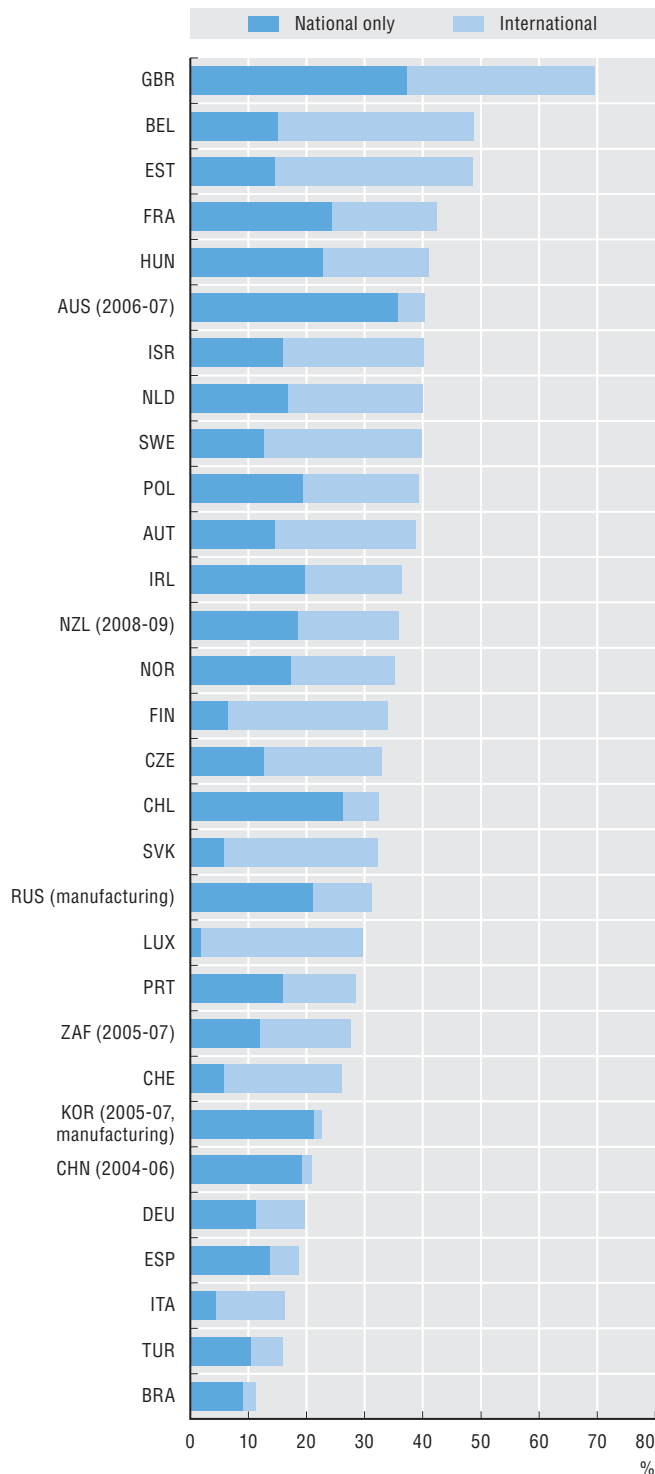


3. CONNECTING TO KNOWLEDGE

9. International collaboration on innovation

National and international collaboration on innovation by firms, 2006-08

As a percentage of innovative firms



Source: OECD, based on Eurostat (CIS-2008) and national data sources, June 2011. See chapter notes.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932486545>

Collaboration with foreign partners can play an important role in the innovation process by allowing firms to gain access to a broader pool of resources and knowledge at lower cost and to share the risks. It can take a variety of forms and levels of interaction ranging from simple one-way information flows to highly interactive and formal arrangements.

Collaboration rates vary widely across countries. In some, collaboration mainly involves national partners (e.g. Korea, China, Australia, Chile), but in most there is a greater balance between national and foreign partners. In some countries firms are strongly oriented towards international collaboration (e.g. Luxembourg, the Slovak Republic, Finland and Switzerland).

Size is a strong determinant of foreign collaboration: large firms have a much higher propensity to collaborate internationally than SMEs (usually twice to three times as much), but in Australia, the United Kingdom and Israel the gap is narrower. In Korea, Brazil, China and Spain, which have relatively low international collaboration rates, there is almost no participation by SMEs.

Among European firms, intra-European collaboration remains the predominant form of cross-country co-operation on innovation. In terms of collaboration outside Europe, European firms tend to partner mainly with US firms, although collaboration with firms in China and India is significant in Sweden, Finland and Belgium.

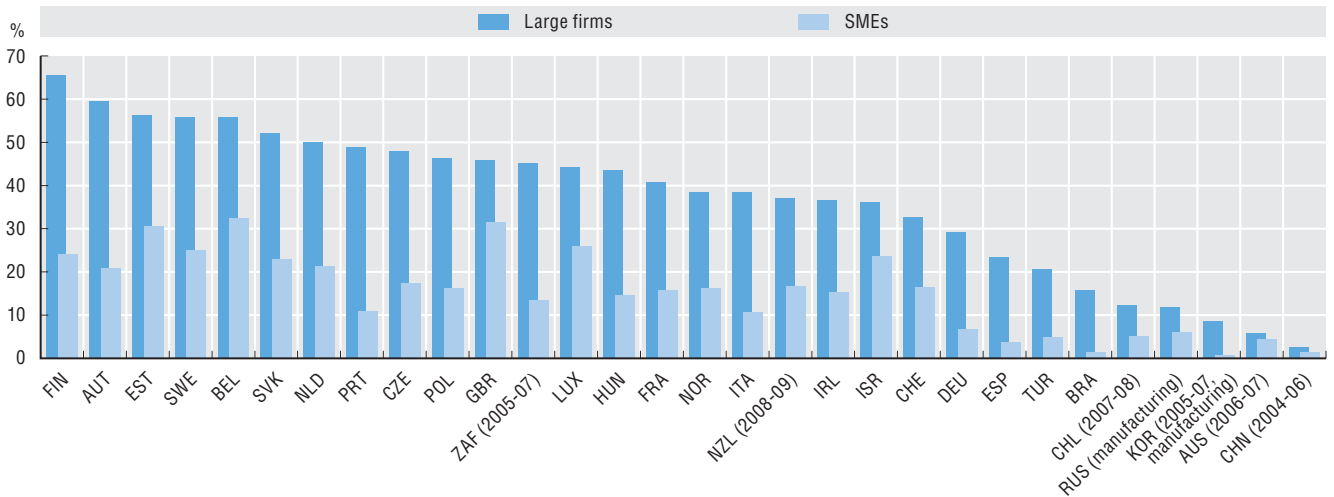
Definitions

The classification of firms by size follows the recommendations of the *Oslo Manual*. It is calculated on the basis of the number of employees. SMEs are firms with 10-250 employees, with some exceptions: New Zealand: 6+; the Russian Federation: 15+; China: at least CNY 5 million in turnover. For South Africa, firm size is based on turnover.

Collaboration refers to active participation even if both parties do not benefit commercially and excludes pure contracting out. For Switzerland it only includes collaboration on R&D.

Firms engaged in international collaboration by firm size, 2006-08

As a percentage of innovative firms in each size category

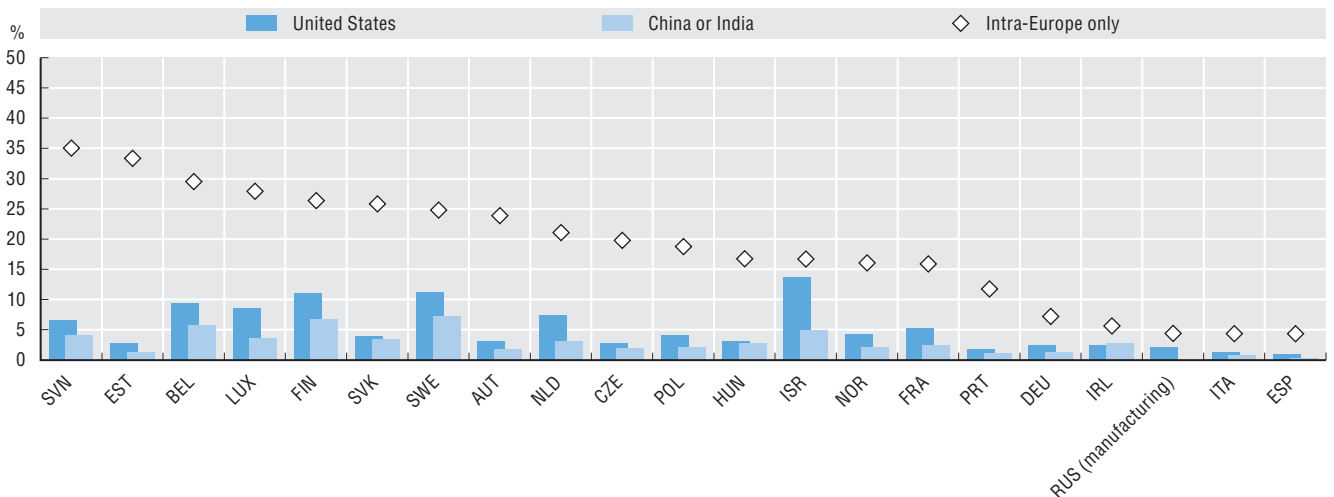


Source: OECD, based on Eurostat (CIS-2008) and national data sources, June 2011. See chapter notes.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932486564>

Firms engaged in international collaboration by partner country, 2006-08

As a percentage of innovative firms



Source: OECD, based on Eurostat (CIS-2008) and national data sources, June 2011. See chapter notes.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932486583>

Measurability

Collaboration refers to product/process innovation in the Community Innovation Survey (CIS), but to all types of innovation (including non-technological) in some other surveys.

Innovative firms have product/process or ongoing/abandoned innovations in the CIS, but in some other surveys they include all types of innovators (including non-technological).

In some national surveys, firms are asked about the relative importance of each partner/location but in some others they are only asked to identify the main location for each type of partner.



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