

Figure 1. Traffic lights Smart growth

	Median ESPON Space	Iceland	Liechtenstein	Norway	Switzerland
GDP at market prices (PPS) per inhabitant in Euro 2012	● 24,800.00				
Employment rate (20 to 64 years) 2012	● 67.65				
R&D expenditure by all sectors as share of GDP (Iceland 2011, Norway 2012, Switzerland 2008)	● 1.30			¹	

The use of traffic lights in this way allows us to easily communicate the national situation as compared to the rest of Europe. However, it does not allow for a more nuanced picture as concerns the disparities in a particular area.

The colour of the lights indicates whether the ESPON Partner State is performing better or worse than the median of the ESPON space. Interval thresholds were obtained by calculating the arithmetic mean between the median and the values of the first (Q1) and third (Q3) quartiles. These calculations defined the lower (L1) and upper limits (L2) of each interval.

- A red light indicates that the ESPON Partner State is performing worse, the value of the ESPON Partner State is below L1
- A yellow light means a value for the ESPON Partner State between L1 and L2.
- A green light indicates that the ESPON Partner State is performing better than the European median; the value of the ESPON Partner State is above L2.

¹ This ratio has been calculated using GDP figures exclusive of income from oil and gas extraction. This income is saved in the "Government Pension Fund – Global". It is therefore not a functional part of the Norwegian economy. The limited proportion of this fund that is used is included in the GDP as state spending and through the implications of this spending in the wider economy. It is therefore more meaningful to relate Norwegian R&D spending to GDP excluding income from oil and gas extraction.