

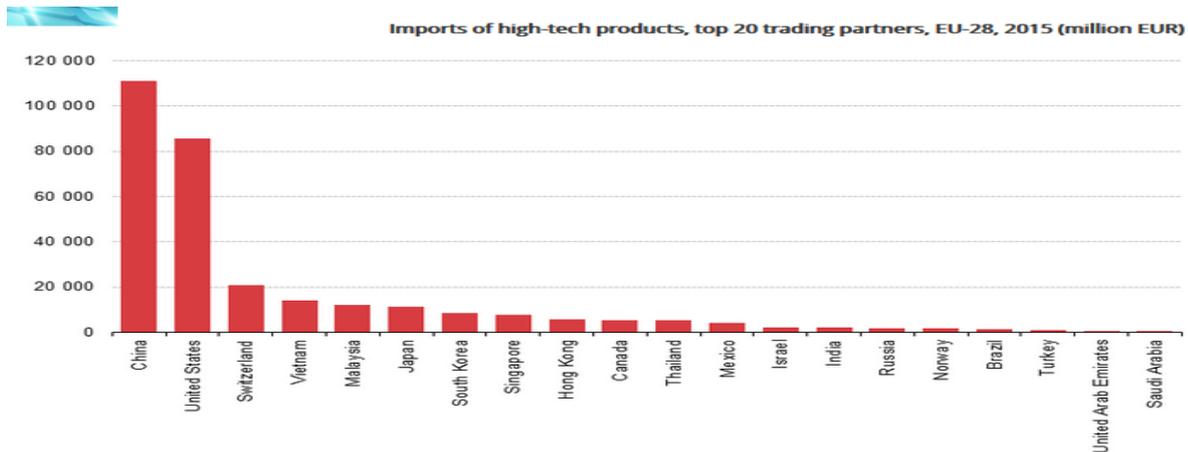
2. Eurostat data on EU high-tech imports

On 8 February 2017 Eurostat published in the "What's new" section of its homepage data on high tech trade. According to Eurostat, high-tech products, such as aerospace equipment, electronic-telecommunications equipment, pharmacy products, scientific instruments etc. represent around 18% of EU trade with the rest of the world.

In 2015, the EU imported most high-tech products from China (34% of total EU imports of these products from outside the EU), the United States (26%) and

Switzerland (6%). Interestingly imports from Vietnam and Malaysia were larger than those from Japan and South Korea.

Regarding EU exports: the United States (26% of total EU exports of these products to outside the EU) is the largest destination, followed by China (10%), and Switzerland (6%). Surprisingly the United Arab Emirates (a transport and trade hub) is ahead of Japan as a destination of EU high tech exports.



More info: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/>

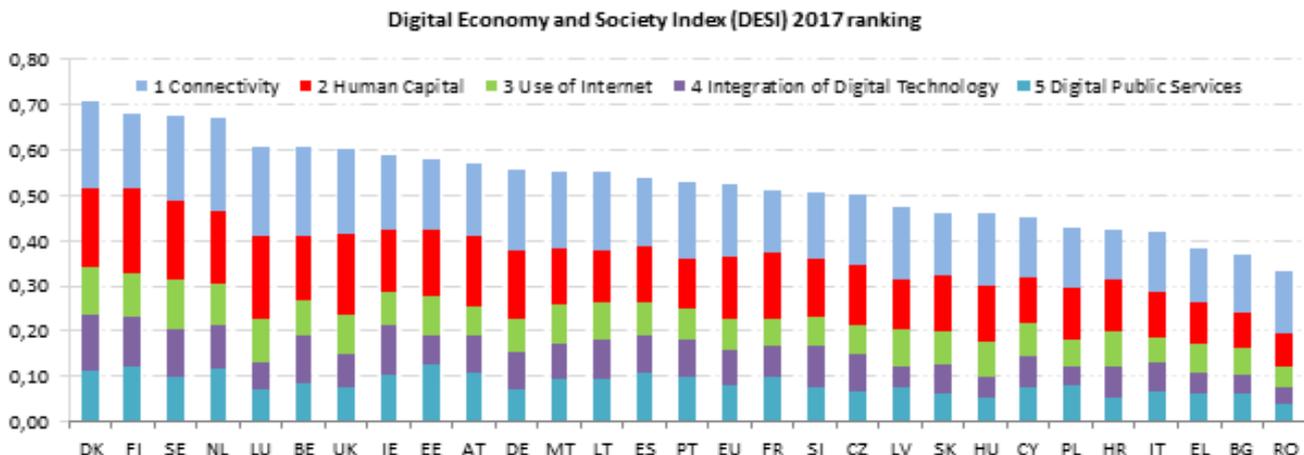
3. The 2017 edition of the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)

On 8 March 2017 the Commission (DG CNECT) published the 2017 edition of the **Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)**. The DESI is based on 5 components (connectivity, human capital, use of internet, integration of digital technology, digital public services) and 31 indicators, many of them based on Eurostat surveys on ICT usage in enterprises and households and mostly referring to 2016 results.

According to DESI 2017, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands have the most advanced digital

economies in the EU followed by Luxembourg, Belgium, the UK and Ireland. Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy have the lowest scores on the DESI.

In 2016, all Member States improved on the DESI. Slovakia and Slovenia progressed the most (more than 0.04 as opposed to an EU average of 0.028). On the other hand, there was low increase in Portugal, Latvia and Germany (below 0.02).



More info: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/desi>

4. European Patent Office (EPO) release of 2016 results.

On 7 March 2017 the European Patent Office (EPO) released 2016 patent statistics. According to EPO in 2016 there were 296 200 preliminary patent filings at the EPO and 159 400 applications, while 95 900 patents were granted.

European companies represent 48% of EPO applications companies from the US 25% (Japan 13%, S Korea 4%, China 5%).

The US leads in EPO applications (40 000), followed by Germany (25 100), Japan (21 000) and France (10500), Switzerland (7300) and China (7200). China (+24.8%) shows the fastest growth in EPO patent applications. Countries with declining applications include Finland (-8.8%), Sweden (-7.4%), USA (-5.9%), Netherlands (-3.6%) and France (-2.5%). Leading fields of technology include medical technology (-2.1% applications in 2016),

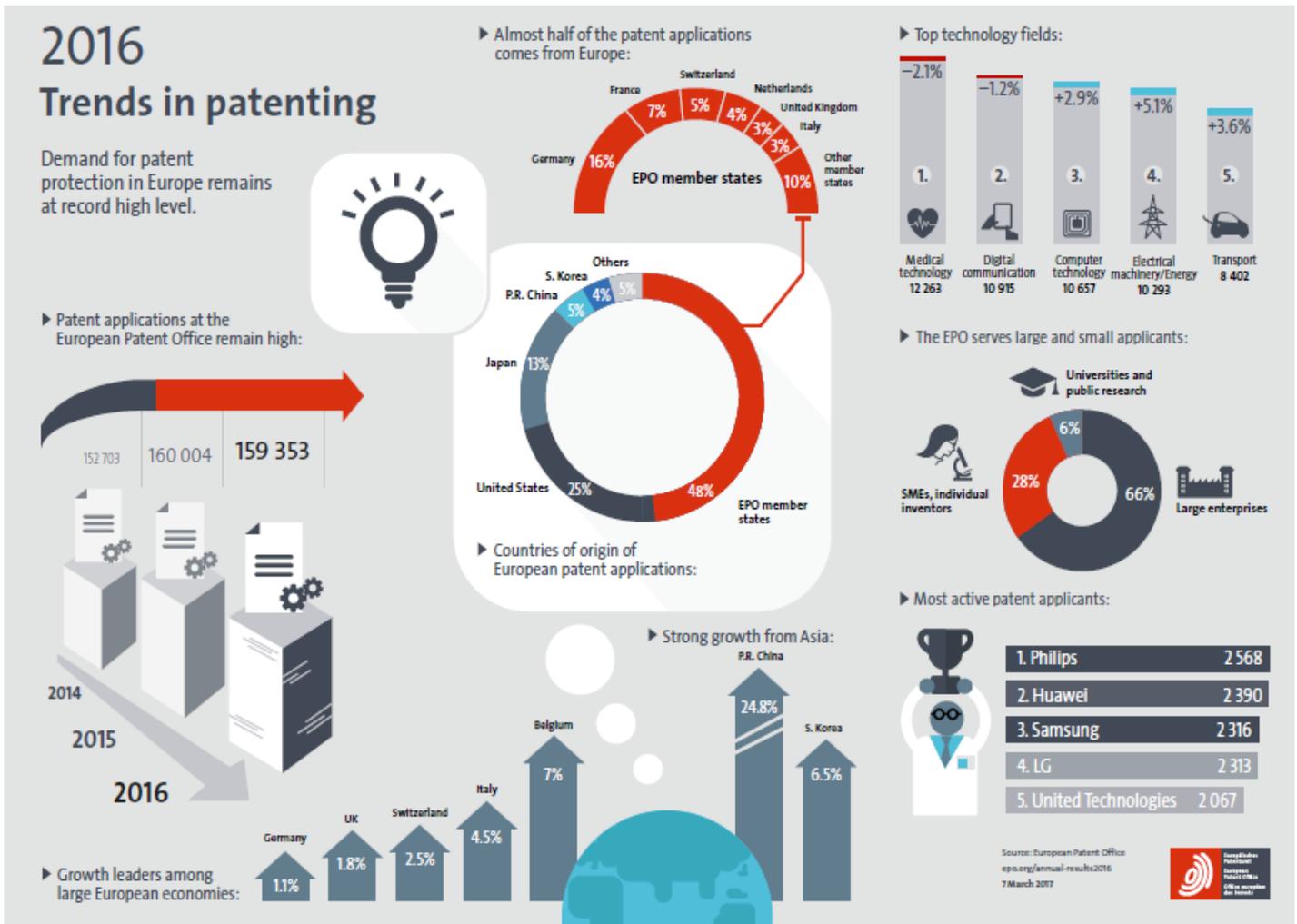
digital communication (-1.2%), computer technology (+2.9%) and electrical machinery, energy (+5.1%).

Europe leads in EPO applications in 9 of the 10 biggest technology fields (the US leads in computer technology).

Among the top 10 companies filing most: 4 are from EU (Philips, Siemens, BASF, Bosch), 3 from US (United Technologies, Qualcomm, General Electric), 2 from Korea (Samsung, LG) and one Chinese company (Huawei).

66% of applications are by large companies, 28% by SMEs and individual inventors, 6% by universities and PROs.

As regards the Unitary patent the EPO expects it to come into force at the end of 2017, despite Brexit. 12 MS have ratified so far the UPC Agreement. 13 MS have to ratify, including the three largest patent countries DE, FR, UK, for the agreement to come into force.



More info: <https://www.epo.org/news-issues/news/2017/20170307.html>

5. Genome Global Startup Ecosystem report

On 14 March 2017 Startup Genome in partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship network released **The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2017** (GSER). The 55 cities participating were analysed based on their performance and eight factors driving startup success: funding, market reach, global connectedness, technical talent, startup experience, resource attraction, corporate involvement, founder ambition and strategy. 10,000 startup entrepreneurs participated in the study through 300 partner organizations. Key results:

Top three startup ecosystems Silicon Valley, New York, and London (see chart below).

The US is losing dominance to Asia and Europe. Los Angeles and Chicago, for example, had the biggest drop of the top 20 cities, mainly due their lowered scores in 'global connectedness'. However, the US has still seven cities in the top 20. Silicon Valley is still number one in most categories (with an ecosystem value of \$ 264 bn); however, the 'tech mecca' has been ousted by Singapore when it comes to talent. High salaries are one of the main factors why Silicon Valley has lost first place, along

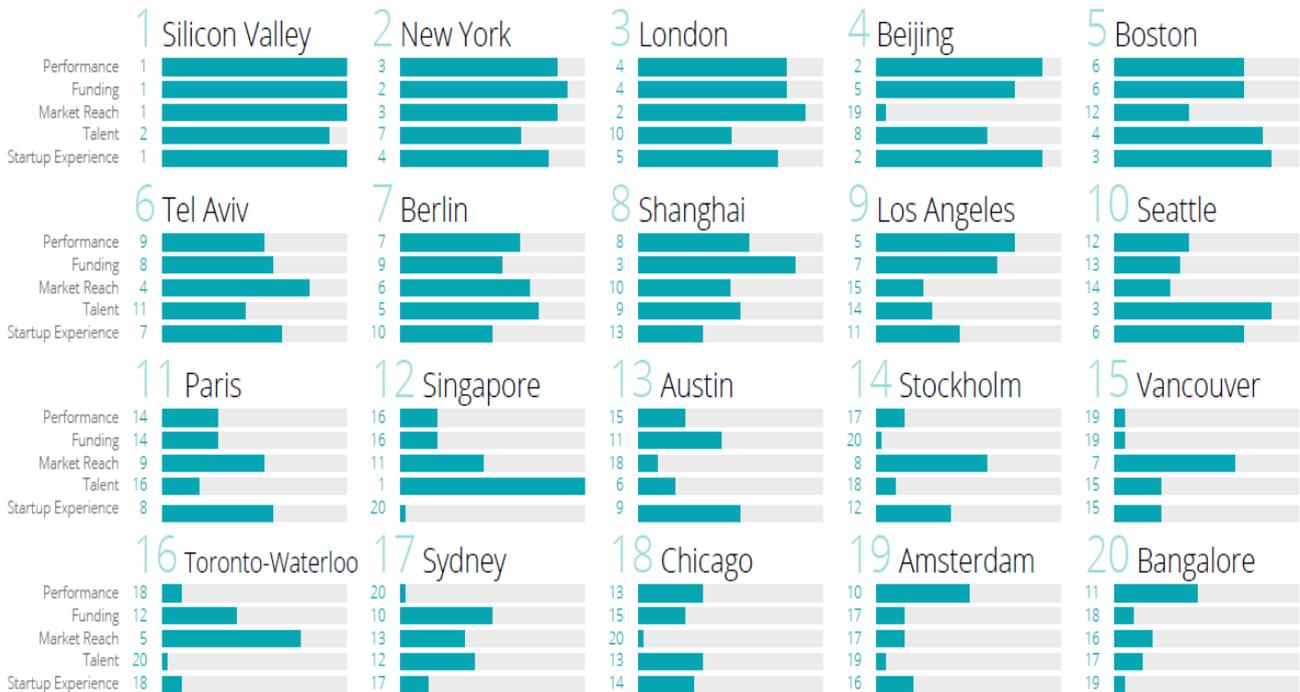
with the difficulties of early-stage startups to attract experienced talent

Europe is on the rise with newcomers- The EU has five cities in the top 20 in this year's report: London (#3, ecosystem value \$ 44 bn), Berlin (#7, \$ 31 bn), Paris (#11, \$ 12 bn), Stockholm (#14, \$ 15 bn), and Amsterdam (#19, \$ 14 bn). London is Europe's tech capital with 4,300 to 5,900 tech startups and has the fourth highest startup output in the world. Stockholm had the most impressive upward movement this year by jumping into #14, making its debut in the top 20

The report analyses in addition key metrics of the following regional clusters in the EU: Barcelona Estonia, Frankfurt, Helsinki, Lisbon, Malta (plus Moscow and Jerusalem in larger 'Europe').

Among these Barcelona (\$ 6.4 bn) has the highest ecosystem value, followed by Jerusalem (\$ 6 bn), Moscow (3.4 bn) and Frankfurt (\$ 1.8 bn).

2017 Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking



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More info: <https://startupgenome.com/>

6. Miscellaneous results from national data sources and studies

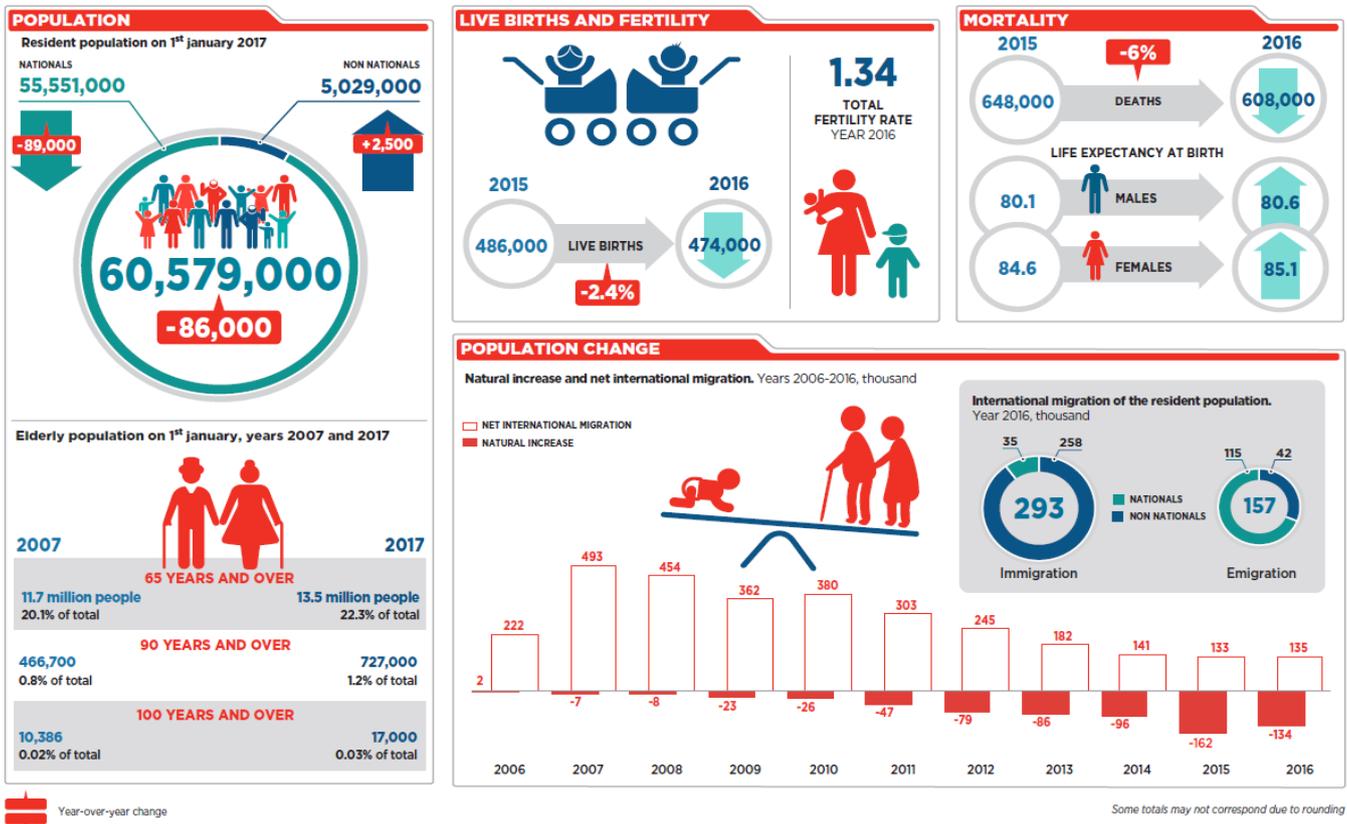
a) Italy: Lowest number of births since 1861

On 6 March 2017, ISTAT, the Statistical Office of Italy, published estimates for key demographic data for the country for the year 2016. According to ISTAT the number of births in Italy declined in 2016 to the lowest figure since 1861 (when the country was unified and statistical records began). In 2015 ISTAT had already announced that the 2014 figures were the lowest ever recorded, in 2016 ISTAT reported for 2015 again the lowest number ever recorded and now the new data show that the 2016 number of births in Italy even fell 12 000 births below the 2015 result.

At 8.0 births per 1000 persons in 2015 Italy had already the lowest crude birth rate in Europe (and the world), but in 2016 it dropped further to reach 7.8/1000. While net migration to Italy in 2016 compensated for the surplus of deaths, the official population still declined by 86 000, to reach 60.6 million, a result of corrections in the population register. There was a net outflow of Italian nationals of 80 000 in 2016, while the net inflow of non nationals amounted to 250 000 (the number of foreigners in Italy on 1 January 2017 stood at over 5 million).

While the number of births is falling in Italy, the growth in life expectancy boosts the number of old people. From 2015 to 2016 life expectancy in Italy (already among the highest in the world) increased by half a year to reach 80.6 years for males and 85.1 years for females. In the period 2007-2017 (1 January) the number of Italians 65 years and over increased by 15% to reach 13.5 million, while the population 90+ increased in the same period by 56% and those 100 years and older by 67%. The rapid aging of the Italian population has implications and for the long term sustainability of public finances and for long-term economic growth in Italy.

Population in Italy: estimates for the year 2016



More info: <https://www.istat.it/en/archive/197555>

b) US fertility level reaches record low

Data from the US Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released on 27 February 2017 show that the US fertility rate (measured as births per 1000 women aged 15-44) might reach, at slightly over 62, a record low in the US in 2016. Already in the first quarter of 2016 CDC reported for 2015 the lowest figures since records began in 1909. The total fertility rate in the US in 2015 stood at 1.84 children/woman, well below the reproduction rate (2.1). However, there is still a birth surplus of over 1 million per year and net migration also boosts the US population.

More info: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/vsrr/natality.htm>

Calendar of data releases and indicator based publications			
<i>Update of: 30/3/2017 (grey= already published)</i>			
2017	Eurostat data updates	Commission indicator based reports	Data and indicator based reports of other organisations
January			Transparency International Corruption Perception Index Bloomberg Innovation Index
February	Tertiary attainment (2016, prov.) High growth enterprises data (provisional, 2015)	Winter forecast (ECFIN)	OECD R&D expenditure data Excelacom Internet Minute
March	R&D intensity (2015 update) GBAORD final (2015) IPR (patent 2014, CTM 2015 and RCD 2015)	DESI indicator (CNECT)	European Patent Office , EPO annual results (2016) Reuters Most Innov. Institutions OICA world motor vehicle production data
April	Education headline indicators (LFS)		
May	High-tech trade (2016) Venture capital (2016) Education enrolment, graduates Knowledge-int. activities (2016)	Spring Forecast (ECFIN) Skills forecast (Cedefop)	Invest Europe European Private Equity Report Times Higher Ed. Reputations Ranking IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook
June	Education spending Employment high-tech (2016) HRST education inflows (2015)	Europe 2020 publication (ESTAT) European Innovation Scoreboard (GROW/RTD)	
July	IPR (Patents, 2014), Community Trademarks (2016), RC Designs (2016)		UNESCO UIS STI stats release
August			Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai) WIPO/Cornell/INSEAD Global Innovation Index
September	GBAORD (2016 preliminary) Final high growth ent. data (2015) Economic data on high-tech (2016)		WEF Global Competitiveness Index OECD Education at a Glance
October			World Bank Doing Business
November	R&D intensity (2016 preliminary, 2015 final) Knowledge-int. activities (2016) Employment high-tech (2016) IPR Statistics (CTM 2016 and RCD 2016)	Autumn Forecast (ECFIN) Education Monitor (EAC) Annual Growth Survey (ECFIN)	Top500.org: Top 500 Supercomputer list
December	ICT household data (2016) ICT enterprise data (2016) HRST stocks (2016)	Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard (JRC) Joint Employment Report (EMPL)	WIPO World Intellectual Property Indicators OECD STI Scoreboard (2-yearly)

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