

We protect the value of your ideas...

# 4

## Reasons for Intellectual Property Rights Registration

### 4 reasons for designs

- Market exclusivity
- Product added value increase – attractiveness and impact
- Return of investment to the introduction of the product
- Competitive advantage gain

### 4 reasons for trade marks

- Product identification
- Protection against counterfeiting increase
- Building image and reputation
- Stabilisation of market position

### 4 reasons for geographical indications

- Protection against unauthorised use of an indication
- Economic prosperity of a region
- Tourism promotion
- Financial advantage

### 4 reasons for patents

- Commercial use of invention monopoly
- Protection of investment in research
- Protection against unauthorised use of an invention
- Strategic capital of the company

### 4 reasons for utility models

- Protection against unauthorised use of a technical solution
- Financial simplicity of protection
- Technical solution commercial use monopoly
- Fast protection obtaining

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**The Unique Deserves Protection**





# Foreword

**The Unique Deserves Protection**





## Foreword



Ladies and Gentlemen,

2020 was dramatically different. Innovations and inventions helped to save lives on a global scale and in unprecedented volumes. It was also a year in which our determination, motivation and perseverance passed a difficult test. Since the pandemic brought new challenges and approaches at work, we had to deal with a never-known situation. Today, however, there is room for balance. With a sense of pride of the entire scientific community a my colleagues, I can say that, despite the difficult times, we have made progress and moved smoothly into the online mode in which most of our professional lives have taken place.

Human creativity and ingenuity are unstoppable and have not been limited by a pandemic. On the contrary, research teams around the world have been crossing national borders, coming together and looking for new solutions or non-traditional approaches to solving challenges. We are aware of the fact that scientific knowledge and research must be built on solid foundations. Access to them is essential not only for science, research and social development, but also as a competitive tool.

I am pleased to say that the Slovak scientific community did not stagnate in 2020, quite the opposite. This was also reflected in the sharp increase in utility model applications, the subject-matter of which is directly or indirectly related to the current pandemic. We also saw an increase in trade mark or design applications.

We keep up with the times - we act fast, it captures our year 2020. The Office's progress in accelerating internal processes, more intensive support of the business ecosystem while maintaining the quality of decision-making were our priorities. A modern, dynamic Office performs its mandate in a quality manner and for the benefit of clients.

Gradual changes and steps have made the functioning of the Office more dynamic in order to provide clients with maximum support, efficiency and transparency while maintaining quality. An important element of the changes is also the communication of legitimate expectations of clients through the publication of internal processes and deadlines for individual types of proceedings. Openness, transparency, efficiency, cooperation and dynamism are the key pillars that the Office has introduced and has been implementing in all its strategies, visions and every day activities.

The extension of the office hours is definitely one of the first positive changes for clients so that we could get closer to the operating hours of the business environment. For clients, this means saved time and the opportunity to visit the Office even in the afternoon.

To be transparent and readable by professional as well as non-professional public. Our goal is not only to inform about procedures and legal obligations, but also to open the Office's activities to transparent public control and thus fulfill the legitimate expectations of the public. By filing an application for an industrial property subject-matter, the process of its registration starts. All steps from filing the application to the publication of the grant of a patent, registration of a utility model, a trade mark or a design in the Official Journal of the Office, you will find in the timelines of individual proceedings. We are convinced that the transparency, openness and making the Office's internal steps public will contribute to a positive perception of our work for the benefit of our clients.



To be efficient in the management of public finances. The Office signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency. SIEA is moving from commercial to state premises by which the current capacity of the state will be used effectively and at the same time external expenses will be saved.

To be cooperative, share lessons learned and use examples of good practice from other public institutions. During the last year, we have managed to establish active cooperation with the Slovak Business Agency, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency or the Technical University in Košice, as well as other universities. Active cooperation resulted in the exchange of experiences, information or consultations. Joint inter-ministerial activities allow us to implement larger projects and provide comprehensive solutions. At the same time, we started a project of exchanging expert employees of state administration bodies in cooperation with the Slovak Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing.

To be fast and dynamic in internal processes serving clients. The Office brought a novelty and thus offered trade mark applicants the opportunity to quickly examine and publish their applications in compliance with simple steps and certain conditions. The purpose of this fundamental change is to publish the trade mark in the Fast Track system within 30 working days. Upon receipt of the application by the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, the employees of the Office will examine it in order to assess whether it meets the requirements of a valid trade mark. For this reason, applications accepted by the Office meeting certain requirements will be processed more quickly. A trade mark application can be published twice as fast as in the past, resp. faster compared to regular applications.

To provide quality services. To move public administration organisations qualitatively one step further is possible only with committed, open and positively set employees and managers with an interest in changing things for the better. Building a quality organisation is a long-distance run, during which it is necessary to overcome many obstacles. There is a wide range of ways to make organisations more efficient, and the introduction of quality management is one of them. Last year we managed to get the title of Effective User of the CAF Model.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic protects the intangible property and the soul of our companies. It is part of an innovative ecosystem and we defended this position with hard and honest work last year. Let me thank my colleagues as well as the professional and non-professional public, without whom the challenges would be very difficult to overcome.

**After all, the unique deserves protection!**

**Mgr. Matúš Medvec, MBA**  
The IPO SR President





# Events Calendar

**The Unique Deserves** Protection





## Events Calendar



01/January

### **OECD Study on the Support of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the Slovak Republic**

The Office participated in the OECD Project, the output of which was an analysis of the existing support system for small and medium-sized enterprises in Slovakia. At the meeting, a representative of the Office provided relevant information on the activities and services of the institution in the field of industrial property protection in relation to small and medium-sized enterprises.



01/January

### **Raising Awareness of Intellectual Property at Schools**

Even before the outbreak of the pandemic, several events took place on the Office's premises as part of the Office's educational activities. The lectures included information on the importance of protecting intellectual property rights, creativity and the need for innovation for society.



02/February

### **Amendments to the Fee Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents**

By notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic No. 12/2020 Coll. Amendments to the Fee Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) were published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic.



02/February

### **New Telephone Line of the IPO SR Information Centre**

As part of improving the quality of services, the Office has established a second telephone line since February 1, 2020, for public to contact the Office's Information Centre on the following phone number 048/43 00 111.



02/February

### **Amendments to the Implementing Regulations to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and to the Protocol Relating to that Agreement**

By notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic No. 13/2020 Coll. Amendments to the Implementing Regulation to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and to the Protocol Relating to that Agreement were published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic.



02/February

### **Technical Visit from EUIPO**

A technical meeting of representatives of the IPO SR with representatives of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) took place in Bratislava in February. The aim of the meeting was to evaluate the current bilateral cooperation and implementation of projects that were part of the EUIPO Strategic Plan for 2016-2020.



02/February

### **The Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Designations of Origin and Geographical Indications Has Entered into Force**

The European Commission shall become the competent authority for the European Union to apply for the international registration of geographical indications protected and registered under European Union law relating to agricultural products and foodstuffs, wine, spirits and aromatised wines. Within the European Union, there are seven Member States (including the Slovak Republic) that can continue to protect designations of origin for products originating in a third country that is a party to the Lisbon Agreement, through a national system of protection.



02/February

**Implementation of the CAF Model in the IPO SR**

At the beginning of the year, the Office's Action Plan for Improvement (API) was completed, which was the result of the work of the CAF team, the methodist, the Office's management and the external consultant. Of the 86 ideas, suggestions for improvement, which are output from the CAF self-assessment report and the feedback report from the on-site assessment, by the prioritisation of activities 20 were selected to be included in AEP of the Office.



03/March

**Annual Report 2019**

The Office issued its Annual Report for 2019. You will find information about last year's events at the Office, a number of popularisation and educational events, events organised towards the public aimed at increasing the awareness of intellectual property protection or to employees of the Office for increasing and enhancing knowledge.



03/March

**Electronic Delivery of Decisions**

Decisions issued by the Office deciding pursuant to special regulations, in matters of rights, legally protected interests and obligations of natural or legal persons (e.g. proceedings pursuant to Act No. 71/1967 Coll. on Administrative Procedure) are sent to the electronic box by hand delivery method.



04/April

**Amendments in Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents**

By notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, amendments to the Fee Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) as well as amendments to the Implementing Regulation to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) were published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic.



04/April

**In the Fight against the Pandemic, Original and Valuable Solutions are Emerging in Slovakia**

The Office began to contact the authors of the solutions with an offer of services for the registration of a patent, utility model and registration of a trade mark. For applicants, this means that, where an industrial right is granted, their solution is subject to protection and constitutes for them exclusive rights in the relevant market where those industrial rights have been recognised.



05/May

**Slovak Innovators Presented Themselves at the Conference on Intellectual Property**

The twentieth annual Intellectual Property in Slovakia conference took place on May 26 as a virtual event and presented Slovak innovators and trends that also reflected on the months of the corona crisis. The conference is regularly held on the occasion of World Intellectual Property Day, which was dedicated in 2020 to the importance of innovations and green technologies for the future of the planet.



05/May

**Instructional Videos on Trade Marks and Designs**

The Office, in cooperation with the EUIPO Academy, prepared a package of educational instructional videos on the topic of trade marks and designs. Their aim is to provide the public with basic information on how to protect intellectual property through practical examples.



05/May

**The Office is Also Active on Social Networks**

Through social networks, the Office seeks to support education, the popularisation of intellectual property and the development of technical creativity, including the protection of its results. We have an account on Facebook called the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, on Instagram the upv\_sr and on the LinkedIn Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic.





06/June

### **New Management of the Office**

With effect from June 18, 2020, Matúš Medvec became the new President of the Office. The primary goal of the new President was to achieve a pro-client office, especially in the current changing economic situation. Since July 2, Vladimír Hardoň has been the new Vice-President of the Office and Jaroslav Ivančo has been the Head of the Office.



06/June

### **Amendments to the Fee Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents Have Entered into the Force**

Amendments to the Fee Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) were published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic by the notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic No. 251/2020 Coll.



06/June

### **Extension of Working Hours of the Office's Information Centre**

The Information Centre is the first contact for customers, where employees provide qualified information. The valid working hours until 2:30 p.m. have been extended and the Information Centre is open during working hours that are close to the functioning of the business environment. At the same time, the Office connected the Information Centre with expert departments so that every business entity would receive a qualified and quick answer.



07/July

### **Amendments in Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents Have Entered into the Force**

Amendments to the Fee Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) as well as amendments to the Implementing Regulation to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) were published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic by the notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic No. 252/2020 Coll.



07/July

### **Amendments to the Implementing Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents Have Entered into the Force**

Amendments to the Implementing Regulations to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents were published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic by the notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic No. 61/2020 Coll.



07/July

### **The Office Received the Title of Effective User of the CAF Model**

After less than 20 months of work, the implementation team, with the support of an external consultant, succeeded to obtain the title of the effective user of the CAF model, valid for two years, which commits the Office to fulfilling the Action Plan for Improvement and reevaluating the self-assessment process.



07/July

### **Meeting with Representatives of the Chamber of Patent Attorneys**

A meeting of the new Management with representatives of the Chamber of Patent Attorneys took place in the premises of the Office. The meeting discussed the possibilities of cooperation, as well as the needs and expectations of the private sector.



07/July

### **Web Application for Creating a List of Goods and Services**

In order to make it easier for trade mark applicants to prepare an application for registration of a trade mark, especially in the part of the list of goods and services subject to clarity and precision, the Office draws attention to the Internet application for creating a list of goods and services according to the current international classification of goods and services located on an external website at: [www.ezts.sk](http://www.ezts.sk).

 07/July

### Conference Hydrogen Future of Slovakia

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, the Conference Hydrogen Future of Slovakia was held in Bratislava, at which the Office was represented by the President Matúš Medvec. The Technical University in Košice is actively involved in inventive activity in this area. It is the monitoring of patent application trends that will help us to obtain valuable information about established as well as emerging areas of interest of world leaders.

 09/September

### Successful Graduates of Module D of the Intellectual Property Course

The President of the Office, Matúš Medvec, handed over the certificates to all successful graduates of the last module D of the Intellectual Property Course, which is an accredited course of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Module D focused on industrial property law - patents, utility models, trade marks, designations of origin and geographical indications of products, the Code of Administrative Procedures and licenses.

 08/August

### The Activity of Slovakia's Innovators Increased during the Corona Crisis

In the first half of 2020, at the time of the corona crisis, the Office received more filings for intellectual property rights subject-matters than in the comparable period in 2019. If we manage spreading of the virus by epidemiological measures the chances to deal with the crisis increase and we will support innovation and the development of Slovak industry by enforceable legal environment, removing barriers and bureaucratic obligations of Slovak entrepreneurs.

 09/September

### Visit to the Prototype and Innovation Centre of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Technical University in Košice

The President of the Office Matúš Medvec and the Head of the Office Jaroslav Ivančo visited the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Technical University in Košice and together with the Rector of TUKE Stanislav Kmeť, the Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Jozef Živčák and Juraj Sinay started the school year. Thanks to the centre, its development and production, there are being created in Slovakia new inventions, innovations and new highly sophisticated products supplied to global suppliers.

 08/August

### Official Presentation of the Title Effective User of the CAF Model

The title of Effective User of the CAF Model was awarded to the Office on August 4, 2020 and was officially handed over to us by the Vice-President of Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing, Ing. Tomáš Peták, PhD., and the Director of the Quality and Project Management Department of Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing, JUDr. Mgr. Anna Budiaková, PhD., on August 20, 2020 in the premises of the Office in the presence of the Head of the Office of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, PaedDr. Jaroslav Ivančo, external consultant of CAF, Ing. Alexander Tomčík, and the whole CAF team.

 09/September

### FAST TRACK: a Fundamental Change in the Area of Accelerating Internal Processes for the Benefit of Clients

The Office has launched a new service, the aim of which is to publish a trade mark application in the FAST TRACK system within 30 working days instead of the current 56 – 172 days. In addition to the legal prerequisites, a few simple conditions must be met in order to activate FAST TRACK. Upon receipt of the application by the Office, the staff will examine it to assess whether it meets the criteria for registration of the trade mark.



 09/September

### We Awarded the Ján Bahýľ Prize

Since 1999, the Office has been awarding the Ján Bahýľ Prize to Slovak originators and owners of patents, utility models and designs for their exceptional technical or design solutions in order to increase creativity in Slovakia. The evaluation committee and the President of the Office decided to award the prize in the category of universities and research centers and in the category of individual applicants, small enterprises and micro-enterprises with up to 49 employees.

 09/September

### We Launched the Timelines of Proceedings

The registration process is initiated by filing an application for the industrial property subject-matters - trade mark, design, patent and utility model. The Office decided to make available an overview of the registration proceedings. Our goal is to inform about proceedings and legal obligations, to open the Office's activities to transparent public control and thus fulfill the legitimate expectations of the public.

 09/September

### Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Coordination of Cooperation in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy

Representatives of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Coordination of Cooperation in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy met on September 23, 2020. They discussed the effects of counterfeiting on the Slovak economy at the meeting.

 09/September

### Priorities in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy

The President of the Office, Matúš Medvec, met with the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Roman Mikulec, and the Acting President of the Police Force, Petr Kovařík. The aim of the meeting was to set further steps and priorities of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Coordination of Cooperation in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy.

 09/September


### Renovated Office Building

After more than 20 years, we have a beautifully renovated and insulated building, new windows, painted offices and zones for consultation with clients. The Planning Department in Banská Bystrica issued an authorisation for use of the renovated Office building in September.

 09/September


### Driving.digital 2020: Intelligent Mobility

The President of the Office, Matúš Medvec, also took part in the expert discussion on the possibilities of Slovak research in the field of the automotive industry. The event highlighted the importance of involving Slovak companies and research institutions in research and innovation projects in the field of stability of digital solutions in the automotive industry.

 10/October

### Memorandum of Cooperation between IPO SR and the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing

Katarína Surmíková Tatranská, President of the Slovak Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing, and Matúš Medvec, President of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, signed the Memorandum of Cooperation, which creates a new space for developing mutual support, education, consultations and expert assessment the materials as well as joint proposals.

 10/October

### IPO SR and SIEA Connect their Premises

The Office signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency. SIEA is moving from commercial to state premises, by which we will effectively use the current capacity of the state and at the same time save on external expenses.



 10/October

### Virtual Internship Programme

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we decided to move the traditional internship programme to the online space. More than 30 students in the fields of law and international relations attended the internship. We are aware that the internship is a form of practical training, so we promised the students that the theoretical part will be supplemented by a practical part of the Office as soon as the situation allows.

 10/October

### Memorandum of Cooperation between the IPO SR and the SBA

The President of the Office Matúš Medvec signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Director General of the Slovak Business Agency Martin Holák. In the cooperation action plan, they undertook to set the basic framework for cooperation with regard to small and medium-sized enterprises and intellectual property rights; promote information sharing via the web and social networks; create joint webinars, discussions, conferences and trainings; provide free advice to companies based on the expertise of both institutions and create joint project schemes.

 11/November

### We Support Science, Research and Innovation

The President of the Office, Matúš Medvec, met with Mária Baňasová, an expert in science, research and innovation at the Association of Industrial Associations. The aim of the meeting was a consultation on increasing the industrial property awareness in the environment of business associations.

 11/November

### Award of the President of the IPO for Contribution during the Pandemic

The President of the Office, Matúš Medvec, began to visit and award selected companies that contributed with their inventions to the fight against COVID-19. In addition to companies, the President of the Office also visited universities that contributed to the fight against COVID-19 with their inventions and awarded them for their contribution during the pandemic.

 12/December

### Legalsummit also with our Participation

The first year of the Legalsummit Conference took place on December 14, 2020. The President of the Office, Matúš Medvec, also took part in an interesting professional discussion.

 12/December

### The Office Assists Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

The Office has been involved in a project to help small and medium-sized enterprises in order to protect and manage the industrial rights of small and medium-sized enterprises, thereby strengthening their market position or actively improving their competitiveness. At the end of 2020, the Office launched an information and promotion campaign for the fund.

 12/December

### The Office also Has Its Good Story

The Office, in cooperation with regional innovative companies, has prepared a video presentation of the activities and services it provides to its clients under the title Good Story. You can find the video on our YouTube channel Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic.



# Photo Gallery Events Calendar

**The Unique Deserves Protection**





**Raising Awareness of Intellectual Property at Schools**



**Meeting with representatives of the Chamber of Patent Attorneys**



**Technical visit from EUIPO**



**Official Presentation of the Title Effective User of the CAF Model**



**New Management of the Office**



**Renovated Office Building**





**The Office Received the Title of Effective User of the CAF Model**



**Successful Graduates of Module D of the Intellectual Property Course**



**Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Coordination of Cooperation in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy**



**Priorities in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy**



**Driving.digital 2020: Intelligent Mobility**



**We Support Science, Research and Innovation**





■ Memorandum of Cooperation between IPO SR and the Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing



■ Award of the President of the IPO for Contribution during the Pandemic for the company SPANNER SK



■ Memorandum of Cooperation between the IPO SR and the SBA



■ Award of the President of the IPO for Contribution during the Pandemic for the University of Žilina



■ Award of the President of the IPO for Contribution during the Pandemic for the company GERM



■ Award of the President of the IPO for Contribution during the Pandemic for the company GEVORKYAN



■ Award of the President of the IPO for Contribution during the Pandemic for the Technical University of Košice



# Designs

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# Designs



Full protection of new products includes the protection of their physical appearance (aesthetic aspect). Design protects the appearance of whole new products or a part of new products, their characteristic features, such as lines, contours, colours, shape, texture, or decoration. Design can be protected if it is new and has an individual character. Design is considered new if no identical design has been made available to public before filing a design application or before the priority date. The owner of a registered design is also protected against any persons, entities or individuals, wishing to infringe his legal rights.

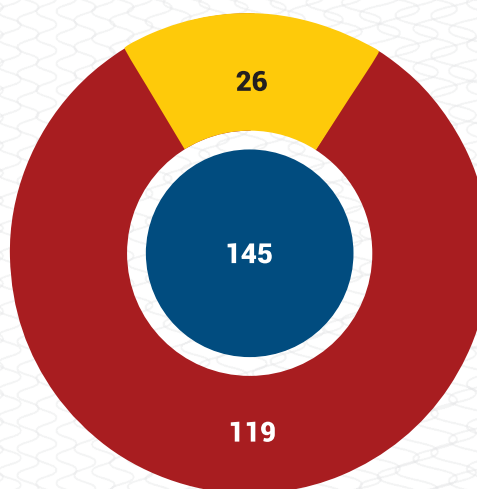
By December 31, 2020, there were **948 valid** designs registered by the Office in the Slovak Republic. The number of filed **design applications** in 2020 increased from 109 to 145; compared to 2019 it is increase by 36 design applications, i. e. by 33 %. Two subjects – SCANIA and Technical University in Zvolen – were the applicants with the highest number of design registrations. Domestic applicants filed 119 and foreign applicants 26 design applications.

In the year under review, there were **9** negative **decisions** on registration, that represents approximately **6 %** in proportion to 140 finished proceedings on design registration, i. e. it is almost same as in the previous period.

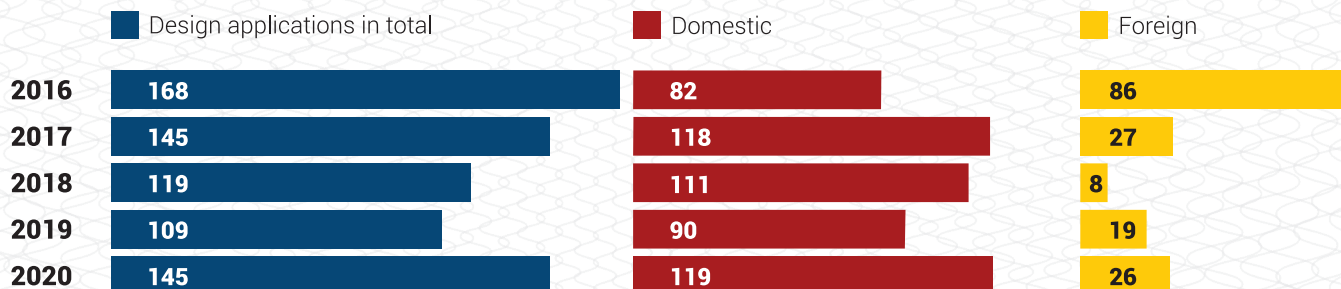
Designs	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Design applications</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>145</b>
Domestic	82	118	111	90	119
Foreign	86	27	8	19	26
<b>Registered designs</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>126</b>
Domestic	77	79	107	89	95
Foreign	26	75	24	11	31

## Design applications 2020

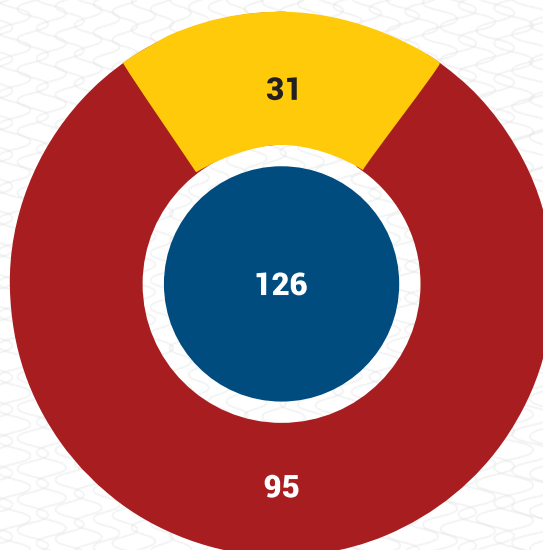
- Design applications in total
- Domestic
- Foreign



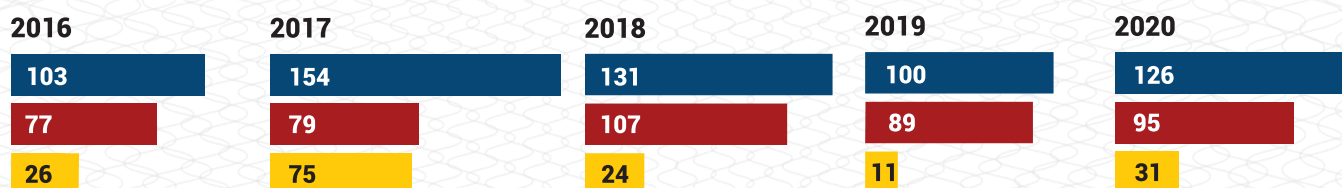
### Design applications 2016 – 2020



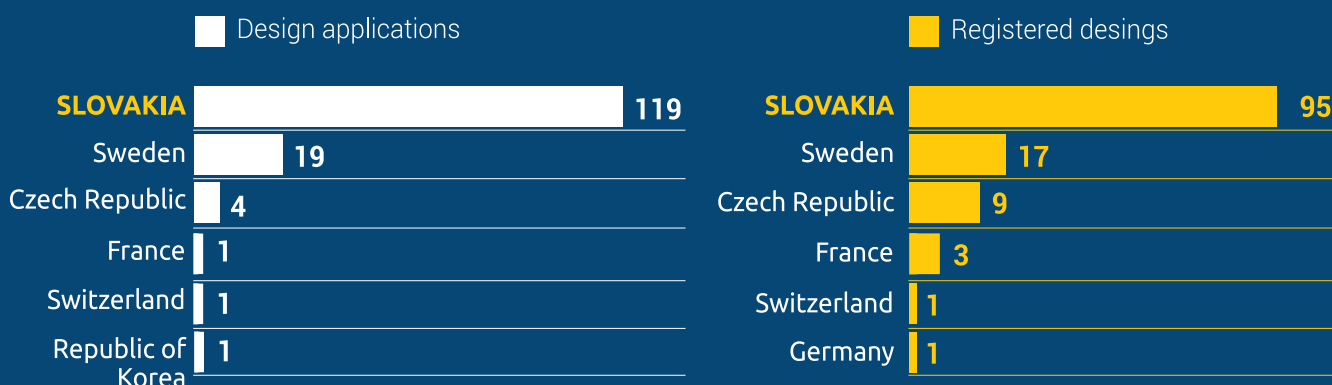
### Registered designs 2020



### Registered designs 2016 – 2020



## Filed and registered designs by the country of origin 2020



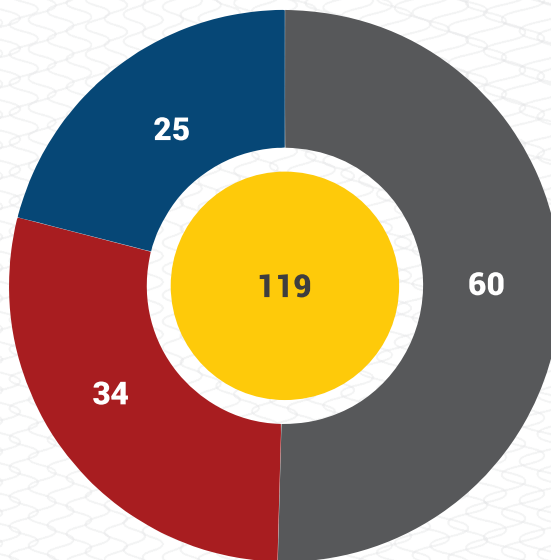
## 5 most registered classes (Locarno classification)



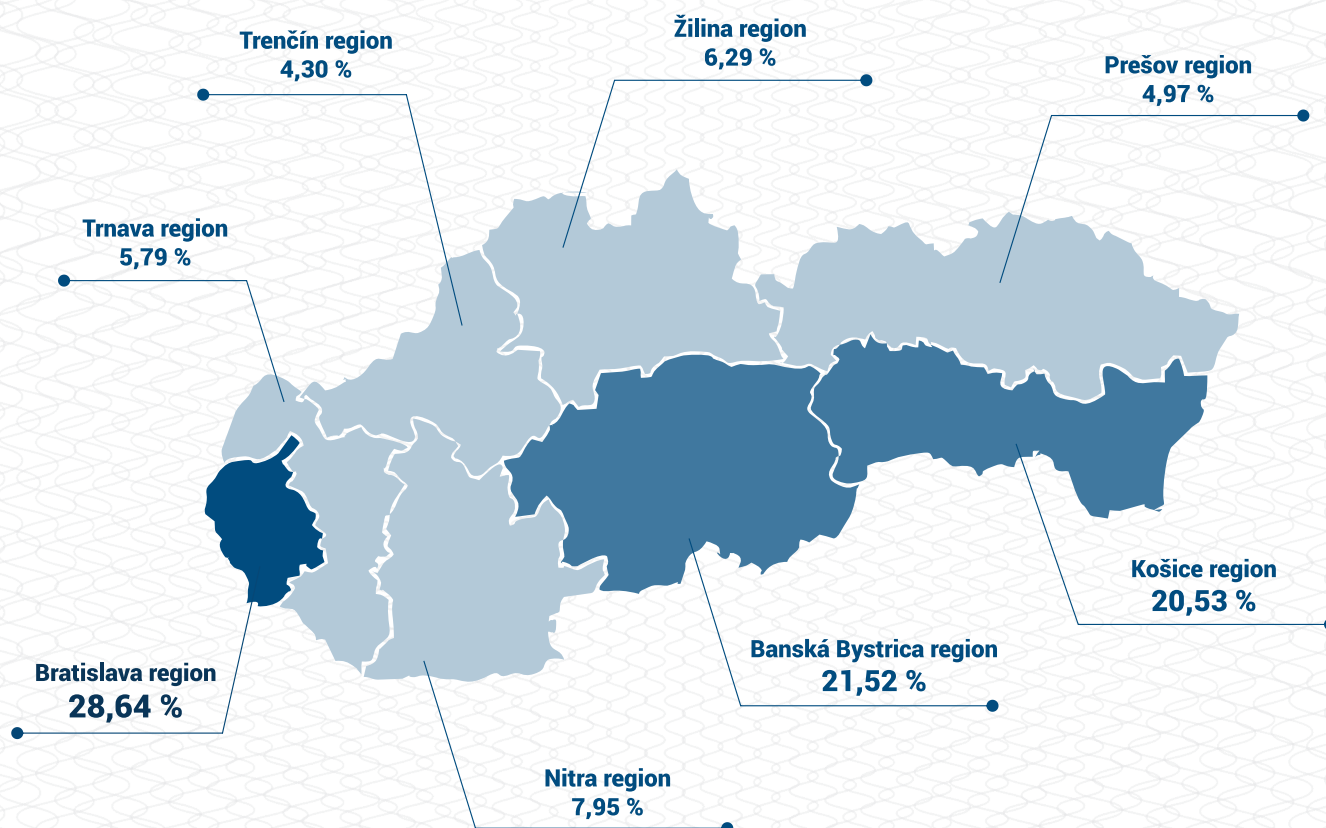


**Slovak applicants by subject 2020**  
(number of applications)

- Slovak applicants in total
- Universities and state institutions
- Legal entities
- Physical persons



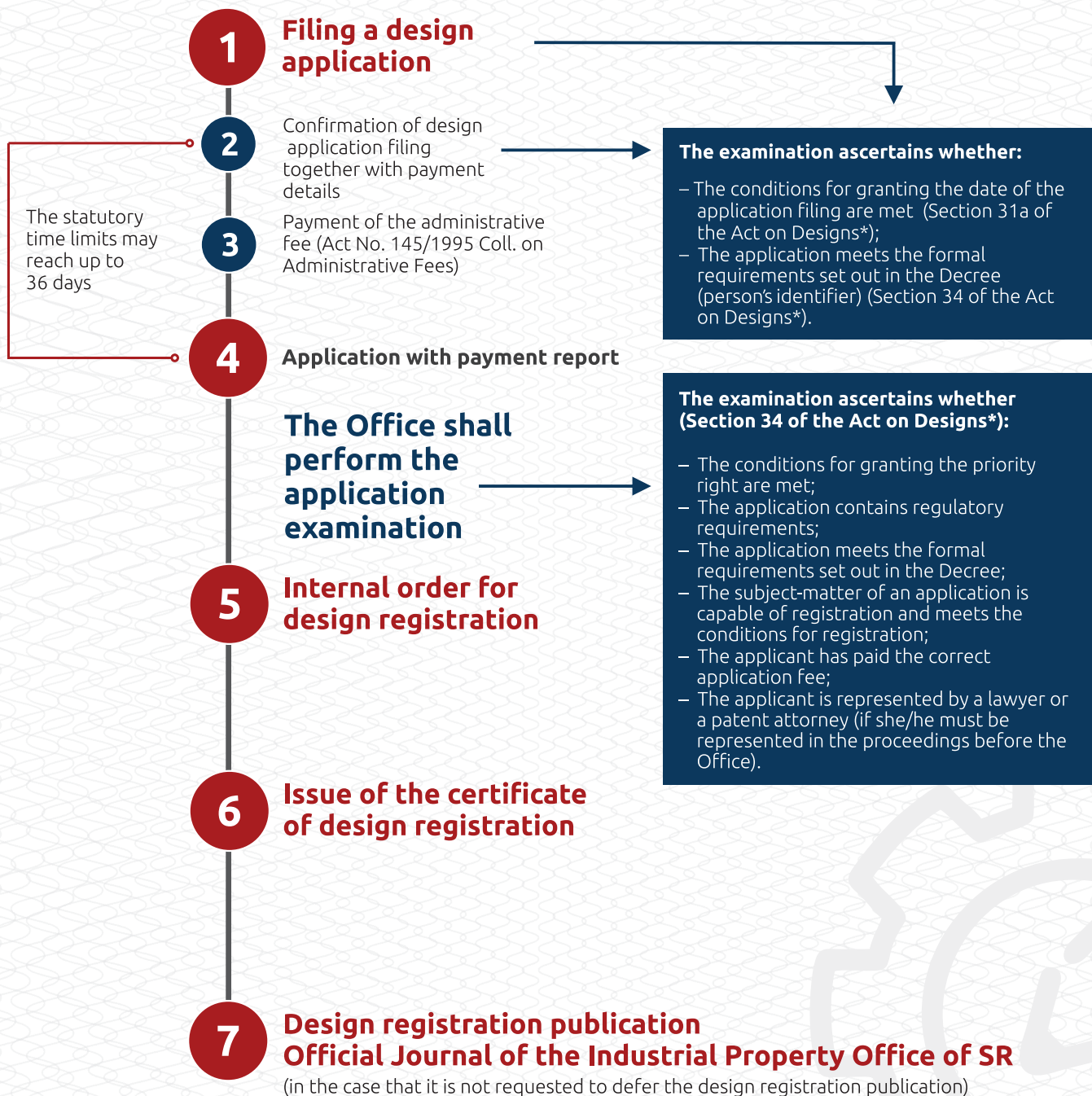
**Applicants by the region 2015 – 2020**





# PROCEEDINGS ON DESIGN REGISTRATION

In October 2020, we published the processes and deadlines for applicants, thus enabling the public to have transparent public control over the Office's internal processes. The aim of this measure is to inform about procedures and legal obligations, to open the Office to transparent public control and thus to fulfill legitimate expectations of the public.







# Trade Marks

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# Trade Marks

Nowadays the trade marks are inevitable necessity to protect rights to use signs representing goods or services. Trade mark is a verbal, graphical, three-dimensional, audio, motional, multimedia, holographic or position sign, or pattern designation or a sign formed by one colour or colour combination capable to distinguish goods or services of one person from goods or services of other person. By the registration of a sign as a trade mark the proprietor acquires an exclusive right to use the trade mark for goods or services for which it was registered.

In 2020, the IPO SR received **2,987 national trade mark** applications; it is **3.7 % increase** than in the previous year. The decreasing trend of filed applications from the previous four years stopped in 2020 and the growing direction of development is gratifying, especially in view of the unfavorable pandemic situation in the past year.

Domestic applicants filed **2,429** and foreign applicants **558** applications. The most foreign applications were from the Czech Republic (302), from Switzerland (32), from Cyprus (31), from the United States of America (30) and similarly from Germany (28).

By December 31, 2020, there were **47,458 valid national trade marks** in the Slovak Republic.

The number of **internationally registered trade marks** (ITM) with designation for the Slovak Republic in 2020 decreased by **241** (in total 1,116); compared to the previous year it is **decrease by 17 %**. In 2020 **72** applications for the trade mark international registration were forwarded to the WIPO; it is a **decrease by 6 applications** compared to previous year.

From a long-term perspective, this is not a significant decrease, it is caused by the persistent known fact that Slovak applicants use protection abroad through the EU trade mark system.

The preliminary refusal of protection as well as granting the protection of the international trade mark was performed by the Office in the same way as in the previous year, i. e. within the period of 5 months.

## Year 2020 – Service FAST TRACK Launched

Accelerated procedure for publishing a trade mark application



After compliance with the following conditions and if all legal conditions for the publication of a sign in the Official Journal of the Office are met, the application will usually be published within 30 working days from the date of its filing.

In October 2020, we published the processes and deadlines for applicants, thus enabling the public to have transparent control of the Office's internal processes.



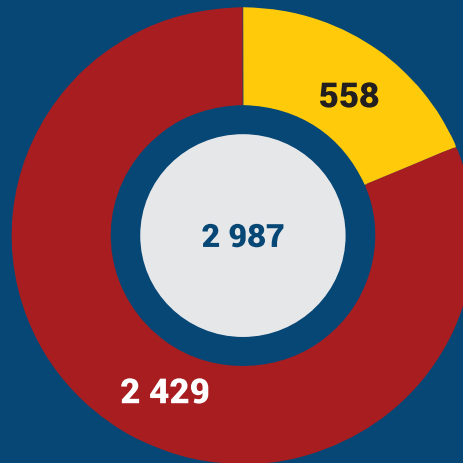


Trade marks	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Nationally filed trade marks</b>	3 202	2 962	2 737	2 878	2 987
Domestic	2 480	2 326	2 233	2 314	2 429
Foreign	722	636	504	564	558
Internationally registered trade marks within SR	1 145	1 435	1 571	1 357	1 116
International trade mark applications from SR	120	106	83	78	72
<b>Nationally registered trade marks</b>	2 806	2 107	2 489	2 614	2 497
Domestic	2 174	1 595	1 962	2 106	1 947
Foreign	632	512	527	508	550



### Nationally filed trade marks 2020

- Nationally filed trade marks in total
- Domestic
- Foreign

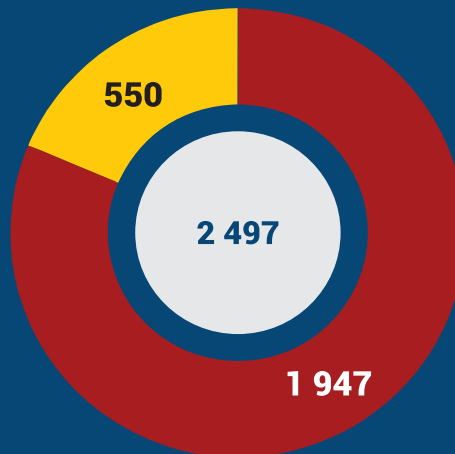


### Nationally filed trade marks 2016 – 2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Nationally filed trade marks in total	3 202	2 962	2 737	2 878	2 987
Domestic	2 480	2 326	2 233	2 314	2 429
Foreign	722	636	504	564	558

### Nationally registered trade marks 2020

- Nationally registered trade marks in total
- Domestic
- Foreign

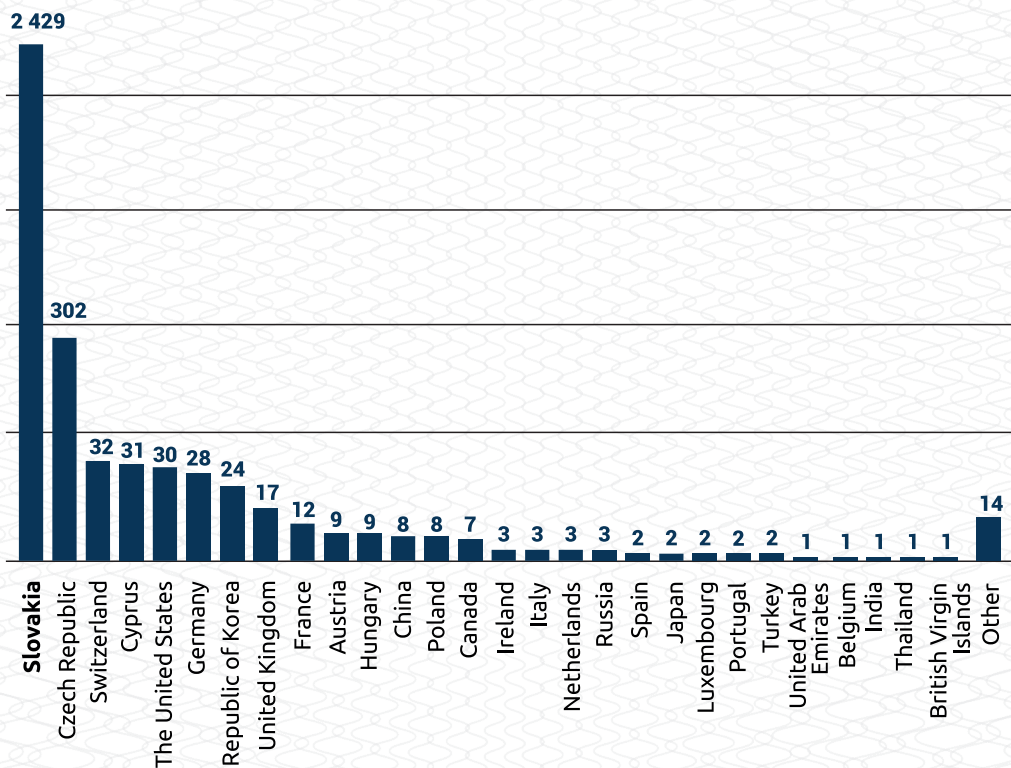


### Nationally registered trade marks 2016 – 2020

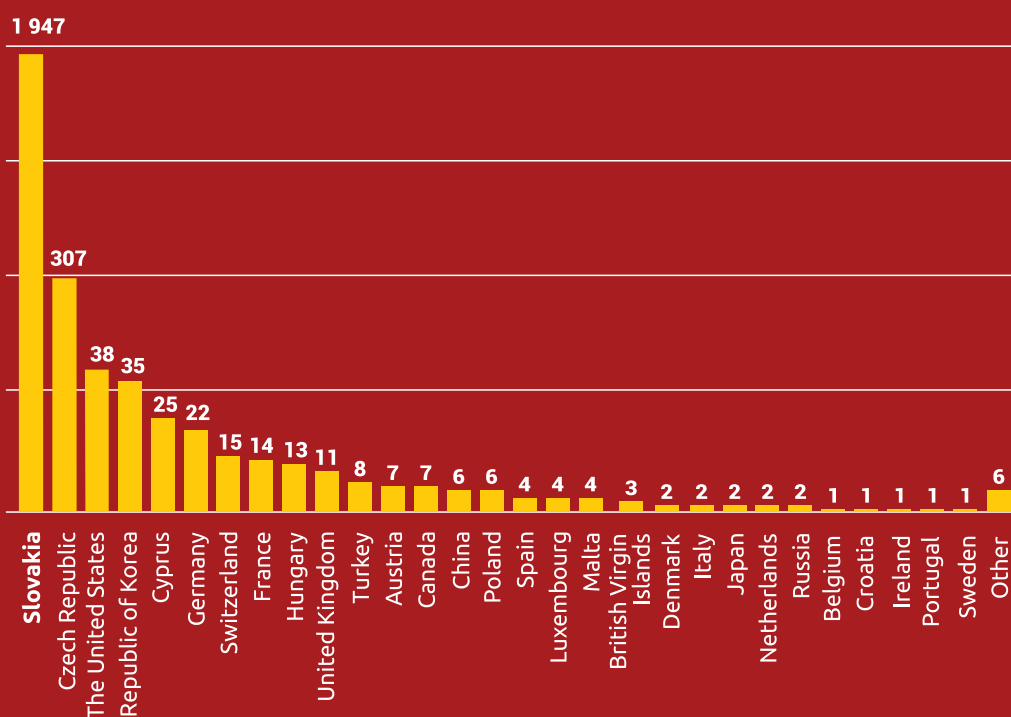
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Nationally registered trade marks in total	2 806	2 107	2 489	2 614	2 497
Domestic	2 174	1 595	1 962	2 106	1 947
Foreign	632	512	527	508	550



### Filed and registered trade marks by the country of origin 2020

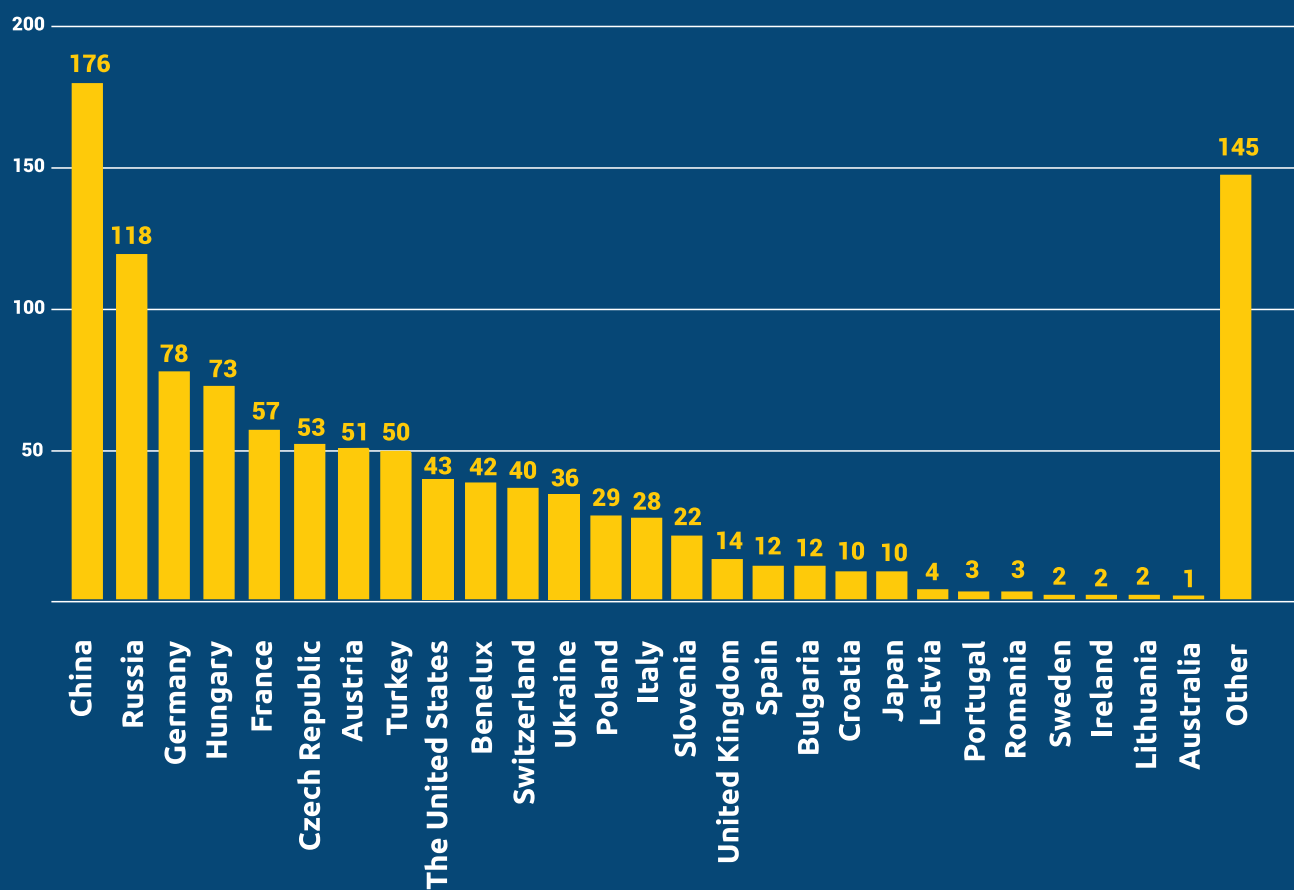


### International trade marks by the country of origin 2020





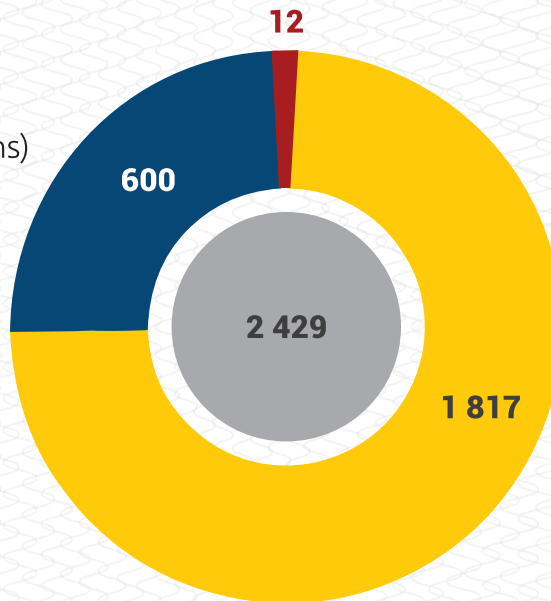
## International trade marks by the country of origin 2020



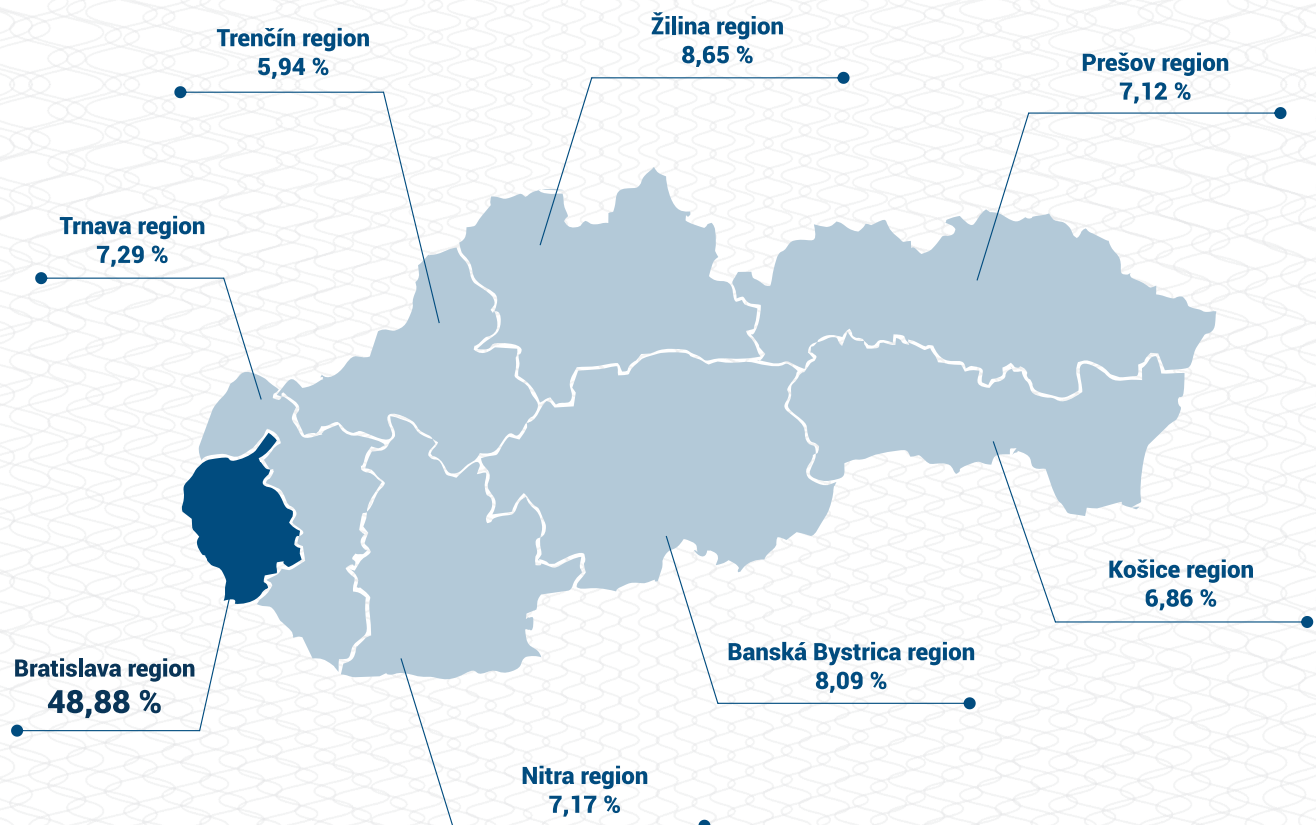


**Slovak applicants by subject**  
(number of applications)  
**2020**

- Slovak applicants in total
- Universities and state institutions
- Legal entity
- Physical person

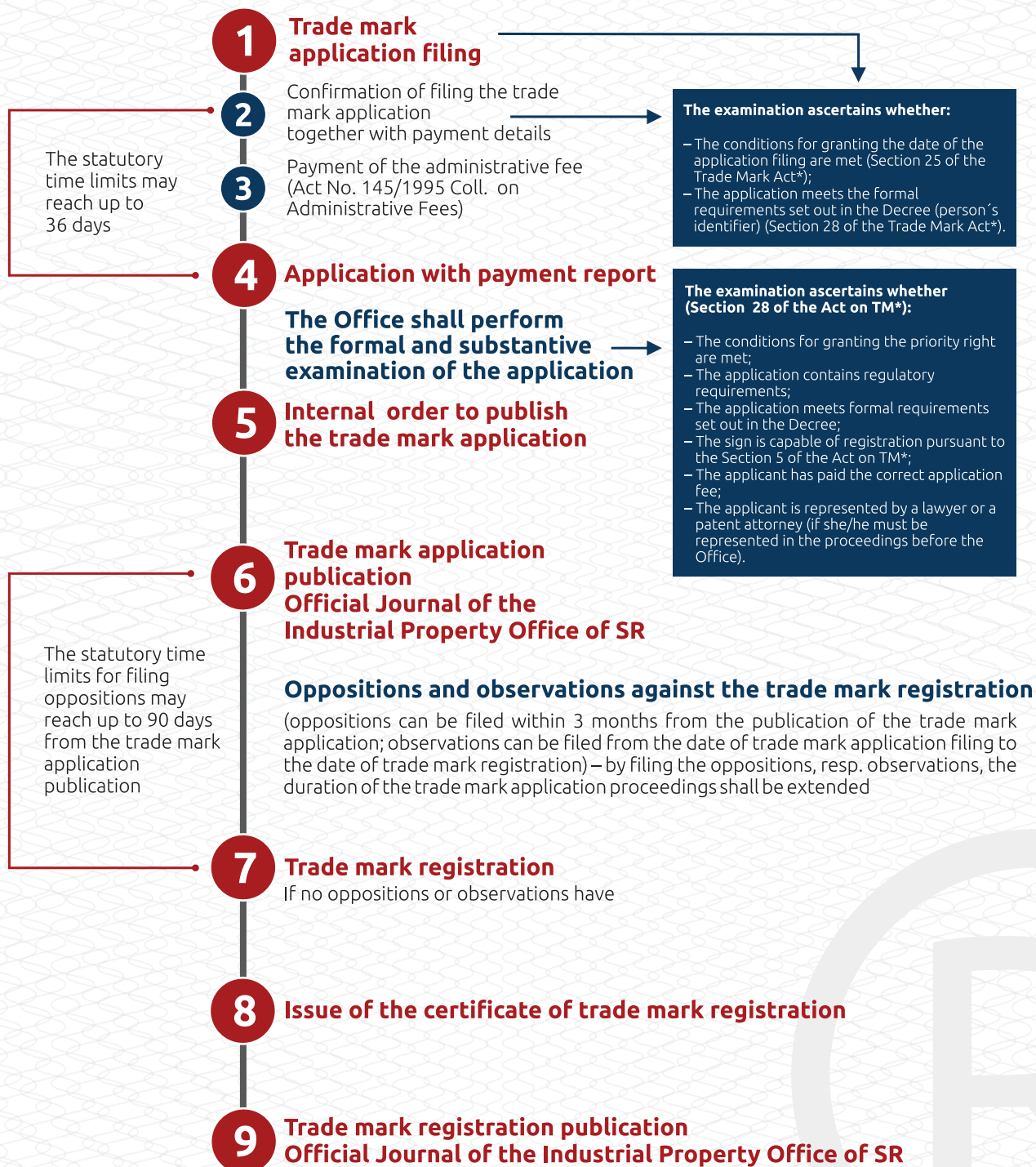


**Applicants by the region 2015 – 2020**



# PROCEEDINGS ON TRADE MARK REGISTRATION

In October 2020, we published the processes and deadlines for applicants, thus enabling the public to have transparent public control over the Office's internal processes. The aim of this measure is to inform about procedures and legal obligations, to open the Office to transparent public control and thus to fulfill legitimate expectations of the public.







# Designations of Origin for Products

and  
Geographical Indications  
for Products

The Unique Deserves Protection





System for protection of products that are unique because of their geographical origin, eventually due to skills of inhabitants of a region handed on for generations, guarantees to consumers the confidence that the product is not just an imitation of an original. Their effective global protection means preservation of cultural and social values.

Designation of origin for a product is the name of a specific place, a region or, in exceptional cases, a country, used to describe an agricultural product originating in that specific place, region, or country, if the quality or characteristics of which are essentially or exclusively due to a particular geographical environment with its inherent natural and human factors, and the production, processing and preparation of which take place in the defined specific place, region, or country.

Geographical indication for a product is the name of a specific place, a region or, in exceptional cases, a country, used to describe a product originating in that specific place, region, or country which possesses a specific quality, reputation or other characteristics attributable to that specific place, region, or country and the production, processing or preparation of which take place in the defined specific place, region, or country.



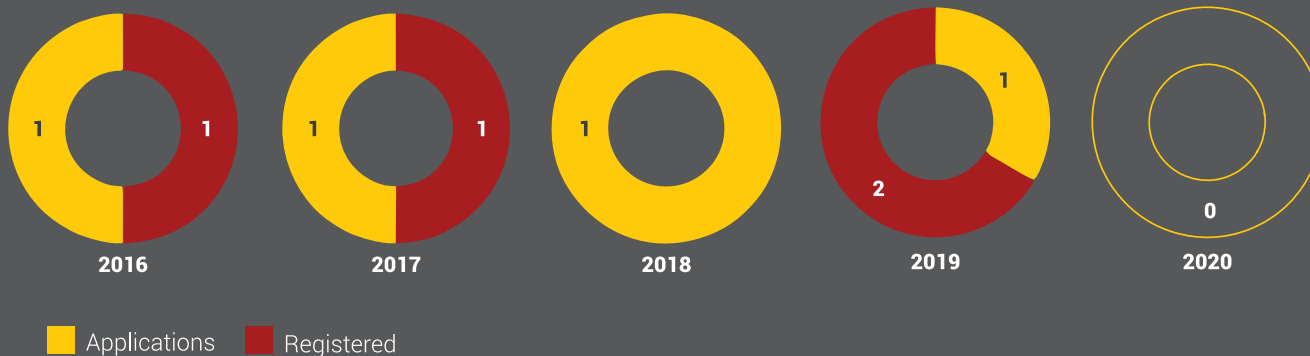
By December 31, 2020, there were **17** valid designations of origin and **5** valid geographical indications for a product in the IPO SR register and there were **8** designations of origin for a product from the Slovak Republic in the international designation of origin register. In the EC register there are in total 22 designations of origin and geographical indications for product and there are two other designations in the proceedings before the EC – **Liptovské droby** (Liptov potato sausage) and **Hrušovský lepník** (kind of pastry).

During 2020, the Office performed 9 pre-diagnostics for the potential protection of geographical indications and designations of origin.

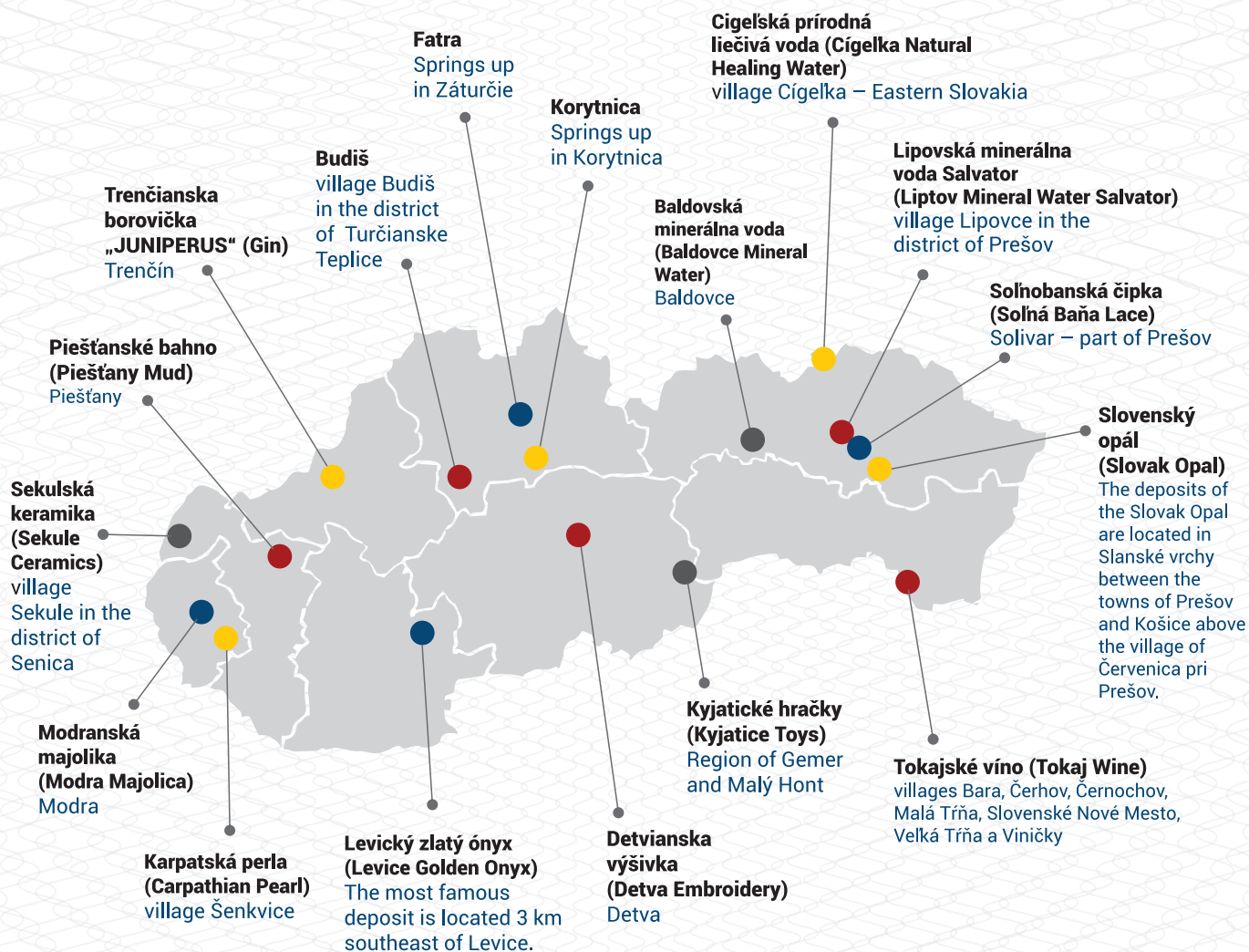
**The accession of the EU to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications by depositing its instrument of ratification on November 26, 2019, at the WIPO in Geneva is an important message for current and future users of protection through designations of origin for a product, whereas the act itself entered into force on February 26, 2020. This change will have a major impact, in particular on existing international registrations of designations of origin for products.**



## Designations of origin for products and geographical indications for products



## Map Registered and protected designations of origin for products and geographical indications for products in the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic Register 2020





# Patents

The Unique Deserves Protection







# Patents



Patent is an important form of protection of new inventions (such as products, technologies and devices). The IPO SR grants patents for inventions in all fields of technology, which are new, involve an inventive step and are industrially applicable. Patents are granted for not only new products, devices and technologies but also for chemically produced substances, medicines, microorganisms used in industrial production as well as biotechnological processes and products resulting from them.

By December 31, 2012, there were **21,912** valid **patents** registered in the Slovak Republic; **696** of them were granted by a **national route**. As of that date, there were **21,216 valid European patents** within the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Totally **221 patent applications** were filed with the Office during **2020**; **206** of them were filed by domestic (205 national patent applications and 1 PCT application) and **15** by foreign applicants. It was **5.5 %** less compared to 2019.

Patent is a protective document granting an owner an exclusive right to use the protected invention during the certain period and within the certain territory. By publishing an invention described in a patent application the public obtains valuable technical information, which may create basis for development in the particular field of technology.

The number of patent applications filed by domestic applicants was same as in 2019; however, there was an almost **50 % decrease** in the number of applications filed by **foreign applicants**.

The most **foreign applicants** were traditionally from the Czech Republic (6). Most patent applications filed in 2020 concerned analytical, measuring and control technologies (11.3 %) and transport (10.4 %).

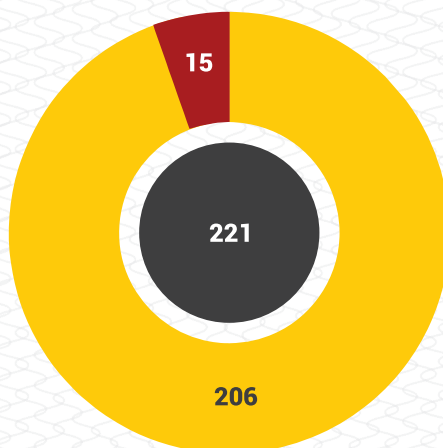
**30 international applications** were filed with the IPO SR as the receiving office under the **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)** last year. It is an increase by **36 %** compared to 2019.

Within the **Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI)** acting as the International Searching Authority, **3 international searches** and written opinions to international applications were drawn up.

Patents	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Patent applications</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>221</b>
Domestic	218	183	216	206	206
– thereof PCT SK	2	0	1	1	1
Foreign	15	23	14	28	15
– thereof PCT	4	7	2	5	4
<b>Granted patents</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>89</b>
– thereof PCT	25	10	13	10	6
Domestic	81	59	86	68	79
Foreign	41	23	23	23	10
<b>PCT applications from SR</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>

### Patent applications 2020

- Patent applications in total
- Domestic
- Foreign

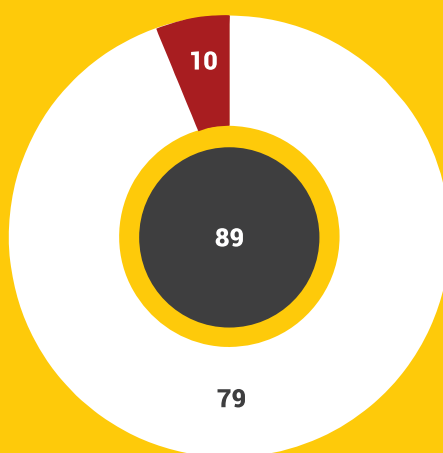


### Patent applications 2016 – 2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Patent applications in total	235	206	231	234	221
Domestic	218	183	216	206	206
Foreign	15	23	14	28	15

### Granted patents 2020

- Granted patents in total
- Domestic
- Foreign



### Granted patents 2016 – 2020

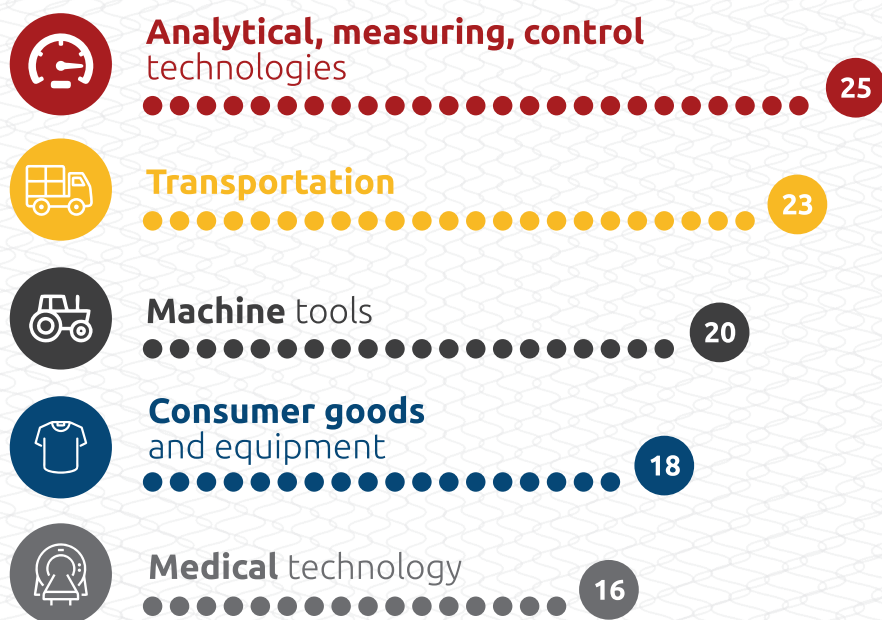
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Granted patents in total	122	82	109	91	89
Domestic	81	59	86	68	79
Foreign	41	23	23	23	10



## Patent applications by the country of origin 2020



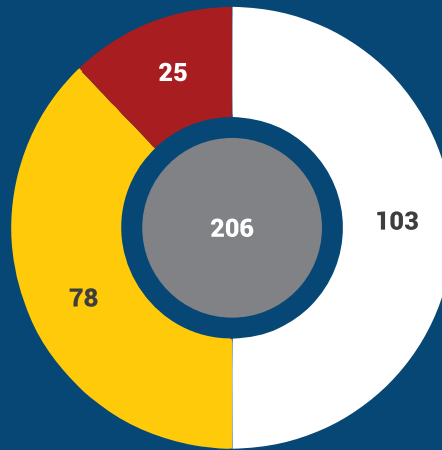
## 5 most registered classes 2020 (International Patent Classification)



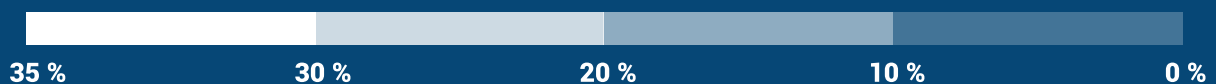
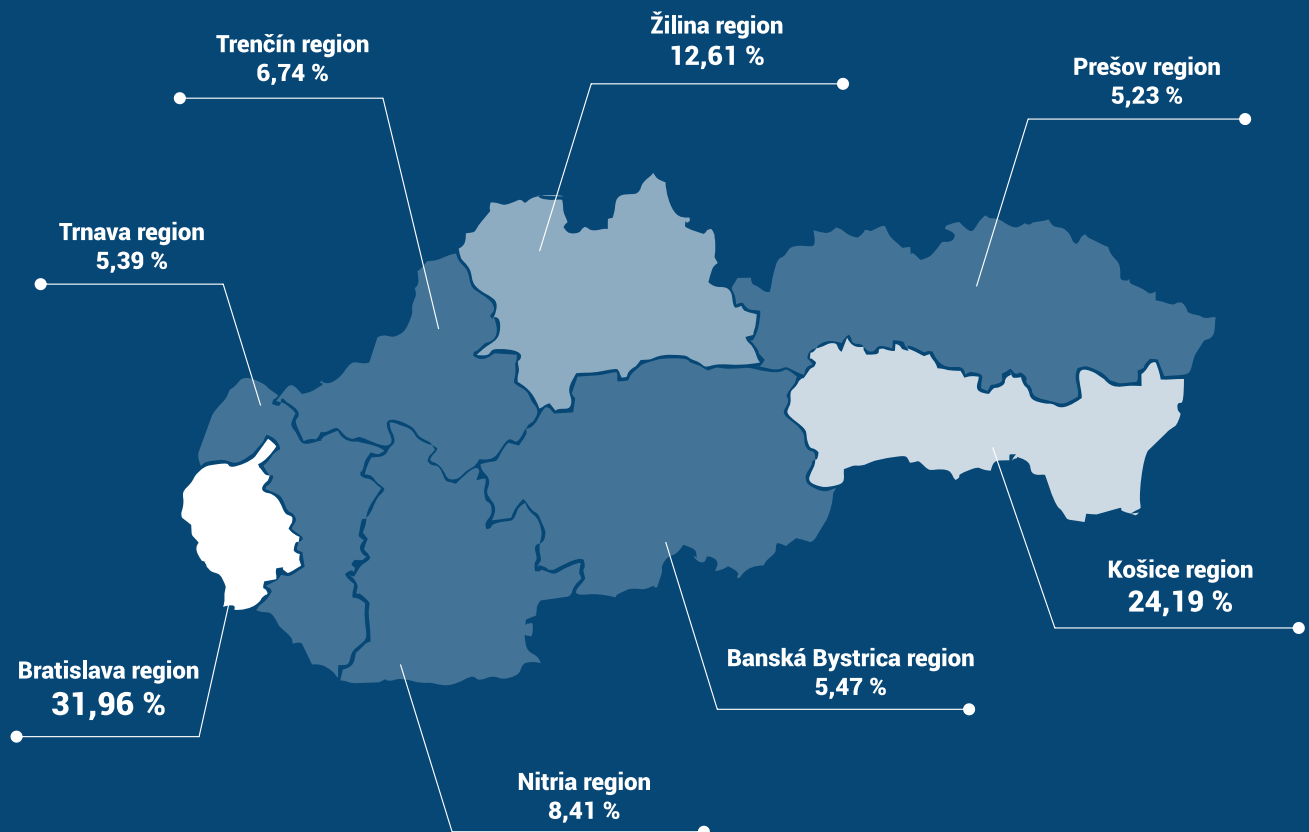


**Slovak applicants by subject 2020**  
(number of applications)

- Slovak applicants in total
- Universities and state institutions
- Natural person
- Legal entity



**Applicants by the region 2015 – 2020**

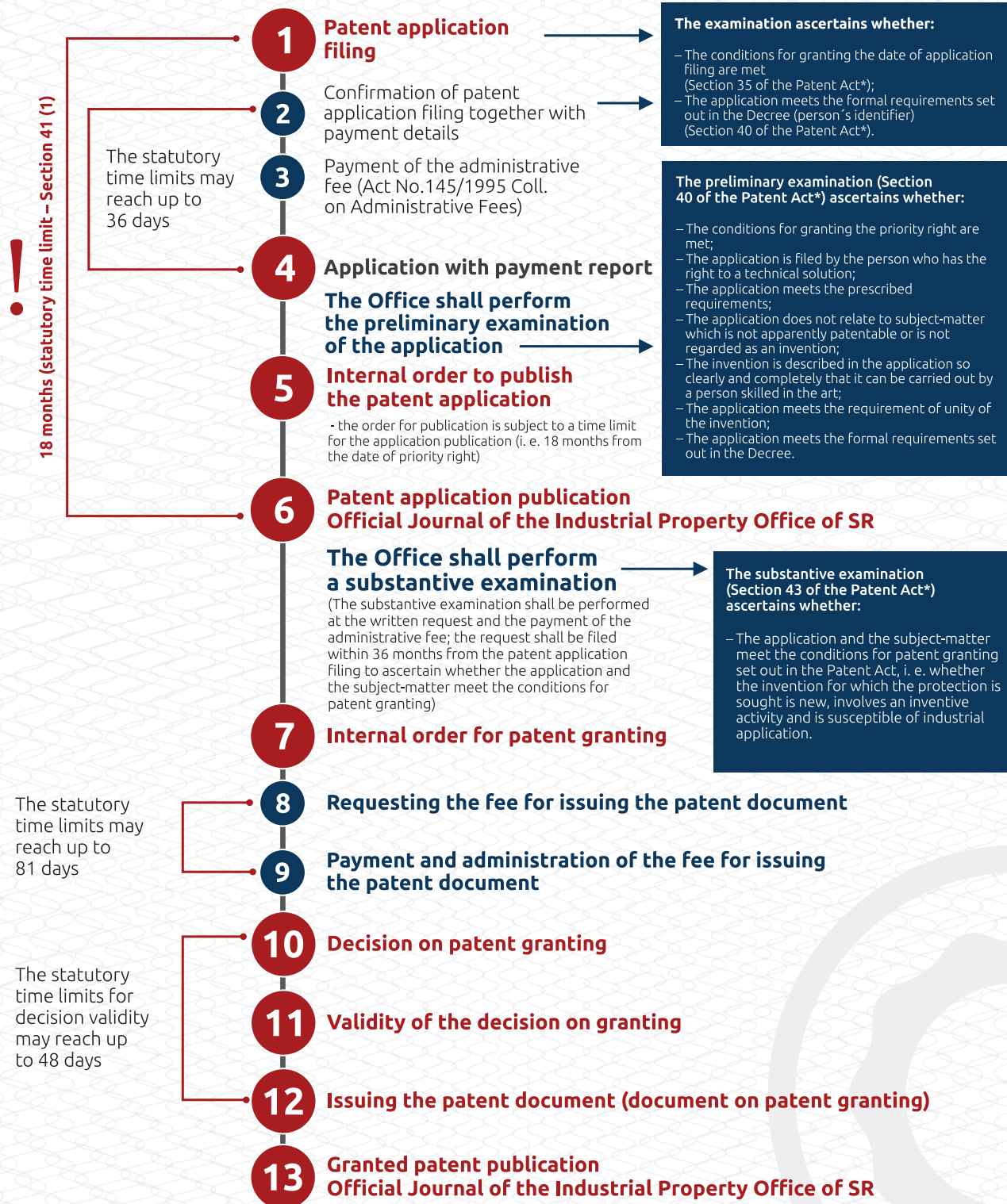






# PROCEEDINGS ON PATENT GRANTING

In October 2020, we published the processes and deadlines for applicants, thus enabling the public to have transparent public control over the Office's internal processes. The aim of this measure is to inform about procedures and legal obligations, to open the Office to transparent public control and thus to fulfill legitimate expectations of the public.





**Supplementary  
Protection Certificates  
for Medicinal Products  
and Plant Protection  
Products**

The Unique Deserves Protection





## Supplementary Protection Certificates for Medicinal Products and Plant Protection Products

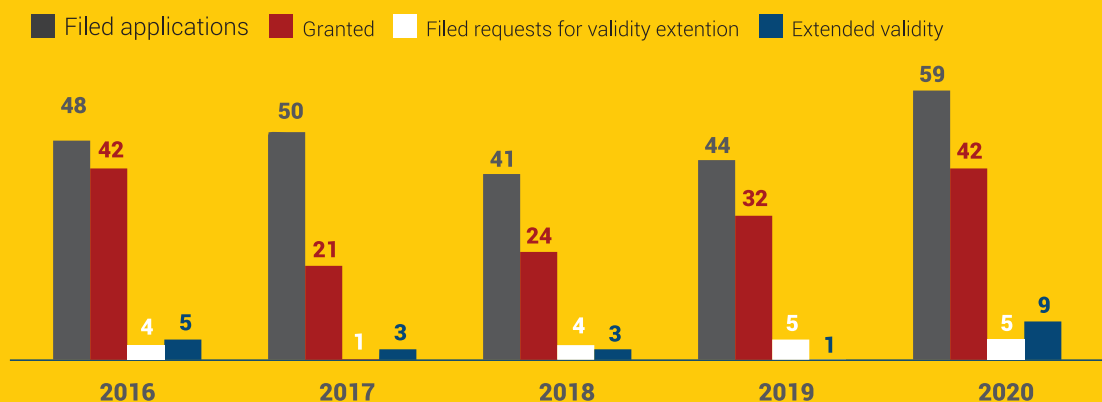


Introduction of a new medicinal product or plant protection product on the market requires extensive and expensive research and additional several years of testing, and approval by the relevant authority. When such medicinal product or a plant protection product is protected by a patent, authorisation procedure shortens the effective patent protection period for such medicinal product or plant protection product, i. e. the period for commercial use of a new medicinal product or plant protection product. Sufficiently long patent protection of such new medicinal products and plant protection products is essential for the return of investments in pharmaceutical research and thus also for support for further pharmaceutical research and for research in the plant protection field. Supplementary protection certificates shall have to balance a shortened period of the basic patent protection.

Medicinal products and plant protection products, which can be placed on the market only on the base of an authorisation issued by the relevant authority, are protected by supplementary protection certificates. The certificate is granted to an owner of a basic patent or to his/her legal successor for a period not extending five years depending on the time elapsed between the filing the patent application of the basic patent and the authorisation to place the product on the market. The validity of supplementary protection certificates for medicinal products, for which studies had been conducted in compliance with agreed paediatric investigation plan approved by the European Medicines Agency, can be extended for another 6 months under certain conditions.

In 2020, the Office received **59 applications** for supplementary protection certificate and granted **42 supplementary protection certificates**. In 2020, five supplementary protection certificate owners requested the supplementary protection certificate validity extension for six months and the Office decided to extend the validity of nine certificates.

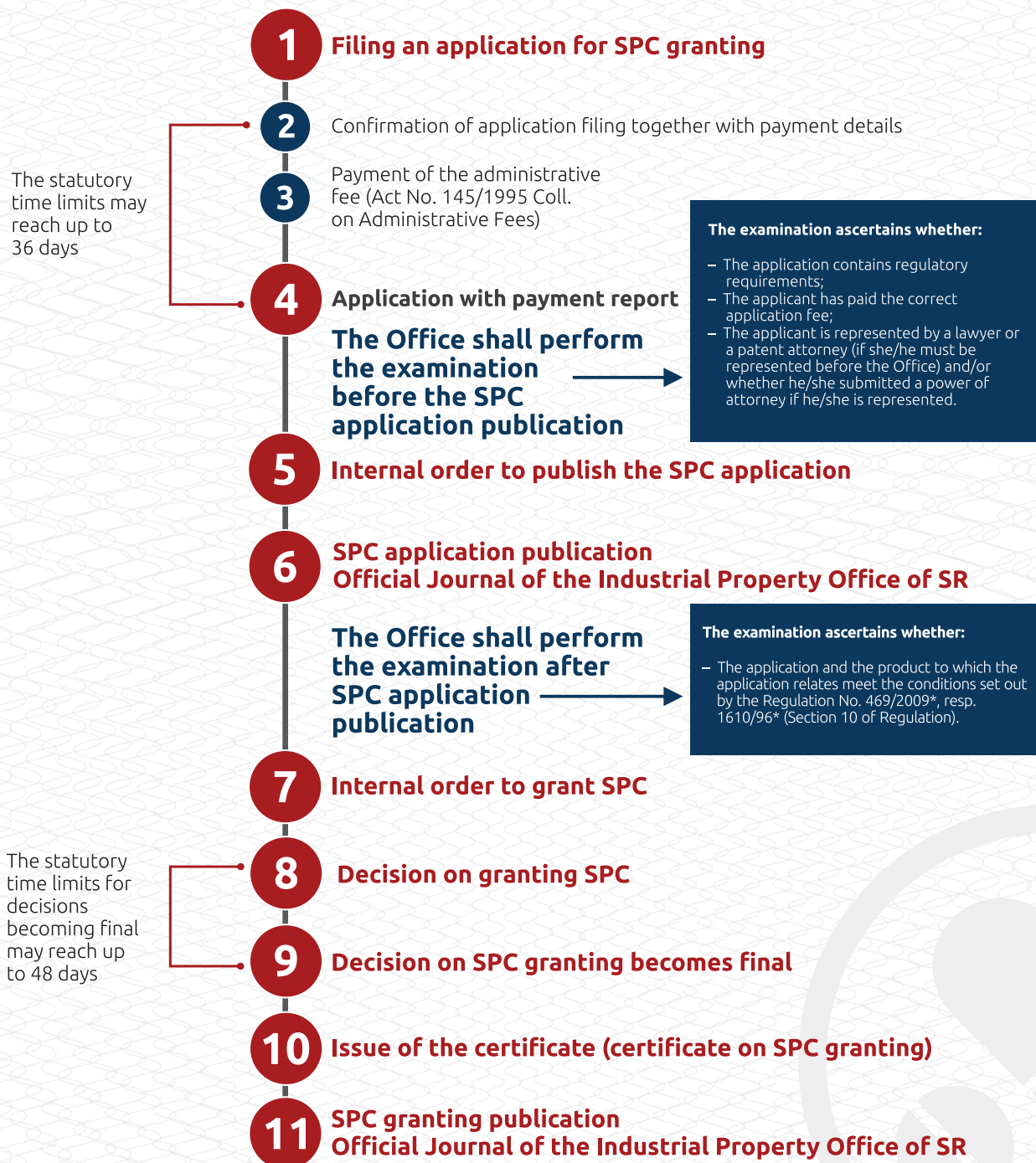
Supplementary protection certificates	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Filed applications	48	50	41	44	59
Granted	42	21	24	32	42
Filed requests for validity extension	4	1	4	5	5
Extended validity	5	3	3	1	9





# PROCEEDINGS ON SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE GRANTING

In October 2020, we published the processes and deadlines for applicants, thus enabling the public to have transparent public control over the Office's internal processes. The aim of this measure is to inform about procedures and legal obligations, to open the Office to transparent public control and thus to fulfill legitimate expectations of the public.



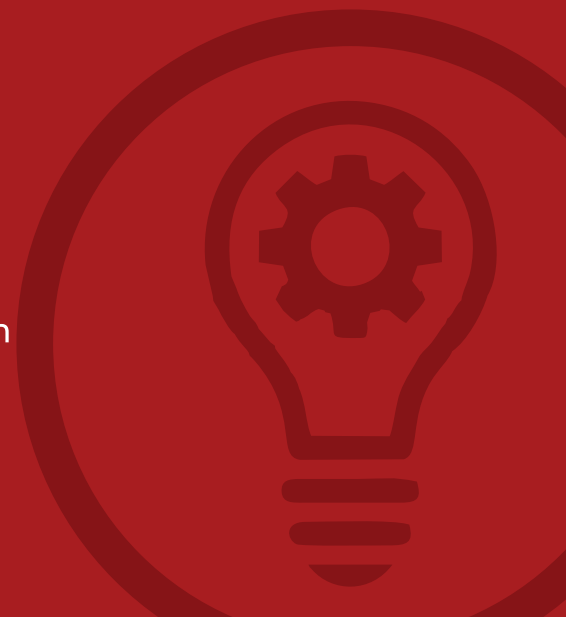
\* Regulation (EC) No 469/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products and Regulation (EC) No 1610/96 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products





# Utility Models

The Unique Deserves Protection



# Utility Models

Based on the number of filed applications it can be stated that a utility model is the most common form of protection of technical solutions in Slovakia. Utility model protects technical solutions if they are new, involve an inventive activity, and are industrially applicable.



The holders of valid registered utility models shall have an exclusive right to exploit the protected technical solutions identical to patent rights. However, unlike patents maximum validity of which is 20 years from filing an application, the utility model may be valid for a maximum of 10 years from filing an application. These rights can be obtained in a simpler way than patent protection for an invention because utility models are registered without examination of the novelty and inventive step if technical solutions fall within the scope of subject-matters protected by utility models. The disadvantage is a higher risk that the registered utility model can be cancelled from the Register on the request of the third party if the Office based on such request finds out that the utility model subject matter fails to meet conditions set by the Act No. 517/2007 Coll. on Utility Models and on Amendment of Some Acts.

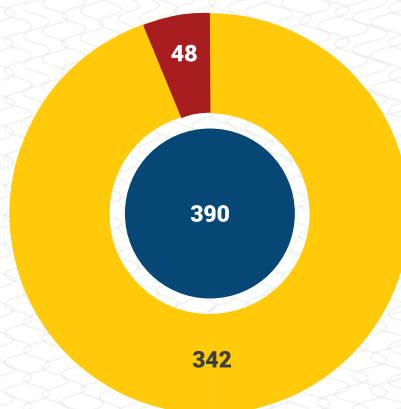
By December 31, 2020, there were **1,854 valid utility models** in the Slovak Republic; during 2020, the Office registered **323 utility models**, which represents increase by 1 application compared to 2019.

In 2020, the Office received **390 new utility model** applications; it is **increase by 20 %** compared to 2019. In 2020, domestic applicants filed **342** applications and foreign applicants filed **48** applications. Most utility models filed by foreign applicants were from the Czech Republic and Switzerland.

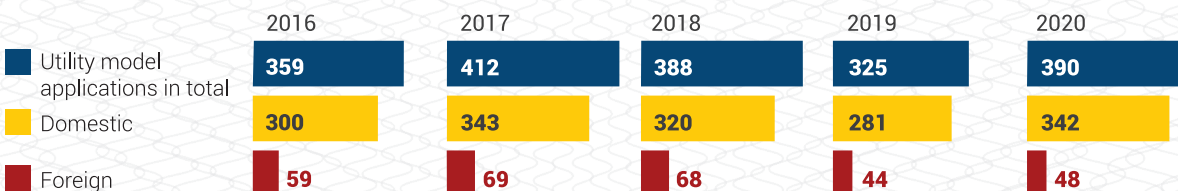
Most utility model applications filed in 2020 concerned **transportation (11 %) and analytical, measurement and control technologies (9.7 %)**. The recorded 20 % increase in the number of utility model applications filed was also due to the fact that, following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, a relatively high number of applications subjects of which are directly or indirectly related to treatment, prevention and protection were filed with the Office.

## Utility model applications 2020

-  Utility model applications in total
-  Domestic
-  Foreign



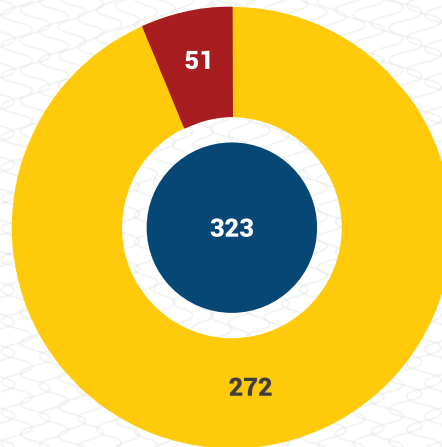
## Utility model applications 2016 – 2020



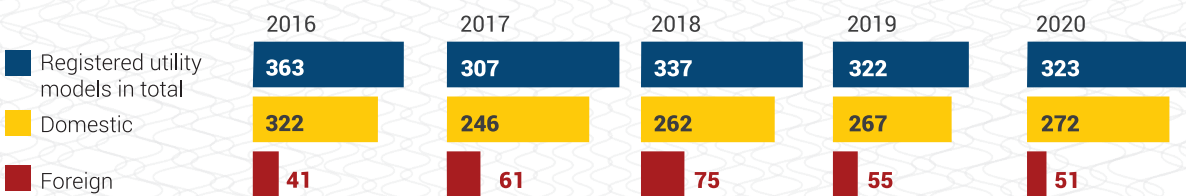


### Registered utility models 2020

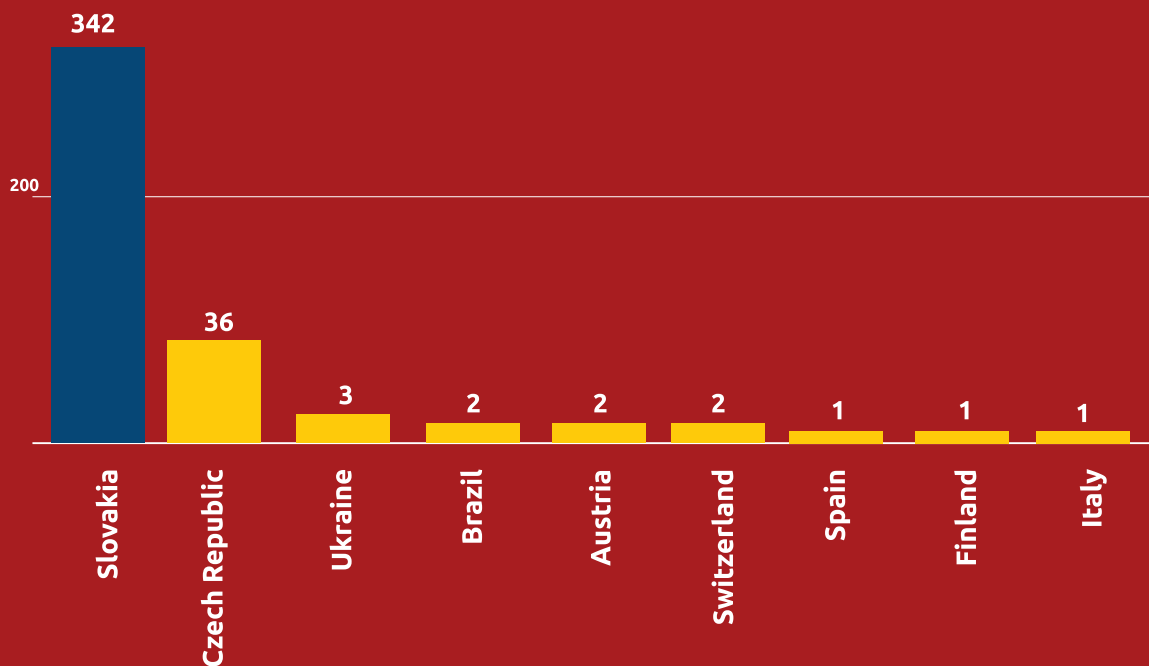
- Registered utility models in total
- Domestic
- Foreign



### Registered utility models 2016 – 2020

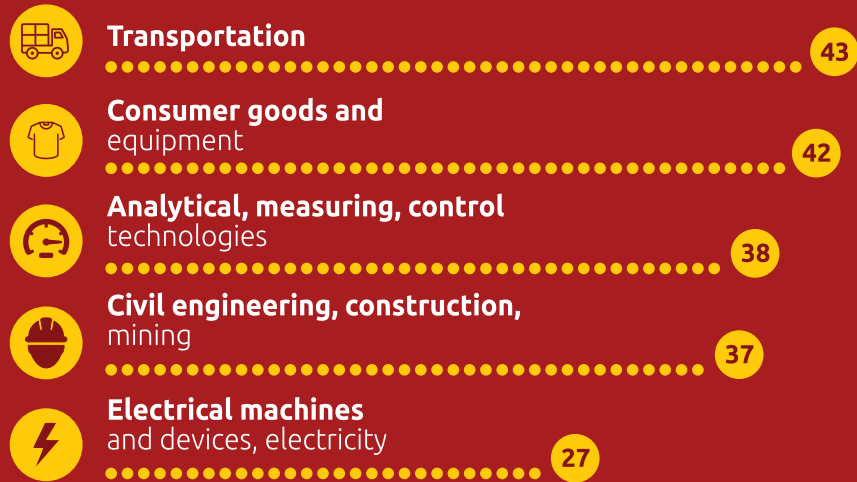


### Filed utility models by the country of origin 2020



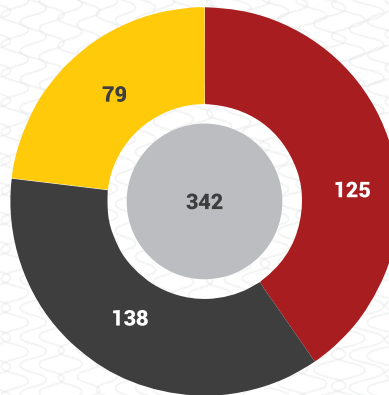


**5**  
**most**  
registered  
classes  
(International  
Patent  
Classification)

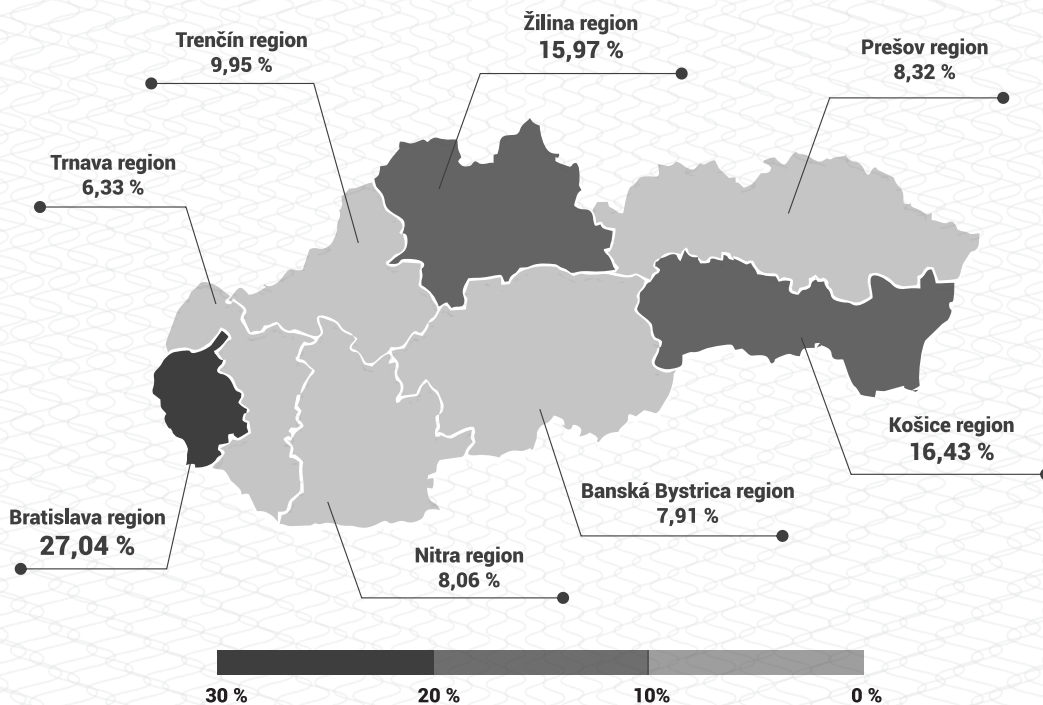


**Slovak applicants by the subject 2020**

- Slovak applicants in total
- Universities and state institutions
- Legal entity
- Natural person



**Applicants by the region 2015 – 2020**

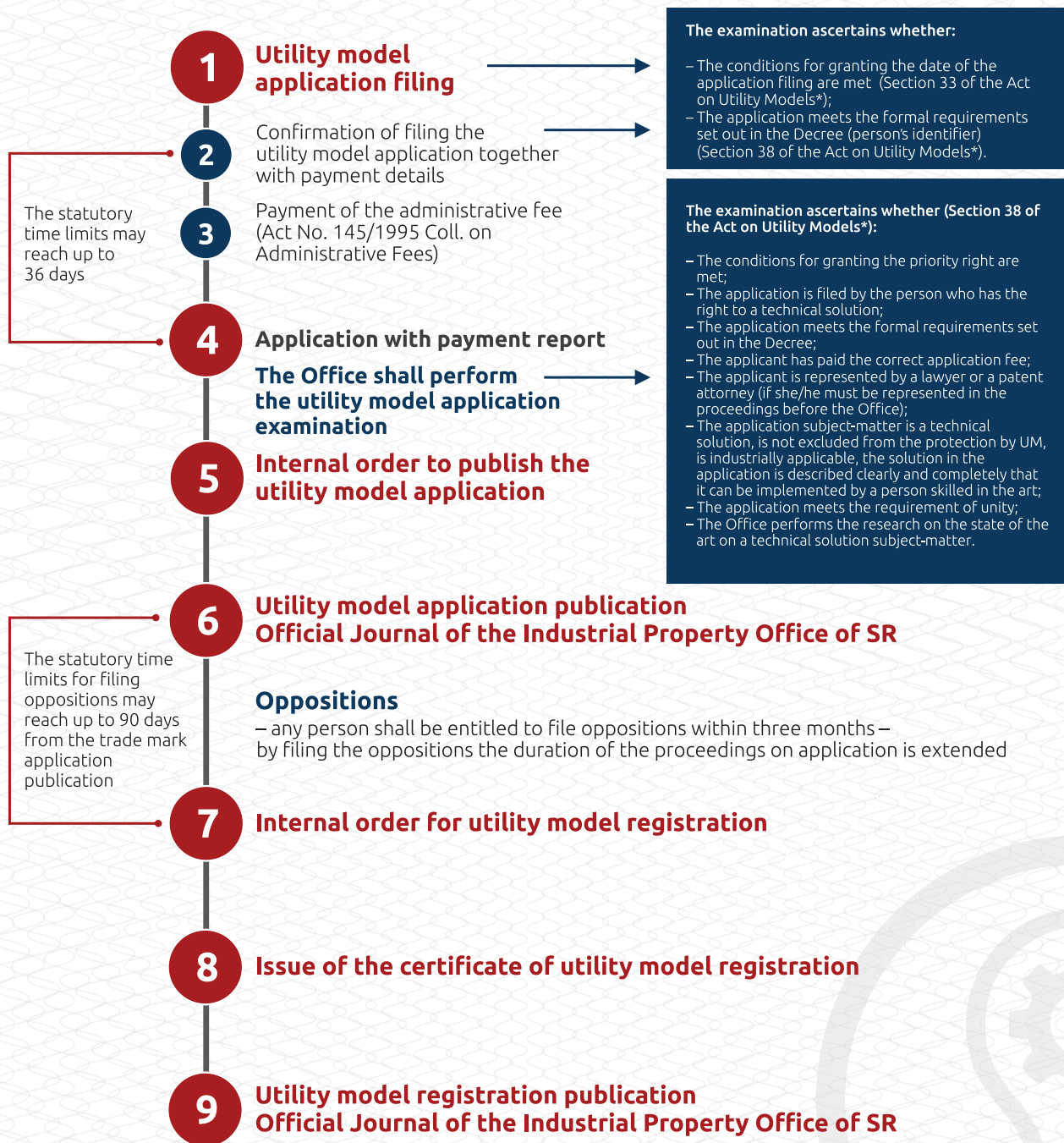






# PROCEEDINGS ON UTILITY MODEL REGISTRATION

In October 2020, we published the processes and deadlines for applicants, thus enabling the public to have transparent public control over the Office's internal processes. The aim of this measure is to inform about procedures and legal obligations, to open the Office to transparent public control and thus to fulfill legitimate expectations of the public.







# **Dispute** Proceedings

The Unique Deserves Protection



# Dispute Proceedings

Dispute proceedings at the IPO SR shall prevent granting the protection for industrial property subject-matters that do not meet legal requirements or remedy the illegal situation as has already occurred.

Before the entry of a trade mark into the Register or granting the protection to an international trade mark within the territory of the Slovak Republic, any person shall be entitled to submit the oppositions within the legal period from the publication of the trade mark application or international trade mark in the relevant Journal.

Subsequently, even after granting the protection, which may prove to be unjustified, in order to restore the legal status of already registered trade mark the request for the revocation of a trade mark or the request for declaration of invalidity of a trade mark can be filed. In the case of a registered utility model and a design, a request for cancellation from the Register can be filed. Granted patent not meeting patentability requirements can be revoked upon the dispute proceedings.

In 2020, the number of new **opposition filings was 147**; compared to the previous year, it is **6 % less**.

In case of **requests for declaration of invalidity and revocation of a trade mark or an international trade mark**, there were **41 requests** filed; it is contrary **increase by 25 %** compared to the last year.

As regards requests related to **technical subject-matters of industrial property protection** (patents, supplementary protection certificates and utility models) **only 7 filings** were recorded; it is half less than in the previous period. In this area, this is **a continuous decrease**, especially in **patent revocation requests**.

The situation in relation to **designs** cancellation proceedings in 2020 copied the situation from the previous years 2016, 2017 and 2019, when **no request** was filed as well, and only one request was filed in 2017.

In 2020, the Office issued **159 decisions** in relation to **oppositions to entry of a sign** that is a subject of the trade mark application into the Office's Register, or the refusal of protection within the territory of the Slovak Republic in case of international trade marks; the number of decisions issued in 2020 in absolute terms is by 30, resp. 29 decisions more and in percentage terms by **19 % more** than in the last two years.

In case of requests for **invalidation and revocation of a trade mark** or an international trade mark the Office issued **42 decisions**; it is **slightly less (approximately by 4 %)** than in the previous year when the Office issued 45 decisions.

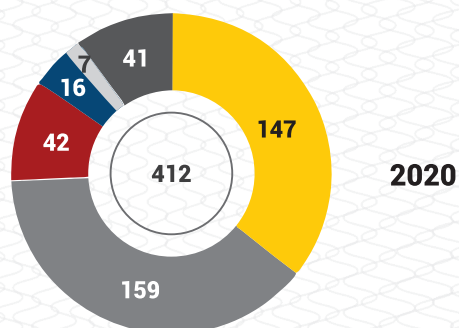
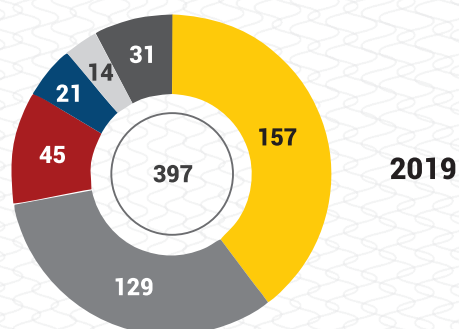
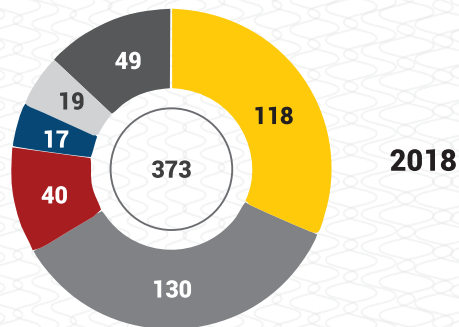
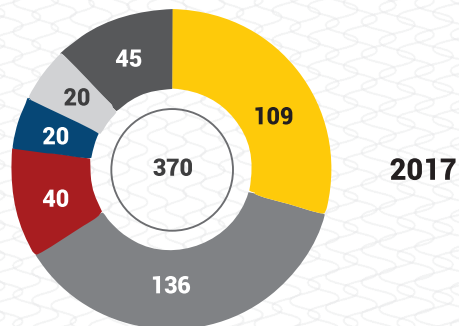
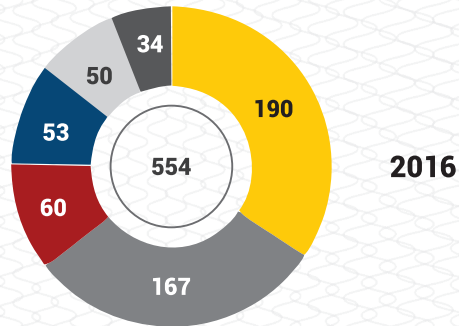
In proceedings for **revocation of a patent, cancellation of a utility model and a design, determination proceedings and proceedings related to supplementary protection certificates**, **16 decisions** were issued in 2020, which less than in 2019 when the Office issued 21 decisions. However, this is mainly due to the declining number of proposals filed.

The significant difference in the number of decisions in 2016 was influenced by the specific situation when the Office dealt with filings for a revision of supplementary protection certificates validity.



**Dispute proceedings**  
2016 – 2020

- Dispute proceedings in total
- Oppositions against the entry of a sign into the register filed
- Decisions on filed oppositions
- Requests for revocation/invalidation of a trade mark
- Decisions on filed requests – trade marks
- Requests – patents, supplementary protection certificates, utility models, designs
- Decisions on filed requests – patents, supplementary protection certificates, utility models, designs







# Appeal Proceedings

**The Unique Deserves Protection**



# Appeal Proceedings

A party to the proceeding may appeal against the first-instance decision of the IPO SR not yet final by an ordinary remedy; in proceedings before the IPO SR it is an appeal. The institute to review the decision apart from the appeal and retrial are the extraordinary ways to review final decisions of the IPO SR. Review of a decision apart from appeal proceedings serves to review final decisions by second instance authority on its own initiative or another initiative. The appeal is the most used remedy in proceedings before the IPO SR.


In 2020, **101 remedies** against the first instance decisions of the Office were filed. There were 100 appeals in total filed and, in one case; there was proceedings to review a decision outside the appeal proceedings. It is a **decrease by almost 19%** compared to 2019.

The largest number of filings – as well as in previous years – related to **trade mark remedies**. These amounted up to **85%** of all filings at the Appeals Department in 2020. In 2020, the number of remedies against decisions relating to patents, European patents, utility models, and designs was 15.

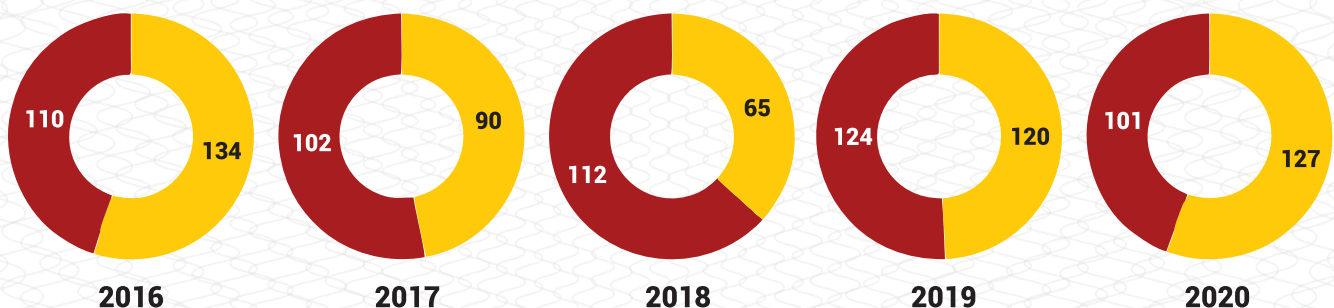
In 2020, the Appeals Department **completed 127 proceedings** on appeals (one proceedings to review the decision apart from the appeal proceedings; the other cases were appeals against first instance decisions). Out of total, three proceedings were completed informally, the rest of the proceedings were completed by decisions. The Appeals Department issued two decisions to suspend appeal proceedings against trade mark decisions.

Due to the fact that the Department terminated more appeal proceedings than initiated in 2020 (127 vs. 101), the number of pending proceedings in the department decreased after a longer period. As of December 31, 2020, in the Department's agenda there were **168 pending proceedings**; it is **decrease by 25 proceedings** compared to 2019.

## Remedies 2016 – 2020

 **Initiated proceedings** (appeals, decision review apart from the appeal proceedings, reopening of proceedings)

 **Terminated proceedings** (appeals, decision review apart from the appeal proceedings, reopening of proceedings)





# Legislation

**The Unique Deserves Protection**







## Legislation

In 2020, legislative work on the amendment to the Act no. 469/2003 Coll. on Designations of Origin of Products and Geographical Indications of Products and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended took place. Changes in national legislation are based on relevant EU legislation and reflect the EU's accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Designations of Origin and Geographical Indications.

Officially, the legislative process began with the publication of preliminary information on the proposal on June 16, 2020. The National Council of the Slovak Republic approved the amendment on February 3, 2021.

The amendment to the Act will enter into force on May 25, 2021, provides clear legislation in the field of protection of designations of origin and geographical indications of products at national level and provides a comprehensive and generally applicable framework of measures to relevant EU regulations at national level.

It brings specifically:

**Unambiguous definition of the scope of the legal regulation of designations of origin of products and geographical indications of products in the legal order of the Slovak Republic. Specifically, it is a matter of granting protection at the national level to a category of products for which EU law allows the existence of protection at the national level of the Member States, i. e. category called non-agricultural products;**

Reflecting the changes resulting from the EU's accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on designations of origin and geographical indications, while respecting the Commission's competences under Regulation (EU) 2019/1753 of October 23, 2019 on Union action following its accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on designations of origin and geographical indications;

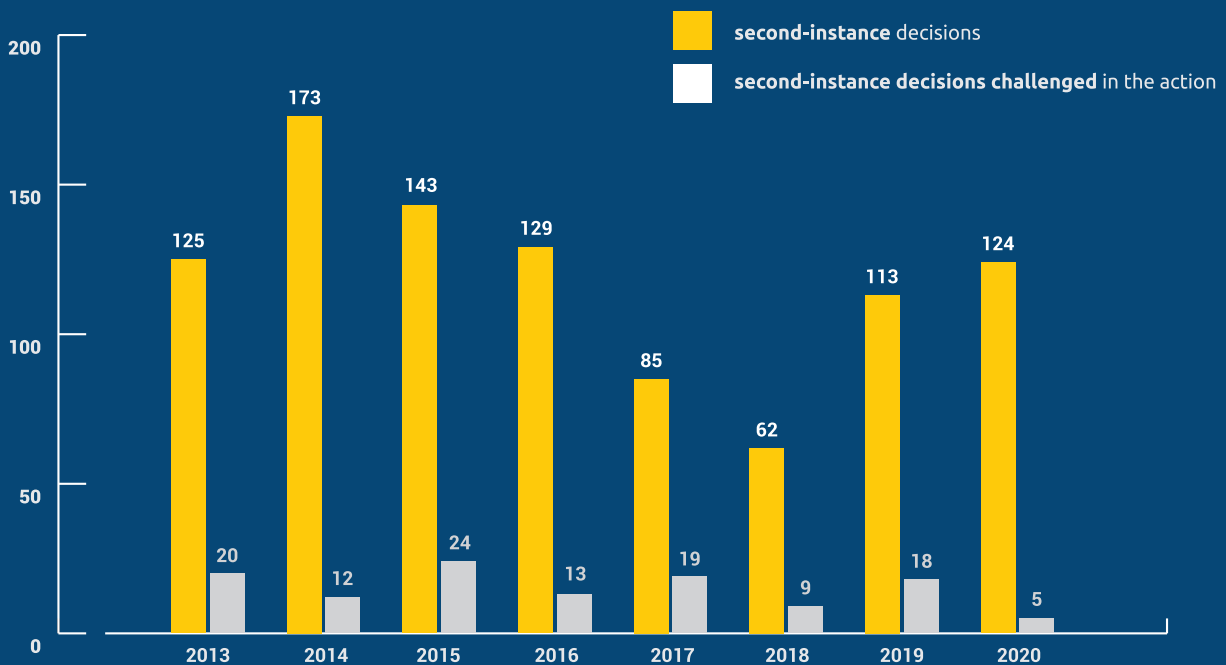
**Adjustment of the so-called "national" stages of procedures, the implementation of which is left to the Member States by the EU regulations in the system for the protection of product designations and geographical indications, in particular in the context of the new Regulation (EU) 2019/787 on spirit drinks.**

# Court Proceedings

Five legal actions to review the legality of the Office's decisions were submitted to the Regional Court in Banská Bystrica in 2020; three of them related to trade marks and two actions related to patents. This is a significant decrease of the legal actions compared to the previous period, which may have been caused mainly by the pandemic situation in 2020.

By December 31, 2020 there were six pending cases to review the legality of the Office's decisions at the Regional Court in Banská Bystrica and nine pending cases were at the Supreme Court of SR as the Cassation Court.

The following graph illustrates the number of administrative actions brought against the Office's second-instance decisions in the period 2013 to 2020. On average, in the period 2013 to 2020, 12.6 % of the Office's second-instance decisions were challenged by an administrative action.



**Actions to review the legality of the Office's decisions**





# **International, Regional and Bilateral Cooperation**

**The Unique Deserves Protection**





## International, Regional and Bilateral Cooperation



Activities in the field of international cooperation were significantly affected by the global pandemic of the COVID-19 virus, as a result of which there were significant changes in terms and especially the form of implementation of planned international events. These took place in a virtual environment.

The IPO SR employees participated in administrative and expert bodies of international organisations to form and defend actively positions of Slovakia in the IP protection area. Besides that, the IPO SR Management represented Slovakia in the European Patent Organisation (EPO) Administrative Council, European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) Administrative Council and Budget Committee, in the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), as well as in the Administrative Council of the Visegrad Patent Institute.

### European Union Intellectual Property Office



During 2020, the Office continued to implement projects under the Cooperation Agreement with **EUIPO**, aimed at improving the provision of information, raising awareness of intellectual property protection, convergence activities and selected activities of the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights. The Office confirmed its interest in participating in other new projects (SME support, quality management, convergence tools). As part of joint activities with the EUIPO Academy, educational instructional videos on trade mark proceedings were recorded.

As part of bilateral meetings, a technical meeting with the EUIPO representatives took place in Bratislava in February 2020. The annual meeting of presidents of national patent offices for cooperation with the EUIPO, the meeting of national contact persons for cooperation and the bilateral meeting for the cooperation agreement with the EUIPO also took place in virtual form.

### European Patent Organisation



In 2020, there was a significant change in the field of technical cooperation of **the European Patent Office** with EPO Member Countries. In June, a new cooperation policy was adopted as part of the Strategic Plan 2023 for the new programming period and measures to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation. Through the new project structure as well as the communication mechanism with the Member States, the European Patent Office intends to simplify and streamline mutual cooperation. The projects are organised into four pillars - knowledge and quality, convergence of procedures, work sharing and cooperation in the field of IT.

A new impetus was given to the support of the PatLib Centres project, bringing greater interactivity of individual PatLib Centres with each other and with the EPO. The partnership aims to exchange and provide information, information materials and to organise events aimed at enhancing and supplementing expertise in the industrial property field.

The Office representatives participated in the meetings of the Patent Law Committee, the Technical and Operational Support Committee and the negotiations on bilateral technical cooperation.





## World Intellectual Property Organization



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meetings of the governing bodies of **WIPO** and the selected committees took place in a hybrid format. Despite the situation and due to the expiring mandate of the Director General of WIPO, a procedure for selecting a new candidate for the post of Director General took place during the first half of 2020. Out of a total of 10 candidates, Mr. Daren Tang, Executive Director of the Singapore Patent Office, was nominated and approved at an extraordinary meeting of the WIPO General Assembly in May 2020. His functional mandate began on October 1, 2020. At the end of the year, a video call was made by the IPO SR President to the new Director General of WIPO on priorities and possible areas of mutual cooperation.

## European Union



In 2020, during the first half of the year, Croatia and then Germany chaired the EU Council. The agenda of these presidencies focused on shaping IP policy through a new EU industrial policy with an emphasis on SMEs, their more intensive use and better IP management. The national positions were presented by representatives of the Office at the meetings of the Commission's expert group on industrial property policy. This forum included the preparation of a Commission Action Plan, consultations on reform of designs, geographical indications, and discussions on the IP aspects in relation to the pandemic, licensing policy and support for SMEs. Two strategy papers were adopted and published in November 2020 - the Council Conclusions on Intellectual Property Policy and the Review of the Union's Industrial Design System and the Commission's Intellectual Property Action Plan to Strengthen and Recover the EU Economy. These documents define the priority areas that the EU will meet in the coming period.

## Visegrad Patent Institute



At the end of February, a meeting of the VPI working group for IT/quality management and a group of technical experts took place. A virtual meeting of the VPI Administrative Board took place in June, at which the new VPI Director Johanna Stadler was appointed. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Serbia and the Visegrad Patent Institute entered into force in September. At the meeting of the VPI Administrative Board in December, the VPI budget for 2021 was approved. At the same time, the Czech Republic handed over the Presidency of the VPI Administrative Board in 2021 to the Slovak Republic.

## Other Activities

A regular meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Coordination of Cooperation in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy was held in September. The common goal is the dynamic functioning of the Commission focusing on the results and fulfilment of the mandate from the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic and developing its activities towards external partners to be perceived as an effective communication platform bringing specific solutions to existing issues and problems. In December, a virtual bilateral meeting was held between the IPO SR President and the Management of the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland on mutual cooperation.



# **Services** of the Office

**The Unique Deserves Protection**





## Services of the Office



The IPO SR established in 2006 the Information Centre to provide effectively information on industrial property subject-matters protection, on filing applications and related fees. The service also includes the provision of publicly available information from the IPO SR registers.

In the specialised public study room, the Office provides public an access to patent and non-patent literature. The patent fund was updated by 93 national patent documents and 323 utility model documents in paper form. An overview of the patent fund content is updated on a quarterly basis and available on the Office's website.

# 5 672

**in 2020 the Information Centre dealt with 5,672 requests for information**

(thereof 4,350 by phone, 1,221 by e-mail, 95 in personal and 6 by post)

notifications to the extension  
of utility model validity

# 463

# 116

notifications to extension  
of design validity were sent

in 2020, cooperation with state  
administration and public authorities  
was provided in 737 cases

# 737

# 44

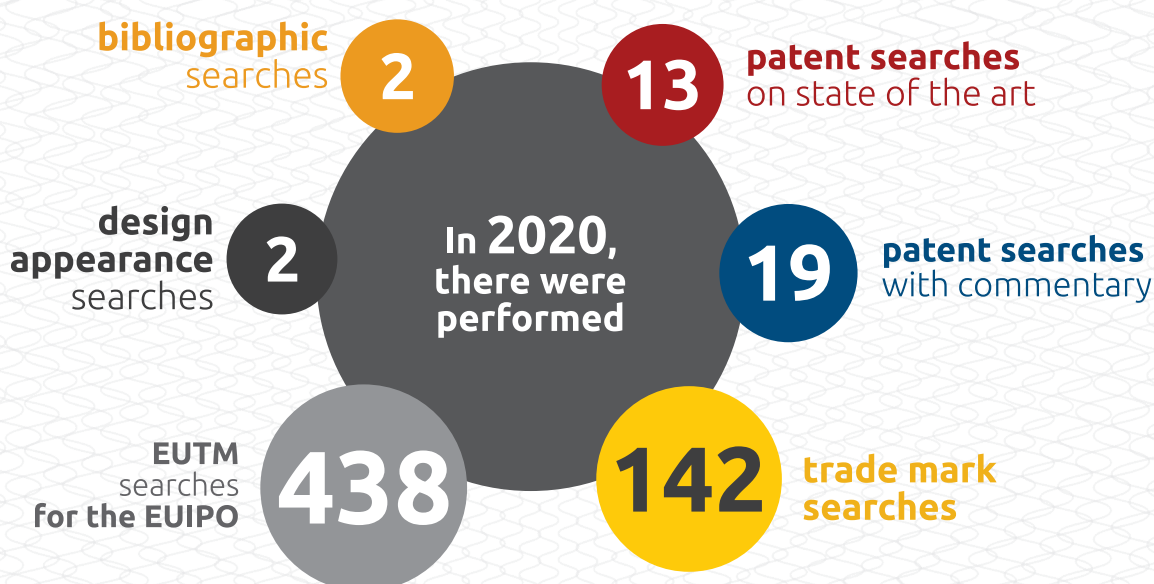
there were 44 requests  
for access to the files during  
the reporting period

A **reference library** is available for the professional public and contains **9,740** volumes of books. In the library's collection there are domestic and foreign periodical publications, some of which are used by the Office's organisational units, and part of them is also available to the public in the Office's study room. Five new books were added to the fund, three of which were purchased and 2 were gifts.

The **deposit library of the WIPO** containing **322** publications is also included in the library fund of the Office and is available for library study for public and the Office employees. 21 new publications were processed and included in the fund in 2020.

Based on the order, the IPO SR performs various types of **search services** – patent searches, design searches, trade mark searches and bibliographic searches. Searches are performed in national and international databases. Searches help to convey specific patent information on specific entries.

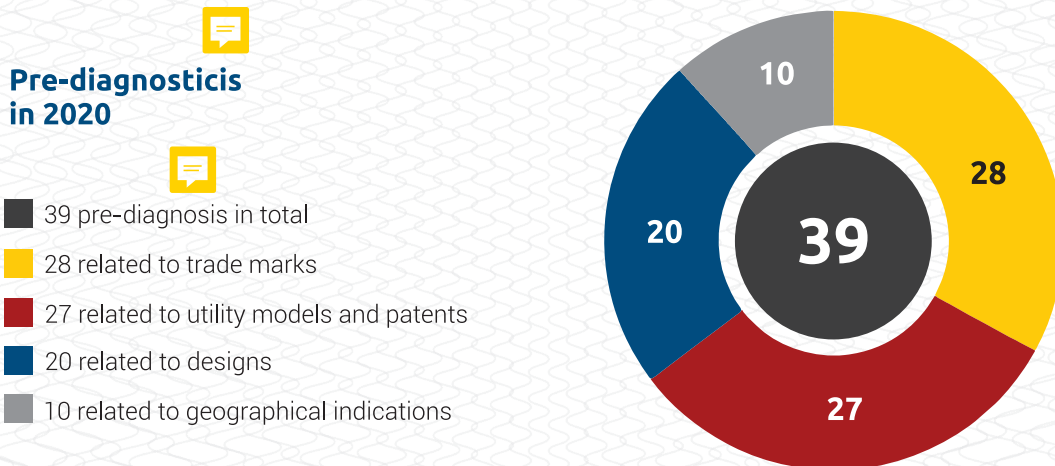
The search result may ultimately e.g. reduce investments and save research and development resources in case of discovery of non-novelty of an invention/technical solution. In the same way, possible litigation can be avoided if it is found that someone else owns industrial law.





**Industrial property rights pre-diagnostics** is a consultancy and advisory service in the field of industrial property protection. It is supposed to provide the management with “the package” of information so they could develop a suitable strategy. It is intended to emphasize the importance of industrial property protection, to indicate the direction of the business, but it must not directly propose filing patent applications or any other way of protecting intellectual property. **Recommendations and conclusions** resulting from analyses **are not binding for businesses**.

The industrial property rights pre-diagnostics was performed by **two department employees** and **39 pre-diagnostics** were performed in 2020.



**The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic is the holder of the title Effective User of the CAF Model**

**Effective  User**

Since January 1, 2019, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic has been participating in the national project of implementation and support of quality management in public administration organisations, specifically implementing the **CAF (Common Assessment Framework) Model**. As a European model of comprehensive quality management used in the public sector, the model aims at self-evaluation of the organisation and its continuous improvement in every area of its activity. The year 2020 was in the spirit of **implementing the approved Action Plan for Improvement** (hereinafter API), containing detailed implementation programmes focused on various areas - personnel, technical equipment of the Office, improvement in service quality, active feedback from stakeholders and social responsibility. The implementation of the API will take place by the end of 2022. In July 2020, the Office managed to successfully complete the project by obtaining the title of **Effective User of the CAF Model**, in which the Office, its management and staff undertook to constantly improve and enhance the Office's services and approach in relation to internal and external interested parties.





# Industrial Property Popularisation

The Unique Deserves Protection



## Industrial Property Popularisation

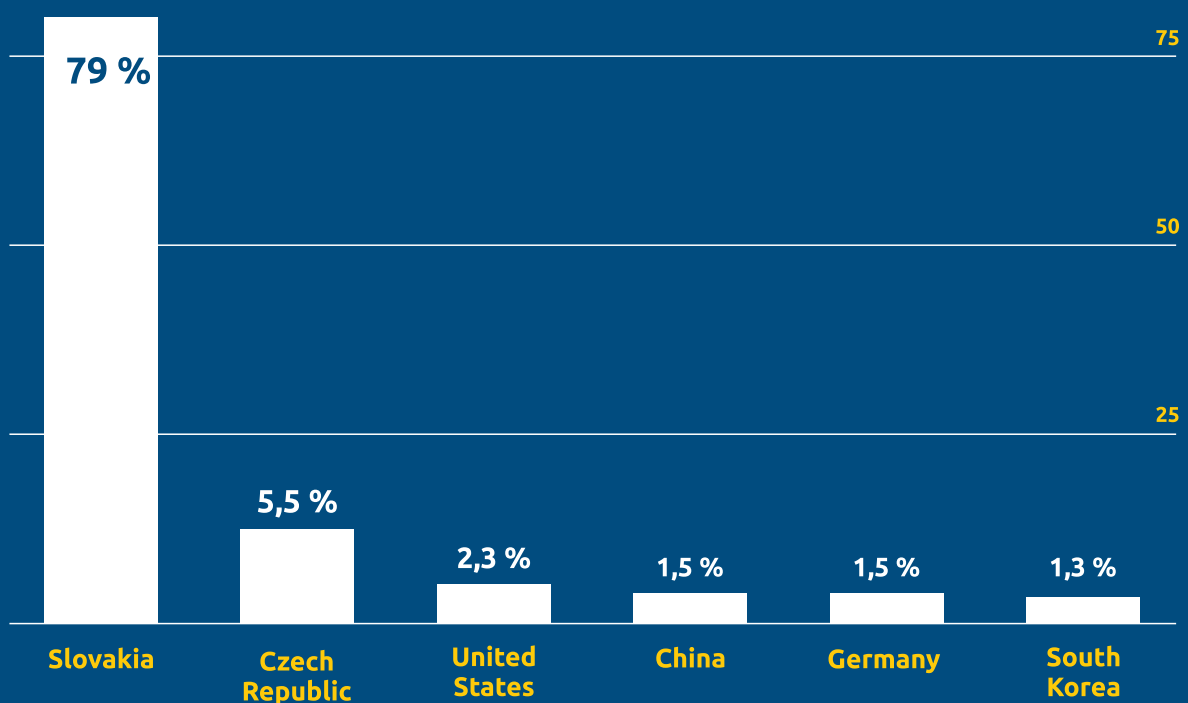
The IPO SR tries to provide the knowledge related to industrial property to general public in an easily accessible and understandable way by using **electronic media**, various **publications**, **promotional** and **educational** events. The network of partner **patent information centres** and **contact points** serves to raise public awareness on intellectual property.

## IPO SR website and social networks

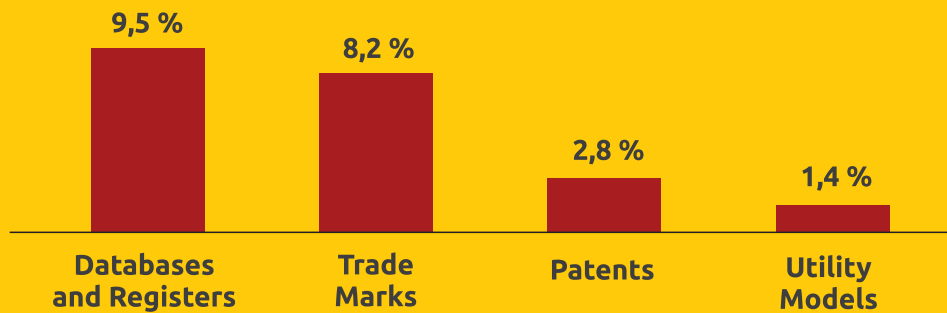
The website of the Office **www.upv.sk** is a complex source of information for public. In addition, it has been becoming the effective means of communication. It allows the public to access quickly to information and databases related to industrial property. Both Slovak and English versions provide information about upcoming conferences, seminars and other events.

In 2020, the number of visits of the IPO SR web portal was **more than 171,000**. The number of regularly returning users of the portal is **20.5 %**.

### Users of IPO SR website by countries



### The most visited sections of IPO SR website



From 2017, the new and improved **IPO SR web registers** have been made available to public and they are one of the most visited subpage of the Office’s web domain. Databases contain selected data from industrial property subject matters-registers kept by the Office and are updated online after the made changes. Details of the records provide bibliographic data, data on the state of applications and legal status, full texts of published patent documents in PDF format, trade mark and designs representations, sequence items and full text searching in industrial property subject-matters.

In order to raise public awareness of the importance of intellectual property and its protection, the IPO SR uses the pages on social networks **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **LinkedIn**.



Úrad  
priemyselného  
vlastníctva SR



upv\_sr



Industrial  
Property Office  
of the Slovak Republic

The IPO SR cooperates with the Ministry of Culture of SR in keeping the portal [www.dusevnevlastnictvo.gov.sk](http://www.dusevnevlastnictvo.gov.sk). This information portal is a digital platform to give a basic overview, orientation and information resources across all intellectual property subject-matters. It contains information on copyright and rights related to copyright, industrial property rights, the law against unfair competition; it also includes information on the legal regulation of trade names, trade secrets and know-how.



## Press News



In the course of 2020, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic began issuing press releases on its activities, thus informing the public about the Office's activities, legislative changes or planned events.

### April

- **1. In the fight against the pandemic**, original and valuable solutions are emerging in Slovakia
- **World IP Day**
- **The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic warns:** the number of counterfeit protective equipment in Europe is increasing

### June

- **The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic will also start to contribute to the "business hundred"**

### July

- **Counterfeiting causes annual losses of state revenues in Slovakia** in the amount of 456 mil. EUR
- **Impact of Brexit** on industrial property rights

### August

- **The activity of Slovak innovators** increased during the corona crisis
- **We are constantly improving ...**  
We have obtained the title of Effective User of the CAF Model

### September

- **Global Innovation Index 2020**
- **What does the patent granting or trade mark** registration proceedings involve?
- **New FAST TRACK service** - a fundamental change in the area of accelerating internal processes for clients

### October

- **Protect your logo, protect your goods and services!**

### November

- **We awarded the Ján Bahýľ Prize**
- **We are speeding up the proceedings**, shortening the time of publishing the Official Gazette of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic
- **Slovaks are at the forefront of buying counterfeit goods and**, in addition, do not oppose downloading illegal online content

### December

- **The Industrial Property Office warns** - don't buy fake gifts under the tree!
- **The Industrial Property Office will help** you get up to 1,500 euros to support your business!
- **Auditors examine the protection of intellectual property in the EU**
- **The Industrial Property Office warns:** audio-visual piracy is on the rise during the corona crisis
- **Beware of Fake Vaccines Against Covid-19!**

## Publications



The **IPO SR Gazette** is the most important publication related to industrial property protection issued regularly **twice a month** since 2021. From the issue 1/2016 the Office made the official version available for free only on its website electronically. The older official versions of the Gazette issued in 1993 – 2007 are being available in the printed form; Gazette issued in 2008 – 2015 was on the CD-ROM in PDF format. Gazettes in the paper form and on the CD-ROM are available in the study room of the Office.

Currently the **Magazine Duševné Vlastníctvo** (Intellectual Property) is the only Slovak periodical focused on the issues of industrial rights and copyright.

The electronic magazine **E-zine of the IPO SR** provides updated information and interesting facts on the intellectual property from Slovakia and abroad.

In 2020, the editorial board of the Magazine was extended by several prominent personalities from the field of intellectual property – prof. JUDr. **Branislav Hazucha**, LL.D – Hokkaido University in Japan; prof. JUDr. **Ivo Telec**, CSc. – Palacký University Olomouc; Mgr. **Martin Husovec**, PhD. – London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom, and JUDr. **Jakub Slovák** – Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

In 2020, the Magazine began the preparatory phase of indexation in professional and scientific databases. As early as December 2020, it managed to be included in the EBSCO professional database. The indexation process has been continuing in 2021.

## Promotional Events



The IPO SR tries to get closer to public via several popularisation activities. The most important events are those organised on the World Intellectual Property Day, Researchers' Night, various exhibitions in the IPO SR premises or events within the educational programme.

The World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) has designated **April 26**, the World Intellectual Property Day and the 20th year was dedicated to the importance of green technologies and innovation for the future of the planet. The central theme of the Conference was Innovation for a Green Future. This day has long been a reminder of the value of creativity, innovation, raising legal awareness of intellectual property and promoting the exchange of experiences.

The 20th annual **Intellectual Property in Slovakia Conference** took place on May 26, 2020 as a virtual event and presented innovators and trends in domestic conditions.

In the virtual space, interesting presenters presented topics such as the circular economy and its opportunities, green technologies in the field of patents, building a battery system in Slovakia, clothing recycling and solar design tiles. The year 2020 was in the spirit of the COVID-19 pandemic, so we also paid attention to the topic of respirators of the new generation at the Conference.

The IPO SR representatives participated in two Fairs – in Nitra and Bratislava (Gastro Danubius, Hunting, Fishing and Beekeeping) – to promote the Office's services.



## Ján Bahýľ' Award



Since 1999, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic has been awarding the Ján Bahýľ' Award to Slovak originators and patent, utility model and design owners for their exceptional technical or design solutions in order to increase creativity in Slovakia. In 2020, the Office announced the 8th annual Ján Bahýľ' Award.

The President of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, on the proposal of the evaluation committee, awarded prizes in the following two categories:

### 1. Individual applicants, small enterprises and micro-enterprises with up to 49 employees:

patent <b>P 288377</b>	Tumbler as a construction material, especially for construction, method of its production and equipment for its production
Owner	PR Krajné, s. r. o.

### 2. Universities and research centres:

patent <b>P 288407</b>	Method for disposal of cyanobacteria in still waters and device for its implementation
Owner	Technická univerzita v Košiciach

patent <b>P 288023</b>	Trichoderma atroviride and Trichoderma harzanium strains and plant protection products containing them
Owner	Chemický ústav SAV

## Education

Based on the decision of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic from April 30, 2019, and the certificate of re-accreditation No. 1308/2019/54/1 the IPO SR provides **Educational Programme the Intellectual Property**.

In the first half of 2020 the Educational Programme The Intellectual Property continued with Module D – Industrial Property Law. **19 participants** successfully passed the final exams in the Module D.

From October, the Programme Intellectual Property began with Module A - Intellectual Property Law and Copyright Basics. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to continue the course in person, and since December 2020, teaching has been transferred online via the ZOOM application. Module A was attended by 24 students, and the exams took place in January 2021. At the same time, in the third week of December 2020, the first meeting took place within Module B - Creativity - Its Management, Marketing and Economics.

The Office also in 2020 continued in educational activities on intellectual property protection importance for elementary and secondary schools pupils and for academics and business community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only **3** lectures were held for secondary schools, **2** lectures were given in distance form and **1** online seminar for universities. There were also **3** consultation days, **1** lecture, **1** webinar and **1** Open Day of the Office on the topic of Intellectual Property Protection for Representatives of Companies and Entrepreneurs.

**The internship programme** resulting from the Cooperation Agreement with Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica took place online through the ZOOM application in 2020 due to the pandemic. The weekly program was attended by 27 students of law faculties and the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations.





## The IPO SR Partners



In 2020 the cooperation with the Patent Information Centres (**PATLIB**) and Information and Advisory Points for Innovations (innoinfo) continued based on the cooperation agreements.

The partnership consists in exchanging and providing information, information materials and organising events to extend and supplement expert knowledge on industrial property. In the Slovak Republic there are PATLIB Centres in the Slovak National Library in Martin, the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information in Bratislava, State Scientific Library in Košice, the State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica and the Centre within the University of Žilina in the Technology Transfer Centre.

**Contact and Information Points of the Office (CIP)** inform the public about possibilities of protection of their creative activities results and make the public aware of the existence of the state institution providing protection for their intangible assets, intellectual property.

These points include the State Scientific Library in Prešov, Juraj Fándly's Library in Trnava, Michal Rešetka's Public Library in Trenčín, Karol Kmeťko's Regional Library in Nitra, Ľudovít Štúr's Regional Library in Zvolen and Regional Library in Žilina.

The mission of the **Information and Advisory Points for Innovation (INNOINFO)** operating directly in the regions of Slovakia, is to inform the managements mainly of small and medium-sized entrepreneurs about the field of innovation and their industrial property protection.

In the **Košice, Prešov and Bratislava Regional Chambers'** premises, the Consultation Day was organised. Due to the higher interest from the members of the Bratislava Regional Chamber of SCCI, the consultations were divided into two separate events. The Office's employees provided participants with information concerning intellectual property rights protection.

In cooperation with the Košice Regional Chamber of SCCI, **the Technical University in Košice** organised a professional seminar for small and medium-sized enterprises KnowING IPR, which was attended by an employee of the information centre as a lecturer. The topic of the lecture was a general overview of the system of intellectual property protection.

## Warning – Do not pay misleading invoices!

Certain private companies have been offering to the industrial property holders their registrations, publishing or recording in various internet databases for a fee. **The IPO SR warns that these activities do not relate to the Office's proceedings and there is no obligation to pay any fee for these services to other entities than the IPO SR. Ignoring their services have no legal effect in regard to the protection of the industrial property rights.**



# **Human** Resources

**The Unique Deserves** Protection





# Human Resources

The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic is pursuant to the Section 32 of the Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of the Activity of the Government and on the Organization of the Central State Administration as Amended a central state administration body operating in the field of industrial property. The Office performs activities as the central state administration body in the field of protection of the inventions, utility models, designs, topographies of a semiconductor products, trade marks, designations of origin of products and geographical indications of products. The Office manages the central fund of patent literature and provides the exchange and access to information in the field of industrial rights.

The Office's activities are performed by two groups of employment relationships:

Civil employment relationships are related to the performance of civil service by civil servants; and

Employment relationships of employees in the performance of work in the public interest related to the performance of dependent work in employment.

Average registered number of employees in 2020 was 132.6 Office employees. At the same time, 19 employments were terminated, 12 of them due to organisational changes. As of December 31, 2020, four employees took maternity and parental leaves.

In the course of 2020, three external selection procedures were announced in relation with the filling of civil servant posts in the temporary civil service. Only one selection procedure was successfully completed, namely in the Legislative and Legal Department. However, the selected successful candidate did not apply for admission to the civil service.

The selection procedures for the filling of two civil servant posts in the Patent Department were unsuccessful due to the fact that no candidate applied.

Also during 2020, the Office was represented at the international institute. Two employees performed their duties as national seconded experts at the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) by December 31, 2020.

## **Annual collective agreement provides employees additional benefits beyond the scope prescribed by the law and the collective agreements of a higher degree, such as**

- An increase of leaving and retirement bonuses;
- Paid time off;
- Increased compensation income during a sick leave;
- Contributions to supplementary pension insurance;
- Bonuses and gifts during 50-year and 60-year anniversaries.

The management of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic continually adopts the measures necessary to improve all the Office's activities and outputs not only at national but also at international level.





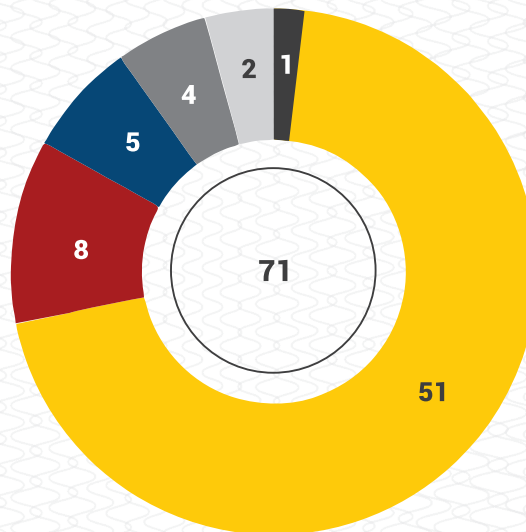
**Registered number of the Office's employees as of December 31, 2020**  
in terms of representation of women and men



**Educational activities of employees 2020**

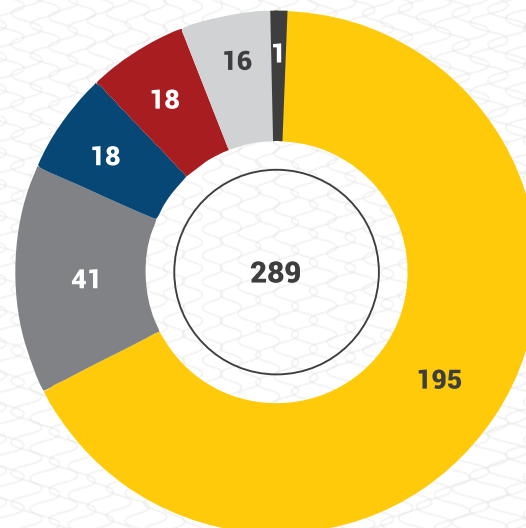
**Number of activities**

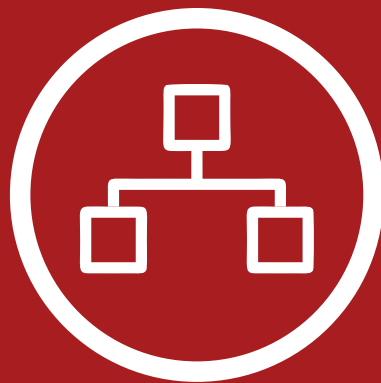
- Activities in total
- Vocational training
- Management training
- Language learning
- Personal development
- IT
- Other



**Number of participants**

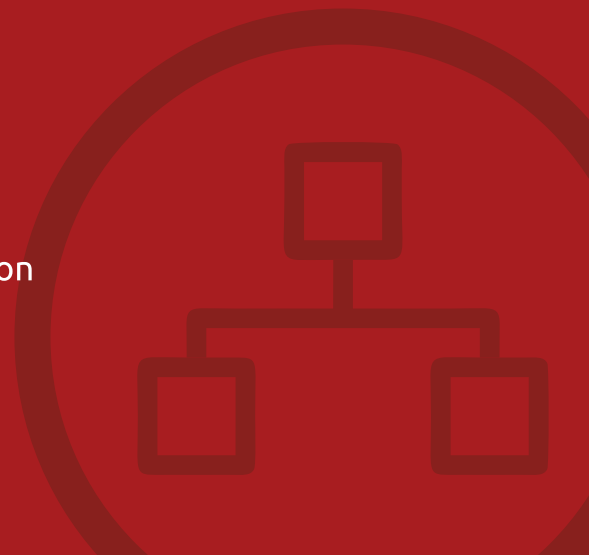
- Participants in total
- Vocational training
- Management training
- Language learning
- Personal development
- IT
- Other



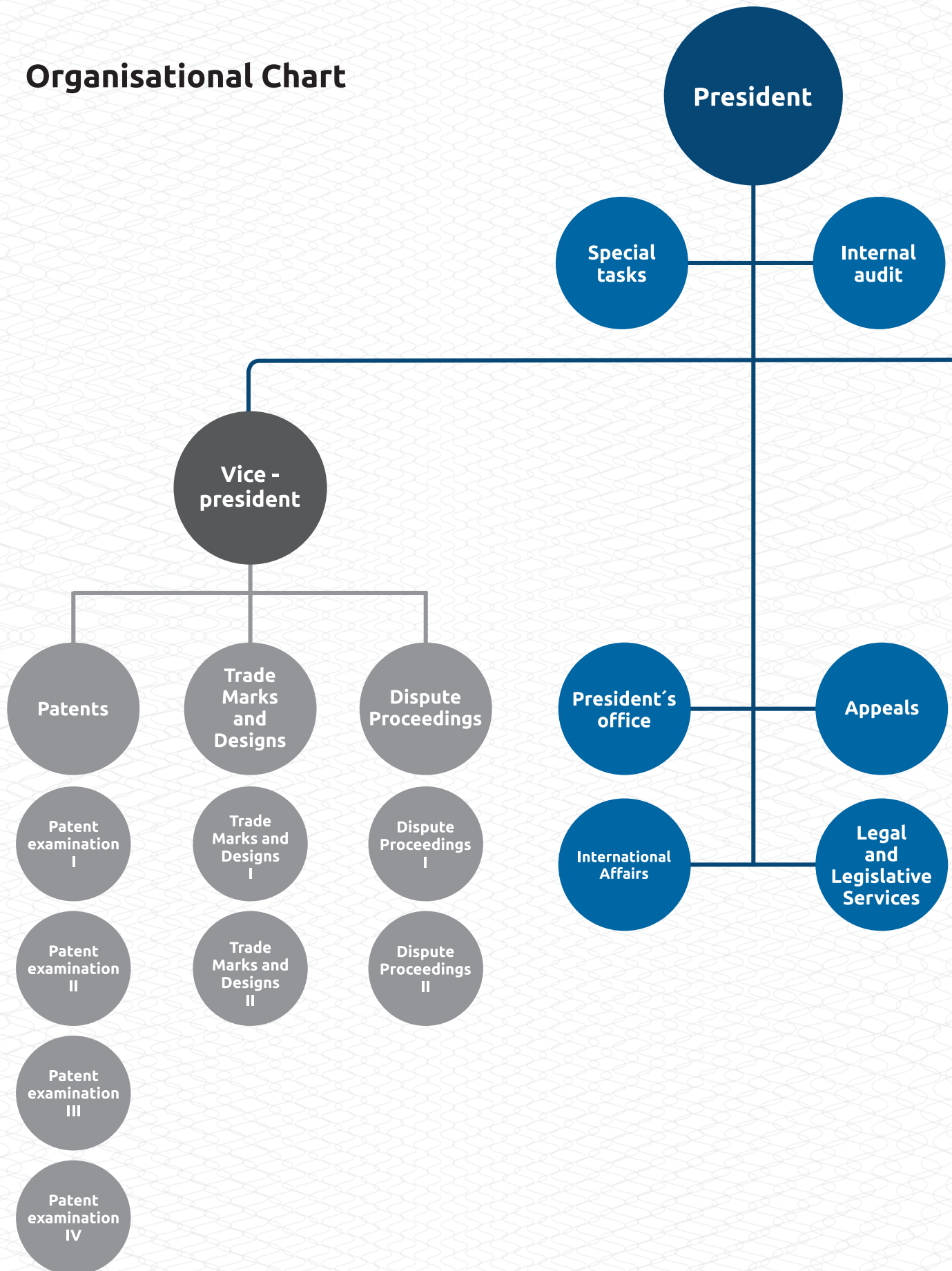


# Organisational Chart

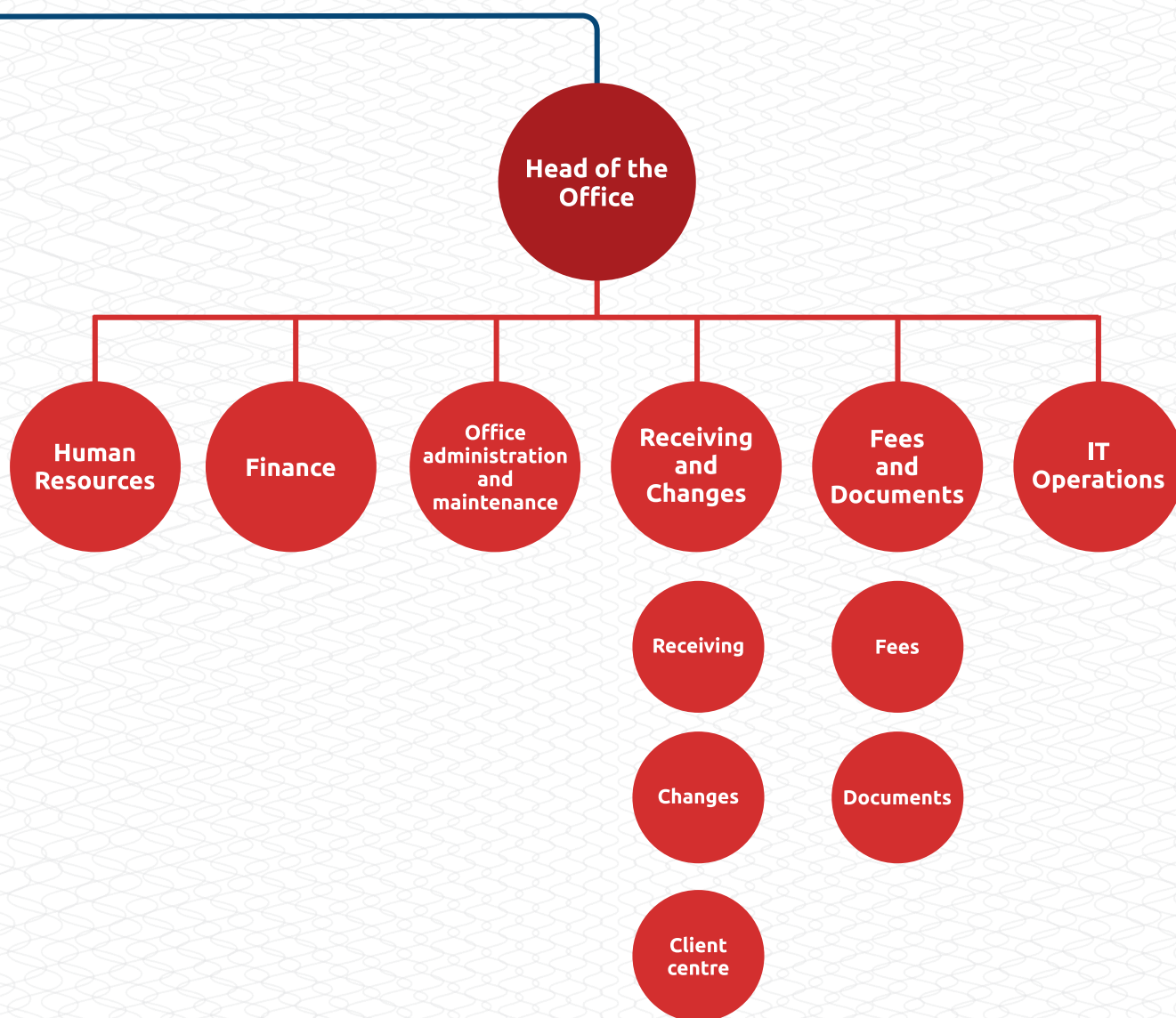
The Unique Deserves Protection



# Organisational Chart









# Economy

The Unique Deserves Protection



## Economy



The IPO SR is a state budgetary organisation. Revenues are achieved by its activities (non-tax revenues of the chapter including revenues from renewal fees), as well as from administrative fees.

In 2020, the IPO SR reached total non-tax revenues in the amount of **3,744,672.71 EUR**, while the majority of their fulfilment was from renewal fees – **2,777,259.73 EUR**. The fees are being collected under the Act No. 495/2008 Coll. on Maintenance Fees for Patents, European Patents and their Effects for the Slovak Republic, Maintenance Fees for Supplementary Protection Certificates for Medicinal and Plant Protection Products, and the Amendment of Certain Laws as Amended.

Compared to the previous year, **total non-tax revenues** increased by **372,591.33 EUR**. In the area of administrative fees, decrease by 16,473.60 EUR was recorded to the total amount **994,604.87 EUR** compared to the year 2019 when the administrative fees amounted to 1,011,078.47 EUR.

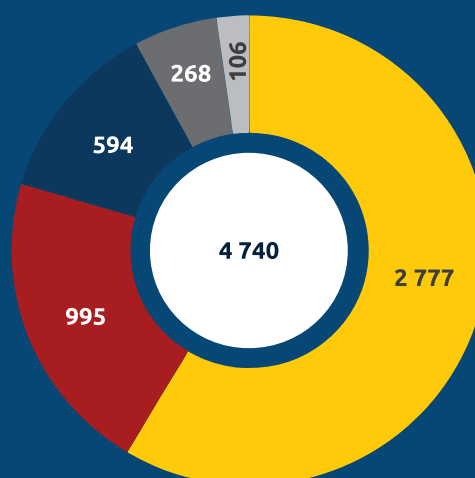
A higher share of electronic submissions, for which filing fees are reduced by 50%, influences the decrease in revenues from administrative fees.

In 2020, the Office was involved in two projects that were financed from European Union funds, the Project CAF - Implementation and Support of Quality Management in Public Administration Organisations, and the Project Reducing the Energy Intensity of the IPO SR Building in the amount of 1,155,673.47 €.

For 2020, the total expenditure was budgeted to **6,397,891.03 EUR** and drawn in the amount of **6,395,092.87 EUR**. Of this, current expenditure amounted to **4,431,789.16 EUR**. Capital expenditure amounted to **1,963,303.71 EUR**.

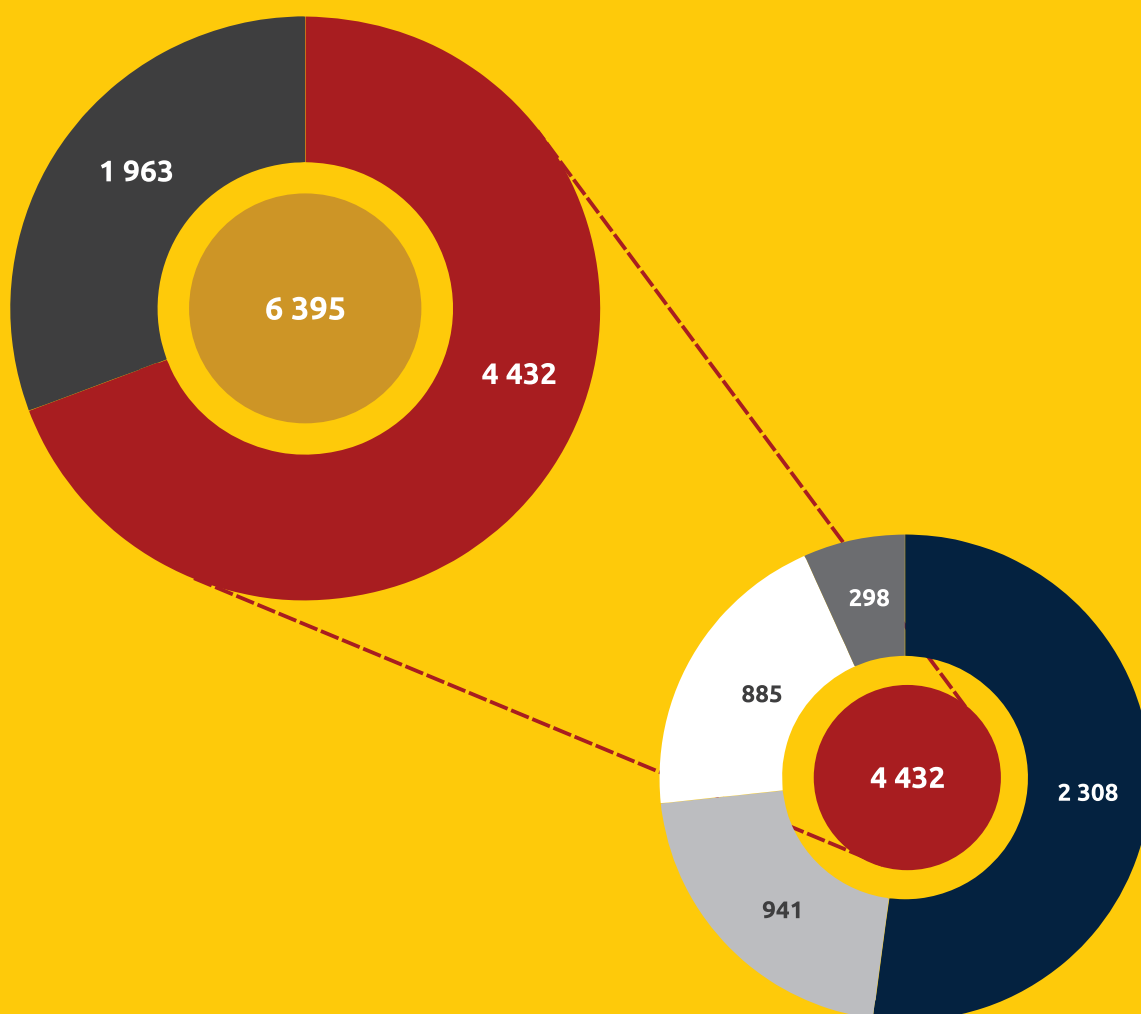
Economic Results  
in 2020

Index	tis. EUR
Chapter revenue	3 745
• maintenance fees revenue	2 777
• ITM revenue from WIPO	594
• services of the Office revenue	106
• extraordinary revenue	268
Administrative fees	995
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>4 740</b>





Index	tis. EUR
<b>Total chapter expenditure</b>	<b>6 395</b>
<b>Of which current expenditure:</b>	<b>4 432</b>
• wages, salaries, service income and OOV	2 308
• insurance and employer's contributions	885
• goods and services	941
• current transfers	298
<b>Capital expenditure</b>	<b>1 963</b>





# Annexes

**The Unique Deserves Protection**



Patent applications by the country of origin

Country	National				PCT				Total						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Austria	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Brasilia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Czech republic	4	11	8	17	6	2	1	2	2	1	6	12	10	19	7
Germany	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
United Kingdom	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Switzerland	3	0	0	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	4	3
Italy	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Japan	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Republic of Korea	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Malta	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>206</b>
Turkey	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
United States of America	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Foreign	11	16	12	24	11	4	7	2	4	4	15	23	14	28	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>221</b>



**Patent applications 2020 according to the international patent classification**

Section	Patent applications				IPC
	Domestic	Foreign	PCT	Total	
<b>I. Electrical engineering</b>					
1 Electrical machinery and apparatus, electrical energy	10	0	0	10	4,52
2 Audio-visual technology	0	0	0	0	0,00
3 Telecommunications	7	1	0	8	3,62
4 Information technology	4	0	0	4	1,81
5 Semiconductors	1	0	0	1	0,45
<b>II. Instruments</b>					
6 Optics	3	0	0	3	1,36
7 Analysis, measurement, control technology	23	0	2	25	11,31
8 Medical technology	15	1	0	16	7,24
9 Nuclear engineering	1	0	0	1	0,45
<b>III. Chemistry, pharmaceuticals</b>					
10 Organic fine chemistry	2	0	0	2	0,90
11 Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	3	0	0	3	1,36
12 Pharmaceuticals, cosmetics	3	0	0	3	1,36
13 Biotechnology	5	0	0	5	2,26
14 Agriculture, food chemistry	8	0	0	8	3,62
15 Chemical and petrol industry, basic materials chemistry	3	1	0	4	1,81
16 Surface technology, coating	2	0	0	2	0,90
17 Materials, metallurgy	5	0	0	5	2,26



**Patent applications 2020 according to the international patent classification (continued)**

Section	Patent applications				IPC
	Domestic	Foreign	PCT	Total	
<b>IV. Process engineering, special equipment</b>					
18 Chemical engineering	0	1	0	1	0,45
19 Materials processing, textiles, paper	2	1	0	3	1,36
20 Handling, printing	12	0	0	12	5,43
21 Agricultural and food processing, machinery and apparatus	3	1	0	4	1,81
22 Environmental technology	4	2	0	6	2,71
<b>V. Mechanical engineering, machinery</b>					
23 Machine tools	18	1	1	20	9,05
24 Engines, pumps, turbines	9	0	0	9	4,07
25 Thermal processes and apparatus	7	0	0	7	3,17
26 Mechanical elements	4	0	0	4	1,81
27 Transport	22	0	1	23	10,41
28 Space technology, weapons	1	0	0	1	0,45
<b>VI. Consumption</b>					
29 Consumer goods and equipment	16	1	1	18	8,14
30 Civil engineering, building, mining	12	1	0	13	5,88
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>100,0</b>





Patents by the country of origin

Country	National					PCT					Total				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Austria	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Czech republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Czech republic	10	10	7	7	2	3	0	3	1	4	13	10	10	8	6
Germany	0	0	1	0	1	5	2	1	0	0	5	2	2	0	1
France	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
United Kingdom	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Switzerland	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	3	3	4	2	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Republic of Korea	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	0
Russia	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	0
Slovakia	81	59	86	67	77	0	0	0	1	2	81	59	86	68	79
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
United States of America	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	4	5	0	2	0	5	0	0
Foreign total	16	13	10	14	6	25	10	13	9	4	41	23	23	23	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>89</b>



**Granted patents 2020 according to the international patent classification**

Section	Patent applications				IPC
	Domestic	Foreign	PCT	Total	
<b>I. Electrical engineering</b>					
1 Electrical machinery and apparatus, electrical energy	3	1	0	4	4,49
2 Audio-visual technology	1	0	0	1	1,12
3 Telecommunications	5	0	0	5	5,62
4 Information technology	2	0	0	2	2,25
5 Semiconductors	0	0	0	0	0,00
<b>II. Instruments</b>					
6 Optics	0	0	0	0	0,00
7 Analysis, measurement, control technology	8	0	0	8	8,99
8 Medical technology	3	0	1	4	4,49
9 Nuclear engineering	1	0	0	1	1,12
<b>III. Chemistry, pharmaceuticals</b>					
10 Organic fine chemistry	0	0	0	0	0,00
11 Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	1	0	0	1	1,12
12 Pharmaceuticals, cosmetics	1	0	0	1	1,12
13 Biotechnology	0	0	0	0	0,00
14 Agriculture, food chemistry	0	0	0	0	0,00
15 Chemical and petrol industry, basic materials chemistry	1	0	0	1	1,12
16 Surface technology, coating	2	0	0	2	2,25
17 Materials, metallurgy	7	1	2	10	11,24





**Granted patents 2020 according to the international patent classification (continued)**

Section	Patent applications				IPC
	Domestic	Foreign	PCT	Total	
<b>IV. Process engineering, special equipment</b>					
18 Chemical engineering	4	0	0	4	4,49
19 Materials processing, textiles, paper	1	0	0	1	1,12
20 Handling, printing	4	0	0	4	4,49
21 Agricultural and food processing, machinery and apparatus	1	0	0	1	1,12
22 Environmental technology	2	1	0	3	3,37
<b>V. Mechanical engineering, machinery</b>					
23 Machine tools	5	1	0	6	6,74
24 Engines, pumps, turbines	2	0	0	2	2,25
25 Thermal processes and apparatus	1	0	0	1	1,12
26 Mechanical elements	5	0	0	5	5,62
27 Transport	0	1	0	1	1,12
28 Space technology, weapons	4	0	1	5	5,62
<b>VI. Consumption</b>					
29 Consumer goods and equipment	3	0	1	4	4,49
30 Civil engineering, building, mining	10	1	1	12	13,48
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100,0</b>





**Filed and registered utility models by the country of origin**

Country	Applications					Registered				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Austria	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	2	0	2
Bulgaria	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brazil	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	50	55	53	34	36	36	46	60	45	38
Germany	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	2	0
Spain	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Finland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
United Kingdom	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Hungary	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	1
Switzerland	0	0	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	5
Italy	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	2
Republic of Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Malta	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	4	3	1	0	0	3	3	1	1
Russian Federation	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	0
Seychely	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sweden	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>272</b>
Turkey	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ukraine	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	2	1	0
Foreign	59	69	68	44	48	41	61	75	55	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>323</b>



**Applications and registered utility models 2020**  
according to the international patent classification

Section	Applications				Registered				IPC
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	%	Domestic	Foreign	Total	%	
<b>I. Electrical engineering</b>									
1 Electrical machinery and apparatus, electrical energy	23	4	27	6,92	12	3	15	4,64	F21; G05F; H01B,C,F,G,H,J,K,M, R,T; H02; H05B,C,F,K
2 Audio-visual technology	3	0	3	0,77	3	0	3	0,93	G09F,G; G11B; H03F,G,-J; H04N+003,-005,-009,-013,-015, -017,-019,-021 , R,S
3 Telecommunications	4	1	5	1,28	2	2	4	1,24	G08C; H01PQ; H03B,C,D,H, K,L,M; H04B,H,J,K,L,M, N-001, -007,-011,Q, W
4 Information technology	8	1	9	2,31	4	0	4	1,24	G06; G11C; G10L; G16Z
5 Semiconductors	2	0	2	0,51	1	0	1	0,31	H01L, B81
<b>II. Instruments</b>									
6 Optics	4	0	4	1,03	6	0	6	1,86	G02; G03B,C,D,F,G,H; H01S
7 Analysis, measurement, control technology	36	2	38	9,74	33	1	34	10,53	G01B,C,D,F,G,H,J,K,L,M,N,P,Q,R,S,V,W; G04; G05B,D; G07; G08B,G; G09B,C,D; G12
8 Medical technology	21	3	24	6,15	12	4	16	4,95	A61B,C,D,F,G,H,J,L,M,N
9 Nuclear engineering	0	0	0	0,00	4	0	4	1,24	G01T; G21; H05G,H
<b>III. Chemistry, pharmaceuticals</b>									
10 Organic fine chemistry	0	0	0	0,00	0	0	0	0,00	C07C,D,F,H,J,K
11 Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	3	1	4	1,03	2	2	4	1,24	C08B,F,G,H,K,L; C09D,J
12 Pharmaceuticals, cosmetics	7	0	7	1,79	1	0	1	0,31	A61K, A61P, A61Q
13 Biotechnology	3	0	3	0,77	0	0	0	0,00	C07G; C12M,N,P,Q,R,S
14 Agriculture, food chemistry	6	1	7	1,79	6	1	7	2,17	A01H; A21D; A23B,C,D,F,G,J,K, L; C12C,F,G,H,J; C13D,F,J,K
15 Chemical and petrol industry, basic materials chemistry	7	3	10	2,56	5	1	6	1,86	A01N; C05; C07B; C08C; C09B,C,F, G,H,K; C10B,C,F, G,H,J,K,L,M,N; C11B,C,D
16 Surface technology, coating	6	1	7	1,79	1	0	1	0,31	B05C,D; B32; C23; C25; C30
17 Materials, metallurgy	2	0	2	0,51	5	2	7	2,17	C01; C03C; C04; C21; C22; B22, B82



**Applications and registered utility models 2020**  
according to the international patent classification (continued)

Section	Applications				Registered			IPC
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	%	Domestic	Foreign	Total	
<b>IV. Process engineering, special equipment</b>								
18 Chemical engineering	2	1	3	0,77	7	1	8	2,48
19 Materials processing, textiles, paper	4	0	4	1,03	5	1	6	1,86
20 Handling, printing	11	7	18	4,62	12	6	18	5,57
21 Agricultural and food processing, machinery and apparatus	12	2	14	3,59	9	0	9	2,79
22 Environmental technology	6	3	9	2,31	4	3	7	2,17
<b>V. Mechanical engineering, machinery</b>								
23 Machine tools	23	1	24	6,15	17	0	17	5,26
24 Engines, pumps, turbines	15	1	16	4,10	11	0	11	3,41
25 Thermal processes and apparatus	15	0	15	3,85	24	1	25	7,74
26 Mechanical elements	6	2	8	2,05	12	2	14	4,33
27 Transport	43	0	43	11,03	23	3	26	8,05
28 Space technology, weapons	5	0	5	1,28	2	1	3	0,93
<b>VI. Consumption</b>								
29 Consumer goods and equipment	37	5	42	10,77	26	3	29	8,98
30 Civil engineering, building, mining	28	9	37	9,49	23	14	37	11,46
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>100</b>





**Filed and registered designs**  
by the country of origin

Country	Applications					Registered				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Czech Republic	5	8	2	9	4	4	6	7	3	9
Germany	5	1	1	8	0	0	5	1	8	1
France	5	1	3	2	1	0	6	3	0	3
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Italy	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Republic of Korea	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sweden	71	15	0	0	19	21	56	11	0	17
Slovakia	82	118	111	90	119	77	79	107	89	95
Turkey	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Foreign	86	27	8	19	26	26	75	24	11	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>126</b>





**Filed and registered trade marks by the country of origin**

Country	Applications					Registered				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
United arab emirates	0	0	4	3	1	1	0	0	2	0
Austria	10	9	3	4	9	7	1	4	6	7
Belgium	2	0	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	1
Canada	0	4	6	3	7	1	0	1	8	7
China	11	3	5	9	8	13	5	4	7	6
Cyprus	37	5	31	6	31	7	26	21	16	25
Czech Republic	338	390	282	327	302	358	279	331	280	307
Germany	41	39	17	25	28	31	29	25	21	22
Denmark	3	0	3	2	0	3	1	0	3	2
Spain	2	3	2	3	2	0	2	3	2	4
Finland	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
France	18	19	13	19	12	15	11	17	17	14
United Kingdom	16	11	11	12	17	12	8	6	13	11
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0
Croatia	14	6	3	1	0	7	8	6	0	1
Hungary	5	1	0	8	9	6	2	1	0	13
Switzerland	34	21	12	20	32	29	26	17	17	15
Ireland	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	1
Israel	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0



**Filed and registered trade marks by the country of origin (continued)**

Country	Applications					Registered				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
India	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Italy	7	6	3	2	3	4	1	4	0	2
Japan	2	3	3	3	2	4	1	3	5	2
Republic of Korea	55	8	4	18	24	4	25	8	6	35
Luxembourg	5	10	8	3	2	3	2	1	9	4
Malta	0	3	1	11	0	0	0	3	7	4
Netherlands	17	12	8	4	3	20	9	9	10	2
Panama	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Poland	14	17	18	14	8	35	7	17	20	6
Portugal	3	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	1
Romania	0	7	2	2	0	0	4	3	1	0
Russian Federation	1	1	2	0	3	1	0	2	1	2
Sweden	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	1
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>2 480</b>	<b>2 327</b>	<b>2 233</b>	<b>2 314</b>	<b>2 429</b>	<b>2 174</b>	<b>1 595</b>	<b>1 962</b>	<b>2 106</b>	<b>1 947</b>
Thailand	5	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
Turkey	3	7	0	8	2	6	4	3	1	8
Ukraine	2	2	2	0	0	0	4	0	1	0
United States of America	47	31	46	46	30	35	39	21	51	38
Virgin Islands (British)	0	0	3	3	1	0	0	2	0	3
Other	22	9	7	4	14	13	12	6	2	6
Foreign	722	635	504	564	558	632	512	527	508	550
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 202</b>	<b>2 962</b>	<b>2 737</b>	<b>2 878</b>	<b>2 987</b>	<b>2 806</b>	<b>2 107</b>	<b>2 489</b>	<b>2 614</b>	<b>2 497</b>





**International trade marks by the  
country of origin**

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Austria	61	70	30	37	51
Australia	2	3	2	3	1
Bulgaria	15	51	40	75	12
Benelux	31	32	43	36	42
China	128	226	443	269	176
Czech Republic	71	112	57	81	53
Germany	125	169	120	127	78
Denmark	0	2	1	3	0
Spain	13	11	7	5	12
Finland	1	0	1	1	0
France	74	67	78	89	57
United Kingdom	13	19	10	11	14
Grece	1	2	2	3	0
Croatia	10	14	9	9	10
Hungary	49	25	82	55	73
Switzerland	54	73	70	45	40
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2	1	2	1	2





**International trade marks by the country of origin (continued)**

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Italy	31	33	42	34	28
Japan	4	12	2	17	10
Liechtenstein	10	6	1	2	0
Lithuania	0	3	1	0	2
Latvia	1	8	1	15	4
Norway	2	4	0	3	0
Poland	43	47	35	74	29
Portugal	5	9	2	6	3
Romania	5	5	8	2	3
Russian Federation	63	127	163	104	118
Sweden	0	2	1	3	2
Slovenia	19	39	15	21	22
Turkey	66	82	71	45	50
Ukraine	48	56	59	44	36
United States of America	51	48	45	47	43
Other	147	57	128	90	145
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 145</b>	<b>1 415</b>	<b>1 571</b>	<b>1 357</b>	<b>1 116</b>

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**ANNUAL** REPORT **2020**



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