How to Read the Chart

- The vertical axis (left) is the 2013 ranking.
- The left date indicates the worst ranking, the right date (2013) indicates the best ranking.
- The line is the 2013 result.
- The bars indicate the spread between the two results (dynamism and/or volatility).
- The blue line is the 2013 ranking.
- The bottom axis allows reading the best and worst rankings over time.
- Countries with a short bar (spread) mainly on the left of the 2013 diagonal have shown dynamism and a regression in competitiveness. These are Hong Kong (3rd), Taiwan (11th), Norway (6th), Korea (22nd), or Poland (33rd).
- Countries with a long bar (spread) mainly on the right of the 2013 diagonal have shown dynamism in improving their competitiveness. These are Hong Kong (3rd), Taiwan (11th), Korea (22nd), or Poland (33rd).
- A similar short bar (spread) lower in the scoreboard, rather means inertia, such as for France (28th) and Belgium (26th).
- A similar long bar (spread) equally on both sides of the 2013 diagonal, it suggests volatility, such as Malaysia (15th) or Indonesia (39th).
- If most of the bar is on the right, then a country has improved in competitiveness.
- If most of the bar is on the left, then a country has regressed in competitiveness.

Example: Ireland

- Ireland ranks 17th in the 2013 scoreboard (left axis).
- Ireland's bar indicates that its best ranking was in 2000 (on the right) and the worst in 2011 (on the left) and the respective positions can be read on the bottom axis.
- Ireland's bar indicates that its best ranking was in 2000 (on the right) and the worst in 2011 (on the left axis).
- The length of the bar indicates the spread between the two; a long bar can mean dynamism and/or volatility – a shorter bar meaning stability and/or inertia.

Trends

- Countries with a short bar (spread) at the top of the scoreboard have shown consistency in competitiveness. This is the case of the USA (1st), Singapore (5th) and Canada (7th).
- However a similar short bar (spread) lower in the scoreboard, rather means inertia, such as for France (28th) and Belgium (26th).
- Countries with a long bar (spread) mainly on the left of the 2013 diagonal have shown dynamism in improving their competitiveness. These are Hong Kong (3rd), Taiwan (11th), Norway (6th), Korea (22nd) or Poland (33rd).
- However countries with a similar long bar (spread) on the right of the 2013 diagonal rather show volatility and a regression in competitiveness. This is the case of Iceland (29th), Spain (45th), Slovenia (52nd), Greece (54th) and Argentina (59th).
- If a country spread is a longer bar equally on both sides of the 2013 diagonal, it suggests volatility, such as Malaysia (15th) or Indonesia (39th).