2016
Trends in patenting

Demand for patent protection in Europe remains at record high level.

- Patent applications at the European Patent Office remain high:
  - 2014: 152,703
  - 2015: 160,004
  - 2016: 159,353

- Countries of origin of European patent applications:
  - EPO member states
    - Germany: 16%
    - Switzerland: 7%
    - Netherlands: 7%
    - United Kingdom: 5%
    - Italy: 4%
    - France: 3%
  - Other member states
    - Others: 10%
  - Japan: 13%
  - United States: 48%
  - P.R. China: 5%

- Growth leaders among large European economies:
  - Germany: 1.1%
  - UK: 1.8%
  - Switzerland: 2.5%
  - Italy: 4.5%
  - Belgium: 7%

- Almost half of the patent applications come from Europe:

- Strong growth from Asia:
  - P.R. China: 24.8%
  - S. Korea: 6.5%

- Top technology fields:
  - Medical technology: 12,263
  - Digital communication: 10,915
  - Computer technology: 10,657
  - Electrical machinery/Energy: 10,293
  - Transport: 8,402

- The EPO serves large and small applicants:
  - Universities and public research: 6%
  - SMEs, individual inventors: 28%
  - Large enterprises: 66%

- Most active patent applicants:
  - 1. Philips: 2,568
  - 2. Huawei: 2,390
  - 3. Samsung: 2,316
  - 4. LG: 2,313
  - 5. United Technologies: 2,067

Source: European Patent Office
epo.org/annual-results2016
7 March 2017