

## 4. REGIONAL PATENT CO-OPERATION

The percentage of PCT patent applications with co-inventors living in another region, whether or not they are from the same country, is an indicator of co-operation activity and knowledge sharing among regions.

Figure 4.1 shows the percentage of patents by co-inventor residence (irrespective of an inventor's country of origin). Countries like Japan, the United States and the Netherlands, ranking among the top ten OECD countries in PCT patent applications per million inhabitants (Figure 3.1), seem to co-invent mostly within their borders. In 2005, in these three countries and Korea, more than 70% of co-inventions were domestic. Other countries like Turkey, the Slovak Republic and Canada, seem more oriented toward international co-operation rather than national.

Taking only the region with the highest number of foreign co-inventions in 2005, it appears that the region in the country with the highest percentage of foreign co-patenting, Istanbul (Turkey), co-invented most with North America (94%), while Zapadne Slovensko (Slovak Republic) co-operated mostly with other European regions (93% of the total co-invented patents) (Figure 4.2).

For most regions, the main foreign co-inventor partner resides on the same continent. All the European regions taken into consideration are more likely to co-invent with another European region, except for South East (United Kingdom), the Southern and Eastern region (Ireland), and Istanbul (Turkey), where inventors were more likely to co-invent with North American regions. Another exception is California (United States) which shares 64% of its foreign

co-inventions with Europe and only 16% with other non-US regions in North America.

### Definition

Patent documents report the inventors along with their addresses and country of residence. If the patent document lists two or more inventors resident in different regions, the patent is counted as co-invented (co-invented patents from individuals from the same region were not considered).

### Source

OECD REGPAT Database.

See Annex B for more details on the source and the definition of the indicator.

### Reference years and territorial level

2005; TL2

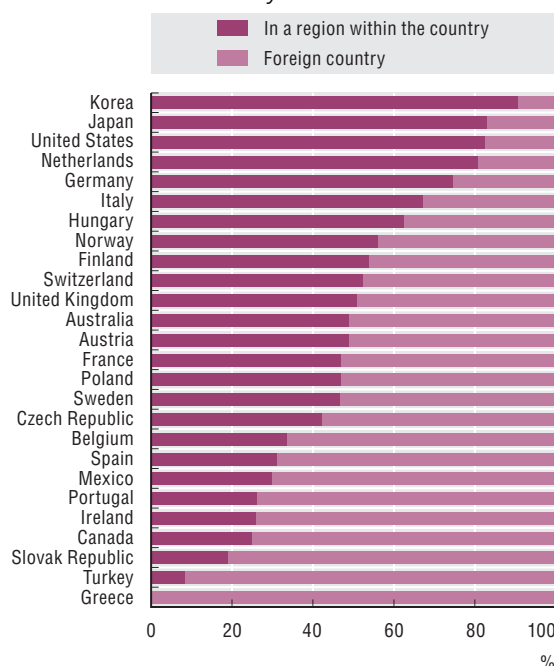
Data for Iceland, Denmark and New Zealand are not available at the regional level.

### Further information

OECD work on patents: [www.oecd.org/sti/ipr-statistics](http://www.oecd.org/sti/ipr-statistics).

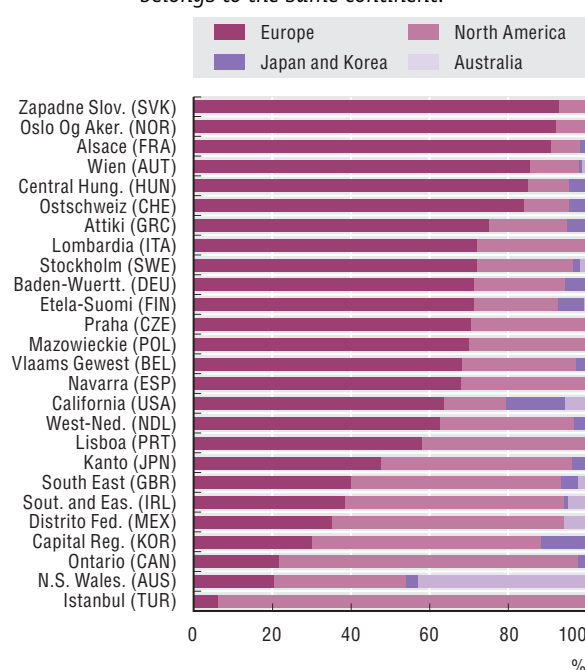
#### 4.1 PCT patents with at least one co-inventor by residence of the co-inventor (TL2), 2005

Best-performing countries in terms of patent applications seem to co-invent mostly within their borders.



#### 4.2 TL2 regions with the highest number of foreign co-inventors by partner continent, 2005

For most regions the main foreign co-inventor partner belongs to the same continent.

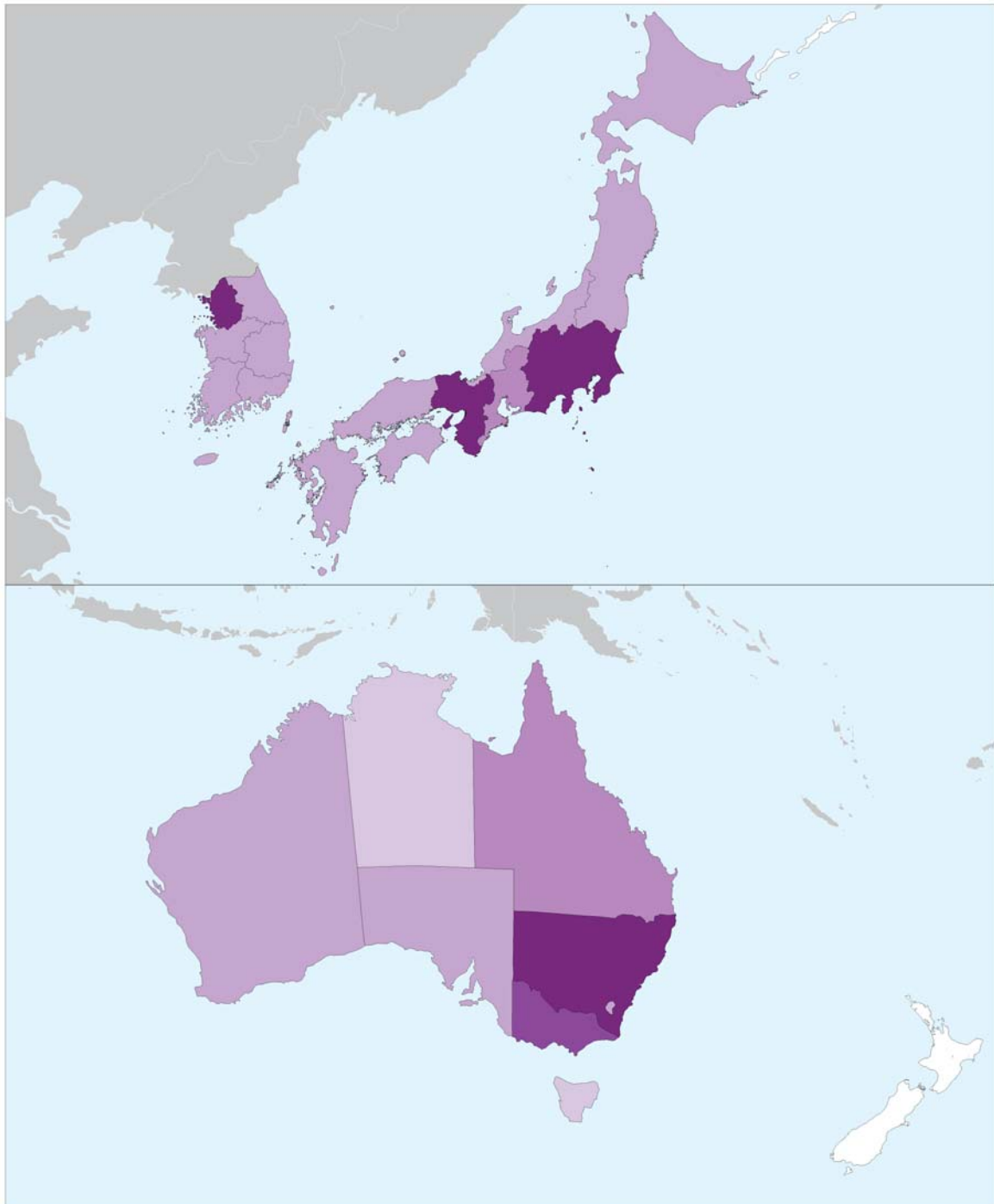


StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/523648463545>

### 4.3 Number of PCT patents with at least one foreign co-inventor: Asia and Oceania

TL2 regions, 2005

- Higher than 100
- Between 80 and 100
- Between 60 and 80
- Between 40 and 60
- Between 1 and 40
- Lower than 1
- Data not available



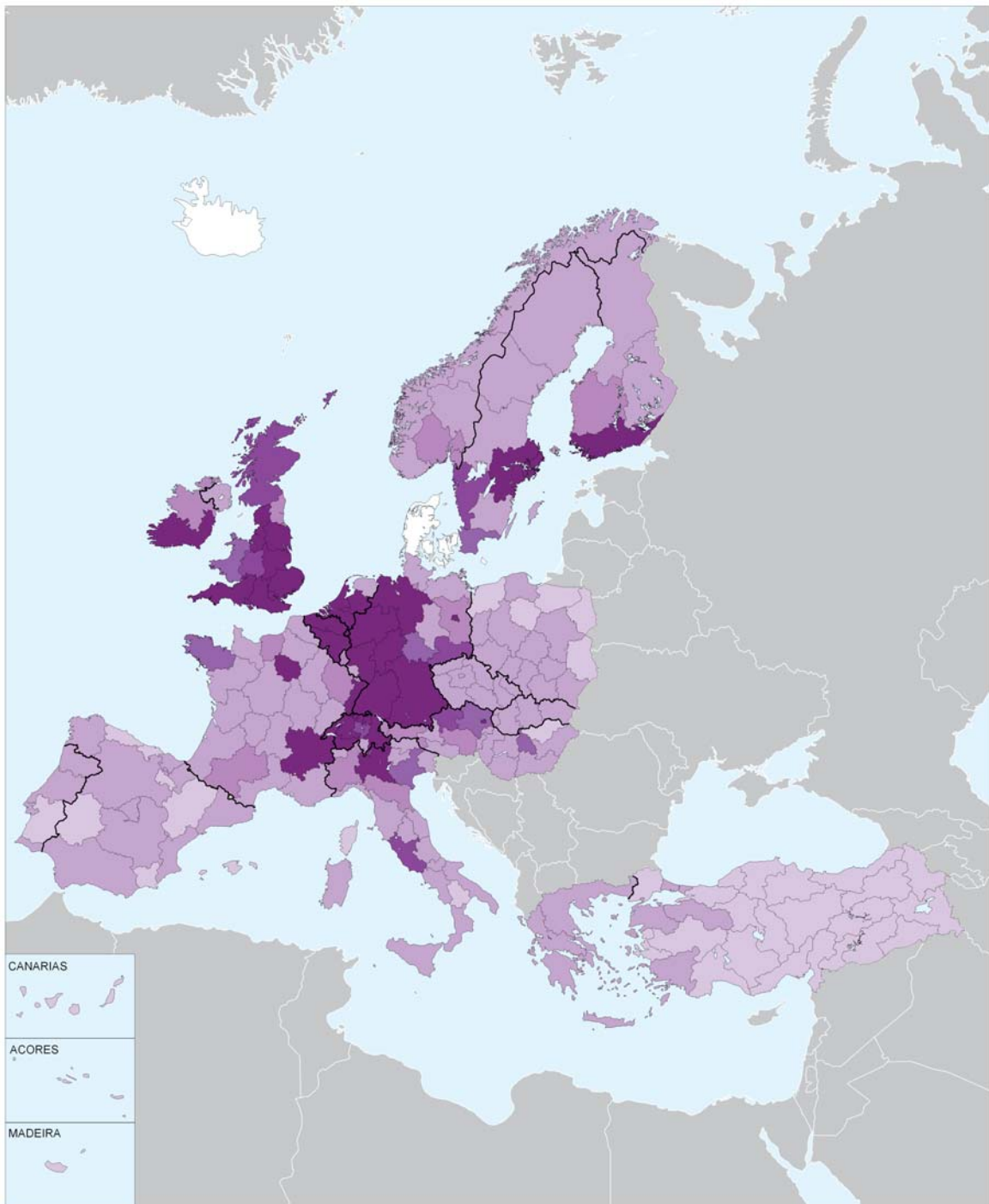
StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/524500868511>

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### 4.4 Number of PCT patents with at least one foreign co-inventor: Europe

TL2 regions, 2005

- Higher than 100
- Between 80 and 100
- Between 60 and 80
- Between 40 and 60
- Between 1 and 40
- Lower than 1
- Data not available

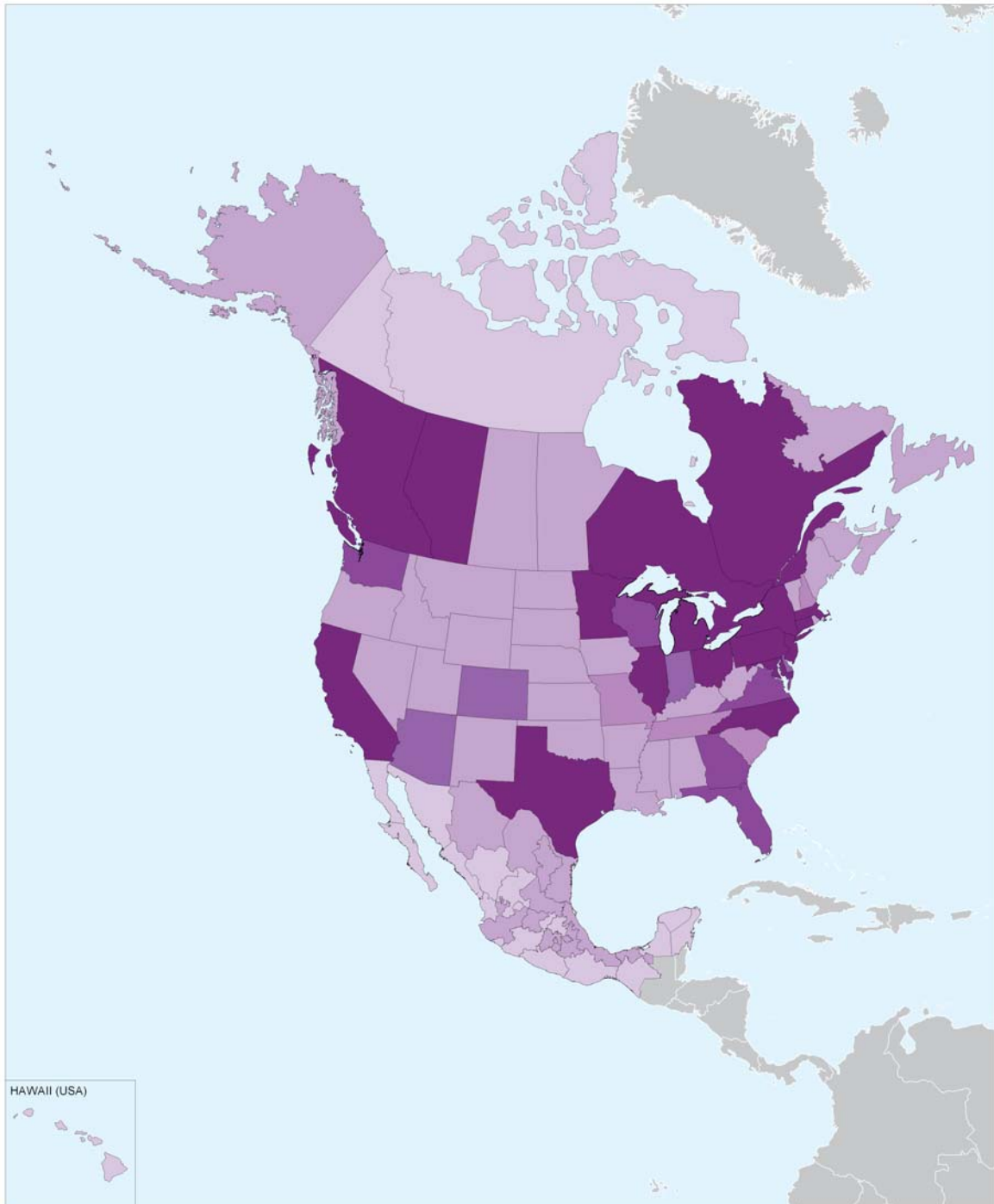


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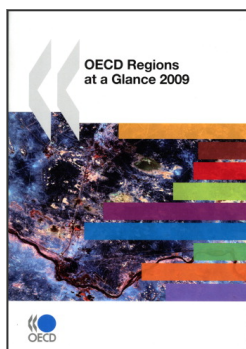
### 4.5 Number of patents with at least one foreign co-inventor: North America

TL2 regions, 2005

- Higher than 100
- Between 80 and 100
- Between 60 and 80
- Between 40 and 60
- Between 1 and 40
- Lower than 1
- Data not available



StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/524500868511>



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