

C. PCT 1614

December 10, 2020

Madam,
Sir,

Report on Characteristics of International Search Reports

1. This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as an International Searching Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). In that capacity, and as a member of the quality subgroup of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT, your Office is invited to comment on the annexed draft report on characteristics of international search reports.

Background

2. For the past eight years, the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has prepared reports presenting various characteristics of international search reports for discussion by the International Searching Authorities (see Circulars C. PCT 1360, 1398, 1434, 1463, 1490, 1524, 1552 and 1580).

Updated Report

3. The Annex to this Circular presents a report on characteristics of international search reports, updating the data presented in Circular C. PCT 1580 up to the end of the fourth quarter of 2019. The underlying data and a further explanation of the description of the data and definitions used are made available on the WIPO website¹.

/...

¹ The full details are available with the electronic version of this circular from <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/circulars/index.html>.

4. Various changes have been proposed over recent years to add to or improve the characteristics. Most of these require additional data from national Offices, most notably in respect of documents cited in the national phase, and will be considered further when reliable feeds of such information become available. Alternatively, some may be considered when the availability of more recent data from XML international search reports is sufficient to warrant work on providing new data feeds based on that source. In the meantime, the format and content of the reports are unchanged from those presented in Circular C. PCT 1580, save to update the results to provide information concerning international searches transmitted to the International Bureau in 2019 (or in 2018 for the technical breakdowns).

5. As noted for the previous report, the data for the final year is not complete because some search reports had not been processed by the European Patent Office in time to be reflected in the Autumn 2020 version of PATSTAT, which is the basis of the citation data in the reports. The data in particular for the final two quarters should be treated as highly provisional.

6. Technical breakdowns have again been made for four of the characteristics, with a table being included in the package available from the website. As a result of the above concerns, the breakdowns have been made on the characteristics for international search reports from 2018, rather than 2019.

Issues for the Quality Subgroup

7. This subject will be discussed at the next meeting of the quality subgroup in 2021, which will take place as a virtual meeting, at a date to be determined.

8. Your Office is invited to provide comments on the characteristics, how the characteristics can be used effectively, and what improvements to the presentation or content of characteristics and other metrics would be useful. Comments should be registered on the quality subgroup's electronic forum in advance of the meeting to assist delegations to prepare for an effective discussion of such issues during the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



John Sandage
Deputy Director General

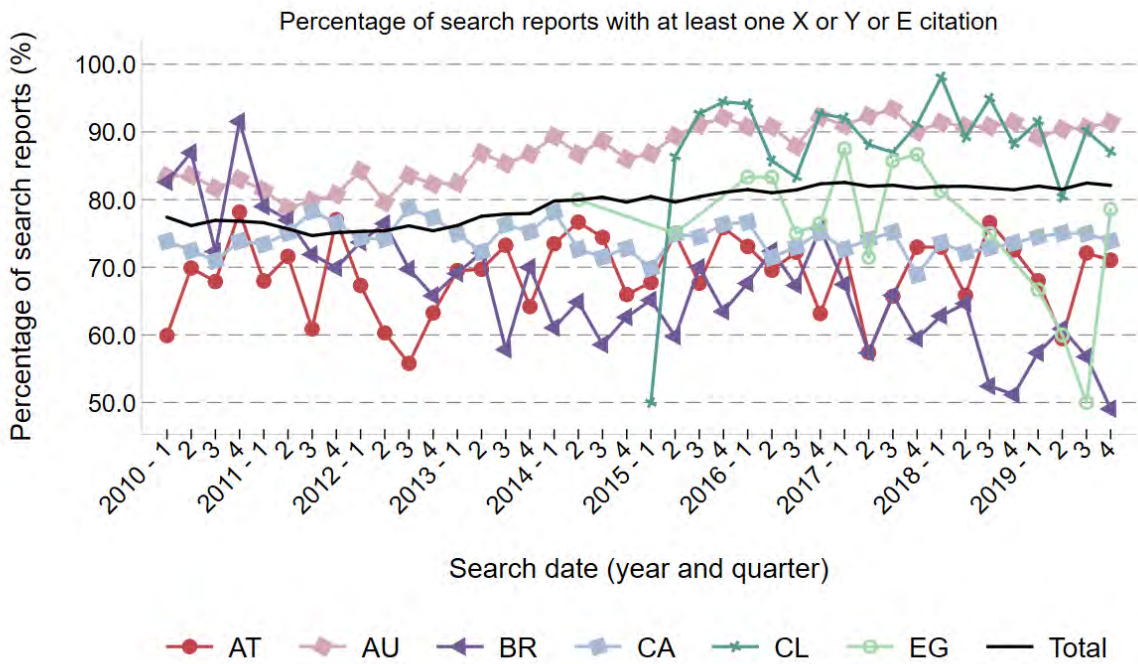
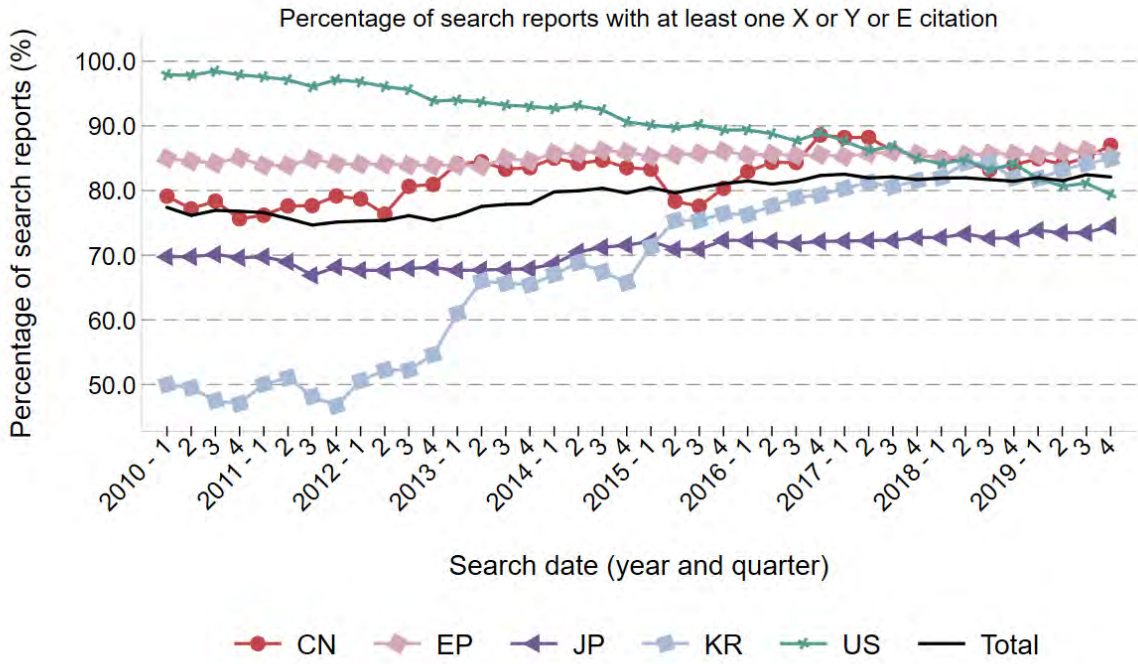
Enclosure: Annex: Report on Characteristics of International Search Reports

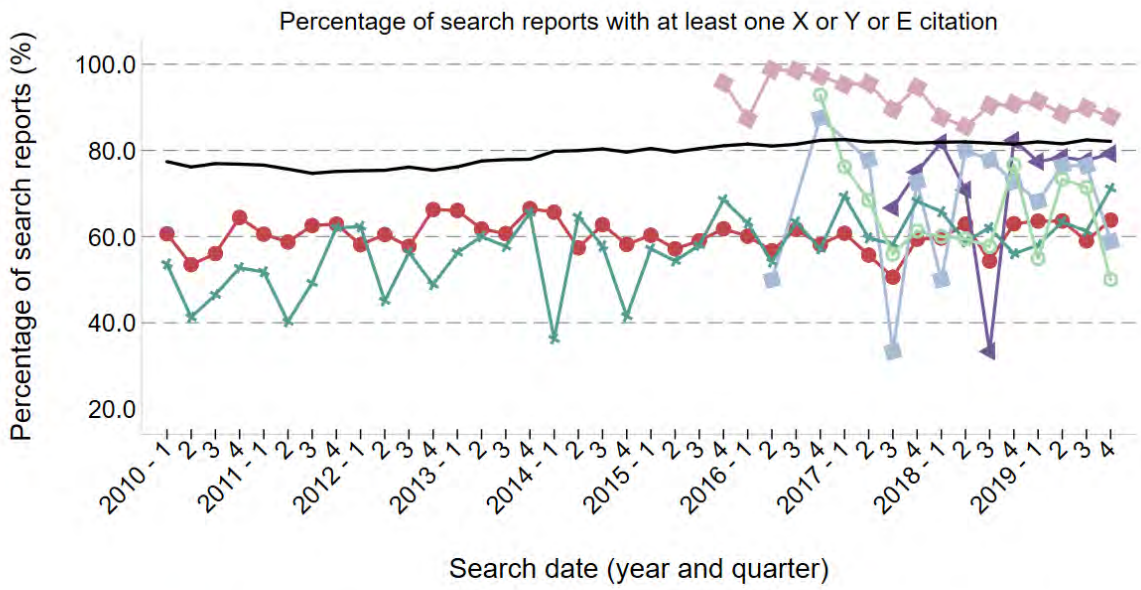
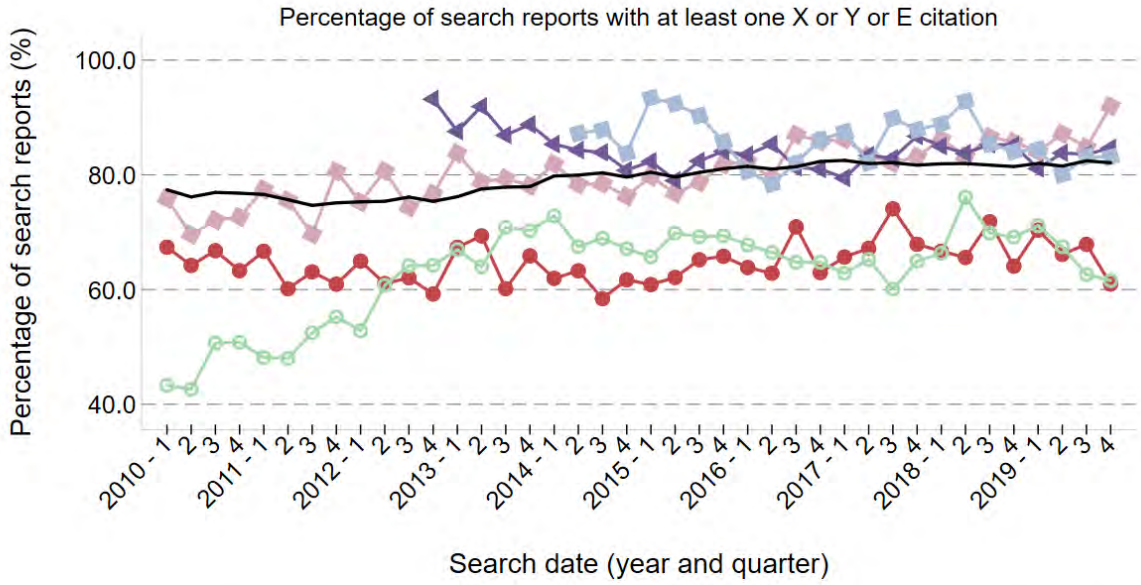
CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTS

Table of Contents

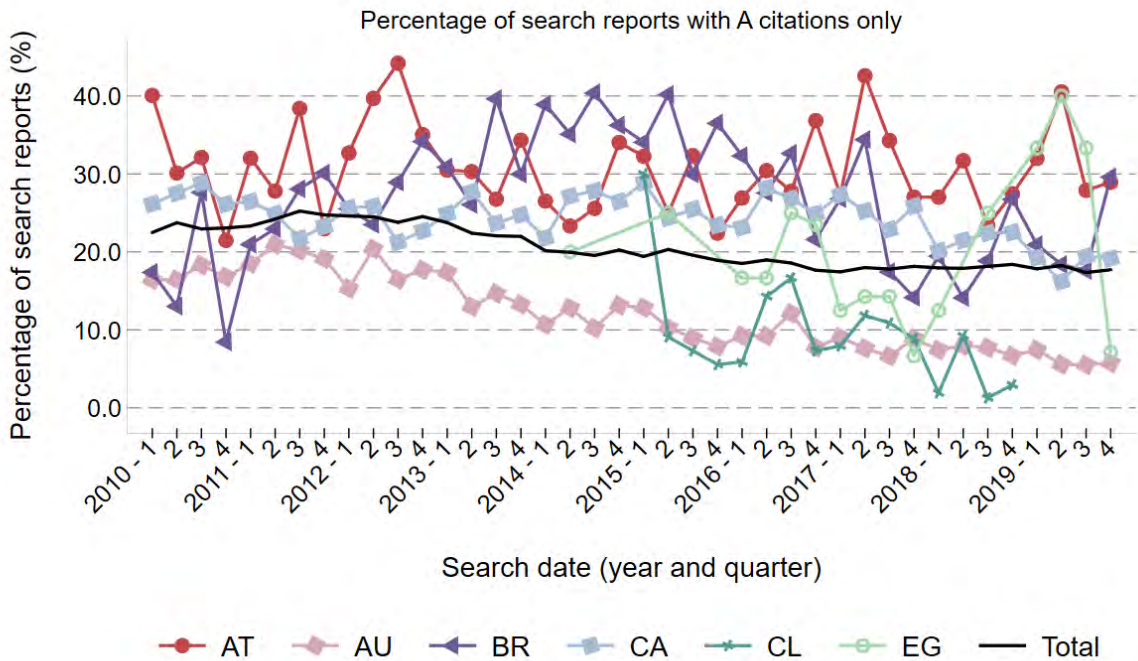
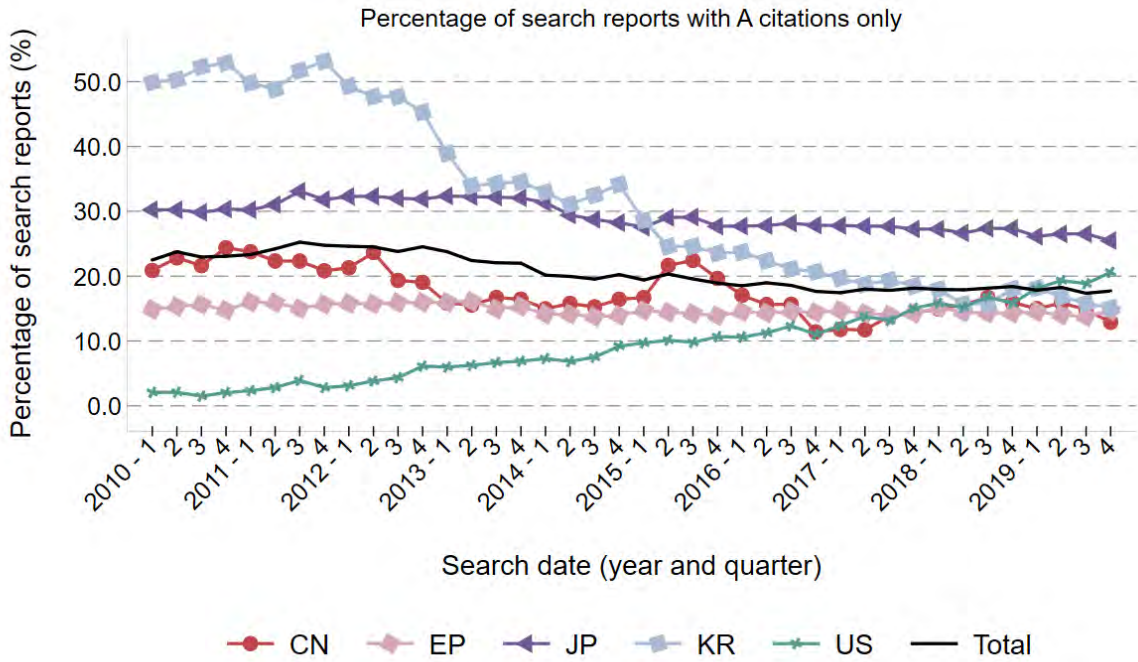
1.1: Percentage of PCT search reports with at least one X, Y or E citation	2
1.2: Percentage of PCT search reports with A citations only	4
1.3: Percentage of PCT search reports with P or E citations	6
1.3a: Percentage of PCT search reports with P citations.....	8
1.3b: Percentage of PCT search reports with E citations.....	10
1.4: Percentage of citations in the category of P or E.....	12
1.5: Percentage of citations in the category of P and X	14
1.6: Percentage of PCT search reports with Y citations and without X citations	16
1.8: Percentage of PCT search reports with O/T/L citations	18
1.9: P/E Citation Breakdown for PCT Search reports	20
1.10: Percentage of PCT search reports with at least one X or Y citation by top applicant's origin	32
2.1: Average number of citations per search report.....	34
2.2: Average number of NPL citations per search report.....	36
2.3: Average number of patent literature citations per search report	38
2.4: Average number of X/Y patent literature citations per search report.....	40
2.5: Percentage of search reports with at least one NPL citation.....	42
2.6: Percentage of NPL citations in the category of X or Y in all citations.....	44
2.7: Percentage of PCT search reports with at least one X/Y NPL citation.....	46
2.8: Percentage of NPL citations in all citations.....	48
2.9: Distribution of patent & non patent literature citations.....	50
3.1: Percentage of patent citations in non-official languages.....	61
3.2: Percentage of patent citations by top publication authorities	63
3.3: Percentage of patent citations by processing authorities.....	65
3.4: Percentage of PCT search reports by top applicant's origin	67

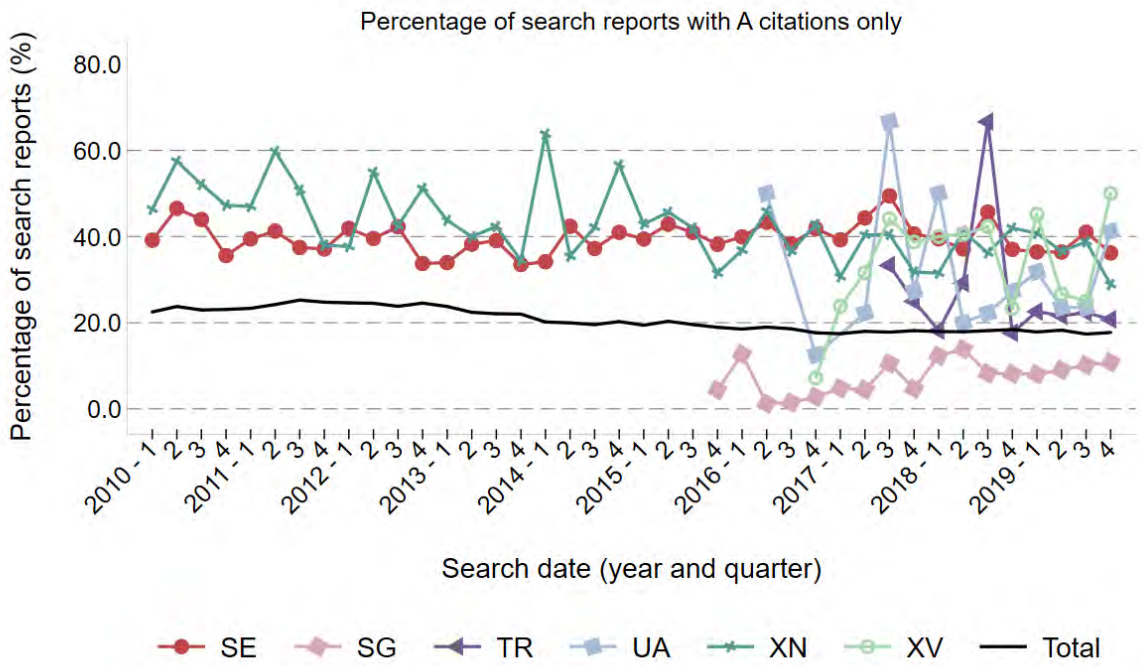
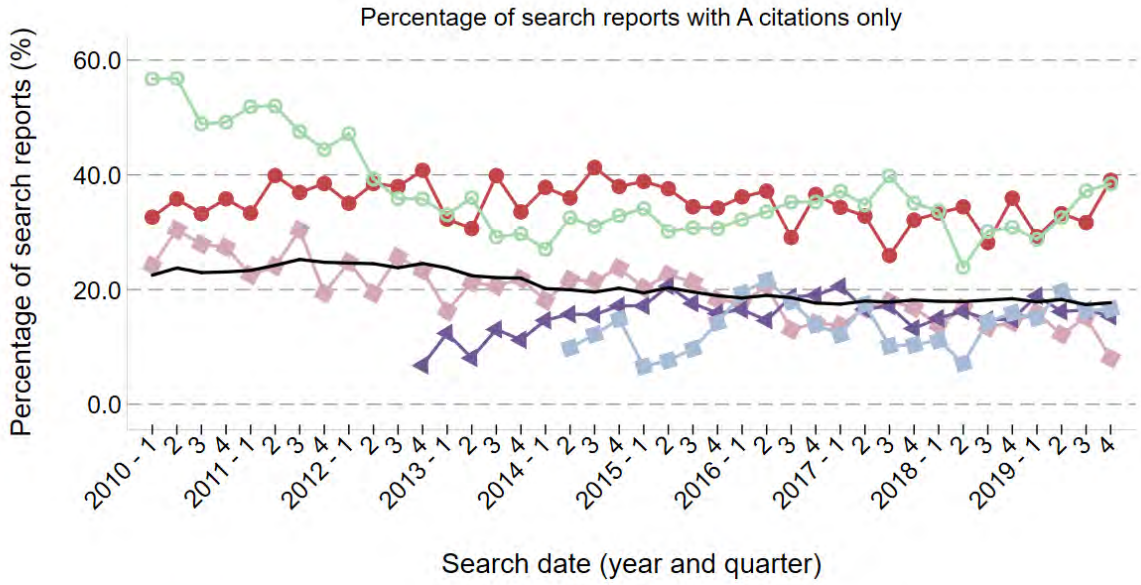
1.1: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS WITH AT LEAST ONE X, Y OR E CITATION



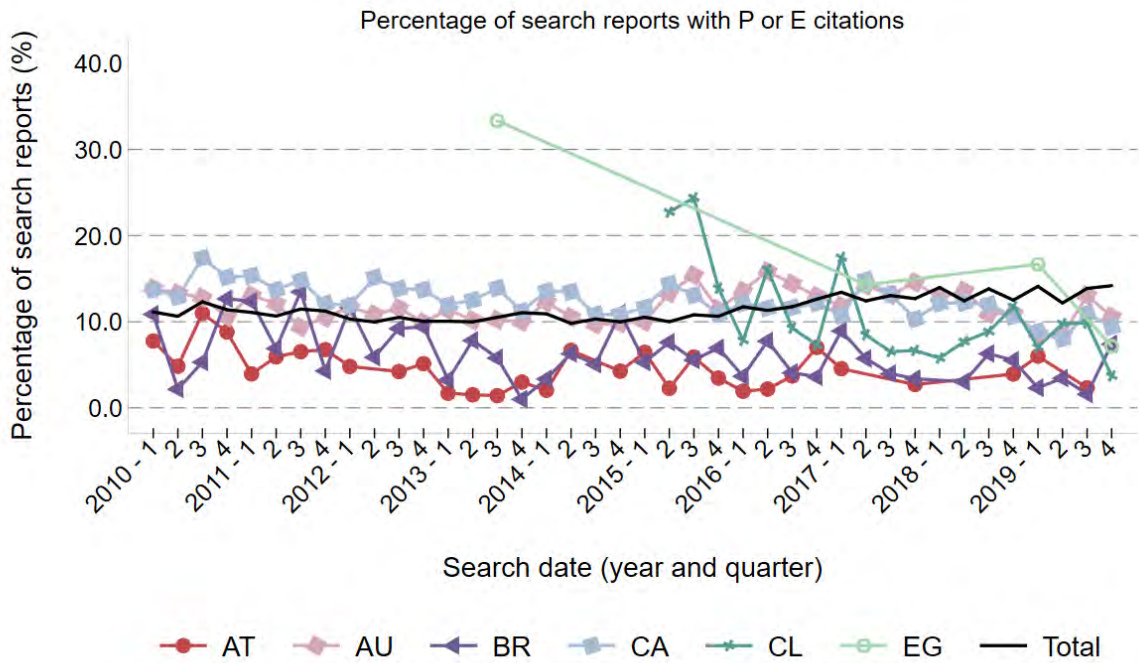
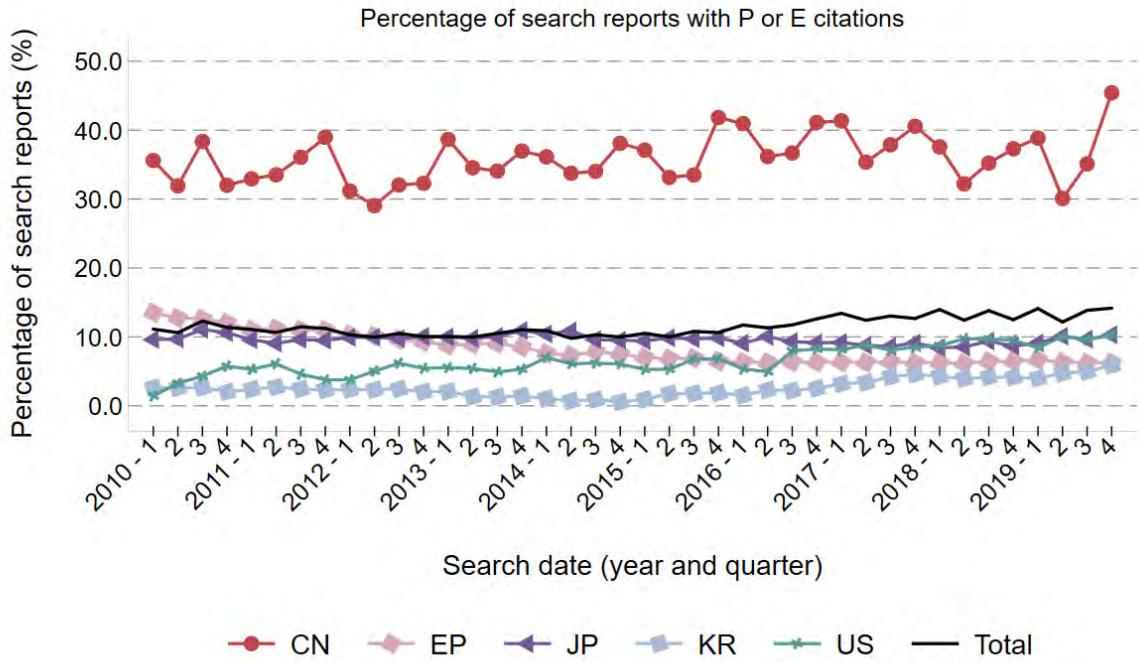


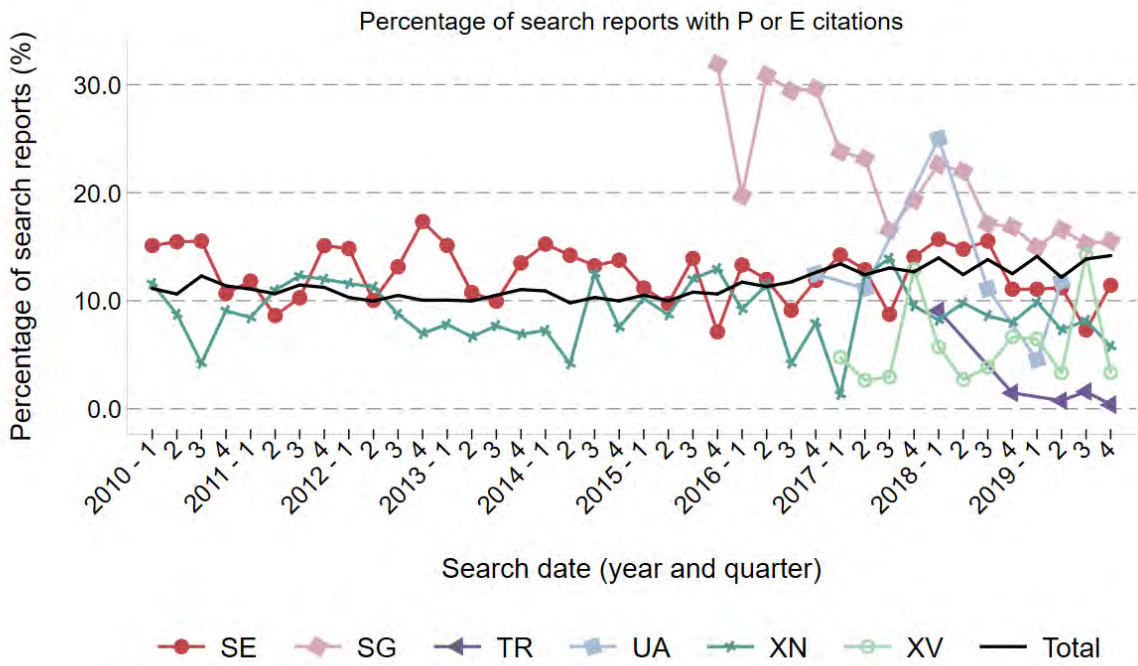
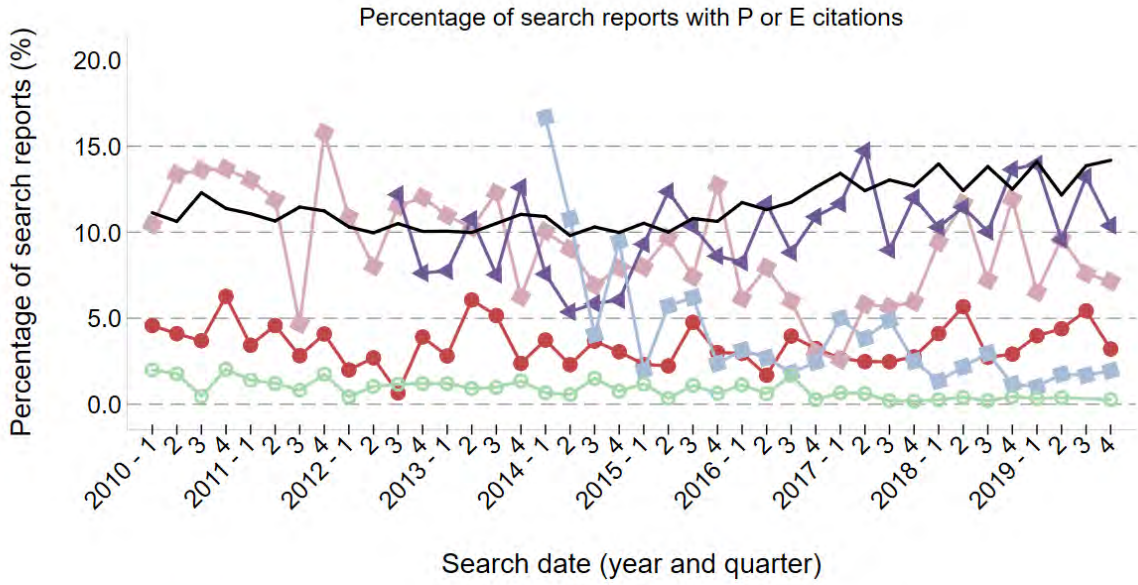
1.2: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS WITH A CITATIONS ONLY



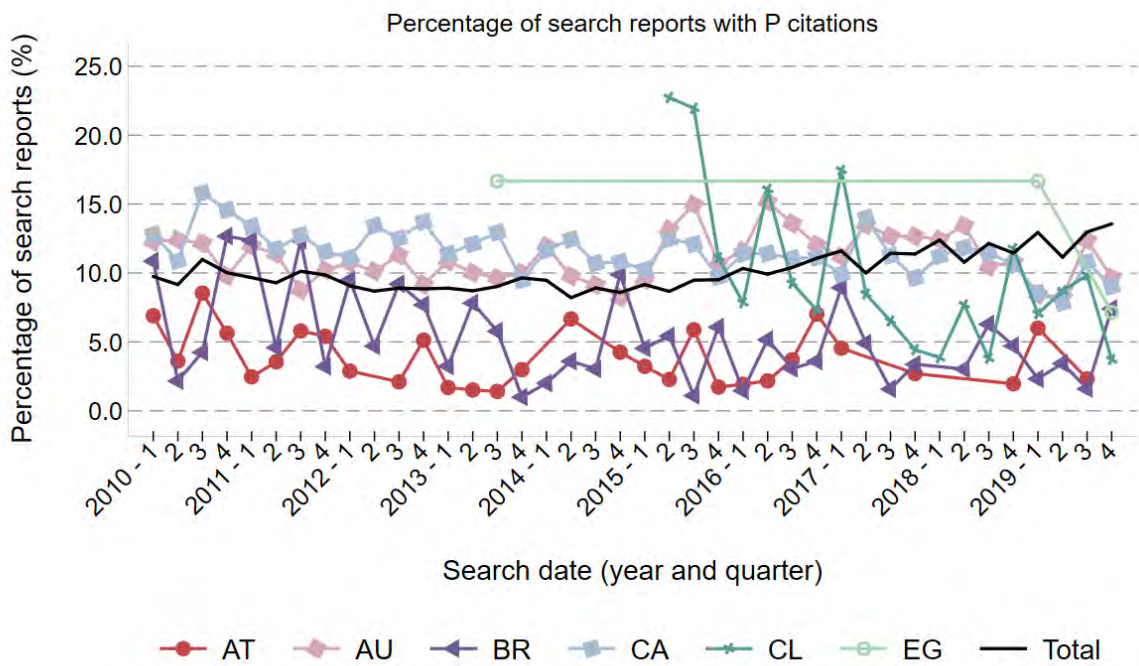
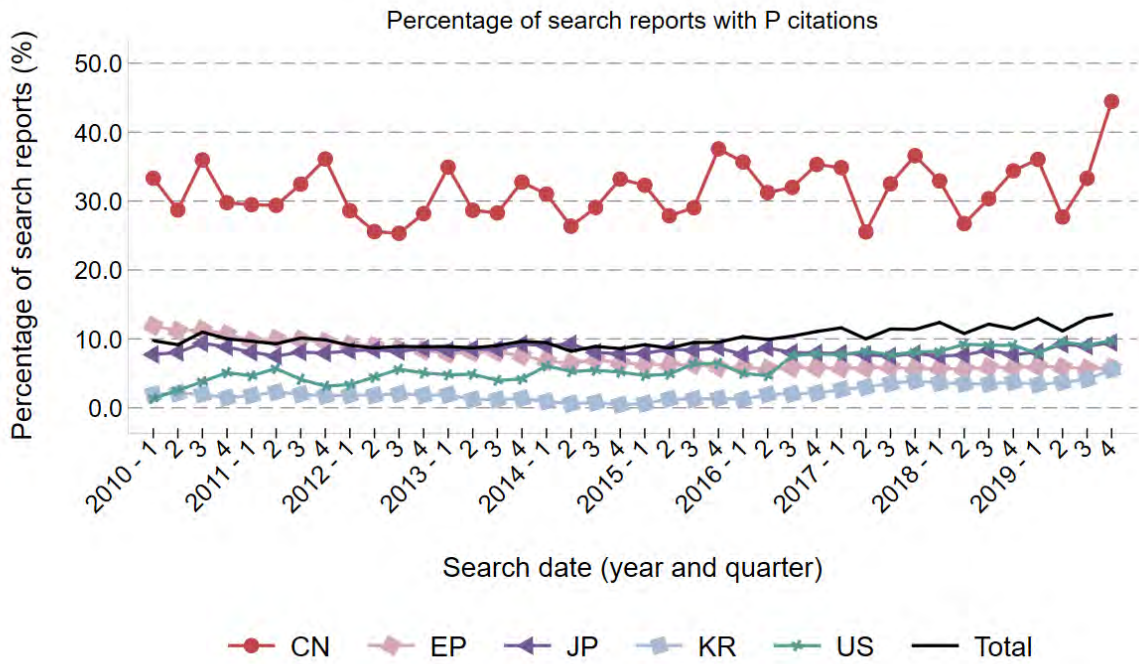


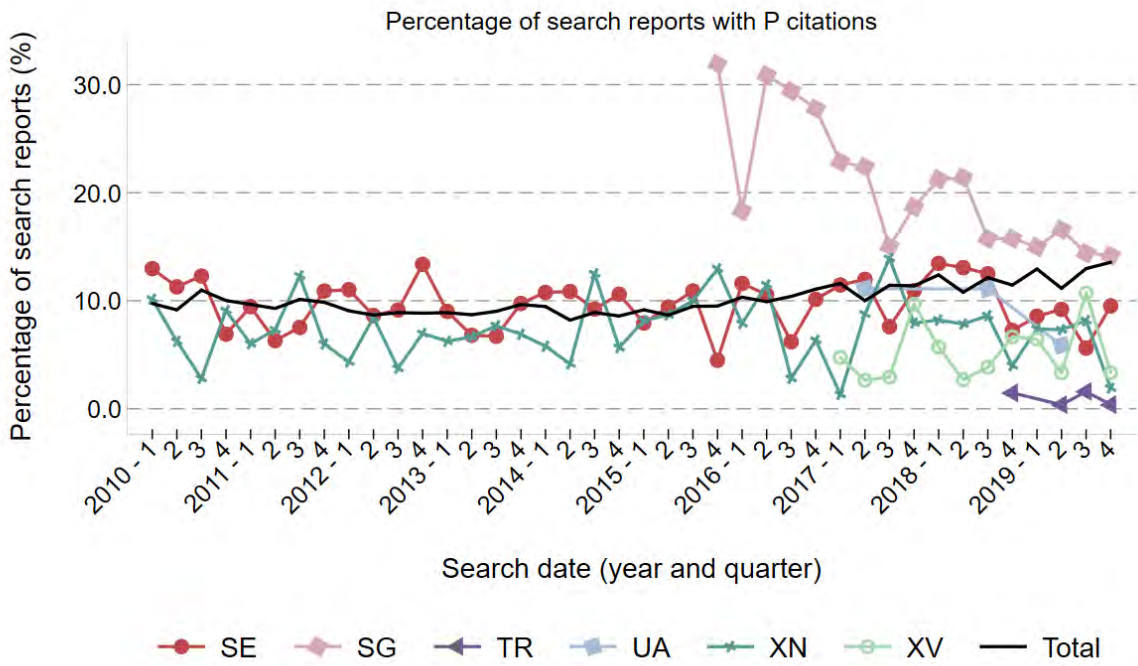
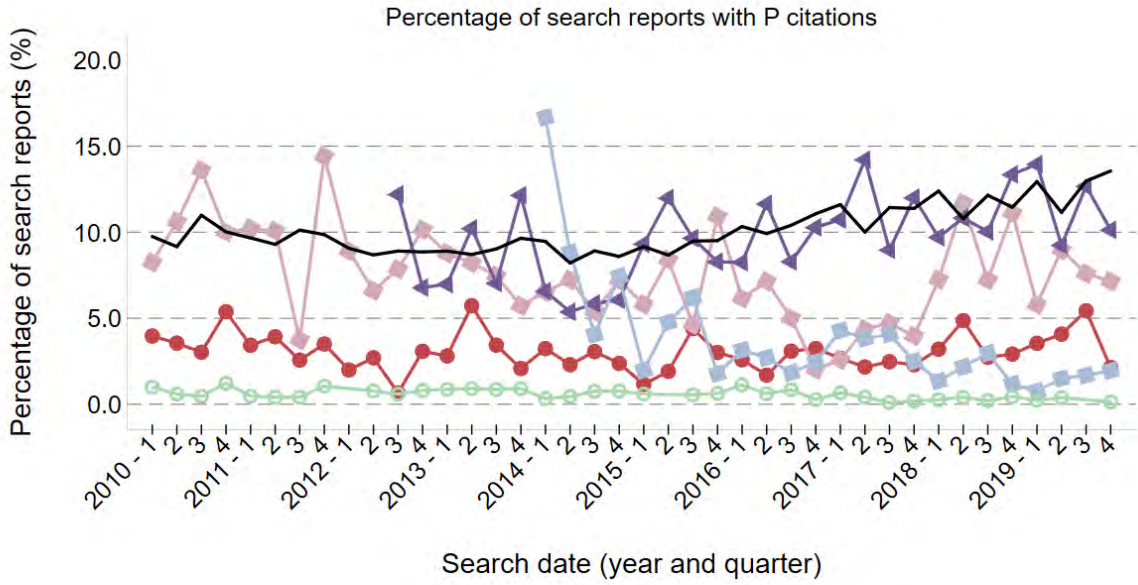
1.3: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS WITH P OR E CITATIONS



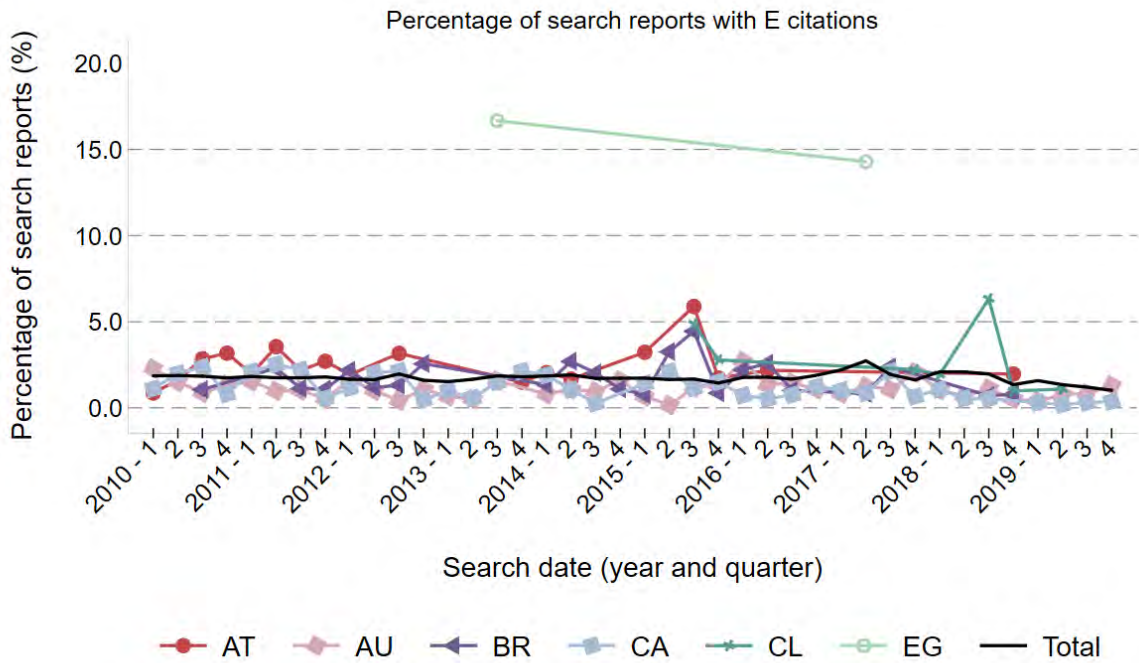
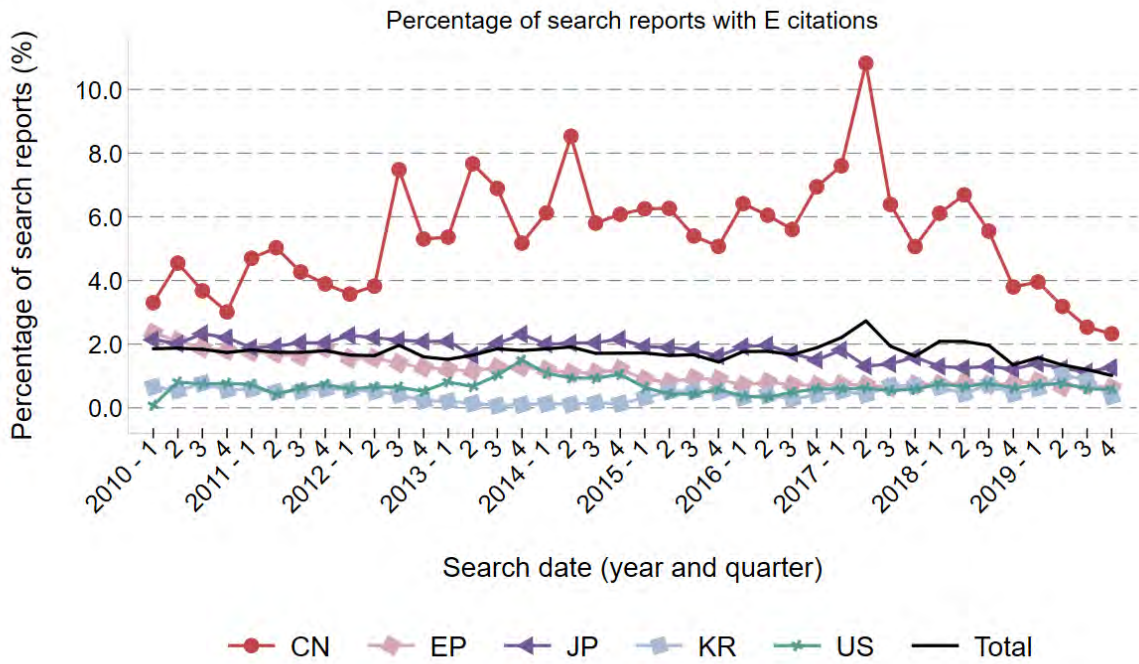


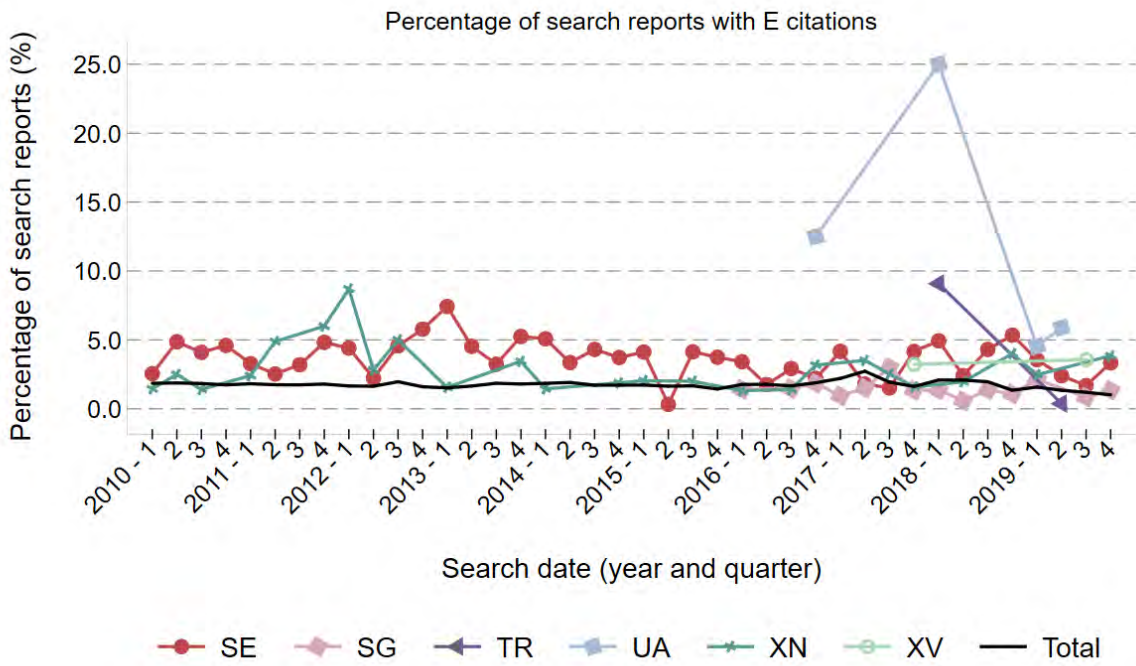
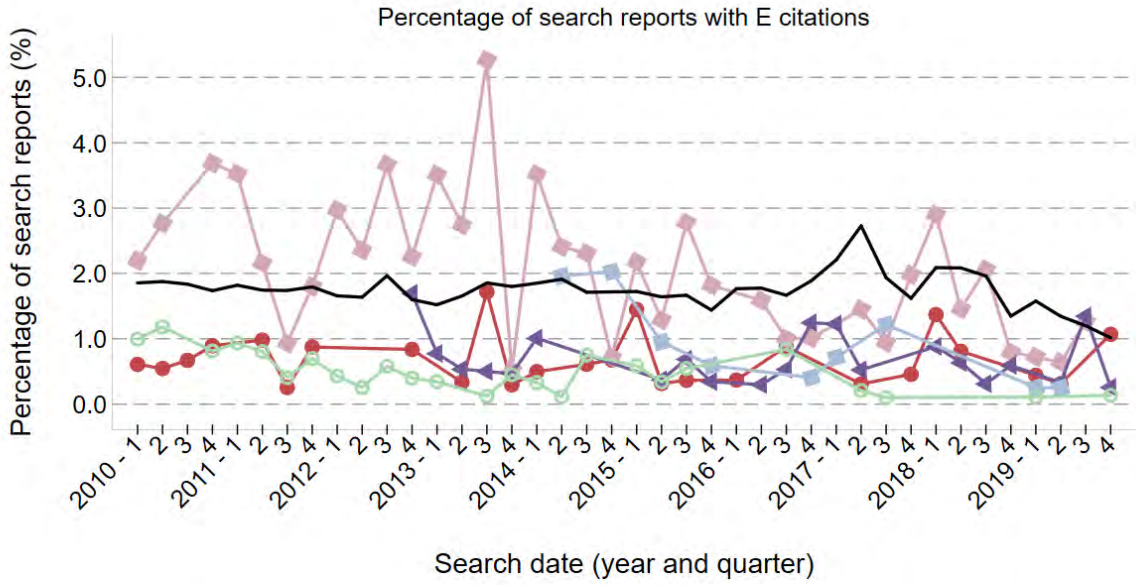
1.3A: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS WITH P CITATIONS



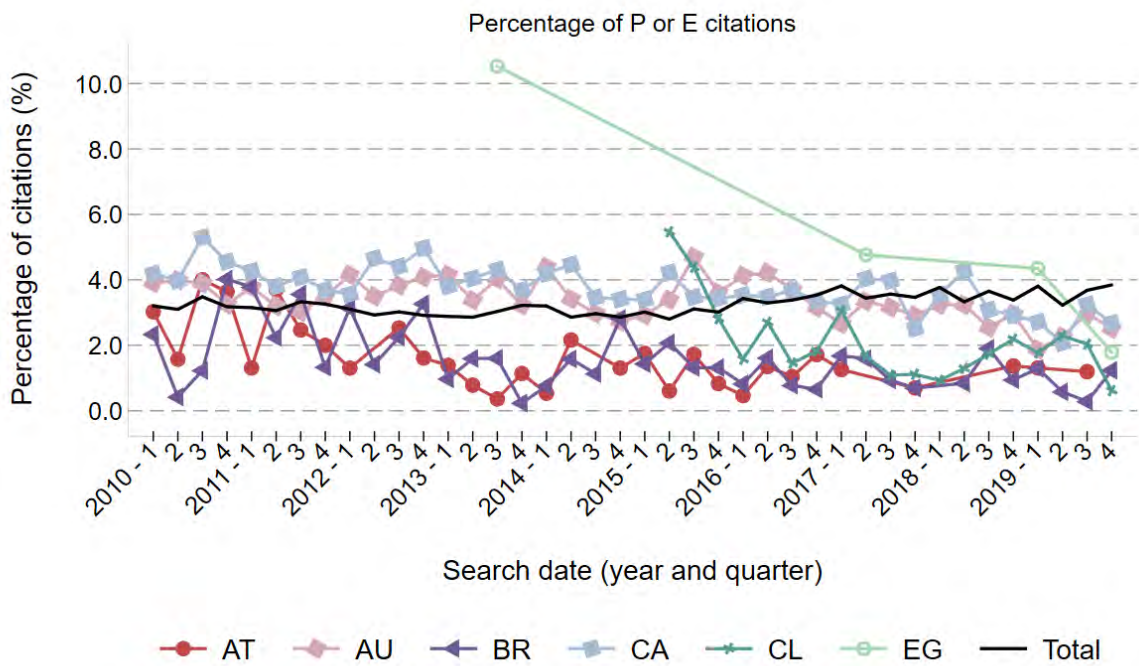
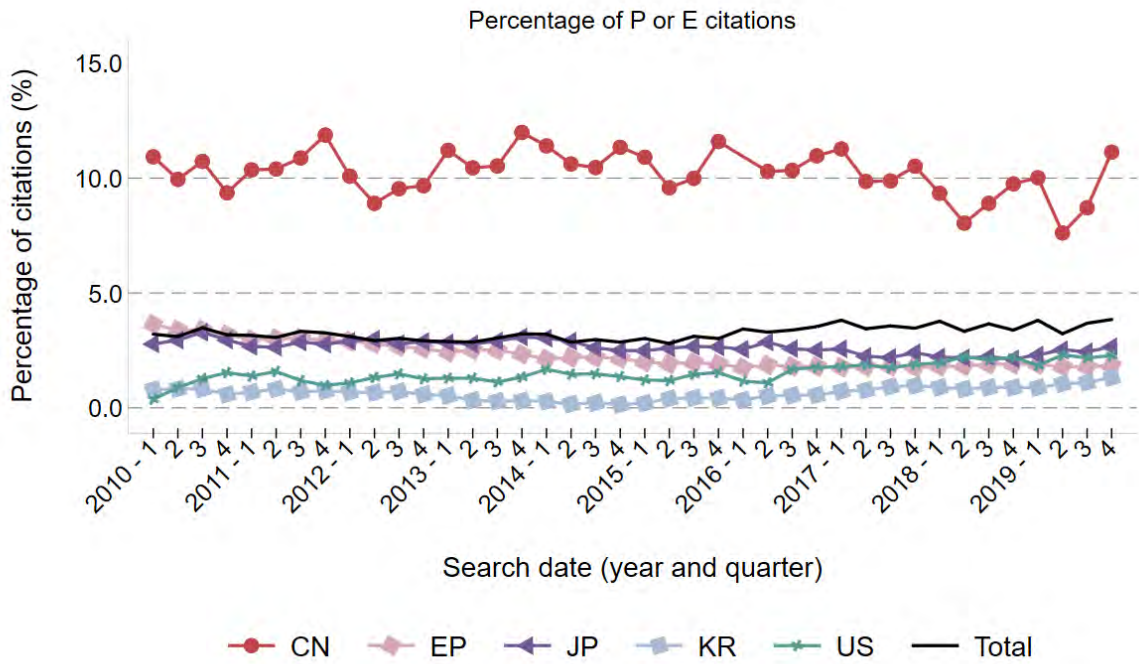


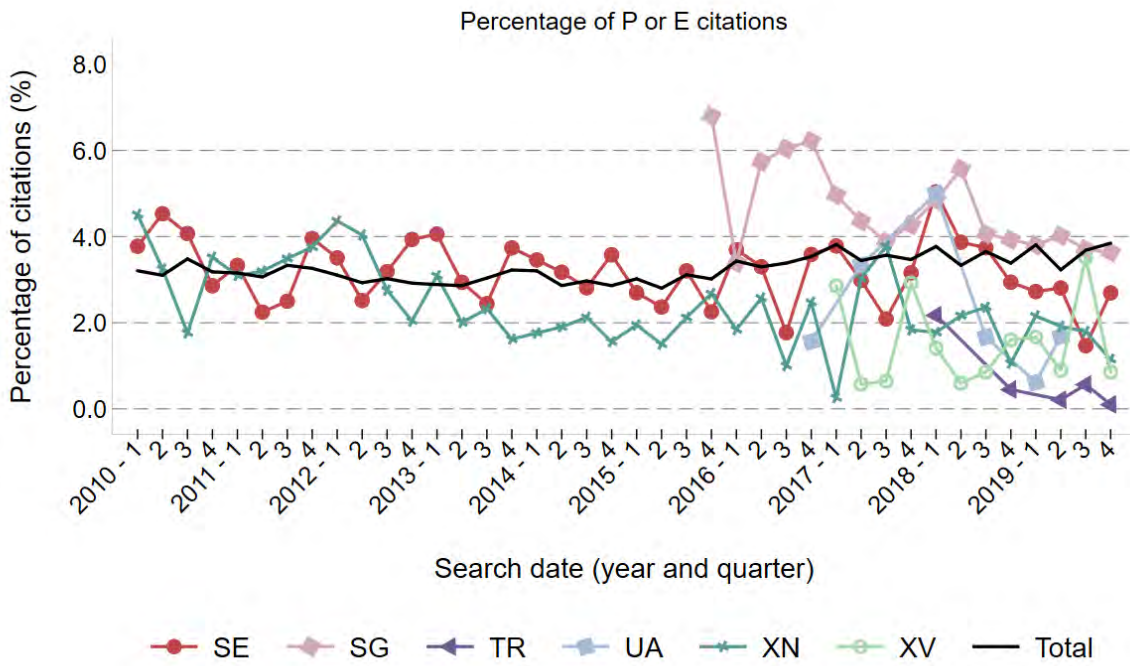
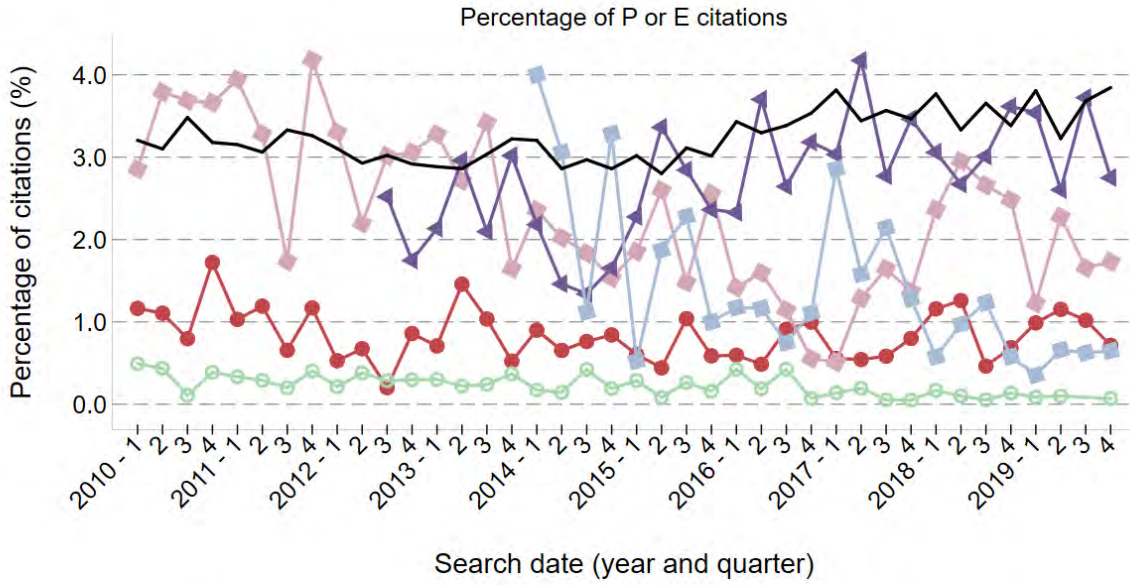
1.3B: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS WITH E CITATIONS



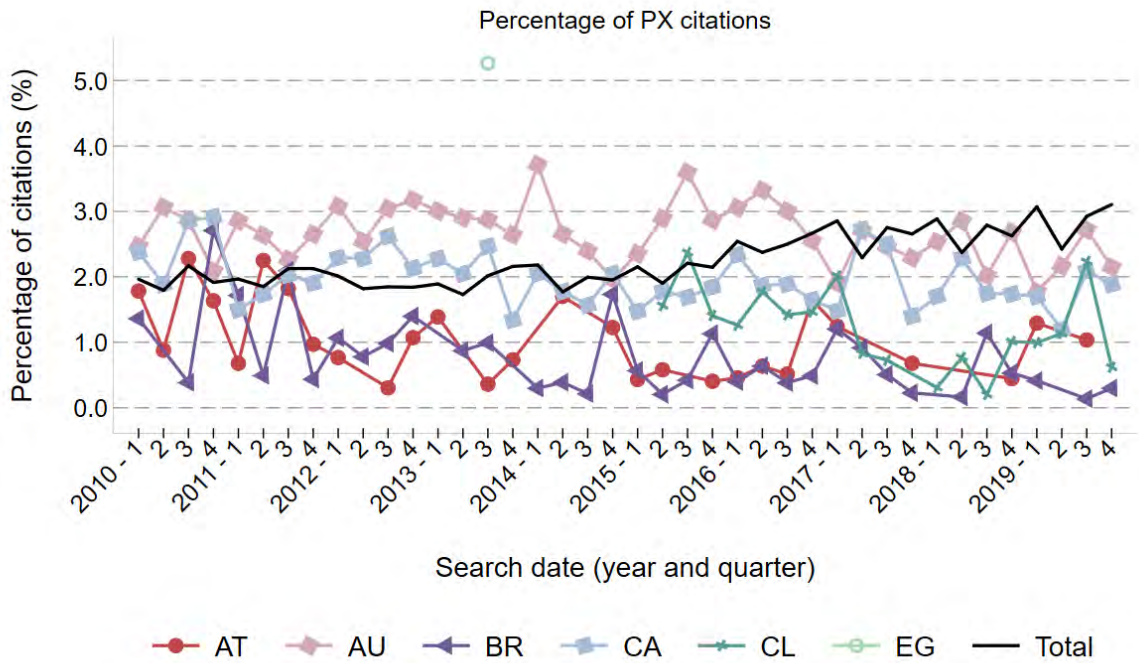
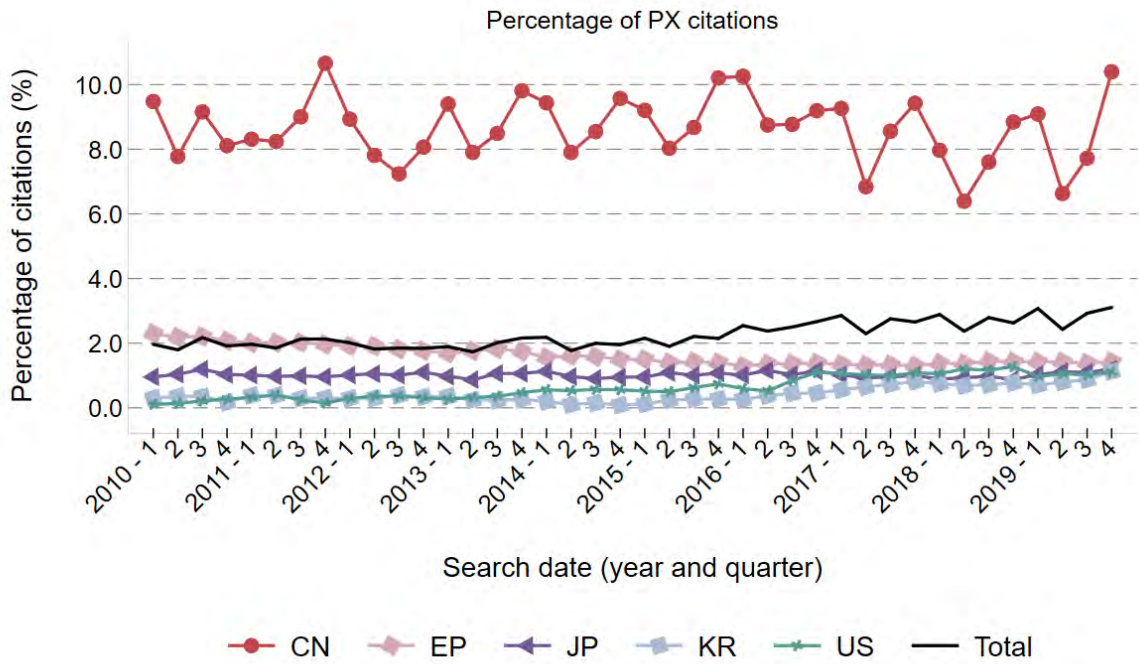


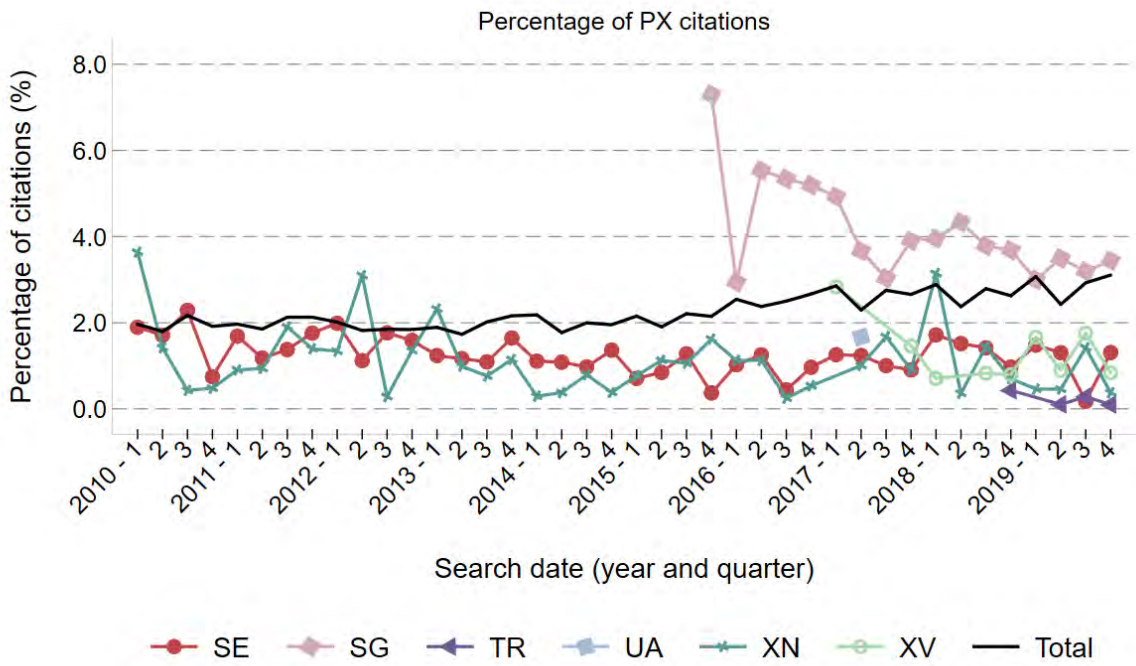
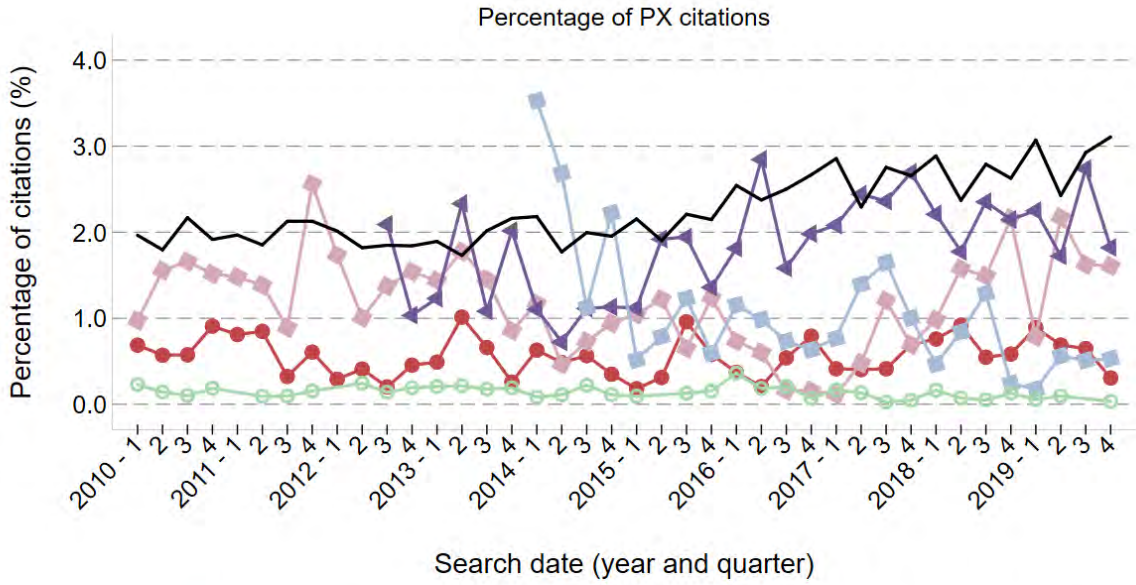
1.4: PERCENTAGE OF CITATIONS IN THE CATEGORY OF P OR E



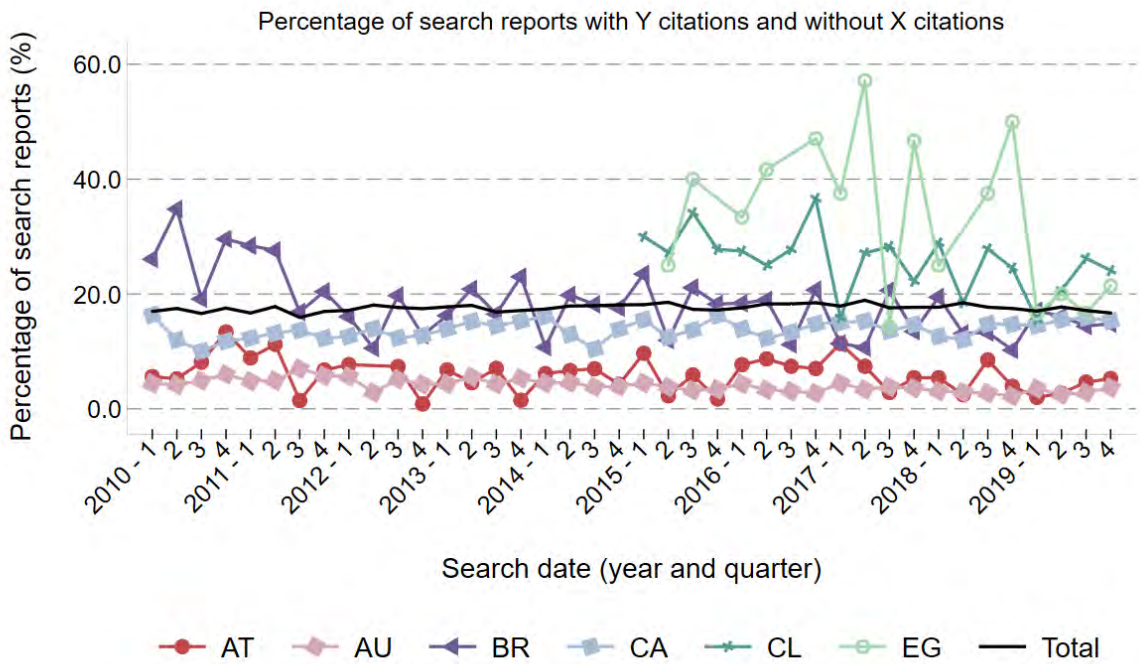
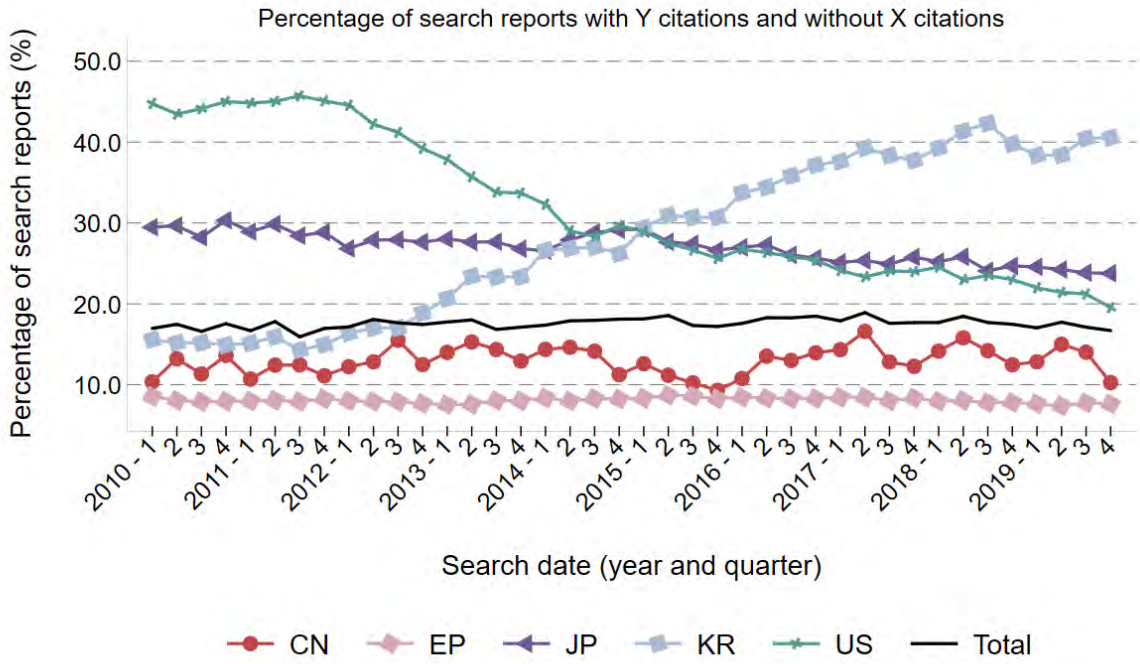


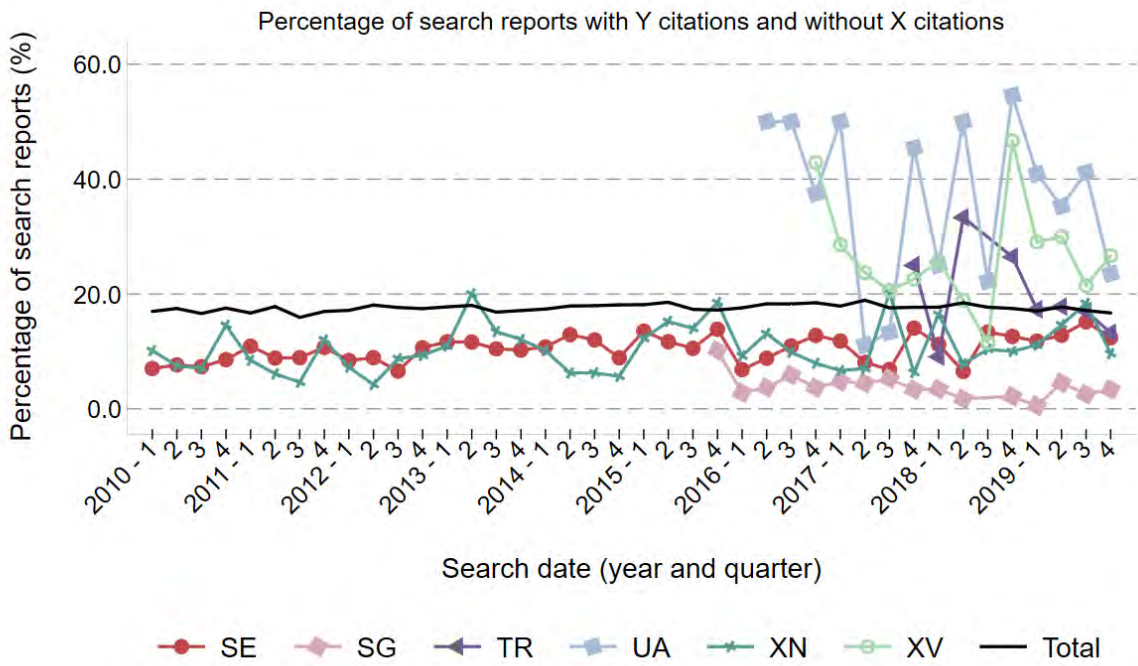
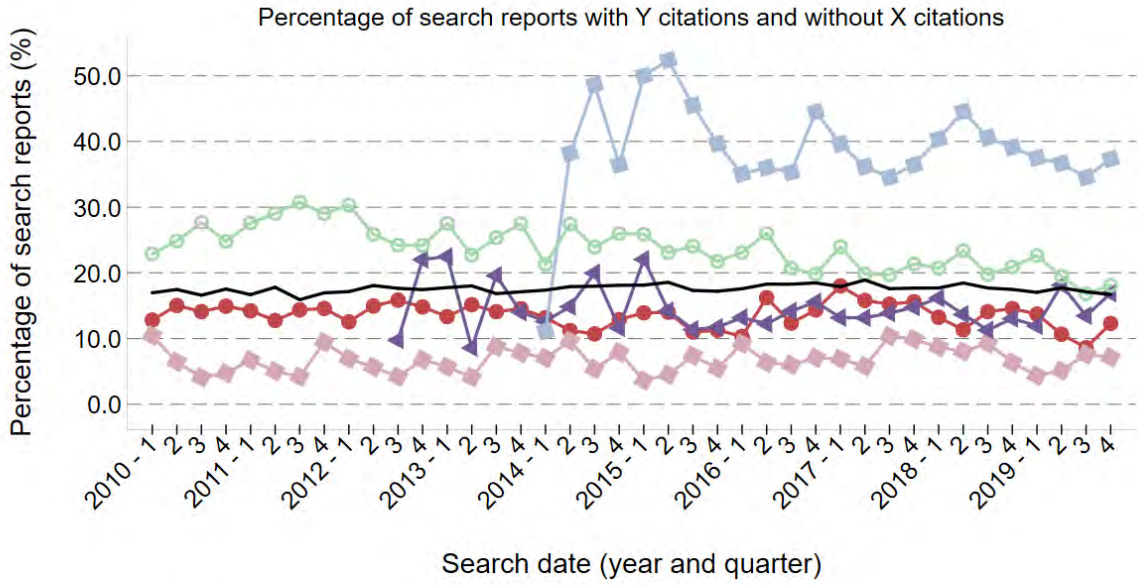
1.5: PERCENTAGE OF CITATIONS IN THE CATEGORY OF P AND X



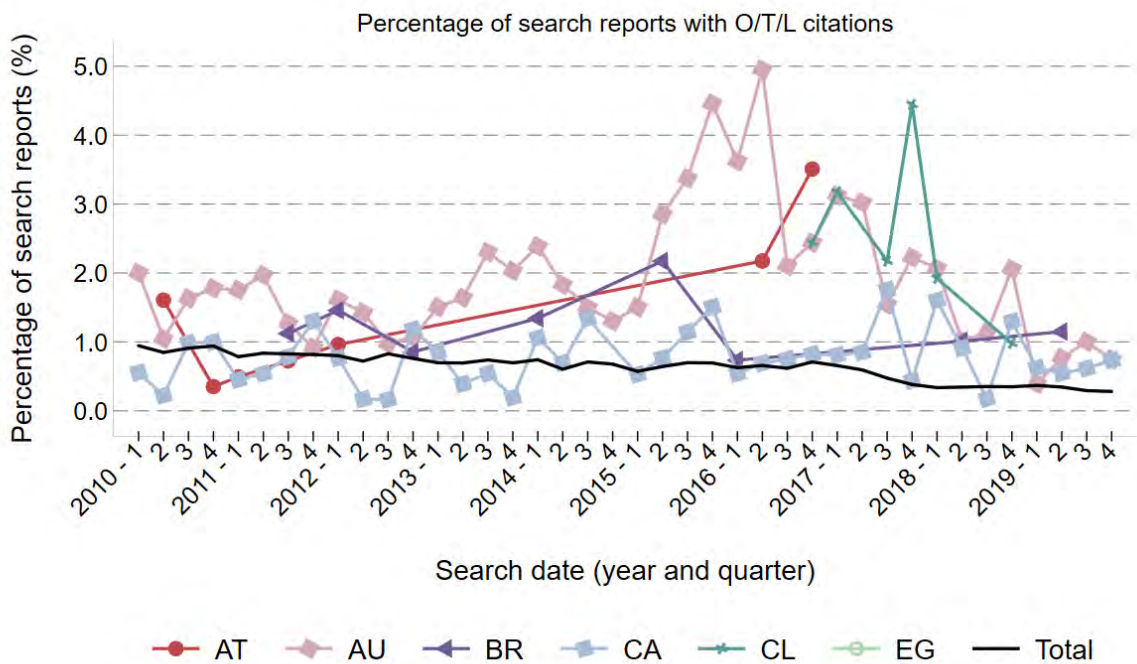
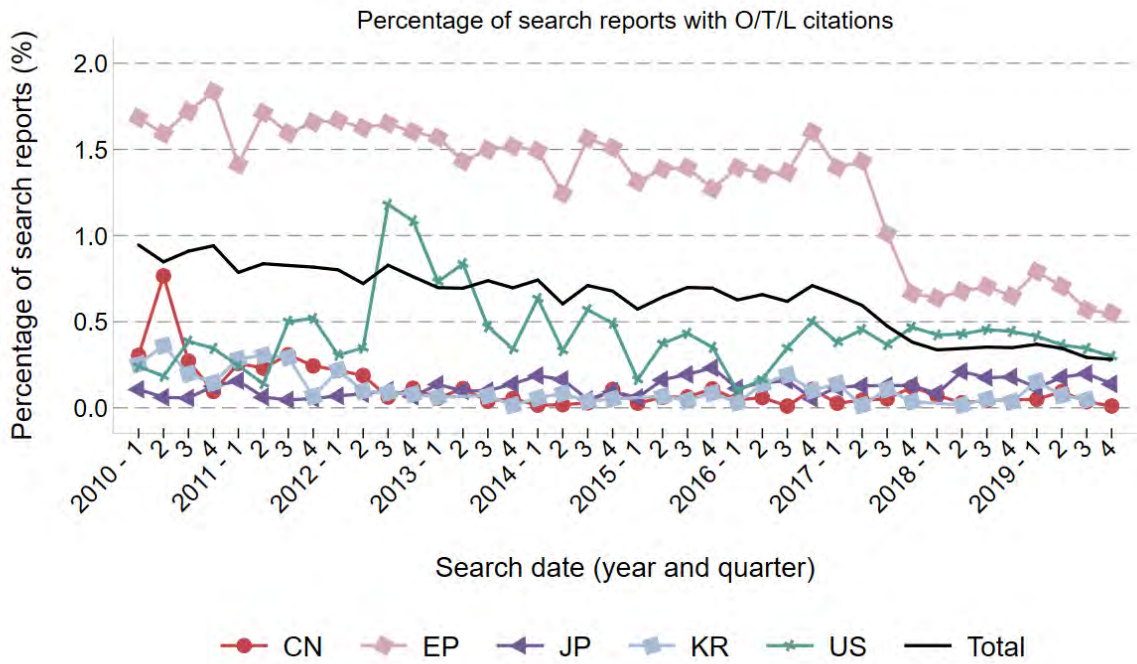


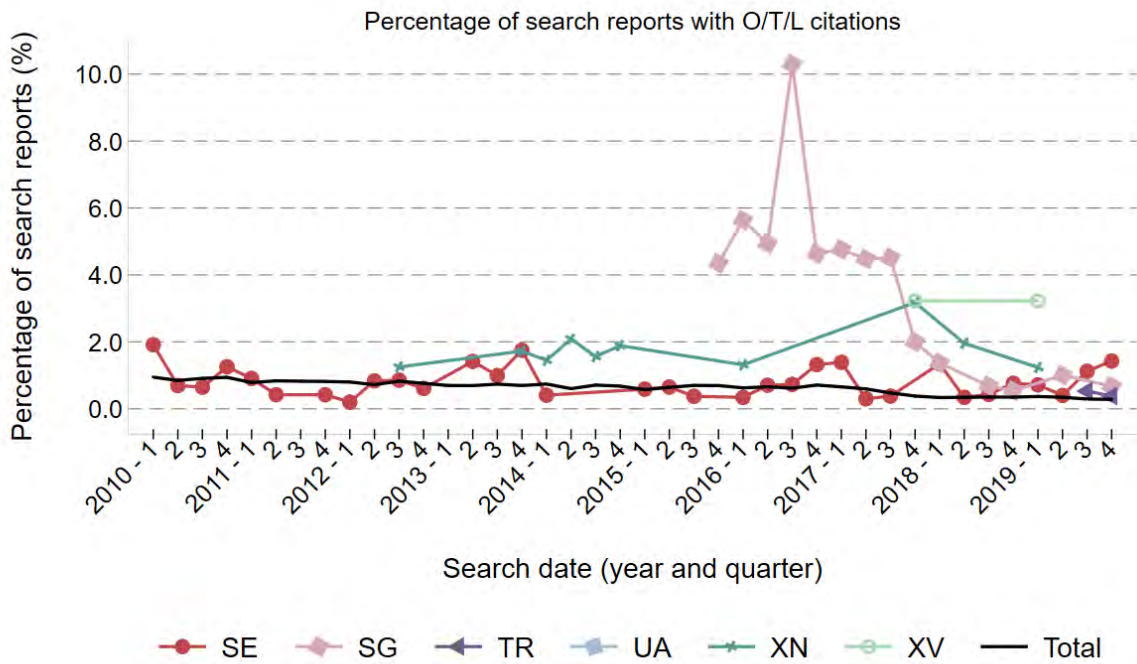
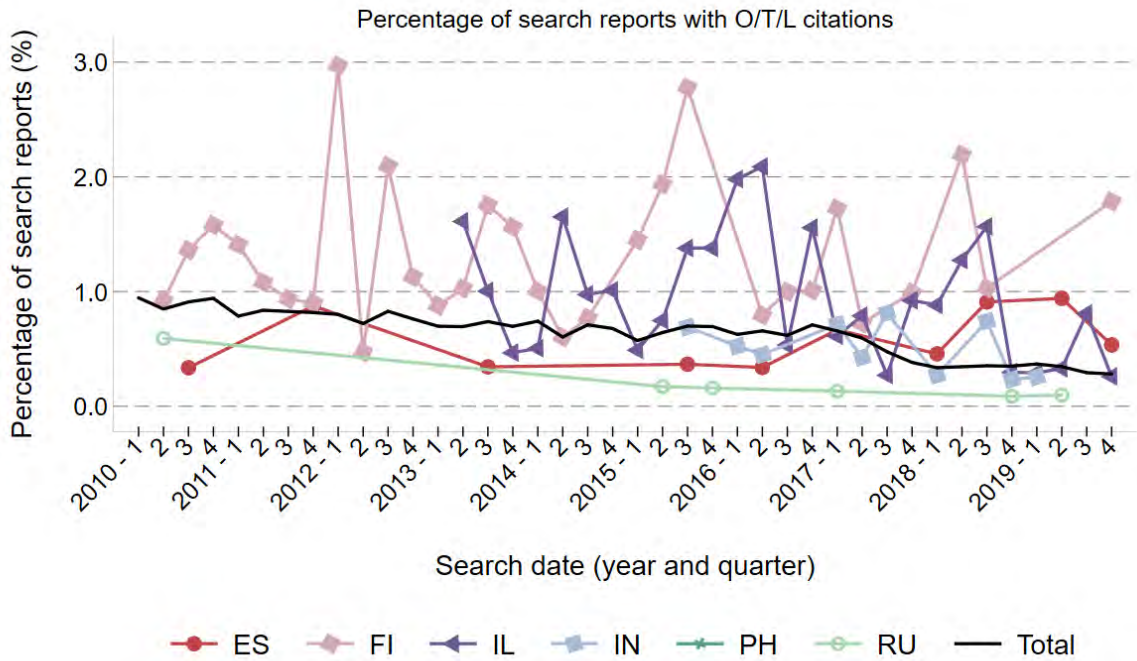
1.6: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS WITH Y CITATIONS AND WITHOUT X CITATIONS



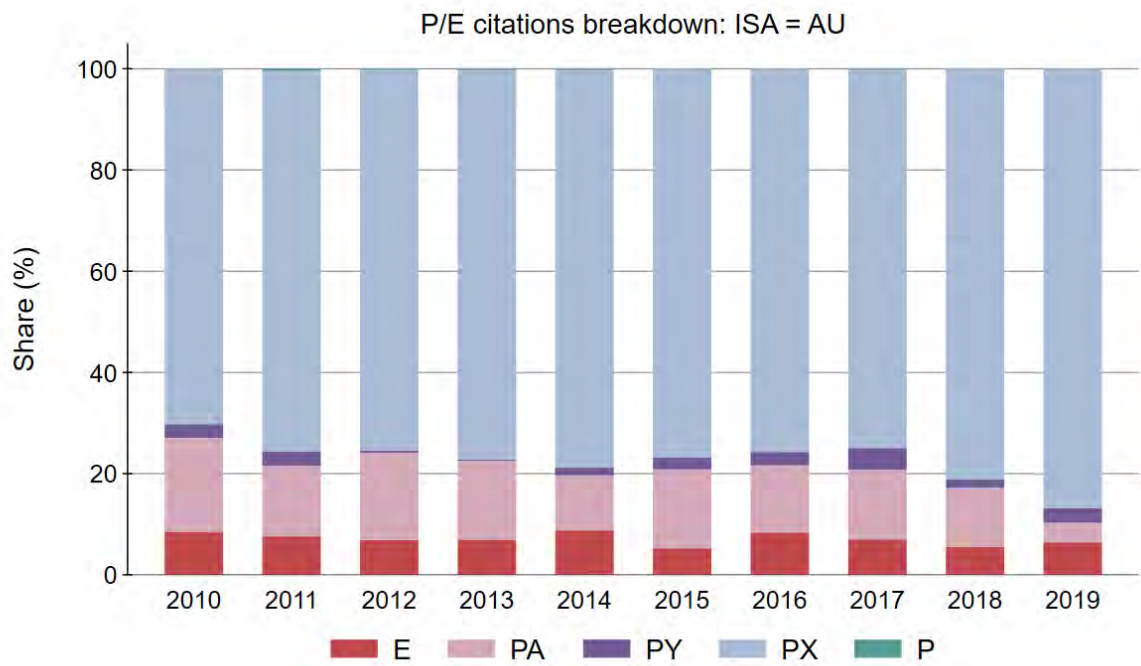
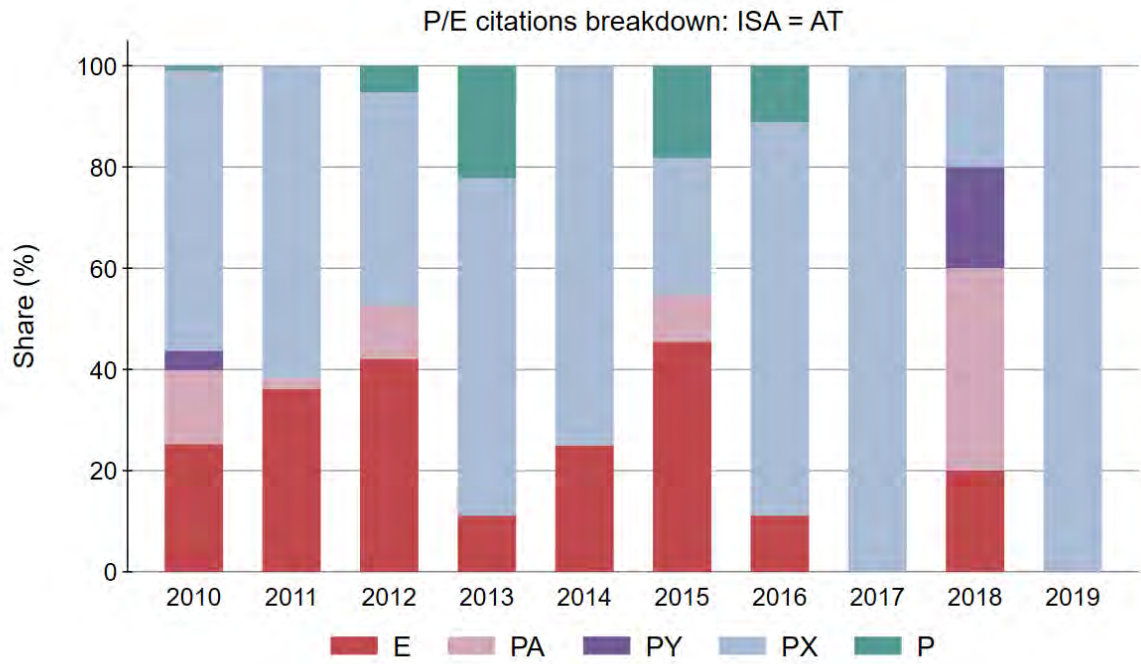


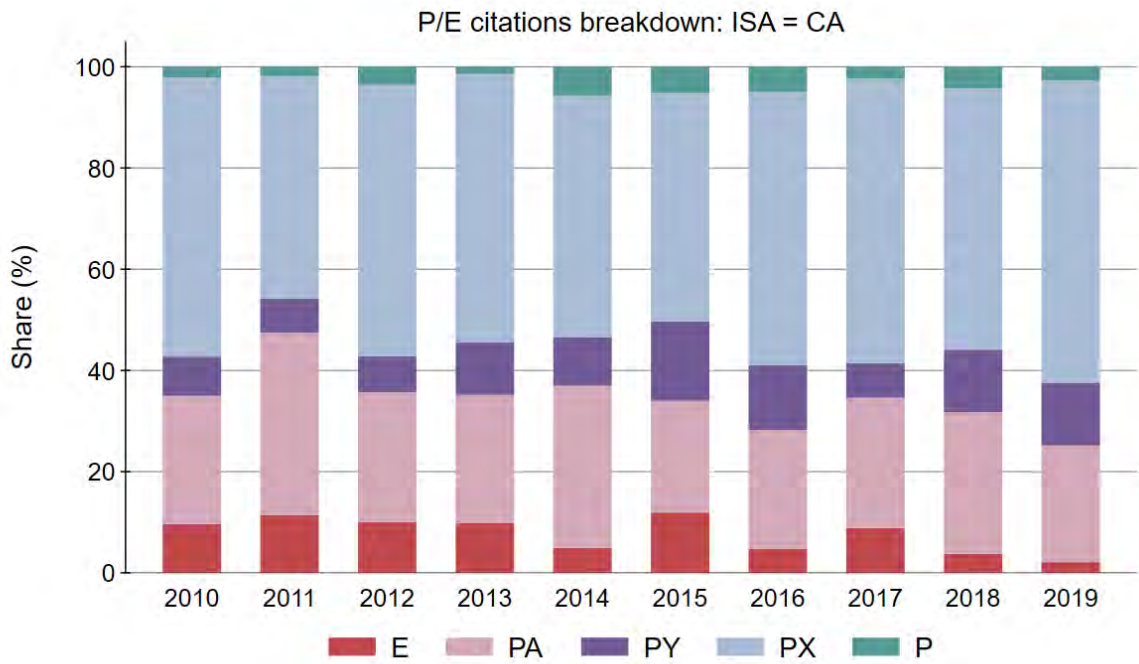
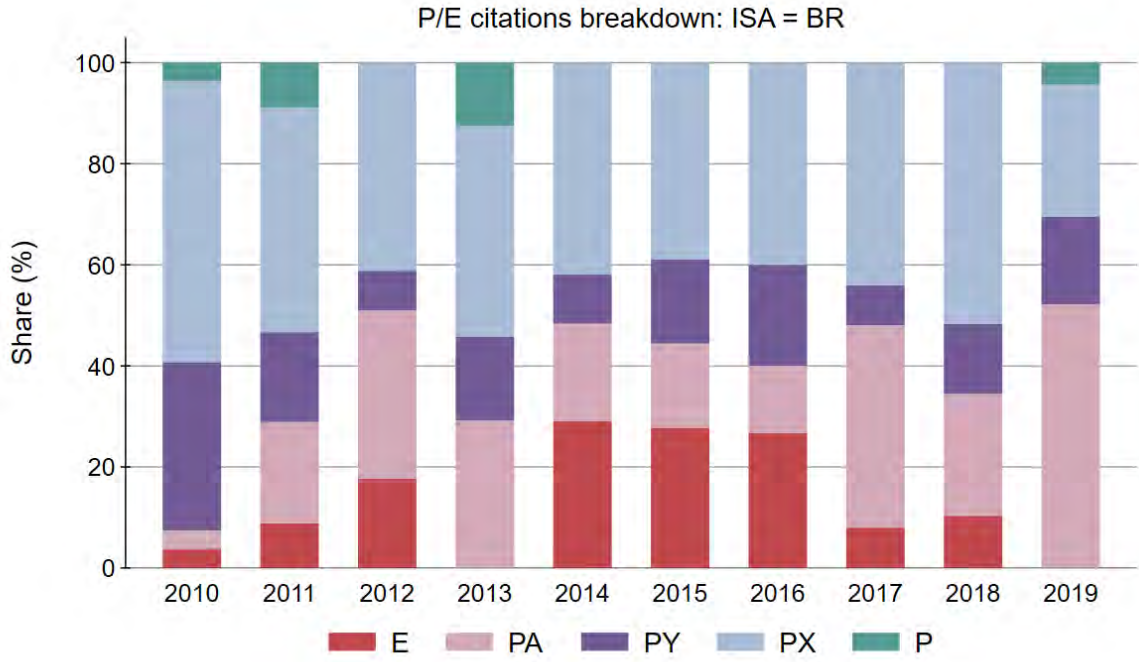
1.8: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS WITH O/T/L CITATIONS

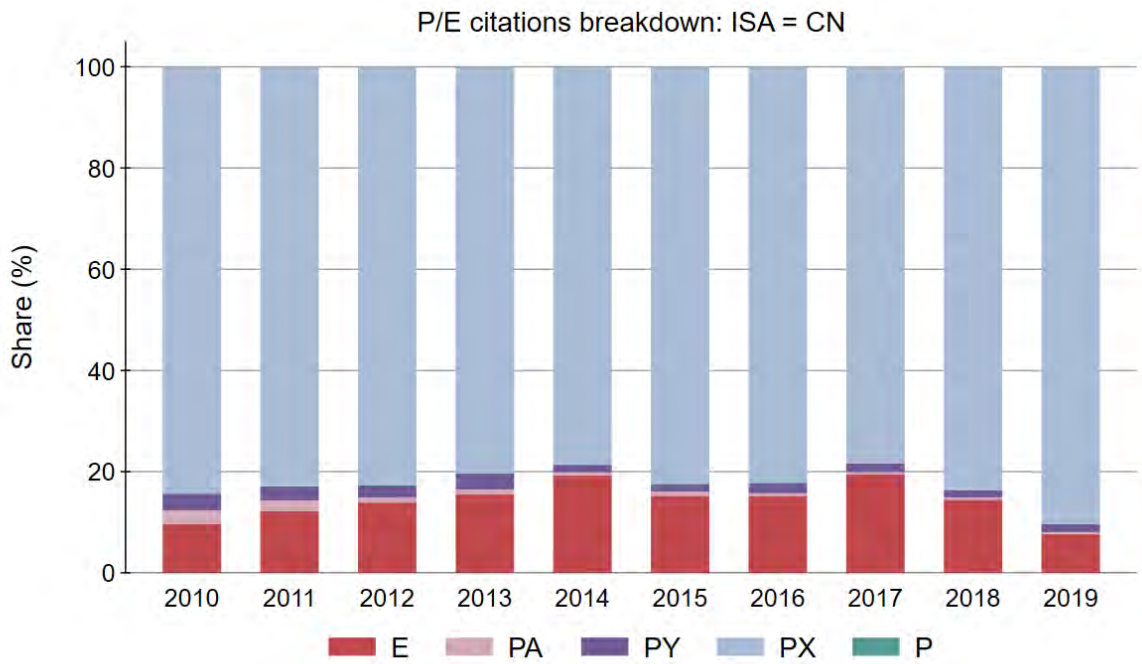
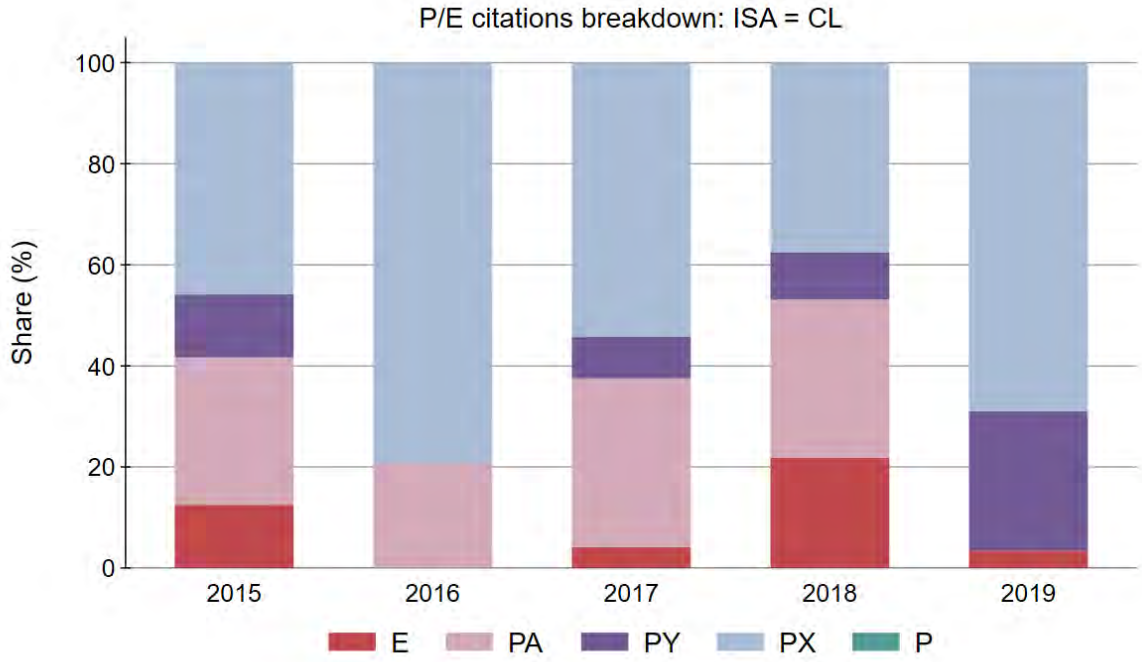


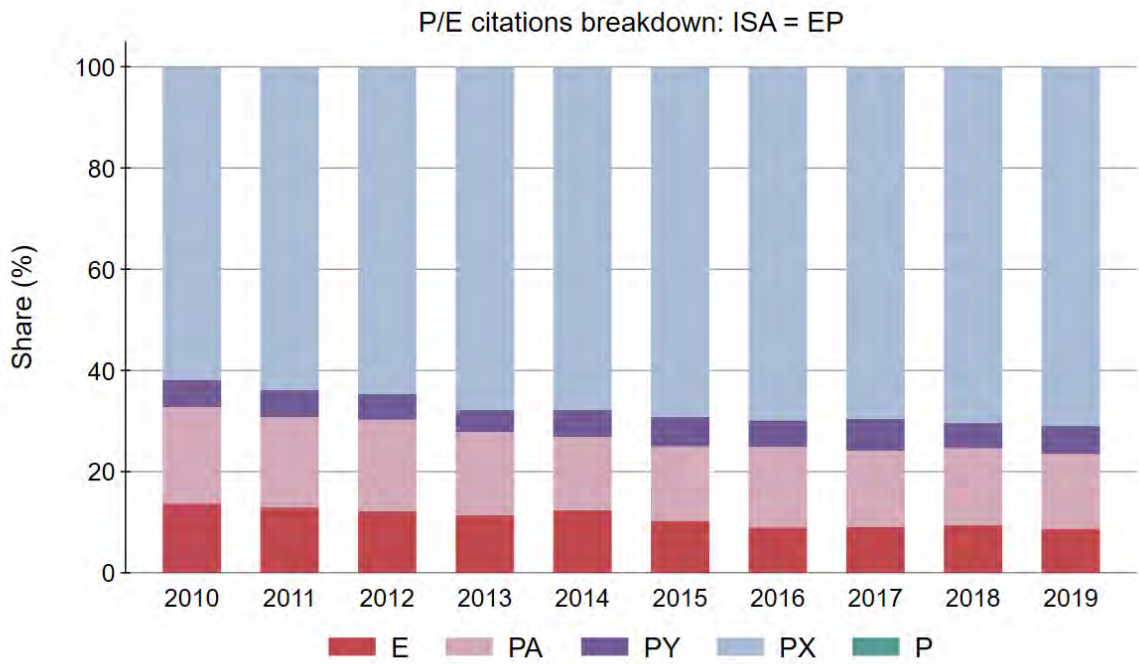
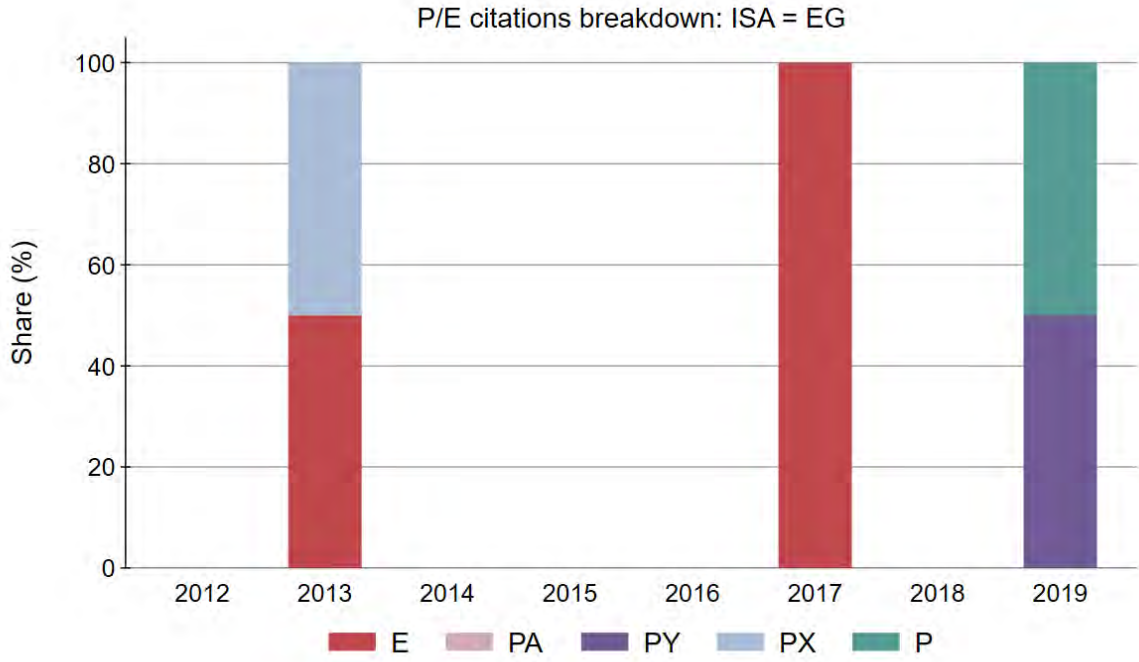


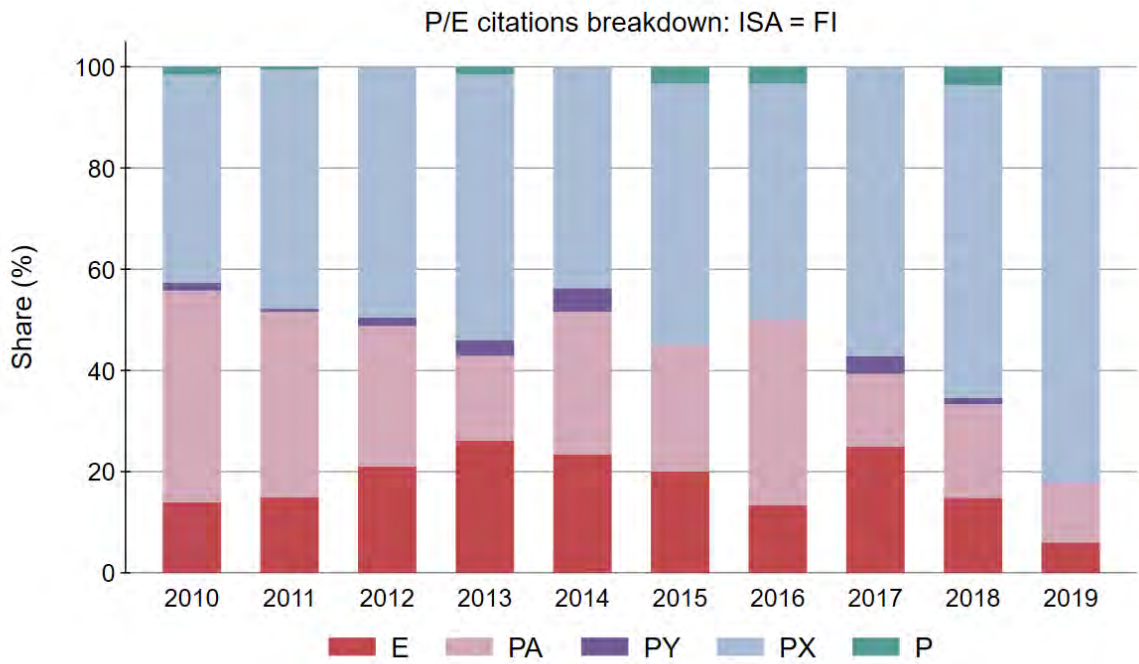
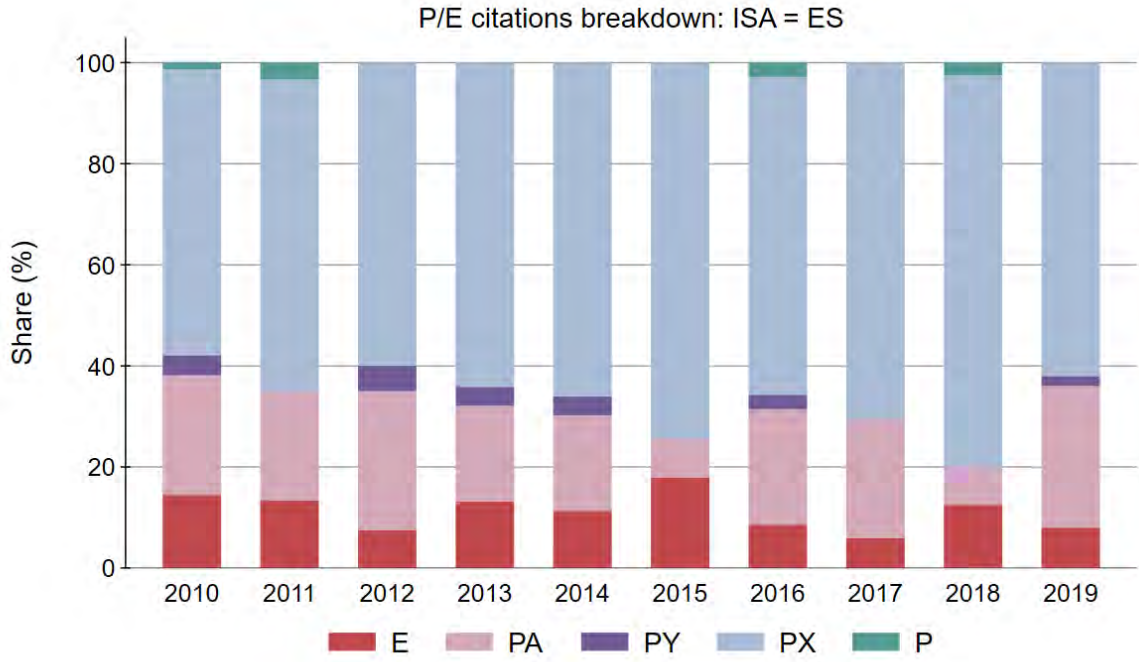
1.9: P/E CITATION BREAKDOWN FOR PCT SEARCH REPORTS

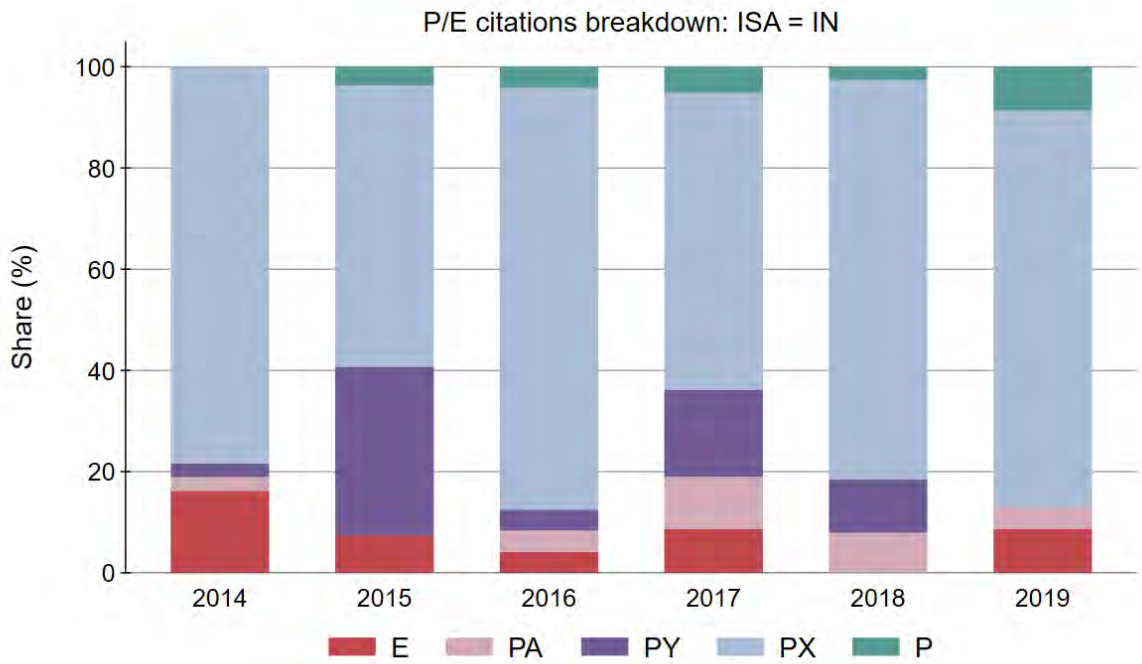
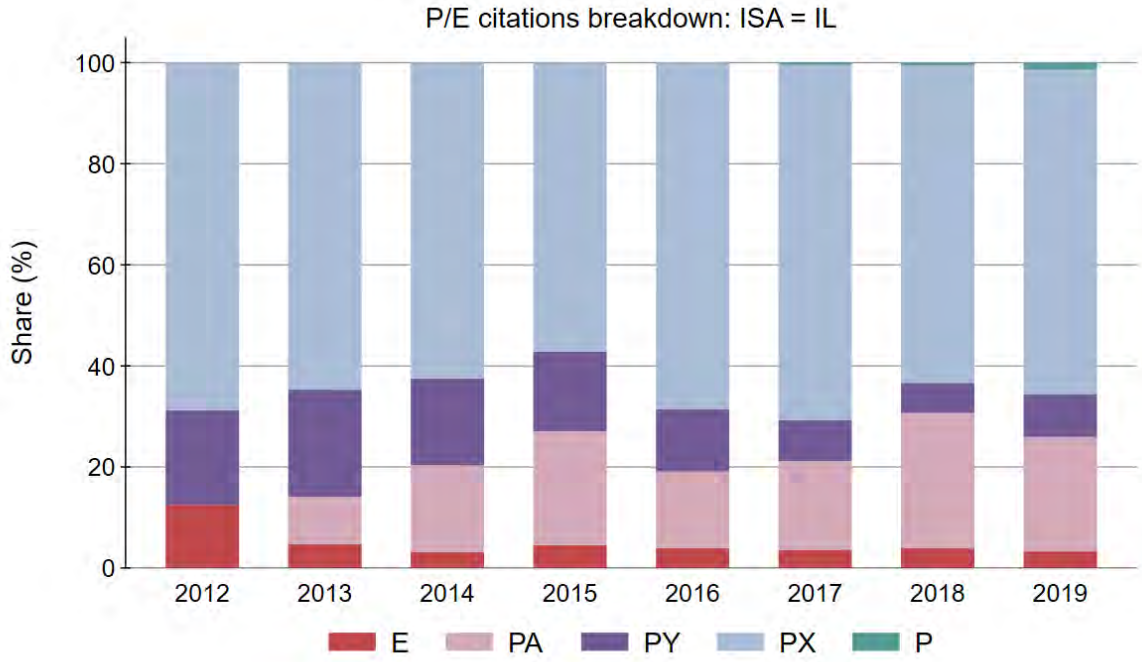


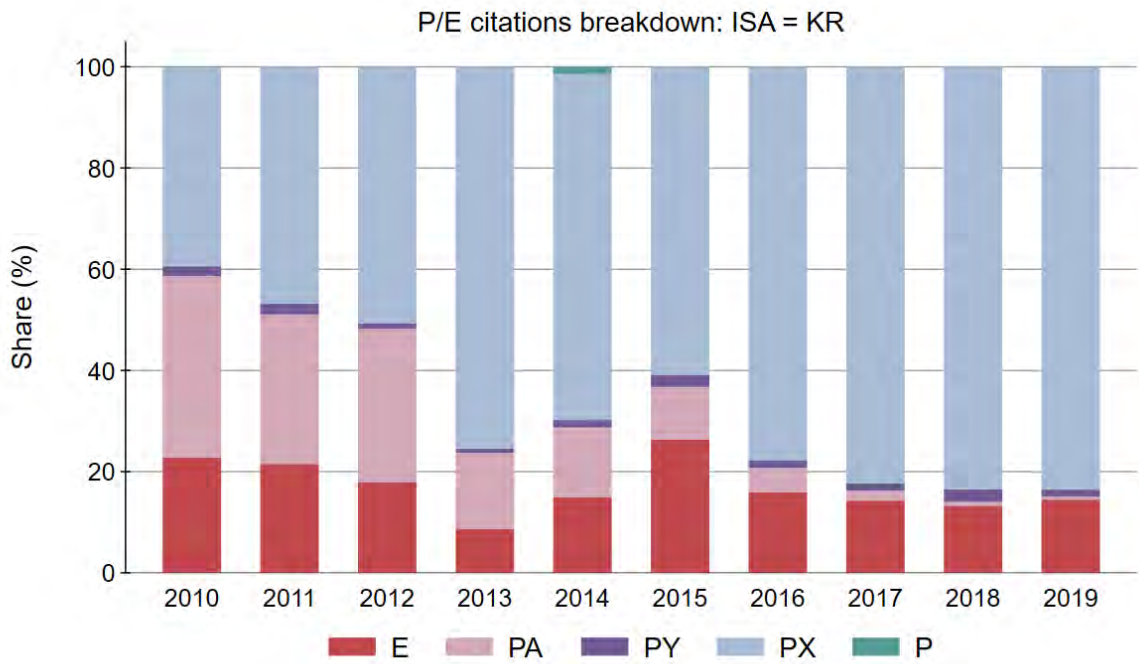
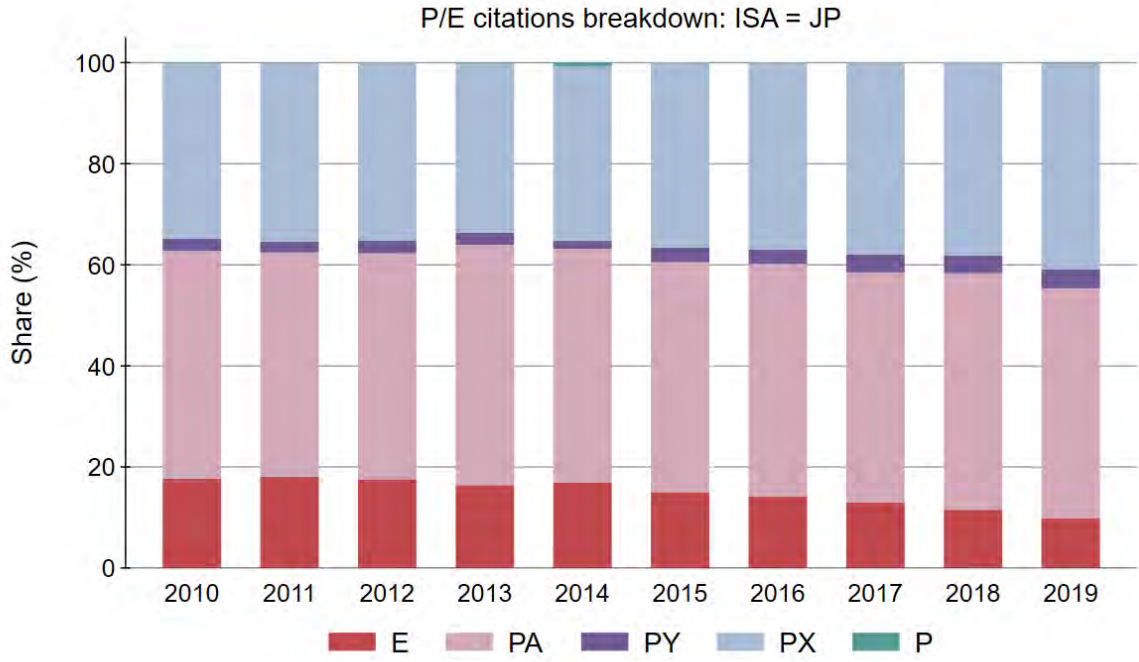


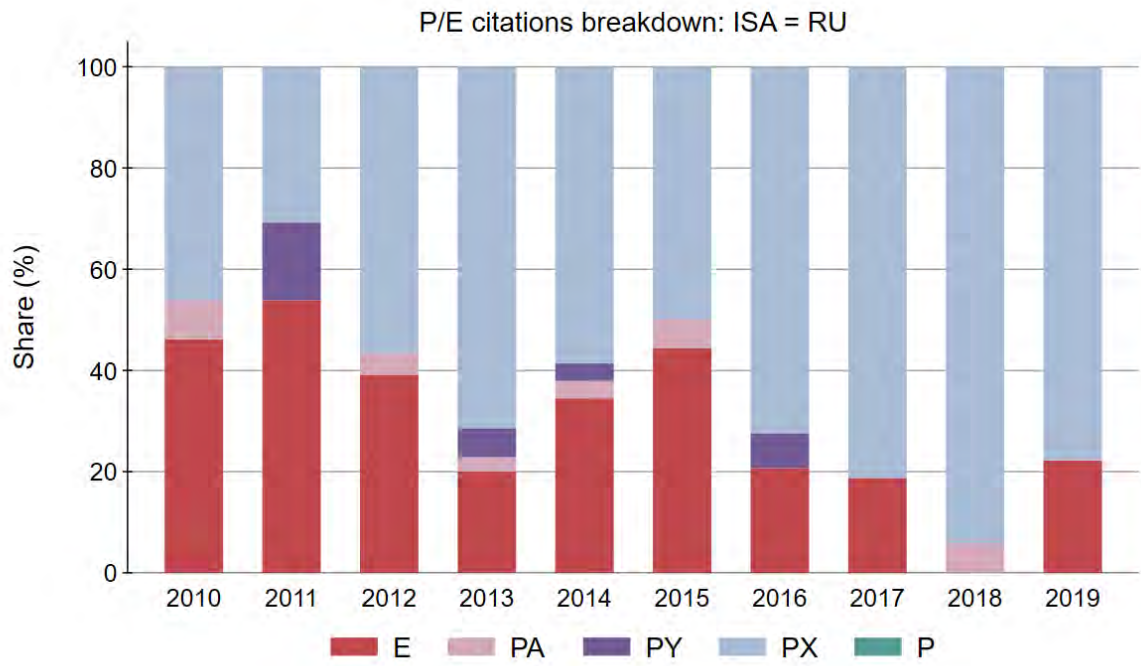
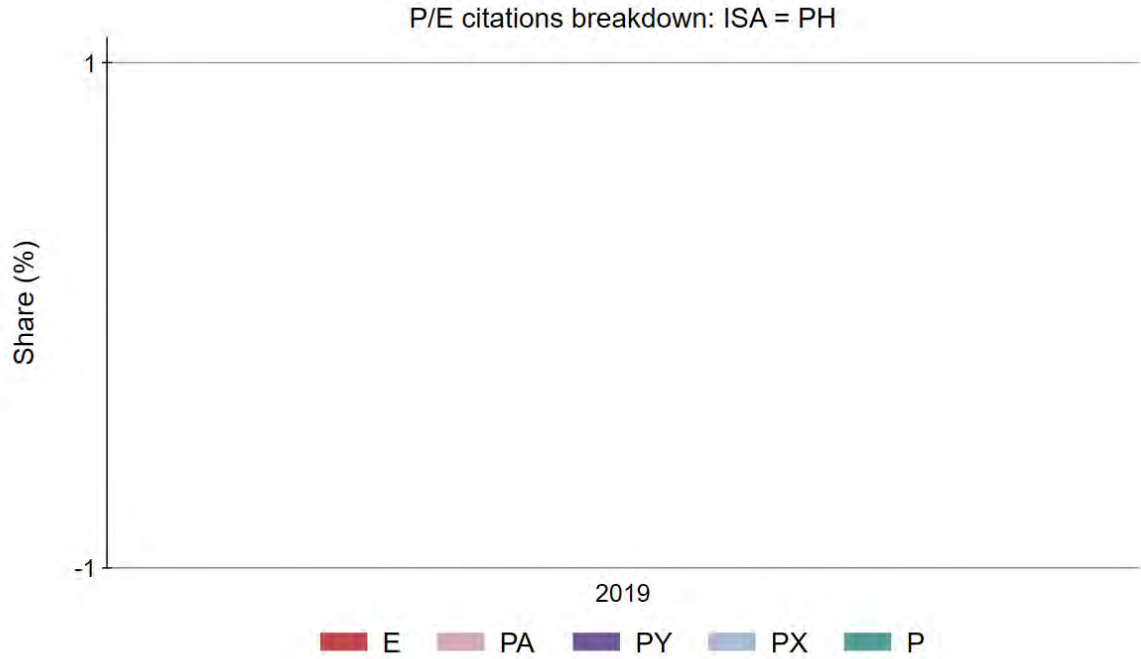


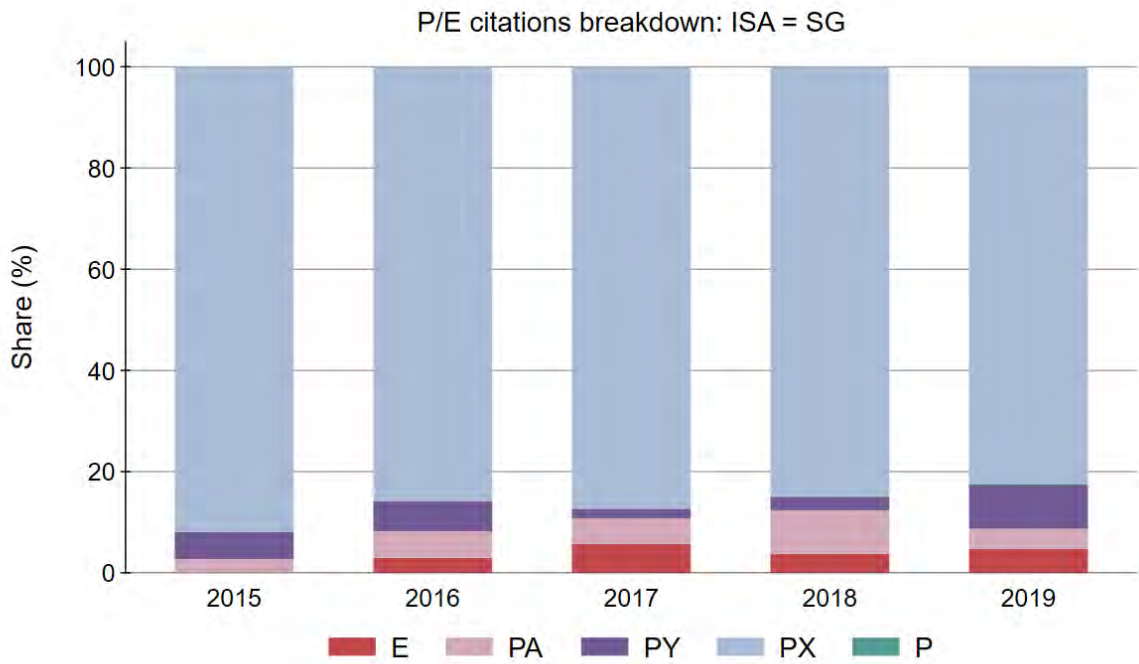
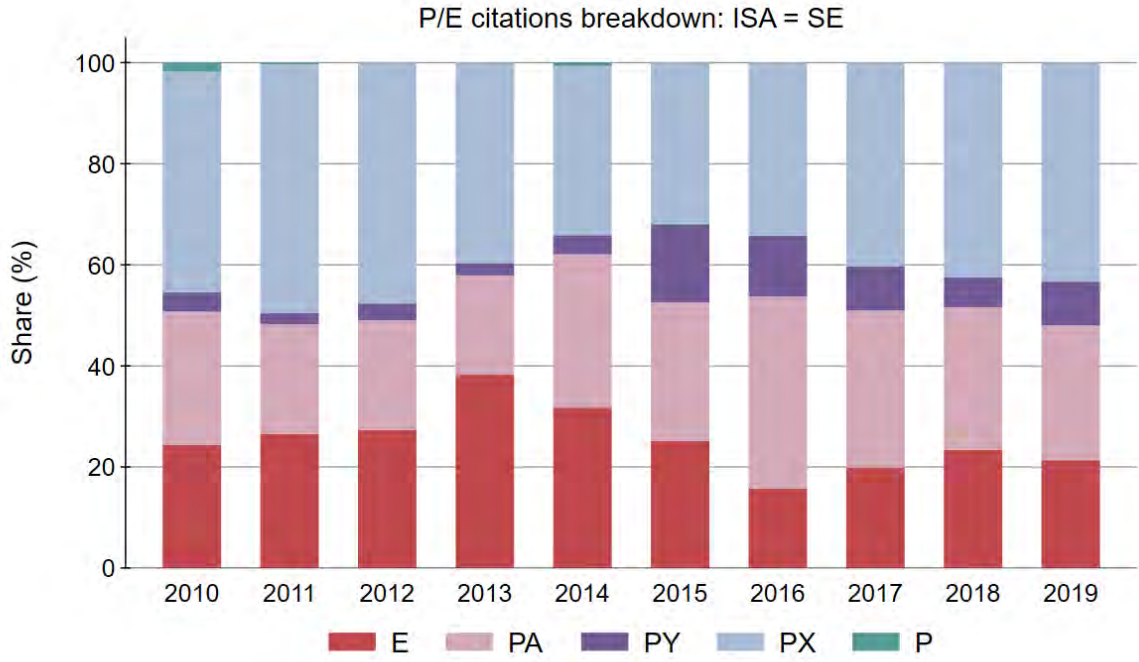


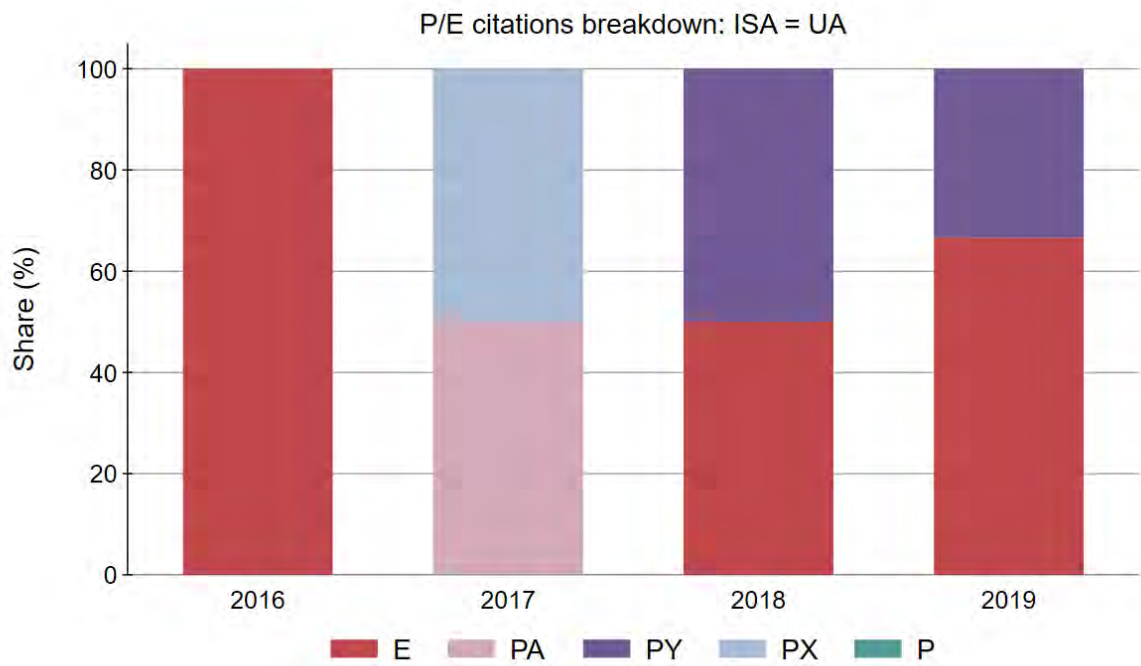
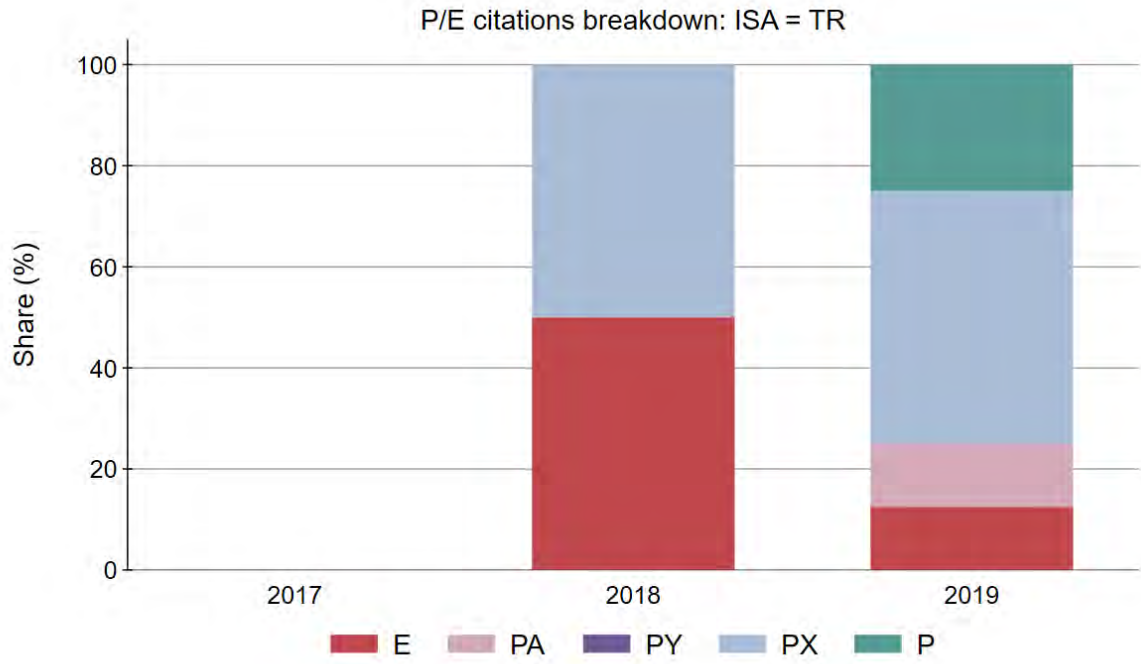


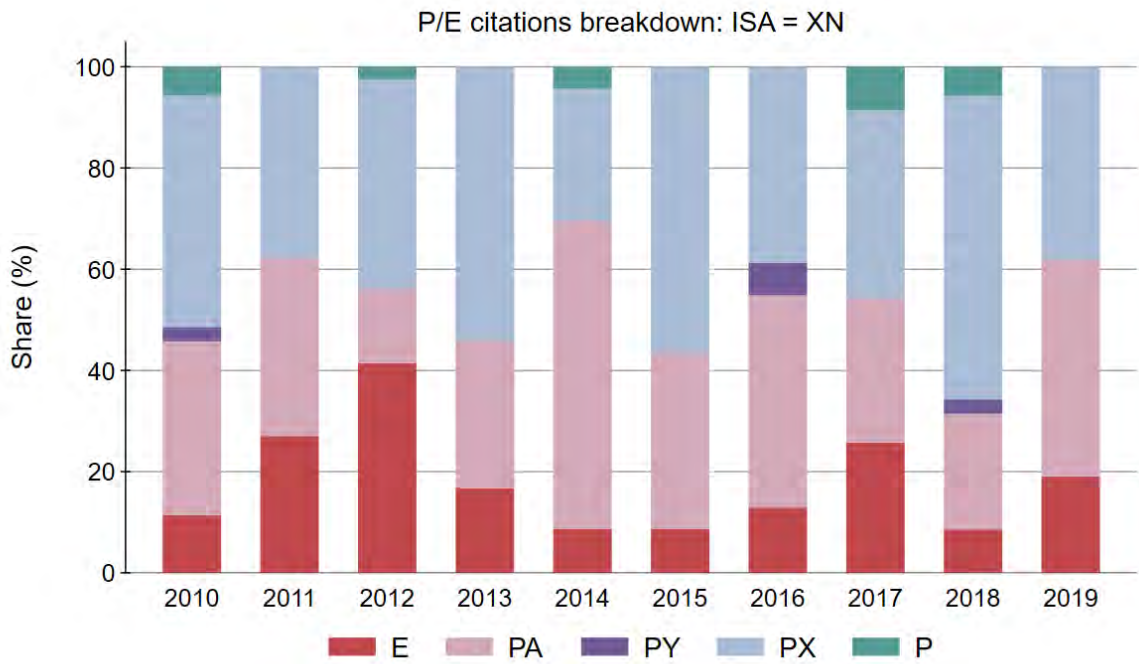
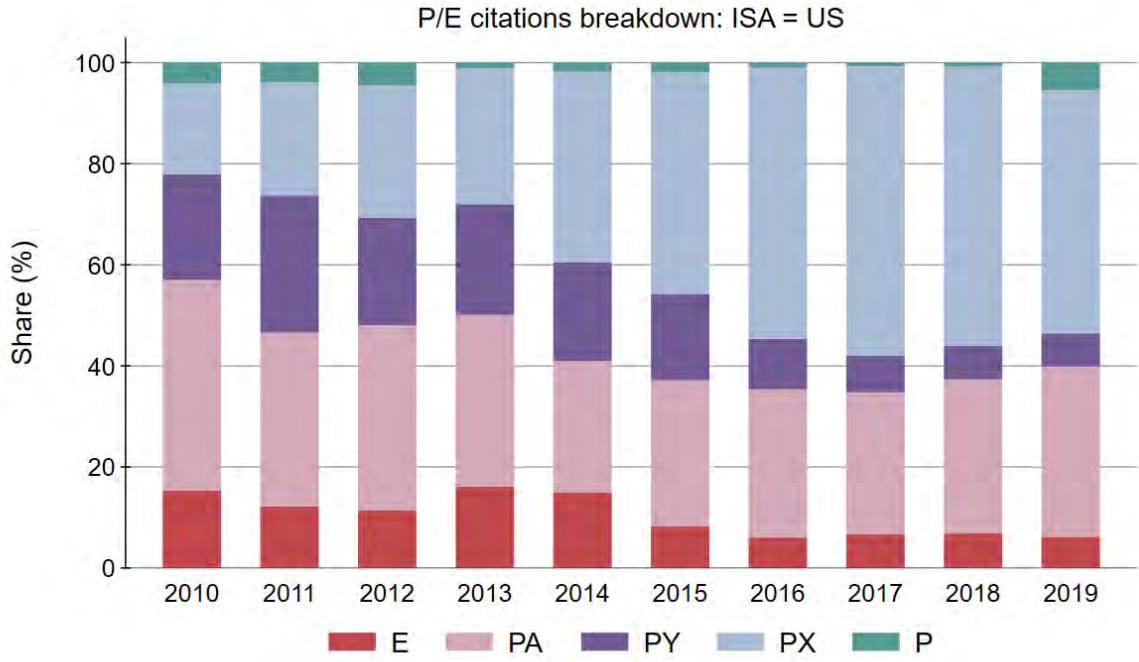


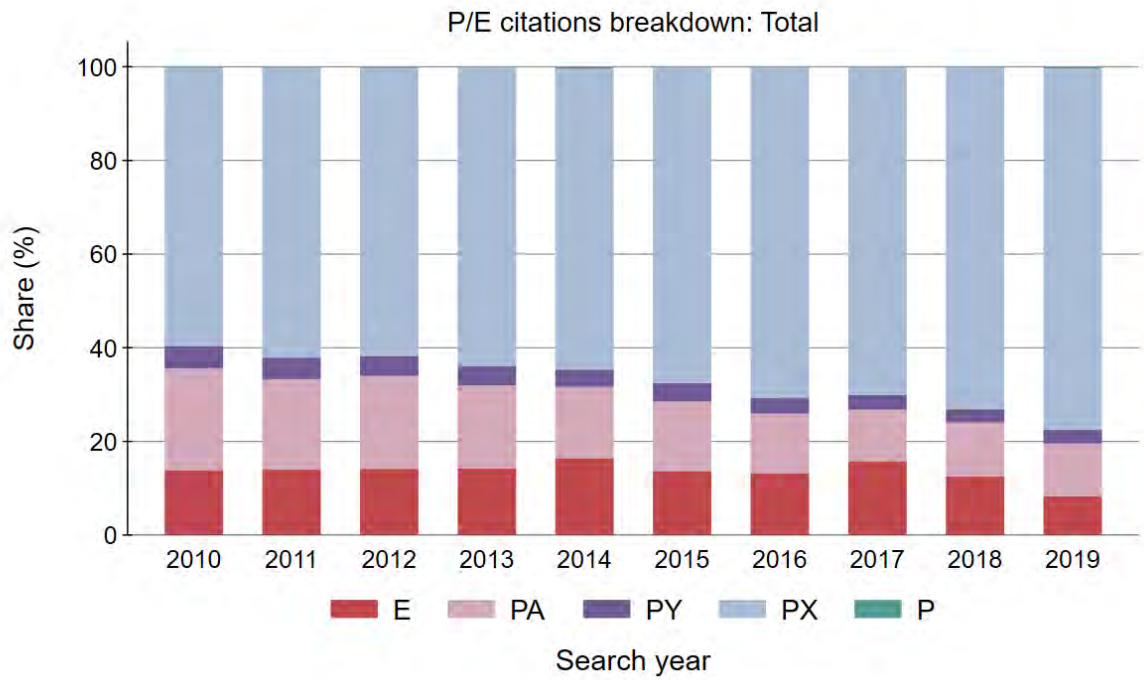
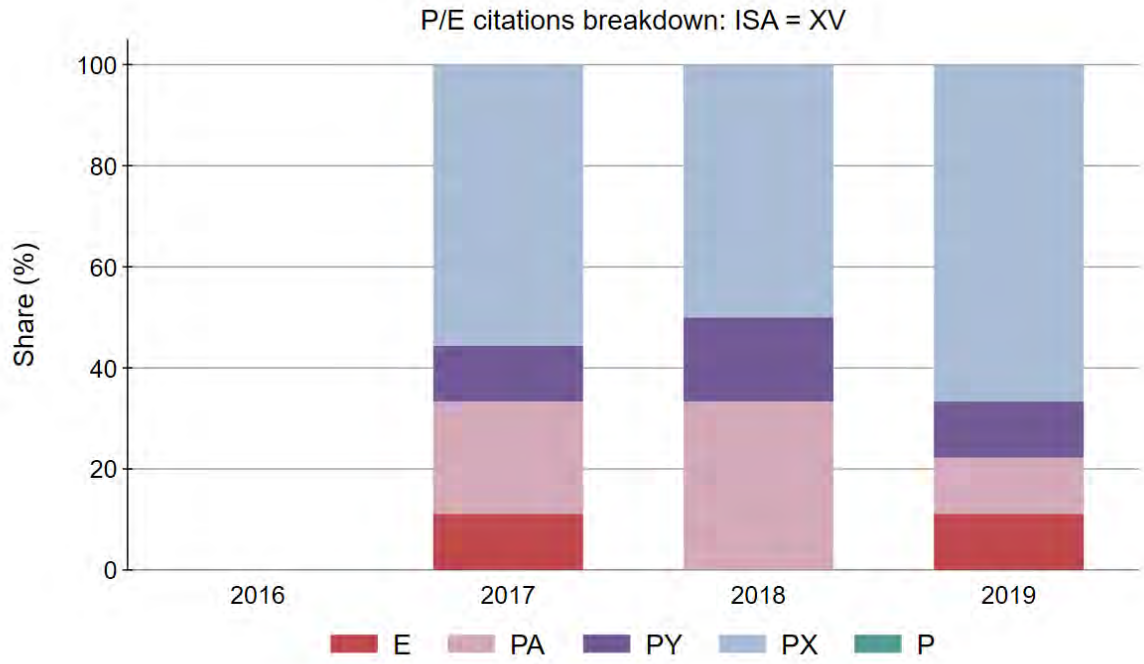




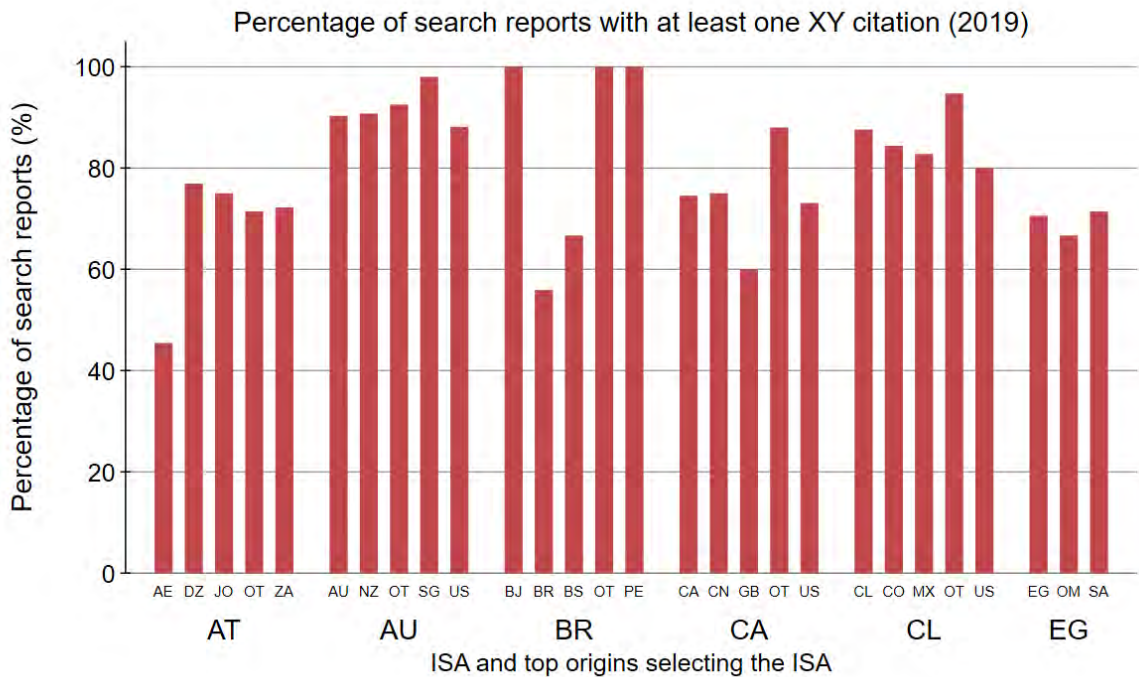
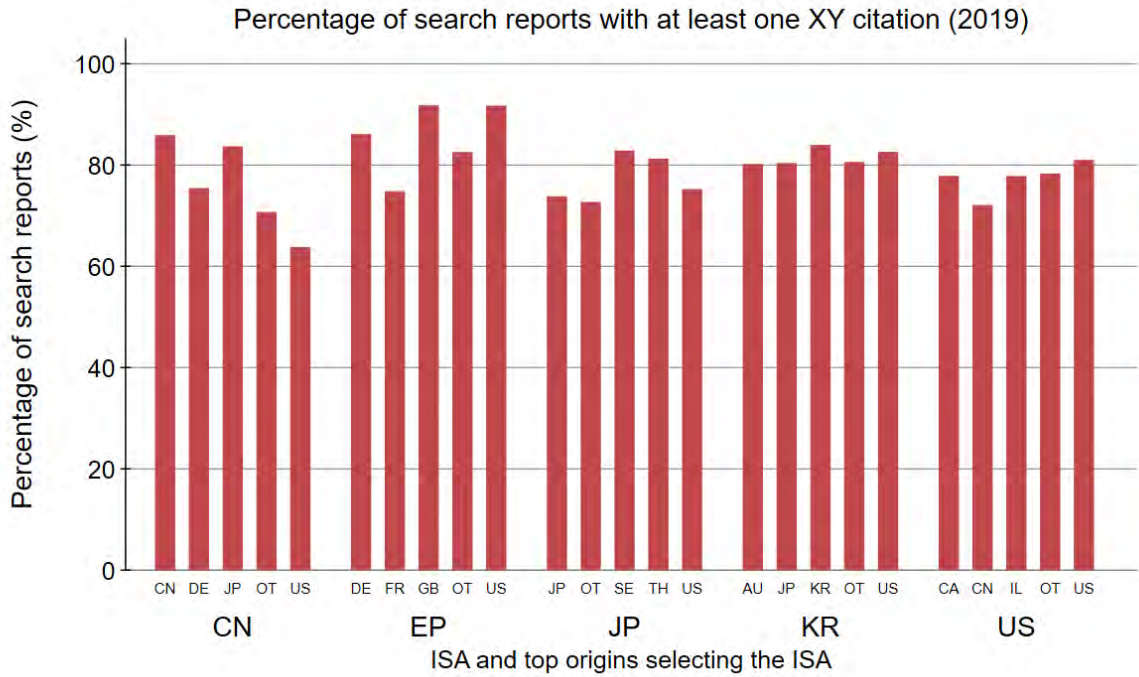


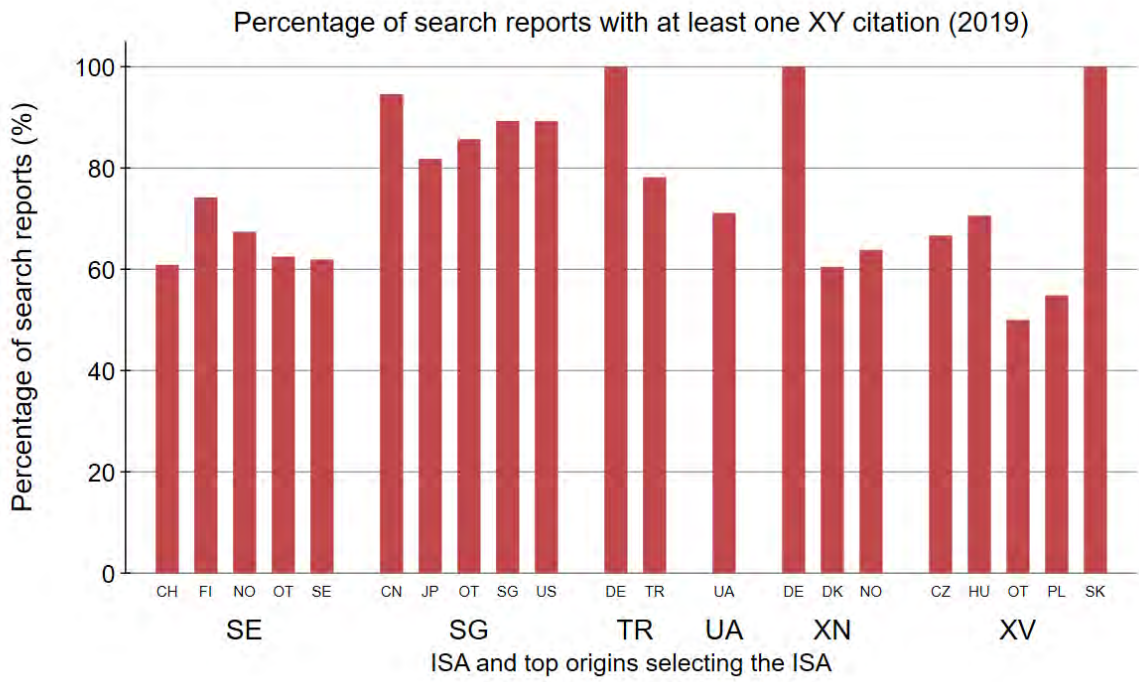
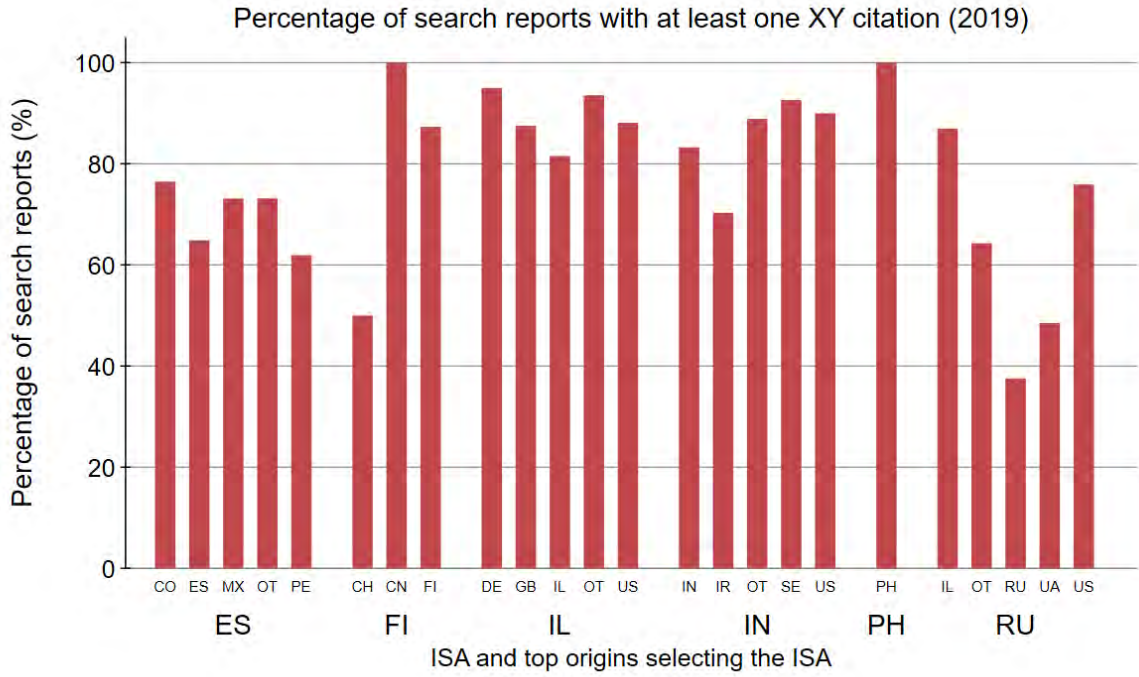




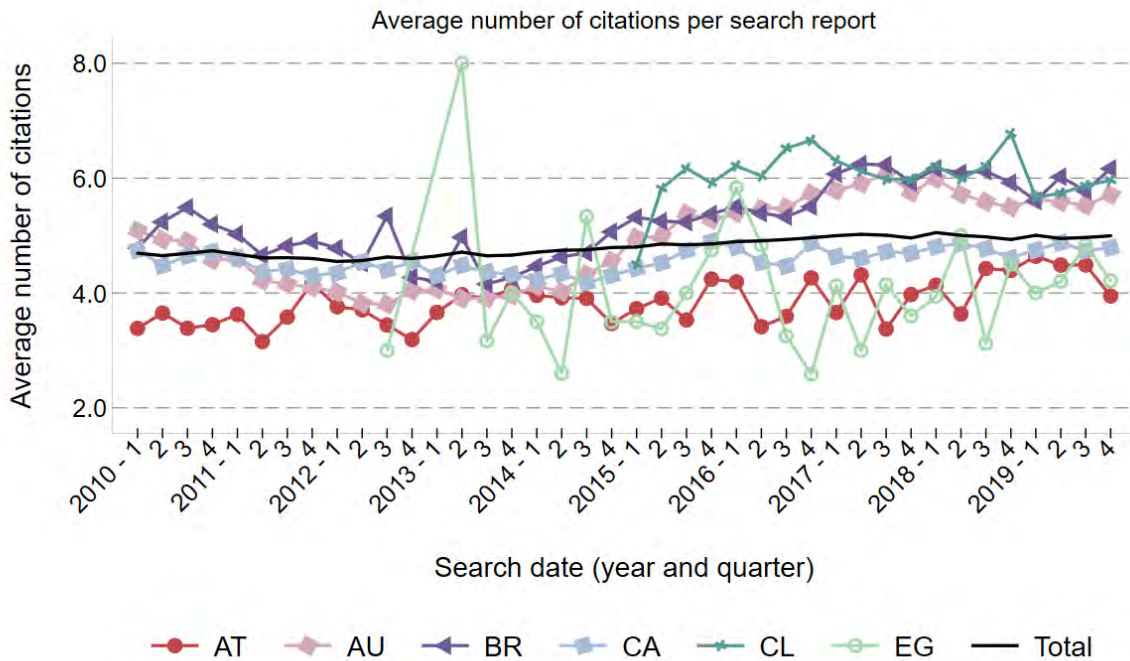
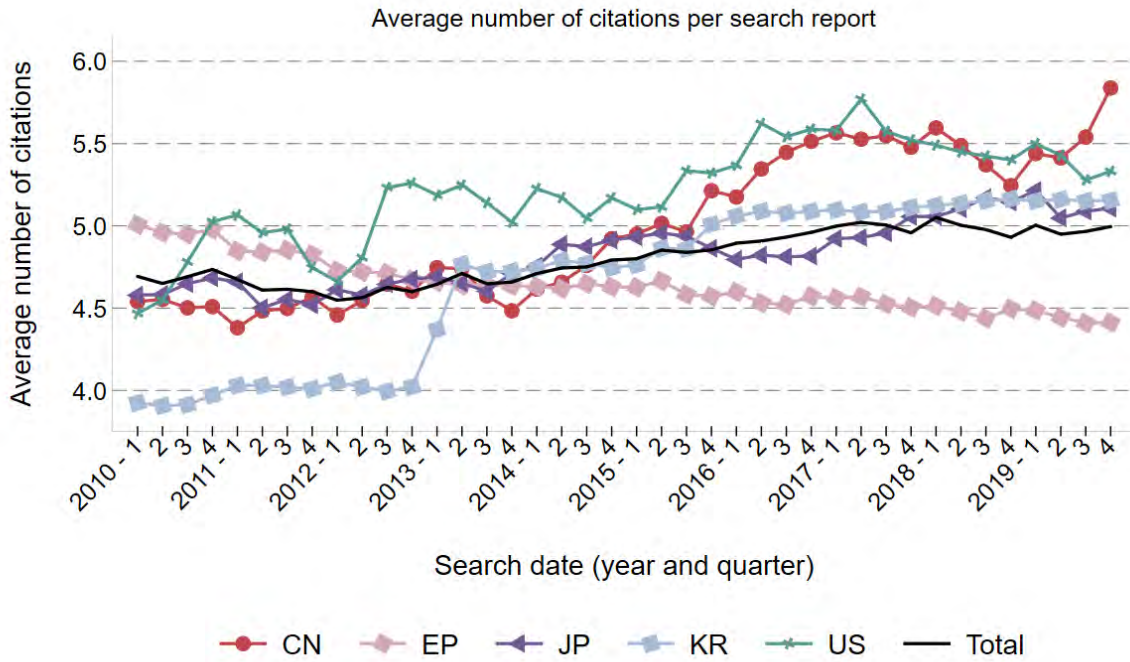


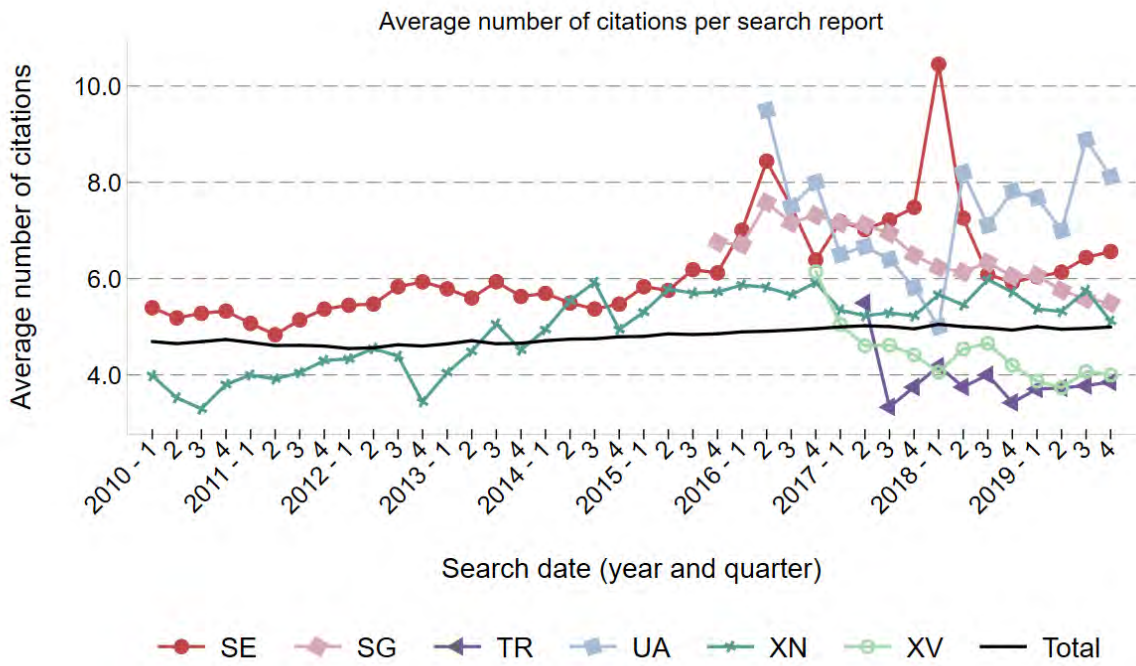
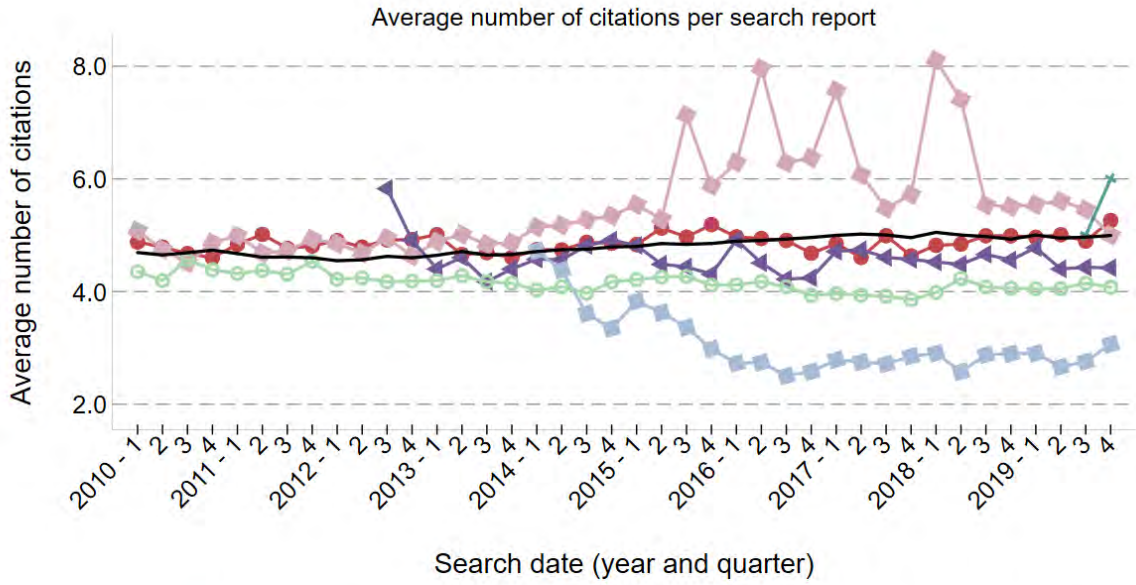
1.10: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS WITH AT LEAST ONE X OR Y CITATION BY TOP APPLICANT'S ORIGIN



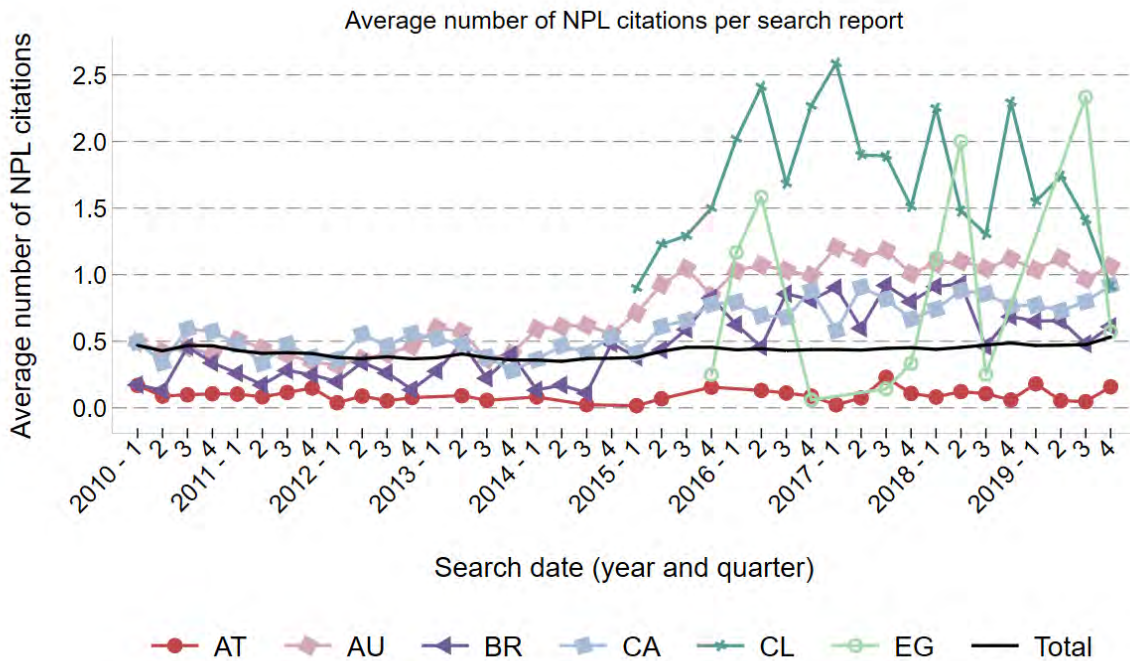
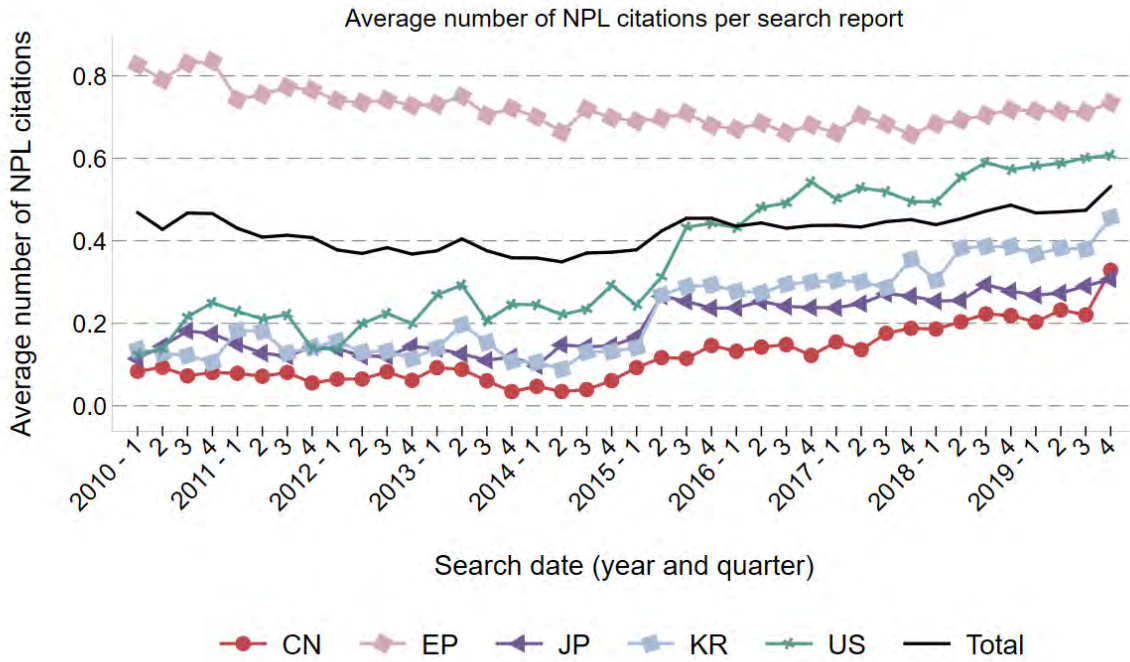


2.1: AVERAGE NUMBER OF CITATIONS PER SEARCH REPORT

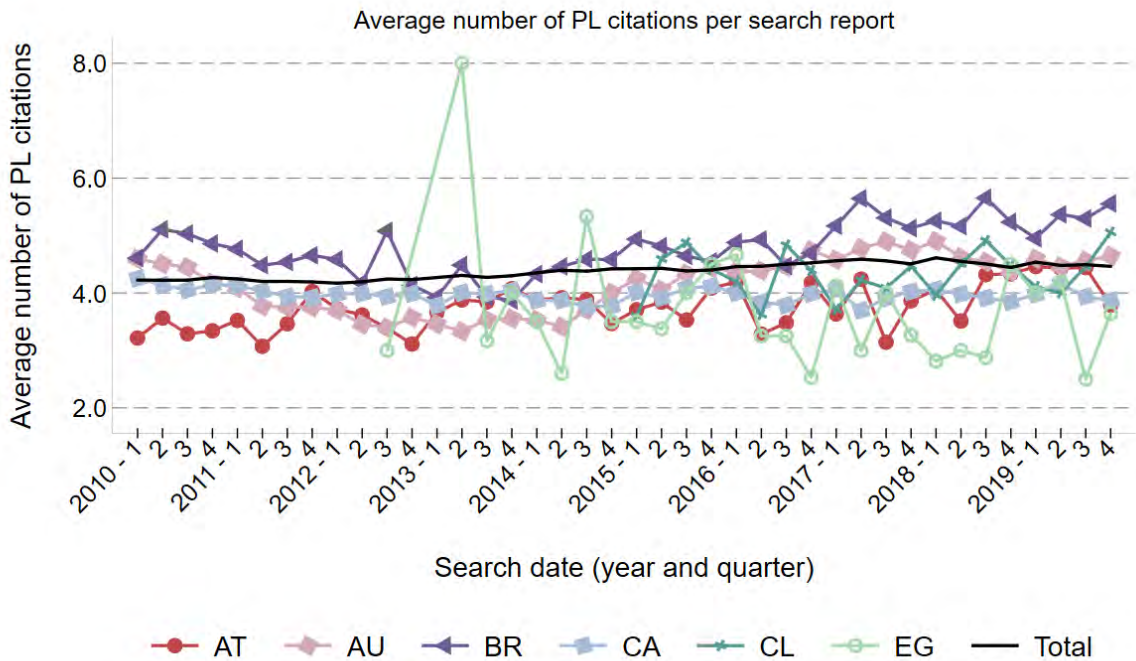
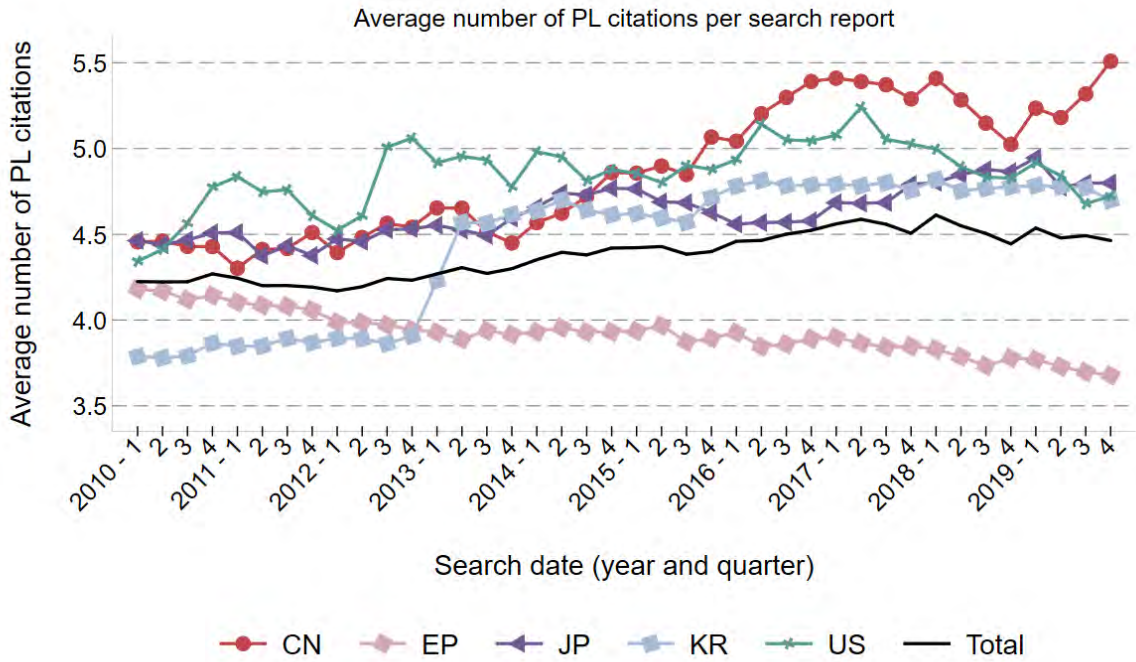


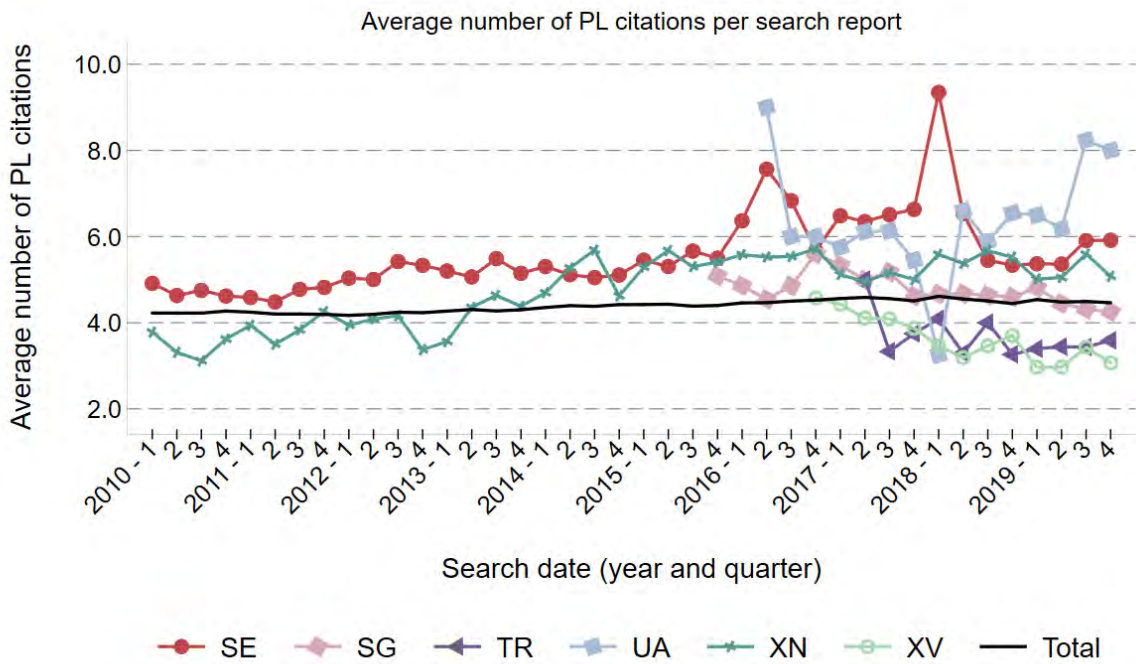
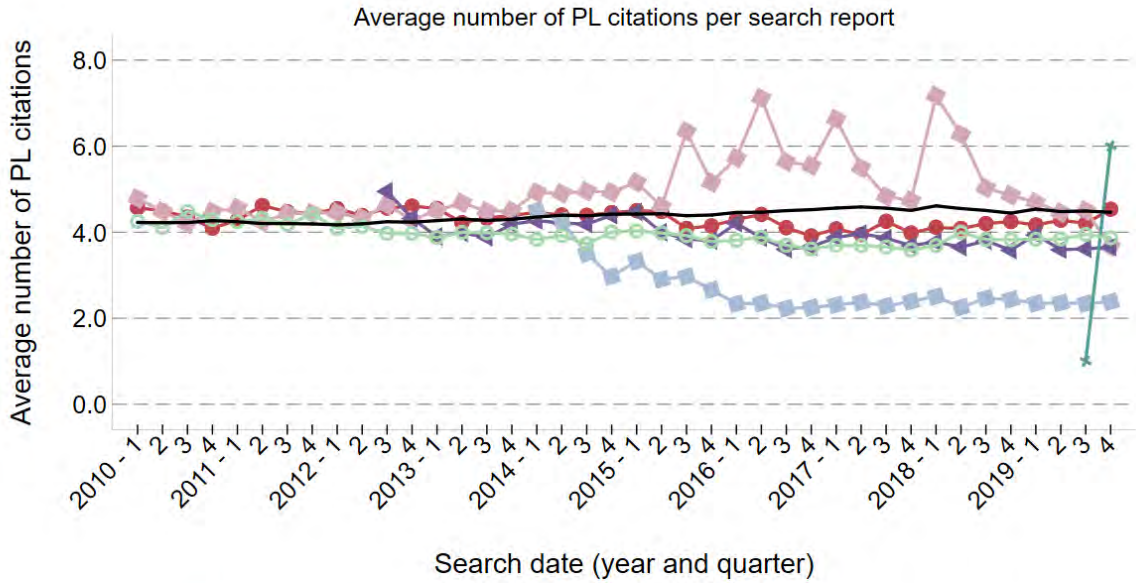


2.2: AVERAGE NUMBER OF NPL CITATIONS PER SEARCH REPORT

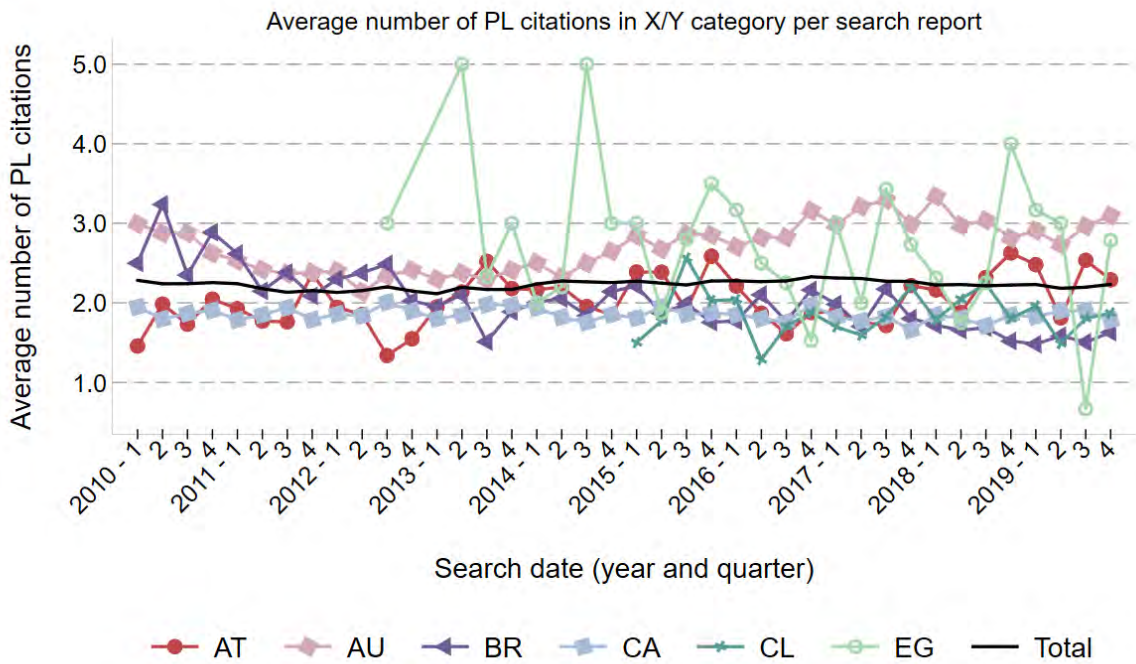
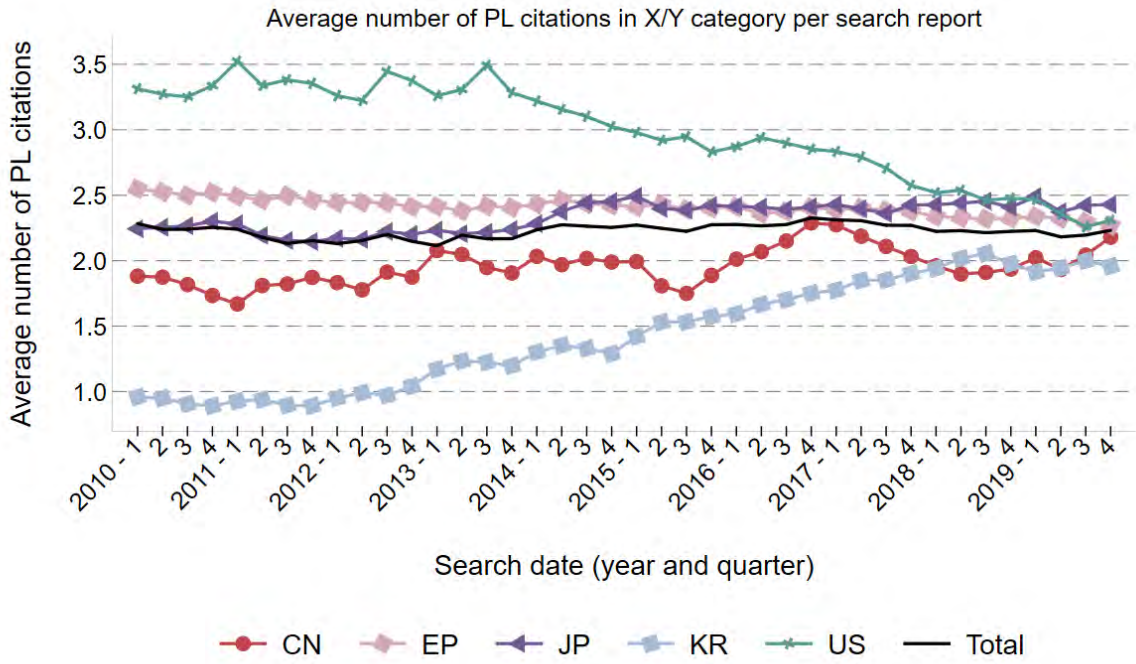


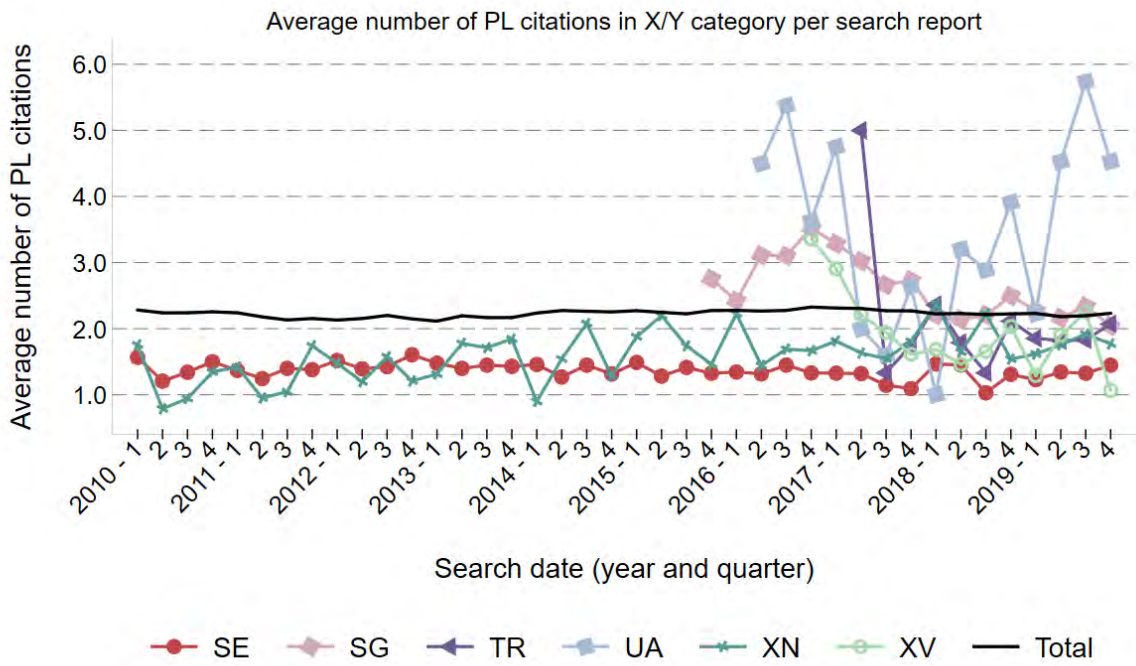
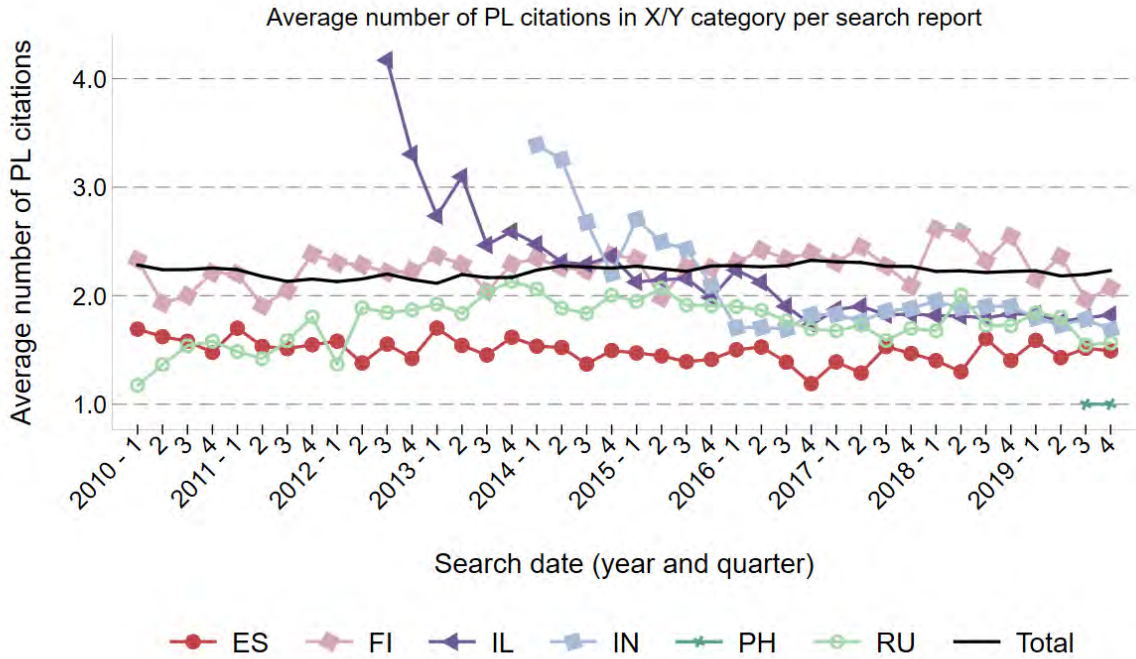
2.3: AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATENT LITERATURE CITATIONS PER SEARCH REPORT



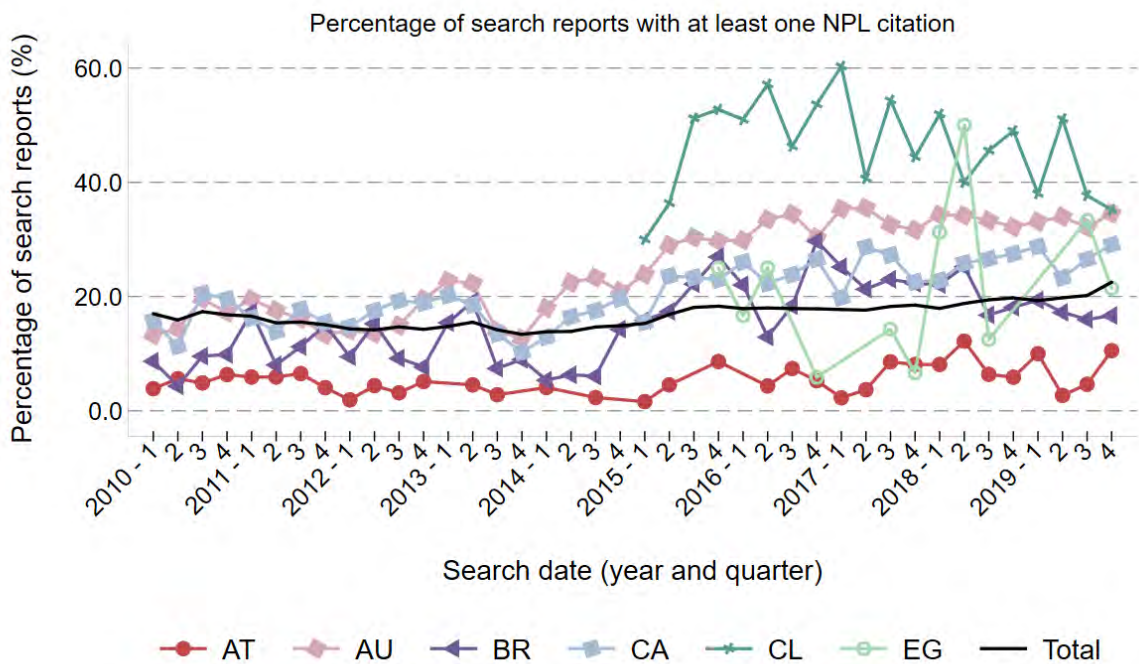
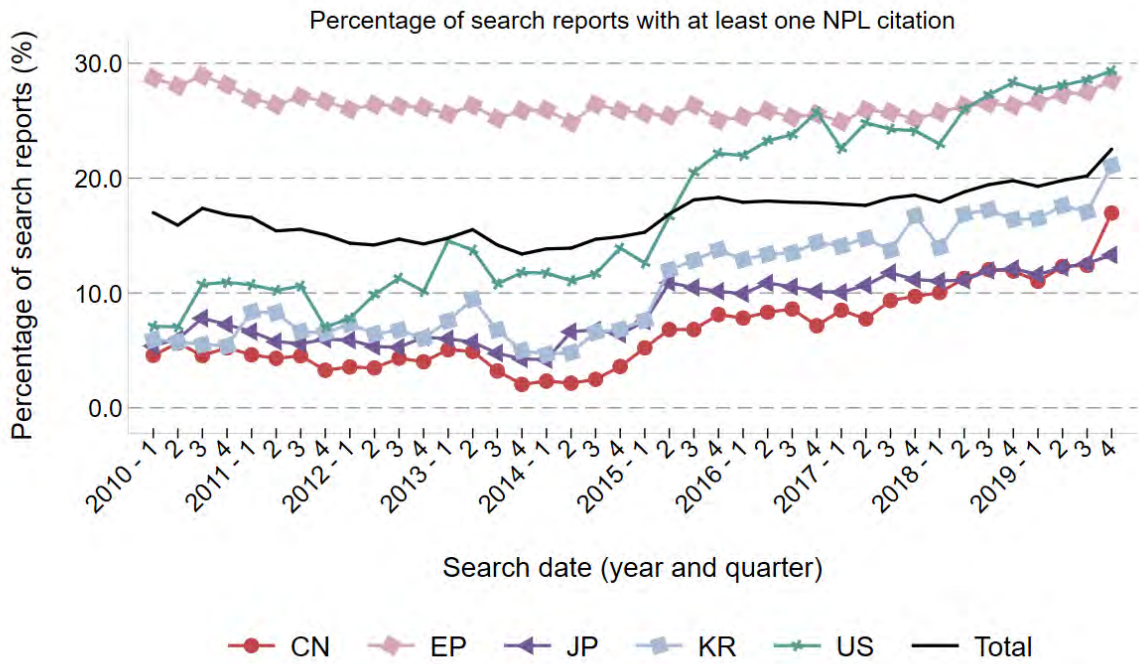


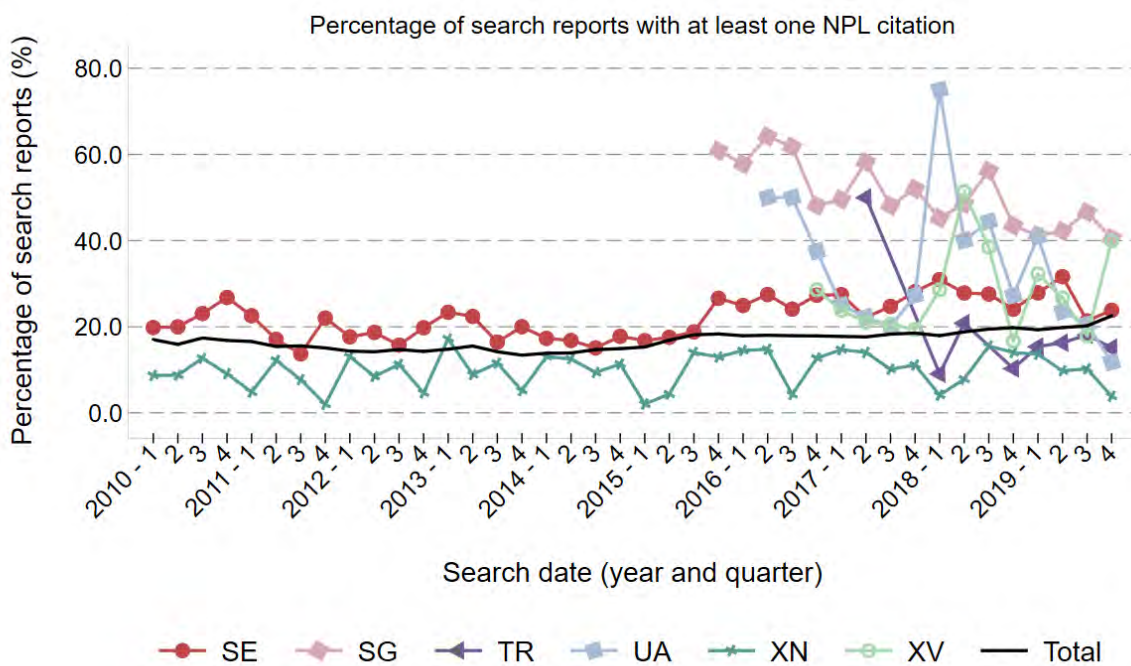
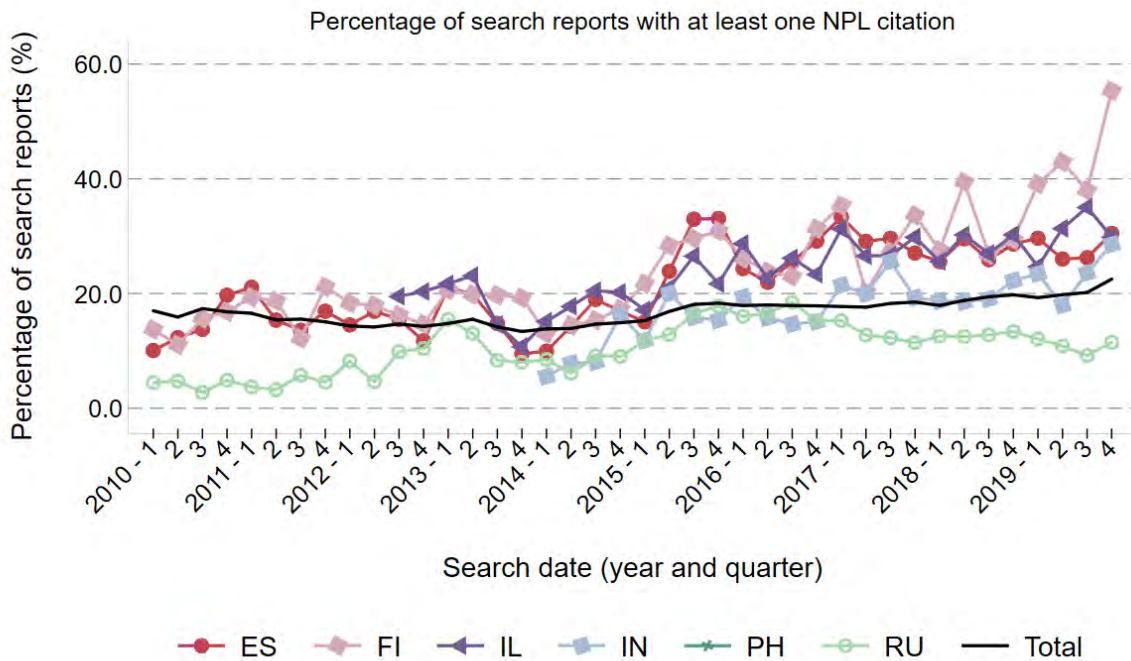
2.4: AVERAGE NUMBER OF X/Y PATENT LITERATURE CITATIONS PER SEARCH REPORT



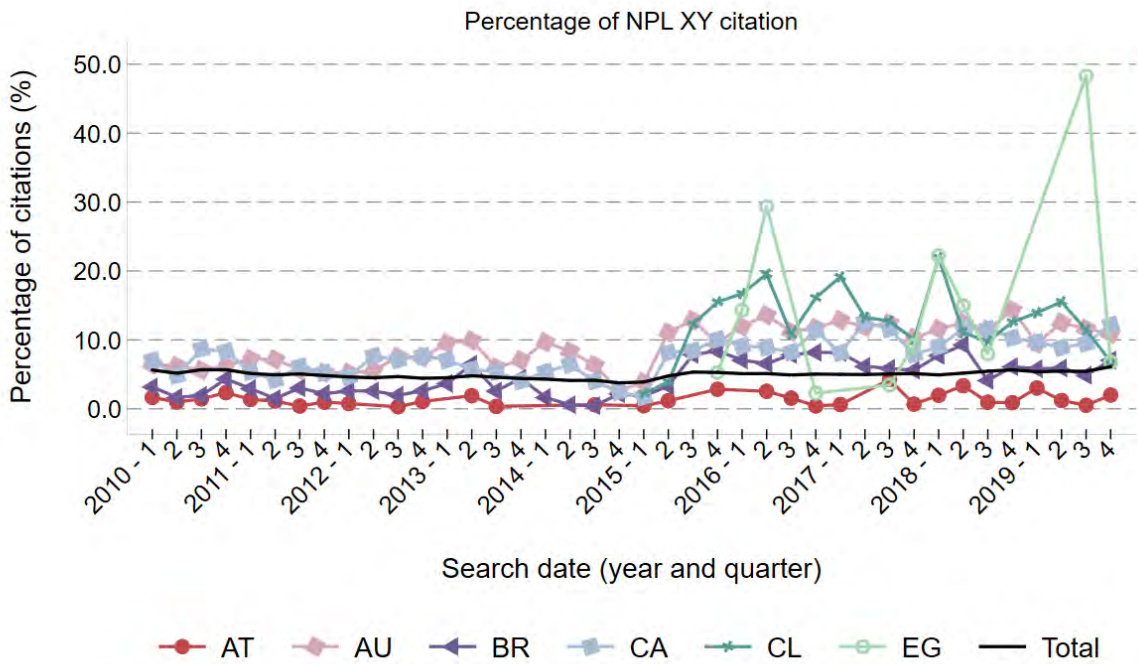
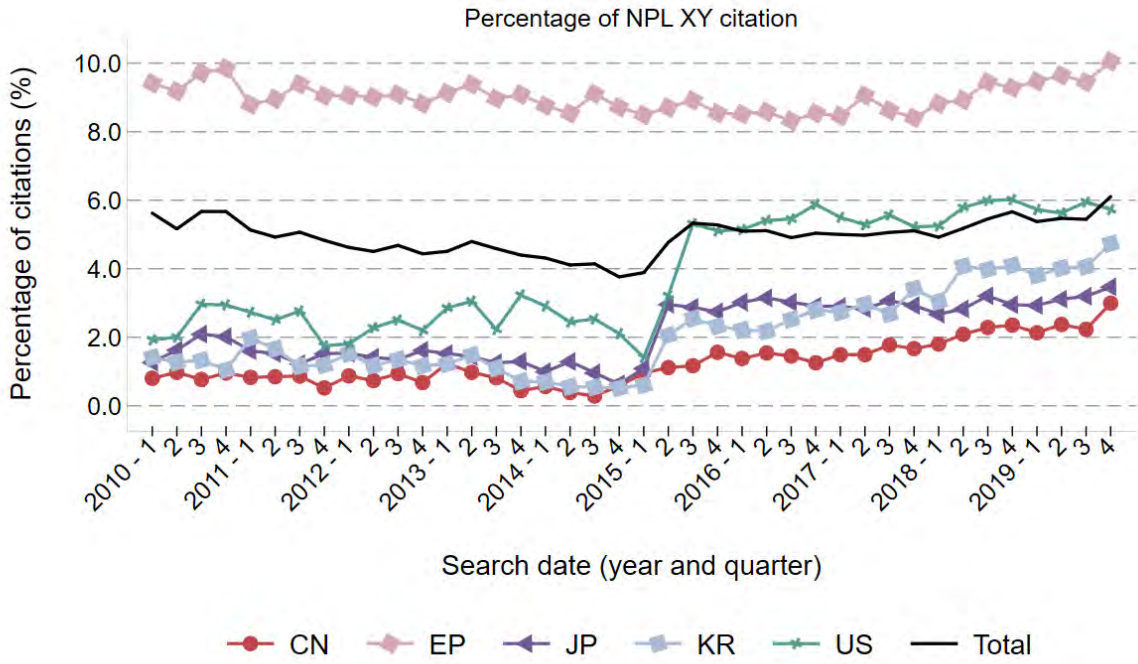


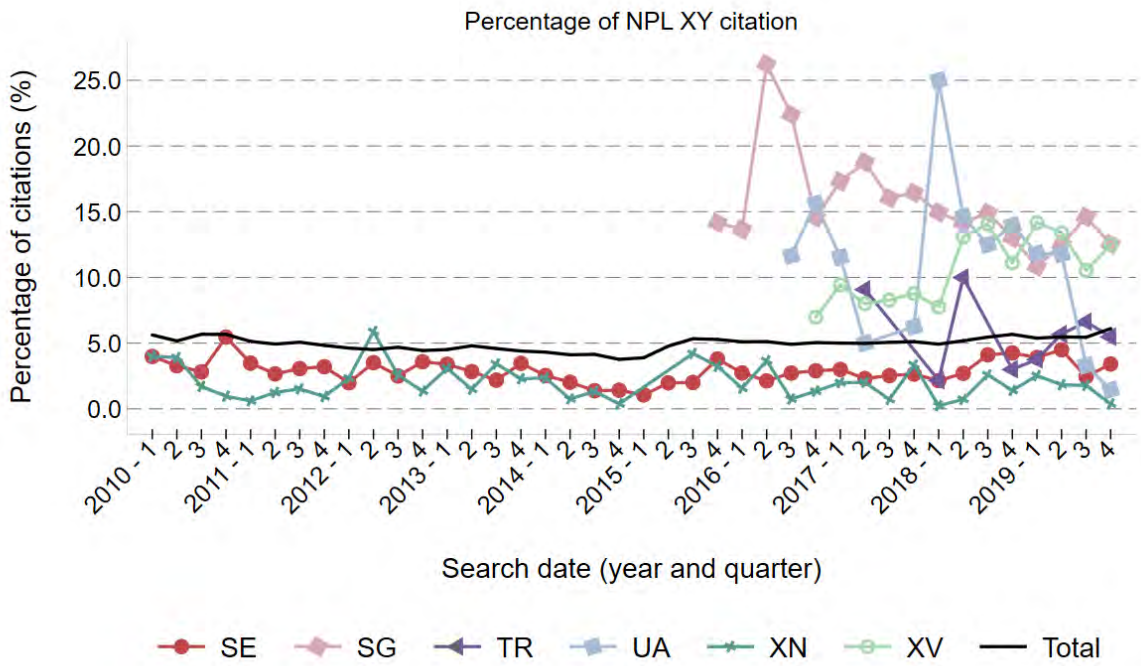
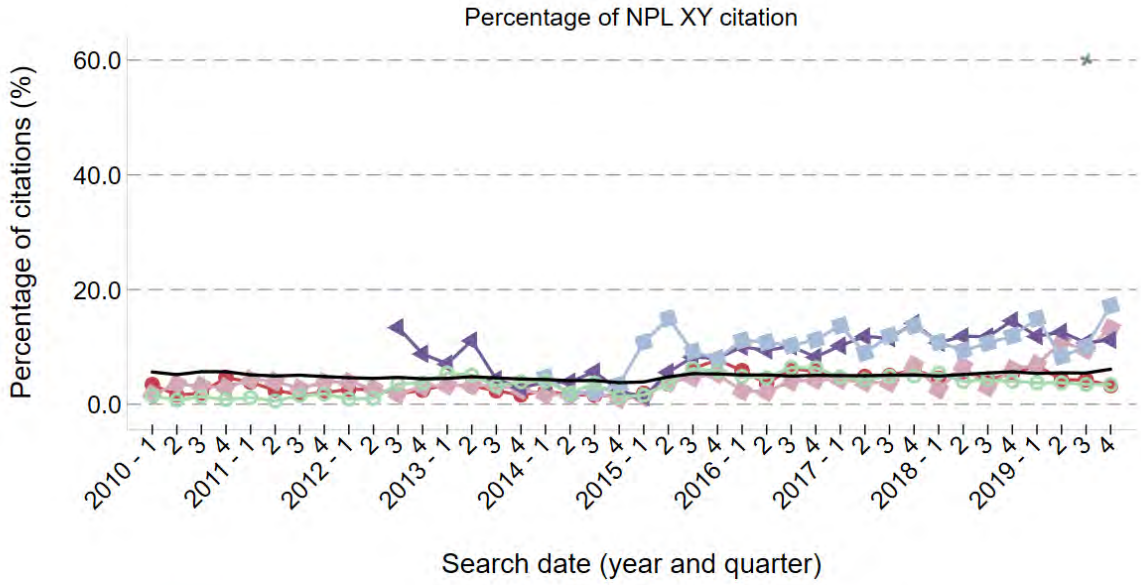
2.5: PERCENTAGE OF SEARCH REPORTS WITH AT LEAST ONE NPL CITATION

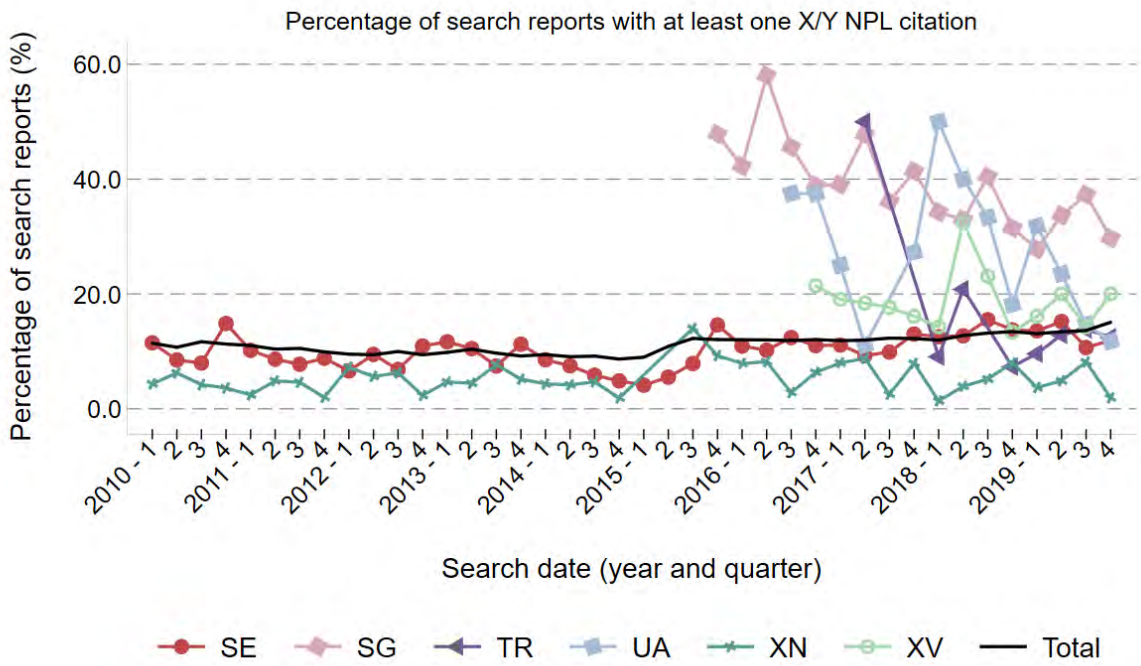
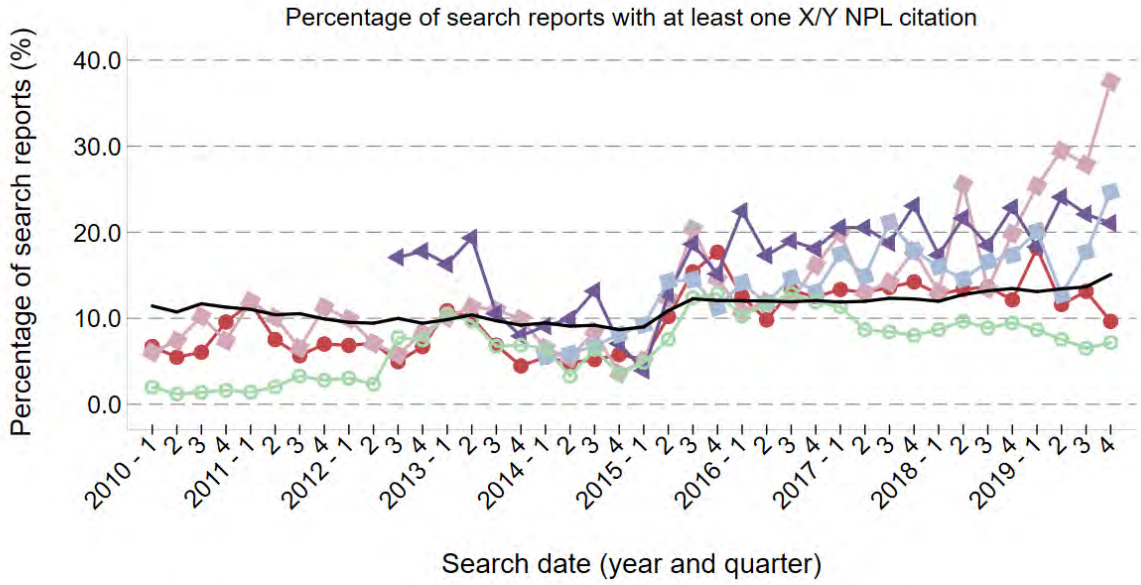




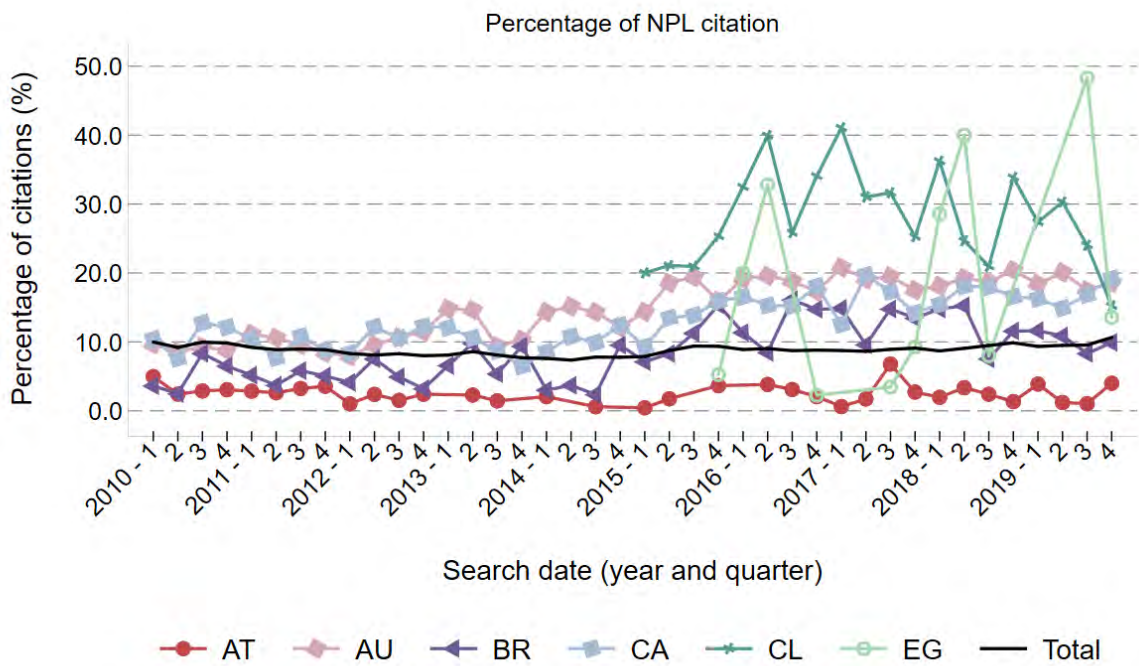
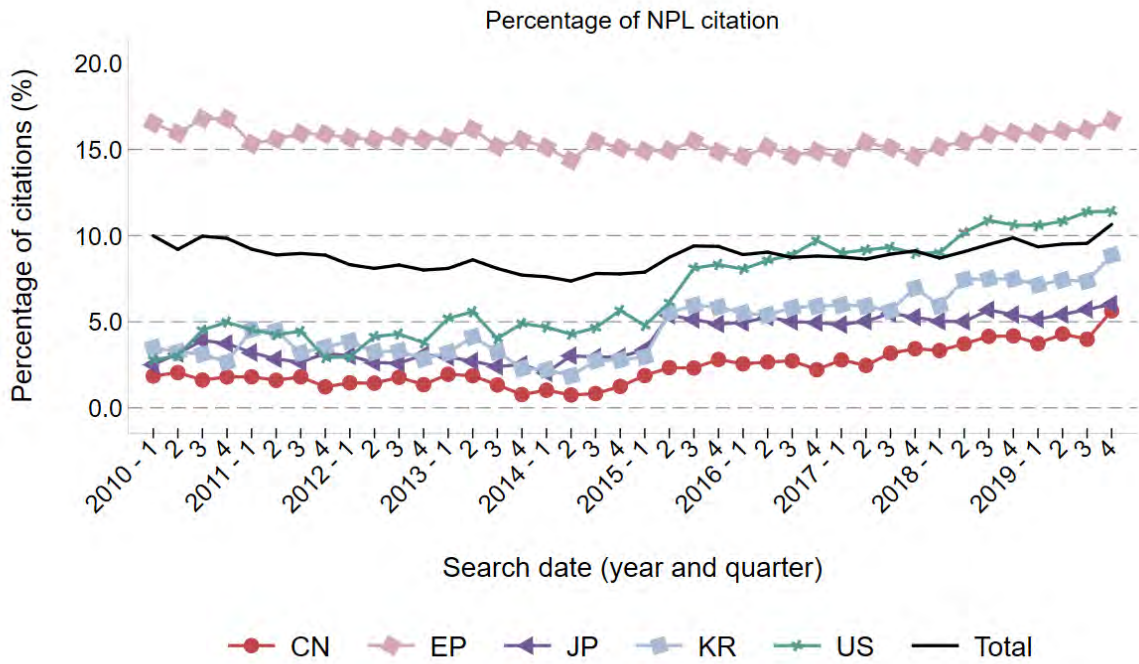
2.6: PERCENTAGE OF NPL CITATIONS IN THE CATEGORY OF X OR Y IN ALL CITATIONS

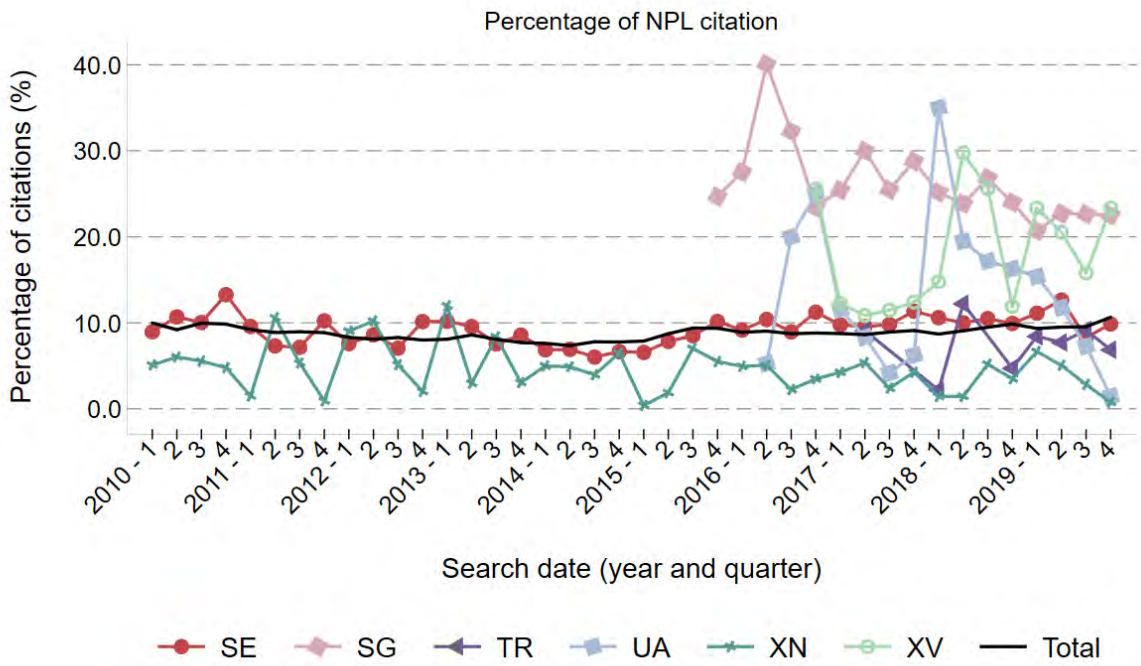
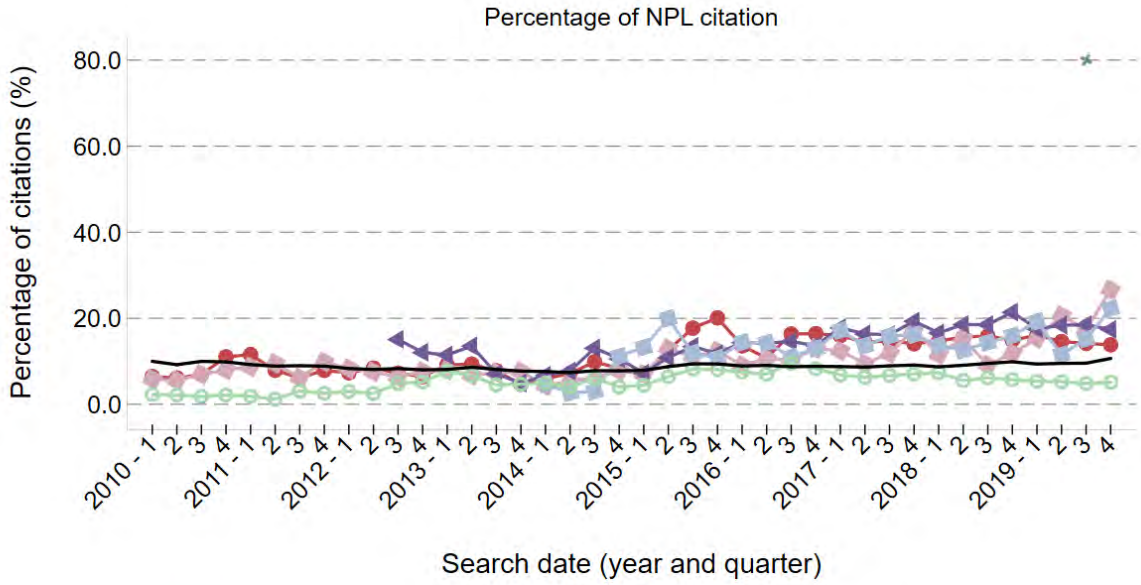




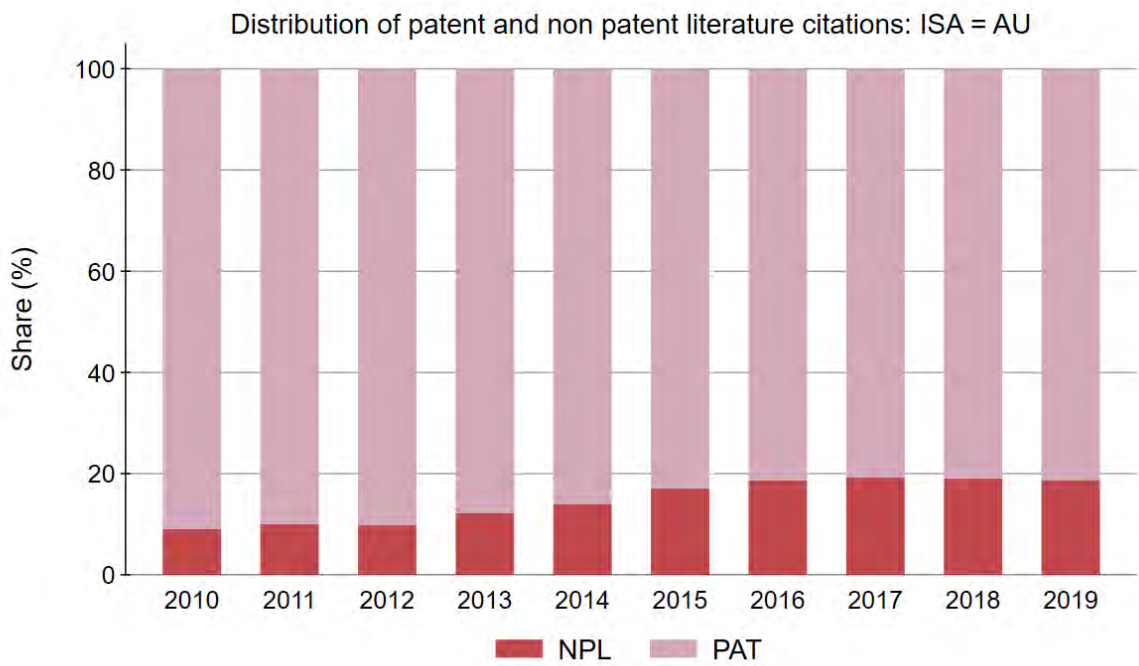
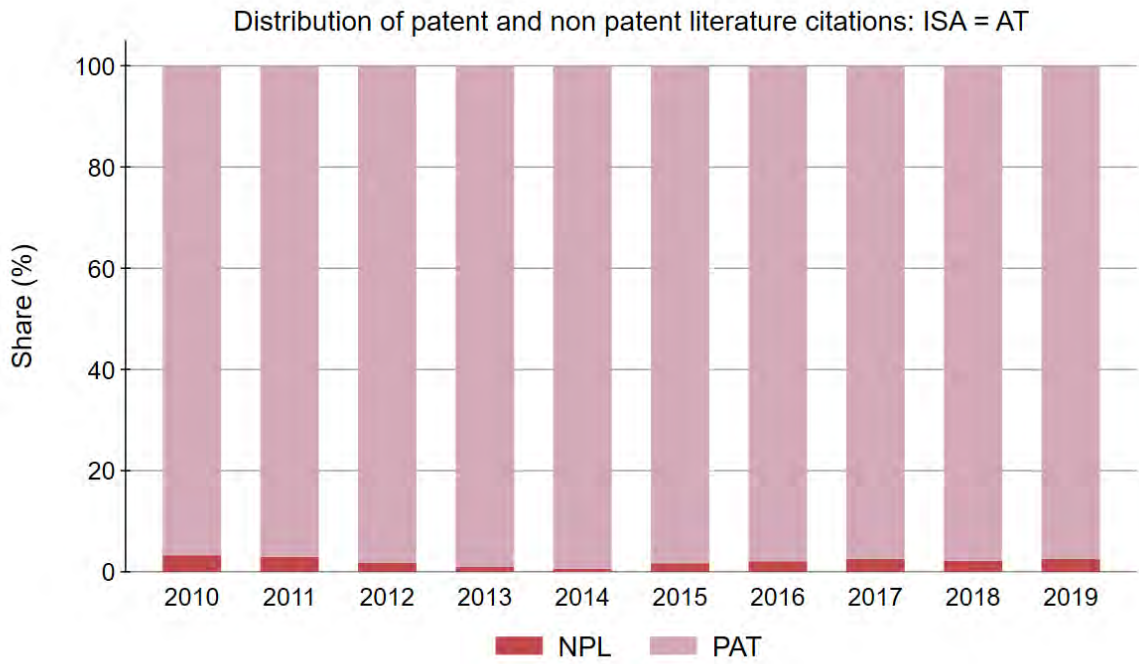


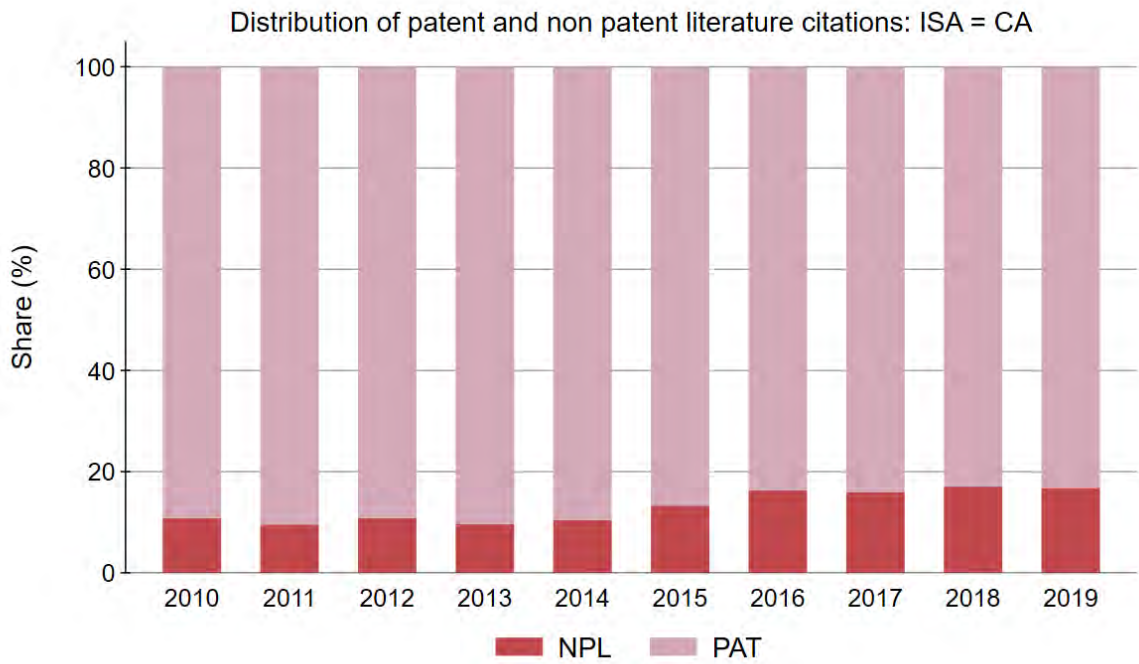
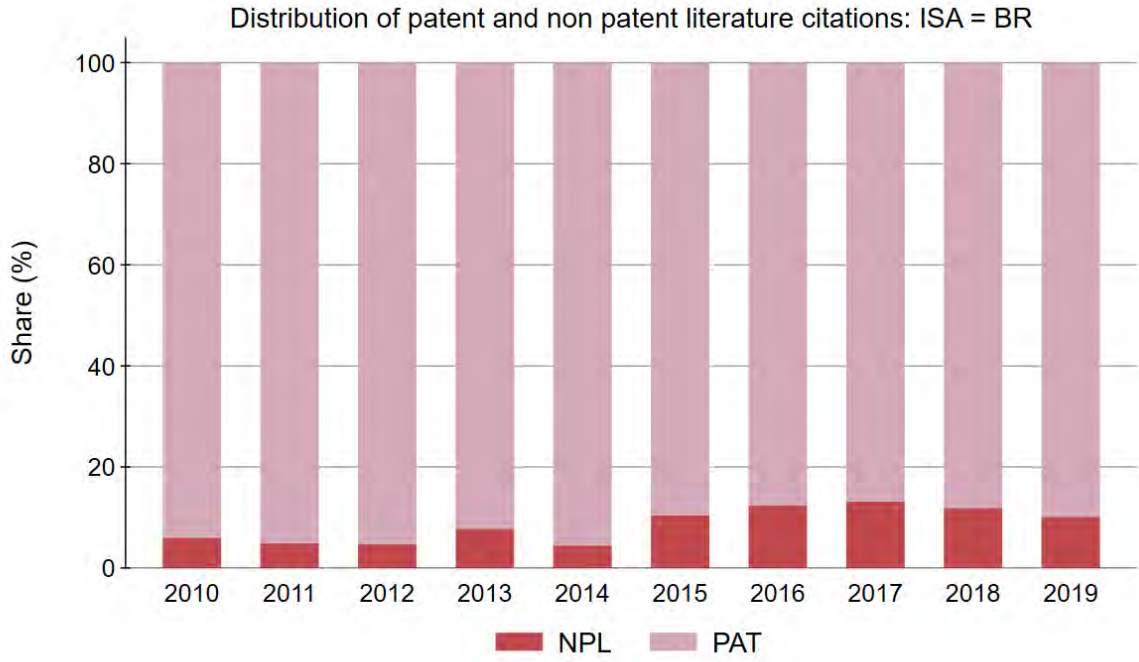
2.8: PERCENTAGE OF NPL CITATIONS IN ALL CITATIONS

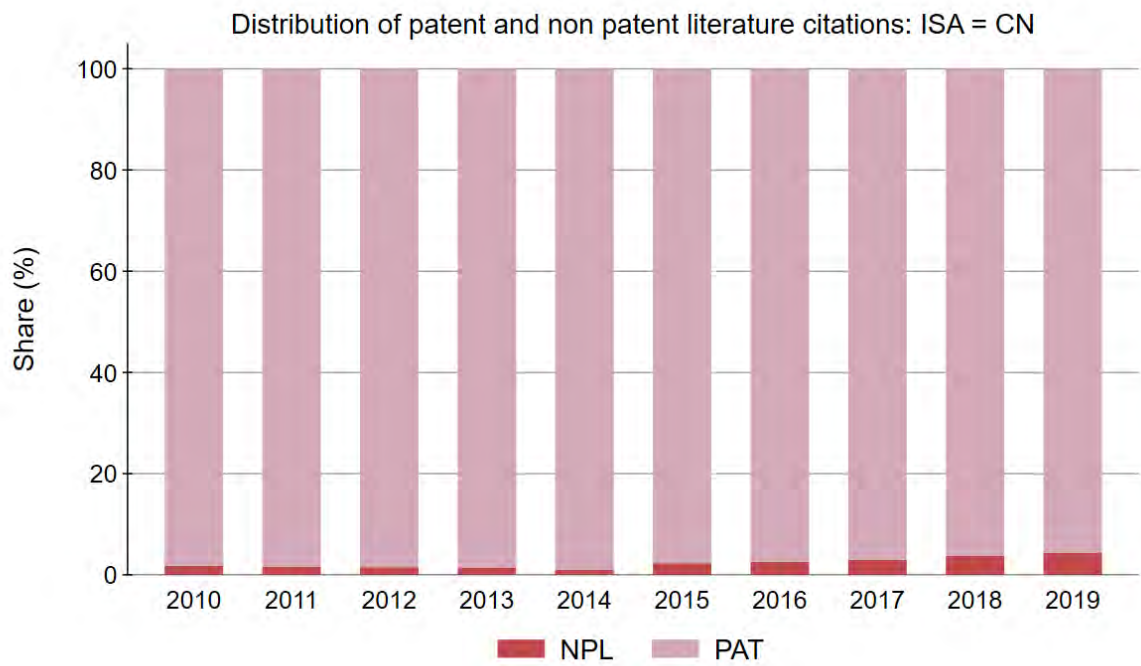
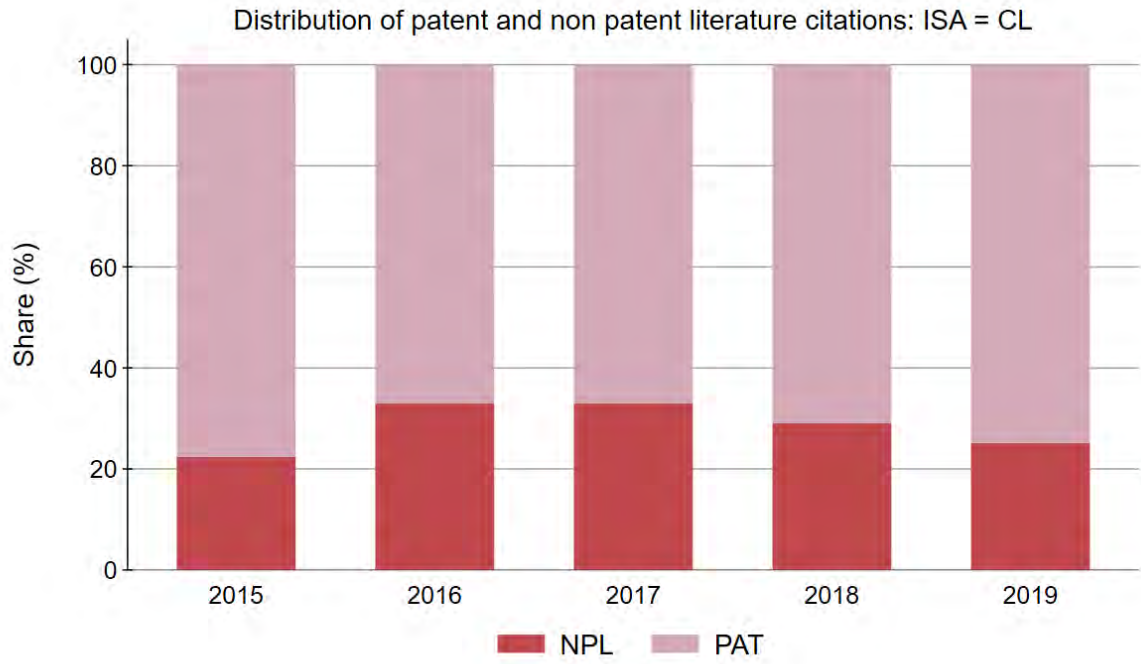


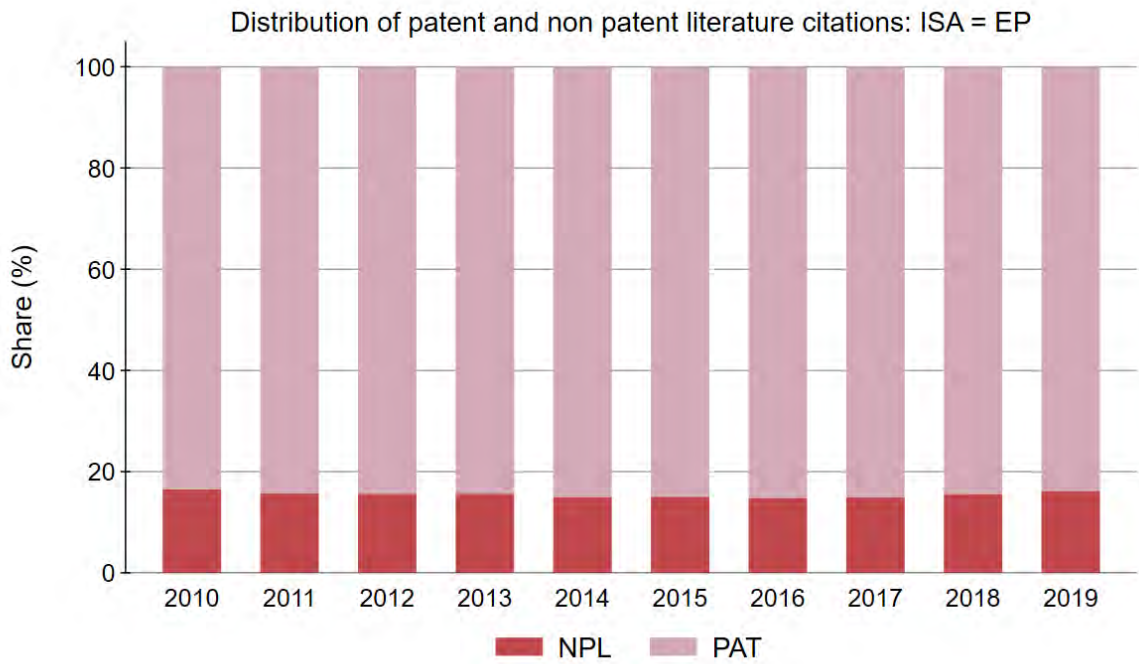
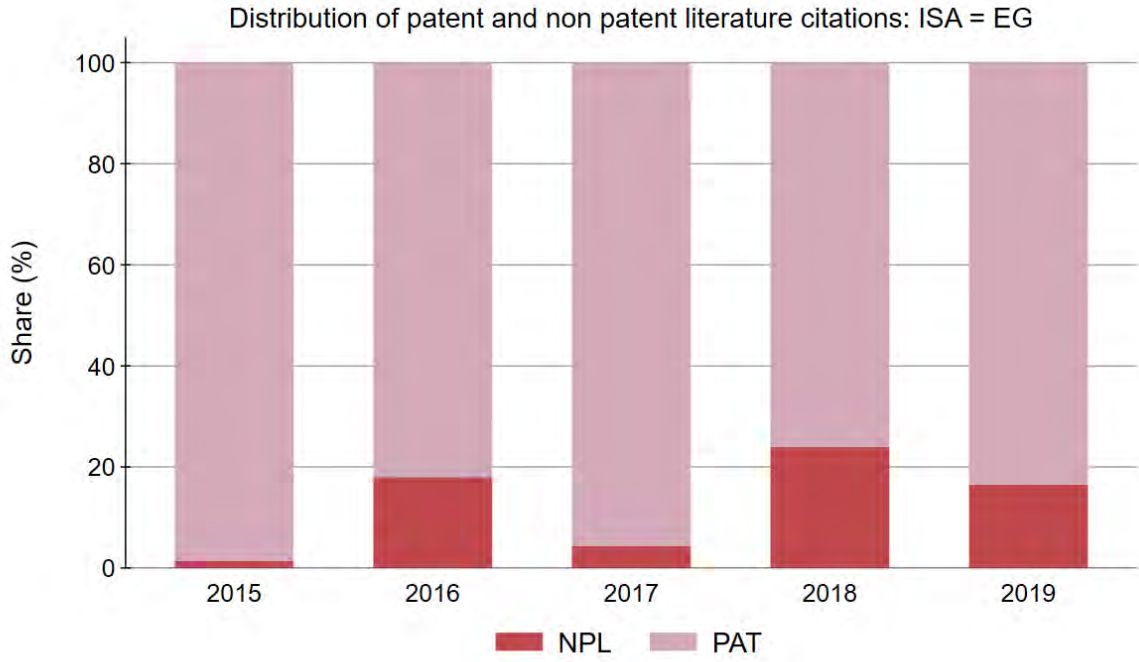


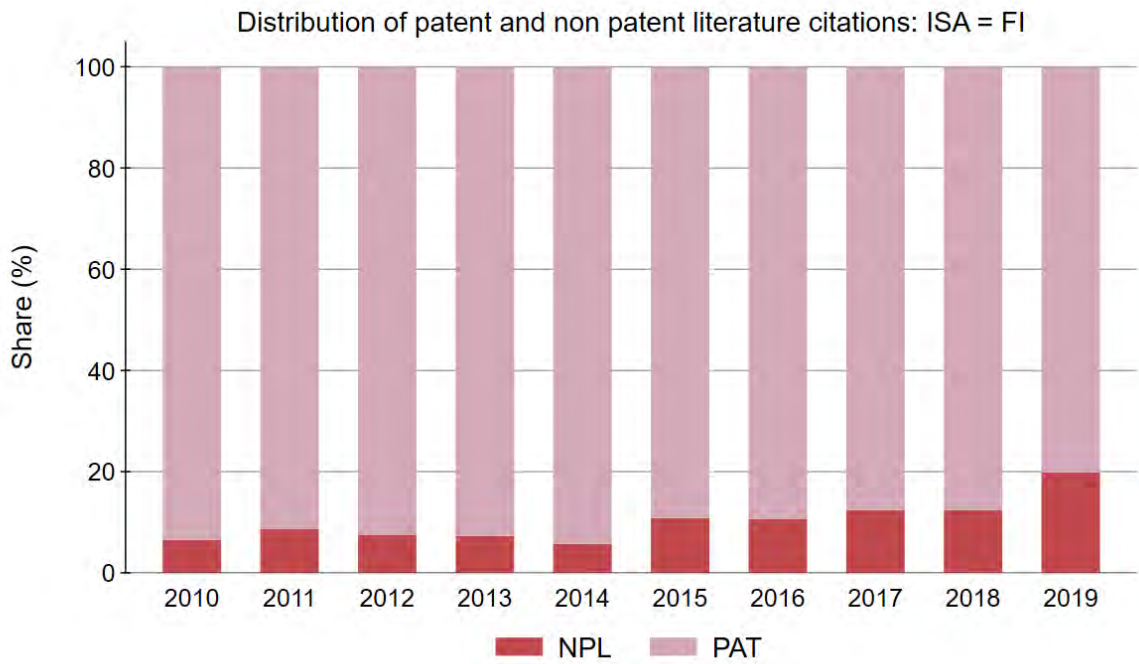
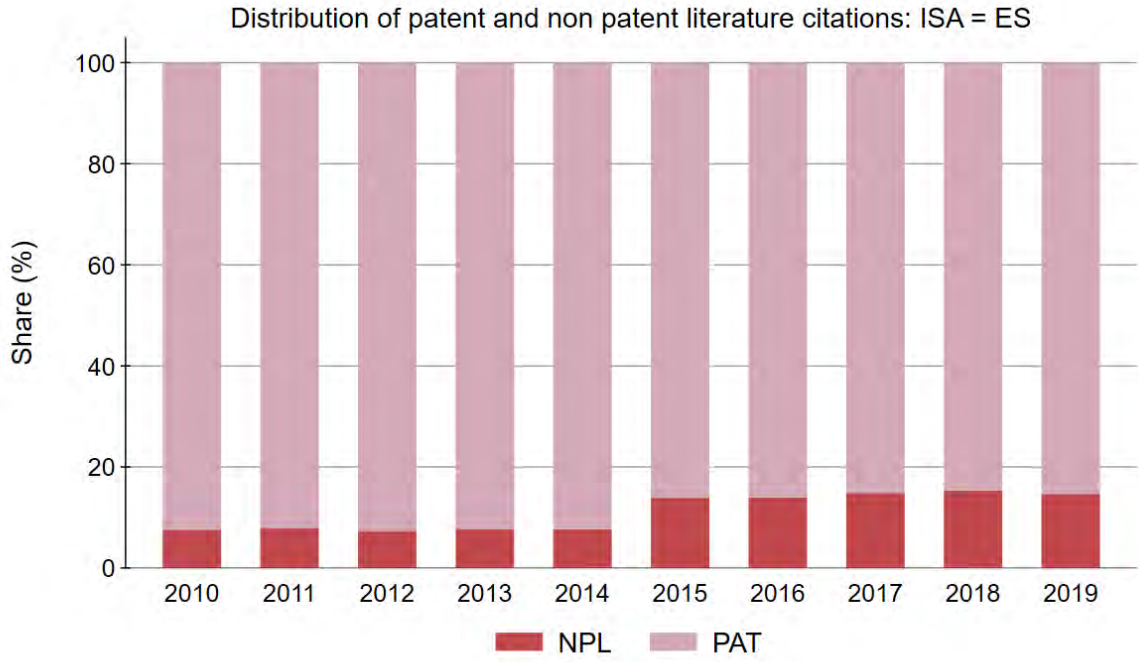
2.9: DISTRIBUTION OF PATENT & NON PATENT LITERATURE CITATIONS

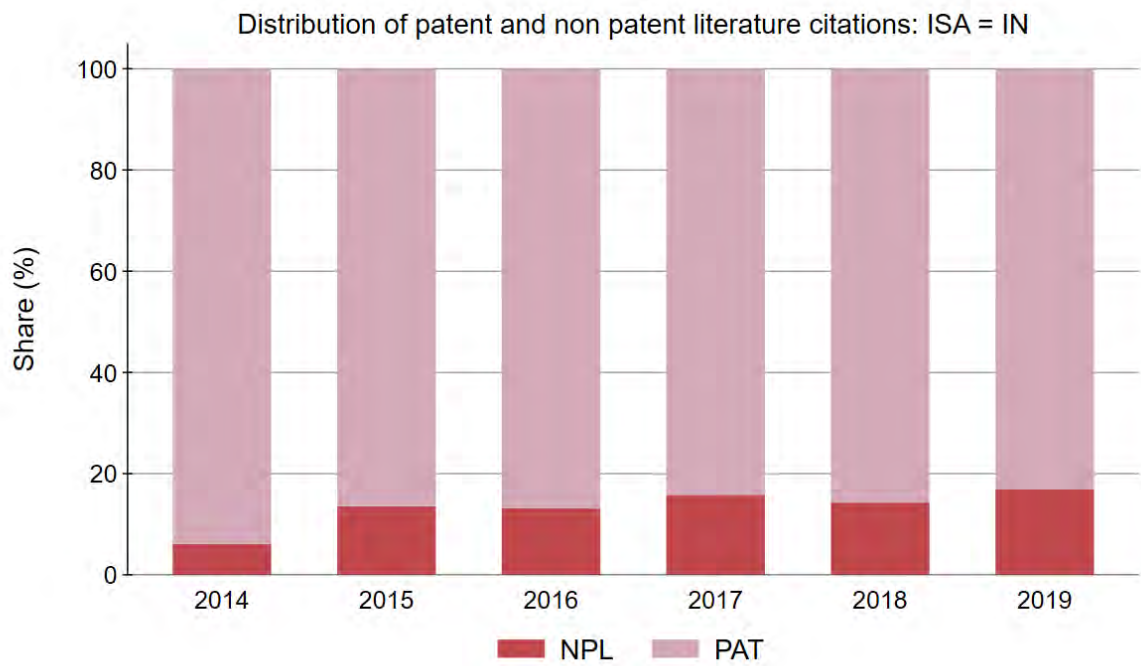
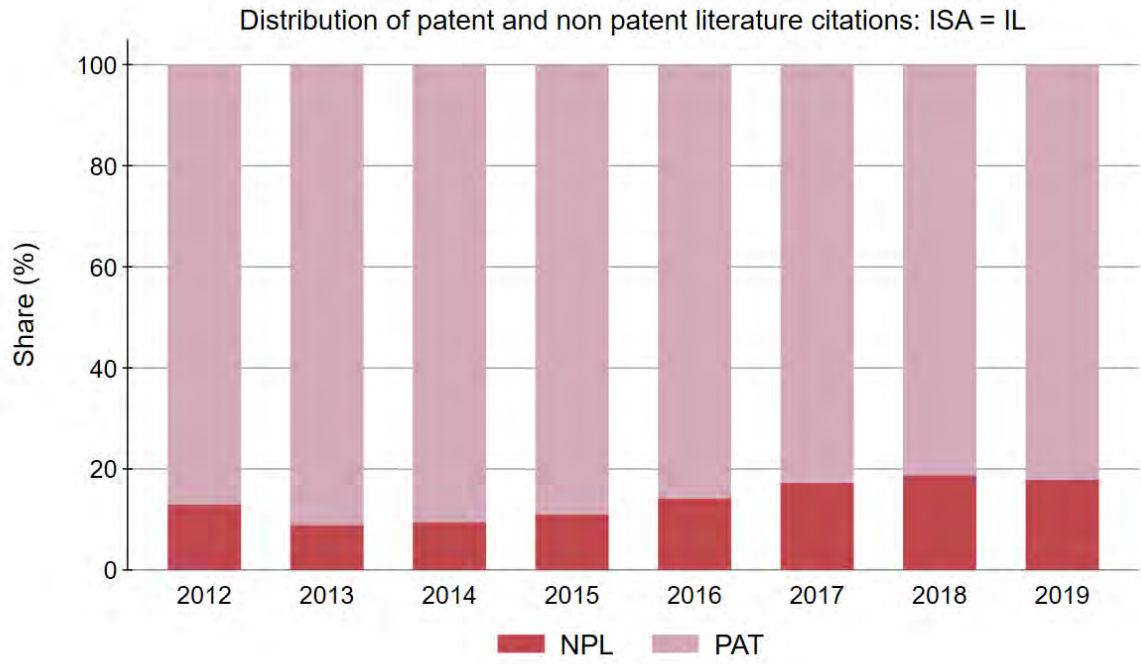


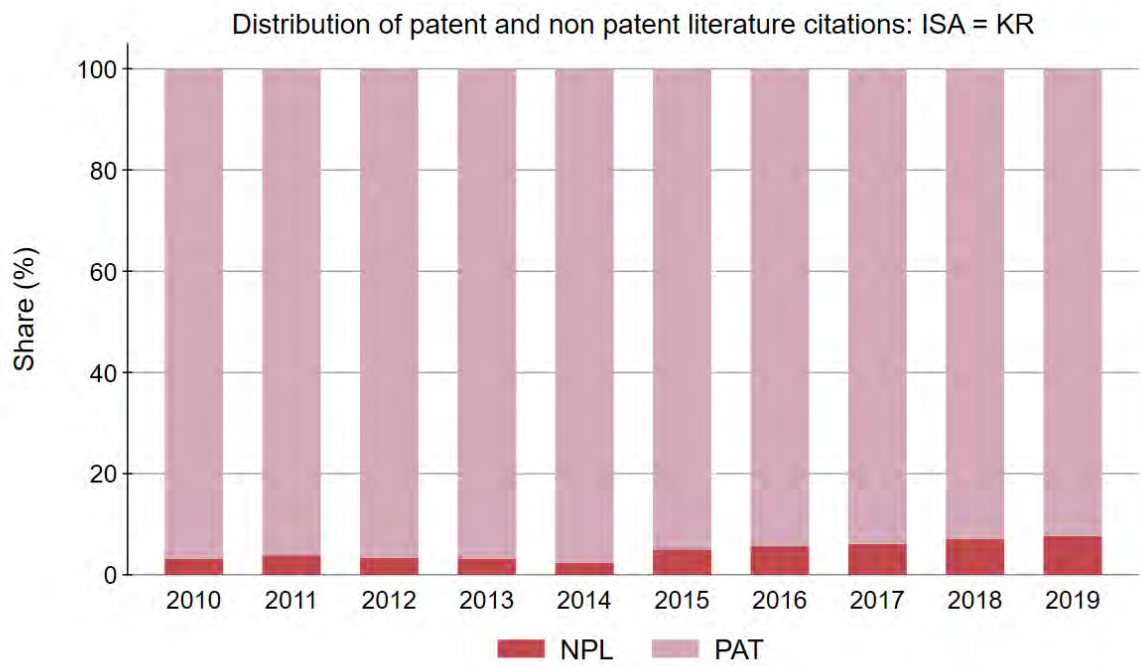
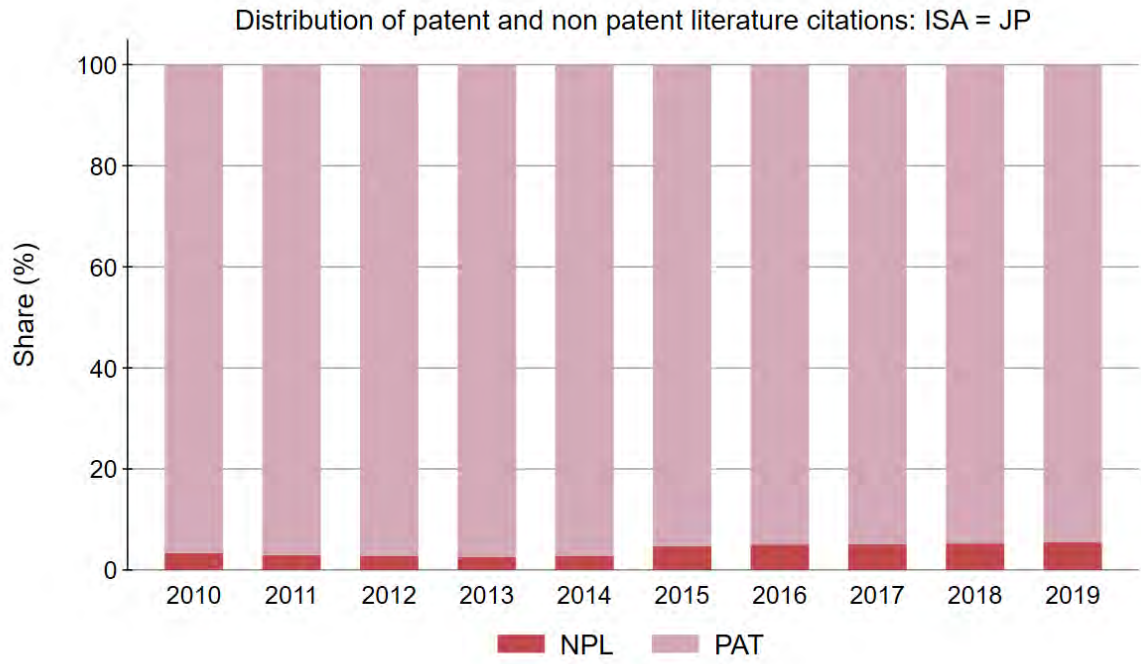


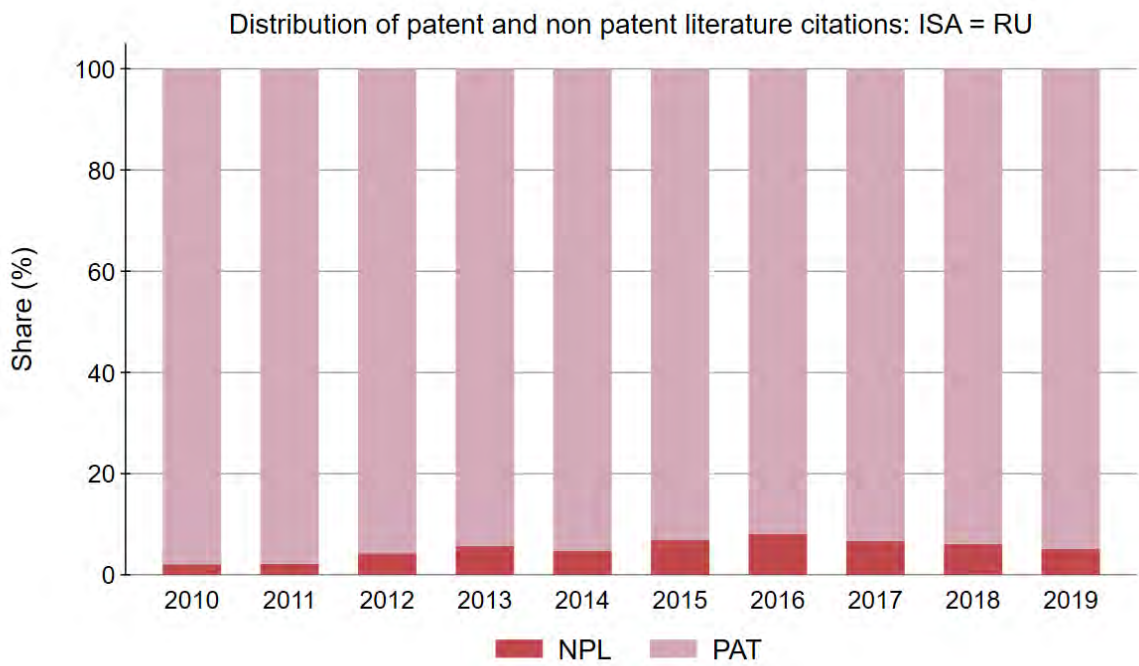
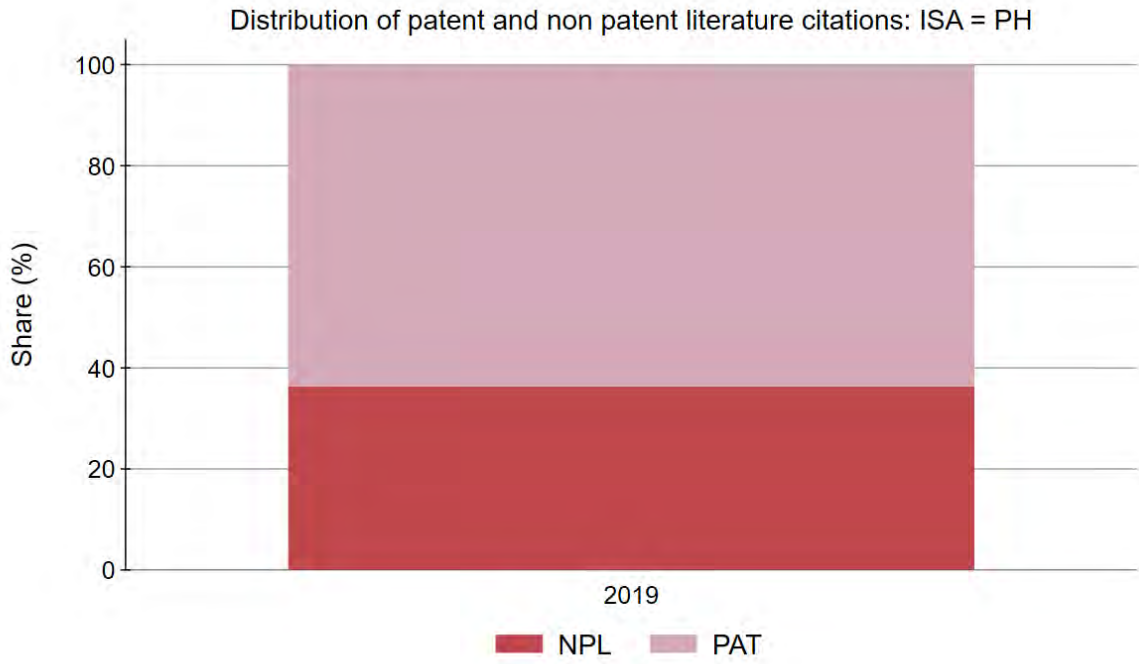


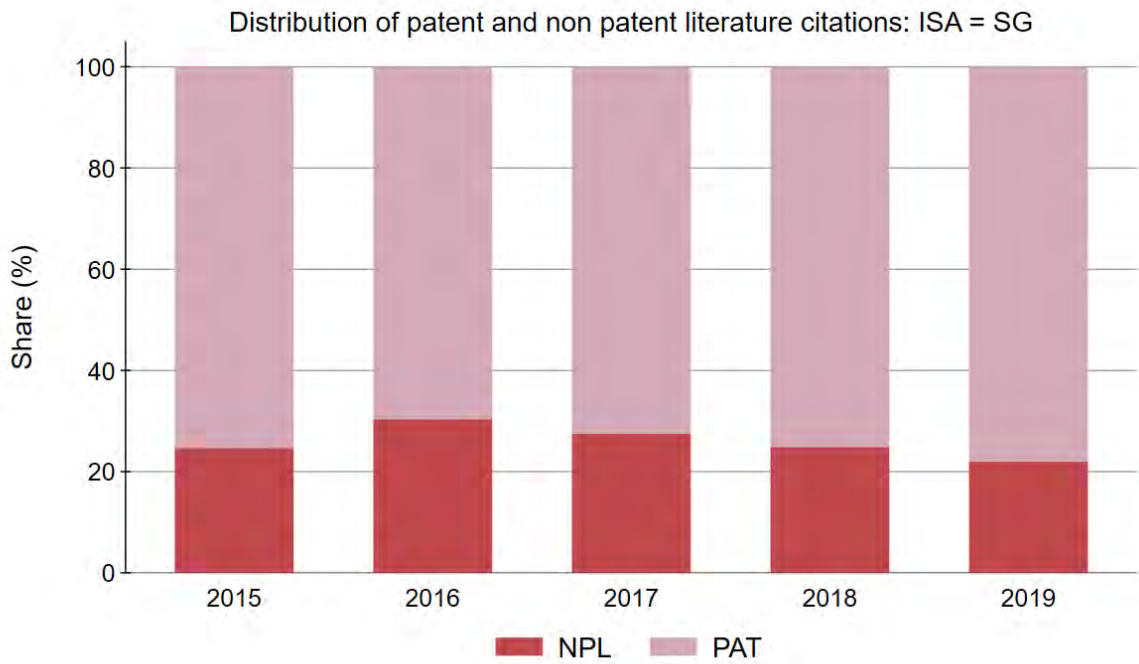
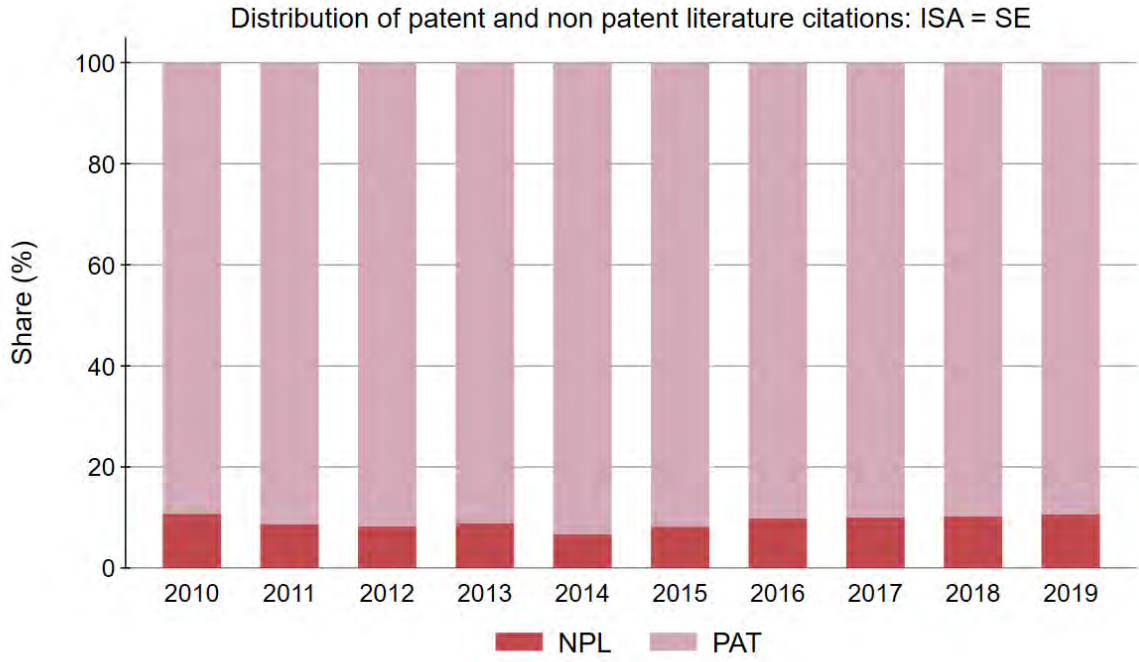


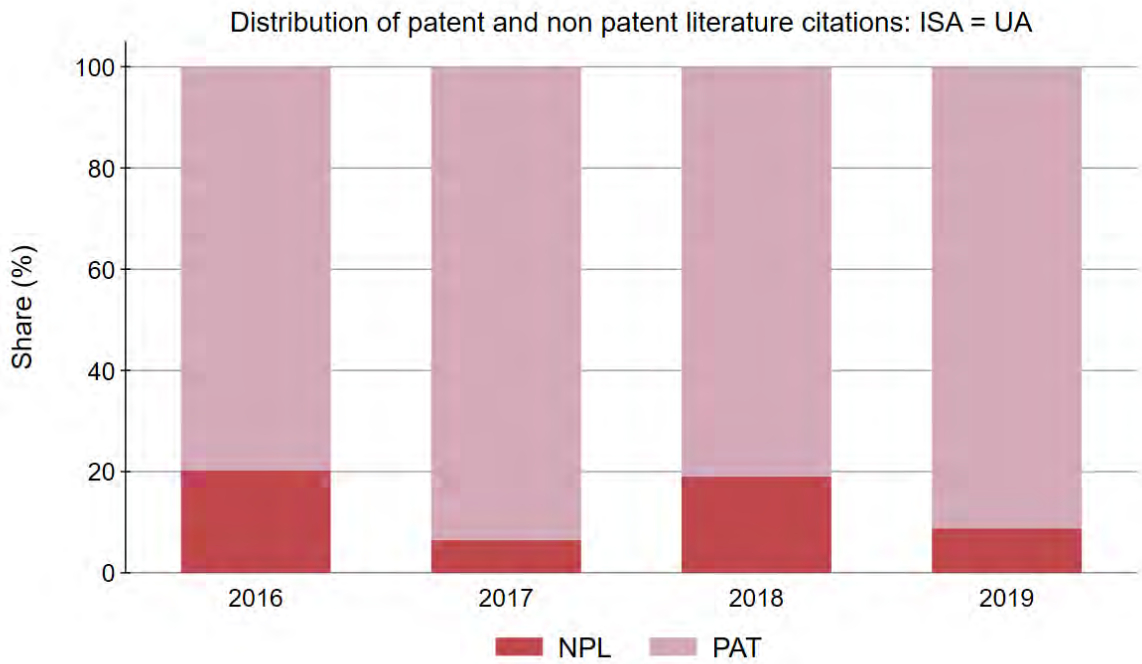
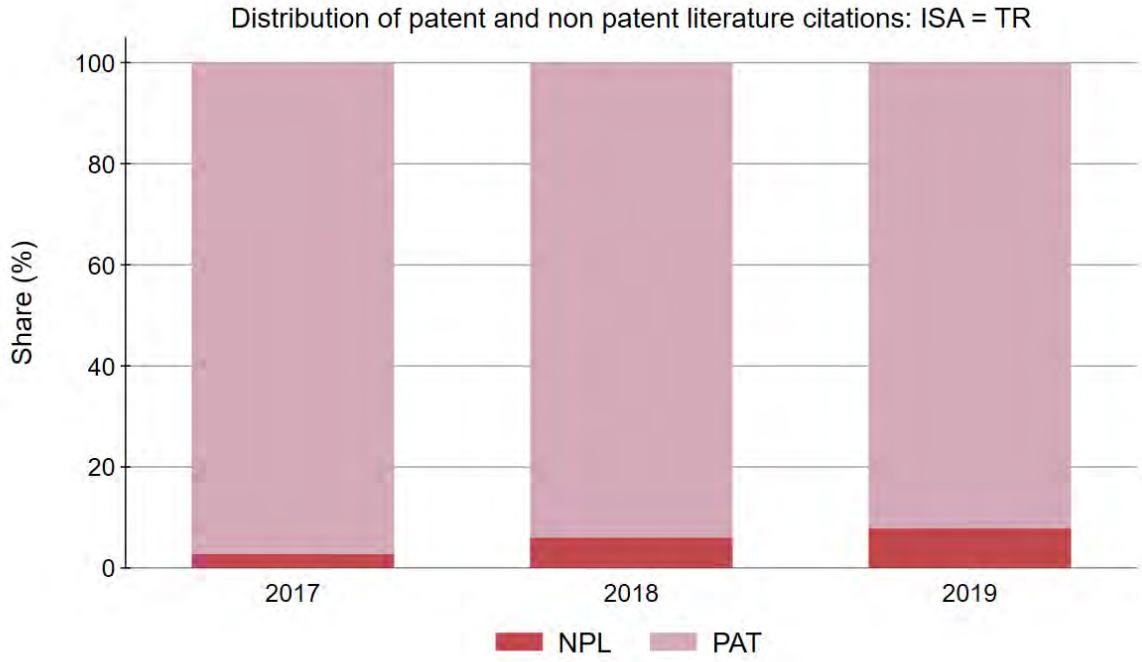


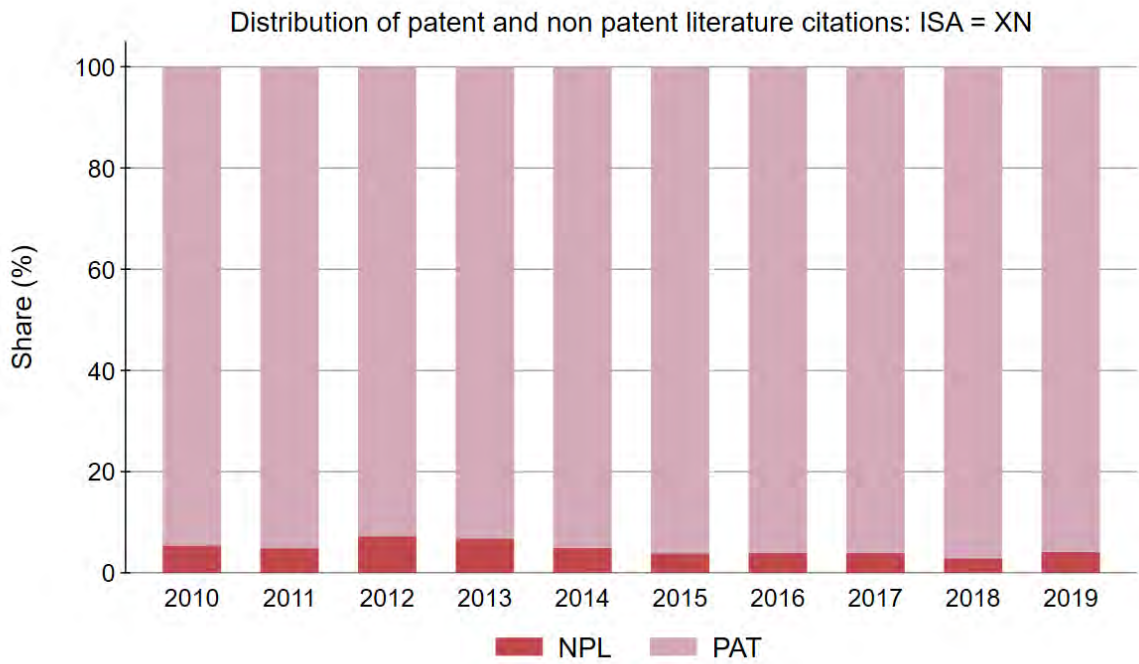
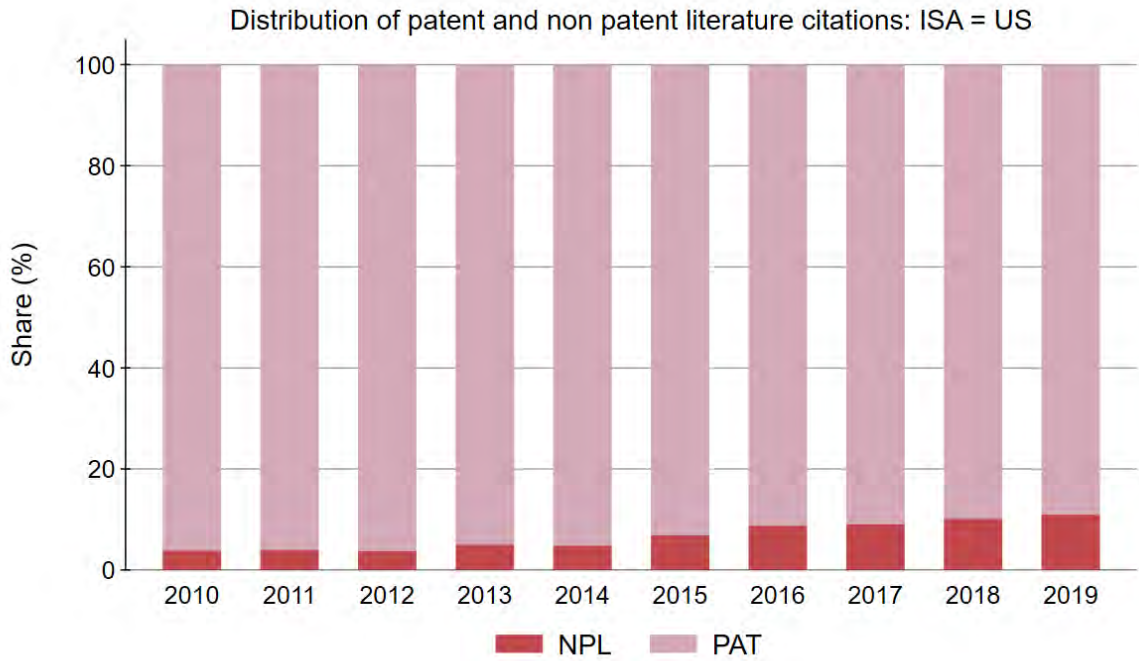


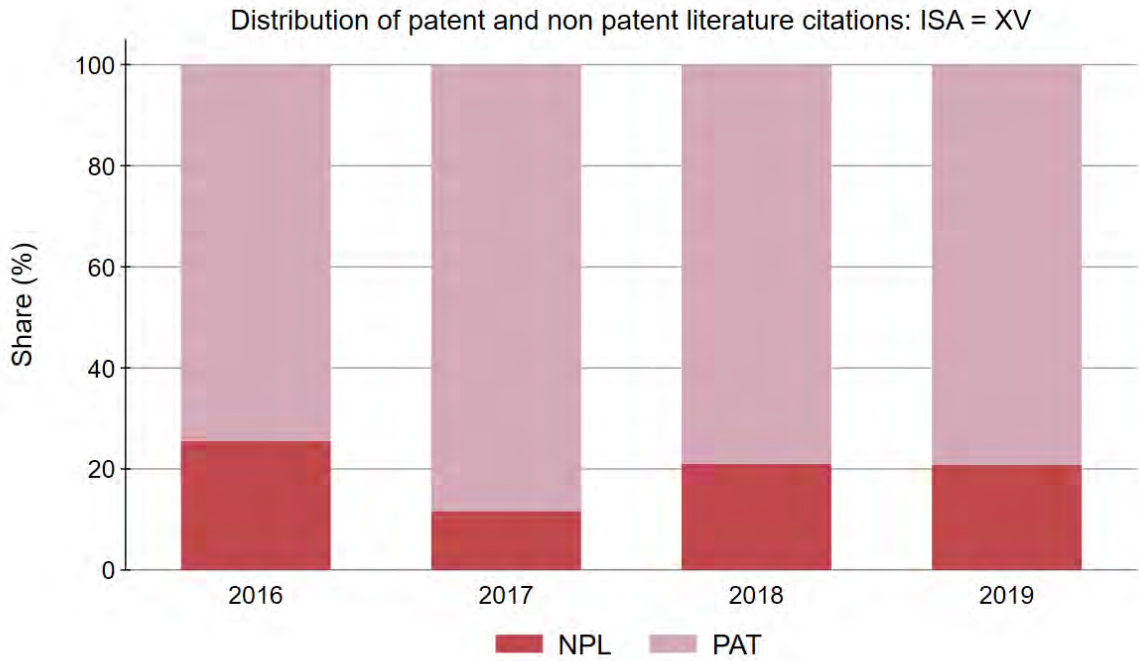




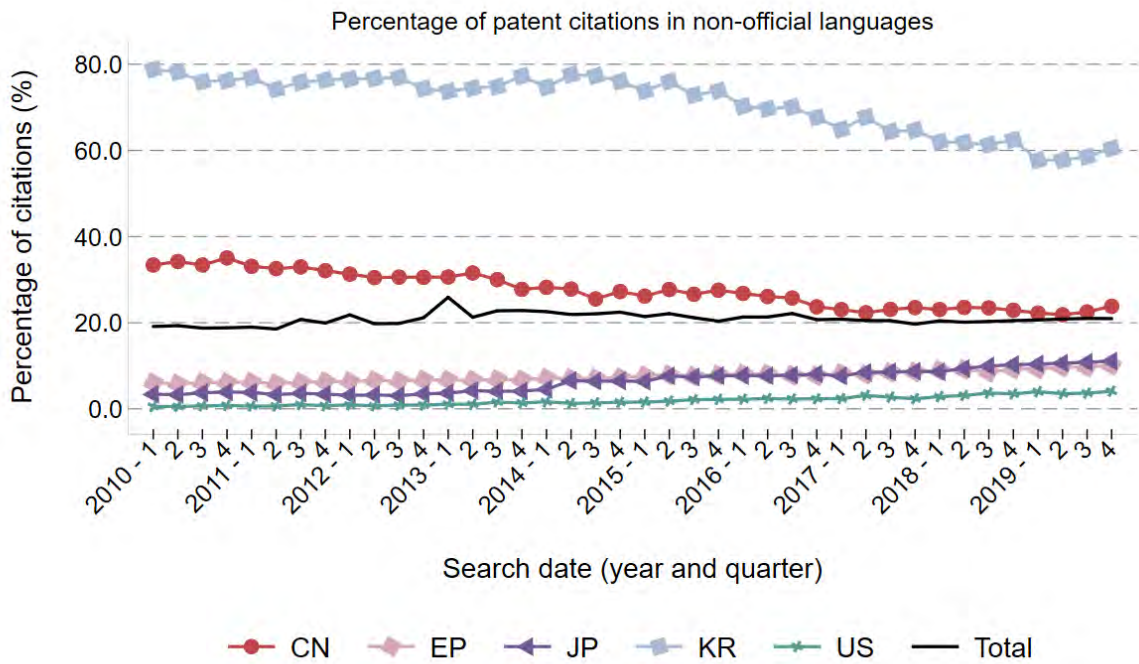


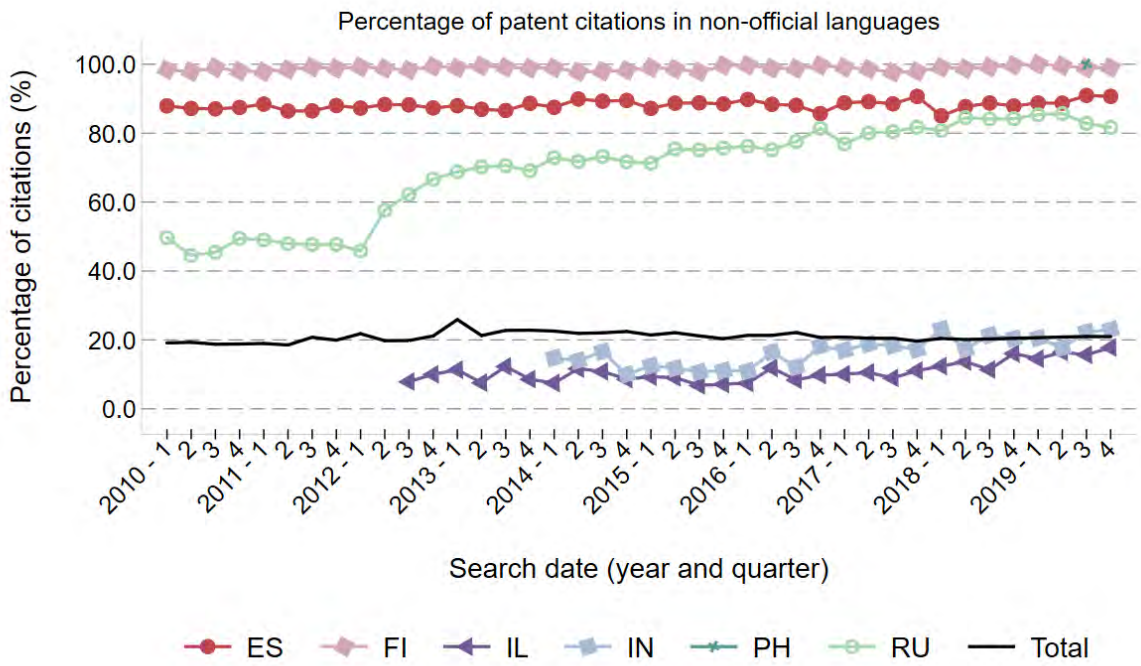
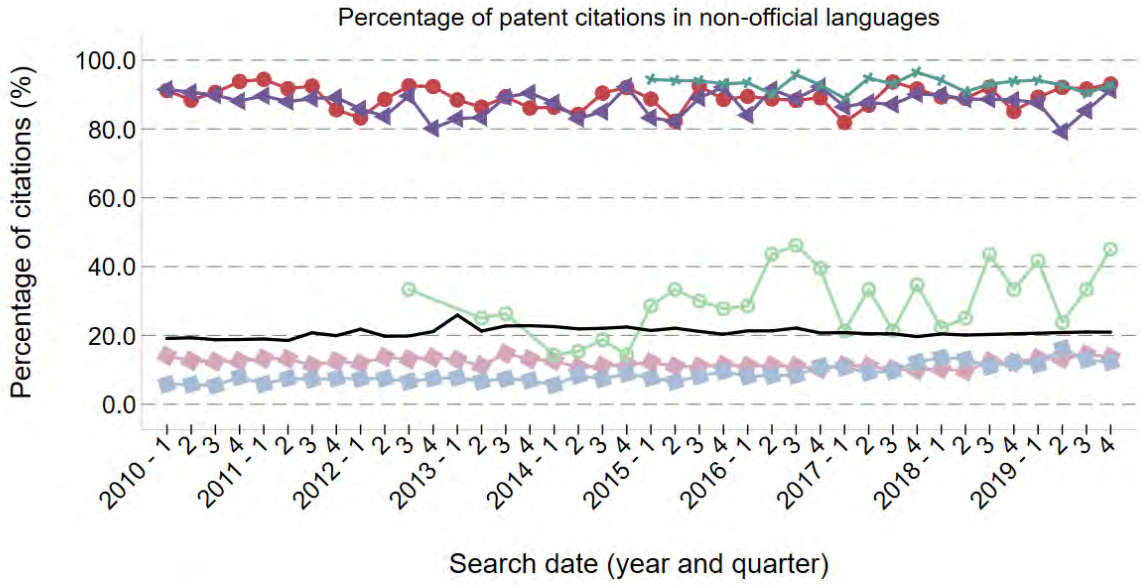


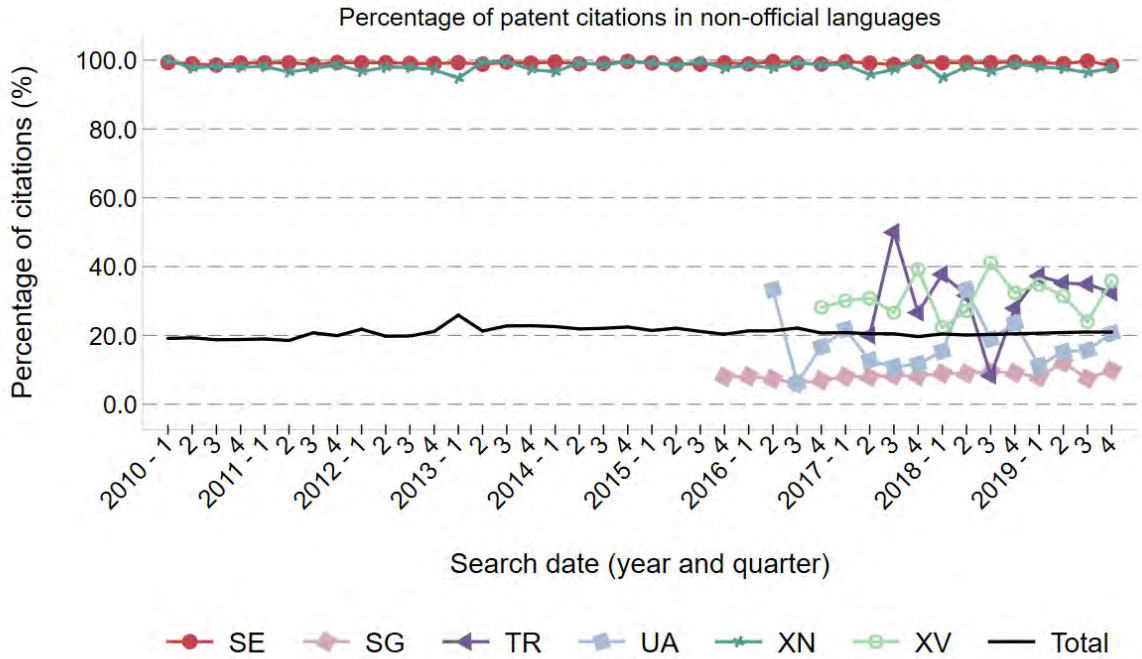




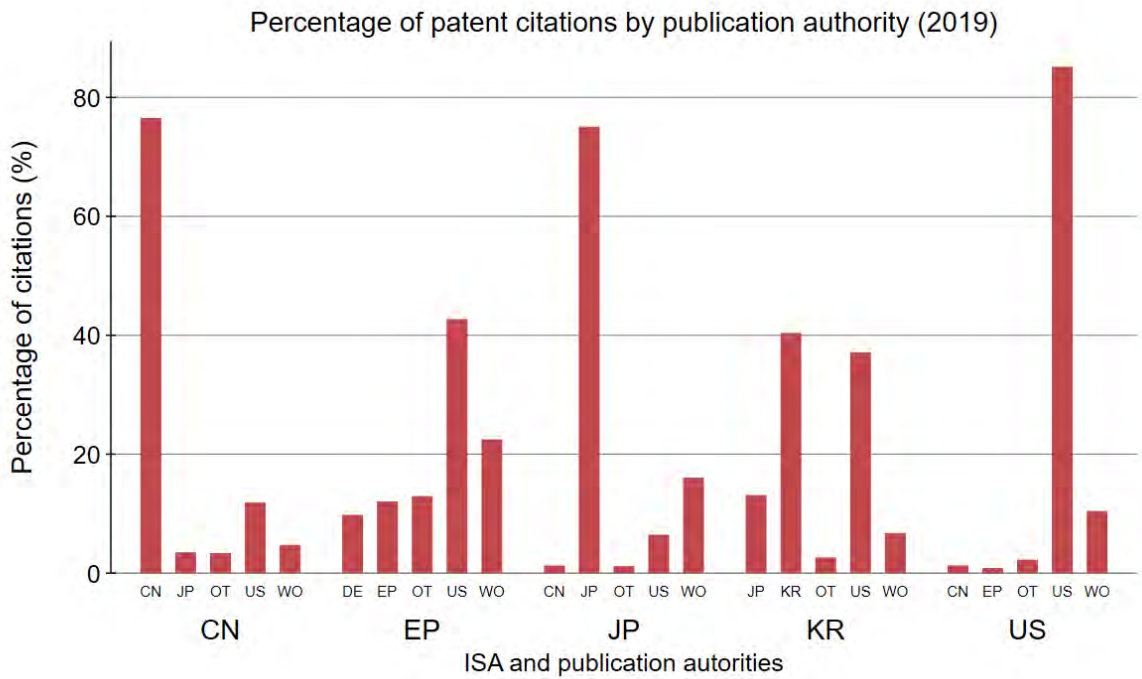
3.1: PERCENTAGE OF PATENT CITATIONS IN NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

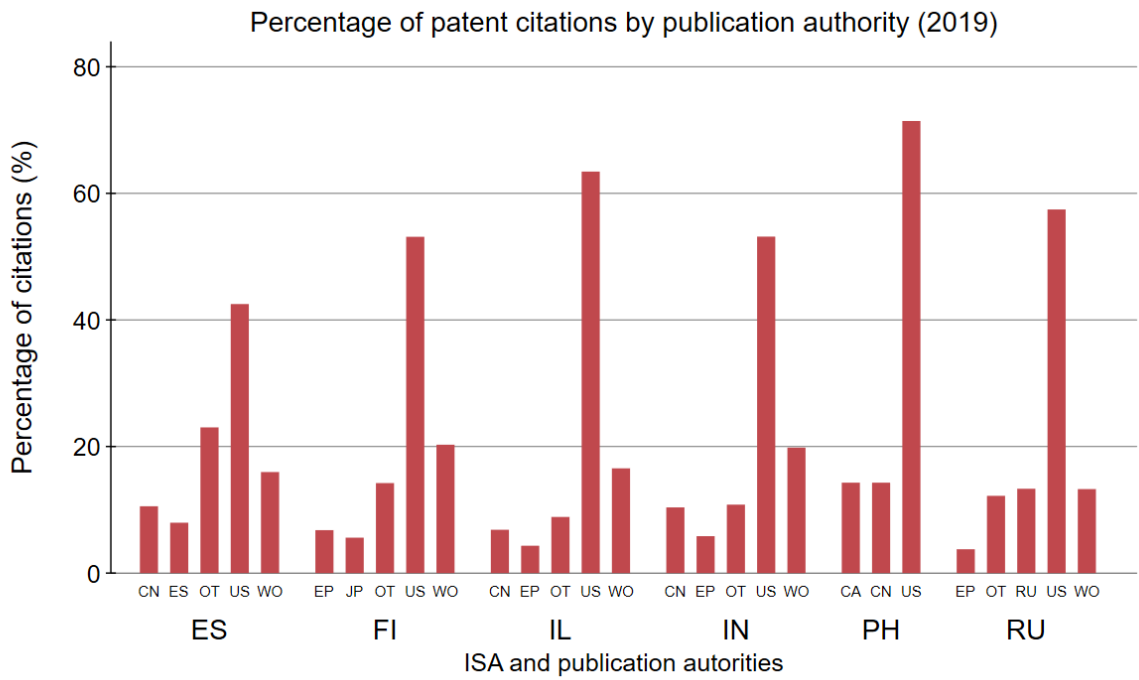
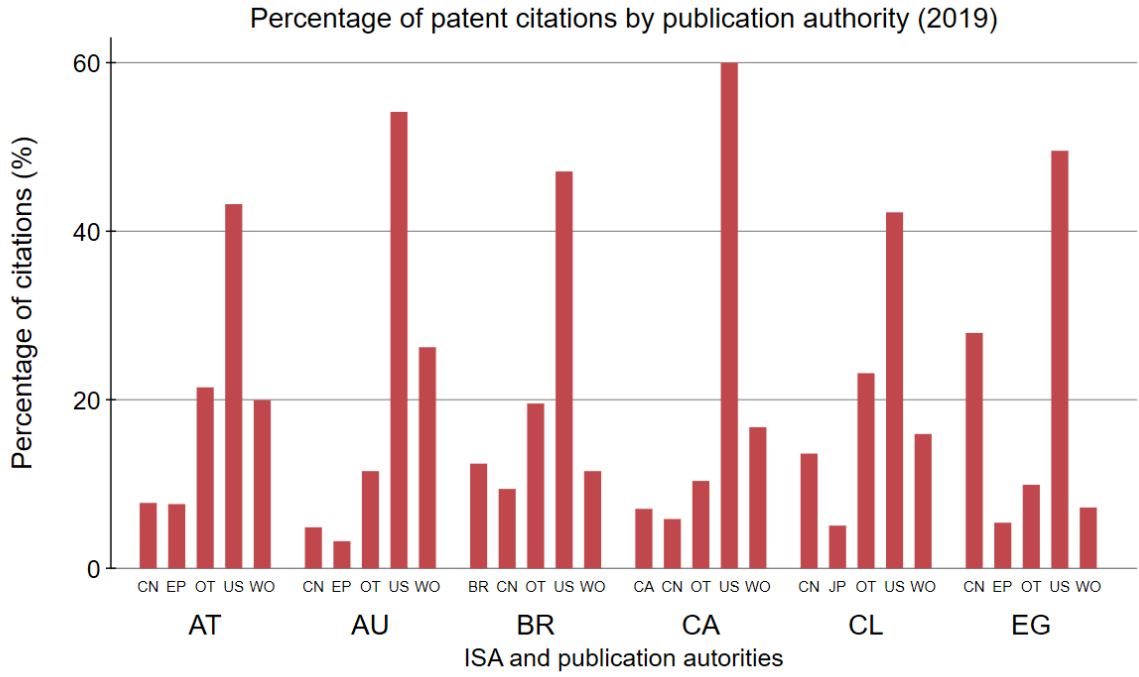


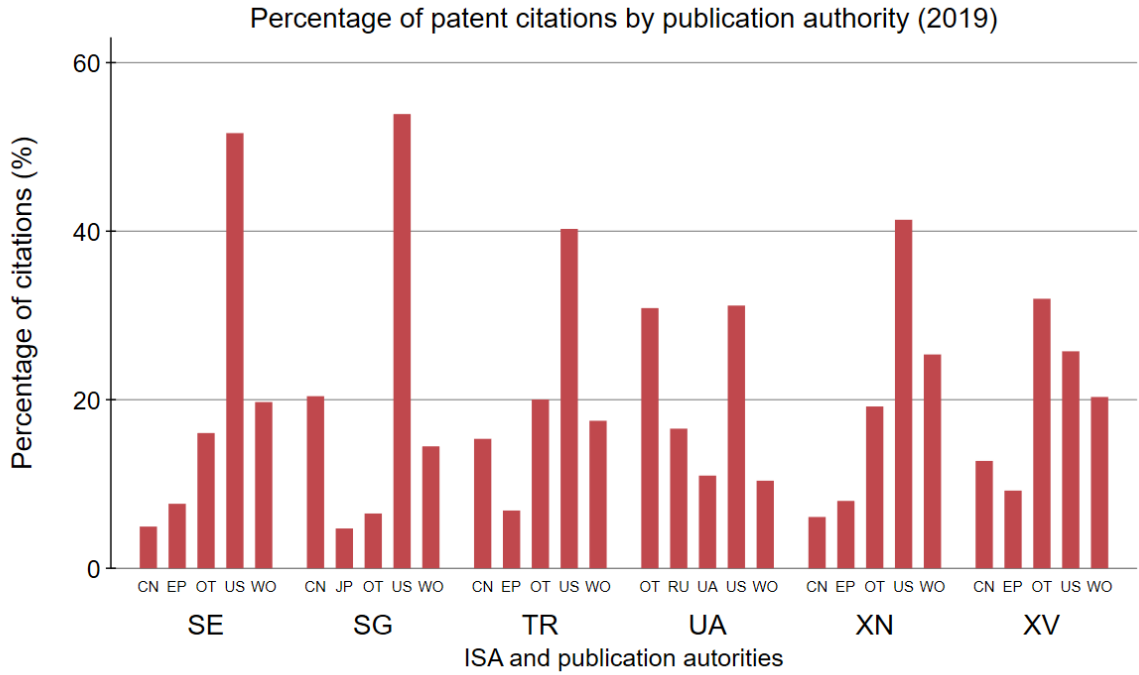




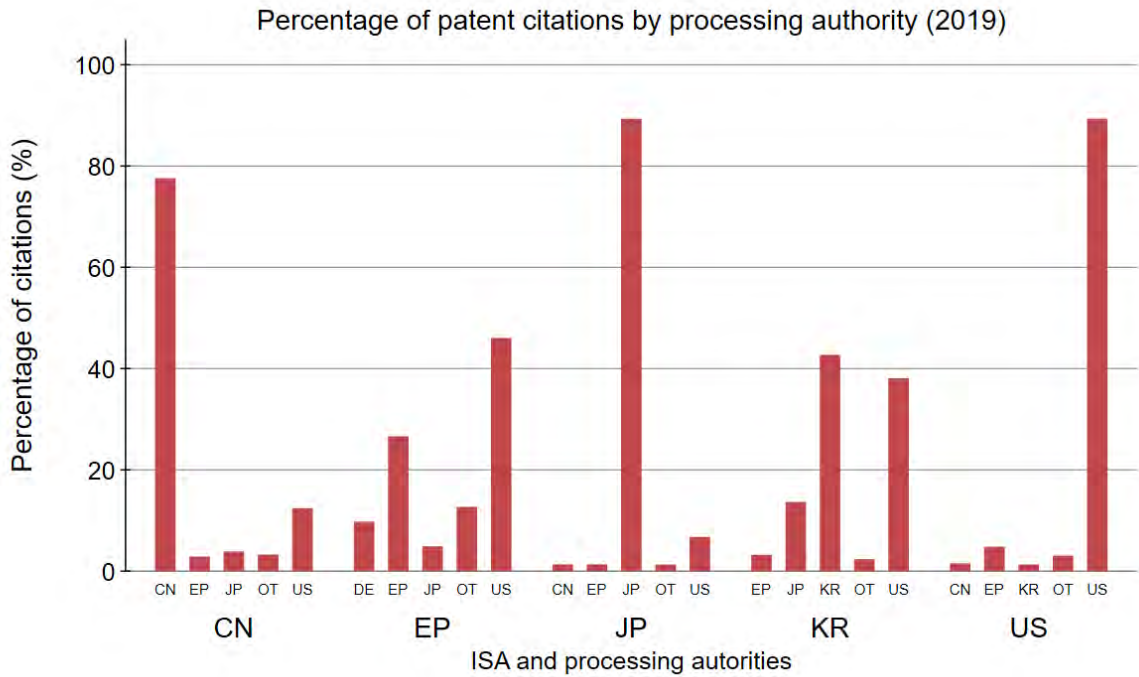
3.2: PERCENTAGE OF PATENT CITATIONS BY TOP PUBLICATION AUTHORITIES

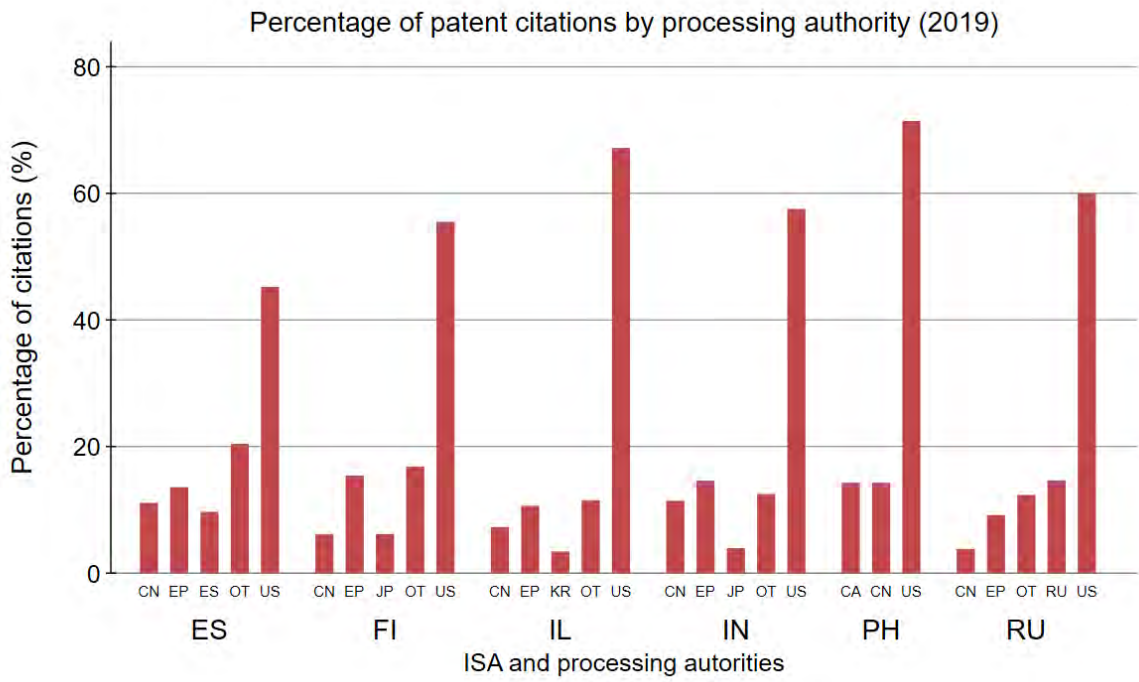
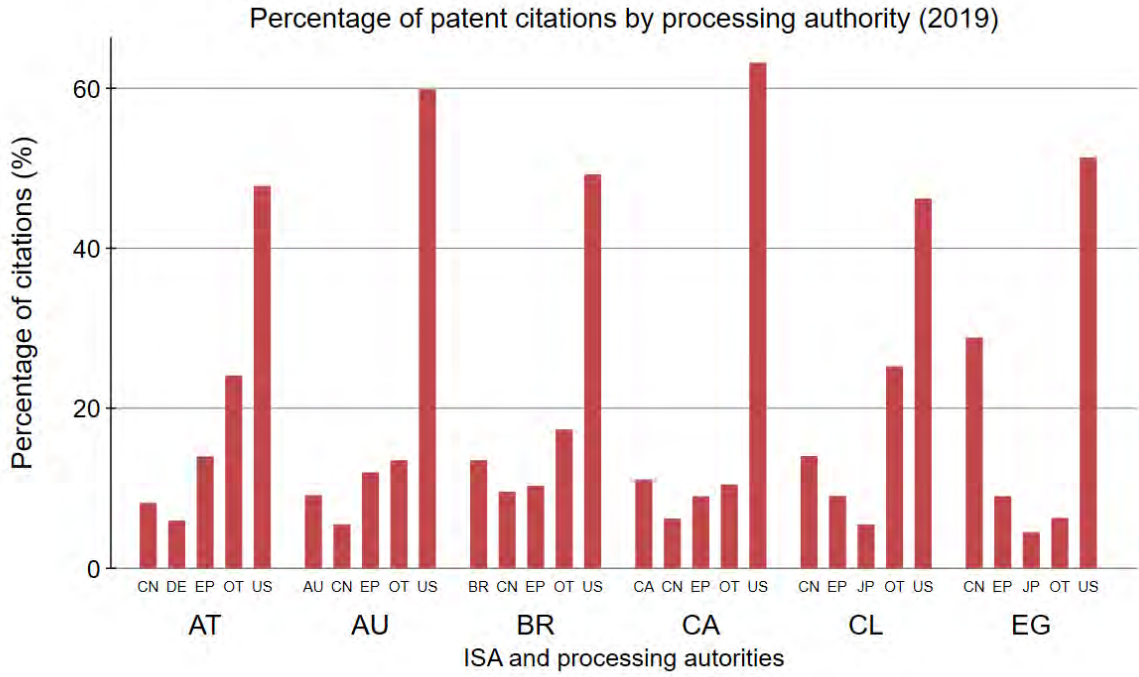


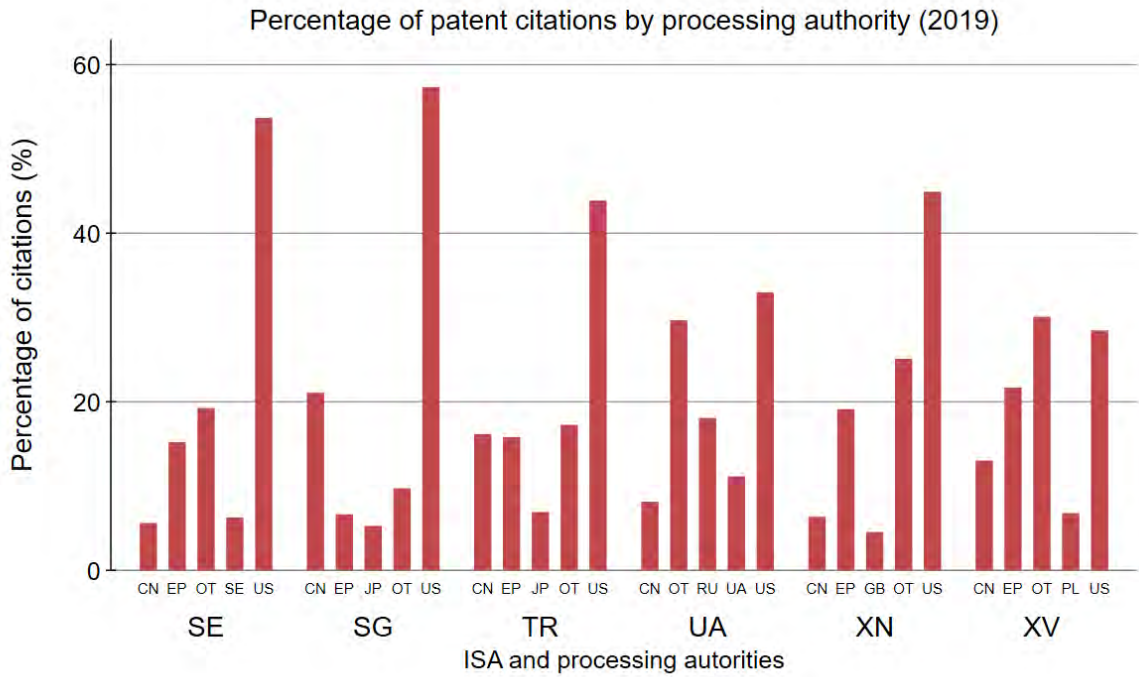




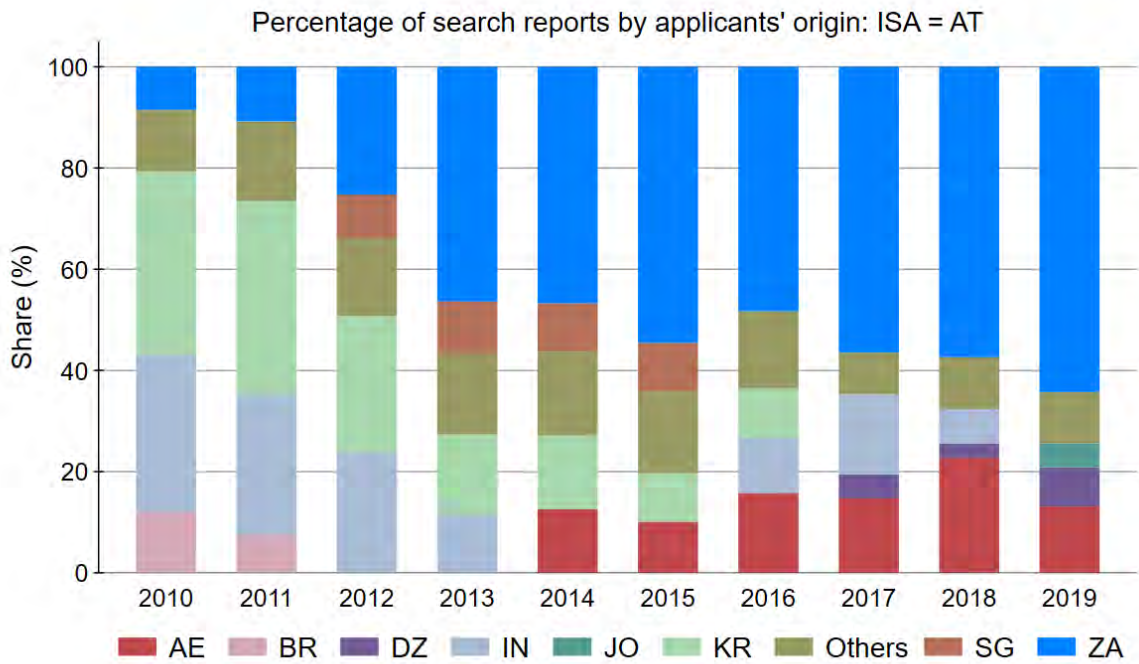
3.3: PERCENTAGE OF PATENT CITATIONS BY PROCESSING AUTHORITIES

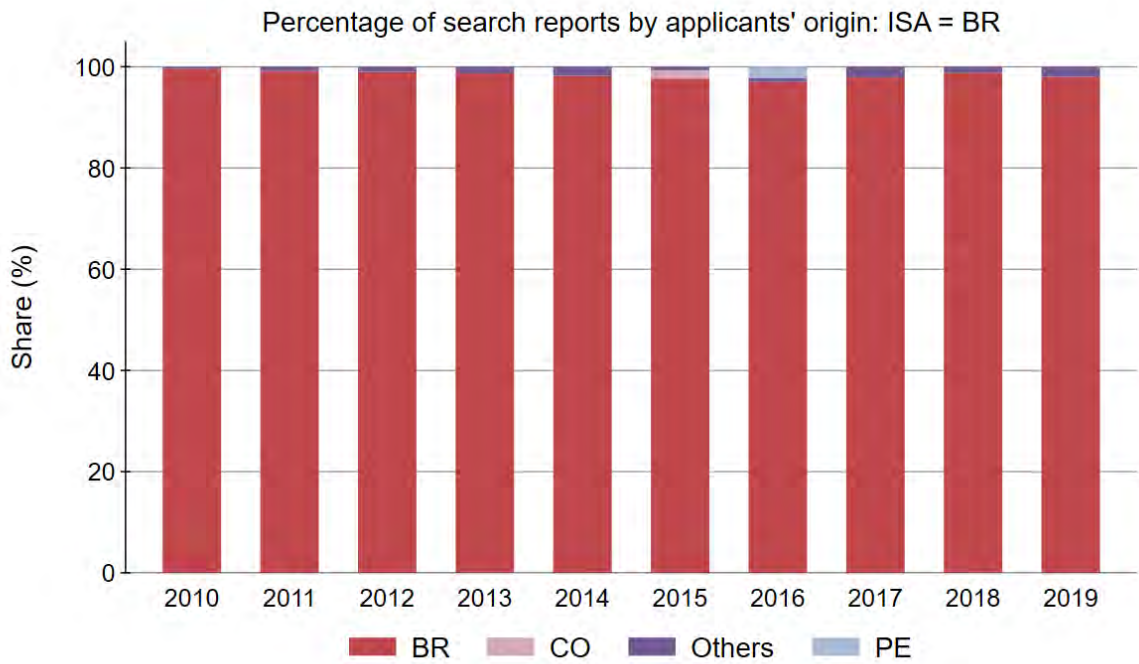
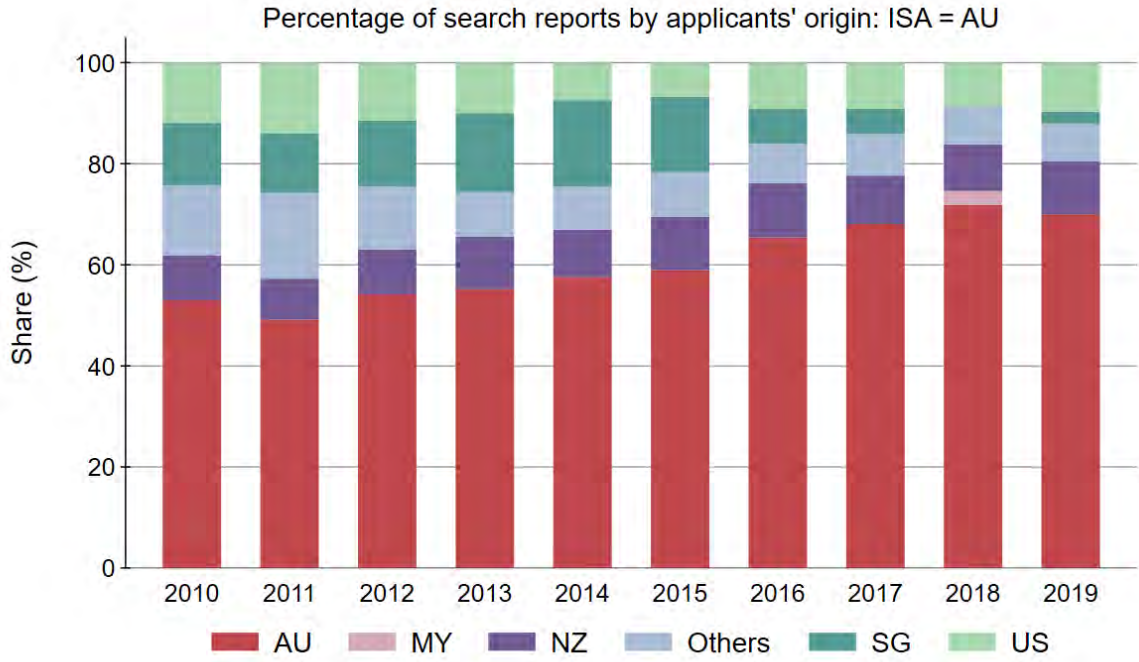


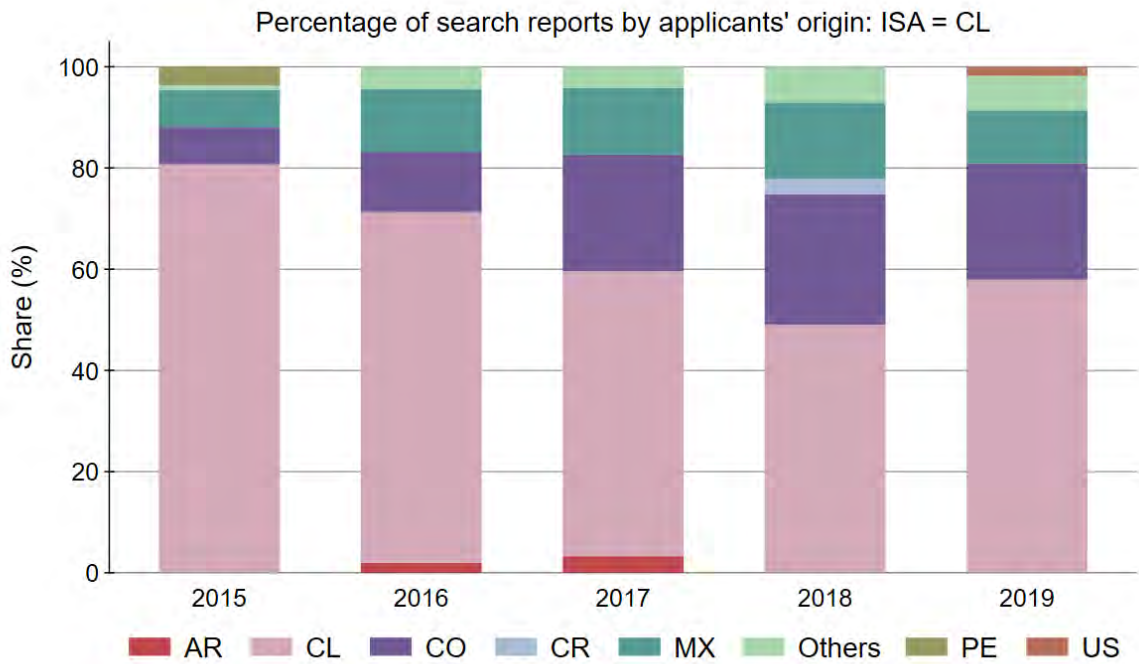
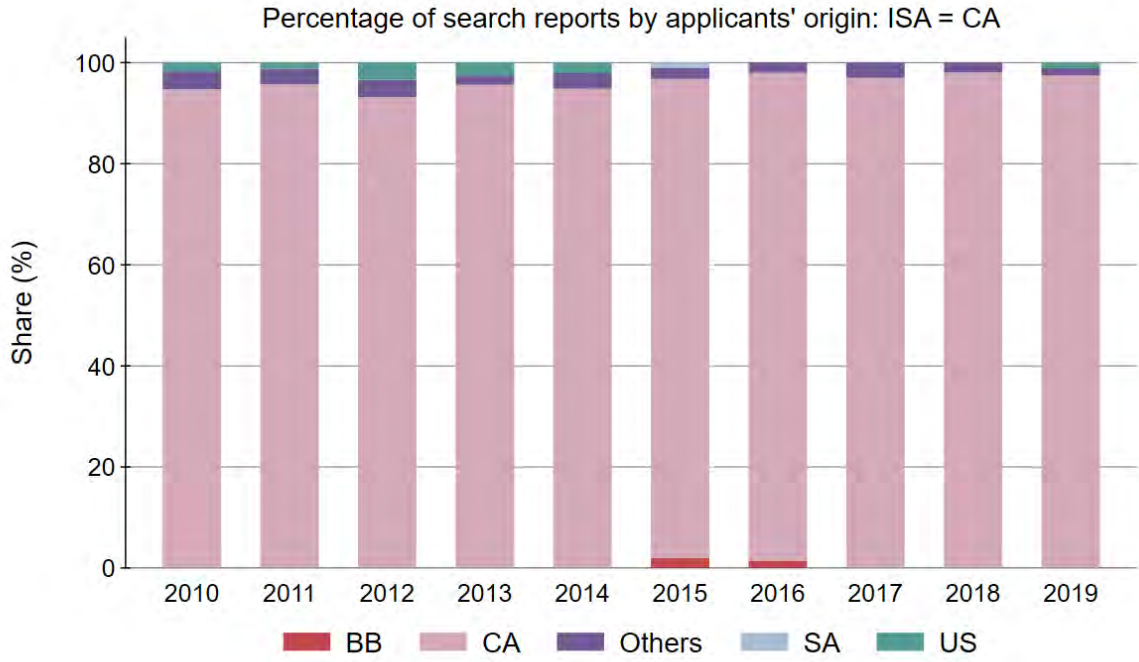


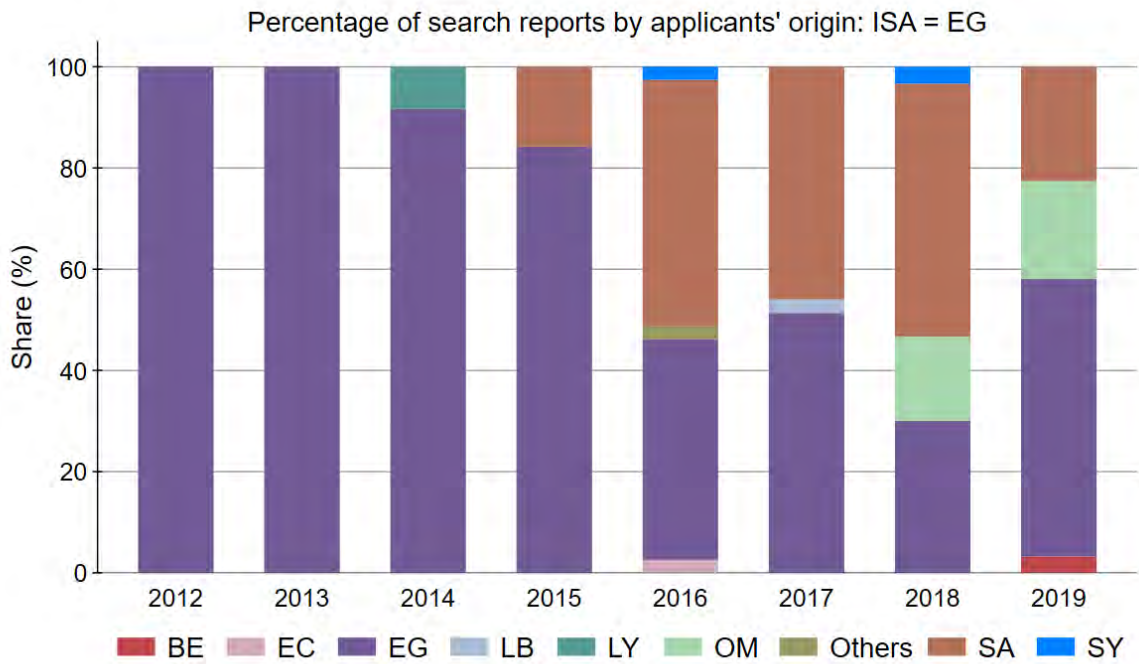
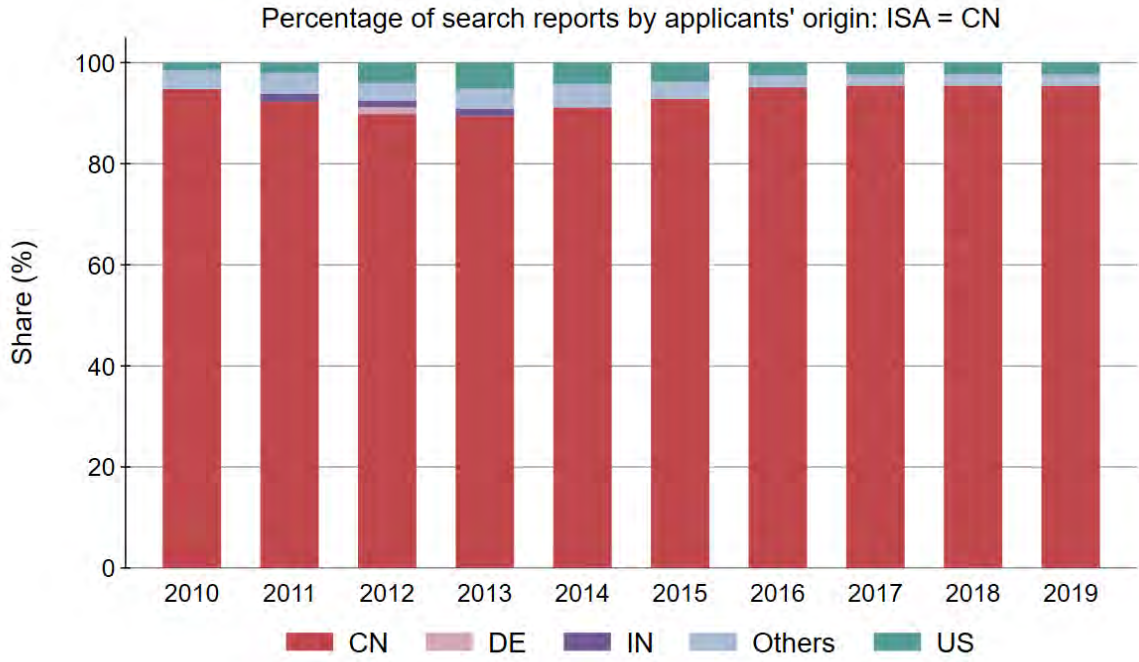


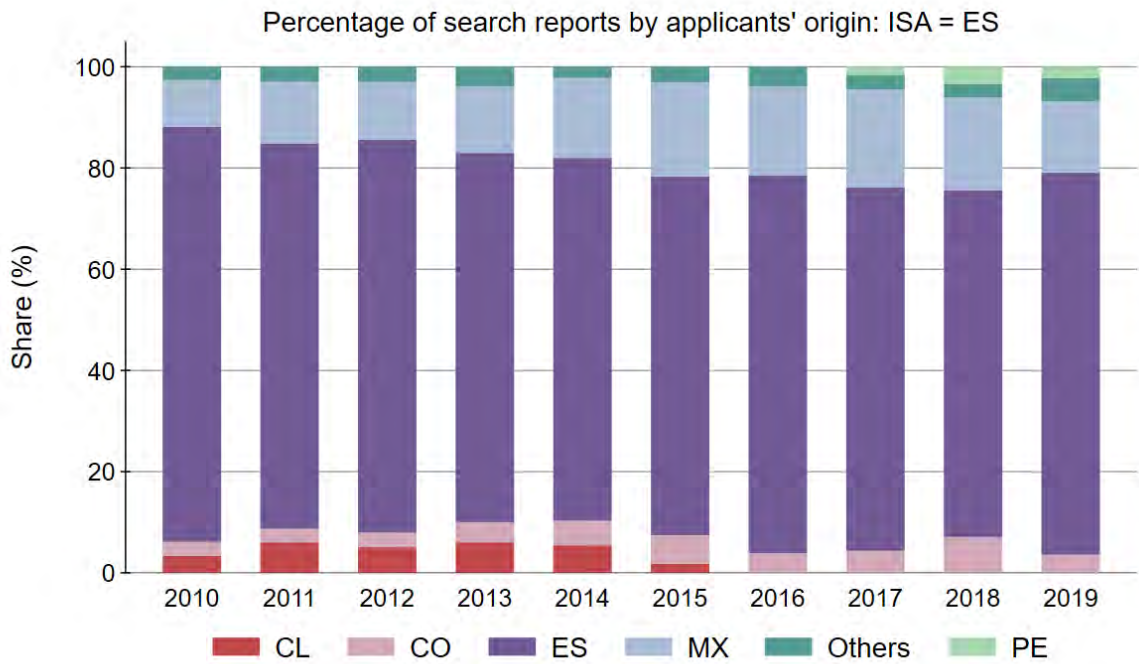
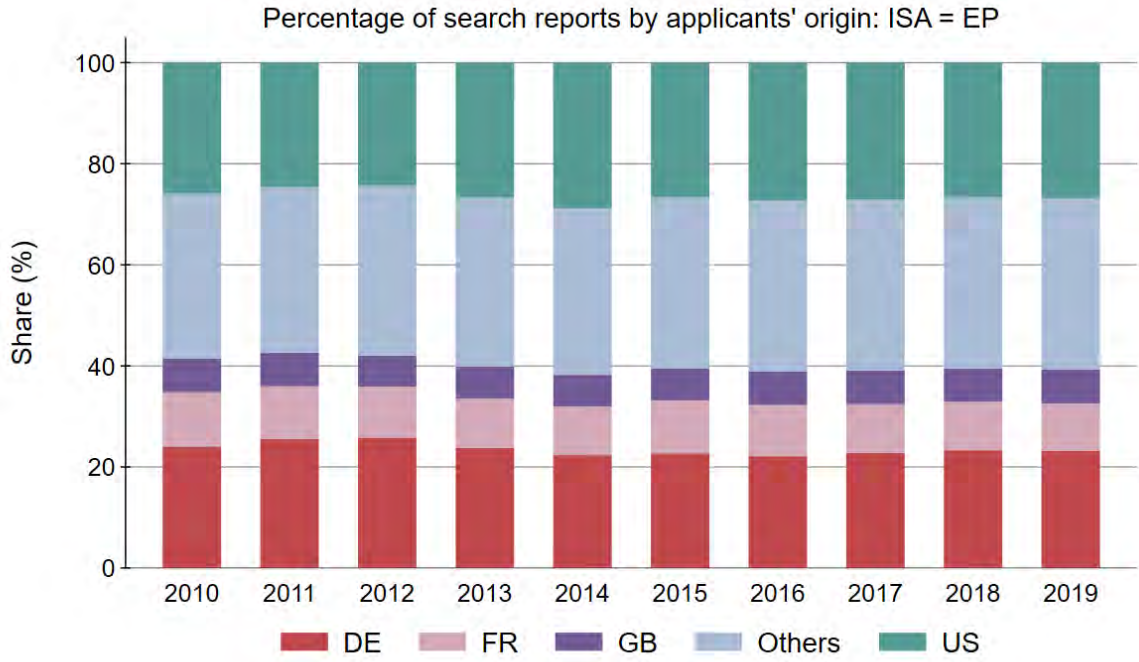
3.4: PERCENTAGE OF PCT SEARCH REPORTS BY TOP APPLICANT'S ORIGIN

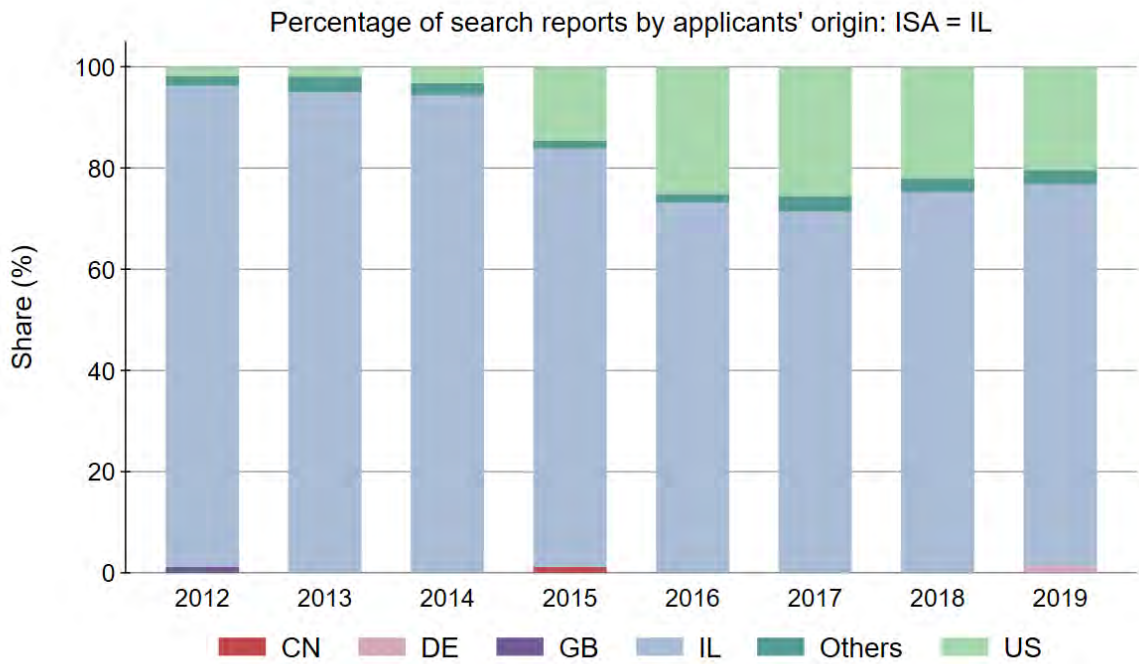
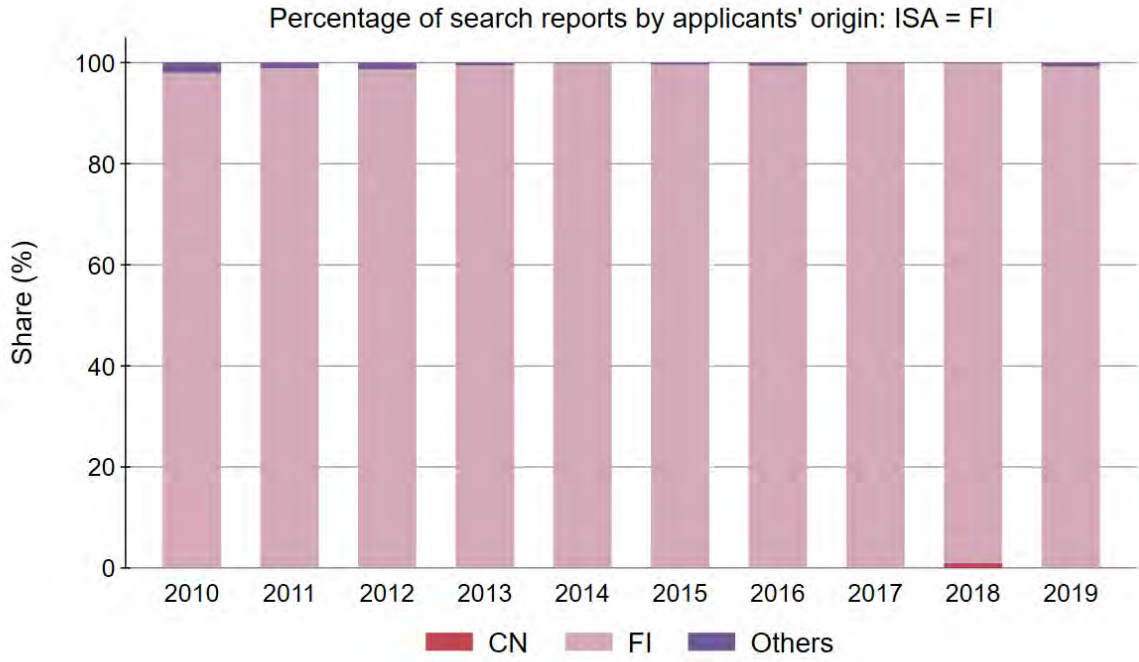


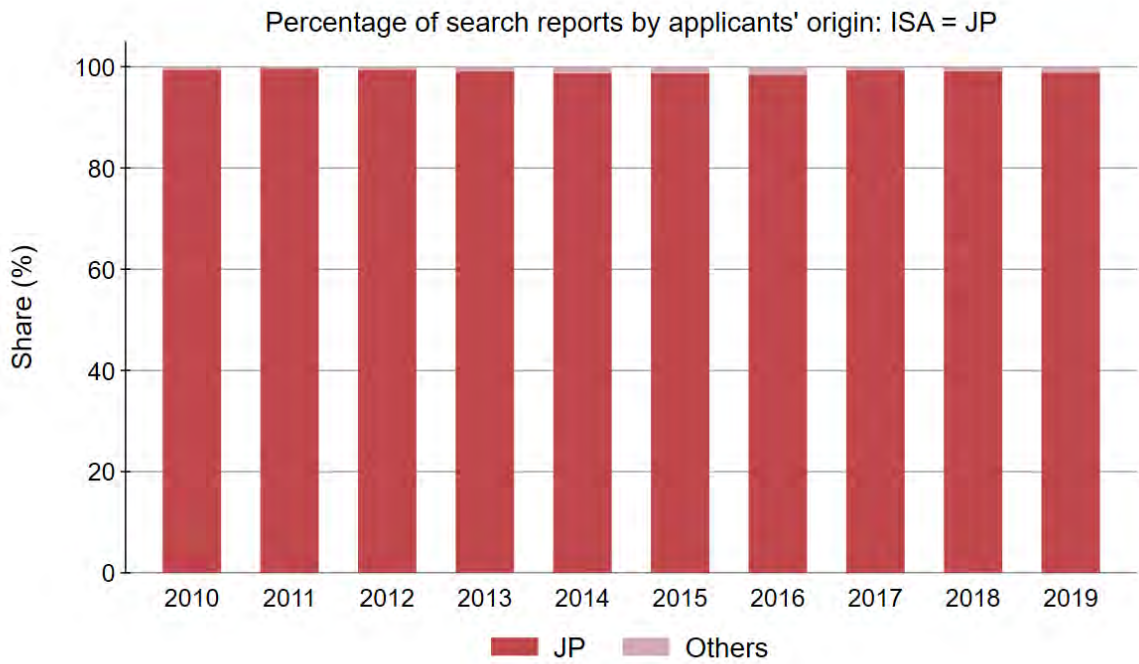
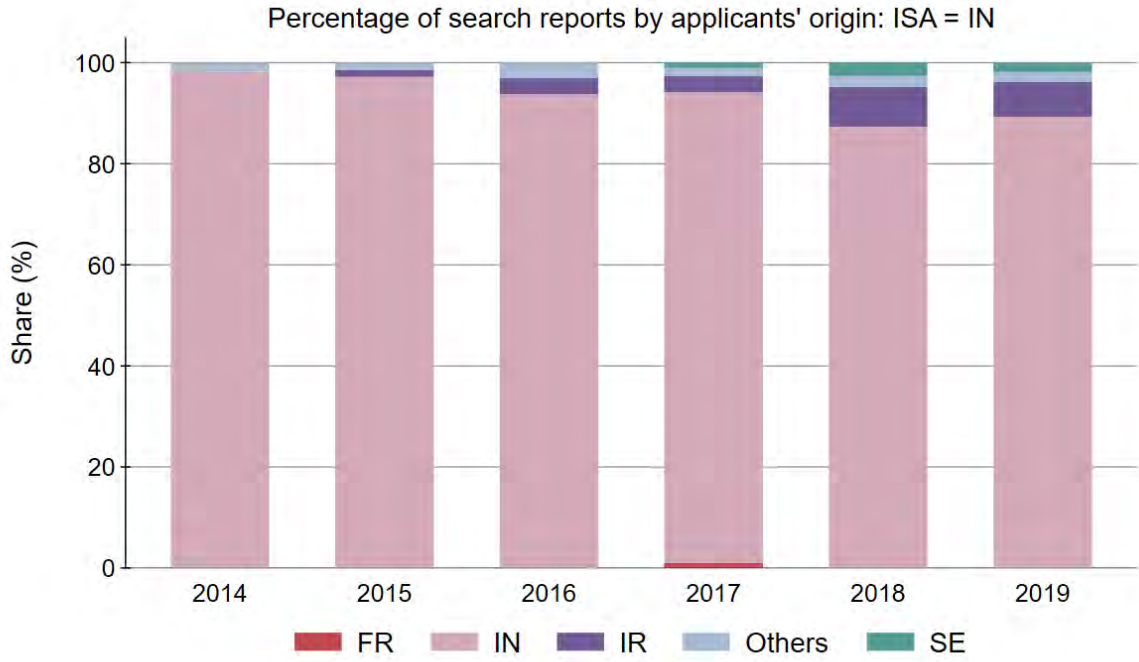


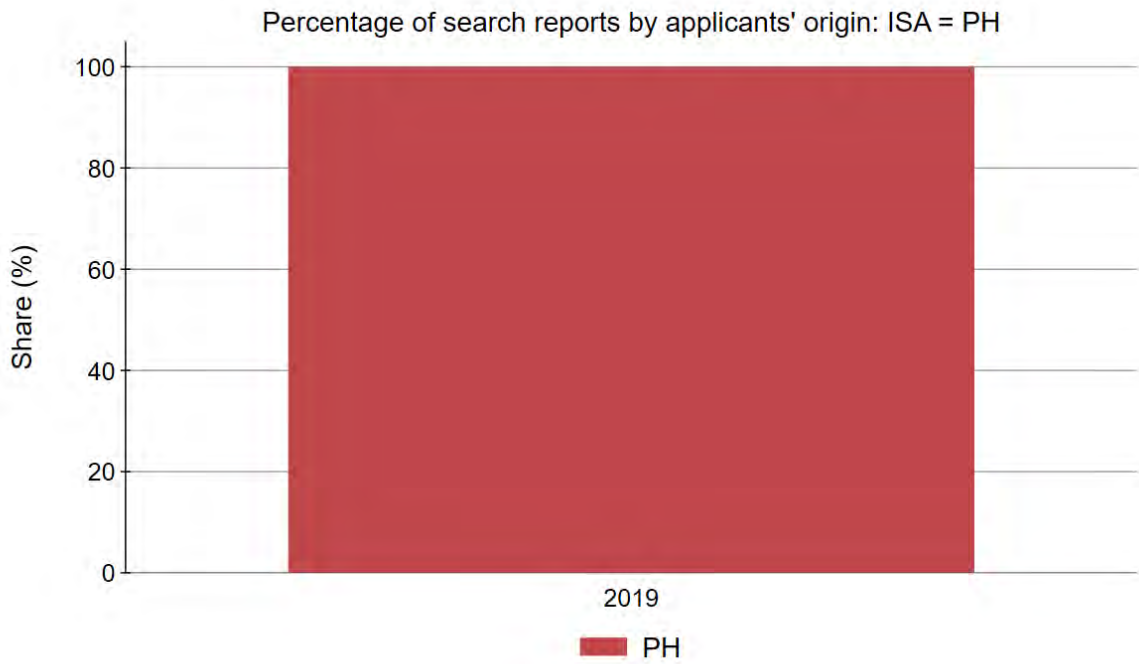
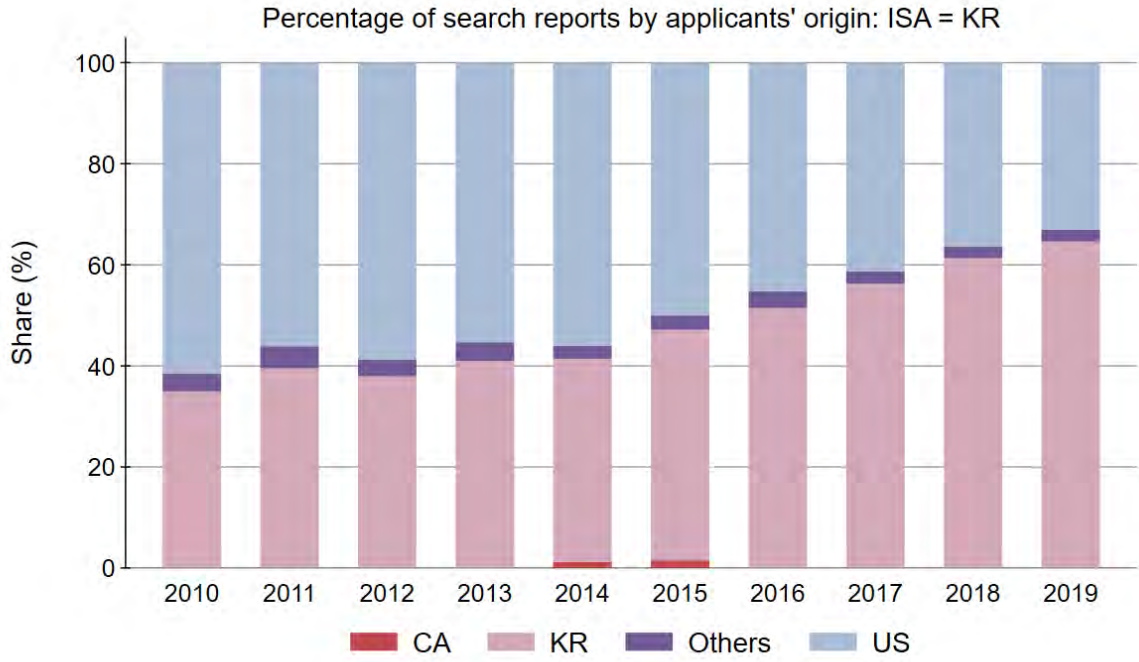


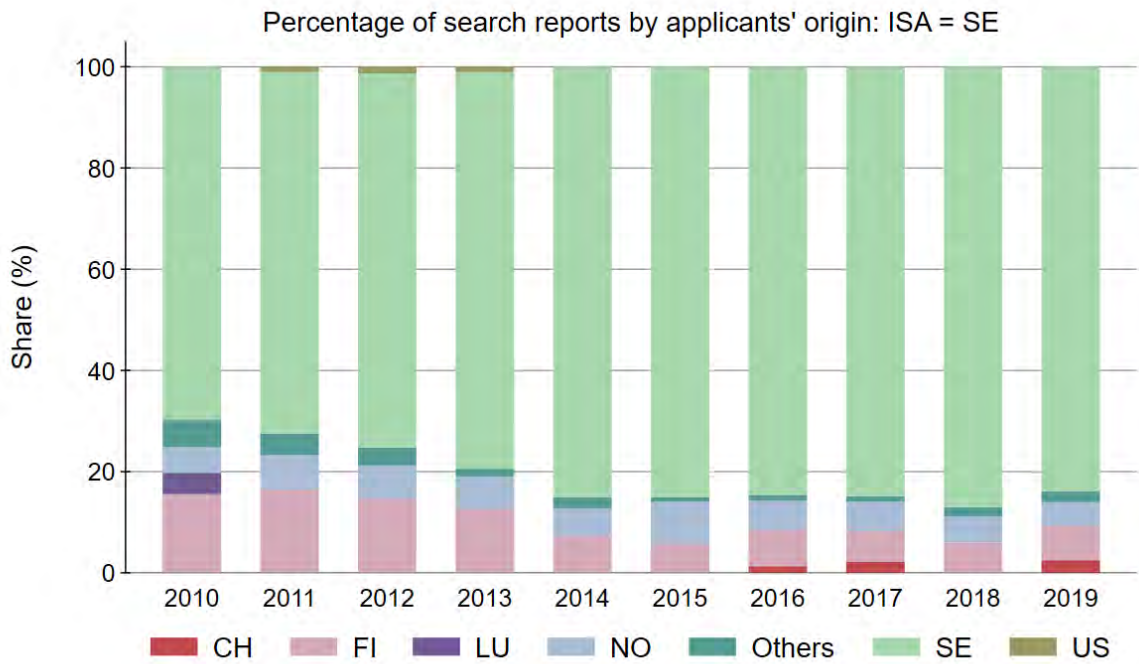
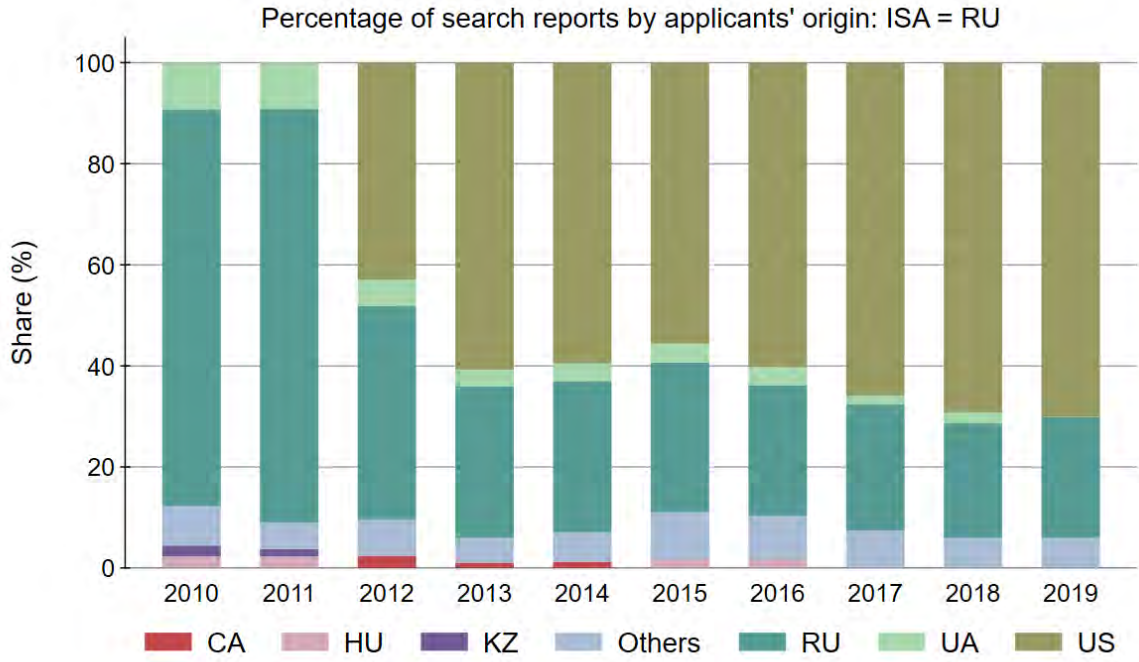


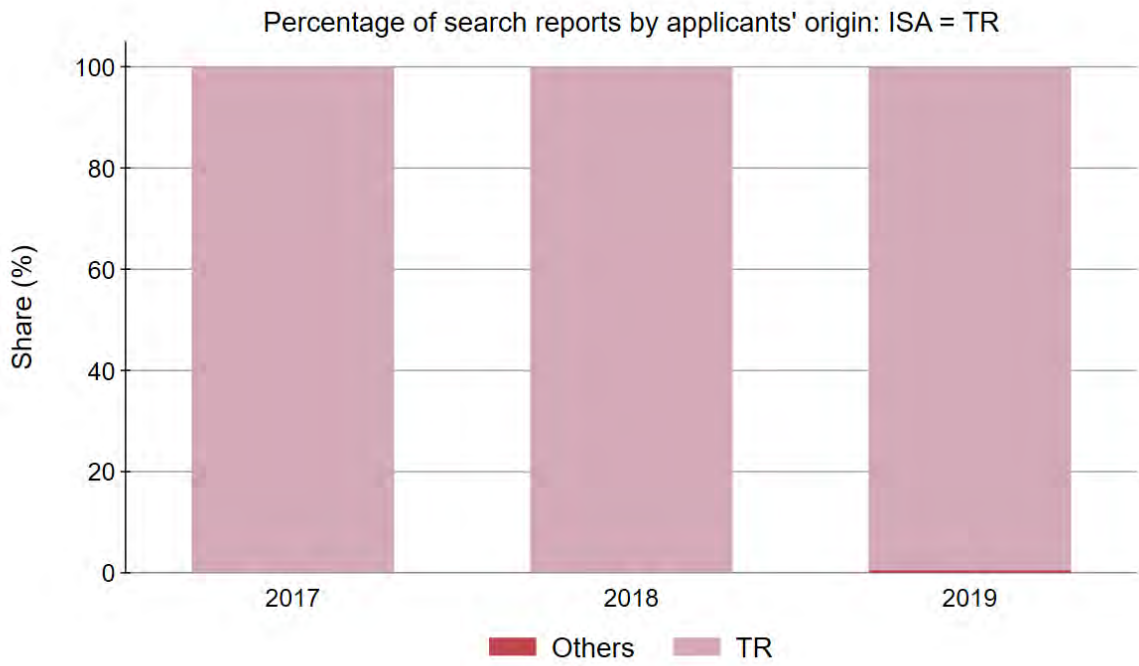
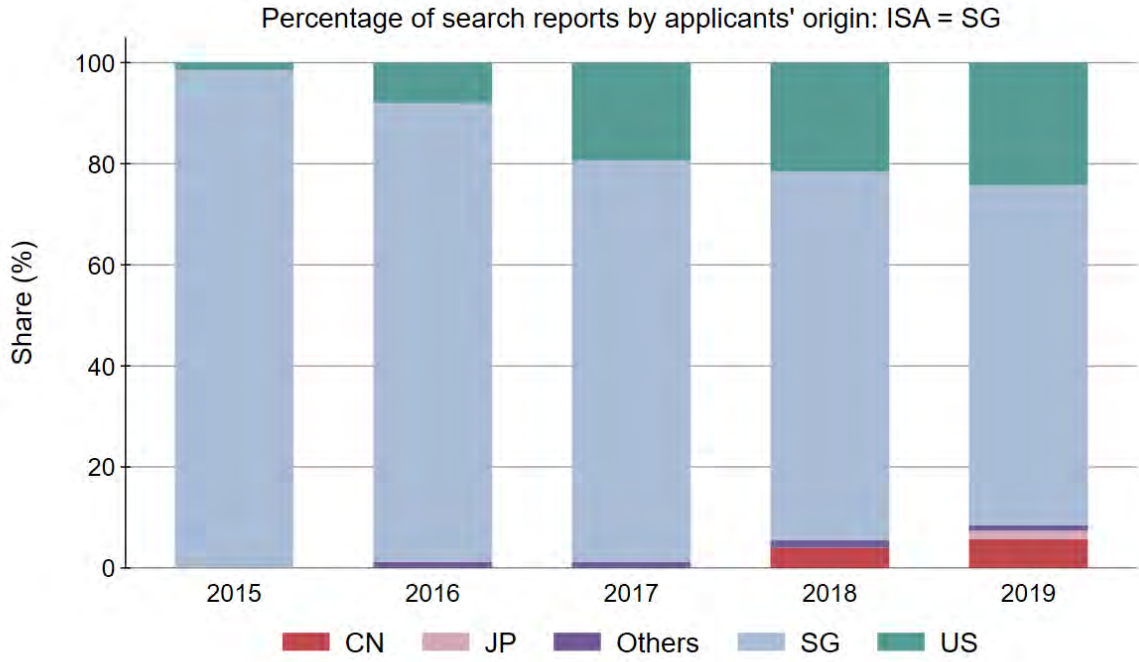


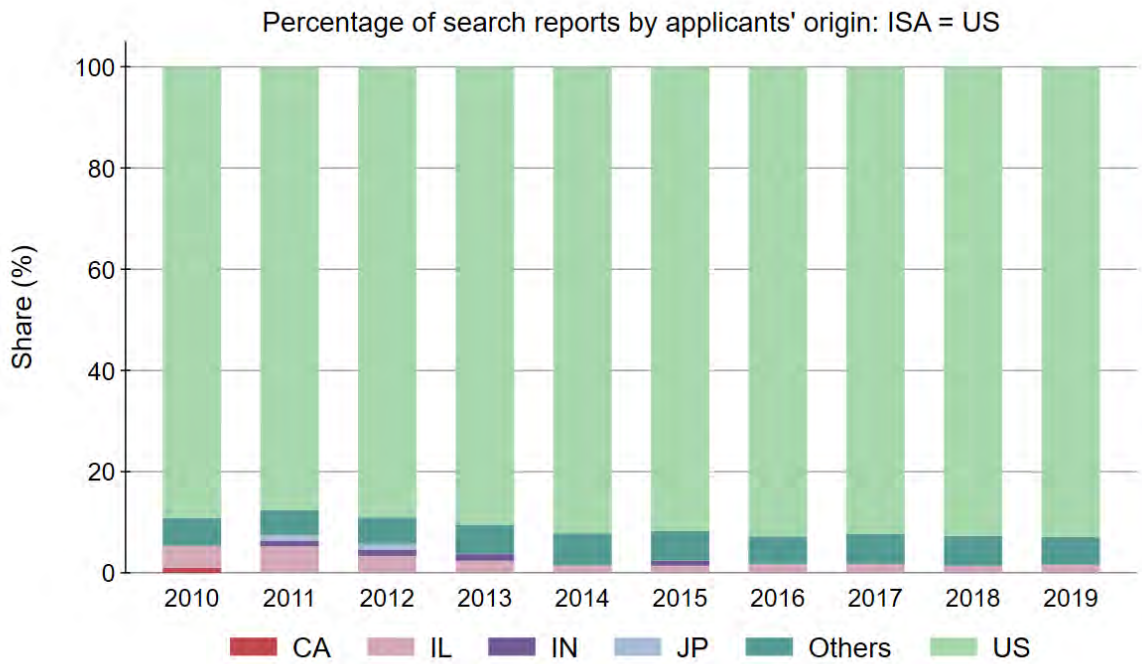
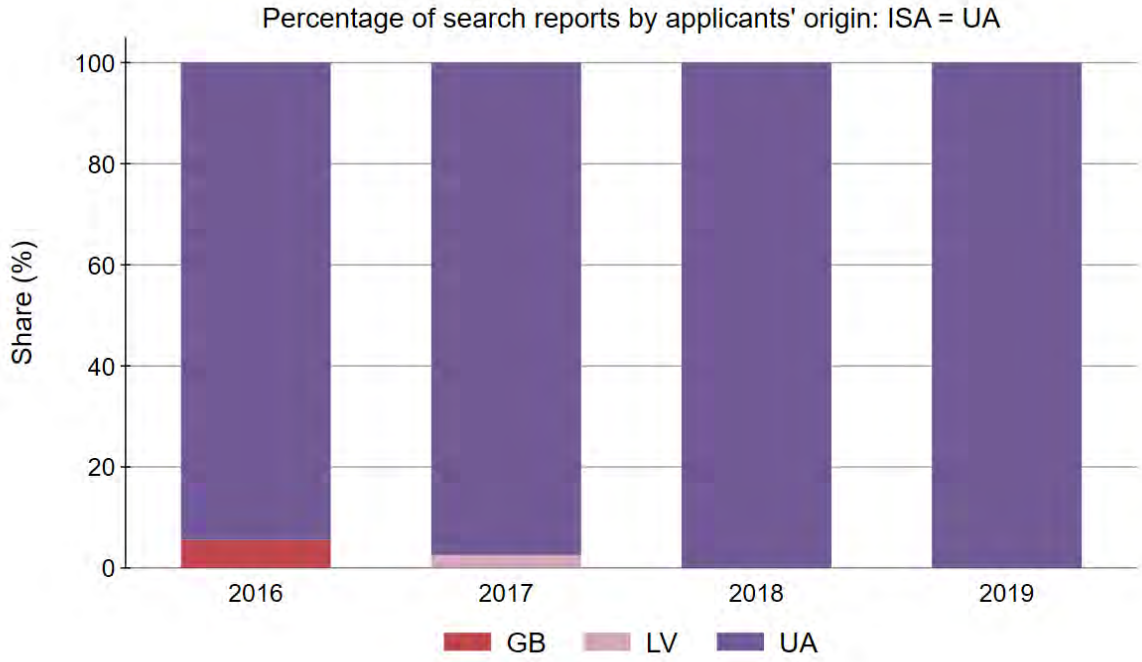


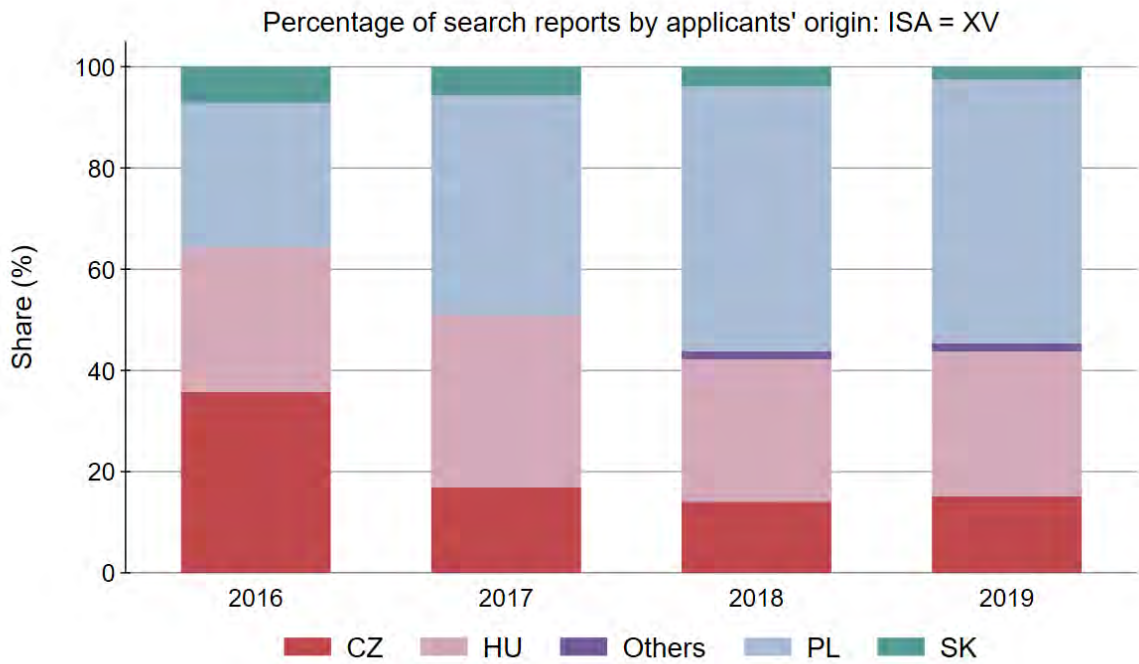
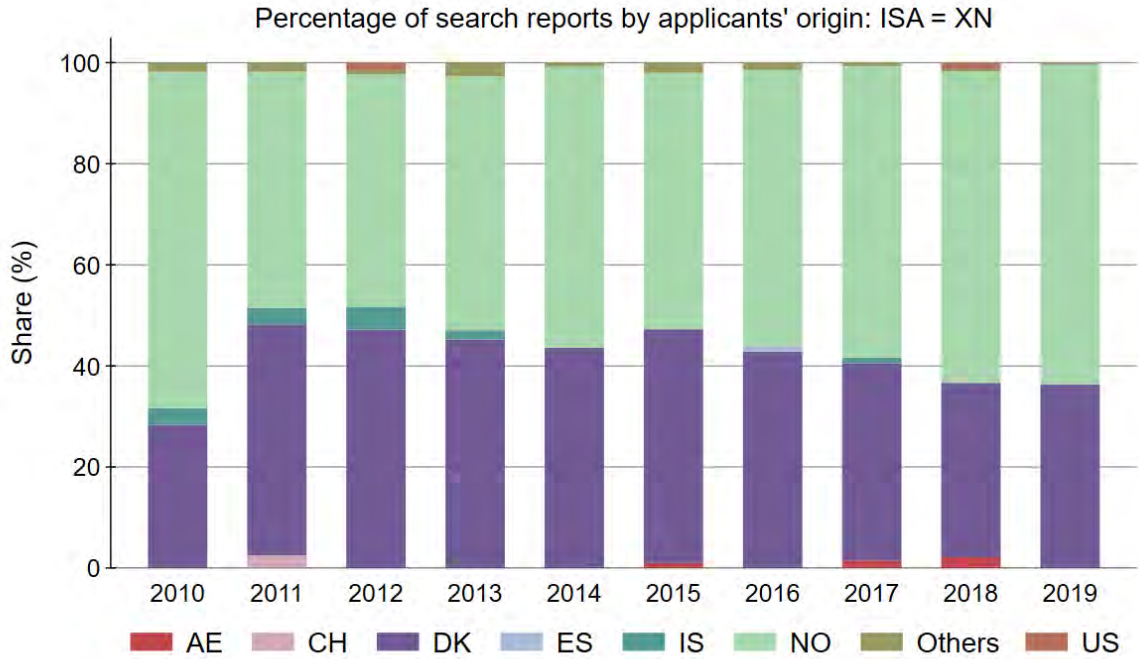












[End of Annex and of Circular]