

2.5 Intellectual Property

In 2013, Slovenia filed a considerably higher number of patent applications with the European Patent Office (EPO), yet during the period of the crisis its gap with the European average increased. Provisional data show that in 2013¹ Slovenian applicants filed 65.6 patent applications per million population with the EPO, while the European average was 130.4. Such a large gap is a constant feature in nearly the entire 2005–2013 period. The number of Slovenian patent applications per million population grew by a fourth in 2013 compared with the year before, bringing Slovenia two places up among the EU Member States (2012: 15th). Despite such progress, however, this indicator for Slovenia is still below the pre-crisis level (down by 5.4% compared with 2008), while in the EU it rose by 15.8%. The share of applicants from the business sector in 2009 (the last year for which data are available) was 86.2%² (2004: 79.3%), just above the EU average.

The favourable trends in applications for Community trademarks and designs continued in 2013. Slovenian applicants filed 129 applications for Community trademarks³ with the OHIM⁴ per million population, which represents a continuation of the growth recorded over the past two years (2013: 25.4%, 2012: 40.3%). Slovenia enjoyed higher growth than the EU as a whole, and reduced its gap with the EU average, with this indicator amounting to 80.3% of the average (2012: 67.2%). In 2013, Slovenian applicants also filed 75 Community design applications⁵ with the OHIM per million population, which is a fifth more than the year before. Considering that the EU average remained at the previous year's level

(124 Community designs per million population), Slovenia's gap narrowed. As regards registered Community designs and trademarks, Slovenia has been exceeding the 2008 level since 2010 and 2013, respectively. According to the SIPO, the number of national applications filed for trademarks and designs decreased by 12.6% and 10.7% in 2013, respectively, which could point to a stronger appeal of the European Community trademark and design system, which provides legal protection throughout the EU.

Intellectual property rights (IPR) intensive industries significantly contributed to GDP and employment in Slovenia in 2008–2010. Based on the findings of an EPO and OHIM study (2013), IPR-intensive industries⁶ generated 26% of all jobs and 40% of GDP in the EU. Among them, the most notable contribution was made by trademark-intensive industries, particularly the leasing of intellectual property (NACE 2008: N 77.40) with 212 trademarks per 1,000 employees. In Slovenia, IPR-intensive industries generated 30% of employment and 39% of GDP in 2010. Similarly as the EU, most of it was generated by trademark-intensive industries.

¹ The data on patent applications for 2012 and 2013 are taken from the EPO annual report, meaning that they refer to the current year. These are not necessarily the first patent applications on a global scale, as stated by Eurostat (for more information, see the Slovenian Economic Mirror 2/2009).

² The remainder comprised applicants from the government or private non-profit sector (3.4%), the higher education sector (2.7%), individual applicants (6.9%) and applicants that cannot be classified in a sector (0.8%). The EU average: 3.5%, 2.8%, 6.9% and 1.2%, respectively.

³ A trademark or service mark is any sign (or any combination of signs) protected by the law, capable of distinguishing identical or similar goods/services and of being graphically represented. A trademark is valid for ten years from the filing date and may be renewed (2011 SIPO Annual Report, 2013).

⁴ Office for Harmonization on the Internal Market.

⁵ A design entails the appearance of a product protected by law provided that it is new and has an individual character. Design protection lasts for five years and can be renewed (2011 SIPO Annual Report, 2013).

⁶ NACE classes (4-digit level) where the number of patents, trademarks and designs per employee exceeds the average in the NACE section (1-digit level). The study relies on micro-data on 240,000 companies in the EU Member States (for more on the methodology, see the EPO and OHIM, 2013).

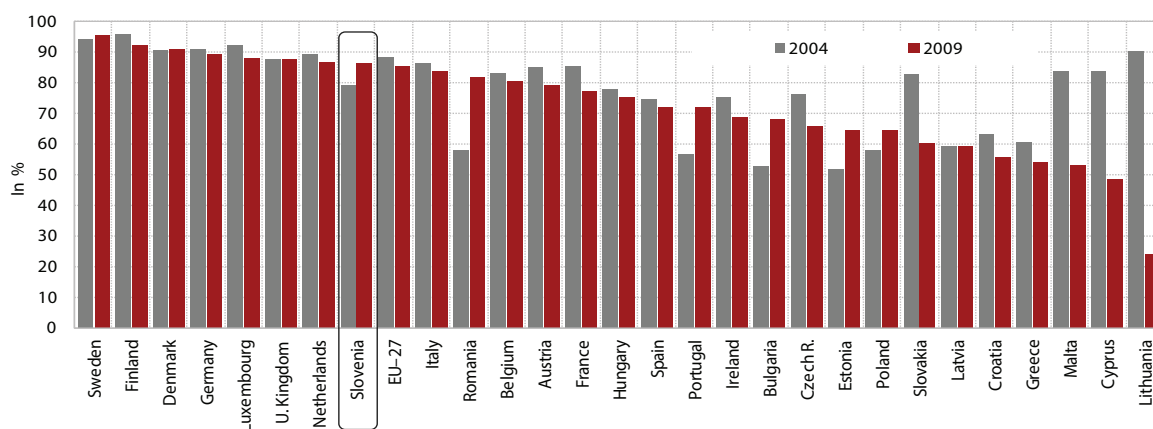
Table: Patent applications with the EPO by year of first filing¹, per million population

	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 ²	2011 ³	2012 ⁴	2013 ⁴
EU-27	107.1	115.9	117.5	116.5	112.6	111.4	109.6	107.5	129.9⁵	130.4⁵
Austria	148.0	185.0	210.8	205.2	192.4	199.9	196.7	194.0	222.9	236.0
Belgium	128.5	144.1	145.4	145.9	137.3	128.7	123.2	115.5	170.5	168.9
Bulgaria	0.9	3.1	3.5	1.6	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.8	3.0
Cyprus	9.0	22.4	8.3	13.3	14.3	18.5	21.8	n. p.	61.5	52.0
Czech Republic	6.5	10.6	15.0	18.0	20.0	16.8	17.4	17.3	13.2	14.2
Denmark	184.0	218.2	206.9	234.1	231.6	210.6	212.0	204.9	287.6	344.3
Estonia	4.1	4.7	15.8	21.0	25.4	32.8	38.5	44.3	31.7	31.1
Finland	277.5	252.7	254.5	237.1	233.7	245.0	241.8	243.4	343.3	349.2
France	120.7	133.4	133.6	134.7	134.6	133.1	133.0	132.4	151.9	148.7
Greece	5.2	10.0	9.5	9.3	8.2	8.3	7.9	7.5	7.5	6.0
Croatia	3.5	7.5	8.0	6.7	6.5	5.2	4.3	3.5	4.4	2.3
Ireland	55.2	67.4	69.3	74.2	73.6	75.2	78.1	80.0	129.4	119.4
Italy	70.4	83.9	85.8	82.4	78.7	72.4	68.2	63.8	63.2	62.1
Latvia	3.8	8.2	7.6	7.2	10.0	8.3	8.5	9.0	12.2	39.5
Lithuania	1.3	2.6	2.8	2.9	4.8	2.3	2.4	2.3	6.3	7.4
Luxembourg	186.1	221.1	230.0	152.7	194.4	144.7	118.1	107.1	765.9	741.1
Hungary	11.9	13.4	16.4	18.8	17.8	17.9	18.4	18.3	10.6	10.4
Malta	11.8	27.9	16.9	16.8	13.4	16.3	16.2	76.6	55.1	102.0
Germany	269.1	290.4	291.1	292.8	277.8	281.0	277.7	272.3	333.3	324.9
Netherlands	218.5	214.3	227.2	200.7	207.2	204.1	196.1	194.5	302.6	347.2
Poland	1.1	3.4	3.7	5.3	6.1	7.5	8.7	9.9	10.0	9.6
Portugal	4.1	11.8	10.1	11.7	10.7	8.7	8.2	7.1	7.1	9.0
Romania	0.3	1.3	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.5
Slovakia	2.1	5.8	7.5	7.0	6.6	5.3	5.0	4.3	6.5	5.4
Slovenia	25.5	54.4	49.8	59.3	69.3	59.8	63.0	64.4	52.5	65.6
Spain	20.1	31.6	30.8	31.0	31.3	33.0	34.1	35.3	33.0	32.2
Sweden	259.6	268.2	288.2	303.2	296.7	275.1	270.5	259.9	372.3	383.8
United Kingdom	103.6	93.8	94.8	90.4	85.0	85.3	82.2	79.5	74.3	71.5

Source: Eurostat Portal Page – Science and technology – Patent statistics, 2014; EPO Annual Report – statistics 2013, 2014.

 Notes: ¹ Data for 2012 and 2013 relate to patent applications that are not necessarily the first on a global scale, but were filed with the EPO in the current year (EPO Annual Report – statistics 2013, 2014). ^{2,3} Eurostat estimate. ⁴ Provisional data. ⁵ IMAD estimate based on the calculation of data for Member States. N/A – not available.

Figure: Patent applications in the business sector, as a % of total patent applications



Source: Eurostat Portal Page – Science and technology – Patent statistics, 2014.