Trends in patenting 2021

Europe is an attractive technology market for European and international companies.

Total patent applications at the European Patent Office:
- 2019: 181,532
- 2020: 180,417
- 2021: 188,600

Companies from Europe: Relative growth compared with 2020:
- Sweden: +12%
- Italy: +6.5%
- Switzerland: +3.9%
- Netherlands: +3.1%
- Germany: +0.3%
- France: -0.7%
- UK: -1.2%

Growth in filings from the five leading patent territories:
- US: +5.2%
- EPO states: +2.8%
- Japan: -1.2%
- R. Korea: +3.4%
- PR. China: +24.0%

Countries of origin:
The 38 member states of the EPO account for almost half of all European patent applications.

Top technology fields: Strong growth in digital technologies:
- Digital communication: +9.4%
- Medical technology: +0.8%
- Computer technology: +9.7%
- Electrical, machinery, apparatus, energy: +5.7%
- Transport: +4.5%
- Measurement: +6.5%
- Pharmaceuticals: +6.9%
- Biotechnology: +6.6%

Top applicants for European patents in 2021:
1. Huawei: 3,544 (+13.8%)
2. Samsung: 3,439 (+5.0%)
3. LG: 2,422 (-16.7%)
4. Ericsson: 1,884 (+15.3%)
5. Siemens: 1,720 (+5.8%)