

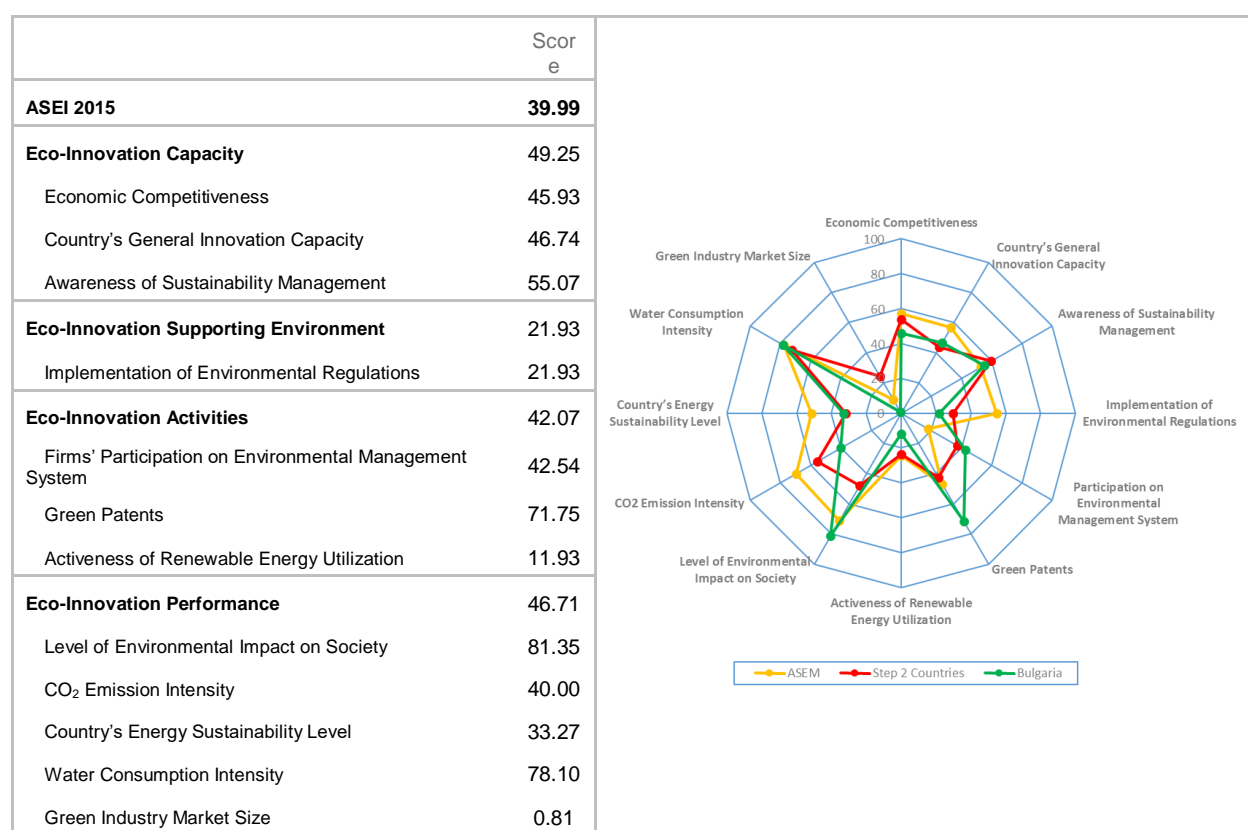


Bulgaria

	6,582	7.2 million	5:27:68	0.782 High	4.31	4.48	
Flag	GDP per capita	Population	Industry structure (1st2nd3rd)	HDI	Sustainable social index	Sustainable env. index	Geographic location



- Bulgaria's eco-innovation capacity and performance are lower than the average scores of the same development state group countries.
- Country's General Innovation Capacity (indicator no. 1.2) and CO₂ Emission Intensity (indicator no. 4.2) of Bulgaria are higher than the average score of ASEM member countries and the same development state countries.
- Awareness of Sustainability Management (indicator no. 1.5) and Activeness of Renewable Energy Utilization (indicator no. 3.5) of Bulgaria are lower than the same development state countries.

Table 57 Eco-innovation Policy instruments of Bulgaria

National plan and strategy	Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National strategy for development of research 2020 ■ National Environmental Strategy 2009-2018 ■ Bulgarian National Energy Plan ■ National Strategy for Biodiversity Protection ■ National Strategic Reference Framework, 2007-2013 ■ The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020 ■ 2007 Project on Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria
	Eco-innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Innovative Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020 ■ Second National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (SNAPEE) (2011-2016) ■ National Plan for Biodiversity Protection 2005-2010 ■ National Action Plan for the Promotion of Green Public Procurement for the Period until 2014
Programme and actions	National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ordinance for Mandatory Use of Recycled Materials in Public Construction Projects 2014 ■ Operational Program "Innovations and Competitiveness 2014 - 2020" ■ BG 10 "Green Industry Innovation" ■ National Long-term Program to Encourage the Use of Bio fuels in the Transport Sector 2008-2020 ■ National Long-term Program to Encourage the Use of Biomass 2008-2020 ■ "Career Start" Program ■ National Program for Action on Environment and Health, 2008-2013 ■ National action program for sustainable land management and combat against desertification in Bulgaria 2007-2013 ■ National program for waste management activities 2009-2013 ■ National Reform Program 2010-2013
	International	-
Legislation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Law on Employment Promotion (National Action Plan for Employment 2014)
Finance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The National Innovation Fund's (NIF) ■ National Green Investment Scheme of the National Trust Eco Fund
Information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ISPA Programme/CF ■ Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programme ■ Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Norwegian Cooperation Programme ■ European Territorial Cooperation Programs ■ Project "Bulgarian-Serbian Innovative Teaching Network" ■ BiodivERsA21
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Bulgaria's greatest challenge in ecological innovation is ensuring energy security against climate change. Achieving high energy efficiency, increasing energy conservation, and developing renewable energy sources are needed. Also Bulgaria is faced with social, economic, and environmental problems due to the financial and economic crises, poverty, high unemployment rates and an inadequate environment. Although the government organizations of Bulgaria have been putting in efforts to improve legislation structures in the past few years for eco-innovation, they are still behind. In 2013, Bulgaria ranked the lowest in the eco-innovation rank among the other EU member countries. Bulgaria's eco-innovation performance shows the imbalanced national innovation system and low support level from the government and investors, despite the high number of scientists and engineers. There is a certain demand for the production and implementation of green products and services, which attract the investment from companies, public organizations and educational organizations. To further expand the greenification and increase energy efficiency, local related personnel utilize the energy efficiency and renewable energy funds, which provide lower than the market rate credit and credit guarantees in terms of energy efficiency for the past several years¹⁸². Bulgaria has been implementing cluster policy aimed at regional decentralization and specialization while focusing on certain areas for eco-innovation. There are economic, technological, environmental, bureaucratic, and socio-cultural hindrances in achieving eco-innovation. However, the regulation policies, political support structure, procurement of skilled workers and knowledge, and new market demand in the past few years contribute toward eco-innovation vitalization. Bulgaria has established various eco-innovation policies and funding plans in 2013¹⁸³.

¹⁸² Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources Fund

¹⁸³ Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020, National Action Plan for the Promotion of Green Public Procurement until 2014, Law on Employment Promotion, Ordinance for Mandatory use of Recycled Materials in Public Construction projects from 2014, Operational Programme "Innovations and competitiveness 2014-2020", the Energy Efficiency and Green Economy Programme.