses on R&D group together the operating costs and investments (including overheads) for creative and system-based activities intended to increase knowledge. This amount includes both fundamental and applied research as well as experimental development work leading to new devices, products or processes.

#### Precautions / Notes

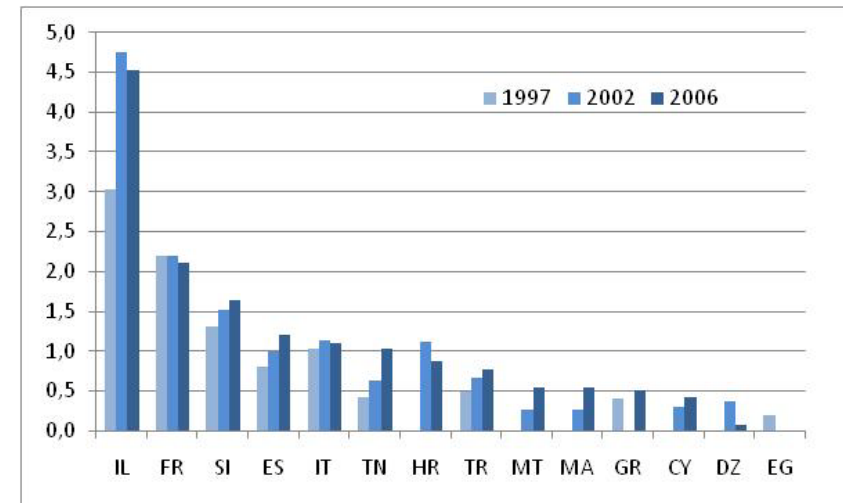
Expenses on R&D are not necessarily oriented to sectors of activity that promote sustainable development or to the MSSD objectives.

#### Sources / References

UNESCO, UNDP.

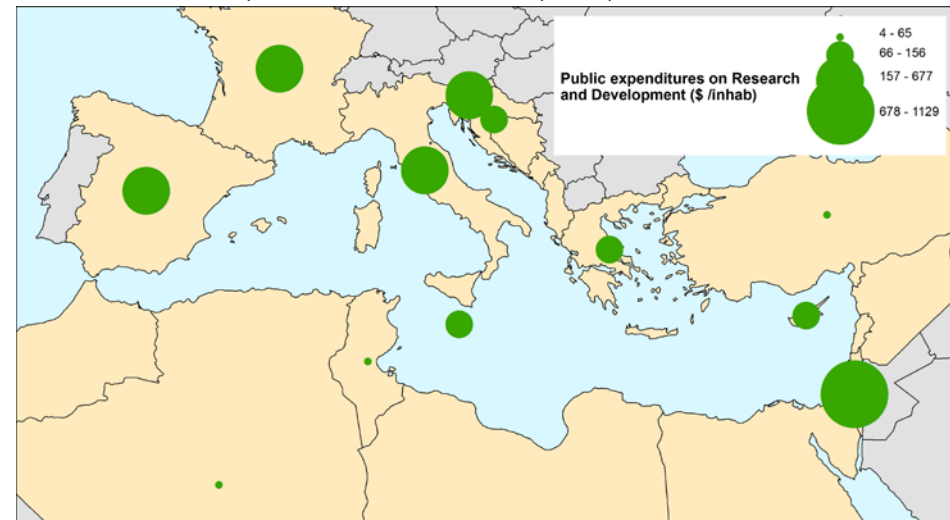
### 34. Public and private expenses for research and development in percentage of GDP

Public expenses on research and development (in percentage of GDP)



Source : UNESCO

Public expenses on research and development per inhabitant (2006)



Source : UNESCO