



**Medical technology** is characterised by a constant flow of innovations, which are the results of a high level of research and development within the industry, and of close co-operation with the users. Products typically have a lifecycle of only 18-24 months before an improved product becomes available.

In 2015, more than 12,400 patent applications were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) in the field of medical technology – 7.8% of the total number of applications –, still more than any other sector in Europe. 40% of these patent applications were filed from European countries (EU28, Norway and Switzerland) and 60% from other countries, with the majority of applications filed from the US (41%).

In comparison, around 5,900 applications were filed in the pharmaceutical field and 6,000 in the field of biotechnology. While over the last decade the number of EPO filings in the field of medical technology has doubled, pharma and biotech patent applications were relatively stagnant<sup>6</sup>.

PATENT APPLICATION IN  
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY FIELD  
FILLED WITH EPO IN 2015

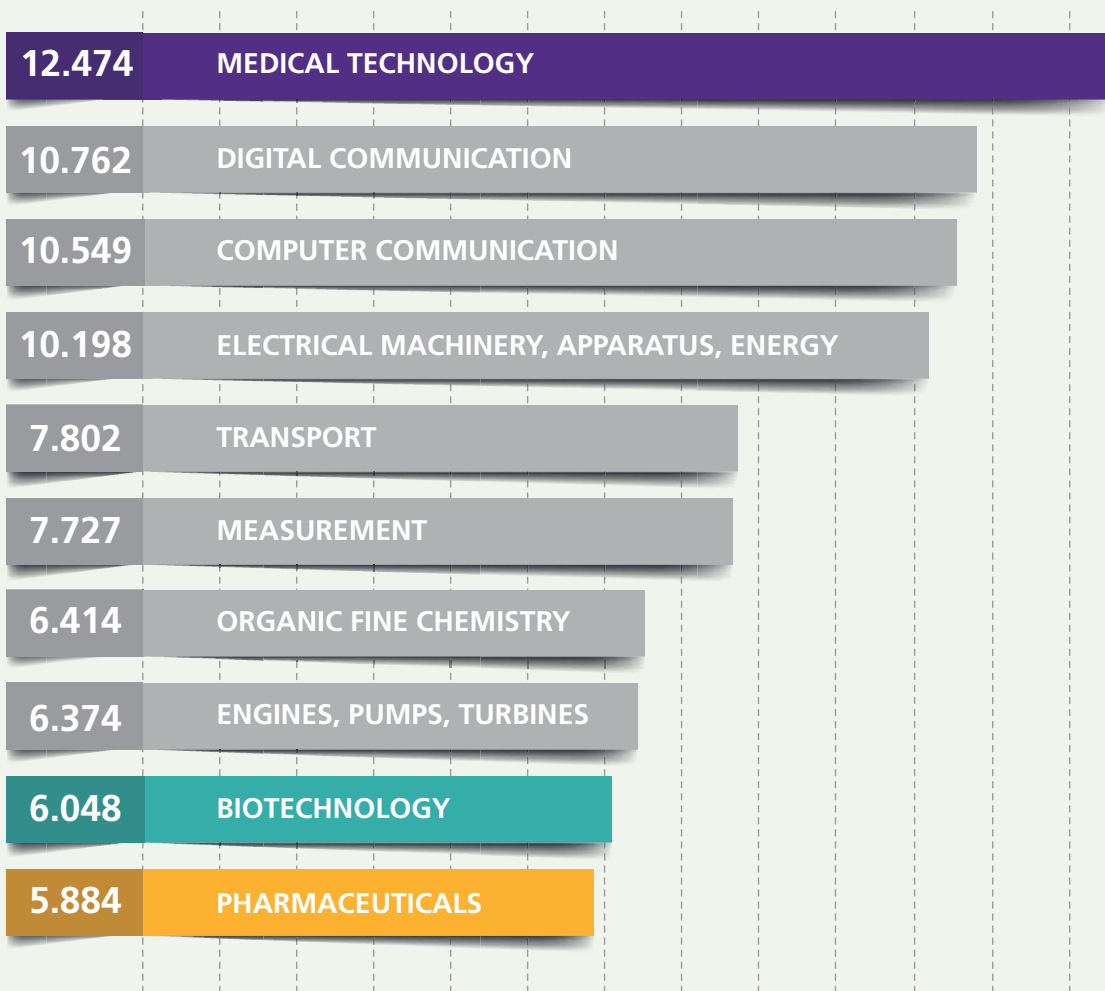
60%  
Other countries



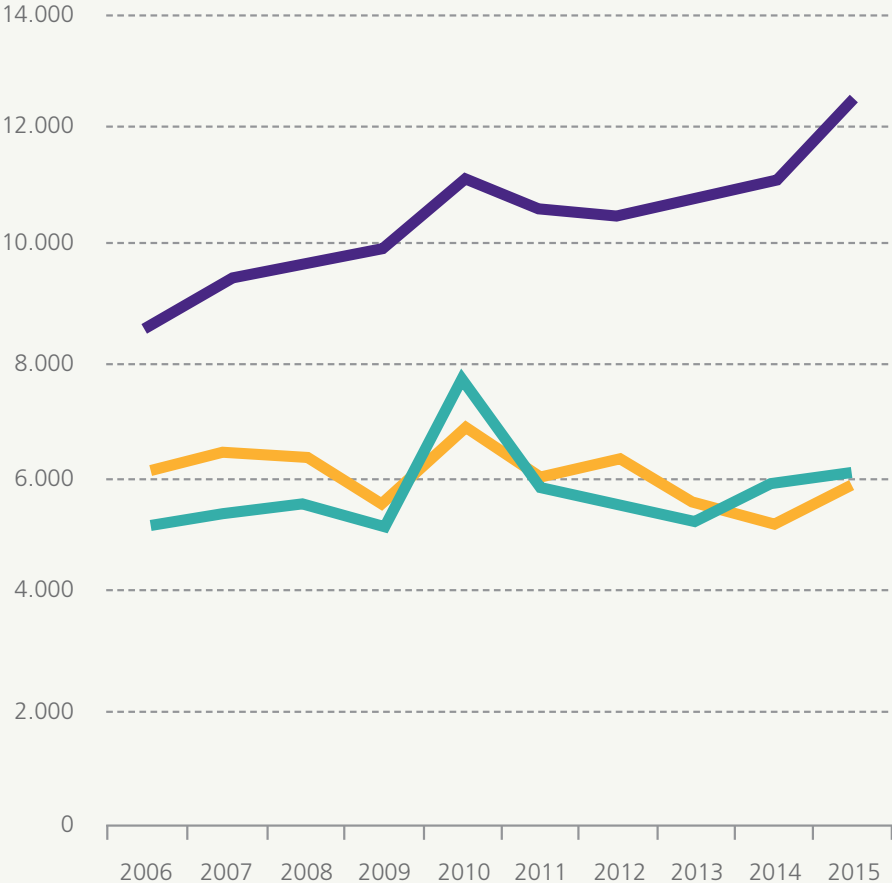
40%  
EU28, Norway  
and Switzerland

## TOP 10 TECHNICAL FIELDS IN PATENT APPLICATIONS.

NUMBER OF PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED WITH EPO, 2015 (REF. 6)



EVOLUTION OF EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATIONS BY TECHNICAL FIELD (REF. 6)



- Medical technology
- Biochemistry
- Pharmaceuticals