

PRESENTATION

BELGIAN HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES



Belgian
Foreign Trade Agency

Lorenzo Van Elsen — Editor — 12/10/2021



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1. Introduction to Health Technologies

- A dynamic and innovative sector working to save and improve lives.
- Ambition: improve patient outcomes and have a beneficial impact on health (living longer) and quality of life (living better).

2. The European and Belgian HealthTech Markets: Facts and Figures

A driver of economic growth and job creation across Europe with a market size estimated at roughly €120 billion in 2018.

In Belgium, the medical technology sector generated a yearly turnover of €3.5 billion for that same year.

Key indicators to gauge the state of the industry:

A. Innovation

B. Companies and employment

C. Trade balance

2. The European and Belgian HealthTech Markets: Facts and Figures

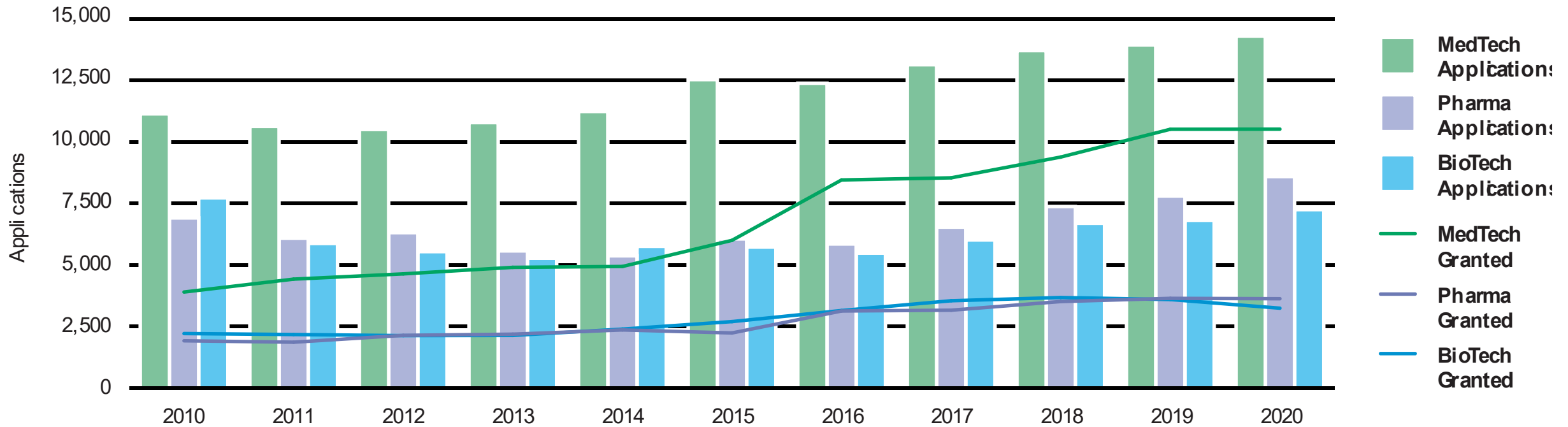
Key indicators to gauge the state of the industry:

A. Innovation

- High number of patents filed by medtech companies.
- Heavy investments in the development of new technologies.
- At European level, more than 14,200 patent applications were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) in the field of medical technology in 2020.

2. The European and Belgian HealthTech Markets: Facts and Figures

Evolution of European patents by technical field (2020)



Source: MedTech Europe, *The European Medical Technology Industry in figures 2020*

2. The European and Belgian HealthTech Markets: Facts and Figures

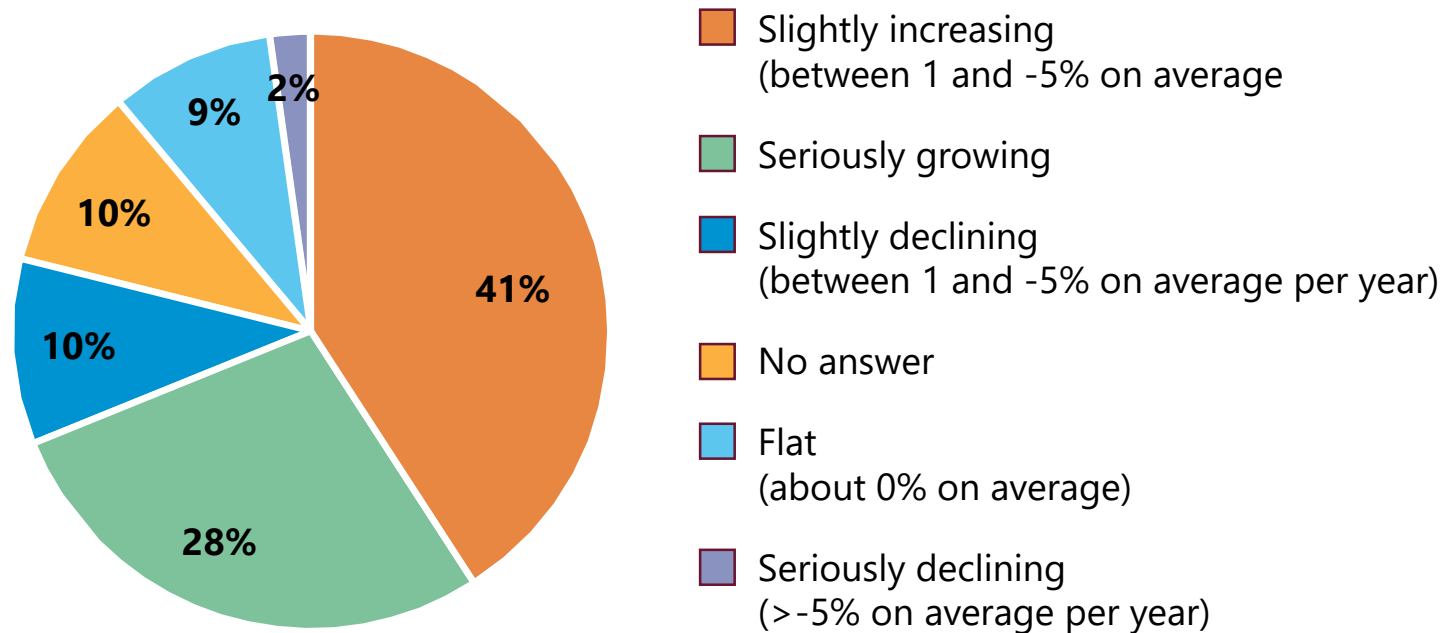
Key indicators to gauge the state of the industry:

B. Companies and employment

- 32,000 medical technology companies in Europe and over 200 in Belgium.
- All together these European medical technology companies directly employ more than 730,000 people, with Belgium accounting for 17,800 jobs.
- Profitability will increase significantly in the coming years.

2. The European and Belgian HealthTech Markets: Facts and Figures

**Sales revenue of Belgian MedTech companies –
expected trends in the coming 5 years**



Source: BeMedTech, the Belgian medical technology industry facts & figures 2018

2. The European and Belgian HealthTech Markets: Facts and Figures

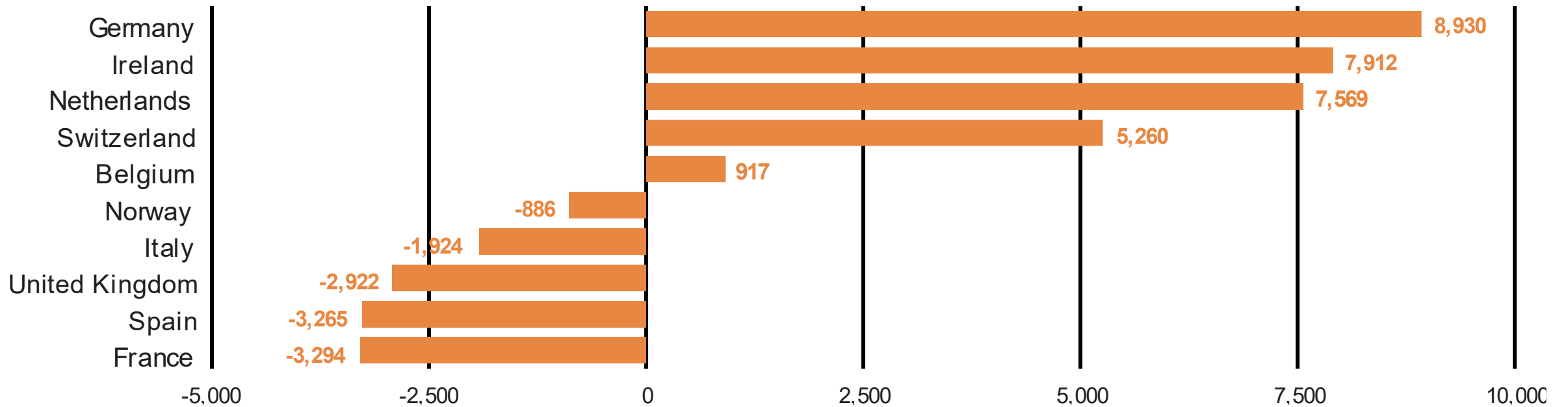
Key indicators to gauge the state of the industry:

C. Trade balance

- Europe had a positive medical devices trade balance of €8.7 billion, with the US, China and Japan as main partners.
- Across Europe, the medical devices trade balance was highest in Germany and Ireland, followed by the Netherlands and Switzerland.
- With a positive medical devices trade balance of €917 million, Belgium comes in fifth in Europe.

2. The European and Belgian HealthTech Markets: Facts and Figures

Medical devices trade balance by country, including intra-community trade (million €) - 2020



Source: MedTech Europe, The European Medical Technology Industry in figures 2020

3. A look at current trends

Within the medical technology industry, two trends are clearly seen as opportunities: the digitalization of healthcare and the shift of care outside hospitals, closer to the patient's home setting, through eHealth applications.

A. Digitalization of health

Many applications in the context of administrative automation, mHealth, electronic patient records, teleconsultation and telemonitoring platforms have been developed alongside each other by authorities, healthcare actors and private companies alike.

To speed up the integration of these innovations and to coordinate existing initiatives in health technology the platform **HealthTech.Belgium** has been launched.

3. A look at current trends

Within the medical technology industry, two trends are clearly seen as opportunities: the digitalization of healthcare and the shift of care outside hospitals, closer to the patient's home setting, through eHealth applications.

B. eHealth applications

- Generate information and data that are critical for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, remote monitoring and management of health and lifestyle.
- Enhance the quality of life of patients and their carers as well as advance public health and medical knowledge.
- The eHealthMonitor, a survey on the knowledge and use of eHealth applications in the health sector in Belgium.

4. The Belgian Health Technology sector in times of pandemic

The medical technology sector plays a vital role in the response to COVID-19 and in building strategies to shape a 'new normal'.

A. Belgium, leader in the conduct of clinical trials in Europe

In December 2020, 38 clinical trial applications for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 have been submitted in our country: 32 clinical trials for COVID-19 medicines and 6 for vaccines.

Clinical trials related to the treatment against COVID-19 have been conducted by Takeda and GSK.

Clinical trials related to the prevention of COVID-19 have been conducted by CureVac in collaboration with UZGent, by Janssen Pharmaceutica, by ExeVir and by eTheRNA.

Three vaccine developing groups have decided to carry out part of their production in Belgium: **Pfizer**, **GSK** and **AstraZeneca**.

4. The Belgian Health Technology sector in times of pandemic

The medical technology sector plays a vital role in the response to COVID-19 and in building strategies to shape a 'new normal'.

B. Digitalization of healthcare in times of pandemic

The pandemic has also accelerated the digitalization of healthcare.

The industry has been very quick to develop new applications and platforms that were immediately utilized in times when COVID-19 was putting our healthcare system under enormous pressure.

These digital medical applications are expected to continue to be widely usable for society after the coronavirus crisis.

5. Challenges

Despite the considerable benefits of medical technology for patients, healthcare professionals and the healthcare system as a whole, the sector is still facing three major challenges.

First challenge: Making the most of the opportunities offered by medical technologies to ensure the quality and sustainability of healthcare.

Second challenge: An effective regulatory approach

Third challenge: Making Belgium a MedTech Valley

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The sectoral publication will be available on our website right after this webinar:

https://www.abh-ace.be/fr/etudes_economiques/etudes_sectorielles