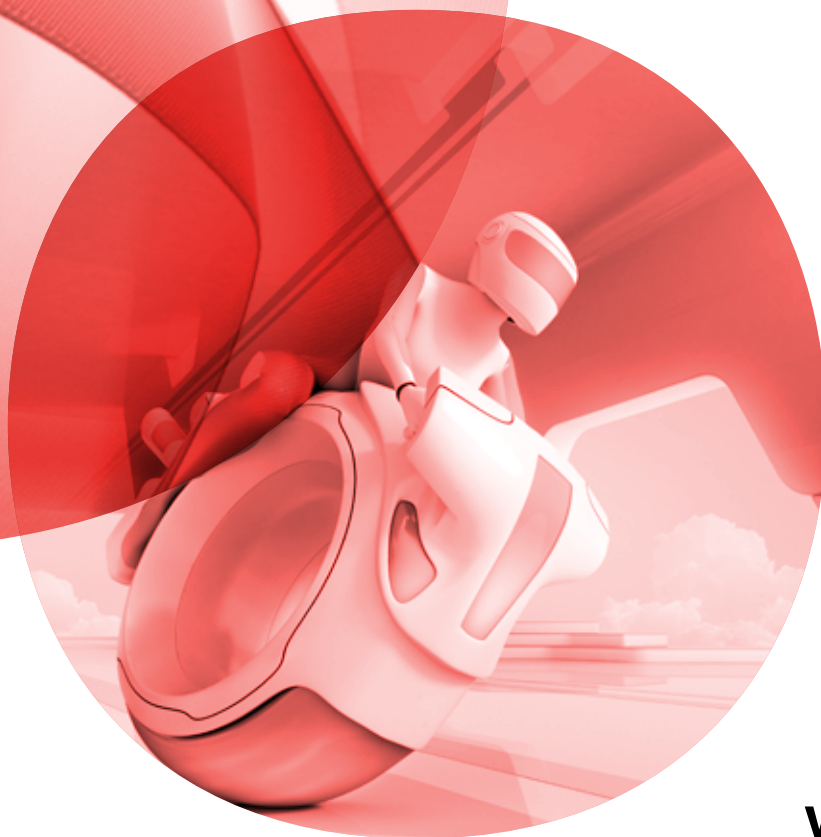


# Hague Yearly Review 2022



**WIPO**



# **Hague Yearly Review 2022**

## International Registration of Industrial Designs

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## Further information

### Online resources

The underlying data used to produce the figures and tables can be downloaded free of charge at [www.wipo.int/ipstats](http://www.wipo.int/ipstats). The webpage also provides links to the IP Statistics Data Center – offering access to WIPO’s statistical data – and to the IP Statistical Country Profiles. Because the IP Statistics Data Center is updated regularly, data reported in the *Review* may differ slightly from that available from online resources.

The following resources are available on WIPO’s website:

#### ***Information on the Hague System***

[www.wipo.int/hague](http://www.wipo.int/hague)

#### ***Search the International Register***

[www.wipo.int/hague/en/how\\_to/search](http://www.wipo.int/hague/en/how_to/search)

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email: [ipstats.mail@wipo.int](mailto:ipstats.mail@wipo.int)

# Key numbers for 2021

**6,711** (+15.7%)  
International applications

**22,486** (+20.8%)  
Designs contained in  
international applications

**6,106** (−10.1%)  
International registrations

**19,993** (−15.5%)  
Designs contained in  
international registrations

**28,891** (+19.7%)  
Designations in international  
applications

**91,966** (+22.1%)  
Designs contained in designations  
in international applications

**26,085** (−4.6%)  
Designations in international  
registrations

**82,517** (−7.9%)  
Designs contained in designations  
in international registrations

**5,461** (+14.8%)  
Renewals of international  
registrations

**19,998** (+4.6%)  
Designs contained in renewals  
of international registrations

**46,820** (+5.5%)  
International registrations  
in force

**182,190** (+5.2%)  
Designs contained in international  
registrations in force



# Special theme: Decision outcomes for international registrations of industrial designs and their evolution over the past decade

## Introduction

The International Bureau (IB) of WIPO is responsible for determining whether an application for the registration of an industrial design made via the Hague System meets the criteria for international registration. Designated intellectual property (IP) offices are responsible for determining whether a design meets various substantive criteria that can range from public morality to novelty. Once an international registration is published, a designated office makes a number of decisions with respect to the international registration – such as whether to issue a grant, a refusal, a withdrawal of refusal (or post-refusal grant), and so on. Should the designated office not communicate a decision to the IB within a prescribed refusal period, protection is considered granted by default. The special theme for this year focuses on the decisions transmitted by designated offices to the IB and their recent evolution. An international registration can contain up to 100 designs. Unless stated otherwise, the statistics reported refer to the number of designs contained in registrations (i.e., design count). This is because some offices – such as the Japan patent office – issue a decision notification for each design, rather than each registration.

Upon receipt of an international application for the registration of industrial designs, the IB verifies whether it meets the requirements for international registration.<sup>1</sup> In cases where they

are not met, applicants are invited to correct the application within three months, otherwise it is considered abandoned. When an application fulfills all applicable requirements, it is recorded in the International Register and published in the *International Designs Bulletin (IDB)* a week after it has been recorded in the Register or up to 30 months from the priority date.<sup>2</sup>

Once a registration is published in the *IDB*, designated offices may conduct a substantive examination according to their respective national or regional legislation and decide whether to grant or refuse protection. If a designated office decides to refuse protection, it must notify the IB of its refusal within six months (or 12 months<sup>3</sup>) of the international registration's publication in the *IDB*. The holder of a registration that is subject to a refusal has the same right of appeal as a holder who has filed directly with a national or regional office. The designated office has to indicate the grounds on which it may refuse protection – that is, its provisional objection to the registration.<sup>4</sup> Refusal may be total (all designs contained in the registration) or partial (some of the designs contained in the registration).

In cases where the designated office does not issue a notification of refusal within the prescribed period, the registration is deemed to have been granted by default. Alternatively, the office may send the

<sup>1</sup> Although often referred to as a formal examination, certain requirements under the Hague System go beyond examining whether or not a document is present and necessitate an appreciation of the design, asking, for example, Is the disclaimer acceptable? Do all the reproductions represent one and the same design?, and so on.

<sup>2</sup> Note that applicants can request immediate publication or a deferment of publication.

<sup>3</sup> If the Contracting Party has made a declaration to extend the refusal time limit.

<sup>4</sup> An office must indicate all the grounds for refusal, together with the provisions of the applicable legislation. In general, grounds for refusal can relate to unity of design, insufficient disclosure, lack of novelty, and so on.



IB a statement of grant of protection (SGP) in the absence of a refusal within the refusal period.

An office may withdraw a notification of refusal as the result of an appeal by the applicant. Notification of a withdrawal of refusal may relate to one or some of the designs in the international registration to which the refusal applied. Notification of a withdrawal of refusal must be communicated to the IB. A withdrawal of a refusal does more than cancel the refusal – it acts as a grant of protection. In fact, most offices send SGPs instead of notifications of a withdrawal of refusal in such instances – there is no legal implication to this.

However, even after protection has been granted through an SGP, an authority may still determine that a design is not protectable and that the decision is no longer subject to appeal. In that case, the designated office notifies the IB of the invalidation of the registration. The IB records the invalidation in the International Register, together with the data contained in the notification. It also publishes the invalidation in the *IDB*.

Some designated offices collect the designation fee in two installments, the first at the time of international registration and the second once the design is eligible for protection following substantive examination. Should a holder of a registration not pay the second part of the fee, the designated office will advise the IB that the registration is cancelled for non-payment.

### **What is the volume of decisions transmitted to the IB by designated offices?**

Figure S1 shows the number of international registrations and the number of decisions concerning registrations received by the IB. During the 2010–2014 period, registrations and decisions were of a similar magnitude. However, since 2014, decisions have increased at a faster rate compared to registrations. The volume of decisions increased by 438% between 2014 and 2020, far in excess of the 114% increase in registrations seen over the same period. The increase in the average number of decisions per registration from 1.3 in 2014 to 3.3 in 2020 shows the extent of the divergence between registrations and decisions. This can be attributed to a recent evolution in the membership of the Hague System, with many of the jurisdictions that joined as of 2014 having legislation requiring their respective offices conduct a substantive examination of designs.

As outlined above, an individual registration can contain more than one design. Therefore, the number of decisions concerning a registration can exceed one in those cases where the office – such as that of Japan – communicates a decision per design rather than per registration. As a consequence, except for figure S1, the graphs presented in this section are based on design counts.

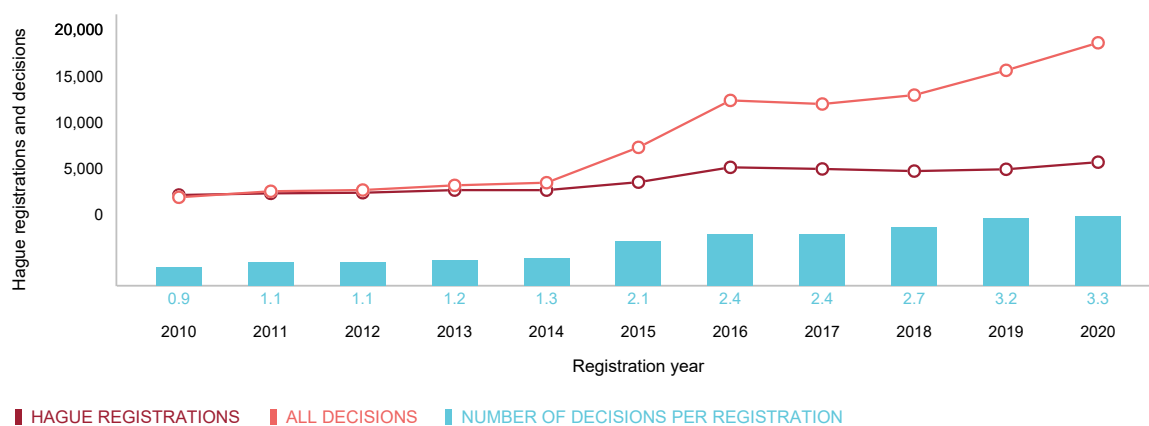
The number of designs in international registrations designating a Hague member grew from around 46,900 in 2010 to around 77,600 in 2020 – an increase of 65%. The number of decisions relating to those designs and communicated by designated offices to the IB grew from around 8,500 to around 43,700 over the same period – an increase of 416% (figure S2).<sup>5</sup> The total number of decisions comprises: (a) grant without a prior refusal, (b) grant after refusal (including withdrawal of refusal), (c) refusal, (d) invalidation, (e) invitation to pay the second part of the designation fee; and (f) cancellation for non-payment of fees.<sup>6</sup> The marked disparity between the number of designs in registrations and the decisions relating to those designs reflects the fact that a substantial proportion of registrations are granted by default – that is, when a designated office does not communicate any decision to the IB.

In 2010, designated offices communicated decisions concerning 18% of all design registrations. Since then the share of designs with decisions has gradually followed an upward trend, reaching a peak of 56.3% in 2020. This is due in part to the accession of Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America (U.S.) to the Hague System between 2014 and 2015. These three offices together accounted for over one-third (35.7%) of decisions in 2020 (figure S3).

<sup>5</sup> Counts are based on the number of designs at all offices and decisions concerning designs from all offices.

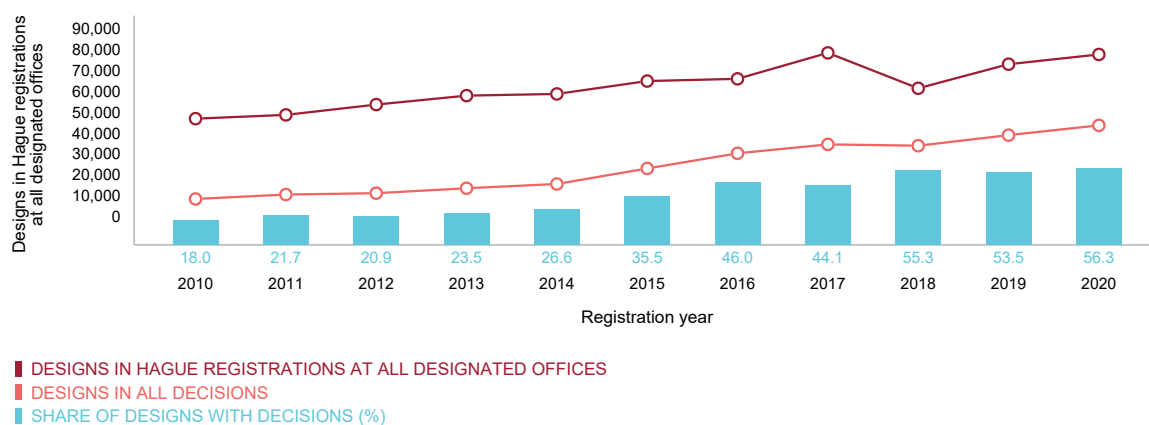
<sup>6</sup> There are other decisions such as refusals of change in ownership and its withdrawal; refusal of correction and its withdrawal; and division. These data are not included in this section.

### S1. International registrations and decisions, 2010–2020



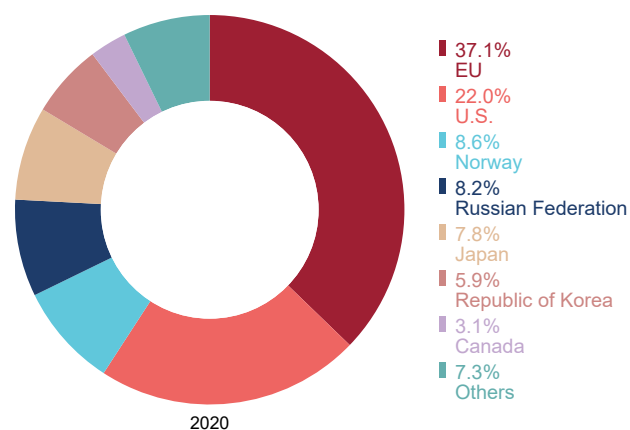
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

### S2. Decisions communicated to the IB by designated offices, 2010–2020



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

### S3. Share of decisions communicated to the IB by the top designated offices, 2020



Note: EU is the European Union.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

## What are the outcomes of decisions transmitted by designated offices?

As stated earlier, international registrations may undergo substantive examination by designated offices. Should a designated office not issue a notification of refusal within the set time period, then the registration is considered granted. The number of design refusals issued by designated offices increased from 527 in 2010 to 7,377 in 2020, while the number of designs in registrations grew from 46,898 to 77,634 over the same period. In terms of refusals as a percentage of registrations, 9.5% of all designs registered in 2020 were subject to a refusal; considerably higher than the 1.1% recorded in 2010 (figure S4). The refusal share remained low and stable until 2014, after which time it started to increase considerably, coinciding with the aforementioned accession of Japan, the Republic of Korea and the U.S.

In 2020, 88.7% of all design registrations were granted by designated offices, with only 11.3% rejected (figure S5). Prior to 2015, the share of refusals was less than 1% of the total, but then increased from 2.9% in 2015 to 11.3% in 2020.<sup>7</sup> For nine of the top 20 designated offices the grant rate was 100%, while a further seven offices had grant rates above 90% (figure S6). The Russian Federation (39.2%) and the U.S. (47.5%) are the only two among this group of designated offices to have a grant rate under 50%.

## Types of decisions communicated to the IB

Prior to 2016, the bulk of the decisions communicated to the IB consisted of a grant without refusal – more than 90% of all decisions – whereas refusals were below 10%. However, with a wave of accessions by offices that examine for novelty into the System, the share of refusals increased from 5.6% in 2015 to 21.4% in 2020. In 2020, around two-thirds of designs with decisions were granted protection by designated offices either by grant without refusal or grant after refusal (figure S7). However, it should be noted that the share of registrations granted protection is considerably higher, as figure S7 excludes grants by default (i.e., without a decision).

<sup>7</sup> It should be noted that the official refusal share for 2020 might be overstated, as some designs refused initially might be granted at a later date (grant after refusal).

The number of grants after refusal increased from 2.3% in 2015 to 15.5% in 2020, peaking at 17.3% in 2019. A majority of the grant after refusal decisions originated from only a small number of offices, with Japan, the Republic of Korea and the U.S. accounting for around 91.3% of the total during the 2017–2020 period.

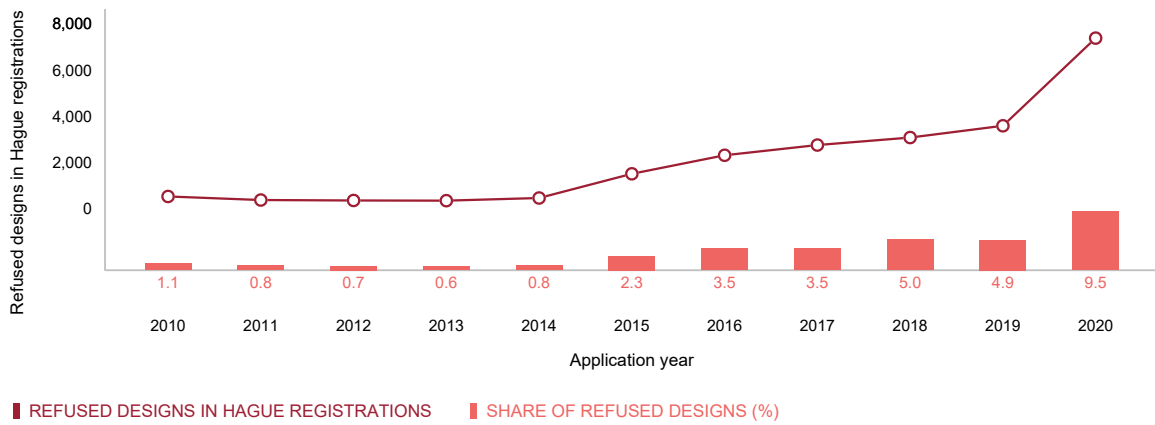
There is a considerable variation in what decisions were issued by offices during the 2018–2020 period. For instance, Croatia, the European Union (EU), Poland and Romania only notified the IB of grants without refusal (figure S8). In contrast, the offices of Estonia, Singapore, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the United Kingdom (U.K.) and Viet Nam chose not to issue grants without refusal, preferring instead the default granting of protection at the expiry of the refusal period. The Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Viet Nam only notified refusals of protection. More than a quarter of decisions issued by Japan (30.7%), the Republic of Korea (29.1%), Singapore (26.3%) and the U.K. (35.2%) were grant after refusal decisions. A request for payment of the second part of the designation fee accounted for 28.2% of all decisions notified by the U.S. office.

Figure S9 shows the share of design registrations that received a decision from the designated office. All designs designating the offices of Canada, the EU, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the U.S. were subject to a decision for the 2018–2020 period. This contrasts with the majority of designated offices, where the share of designs with a decision was low. In fact, seven offices did not transmit a single decision to the IB, as they conduct only a very limited substantive examination and otherwise leave protection to be granted by default.

## How much time does a designated office require to make a decision?

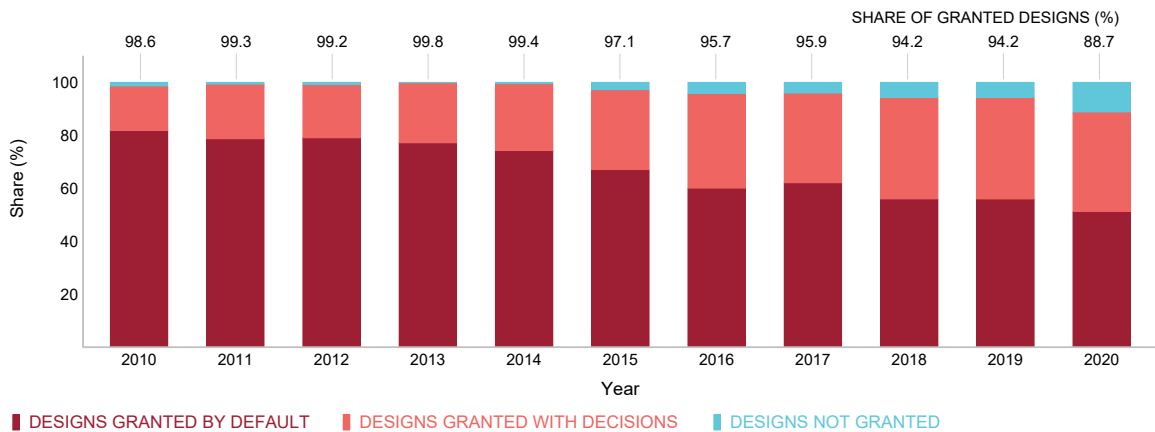
Until 2014, the bulk of decisions made by designated offices were communicated to the IB within six months of the publication date. However, the proportion of decisions transmitted within six months declined considerably after 2014, owing to the longer refusal period afforded to offices conducting full novelty examination under the Hague Agreement, and to the fact that a decision to grant protection after a prior refusal can happen at any time. Between 2016 (46.4%) and 2020 (44.7%), the share of decisions communicated to the IB within six months ranged from 44.1% in 2019 to a peak of 48.8% in 2017. In 2020, around four-fifths of

#### S4. Refusals of designs at all designated offices, 2010–2020



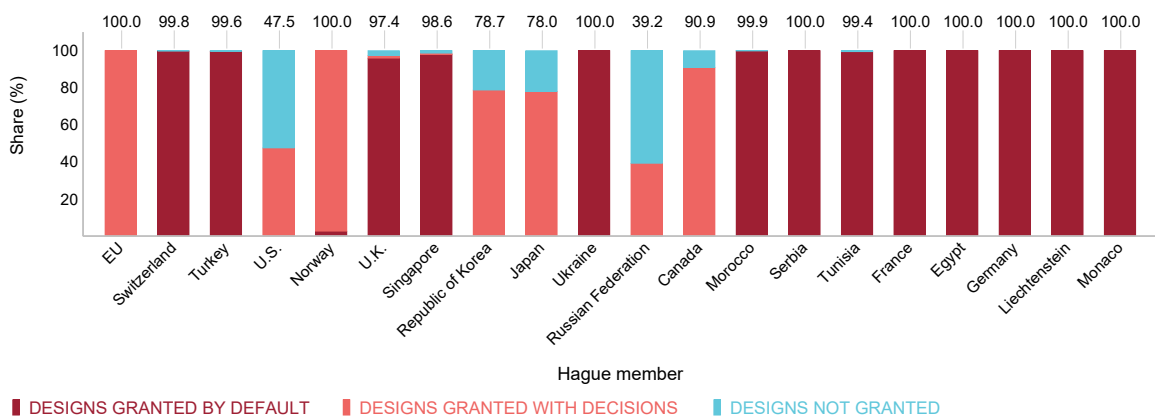
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

#### S5. Outcome of substantive examination by all designated offices, 2010–2020



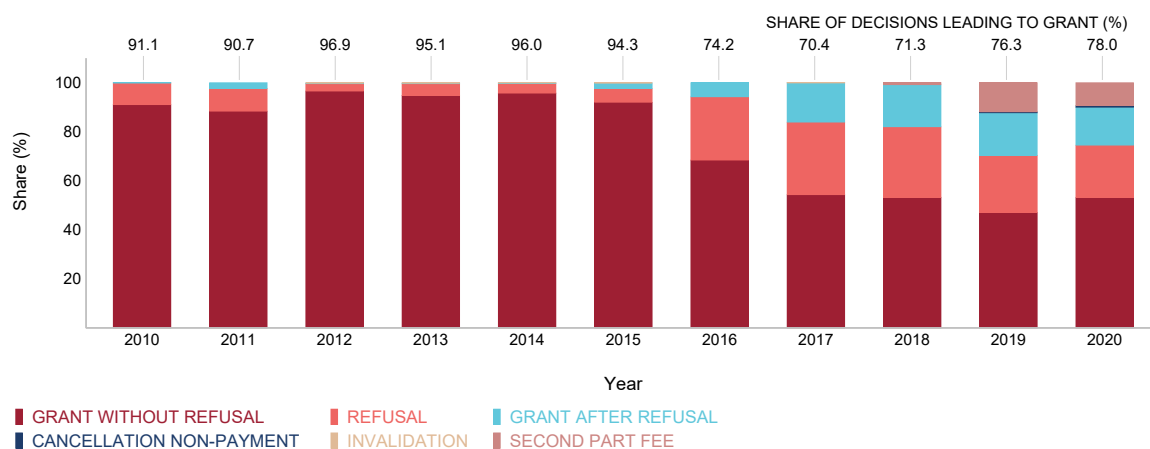
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

#### S6. Outcome of substantive examination for the top 20 designated offices, 2018–2020

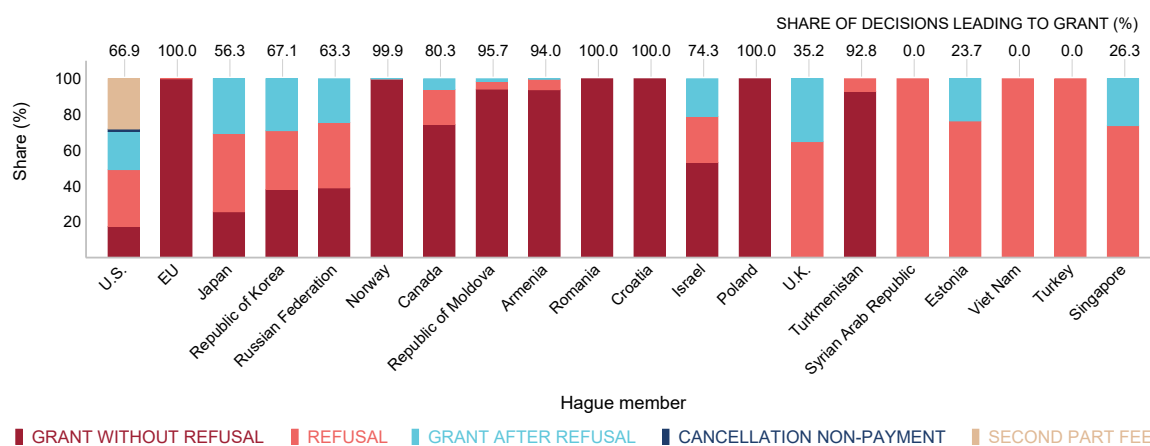


Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

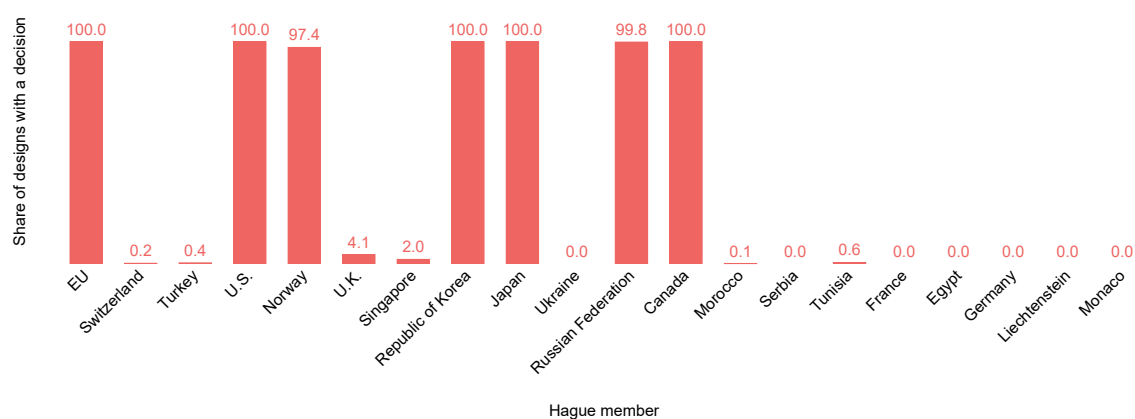
### S7. Decisions communicated to the IB by decision type, 2010–2020



### S8. Decisions communicated to the IB by the top 20 designated offices, 2018–2020



### S9. Share of designs with decisions for the top 20 designated offices, 2018–2020



all decisions were transmitted within 12 months, and another 17.8% of decisions within 18 months (figure S10). Around 2.8% of all decisions took more than 18 months from the publication date to be conveyed to the IB.

Timelines for decisions vary greatly across designated offices, depending on the decision type. Almost all decisions from the offices of the EU, Norway, Poland and Viet Nam were transmitted to the IB within six months of the publication date (figure S11). Armenia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and the U.K. also transmitted a large proportion of decisions within six months. In contrast, 44.3% of all decisions from the U.S. came within the 18-month category. Mexico, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Moldova also have a high share of decisions transmitted within 18 months, ranging from 12.9% for the Republic of Moldova to 15.3% for Mexico, with the Republic of Korea at 15.2%.

As mentioned earlier, offices have 12 months in which to communicate a decision to the IB (the time limit is 6 months for some offices). However, figure S10 reveals that the number of decisions transmitted after the 12-month time limit has passed has gradually increased from around 1% in 2010 to around 20% per annum for the 2016–2020 period. Absolute number of decisions transmitted after the 12-month limit ranged from around 2,100 in 2016 to around 4,100 in 2020. Figures S12 and S13 show the type of decision communicated by offices after the 12-month time limit has expired. The grant after refusal category accounted for the highest share of decisions from 2015 onwards – ranging from 72.4% in 2015 to 34.5% in 2020 (figure S12). Invitations to pay the second part of the designation fee accounted for around a quarter of all decisions transmitted later than 12 months during the past three years.

Figure S13 shows the distribution of the types of decision issued by offices after expiry of the 12-month time limit for the 2018–2020 period. During this period, all decisions transmitted by the EU were grant without refusal; almost every decision from Hungary and Japan a grant after refusal; and all decisions from Mexico an invitation to pay the second part of the designation fee.

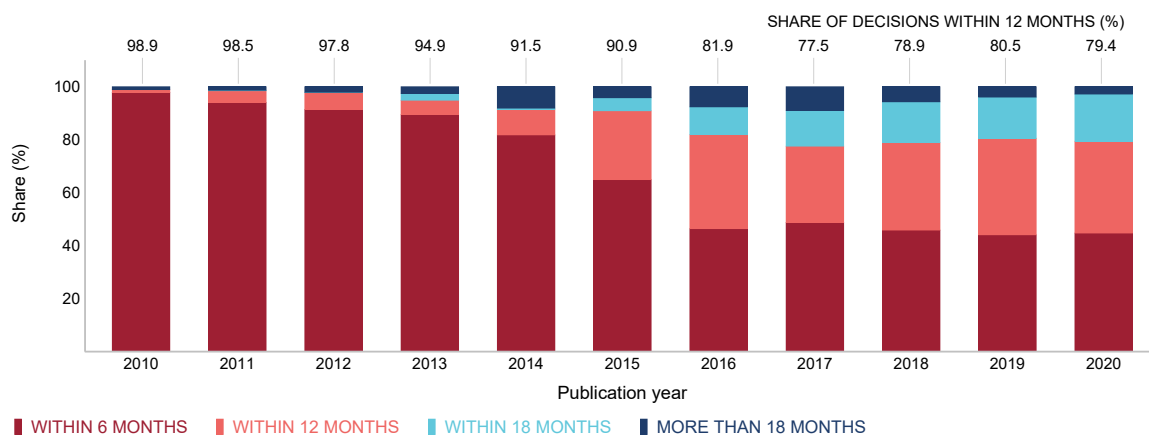
## Conclusions

There has been a substantial – 438% – increase in the amount of decisions transmitted by designated offices to the IB between 2014 and 2020. The average number of decisions per registration increased from 1.3 to 3.3 during the period. The bulk of these decisions originated from only a handful of offices. In 2020, six offices – the EU, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the U.S. – accounted for around 90% of all decisions.

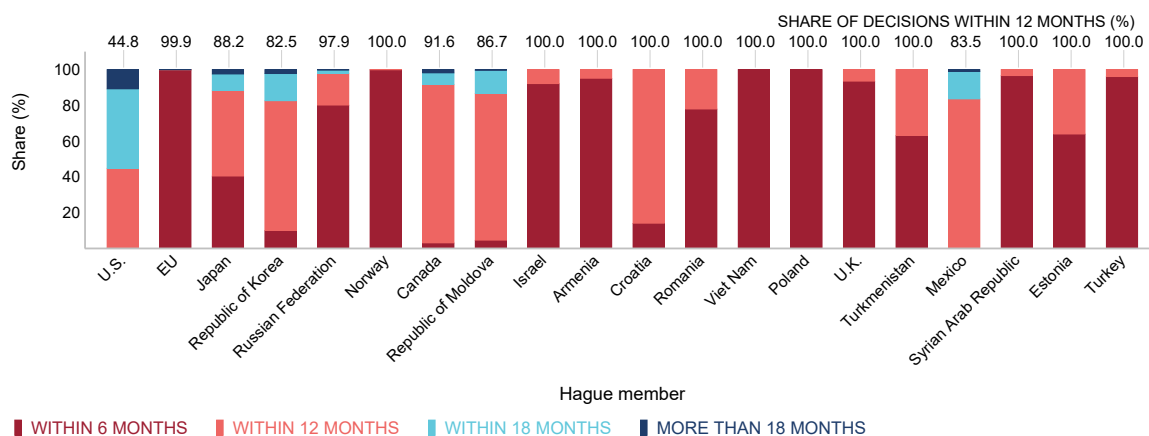
Overall, the bulk of designs in registrations are either granted by default or with a positive decision. The grant rate for the period was consistently high at the start of the decade with a peak at 99.8% in 2013, followed by a general decline to a low of 88.7% in 2020. The low grant rate recorded in 2020 could be due to incomplete data, as some registrations subject to an initial refusal might be granted in future. This is because, once a holder meets the requirements stipulated by an office, refusal notifications are withdrawn. The grant rate varies across offices, but at the majority is close to 100%.

The type of decision communicated by offices has evolved over the past decade. Prior to 2016, the bulk of decisions (>90%) were a grant without refusal. However, in the subsequent four years, the share of grants without refusal declined sharply to just over 50%. In contrast, the share of grant after refusal and invitation to pay the second part of the designation fee increased considerably, accounting for around a quarter of all decisions transmitted to the IB in 2020.

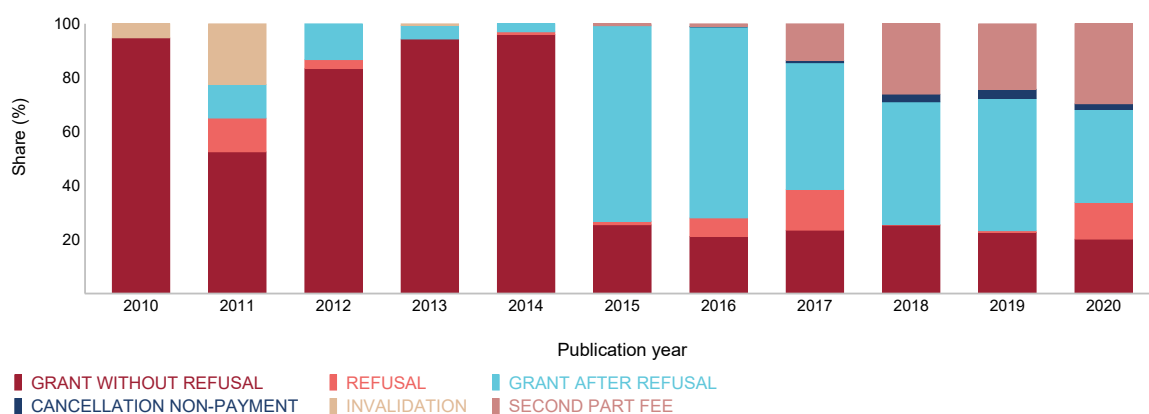
Up until 2014, more than 90% of decisions were communicated to the IB within the 12-month time limit. However, since then, the proportion of decisions received after expiry of the 12-month limit has more than doubled – from 9.1% in 2015 to 20.6% in 2020. Only a few offices accounted for the bulk of decisions transmitted later than 12-months – namely, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the U.S. A large proportion of the decisions submitted after 12 months by Canada (90%), Japan (98.7%) and the Republic of Korea (86.5%) fall within the grant after refusal category. As for the U.S., the grant after refusal and second part of the fee categories combined accounted for 63.3% of all decisions transmitted after 12 months.

**S10. Timelines for decisions by all designated offices, 2010–2020**

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

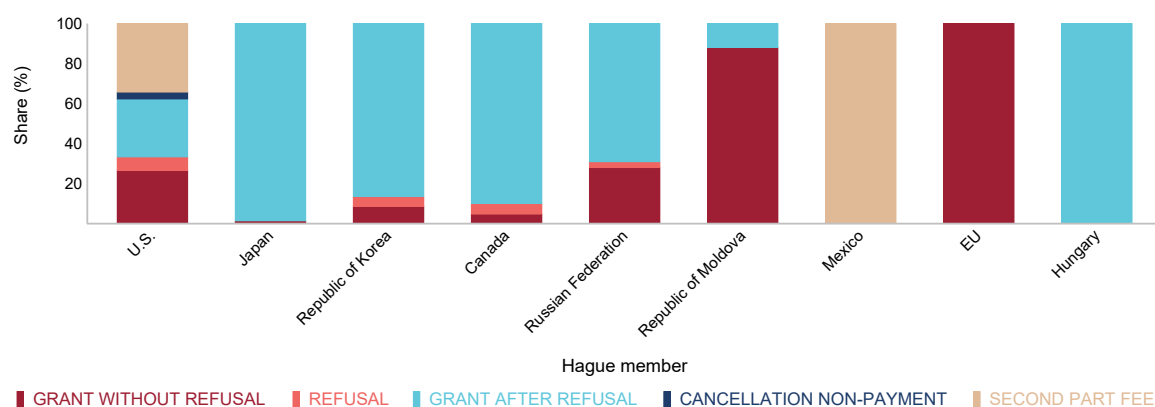
**S11. Timeliness of decisions by the top 20 designated offices, 2018–2020**

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

**S12. Distribution of decisions after expiry of the 12-month time limit by decision type, 2010–2020**

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.

**S13. Distribution of decisions after expiry of the 12-month limit by decision type and designated office, 2018–2020**



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2022.



The Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs allows applicants to register up to 100 different designs through a single international application. Focusing on both the number of applications and the number of designs contained in international applications provides a comprehensive overview of the Hague System in use. The Highlights section refers principally to the number of designs contained in applications. It is followed by a detailed set of standard figures and tables showing the number of Hague applications as well as the number of designs contained therein.

# Statistics on the Hague International Registration of Industrial Designs

## Highlights

**The number of designs contained in applications filed under the Hague System increased by 20.8% in 2021 – the fastest growth seen since 2010 – setting a new historical record**

The number of international applications for the protection of designs filed under the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) amounted to 6,711 applications in 2021, representing a 15.7% increase on the previous year (figure 1) and a new record in the history of the Hague System. Moreover, the number of designs contained in those applications grew by 20.8% to 22,486 designs – the fastest increase since 2010 (figure 2). Considerable growth in the number of designs originating from France, Germany and Italy partly accounts for the overall growth seen in 2021 (figure 9).

**Applicants from at least 60 countries or territories filed one or more Hague application**

The accession of Belarus and Jamaica in 2021 brought the number of Hague members to 76. These 76 Hague members make it possible for applicants to obtain protection for their designs within a geographical area incorporating a total of 93 countries. The difference in numbers between Hague members and the countries covered by the System is due to the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the European Union (EU) being Hague members. By choosing to designate either of these intergovernmental organizations within an application, protection is sought simultaneously within all their respective member states. In 2021, around 2,900 applicants from at least 60 countries or territories filed one or more Hague international applications.

Applicants based in Europe accounted for 68.5% of all designs filed in 2021 (figure 7). This reflects the membership of the Hague System, the vast majority of whom are European countries. However, following the recent accession of Japan and the Republic of Korea, the proportion of designs originating from Asia has increased from 2.7% in 2011 to 18.7% in 2021. With the accession of China in February 2022, this is expected to grow substantially in the coming years. Accession by Canada and the United States of America (U.S.) led to a small increase in North America's share from 11.3% in 2011 to 12.6% in 2021. The combined share for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Oceania is only 0.2%. This low share is partly due to the fact that only a few countries within these regions are currently party to the Hague Agreement.

**Germany, with 4,414 designs, is the Hague System's biggest source of designs by far**

Germany, with 4,414 designs, continues to be the main source of designs for the Hague System (figure 9). It is followed by the U.S. (2,639 designs), Italy (2,051), Switzerland (1,826) and France (1,585). Italy moved up from fifth to third position in 2021, while France jumped three places in the rankings to occupy the fifth spot. China, which was not a member of the Hague System in 2021, was among the top 10 origins in 2021.

Among the top 10 origins, the United Kingdom (U.K.) (+117.8%) recorded the fastest growth in 2021, followed by France (+69.5%) and Italy (+66.6%). The Netherlands (+22.1%), Germany (+20.4%) and the U.S. (+18.9%) also saw double-digit growth. The remaining four countries all underwent a decline in 2021, with China (–24.8%) and the Republic of Korea (–15%) recording the sharpest falls.

**Each international application contained an average 3.3 designs in 2021**

The Hague System allows applicants to register up to 100 different designs through a single international application. In 2021, only five applications – filed by I. Paleohorinos Fotistika of Greece, Herbert Kluth of Germany, Koninklijke Philips Electronics of the Netherlands and Jellycat Limited of the U.K., with two applications – contained the maximum permitted number of designs.

On average, there were 3.3 designs per application filed in 2021, which is similar to the previous year's ratio of 3.2 designs. In recent years, the average number of designs per application has followed a downward trend (figure 3). This is partly due to applications originating from recent Hague members Japan and the Republic of Korea containing fewer designs per application compared to those of long-time members such as Germany and the Netherlands. For example, the Republic of Korea averaged 1.7 designs per application in 2021, compared to an average 5.1 designs for Germany (figure 10).

The distribution of designs per application varied widely across origins. Of the top 20 origins, the Russian Federation (92.2%) and the Republic of Korea (84.5%) had the highest proportion of single-design applications, Germany (33.8%) the lowest (figure 11). Germany (10.4%), the Netherlands (10.9%) and Turkey (12.3%) had the largest share of applications with more than 10 designs.

**Which companies had the most designs published in 2021?**

Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea, with 862 designs published, headed the list of top filers, followed by Philips Electronics of the Netherlands (678 designs), Procter & Gamble of the U.S. (665), LG Electronics of the Republic of Korea (655) and Volkswagen of Germany (403) (table 4). The top 10 applicants list comprises two applicants each from Germany and the Republic of Korea, and one each from China, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the U.S. Luqom GMBH of Germany – a lighting fixtures company – is a new user of the Hague System and ranked in ninth spot in 2021, with 216 designs.

Among the top 10 applicants, Philips Electronics (with 215 additional designs in 2021) and LG Electronics (+177 designs) recorded the fastest increase in published designs between 2020 and 2021. The top 10 applicants represent a diverse set of industries that includes automobiles, electronics, lighting fixtures, household/consumer goods and mobile phones.

The proportion of designs held by the top three applicants from each of the top 10 origins ranged from 21.5% in Germany to 81.4% in the Republic of Korea (figure 5). The top Republic of Korea applicant accounted for 42.8% of all designs originating from that country, while Germany's top applicant accounted for 10.9% of the country's designs.

### Where do Hague applicants seek protection for their designs?

The Hague System simplifies the process of multinational registration by creating a single international procedure for protecting a design in multiple jurisdictions. Applicants list those Hague members in whose jurisdictions they wish to protect their designs (hereafter referred to as “designated members”). Following a decrease of 3.1% in 2020, the number of designations in all international applications increased by 19.7% in 2021 (figure 16), while the number of designs in all designations saw even a faster increase of 22.1% (figure 17). In total, just under 92,000 designs were contained in all designations made in 2021.

In 2021, the EU was the most designated Hague member in international applications, with 4,604 designations (figure 19) containing 15,974 designs (figure 20). The EU has been the most designated member since 2010. It was followed by the U.K. (13,698 designs), Switzerland (8,565), the U.S. (5,582) and Turkey (5,577). Every top 20 designated member, apart from France (–33.6%) and Serbia (–14.1%), saw an increase in designs in designations in 2021, with Mexico and the U.K. recording the fastest growth.

Designs originating in Germany accounted for the largest proportion of all designs in designations filed at seven of the top 15 designated members – shares ranged from 16% in the U.S. to 35.9% in Switzerland. The U.S. had the largest share of all designs in designations filed at five of the top 15 designated members (table 23).

Applicants are able to designate every Hague member in an application. Despite this, in 2021, no applicant sought to protect their designs within the jurisdictions of all members. However, three applications did designate 73 of the 76 Hague members. They originated from France, Japan and Switzerland. Around 16.3% of applications included one designation, while a quarter (25.1%) of applications included two designations. Only 6.4% of applications included more than 10 designations (figure 18).

### Which classes were most frequently specified in international applications?

Designs relating to means of transport (Class 12; 9.7%) accounted for the largest share of total designs in 2021, followed by recording and communication equipment (Class 14; 9.6%), packages and containers (Class 9; 8.2%), furnishing (Class 6; 6.9%) and lighting apparatus (Class 26; 6.5%). Combined, the top 10 most specified classes accounted for 65.5% of all designs in 2021, whereas the 10 least specified classes accounted for only 4.1% (table 26). Among the top 10 classes, clothing (Class 2; +76.4%), pharmaceutical and cosmetic products (Class 28; +66.2%) and games, toys and sports goods (Class 21; +46.7%) saw a substantial growth in 2021.

While designs relating to transport were the most frequently specified class in international applications overall, class shares differed across origins (table 27). For example, Class 14 was the most frequently specified class in applications from China (30.6% of all designs), Japan (17.6%) and the Republic of Korea (47.7%). For the U.K. (31.3%), it was class 21, while for the Netherlands (39.7%), class 28 accounted for the largest share of the total.

### Following a substantial growth in 2020, international registrations declined by 10.1% in 2021

The International Bureau (IB) recorded 6,106 international registrations in 2021, representing a 10.1% decline on the previous year (figure 30). This decline is due to the record number of registrations recorded in 2020 as the International Bureau eradicated the backlog that had accumulated in 2019 as it moved to a new IT platform. Similarly, the number of designs contained within registrations amounted to 19,993 – a steep decline from the 23,671 designs registered in

2020 (table 32). A sharp fall in designs in registrations originating from Germany and the Republic of Korea accounted for two-thirds of the overall decrease. In total, residents from at least 57 countries registered at least one design in 2021.

Holders residing in Germany accounted for 18.3% of all design registrations, followed by those in the U.S. (11.5%), Italy (9.4%), Switzerland (9.2%) and France (7.5%) (table 32). Among the top five origins, France (+18.5%) and Italy (+31.1%) each saw double-digit growth in 2021. As a result, Italy moved up from fifth position in 2020 to third spot in 2021, while France moved up one to fifth place in 2021. Outside the top five origins, the U.K. ranked ninth after an impressive 36.6% growth in 2021. Poland (+181.7%) and Singapore (+250%) saw triple-digit growth, albeit from a low base.

**Registration renewals grew by 14.8% overall in 2021 – following a 34.2% growth the year before**

Around 5,460 international registrations containing 19,998 designs were renewed in 2021. Registration renewals grew overall by 14.8% in 2021 – following a 34.2% growth the previous year (figure 38) – while renewals of designs contained in registrations increased by 4.6% in 2021 (figure 39). Holders located in Germany (26.4%) accounted for the largest share of design renewals, followed by those in Switzerland (19.5%), France (9.4%), Italy (8.2%) and the U.S. (8.2%) (figure 41).

The EU surpassed Switzerland to become the most designated Hague member, with 13,166 design renewals in 2021. The EU was followed by Switzerland (11,820), Turkey (7,438), France (3,808) and Ukraine (3,771) (table 42). These five designated members accounted for 41.8% of all design renewal designations in 2021, which is 7.4 percentage points above their combined 2016 share.

**Around 46,800 international registrations were in force in 2021 – up 5.5% on the previous year**

The number of registrations in force (active registrations) rose by 5.5% to reach 46,820 in 2021 (figure 43). Registrations in force contained around 182,200 designs (figure 44). Both the registrations in force and the designs they contain are concentrated among small number of countries, with holders residing in Germany (25%), Switzerland (16.5%) and France (9.2%) together accounting for around 50.7% of all active designs in 2021 (figure 47). However, the combined share for these three countries declined by around 11 percentage points between 2016 and 2021.

Studying registrations in force by right holders helps provide insights into the concentration of registrations at the firm and individual levels. In 2021, just over two-thirds of firms or individuals holding an active registration had only one registration in their portfolio (figure 48). A further 14.7% of holders owned only two active registrations, while holders with three accounted for 5.7% of the total. Only 40 portfolios had more than 100 active registrations, with one holder – LG Electronics of the Republic of Korea – having 2,700 active registrations, containing around 3,300 designs. The distribution of active registrations has remained more or less unchanged over the past few years.

**The IB distributed CHF 10.7 million to 73 designated members in 2021**

In 2021, the IB distributed around 10.7 million Swiss francs (CHF) to designated offices. Japan (29.3%) received the largest share of the total, followed by the U.S. (21.1%), the EU (13%) and Canada (8.9%) (table 50). Although the U.K. received only 1.4% of the total amount distributed by the IB, it had the fastest growth among the top 10 designated offices, the amount received by the U.K. increasing from CHF 81,801 in 2020 to CHF 153,066 in 2021.

**On average, applicants paid just over CHF 2,000 per international registration through the Hague System in 2021**

In 2021, the average fee for a Hague international registration was CHF 2,069, which is only CHF 13 more than the previous year (figure 51). The fee per registration ranged from between CHF 456 for eight single-design registrations to CHF 98,860 for a single registration originating from Luxembourg that contained 71 designs and designated 17 Hague members. Around 72% of registrations cost less than the CHF 2,070 average fee, while around 11.7% of registrations cost more than CHF 3,000 per registration.

**Electronic format is preferred by almost all applicants when submitting international applications**

Electronic filing was first introduced by the IB in 2003. By 2009, over half (58.3%) of all international applications were submitted electronically and this has continued to grow, reaching 99.7% in 2021 (figure 12). The total number of applications received in paper format amounted to 17 in 2021, five of which were filed by applicants located in the U.K. and four by applicants resident in Germany.

**The vast majority of international applications are filed in English**

In 2021, 89.1% of Hague applications were filed in English, with French accounting for 9.8% and Spanish just 1.2% (figure 13). Up until 1998, over half of all filings were made in French, since when English has been the preferred language for applications. Only two Spanish-speaking countries – Mexico and Spain – are members of the Hague System, which explains the low share of applications filed in Spanish.

**Hague international applications**

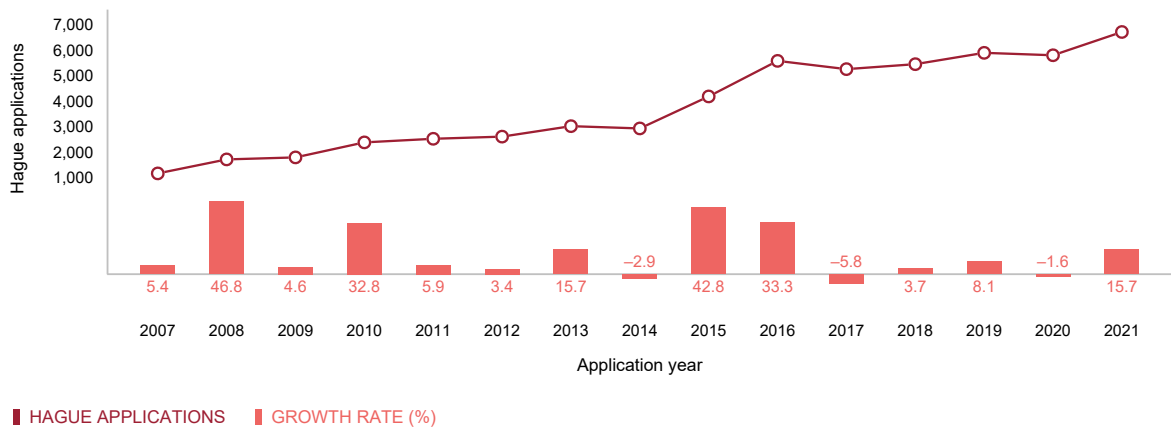
1	International applications, 2007–2021	23
2	Number of designs contained in international applications, 2007–2021	23
3	Average number of designs per international application, 2007–2021	24
4	Top Hague applicants, 2019–2021	24
5	Share of the top three applicants for the top 10 origins, 2021	25
6	Designs contained in international applications by income group, 2011 and 2021	26
7	Designs contained in international applications by region, 2011 and 2021	26
8	International applications for the top 20 origins, 2021	27
9	Designs contained in international applications for the top 20 origins, 2021	27
10	Average number of designs per international application for the top 20 origins, 2021	28
11	Distribution of designs per application for the top 20 origins, 2021	29
12	Distribution of international applications by medium of filing, 2007–2021	30
13	Distribution of international applications by language of filing, 2007–2021	30
14	International applications with priority claims, 2007–2021	31
15	Share of international applications with priority claims for the top 20 origins, 2021	31

# Hague international applications

This subsection presents statistics on Hague international applications for the international registration of industrial designs. Statistics are presented both for the number of applications and the number of designs contained in applications.

## International applications grew by 15.7% in 2021 – the fastest growth since 2016.

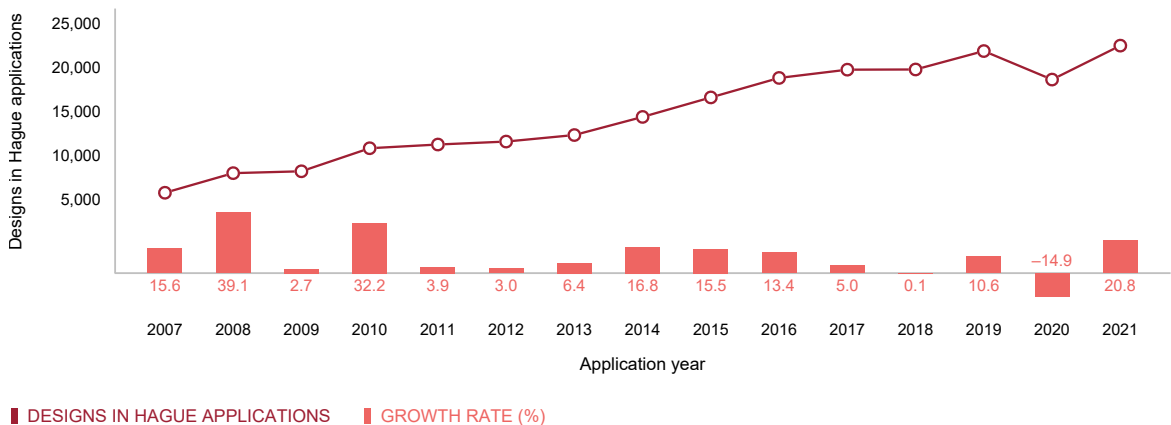
### 1. International applications, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Following a steep decline in 2020, designs contained in international applications increased by over one-fifth (20.8%) in 2021.

### 2. Number of designs contained in international applications, 2007–2021

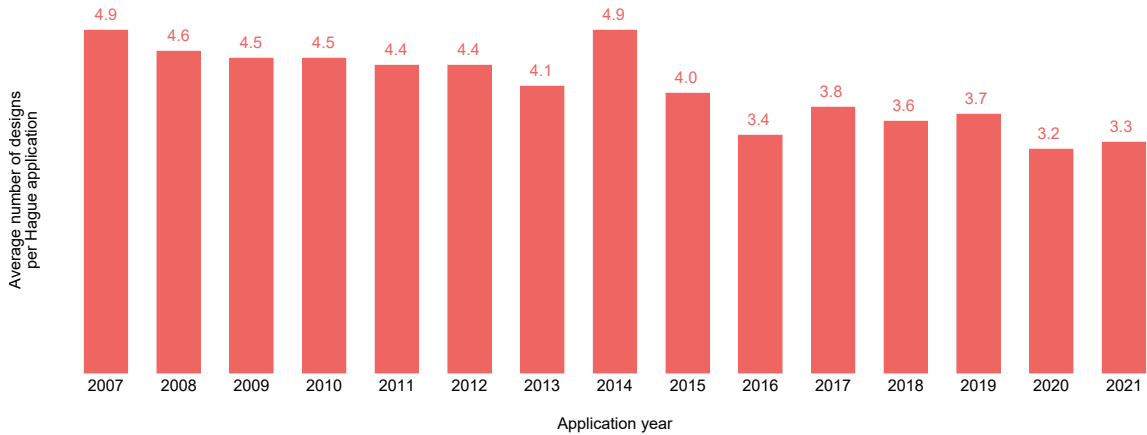


Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.



**There were an average 3.3 designs per application filed in 2021, similar to the previous year's average.**

### 3. Average number of designs per international application, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**For a fifth consecutive year, Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea headed the list of top filers.**

### 4. Top Hague applicants, 2019–2021

Ranking	Applicant's name	Origin	Number of designs contained in published applications		
			2019	2020	2021
1	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.	Republic of Korea	929	859	862
2	KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.	Netherlands	371	463	678
3	PROCTER & GAMBLE CO.	U.S.	405	623	665
4	LG ELECTRONICS INC.	Republic of Korea	598	478	655
5	VOLKSWAGEN AG	Germany	536	524	403
6	PSA AUTOMOBILES SA	France	221	187	303
7	THUN S.P.A.	Italy	241	175	284
8	BEIJING XIAOMI MOBILE SOFTWARE CO., LTD.	China	172	516	227
9	LUQOM GMBH	Germany	0	0	216
10	HARRY WINSTON SA	Switzerland	94	132	196
11	DAIMLER AG	Germany	156	207	178
12	HERMES SELLIER(SOCIETE PAR ACTIONS SIMPLIFIEE)	France	27	139	168
13	JT INTERNATIONAL S.A.	Switzerland	28	52	158
14	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORPORATION	Japan	183	107	150
15	I. PALEOHORINOS FOTISTIKA A.B.E.E.	Greece	0	65	138
16	GILLETTE COMPANY LLC	U.S.	199	144	135
17	HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY	Republic of Korea	57	141	123
18	HANS GROHE SE	Germany	20	75	114
19	RICHEMONT INTERNATIONA SA	Switzerland	99	101	112
20	CHOCOLADEFABRIKEN LINDT & SPRUNGLI AG	Switzerland	118	24	110
21	MICROSOFT CORPORATION	U.S.	29	96	109
22	MIDEA GROUP CO., LTD.	China	26	56	104
23	ALFRED KARCHER GMBH & CO	Germany	113	188	102
24	HERBERT KLUTH (GMBH & CO.KG)	Germany	0	0	100
24	JELLYCAT LIMITED	U.K.	0	0	100
26	FERRARI S.P.A.	Italy	107	58	99
26	INVENTIO AG	Switzerland	0	33	99
28	NINEBOT(BEIJING)TECH. CO.,LTD	China	26	90	98
29	ASAS ALUMINYUM SANAYI VE TICARET ANONIM SIRKETI	Turkey	19	34	97
30	GAVRIELI BRANDS LLC	U.S.	0	0	92
31	NOMINATION S.R.L.	Italy	0	0	89
32	CARTIER INTERNATIONAL AG	Switzerland	70	125	87
33	RENAULT S.A.S.	France	192	157	84
33	T.R.B. INTERNATIONAL S.A.	Switzerland	72	47	84

(4 continued)

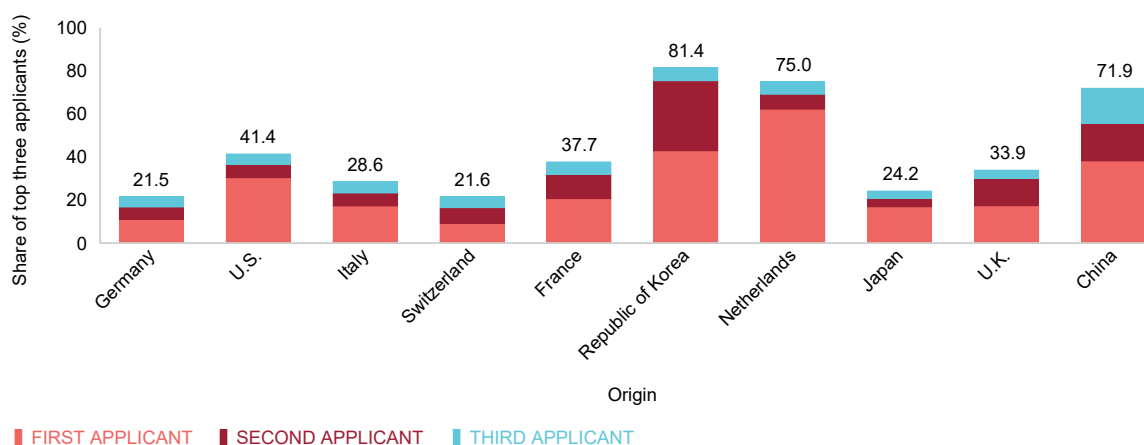
Ranking	Applicant's name	Origin	Number of designs contained in published applications		
			2019	2020	2021
35	BRAUN GMBH	Germany	89	238	83
35	JOYO TECHNOLOGY PTE. LTD.	Singapore	0	0	83
37	LEDKAN HOLDINGS LIMITED	Cyprus	47	0	82
38	CITIC DICASTAL CO., LTD.	China	92	36	78
38	EIS GMBH	Germany	68	109	78
38	RH US, LLC	U.S.	0	0	78
41	DAF TRUCKS N.V.	Netherlands	0	0	75
42	GRAFF DIAMONDS LIMITED	U.K.	64	13	73
43	TEQBALL HOLDING SARL	Luxembourg	6	24	71
44	ABBOTT DIABETES CARE INC.	U.S.	0	0	70
44	BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE AKTIENGESellschaft	Germany	57	59	70
44	CANDY POLSTERMOBEL GMBH	Germany	101	116	70
47	KWAI GAMES PTE. LTD.	Singapore	0	0	68
48	NOVARTIS AG	Switzerland	25	42	67
49	DACHPOLL SP. Z O.O.	Poland	0	0	65
49	FONKEL MEUBELMARKETING B.V.	Netherlands	859	569	65

Note: For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published registrations and on the publication date. Applicants residing in a non-member country can file applications for international registration, if they have a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment within the jurisdiction of a Hague member. For example, China was not a member of the Hague System in 2021, but China's Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software Co., Ltd. sought protection for 227 designs by filing applications via a connection with a Hague member.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**The proportion of designs held by the top three applicants from each of the top 10 origins ranged from 21.5% in Germany to 81.4% in the Republic of Korea.**

5. Share of the top three applicants for the top 10 origins, 2021

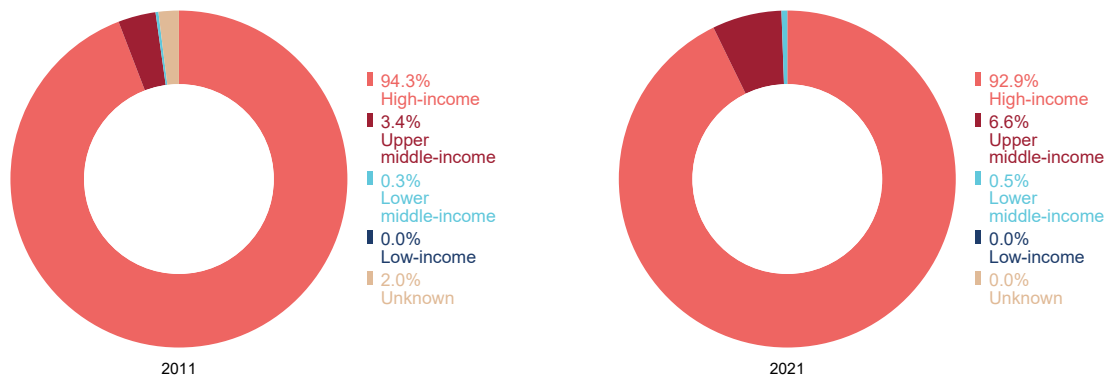


Note: For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published registrations and on the publication date. Applicants residing in a non-member country can file applications for international registration, if they have a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment within the jurisdiction of a Hague member. For example, China was not a member of the Hague System in 2021, but Chinese applicants sought protection for designs by filing applications via a connection with a Hague member.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## The bulk of designs contained in international applications continue to originate from high-income countries.

### 6. Designs contained in international applications by income group, 2011 and 2021

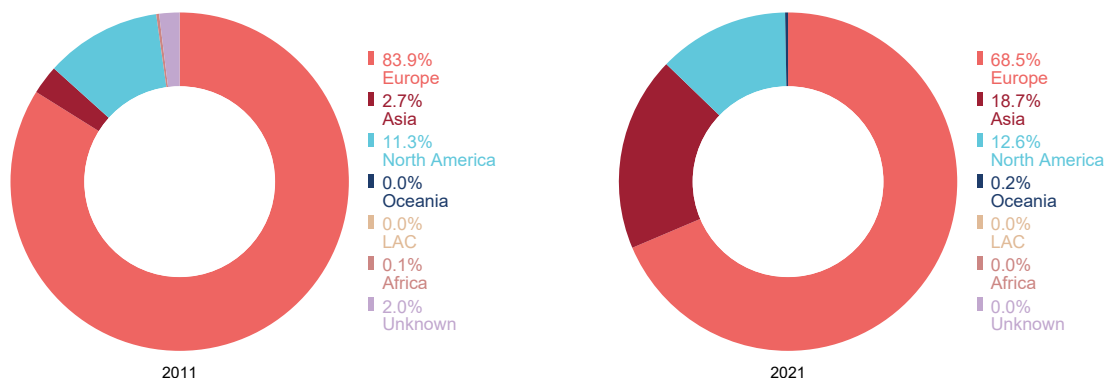


Note: Each income group includes the following number of countries or territories that filed at least one design application in either 2011 or 2021: high-income (44), upper middle-income (12), lower middle-income (7) and low-income (1). Income groups are defined by the World Bank's income classifications. Venezuela is unclassified pending the release of revised national accounts statistics.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Asia's share increased from 2.7% in 2011 to 18.7% in 2021.

### 7. Designs contained in international applications by region, 2011 and 2021

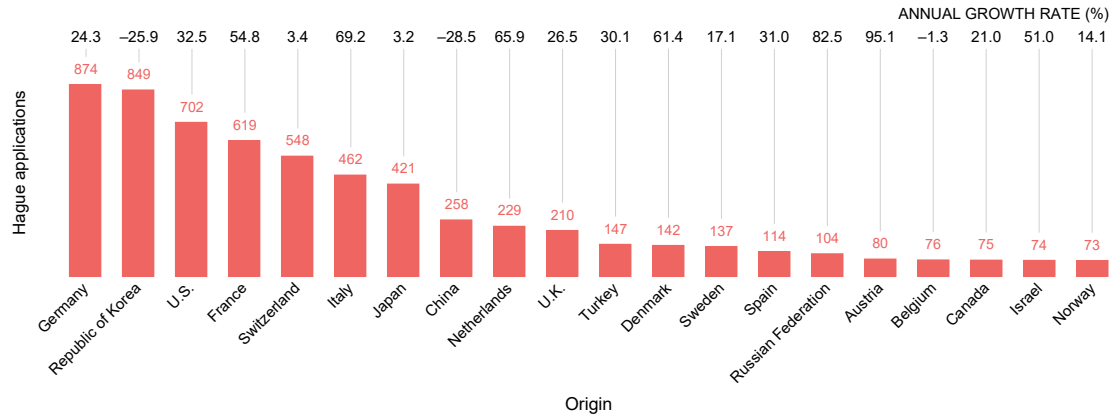


Note: Each geographical region includes the following number of countries or territories that filed at least one design application in either 2011 or 2021: Africa (5), Asia (12), Europe (39), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (4), North America (2) and Oceania (2). Regions are defined according to United Nations definitions.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Germany and the Republic of Korea each accounted for more than 800 international applications in 2021.

### 8. International applications for the top 20 origins, 2021

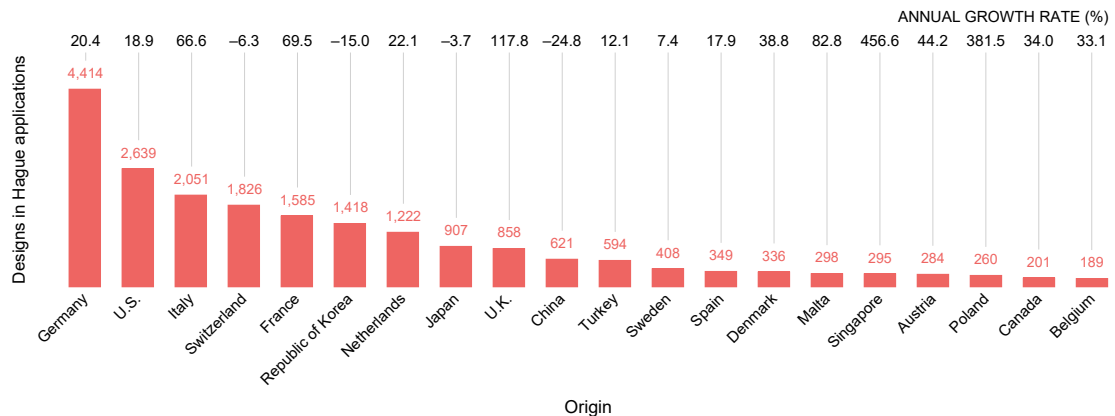


Note: The origin of an application is defined as the country/territory of the stated address of residence of the applicant. Applicants residing in a non-member country can file applications for international registrations, if they have a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment within the jurisdiction of a Hague member. For example, China was not a member of the Hague System in 2021, but ranked eighth in terms of application count.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## The majority of the top 20 origins reported double-digit growth in number of designs in 2021.

### 9. Designs contained in international applications for the top 20 origins, 2021

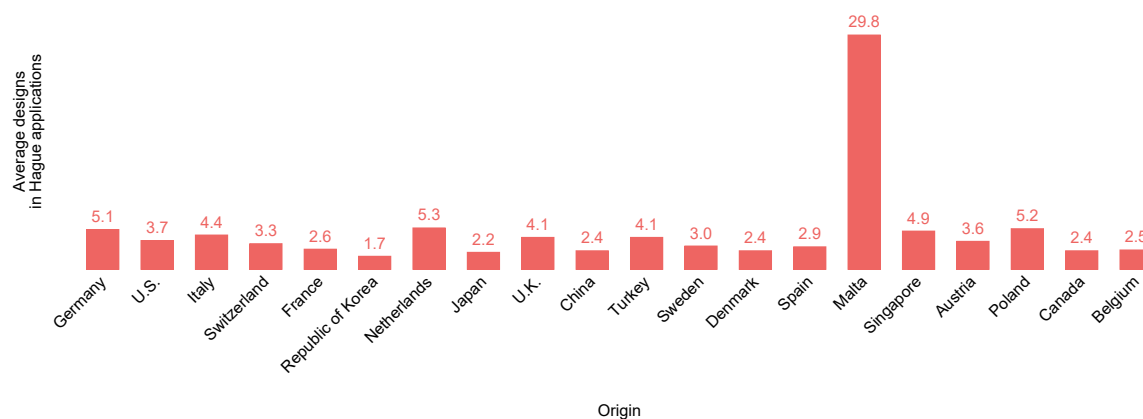


Note: The origin of an application is defined as the country/territory of the stated address of residence of the applicant. Applicants residing in a non-member country can file applications for international registrations, if they have a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment within the jurisdiction of a Hague member. For example, China was not a member of the Hague System in 2021, but ranked tenth, with 621 designs.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**Among the top 20 origins, excluding Malta, the average number of designs per application ranged from 1.7 for the Republic of Korea to 5.3 for the Netherlands.**

10. Average number of designs per international application for the top 20 origins, 2021

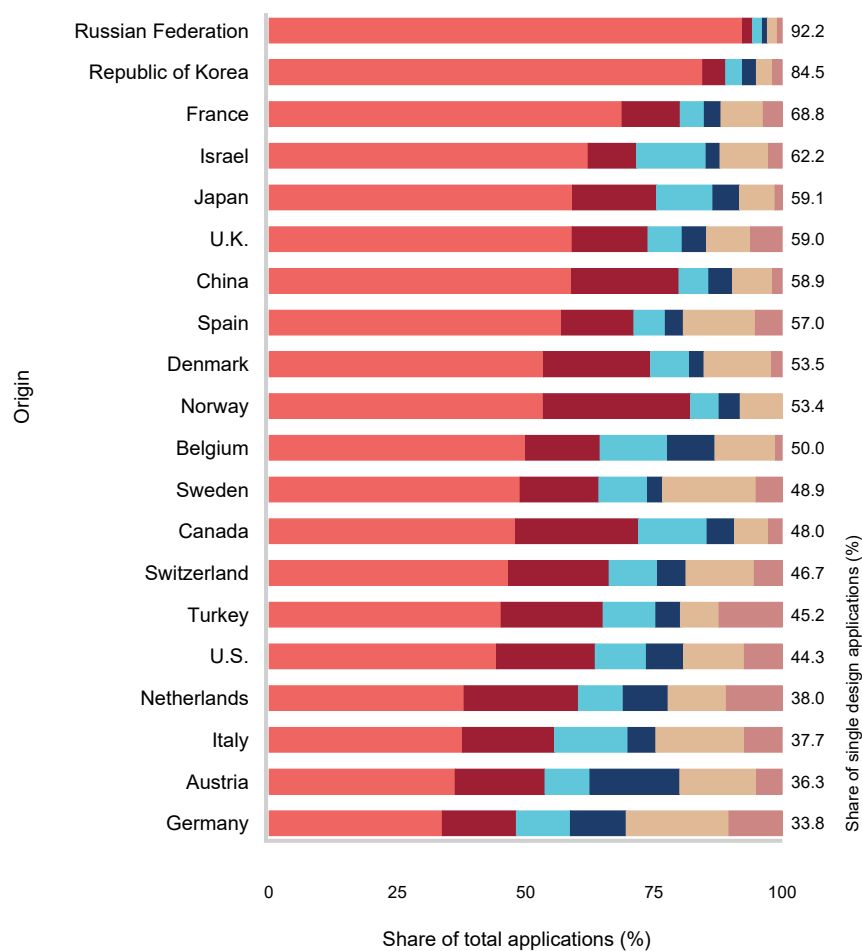


Note: Malta filed only 10 applications, but each contained a large number of designs – for example, three applications contained more than 50 designs per application. As a result, Malta's average number of designs per application is far higher than for the other top 20 origins. The origin of an application is defined as the country/territory of the stated address of residence of the applicant. Applicants residing in a non-member country can file applications for international registrations, if they have a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment within the jurisdiction of a Hague member. The top 20 origins as reported in figure 9.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**For the top 20 origins, the proportion of single-design applications ranged from 33.8% for Germany to 92.2% for the Russian Federation.**

11. Distribution of designs per application for the top 20 origins, 2021



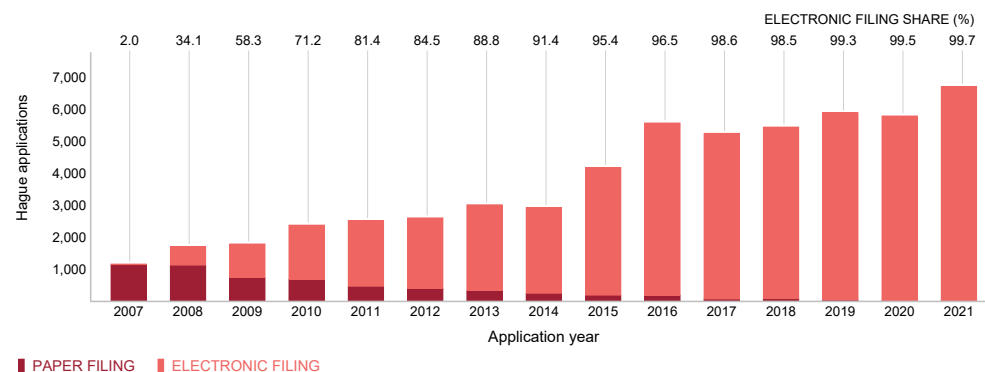
1 DESIGN 2 DESIGNS 3 DESIGNS 4 DESIGNS 5 to 10 DESIGNS >10 DESIGNS

Note: The top 20 origins as reported in figure 8.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Electronic format is the mode of filing international applications chosen by almost all applicants.

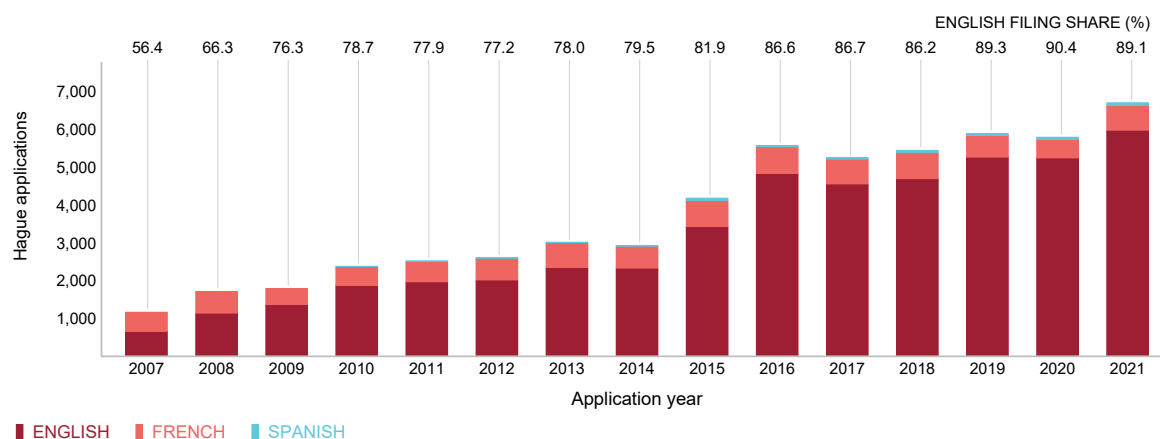
12. Distribution of international applications by medium of filing, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## The share of applications filed in English has hovered around 90% for the past three years.

13. Distribution of international applications by language of filing, 2007–2021

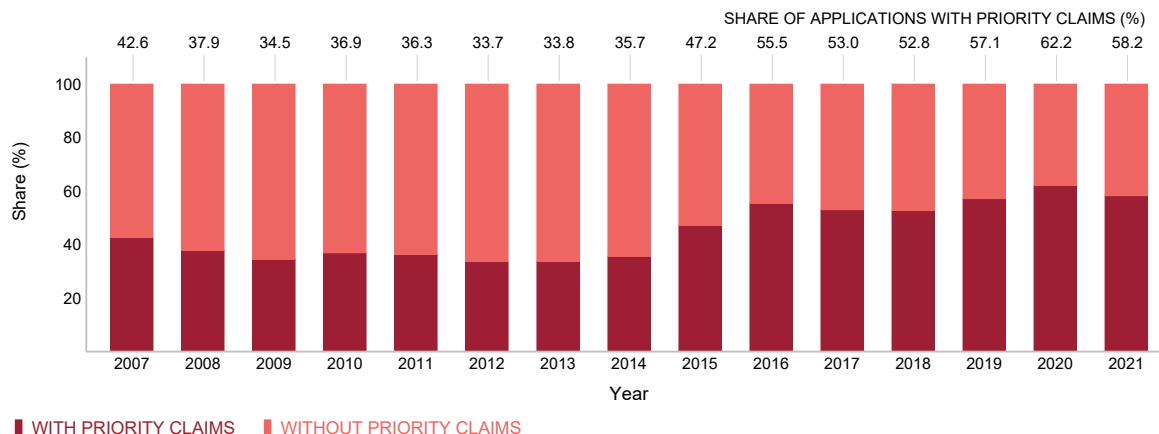


Note: International applications can be filed in English, French or Spanish.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**Since 2016, the majority of international applications have been based on priority claims.**

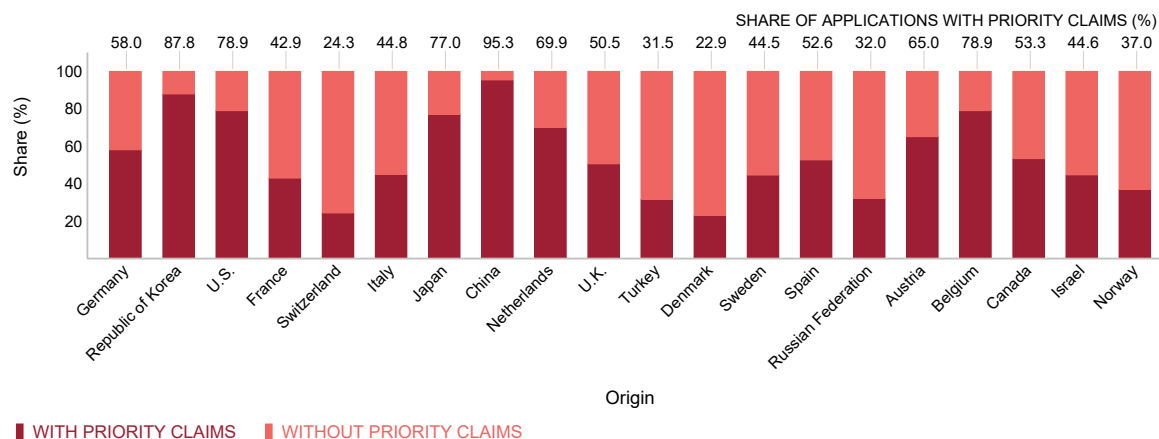
14. International applications with priority claims, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**Among the top 20 origins, Denmark had the lowest proportion of applications with priority claims in 2021.**

15. Share of international applications with priority claims for the top 20 origins, 2021



Note: The top 20 origins as reported in figure 8.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.



**Geographical coverage of Hague international applications**

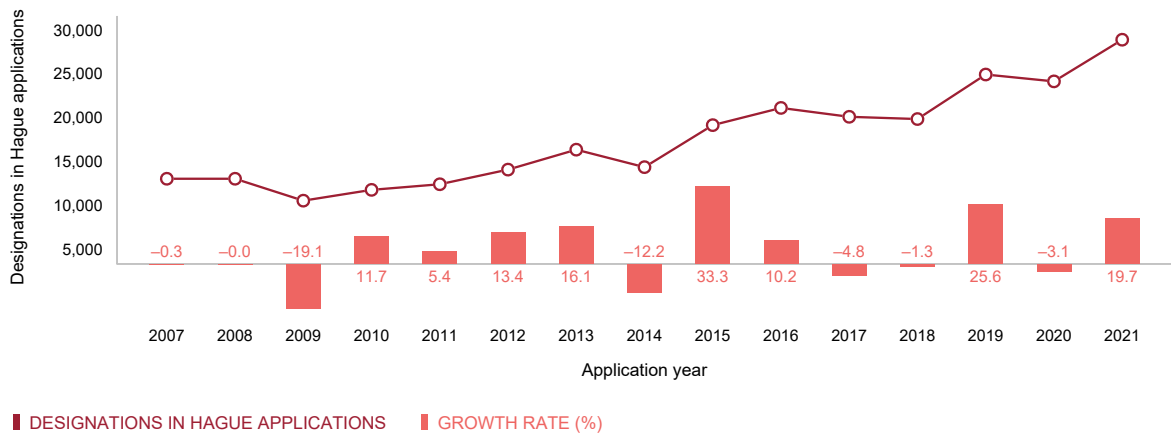
16	Designations in international applications, 2007–2021	33
17	Number of designs contained in designations in international applications, 2007–2021	33
18	Distribution of designations per international application, 2021	34
19	Designations in international applications for the top 20 designated Hague members, 2021	34
20	Designs contained in designations in international applications for the top 20 designated Hague members, 2021	35
21	Average number of designs per designation for the top 20 designated Hague members, 2021	35
22	Distribution of designs per application for the top 20 designated Hague members, 2021	36
23	Designs contained in applications for the top 15 origins and the top 15 designated Hague members, 2021	37

# Geographical coverage of Hague international applications

The Hague System simplifies the process of multinational registration by creating a single international procedure for protecting a design in multiple jurisdictions. Applicants list those Hague members in whose jurisdictions they wish to protect their designs (known as “designated members”). This subsection presents statistics on designations to provide insights into the geographical coverage of international applications.

## Designations in international applications grew by 19.7% in 2021.

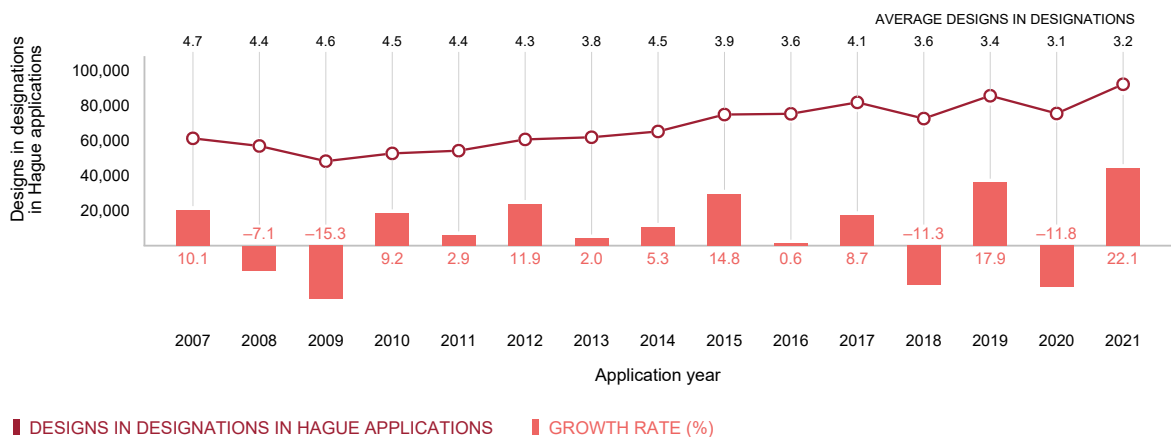
### 16. Designations in international applications, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Designs contained in designations grew by 22.1% to reach around 92,000 designations in 2021.

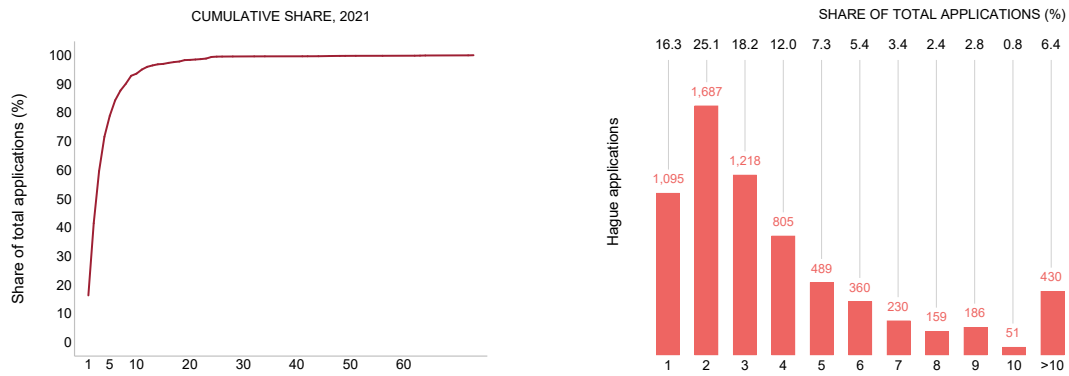
### 17. Number of designs contained in designations in international applications, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Around 60% applications sought protection in up to three Hague member jurisdictions.

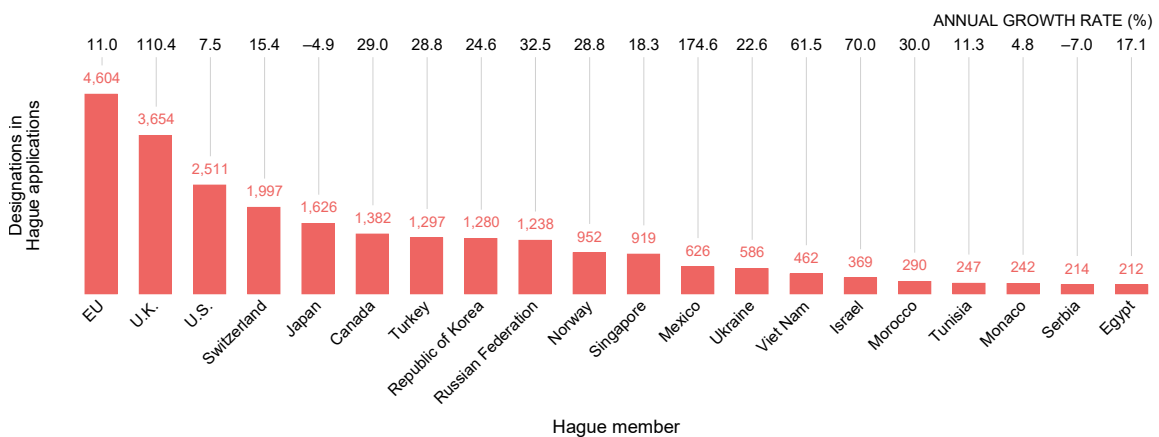
18. Distribution of designations per international application, 2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Following Brexit, the U.K. surpassed the U.S. to become the second most designated Hague member in international applications in 2021, right after the EU.

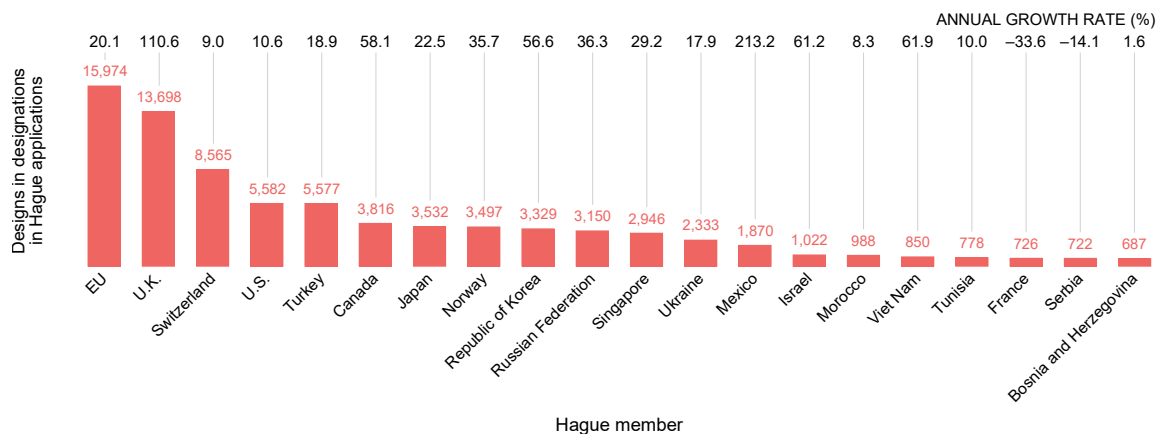
19. Designations in international applications for the top 20 designated Hague members, 2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## The EU continues to be the most designated member in designs in designations.

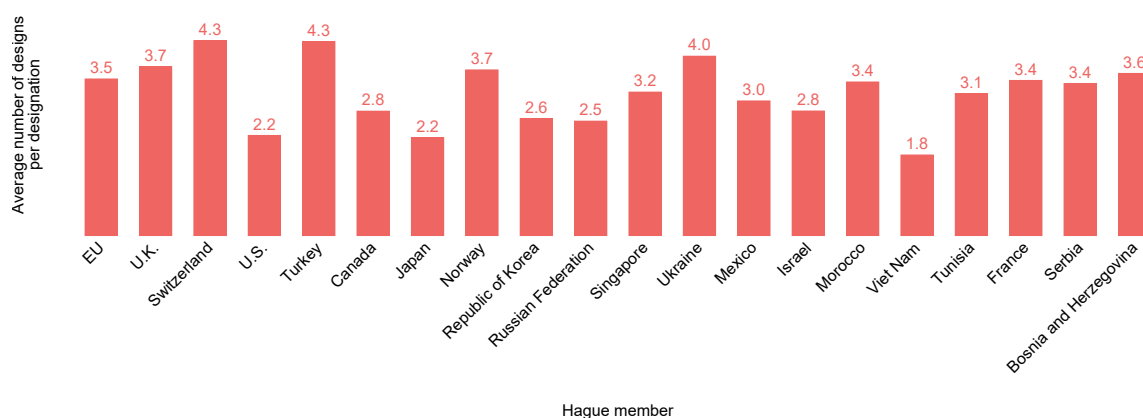
20. Designs contained in designations in international applications for the top 20 designated Hague members, 2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## On average, international applications designating Switzerland and Turkey contained more than four designs per designation in 2021.

21. Average number of designs per designation for the top 20 designated Hague members, 2021

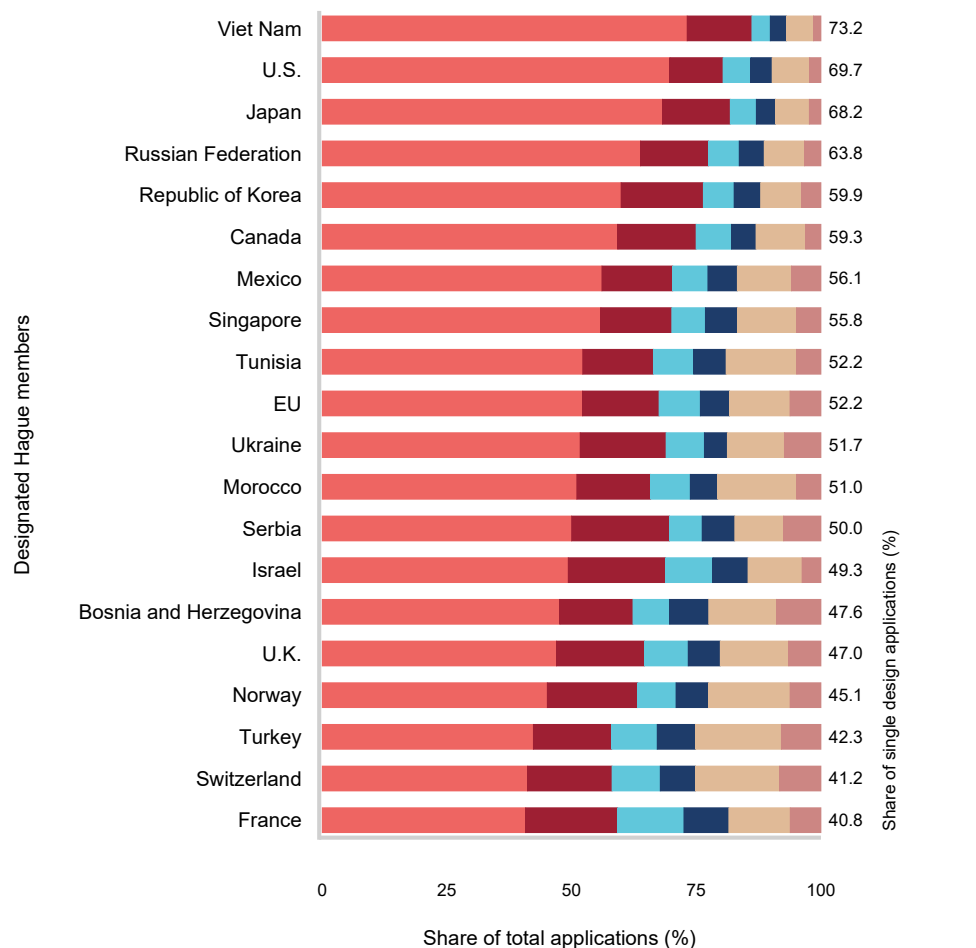


Note: The top 20 designated Hague members as reported in figure 20.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**Among the top 20 designated Hague members, the proportion of single-design applications ranged from 40.8% for France to 73.2% for Viet Nam.**

22. Distribution of designs per application for the top 20 designated Hague members, 2021



1 DESIGN 2 DESIGNS 3 DESIGNS 4 DESIGNS 5 to 10 DESIGNS >10 DESIGNS

Note: The top 20 designated Hague members as reported in figure 20.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Applicants from Germany accounted for the largest share of designations in seven of the top 15 designated Hague members.

23. Designs contained in applications for the top 15 origins and the top 15 designated Hague members, 2021

Origin	Designated Hague member (number of designs)														
	EU	U.K.	Switzerland	U.S.	Turkey	Canada	Japan	Norway	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Singapore	Ukraine	Mexico	Israel	Morocco
China	564	365	13	348	6	194	316	2	310	166	156	80	91	2	109
Denmark	262	265	145	127	25	70	71	195	62	27	26	10	16	32	..
France	914	985	832	364	413	151	305	268	272	352	200	124	86	207	410
Germany	2,715	2,334	3,102	893	1,624	366	517	851	529	390	415	449	100	59	58
Italy	1,476	1,572	932	384	683	125	207	277	192	240	222	122	38	41	74
Japan	813	481	54	336	74	82	97	26	248	86	107	15	38	27	4
Netherlands	197	710	223	123	466	222	354	177	337	498	354	316	38	14	7
Republic of Korea	1,290	478	15	405	16	66	329	4	59	89	39	5	25	5	..
Russian Federation	125	37	25	53	32	21	11	2	12	13	3	40	5	10	..
Spain	181	143	85	159	93	38	33	27	26	47	59	61	86	25	15
Sweden	227	247	193	156	106	90	66	271	76	80	23	10	42	22	14
Switzerland	1,544	1,233	1,473	439	607	420	293	411	358	238	552	374	126	87	279
Turkey	516	304	21	57	106	25	3	7	3	44	5	28	3	14	..
U.K.	697	648	251	296	78	148	76	115	52	76	67	48	85	24	..
U.S.	2,209	2,096	358	202	269	1,001	551	266	555	327	328	44	702	260	..
Others/ Unknown	2,244	1,800	843	1,240	979	797	303	598	238	477	390	607	389	193	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,974</b>	<b>13,698</b>	<b>8,565</b>	<b>5,582</b>	<b>5,577</b>	<b>3,816</b>	<b>3,532</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>988</b>

Origin	Designated Hague member (share of total, %)														
	EU	U.K.	Switzerland	U.S.	Turkey	Canada	Japan	Norway	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Singapore	Ukraine	Mexico	Israel	Morocco
China	3.5	2.7	0.2	6.2	0.1	5.1	8.9	0.1	9.3	5.3	5.3	3.4	4.9	0.2	11.0
Denmark	1.6	1.9	1.7	2.3	0.4	1.8	2.0	5.6	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.9	3.1	..
France	5.7	7.2	9.6	6.5	7.4	4.0	8.6	7.6	8.2	11.2	6.8	5.3	4.6	20.4	41.5
Germany	17.0	17.1	35.9	16.0	29.1	9.6	14.6	24.3	15.9	12.4	14.2	19.3	5.3	5.8	5.9
Italy	9.2	11.5	10.8	6.9	12.2	3.3	5.9	7.9	5.8	7.6	7.6	5.2	2.0	4.0	7.5
Japan	5.1	3.5	0.6	6.0	1.3	2.1	2.7	0.7	7.5	2.7	3.7	0.6	2.0	2.7	0.4
Netherlands	1.2	5.2	2.6	2.2	8.4	5.8	10.0	5.0	10.2	15.9	12.1	13.6	2.0	1.4	0.7
Norway	8.1	3.5	0.2	7.3	0.3	1.7	9.3	0.1	1.8	2.8	1.3	0.2	1.3	0.5	..
Republic of Korea	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	1.7	0.3	1.0	..
Spain	1.1	1.0	1.0	2.8	1.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.5	2.0	2.6	4.6	2.5	1.5
Sweden	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.8	1.9	2.4	1.9	7.7	2.3	2.5	0.8	0.4	2.2	2.2	1.4
Switzerland	9.7	9.0	17.1	7.9	10.9	11.0	8.3	11.7	10.8	7.6	18.9	16.0	6.7	8.6	28.2
Turkey	3.2	2.2	0.2	1.0	1.9	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.4	0.2	1.2	0.2	1.4	..
U.K.	4.4	4.7	2.9	5.3	1.4	3.9	2.2	3.3	1.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	4.5	2.4	..
U.S.	13.8	15.3	4.1	3.6	4.8	26.2	15.6	7.6	16.7	10.4	11.2	1.9	37.5	25.6	..
Others/ Unknown	14.0	13.1	9.8	22.2	17.6	20.9	8.6	17.1	7.1	15.1	13.2	26.0	20.8	18.9	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

### Non-resident applications by filing route

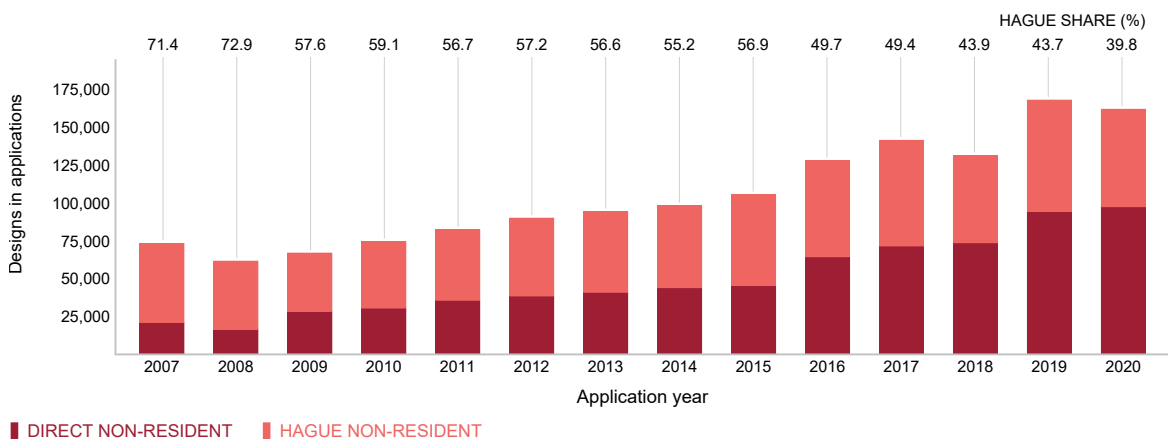
24	Non-resident application design counts by filing route (direct and Hague), 2007–2020	39
25	Non-resident application design counts by filing route for selected Hague members, 2020	39

## Non-resident applications by filing route

Applicants seeking design protection in foreign jurisdictions can either file applications directly with a national or regional intellectual property (IP) office (i.e., the Paris route) or, where requirements are met, make use of the Hague System. This subsection presents non-resident application statistics by filing route to provide insights into the use of these alternative routes for non-resident applications.

### Hague System accounted for two-fifths of all non-resident designs filings in 2020.

#### 24. Non-resident application design counts by filing route (direct and Hague), 2007–2020

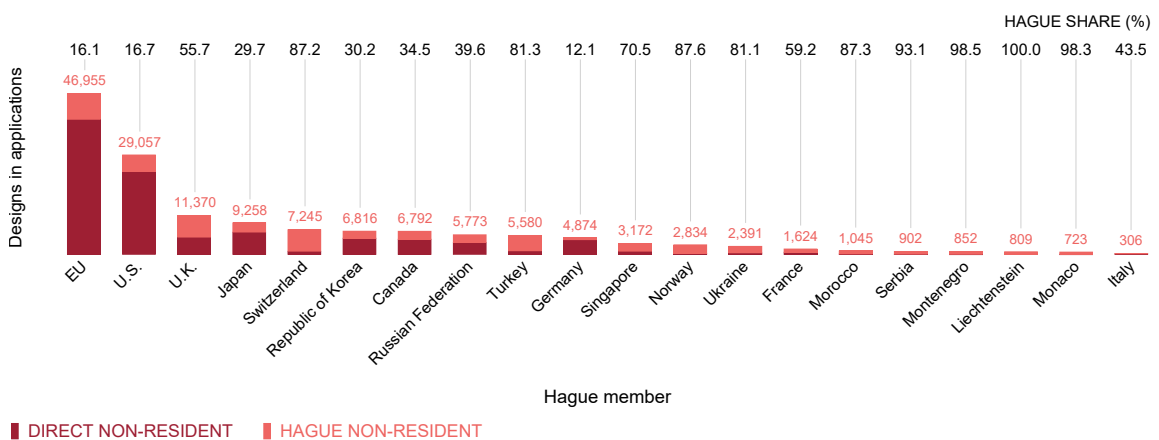


Note: Direct application data are available only up to 2020, therefore 2021 Hague designation data are not reported. The direct route refers only to those applications filed directly with the national or regional IP offices of Hague members. The Hague route refers to designations received by offices via the Hague System. For the sake of simplicity, such designations are referred to as applications received via the Hague route.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

### The EU, Germany and the U.S. had the lowest Hague share of non-resident filings in 2020.

#### 25. Non-resident application design counts by filing route for selected Hague members, 2020



Note: Direct application data are available only up to 2020, therefore 2021 Hague designation data are not reported. The direct route refers only to applications filed directly with national or regional IP offices of Hague members. The Hague route refers to designations received by offices via the Hague System. For the sake of simplicity, such designations are referred to as applications received via the Hague route.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.



### **Hague international applications by class and by industry sector**

26	Designs contained in international applications by class, 2018–2021	41
27	Designs contained in international applications by class for the top 10 origins, 2021	42
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# Hague international applications by class and by industry sector

The Hague System makes it possible to file, via a single application, up to 100 industrial designs belonging to the same class of the International Classification for Industrial Designs established under the Locarno Agreement. This subsection presents Hague design statistics by class and by industry sector to provide insights into the goods incorporating the designs.

## Designs related to means of transport (9.7%) accounted for the largest share of total designs in 2021.

### 26. Designs contained in international applications by class, 2018–2021

Class	2018	2019	2020	2021	Growth rate (%): 2020–2021	2021 share of total (%)
Class 12: Means of transport or hoisting	1,662	2,075	1,895	2,179	15.0	9.7
Class 14: Recording, communication or information retrieval equipment	2,031	2,970	1,644	2,154	31.0	9.6
Class 9: Packages and containers for the transport or handling of goods	1,220	1,442	1,572	1,847	17.5	8.2
Class 6: Furnishing	2,352	2,187	1,385	1,548	11.8	6.9
Class 26: Lighting apparatus	1,196	1,357	1,303	1,457	11.8	6.5
Class 28: Pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, toilet articles and apparatus	785	542	772	1,283	66.2	5.7
Class 23: Fluid distribution equipment, sanitary, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment, solid fuel	1,064	1,173	1,000	1,122	12.2	5.0
Class 2: Articles of clothing and haberdashery	698	949	635	1,120	76.4	5.0
Class 11: Articles of adornment	866	960	1,008	1,103	9.4	4.9
Class 21: Games, toys, tents and sports goods	561	695	612	898	46.7	4.0
Class 7: Household goods, not elsewhere specified	709	774	839	833	−0.7	3.7
Class 32: Graphic symbols and logos, surface patterns, ornamentation	867	1,060	731	747	2.2	3.3
Class 15: Machines, not elsewhere specified	609	673	580	745	28.4	3.3
Class 10: Clocks and watches and other measuring instruments, checking and signalling instruments	1,289	1,001	690	736	6.7	3.3
Class 24: Medical and laboratory equipment	415	453	657	713	8.5	3.2
Class 25: Building units and construction elements	505	820	795	709	−10.8	3.2
Class 13: Equipment for production, distribution or transformation of electricity	466	550	462	665	43.9	3.0
Class 8: Tools and hardware	460	484	313	566	80.8	2.5
Class 3: Travel goods, cases, parasols and personal belongings, not elsewhere specified	420	439	366	516	41.0	2.3
Class 19: Stationery and office equipment, artists' and teaching materials	291	258	169	267	58.0	1.2
Class 5: Textile piecegoods, artificial and natural sheet material	183	135	94	177	88.3	0.8
Class 16: Photographic, cinematographic and optical apparatus	292	176	133	144	8.3	0.6
Class 1: Foodstuffs	50	37	54	129	138.9	0.6
Class 20: Sales and advertising equipment, signs	123	81	98	114	16.3	0.5
Class 27: Tobacco and smokers' supplies	150	173	195	107	−45.1	0.5
Class 4: Brushware	115	61	215	99	−54.0	0.4
Class 30: Articles for the care and handling of animals	95	81	41	99	141.5	0.4
Class 22: Arms, pyrotechnic articles, articles for hunting, fishing and pest killing	54	48	49	97	98.0	0.4
Class 29: Devices and equipment against fire hazards, for accident prevention and for rescue	51	37	133	90	−32.3	0.4
Class 18: Printing and office machinery	49	34	48	87	81.3	0.4
Class 31: Machines and appliances for preparing food or drink, not elsewhere specified	147	108	115	76	−33.9	0.3
Class 17: Musical instruments	17	26	11	28	154.5	0.1

Note: For a complete list of class definitions, visit: [www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno](http://www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno).

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Designs related to pharmaceutical and cosmetic products accounted for around two-fifths of designs from the Netherlands.

27. Designs contained in international applications by class for the top 10 origins, 2021

Class	Origin									
	China	France	Germany	Italy	Japan	Netherlands	Republic of Korea	Switzerland	U.K.	U.S.
Class 1: Foodstuffs	..	1	62	10	2	2	1	6	4	37
Class 2: Articles of clothing and haberdashery	1	108	104	147	38	44	16	37	26	265
Class 3: Travel goods, cases, parasols and personal belongings, not elsewhere specified	21	94	97	46	9	18	57	37	32	50
Class 4: Brushware	3	5	1	3	2	30	..	9	3	27
Class 5: Textile piecegoods, artificial and natural sheet material	..	1	63	16	7	..	1	1	..	35
Class 6: Furnishing	..	105	437	218	9	88	15	56	37	159
Class 7: Household goods, not elsewhere specified	31	31	135	60	15	75	61	187	14	36
Class 8: Tools and hardware	7	47	99	48	22	10	2	28	26	72
Class 9: Packages and containers for the transport or handling of goods	..	91	228	57	67	44	13	208	57	592
Class 10: Clocks and watches and other measuring instruments, checking and signalling instruments	18	33	127	15	45	9	21	333	3	36
Class 11: Articles of adornment	..	128	136	383	21	8	..	209	103	27
Class 12: Means of transport or hoisting	172	297	709	306	98	25	92	12	57	94
Class 13: Equipment for production, distribution or transformation of electricity	37	88	84	11	41	14	35	105	19	69
Class 14: Recording, communication or information retrieval equipment	190	91	144	14	160	80	677	106	79	178
Class 15: Machines, not elsewhere specified	58	11	111	31	46	32	173	32	2	16
Class 16: Photographic, cinematographic and optical apparatus	2	14	18	..	17	3	21	22	2	17
Class 17: Musical instruments	..	1	16	4	5	1	1	..	..	..
Class 18: Printing and office machinery	..	..	1	5	9	..	2	..	..	..
Class 19: Stationery and office equipment, artists' and teaching materials	..	9	68	20	56	..	7	17	5	23
Class 20: Sales and advertising equipment, signs	..	8	29	8	4	1	6	11	21	3
Class 21: Games, toys, tents and sports goods	8	51	119	95	35	15	27	93	268	43
Class 22: Arms, pyrotechnic articles, articles for hunting, fishing and pest killing	..	3	..	39	3	..	..	3	1	37
Class 23: Fluid distribution equipment, sanitary, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment, solid fuel	48	26	410	107	74	40	47	49	18	83
Class 24: Medical and laboratory equipment	..	22	66	7	63	107	45	42	18	215
Class 25: Building units and construction elements	6	42	76	57	9	13	3	19	4	49
Class 26: Lighting apparatus	2	142	545	251	18	25	49	26	18	81
Class 27: Tobacco and smokers' supplies	..	2	12	..	..	..	..	76	..	13
Class 28: Pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, toilet articles and apparatus	13	28	397	18	18	486	19	1	10	230
Class 29: Devices and equipment against fire hazards, for accident prevention and for rescue	..	..	2	1	10	6	6	24	4	18
Class 30: Articles for the care and handling of animals	2	1	31	3	1	2	13	11	2	1
Class 31: Machines and appliances for preparing food or drink, not elsewhere specified	1	2	12	2	3	8	7	4	..	2
Class 32: Graphic symbols and logos, surface patterns, ornamentation	..	98	127	69	..	37	1	62	24	94

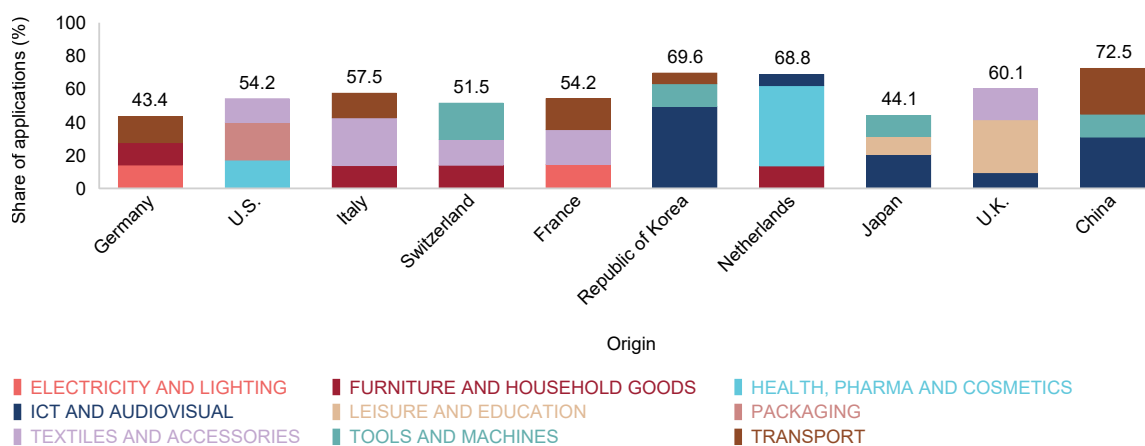
Note: For a complete list of class definitions, visit: [www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno](http://www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno). The top 10 origins are as reported in figure 9.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**The distribution of designs by sector is highly concentrated in China, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea where the top three sectors accounted for more than two-thirds of all designs.**

28. Distribution of designs contained in applications by the top three sectors for the top 10 origins, 2021



Note: See the annex for definitions of sectors. The top 10 origins are as reported in figure 9.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## For the EU, the U.K. and the U.S., designs related to recording and communication equipment accounted for the largest share of all designations.

### 29. Designs contained in international applications by class and designated Hague member, 2021

Class	Designated Hague member									
	Canada	EU	Japan	Norway	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Switzerland	Turkey	U.K.	U.S.
Class 1: Foodstuffs	43	93	6	58	10	64	73	2	102	25
Class 2: Articles of clothing and haberdashery	256	894	214	219	317	227	428	340	802	212
Class 3: Travel goods, cases, parasols and personal belongings, not elsewhere specified	93	388	178	55	158	88	184	94	363	181
Class 4: Brushware	62	58	61	28	47	52	38	22	42	29
Class 5: Textile piecegoods, artificial and natural sheet material	31	126	13	18	70	13	88	77	90	80
Class 6: Furnishing	211	1,275	65	203	70	78	823	184	979	272
Class 7: Household goods, not elsewhere specified	132	632	106	127	120	127	386	129	486	201
Class 8: Tools and hardware	102	410	89	48	58	75	196	122	371	242
Class 9: Packages and containers for the transport or handling of goods	303	1,222	186	256	227	326	670	277	1,298	368
Class 10: Clocks and watches and other measuring instruments, checking and signalling instruments	106	588	146	167	139	110	452	274	510	256
Class 11: Articles of adornment	245	766	117	172	118	71	768	305	763	153
Class 12: Means of transport or hoisting	381	1,209	450	463	463	289	757	882	989	382
Class 13: Equipment for production, distribution or transformation of electricity	62	463	122	136	128	83	207	102	360	249
Class 14: Recording, communication or information retrieval equipment	250	1,809	383	173	206	186	274	386	1,392	787
Class 15: Machines, not elsewhere specified	95	585	173	49	119	124	161	123	441	236
Class 16: Photographic, cinematographic and optical apparatus	20	120	51	8	42	15	40	27	94	71
Class 17: Musical instruments	..	28	1	..	..	..	1	..	20	21
Class 18: Printing and office machinery	3	80	6	2	5	2	6	3	21	14
Class 19: Stationery and office equipment, artists' and teaching materials	48	234	49	18	83	46	99	44	163	99
Class 20: Sales and advertising equipment, signs	33	86	19	12	9	23	60	41	42	49
Class 21: Games, toys, tents and sports goods	151	702	151	84	131	121	267	112	612	283
Class 22: Arms, pyrotechnic articles, articles for hunting, fishing and pest killing	14	82	5	13	7	15	30	41	74	18
Class 23: Fluid distribution equipment, sanitary, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment, solid fuel	166	817	109	211	109	122	514	273	606	255
Class 24: Medical and laboratory equipment	228	489	303	111	220	182	191	87	422	241
Class 25: Building units and construction elements	246	604	8	220	16	100	302	282	473	309
Class 26: Lighting apparatus	100	726	62	259	60	81	777	511	889	139
Class 27: Tobacco and smokers' supplies	69	22	15	3	55	70	73	22	86	55
Class 28: Pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, toilet articles and apparatus	266	675	329	295	235	376	363	598	632	151
Class 29: Devices and equipment against fire hazards, for accident prevention and for rescue	24	74	34	11	21	16	33	9	35	40
Class 30: Articles for the care and handling of animals	15	50	13	19	8	8	27	33	42	48
Class 31: Machines and appliances for preparing food or drink, not elsewhere specified	21	46	9	8	30	12	27	10	37	40
Class 32: Graphic symbols and logos, surface patterns, ornamentation	36	616	53	59	30	34	315	161	442	68

Note: For full class definitions, visit: [www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno](http://www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno).

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Hague international registrations, refusals and grants of protection

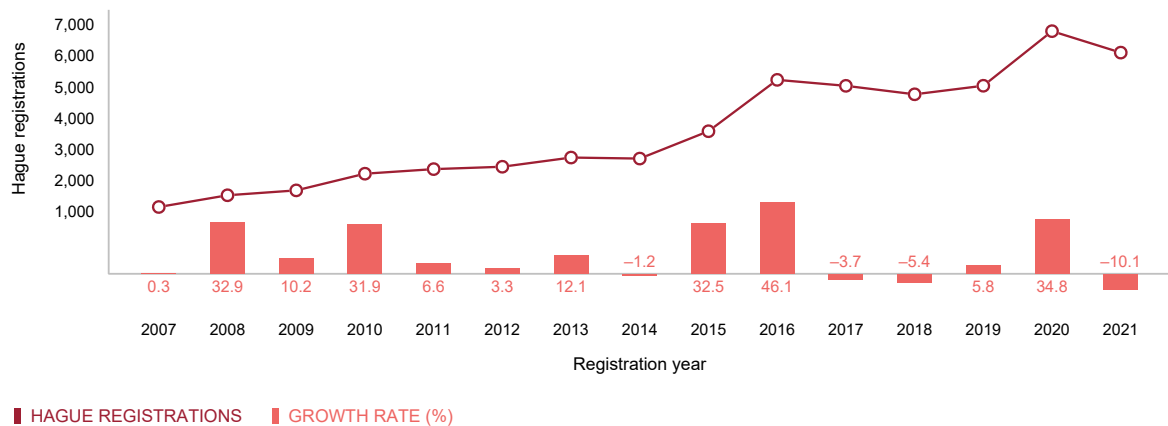
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# Hague international registrations, refusals and grants of protection

International applications are recorded in the International Register, if they fulfill all the requirements of the formal examination conducted by the International Bureau (IB) of WIPO. Designated offices can refuse to grant protection for an international registration. If an IP office refuses to grant protection, it must notify the IB of its decision within six or 12 months from the date on which the registration was published in the *International Designs Bulletin*. This subsection presents statistics for international registrations, refusals and grants of protection.

**After recording a substantial growth in 2020, international registrations declined by 10.1% in 2021.**

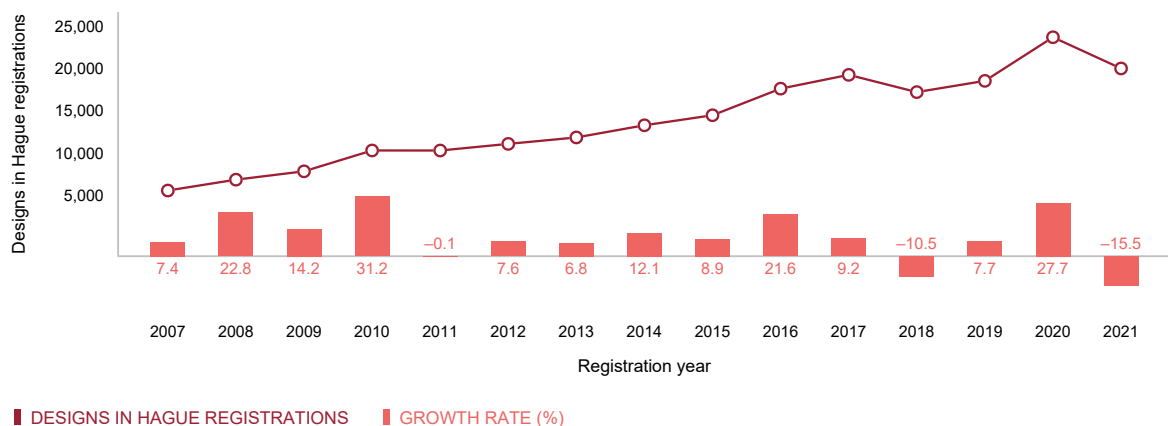
30. International registrations, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**Designs contained in international registrations declined by 15.5% in 2021.**

31. Number of designs contained in international registrations, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**Despite a 30.6% decline, holders residing in Germany nevertheless accounted for 18.3% of all designs in registrations in 2021.**

32. International registrations and registration design counts for the top 20 origins, 2019–2021

Origin	Number of registrations					Designs in registrations				
	2019	2020	2021	Growth rate (%): 2020–2021	2021 share of total (%)	2019	2020	2021	Growth rate (%): 2020–2021	2021 share of total (%)
Germany	703	823	796	–3.3	13.0	3,468	5,279	3,661	–30.6	18.3
U.S.	344	583	607	4.1	9.9	1,392	2,569	2,296	–10.6	11.5
Italy	401	322	422	31.1	6.9	1,871	1,437	1,884	31.1	9.4
Switzerland	562	602	539	–10.5	8.8	2,090	2,303	1,847	–19.8	9.2
France	386	500	581	16.2	9.5	1,070	1,272	1,507	18.5	7.5
Republic of Korea	941	1,430	844	–41.0	13.8	2,219	2,274	1,464	–35.6	7.3
Netherlands	173	156	202	29.5	3.3	1,354	1,265	1,130	–10.7	5.7
Japan	344	491	389	–20.8	6.4	1,166	1,216	859	–29.4	4.3
U.K.	131	197	183	–7.1	3.0	391	456	623	36.6	3.1
China	196	391	241	–38.4	3.9	482	989	573	–42.1	2.9
Turkey	73	133	99	–25.6	1.6	322	570	454	–20.4	2.3
Spain	66	90	117	30.0	1.9	188	327	350	7.0	1.8
Sweden	94	137	119	–13.1	1.9	308	559	347	–37.9	1.7
Denmark	90	108	136	25.9	2.2	299	431	328	–23.9	1.6
Poland	39	31	40	29.0	0.7	130	82	231	181.7	1.2
Singapore	15	22	47	113.6	0.8	24	56	196	250.0	1.0
Austria	40	57	63	10.5	1.0	164	243	189	–22.2	0.9
Luxembourg	35	41	25	–39.0	0.4	132	153	174	13.7	0.9
Cyprus	25	28	19	–32.1	0.3	320	268	170	–36.6	0.9
Norway	51	73	73	0.0	1.2	111	245	165	–32.7	0.8
Others/ Unknown	333	580	564	–2.8	9.2	1,034	1,677	1,545	–7.9	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,042</b>	<b>6,795</b>	<b>6,106</b>	<b>–10.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18,535</b>	<b>23,671</b>	<b>19,993</b>	<b>–15.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

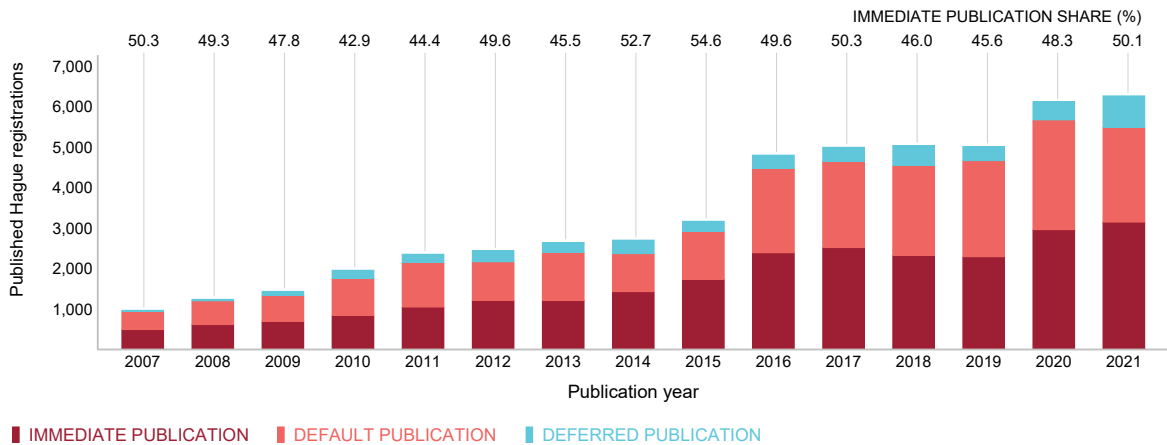
Note: The top 20 origins were selected based on the number of designs contained in registrations in 2021.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.



## Immediate publication accounted for half of all publications in 2021.

### 33. Publication of international registrations, 2007–2021

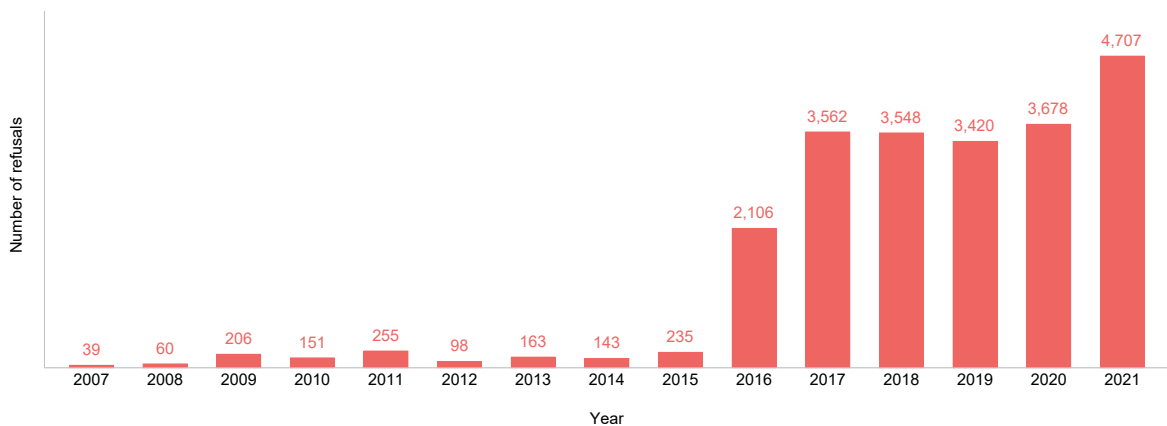


Note: International registrations are published in the *International Designs Bulletin (IDB)* six months after the date of registration, unless applicants request immediate publication or a deferment of publication. The publication of international registrations can be deferred for up to 12 months under the Hague Act, or up to 30 months under the Geneva Act.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## The number of refusals recorded by the IB increased by 28% to reach 4,707 refusals in 2021.

### 34. Refusal of international registration, 2007–2021

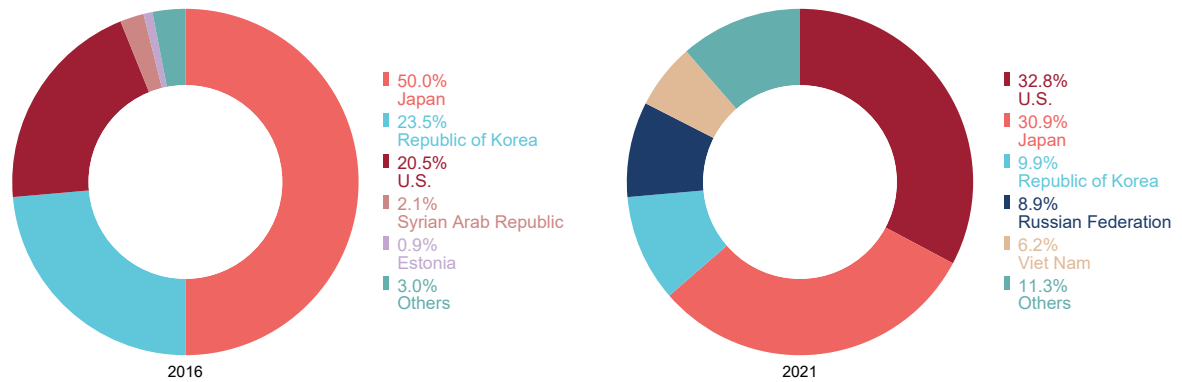


Note: The high number of refusals since 2016 could in part be due to the Japan Patent Office (JPO) which issues one notification of refusal per design, if an international registration contains more than one industrial design. The JPO became a Hague member in 2015.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

### Japan and the U.S. together accounted for 63.7% of all refusals in 2021.

35. Refusal of international registration by designated Hague member, 2016 and 2021

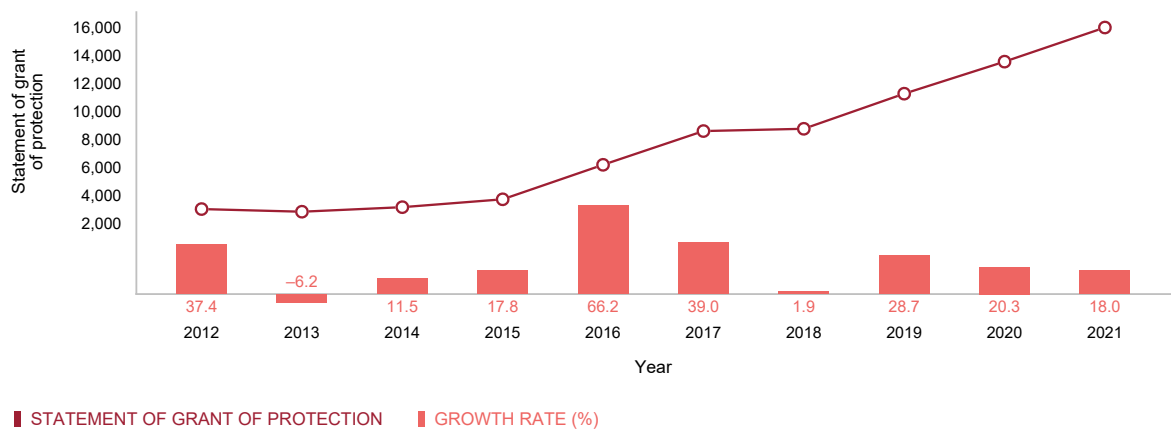


Note: The Japan Patent Office (JPO) issues one notification of refusal per design, if the international registration contains more than one industrial design.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

### Hague members issued almost 16,000 statements of grant of protection in 2021 – up 18% on the previous year.

36. Statement of grant of protection, 2012–2021

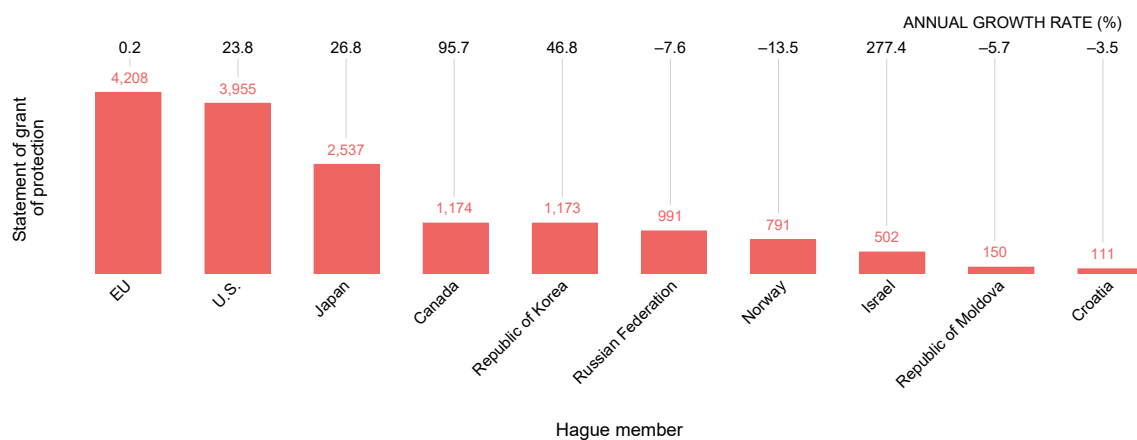


Note: The Japan Patent Office (JPO) issues a statement of grant of protection per design, rather than per international registration.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## The EU and the U.S. issued the most statements of grant of protection in 2021.

### 37. Grant of protection by designated Hague member, 2021



Note: The Japan Patent Office (JPO) issues a statement of grant of protection per design, rather than per international registration.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**Renewals of international registrations and registrations in force**

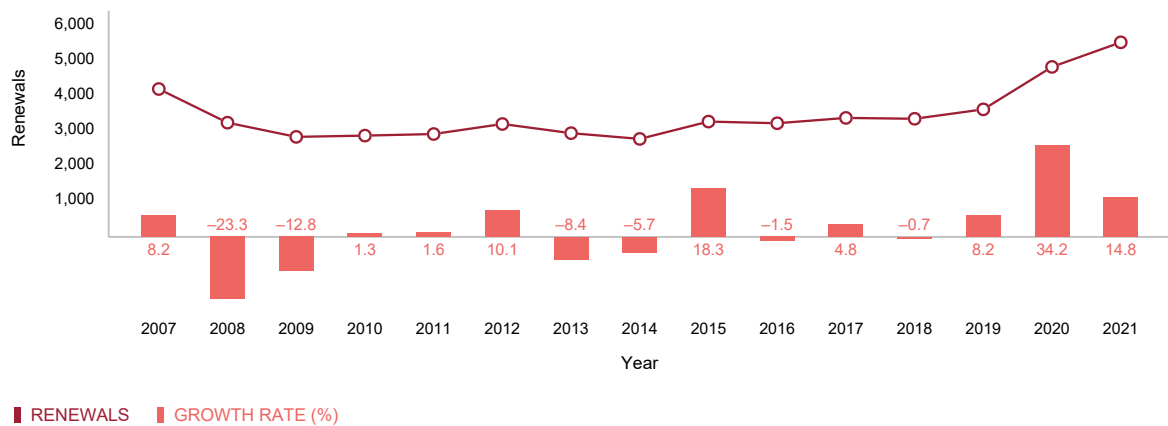
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## Renewals of international registrations and registrations in force

International registrations are valid for a period of five years and can be renewed for at least two additional five-year periods. The maximum duration of protection in each Hague member's jurisdiction depends on the legislation of the granting authority. International registrations must be renewed in order to remain valid. During the renewal process, holders can designate either all or only some of the Hague members designated in the initial registration. Holders can also opt to renew either all or only some of the designs contained in the initial registration.

### For a third consecutive year, renewals of international registrations grew sharply.

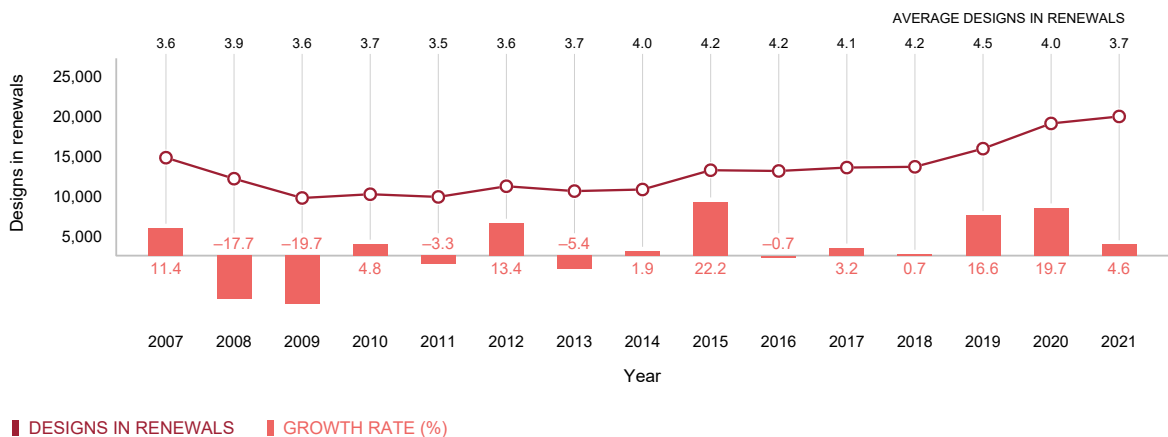
38. Renewals of international registrations, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

### After double-digit growth in the previous two years, designs contained in renewals saw a more modest increase of 4.6% in 2021.

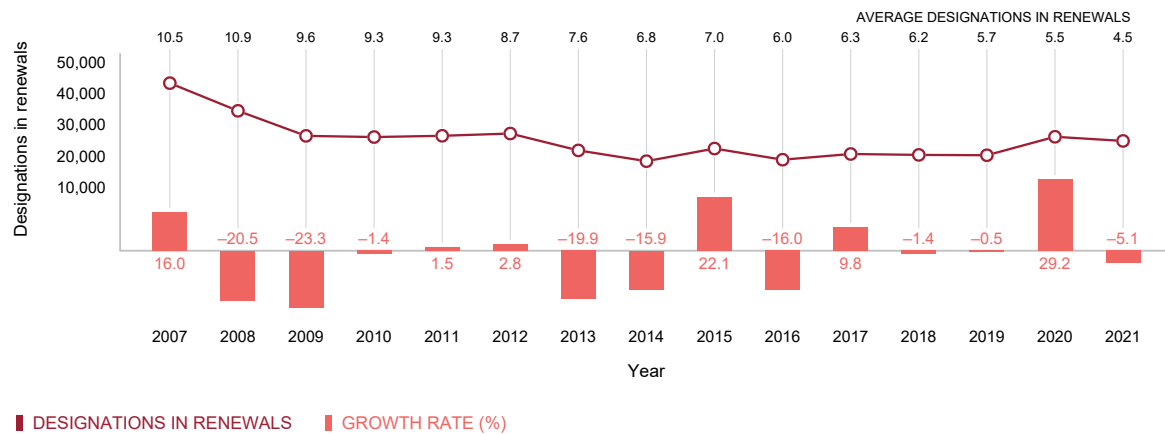
39. Renewals of designs contained in international registrations, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Designations in renewals declined by 5.1% in 2021 – the sharpest fall since 2016.

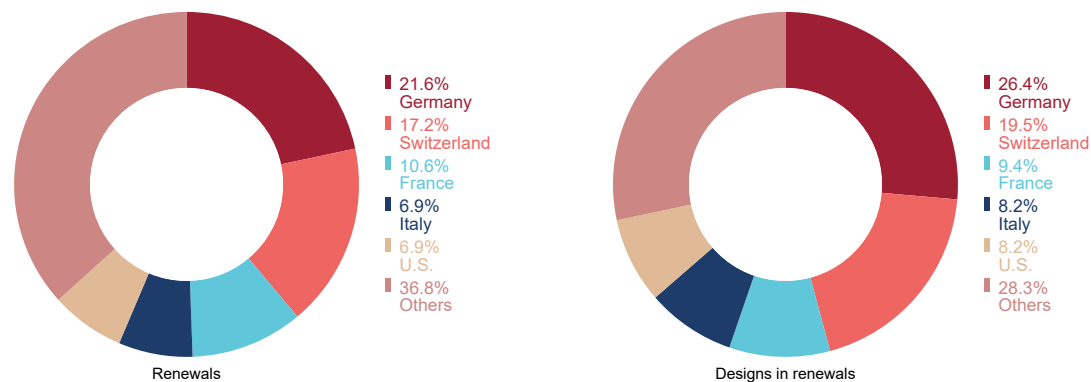
40. Designations in renewals of international registrations, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## International registration holders from Germany accounted for more than a quarter of all designs in renewals in 2021.

41. Renewals of international registrations for the top five origins, 2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## The EU surpassed Switzerland to become the most designated Hague member in renewals in 2021.

### 42. Top designated Hague members in renewals of registrations, 2011, 2016 and 2021

Designated member	Renewals of registrations				Design renewals			
	2011	2016	2021	2021 share of total (%)	2011	2016	2021	2021 share of total (%)
EU	n.a.	1,169	3,488	14.0	n.a.	5,688	13,166	13.8
Switzerland	2,286	2,282	2,750	11.1	8,362	10,295	11,820	12.4
Turkey	210	848	1,672	6.7	808	3,973	7,438	7.8
France	2,125	1,289	872	3.5	7,884	5,318	3,808	4.0
Ukraine	331	517	848	3.4	1,204	2,353	3,771	3.9
Germany	2,081	1,209	791	3.2	7,510	4,952	3,445	3.6
Singapore	192	487	910	3.7	753	2,050	3,345	3.5
Morocco	463	545	734	3.0	1,735	2,487	3,250	3.4
Norway	n.a.	333	829	3.3	n.a.	1,306	3,153	3.3
Monaco	753	625	653	2.6	3,189	2,986	2,911	3.0
Benelux Office for Intellectual Property	2,202	1,218	633	2.5	8,029	5,062	2,846	3.0
Italy	2,199	1,241	657	2.6	7,795	5,003	2,708	2.8
U.S.	n.a.	n.a.	1,030	4.1	n.a.	n.a.	2,321	2.4
Liechtenstein	656	509	517	2.1	2,867	2,447	2,142	2.2
Serbia	592	475	482	1.9	2,006	1,652	1,840	1.9
Croatia	302	449	384	1.5	1,090	1,978	1,681	1.8
Greece	745	471	372	1.5	2,694	1,935	1,654	1.7
Republic of Korea	n.a.	n.a.	633	2.5	n.a.	n.a.	1,513	1.6
Slovenia	566	359	306	1.2	1,836	1,472	1,480	1.5
Egypt	993	383	315	1.3	3,404	1,802	1,454	1.5
Others/Unknown	9,620	4,397	5,965	24.0	33,834	17,508	19,943	20.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,316</b>	<b>18,806</b>	<b>24,841</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>80,267</b>	<b>95,689</b>	<b>100.0</b>

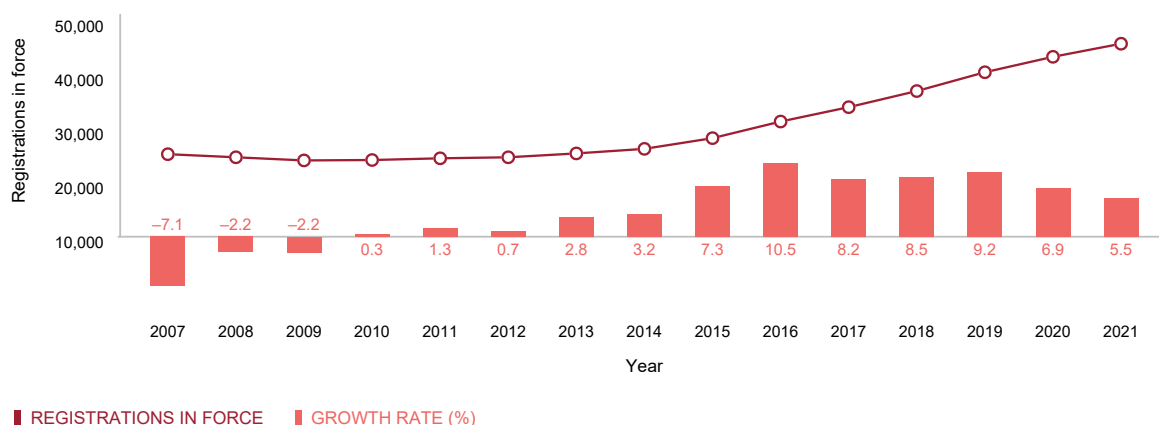
Note: Selection of the top 20 designated Hague members was based on the number of renewals of designs contained in Hague registrations in 2021.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Around 46,800 international registrations were in force in 2021 – up 5.5% on the previous year.

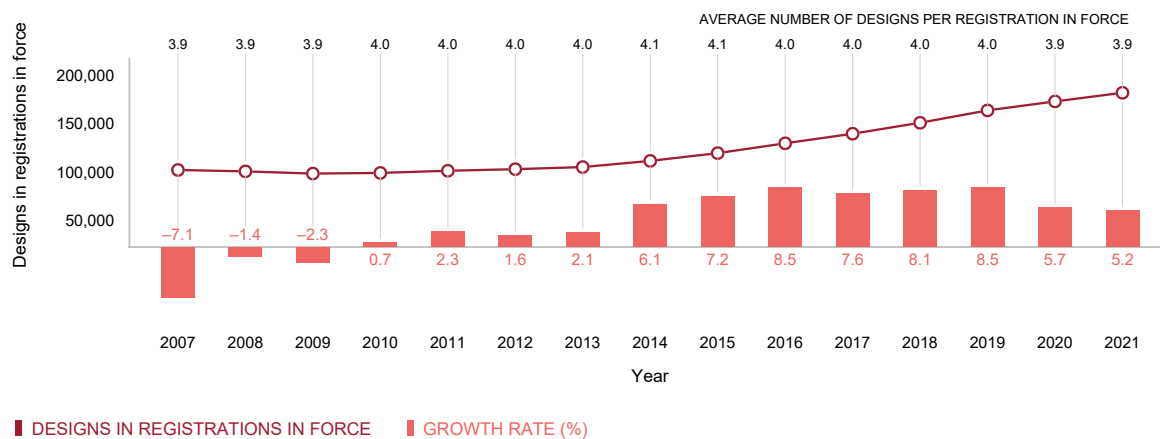
### 43. International registrations in force, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**The approximately 46,800 international registrations in force in 2021 contained around 182,200 designs.**

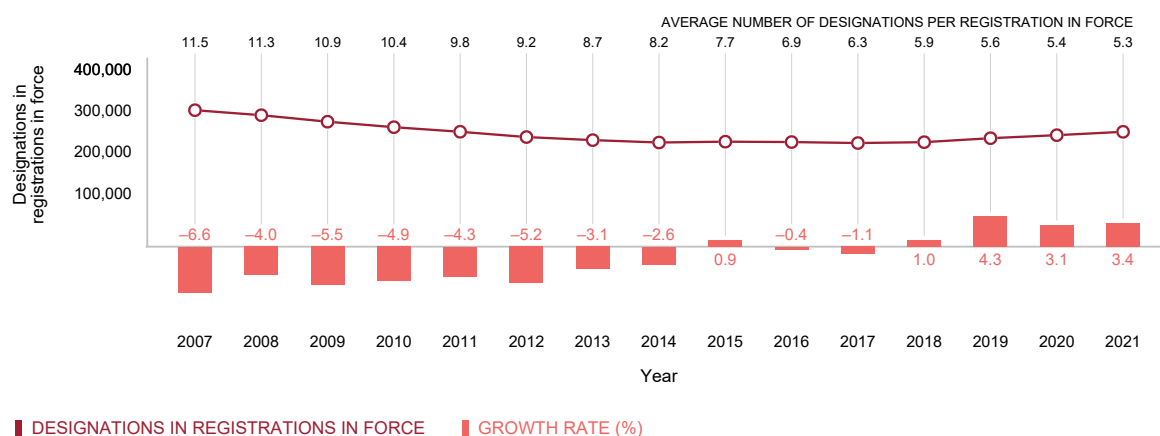
#### 44. Designs contained in international registrations in force, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**For a fourth consecutive year, designations in international registrations in force grew to reach 248,800 in 2021.**

#### 45. Designations contained in international registrations in force, 2007–2021

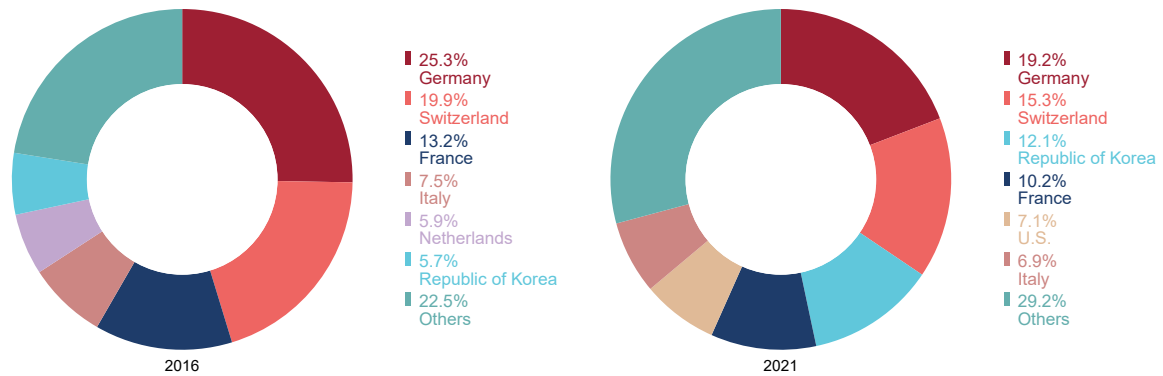


Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.



### Holders from Germany accounted for around one-fifth of all registrations in force in 2021.

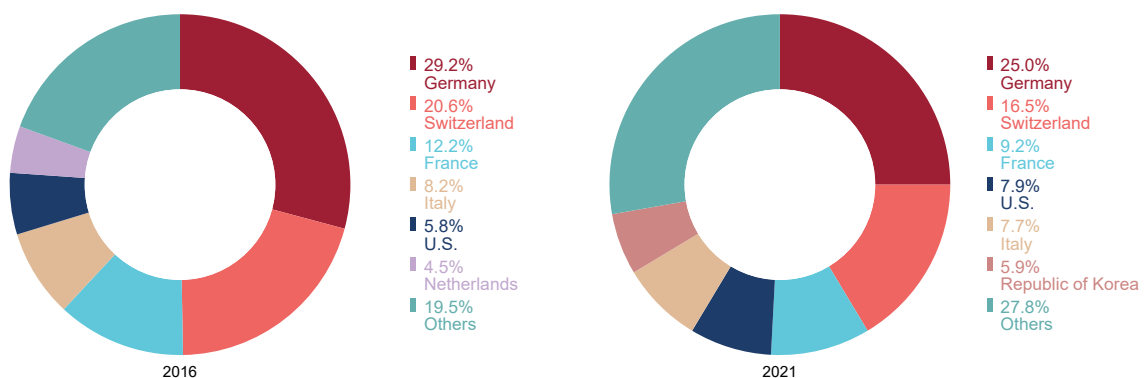
46. Share of international registrations in force for the top six origins, 2016 and 2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

### The combined share of the top six origins of all registrations in force decreased from 80.5% in 2016 down to 72.2% in 2021.

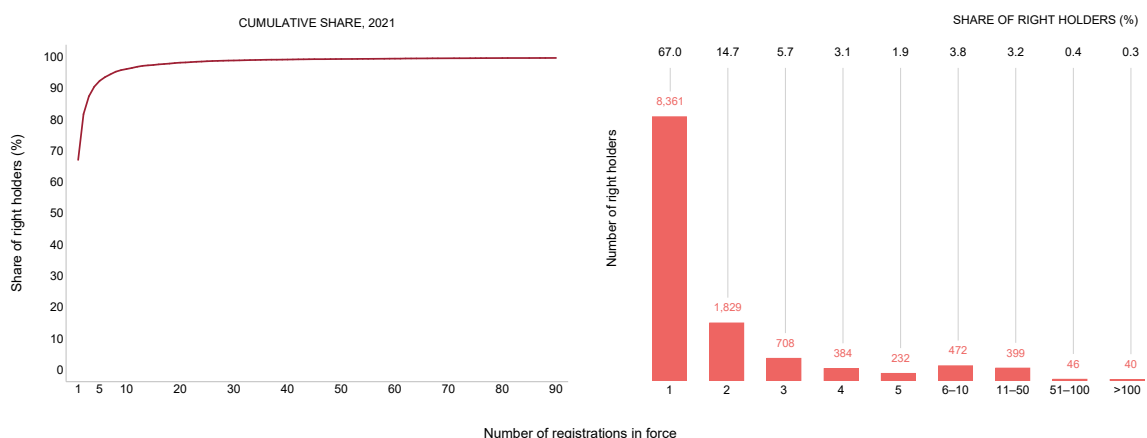
47. Share of designs contained in international registrations in force for the top six origins, 2016 and 2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

### In 2021, 40 international registration holders had more than 100 registrations in their portfolio.

48. Distribution of international registrations in force by right holder portfolio size, 2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**Fees collected and distributed by the International Bureau**

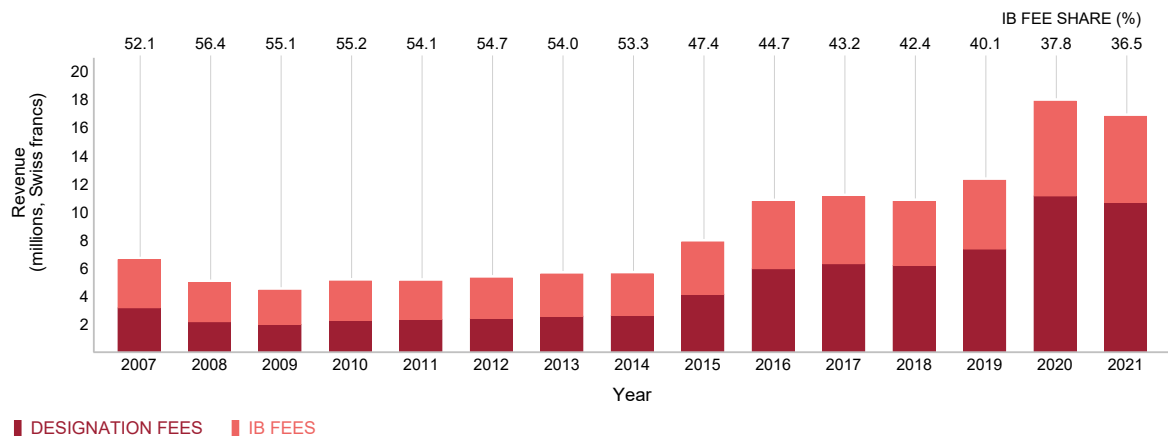
49	Fees collected by the IB, 2007–2021	58
50	Fees distributed to designated members by the IB, 2020–2021	58
51	Registration fees, 2011–2021	60

## Fees collected and distributed by the International Bureau

The International Bureau (IB) of WIPO collects fees for services relating to the registration, renewal and maintenance of industrial designs. These fees comprise a basic standard fee per application and per design, together with a fee for each reproduction to be published. The IB also collects standard and individual designation fees on behalf of designated members and distributes them accordingly.

### The IB fee share declined marginally in 2021.

#### 49. Fees collected by the IB, 2007–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

### Combined, Japan and the U.S. received half of the CHF 10.7 million distributed to designated members in 2021.

#### 50. Fees distributed to designated members by the IB, 2020–2021

Designated member	2020	2021	2021 share of total (%)
African Intellectual Property Organization	110,203	97,798	0.9
Albania	14,822	12,273	0.1
Armenia	18,919	12,366	0.1
Azerbaijan	12,511	11,557	0.1
Belarus	n.a.	4,460	0.0
Belize	9,820	6,579	0.1
Benelux Office for Intellectual Property	22,866	18,536	0.2
Benin	1,853	1,857	0.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17,831	14,764	0.1
Botswana	2,932	2,270	0.0
Brunei Darussalam	8,273	4,471	0.0
Bulgaria	12,006	9,207	0.1
Cambodia	8,540	6,220	0.1
Canada	888,208	946,878	8.9
Côte d'Ivoire	1,899	1,685	0.0
Croatia	34,329	22,115	0.2
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	12,056	8,467	0.1
Denmark	8,057	9,864	0.1

(50 continued)

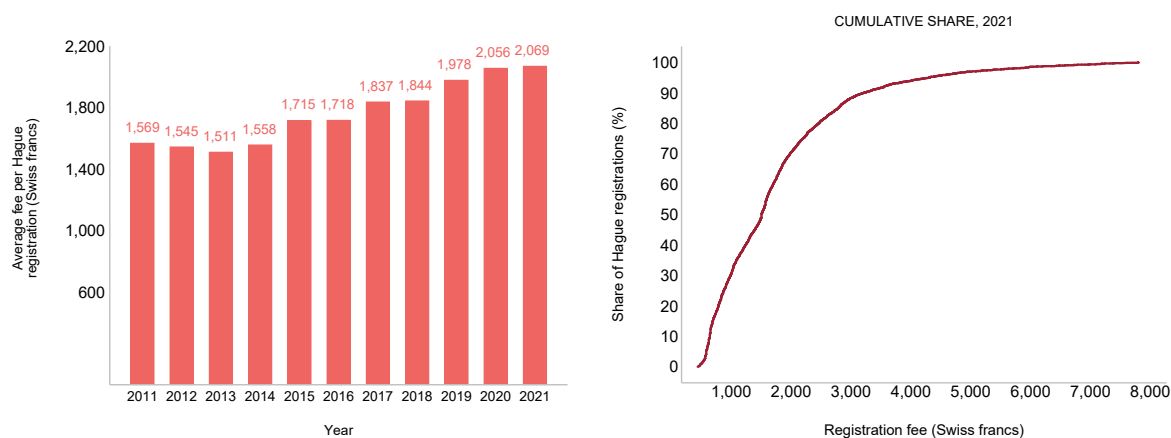
Designated member	2020	2021	2021 share of total (%)
Egypt	16,437	15,859	0.1
Estonia	4,814	5,582	0.1
EU	1,569,473	1,393,503	13.0
Finland	6,446	6,954	0.1
France	32,811	31,647	0.3
Gabon	1,188	1,529	0.0
Georgia	37,955	28,373	0.3
Germany	50,620	36,626	0.3
Ghana	7,321	4,621	0.0
Greece	14,534	10,738	0.1
Hungary	20,586	13,320	0.1
Iceland	33,047	23,165	0.2
Israel	47,633	111,133	1.0
Italy	20,148	17,160	0.2
Japan	2,846,889	3,134,124	29.3
Kyrgyzstan	52,016	37,577	0.4
Latvia	2,738	3,478	0.0
Liechtenstein	28,440	20,851	0.2
Lithuania	36,720	16,405	0.2
Mali	345	578	0.0
Mexico	16,649	64,179	0.6
Monaco	31,189	26,483	0.2
Mongolia	12,824	8,526	0.1
Montenegro	26,326	18,588	0.2
Morocco	57,602	48,069	0.4
Namibia	3,169	2,732	0.0
Niger	459	668	0.0
North Macedonia	23,550	16,936	0.2
Norway	121,704	113,606	1.1
Oman	15,722	13,930	0.1
Poland	5,950	6,059	0.1
Republic of Korea	1,166,557	850,456	8.0
Republic of Moldova	73,347	40,404	0.4
Romania	33,685	29,623	0.3
Russian Federation	262,851	208,845	2.0
Rwanda	2,075	1,439	0.0
Samoa	908	856	0.0
San Marino	2,466	1,864	0.0
Sao Tome and Principe	2,035	1,304	0.0
Senegal	1,959	2,012	0.0
Serbia	75,039	56,077	0.5
Singapore	66,105	59,447	0.6
Slovenia	13,815	11,722	0.1
Spain	7,946	5,595	0.1
Suriname	2,489	2,683	0.0
Switzerland	350,934	291,343	2.7
Syrian Arab Republic	6,562	4,623	0.0
Tajikistan	11,013	9,860	0.1
Tunisia	36,228	30,592	0.3
Turkey	101,602	96,306	0.9
Turkmenistan	4,028	20,948	0.2
U.K.	81,801	153,066	1.4
U.S.	2,383,249	2,250,477	21.1
Ukraine	93,184	82,724	0.8
Viet Nam	30,030	48,910	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,140,338</b>	<b>10,685,542</b>	<b>100</b>

n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

**On average, each applicant paid just over CHF 2,000 per registration in 2021.**

#### 51. Registration fees, 2011–2021



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## Statistical tables

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54	Renewals of international registrations via the Hague System, 2021	66

# Statistical tables

## 52. International applications via the Hague System, 2021

Name	Origin <sup>1</sup>		Designated member	
	Number of applications	Number of designs	Number of applications	Number of designs
African Intellectual Property Organization	n.a.	n.a.	149	479
Albania	..	..	149	428
Antigua and Barbuda (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Argentina (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Armenia	..	..	107	277
Australia (a)	4	38	n.a.	n.a.
Austria (b)	80	284	n.a.	n.a.
Azerbaijan	..	..	171	592
Belarus (a)	1	4	n.a.	n.a.
Belgium (c)	76	189	n.a.	n.a.
Belize	..	..	89	294
Benelux	n.a.	n.a.	60	182
Benin	..	..	16	43
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	21	191	687
Botswana	..	..	38	52
Brunei Darussalam	..	..	38	68
Bulgaria	14	55	33	85
Burkina Faso (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Cambodia	..	..	74	197
Cameroon (a)	3	3	n.a.	n.a.
Canada	75	201	1,382	3,816
China (a)	258	621	n.a.	n.a.
Côte d'Ivoire	..	..	17	44
Croatia	22	99	90	429
Cyprus (b)	21	182	n.a.	n.a.
Czech Republic (b)	13	114	n.a.	n.a.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	..	..	60	125
Denmark	142	336	60	187
Egypt	..	..	212	595
Estonia	20	32	34	86
European Union	n.a.	n.a.	4,604	15,974
Finland	35	51	34	75
France	619	1,585	211	726
Gabon	..	..	20	27
Georgia	..	..	156	373
Germany	874	4,414	157	409
Ghana	..	..	40	66
Greece	8	148	39	162
Hungary	7	16	22	38
Iceland	1	1	139	359
India (a)	3	3	n.a.	n.a.
Ireland (b)	17	38	n.a.	n.a.
Israel	74	163	369	1,022
Italy	462	2,051	32	152
Japan	421	907	1,626	3,532
Kyrgyzstan	..	..	117	313
Latvia	14	15	26	42
Liechtenstein	20	66	204	685
Lithuania	7	9	65	212
Luxembourg (c)	27	100	n.a.	n.a.
Mali	..	..	7	14
Malta (b)	10	298	n.a.	n.a.
Mexico	7	7	626	1,870
Monaco	3	3	242	595
Mongolia	..	..	119	355
Montenegro	..	..	188	677
Morocco	2	3	290	988
Namibia	..	..	47	68

(52 continued)

Name	Origin <sup>1</sup>		Designated member	
	Number of applications	Number of designs	Number of applications	Number of designs
Netherlands (c)	229	1,222	n.a.	n.a.
Niger	..	..	7	14
North Macedonia	3	3	170	547
Norway	73	141	952	3,497
Oman	2	2	182	547
Poland	50	260	50	247
Portugal (b)	22	70	n.a.	n.a.
Republic of Korea	849	1,418	1,280	3,329
Republic of Moldova	1	1	138	471
Romania	3	3	94	297
Russian Federation	104	142	1,238	3,150
Rwanda	..	..	31	46
Samoa	..	..	24	37
San Marino	..	..	45	76
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	25	37
Senegal	..	..	19	46
Serbia	14	26	214	722
Singapore	60	295	919	2,946
Slovakia (b)	4	8	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	27	45	82	347
Spain	114	349	64	182
Suriname	..	..	37	77
Sweden (b)	137	408	n.a.	n.a.
Switzerland	548	1,826	1,997	8,565
Syrian Arab Republic	..	..	40	62
Tajikistan	..	..	70	147
Tunisia	..	..	247	778
Turkey	147	594	1,297	5,577
Turkmenistan	..	..	47	82
Ukraine	53	101	586	2,333
United Arab Emirates (a)	3	5	n.a.	n.a.
United Kingdom	210	858	3,654	13,698
United States of America	702	2,639	2,511	5,582
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Viet Nam	6	9	462	850
Others	..	..	59	277
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,711</b>	<b>22,486</b>	<b>28,891</b>	<b>91,966</b>

Note: Only those countries/territories of origin and designated Hague member countries or jurisdictions for which Hague System statistics exist for 2021 are listed. The Benelux countries are Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

<sup>1</sup> Origin is defined as the country/territory of the stated address of domicile of the holder of the international application.

(a) Not a member of the Hague System. Applicants from this country can file via the Hague System by claiming commercial activity or domicile in a country or in the jurisdiction of a regional office that is a member of the Hague System. This country cannot be designated by an applicant that uses the Hague System.

(b) Not a member of the Hague System but a member of the European Union. Applicants from this country can file by virtue of that country's membership of the European Union. This country cannot be designated by an applicant using the Hague System.

(c) The IP office is the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.



## 53. International registrations via the Hague System, 2021

Name	Origin <sup>1</sup>		Designated member	
	Number of registrations	Number of designs	Number of registrations	Number of designs
African Intellectual Property Organization	n.a.	n.a.	132	422
Albania	1	1	137	397
Armenia	..	..	96	248
Australia (a)	3	4	n.a.	n.a.
Austria (b)	63	189	n.a.	n.a.
Azerbaijan	..	..	154	599
Belarus (a)	1	4	n.a.	n.a.
Belgium (c)	59	138	n.a.	n.a.
Belize	..	..	79	291
Benelux	n.a.	n.a.	63	274
Benin	..	..	12	29
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	26	186	649
Botswana	..	..	35	43
Brunei Darussalam	..	..	29	51
Bulgaria	12	52	34	157
Cambodia	..	..	63	185
Canada	75	157	1,252	3,281
China (a)	241	573	n.a.	n.a.
Côte d'Ivoire	..	..	15	40
Croatia	22	46	84	469
Cyprus (b)	19	170	n.a.	n.a.
Czech Republic (b)	11	91	n.a.	n.a.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	..	..	45	95
Denmark	136	328	58	261
Egypt	..	..	173	575
Estonia	19	30	30	104
European Union	n.a.	n.a.	4,183	14,155
Finland	34	50	30	80
France	581	1,507	211	941
Gabon	..	..	22	25
Georgia	..	..	135	342
Germany	796	3,661	154	553
Ghana	..	..	31	52
Greece	9	150	33	145
Hungary	6	14	19	46
Iceland	..	..	126	329
India (a)	2	2	n.a.	n.a.
Ireland (b)	13	31	n.a.	n.a.
Israel	63	142	323	1,019
Italy	422	1,884	25	160
Japan	389	859	1,503	3,265
Kyrgyzstan	1	13	107	295
Latvia	12	12	22	55
Liechtenstein	18	54	180	597
Lithuania	4	4	61	224
Luxembourg (c)	25	174	n.a.	n.a.
Mali	..	..	6	9
Malta (b)	7	99	n.a.	n.a.
Mexico	5	5	514	1,543
Monaco	3	3	235	576
Mongolia	..	..	101	349
Montenegro	..	..	182	659
Morocco	1	1	281	958
Namibia	..	..	40	52
Netherlands (c)	202	1,130	n.a.	n.a.
Niger	..	..	6	9
North Macedonia	4	5	161	484
Norway	73	165	866	2,990
Oman	2	2	168	554
Poland	40	231	40	175
Portugal (b)	17	53	n.a.	n.a.
Republic of Korea	844	1,464	1,158	2,916
Republic of Moldova	1	1	125	437
Romania	2	2	93	374
Russian Federation	53	117	1,092	2,852

(53 continued)

Name	Origin <sup>1</sup>		Designated member	
	Number of registrations	Number of designs	Number of registrations	Number of designs
Rwanda	..	..	22	30
Samoa	..	..	20	28
San Marino	1	4	43	72
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	20	27
Senegal	..	..	15	32
Serbia	20	36	205	728
Singapore	47	196	828	2,451
Slovakia (b)	2	3	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	31	88	79	454
Spain	117	350	53	174
Suriname	..	..	29	58
Sweden (b)	119	347	n.a.	n.a.
Switzerland	539	1,847	1,835	7,552
Syrian Arab Republic	..	..	31	52
Tajikistan	..	..	64	133
Tunisia	..	..	233	748
Turkey	99	454	1,139	4,886
Turkmenistan	..	..	39	81
Ukraine	36	92	522	2,071
United Arab Emirates (a)	3	5	n.a.	n.a.
United Kingdom	183	623	3,243	11,673
United States of America	607	2,296	2,337	5,040
Viet Nam	5	8	380	690
Others	..	..	38	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,106</b>	<b>19,993</b>	<b>26,085</b>	<b>82,517</b>

Note: Only those countries/territories of origin and designated Hague member countries or jurisdictions for which Hague System statistics exist for 2021 are listed. The Benelux countries are Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

<sup>1</sup> Origin is defined as the country/territory of the stated address of domicile of the holder of the international application.

(a) Not a member of the Hague System. Applicants from this country can file via the Hague System by claiming possession of a real and effective commercial or industrial establishment, or a residence, in the territory of a member of the Hague System. This country cannot be designated by an applicant using the Hague System.

(b) Not a member of the Hague System but a member of the European Union. Applicants from this country can file by virtue of that country's membership of the European Union. This country cannot be designated by an applicant using the Hague System.

(c) IP office is the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.

## 54. Renewals of international registrations via the Hague System, 2021

Name	Origin <sup>1</sup>		Designated member	
	Number of renewals	Number of designs	Number of renewals	Number of designs
African Intellectual Property Organization	n.a.	n.a.	127	448
Albania	..	..	258	841
Armenia	..	..	154	491
Austria (b)	34	128	n.a.	n.a.
Azerbaijan	..	..	184	549
Belgium (c)	55	219	n.a.	n.a.
Belize	..	..	122	399
Benelux	n.a.	n.a.	633	2,846
Benin	..	..	45	419
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	2	259	918
Botswana	..	..	35	84
Brunei Darussalam	..	..	34	81
Bulgaria	16	35	206	588
China (a)	27	44	n.a.	n.a.
China, Hong Kong SAR (a)	1	8	n.a.	n.a.
Côte d'Ivoire	..	..	44	125
Croatia	12	30	384	1,681
Curaçao (a)	2	6	n.a.	n.a.
Cyprus (b)	19	300	n.a.	n.a.
Czech Republic (b)	19	177	n.a.	n.a.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	..	..	78	267
Denmark	70	226	97	384
Egypt	..	..	315	1,454
Estonia	8	17	98	345
European Union	n.a.	n.a.	3,488	13,166
Finland	16	38	74	274
France	578	1,881	872	3,808
Gabon	..	..	27	59
Georgia	1	2	248	804
Germany	1,179	5,277	791	3,445
Ghana	..	..	35	81
Greece	5	29	372	1,654
Hungary	1	2	217	640
Iceland	2	6	101	245
Ireland (b)	2	17	n.a.	n.a.
Israel	1	4	0	0
Italy	375	1,646	657	2,708
Japan	270	695	617	1,260
Kyrgyzstan	..	..	153	480
Latvia	1	1	65	198
Liechtenstein	24	87	517	2,142
Lithuania	3	3	106	610
Luxembourg (c)	42	153	n.a.	n.a.
Mali	..	..	14	40
Monaco	2	10	653	2,911
Mongolia	..	..	164	531
Montenegro	..	..	430	1,443
Morocco	5	30	734	3,250
Namibia	..	..	46	108
Netherlands (c)	277	792	n.a.	n.a.
Niger	..	..	18	50
North Macedonia	1	1	410	1,311
Norway	48	135	829	3,153
Oman	1	1	264	894
Poland	29	160	38	199
Portugal (b)	2	11	n.a.	n.a.
Republic of Korea	666	1,136	633	1,513
Republic of Moldova	2	2	278	833
Romania	3	7	286	1,067
Russian Federation	1	5	0	0
Rwanda	..	..	22	59
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	20	50
Senegal	..	..	47	408
Serbia	8	21	482	1,840
Singapore	2	3	910	3,345

(54 continued)

Name	Origin <sup>1</sup>		Designated member	
	Number of renewals	Number of designs	Number of renewals	Number of designs
Slovakia (b)	2	11	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	21	64	306	1,480
Spain	39	163	123	632
Suriname	..	..	50	407
Sweden (b)	139	470	n.a.	n.a.
Switzerland	939	3,906	2,750	11,820
Syrian Arab Republic	..	..	36	63
Tajikistan	..	..	29	70
Tunisia	..	..	287	1,138
Turkey	68	246	1,672	7,438
Turkmenistan	..	..	19	50
Ukraine	13	32	848	3,771
United Arab Emirates (a)	1	2	n.a.	n.a.
United Kingdom	49	119	0	0
United States of America	378	1,638	1,030	2,321
Others	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,461</b>	<b>19,998</b>	<b>24,841</b>	<b>95,689</b>

Note: Only those countries/territories of origin and designated Hague member countries or jurisdictions for which Hague System statistics exist for 2021 are listed. The Benelux countries are Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

<sup>1</sup> Origin is defined as the country/territory of the stated address of domicile of the holder of the international application.

(a) Not a member of the Hague System. Applicants from this country can file via the Hague System by claiming possession of a real and effective commercial or industrial establishment, or a residence, in the territory of a member of the Hague System. This country cannot be designated by an applicant using the Hague System.

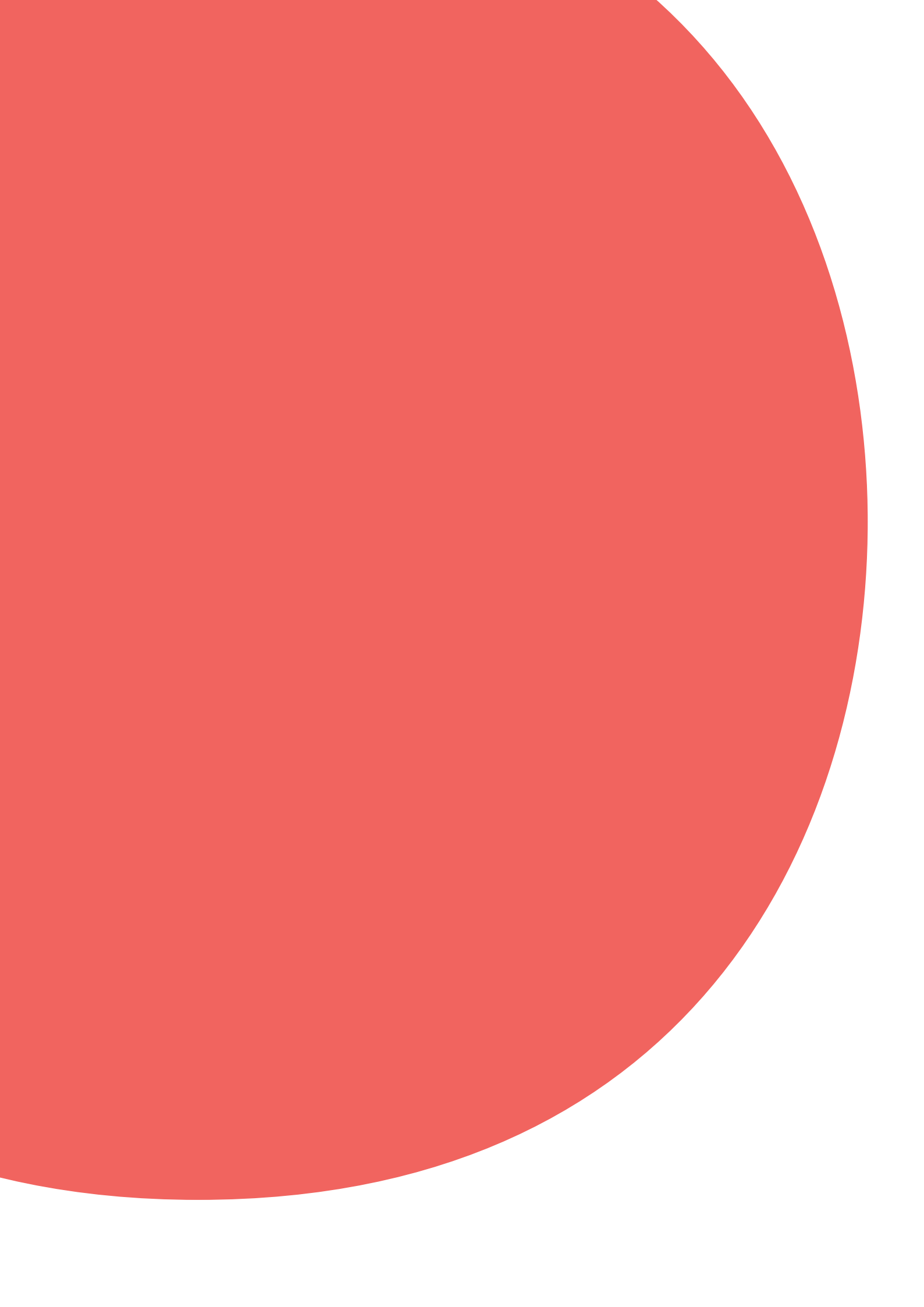
(b) Not a member of the Hague System but a member of the European Union. Applicants from this country can file by virtue of that country's membership of the European Union. This country cannot be designated by an applicant using the Hague System.

(c) IP office is the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, February 2022.



# A brief presentation of the Hague System

## Introduction

The WIPO-administered Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs comprises two international treaties: the Hague Act (1960) and the Geneva Act (1999). If the Hague System had not been established, the procedure for protecting designs in multiple jurisdictions would have involved filing a separate application with each national or regional intellectual property (IP) office. The Hague System simplifies this process by creating a single international procedure for the protection of a design in multiple jurisdictions. This makes it possible for an applicant to obtain protection for up to 100 industrial designs for products belonging to the same class in multiple jurisdictions by filing a single application with the International Bureau (IB) of WIPO. It also simplifies the subsequent management of the industrial design, since it is possible to record changes or renew the registration through a single procedural step.

As of December 31, 2021, the Hague System comprised 76 members. This means that applicants can obtain protection for their designs in a geographical area incorporating a total of 93 countries. The difference between the number of Hague members and the number

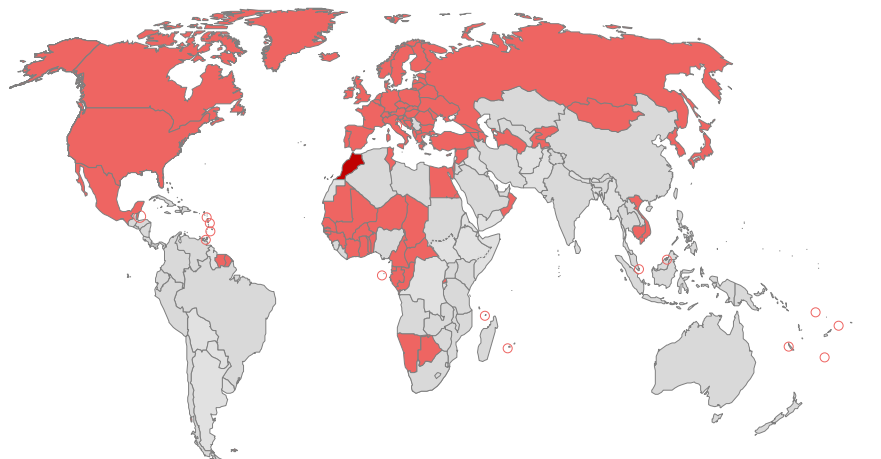
of countries covered by the System is due to the fact that the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the European Union (EU) are Hague members. By choosing to designate either of these intergovernmental organizations within an application, protection can be sought simultaneously within all their respective member states.

## Advantages of the Hague System

The Hague System lowers transaction costs for design registrations through the creation of a single application in one language, with one set of fees in a single currency denomination. Applicants are therefore not burdened by having to apply at multiple offices, which would entail having to deal with different formalities in different languages, and involve purchasing several currency denominations with which to pay various fees.

The System also simplifies the subsequent management of international registrations. Applications are handled through a single institution, which allows future amendments to registrations and renewals of registrations to be carried out by a single office (i.e., the IB) rather than requiring the designer/holder of the registration to request such amendments at multiple IP offices.

## Hague members in 2021



## International application and registration procedures

When deciding to seek protection for designs in multiple jurisdictions, an applicant can file separate applications with each office directly (the Paris route) or file a single international application through the Hague System. The overview of the industrial design registration process shown opposite illustrates the procedure for filing applications in multiple jurisdictions via the Hague System.

An international application<sup>8</sup> is normally filed directly with the IB,<sup>9</sup> which is responsible for carrying out an examination to verify that it meets all formal requirements. In the case of non-compliance, applicants are invited to correct the application within a three-month period. If corrections are not made during that time, the application is considered abandoned. The IB does not undertake substantive examination (e.g., for novelty of design) and therefore cannot reject an application on substantive grounds. The decision whether to grant protection remains the prerogative of national or regional offices, and rights limited to the jurisdiction of the granting authority.

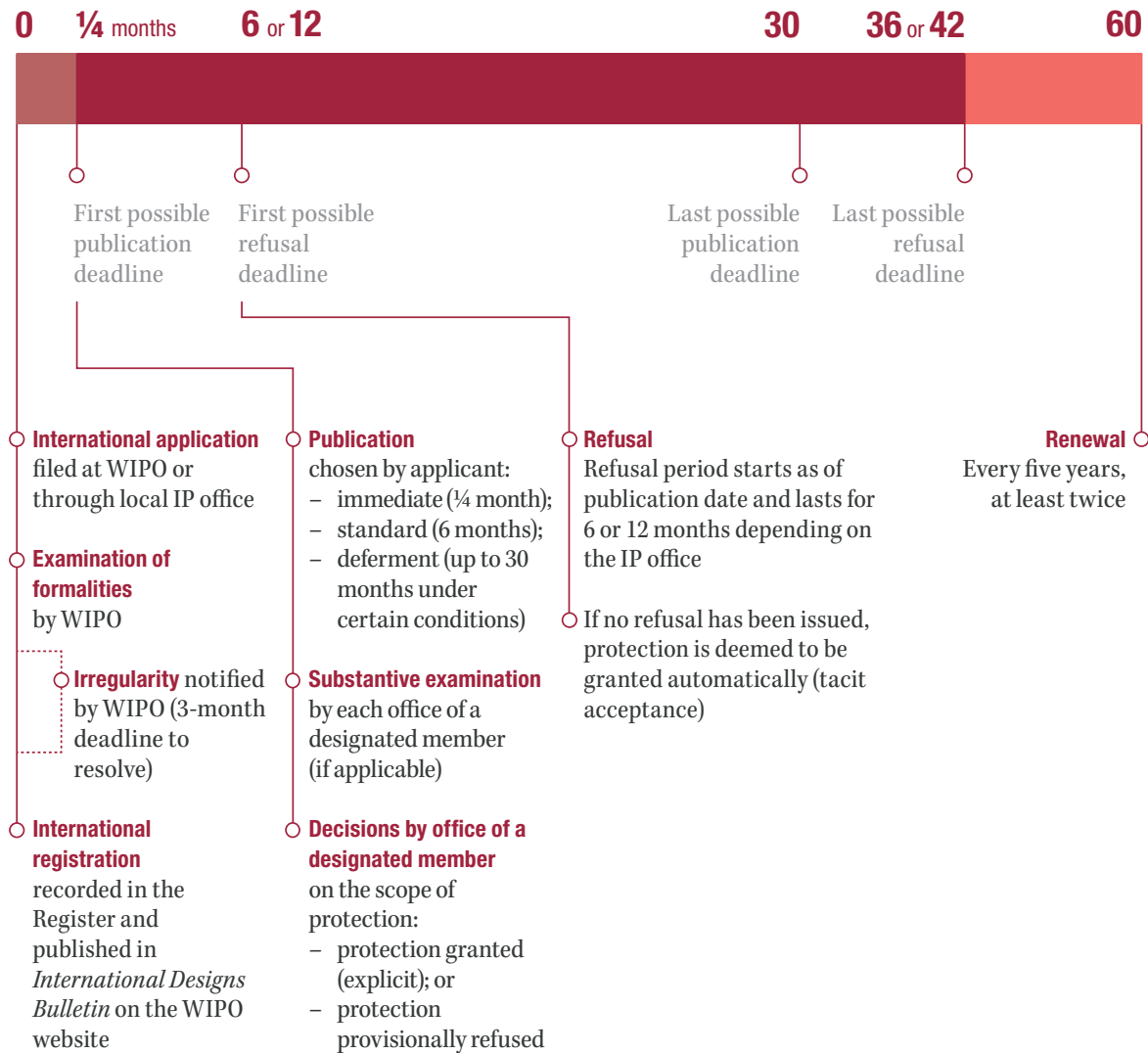
International applications are recorded in the International Register, if they fulfill all the requirements of the formal examination conducted by the IB. The standard process is that international registrations are published in the *International Designs Bulletin (IDB)* twelve months after the date of international registration, unless applicants request immediate publication or a deferment of publication.<sup>10</sup> The previous six-month standard publication period continues to apply to international registrations resulting from international applications filed before the entry into force on January 1, 2022, of the new standard publication period of 12 months. Once registrations are published in the *IDB*, national and regional offices identify those international registrations that have designated their country or intergovernmental organization, and then carry out a substantive examination according to their respective national or regional legislation, if any.<sup>11</sup> If an office refuses to issue protection, it must notify the IB of its refusal within six months of the date of publication of the international registration in the *IDB*.<sup>12</sup> In the case of a refusal, applicants have the same right of appeal as those who file directly with a national or regional office.<sup>13</sup> However, if the IB does not receive a notification of refusal from a national or regional office within the prescribed time period, the international registration is considered valid within that jurisdiction and has effect as a grant of protection in the jurisdiction concerned.<sup>14</sup>

International registrations are valid for a period of five years and may be renewed for at least two additional five-year periods. The maximum duration of protection afforded by each designated Hague member depends on the locally applicable legislation. The IB administers the renewal process.

For more information on the Hague System, visit: [www.wipo.int/hague](http://www.wipo.int/hague).

- 8 An international application does not require a prior national application or registration. It must be filed in one of three working languages – English, French or Spanish – and list the designated members (i.e., states or intergovernmental organizations such as the EU or the OAPI) in which protection is sought.
- 9 An international application may be filed directly with the IB or indirectly through a national/regional IP office of the applicant's choice. Under certain conditions, and under the Hague Act only, an international application must be filed through a national IP office.
- 10 An applicant can defer publication for up to 12 months under the Hague Act, or for up to 30 months under the Geneva Act.
- 11 Some offices carry out a substantive examination for every design, whereas others automatically issue protection for designs, barring opposition by third parties.
- 12 Under certain circumstances, and under the Geneva Act only, the time period for notifying the IB of a refusal is 12 months instead of 6 months.
- 13 The applicant can appeal against a refusal according to the rules and regulations outlined in the domestic/regional legislation of the office refusing protection. The IB is not involved in this procedure.
- 14 In some cases, national or regional offices notify the IB that protection is granted for an international registration by sending a statement of grant. However, where an office does not provide the IB with a statement, the international registration is nevertheless valid, unless the office refuses the registration and communicates the refusal to the IB within the prescribed time limit (i.e., within 6 months or 12 months, as the case may be).

## Overview of the industrial design registration process



### Benefits

- Apply just once in one language for registration of up to a 100 industrial designs for products belonging to one and the same class in multiple jurisdictions
- Pay one set of fees in a single currency
- Time the publication of your registration to fit your business strategy
- Manage renewals and registration changes through a single central system



# Data description

Data are compiled by WIPO on the processing of international applications, registrations and renewals through the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. Complete data exist up to calendar year 2021. However, figures shown in the *Review* are subject to alteration; for example, country of origin information for a few international Hague applications was missing at the time of data extraction. When this information becomes available, the applications by origin statistics for a few countries may change, but this will be minimal. Regular updates are available at: [www.wipo.int/ipstats](http://www.wipo.int/ipstats).

Statistics on direct non-resident (the Paris route) applications at national and regional IP offices are extracted from the WIPO Statistics Database, primarily based on WIPO's Annual IP Survey. The latest available year for complete direct applications data is therefore 2020.

Income groups correspond to those used by the World Bank (<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>) and groupings by region are based on the United Nations (UN) definition of regions (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49>). Although the geographical terms used by WIPO may differ slightly from those defined by the UN, the composition of regions and subregions is identical.

# Acronyms

BOIP	Benelux Office for Intellectual Property
EU	European Union
EUIPO	European Union Intellectual Property Office
IB	International Bureau of WIPO
<i>IDB</i>	<i>International Designs Bulletin</i>
IP	intellectual property
IPR	intellectual property rights
JPO	Japan Patent Office
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
OAPI	African Intellectual Property Organization
RCD	Registered Community Design
U.K.	United Kingdom
U.S.	United States of America
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

# Glossary

This glossary provides definitions of key technical terms and concepts.

**Applicant:** An individual or other legal entity that files an application for an industrial design. There may be more than one applicant in an application. For statistical purposes, the name of the first named applicant is used to determine the origin of the application.

**Application:** A formal request for the protection of an industrial design at a national or regional IP office, which usually then examines the application and decides whether to grant or refuse protection within its jurisdiction. (See “Hague international application”.)

**Application date:** The date on which an IP office or the International Bureau of WIPO receives an application that meets the requirements for registration of an industrial design. This may also be referred to as the filing date.

**Class:** Refers to the classes defined in the Locarno Classification. Classes indicate the categories of products for which industrial design protection is requested. (See “Locarno Classification”.)

**Design count:** The number of designs contained in an industrial design application or registration. Under the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, it is possible for an applicant to obtain protection for up to 100 industrial designs for products belonging to one and the same class by filing a single application. Some national or regional IP offices allow applications to contain more than one design for the same product or within the same class, whereas others permit only one design per application. In order to capture the differences between application and registration numbers across offices, it is useful to compare their respective application and registration design counts.

**Designation:** The request made in an international application or registration by which the applicant/ international registration holder specifies the

jurisdiction(s) in which they seek protection for their industrial designs.

**European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO):** The EUIPO is the office responsible for managing the EU trademark and the Registered Community Design (RDC). The validity of these two intellectual property rights extends across the jurisdictions of all the EU’s 27 member states.

**Filing:** See “Application”.

**Hague international application:** An application for the international registration of an industrial design filed under the WIPO-administered Hague System.

**Hague international registration:** An international registration issued via the Hague System that facilitates the acquisition of industrial design rights in multiple jurisdictions. An application for the international registration of an industrial design leads to its recording in the International Register and the publication of the registration in the *International Designs Bulletin*. If the registration is not refused by the IP office of a designated Hague member, the international registration will have the same effect as a registration made in that jurisdiction.

**Hague member (Contracting Party):** A state or intergovernmental organization that is a member of the Hague System. Includes any state or intergovernmental organization party to the Geneva Act of 1999 and/or the Hague Act of 1960. Entitlement to file an international application under the Hague Agreement is limited to natural persons or legal entities having a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment, or a domicile, in at least one of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, or being a national of one of those Contracting Parties or of a member state of an intergovernmental organization that is a Contracting Party. In addition – but only under the 1999 Act – an international application may be filed on the basis of habitual residence in the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party.

**Hague route:** An alternative to the Paris route (i.e., the direct national or regional route), the Hague route enables an application for international registration of industrial designs to be filed using the Hague System.

**Hague System:** The abbreviated form of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. The System comprises two international treaties: the Hague Act of 1960 and the Geneva Act of 1999. The Hague System makes it possible for an applicant to register up to 100 industrial designs in multiple jurisdictions by filing a single application with the International Bureau of WIPO. It simplifies multinational registration by reducing the requirement to file separate applications with each IP office. The System also simplifies the subsequent management of the industrial design, since it is possible to record changes or renew a registration through a single procedural step.

**Holder:** The individual or legal entity in whose name an international registration is recorded.

**Industrial design:** Industrial designs are applied to a wide variety of industrial products and handicrafts. They refer to the ornamental or aesthetic aspects of a useful article, including composition of lines or colors or any three-dimensional forms that give a special appearance to a product or handicraft. The holder of a registered industrial design has exclusive rights against unauthorized copying or imitation of the design by third parties. Industrial design registrations are valid for a limited period. The term of protection is usually 15 years in most jurisdictions. However, differences in legislation exist, notably in China (which provides for a 10-year term from the application date).

**Intellectual property (IP):** Refers to creations of the mind: inventions, literary and artistic works, and symbols, names, images and designs used in commerce. IP is divided into two categories: industrial property – which includes patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of source – and copyright, which includes literary and artistic works (such as novels, poems, plays, films), musical works, artistic works (such as drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures) and architectural designs. Rights related to copyright include those of performing artists in their performances, those of producers of sound recordings in their recordings, and those of broadcasters in their radio and television programs.

**International Bureau (IB):** In the context of the Hague System, the International Bureau of

WIPO acts as a receiving office for international applications. International applications are filed directly with the IB or indirectly through the IP office of a Contracting Party. The IB handles processing tasks with respect to these applications and the subsequent management of Hague System registrations.

**International Designs Bulletin (IDB):** The official publication of the Hague System, containing data on new international registrations, as well as renewals and modifications affecting existing international registrations. It is published on the WIPO website at: [www.wipo.int/hague/en/bulletin](http://www.wipo.int/hague/en/bulletin).

**International Register:** A register maintained by the IB in which it registers industrial designs applied for in international applications that conform to the applicable requirements.

**International registrations in force:** International registrations that are currently valid. To remain in force, international registrations must be renewed by paying a renewal fee to the IB after each five-year term of protection. The period of protection of a designation of a Contracting Party in an international registration must be at least 15 years, subject to renewal of that designation. However, depending on the domestic laws of individual Contracting Parties, the period of protection may be longer than 15 years. For example, under the legislation of Switzerland, the period of protection for industrial design registrations is 25 years, subject to renewal.

**Locarno Classification:** The abbreviated form of the International Classification for Industrial Designs under the Locarno Agreement, used for registering industrial designs. The Locarno Classification consists of 32 classes and their respective subclasses with explanatory notes plus an alphabetical list of the goods in which industrial designs are incorporated and an indication of the classes and subclasses to which they belong.

**Maintenance:** An act by the applicant to keep an IP grant/registration valid (in force), primarily by paying the required fee to the IP office of the state or jurisdiction providing protection. That fee is also known as a “maintenance fee.” Industrial designs can be maintained for only a limited number of years.

**National route:** Applications for IP protection filed directly with the national office of, or acting for, the relevant state or jurisdiction (see also “Hague route”). The national route is also called the “direct route” or “Paris route.”

**Non-resident application:** For statistical purposes, a “non-resident” application refers to an application filed with an IP office of a given country/territory/region in which the applicant does not reside or does not have a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment. Non-resident applications are sometimes referred to as foreign applications. A non-resident registration is an IP right issued on the basis of a non-resident application.

**Opposition:** An administrative process for disputing the protection of an industrial design that is often limited to a specific time period after the industrial design has been published. For the Hague System, opposition rules are defined by national laws; however, national IP offices must provide any refusal process on the grounds of opposition within 6 or 12 months (depending on the Hague member concerned) from the publication date of the international registration in the *International Designs Bulletin*.

**Origin (country or region):** For statistical purposes, the origin of an application means the country or territory of residence of the first named applicant in the application. In some cases (notably in the U.S.), the country of origin is determined by the residence of the assignee rather than that of the applicant.

**Paris Convention:** The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, signed on March 20, 1883, is one of the most important IP treaties, as it establishes the general principles applicable to all IP rights. It establishes the “right of priority” that enables an IP applicant, when filing an application in countries other than the original country of filing, to claim priority of an earlier application filed up to 12 months previously for patents and utility models, and up to six months previously for trademarks and industrial designs.

**Paris route:** An alternative to the Madrid route, the Paris route (also called the “direct route”) enables individual IP applications to be filed directly with an IP office of a country/territory that is a signatory of the Paris Convention.

**Priority date:** The filing date of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed. (See “Paris Convention”.)

**Publication date:** The general rule is that international registrations are published in the *International Designs Bulletin* 6 months after the date of registration, unless applicants request an immediate publication or a deferment of publication.

Publication of an international registration can be deferred for up to 12 months under the Hague Act, or for up to 30 months under the Geneva Act.

**Regional application (registration):** An application filed with (registered by) an IP office having regional jurisdiction over more than one country. There are currently three regional offices that are members of the Hague System: the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

**Registered Community Design (RCD):** A registration issued by the EUIPO based on a single application filed directly with the office by an applicant seeking protection within the EU as a whole.

**Registration:** An exclusive set of rights legally accorded to the applicant when an industrial design is registered or issued. Registrations are issued to applicants to make use of and exploit their industrial designs for a limited period.

**Renewal:** The process by which an industrial design right is maintained (kept in force). This usually consists of paying renewal fees to an IP office at regular intervals. If renewal fees are not paid, the registration may lapse.

**Resident application:** For statistical purposes, a “resident” application refers to an application filed with an IP office by an applicant residing or having a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in the country/territory/region in which that office has jurisdiction. Resident applications are sometimes referred to as domestic applications. A resident registration is an IP right issued on the basis of a resident application.

**Statement of grant:** A voluntary communication from an IP office to the IB informing it that an industrial design has been granted protection within its jurisdiction.

**World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):** A United Nations specialized agency dedicated to the promotion of innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international IP system. WIPO was established in 1967 with a mandate to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation between states and in collaboration with other international organizations.

# Locarno classes and industry sectors

Locarno classes	Sector
20, 32	Advertising
1, 27, 31	Agricultural products and food preparation
23, 25, 29	Construction
13, 26	Electricity and lighting
6, 7, 30	Furniture and household goods
24, 28	Health, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics
14, 16, 18	Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and audiovisual
17, 19, 21, 22	Leisure and education
9	Packaging
2, 3, 5, 11	Textiles and accessories
4, 8, 10, 15	Tools and machines
12	Transport

Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

# Hague members


As of December 31, 2021, the Hague System comprised 76 members covering 93 countries/territories.

African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)	Luxembourg
Albania	Mali
Armenia	Mexico
Azerbaijan	Monaco
Belarus	Mongolia
Belgium	Montenegro
Belize	Morocco
Benin	Namibia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Netherlands
Botswana	Niger
Brunei Darussalam	North Macedonia
Bulgaria	Norway
Cambodia	Oman
Canada	Poland
Côte d'Ivoire	Republic of Korea
Croatia	Republic of Moldova
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Romania
Denmark	Russian Federation
Egypt	Rwanda
Estonia	Samoa
European Union	San Marino
Finland	Sao Tome and Principe
France	Senegal
Gabon	Serbia
Georgia	Singapore
Germany	Slovenia
Ghana	Spain
Greece	Suriname
Hungary	Switzerland
Iceland	Syrian Arab Republic
Israel	Tajikistan
Italy	Tunisia
Jamaica	Turkey
Japan	Turkmenistan
Kyrgyzstan	Ukraine
Latvia	United Kingdom
Liechtenstein	United States of America
Lithuania	Viet Nam









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