



INDUSTRIAL  
PROPERTY OFFICE  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

# ANNUAL REPORT

## IPO SR 2023

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INDUSTRIAL  
PROPERTY OFFICE  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1993-2023  
*protecting your ideas*





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# SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT



In many regards, 2023 was a landmark year for the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic. Foremost among these milestones was the celebration of our thirtieth anniversary since establishment. The initial three decades of a person's life are pivotal and frequently pose the greatest challenges. This period is characterized by significant decision-making, including educational pursuits, career development, relationship building, and family establishment. The choices made during this critical phase set the trajectory for the future, influencing long-term outcomes and achievements.

Reflecting on our 30-year journey, it's evident that the Office has achieved a remarkable evolution! Starting from humble beginnings, we have grown into a distinguished institution that stands shoulder-to-shoulder with global leaders in all aspects. Our colleagues have transformed into seasoned and recognized experts in their fields. Today, we proudly stand as a sovereign authority in industrial and intellectual property rights, not only at the national level but also within Europe. Over the past three decades, we have granted more than 114,000 industrial property rights. To mark this important milestone, we organized an international conference titled "30 Years of Slovak Innovation Ecosystem".

Acknowledging the dynamic evolution of today's world, we recognize the shifting role of our Office. We are transitioning from a registration-focused institution to one which emphasizes outreach and education. With thirty years of experience, we offer professional expertise in intellectual property—a critical intangible asset for the future economy. To further promote intellectual property education across the academic, private and business sectors, we have established the Academy of Intellectual Property.

After thirty years, the premises of the Industrial Property Office have undergone a transformative renovation, resulting in dignified and modern working spaces for our colleagues. The renovation included a complete overhaul of the congress hall, now equipped to meet 21st-century standards. We take pride in welcoming our clients to events held in these updated facilities. One of our most successful events was with Michal Pastier, with whom we collaborated on his debut book titled "The Yellow Book of Brand Building," which extensively covers trade mark issues. This best-selling book in Slovakia has brought awareness of trade marks to a broader audience. Additionally, we are excited to announce our upcoming publication focusing on Protected Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin, scheduled for release in March 2024.



2023 was a dynamic year marked by numerous achievements that we can rightfully celebrate and take pride in. We enhanced our outreach efforts, engaging with the public on intellectual property topics more extensively than ever before. With over ten thousand social media followers, we rank among the most successful offices in Slovakia in terms of communication. Additionally, we were honored to receive the Slovak National Quality and Social Responsibility Award. These achievements are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team in Banská Bystrica. I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to them.

Many of our colleagues have been part of the Industrial Property Office for years or even decades. Two of them have worked here since the Office's inception. They are the architects of our success, having shaped the Office into what it is today. Over the years, they have accumulated invaluable experience, becoming esteemed experts in intellectual property not only in Slovakia but across Europe. Their commitment ensures the quality of our services and the satisfaction of our clients. They have demonstrated remarkable adaptability, navigating through various changes and overcoming numerous challenges. Without their dedication and expertise, the pages of this Annual Report would remain blank. Therefore, I want to conclude by extending my heartfelt thanks to our colleagues. The achievements of the Industrial Property Office would not have been possible without their contributions. Thank you.

**Mgr. Matúš Medvec, MBA**  
President



# **YEAR 2023 THROUGH THE EYES OF MANAGEMENT**

**2023**



# YEAR 2023 THROUGH THE EYES OF MANAGEMENT

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Last year, we collectively tackled numerous challenges. One of them was the implementation of EU-funded projects. This effort involved unforeseen situations that not only tested our capabilities but also provided valuable learning opportunities for our team. We also navigated changes in the operation of the pre-diagnostic system and engaged in legislative activities at the EU level. Additionally, we dedicated efforts to ongoing challenges, including activities outlined in the National Strategy for Research, Development, and Innovation and its Action Plan, as well as the concept of introducing a patent mapping service. As the office responsible for strategy development, we not only finalized our National Intellectual

Property Strategy but also actively contributed to various initiatives, such as organizing a conference on alternative dispute resolution and preparing comprehensive contributions for various conferences. Throughout these endeavours, we maintained the Office's commitment to delivering high-quality, professional services. I extend my sincere gratitude to all team members for their dedication and exceptional performance.

**JUDr. Marek Samoř**

Vice-President



Last year was exceptionally eventful for the Office of the Secretary General, marked by various challenges in human resources, operations, and organization. However, amidst these challenges, we celebrated the Office's 30th anniversary with a series of international events, showcasing our capability to host and manage demanding gatherings. The year also saw significant interior renovations, including updates to the congress hall, sanitary facilities, kitchens, floors, and interior doors. In terms of human resources, we addressed one of our most significant long-term challenges—the natural aging of staff and the need for recruitment and training of new talent. To tackle this, we reorganized the Human Resources

Department, modernized the employee lifecycle, and implemented strategies for generational renewal and succession planning. We also prioritized employee benefits, introduced innovative employee care initiatives, and enhanced training opportunities, with the aim of making the Industrial Property Office a more attractive employer. Furthermore, we maintained our commitment to external promotion of the Office and established the Academy of Intellectual Property. The positive impact of these essential initiatives is highlighted by our placement as a finalist in the Slovak National Quality and Social Responsibility Award, where the agenda of the Office of the Secretary General was also recognized. Behind every successful step, innovation, and decision are our dedicated employees who embraced change and contributed to our achievements. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of them for their unwavering support and commitment.

**Mgr. Diana Javorčíková**

Secretary General



The year 2023 marked a significant success in our filing activities, demonstrating robust growth in patent and utility model applications. Compared to the previous year, we observed a remarkable surge, with patent applications increasing by over 25% and utility model applications by nearly 20%. Notably, our filing numbers surpassed those of the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Moreover, the number of patents granted saw a substantial 25% increase over the previous year. In our commitment to enhancing public service, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic introduced expedited utility model protection, offering a fast-track procedure that ensures protection within 6 to 7 months from the filing date, effective 1 April 2023. Additionally, starting 1 September 2023, we revised our internal procedures for examining patent applications that lack necessary information at the time of filing. These changes align our practices with jurisdictions allowing provisional patent applications, providing Slovak applicants with equivalent advantages.

**Ing. Lukrécia Marčoková**  
Patent Department



In 2023, the Trade Marks and Designs Department experienced a notable increase of ten percent in trade mark applications compared to the previous year, reflecting a positive trend that we hope to see continue this year. Additionally, 36.5% of trade mark applications published in 2023 successfully qualified for Fast Track proceedings, expediting the trade mark registration process. Another significant highlight was our department's active promotion of intellectual property instruments pertaining to geographical descriptions, leading to the filing of six new applications for the registration of designations of origin or geographical indications.

**JUDr. Lenka Midriaková**  
Trade Marks and Designs Department



In 2023, the Dispute Proceedings Department achieved positive outcomes despite staffing changes, maintaining a consistent level of high-quality performance in its core activity of preparing and delivering decisions in dispute proceedings. Additionally, the department actively contributed to the IPO SR's internship programme and public outreach efforts by participating in company study visits and continuing to lecture on intellectual property topics. A notable highlight of the year was the successful continuation of our longstanding tradition. After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we resumed our more than 20-year tradition of hosting a meeting of experts from our Office with those from the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic. This event provided a valuable opportunity for our experts to exchange practical experiences and discuss various challenges in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

**Ing. Ingrid Brežňanová**  
Head of Dispute Proceedings Department



In 2023, the Appeals Department remained actively engaged in diverse activities alongside its primary function of preparing decisions on appeals. Our team contributed to ongoing convergence projects within the European Union Intellectual Property Network and undertook various tasks pertinent to the department's responsibilities. To uphold and enhance the quality of our remedy decisions and remain abreast of evolving practices, our staff participated in a range of training initiatives. Throughout the year, department representatives attended national and international meetings focusing on intellectual property issues. Notably, we participated in a meeting of the Visegrád Group IPOs and the EUIPO Boards of Appeal

meeting in Warsaw, where the IPO SR's second-instance decisions were presented and discussed. Additionally, we joined the meeting of the Appeals Departments of the EU Member States' Intellectual Property Offices at the EUIPO in Alicante, fostering open dialogue on trade mark and design trends in the EU. These engagements provided invaluable opportunities for knowledge exchange and information sharing, enriching our understanding of current decision-making practices and benefiting the work of our department. Each remedy decision requires meticulous study of extensive documentation and relevant institutional practices, making the insights gained from these meetings instrumental in our pursuit of excellence.

**JUDr. Lucía Kováčiková**

Head of Appeals Department



The year 2023 proved to be exceptionally dynamic for the Legislative and Legal Department, marked by notable challenges and opportunities that pushed us beyond our usual scope. Alongside our ongoing responsibilities related to national legislation, representing the Office in administrative judicial proceedings, and managing regular legal matters, we actively contributed to drafting supra-ministerial strategic documents in the realms of intellectual property, research, development, and innovation. We also played an important part in shaping visions for the advancement and modernization of industrial property practices. In the arena of EU legislation, a significant accomplishment was the successful completion of the revision of geographical indications for craft and industrial products.

This milestone will lead to the creation of a European legal title to ensure uniform GI protection for craft and industrial products across the EU. In 2023, we also continued our efforts in the field of patent package proposals. Additionally, the reform of EU design law progressed to its final stage. Looking ahead, we recognize significant legislative challenges in transposing and implementing EU legislation in the years to come.

**Mgr. Jitka Mikuličová**

Head of Legislative and Legal Department



The year 2023 ushered in new and significant developments for the Department of Finance. Notably, we contributed to the successful conclusion all EU-funded projects within the programming period by year-end. Our key responsibilities included the preparation and processing of payment requests and the preparation of a detailed analysis of salary expenditures and contributions of employees and all persons involved in the projects. We also played an important role in supporting public procurement activities for these projects, as well as in conducting public procurement procedures for low-value contracts within the Office. Additionally, we introduced and tested a new internal planning and expenditure recording system. This system provided enhanced visibility into current budget expenditures not only for the Department of Finance, but also for all the professional experts of the Office and the Management of the Office. Furthermore, the Department of Finance continued to carry out its regular day-to-day operations. This included steadfast efforts in accounting, payroll management, economic performance monitoring, expenditure oversight, budget management, and the preparation of final accounts for the Industrial Property Office, its budget, and public procurement activities.

**Bc. Ing. Ľubica Gajdošová**

Head of the Department of Finance



In 2023, the Receiving and Changes Department registered and processed 3,463 new applications and 2,288 translations of European patent specifications into Slovak, registered a total of 19,400 filings and ensured the dispatch of 40,599 shipments. Furthermore, our department concluded 6,646 proceedings related to changes of proprietorship, representatives, and extensions of validity for designs, utility models, and renewals of trade mark registrations. We actively participated in the project "Improvement of eGov services of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic", which resulted in the creation of 45 new or updated electronic services. These services adhere to a unified design manual of the Slovak Republic and integrate data pre-filled from registers of legal and natural persons and the Office, enhancing efficiency and user experience.

**Mgr. Peter Jasenák**

Head of Receiving and Changes Department



In 2023, the Fees and Documents Department played an active role in enhancing the information system to drive efficiency improvements and reduce administrative burdens. We contributed to the Office's strategic objective of transitioning towards a 'paperless' environment, exemplified by the complete elimination of paper file creation for electronically submitted translations of European patent files. Moreover, the Fees and Documents Department actively participated in the project "Improvement of eGov services of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic", which aimed to modernize the Office's electronic service portal, streamline processes by reducing the number of electronic forms, and enhance client experience through simplified procedures.

**Ing. Ivana Bielíková**

Head of Fees and Documents Department



In 2023, the IT Operations Department successfully implemented the project "Development of governance and level of information and cyber security in the sub-sector VS - Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic" to bolster expertise in information and cyber security and ensure compliance with Act No. 69/2018 Coll. on Cyber Security and Act No. 95/2019 Coll. on Information Technology in Public Administration. Key achievements of the project included the establishment of robust cyber security governance processes, conducting a risk and impact analysis, development of an information and cyber security strategy with a detailed implementation schedule, formalization of a risk management

decision-making framework, and deployment of a tool for registering information assets, categorizing information systems and networks, and managing identified risks and incidents.

**Mgr. Miroslav Blaško**

Head of IT Operations Department



In 2023, we focused on the modernization of the Industrial Property Office's administrative building, in particular its interior, to enhance the working environment for our employees. Comprehensive renovations were undertaken throughout, including the congress hall, entrance areas, offices, corridors, and sanitary facilities. These updates also encompassed the replacement of our information system. Furthermore, our commitment to sustainability extended to the exterior premises, guided by a strategic landscape maintenance plan that led to visible improvements. In our efforts to optimize resource usage, we conducted a thorough analysis of gas consumption and successfully negotiated a more efficient tariff,

resulting in cost savings.

**Ing. Iveta Zvaríková**

Head of Administration and Maintenance Department



In 2023, the International Affairs Unit placed a strong emphasis on enhancing bilateral and regional cooperation. We engaged in constructive negotiations with partners from Austria, Czechia, Israel, Singapore, and Moldova, while continuing our collaborative efforts within the Visegrád Group. These interactions provided fertile ground for stimulating initiatives, insightful discussions, and valuable exchanges of experiences, particularly in supporting SMEs in navigating the intellectual property protection system and its commercialization. A highlight of our year was the successful organization of an international conference titled "Why is Mediation Effective for Innovative SMEs?" at the end of May,

commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic. The event was organized in collaboration with the EUIPO, EPO, and WIPO. On June 1, 2023, we witnessed the operational launch of the European patent system with unitary effect. Additionally, we participated in the selection of the new Executive Director of the EUIPO, welcoming João Negrão to this esteemed role as of October 1, 2023. At the autumn GLOBSEC Tatra Summit held in October 2023 in the High Tatras, the topic of intellectual property was included in the event agenda for the first time. Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, opened the discussion on issues related to the commercialization and collateralization of intellectual property and the active involvement of banks in this process.

**Ing. Emil Žatkuliak**

Head of International Affairs Department



In 2023, we experienced significant transformations, evolving from a unit to a fully-fledged department. This transition included the integration of three new team members from the newly established Academy of Intellectual Property Department. Our efforts throughout the year also led to the launch of two new information services: company visits and IP Scan. Moreover, we actively expanded the IPO SR's educational outreach by conducting over 50 engaging lectures at primary and secondary schools, reaching more than 1,700 participants. We also showcased the activities of IPO SR and underscored the importance of intellectual property at more than 20 events. These achievements were made possible not only by the dedication of our department's employees but also through collaborative efforts with other departments within our Office and external partners. I firmly believe that fostering strong cooperation is essential to delivering high-quality services both today and in the future, as a modern and effective institution dedicated to safeguarding the value of innovative ideas.

**Mgr. Martin Macko**

Head of Communication and Education Department



In 2023, the Human Resources Department underwent several changes. We established a separate unit, appointed a manager, and took over the payroll agenda. A key focus was on the employee lifecycle, with the introduction of a number of new benefits, increased investment in employee training, and the pilot launch of a wellbeing week to promote staff welfare. A notable highlight was the initiation of a long-term generational renewal process to address the age structure of our workforce. Within this process and in line with the Office's approved employee structure, vacant positions were temporarily filled by staff undergoing training alongside senior colleagues, ensuring seamless succession planning. Throughout the year, we conducted 19 selection procedures, concluded 16 service and employment agreements, and saw the departure of ten employees. On a positive note, the Office actively engaged in recruitment efforts through career portals, fostered cooperation with academia to connect with future graduates, and expanded its internship opportunities.

**Ing. Zuzana Lauček**

Head of Human Resources Department



In 2023, the President's Office underwent significant reorganization, focusing on personnel restructuring and optimizing collaboration with other departments within the IPO SR. Our key responsibilities included organizing working meetings for senior management, facilitating internal, international, bilateral and multilateral negotiations with ministries, central government bodies, partners, and organizations at national and international levels. We played an active role in organizing events to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Industrial Property Office and in preparing official events for both the public and staff. Additionally, we managed the library and patent collection and conducted several internal

audits. Last year, the responsibility for coordinating the quality management system transitioned from the President's Office to a member of the Special Tasks Unit. Notably, the IPO SR successfully obtained ISO 9001:2015 certification for the next three years following a recertification audit. Lastly, we continued our essential collaboration with other departments to advance the ambitions and vision of our Office.

**Mgr. Radka Štefanková Vyoralová**

President's Office



# **INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN NUMBERS**

**2023**

# INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN NUMBERS

Valid subjects of the industrial property rights  
as of 31 December **2023** in **Slovakia**

47 319

**TRADE**  
marks

20 490

**EUROPEAN**  
patents

1 783

**UTILITY**  
models

984

**DESIGNS**

496

**PATENTS**

85

**SUPPLEMENTARY**  
protection certificates

27

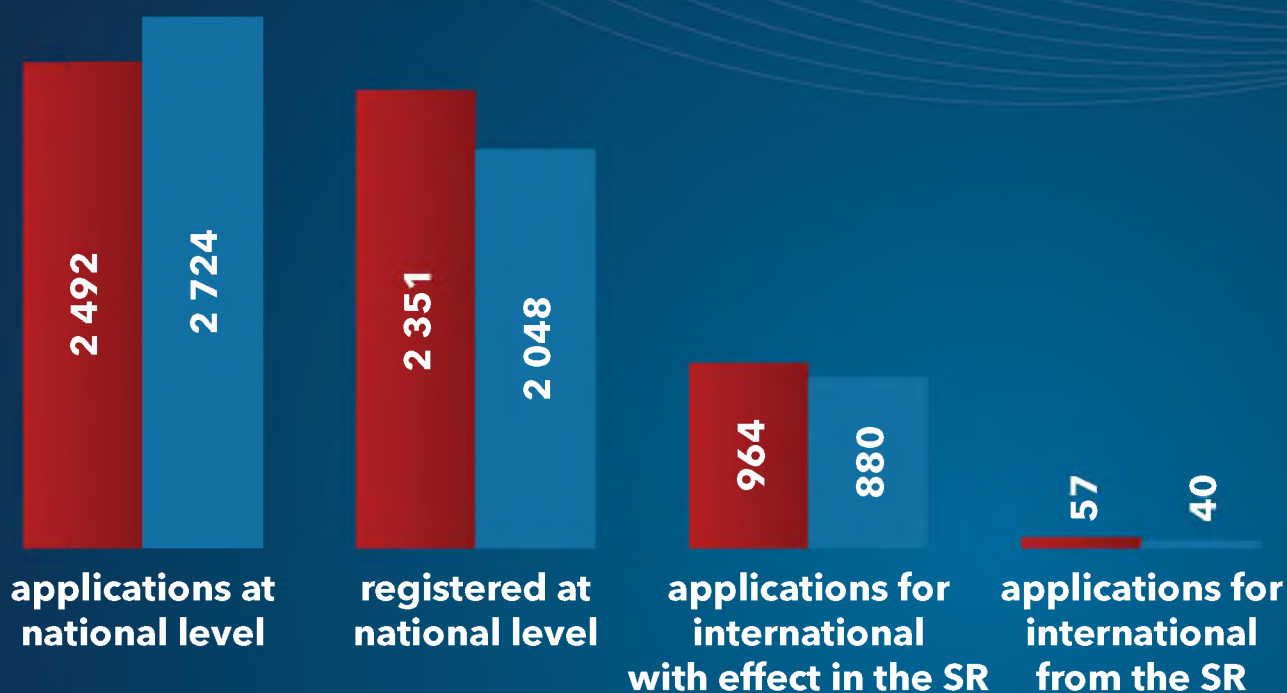
**DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN OF PRODUCTS**  
and geographical indications

# Industrial property rights applied for and granted as of 31 December 2023 in Slovakia



## Trade marks 2023

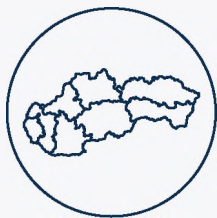
● 2022  
● 2023



## Designs 2023

● 2022  
● 2023





## Designations of origin and geographical indications of products **2023**

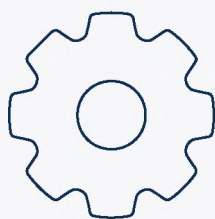
● 2022  
● 2023



applications



registrations



## Patents **2023**

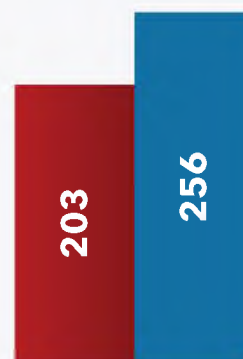
● 2022  
● 2023



PCT applications  
from Slovakia



granted  
patents

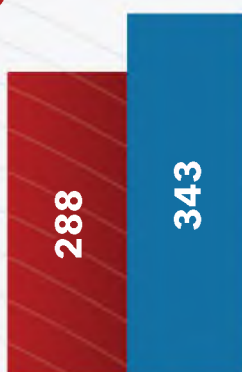


patent  
applications

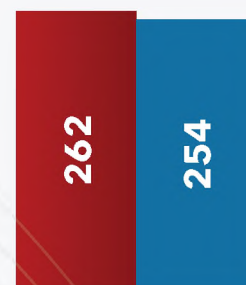


## Utility models **2023**

● 2022  
● 2023



utility model  
applications



registered  
utility models

A stylized, light blue outline of a calendar icon is centered in the upper half of the image. It features a header section at the top and a grid of rectangular boxes below, representing days of the month. The background is a dark blue gradient with subtle, flowing white lines.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2023**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**BILATERAL DISCUSSION ON COOPERATION WITH THE EUIPO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOÃO NEGRÃO, 22 JANUARY 2023**



**13TH MEETING OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMISSION FOR THE COORDINATION  
OF COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING AND COPYRIGHT PIRACY,  
16 OCTOBER 2023, FINANCIAL DIRECTORATE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC, BRATISLAVA**



**DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,  
MR. DAREN TANG AT THE GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT 2023  
IN THE HIGH TATRAS, 6-8 OCTOBER 2023**



**BILATERAL DISCUSSION AT THE ISRAEL PATENT  
OFFICE IN JERUSALEM, 2 MAY 2023**



**JOINT SEMINAR OF THE VISEGRÁD GROUP COUNTRIES AND THE EUIPO  
BOARDS OF APPEAL ORGANIZED IN WARSAW, 12-13 APRIL 2023**



# TRADE MARKS

**2023**

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# TRADE MARKS

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In 2023, the Trade Marks and Designs Department experienced a notable increase of ten percent in trade mark applications compared to the previous year, reflecting a positive trend that we hope to see continue this year. Additionally, 36.5% of trade mark applications published in 2023 successfully qualified for Fast Track proceedings, expediting the trade mark registration process. Another significant highlight was our department's active promotion of intellectual property instruments pertaining to geographical descriptions, leading to the filing of six new applications for the registration of designations of origin or geographical indications.

## TRADE MARKS

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### INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS

**A trade mark is a distinctive sign used to differentiate the goods and services of one producer or provider from those of others. Trade marks play a crucial role in helping consumers navigate the market, facilitating repeat purchases of satisfactory products or services and aiding in avoiding undesirable ones. For entrepreneurs and businesses, trade marks are vital marketing tools and often represent a significant portion of their assets.**

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Any sign, especially words including personal names, drawings, letters, numerals, colours, the shape of a product or its packaging, or even sounds, can become a trade mark if it can distinguish the goods or services of one entity

from those of others and meets the statutory requirements for registration in the trade mark register.

The owner of a trade mark holds exclusive rights to use it in connection with the registered goods or services. In case of any unauthorized use or infringement of the trade mark rights, the owner has the right to demand that the infringement or threatened infringement cease and that the consequences thereof be remedied. They may also pursue damages or appropriate compensation for any harm caused.

In 2023, the Office received **2,724 national trade mark applications**, marking an almost 10% increase from the previous year. Of these applications, 36.5% qualified for the Fast Track proceedings, enabling an accelerated trade mark application procedure. As at 31 December 2023, there were 47,319 valid trade marks in the Slovak Republic, contained in the Office's register.

**Domestic** applicants submitted 2,348 trade mark applications, while **foreign** applicants submitted 376. Traditionally, the highest number of foreign applicants was from Czechia (209), followed by Poland (21), China (20), Switzerland (16), and the United States of America (16).

In the preceding year, the Office submitted **40 applications for international trade mark registration** to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), indicating a decrease of 17 applications compared to the previous year.

Similarly, the number of applications for the registration of international trade marks (ITMs) with effect in the Slovak Republic declined in 2023. While 964 such ITM applications were filed in 2022, the number decreased to 880 in 2023, representing a 7.5% decline. The Office continued to handle the granting of protection for ITMs and provisional refusals of protection within a timeframe of five months, consistent with previous years.

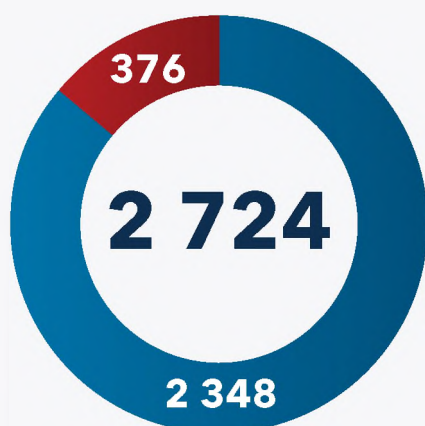


## Trade marks 2019 – 2023

TRADE MARKS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Trade marks applications at national level</b>	<b>2 878</b>	<b>2 987</b>	<b>3 287</b>	<b>2 492</b>	<b>2 724</b>
domestic	2 314	2 429	2 623	2 022	2 348
foreign	564	558	664	470	376
Applications for international trade marks with effect in the SR	1 357	1 116	977	964	880
Applications for international trade marks from the SR	78	72	74	57	40
<b>Trade marks registered at national level</b>	<b>2 614</b>	<b>2 497</b>	<b>2 741</b>	<b>2 351</b>	<b>2 048</b>
domestic	2 106	1 947	2 183	1 889	1 720
foreign	508	550	558	462	328

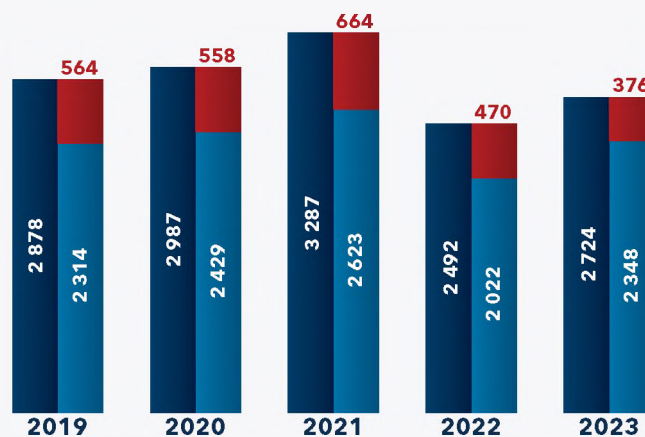
## Trade marks applications at national level in 2023

● domestic ● foreign ● applications together



## Trade marks applications at national level from 2019 – 2023

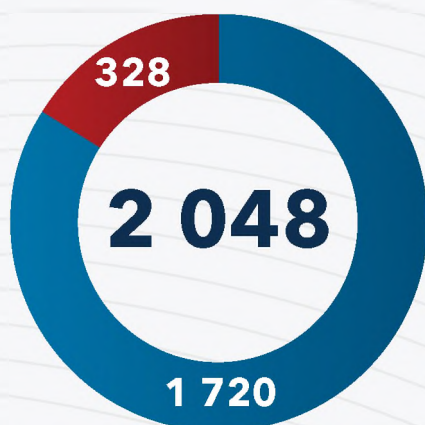
● domestic ● foreign ● applications together



IN 2023, THE OFFICE RECEIVED 2,724 NATIONAL TRADE MARK APPLICATIONS, MARKING AN ALMOST 10% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

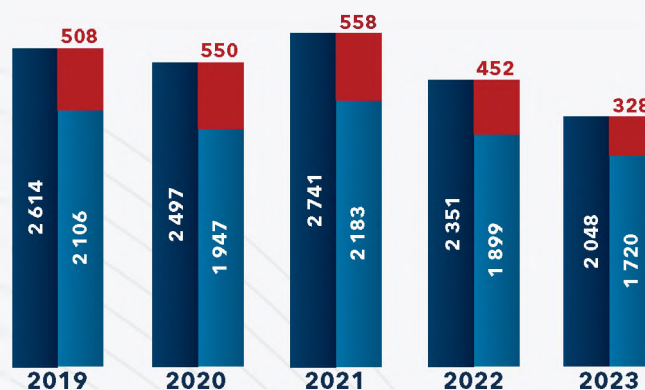
## Trade marks registered at national level in 2023

● domestic ● foreign ● applications together



## Trade marks registered at national level from 2019 – 2023

● domestic ● foreign ● applications together



# FAST TRACK

## TRADE MARKS

TRADE MARK REGISTRATION IN 30 WORKING DAYS.

The Office will register the trademark within the specified period, provided that the following conditions are met:



## Trade marks applications by country of origin in 2023



## Trade marks registered by country of origin in 2023





# DESIGNS

**2023**

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# DESIGNS

A design encompasses the visual appearance of a product or its part, including its lines, contours, colours, shape, texture, or material, as well as any decorative elements. To qualify for protection, a design must meet two key conditions. Firstly, it must be novel, meaning that an identical design has not been disclosed to the public before the date of filing of the application or before the date of priority. Secondly, it must possess individual character, a condition that is met when the overall impression created by the design on an informed user is distinct from the overall impression created by a design that was made available to the public before the date of priority. The owner of a registered design holds exclusive rights to use the design or authorize its use by others, for example through licensing agreements.

## DESIGN REGISTRATION CONDITIONS

■ Novelty ■ A SPECIAL CHARACTER

As at 31 December 2023, there were a total of 984 valid designs in the Slovak Republic, registered with the Office. During the year, 101 design applications were filed with the Office, one fewer than in 2022. As in previous years, the majority of these applications - 92 - were submitted by Slovak entities. Additionally, foreign applicants from three countries (Czechia,

Sweden, and France) submitted a total of 9 design registration applications.

Throughout 2023, the Office successfully registered 83 designs. However, in 6 instances, the registration proceedings were terminated with a negative result, either due to the rejection of the design application or the discontinuation of the proceedings.

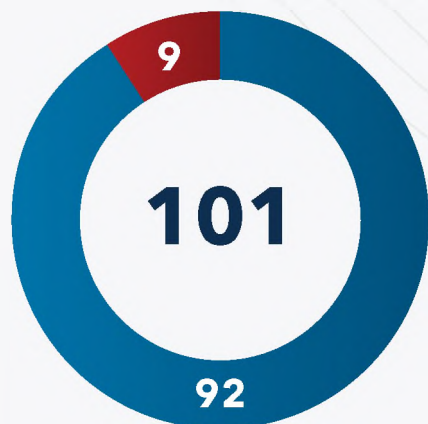
### Designs 2019 – 2023

DESIGNS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Design applications</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>101</b>
domestic	90	119	103	77	92
foreign	19	26	10	25	9
<b>Registered designs</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>83</b>
domestic	89	95	110	65	72
foreign	11	31	11	20	11



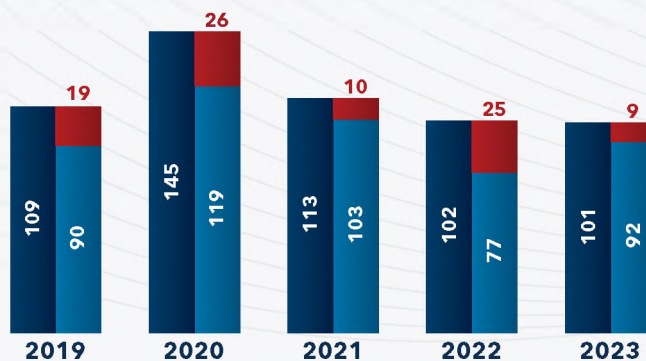
## Design applications 2023

● domestic ● foreign



## Design applications 2019 – 2023

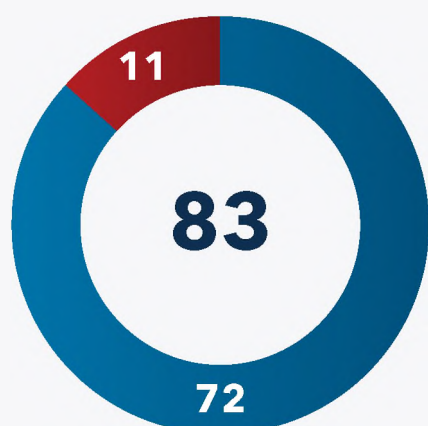
● domestic ● foreign



AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE MAJORITY OF THESE APPLICATIONS - 92 WERE SUBMITTED BY SLOVAK ENTITIES.

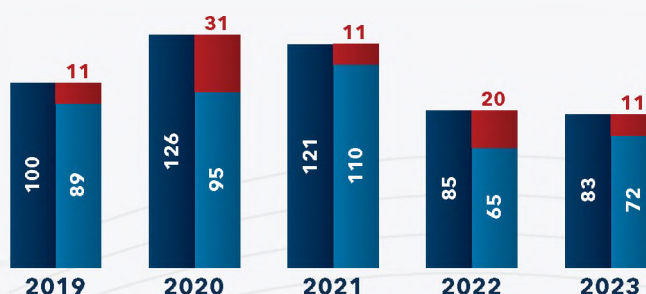
## Designs registered 2023

● domestic ● foreign



## Designs registered 2019 – 2023

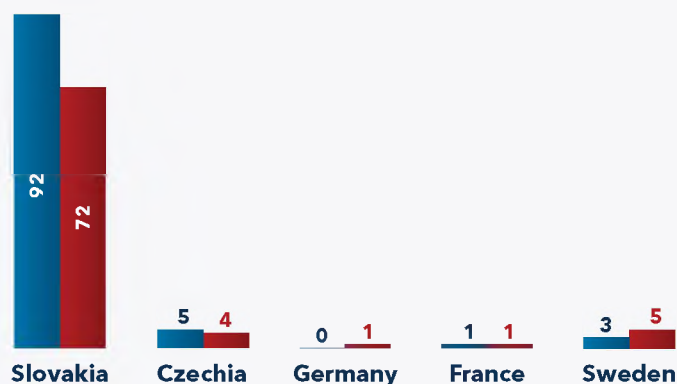
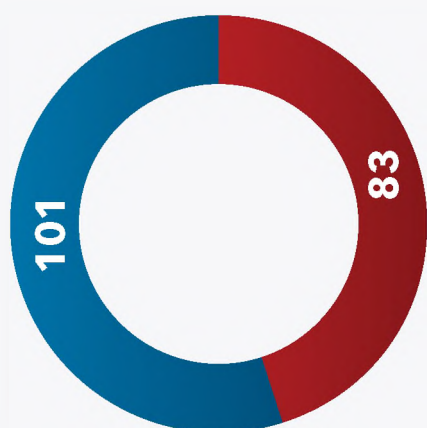
● domestic ● foreign





## Design applications and registered designs by country of origin **2023**

● applications ● registered



# LOCARNO CLASSIFICATION

## THE MOST FREQUENT CLASSES OF APPLICATIONS



### Furnishing

20



### Building units and construction elements

11



### Graphic symbols and logos, surface patterns, ornamentation, arrangement of interiors and exteriors

10




### Articles of adornment

9



### Means of transport or hoisting

9

A stylized white outline of Slovakia is centered within a thin white circular border. The background is a dark blue gradient with faint, concentric white circles and a wavy pattern at the bottom.

# **DESIGNATIONS OF ORIGIN AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION OF PRODUCTS**

**2023**



# DESIGNATIONS OF ORIGIN AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF PRODUCTS

The system of designations of origin and geographical indications of products offers legal protection to indications which identify goods as originating in specific geographical regions. These products are distinguished by their characteristics or quality, which are influenced by the geographical area, its natural conditions, or the expertise of its inhabitants. This protective framework safeguards cultural, social, and societal values. All individuals who produce goods within a designated geographical area that adhere to specific requirements outlined in a product specification may utilize these designations, which are officially registered as designations of origin or geographical indications of products. Consequently, these rights are not exclusive to any single entrepreneur or entity. The registration of designations of origin and geographical indications of products fosters the preservation of quality and traditional products, enhances the appeal of the respective region, and provides support to small and medium-sized enterprises operating within the area.

A designation of origin is the name of a specific place, area, or in rare instances, country, indicating that a given product originates from that particular location. In such cases, the quality or characteristics of the product are primarily or entirely influenced by the geographical environment, including its characteristic natural and human elements. Furthermore, the production, processing, and preparation of the product occur solely within the defined place, area, or country.

A geographical indication is the name of a specific place, area, or in rare instances, country, indicating that a given product originates from that particular location. In this context, the product possesses specific qualities, reputation, or characteristics that can be attributed to its geographical origin. Additionally, the production, processing, or preparation of the product occurs within the defined the defined place, area, or country.



**Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 on the protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products and amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1001 and (EU) 2019/1753** entered into force on 16 November 2023. Protection provided by Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 is centred on craft and industrial products, such as natural stones, woodwork, jewellery, textiles, lace, cutlery, glass, porcelain, and hides and skins. At present, certain European Union countries, including the Slovak Republic, offer the opportunity to protect the designations of these products through either the system of geographical indications or designations of origin at the national level.

**Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 will be applicable from 1 December 2025.** The registration proceedings for geographical indications for craft and industrial products comprises two stages: the first stage occurs at the national level, followed by the second stage at the EU level before the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

For geographical indications falling within the scope of the new regulation, existing national specific protection shall cease to exist on 2 December 2026, provided there is no interest from their users to register a geographical indication under this European regulation.

As at 31 December 2023, the Office's register contained 19 designations of origin and 8 geographical indications. **In 2023, two new geographical indications for non-agricultural products were added to the register, namely the "Senohradská výšivka" (Senohrad embroidery) and "Liptovská paličkovaná čipka" (Liptov bobbin lace).**

Additionally, 8 designations of origin from Slovakia were registered in the international register of designations of origin, and 25 designations of origin and geographical indications were registered in the European Commission (EC) register. Three Slovak designations are pending before the EC: "Trnavský slad" (Trnava malt), "TOKAJSKÉ

VÍNO zo slovenskej oblasti" (Tokaj wine from the Slovak part of the Tokaj region), and „Trenčianska borovička „JUNIPERUS"/Trenčianska borovička „JUNIPERIES" – TRENČÍN DISTILLERY" (Trenčín juniper brandy).

**Furthermore, four new applications concerning agricultural products were filed with the Office in 2023, including two applications for registration of a designation of origin in the EU register and two new applications for registration of a geographical indication in the EC register, which will be submitted for proceedings before the EC this year.**

## Designations of origin and geographical indications of products 2019 – 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications	1	0	1	2	2
Registrations	2	0	1	2	2



## Senohrad embroidery

Senohrad embroidery is cross-stitch ('krížike z opaku') or whitework ('bielo šitia') embroidery made on linen or other textiles. The specificity of the embroidery lies in the original unchanging local method of its execution, namely from the reverse side. It is embroidered according to the thread count, without pre-drawing the pattern. The original Senohrad embroidery was done in yellow, orange, blue and black, later adding other colours: red, pink, green, blue and purple. In the beginning, geometric shapes, hearts and stars predominated in the embroidery, but other elements were gradually added as well: flowers (roses, bluebells), leaves and other patterns inspired by the surrounding nature. In addition to folk clothing (individual parts of the folk costume known as 'kroj'), Senohrad embroidery is also used on various accessories and home textiles.

Senohrad embroidery originates from the Eastern Hont region and various villages including Sucháň, Dačov Lom, Litava, Lackov, Horné Mladonice, Dolné Mladonice, Čekovce, Jalšovík, and Bzovík. These villages are located in the southern part of central Slovakia in the Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region. The designated geographical area encompasses the territories of the Krupina and Veľký Krtíš districts and is bordered by the Zvolen district to the north.

# IN 2023 WERE ADDED

## 2 GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF PRODUCTS

## Liptov bobbin lace

Liptov bobbin lace is a textile technique involving handmade lace crafted on a roller using threads spun on bobbins through interlacing, twisting, tying, and potentially connecting with a hook. This lace, created from a pattern, is tightly knitted and durable. Various types of thread are utilized, including white or natural (undyed) linen, hemp, or cotton threads, metallic and silk threads, as well as wool or wire, depending on the desired type and purpose of the lace. The lace may feature different colours, chosen according to its intended use. Combining traditional geometric shapes and patterns reflecting the surrounding nature has resulted in distinctive stylized patterns featuring Slavic symbolism, such as circles, paths, and others. These traditional techniques are infused with modern creativity, leading to lace not only adorning folklore ensemble costumes but also being incorporated into timeless fashion, tapestries, furnishing fabrics, jewellery motifs, handbags, clothing accessories, souvenirs, miniature art pieces, and other utility items.

Liptov bobbin lace originates from the Liptov region, situated in the northern part of Slovakia within the south-eastern area of the Žilina Self-governing Region. The Liptov basin is bordered by the High Tatras to the east, the Western Tatras and the Choč Mountains to the north, the Low Tatras to the south, and the Veľká Fatra mountains to the west. The River Váh flows through the basin. Geographically, Liptov forms a cohesive area, which encompasses the districts of Liptovský Mikuláš and Ružomberok.



# PATENTS

**2023**

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# PATENTS

Patents serve as crucial protection for various inventions, including products, technologies, and devices. The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic grants patents for inventions across all fields of technology that are new, involve an inventive step, and are industrially applicable. This encompasses not only new products, equipment, and technologies, but also chemically produced substances, pharmaceuticals, industrial production microorganisms, as well as biotechnological processes and products derived from them.

A patent is a protective document, which confers upon its holder a time- and territory-limited exclusive right to commercially exploit the protected invention. By disclosure of the invention described in the patent application, valuable technical information is made available to the public, which can serve as the foundation for further advancements in the given field of technology.

As at 31 December 2023, there were **20,986 patents** in force in the territory of the Slovak Republic, of which **496** had been granted by **national authorities**. Additionally, as at that date, **20,490 European patents** were in force in the Slovak Republic.

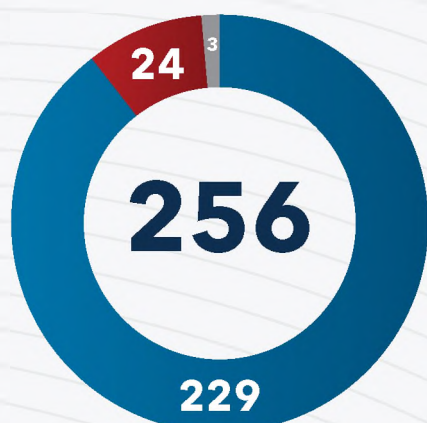
During 2023, the Office received a total of 256 patent applications, with 229 coming from domestic applicants and 24 from foreign applicants. This marks an increase of 26% in the total number of applications filed compared to 2022. Specifically, the number of patent applications filed by domestic applicants saw a 24% increase compared to 2022, while there was also a notable 26% increase in the number of applications filed by foreign applicants. The majority of these foreign applicants were from Czechia and Poland. The highest proportions of applications were in the fields of electrical engineering (22%) and mechanical engineering and transport (18%). In terms of institutions, the Technical University of Košice filed the highest number of patent applications (24), followed by the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (19).

Under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the IPO SR, serving as a Receiving Office, received 37 international applications last year. This marks a notable increase of 68% compared to 2022.

On behalf of the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI) as an International Searching Authority, international searches and written opinions were prepared for 4 international applications, representing a decrease of 33% compared to 2022.

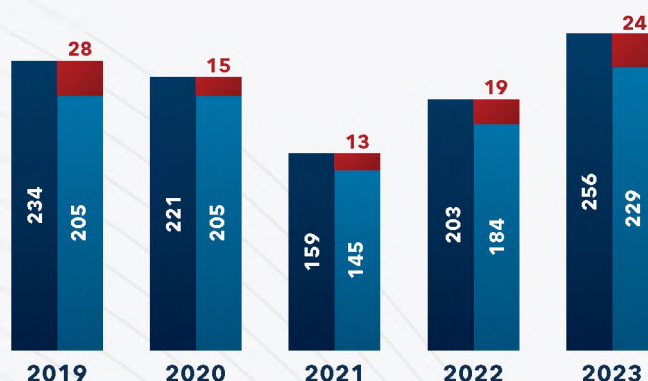
## Patent applications 2023

● domestic ● foreign ● applications together  
● PCT - SK



## Patent applications 2019 – 2023

● domestic ● foreign ● applications together





# FAST TRACK PATENTS

## INNOVATION NEEDS SPEED!

**PATENT GRANTED WITHIN 24 MONTHS OF FILING A PATENT APPLICATION.**

### Conditions for granting a patent within 24 months of filing an application

Fast Track patents may be granted for inventions that meet the conditions for patent protection, including novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability, provided that the applicant filing the patent application requests a priority search within 24 months of the initial filing of the patent application.

### Conditions for granting a patent within 24 months of filing an application:



The Office is not obligated to conduct a priority search if it has requested the applicant to remedy formal deficiencies in the application or to provide comments on identified substantive deficiencies. Patents are granted within the 24-month period solely on the basis of patent applications which do not contain substantive formal deficiencies at the time of filing and pertain to inventions whose patentability is not disputable.



# FAST TRACK PATENTS

## FAST TRACK 2023

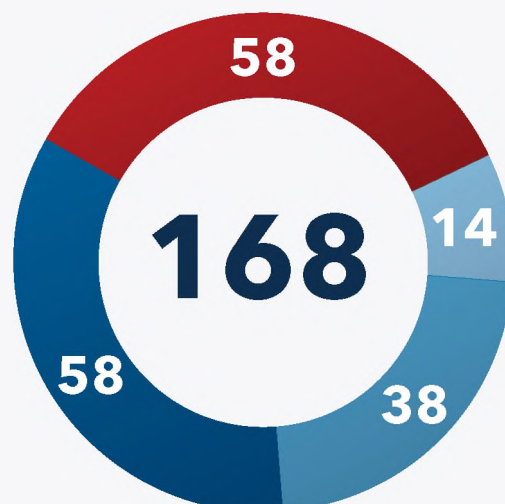
Applicants have had the possibility to obtain a patent for an invention in Fast Track (accelerated) proceedings since 1 March 2021. All applications filed after 1 July 2020 that meet the requirements are processed in Fast Track proceedings. As at 31 December 2023, a total of **168 patent applications** were provisionally included in the Fast Track proceedings, of which 14 were filed in 2020, 38 in 2021, 58 in 2022 and 58 in 2023.

### FAST TRACK APPLICATIONS

Number of applications accepted for Fast Track proceedings in 2023	58
% of total number of applications	23 %
Average duration of proceedings from the filing date	41 months
Average duration of proceedings for a Fast Track patent application	21 months

### Fast track applications 2020 – 2023

● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● total





# **SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATES FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS**

**2023**

# SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATES FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

The process of bringing a new medicinal product or plant protection product to market involves extensive and costly research, along with several years of testing and approval by competent authorities. When such a product is protected by a patent, authorization proceedings shorten the effective period of patent protection, i.e. the period, during which the patented medicinal product or plant protection product may be used commercially. However, ensuring sufficiently long-term protection for new medicinal and plant protection products is essential to recoup the investment in research and to support ongoing research efforts in these fields. Supplementary protection certificates aim to compensate for the reduced period of effective protection provided by a basic patent to some extent.

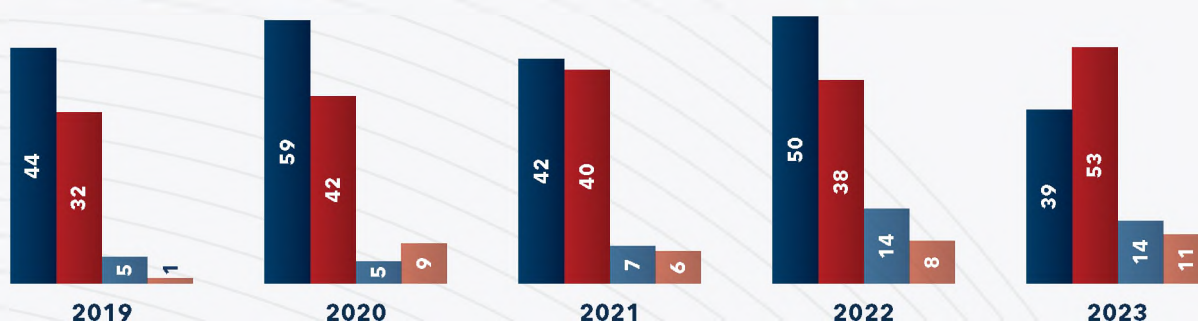
Supplementary protection certificates are designed to protect medicinal and plant protection products that can only be marketed with authorization from


competent authorities. These certificates are granted to the holder of the basic patent or their legal successor. The validity period of a supplementary protection certificate depends on the time between filing the basic patent application and obtaining authorization to market the product, with a maximum duration of five years. For medicinal products that have undergone studies according to a paediatric investigation plan approved by the European Medicines Agency, it is possible to request an extension of the certificate's validity for an additional six months under specific conditions.

During the past year, the Office received **39 applications** for supplementary protection certificates and granted **53 supplementary protection certificates**. Additionally, in 2023, the Office received 14 applications for a six-month extension of the validity period of the certificate and decided to extend the validity period of 11 certificates.

## Supplementary protection certificates 2019 – 2023

● applications ● granted ● submitted applications for extension of validity ● extended validity





# UTILITY MODELS

**2023**

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# UTILITY MODELS

Based on the number of applications filed, it can be concluded that the utility model is the most popular form of protection for technical solutions in Slovakia. Utility models can protect technical solutions that are new, involve an inventive step, and are industrially applicable.

Owners of valid and registered utility models enjoy exclusive rights to use the protected technical solutions, which are essentially identical to those conferred by patents. However, unlike patents, which can remain valid for up to 20 years from the filing of the application, utility models may only be valid for a maximum of 10 years from the filing of the application. Obtaining utility model protection is comparatively easier than obtaining patent protection for an invention, as utility models are registered without examining the fulfilment of the condition of novelty and inventive step, as long as the subject matter is a technical solution belonging to the range of subject matter that can be protected by utility models. However, a drawback of utility model protection is the higher risk of deletion from the utility model register based on a proposal by a third party, provided that the Office determines, based on such a proposal, that

the subject matter of the registered utility model fails to meet the protection conditions outlined in Act No. 517/2007 Coll. on utility models and on amendments to certain acts, as amended.

As at 31 December 2023, there were **1,783 valid utility models** in the territory of the Slovak Republic. In 2023, **254 utility models** were entered in the register, reflecting a decrease of 3% compared to 2022.

During 2023, the Office received **343 new utility model applications**, marking a notable increase of 19% compared to 2022. Domestic applicants filed 297 applications, while foreign applicants filed **46** applications. Traditionally, applicants from the Czech Republic accounted for the largest share of foreign utility model applications (40). The largest number of applications filed in 2023 pertained to the field of mechanical engineering and transport (23%), followed by human necessities and construction (17%), and process engineering (16%).

The largest number of utility model applications was filed by the **Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava** (26) and the **Technical University of Košice** (26).

## Utility models 2019 – 2023

UTILITY MODELS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Utility models applications	325	390	297	288	343
Domestic	281	342	253	236	297
Foreign	44	48	44	52	46
Filled utility models applications	322	323	409	262	254
Domestic	267	272	355	218	201
Foreign	55	51	54	44	53



# **DISPUTE PROCEEDINGS**

**2023**



# DISPUTE PROCEEDINGS

The Dispute Proceedings Department of the IPO SR is tasked with resolving conflicts in all industrial property matters involving multiple parties. Their primary objective is to prevent the granting of protection for industrial property objects that fail to meet legal requirements or infringe upon older rights of other entities. Additionally, they aim to revoke or invalidate protection if it is proven during proceedings that it was granted in violation of legal requirements.

Opposition to the registration of a designation as a trade mark in the register of the Office, or opposition on the basis of which protection of an international trade mark in the territory of the Slovak Republic is refused, may be filed by the person concerned within the statutory period from the notification of the publication of the trade mark or international trade mark registration in the relevant official gazette.

Subsequently, even after protection has been granted, if it is deemed unjustified, individuals

can submit applications for the revocation of a previously registered trade mark or for a declaration of invalidity of the trade mark, to restore legality. Similarly, for previously registered utility models and designs, individuals can apply for their deletion from the register, and if it is established in the proposed dispute proceedings that they did not meet the statutory conditions at the time of granting the protection, the granted patent may be revoked.

## NUMBER OF NEW SUBMISSIONS

### A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE

The number of new filings with the Dispute Proceedings Department remained approximately the same overall, with 139 filings in 2023 compared to 142 filings in 2022. However, it is important to note that this represents a significant decrease from previous years.

In 2023, the number of new **opposition filings totalled 117**, a figure comparable to the previous year's 113 oppositions.

In the case of **applications for revocation and cancellation of a trade mark or international trade mark**, there has been a rapid decline, reaching a historic low of only **13** applications filed. This represents a significant **decrease of approximately 44%** compared to 2022, when 23 applications were

filed. In previous years, during more stable periods, there were typically around 40 applications per year.

For applications relating to **technical objects of industrial property protection**, including patents, supplementary protection certificates, and utility models, there were a total of **8 filings** in 2023, **marking a 25% increase compared to 2022**, which saw **6 filings**. However, a notable difference compared to previous years is that 7 out of these filings concerned the revocation of a European patent or the invalidity of a supplementary protection certificate based on a European patent designated for the Slovak Republic. All of these cases pertained to the field of pharmaceuticals, with only 1 case being a request for cancellation of a utility model.



In the case of **design cancellation proceedings**, the number of filings has been consistently minimal over the long term. **In 2023, no applications were filed**, continuing the trend from previous years where between 1 and 2 applications were typically submitted.

In 2023, the Office issued **128 decisions in opposition proceedings against the registration of a trade mark** which is the subject of a trade mark application in the Office's register, or opposition to the protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic in the case of international trade marks. This represents a slight decrease compared to 2022, when the department decided in **136 cases**. Along with the low number of oppositions, the backlog of

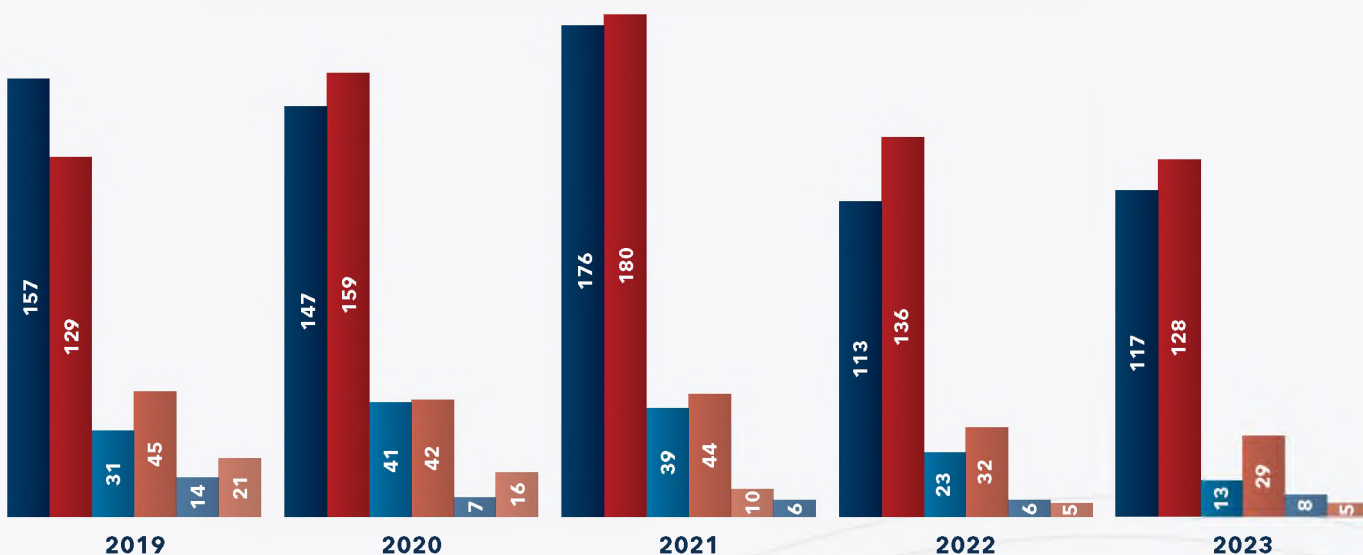
pending applications has decreased.

In 2023, **29 decisions** were issued on applications for **invalidity and revocation of a trade mark** or international trade mark, which is comparable to the previous year when 32 decisions were issued. Given the low number of filings, the backlog of pending applications has decreased.

In **patent revocation proceedings, utility model and design cancellation proceedings, determination proceedings, and supplementary protection certificate proceedings**, **5 decisions** were issued in 2023, which corresponds to the previous year when the same number of decisions was issued.

## Dispute proceedings 2019 – 2023

- Oppositions filed against the registration of a designation in the register ● Decisions in opposition proceedings
- Applications for revocation/invalidity of a trade mark ● Decisions on applications – trade marks
- Applications – patents, supplementary protection certificates, utility models, designs
- Decisions on applications – patents, supplementary protection







# APPEALS

**2023**

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# APPEALS

A party to the proceedings has the option to challenge a non-effective first-instance decision of the IPO SR through an ordinary legal remedy, which, in proceedings before the Office, is an appeal. Additionally, there are extraordinary ways to review final decisions of the Office, namely the institutes of retrial and review of decisions outside appeal proceedings. The review of a decision outside appeal proceedings serves to assess final decisions made by the second-instance authority either on its own initiative or upon request. However, the most common remedy utilized in proceedings before the Office is appeal.

In 2023, a total of **85 appeal proceedings** were initiated. Among these, two cases resulted in the decisions of the IPO SR's President being annulled based on an action or a cassation complaint, and the cases were referred back to the second-instance authority for further proceedings. One of the proceedings initiated was an ex officio review of a decision

outside appeal proceedings, while the remaining cases were appeals against first-instance decisions of the Office. Compared to 2022, the number of appeal proceedings initiated remained the same, with 85 appeal proceedings initiated in both 2022 and 2023.

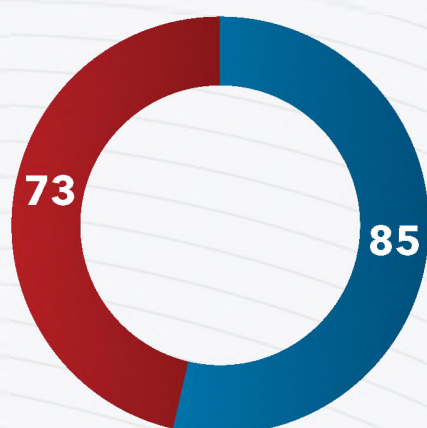
In 2023, as in previous years, the majority of filings with the Appeals Department were **appeals in trade mark cases**, accounting for almost **85%** of all the filings at the department. However, there was an increase in the number of appeals against decisions relating to patents, European patents, and utility models, with a total of 12 filings in 2023. This marked an increase of 8 filings compared to 2022. Additionally, one appeal was filed in 2023 against a first-instance decision concerning designs.

In 2023, the Appeals Department **completed 73 appeals proceedings**. As at 31 December 2023, there were a total of **151 pending proceedings** within the department.

- APPEALS
- REVIEWS OF DECISIONS OUTSIDE APPEAL PROCEEDING
- RETRIALS

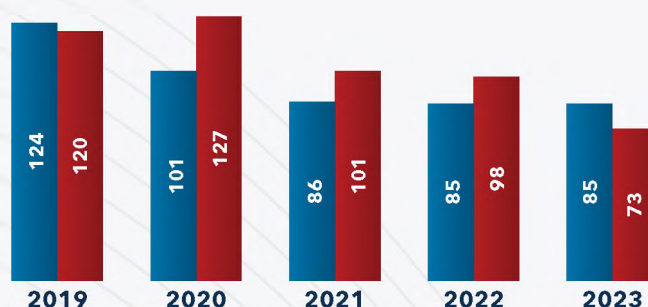
## Remedies 2023

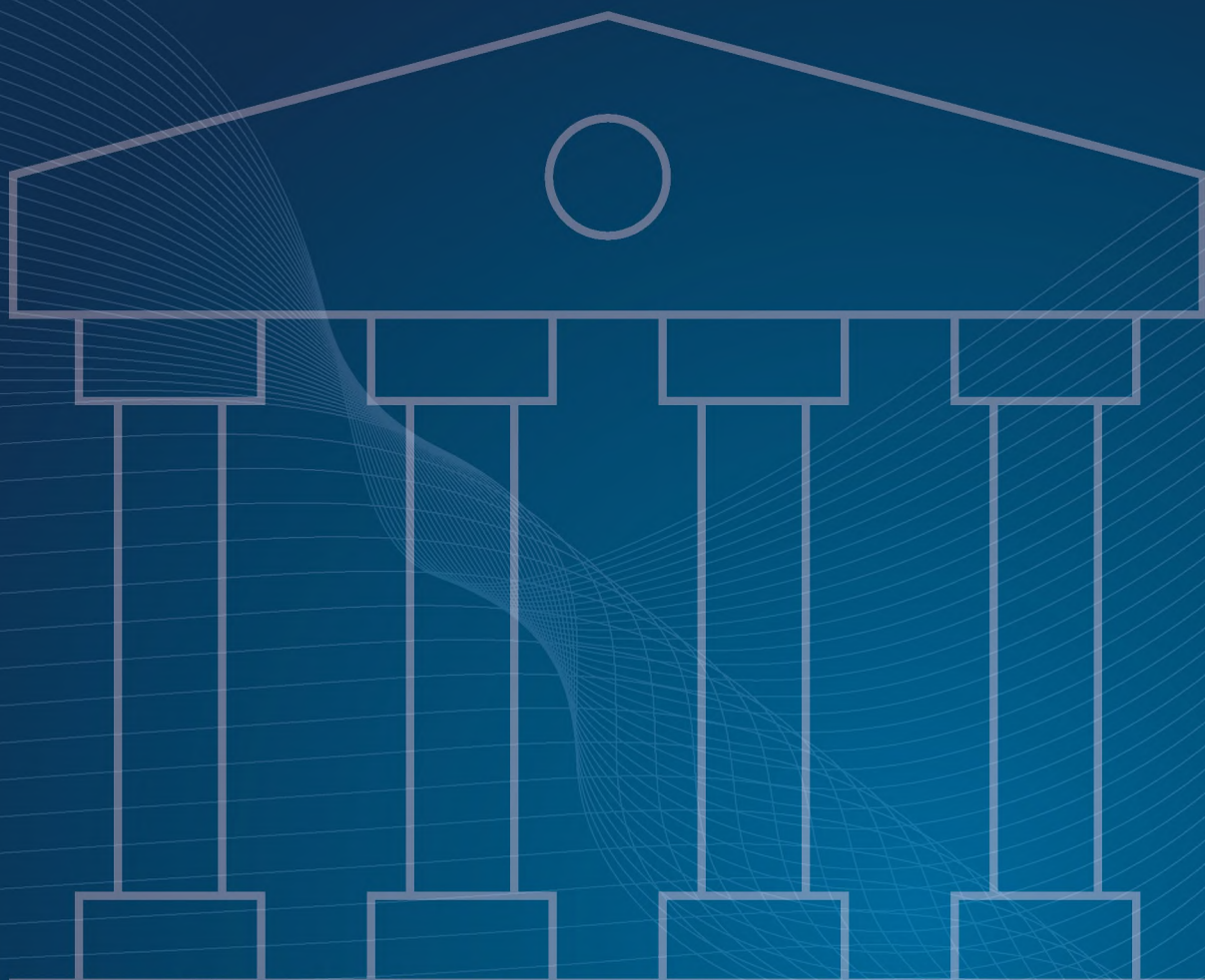
● Initiated proceedings ● Completed proceedings



## Remedies 2019 – 2023

● Initiated proceedings ● Completed proceedings





# LEGISLATION

**2023**

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# LEGISLATION

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**In 2023, the focus of the Industrial Property Office's legislative activities was directed towards proposals of EU legal instruments related to the reforms of design law and geographical indications law, as well as towards proposals of the 'patent package'.**

On a domestic level, the legislative process concerning amendments to the Utility Models Act and the Patent Attorneys culminated in the adoption of Act No. 55/2023 Coll. In response to lessons learned during the pandemic, provisions were introduced allowing for remote online professional examinations for patent agents when in-person exams at the IPO SR are not feasible due to objective reasons. The amendments to the Utility Models Act were designed to establish the framework for a Fast Track procedure, facilitating the expedited registration of utility models.

## JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

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### DECREASE IN LAWSUITS

**As part of the new 'judicial map', the Banská Bystrica Administrative Court was established under Act No. 151/2022 Coll. Effective from 1 June 2023, the exercise of administrative justice in industrial property matters was transferred from the Banská Bystrica Regional Court to the newly established Banská Bystrica Administrative Court. The causal jurisdiction of the Banská Bystrica Administrative Court in hearing administrative actions concerning industrial property remained unchanged.**

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In 2023, there were six actions filed with either the Banská Bystrica Regional Court or the

Banská Bystrica Administrative Court to review the legality of decisions made by the Office, all of which pertained to trade marks. This represented a decrease in the number of actions compared to the previous year.

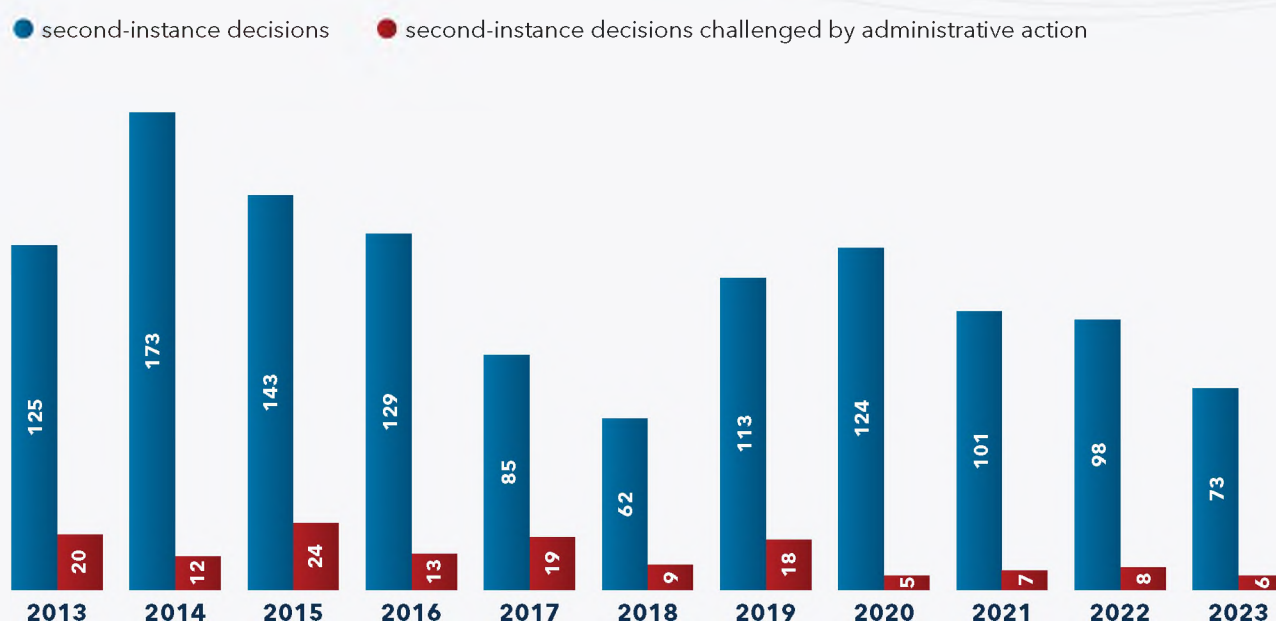
As at 31 December 2023, there were fifteen pending proceedings pertaining to the review of legality of decisions made by the IPO SR before the Banská Bystrica Administrative Court, and eight pending proceedings before the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic, which serves as the court of cassation.



# ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

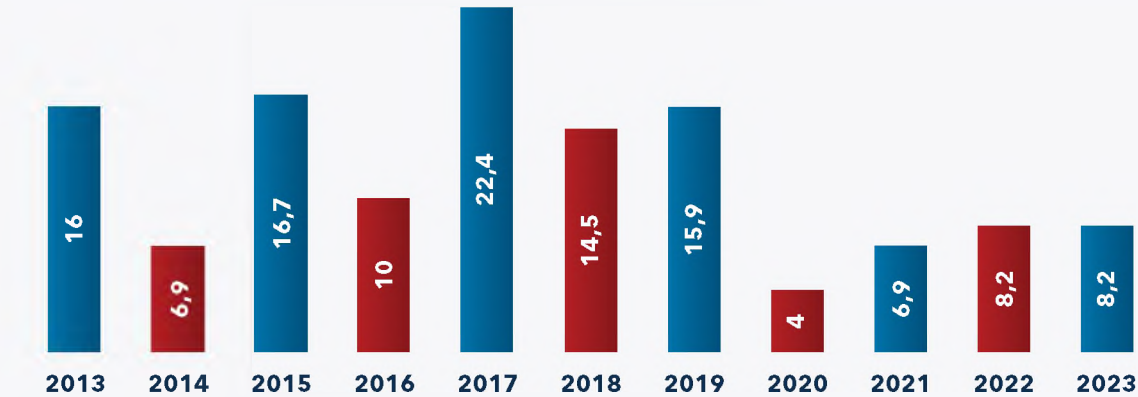
The following chart illustrates the number of administrative actions brought against the Office's second-instance decisions between 2013 and 2023. In 2023, **8.2% of the Office's second-instance decisions** were challenged by administrative action, compared to an average of **12.5% between the years 2013 and 2023**.

## Administrative actions filed against second-instance decisions **2013 – 2023**





# % of second-instance decisions challenged by administrative action 2013 – 2023



A stylized graphic of two hands shaking, rendered in white lines on a dark blue background. The hands are positioned as if in a firm grip, symbolizing cooperation and agreement. The background also features faint, concentric circular lines.

# **INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION**

**2023**



# INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION

Employees of the Industrial Property Office actively participated in meetings of governing and expert bodies within international organizations to shape and present Slovakia's positions in intellectual property protection. Moreover, the Office's management represented Slovakia on several significant international platforms, including the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation (EPO), the Management Board of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the Budget Committee of the European Union Intellectual Property Office, the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), as well as the Administrative Board of the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI).

## European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)



In 2023, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic implemented 18 projects under its cooperation agreement with the EUIPO. These projects were designed to enhance information provision, increase awareness of intellectual property protection, and carry out convergence activities along with selected initiatives of the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights. Furthermore, the Office actively participated in three working groups: SME support, information centre and alternative dispute resolution.

In April 2023, during a joint meeting of the Visegrád Group countries in Warsaw, representatives from the EUIPO Boards of Appeal presented updates and recent developments in case law, decision-making practices in intellectual property, and opportunities for our experts to participate in international projects.

An international conference titled **"Why is Mediation Effective for Innovative SMEs?"** took place on 30 May 2023, organized by the IPO SR in collaboration with the EUIPO, the European Patent Office, and the WIPO Arbitra-

tion and Mediation Center. The conference aimed to provide insights into the benefits of mediation as an alternative method for resolving national and international intellectual property disputes. Distinguished representatives from national and international **alternative dispute resolution institutions, including mediators, delivered presentations on the rules of mediation at the EUIPO, WIPO, and national levels during the event.**

The successful project **"Network of Authenticities - The Authenticity of Banská Bystrica"** was completed on 12 June during the opening ceremony of the newly reconstructed congress hall of the IPO SR. The project aimed to raise awareness among citizens and businesses about intellectual property rights and to combat product counterfeiting and piracy.

As part of the Office's joint activities with the EUIPO, **two online seminars** were organized in March and September for Slovak intellectual property experts and small to medium-sized enterprises.



The International Affairs Department of the IPO SR was actively involved in negotiations on technical cooperation with the EUIPO in February and September 2023. Additionally, department representatives participated in meetings of the EUIPO Management Board

and Budget Committee held in June and November 2023. A notable event during this period was the election and appointment of the new Executive Director of the EUIPO, Mr. João Negrao, who assumed office on 1 October 2023.

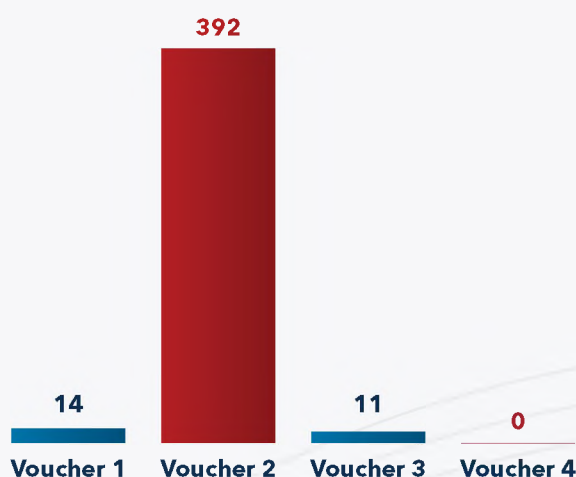
## IN 2023, ONE OF THE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN COOPERATION WITH THE EUIPO WAS THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE SME FUND.

In 2023, one of the key achievements in cooperation with the EUIPO was the continued support from the SME Fund, particularly through the introduction of the IP Scan service since 1 October. This service enables direct engagement with an intellectual property expert to assess a company's business model, products, or services. The introduction of IP Scan was a responsive measure to address the needs of the market, private sector, and

innovation ecosystem in Slovakia. During the year, 417 SMEs from Slovakia applied for financial support to file trade mark, design, and patent applications – **an increase of 109%** compared to 2022. The highest demand was for discounts on trade mark and design applications (94%), followed by IP Scan applications (3.4%) and patent applications (2.6%).

## Overview of applications for funding from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs Fund)

- Voucher 1 (IP Scan)
- Voucher 2 (trade marks, designs)
- Voucher 3 (patents)
- Voucher 4 (plant varieties)





# European Patent Office (EPO)



**In 2023, the IPO SR sustained its collaboration with the European Patent Office through a bilateral agreement.**

The PATLIB 2.0 project proceeded with the rollout of new training courses designed to enhance the expertise of individual PATLIB centres. This initiative facilitates networking among centres within the partner network, enabling discussions on relevant issues, addressing current questions, and exchanging innovative thoughts and ideas. Moreover, the project delivers customized information to meet the specific needs of each centre.

Furthermore, in 2023, the IPO SR, serving as a coordinator within the PATLIB network, organized an online seminar titled **"Patent Information Search in Practice"**. This seminar was targeted towards the staff of PATLIB centres, technology transfer centres, science and research personnel, and members of the general public. The topic of patent information searches remained in high demand this year,

highlighting its continued relevance and importance.

Last year, the University Science Park TECHNICOM of the Technical University of Košice concluded its operations. This PATLIB centre ceased its activities at the beginning of 2024 due to organizational changes within the university, which precluded its continued functioning and implementation of related activities.

The International Affairs Department took charge of preparing the agendas for meetings of the EPO Administrative Council, Budget Committee, and Finance Committee. It also served as a coordinator for educational events organized by the European Patent Academy, ensuring the participation of IPO SR staff in virtual seminars. Furthermore, Office representatives actively participated in meetings of the EPO Committee on Patent Law and the EPO Technical and Operational Support Committee.

# World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



**During the 64th session of the WIPO General Assembly in Geneva, an exhibition showcasing designs from the countries of the Central European regional group "Women in Innovation" was held at the premises of the international organization. Slovakia participated in this exhibition by showcasing unique models by designers from the Department of Furniture Design and Interior at the Technical University in Zvolen. The exhibition also featured a presentation of traditional Slovak products, including Tokaj wine, Skalický rubín wine, Trenčianska borovička (juniper brandy), Zázrivské korbáčiky (string cheese from Zázrivá), Klenovecký syrec (semi-hard cheese from Klenovec), and Urpiner beer.**

At the autumn GLOBSEC Tatra Summit held in October 2023 in the High Tatras, the topic of intellectual property was included in the event

agenda for the first time. Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, opened the discussion on issues related to the commercialization and collateralization of intellectual property and the active involvement of banks in this process.

In November, the discussion series titled "IP Finance Dialogue - Expanding Horizons on IP Finance and Valuation" continued at the WIPO with active participation from the President of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic.

By the end of 2023, in collaboration with the WIPO Academy, the DL-101 online course was launched to provide the general public with essential information on the principles of intellectual property protection.



# European Union

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**In 2023, Sweden and Spain held the presidency of the Council of the European Union. In April 2023, the European Commission introduced the 'patent package', which includes legal instruments on supplementary protection certificates, compulsory licenses, and patents necessary for standards. This package complements the existing framework for intellectual property rights protection in the realm of patents.**

The patent package also complements the EU's unitary patent system, which became operational on 1 June 2023.

Throughout the year, discussions regarding

the design reform occurred within the Council Working Party on Intellectual Property, with initial discussions on the individual proposals pertaining to the patent package commencing towards the end of the year.

In November, a new regulation on the protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products came into effect, harmonizing the protection of designations of origin and geographical indications at the EU level. In conjunction with the European Commission, a national conference titled "New Developments in the EU Rules on the Protection of Designations of Origin" was organized in February 2023.

# Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI)

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**In 2023, Poland assumed the presidency of the Visegrad Patent Institute's Administrative Board, which operates on a rotational basis.**

Over the year, two meetings of the VPI's IT/Quality Management Working Group and the Technical Experts' Working Group were held. Additionally, meetings of the Administrative Board took place in June and December.

On 30 November 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Visegrad Patent Institute and the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office. The aim of this memorandum is to support the national and international patent activities of Slovenian applicants and to provide them with the new commercial patent search services offered by the VPI – the Global Patent Search Services.



# Bilateral cooperation

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**In 2023, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic continued to enhance bilateral and regional cooperation. In March 2023, a bilateral meeting took place at the Austrian Patent Office in Vienna, where innovative approaches in communicating with start-ups, students, and universities were discussed.**

In May, bilateral discussions were held with representatives of the Israel Patent Office in Jerusalem and at the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore during the INTA Annual Meeting. These discussions primarily focused on exchanging experiences related to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in utilizing the intellectual property protection system.

As part of the pre-accession assistance to Moldova through the TAIEX instrument, representatives of the IPO SR participated in an expert mission to Chişinău in September. The purpose of this mission was to provide expertise on the harmonization and practical implementation of EU legislation.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for thought-provoking initiatives, discussions, and the exchange of experiences, with a specific emphasis on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in utilizing the intellectual property protection system and its commercialization.

## Other activities

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As part of the rotating presidency, the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic organized a meeting of the national industrial property offices of the Visegrád Group (V4) countries, along with Austria, Croatia, and Slovenia. This meeting took place from 13 to 15 June 2023 in Prague.

Subsequently, the next meeting of the Visegrád Group was held on 13 October 2023 in Opatija, Croatia. **The objectives of these meetings were to present the activities of the national offices, exchange experiences and discuss new trends in the field of**

**intellectual property. Additionally, the meetings aimed to evaluate cooperation with partners such as the WIPO, EUIPO, and EPO, and to further enhance collaboration among the participating countries.**

On 16 October 2023, a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Coordination of Cooperation in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy took place. The meeting specifically addressed the issue of combating the increasing prevalence of counterfeit branded products in the domestic market.

A large, light blue shield shape is centered in the upper half of the image. Inside the shield, there is a faint, stylized checkmark. The background of the entire page is a dark blue gradient with subtle, wavy lines.

# SERVICES OF THE OFFICE

**2023**



# SERVICES OF THE OFFICE

The Information Centre of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic offers prompt and up-to-date information on industrial property protection and application filing, as well as search services.

Additionally, it conducts free information sessions for entrepreneurs and actively participates in outreach activities at trade fairs and exhibitions.

4 200

**REQUESTS**  
for information

**PUPILS, STUDENTS  
AND ENTREPRENEURS**  
attended lectures  
of the IPO SR

1 750

862

**CASES OF PROVISION**  
of assistance to state  
and public administration

**LECTURES**  
for primary and secondary  
schools

50

35

**PRE-DIAGNOSTICS**  
provided  
to entrepreneurs

**COMPANY**  
visits

18



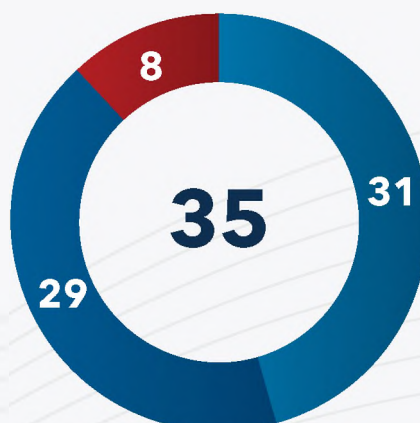
The Information Centre offers a range of research services tailored to clients' needs, providing comprehensive searches for registered trade marks, patents, and designs based on specific criteria. These searches serve as vital resources, potentially saving on costs related to research, development, and investment, and mitigating potential legal conflicts. In the previous year, the centre conducted **237** European Union Trade Mark (EUTM) searches, along with **104** searches covering patent, design, trade mark, and bibliographic categories. Additionally, the centre completed **9** patent searches with commentary.



Another service provided by the Office is **IP pre-diagnostics**, offering consultancy to small and medium-sized enterprises and scientific research institutions. The goal of pre-diagnostics is to furnish clients with information enabling them to formulate suitable strategies for industrial rights protection. In 2023, the IPO SR conducted **35 pre-diagnostics**, before subsequently terminating the provision of the service.

## Pre-diagnostics conducted in 2023

- trade marks
- designs
- geographical indications





Most of the companies were interested in registering trade marks and designs, especially in view of the possibility of obtaining a grant from the SME Fund of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). **Of the total number of pre-diagnostics**, almost 90% related to trade marks. The creation of a design protection strategy was recommended in **29 companies**. For almost a quarter of the

companies, the pre-diagnostics focused on the protection of products through geographical indications.

The companies that utilized pre-diagnostics in 2023 subsequently filed applications for over **50 patents, 80 utility models, 23 designs, 23 trade marks, and 6 geographical indications**.

## Registrations of objects of industrial rights following pre-diagnostics from 2007 – 2023

REGISTRATIONS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
PP		1	2	2	6	7	6	2	2	13	3	7	10	5	24	47	51	188
PCT				1											3	1	2	
PUV			3	12	9	10	16	9	20	16	15	11	11	7	49	62	80	330
PD	3	1	1	2	1		3	2	4	1	4	3	11	3	8	2	23	72
RCD				1								1	1		2			
POZ			15	19	18	7	5	12	12	14	14	8	12	40	24	5	23	228
MOZ			2	1							2						1	
OZ EU			1	7	1		1				5				9			24
CHZO/CHOP										3	3		1	1		2	6	16
TOTAL	3	2	24	45	35	24	31	25	38	47	46	30	46	56	119	119	186	876

## New services for entrepreneurs

**In 2023, the IPO SR introduced two new services: company visit and IP Scan.**

Company visit is a free information service tailored to start-ups, small, medium, and large enterprises. During these visits, entrepreneurs receive valuable insights into the untapped potential of intellectual property and guidance on building up their brands, products, or services through intellectual property. They also gain knowledge about the costs associated with protecting innovations and how to apply for innovation grants. Throughout 2023, the Office staff conducted visits to **18 Slovak companies** with innovation

potential.

In collaboration with the private sector, the IPO SR initiated the **IP Scan** service, which entails an audit of a company's intellectual property conducted by a certified attorney or patent agent. Entrepreneurs have the opportunity to receive a refund, in the form of a grant from the EUIPO SME Fund, covering up to 90% of the service fee. Since its launch in November 2023, **12 Slovak entrepreneurs** have applied for the IP Scan service.



# **POPULARIZING INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY**

**2023**

[www.indprop.gov.sk](http://www.indprop.gov.sk)

# POPULARIZING INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic is committed to making information about industrial property understandable and accessible to the public through modern electronic media, various publications, and a range of promotional and educational events. A network of partner organizations, patent information centres and contact points is also used to raise public awareness of intellectual property.

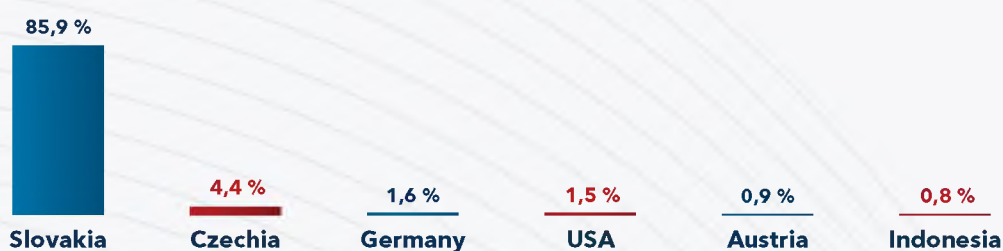
## THE OFFICE'S WEBSITE AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

In 2023, the website of the IPO SR ([www.indprop.gov.sk](http://www.indprop.gov.sk)) was revised, with a focus on providing user-friendly and easily accessible information on all types of industrial rights, including patents, designs, utility models, trade marks, designations of origin, and geographical indications. Each section includes details on fees, frequently asked questions, and relevant legislation. Additionally, a dedicated section titled

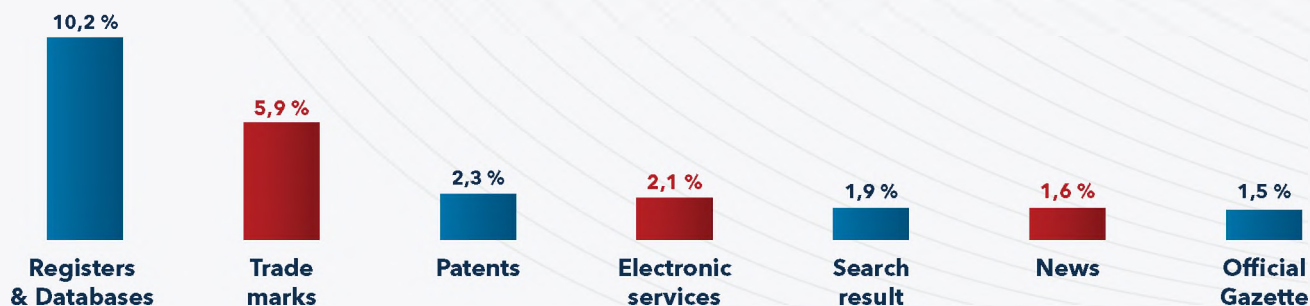
Services to Entrepreneurs; was created, which offers clearly organized information on industrial rights, tailored to the needs and stages of business development, aiding companies in developing their intellectual property protection strategy. The revised website now offers identical information in both Slovak and English, covering industrial rights, upcoming conferences, seminars, and other events.

**IN 2023, THE OFFICE'S WEBSITE RECEIVED OVER 159,000 VISITS, WITH 7.1% BEING REGULAR RETURNING USERS OF THE PORTAL.**

### Website users by country 2023



## Most visited sections of the website 2023



**The IPO SR has made its updated web-based registers accessible to the public. As part of its data management project and efforts to enhance electronic services, the Office has introduced a new version of its Webregisters.**

This version features a fresh design aligned with the unified identity of state services and is responsive, allowing users to access it on mobile devices like phones and tablets. Additionally, the updated version includes a

new functionality, which allows users to view the history of a file in a time sequence format based on its publication in the Official Gazette. This function covers files published in the Official Gazette since 1 December 2022.

In order to raise public awareness of the significance of intellectual property and its protection, the IPO SR utilizes various social networking platforms, including **Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.**



**Industrial Property Office  
of the Slovak Republic**



**upv\_sr**



**Industrial Property Office  
of the Slovak Republic**

**Facebook serves as the primary social network for disseminating awareness of intellectual property law and the activities of the Office.**

This is where we observed the biggest surge in followers, from **6,652** (on 1 December 2022) to **10,236** (on 1 December 2023), marking an increase of **3,584** followers. Additionally, our Instagram followers increased from **635** to **840**, while our LinkedIn followers grew from **460** to **557** over the same period. We consider these social networks as complementary only, with tailored posts to suit

their respective audiences and engagement styles.

The IPO SR collaborates with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic to maintain the portal [www.dusevnevlastnictvo.gov.sk](http://www.dusevnevlastnictvo.gov.sk). This digital platform serves as an information hub, providing a basic overview and resources on various intellectual property topics. Visitors can access information on copyright and its related rights, industrial property law, regulations on unfair competition, as well as details on trade names, trade secrets, and know-how.



# PRESS RELEASES

Throughout 2023, the Office maintained its practice of issuing press releases to keep the public informed about its activities, legislative changes, and upcoming events.

## JANUARY

1. INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE TO ASSIST ENTREPRENEURS IN OBTAINING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

2. GLOBAL TRENDS IN HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

## FEBRUARY

## MARCH

3. GROWING DEMAND FOR PATENT PROTECTION IN 2022

4. HARMONIZED EU PATENT RULES BOOST INNOVATION, INVESTMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS IN THE SINGLE MARKET

## APRIL

## MAY

- 5. PILOT PHASE OF COMPANY VISIT SERVICE
- 6. IPO SR LAUNCHES NEW VERSION OF WEBREGISTERS
- 7. IPO SR BEGINS IMPLEMENTATION OF 'IMPROVEMENT OF EGOV SERVICES OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC' PROJECT
- 8. LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT SYSTEM WITH UNITARY EFFECT

9. SLOVAK GOVERNMENT ADOPTS NATIONAL STRATEGY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BY RESOLUTION NO. 295

10. SME FUND EXPANDED TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN BUSINESSES

## JUNE



## JULY

11. GLOBAL TREND NEWS: CLASSIFICATION  
OF VIRTUAL GOODS AND SERVICES  
IN THE CONTEXT OF TRADE MARK APPLICATIONS

12. COINTT 2023

13. INTERNSHIP AT THE INDUSTRIAL  
PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

14. GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2023

15. NEW IP SCAN SERVICE  
TO BE LAUNCHED ON 1 OCTOBER

## SEPTEMBER

## OCTOBER

16. 'IMPROVEMENT OF EGOV SERVICES  
OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE  
SLOVAK REPUBLIC' PROJECT ENTERS FINAL STAGE

17. TOGETHER AGAINST COUNTERFEITING  
AND COPYRIGHT PIRACY

18. INNOVATORS WORLDWIDE FILE  
A RECORD NUMBER OF PATENTS!

19. IPO SR TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT FOR SLOVAK ENTREPRENEURS

## NOVEMBER

## DECEMBER

20. EU GRANT SUPPORT FOR  
ENTREPRENEURS CONTINUES

# PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

**The most important publication regarding industrial and legal protection is the Official Gazette of the IPO SR, issued twice a month. Since the 1/2016 issue, the Office has made the official electronic version available for free only on its website.**

Previous issues of the Official Gazette from 1993 to 2007 were printed, and from 2008 to 2015, they were distributed on CD-ROM in PDF format. Both print and CD-ROM versions are accessible in the Office's [study room](#).

The **"Duševné Vlastníctvo"** (Intellectual Property) journal stands as the sole Slovak periodical dedicated to industrial rights and copyright matters. Published semi-annually, it holds a place among specialized professional periodicals. However, apart from featuring expert articles and studies, it also serves to popularize and educate the public on these topics.

The journal is accessible to the [general public](#) on the Office's website and is free to read.

# PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

**The IPO SR organizes various popularization activities for both the general public and professionals. In 2023, these included in-person and online events like the conference celebrating World Intellectual Property Day or the "Why is Mediation Effective for Innovative SMEs?" conference, exhibitions held at the IPO SR premises, and educational sessions as part of the Intellectual Property educational programme.**

In 2023, the IPO organized three webinars for start-ups and SMEs in collaboration with the EUIPO ("The Importance of IP for SMEs", "SlovakiaIPForYou", and "Patent Information Search in Practice"). The Office also actively participated in various events targeting pupils, students, entrepreneurs, but also exporters and professionals from the food industry. Furthermore, the Office presented its activities at events such as SARIO: Practice for Universities, Solutions for Companies, CONECO RACIONENERGY, Danubius Gastro, Furniture and Living Nitra, Agrokomplex 2023, Researchers' Night, COINTT 2023, Export Forum 2023, Poľana Folklore Festival, Potravinové právo 2023 (Food Law 2023), and Formát kontroly potravín (Food Control Format).

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has designated **26 April** as World

Intellectual Property Day. In Slovakia, the 22nd celebration of this day focused on youth, under the motto 'Youth and Innovation for a Better Future!' This day is an occasion for celebrating the immense value of creativity, the significance and protection of intellectual property, and the contributions of young people, students, and inventors in this field. Last year, the IPO SR turned it into an opportunity to **educate young people about the importance of intellectual property rights with the aim of supporting their aspirations and transforming their ideas into reality.** Intellectual property rights provide young people with essential tools to pursue their professional ambitions.

In addition to the aforementioned events, the comprehensive reconstruction of the Office's congress hall has provided us with a modern and functional space. In 2023, we utilized this space to organize thematic events primarily targeting entrepreneurs. These included "Branding that Kills", "Why There Are Few Patents in Slovakia", a meeting with Michal Pastier, author of 'The Yellow Book of Brand Building', and the "Traditional Christmas" event for secondary school students. Furthermore, we organized a competition for secondary schools called "Don't Be a Faker!" and held an award ceremony to honour the winners.

# EDUCATION

**Based on the decision of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic dated 30 April 2019, and the certificate of reaccreditation No. 1308/2019/54/1, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic offers the Intellectual Property educational programme.**

In the first half of 2023, the Intellectual Property course continued with **Module C - Intellectual Property Information**. 25 students successfully passed the final exams in this module. After the summer break, the course resumed in September with **Module D - Industrial Property Law**. This module is the most extensive of all the modules and lasts nine months, extending into 2024. Last year, all the education within Module D was conducted in person.

In 2023, the Office continued its successful educational efforts, reaching out to primary and secondary school pupils, as well as academics and entrepreneurs, **to teach the significance of intellectual property protection**. A total of **50 lectures** were delivered to **primary and secondary schools**. Pupils found various activities enlightening, such as learning about notable Slovak and foreign inventors, exploring the world's largest trade secret (Coca-Cola), and understanding the difference between counterfeit and authentic products through visual aids. These educational activities helped pupils grasp the importance of safeguarding their intellectual property, with many expressing interest in the topic for future business endeavours. Moreover, teachers gained insights into the role of intellectual property in shaping consumer behaviour through these lectures.

Additionally, the Office actively participated in **14 educational events** tailored for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs. Representatives

of the Office attended various fairs such as the **31st Furniture and Living International Trade Fair in Nitra**, **CONECO RACIONENERGY 2023**, the gastronomy fair **Danubius Gastro in Bratislava**, the **48th International Engineering Fair**, and **Agrokomplex 2023 in Nitra**, where they set up a stand to promote the services of the IPO SR and educate on the importance of geographical indications of products. They also provided consultancy services to visitors and exhibitors. Furthermore, the Office gave lectures at the **"Food Control Format"** event and the **"Food Law 2023"** conference. Staff from the Communication and Education Department presented the activities of the Office to the public during the **European Researchers' Night 2023** in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, and Žilina. Representatives of the Office also took part in the **Export Forum** organized by the **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic**, and showcased the services offered by the Office through both a stand and a lecture at the **COINTT 2023 event**.

The Office's **internship programme** was conducted in the autumn of 2023, involving seven selected students from the fields of international relations and law. The interns underwent a week of joint comprehensive training before being assigned to specific departments.

The IPO SR, in collaboration with the Slovak Chamber of Patent Attorneys, regularly conducts **professional examinations for individuals aspiring to become patent attorneys**. In 2023, the examination dates were scheduled for 9 and 10 November. This time, only one candidate attended the examination. Unfortunately, the candidate did not attain the required score, leading to the cancellation of the oral component of the examination.

# Education for the youngest all the way through to the experts

**In 2023, the IPO SR conducted 61 educational and consultation sessions for entrepreneurs, students, and the professional public.**

Building on its experience with outreach activities and on global trends in raising intellectual property awareness, the Office

established a department named the Academy of Intellectual Property (AIP) on 1 October 2023. The AIP aims to collaboratively promote intellectual property awareness in schools, start-ups, SMEs, technology centres, and cultural and innovation hubs. Additionally, AIP activities will extend to the professional public.

## PARTNERS OF THE IPO SR

**In 2023, collaboration with Patent Information Centres (PATLIB) and the Office's contact and information points continued through mutual cooperation agreements.**

The partnership involves the exchange and provision of information and materials, as well as organizing events to enhance expertise in industrial property. Currently, there are several PATLIB centres in Slovakia, namely at the Slovak National Library in Martin, the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information in Bratislava, the State Scientific Library in Košice, the State Scientific Library in Banská Bystrica, and the Technology Transfer Center at the University of Žilina. **A new PATLIB centre was established in 2022 at the University Science Park TECHNICOM in Košice.**

The Office's contact and information points serve to inform interested parties about the options for protecting their creative endeavours and raise awareness among the general public about the existence of a state institution dedicated to safeguarding their intellectual property.

These points are located at various libraries across Slovakia, including the State Scientific Library in Prešov, the Juraj Fándly Library in Trnava, the Michal Rešetka Public Library in Trenčín, the Karol Kmeťko Regional Library in Nitra, the Ľudovít Štúr Regional Library in Zvolen, and the Regional Library in Žilina.

In 2023, the IPO SR, through its Information and Advisory Points for Innovation (INNOINFO), maintained its commitment to offering guidance to the professional public, innovative businesses, and research institutions on the possibilities of intellectual property protection, and highlighting the significance of developing suitable strategies in this realm.

**Last year, INNOINFO's key activities involved IPO SR staff participation** in consultation days hosted by the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SOPK). At the Bratislava and Banská Bystrica regional chambers of the SOPK, an Office representative engaged with company representatives seeking advice on the challenges they face in their innovative endeavours. Similar consultations were also extended to the Business and Innovation Centre Bratislava (BIC Bratislava, spol. s r.o.).



# HUMAN RESOURCES

**2023**



# HUMAN RESOURCES

As at 31 December 2023, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic employed a total of 123 staff. In the course of 2023, sixteen new staff members were hired as civil servants or employees, while ten staff members ended their civil servant or employee relationship with the Office. In addition, as at 31 December 2023, six employees were on maternity or parental leave.

The operations of the Office are supported by two categories of employment relationships: civil **service relationships**, which pertain to the performance of civil service duties by civil servants, and **employment relationships**, which pertain to persons working in the public interest under a dependent employment contract.

In 2023, we modernized the employee lifecycle process, from employee onboarding within a new form of integration into the work team, through evaluation and training, life and career anniversaries, to employee exit. We turned the Human Resources Department into a separate unit, appointed a manager, and took over the payroll agenda.

Among our most important steps was the initiation of a long-term generational renewal process to address the age structure of our workforce. Within this process and in line with the Office's approved employee structure, vacant positions were temporarily filled by staff undergoing training alongside senior colleagues, ensuring seamless succession planning.

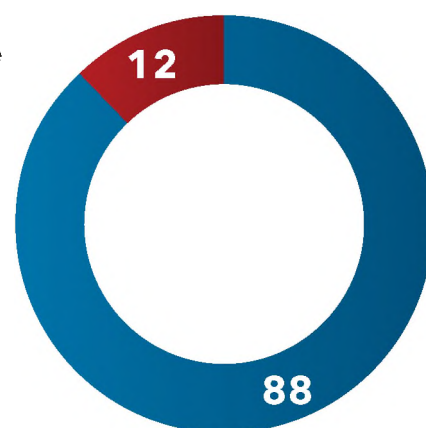
The collective agreement provides employees with benefits that go beyond what is stipulated by law and by higher collective agreements, such as:

The **biggest challenges** encountered by the Human Resources Department in 2023 were:

- reorganizing the HR Department,
- modernizing the employee lifecycle, and
- initiating the generational renewal process and succession strategy.

## Staff relations in % 2023

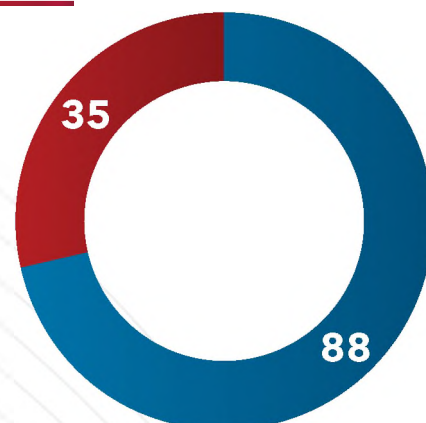
- State service
- Public service



- increased severance and retirement pay,
- paid time off work,
- increased income replacement during sick leave,
- contributions to supplementary pension savings, and
- rewards and gifts for work anniversaries.

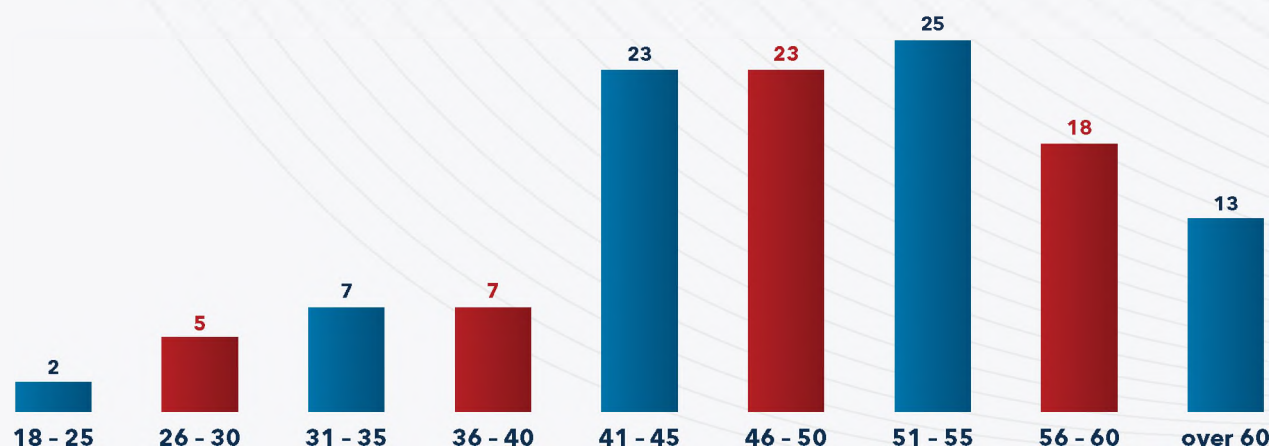
## Record status of employees 2023

- Women
- Men





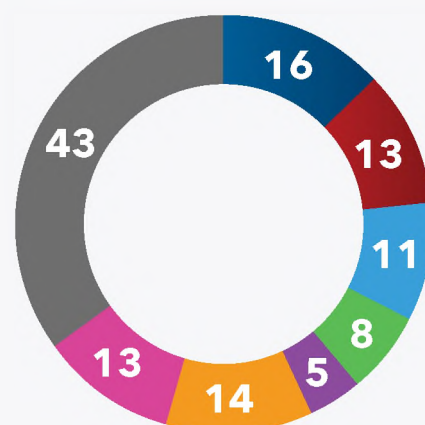
## Employee age structure 2023



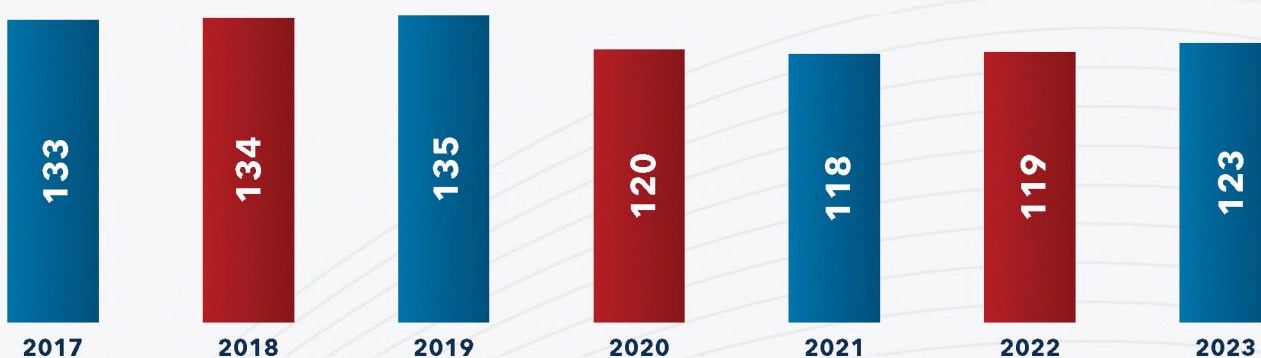
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023, THE AVERAGE AGE OF EMPLOYEES WAS 48.

## The IPO SR staff by area of activity 2023

- Patents, supplementary protection certificates, utility models
- Designs, trade marks, designations of origin and geographical indications of products
- Dispute proceedings
- Appeal proceedings
- Legislation
- Services of the Office, popularization of industrial property, international relations
- Fees and documentation
- Other activities



## Number of employees of the IPO SR as at 31 December in years 2017 – 2023





# EMPLOYEE TRAINING

**Employee training at the IPO SR in 2023 adhered to the designated 2023 Training Plan, aligning closely with the evolving needs of our organizational units, particularly in response to legislative updates.**

The cornerstone of our training efforts focused on specialized education, with a strong emphasis on industrial and legal protection. Employees participated in a variety of learning opportunities, including seminars, courses, workshops, and conferences offered by our foreign partners such as the EPO, EUIPO, and

WIPO, both in person and online.

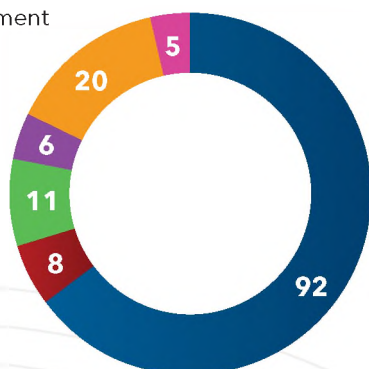
In 2023, the highest participation rates among our employees were observed in education in the field of information technology. They enhanced their skills in essential tools such as Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word, as well as in cybersecurity awareness.

Additionally, employees engaged in language courses, primarily focusing on English, along with personal development courses, while senior staff members attended management training.

## Educational activities of IPO SR employees in 2023

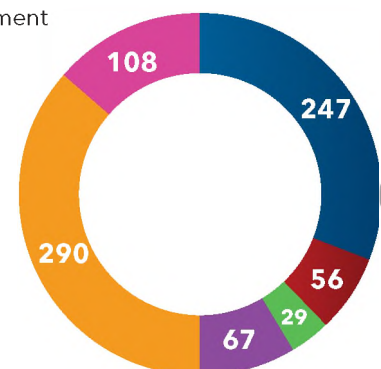
### Number of activities

- specialized
- language
- managerial
- personal development
- IT
- other



### Number of participants

- specialized
- language
- managerial
- personal development
- IT
- other



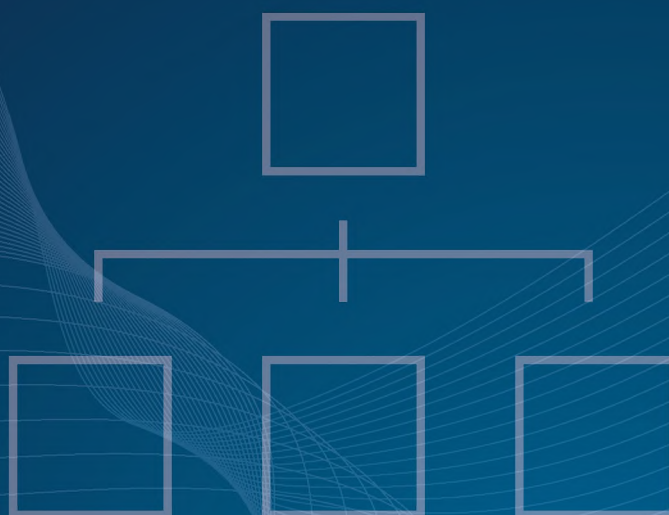
## Selection procedures in 2023

**Throughout 2023, a total of 19 selection procedures were conducted to fill both temporary and permanent civil service positions.**

Of these, **13 were successfully completed**, which notably included six procedures to

appoint senior civil servants.

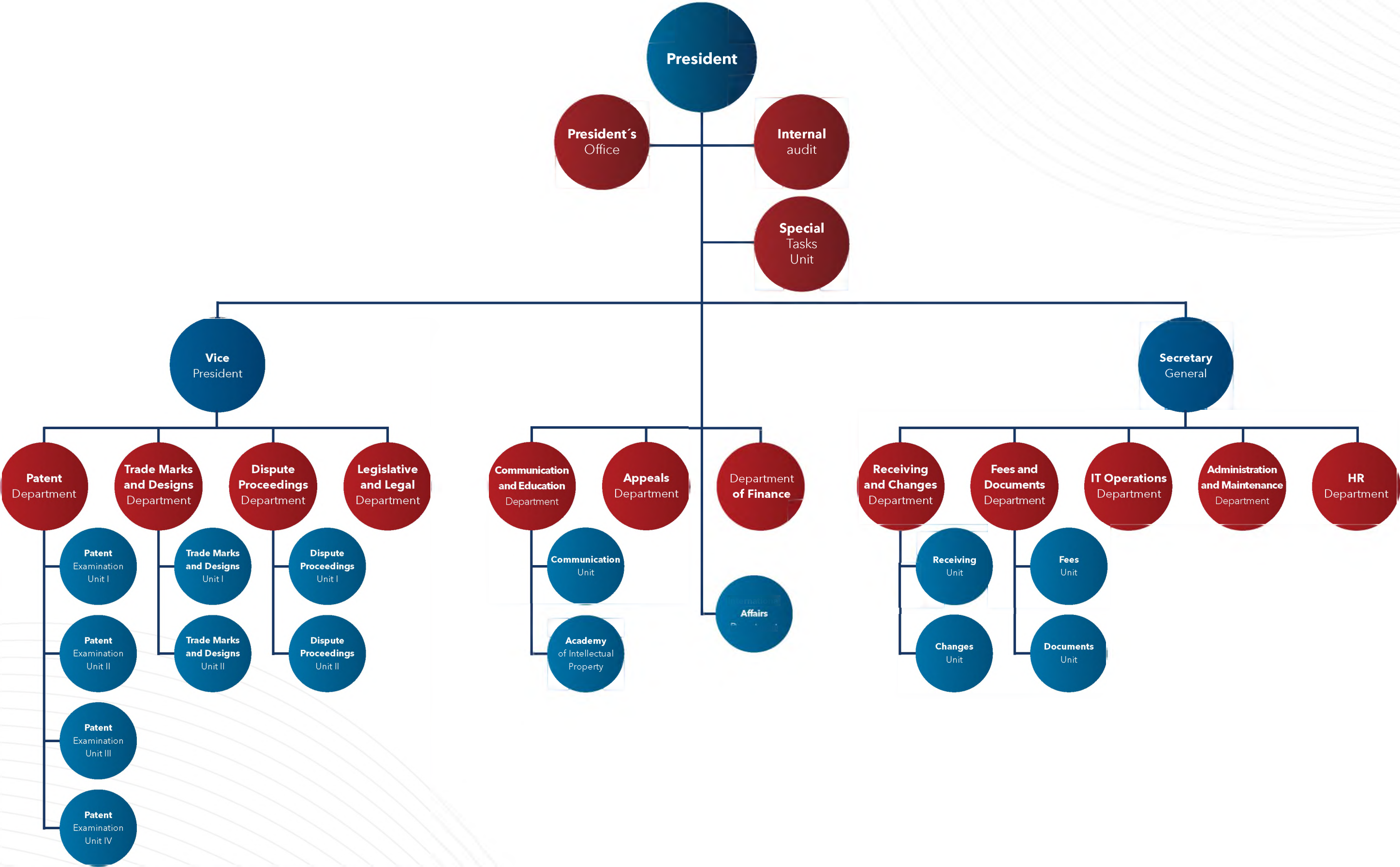
In cases where internal selection procedures for civil servant positions were unsuccessful, external selection procedures were subsequently initiated.

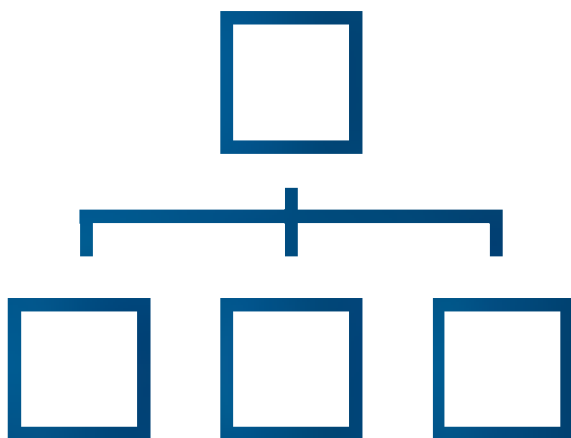


# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

**2023**

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE







# ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

**2023**



# ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

**The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic operates as a budget organization, deriving its revenue from its activities (maintenance fees for industrial property protection, the renting of premises, the performance of search and other services provided by the Office, and revenue from refunds) and administrative fees. The fees are collected in accordance with Act No. 495/2008 Coll. on maintenance fees for patents, maintenance fees for European patents with effects for the Slovak Republic, and fees for supplementary protection certificates for medicinal products and plant protection products, and on amendments to certain acts, as amended.**

In 2023, the Office's total revenue, comprising **non-tax revenues of the budget chapter and administrative fees, amounted to €4,783,899.18 (compared to €4,816,501.24 in 2022). The total non-tax revenue of the budget chapter was €4,014,146.83, and administrative fees amounted to €769,752.35.** The largest portion of the Office's total revenue came from maintenance fees, totalling **€2,929,123.24** in 2023. This amount represented **a decrease of €24,231.62** compared to maintenance fee revenues in 2022, which were **€2,953,354.86.**

In the area of administrative fees, there was a decrease in revenues of **€66,169.69**, amounting to **€769,752.35** in 2023, compared to **€835,922.04** in 2022. This decline was anticipated and had been previously communicated on several occasions. It can be attributed to increased computerization and reduced fees for electronic filings.

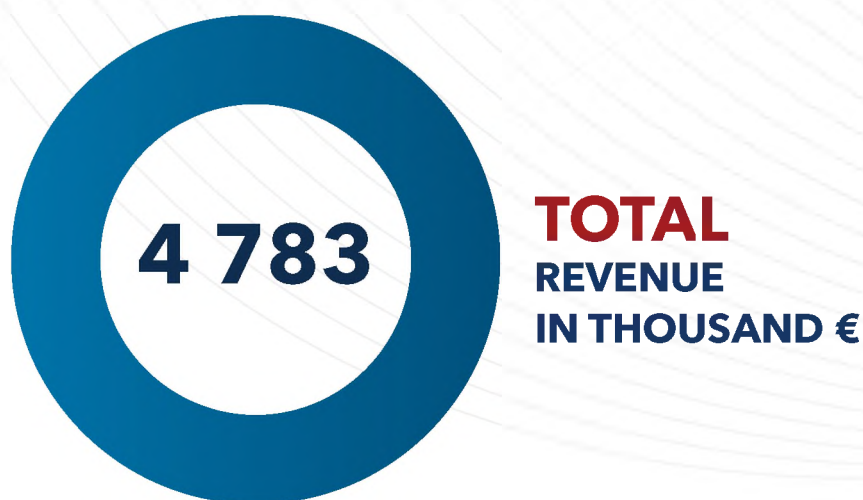
The total expenditure of the Office for 2023 was budgeted at **€6,529,200.31**, with actual spending amounting to **€6,522,497.52**, reflecting a drawdown rate of 99.90%. Within this expenditure, current expenses totalled **€5,508,241.47**, reaching a 99.9% drawdown rate, while capital

expenditure amounted to **€1,014,256.05**, with a drawdown rate of 99.88% compared to the adjusted budget.

In 2023, the Office drew funds from both the state budget and the European Union for its operations. It actively participated in several projects funded by the European Union during the year. Four important projects significantly impacted spending in 2023, namely **"Data Management of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic", "Migration of IS Webregistry of the IPO SR and IS Portal of electronic services of the IPO SR to the government cloud", "Development of governance and level of information and cyber security in the sub-sector VS – Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic", and "Improvement of eGov services of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic".** These projects, financed from EU funds, collectively accounted for **€1,176,475.41** in spending during 2023. All projects were completed by 31 December 2023, aligning with the conclusion of the programming period.

In 2023, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic drew **€1,176,475.41** from the European Union budget for the implementation of national and international projects, of which **€203,805.67** represented the drawdown of the **"Migration of IS Webregistry of the IPO SR and IS Portal of electronic services of the IPO SR to the government cloud" project** and **€156,384.85** represented the drawdown of the **"Data Management of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic" project.** Drawdown within the **"Development of governance and level of information and cyber security in the sub-sector VS – Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic" project** amounted to **€79,155.75** and **€737,129.14** was spent within the **"Improvement of eGov services of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic" project.**

## Economic results of 2023



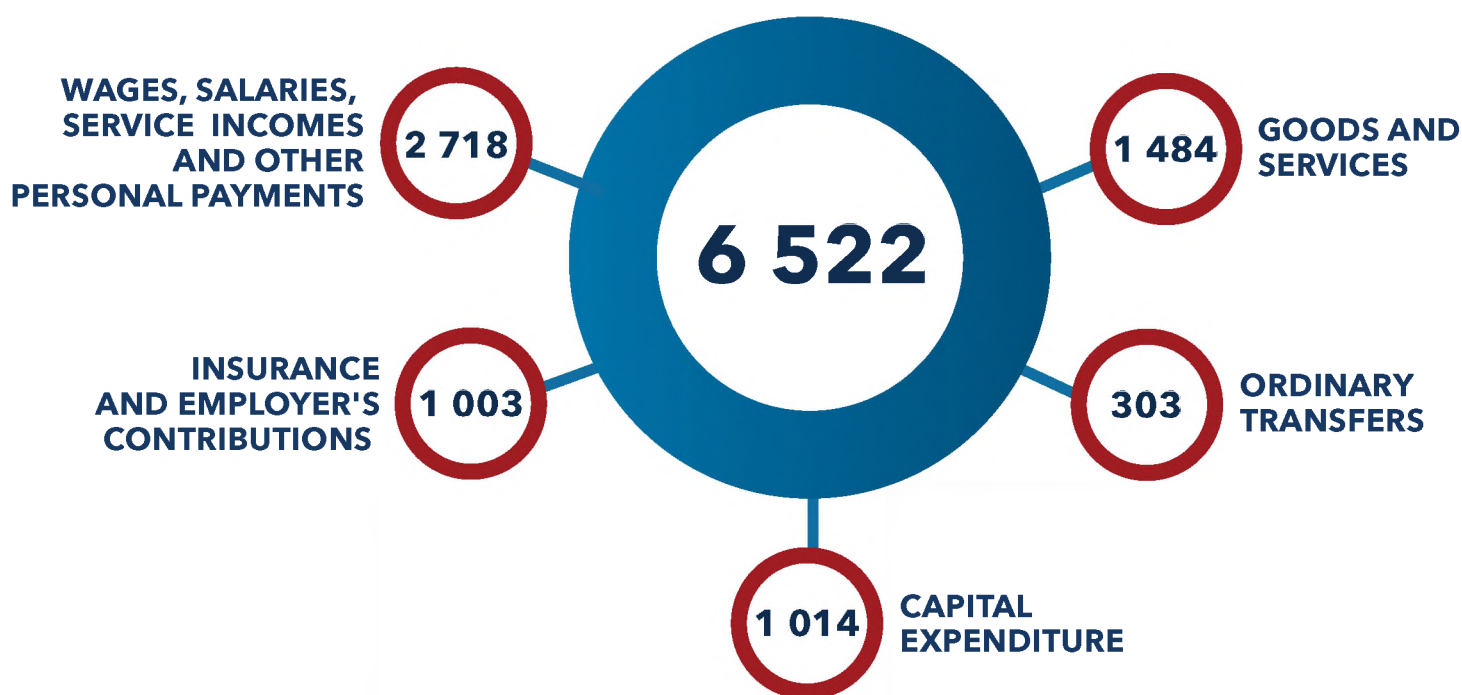
INDICATOR	THOUSAND EUR
<b>Revenue of the budget chapter:</b>	<b>4 014</b>
- revenue from maintenance fees	<b>2 929</b>
- revenue from ITM from the WIPO	<b>656</b>
- revenue from services provided by the Office	<b>83</b>
- extraordinary revenue from the EUIPO	<b>346</b>
<b>Administrative fees</b>	<b>769</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>4 783</b>



## Economic results - expenditures 2023



**TOTAL**  
EXPENDITURES  
IN THOUSAND €



EXPENDITURES	THOUSAND EUR
current expenditure:	5 508
- wages, salaries, service incomes and other personal payments	2 718
- insurance and employer's contributions	1 003
- goods and services	1 484
- ordinary transfers	303
capital expenditure	1 014
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>6 522</b>



# ATTACHMENTS

**2023**



# ATTACHMENTS

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- 1. Patent applications in 2023**  
according to country of origin
- 2. Patent applications in 2023**  
according to the international patent classification
- 3. Patents**  
according to country of origin
- 4. Granted patents 2023**  
according to the international patent classification
- 5. Filed and registered utility models**  
according to country of origin
- 6. Applications and registered utility models 2023**  
according to the international patent classification
- 7. Filed and registered designs**  
according to country of origin
- 8. Filed and registered trademarks**  
according to country of origin



## Patent applications in 2023 according to country of origin

Country	National					PCT					Total					Code
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	AT
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	BE
China	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	CN
Czechia	17	6	2	5	6	2	1	5	2	8	19	7	7	7	14	CZ
France	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	FR
Germany	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	DE
Switzerland	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	CH
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	IT
Republic of Korea	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	KR
Luxembourg	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	LU
Hungary	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	HU
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	NL
Poland	3	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	1	5	PL
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	RO
Slovakia	205	205	145	184	229	1	1	1	0	3	206	206	146	184	232	SK
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	TR
United States of America	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	US
Foreign total	24	11	5	13	13	4	4	8	6	11	28	15	13	19	24	Foreign
TOTAL	229	216	150	197	242	5	5	9	6	14	234	221	159	203	256	TOTAL



# Patent applications in 2023 according to the international patent classification

	Subject	Patent applications				IPC	
		Domestic	Foreign	PCT	Total		%
I.	Electrical engineering						
1	Electrical machinery and apparatus, electrical energy	19	0	1	20	7,81	F21; G05F; H01B,C,F,G,H,J,K,M,R,T; H02; H05B,C,F,K
2	Audio-visual technology	0	0	0	0	0,00	G09F,G; G11B; H03F,G,J; H04N-3,-5,-9,-13,-17,-19,-21; H04R,S
3	Telecommunications	10	2	0	12	4,69	G08C; H01P,Q; H03B,C,D,H,K,L,M; H04B,H,J,K,L,M,N-1,-7,-11,Q,W
4	Information technology	23	0	1	24	9,38	G06; G10; G11C; G16B; G16H; G16Y; G16Z
5	Semiconductors	1	0	0	1	0,39	H01L; B81
II.	Instruments						
6	Optics	1	0	0	1	0,39	G02; G03B,C,D,F,G,H; H01S
7	Analysis, measurement, control technology	23	0	2	25	9,77	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	13	0	2	15	5,86	A61B,C,D,F,G,H,J,L,M,N
9	Nuclear engineering	1	0	0	1	0,39	G01T; G21; H05G,H
III.	Chemistry, pharmaceuticals						
10	Organic fine chemistry	1	0	0	1	0,39	C07C,D,F,H,J,K
11	Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	1	0	1	2	0,78	C08B,F,G,H,K,L; C09D,J
12	Pharmaceuticals, cosmetics	5	0	0	5	1,95	A61K; A61P; A61Q
13	Biotechnology	15	0	0	15	5,86	C07G; C12M,N,P,Q,R,S
14	Agriculture, food chemistry	6	0	0	6	2,34	A01H; A21D; A23B,C,D,F,G,H,J; C12C,F,G,H,J; C13B,K
15	Chemical and petrol industry, basic materials chemistry	3	0	0	3	1,17	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	1	0	0	1	0,39	B05C,D; B32; C23; C25; C30
17	Materials, metallurgy	5	0	1	6	2,34	C01; C03C; C04; C21; C22; B22; B82
IV.	Process engineering, special equipment						
18	Chemical engineering	9	1	0	10	3,91	B01B,D(without -046 to -053),F,J,L; B02C; B03; B04; B05B; B06; B07; B08; C40; F25J; F26
19	Materials processing, textiles, paper	10	0	1	11	4,30	A41H; A43D; A46D; B28; B29; B31; C03B; C08; C14; D01; D02; D03; D04B,C,G,H; D05; D06B,C,G,H,J,L,M,P,Q; D21
20	Handling, printing	11	1	1	13	5,08	B25; B41; B65B,C,D,F,G,H; B66; B67; B33Y
21	Agricultural and food processing, machinery and apparatus	5	0	0	5	1,95	A01B,C,D,F,G,J,K,L,M; A21B,C; A22; A23N,P; B02B; C12L
22	Environmental technology	3	3	0	6	2,34	A62D; B01D-046 to -053; B09; C02; F01N; F23G,J
V.	Mechanical engineering, machinery						
23	Machine tools	4	0	0	4	1,56	B21; B23; B24; B26D,F; B27; B30
24	Engines, pumps, turbines	14	0	0	14	5,47	F01B,C,D,K,L,M,P; F02; F03; F04; F23R
25	Thermal processes and apparatus	3	0	0	3	1,17	F22; F23B,C,D,H,K,L,M,N,Q; F24; F25B,C; F27; F28
26	Mechanical elements	4	3	1	8	3,13	F15; F16; F17; G05G
27	Transport	12	0	2	14	5,47	B60; B61; B62; B63B,C,H,J; B64B,C,D,F
28	Space technology, weapons	3	0	0	3	1,17	B63G; B64G; C06; F41; F42
VI.	Consumption						
29	Consumer goods and equipment	8	1	1	10	3,91	A24; A41B,C,D,F,G; A42; A43B,C; A44; A45; A46B; A47; A62B,C; A63; A99Z; B25B,C,D,F,G,H; B26B; B42; B43; B44; B68; D04D; D06F,N; D07; F25D; G10B,C,D,F,G,H,K
30	Civil engineering, building, mining	15	2	0	17	6,64	E01; E02; E03; E04; E05; E06; E21
Total		229	13	14	256	100,0	



## Patents according to country of origin

Country	National					PCT					Total					Code
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Austria	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	0	0	AT
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	BE
Czechia	7	2	7	15	9	1	4	0	4	1	8	6	7	19	10	CZ
Germany	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	DE
France	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	FR
United Kingdom	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	GB
Switzerland	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	CH
Japan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	JP
Republic of Korea	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	KR
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	LU
Poland	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	PL
Russian Federation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	RU
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	SE
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>SK</b>
United States of America	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	US
Foreign total	14	6	12	16	11	9	4	2	4	1	23	10	14	20	12	Foreign
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>



# Granted patents in 2023 according to the international patent classification

Subject		Granted patents				IPC	
		Domestic	Foreign	PCT	Total	%	
<b>I. Electrical engineering</b>							
1	Electrical machinery and apparatus, electrical energy	13	0	0	13	10,92	F21; G05F; H01B,C,F,G,H,J,K,M,R,T; H02; H05B,C,F,K
2	Audio-visual technology	0	0	0	0	0,00	G09F,G; G11B; H03F,G,J; H04N-3,-5,-9,-13,-17,-19,-21; H04R,S
3	Telecommunications	4	0	0	4	3,36	G08C; H01P,Q; H03B,C,D,H,K,L,M; H04B,H,K,L,M,N-1,-7,-11,Q,W
4	Information technology	2	0	0	2	1,68	G06; G10L; G11C; G16B; G16H; G16Y; G16Z
5	Semiconductors	0	0	0	0	0,00	H01L; B81
<b>II. Instruments</b>							
6	Optics	2	0	0	2	1,68	G02; G03B,C,D,F,G,H; H01S
7	Analysis, measurement, control technology	22	0	0	22	18,49	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	4	0	0	4	3,36	A61B,C,D,F,G,H,J,L,M,N
9	Nuclear engineering	0	0	1	1	0,84	G01T; G21; H05G,H
<b>III. Chemistry, pharmaceuticals</b>							
10	Organic fine chemistry	3	0	0	3	2,52	C07C,D,F,H,J,K
11	Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	0	1	0	1	0,84	C08B,F,G,H,K,L; C09D,J
12	Pharmaceuticals, cosmetics	1	0	0	1	0,84	A61K; A61P; A61Q
13	Biotechnology	4	0	0	4	3,36	C07G; C12M,N,P,Q,R,S
14	Agriculture, food chemistry	0	0	0	0	0,00	A01H; A21D; A23B,C,D,F,G,J,K,L; C12C,F,G,H,J; C13B,K
15	Chemical and petrol industry, basic materials chemistry	0	1	0	1	0,84	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	0	0	0	0	0,00	B05C,D; B32; C23; C25; C30
17	Materials, metallurgy	3	4	0	7	5,88	C01; C03C; C04; C21; C22; B22; B82
<b>IV. Process engineering, special equipment</b>							
18	Chemical engineering	3	0	0	3	2,52	B01B,D(without -046 to -053),F,I,J; B02C; B03; B04; B05B; B06; B07; B08; C40; F25I; F26
19	Materials processing, textiles, paper	1	1	0	2	1,68	A41H; A43D; A46D; B28; B29; B31; C03B; C08I; C14; D01; D02; D03; D04B,C,G,H; D05; D06B,C,G,H,J,L,M,P,Q; D21
20	Handling, printing	5	2	0	7	5,88	B25J; B41; B65B,C,D,F,G,H; B66; B67; B33Y
21	Agricultural and food processing, machinery and apparatus	3	0	0	3	2,52	A01B,C,D,F,G,J,K,L,M; A21B,C; A22; A23N,P; B02B; C12L
22	Environmental technology	2	0	0	2	1,68	A62D; B01D-046 to -053; B09; C02; F01N; F23G,J
<b>V. Mechanical engineering, machinery</b>							
23	Machine tools	11	0	0	11	9,24	B21; B23; B24; B26D,F; B27; B30
24	Engines, pumps, turbines	1	0	0	1	0,84	F01B,C,D,K,L,M,P; F02; F03; F04; F23R
25	Thermal processes and apparatus	2	1	0	3	2,52	F22; F23B,C,D,H,K,L,M,N,Q; F24; F25B,C; F27; F28
26	Mechanical elements	2	0	0	2	1,68	F15; F16; F17; G05G
27	Transport	6	0	0	6	5,04	B60; B61; B62; B63B,C,H,J; B64B,C,D,F
28	Space technology, weapons	1	0	0	1	0,84	B63G; B64G; C06; F41; F42
<b>VI. Consumption</b>							
29	Consumer goods and equipment	5	0	0	5	4,20	A24; A41B,C,D,F,G; A42; A43B,C; A44; A45; A46B; A47; A62B,C; A63; A99Z; B25B,C,D,F,G,H; B26B; B42; B43; B44; B68; D04D; D06F,N; D07; F25D; G10B,C,D,F,G,H,K
30	Civil engineering, building, mining	7	1	0	8	6,72	E01; E02; E03; E04; E05; E06; E21
<b>Total</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100,0</b>	



## Filed and registered utility models according to country of origin

Country	Applications					Registered					Code
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Austria	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	AT
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	BG
Brazil	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	BR
China	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	CN
Czechia	34	36	30	45	40	45	38	41	32	47	CZ
Germany	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	DE
Spain	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	ES
Finland	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	FI
France	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	FR
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	GB
Hungary	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	HU
Switzerland	5	2	1	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	CH
Italy	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	2	0	IT
Japan	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	JP
Republic of Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	KR
Poland	1	0	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	PL
Russian Federation	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	RU
Seychely	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	SC
Slovakia	281	342	253	236	297	267	272	355	218	201	SK
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	TR
Ukraine	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	UA
United States of America	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	US
Foreign total	44	48	44	52	46	55	51	54	44	53	Foreign
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>Total</b>



# Applications and registered utility models 2023 according to the international patent classification

	Subject	Applications			Registered			IPC
		Domestic	Foreign	Total	%	Domestic	Foreign	Total
I. Electrical engineering								
1	Electrical machinery and apparatus, electrical energy	21	0	21	6.12	14	3	17
2	Audio-visual technology	3	0	3	0.87	1	1	2
3	Telecommunications	9	0	9	2.62	3	0	3
4	Information technology	17	0	17	4.96	8	8	16
5	Semiconductors	1	0	1	0.29	1	0	1
II. Instruments								
6	Optics	1	0	1	0.29	0	0	0
7	Analysis, measurement, control technology	28	0	28	8.16	21	1	22
8	Medical technology	17	3	20	5.83	19	4	23
9	Nuclear engineering	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
III. Chemistry, pharmaceuticals								
10	Organic fine chemistry	1	0	1	0.29	0	0	0
11	Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	0	0	0	0.00	1	0	1
12	Pharmaceuticals, cosmetics	4	1	5	1.46	4	1	5
13	Biotechnology	5	0	5	1.46	0	0	0
14	Agriculture, food chemistry	25	2	27	7.87	9	0	9
15	Chemical and petro industry, basic materials chemistry	7	2	9	2.62	5	3	8
16	Surface technology, coating	4	0	4	1.17	1	0	1
17	Materials, metallurgy	0	0	0	0.00	2	1	3
IV. Process engineering, special equipment								
18	Chemical engineering	3	2	5	1.46	10	5	15
19	Materials processing, textiles, paper	8	2	10	2.92	2	2	4
20	Handling, printing	18	5	23	6.71	11	3	14
21	Agricultural and food processing, machinery and apparatus	13	0	13	3.79	6	1	7
22	Environmental technology	3	1	4	1.17	2	2	4
V. Mechanical engineering, machinery								
23	Machine tools	11	2	13	3.79	17	2	19
24	Engines, pumps, turbines	9	0	9	2.62	6	1	7
25	Thermal processes and apparatus	11	7	18	5.25	9	3	12
26	Mechanical elements	6	5	11	3.21	4	5	9
27	Transport	21	2	23	6.71	18	1	19
28	Space technology, weapons	5	0	5	1.46	3	1	4
VI. Consumption								
29	Consumer goods and equipment	23	2	25	7.29	14	4	18
30	Civil engineering, building, mining	23	10	33	9.62	10	9	19
Total		297	46	343	100	201	53	254



## Filed and registered designs according to country of origin

Country	Application				Registered				Code	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021		2022
Czechia	9	4	2	6	5	3	9	3	6	4
Germany	8	0	0	1	0	8	1	0	0	1
France	2	1	1	5	1	0	3	1	4	1
Switzerland	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Republic of Korea	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	3	1	0
Poland	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sweden	0	19	3	12	3	0	17	3	8	5
Slovakia	90	119	103	77	92	89	95	110	65	72
Foreign total	19	26	10	25	9	11	31	11	20	11
TOTAL	109	145	113	102	101	100	126	121	85	83
										TOTAL



## Filed and registered trademarks according to country of origin

Country	Application					Registered					Code
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
United arab emirates	3	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	AE
Astria	4	9	2	4	5	6	7	2	0	6	AT
Australia	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	AU
Belgium	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	BE
Canada	3	7	0	3	9	8	7	2	1	4	CA
China	9	8	5	17	20	7	6	7	16	11	CN
Cyprus	6	31	9	15	10	16	25	7	10	14	CY
Czechia	327	302	363	290	209	280	307	306	278	193	CZ
Germany	25	28	14	11	14	21	22	14	12	6	DE
Denmark	2	0	0	2	0	3	2	0	0	2	DK
Spain	3	2	0	5	1	2	4	0	1	1	ES
Finland	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	FI
France	19	12	32	17	3	17	14	25	15	9	FR
United Kingdom	12	17	14	13	15	13	11	16	11	8	GB
Croatia	1	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	2	HR
Hungary	8	9	9	11	4	0	13	2	8	4	HU
Switzerland	20	32	28	14	16	17	15	39	22	14	CH
Ireland	0	3	2	1	3	0	1	2	1	3	IE
Israel	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	IL
India	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	IN

## Filed and registered trademarks according to country of origin (continuation)

Italy	2	3	3	4	2	0	2	0	4	2	IT
Japan	3	2	1	0	0	5	2	1	1	0	JP
Republic of Korea	18	24	21	1	7	6	35	21	3	3	KR
Luxembourg	3	2	0	1	0	9	4	1	0	0	LU
North Macedonia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	MK
Malta	11	0	56	3	0	7	4	29	7	1	MT
Mauritius	0	6	2	1	1	0	0	8	1	0	MU
Mexico	0	3	9	0	0	0	1	11	0	0	MX
Netherlands	4	3	5	11	3	10	2	3	6	5	NL
Poland	14	8	11	11	21	20	6	9	8	18	PL
Portugal	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	PT
Romania	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	RO
Russia	0	3	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	RU
Sweden	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	SE
Slovenia	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	SI
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>2314</b>	<b>2429</b>	<b>2623</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2348</b>	<b>2106</b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>2183</b>	<b>1899</b>	<b>1720</b>	<b>SK</b>
Turkey	8	2	0	0	2	1	8	1	0	1	TR
Ukraine	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	UA
United States of America	46	30	49	16	16	51	38	35	25	10	US
Virgin Islands (British)	3	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	1	VG
Other	4	4	11	12	5	2	4	5	10	7	other
Foreign total	564	558	664	472	376	508	550	558	452	328	foreign
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 878</b>	<b>2 987</b>	<b>3 287</b>	<b>2 494</b>	<b>2 724</b>	<b>2 614</b>	<b>2 497</b>	<b>2 741</b>	<b>2 351</b>	<b>2 048</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

# ANNUAL REPORT

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