

The 50 Most Innovative Countries in 2022

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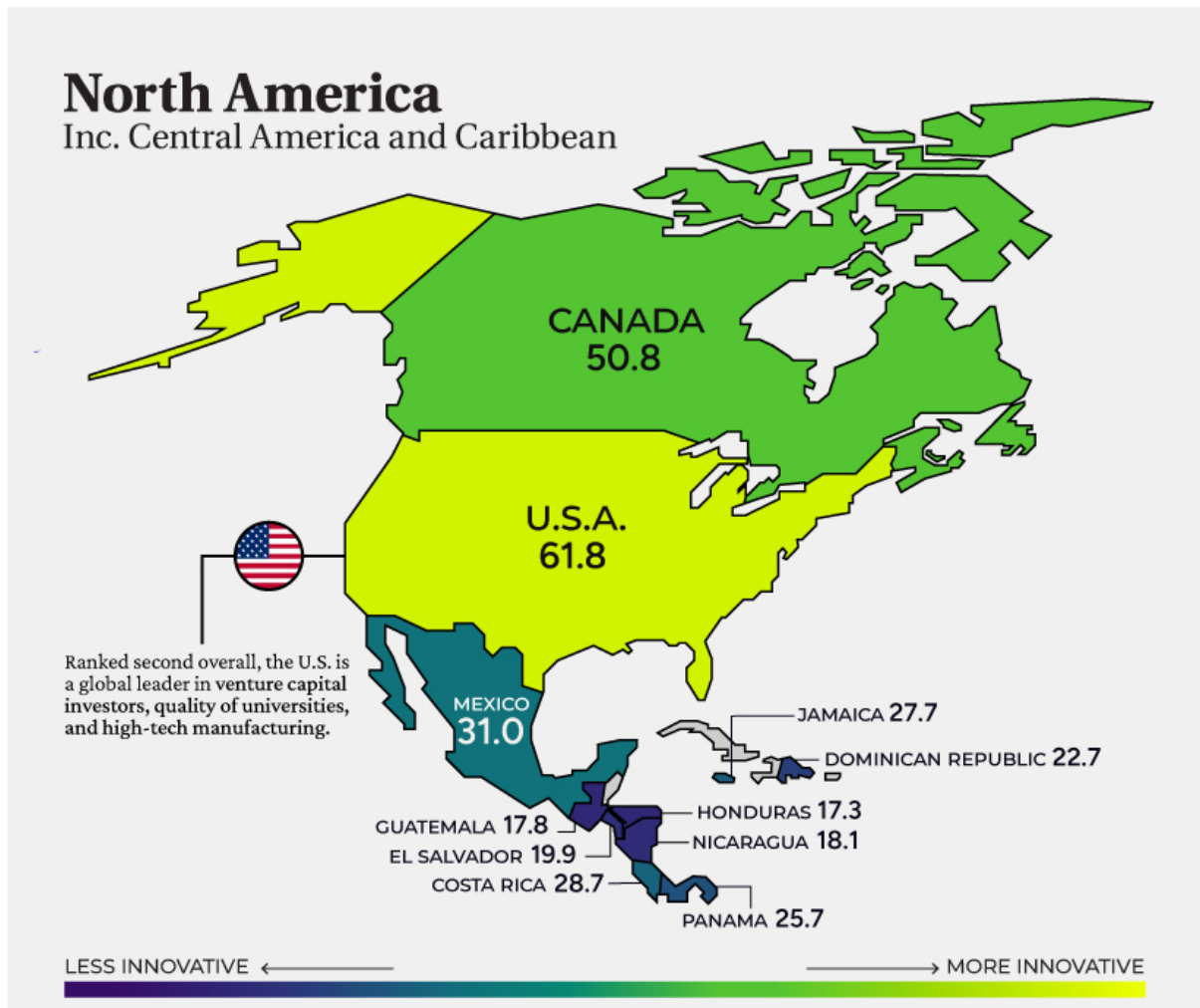
Switzerland ranks at the top for the 12th year in a row—above the U.S., South Korea, and Israel. For many, this may come as a surprise. However, the country’s intellectual property rules are considered world-class, and they are complemented by strong collaboration between universities and industry. In addition, the country attracts top talent thanks to its high quality of living.

At second is the United States, which is a top spender on R&D at over \$700 billion per year. Globally, four of the five top R&D spending companies are in America: Amazon (\$42.7 billion), Alphabet (\$27.6 billion), Microsoft (\$19.3 billion), and Apple (\$18.8 billion).

North America

In North America, the U.S. ranks highest. The country has long been known as a global leader in innovation, with a strong track record of introducing new ideas and technologies that have transformed the way we live and work. The U.S. ranks #1 in a number of indicators, including university-industry R&D collaboration and intangible asset intensity.

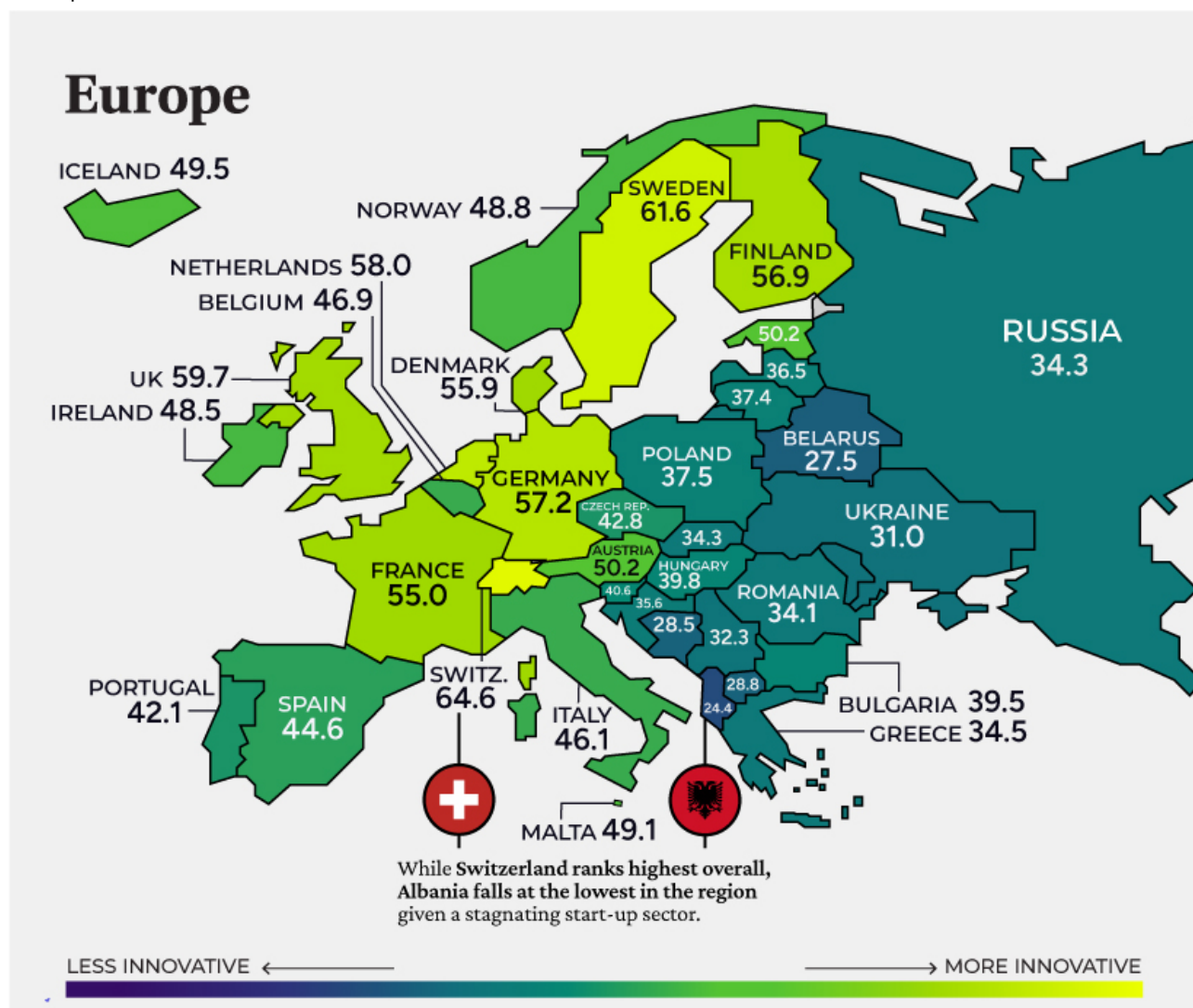
Ranking second in the region is Canada (Global rank: #15). Across all countries, it ranks first on measures of joint venture and strategic alliances per billion dollars of GDP (PPP) and number of venture capital (VC) recipients per billion dollars of GDP (PPP). In 2021, VC investment topped \$14.7 billion across 752 deals.



Another interesting example is Honduras (#113). Driving innovation in the country is a new economic zoning experiment called Zones for Economic Development and Employment (ZEDEs). To date, these zones have attracted about a quarter of a billion dollars in private investment funding and have created thousands of new jobs.

Europe

With 15 of the top 25 economies in the world, Europe is a powerhouse for fostering innovative ecosystems. The continent is also a leader in social progress, equality, and life satisfaction. The region scores 30 on inequality according to the Gini Index compared to 41 for America.



For many, technological output isn't the first thing that comes to mind when they think of Europe, but VC deals surged over 53% in 2021. London, Berlin, and Paris were leading cities for VC activity.