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Conseil d'administration

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SUBJECT: Statistics 2021

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ADDRESSEES: Budget and Finance Committee (for information)

SUMMARY

Annual compendium of statistics on the activity at the EPO and at the member state offices in 2021.

This document has been issued in electronic form only.

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I. STRATEGIC/OPERATIONAL

1. Operational

II. RECOMMENDATION

2. To take note

III. MAJORITY NEEDED

3. n.a.

IV. CONTEXT

4. Information to the BFC

V. RECOMMENDATION FOR PUBLICATION

5. Yes.

As its previous versions, this document has been compiled with the support of the national offices of the contracting states. Following the decision taken in 2015, subsequent editions of the document have been published. It is recommended to publish the current version as well.

VI. ANALYSIS

In the different phases of the patent procedures, the development is expressed in percentage change compared to the previous year. Where appropriate, numbers have been rounded.

A. KEY RESULTS

The key results for 2021 are:

- The number of applications at the EPO increased by 4.6% to ca 188 780.
- About 108 800 European patents (-19%) were published.
- National applications in the member states decreased to 138 955 (-4%).
- 60% of all applications filed in the EPC area (EPO and national offices) originated from the member states.
- National patents granted in the member states increased by 7.3% to 73 435.

B. EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED

See Annex 1.A

European patent applications are either direct European applications or PCT international applications entering the regional phase during the reporting period.

Based on the information available in June 2022, 188 780 applications were filed for European patents in 2021. This was 4.6% above the latest 2020 figure.

Less than half of the applications (44.4%, -0.8%pts) originated from the EPC contracting states. The combined share of the three leading Asian countries slightly increased to 25.2% (+0.6%pts) is comparable to the share of the U.S. (24.7%).

In 2021, EPC residents filed about 128 160 first filings in the EPC area (at EPO, Annex 1.A and at national offices, Annex 2.A). Of these 76% (97 330) were filed at the national office of the applicant's residence, 20% (25 180) were filed at the EPO and 4% (5 650) were filed at another EPC national office.

The first filings made by EPC residents at the EPO accounted for 30% of all the applications filed by EPC residents at the EPO.

C. GRANT PROCEDURE

See Annex 1.B.a

The grant procedure has been completed for 98% of all applications for a European patent filed up until the end of 2016. For these applications the grant rate was 57%. Of those applications filed during the past five years (since the beginning of 2017) 41.4% of the procedures have been completed (-1.2%pts compared to 2020).

The number of published European patents decreased by 18.6% to 108 798 in 2021 (see Annex 1.C).

As per annex 1.B.d, on average (mean average), a search performed by the EPO was completed in 4.8 months (4.3 in 2020). The examination was completed 23.0 months after the examination request was validly filed with the EPO (23.7 in 2020). The decision by the opposition divisions was notified 19.3 months after the end of the opposition period (15.4 in 2020).

D. OPPOSITION PROCEDURE

See Annex 1.B.b

The number of patents for which the opposition period expired in 2021 decreased to 129 123 by 6.2% and 2.5% of these patents were eventually opposed (2.4% in 2020). Considering that multiple parties can oppose the same patent, the average number of oppositions filed per opposed patent was 1.25 in 2021 (1.28 in 2020).

As shown in the annexed tables, the opposition rate varies among technologies and according to the country of residence of the patentees.

In 2021, 74% of the granted patents were maintained (32% opposition rejected or 42% patent maintained in amended form) and 26% were revoked by the opposition divisions (35% in 2020).

E. PROCEDURES

See Annex 1.B.c

The number of decisions to refuse a patent for which the appeal period expired in 2021 decreased by 5.4% compared to 2020 to 6 570. Of these decisions to refuse a patent 806 (-6%) were appealed, leading to an ex parte appeal rate of 12% (12% in 2020).

After a drastic reduction in 2020 owing to pandemic, the number of opposition decisions open for appeal increased markedly in 2021. The number of decisions appealed increased and resulted in an inter partes appeal rate of 49% (37% in 2020).

Statistics on the outcome of the appeal procedures are available on the home page of the EPO Boards of Appeal (epo.org/law-practice/case-law-appeals/annual-report.html).

F. VALIDATION AND MAINTENANCE

See Annex 1.D

The figures presented in the annexes are based on the data available in the Post Grant Data System of the EPO and reflect the information provided by the national offices of the member states. They represent the situation as at the end of 2021 with respect to the validation and the maintenance of European granted patents in the member states as available in June 2022. A patent is considered as maintained until its abandonment is legally recorded and transmitted to the EPO.

The EP patents validated are maintained on average (median) 10 years. About 18% of the validated rights are maintained up until the expiration of the 20th patent-year.

As a consequence of the increase in granted patents since 2015, the number of those which were validated kept increasing in 2021. But they represent about 35% of the potential rights granted by the EPO. The number of patents granted by the EPO and still in force in the contracting states at the end of the year decreased by 1% in 2021, after increasing by 19% in 2020. Approximately 6.217 million patent rights granted by the EPO were in force at the end of 2021.

There are substantial differences in validation and patent maintenance rate between the designated member states. For patents filed between 2002 and 2021, the validation rate ranges vary widely.

G. NATIONAL PROCEDURE

See Annex 2

National patent applications are either direct national applications or, for member states where it is possible, PCT international applications entering the national phase during the reporting period.

Based on the data provided by the national offices by July 2022, 138 955 applications for a national patent were filed in the member states in 2021. This represented a slight decrease compared to 2020 (-4%).

About 75% were filed by residents of the respective countries (74% in 2020), and 27% of the foreign applications were filed by residents of other EPC contracting states, accounting for 7% of all applications filed at the national offices. Together 82% of the national patent applications in the EPC states were filed by residents of the EPC states (81% in 2020).

In 2021, overall 94% of the national applications filed by residents of the EPC member states at their respective home office were first filings, as in previous years.

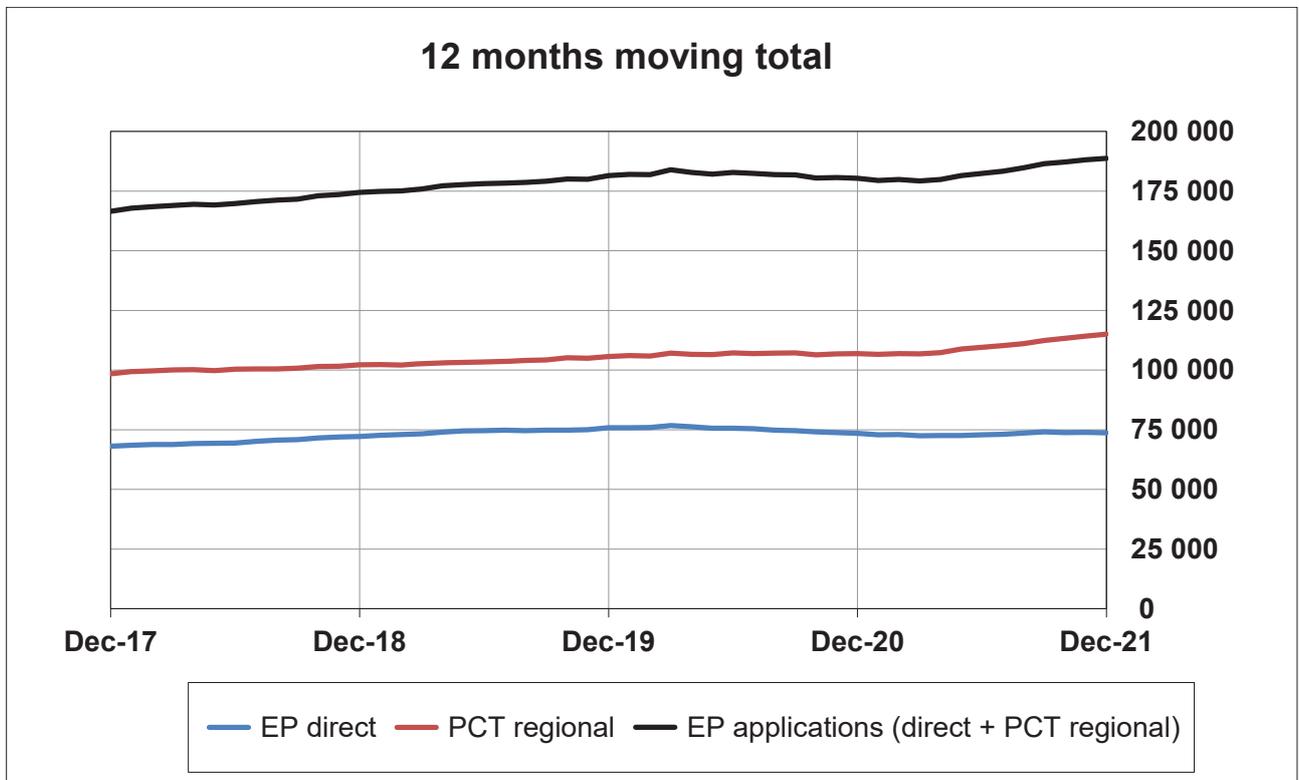
About 155 649 national grant procedures were completed in 2021. Of these, ca 73 435 resulted in a granted patent. This is 7.3% higher than the number of patents granted by the national offices in 2020.

ANNEX 1 EUROPEAN PATENT PROCEDURES STATISTICS

A. EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED

a) Filing route in 2021

Category	Budget 2021	Previous year 2020	Actual 2021 Status June 2022	Deviation to budget		Deviation to previous year	
				Number	%	Number	%
Euro-direct	69 900	73 495	73 673	3 773	5.4%	178	0.2%
PCT regional	98 038	106 928	115 107	17 069	17.4%	8 179	7.6%
Total applications	167 938	180 423	188 780	20 842	12.4%	8 357	4.6%



b) Origin and growth over 2020 (%)

Country of origin		EP direct		PCT regional		EP applications	
Albania	AL	2		1		3	
Austria	AT	1 356	-4.6%	962	8.8%	2 318	0.5%
Belgium	BE	1 441	2.6%	1 045	4.3%	2 486	3.3%
Bulgaria	BG	22	-31.3%	21	-4.5%	43	-20.4%
Switzerland	CH	4 949	-0.7%	3 498	10.8%	8 447	3.8%
Cyprus	CY	20	-47.4%	24	-11.1%	44	-32.3%
Czech Republic	CZ	106	-5.4%	98	4.3%	204	-1.0%
Germany	DE	14 280	-1.0%	11 642	1.7%	25 922	0.2%
Denmark	DK	1 450	8.1%	1 192	10.6%	2 642	9.2%
Estonia	EE	37	27.6%	32	14.3%	69	21.1%
Spain	ES	1 202	6.1%	747	13.7%	1 949	8.9%
Finland	FI	877	9.9%	1 229	11.5%	2 106	10.8%
France	FR	4 808	-4.7%	5 800	4.1%	10 608	-0.1%
United Kingdom	GB	1 819	-10.8%	3 804	3.9%	5 623	-1.4%
Greece	GR	132	51.7%	71	54.3%	203	52.6%
Croatia	HR	14	100.0%	13	-18.8%	27	17.4%
Hungary	HU	31	-11.4%	89	20.3%	120	10.1%
Ireland	IE	500	-7.6%	445	2.3%	945	-3.2%
Iceland	IS	15	200.0%	48	33.3%	63	53.7%
Italy	IT	2 384	7.4%	2 539	6.1%	4 923	6.7%
Liechtenstein	LI	259	13.6%	235	11.4%	494	12.5%
Lithuania	LT	51	131.8%	22	-21.4%	73	46.0%
Luxembourg	LU	175	10.1%	256	6.7%	431	8.0%
Latvia	LV	8	-50.0%	14	0.0%	22	-26.7%
Monaco	MC	8	-52.9%	10	-23.1%	18	-40.0%
North Macedonia	MK	1		4	300.0%	5	400.0%
Malta	MT	31	-20.5%	25	8.7%	56	-9.7%
Netherlands	NL	3 774	3.7%	2 798	1.9%	6 572	2.9%
Norway	NO	179	0.0%	459	-2.1%	638	-1.5%
Poland	PL	340	12.2%	196	12.6%	536	12.4%
Portugal	PT	133	10.8%	157	19.8%	290	15.5%
Romania	RO	17	-57.5%	14	-6.7%	31	-43.6%
Serbia	RS	5	400.0%	15	87.5%	20	122.2%
Sweden	SE	1 827	14.6%	3 122	10.4%	4 949	11.9%
Slovenia	SI	66	-35.9%	50	-19.4%	116	-29.7%
Slovakia	SK	26	0.0%	17	-39.3%	43	-20.4%
San Marino	SM	6	100.0%	6		12	300.0%
Turkey	TR	190	1.6%	547	31.5%	737	22.2%
EPC contracting states		42 541	0.4%	41 247	5.4%	83 788	2.8%
P.R. China	CN	3 468	27.5%	13 081	21.9%	16 549	23.1%
Japan	JP	5 704	-5.5%	15 963	0.4%	21 667	-1.3%
Republic of Korea	KR	3 539	-3.9%	5 851	8.4%	9 390	3.4%
United States of America	US	14 244	-3.5%	32 421	10.1%	46 665	5.5%
Other countries		4 177	6.7%	6 544	3.6%	10 721	4.8%
Non EPC		31 132	0.0%	73 860	9.0%	104 992	6.1%
TOTAL		73 673	0.2%	115 107	7.6%	188 780	4.6%

Status June 2022

c) **First filings at the EPO**

Number of Euro-direct first filings and percentage out of total EP applications filed per country and change of this percentage to the latest 2020 figures.

Country of origin		2021		2021 / 2020
Albania	AL	1	33.3%	0.0%
Austria	AT	838	36.2%	-5.9%
Belgium	BE	1089	43.8%	3.7%
Bulgaria	BG	16	37.2%	166.7%
Switzerland	CH	3 839	45.4%	2.0%
Cyprus	CY	15	34.1%	-11.8%
Czech Republic	CZ	49	24.0%	4.3%
Germany	DE	7 930	30.6%	1.2%
Denmark	DK	1088	41.2%	8.4%
Estonia	EE	19	27.5%	-20.8%
Spain	ES	982	50.4%	-2.1%
Finland	FI	430	20.4%	-3.6%
France	FR	2 427	22.9%	15.2%
United Kingdom	GB	581	10.3%	-45.8%
Greece	GR	104	51.2%	116.7%
Croatia	HR	13	48.1%	333.3%
Hungary	HU	7	5.8%	-56.3%
Ireland	IE	180	19.0%	2.3%
Iceland	IS	7	11.1%	-12.5%
Italy	IT	537	10.9%	4.3%
Liechtenstein	LI	240	48.6%	18.2%
Lithuania	LT	28	38.4%	460.0%
Luxembourg	LU	44	10.2%	-13.7%
Latvia	LV	5	22.7%	-58.3%
Monaco	MC	5	27.8%	0.0%
North Macedonia	MK	0	0.0%	-100.0%
Malta	MT	13	23.2%	-23.5%
Netherlands	NL	2 952	44.9%	-2.6%
Norway	NO	99	15.5%	4.2%
Poland	PL	185	34.5%	10.8%
Portugal	PT	55	19.0%	17.0%
Romania	RO	11	35.5%	22.2%
Serbia	RS	3	15.0%	
Sweden	SE	1272	25.7%	29.3%
Slovenia	SI	37	31.9%	8.8%
Slovakia	SK	17	39.5%	70.0%
San Marino	SM	2	16.7%	100.0%
Turkey	TR	56	7.6%	-8.2%
EPC states		25 176	30.0%	1.7%
P.R. China	CN	414	2.5%	3.0%
Japan	JP	455	2.1%	18.5%
Rep. Korea	KR	72	0.8%	22.0%
United States of America	US	1 048	2.2%	-31.1%
Other countries		540	5.0%	12.3%
Non EPC		2 529	2.4%	-11.2%
TOTAL		27 705	14.7%	0.3%

B. EUROPEAN PROCEDURES

a) Grant procedure

Fate of 100 applications filed from 1978 to 2016.

Fate of applications by filing route

Procedural phase		Euro-direct applications	PCT regional phase	Total
Before examination	Refused	0	0	0
	Withdrawn	21	8	15
Forwarded for examination		79	92	85
Examination	Refused	3	3	3
	Withdrawn	21	29	25
	Granted	55	60	57
Total		100	100	100

Fate of 100 PCT international filings 1978-2016

Not pursued in the EPO regional phase		46
Entered the European procedure		54
Before examination	Refused	0
	Withdrawn	4
Forwarded for examination		50
Examination	Refused	2
	Withdrawn	16
	Granted	32
Total		100

Fate of applications filed from 2017 to 2021.

Fate of applications by filing route

Euro-direct		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Applications filed		68 160 100.0%	72 231 100.0%	75 810 100.0%	73 495 100.0%	73 673 100.0%	
Before examination	Refused	396 0.6%	459 0.6%	639 0.8%	225 0.3%	50 0.1%	
	Withdrawn	19 358 28.4%	20 539 28.4%	20 743 27.4%	13 465 18.3%	3 719 5.0%	
	Not yet forwarded for examination:						
	Search completed	83 0.1%	212 0.3%	284 0.4%	11 742 16.0%	18 436 25.0%	
	Search not completed	47 0.1%	38 0.1%	61 0.1%	225 0.3%	31 350 42.6%	
Examination	Forwarded	48 276 70.8%	50 983 70.6%	54 083 71.3%	47 838 65.1%	20 118 27.3%	
	Refused	1 069 1.6%	645 0.9%	176 0.2%	9 0.0%	0 0.0%	
	Withdrawn	6 533 9.6%	4 826 6.7%	2 312 3.0%	370 0.5%	8 0.0%	
	Granted	29 948 43.9%	25 042 34.7%	15 021 19.8%	2 588 3.5%	13 0.0%	
	Examination pending	10 726 15.7%	20 470 28.3%	36 574 48.2%	44 871 61.1%	20 097 27.3%	

PCT with supplementary search		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Applications filed		46 674 100.0%	48 960 100.0%	51 670 100.0%	53 336 100.0%	58 711 100.0%	
Before examination	Refused	10 0.0%	7 0.0%	7 0.0%	4 0.0%	4 0.0%	
	Withdrawn	5 143 11.0%	5 171 10.6%	5 404 10.5%	2 452 4.6%	321 0.5%	
	Not yet forwarded for examination:						
	Search completed	26 0.1%	52 0.1%	88 0.2%	4 562 8.6%	1 757 3.0%	
	Search not completed	3 0.0%	10 0.0%	47 0.1%	4 528 8.5%	47 765 81.4%	
Examination	Forwarded	41 492 88.9%	43 720 89.3%	46 124 89.3%	41 790 78.4%	8 864 15.1%	
	Refused	1 009 2.2%	622 1.3%	210 0.4%	11 0.0%	0 0.0%	
	Withdrawn	7 154 15.3%	5 099 10.4%	2 168 4.2%	303 0.6%	5 0.0%	
	Granted	22 588 48.4%	18 065 36.9%	9 332 18.1%	1 298 2.4%	1 0.0%	
	Examination pending	10 741 23.0%	19 934 40.7%	34 414 66.6%	40 178 75.3%	8 858 15.1%	

PCT without supplementary search		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Applications filed		51 739 100.0%	53 266 100.0%	54 054 100.0%	53 592 100.0%	56 396 100.0%	
Before examination	Refused	0 0.0%	1 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	
	Withdrawn	78 0.2%	63 0.1%	71 0.1%	94 0.2%	47 0.1%	
	Not yet forwarded for examination:						
	Search completed	2 0.0%	4 0.0%	8 0.0%	5 0.0%	47 0.1%	
	Search not completed	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	
Examination	Forwarded	51 659 99.8%	53 198 99.9%	53 975 99.9%	53 493 99.8%	56 302 99.8%	
	Refused	930 1.8%	655 1.2%	243 0.4%	11 0.0%	0 0.0%	
	Withdrawn	10 336 20.0%	8 515 16.0%	5 936 11.0%	2 470 4.6%	495 0.9%	
	Granted	31 274 60.4%	27 436 51.5%	19 352 35.8%	6 871 12.8%	133 0.2%	
	Examination pending	9 119 17.6%	16 592 31.1%	28 444 52.6%	44 141 82.4%	55 674 98.7%	

Total applications		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Applications filed		166 573 100.0%	174 457 100.0%	181 534 100.0%	180 423 100.0%	188 780 100.0%	
Before examination	Refused	406 0.2%	467 0.3%	646 0.4%	229 0.1%	54 0.0%	
	Withdrawn	24 579 14.8%	25 773 14.8%	26 218 14.4%	16 011 8.9%	4 087 2.2%	
	Not yet forwarded for examination:						
	Search completed	111 0.1%	268 0.2%	380 0.2%	16 309 9.0%	20 240 10.7%	
	Search not completed	50 0.0%	48 0.0%	108 0.1%	4 753 2.6%	79 115 41.9%	
Examination	Forwarded	141 427 84.9%	147 901 84.8%	154 182 84.9%	143 121 79.3%	85 284 45.2%	
	Refused	3 008 1.8%	1 922 1.1%	629 0.3%	31 0.0%	0 0.0%	
	Withdrawn	24 023 14.4%	18 440 10.6%	10 416 5.7%	3 143 1.7%	508 0.3%	
	Granted	83 810 50.3%	70 543 40.4%	43 705 24.1%	10 757 6.0%	147 0.1%	
	Examination pending	30 586 18.4%	56 996 32.7%	99 432 54.8%	129 190 71.6%	84 629 44.8%	

b) Opposition procedure

Opposition rate and oppositions filed according to fields of technology

Technology	Patents which could be opposed	Opposed patents	Opposition rate	Oppositions filed	Opposition ratio
Electrical engineering	37 774	300	0.8%	332	1.11
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	8 860	132	1.5%	149	1.13
Audio-visual technology	3 016	39	1.3%	41	1.05
Telecommunications	3 286	14	0.4%	14	1.00
Digital communication	11 284	60	0.5%	69	1.15
Basic communication processes	882	3	0.3%	3	1.00
Computer technology	7 582	37	0.5%	41	1.11
IT methods for management	251	2	0.8%	2	1.00
Semiconductors	2 613	13	0.5%	13	1.00
Instruments	22 942	445	1.9%	531	1.19
Optics	2 974	32	1.1%	34	1.06
Measurement	6 789	75	1.1%	84	1.12
Analysis of biological materials	762	20	2.6%	22	1.10
Control	2 046	47	2.3%	64	1.36
Medical technology	10 371	271	2.6%	327	1.21
Chemistry	26 236	1 264	4.8%	1 776	1.41
Organic fine chemistry	3 756	146	3.9%	194	1.33
Biotechnology	3 105	165	5.3%	278	1.68
Pharmaceuticals	3 512	200	5.7%	376	1.88
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	2 643	145	5.5%	177	1.22
Food chemistry	817	109	13.3%	154	1.41
Basic materials chemistry	2 930	166	5.7%	216	1.30
Materials, metallurgy	2 762	116	4.2%	129	1.11
Surface technology, coating	1 961	92	4.7%	113	1.23
Micro-structural and nano-technology	154	0	0.0%	0	-
Chemical engineering	3 151	95	3.0%	106	1.12
Environmental technology	1 445	30	2.1%	33	1.10
Mechanical engineering	32 838	860	2.6%	961	1.12
Handling	2 775	116	4.2%	128	1.10
Machine tools	2 930	88	3.0%	104	1.18
Engines, pumps, turbines	5 665	100	1.8%	108	1.08
Textile and paper machines	2 102	53	2.5%	58	1.09
Other special machines	4 657	203	4.4%	237	1.17
Thermal processes and apparatus	2 553	41	1.6%	46	1.12
Mechanical elements	3 895	102	2.6%	105	1.03
Transport	8 261	157	1.9%	175	1.11
Other fields	9 283	323	3.5%	397	1.23
Furniture, games	2 327	47	2.0%	58	1.23
Other consumer goods	3 152	172	5.5%	223	1.30
Civil engineering	3 804	104	2.7%	116	1.12
Not classified	50	0	0.0%	0	-
Total	129 123	3 192	2.5%	3 997	1.25

Opposition rate and oppositions filed according to proprietor origin

Country of residence of the patent proprietor	Patents which could be opposed	Opposed patents	Opposition rate	Oppositions filed	Opposition ratio
AL Albania	0	0	-	0	-
AT Austria	1 668	71	4.3%	81	1.14
BE Belgium	1 355	78	5.8%	128	1.64
BG Bulgaria	19	0	0.0%	0	-
CH Switzerland	4 683	201	4.3%	263	1.31
CY Cyprus	30	0	0.0%	0	-
CZ Czech Republic	152	3	2.0%	3	1.00
DE Germany	19 426	840	4.3%	1 019	1.21
DK Denmark	1 266	65	5.1%	77	1.18
EE Estonia	20	0	0.0%	0	-
ES Spain	907	23	2.5%	28	1.22
FI Finland	1 512	44	2.9%	51	1.16
FR France	8 029	228	2.8%	277	1.21
GB United Kingdom	3 841	132	3.4%	168	1.27
GR Greece	88	4	4.5%	4	1.00
HR Croatia	12	0	0.0%	0	-
HU Hungary	68	2	2.9%	3	1.50
IE Ireland	599	15	2.5%	19	1.27
IS Iceland	39	4	10.3%	4	1.00
IT Italy	3 655	89	2.4%	103	1.16
LI Liechtenstein	207	2	1.0%	2	1.00
LT Lithuania	20	1	5.0%	1	1.00
LU Luxembourg	354	15	4.2%	18	1.20
LV Latvia	11	1	9.1%	3	3.00
MC Monaco	14	0	0.0%	0	-
MK North Macedonia	0	0	-	0	-
MT Malta	37	1	2.7%	1	1.00
NL Netherlands	3 809	142	3.7%	180	1.27
NO Norway	475	16	3.4%	19	1.19
PL Poland	251	8	3.2%	8	1.00
PT Portugal	109	0	0.0%	0	-
RO Romania	21	0	0.0%	0	-
RS Serbia	3	0	0.0%	0	-
SE Sweden	3 442	54	1.6%	71	1.31
SI Slovenia	96	1	1.0%	1	1.00
SK Slovakia	24	0	0.0%	0	-
SM San Marino	5	1	20.0%	1	1.00
TR Turkey	318	8	2.5%	10	1.25
EPC states	56 565	2 049	3.6%	2 543	1.24
CN P.R. China	6 981	57	0.8%	67	1.18
JP Japan	19 380	214	1.1%	269	1.26
KR Rep. Korea	6 726	44	0.7%	46	1.05
US United States of America	32 898	728	2.2%	946	1.30
Other	6 573	100	1.5%	126	1.26
Total	129 123	3 192	2.5%	3 997	1.25

Outcome of the opposition procedures completed in 2021 (examiner decisions).

According to the field of technology

Technology	Opposition rejected		Patent revoked		Patent amended		Total	
Electrical engineering	145	31%	148	31%	182	38%	475	100%
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	66	32%	63	30%	79	38%	208	100%
Audio-visual technology	4	9%	20	43%	23	49%	47	100%
Telecommunications	5	23%	8	36%	9	41%	22	100%
Digital communication	48	44%	19	17%	42	39%	109	100%
Basic communication processes	2	29%	4	57%	1	14%	7	100%
Computer technology	13	23%	23	40%	21	37%	57	100%
IT methods for management	2	22%	5	56%	2	22%	9	100%
Semiconductors	5	31%	6	38%	5	31%	16	100%
Instruments	146	26%	146	26%	260	47%	552	100%
Optics	12	32%	10	27%	15	41%	37	100%
Measurement	31	28%	29	26%	51	46%	111	100%
Analysis of biological materials	3	13%	7	29%	14	58%	24	100%
Control	14	20%	26	37%	30	43%	70	100%
Medical technology	86	28%	74	24%	150	48%	310	100%
Chemistry	588	32%	561	30%	714	38%	1 863	100%
Organic fine chemistry	79	35%	58	26%	90	40%	227	100%
Biotechnology	56	29%	60	31%	77	40%	193	100%
Pharmaceuticals	70	24%	111	38%	115	39%	296	100%
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	65	31%	56	27%	88	42%	209	100%
Food chemistry	43	26%	66	40%	57	34%	166	100%
Basic materials chemistry	76	30%	77	31%	98	39%	251	100%
Materials, metallurgy	89	41%	46	21%	81	38%	216	100%
Surface technology, coating	48	38%	39	31%	39	31%	126	100%
Micro-structural and nano-technology	1	50%	0	0%	1	50%	2	100%
Chemical engineering	47	39%	27	22%	47	39%	121	100%
Environmental technology	14	25%	21	38%	21	38%	56	100%
Mechanical engineering	478	34%	287	21%	623	45%	1 388	100%
Handling	75	42%	27	15%	76	43%	178	100%
Machine tools	63	39%	33	20%	66	41%	162	100%
Engines, pumps, turbines	58	29%	56	28%	85	43%	199	100%
Textile and paper machines	38	35%	21	19%	50	46%	109	100%
Other special machines	98	37%	53	20%	112	43%	263	100%
Thermal processes and apparatus	23	31%	19	26%	32	43%	74	100%
Mechanical elements	51	33%	28	18%	77	49%	156	100%
Transport	72	29%	50	20%	125	51%	247	100%
Other fields	156	38%	74	18%	185	45%	415	100%
Furniture, games	27	38%	12	17%	32	45%	71	100%
Other consumer goods	69	36%	29	15%	96	49%	194	100%
Civil engineering	60	40%	33	22%	57	38%	150	100%
Total	1 513	32.2%	1 216	25.9%	1 964	41.8%	4 693	100%

Status: June 2022

c) **Appeal procedures**

Refusals by the examining divisions and appeals in 2021

Technology	Decisions to refuse	Appealed decisions	
		Number	Percentage
Electrical engineering	4 749	529	11%
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	202	34	17%
Audio-visual technology	524	36	7%
Telecommunications	168	21	13%
Digital communication	521	48	9%
Basic communication processes	109	7	6%
Computer technology	1949	194	10%
IT methods for management	1148	174	15%
Semiconductors	128	15	12%
Instruments	848	111	13%
Optics	83	6	7%
Measurement	223	27	12%
Analysis of biological materials	14	1	7%
Control	312	38	12%
Medical technology	216	39	18%
Chemistry	533	92	17%
Organic fine chemistry	35	8	23%
Biotechnology	85	19	22%
Pharmaceuticals	108	22	20%
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	24	3	13%
Food chemistry	18	8	44%
Basic materials chemistry	71	6	8%
Materials, metallurgy	40	5	13%
Surface technology, coating	27	4	15%
Micro-structural and nano-technology	4	0	0%
Chemical engineering	79	12	15%
Environmental technology	42	5	12%
Mechanical engineering	316	53	17%
Handling	28	8	29%
Machine tools	22	5	23%
Engines, pumps, turbines	58	10	17%
Textile and paper machines	14	2	14%
Other special machines	33	4	12%
Thermal processes and apparatus	35	6	17%
Mechanical elements	36	6	17%
Transport	90	12	13%
Other fields	122	21	17%
Furniture, games	53	8	15%
Other consumer goods	25	4	16%
Civil engineering	44	9	20%
Unclassified	2	0	0%
Total	6 570	806	12%

Decisions by the opposition divisions and appeals filed in 2021

Type of decision	Total cases	Appealed cases	
Opposition rejected	3 078	1 485	48%
Patent revoked	643	339	53%
Patent amended	998	490	49%
Total	4 719	2 314	49%

d) Processing times

Early Certainty

The statistics on processing times describe the progress towards the Early Certainty objectives for the European patent procedures.

As part of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2023, the times indicated in the table below are represented as mean average delays in months for the European search, the substantive examination and the opposition procedures. In order to properly reflect the delay of the procedures, the statistics are based on standard cases. Previous year figures (also measured as mean averages) are presented for reference.

The delays are measured:

- European search: from date of receipt at the EPO to end of search
- All searches: from date of receipt at the EPO to date of dispatch of the search report
- Examination: from valid request for examination (all formalities completed) to dispatch of the examiner's intention to grant.
- Opposition: from expiry of the opposition filing period to the date of the opposition decision.

The times are calculated for the applications for which the corresponding stage ended in 2021.

Procedure	Months	<i>Previous year</i>
Search (all searches) ⁽¹⁾	4.8	4.3
Examination ⁽²⁾	23.0	23.7
Opposition ⁽³⁾	19.3	15.4

- (1) Mean value for standard searches (i.e. excluding non-unity, clarification request or incomplete search).
- (2) Mean value calculated from valid examination request to dispatch of examiner's intention to grant for standard examination (i.e. excluding two or more late payment of fees, two or more requests for extension of time limit, or re-scheduling of oral proceedings).
- (3) Mean value calculated from expiry of opposition filing period to date of opposition decision for standard opposition cases (i.e. excluding cases with more than one opponent, participation of a legal member or re-scheduling of oral proceedings).

C. PUBLICATIONS

Technology	Applications		Examination requests		Granted patents	
Electrical engineering	54 015	31%	52 240	32%	32 032	29%
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	10 895	6.3%	10 475	6.3%	7 217	6.6%
Audio-visual technology	4 773	2.8%	4 627	2.8%	2 655	2.4%
Telecommunications	4 023	2.3%	3 986	2.4%	2 820	2.6%
Digital communication	14 265	8.3%	13 882	8.4%	9 597	8.8%
Basic communication processes	965	0.6%	956	0.6%	749	0.7%
Computer technology	13 528	7.9%	13 093	7.9%	6 539	6.0%
IT methods for management	2 370	1.4%	2 174	1.3%	236	0.2%
Semiconductors	3 196	1.9%	3 047	1.8%	2 219	2.0%
Instruments	31 066	18.1%	29 696	18.0%	19 633	18.0%
Optics	3 833	2.2%	3 641	2.2%	2 471	2.3%
Measurement	8 603	5.0%	8 223	5.0%	6 101	5.6%
Analysis of biological materials	1 047	1%	1 012	1%	566	1%
Control	3 209	1.9%	3 103	1.9%	2 011	1.8%
Medical technology	14 374	8.4%	13 717	8.3%	8 484	7.8%
Chemistry	39 447	23.0%	37 652	22.8%	21 157	19.4%
Organic fine chemistry	4 883	2.8%	4 750	2.9%	3 306	3.0%
Biotechnology	6 229	3.6%	6 063	3.7%	2 523	2.3%
Pharmaceuticals	7 787	4.5%	7 286	4.4%	3 002	2.8%
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	3 602	2.1%	3 394	2.1%	1 938	1.8%
Food chemistry	1 577	0.9%	1 518	0.9%	598	0.5%
Basic materials chemistry	3 711	2%	3 567	2%	2 233	2%
Materials, metallurgy	3 560	2.1%	3 375	2.0%	2 148	2.0%
Surface technology, coating	2 411	1.4%	2 331	1.4%	1 513	1.4%
Micro-structural and nano-technology	104	0.1%	109	0.1%	126	0.1%
Chemical engineering	3 840	2.2%	3 601	2.2%	2 609	2.4%
Environmental technology	1 743	1.0%	1 658	1.0%	1 161	1.1%
Mechanical engineering	35 014	20%	34 059	21%	28 037	26%
Handling	4 280	2.5%	4 072	2.5%	2 602	2.4%
Machine tools	3 479	2.0%	3 295	2.0%	2 525	2.3%
Engines, pumps, turbines	4 215	2.5%	4 121	2.5%	4 502	4.1%
Textile and paper machines	2 188	1.3%	2 226	1.3%	1 835	1.7%
Other special machines	6 041	3.5%	5 779	3.5%	4 180	3.8%
Thermal processes and apparatus	2 425	1.4%	2 345	1.4%	1 986	1.8%
Mechanical elements	3 689	2.1%	3 618	2.2%	3 130	2.9%
Transport	8 697	5%	8 603	5%	7 277	7%
Other fields	12 209	7.1%	11 535	7.0%	7 902	7.3%
Furniture, games	3 228	1.9%	3 047	1.8%	2 157	2.0%
Other consumer goods	4 695	2.7%	4 308	2.6%	2 729	2.5%
Civil engineering	4 286	2.5%	4 180	2.5%	3 016	2.8%
Unclassified	26	0.0%	30	0.0%	37	0.0%
Total	171 777	100.0%	165 212	100.0%	108 798	100.0%

D. VALIDATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EUROPEAN PATENTS

In the following pages, for each member state, the figures presented in the first table indicate the number of applications filed and designating the country, the number of those which have been granted by the EPO, the number of these grants which have been validated and entered into force in the country, and the number of European patents still in force at the end of 2021. The data cover the filing period 2002-2021 for which patents can still be in force.

As the patent term is 20 years, the figures cover the applications filed between January 2002 and December 2021.

Applications for a European patent are counted in the year of the international filing date. In the case of the Euro-direct applications this corresponds to the filing date at the EPO. In the case of the PCT applications only those that entered the regional phase at the EPO are taken into account and they are counted in the year of the international PCT filing date. As a consequence, the yearly counts for applications filed are different from the count of applications at the EPO as reported in sections A and B of the document.

The statistics reflect the current status of the designations in the EPO granting procedure.

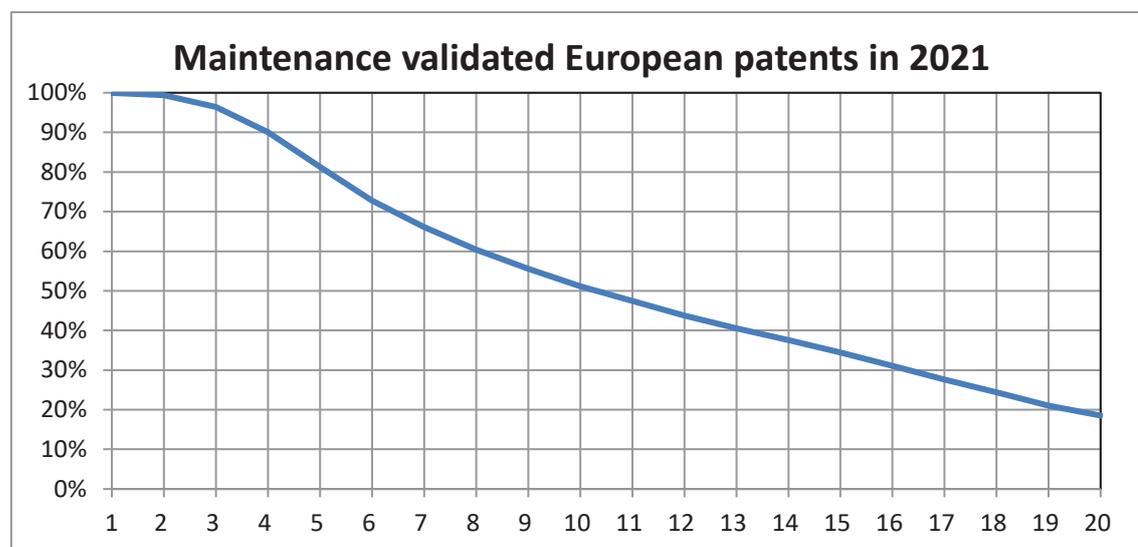
The second table indicate the proportion of granted European patents still in force at the end of each patent year. All data are extracted from the EPO database on the basis of data transmitted by the contracting states offices. A patent is considered as maintained until its abandonment is legally recorded and transmitted to the EPO.

The following table and chart give an overview of the fate of the resulting patent rights granted by the EPO.

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
Total counts of designated states				
Total filed: 2002 - 2021	91 511 909	37 961 919	12 566 748	6 216 823
Total filed: 2001 - 2020	86 213 530	34 760 938	12 122 865	6 253 426
<i>Growth: status end of 2021 over status end of 2020</i>	6%	9%	4%	-1%

Due to the legal delay for paying the national renewal fees, the number of patents still in force at the end of 2021 is still provisional.

As shown in the chart below, EP patents validated are maintained on average (median) up to 10 years. As previous year, about 18% are maintained up until the expiration of the 20th patent-year (18% in 2020).



a) Albania

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				
2007				
2008				
2009				
2010	98 532	52 829	1 615	1 457
2011	148 991	81 428	2 883	2 720
2012	152 709	85 808	3 367	3 241
2013	157 452	87 793	4 585	4 498
2014	161 894	89 093	6 076	6 033
2015	160 804	83 336	8 281	8 261
2016	163 225	74 805	10 052	10 050
2017	166 598	58 283	9 445	9 445
2018	169 039	33 962	6 961	6 961
2019	167 061	12 435	2 967	2 967
2020	102 749	1 792	1 014	1 014
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004																			
2005																			
2006																			
2007																			
2008																			
2009																			
2010	1 615	100%	100%	100%	99%	97%	95%	92%	91%	90%	90%								
2011	2 883	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	95%	94%	94%									
2012	3 367	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	96%	96%										
2013	4 585	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	98%	98%	96%										
2014	6 076	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	98%											
2015	8 281	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%												
2016	10 052	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%													
2017	9 445	100%	100%	100%															
2018	6 961	100%	100%																
2019	2 967	100%																	
2020	1 014																		
2021	2																		

b) Austria

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	85 800	38 697	12 754	2 170
2003	90 875	41 284	12 514	2 538
2004	98 344	44 476	12 669	2 928
2005	107 329	47 202	12 659	3 430
2006	114 389	51 041	13 888	3 991
2007	120 447	55 391	15 110	4 354
2008	130 924	64 224	16 566	5 166
2009	135 030	70 907	16 770	5 607
2010	143 779	77 161	17 715	6 306
2011	149 018	81 453	17 994	7 206
2012	152 735	85 830	18 173	7 719
2013	157 172	87 811	17 975	8 554
2014	161 923	89 117	18 426	9 499
2015	160 818	83 348	18 474	10 350
2016	163 252	74 823	18 222	16 917
2017	166 614	58 291	15 541	15 541
2018	169 058	33 968	10 444	10 444
2019	167 071	12 438	4 107	4 107
2020	102 749	1 792	805	805
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	12 754	100%	97%	92%	85%	79%	71%	64%	58%	53%	47%	42%	38%	33%	30%	26%	23%	19%	17%
2003	12 514	100%	96%	90%	84%	76%	69%	64%	58%	52%	47%	42%	37%	33%	30%	26%	22%	20%	
2004	12 669	99%	95%	89%	82%	75%	69%	62%	56%	51%	45%	41%	36%	33%	29%	25%	23%		
2005	12 659	99%	95%	88%	82%	76%	69%	63%	57%	52%	46%	42%	37%	33%	29%	27%			
2006	13 888	99%	95%	95%	78%	72%	65%	59%	54%	49%	44%	40%	35%	31%	29%				
2007	15 110	99%	99%	99%	72%	66%	60%	55%	50%	45%	40%	36%	31%	29%					
2008	16 566	100%	100%	100%	69%	64%	58%	53%	48%	43%	38%	33%	31%						
2009	16 770	100%	100%	100%	68%	62%	57%	51%	46%	41%	36%	33%							
2010	17 715	100%	100%	100%	67%	61%	55%	49%	43%	38%	36%								
2011	17 994	100%	100%	100%	68%	61%	55%	49%	43%	40%									
2012	18 173	100%	100%	100%	66%	59%	52%	45%	42%										
2013	17 975	100%	100%	100%	66%	59%	51%	48%											
2014	18 426	100%	100%	100%	66%	54%	52%												
2015	18 474	100%	100%	100%	59%	56%													
2016	18 222	100%	100%	100%	93%														
2017	15 541	100%	100%	100%															
2018	10 444	100%	100%																
2019	4 107	100%																	
2020	805																		
2021	2																		

c) Belgium

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	85 828	38 727	15 345	2 992
2003	91 050	41 351	15 569	3 480
2004	98 548	44 546	16 293	4 047
2005	107 531	47 321	16 975	4 729
2006	114 399	51 062	18 324	5 577
2007	120 388	55 301	19 731	6 188
2008	130 827	64 132	22 691	7 411
2009	134 995	70 879	25 293	8 650
2010	143 771	77 153	29 588	10 784
2011	149 013	81 448	34 240	13 350
2012	152 726	85 823	39 684	15 922
2013	157 162	87 804	47 394	20 504
2014	161 906	89 100	54 986	26 232
2015	160 820	83 350	56 217	32 306
2016	163 241	74 818	55 736	39 072
2017	166 613	58 289	47 779	40 975
2018	169 049	33 962	30 813	28 971
2019	167 058	12 433	12 433	12 433
2020	102 747	1 791	1 791	1 791
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	15 345	100%	96%	89%	82%	75%	67%	61%	55%	50%	46%	41%	38%	34%	31%	27%	23%	19%	19%
2003	15 569	99%	94%	87%	81%	73%	67%	61%	56%	51%	47%	42%	39%	35%	30%	26%	22%	22%	
2004	16 293	99%	93%	86%	78%	72%	66%	60%	56%	51%	47%	43%	39%	34%	29%	25%	25%		
2005	16 975	99%	93%	85%	79%	73%	68%	63%	58%	54%	49%	45%	39%	33%	28%	28%			
2006	18 324	99%	93%	86%	80%	74%	69%	64%	59%	55%	51%	45%	36%	30%	30%				
2007	19 731	99%	93%	86%	80%	75%	69%	65%	61%	56%	47%	37%	31%	31%					
2008	22 691	99%	94%	87%	81%	76%	71%	67%	62%	51%	40%	33%	33%						
2009	25 293	99%	94%	87%	82%	78%	73%	69%	56%	43%	34%	34%							
2010	29 588	99%	96%	89%	84%	80%	75%	61%	46%	36%	36%								
2011	34 240	99%	96%	90%	86%	81%	67%	51%	39%	39%									
2012	39 684	99%	96%	91%	86%	70%	53%	40%	40%										
2013	47 394	99%	97%	92%	75%	57%	43%	43%											
2014	54 986	99%	97%	82%	64%	48%	48%												
2015	56 217	99%	92%	76%	57%	57%													
2016	55 736	98%	89%	70%	70%														
2017	47 779	96%	86%	86%															
2018	30 813	94%	94%																
2019	12 433	100%																	
2020	1 791																		
2021	2																		

d) Bulgaria

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	42 667	19 258	4 809	317
2003	89 644	40 528	19 373	630
2004	97 428	43 861	20 177	747
2005	106 480	46 625	20 450	750
2006	113 546	50 477	21 490	929
2007	119 764	54 882	21 852	877
2008	130 506	63 887	24 245	1 010
2009	134 882	70 783	24 696	1 130
2010	143 742	77 124	25 357	1 350
2011	148 995	81 430	27 966	1 589
2012	152 711	85 808	32 401	1 787
2013	157 153	87 793	39 866	2 251
2014	161 902	89 098	44 779	2 859
2015	160 808	83 338	42 757	3 680
2016	163 234	74 805	39 094	4 539
2017	166 608	58 285	32 254	5 700
2018	169 054	33 963	20 787	5 411
2019	167 067	12 435	8 335	2 999
2020	102 750	1 792	1 756	1 017
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	4 809	100%	97%	82%	66%	54%	45%	36%	29%	22%	19%	18%	17%	15%	13%	11%	9%	7%	7%
2003	19 373	96%	80%	65%	52%	42%	32%	25%	18%	15%	13%	13%	11%	9%	7%	5%	4%	3%	
2004	20 177	92%	78%	64%	52%	41%	32%	23%	19%	17%	16%	15%	11%	8%	6%	4%	4%		
2005	20 450	93%	78%	65%	52%	40%	29%	23%	21%	20%	18%	13%	10%	6%	5%	4%			
2006	21 490	92%	80%	65%	50%	37%	30%	27%	26%	23%	17%	12%	8%	6%	4%				
2007	21 852	94%	78%	62%	47%	38%	35%	34%	30%	22%	14%	9%	6%	4%					
2008	24 245	93%	78%	60%	49%	45%	43%	39%	28%	19%	10%	6%	4%						
2009	24 696	92%	74%	61%	57%	55%	50%	35%	23%	13%	7%	5%							
2010	25 357	92%	80%	75%	73%	66%	48%	32%	18%	10%	5%								
2011	27 966	95%	89%	87%	79%	58%	40%	22%	12%	6%									
2012	32 401	97%	95%	87%	64%	43%	24%	12%	6%										
2013	39 866	99%	92%	70%	49%	28%	14%	6%											
2014	44 779	97%	81%	59%	35%	17%	6%												
2015	42 757	92%	74%	48%	24%	9%													
2016	39 094	89%	66%	36%	12%														
2017	32 254	85%	54%	18%															
2018	20 787	74%	26%																
2019	8 335	36%																	
2020	1 756																		
2021	2																		

e) Switzerland/Liechtenstein

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	86 475	39 439	22 439	3 049
2003	92 027	42 089	24 849	3 943
2004	99 668	45 342	27 678	4 622
2005	108 624	48 008	32 086	5 499
2006	115 570	51 822	35 381	6 426
2007	121 254	55 908	37 434	7 307
2008	131 424	64 592	42 851	8 698
2009	135 154	71 009	46 279	9 688
2010	143 771	77 152	50 664	11 040
2011	148 998	81 433	49 262	12 968
2012	152 727	85 823	51 986	14 528
2013	157 162	87 806	54 810	17 005
2014	161 912	89 106	57 596	19 844
2015	160 813	83 343	55 154	22 059
2016	163 225	74 798	52 660	25 136
2017	166 568	58 261	45 341	25 804
2018	169 019	33 943	30 339	21 619
2019	167 053	12 431	12 430	12 430
2020	102 745	1 791	1 791	1 791
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	22 439	100%	100%	91%	86%	82%	71%	63%	55%	49%	43%	38%	34%	30%	26%	22%	19%	16%	14%
2003	24 849	100%	100%	89%	86%	75%	67%	60%	53%	46%	41%	36%	32%	28%	24%	21%	18%	16%	
2004	27 678	100%	100%	89%	79%	71%	63%	56%	49%	44%	39%	34%	30%	26%	22%	18%	17%		
2005	32 086	100%	100%	80%	72%	65%	57%	51%	45%	40%	35%	31%	26%	22%	19%	17%			
2006	35 381	100%	100%	78%	71%	63%	56%	49%	44%	38%	33%	28%	24%	20%	18%				
2007	37 434	100%	100%	78%	70%	62%	56%	49%	43%	37%	32%	26%	22%	20%					
2008	42 851	100%	100%	77%	69%	61%	54%	47%	40%	34%	27%	23%	20%						
2009	46 279	100%	100%	75%	67%	59%	52%	44%	37%	29%	24%	21%							
2010	50 664	100%	100%	74%	66%	58%	49%	41%	32%	25%	22%								
2011	49 262	100%	91%	81%	72%	61%	51%	40%	31%	26%									
2012	51 986	100%	91%	81%	69%	57%	44%	34%	28%										
2013	54 810	100%	92%	80%	66%	51%	39%	31%											
2014	57 596	100%	90%	77%	60%	44%	34%												
2015	55 154	100%	87%	71%	53%	40%													
2016	52 660	100%	83%	65%	48%														
2017	45 341	100%	78%	57%															
2018	30 339	100%	71%																
2019	12 430	100%																	
2020	1 791																		
2021	2																		

f) Cyprus

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	83 291	37 679	3 621	441
2003	89 599	40 542	2 009	554
2004	97 422	43 850	1 887	742
2005	106 471	46 619	1 843	856
2006	113 535	50 468	2 217	1 157
2007	119 757	54 878	2 424	1 342
2008	130 494	63 878	2 702	1 814
2009	134 884	70 784	2 930	2 417
2010	143 739	77 122	4 166	3 719
2011	148 994	81 429	5 781	5 420
2012	152 711	85 808	7 435	7 153
2013	157 152	87 793	11 003	10 768
2014	161 901	89 097	15 467	15 309
2015	160 806	83 337	21 522	21 428
2016	163 229	74 805	29 427	29 388
2017	166 609	58 285	35 237	35 224
2018	169 052	33 962	27 002	27 000
2019	167 066	12 435	12 435	12 435
2020	102 750	1 792	1 792	1 792
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	3 621	100%	54%	53%	51%	49%	44%	40%	36%	32%	29%	25%	23%	21%	19%	17%	14%	13%	12%
2003	2 009	88%	88%	86%	84%	78%	72%	67%	62%	57%	53%	48%	44%	40%	36%	32%	29%	28%	
2004	1 887	100%	100%	98%	94%	87%	82%	76%	71%	65%	60%	57%	53%	49%	44%	41%	39%		
2005	1 843	100%	99%	97%	88%	85%	80%	76%	71%	67%	63%	59%	55%	52%	49%	46%			
2006	2 217	100%	100%	88%	86%	82%	79%	75%	71%	67%	64%	60%	57%	54%	52%				
2007	2 424	100%	84%	83%	81%	79%	76%	73%	69%	66%	63%	60%	57%	55%					
2008	2 702	90%	90%	89%	88%	85%	83%	80%	77%	74%	71%	69%	67%						
2009	2 930	99%	99%	98%	97%	96%	94%	91%	89%	87%	84%	82%							
2010	4 166	100%	100%	100%	99%	97%	96%	94%	92%	90%	89%								
2011	5 781	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	97%	96%	95%	94%									
2012	7 435	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%	96%										
2013	11 003	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%	96%										
2014	15 467	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%	96%										
2015	21 522	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%										
2016	29 427	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	96%										
2017	35 237	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%										
2018	27 002	100%	100%	100%	100%														
2019	12 435	100%																	
2020	1 792																		
2021	2																		

g) Czech Republic

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	42 433	19 431	2 620	654
2003	89 960	40 833	5 131	1 423
2004	97 834	44 155	5 399	1 727
2005	106 838	46 896	5 151	1 912
2006	113 886	50 733	5 296	2 241
2007	120 024	55 079	5 071	2 301
2008	130 670	64 012	5 417	2 866
2009	134 923	70 821	5 240	2 967
2010	143 752	77 134	5 481	3 485
2011	148 999	81 434	5 723	3 961
2012	152 714	85 811	5 844	4 372
2013	157 157	87 797	6 097	4 936
2014	161 903	89 098	6 666	5 763
2015	160 809	83 340	7 165	6 578
2016	163 236	74 807	7 391	7 068
2017	166 609	58 286	8 067	7 946
2018	169 055	33 965	6 717	6 668
2019	167 069	12 436	3 441	3 439
2020	102 751	1 792	1 051	1 051
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	2 620	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	83%	77%	70%	64%	59%	53%	49%	43%	40%	36%	32%	27%	25%
2003	5 131	100%	100%	98%	95%	89%	83%	77%	71%	65%	59%	54%	49%	44%	40%	35%	30%	28%	
2004	5 399	100%	100%	97%	92%	87%	81%	76%	70%	64%	59%	54%	49%	45%	40%	35%	32%		
2005	5 151	100%	100%	97%	93%	89%	84%	78%	72%	66%	62%	56%	51%	46%	40%	37%			
2006	5 296	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	85%	79%	74%	68%	62%	57%	52%	46%	42%				
2007	5 071	100%	99%	98%	95%	90%	85%	79%	74%	68%	62%	56%	49%	45%					
2008	5 417	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	87%	81%	76%	70%	64%	57%	53%						
2009	5 240	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	87%	80%	75%	69%	61%	57%							
2010	5 481	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	87%	82%	75%	68%	64%								
2011	5 723	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	88%	82%	74%	69%									
2012	5 844	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	87%	79%	75%										
2013	6 097	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	85%	81%											
2014	6 666	100%	100%	98%	95%	90%	86%												
2015	7 165	100%	100%	99%	95%	92%													
2016	7 391	100%	100%	98%	96%														
2017	8 067	100%	100%	99%															
2018	6 717	100%	99%																
2019	3 441	100%																	
2020	1 051																		
2021	2																		

h) Germany

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	120 757	60 491	58 271	17 132
2003	126 294	62 334	60 008	21 495
2004	132 658	64 427	62 173	26 287
2005	140 905	66 810	64 705	31 338
2006	146 135	69 727	67 581	36 553
2007	145 938	71 192	69 047	40 771
2008	145 168	74 133	71 707	46 256
2009	138 394	73 289	70 774	48 886
2010	143 815	77 195	74 430	54 887
2011	149 008	81 452	78 562	61 904
2012	152 703	85 801	82 708	67 984
2013	157 138	87 782	84 807	73 019
2014	161 900	89 100	86 315	77 029
2015	160 800	83 342	80 936	74 785
2016	163 241	74 819	72 995	69 463
2017	166 601	58 284	57 256	55 700
2018	169 026	33 945	33 567	33 110
2019	167 020	12 419	12 383	12 262
2020	102 745	1 793	1 793	1 793
2021	61 001	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	58 271	100%	100%	99%	97%	95%	91%	87%	83%	79%	74%	69%	64%	58%	53%	47%	42%	36%	29%
2003	60 008	100%	99%	99%	97%	95%	91%	87%	84%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	54%	49%	43%	36%	
2004	62 173	100%	99%	99%	97%	94%	91%	88%	85%	80%	76%	71%	66%	60%	55%	49%	42%		
2005	64 705	100%	100%	99%	97%	95%	92%	89%	85%	81%	76%	72%	67%	61%	55%	48%			
2006	67 581	100%	100%	99%	97%	96%	93%	90%	86%	82%	77%	72%	67%	61%	54%				
2007	69 047	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	93%	90%	86%	82%	77%	72%	66%	59%					
2008	71 707	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	93%	90%	86%	81%	77%	71%	65%						
2009	70 774	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	93%	90%	86%	81%	76%	69%							
2010	74 430	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	93%	90%	86%	80%	74%								
2011	78 562	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	93%	90%	85%	79%									
2012	82 708	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	92%	88%	82%										
2013	84 807	100%	100%	99%	97%	95%	91%	86%											
2014	86 315	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	89%												
2015	80 936	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%													
2016	72 995	100%	100%	98%	95%														
2017	57 256	100%	99%	97%															
2018	33 567	100%	99%																
2019	12 383	99%																	
2020	1 793																		
2021	2																		

i) Denmark

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	83 267	38 064	12 997	1 766
2003	90 137	40 912	11 050	2 055
2004	97 837	44 123	8 623	2 415
2005	106 864	46 867	6 645	2 704
2006	113 924	50 706	6 680	3 155
2007	120 050	55 085	6 501	3 339
2008	130 658	64 003	6 914	4 021
2009	134 939	70 834	7 143	4 504
2010	143 757	77 138	7 594	5 138
2011	149 004	81 439	8 055	5 980
2012	152 717	85 814	8 050	6 338
2013	157 455	87 797	8 686	7 375
2014	161 912	89 107	9 191	8 183
2015	160 814	83 345	9 707	9 113
2016	163 239	74 810	10 318	10 039
2017	166 612	58 289	10 737	10 665
2018	169 056	33 965	9 108	9 092
2019	167 068	12 437	4 485	4 482
2020	102 749	1 792	1 296	1 296
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	12 997	94%	79%	57%	49%	47%	44%	41%	38%	35%	32%	29%	26%	24%	22%	19%	17%	15%	14%
2003	11 050	92%	68%	59%	58%	54%	51%	48%	45%	41%	38%	35%	31%	28%	25%	22%	20%	19%	
2004	8 623	84%	75%	74%	71%	68%	65%	61%	57%	52%	48%	44%	40%	37%	33%	29%	28%		
2005	6 645	97%	96%	94%	92%	88%	84%	79%	73%	67%	62%	57%	52%	47%	42%	41%			
2006	6 680	100%	99%	98%	96%	92%	88%	83%	76%	71%	65%	60%	55%	49%	47%				
2007	6 501	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	87%	82%	77%	71%	66%	60%	54%	51%					
2008	6 914	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	88%	83%	77%	72%	66%	60%	54%						
2009	7 143	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	88%	83%	78%	72%	65%	63%							
2010	7 594	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	88%	83%	77%	70%	68%								
2011	8 055	100%	100%	99%	97%	93%	89%	84%	77%	74%									
2012	8 050	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	88%	81%	79%										
2013	8 686	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	87%	85%											
2014	9 191	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	89%												
2015	9 707	100%	100%	98%	95%	94%													
2016	10 318	100%	100%	98%	97%														
2017	10 737	100%	100%	99%															
2018	9 108	100%	100%																
2019	4 485	100%																	
2020	1 296																		
2021	2																		

j) Estonia

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	42 155	19 259	1 062	275
2003	89 492	40 530	1 977	545
2004	97 398	43 851	1 859	636
2005	106 448	46 619	1 654	655
2006	113 532	50 472	1 709	736
2007	119 758	54 878	1 479	672
2008	130 499	63 882	1 494	780
2009	134 884	70 784	1 513	937
2010	143 739	77 122	1 647	1 091
2011	148 994	81 429	1 779	1 359
2012	152 712	85 809	1 872	1 474
2013	157 153	87 793	2 412	2 067
2014	161 901	89 097	2 721	2 509
2015	160 807	83 338	3 482	3 330
2016	163 233	74 804	4 371	4 313
2017	166 608	58 285	5 562	5 551
2018	169 053	33 962	5 334	5 330
2019	167 066	12 435	2 978	2 978
2020	102 750	1 792	1 020	1 020
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	1 062	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	83%	77%	70%	62%	57%	52%	47%	42%	38%	34%	29%	26%	26%
2003	1 977	100%	100%	98%	95%	89%	82%	76%	70%	65%	59%	54%	48%	44%	39%	34%	30%	28%	
2004	1 859	100%	100%	97%	92%	88%	82%	75%	69%	63%	58%	54%	49%	45%	40%	36%	34%		
2005	1 654	100%	99%	97%	94%	89%	82%	77%	72%	66%	61%	56%	51%	47%	42%	40%			
2006	1 709	100%	99%	98%	94%	89%	84%	79%	72%	66%	61%	55%	50%	46%	43%				
2007	1 479	100%	100%	98%	94%	90%	84%	79%	73%	67%	60%	55%	49%	45%					
2008	1 494	100%	100%	98%	95%	90%	85%	79%	73%	67%	62%	56%	52%						
2009	1 513	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	88%	83%	77%	72%	65%	62%							
2010	1 647	100%	100%	99%	95%	91%	87%	82%	75%	69%	66%								
2011	1 779	100%	100%	99%	97%	95%	90%	85%	79%	76%									
2012	1 872	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	88%	82%	79%										
2013	2 412	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	88%	82%											
2014	2 721	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	89%	86%											
2015	3 482	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	92%												
2016	4 371	100%	100%	99%	97%	96%													
2017	5 562	100%	100%	100%	99%														
2018	5 334	100%	100%																
2019	2 978	100%																	
2020	1 020																		
2021	2																		

k) Spain

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	88 985	41 901	29 230	5 354
2003	95 245	44 283	29 750	6 290
2004	102 500	47 189	29 803	7 191
2005	110 939	49 572	29 329	8 136
2006	117 632	53 208	29 435	9 394
2007	123 114	57 170	28 886	10 620
2008	132 439	65 315	28 940	12 193
2009	135 384	71 190	26 499	12 961
2010	143 791	77 169	23 405	13 846
2011	149 011	81 446	20 874	15 074
2012	152 737	85 833	20 083	16 321
2013	157 175	87 817	20 050	17 252
2014	161 910	89 105	20 263	18 353
2015	160 824	83 354	18 511	17 474
2016	163 248	74 819	16 644	16 189
2017	166 615	58 292	13 233	13 137
2018	169 059	33 969	8 441	8 438
2019	167 071	12 440	3 223	3 223
2020	102 749	1 792	885	885
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	29 230	99%	96%	88%	80%	74%	65%	58%	52%	47%	42%	38%	34%	31%	28%	25%	22%	18%	18%
2003	29 750	99%	93%	86%	79%	71%	63%	57%	51%	45%	41%	38%	34%	31%	28%	25%	21%	21%	
2004	29 803	97%	91%	85%	77%	69%	62%	55%	49%	45%	41%	38%	34%	31%	28%	24%	24%		
2005	29 329	97%	91%	83%	75%	68%	60%	53%	50%	46%	42%	39%	35%	32%	28%	28%			
2006	29 435	97%	90%	82%	74%	65%	58%	54%	51%	47%	43%	40%	36%	32%	32%				
2007	28 886	97%	89%	80%	71%	63%	60%	56%	53%	49%	45%	41%	37%	37%					
2008	28 940	96%	88%	77%	67%	65%	62%	59%	55%	51%	47%	42%	42%						
2009	26 499	96%	84%	73%	71%	69%	66%	62%	58%	54%	49%	49%							
2010	23 405	93%	83%	82%	80%	77%	74%	70%	65%	59%	59%								
2011	20 874	94%	94%	93%	90%	87%	83%	78%	72%	72%									
2012	20 083	99%	99%	98%	96%	93%	88%	81%	81%										
2013	20 050	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	86%	86%											
2014	20 263	100%	100%	99%	96%	91%	91%												
2015	18 511	100%	100%	98%	96%	94%													
2016	16 644	100%	100%	97%	97%														
2017	13 233	100%	99%	99%															
2018	8 441	100%	100%																
2019	3 223	100%																	
2020	885																		
2021	2																		

I) Finland

Filing year	Applications attled	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	83 752	38 349	5 956	1 372
2003	90 756	41 241	5 739	1 595
2004	98 345	44 410	5 457	1 843
2005	107 343	47 158	5 346	2 145
2006	114 403	50 933	5 458	2 420
2007	120 396	55 260	5 119	2 459
2008	130 774	64 067	5 448	3 032
2009	134 941	70 829	5 211	3 178
2010	143 756	77 137	5 317	3 448
2011	149 010	81 445	5 385	3 810
2012	152 717	85 813	5 242	3 852
2013	157 165	87 806	5 358	4 257
2014	161 907	89 101	5 359	4 551
2015	160 814	83 343	4 822	4 321
2016	163 241	74 812	4 155	3 925
2017	166 610	58 287	2 995	2 913
2018	169 055	33 964	1 769	1 752
2019	167 066	12 435	529	526
2020	102 750	1 792	96	96
2021	61 005	2	0	0

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	5 956	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	84%	78%	71%	65%	59%	53%	48%	43%	39%	34%	30%	26%	23%
2003	5 739	100%	100%	99%	96%	90%	84%	78%	72%	66%	61%	55%	49%	44%	39%	35%	30%	28%	
2004	5 457	100%	100%	98%	94%	89%	84%	78%	72%	66%	60%	55%	50%	46%	41%	36%	34%		
2005	5 346	100%	100%	97%	94%	90%	85%	80%	73%	68%	63%	58%	54%	48%	43%	40%			
2006	5 458	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	86%	81%	74%	69%	64%	59%	53%	48%	44%				
2007	5 119	100%	100%	98%	96%	91%	86%	80%	75%	69%	63%	58%	52%	48%					
2008	5 448	100%	100%	99%	95%	91%	87%	81%	76%	71%	65%	59%	56%						
2009	5 211	100%	100%	98%	95%	92%	87%	82%	77%	71%	65%	61%							
2010	5 317	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	87%	82%	75%	69%	65%								
2011	5 385	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	88%	82%	75%	71%	65%								
2012	5 242	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	86%	82%	75%	69%	65%								
2013	5 358	100%	100%	99%	96%	91%	84%	79%	73%										
2014	5 359	100%	100%	98%	94%	89%	84%	79%											
2015	4 822	100%	100%	97%	93%	90%	85%												
2016	4 155	100%	100%	98%	94%														
2017	2 995	100%	99%	97%	94%														
2018	1 769	100%	99%	98%	94%														
2019	529	99%																	
2020	96																		
2021																			

m) France

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	116 234	57 814	50 832	12 633
2003	121 721	59 627	52 903	15 828
2004	128 285	61 874	55 225	19 199
2005	136 150	64 019	57 724	22 736
2006	141 038	66 681	60 126	26 835
2007	141 867	68 553	61 725	30 293
2008	142 075	71 904	63 840	34 303
2009	137 699	72 810	63 771	36 798
2010	143 869	77 253	67 230	41 511
2011	149 052	81 495	70 616	46 966
2012	152 764	85 862	74 733	52 403
2013	157 204	87 849	77 009	57 175
2014	161 966	89 164	79 050	61 833
2015	160 865	83 395	74 470	61 237
2016	163 283	74 862	67 532	58 098
2017	166 641	58 316	53 821	48 470
2018	169 061	33 969	32 061	30 023
2019	167 072	12 440	12 054	11 477
2020	102 750	1 792	1 790	1 790
2021	61 002	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	50 832	100%	100%	99%	97%	93%	86%	81%	76%	71%	65%	59%	54%	49%	44%	39%	34%	28%	25%
2003	52 903	100%	100%	99%	96%	91%	86%	82%	77%	71%	65%	60%	55%	50%	44%	39%	33%	30%	
2004	55 225	100%	100%	98%	94%	90%	86%	82%	76%	71%	65%	61%	55%	49%	44%	38%	35%		
2005	57 724	100%	99%	96%	93%	90%	86%	81%	76%	70%	66%	61%	55%	49%	43%	39%			
2006	60 126	100%	99%	96%	94%	90%	86%	81%	76%	71%	66%	60%	54%	48%	45%				
2007	61 725	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	86%	81%	76%	71%	65%	59%	52%	49%					
2008	63 840	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	85%	81%	76%	70%	64%	57%	54%						
2009	63 771	100%	99%	96%	93%	89%	85%	80%	75%	68%	61%	58%							
2010	67 230	100%	99%	96%	93%	89%	85%	79%	73%	66%	62%								
2011	70 616	100%	99%	96%	93%	89%	84%	78%	71%	67%									
2012	74 733	100%	98%	96%	92%	87%	81%	74%	70%										
2013	77 009	100%	99%	96%	91%	85%	78%	74%											
2014	79 050	100%	98%	95%	90%	83%	78%												
2015	74 470	100%	98%	94%	87%	82%													
2016	67 532	99%	97%	92%	86%														
2017	53 821	99%	96%	90%															
2018	32 061	98%	94%																
2019	12 054	95%																	
2020	1 790																		
2021	2																		

n) United Kingdom

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	115 759	57 280	51 206	12 426
2003	120 889	58 803	52 466	15 154
2004	127 174	60 843	54 175	18 515
2005	135 120	63 074	56 779	21 882
2006	139 972	65 623	59 450	25 655
2007	140 755	67 523	60 852	28 526
2008	141 639	71 413	63 754	32 547
2009	137 431	72 527	63 809	34 800
2010	143 574	76 972	67 568	39 064
2011	148 772	81 233	70 867	44 101
2012	152 406	85 525	74 793	49 293
2013	156 803	87 474	77 630	54 505
2014	161 586	88 799	79 886	58 829
2015	160 525	83 088	75 689	57 571
2016	162 983	74 600	69 753	54 896
2017	166 456	58 171	57 212	49 278
2018	168 928	33 879	33 878	33 875
2019	166 984	12 394	12 394	12 394
2020	102 732	1 788	1 788	1 788
2021	61 000	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	51 206	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	85%	80%	75%	70%	64%	59%	53%	48%	42%	37%	32%	27%	24%
2003	52 466	100%	100%	97%	95%	89%	84%	80%	75%	70%	64%	59%	53%	48%	43%	37%	32%	29%	
2004	54 175	100%	100%	97%	93%	89%	84%	80%	75%	70%	64%	59%	54%	48%	43%	37%	34%		
2005	56 779	100%	100%	95%	92%	88%	84%	79%	74%	69%	64%	58%	53%	47%	41%	39%			
2006	59 450	100%	100%	94%	91%	87%	83%	78%	74%	68%	63%	58%	52%	46%	43%				
2007	60 852	100%	100%	94%	91%	87%	82%	78%	73%	68%	62%	56%	50%	47%					
2008	63 754	100%	100%	94%	90%	86%	81%	77%	72%	66%	61%	54%	51%						
2009	63 809	100%	100%	92%	89%	85%	81%	76%	70%	64%	58%	55%							
2010	67 568	100%	100%	92%	88%	84%	79%	74%	68%	61%	58%								
2011	70 867	100%	100%	92%	88%	84%	79%	73%	66%	62%									
2012	74 793	100%	100%	92%	88%	82%	77%	70%	66%										
2013	77 630	100%	100%	91%	87%	81%	74%	70%											
2014	79 886	100%	100%	90%	85%	78%	74%												
2015	75 689	100%	100%	88%	81%	76%													
2016	69 753	100%	100%	84%	79%														
2017	57 212	100%	100%	86%															
2018	33 878	100%	100%																
2019	12 394	100%																	
2020	1 788																		
2021	2																		

o) Greece

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	82 705	37 733	20 625	923
2003	89 652	40 598	21 775	1 024
2004	97 503	43 916	23 035	1 136
2005	106 531	46 676	24 201	1 300
2006	113 584	50 502	26 256	1 502
2007	119 806	54 908	27 653	1 497
2008	130 521	63 899	31 913	1 672
2009	134 892	70 790	34 426	1 853
2010	143 745	77 127	37 783	2 152
2011	148 995	81 430	40 265	2 487
2012	152 712	85 809	42 807	2 742
2013	157 152	87 793	45 260	3 473
2014	161 902	89 098	46 759	4 104
2015	160 808	83 338	43 506	4 952
2016	163 229	74 805	39 757	5 844
2017	166 608	58 285	33 014	7 036
2018	169 051	33 962	21 251	6 321
2019	167 066	12 435	8 544	3 359
2020	102 749	1 792	1 757	1 048
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	20 625	96%	86%	71%	58%	49%	40%	33%	27%	22%	18%	16%	13%	11%	9%	8%	6%	5%	4%
2003	21 775	95%	82%	69%	58%	48%	40%	33%	27%	22%	18%	16%	13%	10%	8%	7%	5%	5%	
2004	23 035	93%	81%	70%	58%	49%	40%	33%	27%	23%	19%	16%	12%	10%	7%	6%	5%		
2005	24 201	94%	82%	70%	59%	50%	41%	33%	28%	23%	18%	14%	11%	8%	6%	5%			
2006	26 256	94%	82%	71%	59%	49%	40%	33%	27%	22%	17%	12%	9%	7%	6%				
2007	27 653	94%	82%	70%	59%	49%	40%	33%	26%	20%	14%	9%	7%	5%					
2008	31 913	95%	84%	71%	58%	49%	40%	32%	23%	16%	10%	7%	5%						
2009	34 426	94%	82%	69%	58%	47%	38%	28%	19%	11%	7%	5%							
2010	37 783	94%	82%	70%	57%	46%	34%	24%	14%	9%	6%								
2011	40 265	94%	84%	70%	57%	43%	30%	18%	10%	6%									
2012	42 807	94%	81%	67%	50%	35%	21%	12%	6%										
2013	45 260	95%	82%	64%	45%	27%	15%	8%											
2014	46 759	94%	79%	58%	36%	19%	9%												
2015	43 506	92%	75%	49%	27%	11%													
2016	39 757	90%	67%	38%	15%														
2017	33 014	86%	56%	21%															
2018	21 251	75%	30%																
2019	8 544	39%																	
2020	1 757																		
2021	2																		

p) Croatia

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				
2007				
2008	130 476	63 879	1 841	782
2009	134 882	70 784	1 874	886
2010	143 744	77 126	1 844	1 013
2011	148 994	81 429	1 616	1 052
2012	152 711	85 809	1 597	1 129
2013	157 153	87 793	1 590	1 214
2014	161 903	89 098	1 550	1 315
2015	160 808	83 338	1 438	1 276
2016	163 234	74 805	1 154	1 074
2017	166 608	58 285	841	821
2018	169 053	33 962	504	491
2019	167 066	12 435	122	122
2020	102 750	1 792	22	22
2021	61 005	2	0	0

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004																			
2005																			
2006																			
2007	1 841	100%	100%	98%	83%	79%	74%	69%	63%	56%	51%	46%	42%						
2008	1 874	100%	100%	85%	82%	78%	73%	68%	62%	57%	50%	47%							
2009	1 844	100%	91%	89%	86%	82%	77%	71%	64%	59%	55%								
2010	1 616	96%	96%	95%	93%	89%	83%	77%	68%	65%									
2011	1 597	100%	100%	98%	95%	90%	84%	75%	71%										
2012	1 590	100%	100%	98%	93%	89%	80%	76%											
2013	1 550	100%	100%	98%	93%	88%	85%												
2014	1 438	100%	99%	97%	92%	89%													
2015	1 154	100%	99%	96%	93%														
2016	841	100%	100%	98%															
2017	504	100%	97%																
2018	122	100%																	
2019	22																		
2020																			
2021																			

q) Hungary

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003	89 459	40 584	15 930	1 282
2004	97 565	43 964	14 704	1 609
2005	106 620	46 745	12 706	1 850
2006	113 765	50 618	10 633	2 326
2007	120 085	55 085	7 692	2 573
2008	130 636	63 966	5 835	3 394
2009	134 916	70 807	5 651	4 010
2010	143 743	77 125	6 819	5 359
2011	148 997	81 432	8 359	7 130
2012	152 714	85 811	10 208	8 934
2013	157 154	87 794	13 541	12 704
2014	161 902	89 097	17 756	17 175
2015	160 809	83 339	23 515	23 126
2016	163 235	74 806	30 976	30 675
2017	166 608	58 285	35 890	35 830
2018	169 053	33 962	27 170	27 153
2019	167 066	12 435	12 387	12 382
2020	102 750	1 792	1 792	1 792
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003	15 930	97%	82%	63%	47%	32%	22%	20%	19%	17%	16%	14%	13%	12%	11%	10%	9%	8%	
2004	14 704	95%	78%	59%	39%	26%	25%	23%	21%	19%	18%	17%	15%	14%	13%	12%	11%		
2005	12 706	95%	74%	49%	32%	31%	29%	27%	25%	23%	22%	20%	18%	17%	15%	15%			
2006	10 633	93%	67%	42%	41%	39%	37%	35%	33%	30%	28%	27%	25%	23%	22%				
2007	7 692	90%	61%	60%	58%	55%	52%	50%	47%	44%	41%	38%	35%	33%					
2008	5 835	90%	90%	89%	86%	83%	80%	76%	71%	67%	64%	60%	58%						
2009	5 651	100%	100%	99%	97%	95%	91%	87%	83%	78%	74%	71%							
2010	6 819	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	91%	88%	84%	81%	79%								
2011	8 359	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	93%	91%	87%	85%									
2012	10 208	98%	98%	97%	96%	94%	92%	89%	88%										
2013	13 541	100%	100%	99%	99%	97%	95%	94%											
2014	17 756	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%												
2015	23 515	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%													
2016	30 976	100%	100%	99%	99%														
2017	35 890	100%	100%	100%	99%														
2018	27 170	100%	100%	100%															
2019	12 387	100%																	
2020	1 792																		
2021	2																		

r) Ireland

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	83 252	38 097	17 480	1 843
2003	90 202	40 950	18 687	2 136
2004	97 950	44 161	19 704	2 482
2005	106 954	46 918	21 121	2 907
2006	114 104	50 795	23 527	3 386
2007	120 290	55 219	25 497	3 676
2008	130 804	64 089	30 914	4 365
2009	134 951	70 830	34 936	5 004
2010	143 738	77 120	40 232	6 155
2011	148 985	81 420	43 238	7 388
2012	152 702	85 800	46 383	8 721
2013	157 143	87 786	49 523	11 421
2014	161 891	89 087	51 902	14 242
2015	160 796	83 328	49 891	17 573
2016	163 207	74 785	47 829	21 951
2017	166 565	58 256	41 239	25 017
2018	169 013	33 938	26 883	19 966
2019	167 048	12 427	11 155	9 152
2020	102 746	1 791	1 791	1 791
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	17 480	100%	96%	88%	78%	68%	58%	51%	44%	38%	33%	28%	25%	22%	19%	16%	14%	12%	11%
2003	18 687	100%	95%	86%	77%	66%	59%	51%	45%	38%	33%	29%	25%	21%	18%	15%	12%	11%	
2004	19 704	100%	95%	86%	76%	68%	60%	53%	45%	38%	33%	29%	25%	21%	17%	14%	13%		
2005	21 121	100%	95%	86%	78%	69%	61%	52%	44%	38%	33%	27%	23%	18%	15%	14%			
2006	23 527	100%	94%	87%	78%	69%	59%	50%	43%	37%	30%	25%	19%	16%	14%				
2007	25 497	100%	95%	87%	79%	67%	57%	49%	42%	34%	27%	21%	16%	14%					
2008	30 914	100%	96%	88%	75%	64%	54%	46%	37%	29%	21%	16%	14%						
2009	34 936	99%	95%	82%	70%	60%	51%	40%	32%	23%	17%	14%							
2010	40 232	99%	92%	79%	68%	58%	46%	36%	25%	18%	15%								
2011	43 238	98%	92%	79%	68%	55%	43%	31%	21%	17%									
2012	46 383	98%	91%	79%	64%	49%	35%	24%	19%										
2013	49 523	98%	93%	77%	61%	44%	30%	23%											
2014	51 902	99%	91%	74%	54%	37%	27%												
2015	49 891	97%	89%	69%	48%	35%													
2016	47 829	97%	86%	63%	46%														
2017	41 239	96%	82%	61%															
2018	26 883		74%																
2019	11 155	82%																	
2020	1 791																		
2021	2																		

s) Iceland

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004	18 282	8 258	494	93
2005	106 435	46 621	23 050	693
2006	113 528	50 470	25 153	829
2007	119 761	54 882	26 584	818
2008	130 490	63 878	30 741	918
2009	134 883	70 785	33 364	1 189
2010	143 740	77 123	36 773	1 385
2011	148 994	81 429	39 408	1 827
2012	152 712	85 809	42 295	2 091
2013	157 153	87 793	44 782	2 894
2014	161 900	89 097	46 390	3 853
2015	160 806	83 336	43 370	5 037
2016	163 234	74 805	39 861	6 479
2017	166 608	58 285	32 765	7 810
2018	169 053	33 962	21 333	7 484
2019	167 066	12 435	8 596	3 948
2020	102 750	1 792	1 759	1 253
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004	494	100%	96%	91%	77%	70%	64%	60%	51%	45%	40%	37%	32%	28%	23%	21%	19%		
2005	23 050	95%	82%	68%	57%	46%	36%	29%	24%	20%	15%	11%	8%	5%	4%	3%			
2006	25 153	94%	82%	69%	57%	45%	37%	30%	24%	19%	14%	9%	6%	4%	3%				
2007	26 584	95%	82%	69%	56%	47%	38%	31%	24%	17%	11%	6%	4%	3%					
2008	30 741	95%	84%	69%	58%	48%	39%	30%	21%	14%	8%	5%	3%						
2009	33 364	95%	82%	70%	58%	47%	37%	26%	18%	10%	6%	4%							
2010	36 773	95%	84%	71%	58%	46%	33%	23%	13%	7%	4%								
2011	39 408	95%	85%	71%	57%	42%	29%	17%	9%	5%									
2012	42 295	95%	83%	68%	51%	35%	20%	11%	5%										
2013	44 782	96%	84%	65%	45%	28%	15%	6%											
2014	46 390	95%	80%	59%	38%	20%	8%												
2015	43 370	93%	77%	53%	30%	12%													
2016	39 861	91%	71%	43%	16%														
2017	32 765	88%	62%	24%															
2018	21 333	79%	35%																
2019	8 596	46%																	
2020	1 759																		
2021	2																		

t) Italy

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	99 796	48 671	30 256	7 474
2003	105 010	50 278	30 110	9 139
2004	111 561	52 747	30 134	10 468
2005	119 574	54 967	29 454	11 997
2006	125 305	58 089	29 226	13 990
2007	128 827	61 082	29 263	15 921
2008	135 173	67 385	29 761	17 766
2009	135 995	71 687	28 817	18 917
2010	143 818	77 196	29 423	20 934
2011	149 031	81 465	30 147	23 421
2012	152 747	85 845	31 408	25 776
2013	157 190	87 833	32 297	28 044
2014	161 926	89 121	34 515	31 426
2015	160 834	83 363	33 802	32 054
2016	163 255	74 831	33 887	33 068
2017	166 633	58 306	31 357	31 219
2018	169 064	33 971	22 684	22 684
2019	167 072	12 441	9 811	9 811
2020	102 749	1 792	1 761	1 761
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	30 256	100%	100%	100%	97%	90%	83%	77%	72%	67%	61%	55%	50%	45%	40%	35%	31%	26%	25%
2003	30 110	100%	100%	99%	93%	88%	83%	78%	73%	67%	62%	56%	51%	46%	42%	37%	32%	30%	
2004	30 134	100%	100%	95%	91%	87%	83%	78%	73%	68%	62%	57%	51%	46%	41%	36%	35%		
2005	29 454	100%	97%	95%	92%	89%	85%	80%	75%	69%	64%	58%	53%	48%	42%	41%			
2006	29 226	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	88%	83%	78%	72%	67%	61%	56%	49%	48%				
2007	29 263	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	88%	83%	79%	73%	68%	62%	56%	54%					
2008	29 761	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	89%	84%	79%	74%	68%	61%	60%						
2009	28 817	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	89%	84%	80%	74%	67%	66%							
2010	29 423	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	85%	80%	73%	71%								
2011	30 147	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	85%	79%	78%									
2012	31 408	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	84%	82%										
2013	32 297	100%	100%	99%	97%	93%	88%	87%											
2014	34 515	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	91%												
2015	33 802	100%	100%	99%	96%	95%													
2016	33 887	100%	100%	98%	98%														
2017	31 357	100%	100%	100%															
2018	22 684	100%	100%																
2019	9 811	100%																	
2020	1 761																		
2021	2																		

u) Lithuania

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004	9 757	4 436	166	45
2005	106 439	46 621	1 712	662
2006	113 534	50 476	1 784	772
2007	119 766	54 883	1 521	679
2008	130 497	63 881	1 544	775
2009	134 884	70 785	1 498	885
2010	143 740	77 123	1 549	971
2011	148 994	81 429	1 506	1 054
2012	152 712	85 809	1 470	1 073
2013	157 153	87 793	1 547	1 211
2014	161 901	89 097	1 517	1 306
2015	160 806	83 337	1 482	1 327
2016	163 226	74 803	1 344	1 288
2017	166 609	58 286	1 174	1 160
2018	169 052	33 962	830	822
2019	167 066	12 435	323	322
2020	102 750	1 792	47	47
2021	61 005	2	0	0

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004	166	100%	99%	97%	92%	90%	84%	74%	66%	60%	57%	53%	45%	39%	35%	27%			
2005	1 712	100%	99%	97%	93%	89%	82%	77%	71%	65%	60%	55%	50%	46%	41%	39%			
2006	1 784	100%	99%	98%	94%	90%	86%	80%	73%	67%	61%	56%	50%	46%	43%				
2007	1 521	100%	100%	98%	94%	89%	83%	79%	72%	66%	60%	54%	48%	45%					
2008	1 544	100%	100%	98%	95%	90%	84%	78%	72%	65%	59%	53%	50%						
2009	1 498	100%	100%	99%	97%	93%	87%	82%	75%	69%	62%	59%							
2010	1 549	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	86%	81%	72%	66%	63%								
2011	1 506	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	87%	82%	73%	70%									
2012	1 470	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	85%	77%	73%										
2013	1 547	100%	100%	98%	96%	90%	82%	78%											
2014	1 517	100%	100%	98%	94%	89%	86%												
2015	1 482	100%	100%	97%	92%	90%													
2016	1 344	100%	100%	98%	96%														
2017	1 174	100%	100%	99%															
2018	830	100%	99%																
2019	323	100%																	
2020	47																		
2021																			

v) Luxembourg

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	82 691	37 732	20 576	799
2003	89 632	40 596	21 741	896
2004	97 472	43 882	22 928	1 058
2005	106 513	46 655	24 171	1 206
2006	113 583	50 508	26 337	1 415
2007	119 803	54 909	27 856	1 498
2008	130 515	63 895	32 163	1 835
2009	134 889	70 787	34 929	2 353
2010	143 749	77 131	38 416	2 964
2011	148 997	81 432	40 930	3 814
2012	152 710	85 808	44 017	4 876
2013	157 154	87 795	46 889	6 673
2014	161 897	89 093	49 193	9 078
2015	160 811	83 341	47 120	12 291
2016	163 233	74 804	45 045	16 544
2017	166 610	58 288	38 565	19 961
2018	169 047	33 959	24 944	16 970
2019	167 061	12 433	10 260	8 062
2020	102 749	1 792	1 792	1 792
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	20 576	99%	92%	79%	63%	52%	41%	34%	27%	21%	18%	15%	12%	10%	8%	7%	5%	4%	4%
2003	21 741	99%	91%	75%	63%	51%	42%	34%	28%	22%	18%	15%	13%	10%	8%	6%	5%	4%	
2004	22 928	99%	88%	75%	62%	52%	42%	34%	28%	23%	19%	16%	12%	10%	7%	5%	5%		
2005	24 171	99%	90%	75%	64%	53%	44%	35%	29%	24%	20%	15%	11%	8%	6%	5%			
2006	26 337	99%	88%	76%	64%	53%	43%	35%	29%	24%	18%	13%	9%	7%	5%				
2007	27 856	98%	89%	76%	64%	53%	43%	36%	29%	22%	16%	10%	7%	5%					
2008	32 163	99%	91%	77%	65%	53%	44%	36%	27%	20%	12%	8%	6%						
2009	34 929	99%	89%	76%	64%	53%	43%	33%	24%	15%	9%	7%							
2010	38 416	98%	91%	77%	64%	53%	41%	30%	19%	11%	8%								
2011	40 930	98%	91%	77%	65%	50%	37%	25%	14%	9%									
2012	44 017	98%	91%	77%	60%	45%	29%	17%	11%										
2013	46 889	98%	92%	75%	57%	38%	23%	14%											
2014	49 193	98%	90%	72%	50%	30%	18%												
2015	47 120	97%	88%	66%	42%	26%													
2016	45 045	97%	85%	59%	37%														
2017	38 565	95%	80%	52%															
2018	24 944	92%	68%																
2019	10 260	79%																	
2020	1 792																		
2021	2																		

w) Latvia

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005	54 196	23 848	743	260
2006	113 525	50 470	1 717	673
2007	119 756	54 878	1 466	594
2008	130 495	63 879	1 429	650
2009	134 883	70 784	1 445	759
2010	143 739	77 122	1 401	814
2011	148 994	81 429	1 332	881
2012	152 713	85 810	1 280	872
2013	157 153	87 793	1 303	969
2014	161 901	89 097	1 176	973
2015	160 807	83 337	1 088	933
2016	163 229	74 805	878	819
2017	166 608	58 285	612	599
2018	169 052	33 962	333	328
2019	167 066	12 435	90	90
2020	102 750	1 792	17	16
2021	61 005	2	0	0

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004																			
2005	743	100%	99%	97%	95%	90%	83%	78%	71%	64%	58%	51%	46%	41%	37%	35%			
2006	1 717	100%	99%	98%	95%	90%	86%	80%	72%	65%	58%	53%	46%	42%	39%				
2007	1 466	100%	100%	97%	93%	89%	83%	78%	69%	62%	55%	50%	44%	41%					
2008	1 429	100%	100%	98%	94%	89%	83%	76%	69%	62%	55%	50%	45%						
2009	1 445	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	85%	78%	71%	65%	57%	53%							
2010	1 401	100%	100%	98%	94%	89%	83%	77%	68%	61%	58%								
2011	1 332	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	85%	79%	70%	66%									
2012	1 280	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	83%	73%	68%										
2013	1 303	100%	100%	98%	95%	89%	79%	74%											
2014	1 176	100%	99%	97%	92%	87%	83%												
2015	1 088	100%	100%	97%	90%	86%													
2016	878	100%	100%	96%	93%														
2017	612	100%	100%	98%															
2018	333	100%	98%																
2019	90	100%																	
2020	17																		
2021																			

x) Monaco

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	82 560	37 662	17 800	456
2003	89 538	40 536	17 753	528
2004	97 392	43 841	17 274	629
2005	106 445	46 615	16 222	720
2006	113 522	50 463	15 468	869
2007	119 758	54 875	13 334	877
2008	130 493	63 877	11 124	1 063
2009	134 879	70 779	7 944	1 404
2010	143 738	77 121	4 853	1 958
2011	148 993	81 428	3 681	2 646
2012	152 709	85 806	3 816	3 373
2013	157 451	87 792	5 312	4 956
2014	161 895	89 092	7 316	7 032
2015	160 809	83 339	10 107	9 928
2016	163 227	74 803	13 887	13 782
2017	166 604	58 282	17 216	17 187
2018	169 046	33 959	15 502	15 492
2019	167 059	12 432	7 458	7 458
2020	102 747	1 791	1 757	1 757
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	17 800	99%	90%	74%	56%	43%	30%	22%	14%	9%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%		
2003	17 753	99%	88%	69%	53%	38%	27%	18%	10%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%
2004	17 274	98%	84%	66%	48%	35%	22%	12%	8%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%		
2005	16 222	98%	84%	61%	45%	28%	14%	9%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%			
2006	15 468	98%	80%	58%	37%	18%	11%	10%	9%	9%	8%	7%	7%	6%	5%	4%			
2007	13 334	97%	76%	48%	22%	12%	11%	11%	10%	9%	8%	8%	7%	6%	6%				
2008	11 124	96%	72%	33%	16%	16%	15%	14%	13%	12%	11%	10%	10%	7%					
2009	7 944	94%	50%	26%	26%	25%	24%	23%	21%	20%	19%	18%							
2010	4 853	85%	53%	53%	51%	50%	48%	46%	44%	42%	40%								
2011	3 681	87%	86%	86%	85%	83%	80%	77%	74%	72%									
2012	3 816	100%	100%	100%	98%	97%	94%	91%	88%										
2013	5 312	100%	100%	99%	99%	97%	95%	93%											
2014	7 316	100%	100%	99%	99%	97%	96%												
2015	10 107	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%													
2016	13 887	100%	100%	100%	99%														
2017	17 216	100%	100%	100%	99%														
2018	15 502	100%	100%	100%															
2019	7 458	100%																	
2020	1 757																		
2021	2																		

y) North Macedonia

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				
2007				
2008				
2009	134 875	70 780	11 746	11 625
2010	143 737	77 121	16 909	16 819
2011	148 994	81 429	23 389	23 364
2012	152 711	85 809	30 229	30 224
2013	157 153	87 793	41 901	41 898
2014	161 900	89 097	55 541	55 541
2015	160 805	83 336	66 803	66 803
2016	163 234	74 805	69 697	69 697
2017	166 608	58 285	58 284	58 284
2018	169 053	33 962	33 962	33 962
2019	167 066	12 435	12 435	12 435
2020	102 750	1 792	1 792	1 792
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004																			
2005																			
2006																			
2007																			
2008																			
2009	11 746	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%							
2010	16 909	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%								
2011	23 389	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%								
2012	30 229	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%									
2013	41 901	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%										
2014	55 541	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%											
2015	66 803	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%												
2016	69 697	100%	100%	100%	100%														
2017	58 284	100%	100%	100%															
2018	33 962	100%	100%																
2019	12 435	100%																	
2020	1 792																		
2021	2																		

z) Malta

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				
2007	102 319	47 029	5 164	1 499
2008	130 488	63 875	9 184	1 846
2009	134 882	70 784	11 646	2 465
2010	143 741	77 123	15 606	3 721
2011	148 995	81 430	19 881	5 404
2012	152 712	85 809	24 636	7 220
2013	157 152	87 792	28 167	10 820
2014	161 898	89 094	29 274	15 385
2015	160 808	83 338	28 442	21 508
2016	163 228	74 804	32 311	29 452
2017	166 607	58 283	36 027	35 268
2018	169 046	33 959	27 014	27 013
2019	167 060	12 433	12 433	12 433
2020	102 748	1 791	1 791	1 791
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004																			
2005																			
2006																			
2007	5 164	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%	96%	75%	54%	34%	30%	29%	29%					
2008	9 184	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	76%	51%	30%	21%	20%	20%						
2009	11 646	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	77%	52%	30%	22%	21%	21%							
2010	15 606	100%	100%	100%	100%	79%	55%	34%	24%	24%	24%								
2011	19 881	100%	100%	100%	81%	58%	37%	28%	27%	27%									
2012	24 636	100%	100%	84%	62%	39%	30%	29%	29%										
2013	28 167	100%	94%	75%	51%	39%	39%	38%											
2014	29 274	98%	89%	68%	53%	53%	53%												
2015	28 442	97%	87%	76%	76%	76%													
2016	32 311	97%	91%	91%	91%														
2017	36 027	98%	98%	98%															
2018	27 014	100%	100%																
2019	12 433	100%																	
2020	1 791																		
2021	2																		

aa) Netherlands

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	87 802	40 654	15 333	3 676
2003	94 762	43 397	15 267	4 454
2004	102 382	46 510	15 664	5 502
2005	110 890	48 980	15 830	6 403
2006	117 949	52 832	16 511	7 631
2007	122 944	56 639	16 621	8 545
2008	132 290	64 951	17 734	10 272
2009	135 281	71 038	17 768	11 003
2010	143 778	77 160	18 535	12 578
2011	149 031	81 466	18 904	13 775
2012	152 746	85 842	19 399	14 907
2013	157 173	87 815	20 014	16 468
2014	161 919	89 113	19 991	17 326
2015	160 825	83 355	19 200	17 608
2016	163 247	74 823	18 538	17 753
2017	166 625	58 301	15 560	15 266
2018	169 055	33 965	9 050	9 004
2019	167 068	12 436	3 005	3 005
2020	102 750	1 793	373	373
2021	61 005	2	0	0

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	15 333	100%	100%	99%	98%	95%	90%	83%	77%	72%	66%	60%	52%	47%	42%	38%	33%	28%	24%
2003	15 267	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	88%	83%	79%	74%	68%	59%	54%	48%	43%	38%	33%	29%	
2004	15 664	100%	100%	99%	97%	92%	88%	84%	79%	74%	65%	60%	55%	50%	45%	39%	35%		
2005	15 830	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	90%	86%	81%	72%	67%	62%	56%	51%	45%	40%			
2006	16 511	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	91%	86%	78%	73%	68%	62%	57%	51%	46%				
2007	16 621	100%	100%	99%	98%	95%	91%	84%	79%	73%	68%	63%	56%	51%					
2008	17 734	100%	100%	99%	98%	95%	89%	85%	80%	75%	70%	63%	58%						
2009	17 768	100%	100%	99%	98%	93%	90%	85%	80%	75%	68%	62%							
2010	18 535	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	86%	80%	73%	68%								
2011	18 904	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	85%	78%	73%									
2012	19 399	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	89%	82%	77%										
2013	20 014	100%	100%	99%	97%	93%	88%	82%											
2014	19 991	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	87%												
2015	19 200	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%													
2016	18 538	100%	100%	98%	96%														
2017	15 560	100%	100%	98%	96%														
2018	9 050	100%	99%	98%															
2019	3 005	100%																	
2020	373																		
2021																			

bb) Norway

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				
2007				
2008	130 578	63 947	33 002	2 587
2009	134 914	70 813	35 674	3 010
2010	143 750	77 132	39 123	3 486
2011	149 002	81 437	41 671	4 166
2012	152 715	85 812	44 363	4 627
2013	157 154	87 794	46 677	5 370
2014	161 901	89 096	48 136	6 108
2015	160 812	83 342	44 585	6 763
2016	163 240	74 811	40 622	7 314
2017	166 612	58 289	33 332	7 902
2018	169 052	33 962	21 317	6 568
2019	167 066	12 435	8 481	3 308
2020	102 750	1 792	1 758	1 043
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004																			
2005																			
2006																			
2007																			
2008	33 002	95%	84%	72%	60%	51%	42%	34%	26%	19%	13%	10%	8%						
2009	35 674	95%	83%	70%	60%	49%	40%	30%	22%	15%	10%	8%							
2010	39 123	95%	83%	71%	59%	48%	37%	27%	18%	12%	9%								
2011	41 671	95%	85%	71%	59%	45%	33%	22%	14%	10%									
2012	44 363	95%	82%	69%	53%	38%	24%	15%	10%										
2013	46 677	95%	83%	66%	48%	31%	18%	12%											
2014	48 136	94%	80%	60%	39%	22%	13%												
2015	44 585	92%	76%	52%	30%	15%													
2016	40 622	90%	68%	40%	18%														
2017	33 332	86%	57%	24%															
2018	21 317	75%	31%																
2019	8 481	39%																	
2020	1 758																		
2021	2																		

cc) Poland

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004	84 581	38 061	6 451	2 820
2005	106 857	46 919	7 730	3 808
2006	113 994	50 799	8 258	4 565
2007	120 213	55 210	8 321	4 913
2008	130 751	64 050	8 844	5 822
2009	134 960	70 848	9 078	6 299
2010	143 758	77 140	9 382	7 038
2011	149 001	81 439	9 608	7 828
2012	152 722	85 819	9 463	8 210
2013	157 158	87 800	9 600	8 766
2014	161 906	89 101	9 643	9 094
2015	160 815	83 345	9 461	9 295
2016	163 234	74 805	8 727	8 700
2017	166 614	58 291	7 466	7 464
2018	169 053	33 964	5 177	5 177
2019	167 069	12 436	2 126	2 126
2020	102 751	1 792	542	542
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004	6 451	100%	100%	98%	94%	89%	85%	80%	74%	69%	63%	59%	54%	49%	44%	44%			
2005	7 730	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	87%	82%	76%	71%	66%	60%	55%	50%	49%	49%			
2006	8 258	100%	100%	98%	95%	92%	87%	82%	76%	71%	66%	61%	56%	55%	55%				
2007	8 321	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	87%	82%	76%	71%	65%	60%	59%	59%					
2008	8 844	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	88%	83%	78%	72%	67%	66%	66%						
2009	9 078	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	88%	83%	77%	71%	69%	69%							
2010	9 382	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	88%	83%	77%	75%	75%								
2011	9 608	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	88%	83%	81%	81%									
2012	9 463	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	88%	87%	87%										
2013	9 600	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	91%	91%											
2014	9 643	100%	100%	98%	95%	94%	94%												
2015	9 461	100%	100%	98%	98%	98%													
2016	8 727	100%	100%	100%	100%														
2017	7 466	100%	100%	100%															
2018	5 177	100%	100%																
2019	2 126	100%																	
2020	542																		
2021	2																		

dd) Portugal

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	82 834	37 819	20 952	1 174
2003	89 702	40 656	21 879	1 256
2004	97 578	43 968	22 895	1 488
2005	106 602	46 731	23 855	1 635
2006	113 628	50 538	25 727	1 903
2007	119 832	54 931	26 638	1 913
2008	130 554	63 917	29 505	2 325
2009	134 904	70 802	32 059	2 578
2010	143 749	77 131	34 400	2 932
2011	148 999	81 434	35 747	3 431
2012	152 714	85 810	36 911	3 860
2013	157 160	87 801	38 047	4 805
2014	161 905	89 100	39 164	5 710
2015	160 808	83 339	40 279	6 849
2016	163 234	74 806	39 300	8 170
2017	166 609	58 286	33 718	9 501
2018	169 054	33 963	21 795	8 480
2019	167 066	12 435	8 713	4 262
2020	102 749	1 792	1 761	1 272
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	20 952	98%	89%	76%	63%	53%	42%	35%	29%	24%	20%	17%	14%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%
2003	21 879	97%	86%	73%	62%	50%	42%	34%	28%	23%	19%	16%	13%	11%	10%	8%	7%	6%	
2004	22 895	96%	85%	73%	60%	50%	42%	34%	28%	23%	20%	16%	13%	12%	9%	8%	7%		
2005	23 855	97%	85%	72%	61%	50%	41%	33%	28%	23%	18%	15%	13%	10%	8%	7%			
2006	25 727	96%	84%	72%	60%	49%	40%	33%	27%	22%	18%	15%	11%	9%	7%				
2007	26 638	95%	84%	71%	59%	48%	39%	32%	25%	20%	17%	12%	9%	7%					
2008	29 505	99%	88%	73%	60%	49%	40%	32%	25%	21%	14%	10%	8%						
2009	32 059	96%	83%	69%	57%	47%	37%	29%	24%	16%	11%	8%							
2010	34 400	95%	82%	69%	57%	45%	35%	30%	19%	13%	9%								
2011	35 747	94%	83%	69%	55%	45%	38%	24%	15%	10%									
2012	36 911	94%	82%	65%	53%	46%	29%	17%	10%										
2013	38 047	95%	83%	69%	59%	38%	22%	13%											
2014	39 164	95%	87%	75%	49%	28%	15%												
2015	40 279	96%	86%	59%	35%	17%													
2016	39 300	95%	74%	46%	21%														
2017	33 718	88%	63%	28%															
2018	21 795	80%	39%																
2019	8 713	49%																	
2020	1 761																		
2021	2																		

ee) Romania

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003	75 688	34 409	2 476	688
2004	97 421	43 873	2 964	991
2005	106 465	46 631	2 857	1 090
2006	113 557	50 490	3 105	1 383
2007	119 791	54 902	2 869	1 354
2008	130 535	63 909	3 015	1 664
2009	134 889	70 789	2 955	1 770
2010	143 742	77 124	3 084	2 020
2011	148 995	81 430	3 344	2 390
2012	152 712	85 809	3 454	2 671
2013	157 154	87 794	3 800	3 182
2014	161 900	89 096	4 138	3 672
2015	160 808	83 338	5 006	4 709
2016	163 234	74 805	5 768	5 602
2017	166 611	58 288	6 481	6 444
2018	169 053	33 962	5 830	5 821
2019	167 067	12 436	3 108	3 108
2020	102 749	1 792	1 025	1 025
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003	2 476	100%	100%	99%	96%	90%	84%	77%	72%	66%	60%	54%	49%	44%	39%	34%			
2004	2 964	100%	100%	98%	93%	88%	83%	77%	71%	65%	59%	55%	50%	45%	40%	36%	30%	28%	
2005	2 857	100%	100%	97%	93%	89%	83%	77%	71%	66%	61%	57%	52%	47%	42%	38%			
2006	3 105	100%	100%	98%	95%	90%	86%	80%	75%	69%	63%	59%	54%	49%	45%				
2007	2 869	100%	100%	98%	95%	92%	86%	81%	75%	69%	63%	58%	51%	47%					
2008	3 015	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	86%	81%	75%	69%	65%	59%	55%						
2009	2 955	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	88%	82%	76%	71%	64%	60%							
2010	3 084	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	87%	82%	76%	70%	65%								
2011	3 344	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	89%	84%	76%	71%									
2012	3 454	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	89%	83%	77%										
2013	3 800	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	88%	84%											
2014	4 138	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	89%												
2015	5 006	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%													
2016	5 768	100%	100%	99%	97%														
2017	6 481	100%	100%	99%															
2018	5 830	100%	100%																
2019	3 108	100%																	
2020	1 025																		
2021	2																		

ff) Serbia

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				
2007				
2008				
2009				
2010	39 367	21 191	338	235
2011	148 989	81 426	1 373	855
2012	152 712	85 810	1 289	848
2013	157 152	87 793	1 230	887
2014	161 900	89 097	1 224	993
2015	160 807	83 337	1 185	1 039
2016	163 234	74 805	924	860
2017	166 608	58 285	712	692
2018	169 052	33 962	437	433
2019	167 066	12 435	85	85
2020	102 750	1 792	16	16
2021	61 005	2	0	0

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004																			
2005																			
2006																			
2007																			
2008																			
2009																			
2010	338	100%	100%	100%	99%	96%	91%	86%	74%	70%	70%								
2011	1 373	100%	94%	93%	91%	88%	84%	75%	66%	62%									
2012	1 289	97%	96%	95%	94%	90%	81%	72%	66%										
2013	1 230	99%	99%	98%	96%	88%	77%	72%											
2014	1 224	100%	100%	99%	94%	86%	81%												
2015	1 185	100%	100%	97%	91%	88%													
2016	924	100%	100%	97%	93%														
2017	712	100%	100%	97%															
2018	437	100%	99%																
2019	85	100%																	
2020	16																		
2021																			

gg) Sweden

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	86 008	39 981	20 683	2 529
2003	92 635	42 621	19 491	2 885
2004	100 074	45 675	17 994	3 407
2005	108 890	48 270	16 024	4 077
2006	115 672	51 924	13 591	4 671
2007	121 221	55 899	10 865	4 964
2008	131 211	64 434	10 761	5 972
2009	135 059	70 920	10 645	6 460
2010	143 765	77 147	10 531	6 918
2011	149 013	81 448	10 822	7 631
2012	152 716	85 813	10 769	8 129
2013	157 163	87 805	10 842	8 649
2014	161 908	89 103	10 827	9 181
2015	160 816	83 346	10 010	8 985
2016	163 247	74 817	8 586	8 057
2017	166 613	58 290	6 723	6 547
2018	169 059	33 968	4 114	4 085
2019	167 066	12 435	1 303	1 298
2020	102 750	1 793	234	234
2021	61 005	2	0	0

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	20 683	97%	89%	75%	64%	54%	45%	41%	38%	35%	32%	29%	26%	23%	20%	18%	16%	14%	12%
2003	19 491	96%	83%	71%	59%	49%	46%	43%	40%	36%	33%	30%	27%	24%	22%	19%	16%	15%	
2004	17 994	93%	80%	66%	55%	52%	49%	46%	42%	39%	36%	32%	30%	27%	24%	21%	19%		
2005	16 024	93%	77%	65%	63%	60%	57%	53%	49%	45%	41%	38%	34%	31%	27%	25%			
2006	13 591	90%	78%	76%	74%	71%	67%	63%	59%	54%	50%	46%	42%	37%	34%				
2007	10 865	94%	93%	92%	90%	86%	81%	76%	71%	66%	61%	55%	49%	46%					
2008	10 761	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	87%	82%	76%	71%	66%	59%	55%						
2009	10 645	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	88%	83%	78%	72%	65%	61%							
2010	10 531	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	88%	83%	77%	70%	66%								
2011	10 822	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	88%	83%	75%	71%									
2012	10 769	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	88%	80%	75%										
2013	10 842	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	85%	80%											
2014	10 827	100%	100%	99%	95%	89%	85%												
2015	10 010	100%	100%	98%	93%	90%													
2016	8 586	100%	99%	97%	94%														
2017	6 723	100%	99%	97%															
2018	4 114	100%	99%																
2019	1 303	100%																	
2020	234																		
2021																			

hh) Slovenia

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	7 608	3 465	226	52
2003	89 422	40 542	2 605	692
2004	97 409	43 867	2 500	805
2005	106 469	46 635	2 325	873
2006	113 563	50 491	2 488	1 110
2007	119 778	54 888	2 296	1 070
2008	130 516	63 885	2 362	1 259
2009	134 889	70 788	2 445	1 468
2010	143 744	77 126	2 670	1 832
2011	148 994	81 429	2 894	2 217
2012	152 712	85 809	3 152	2 572
2013	157 453	87 793	3 914	3 424
2014	161 902	89 098	4 788	4 411
2015	160 807	83 337	6 688	5 938
2016	163 228	74 804	8 464	8 067
2017	166 608	58 285	11 333	11 306
2018	169 052	33 962	11 451	11 441
2019	167 066	12 435	5 693	5 693
2020	102 750	1 792	1 484	1 484
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	226	100%	100%	99%	95%	89%	79%	75%	69%	63%	56%	49%	44%	38%	34%	29%	26%	23%	23%
2003	2 605	100%	100%	98%	95%	88%	82%	76%	70%	63%	58%	53%	47%	42%	38%	33%	29%	27%	
2004	2 500	100%	100%	98%	92%	87%	82%	76%	70%	63%	57%	52%	48%	43%	38%	35%	32%		
2005	2 325	100%	99%	97%	93%	89%	82%	77%	70%	64%	59%	54%	50%	45%	41%	38%			
2006	2 488	100%	99%	98%	94%	90%	85%	79%	73%	68%	61%	57%	52%	48%	45%				
2007	2 296	100%	99%	98%	94%	90%	84%	79%	73%	67%	60%	55%	50%	47%					
2008	2 362	100%	100%	98%	95%	90%	85%	80%	73%	67%	62%	57%	53%						
2009	2 445	100%	100%	98%	96%	92%	88%	82%	76%	71%	64%	60%							
2010	2 670	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	88%	82%	77%	72%	69%								
2011	2 894	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	85%	80%	77%									
2012	3 152	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	85%	82%										
2013	3 914	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	87%											
2014	4 788	100%	100%	98%	96%	94%	90%												
2015	6 688	100%	92%	91%	90%	89%	92%												
2016	8 464	97%	97%	96%	95%														
2017	11 333	100%	100%	100%															
2018	11 451	100%	100%																
2019	5 693	100%																	
2020	1 484																		
2021	2																		

ii) Slovakia

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	42 081	19 257	1 558	412
2003	89 496	40 561	2 943	811
2004	97 463	43 896	2 954	978
2005	106 490	46 651	2 746	1 050
2006	113 578	50 505	2 871	1 186
2007	119 808	54 910	2 565	1 149
2008	130 517	63 891	2 739	1 430
2009	134 891	70 790	2 730	1 553
2010	143 745	77 127	2 754	1 743
2011	148 995	81 430	2 975	2 117
2012	152 713	85 810	3 097	2 361
2013	157 154	87 794	3 446	2 834
2014	161 903	89 098	3 766	3 336
2015	160 807	83 338	4 478	4 230
2016	163 235	74 806	5 152	5 026
2017	166 608	58 285	6 109	6 069
2018	169 053	33 962	5 628	5 618
2019	167 066	12 435	3 047	3 047
2020	102 750	1 792	1 021	1 021
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	1 558	100%	100%	99%	96%	91%	83%	78%	71%	64%	58%	53%	48%	44%	40%	36%	30%	27%	26%
2003	2 943	100%	100%	98%	95%	88%	82%	76%	70%	64%	58%	53%	47%	42%	38%	33%	30%	28%	
2004	2 954	100%	100%	97%	92%	87%	82%	75%	70%	63%	58%	54%	49%	44%	39%	35%	33%		
2005	2 746	100%	100%	97%	92%	89%	82%	77%	71%	66%	61%	56%	50%	46%	40%	38%			
2006	2 871	100%	99%	97%	93%	88%	83%	78%	71%	65%	59%	55%	49%	44%	41%				
2007	2 565	100%	99%	98%	95%	91%	84%	79%	74%	67%	60%	54%	48%	45%					
2008	2 739	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	86%	80%	73%	67%	61%	55%	52%						
2009	2 730	100%	100%	98%	95%	92%	88%	82%	75%	69%	62%	57%							
2010	2 754	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	86%	80%	73%	67%	63%								
2011	2 975	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	89%	83%	75%	71%									
2012	3 097	100%	100%	99%	97%	92%	87%	80%	76%										
2013	3 446	100%	100%	99%	96%	92%	85%	82%											
2014	3 766	100%	100%	98%	96%	91%	89%												
2015	4 478	100%	100%	99%	96%	94%	89%												
2016	5 152	100%	100%	99%	98%														
2017	6 109	100%	100%	99%															
2018	5 628	100%	100%																
2019	3 047	100%																	
2020	1 021																		
2021	2																		

jj) San Marino

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				
2007				
2008				
2009	70 281	37 219	489	356
2010	143 736	77 120	1 056	834
2011	148 994	81 429	1 229	1 050
2012	152 711	85 808	1 399	1 254
2013	157 453	87 793	1 919	1 814
2014	161 900	89 097	2 483	2 397
2015	160 807	83 337	3 596	3 553
2016	163 234	74 805	4 927	4 906
2017	166 608	58 285	6 501	6 495
2018	169 053	33 962	6 292	6 292
2019	167 066	12 435	3 428	3 428
2020	102 750	1 792	1 119	1 119
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002																			
2003																			
2004																			
2005																			
2006																			
2007																			
2008																			
2009	489	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	93%	87%	82%	79%	73%							
2010	1 056	100%	100%	99%	96%	96%	94%	91%	85%	82%	79%								
2011	1 229	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	95%	92%	89%	85%									
2012	1 399	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	92%	90%										
2013	1 919	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%	95%											
2014	2 483	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%												
2015	3 596	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	97%												
2016	4 927	100%	100%	100%	100%														
2017	6 501	100%	100%	100%															
2018	6 292	100%	100%	100%															
2019	3 428	100%	100%																
2020	1 119																		
2021	2																		

kk) Turkey

Filing year	Applications filed	Granted patents	Validated patents	Patents still in force
2002	82 875	37 860	5 705	1 813
2003	89 786	40 730	6 031	2 299
2004	97 829	44 148	6 477	2 845
2005	106 767	46 856	6 831	3 392
2006	113 850	50 718	7 535	4 164
2007	120 049	55 106	7 895	4 735
2008	130 699	64 054	9 040	6 009
2009	134 951	70 843	9 576	6 867
2010	143 760	77 142	11 018	8 613
2011	149 005	81 440	12 831	10 686
2012	152 718	85 815	14 233	12 517
2013	157 459	87 801	17 479	16 171
2014	161 905	89 101	21 709	20 816
2015	160 809	83 340	26 602	26 133
2016	163 238	74 809	33 153	32 996
2017	166 610	58 287	37 108	37 086
2018	169 053	33 963	27 427	27 427
2019	167 066	12 435	12 387	12 387
2020	102 750	1 792	1 792	1 792
2021	61 005	2	2	2

Percentage of patents still in force at the end of the patent year

Filing year	Validated patents	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2002	5 705	100%	100%	100%	100%	96%	88%	83%	76%	70%	65%	60%	55%	51%	47%	42%	37%	32%	32%
2003	6 031	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	87%	82%	77%	73%	68%	62%	57%	53%	48%	43%	39%	38%	
2004	6 477	100%	100%	98%	95%	91%	86%	82%	77%	73%	68%	64%	59%	54%	49%	44%	44%		
2005	6 831	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	88%	85%	79%	74%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	50%			
2006	7 535	100%	100%	99%	96%	93%	90%	85%	81%	76%	71%	66%	61%	56%	55%				
2007	7 895	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	86%	81%	76%	71%	67%	61%	60%					
2008	9 040	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	90%	86%	82%	77%	72%	67%	66%						
2009	9 576	100%	100%	99%	97%	95%	91%	87%	82%	78%	72%	72%							
2010	11 018	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	92%	88%	84%	79%	78%								
2011	12 831	100%	100%	99%	98%	96%	92%	89%	84%	83%									
2012	14 233	100%	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	88%	88%										
2013	17 479	100%	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	93%											
2014	21 709	100%	100%	100%	98%	96%	96%												
2015	26 602	100%	100%	100%	98%	98%													
2016	33 153	100%	100%	100%	100%														
2017	37 108	100%	100%	100%	100%														
2018	27 427	100%	100%	100%															
2019	12 387	100%																	
2020	1 792																		
2021	2																		

ANNEX 2 NATIONAL STATISTICS

A. NATIONAL PATENT APPLICATIONS

a) Filing route and growth over 2020

Country		National		PCT national phase		Total		Resident		Non Resident	
Albania	AL	23	92%	1	0.0%	24	84.6%	18	157%	6	0.0%
Austria	AT	2 013	-10.9%	467	-2.3%	2 480	-9.4%	2 154	-11.0%	326	2.5%
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	BE	1 207	5.0%			1 207	5.0%	800	-7.2%	407	41.3%
Bulgaria	BG	237	-2.9%	2	-66.7%	239	-1.6%	218	-10.3%	21	200.0%
Switzerland/Liechtenstein	CH/LI	1 519	-4.0%	87	-5.4%	1 606	-4.1%	1 307	-4.9%	299	-0.3%
Cyprus ⁽¹⁾	CY	3	0.0%			3	0.0%	1	-50.0%	2	100.0%
Czech Republic	CZ	571	-18.9%	32	10.3%	603	-17.7%	541	-19.6%	62	3.3%
Germany	DE	51 669	-5.3%	6 900	-8.3%	58 569	-5.7%	39 824	-5.8%	18 745	-5.6%
Denmark	DK	1 218	-13.0%	58	-25.6%	1 276	-13.7%	1 090	-13.6%	186	-14.3%
Estonia	EE	25	8.7%	1	-	26	13.0%	25	19.0%	1	-50.0%
Spain	ES	1 361	-8.2%	73	1.4%	1 434	-7.8%	1 308	-8.6%	126	1.6%
Finland	FI	1 625	-1.2%	37	-9.8%	1 662	-1.4%	1 558	-1.9%	104	7.2%
France ⁽¹⁾	FR	14 760	3.2%			14 760	3.2%	13 443	4.8%	1 317	-11.1%
United Kingdom	GB	16 500	-9.9%	2 355	1.1%	18 855	-8.7%	11 592	-3.3%	7 263	-16.1%
Greece ⁽¹⁾	GR	924	21.3%			924	21.3%	392	-1.8%	532	46.6%
Croatia	HR	85	-33.6%	3	200.0%	88	-31.8%	77	-34.2%	11	-8.3%
Hungary	HU	440	-2.4%	6	50%	446	-2.0%	433	1.2%	13	-51.9%
Ireland	IE	232	-20.5%			232	-20.5%	164	-15.9%	68	-29.9%
Iceland	IS	34	-24.4%	2	0.0%	36	-23.4%	34	-22.7%	2	-33.3%
Italy	IT	11 063	0.5%	15	-	11 078	0.6%	10 197	1.4%	881	-7.0%
Lithuania ⁽¹⁾	LT	90	-20.4%			90	-20.4%	81	-14.7%	9	-50.0%
Luxembourg	LU	1 403	-	193	-	1 590	89.5%	110	-14.7%	1 480	108.5%
Latvia ⁽¹⁾	LV	108	14.9%			108	14.9%	104	11.8%	4	300.0%
Monaco ⁽¹⁾	MC	9	-30.8%			9	-30.8%	4	-33.3%	5	-28.6%
North Macedonia	MK	41	-96.0%	1	-91.7%	42	-96.0%	39	-17.0%	3	-99.7%
Malta ⁽¹⁾	MT	10	-9.1%			10	-9.1%	5	-16.7%	5	0.0%
Netherlands ⁽¹⁾	NL	3 470	14.8%			3 470	14.8%	2 077	-5.7%	1 393	70.1%
Norway	NO	1 022	9.5%	558	9.2%	1 580	9.4%	947	7.9%	633	11.8%
Poland	PL	3 430	-15.5%	58	45.0%	3 488	-14.9%	3 377	-15.8%	111	26.1%
Portugal	PT	899	-18.7%	20	11.1%	919	-18.2%	772	2.8%	147	-60.6%
Romania	RO	806	-5.5%	11	0.0%	817	-5.4%	772	-5.5%	45	-4.3%
Serbia	RS	164	13.9%	10	400.0%	174	19.2%	156	13.0%	18	125.0%
Sweden	SE	2 147	0.8%	49	-51.5%	2 196	-1.6%	1 780	0.9%	416	-11.1%
Slovenia ⁽¹⁾	SI	239	-2.0%			239	-2.0%	221	-3.9%	18	28.6%
Slovakia	SK	149	-31.0%	9	80.0%	158	-28.5%	145	-29.6%	13	-13.3%
San Marino ⁽¹⁾	SM	41	20.6%			41	20.6%	7	16.7%	34	21.4%
Turkey	TR	8 156	3.6%	320	21.2%	8 476	4.1%	8 234	4.2%	242	2.5%
EPC States		127 693	-3.5%	11 268	-3.0%	138 955	-4.0%	104 007	-3.2%	34 948	-6.2%

(1) PCT national route closed

b) Origin of foreign applications

Origin	Office of filing																											Total EPC													
	AL	AT	BE	BG	CH/LI	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	ES	FI	FR	GB	GR	HR	HU	IE	IS	IT	LT	LU	LV	MC	MK	MT	NL		NO	PL	PT	RO	RS	SE	SI	SK	SM	TR			
AL	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7		
AT	0	-	0	0	50	0	1	782	1	0	1	1	10	25	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	4	890	
BE	0	0	-	0	1	0	0	104	2	0	2	0	50	86	3	0	0	0	0	18	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	412	
BG	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	
CH	0	35	12	0	-	0	3	866	4	0	6	1	88	357	7	2	1	1	0	121	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	1	0	48	0	0	1	2	1586			
CY	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	3	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28		
CZ	0	13	0	0	1	0	0	31	0	0	2	0	6	6	0	2	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	94		
DE	0	166	194	0	67	0	4	-	14	0	4	2	325	467	0	0	1	2	0	169	0	205	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	12	5	1	0	18	4	0	0	17	1724		
DK	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	28	-	0	0	3	2	42	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	4	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	109		
EE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	-	0	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	31		
ES	0	3	4	1	1	0	0	23	4	0	-	0	70	50	1	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	1	35	0	1	3	0	0	0	7	238		
FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	4	1	1	-	12	81	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1	0	0	0	98	1	0	0	1	266		
FR	0	2	19	2	20	0	0	398	6	0	5	0	-	66	2	0	0	1	0	39	1	17	1	0	0	0	0	4	8	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	604		
GB	0	4	2	0	2	1	2	169	6	0	2	2	24	-	35	0	2	27	0	33	0	11	0	0	0	2	2	33	8	6	2	0	12	6	0	0	1	393			
GR	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	2	0	1	0	7	18	-	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	53	
HR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
HU	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	84	0	0	0	2	20	296	1	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	
IE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	478		
IS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13		
IT	5	20	2	0	22	0	0	85	1	0	16	0	0	87	51	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	7	353	
LI	0	11	0	0	-	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	36		
LU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	11		
LV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	0	0	0	3	18	11	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	149	
MC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
MK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	
MT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	2	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NL	0	2	19	0	4	0	0	146	33	0	12	1	15	185	39	0	0	2	0	6	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	-	30	0	4	2	5	6	0	0	0	1	516		
NO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	45	0	0	19	2	347	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	453		
PL	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	33	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	-	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	70	
PT	0	1	1	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	5	20	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	-	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	51	
RO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	
RS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	
SE	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	320	12	0	0	17	56	125	18	0	1	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	633	
SI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	
SK	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	
SM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
TR	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	27	0	0	3	0	7	26	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	76
EPC States	6	276	276	15	176	2	25	3 341	141	1	57	51	823	2 360	112	9	11	37	2	561	1	314	2	0	2	4	203	114	44	85	9	8	253	18	11	34	59	9 443			
CN	0	21	72	0	35	0	0	568	8	0	14	11	124	604	0	0	0	10	0	92	5	1 127	0	5	1	0	891	14	21	3	2	5	13	0	0	0	0	32	3 678		
JP	0	7	17	0	28	0	13	6 128	3	0	7	28	83	414	2	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	6	9	16	1	0	113	0	0	0	0	28	6 979		
KR	0	0	1	0	3	0	6	1 558	0	0	0	0	20	185	0	0	0	2	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	20	1 819	
US	0	13	40	0	20	0	1	5 892	20	0	23	6	132	2 586	384	1	2	7	0	78	1	28	0	0	0	0	208	466	22	26	26	2	22	0	1	0	40	10 047			
Other	0	9	1	6	37	0	17	1 258	14	0	22	8	135	1 114	34	1	0	12	0	93	2	11	2	0	0	1	58	31	12	16	7	3	15	0	0	63	2 982				
TOTAL	6	326	407	21	299	2	62	18 745	186	1	126	104	1 317	7 263	532	11	13	68	2	881	9	1 480	4	5	3	5	1 393	633	111	147	45	18	416	18	13	34	242	34 948			

c) **First filings**

First filings as % of national domestic applications

Albania	AL	100.0%
Austria	AT	74.3%
Belgium	BE	92.8%
Bulgaria	BG	98.2%
Switzerland/Liechtenstein	CH/LI	90.4%
Cyprus	CY	100.0%
Czech Republic	CZ	99.3%
Germany	DE	92.3%
Denmark	DK	98.4%
Estonia	EE	91.7%
Spain	ES	97.8%
Finland	FI	96.3%
France	FR	97.5%
United Kingdom	GB	87.1%
Greece	GR	100.0%
Croatia	HR	98.7%
Hungary	HU	94.2%
Ireland	IE	90.9%
Iceland	IS	94.1%
Italy	IT	97.1%
Lithuania	LT	100.0%
Luxembourg*	LU	
Latvia	LV	99.0%
Monaco	MC	75.0%
North Macedonia	MK	100.0%
Malta	MT	100.0%
Netherlands	NL	94.1%
Norway	NO	92.1%
Poland	PL	99.3%
Portugal	PT	98.7%
Romania	RO	99.6%
Serbia	RS	99.3%
Sweden	SE	96.6%
Slovenia	SI	99.1%
Slovakia	SK	100.0%
San Marino	SM	100.0%
Turkey	TR	97.6%
EPC states		93.7%

* No data provided

In addition 69% of the national applications filed by residents from other EPC states were first filings.

B. GRANT PROCEDURE

Country		Granted patents			Applications			Total
		Residents	Non residents	Total	Withdrawn	Deemed withdrawn	Refused	
Albania	AL	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Austria	AT	910	128	1 038	128		1 083	2 249
Belgium	BE	727	278	1 005	82	0	45	1 132
Bulgaria	BG	167	14	181	5	48	50	284
Switzerland / Liechtenstein	CH/LI	510	214	724	102		1 205	2 031
Cyprus	CY	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Czech Republic	CZ	404	40	444	81	133	159	817
Germany	DE	12 840	8 273	21 113	3 962	34 213	10 599	69 887
Denmark	DK	267	101	368	212	906	4	1 490
Estonia	EE	8	0	8	2	6	2	18
Spain	ES	648	68	716	105	103	20	944
Finland	FI	511	34	545	56	952	6	1 559
France	FR	13 711	1 782	15 493	517	258	2 412	18 680
United Kingdom	GB	4 894	6 001	10 895	2 358		13 256	26 509
Greece	GR	240	12	252	22	15	4	293
Croatia	HR	3	4	7	0	113	9	129
Hungary	HU			107	18	212	23	360
Ireland	IE	56	35	91	48	44	35	218
Iceland	IS	4	3	7	5	0	0	12
Italy	IT	6 549	718	7 267	597		2 013	9 877
Lithuania	LT	73	10	83	2	4	8	97
Luxembourg	LU	110	1 479	1 589	50			1 639
Latvia	LV	71	5	76	4	2	11	93
Monaco	MC	4	5	9	0	0	0	9
North Macedonia	MK	40	2	42	2			44
Malta	MT	3	5	8	0	0	0	8
Netherlands	NL	1 608	655	2 263	299	351	0	2 913
Norway	NO	381	269	650	76	925	4	1 655
Poland	PL	3 244	75	3 319	n/d		1 021	4 340
Portugal	PT	212	104	316	18		359	693
Romania	RO	360	16	376	21	285	329	1 011
Serbia	RS	44	1	45	9	64	53	171
Sweden	SE	574	143	717	134	1 076	13	1 940
Slovenia	SI	149	9	158	20	37		215
Slovakia	SK	92	14	106	8	67	64	245
San Marino	SM	4	26	30	1			31
Turkey	TR	3 125	262	3 387	132	816	717	5 052
Total		52 543	20 785	73 435	9 076	40 633	33 505	156 649

C. WORKING AGREEMENTS EPO-NPO ON SEARCH

As per CA/37/08 rev. 1, the table below shows the latest figures on the numbers and proportions of national applications for which the EPO has conducted search on behalf of the 15 Contracting States (FR, NL, BE, LU, CY, GR, IT, LT, LV, MC, MT, SM, UK, AL, HR), and the number and proportion of those which were subsequently filed as European applications or PCT international applications.

Applications are counted in the year of the subsequent applications. Counts for 2021 are still provisional.

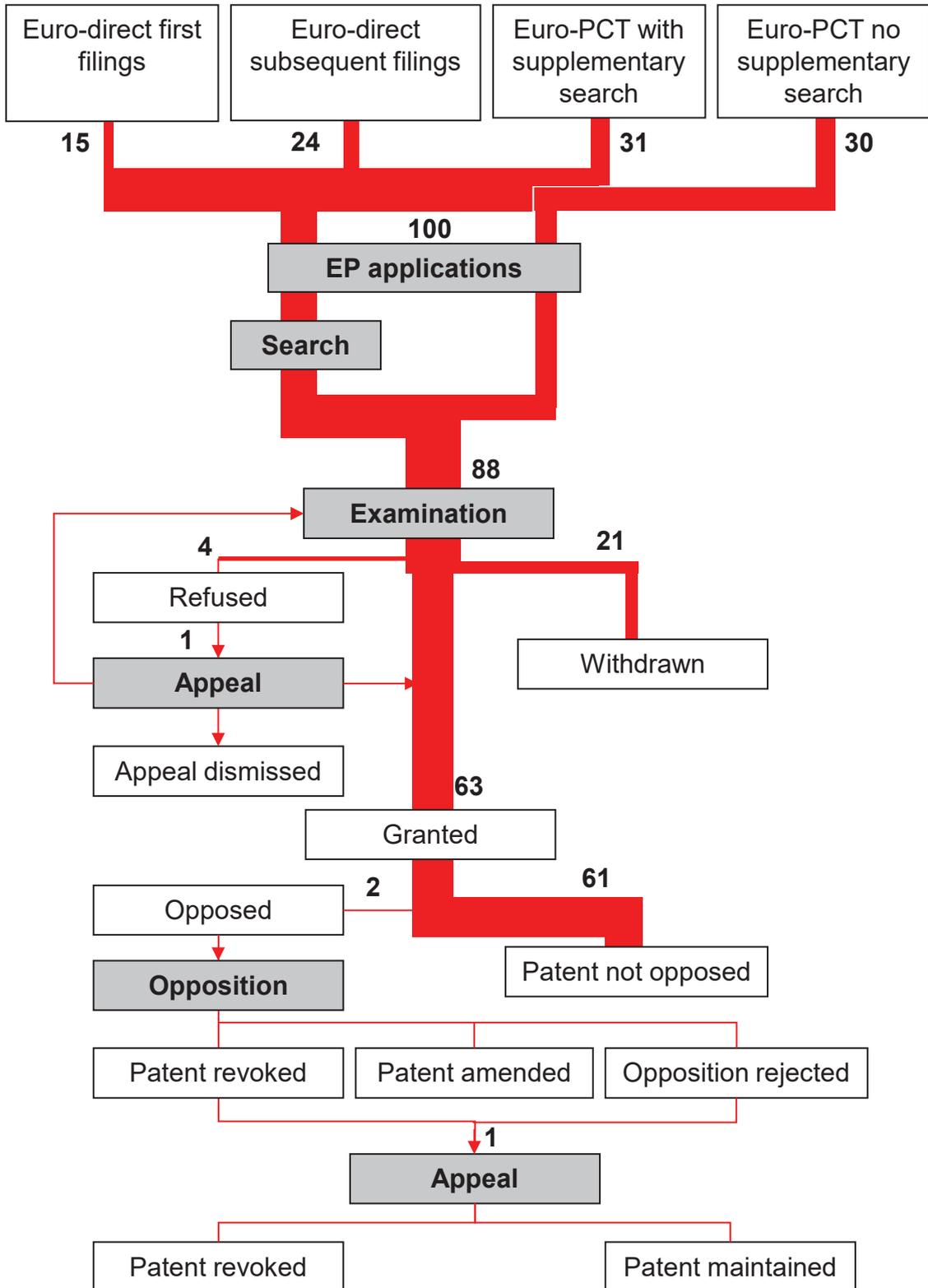
As proposed in CA/51/20, the statistics of the return rates are now presented for one group of the 15 Contracting States having a working agreement in place instead of two groups.

Year	Searched by the EPO	Remained national		Subsequently filed as			
				European		PCT international	
2020	26 577	11 763	44%	4 358	17%	10 456	39%
2021	23 174	10 444	45%	3 537	15%	9 193	40%

ANNEX 3 THE EUROPEAN PATENT PROCEDURE IN 2021

The figures illustrate the 2021 values of the different parameters.

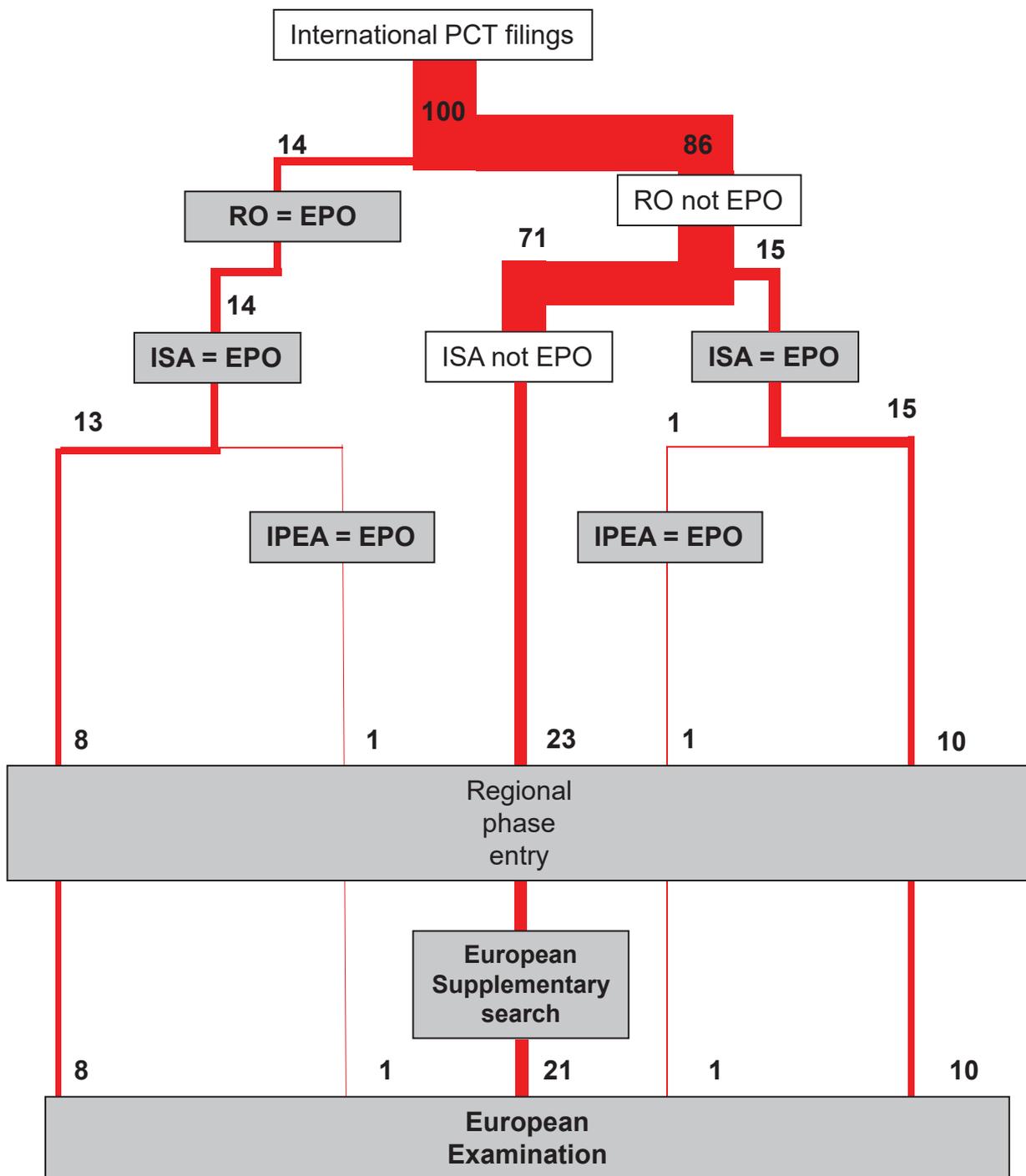
European grant procedure in 2021



ANNEX 4 THE PCT INTERNATIONAL PHASE AND THE EPO IN 2021

The figures illustrate the 2021 values of the different parameters.

PCT International phase and the EPO activities in 2021



RO: Receiving Office
 ISA: International Search Authority
 IPEA: International Preliminary Examining Authority

ANNEX 5 GLOSSARY

Amended form: patent application (description, claims or drawings) has been amended before grant (Article 123 EPC) or during the opposition proceedings (Article 101 EPC) .

Appeal: *ex parte* appeal, *inter partes* appeal or a PCT protest as well as a legal appeal, a disciplinary appeal (Article 106 EPC).

Country of origin: country of residence of the first named applicant.

Direct European route (application): patent application filed under Article 75 EPC (also Euro-direct application).

Designation: indication of the contracting state(s) in which the protection for the invention is desired (Article 79 EPC).

EPC: European Patent Convention (38 contracting states as at 31 December 2020) enables the patent applicant, by means of a single procedure, to obtain a patent in some or all of the contracting states.

Euro-PCT route: a way to obtain a European patent by designating the EPO in a PCT application (Article 11 PCT).

Euro-PCT application – international phase (or Euro-PCT application or PCT international): a PCT application designating the EPO (Article 153(2) EPC).

Euro-PCT application – regional phase (or PCT regional): PCT application entering the European (or regional) phase once the applicant has fulfilled the conditions under Article 22 or 39 PCT, Article 153(3) and (4) and Rule 159 EPC.

Euro-PCT search (or PCT Chapter I): search carried out by the EPO acting as International Searching Authority for a Euro-PCT application in the international phase (Article 16 PCT).

European patent application: either a direct European application or a PCT international application entering the regional phase during the reporting period.

European examination: on written request the EPO shall examine a European patent application (Article 94 EPC).

European first filings: a European application filed without claiming the priority of a previous application.

European search: search carried out by the EPO on a direct European application or a Euro-PCT application having entered the European phase (Article 92 EPC).

Ex parte case: appeal filed against a decision taken by an examining division where only one party is involved.

Final action: the last decision taken by the examining division in the examination procedure, either refusing the patent application or indicating the intention to grant a patent (Article 97 EPC).

First action: the first communication sent to the applicant in the examination procedure (Article 94(3), Rule 71(3) EPC).

Inter partes case: appeal filed against a decision taken by an opposition division where two or more parties are involved.

International PCT filings: (see PCT applications)

International preliminary examination (or PCT Chapter II): non-binding examination which can be requested for a PCT application (Article 31 PCT).

International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA): (23 authorities as of 1 July 2022) office with competence to carry out the international preliminary examination for a PCT application. It may be either a national office (AT, AU, BR, CA, CL, CN, EG, ES, FI, IL, IN, JP, KR, PH, RU, SE, SG, TR, UA, US) or an intergovernmental organisation (EPO, Nordic PI, Visegrad PI) (Article 32 PCT, Article 152 EPC).

International search report with written opinion: search report drawn up by a PCT International Searching Authority (Article 18 PCT and Article 153(6) EPC).

International Searching Authority (ISA): (23 authorities as of 1 July 2022) office with competence to carry out the international search for a PCT application. It may be either a national office (AT, AU, BR, CA, CL, CN, EG, ES, FI, IL, IN, JP, KR, PH, RU, SE, SG, TR, UA, US) or an intergovernmental organisation (EPO, Nordic PI, Visegrad PI), (Article 16 PCT, Article 152 EPC).

IPC (classification): all patent applications are classified in this internationally recognised classification system, which facilitates searches to be carried out on all existing patent documents by technical fields.

National application: filed at a national patent office according to a national procedure or a PCT international application entering the national phase during the reporting period.

Opposition: under Articles 99 and 100 EPC, within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of a European patent in the European Patent Bulletin, any person may give notice to the EPO of opposition to the

European patent granted, invoking lack of patentability, e.g. lack of novelty or inventive step (Articles 52-57 EPC); or lack of sufficiently clear and complete disclosure of invention (Article 83 EPC); or that the granted patent extends beyond the application as filed (Article 123(2) EPC).

Patent granted: when the examining division is of the opinion that the application and the invention to which it relates meet the requirements of the EPC, it shall decide to grant the European patent, Article 97(1) EPC. The grant will be effective from the date on which the European Patent Bulletin mentions the grant (Article 97(3) EPC).

PCT: Patent Cooperation Treaty, which encompassed 155 contracting states on 1 June 2022, enabling a patent applicant, by means of a single procedure, to file a patent application in some or all of the contracting states.

PCT application or filing: international application filed under the PCT (Article 3 PCT).

PCT international phase: part of the PCT procedure from filing until the end of the delay to enter national or regional phase (see PCT national phase and Euro-PCT application).

PCT international search: search carried out by an International Searching Authority.

PCT national phase: PCT application entering the national phase once the applicant has fulfilled the conditions under Article 22 or 39 PCT.

PCT regional phase: PCT application entering the European phase at the EPO once the applicant has fulfilled the conditions under Article 22 or 39 PCT.

PCT route: one possible way of filing a patent application within any of the PCT contracting states.

Processing time: time elapsing between the moments the examiner starts and completes a given phase of the procedure.

Protest: appeal filed by an applicant in the PCT procedure if he does not agree with the request to pay an additional fee following a decision on lack of unity of invention taken during either the international search or the international preliminary examination (international phase of the PCT) (Articles 17(3)(a) and 34(3)(a), Rules 40.2 and 68.3 PCT, Rule 158 (3) EPC).

Publication: a patent application is published twice during the procedure:

- a European patent application is published as soon as possible after the expiry of a period of eighteen months from the date of filing or, if priority has been claimed, as from the date of priority (Article 93, Rules 67-69 EPC);
- at the same time as the Office publishes the mention of the grant of the European patent, the Office publishes a specification of the European patent containing the description, the claims and any drawings, Articles 98 and 103,

Rule 73 EPC. An international patent application, where the Office is designated, is published under Article 21 PCT and is mentioned in the European Patent Bulletin (Article 153(3)-(6) EPC).

Refusal/rejection:

- the examination division will refuse a European patent application if it is of the opinion that such application or the invention to which it relates does not meet the requirements of the EPC, or if the applicant fails to observe a given time limit (Articles 97(2) EPC).
- the Office will reject an opposition or an appeal if it does not fulfil the necessary requirements (Articles 101 and 110 EPC).

Revocation: a patent is revoked after an opposition procedure if the subject-matter of the patent application is not patentable or if it does not disclose the invention in a manner sufficiently clear and complete for it to be carried out by a person skilled in the art or if the subject matter goes beyond the content of the application filed. The patent can also be revoked if the patent applicant fails to meet all formal requirements (Article 101(2) EPC).

Search report: a report of the results of the search drawn up by the search division if the patent application has been accorded a date of filing and is not deemed to be withdrawn (Article 92 EPC).

Supplementary European search: search carried out by the EPO on a Euro-PCT application entering the regional phase for which the ISA was not the EPO (Article 153(7) EPC).

Technical appeal: *ex parte* appeal, *inter partes* appeal or a PCT protest.

Withdrawal: this is the result of non-compliance to the EPC rules, at any stage of the procedure the applicant does:

- not pay fees in due time
- not file a request for examination within the given time period (Article 94(2) EPC)
- not reply in due time to any invitation within the examination procedure (Article 94(4) EPC).

A patent application can be withdrawn by the applicant at any stage except where a third party proves to the Office that he has initiated proceedings concerning entitlement and then until such time as the Office resumes the proceedings for grant (Rule 14 EPC).