



PATENTING TRENDS

IN EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES

MARCH 2022

INTRODUCTION

The economic development level of Europe ranks first among all continents, and industry, transportation, commerce and trade, finance and insurance play an important role in the world economy. The level of scientific, technological and industrial development in Europe has always been in a leading position in the world. Therefore, the development of patents in Europe has always been the focus of the world.

In the previous report, we analyzed the patent development of Germany, one of the representative countries in Europe, and found an interesting phenomenon, that is, foreign companies are applying for more and more patents in Germany. Is this trend also visible in the other larger national offices of the European continent? You will find the answer in this report.

PATENT TRENDS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Great Britain is the first country to implement patents in the world. As early as 1236, the king of England granted Bordeaux citizens a 15 year monopoly on the production technology of colored cloth. However, the early Great Britain patent system was only a monarchical privilege system bestowed by the king. In 1617, the government promulgated the "monopoly law" on patent monopoly, and formally established the patent system in the form of law.

As can be seen from **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**, the number of patent applications in the Great Britain has maintained a stable increasing trend. Although the total number of patents applied in the UK is the largest, in recent years, the number of patent applications from abroad is significantly higher than that in the Great Britain.

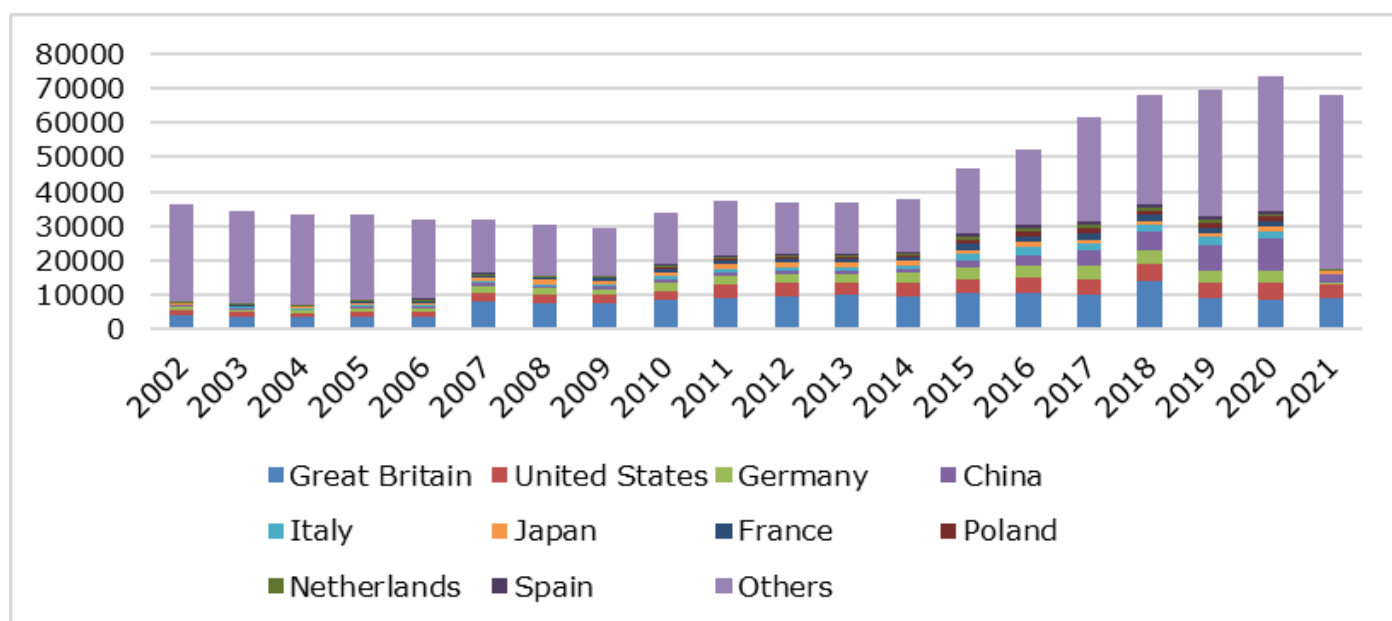


Figure 1 Top countries of origin trend (GB)

PATENT TRENDS IN GREAT BRITAIN

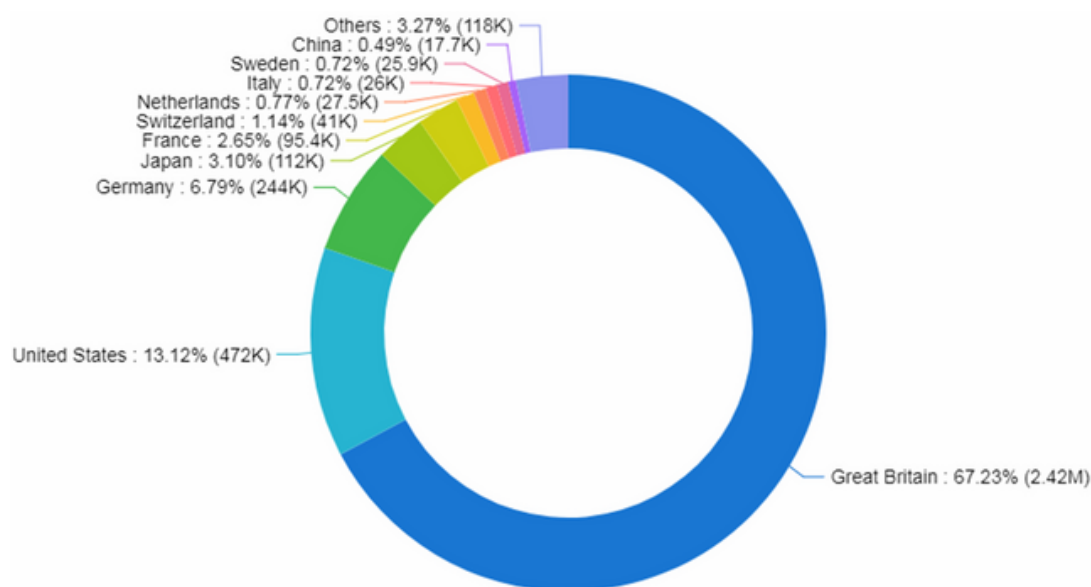


Figure 2 Top countries of origin (GB)

Figure 3 shows the companies holding the largest number of active families in Great Britain. It can be seen that IBM, which ranks first, is also from abroad.

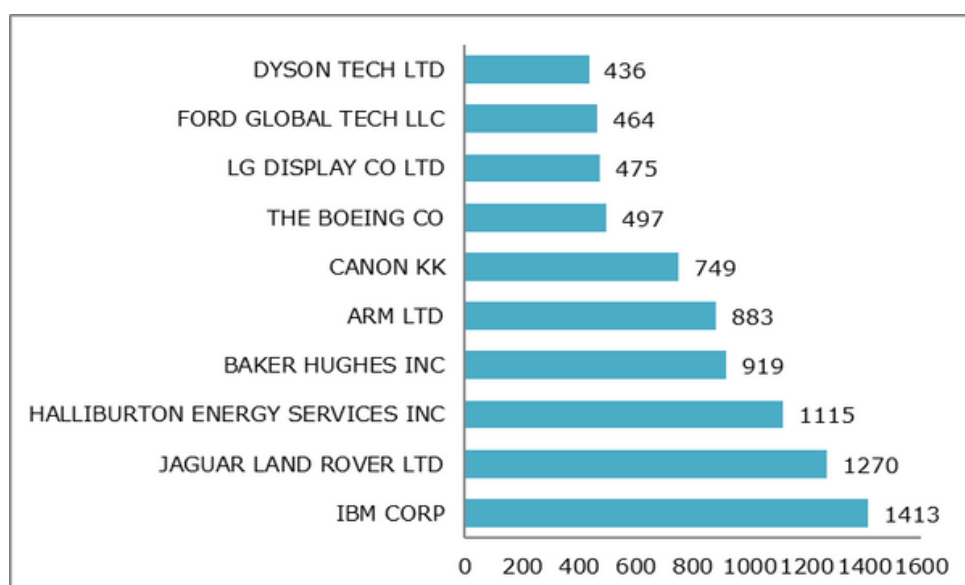


Figure 3 Companies with the largest number of active families (GB)

PATENT TRENDS IN FRANCE

The French patent system began in 1791. After years of development, France has great advantages in the fields of railways, ships, aircraft and vehicles. Unlike the UK, the number of patent applications in France has remained relatively stable in recent years. Most patents come from France and relatively few from other countries (as shown in **Figure 4** and **Figure 5**).

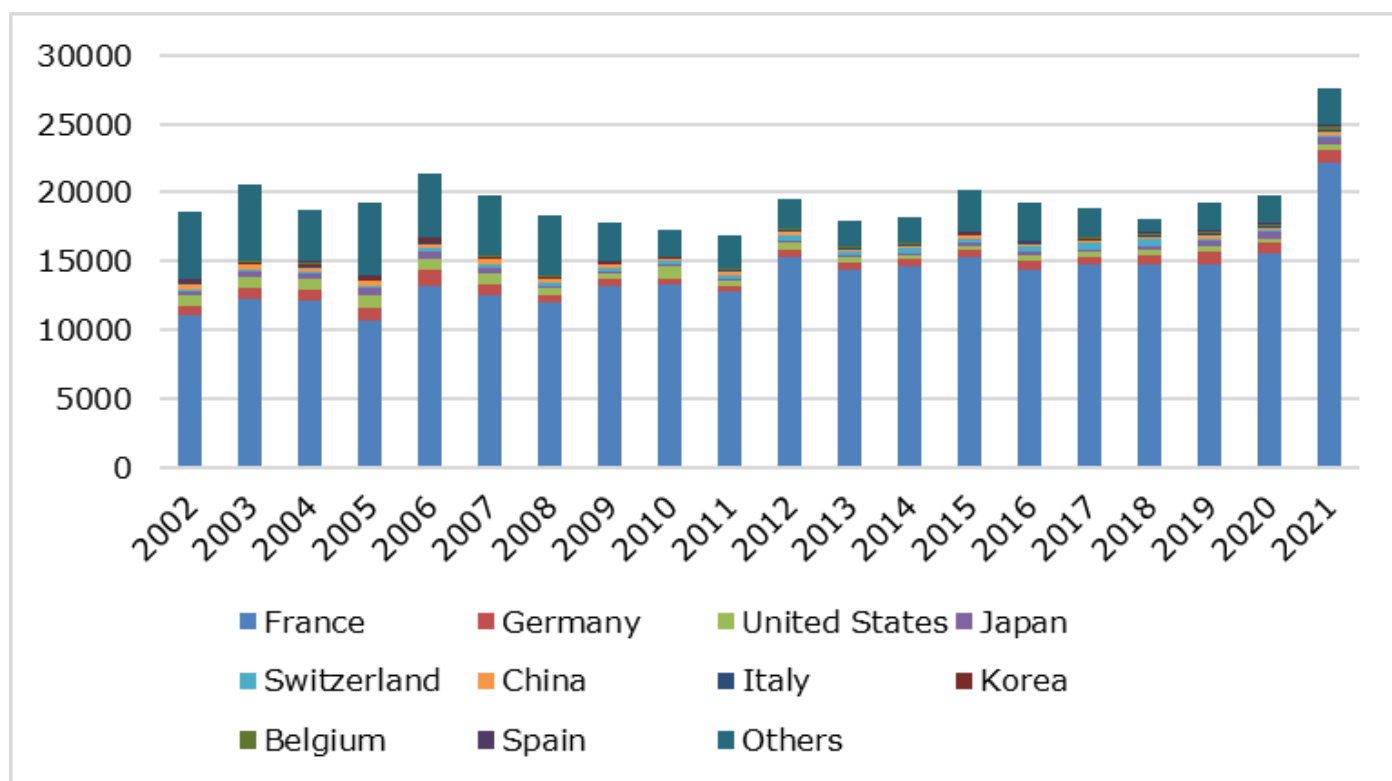


Figure 4 Top countries of origin trend (FR)

PATENT TRENDS IN FRANCE

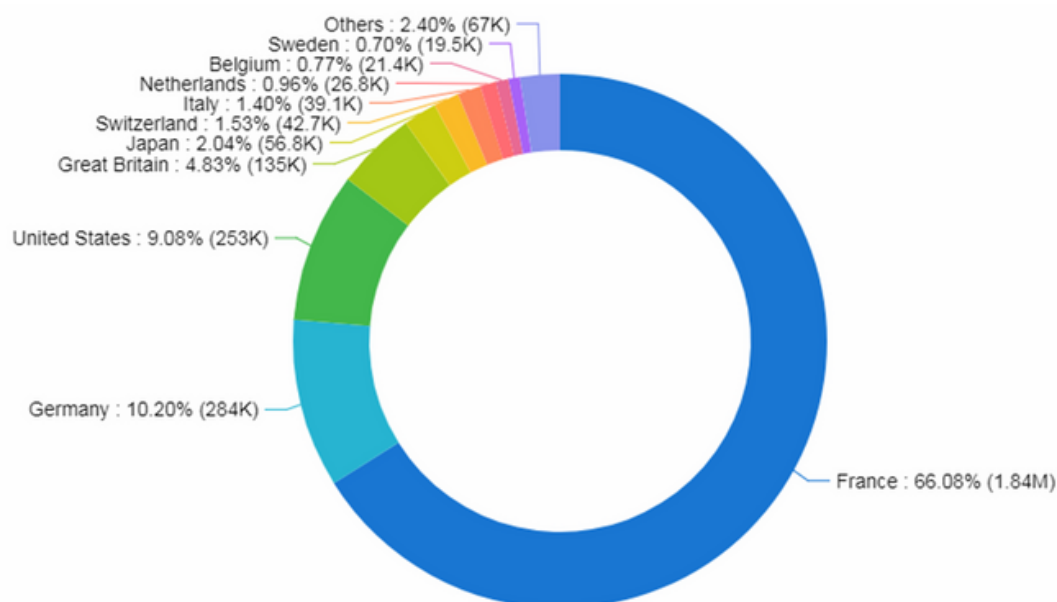


Figure 5 Top countries of origin (FR)

As can be seen from **Figure 6**, the companies with the largest number of active families are mainly engaged in automobile, energy, etc., and these companies are basically from France.

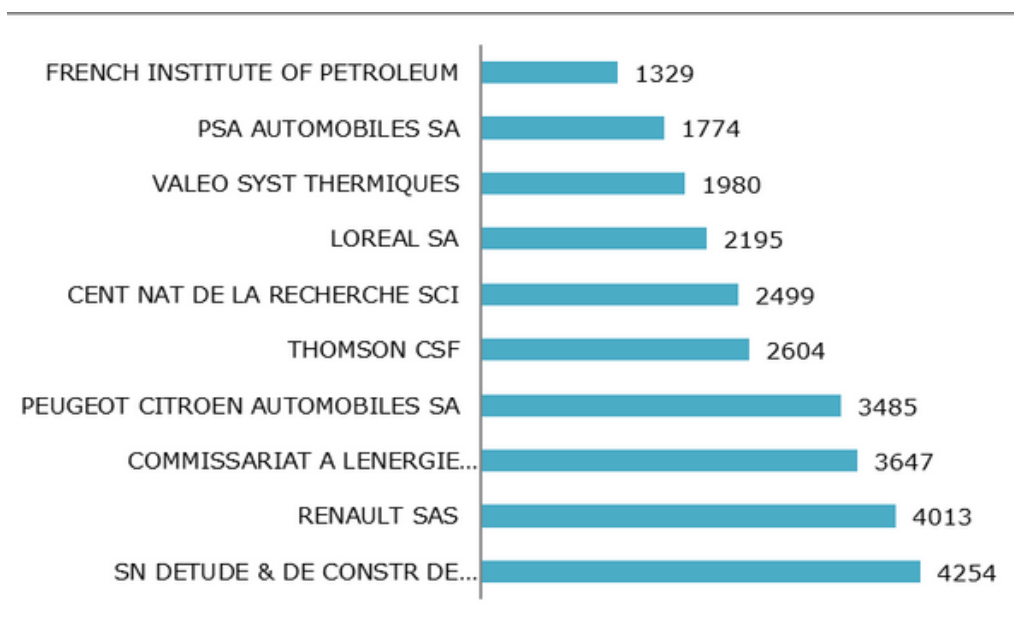


Figure 6 Companies with the largest number of active families (FR)

PATENT TRENDS IN ITALY

Italy is one of the origins of patent germination, and it has an important position in Europe. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze its patent trend. As can be seen from **Figure 7**, the number of patent applications in Italy is significantly lower than that in Britain and France. Especially after 2010, the number of patent applications in Italy is in a downward trend. Combined with **Figure 8**, it can be found that patent applications in Italy mainly come from domestic companies, especially from 2020 to 2021.

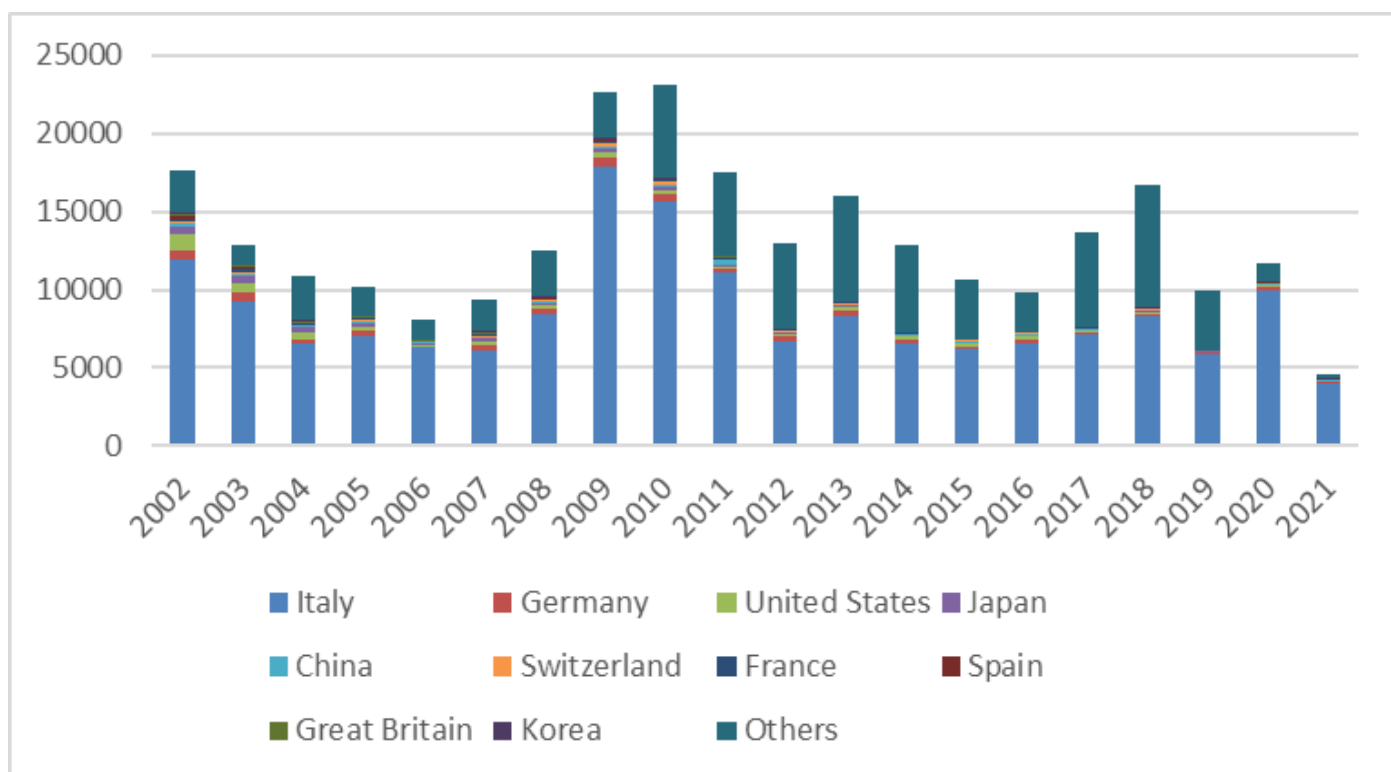


Figure 7 Top countries of origin trend (IT)

PATENT TRENDS IN ITALY

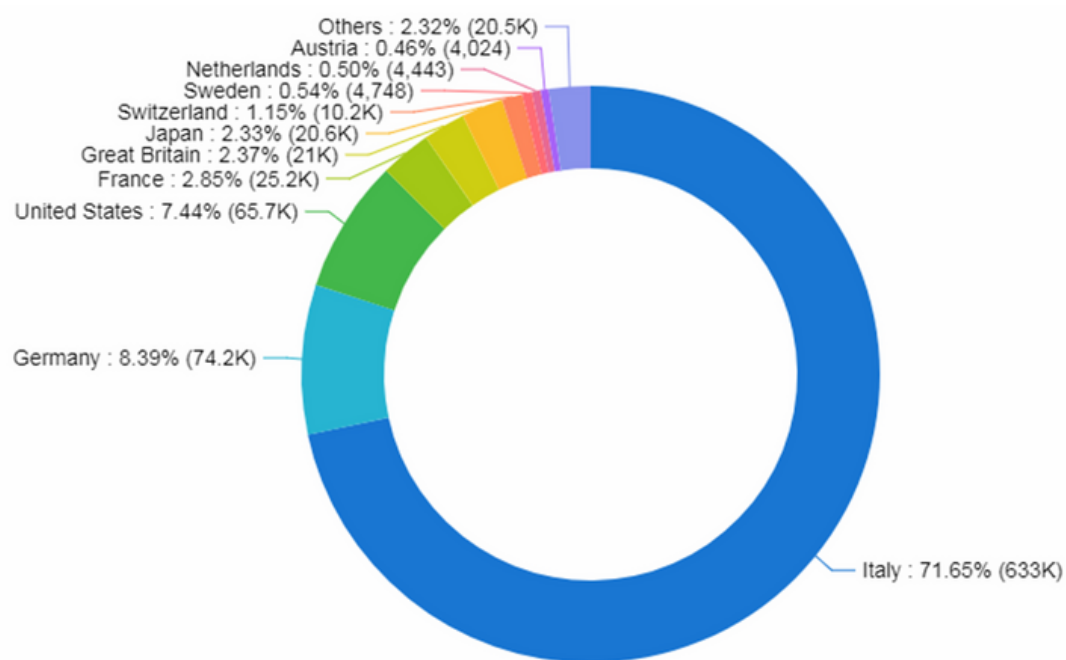


Figure 8 Top countries of origin (IT)

As can be seen from Figure 9, the companies holding the largest number of active families in Italy are mainly local companies, but the number of patents they hold is generally small, which may be difficult to form technical advantages.

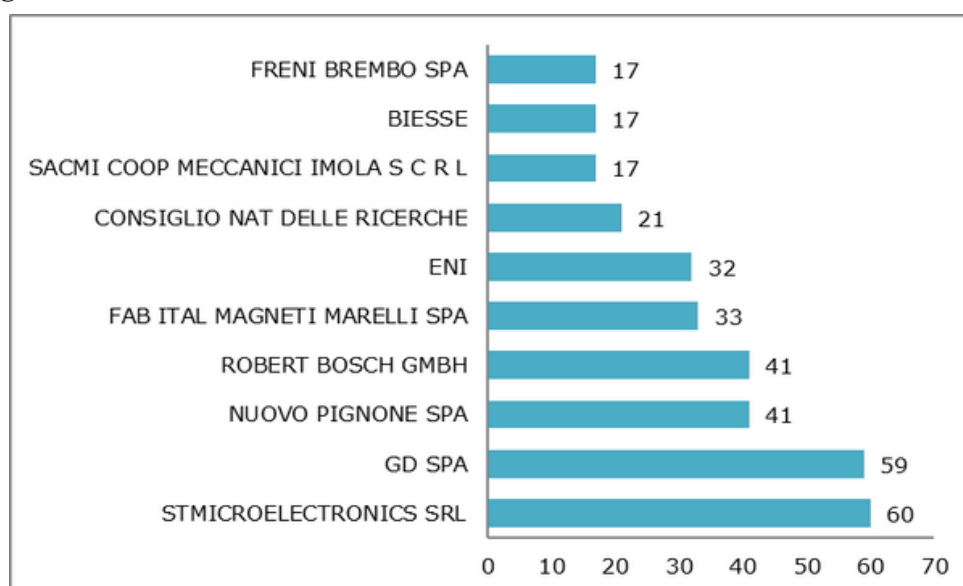


Figure 9 Companies with the largest number of active families (IT)

PATENT TRENDS IN RUSSIA

As the country with the largest land area in the world, the development of patents in Russia also deserves attention. As can be seen from **Figure 10** and **Figure 11**, the number of patent applications in Russia has maintained a relatively high position in recent years. Among them, Russia is the main applicant, followed by the United States and Germany.

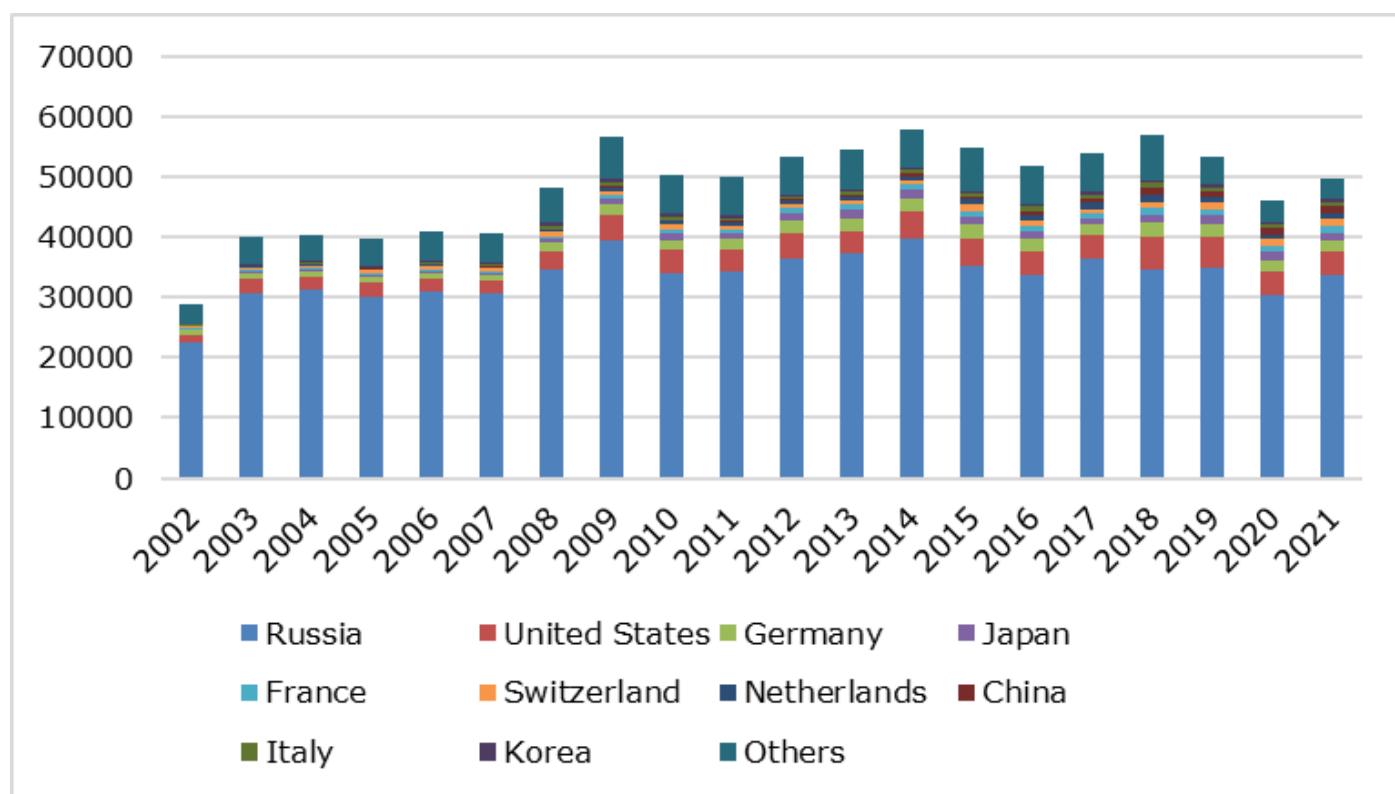


Figure 10 Top countries of origin trend (RU)

PATENT TRENDS IN RUSSIA

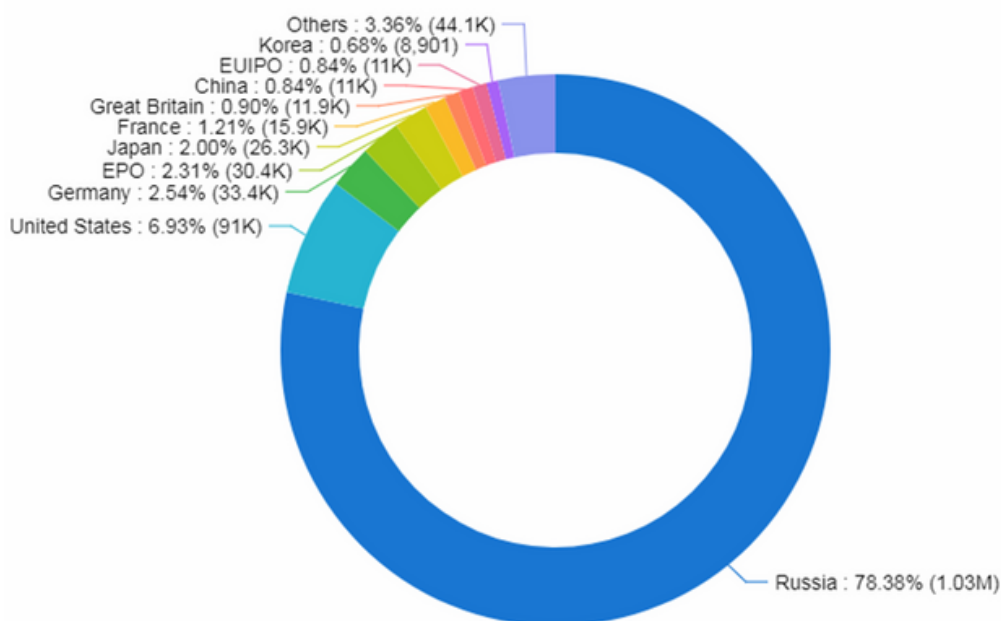


Figure 11 Top countries of origin (RU)

Although patent applications in Russia are mainly from local companies, an interesting phenomenon is that most of the top 10 companies with the largest number of active families come from other countries (as shown in **Figure 12**).

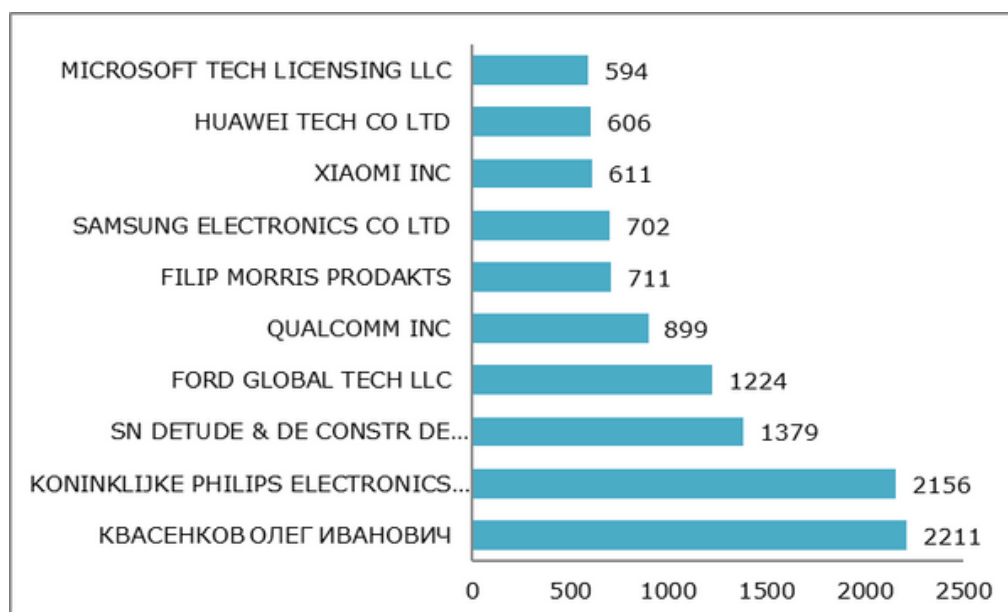


Figure 12 Companies with the largest number of active families (RU)

PATENT TRENDS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Compared with Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Russia, the number and impact of patent applications in other European countries are lower. Therefore, this section only makes a brief analysis of their application trends. **Figure 13** shows the trend of patent applications in Poland. It can be seen that the number of applications in Poland, whether local Poland or other countries, has generally maintained an increasing trend year by year. In recent years, the number of patent applications in Poland accounts for about 30% of the total number of applications.

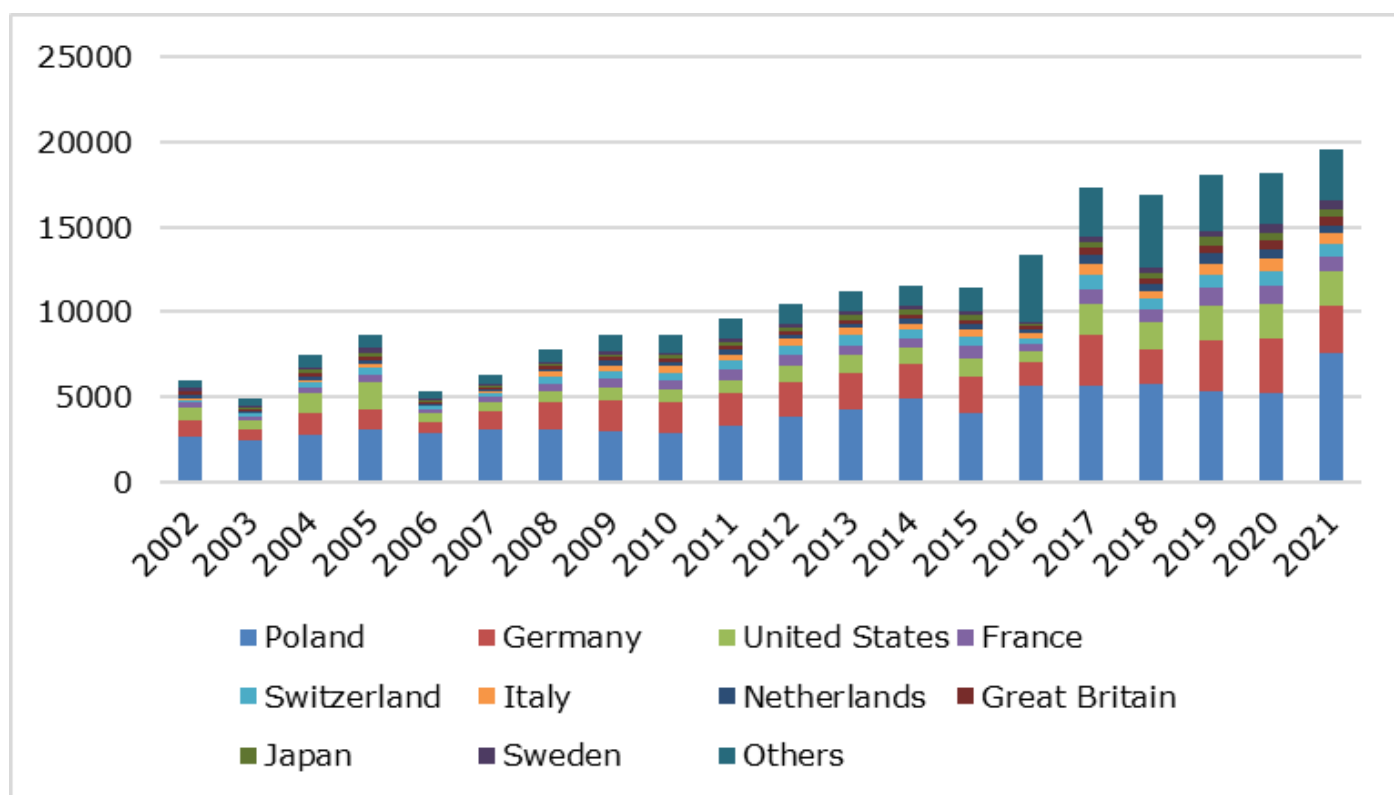


Figure 13 Patent trends in Poland

PATENT TRENDS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Figure 14 shows the trend of patent applications in Denmark. It can be seen that the overall number of patent applications in Denmark has maintained a steady growth. Interestingly, Denmark's patent applications are mainly from the United States and Germany, while the number of domestic applications is less.

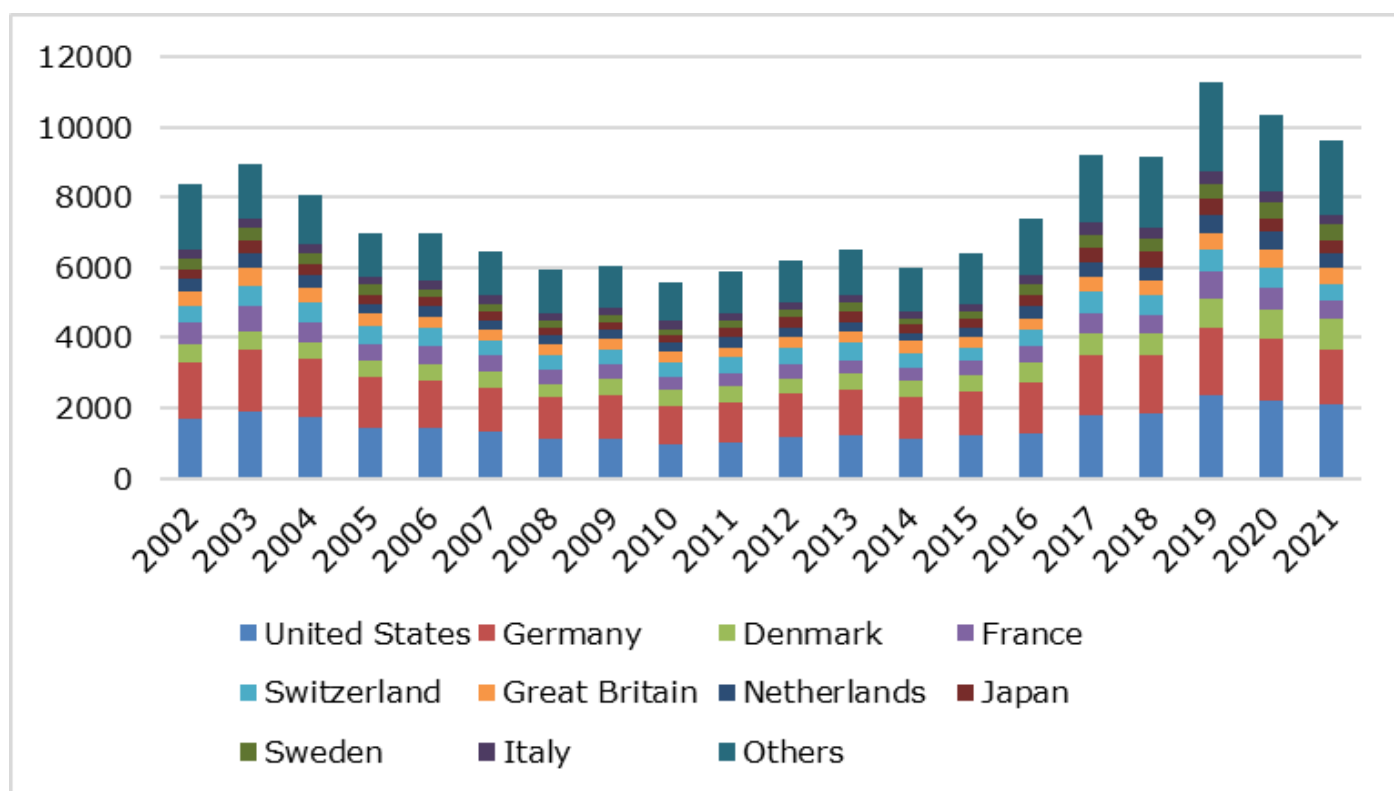


Figure 14 Patent trends in Denmark

PATENT TRENDS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Figure 15 shows the trend of patent applications in Netherlands. It can be seen that the number of patent applications in the Netherlands has been in a small state. Since 2018, the proportion of foreign patent applications has gradually increased. In 2021, China applied for a large number of patents in the Netherlands.

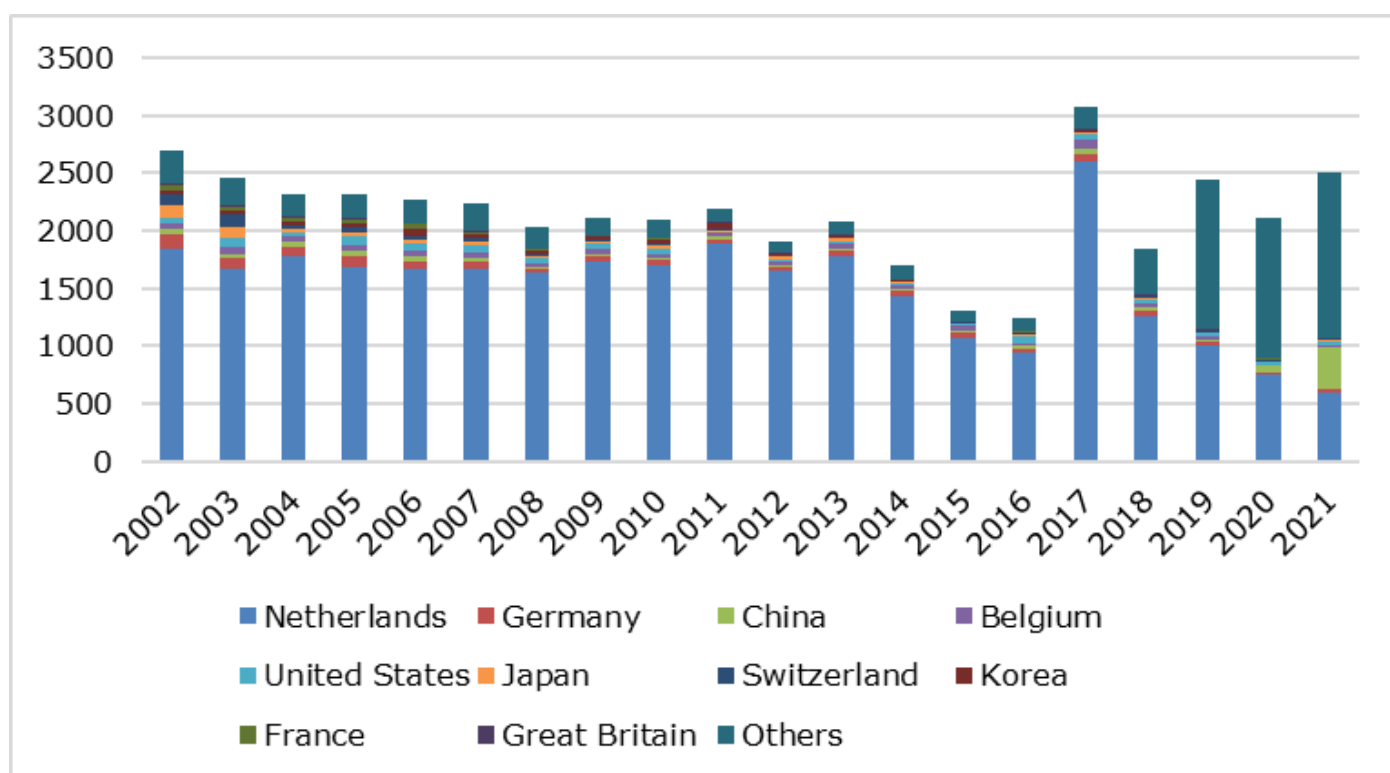


Figure 15 Patent trends in Netherlands

PATENT TRENDS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Figure 16 shows the trend of patent applications in Switzerland. It can be seen that the number of patent applications in Switzerland is also small. Before 2017, other countries applied for more patents in Switzerland, while later, the patent applications in Switzerland mainly came from the mainland.

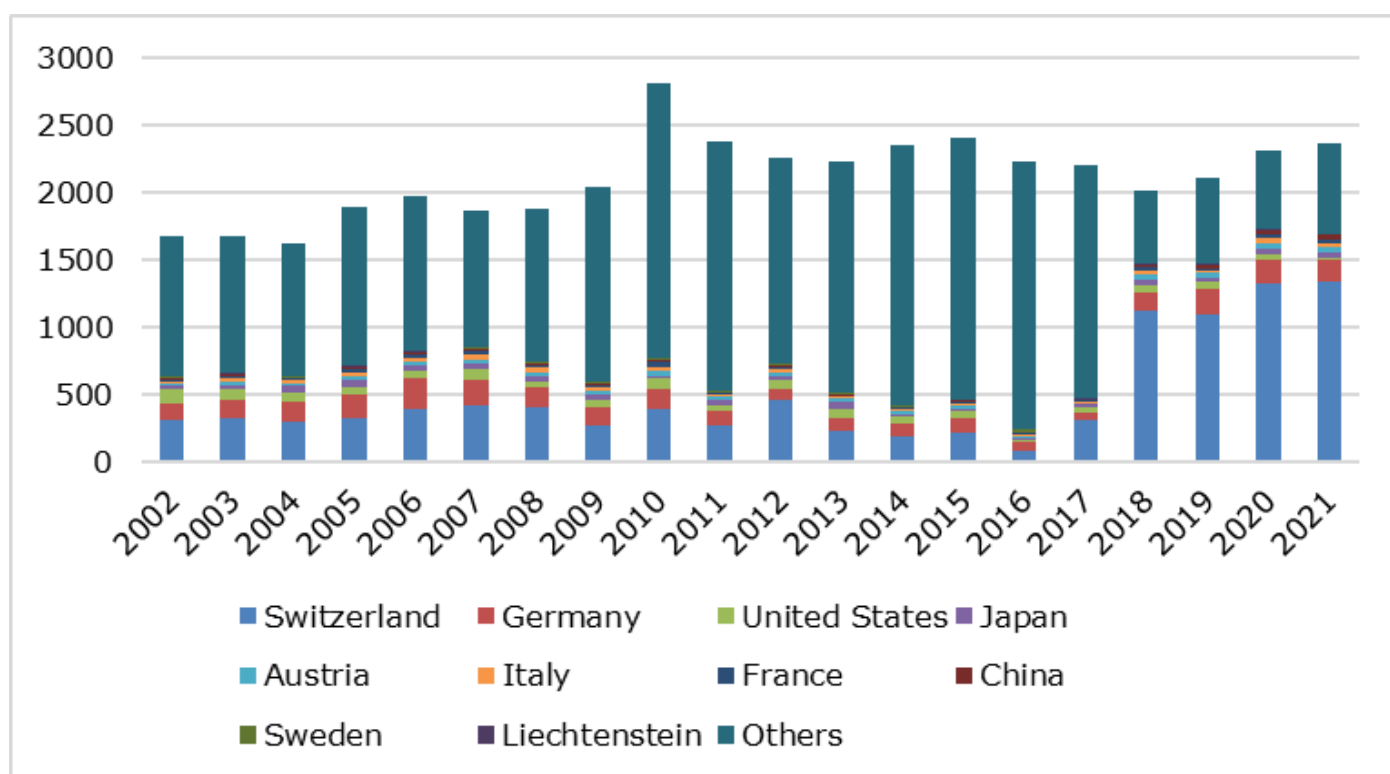


Figure 16 Patent trends in Switzerland

PATENT TRENDS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Figure 17 shows the trend of patent applications in Spain. It can be seen that Spain has a large number of patent applications, which is significantly higher than the countries discussed above. At the same time, it can be found that Spanish patents mainly come from other countries, indicating that the Spanish market has been highly valued by foreign companies.

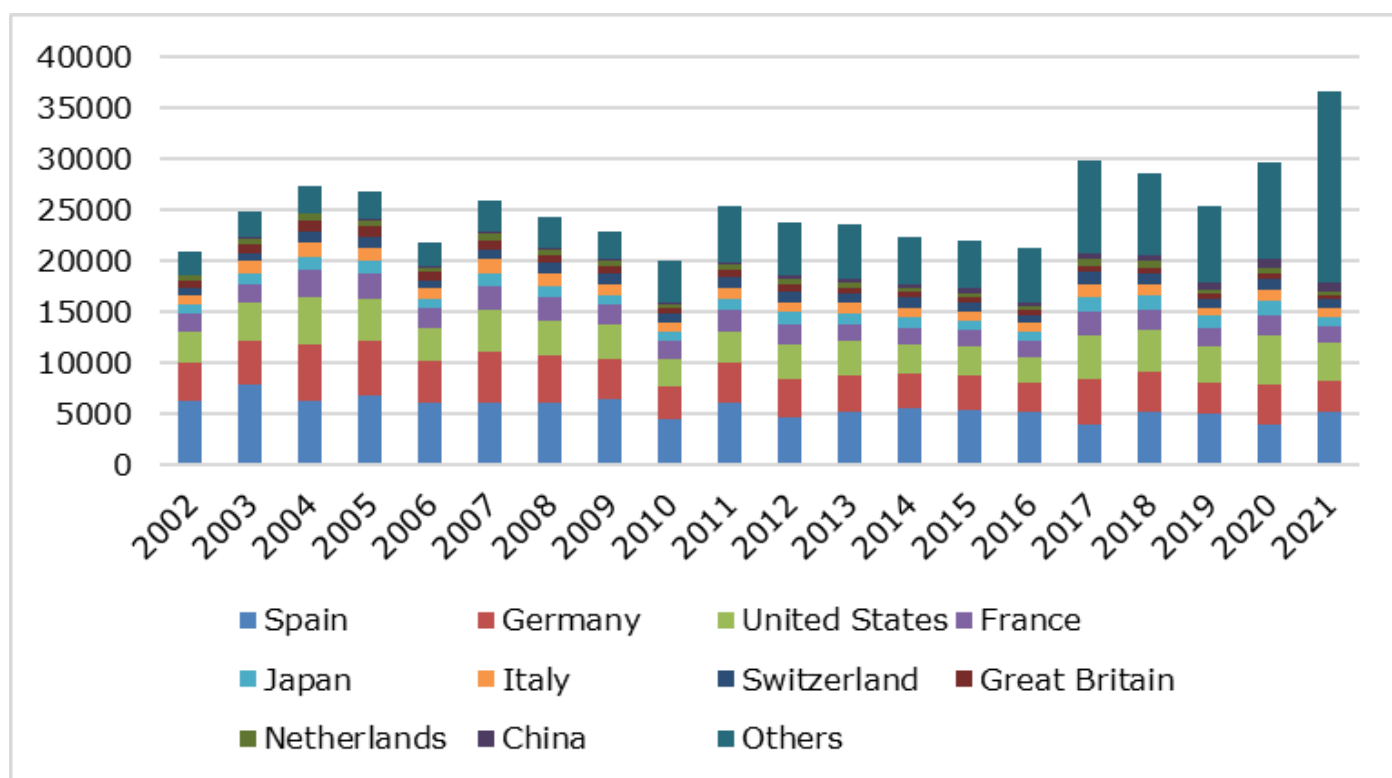


Figure 17 Patent trends in Spain

PATENT TRENDS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Figure 18 shows the trend of patent applications in New Zealand. It can be seen that the number of patent applications in New Zealand remains at a low level, and its patent applications are mainly from the United States.

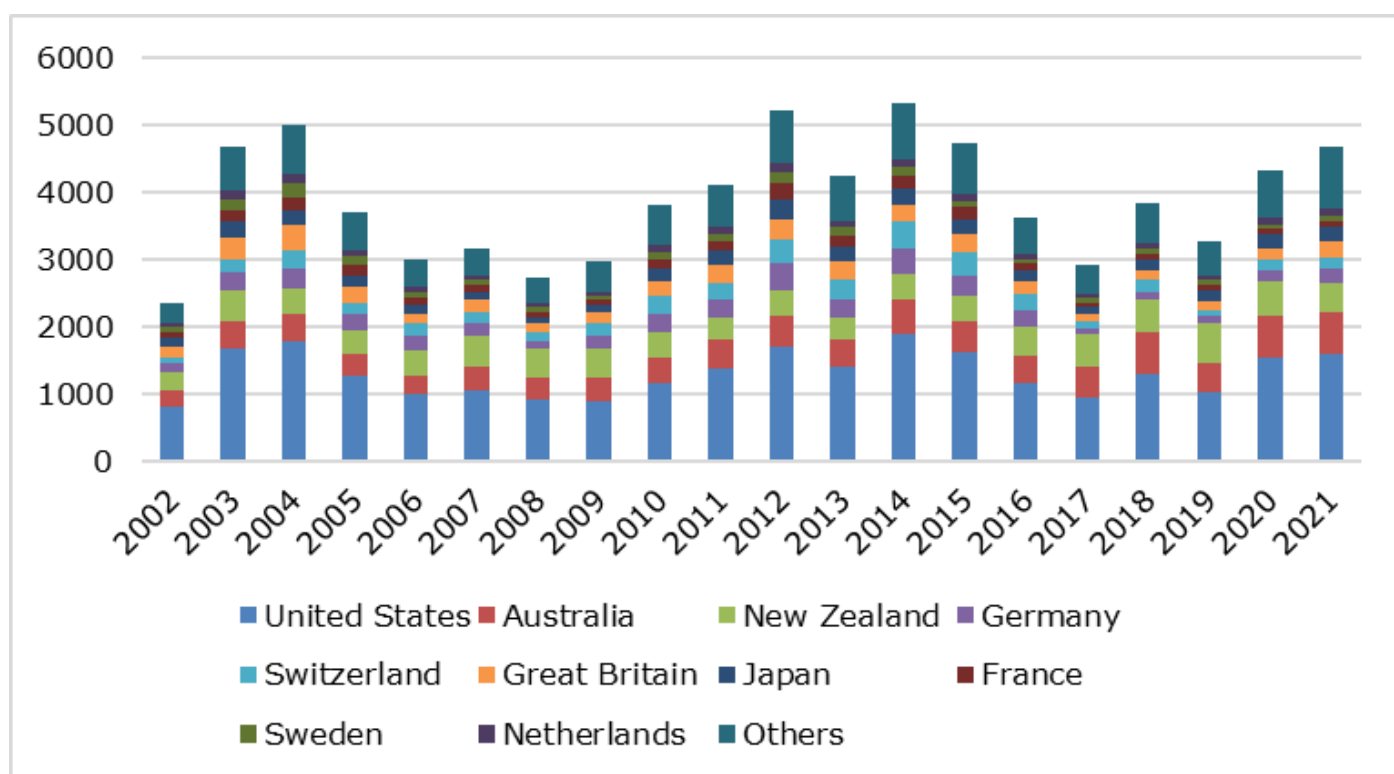


Figure 18 Patent trends in New Zealand

CONCLUSION

Europe has the largest number of developed countries and more advanced patent system. Therefore, its patent development has been concerned by the world.

Through the analysis of the trend of patent applications in major European countries, it can be found that the number of patent applications in most European countries has maintained a steady growth trend. Among the countries analyzed, there are many patent applications in Britain, Germany, Spain and other countries, mainly from foreign companies. On the contrary, the patent applications of France, Russia and Italy mainly come from their own countries.

At the same time, the number of domestic or foreign patent applications in some countries has changed greatly over time, such as the Netherlands and Switzerland, which may be related to the local patent policy and the external economic environment.

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