

TECHNOLOGY FORUM LIFE SCIENCES 2025

THE EPO'S OBSERVATORY ON PATENTS AND TECHNOLOGY

GILLES REQUENA | CHIEF PATENT RESEARCH AND POLICY OFFICER | 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

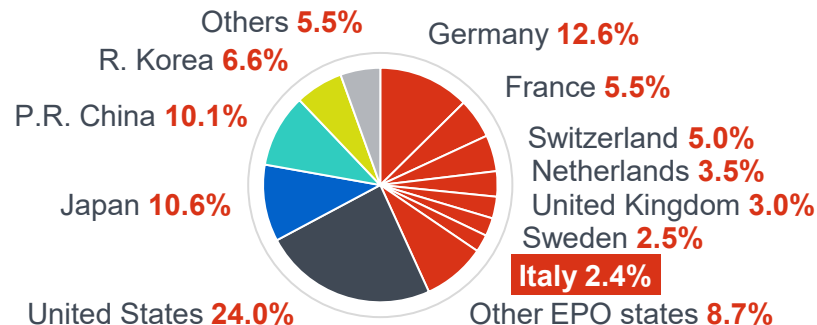
THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE



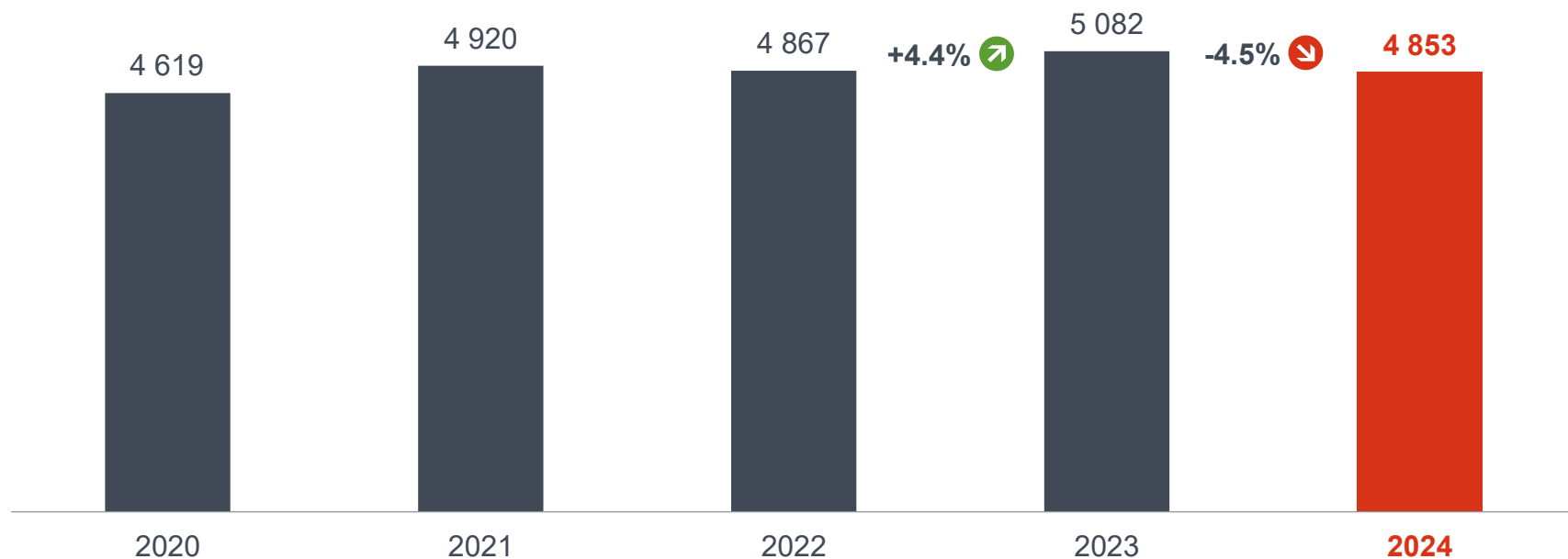
The 39 member states of the EPO (dark red), also including one extension state (dark grey) and six validation states (light grey).

In 2024, a total of **199 264 EP applications** were received – similar numbers to 2023 and 2022.

GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN OF EUROPEAN PATENT (EP) APPLICATIONS IN 2024



EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATIONS¹ – ITALY



Source: EPO. Status: 3.02.2025.

¹ European patent applications include direct European applications and international (PCT) applications that entered the European phase during the reporting period.
The geographic origin is based on the first-named applicant principle.

LEADING 10 FIELDS OF TECHNOLOGY¹ – GLOBAL

TOP 10

			2024	Change	
1	 Computer technology		16 815	+3.3%	
2	 Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy		16 142	+8.9%	
3	 Digital communication		15 983	-6.3%	
4	 Medical technology		15 701	-3.0%	
5	 Transport		10 026	+3.5%	
6	 Measurement		9 601	-0.5%	
7	 Biotechnology		8 479	+5.4%	
8	 Pharmaceuticals		8 359	-13.2%	
9	 Other special machines		6 258	-4.6%	
10	 Organic fine chemistry		6 092	+1.5%	

Source: EPO. Status: 3.02.2025.

¹ The definition of the fields is based on the WIPO IPC technology concordance. The table is available at: https://www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/docs/ipc_technology.xlsx

LEADING 15 FIELDS OF TECHNOLOGY¹ – ITALY²

TOP 15

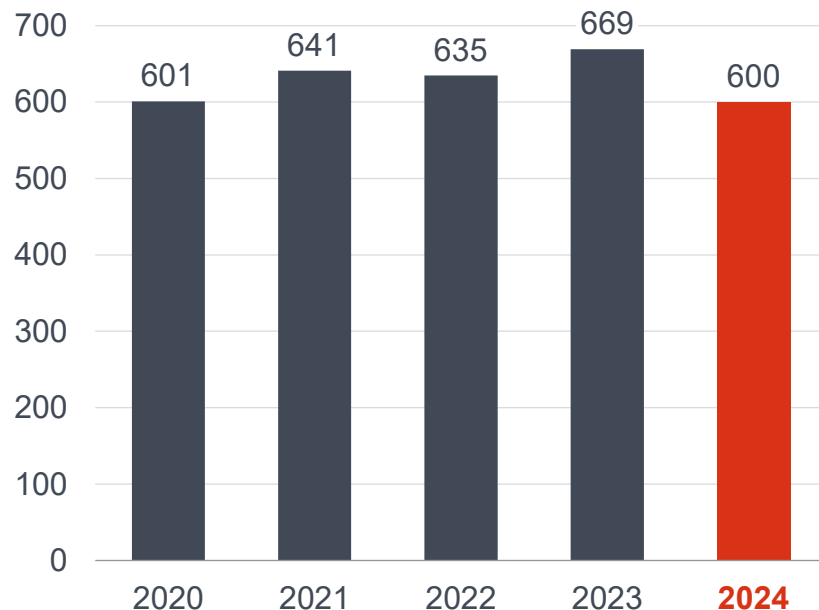
		2024	Change	
1	Transport	449	+8.2%	↗
2	Handling	439	+0.7%	↗
3	Other special machines	331	-0.3%	↘
4	Medical technology	285	-18.3%	↘
5	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	270	+1.5%	↗
6	Civil engineering	269	+3.5%	↗
7	Pharmaceuticals	204	-6.4%	↘
8	Other consumer goods	199	+5.3%	↗
9	Mechanical elements	194	+9.6%	↗
10	Furniture, games	190	+2.2%	↗
11	Machine tools	174	-23.7%	↘
12	Measurement	173	-6.0%	↘
13	Thermal processes and apparatus	152	-7.3%	↘
14	Engines, pumps, turbines	144	+28.6%	↗
15	Chemical engineering	135	-15.6%	↘

Source: EPO. Status: 3.02.2025.

¹ The definition of the fields is based on the WIPO IPC technology concordance. The table is available at: https://www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/docs/ipc_technology.xlsx

² The geographic origin is based on the first-named applicant principle.

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED WITH THE EPO FOR LIFE SCIENCES TECH FIELDS – ITALY



Source: EPO, Patent Index

TOP 5 ITALIAN APPLICANTS IN LIFE SCIENCES TECH FIELDS IN 2024

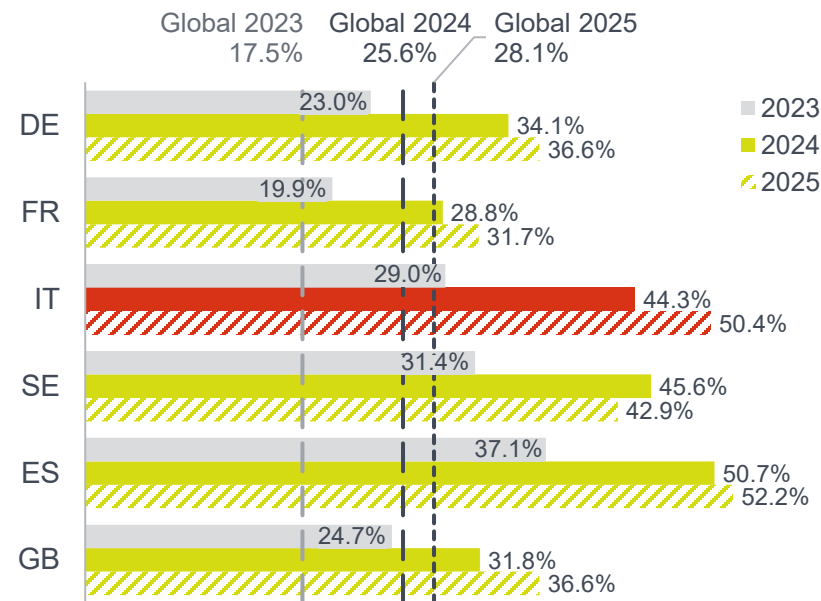
- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Fondazione Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia | 20 applications |
| 2 | Chiesi Farmaceutici S.P.A | 16 applications |
| 2 | Ospedale San Raffaele S.R.L | 16 applications |
| 4 | Dompé Farmaceutici S.P.A | 8 applications |
| 4 | Fameccanica. Data S.P.A | 8 applications |

LATEST FIGURES FOR ITALY – UNITARY PATENT UPDATE (UP TO 1.09.2025)

States currently in the UP and UPC system (18)

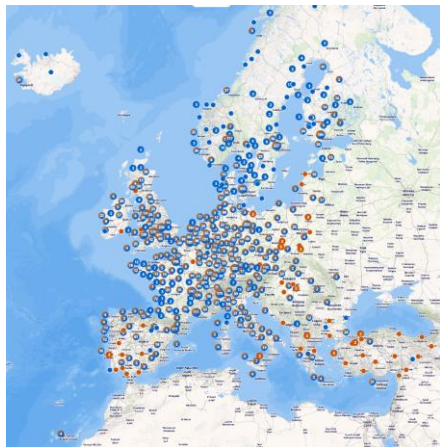


Uptake rate in Europe



LATEST FIGURES FOR ITALY – DEEP TECH FINDER

The Deep Tech Finder is a free, interactive and easy-to-use tool that connects investors, researchers, startups and universities. It combines EPO patent data with business insights.



 **10 000 startups**

 **850 universities**
that have filed for
European patents (EPs)

 **9 900 investors**
that have European
startups with EPs in
their portfolio



The **Deep Tech Finder** tool
features a total of Italian-based ...

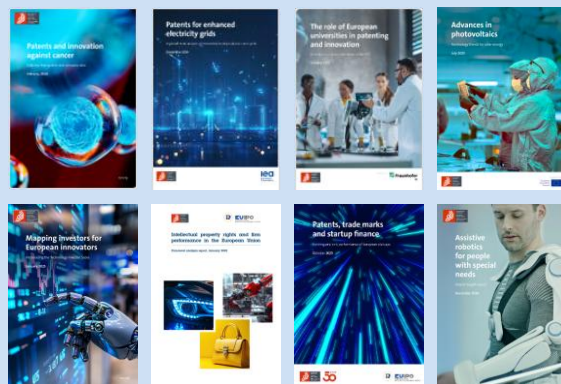
 **690 startups**
190+ in the health tech industry
60+ in oncology-related tech fields

 **60 universities**
47 in oncology-related tech fields

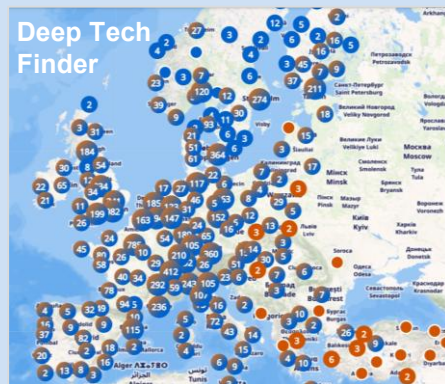
 **300 investors**

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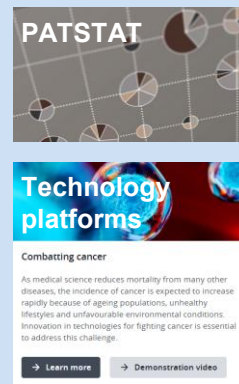
To help build a sustainable future for innovation by broadening outreach and improving access to IP and technology knowledge



Studies and reports on cutting-edge innovation covering a broad range of technologies



Tools offering valuable insights and tech trends for entrepreneurs, investors, etc.



Supporting policy-making

Gilles Requena

Chief Patent Research and Policy Officer



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