

# Annual Report



INDUSTRIAL  
PROPERTY  
ORGANISATION



# 2016-17





The Industrial Property Organisation (OBI), having its registered offices at Paradissos Amaroussiou, is the exclusively competent institution for granting patents relevant to inventions, industrial designs and models and information technology matters. It was established by L. 1733/1987 as a private law legal entity supervised by the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology at that point in time and has been operating since January 1st, 1988. OBI is a nonprofit organisation, financially independent, which generates its revenue from the industrial property rights fees of the patents it grants.

OBI was founded in order to contribute to the technological and industrial development of the country by exercising the following:

- **To grant and monitor the validity of industrial property rights** (Patents, Utility Model Certificates, Industrial Designs and Models, Supplementary Certificates for drugs and pesticides).
- **To provide technical information** involved in industrial property rights.
- **To enhance and modernize the industrial property protection system** (recommending proposals on legislative regulations and involvement in the shaping of European policies).
- **To represent Greece in similar International and European organisations** (European Patent Office – EPO), (European Union Intellectual Property Office – EUIPO), (World Intellectual Property Organization - WIPO).

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Foreword of the President  
of the Administrative Council  
Dr. Prodromos Tsiavos



Industrial Property has been changing. Thus, the National Industrial Property Organisations need to change accordingly, the said authority in Greece being the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI). It is necessary that we take a direction in order to contribute in the process of growth by improving OBI's services to its customers while getting actively involved in the reform of the Industrial Property legal and institutional framework. All these must be put in place through a transformation process of the Organisation itself so that it is in a position to achieve those objectives.

This can be achieved only by capitalizing on the big Industrial Property trends as expressed at international and European level, in a way that it responds to the needs and particularities of the Greek economy while reflecting the factuality of the Greek intellectual property system by and large. These trends are clear: The Industrial Property is along standing tool

for the creation of better remunerated jobs and of higher quality. It contributes significantly to the European and Greek GDP and generates the conditions to halt the brain drain from which our country has been suffering in the recent years. Meanwhile, Europe has to deal with the enormous number of patents coming from Asia and implement the Community Patent which has been an issue for many years and it is expected to be applied within the next five years. The National Industrial Property Organisations are called to render ever increasing added value services, particularly technology transfer services, at the minimum possible cost for the people they serve and participate in a wider innovation ecosystem with clear proposals of value for their customers.

OBI strategic orientation is in line with the reform of the institutional framework and the modernization of the services it provides, putting emphasis on a more active involvement in terms of the European Patent Office while having a clear developmental direction.

During the period 2016-2017 OBI laid the basis for the so called "Smart Industrial Property Policy", namely a policy which considers the Industrial Property as the main locomotive of growth at a regional level in line with the lessons learnt from the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) of the European Smart Specialization Strategy. The Industrial Property must be the main lever for the protection, management and exploitation of the knowledge which is produced in a smart specialization environment. Namely, we need to explore ways to safeguard the knowledge which is produced through the quadruple helix by using the Industrial Property tools and

particularly the Industrial Property rights, being knowledgeable of their value and use in the production of value.

OBI to be able to fulfill the said strategy must deliver a three level operation:

- First, internal reform and modernization, which was achieved by adapting to the legal framework in force which enabled the application of clear and unquestionable rules for the operation of the Organisation so that they do not become the issue of continuous and non-productive concern. Moreover, they implemented provisions enhancing transparent operation of the organization, namely subject to Diavgeia and the Single Payment Authority, the publication of agreements at KIMDIS, the initiation of the internal regulation reform process and particularly the organization's harmonization in line with the European Public Procurement Framework. Last but not least the long standing liabilities of the Greek state vis a vis the European Patent Office had to be settled. These changes produced consistently positive results for the Organisation ensuring its sustainability and shaping the basis for the provision of new added value services while improving the existing ones.
- Second, the organisation had to be fully computerized, which involved changes of the legislative and regulatory framework regarding the application process and granting of protection certificates, as well as its technological and procedural improvement so that it can accept certificate applications from all countries in the world let alone Greece.

The initiation of the computerization process was a necessary condition for the enhancement of the OBI's regional dimension since unless there was a decentralized application process in place the regional departments would remain inert forever.

- Third, OBI's Regional Offices (Patent Libraries) needed to restart so that the Industrial Property could get connected at a regional level with the Smart Specialization actions. The ambitious goal for OBI's Regional Offices is to change and become integrated industrial property services provision centers and contribute substantially in the implementation of a developmental program connected with the production, the academia and the civil society.

These two years were not easy at all for OBI. All of us have made sacrifices and changed our way of thinking and working. However, they are the legacy for the future of an Organisation that has been consistently striving to play a core role in the innovation ecosystem and contribute by means of its services to the national and regional development while participating significantly in the European Industrial Property developments.

OBI's future is already present.



Foreword of the  
Director General  
Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis



In a rapidly changing technological environment and the new technologies creating both financial and social challenges and opportunities, the Industrial Property must respond and play an active role in enhancing innovation and financial development. The Industrial Property Organisation (OBI), being the competent body for the protection of Industrial Property in our country, is changing and getting modern in order to improve the services it provides, contributing essentially in the quadruple helix of innovation ecosystem, namely public sector, the academia and the research centers, the private sector and the civil society.

The exclusive commercial right which derives from the Industrial Property protection is an incentive for the production of new knowledge and technological development. The information embedded in each and every patent becomes a public good, whereas otherwise it would remain a trade secret. In this way it is ensured the diffusion of the technology produced and the promotion of innovation.

The economies that enhance their innovative features and capitalize on the technological developments in favor of the industrial and financial production achieve a higher level of competitiveness and resilience in a globalized financial environment and record higher growth rates.

A recent study of the European Patent Office and the European Union Intellectual Property Office records the contribution of Intellectual Property (IP) intense industries in the economy. In Greece IP has a share of 26% and 40% in terms of employment and GDP correspondingly. The patent intense industries contribute by 7% in the employment and 7% in the GDP in Greece whereas the corresponding figures in the EU are as high as 10% and 15%. The strengthening of OBI's openness action and cooperation strategies domestically and

internationally aim at upgrading the role Industrial Property in our country and interconnecting research and innovation with the financial production.

During 2016-2017, OBI doubled its openness actions by organizing events and conferences and participating in actions of other agencies. In 2016 it organized together with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) two seminars in Athens and Thessaloniki in order to highlight the options of exploiting the Intellectual Property products abroad and the role of Universities and research centers in this process. A meeting of major importance was co-organized with the European Commission at the Organisation's premises in order to enhance and inform the public regarding the dialogue concerning the directions promoted on Industrial Property at a European level, such as the European Patent and the European Court for Patents. In this framework, OBI organized together with EUIPO a wide campaign for the industrial design with a number of actions in Athens, Thessaloniki, Syros (2016) and Rhodes (2017).

The purpose was to promote the Greek industrial design and the opportunities that protection may provide in exploiting it in Greece and abroad as well as the importance of such protection against pirated and counterfeit products. The central conference in Athens was massively attended by creators, designers and professionals whereas the communication campaign involved extensive and targeted interventions on social media and in central location in Athens and Thessaloniki.

A recent EUIPO and OECD report records the cost for the European and Greek economy due to the trade of pirated and counterfeit products. At a European level the losses in terms of sales amount to 48 bil. Euros and 493 thousand jobs whereas in Greece the relevant figures represent more than 2 bil Euros and 24 thousand jobs correspondingly. Footwear /apparel and drug

sectors suffer the greatest losses, followed by cosmetics and jewelry.

OBI strengthened its public awareness actions for the protection and enforcement of the Industrial Property Rights. The Organisation in cooperation with EUIPO and with the involvement of the competent institutional agencies such as the customs and police authorities, the Financial Crime Prosecution Unit (SDOE), the Coordinating Center for Counterfeit Products (SYKAP) and the General Secretariat of Trade and Consumer Protection has conducted a series of information events and specialized seminars.

Moreover, taking into account the strategic developmental industrial sectors of the Greek economy OBI co-organized with EPO three international conferences on selected thematic concepts. In April 2016 the Organisation organized a conference for the cosmetics industry and the IP commercial use, with more than 100 Greek and international participants, focusing on presenting the benefits of the Exploitation Rights (ΔΕ) for the businesses of the industry and the best practices of the Greek innovative businesses. In November 2016 a core conference was organized in Athens for the agro-food industry to stress the importance of Intellectual Property in the agricultural and food sector and how it can support the exports of Greek businesses. The dialogue which was developed between the industry's innovative businesses and the OBI's institutional representatives, the European Patent Office, the Ministry of Economy and Development and the Ministry of Rural Development and Food focused on the future prospects generated thanks to the technological developments in the smart agriculture sector and the protection of Greek products by the IP system (plant varieties, protected designation of origin, geographical indication etc).

In September 2017, the critical sector of the climate change mitigating technologies was the topic of a European conference which was held in the center of Athens with more than 100 participants. Experts, representatives of institutional agencies and businesses analyzed the rapid technological developments in the relevant industry as well as the commercial opportunities from the promotion of Renewable Energy Resources and circular economy, the ultimate goal being a balanced sustainable development model. The statistics from the filing of patent applications demonstrate that Greece has a competitive technological edge in this industry, which needs to be enhanced by means of suitable policies and actions.

Taking into account the various ways that innovation is promoted and the need to enhance the fourth pillar of the quadruple helix, namely the civil society, OBI has undertaken a number of initiatives in order to enhance the open and social innovation. It has organized a series of events that have contributed to the social dialogue for the promotion of the open and social innovation such as Impact Hub in the field of cooperatives (December 2016) with the participation of research teams which promote the open and collaborative innovation, Innovathens with the participation of James Love, Director of Knowledge Economy International (Technopolis, April 2016), and the 1st Exhibition of Social Solidarity Economy at the Technopolis of the Municipality of Athens (November 2017). The fruitful dialogue and the conclusion of the debates have fed the preparation of a series of legislative interventions that were eventually presented to the responsible supervising Ministry of Economy and Development.

Those interventions related to issues such as: public offer of contractual for non –exclusive patent exploitation licenses, establishment of a publicly accessible register of open licenses, possibility of setting up technology pools which shall be managing jointly their IP products, updating of the institutional framework governing the granting of non-contractual mandatory patent exploitation licenses.

During 2016-2017, OBI implemented a series of reforms in order to modernize the organisation, to improve its operation and enhance its developmental momentum. As an entity supervised by the Ministry of Economy and Development and an entity of the General Government, OBI modernized its processes according to the provisions of the legislative and regulatory framework putting the emphasis on transparency and the principles of good administration: publication on Diavgeia and the public procurement procedures, employment of the single payment authority and the Greek Public Sector HR register, single payroll, drafting of the new BD financial and operation regulation, settlement of pending issues of previous years (2014 financial statements audit, outstanding amounts of the Greek state to the European Patent Office, tax audit for 2005).

The modernization of the Organisation's operation framework, the upgrading of its intervention in European and International decision making centers, the enhancement of its openness actions, the expanded partnerships with critical pillar of the quadruple helix (universities, research centers, commercial chambers, industrial associations, the media, representatives of the social and solidarity economy), the legislative initiatives for the modernization of the Industrial property system in our country 'shield' the organization, serve the strategic goals that the Management has set in order to promote a 'Smart Industrial Property Policy' for the 21st century, which shall enhance the innovation ecosystem of our country and shall promote a balanced, sustainable and inclusive development.

01

# OBI's strategic plan

Technology,  
Industrial Property &  
Information Society

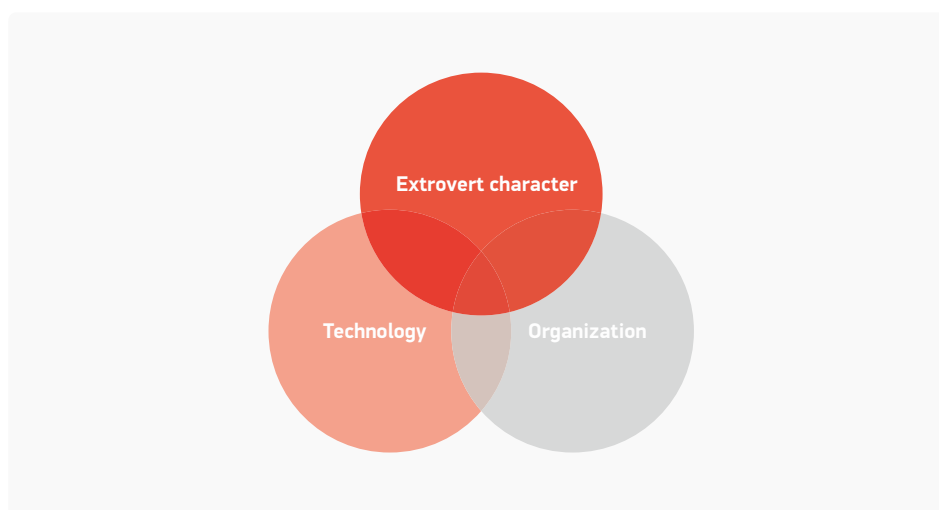


## Industrial Property Organisation Strategy

In the process of modernizing its services, OBI wishes to respond to the wider innovation ecosystem and contribute to the development of Greek economy. For this context it has planned and gradually implements a series of measures which aim at enhancing the industrial property in Greece.

The core of OBI Strategic Plan is the development of a national scale National Smart Industrial Property according to the standards of other countries and similar organisations. By means of the said strategy OBI wishes to go beyond the conventional delivery of its services and contribute essentially and with measurable outcomes in terms of its institutional scope and the innovative, research mission of the industrial, technological and educational sector of the country.

The planning and implementation of an IP Smart Strategy involves specific actions which shall prepare OBI for this future and equip the organization with the appropriate tools.



Those actions are divided in three general categories: Each one of those categories play a separate significant role, which is described in the following paragraph.

## **Openness: Networking, Cooperation and Knowledge intensive**



Part of the IP Smart Strategy of OBI is to become an information and knowledge intensive agency. This means that the core of its operations must focus on the mining, the management, the use and the diffusion of the information that is relevant to:

- The industrial and technological situation in the country and the wider international environment
- The innovative activities
- The research activities

To make this happen, the priority must necessarily focus on the creation of the appropriate infrastructure and mechanisms and of an operation framework supporting and encouraging the Organization's aforementioned role. These mechanisms are described subsequently and are those that shall enable the goal that OBI has defined in terms of networking and cooperation with research and university agencies as well as the establishment of new partnerships at a regional level in Greece.

### **Restart of the operation of the three Regional Offices of OBI and design of three more**

OBI, for the first time after 2009, in order to enhance its invention activities and protect IP in the regions by providing technological information services to the public, shall restart the three Regional Offices (Patent Libraries) which used to operate in Thessaloniki, Herakleion and Patras.

The three new Offices are expected to be inaugurated in the time period February – June 2018, whereas it is already in progress the design and establishment of the three next Offices, the next ones of which shall be located in Volos and Ioannina.

### **Establishment of an IP Academia and institutionalization of the role of the Patent Attorney**

For the first time in Greece the role of the Patent Attorney is designed and institutionalized in Greece and a competent training body is established. The establishment of an IP Academy shall contribute to the education and the training of the professionals in the country according to the international experience in terms of practical and theoretical IP issues falling under the responsibilities of OBI. In particular, OBI is elaborating a plan for the establishment of an IP Academy in order to develop multiple actions allocated in four pillars:

- Training of Patent Attorneys – Training and certification program
- Training and raising awareness of the research and business community by means of seminars
- Training and raising awareness of the public – by means of targeted actions per target-group
- Establishment of a interdisciplinary/interdepartmental an IP Post Graduate course



### OBI's actions of openness

As of 2015, the total number of the Organisation's openness actions, in cooperation with national agencies and international organizations, has doubled thanks to the organization / participation in conferences, seminars and workshops where OBI has been promoting its services by presenting the benefits from the protection of inventions activities at a business and national economy level. The main objective is to spread the technological information services and to inform the community with regard to the IP rights protection.

The Organisation's Management represents the country in all similar International agencies and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), by attending regularly the conferences that they organize and participating in their institutional bodies. Indicatively, the President of OBI's Administrative Council Dr. Prodromos Tsiaivos was elected Chairman of the Academy Supervisory Board of the European Patent Office (EPO), whereas the Director General of OBI Dr Ioannis Kaplanis was elected as a member of the RFPSS Supervisory Board (Reserve Fund for Pensions and Social Security) of the European Patent Office (EPO).



## **RESTRUCTURING, PROCEDURES AND LEGALITY**

OBI in order to become an information and knowledge intensive agency, must have and organizational structure and an internal procedure system which shall be supporting the said goal. Moreover, OBI's operations must be governed by a legislative and regulatory framework enabling the implementation of its purpose while being fully compliant with this framework. For these reasons the Management of OBI has put in place some relevant key actions.

### **Regulatory issues**

The Management of OBI operating in good faith in accord with the law has taken the following relevant measures and actions:

- Single payroll
- 'Diavgeia Program' and Transparency for contracts (National Electronic Public Procurement System and Public Contracts Central Electronic Register)
- New Regulation for the Administration Council
- New Financial Regulation

In particular, the Management of OBI in order to modernize the Organisation and guarantee its proper functioning, in addition to the strategic goals set to ensure a growth trend, on January 1, 2017 started uploading all payment decision on the 'Diavgeia Program' while it has joined the Single Payment Authority and the Public Sector HR Register. In 2017, which was the first year for OBI to have a budget approved by the Ministry of Economy and Development, the results from the modernization of the Organization and its proper functioning were reflected on its budget having a surplus of 686 thousand Euros.

## **TECHNOLOGY: STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

OBI with the aim to increase the number of certificates it grants and the sustainability of its services by and large while reducing the cost of its digital infrastructures operation, proposed and has been already drafting a project for the further digitization of its procedures, as follows:

- Full digitalization of internal procedures
- Establishment of an integrated digital procedure for the granting of certificates which would involve electronic applications and the reduction of e-filing fees.
- Upgrading of the IT Systems by means of an Open Source Software among others.

## Legislative proposals for the modernization of the IP system

OBI in order to modernize the IP system in Greece has proposed a set of provisions putting the accent on the industrial property and the enhancement of innovation. It is essentially a fundamental reform of the IP sector which involves the following specific goals:

1. Harmonization of the Greek legislation in accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/943 of the European Parliament and the Council, June 8, 2016, on the protection of know-how and business data that have not been disclosed (trade secret) against unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure. The provisions proposed introduce a know-how and business data protection system which is critical for Greece, as keeping confidential the business information is the main protection measure of Greek enterprises.
2. Setting up of a National IP Council (NIPC). A body responsible for the coordination and the cooperation between different agencies and services that are responsible for the protection and promotion of IP in Greece with the aim to establish a single national IP policy. The said Council shall be a significant step ahead for the drafting and implementation of robust IP policies and the development of an intellectual capital in Greece.
3. Updating of the legislative framework which governs the granting of compulsory patent exploitation licenses. This regulation is proposed so that a modern, flexible and reliable legal framework be established which would enable the maximum leverage of the inventions that are protected by patents for the benefit of the society.
4. Institutionalization of open source patent exploitation licenses and possibility of creating consortia for the exploitation of technology. The provisions proposed introduce the open source patent exploitation licenses to the Greek IP law and establish the possibility of setting up consortia for the exploitation of technology with the aim to deal with the social needs and to promote the technological development. The said initiative supplements provisions 2 and 3, as it allows exploitation structures which may assist SMEs that are involved in open innovation activities. Those are cases which focus on research and can become the touchstone of knowledge intensive innovation systems, smart specialization and cooperative and social innovation.

## OBI's STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION CHANNELS

OBI, in cooperation with other IP support agencies in Greece and particularly:

- The services of the General Secretariat of Industry (GSI) –specifically the Business Innovation and New Technologies Division
- Trade name Division, General Secretariat of Trade and Consumer Protection
- The Ministry of Rural Development and Food

Must draft a multimember cooperation framework for the establishment of a National IP Council with the aim to coordinate and promote the IP policies in Greece.

Moreover, it must draft cooperation frameworks with regard to the support and updating between the following organizations:

- Universities, research institutes, scientific bodies and innovation networks
- Chambers
- Municipalities and Regions
- Relevant public agencies such as the Hellenic Standardization Organization and ministries such as the Ministry of Digital Policy and the Ministry of Economy and Development

## **R&D: Evidence/ Data-based Policy**

The development of a well-informed policy is based on reliable and acceptable data in terms of R&D (Research and Development). For this reason the strategic goal of the Management of OBI is to:

- Create data regarding the IP role in the Greek economy
- Provide financial analysis regarding key subject matters so that the Management of OBI may support the IP policy drafting process
- Fill in the gaps in terms of empirical data concerning IP and Patent Rights issues
- Develop a financial approach concerning the development and updating of the IP policy implementation in Greece on the basis of justified data.



# OBI's international presence

Industrial property at European and global level



## THE INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF OBI: KEY ACTIONS

OBI's key action is the organisation of conferences together with other similar international organisations e.g. the European Patent Office (EPO) και World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Those are breakthrough activities in terms of realizing its openness orientation and connecting the innovative research activities with the financial development by means of patents protection. The organisation of conferences in the cosmetics, agriculture and food sectors as well as climate change mitigating technologies has been iconic examples of those actions.

### PR in the Cosmetics sector: Protection Strategies and Commercial Exploitation

On April 15, 2016, OBI in cooperation with the European Patent Academy of the European Patent Office (EPO) organised in Athens at Divani Caravel hotel a conference on Patent Rights in the cosmetics sector: Protection strategies and commercial exploitation in Athens.

The purpose of this conference was to highlight the decisive contribution of the industrial property rights in innovation, research and financial development in relation to the commercial exploitation of technologies in the cosmetics sector. The conference examined the IP protection strategies of the European and Greek companies in the international business environment and provided the necessary information and guidelines regarding the vocabulary which is applied in the drafting of patent applications. Moreover, the conference highlighted the commercial exploitation strategies and the benefits that are generated from the Patent Rights for the companies of the specific industry.

The conference targeted more than 100 participants, it was free of charge and was attended by IP protection system users, businessmen from the cosmetics industry, high rank officers of the National Intellectual Property Offices, business consultants, technology-transfer consultants.



## **Inventions in the Agricultural and Food Sector: The Way to the Market**

On November 11, 12, 2016 OBI in cooperation with the European Patent Academy organized a Conference at Divani Caravel under the theme Inventions in the agriculture and food sector: the way to the market. The Conference targeted inventors, food processing engineers, technology experts, senior staff from R&D companies of the food and agriculture industry, agronomists, attorneys, designers and constructors of agricultural machinery, students as well as the wider rural community in the country. It was free of charge and was attended by more than 100 participants.

The scope of the Conference was to analyze the IP strategies of European and Greek companies in the agricultural product and food industry at a global level and highlight the importance of the intellectual property in the agriculture and food sector for the country's economic development. Particularly, the standardization degree in the agro-food sector in Greece is very low despite its share in the Greek economy representing 3% of the GDP in Greece which is a rate higher than the double of the EU average (1,2%), and its share in terms of employment being higher than 14% which is more than three times higher than the EU average (5%). Therefore it is clear that there is a need to promote through strategies the potential of the protection of innovation in the agro-food industry as well as the contribution of intellectual property in the economy.

The meeting was greeted at its opening by Mr. Elias Xanthakos, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy and Development (MoE&D), Mr. Georgios Pandoglou, Patent Information Director at the European Patent Academy of the European Patent Office (EPO), after a message of the Minister of Agricultural Development and Food, Mr. Vangelis Apostolou. The Conference was opened by the President of the AC of OBI, Mr. Prodromos Tsiavos ,





while OBI's Director General Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis, being one of the keynote speakers, delivered a speech on ***The Intellectual Property (IP) as a vehicle of the economic development in Greece.***

All the persons involved in the Conference, speakers, panelists were distinguished scientists of the industry. The conference was concluded with a discussion panel with the participation of Mr. Zacharias Mavroukas, Director General of Industrial & Business Policy of the SG for Industry of the MoE&D, Mr. Theophanis Georgopoulos, Representative of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food, responsible for the geographical indications and PDOs, Mrs. Anne Weitz, Technical Expert at the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and the Director General of OBI Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis whereas Mrs. Natalia Kapetanaki, IP Law Lecturer, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Attorney, the Bar of Brussels, was the successful moderator of this 2-day Conference.

### **Climate Change Mitigating Technologies**

On September 21 & 22, 2017 OBI in cooperation with the European Patent Academy organised Conference at Divani Caravel hotel in Athens, under the theme of Climate Change Mitigating Technologies. The purpose of this conference was to provide a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the development and the dissemination of Climate Change Mitigating Technologies in Europe, focusing on the Renewable Energy Sources (RES). The conference was free of charge and was attended by 90 people, mainly scientists – engineers, representatives of companies in the industry, attorneys and representatives of other Patents Offices whereas the live streaming attracted 13.000 viewers.

The conference examined the global and European trends in the innovation and financial exploitation of Climate Change Mitigating Technologies–(CCMTs) field, the current developments in terms of ICT in the Renewable Energy Sources sector and the role of industrial property and its benefits for the sustainable development models.

The General Secretary of Strategic and Private Investments Dr. Lois Lambriniades delivered a welcome address to the conference whereas Mr. Efstratios Zafiris, General Secretary of Industry, participated to the discussion on the challenges in the implementation of CCMTs in Europe. Welcome addresses were delivered by Dr. Prodromos Tsiavos, Chairman of the AC of OBI, Mr. François-Régis Hannart, Principal Director, European and International Cooperation, European Patent Office (EPO) and Mr. Richard Flammer, Principal Director Patent Information and European Patent Academy (EPO). Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis, Director General of OBI delivered a lecture on The Intellectual Property as a vehicle of Sustainable Development.



## General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Actions co-organised with OBI

OBI, being the competent agency for the management of IP rights, monitors closely the developments regarding the subject matters falling under its responsibility and participates WIPO top international meetings representing Greece. In 2016-17, the Organisation participated in the 56th Assembly (October 3-7, 2016) and the 57th Assembly (October 2-7, 2017) in Geneva.

During the WIPO 57th General Assembly, the Director General of OBI Dr. Ioannis Kaplaniis delivered a speech and welcomed the progress in terms of subject matters relevant to the law on patent rights as well as in raising the awareness with regard to the IP rights enforcement. Moreover, he stressed the significant role of patents in the promotion of research and innovation.

During the said WIPO assembly, the parties involved continued the negotiations with the intention to come to a consensus regarding the organization of a diplomatic summit with regard to the adoption of an international convention on the simplification of the industrial design filing procedure in 2019. Moreover the PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) Rules amendments were approved, rendering thus the international filing system more user friendly while it was strongly supported a proposal for the reduction of the member states fees by 10% which however was not accepted by the majority.

Moreover, OBI together with WIPO organised two events:

- On March 8, 2016 OBI organised at its premises an Info day on the Services and Actions of the World Intellectual Property Organization. The Meeting attracted business, researches and attorneys with the aim to inform them with regard to the services and the data basis of WIPO and was attended by 120 people whereas there was a waiting list of 20 more who actually did not attend it as G. Koumandos Hall capacity was exhausted.
- WIPO Seminar: ***A Dialogue with the Scientific Community and the Inventors***, on March 10, 2016 at the KEDEA Conference Center the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The seminar attracted the scientific community and the inventors with the aim to sensitize the public on the importance of IP in research and innovation and to present successful patent exploitation practices. The event was attended by 100 people.

### **The Single Market Strategy – Intellectual Property**

On February 29, 2016 OBI in co-operation with the European Commission and WIPO organised at its premises an info day which attracted attorneys, SMEs innovation consultants, entrepreneurs and the research and scientific community with the aim to inform the national authorities and the industry agencies regarding the initiatives, the goals, the time schedule and the desired outcomes in relation to the Single Market Strategy. The Meeting was attended by 133 people.

### **Co-operation with the Chinese Patent Office**

Co-operation on issues of mutual interest with the Chinese Patent Office (SIPO), which is one of the biggest at a global scale. A series of meetings organized in Geneva (October 4, 2017) and Athens (November 9, 2017), where it was proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Moreover, it has been scheduled a post graduate scholarship program for Greek students sponsored by the Chinese state. On September 26, 2017 OBI organised a workshop with a 5 member delegation from the region of Hunan in order to exchange views on IP protection issues and promote innovation.



### Participation in the VIP4SMEs project of the European Commission

In 2016 a new 4-year project started (12/2015-12/2019), namely VIP4SME (Value Intellectual Property for SMEs) with the aim to support/promote intellectual property services in the small and medium enterprise (SMEs). OBI is a partner of Praxis Network which focuses its actions on SMEs. The project's main goals are:

- Support and promotion of IP services in SMEs
- Understanding of IP value
- Operational strategies and good practices for IP management
- Turning IP into a commercial and competitive value

This project shall develop IP management tools/methods and services which shall fulfill its needs in a better way.

The deliverables of the project involve the organization of trainings, workshops, info days and 1:1 visit to SMEs. Until to date, in 2017, there has been 1 training for SMEs, 1 workshop for SMEs, 4 1:1 visits to companies. Meanwhile OBI has organized the following actions:

- Training seminar (BCP/VIP4SME –AGENCIES) on ***The European Patent System, Understanding and analyzing patent claims, Economic benefits of IPRs***, a cooperation between the European Patent Office (EPO) / OBI in the framework of the BCP program and IP Management tools, in cooperation with Praxis Network in the framework of the VIP4SME project, at OBI premises on June 1st, 2017.
- Workshop (BCP/VIP4SME - SME) on ***The European Patent System, Patents as source of Technological Information, Espacenet Searching***, a cooperation between the European Patent Office (EPO) / OBI in the framework of BCP project and Espacenet searching exercises - IP Management tools in cooperation with Praxis Network in the framework of VIP4SME project, at Golden Age hotel in Athens, June 2, 2017.
- Info day on ***The Financial Exploitation of Intellectual Property in Practice***, in cooperation with Praxis Network in the framework of the VIP4SME project, at Electra Palace Athens hotel, December 8, 2017.

## Participation in Programs and International Co-operations

The Management of the Organisation represents our country in similar international Organisations, such as the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) with regular presence at their conferences and events and systematic participation in their administration bodies, such as the Administrative Council and the Budget Committee of EPO.

Meanwhile, in 2017 OBI participates in the PATLIB2017 COMMITTEE, representing Cyprus, Greece, Italy Portugal, San Marino and Spain (Vienna, October 4, 2016). Moreover, in 2016-2017 OBI has realized 2-day programs and participated in info days on industrial property, namely:

- In the framework of the Bilateral Co-operation Plan with EPO (BCP 2016-2018) 5 very successful info days were organized with a high number of participants (3 in Athens, 1 in Thessaloniki and 1 in Ioannina), 1 training seminar and 1 workshop (Athens)
- Patenting inventions: ***How to Draft a Patent, From Idea to Commercialization***, Info day of EPO and OBI, on May 27, 2016 at the premises of OBI
- ***Protection of Inventions: From concept to Commercialization***, a Seminar with EPO in cooperation with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Association of Industries of N. Greece and Praxis Network, at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, November 1, 2016, and in cooperation with the University of Ioannina, the Association of Industries of N. Greece and Praxis Network, at the University of Ioannina, November 3, 2016.
- ***Train-the-trainers: Teaching with the Intellectual Property Teaching Kit (IPTK)***, a Seminar with EPO, in cooperation with the National Technical University, at the University Campus of Zografou, June 28 and the premises of OBI, June 29, 2016.

## Participation in International Summits and Meetings

OBI has been focusing on preparing proposals regarding current industrial property issues that are examined in the European Union and international fora, promoting the cooperation with similar organizations and attending international summits and meetings, namely:

- European Commission, first Meeting of the group of experts on the enforcement of industrial property rights, sub group “Trade Secrets Protection Directive”), Brussels, December 16, 2016
- WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, 35th & 36th Summit, Geneva, April 25-27, 2016, 37th and 38th Summit, Geneva, March 27-29, 2017 and October 30 – November 2, 2017
- WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Patents, 24th & 25th Summit, Geneva, April 25-27, 2016, 26th Summit, Geneva, July 3-6, 2017
- PCT Working Group WIPO, 9th Summit, Geneva, May 17-20, 2016
- Intellectual Property Working Group, EU Council, on biotechnology inventions issues and WIPO coordination issues, September 26 & 27, 2016 and December 6, 2016, July 12, 2017, September 20, 2017 and December 17, 2017
- Annual meetings of the national patent offices of Group B+, Geneva October 4, 2016 and October 3, 2017
- Legal & International Working Group of the European Observatory on the infringement of intellectual property rights, Milan, November 29 – December 2, 2016, Alicante, May 3-5, 2017, Brussels, November 29-30, 2017
- 7th SPC Experts Meeting, Riga, Latvia, September 25 & 26, 2017
- Max Planck Institute, Seminar on Complementary Protection Certificates in Europe, their protection regime and prospects, Munich March 20-21, 2017

Moreover, OBI has launched co-operations and supported proposals at an international level, as follows:

- A series of 2-day meetings was held in Geneva with WIPO officers for the promotion of OBI issues of interest (e-PCT, translation rights of the Patents Comic Book, support of innovative SMEs and Universities).
- In the framework of the PCT Working Group of WIPO,

the proposal was made for providing a reduced PCT application filing fee to the Universities.

- A draft law was prepared and submitted for the ratification of the International Convention on the protection of plant varieties on December 2, 1961, as amended in Geneva on November 10, 1972, October 23, 1978 and March 19, 1991.

### **Increasing the DesignView basis with Greek industrial designs**

The design copies or models submitted to OBI from 25/09/1997 until 31/01/2003 were scanned and inserted to the OBI IT systems by February 2016. At the same time they were all monitored in terms of their quality. Following this action all Greek designs until to date are on the DesignView platform of EUIPO whereas DesignView is updated automatically by OBI on a daily basis.

### **Participation in the QaS program of EPO**

In 2017 started the implementation of the Quality at Source (QaS) EPO program. According to this program the EPO Member-States must comply with specific specifications regarding the exchange of data between those members and EPO so that all data that are provided are in compliance. These data are required for:

- The new Espacenet
- EPOQUE / EpoqueNet
- The Machine translation of Patents
- Large Scale Translation

The production and sending of data according to QaS started in June 2017, after the relevant training regarding the specific application. The goal is to send the data published in 2017 until the beginning of 2018.

### **Participation in the Federated Register**

As of June 2017, OBI has initiated a cooperation with EPO with the aim to correct the data related to the Federated Register that it has been sending to EPO. It is stressed that the correction of the data sent to EPO was completed at the end of 2017.



03

# OBI's Public contribution

Industrial property  
and society

## PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

### Double event co-organised by OBI and EU OBSERVATORY

OBI along with EU OBSERVATORY co-organized two parallel events, at its premises, on November 3, 2016:

- A Seminar entitled ***Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IP): Supporting IP Enforcement Authorities in Identification of Counterfeit Products***. Fifty-two people from the IP Enforcement Authorities sector were informed about identifying counterfeit products.
- A Workshop on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IP): Supporting Beneficiaries and Company Representatives in the use of IP Enforcement Database and in Submitting Applications for Action by the Customs Authorities. The workshop was attended by 26 qualified lawyers who were trained in the use of those databases.

### Workshop with EU OBSERVATORY

OBI co-organised along with EU OBSERVATORY a closed specialized seminar on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IP): Supporting IP Enforcement Authorities in Identification of Counterfeit Products on November 10, 2017 in the Auditorium of Tax and Customs Academy, of the General Secretariat for Information Systems of the Ministry of Economy. The Seminar was addressed exclusively to stakeholders such as the Greek Police, Cyber Crime Unit, Customs, Coordination Center for Tackling Counterfeit Products (“SYKAP”) and Financial Crime Prosecution Unit (“SDOE”), as well as Intellectual Property Organization (OPI) and Trademark Directorate of General Secretariat of Trade and Consumer Protection. The Seminar was attended by 41 people from the aforementioned bodies. The aim was to provide specialized information to the IP Enforcement Authorities on the Identification of counterfeit products.

Moreover, OBI organised and coordinated two training seminars for the customs and police authorities in Athens, on November 3, 2016 and November 10, 2017 in order to support their work on IP rights enforcement and identification of products that infringe on those rights.



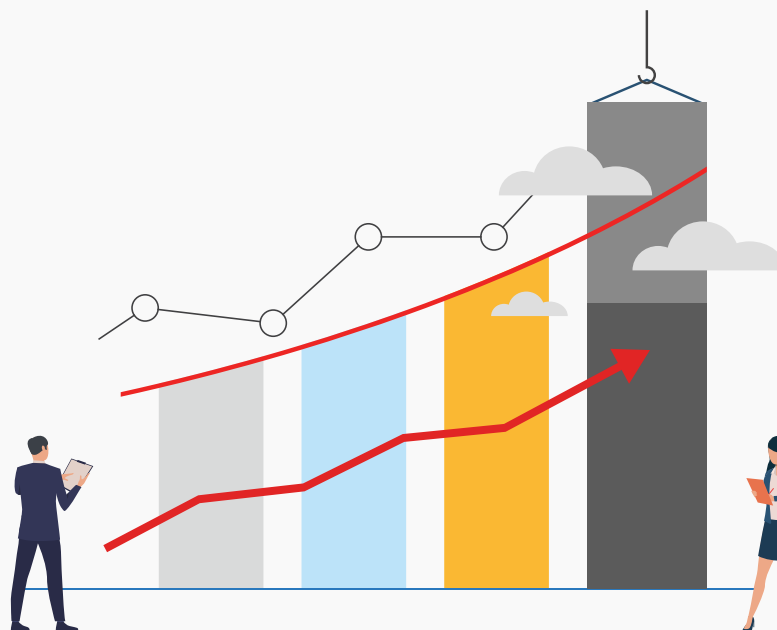
## OPEN INNOVATION AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

OBI organized a lecture on Alternative IP strategies to support R&D efforts, on April 4, 2017, at Innovathens in Technopolis of Athens Municipality. OBI's guest of honor, Mr. James Love, Director of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI), with great experience as consultant to international organizations and national governments on matters of IP, innovation promotion, intellectual property management (patents, intellectual rights, software, data, etc.), R&D funding, pharmaceutical policy and pharmaceuticals pricing, gave a lecture to present important data about Intellectual Property and the challenges that arise; the audience discussed those matters with great interest.

On December 17, 2016, OBI organized a Seminar-Workshop entitled Open innovation and industrial property: opportunities and challenges, at the hall of innovative Impact Hub, in Athens. The workshop, attended by 40 people, aimed at informing lawyers, researchers and businessmen on open innovation, giving the opportunity to exchange of ideas on the subject and discussing about progress of innovation and the protection of its founders.

Also OBI participated in the 1st Exhibition of Social and Solidarity Economy, on November 3, 2017, in Technopolis of Athens Municipality, and organized a discussion on Industrial Property and Technology Transfer in Social and Solidarity-based Economy projects, with the presence of OBI's Director General in the panel.





## DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

OBI participated in the information event organised by the Association for Industries of Thessaly and Central Greece, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy and Development and the Region of Thessaly, on Development Policy - Industrial Forum - Conclusions - Actions - New Industrial policy, in Volos, on February 2, 2017.

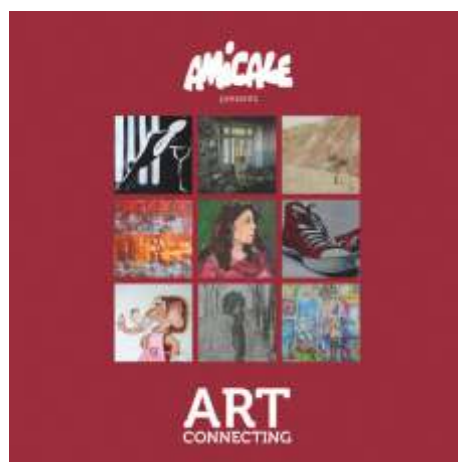
The event opened with a greeting from the Prefect of Thessaly, Mr. Konstantinos Agosrastos, followed by a speech by the President of the Association for Industries of Thessaly and Central Greece, Mrs. Eleni Koliopoulou, while the event's keynote speaker was the Deputy Minister for Economy and Development, Mr. Alexandros Charitsis. The second part of the event focused on Development Policy, Industrial Forum and the conclusions drawn from the later, as well as on actions designed for the implementation of the new industrial policy. The Secretary - General for Industry, Mr. Efstratios Zafeiris, made a presentation on behalf of the Ministry of Economy and Development, entitled Industrial Policy 2016-2020 and Implementation Actions, and OBI Director General, Mr. Ioannis Kaplanis, made a presentation entitled Industrial Property and its Contribution to Economic Development.

## OBI IN THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF THESSALONIKI

OBI participated with a stand in the 81st (September 9-12, 2016) and 82nd Thessaloniki International Fair (September 9-10, 2017). OBI together with Materials Industrial Research & Technology Center S.A. (EBETAM), the Hellenic Fund for Entrepreneurship and Development Fund (ETEAN) and Enterprise Greece, participated in an info day on Innovation – Certification – Sustainability (Actors for Development), held on September 10, 2016 at the stand of the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism.

The event was addressed by Mr. Efstratios Zafiris, Secretary General for Industry, Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism, while OBI's Director General, Mr. Ioannis Kaplanis held a speech entitled Industrial Property and its Contribution to the Productive Restructuring of Greece. Presentations were also made by Mr. Kostantinos Stournaras, President of EBETAM, Mr. Velissarios Dotsis, CEO of Enterprise Greece and Dr. Konstantinos Galiatsos, Chairman of the Board and CEO of ETEAN.

## ART CONNECTING



OBI cooperated with EPO and particularly with Amicale Vienna, Social Committee EPO on an innovative project concerning art and the upgrade of OBI's image at international level. The idea was to discover creators-artists, in this case among the staff of Patent Offices of EPO's country-members, and organise an art exhibition. On this occasion, 9 artists from 4 different Offices were brought together and exhibited 34 paintings. The exhibition was entitled Art Connecting, in an attempt to highlight the fact that art connects the people involved in intellectual property, regardless of country, nationality or

professional background; art transcends borders and creates channels for communication and unity, leading to a more civilized and creative world. OBI undertook to collect the paintings, set up the exhibition and coordinate the project. Amicale undertook the opening and the printed material.

The opening was held on November 30, 2017 at EPO's Vienna Sub Office and was attended by more than 100 people, in the presence –inter alia– of Mr. Michail Vretakis, responsible for economic and trade issues at the Hellenic Embassy. The exhibition lasted until March 31, 2018; it is envisaged that it can be repeated with other EPO Offices, in Munich, Berlin and the Hague.



## OBI CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC SPHERE REGARDING INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

In 2016 and 2017, OBI carried out a series of extrovert projects so as to raise awareness in matters within its competencies. In particular, OBI cooperated with institutional bodies and organized or participated in working groups and seminars, by providing a legal approach. We briefly mention the following actions:

- Participation in an info day entitled ***The Importance of IP Protection in Innovative Enterprises***, at the 3rd Technology Transfer Expo – Patras IQ 2016, held by the Association of Enterprises & Industries of Peloponnisos and Western Greece, at Dimitris Tofalos sports center in Patras, on April 16, 2016 and corresponding participation of the Organisation to an info day on Research and Innovation – IP Protection, at the 4th Technology Transfer Expo – PatrasIQ 2017, at the Panpeloponnisiako Stadium of Patras, on April 9, 2017
- Participation in the info day on ***Intellectual Property as SME's Investment in Innovative Entrepreneurship***, at the Technical Chamber of Greece, Eastern Central Greece Department, in Lamia on May 31, 2017
- Co-organisation of a Seminar with European Patent Office (EPO) and PRAXI network regarding intermediate bodies for IP issues, at OBI, on June 1, 2017
- Participation in plenary meetings of the Forum for Development of the Domestic Pharmaceutical Industry by the General Secretariat for Industry of the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism and the Forum of Agri-food – Industry – Tourism by the General Secretariat for Industry of the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism in 2016-17

Furthermore, the organization took part in numerous events with a wide range of topics, targeting different audiences. OBI addressed those as follows:

- OBI participation in the 3rd Greek Innovation Forum, at the business

and economy multi-conference entitled Money Show, with a stand in the expo and speeches during the info day, on January 8-10, 2016, in Athens, at HILTON Hotel; participation in the 4th Greek Innovation Forum, under Money Show, on May 20-21, 2016, in Thessaloniki, at Hyatt Hotel.

- Organisation of an info day for Attorneys regarding OBI's electronic services, on April 20, 2016, at OBI's premises
- Participation with a speaker in the 4th Hellenic Forum on Science Technology, on June 11, 2016, at Democritus Research Center
- Participation with speakers in the Athens Science Festival 2017, on March 30, 2017, at Innovathens, at Technopolis of Athens Municipality
- Participation in the Researcher's Night at the National Technical University of Athens with a stand and a speech, on September 30, 2016 and September 29, 2017, at 017
- Participation in STI High level training, with a speaker, on October 6, 2017, at ELECTRA PALACE Hotel and via an information visit at the premises of OBI
- Co-organization with EUIPO of the 5th COCONET Meeting, on October 23-24, 2017, at Golden Age Hotel in Athens

Moreover, OBI participated in info days, seminars and workshops in cooperation with Greek stakeholders aiming at further promoting its technological information services:

- ***IP Protection and Technological Information, Speech at the Europe Startup Week Chania, at the Mediterranean Architecture Center, in Chania, on February 5, 2016***
- ***Intellectual Property as SME's Investment in Innovative Entrepreneurship, Seminar addressed by OBI's Director General Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis at Athens Extrovision Forum 2016, at the Chamber of Trade and Industry of Athens, on April 21, 2016***
- ***Are you Inventor or Innovative? Learn how to get Protected, Info day at the Chamber of Trades and Crafts of Athens, on May 23, 2016***
- Introductory Seminar on Industrial Property addressed to the Technology Operators of the Scientific Park of Patras at OBI, on March 7, 2017
- ***Patent Protection in Greece and abroad: Examples on how Patent Filing Documents should be drafted, seminar at the Technology and Research Foundation / Chemical Engineering Institute (ITE/IEXMH), on July 14, 2016***

## INFO DAYS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS IN COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Info day entitled ***Intellectual Property and Technological Information at the Service of Research Results Protection***, at the University of Athens, on March 30, 2016 and at the Democritus University of Thrace, at the Technical School of the University of Xanthi, on June 2, 2016
- Seminar under the Post-graduate Program on Bio-Informatics, at the Biology Department of the University of Athens, at Zografou campus, on April 21, 2016
- Workshop under the Post-graduate Program 1st Data Workshop: Data Driven World at the Post-graduate Studies Alumni Association of the University of Crete, at Herakleion, Crete, on June 3, 2016
- Seminar held in the framework of the post-graduate course Entrepreneurship: Drafting a Business Plan, under the interdisciplinary post-graduate program Techno-economic Systems of the National Technical University of Athens, at the National Technical University of Athens, on December 14, 2016 and on February 28, 2017
- Speech held in the framework of the Computer Science post-graduate program on ***Protection of Inventions and Technological Information from Published Patents***, at Athens University of Economics, on March 14, 2017
- Field trip at OBI, Seminar on Industrial Property Protection at the University of the Aegean, Department of Business Administration, Department of Financial and Management Engineering, on April 24, 2017
- Seminar at the Agricultural University of Athens entitled Property and ***Technological Information at the Service of Research Results Protection***, in Athens, on October 18, 2017
- Workshop ***Entrepreneurship Education Workshop on Business Innovation***, in cooperation with Business School of Mediterranean College and the Directorate for Assistance at SMEs – StartUp Greece, General Secretariat for Industry, at the Mediterranean College, in Athens, on November 21, 2016

## TRAINING VISITS

OBI's training program is addressed mainly to Primary School students of the 5th and 6th grade. It was established in 2007 and continues its successful course. In 2016, visits were made to 8 school units, in the areas of Nea Philadelphia, Cholargos and Pallini; in 2017, visits were made to 18 school classes from 9 different schools of Attica.

Those visits aim at providing the new generation with basic knowledge and a friendly approach regarding Intellectual Property rights. The students are given the opportunity to create their own inventions, as young inventors or young designers, so as to put in practice the knowledge they acquired and broaden their horizons for future contribution to innovation. The visits are free-of-charge and there is a priority list. The following actions were also held at schools:

- Presentation on Intellectual Property Protection – Industrial property & Technological Information at the 2nd Experimental High school of Athens, on March 15, 2016
- Participation in ***The World of Inventions and Technological Information*** at Elliniki Pedia Schools, High school of Herakleion-Pefki on February 8, 2017, and at the 1st High school of Cholargos, on April 7, 2017



## OBI IN SOCIAL MEDIA

OBI's social media pages on Facebook (fourth year), Twitter (third year), YouTube channel (third year) and LinkedIn (since May 2017) have been created with the purpose of increasing visibility online, so as to attract broader audiences. Except from OBI's daily efforts to communicate with its public, those media were appointed as the main design promotion means in the relevant campaign set up by EUIPO in 2017.



## WHAT IS THE OPINION OF OUR AUDIENCES ABOUT OBI?

Since 2009, the year OBI acquired a quality management certificate and was integrated in ISO 9001: 2008, it is with keen interest that we follow-up on the opinion of our audiences about our services. A survey based on special questionnaires is either mailed or e-mailed to the users of OBI's services, or telephonically completed with the assistance of OBI's personnel, or provided on OBI's webpage and reception areas.

In 2017, according to the answers provided by the public, 32,50% of respondents had excellent and 47,50% very good impression from their first contact with OBI, 51,28% were extremely pleased and 25,64% very pleased with the reliability of OBI services, while 38,46% were

extremely pleased, 25,64% very pleased and 25,64% quite pleased with service implementation time. Moreover, 48.57% had carried out their own search by using OBI's search tools and databases, while 70.73% had chosen to get updates about OBI from its website. In the same year, only 2 complaints needed to be addressed.

These questionnaires help us improve our Organisation and integrate some extremely useful proposals by our users, so we encourage maximum feedback from our audiences in all possible ways.



# OBI's communication campaign

Design:  
Highlighting creativity



OBI promoted and supported Greek design with the constant conviction that it represents a promising sector, in terms of creativity and economy, and that it fosters economic development in Greece.

### **Design Protection: The road to the market**

In this field, OBI along with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) co-organised a series of seminars in Syros (October 17, 2016), Athens (October 19, 2016) and Thessaloniki (October 21, 2016), so as to cover an important part of Greece. In Syros, the seminar was hosted at the Cultural Center of Ermoupoli by the Aegean University, Department of Product and Systems Design Engineering. In Athens and Thessaloniki the events were held at central hotels (Royal Olympic & Mediterranean Palace respectively).

The workshops aimed at raising awareness and informing designers, professionals and students, on how to protect their designs and put them on the market. Mr. Steinar Valade Amland, an important expert in the international design sector, was invited as a speaker, among OBI's executives, to reinforce this view.

At the Athens workshop, on October 19, 2016, Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis, Director General of OBI, started the session with a greeting, while Mr. Kostas Ampatzis, OBI's Director of Application & Grant Procedure, gave a speech on data and practices for industrial design protection in Greece and the EU, as well as the e-filing procedures in Greece and the European community.

He also gave a live presentation on how to search for industrial designs through the DesignView system. Prominent designer Doukas Chatzidoukas (DOUKAS) was invited as a "good practice example" in the Greek design sector.

Mr. Steiner Valade Amland presented state of the art practices in the field of design at an era of instability, informing the audience about the value chains for design, the new role of designers and the requirements they face, the importance of design protection, IP issues within a cooperative framework, as well as the benefits resulting from protected design in attracting partnerships and funding on market entry.

The workshops were attended by almost 300 people; so, under the cooperation program with EUIPO, OBI organised one more Workshop-Seminar on Design protection: The road to the market, on June 8, 2017, at the Bar Association of Rhodes, after a proposal – initiative by the Trainees and Young Lawyers Association of Rhodes. The Seminar targeted a promising, in terms of creative and economic development, geographical area and aimed at informing the potential IP protection system users about the possibilities offered in Greece and abroad.

## Approach of the industrial design sector

In an attempt to approach the design sector and to contribute to the promotion of the Organization, OBI decided to participate to the following events:

- Supporting participation in the Conference Fashioning the Law with speakers and a stand, on April 23, 2016, at Maroussi Plaza Amphitheater and participation in the corresponding Conference Fashioning the Law, on October 14, 2017, at the Athletic Center DAIS, in Athens
- Participation with speaker and printed information material in the 5th Design For Life, on October 6-9, 2016, at the Italian Cultural Institute of Athens and participation in the corresponding 6th Design For Life expo, on October 6, 2017, at the same venue
- Supporting participation in the Conference Fashion IP and more organized by the Trademark Companies Association, on October 7, 2017, at Eugenides Foundation
- Participation in KOSMIMA expo with printed information material at the stand of the Jewelers Watchmakers Association of Thessaloniki, on October 21-23, 2016
- Organization of a workshop on Community Industrial Designs – DesignView Workshop, in Athens on October 31, 2017, under the bilateral cooperation program with EUIPO



## Promotional campaign for designs

OBI co-organized with EUIPO, a series of actions within the framework of a communication campaign aiming at supporting and promoting designs in Greece.

The campaign included a message to three relevant audiences:

- Designers – creators, encouraging them to register authentic creations in order for the beneficiary to leverage appropriately their invention and prevent copying and illegal benefit from third parties.
- Entrepreneurs, highlighting the importance of using authentic designs for their products so as to expand their market in Greece and abroad.
- Consumers, encouraging them to avoid consuming counterfeit products and to choose only authentic ones, so as to promote a healthy market and economy as well as a healthy living and environment for all.

The campaign was conducted through the use of video projections, created specifically for this purpose. The videos were promoted through social media and specialized websites that were accompanied by a special information brochure which was distributed in 60.000 copies at central points in Athens and Thessaloniki during the Christmas period.



**05**

# OBI's scientific role

Industrial property and patents



## STATISTICS AND INDICATORS: NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS INDUSTRIAL TITLES

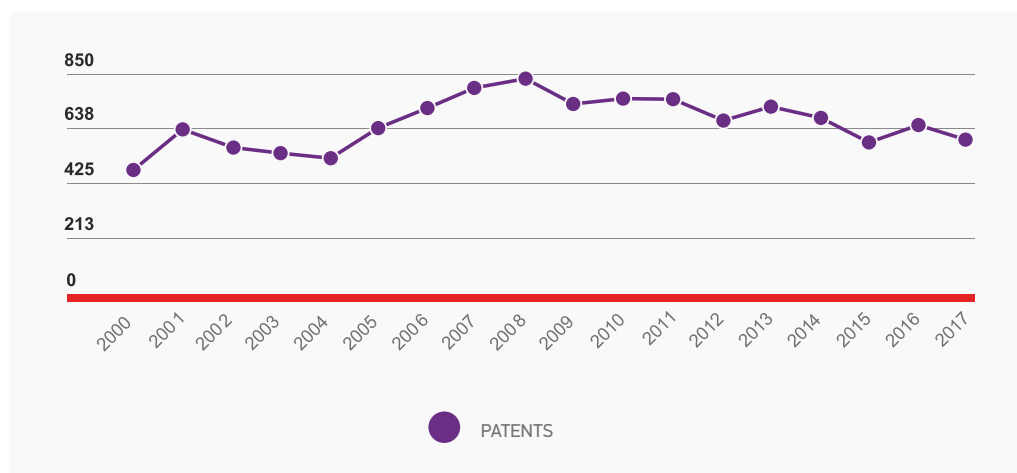
PATENTS

UTILITY MODELS

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND MODELS

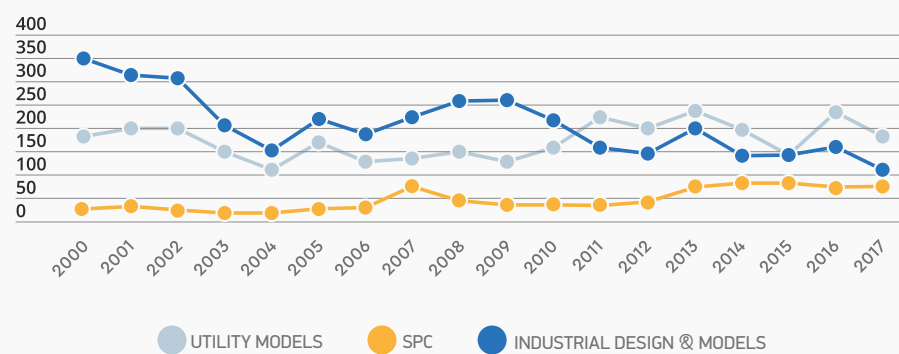
SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS  
AND PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

FILINGS OF EUROPEAN PATENTS TRANSLATIONS



The above chart shows the filing activity for national patents, from 2000 to 2017. From 2000 to 2008 a positive trend is recorded, leading to an increase of annual filings, which culminates in 2008. From the beginning of the crisis in 2009 to 2017 a lower intensity downward trend is recorded, resulting to a 2017 filing level similar to the one in 2015.

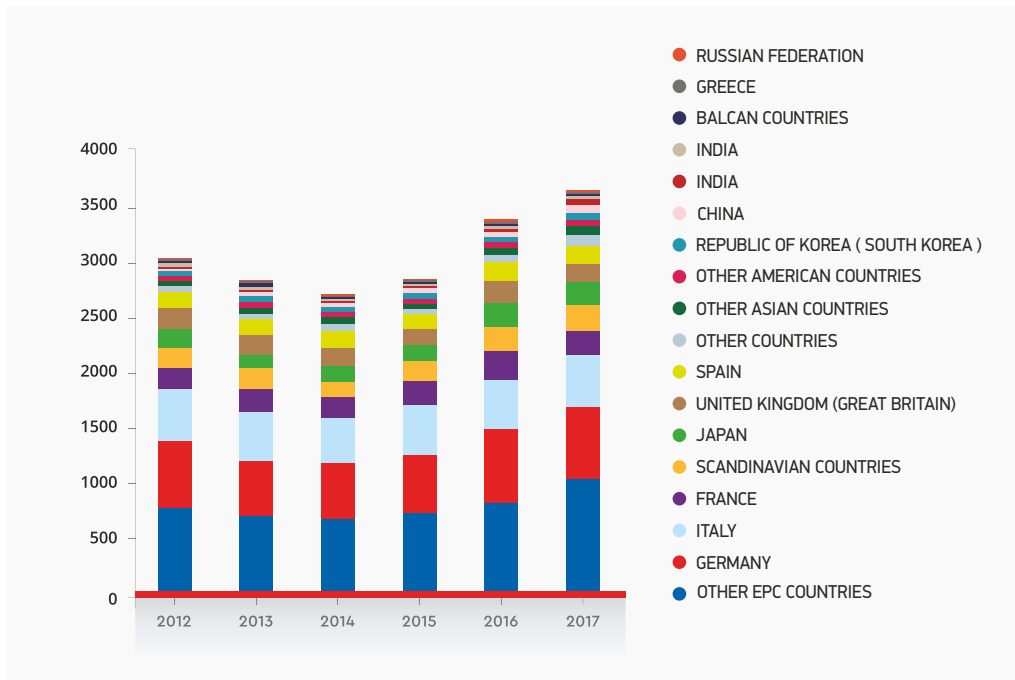
Furthermore, statistics are provided regarding filing of other industrial property titles offered by OBI, such as Utility Models, SPC and Industrial Designs and Models, for the period 2000 to 2017. From 2010 to 2017, a slightly increasing trend is recorded for SPC and Utility Models while a relative decline is recorded for Industrial Designs and Models.



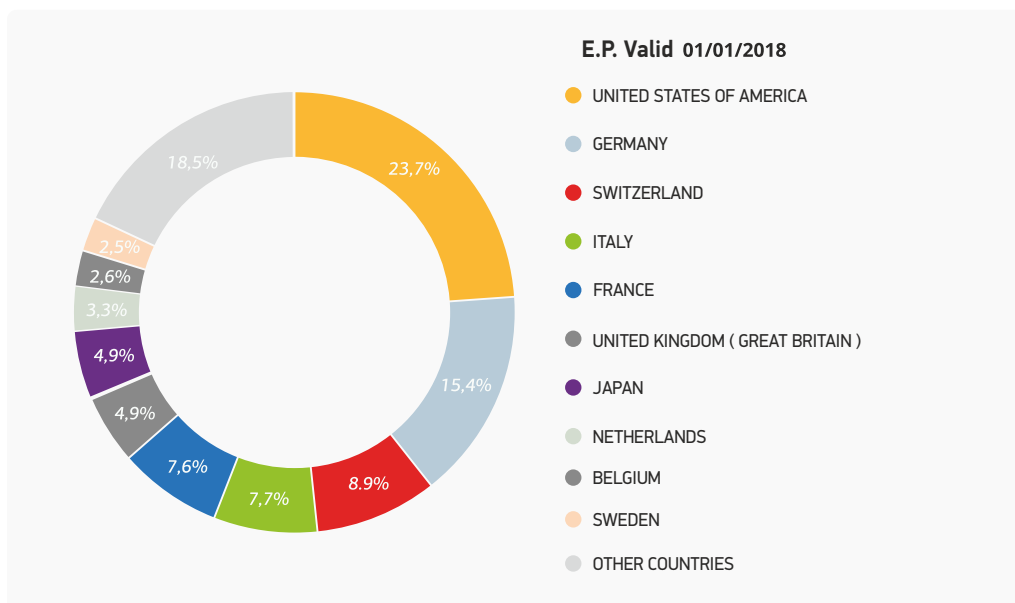


## EUROPEAN PATENTS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

The following chart shows the European patent filings in Greece. The USA seem to play a leading and ever-growing role while Germany's share remains significant. Other important countries with respect to European patents registration are Italy, France and Japan. Scandinavian countries' overall share is important as well.



The following chart depicts the countries of origin for European patents valid in Greece on January 1, 2018.

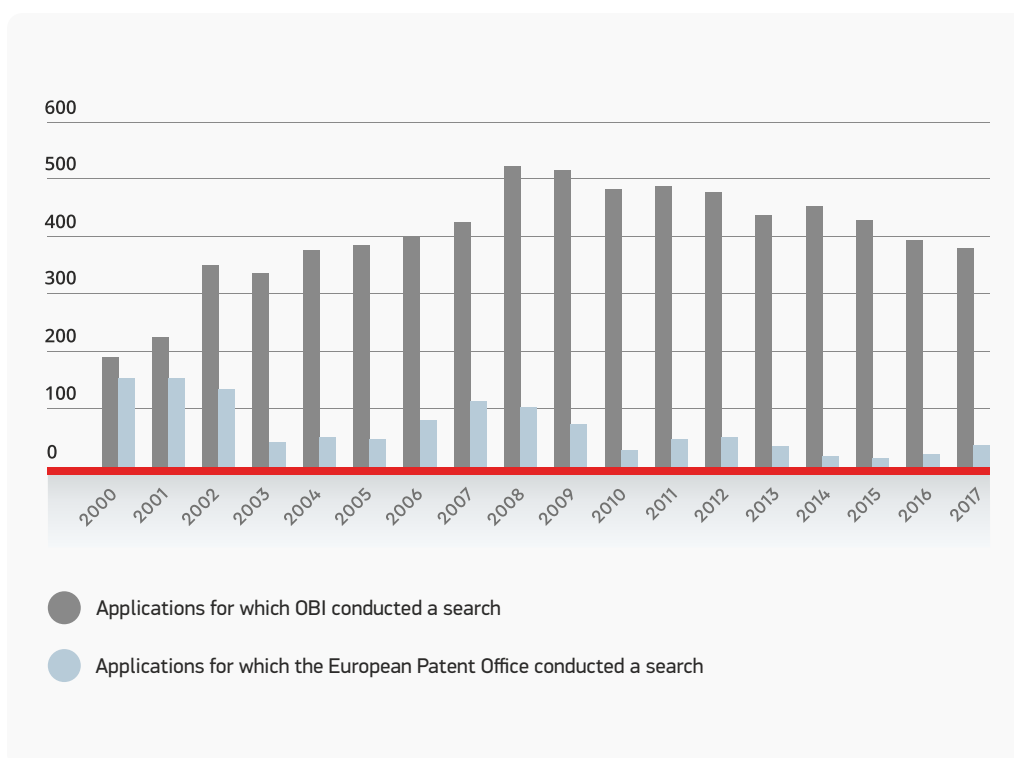


## SEARCH REPORTS

The international research carried out within the framework of patent granting aims at locating and collecting all data which constitute the most recent state of the art for the application under examination.

The assessment of all those data by the competent examiner shall lead to drafting the Search Report to determine whether the subject of the application for which protection is required is “New” in respect of the existing state of the art, comprises an “Inventive Step” and is susceptible to “Industrial Application”; those criteria are necessary according to the law on patent validity. The Search Report may be accompanied by a Written Opinion – if required in the initial application – which includes a full and detailed evaluation of the application with regard to the search findings.

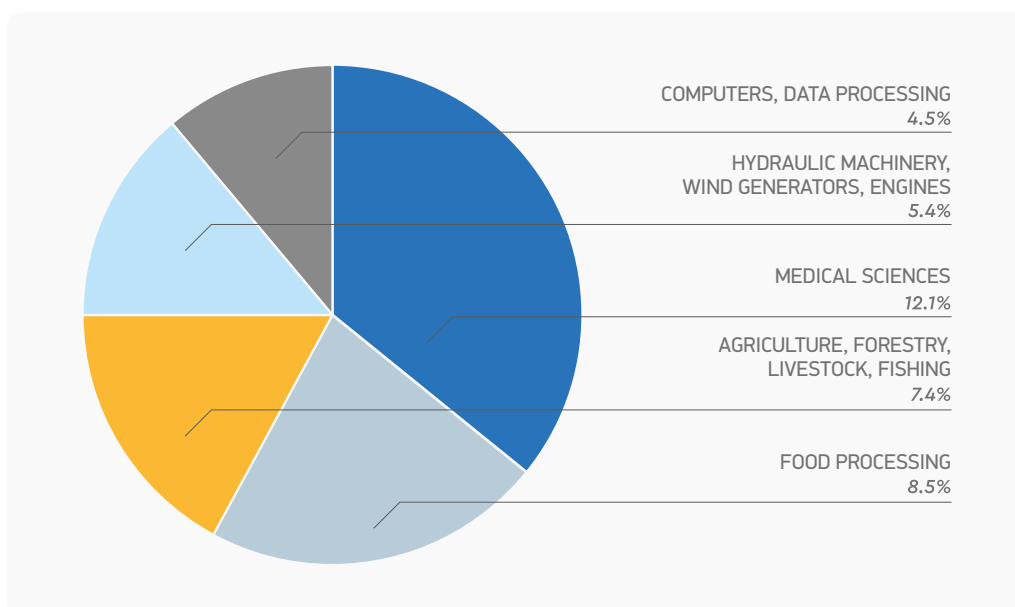
The following chart shows the number of annual search reports drafted by OBI examiners, from 2000 up to present, as well as the corresponding number of applications sent to the European Patent Office.



## SEARCH REPORTS 2016

During 2016 the Directorate completed 414 searches in total for Patent applications and drafted equal number of reports referring to all scientific and technological fields. From those reports 42 were accompanied by Reasoned Opinion, namely a detailed documentation related to the existence of innovation and inventive step. Part of the Patent applications was sent for investigation to the European Patent Office.

Although the 414 Patent applications that were examined referred to all scientific and technological fields, five fields concentrated the higher number of applications. Five of the most important technological/scientific fields appear in the following table:



The following important conclusions are drawn from the chart:

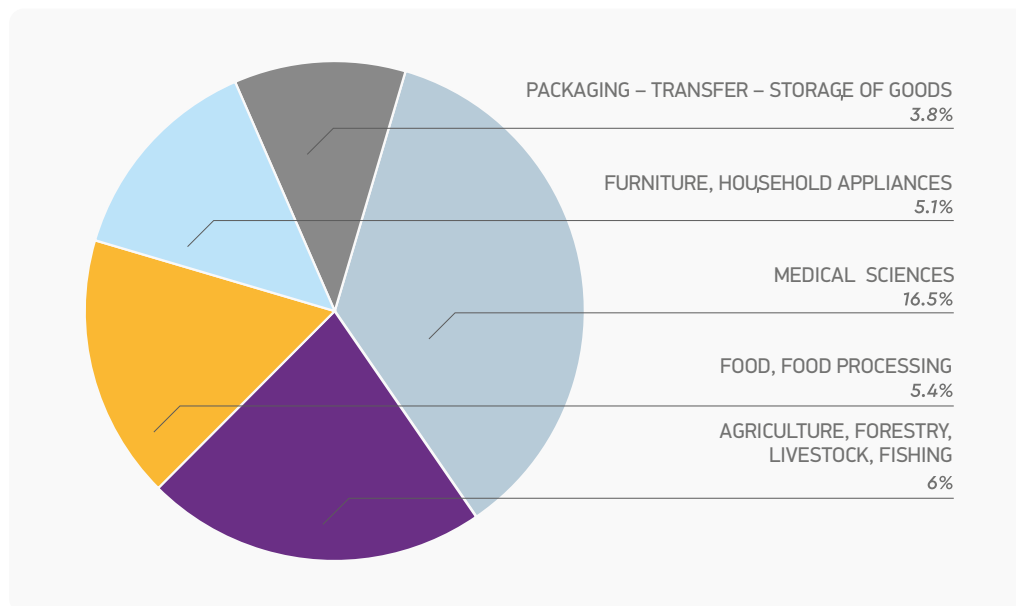
- For yet another year the Medical sciences field holds the leading position in the number of Patent applications, a position held constantly for the last 10 years.
- The Computer and Data Processing field, which is steadily growing during the recent years, appears for the first time in the top 5.
- The Construction industry has lost its position in the top 5, where it appeared in the past.

Moreover, it should be noted that all procedures, from the Standard and Preliminary Search of Patent and Utility Models applications to the Examination and Search report procedures, are certified and integrated in OBI's Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2008).

### SEARCH REPORTS 2017

During 2017 the Directorate completed total 382 searches for Patent applications and drafted the same number of reports referring to all scientific and technological fields. From those search reports, 27 were accompanied by Reasoned Opinion, and almost 39 were sent for investigation to the European Patent Office.

The 382 Patent applications examined referred to all scientific and technological fields. Their distribution across technological fields appears in the following chart along with the relevant percentage of total number of applications. The scientific/technological field of Medical Sciences, which among others includes Medical Devices, Medical Instruments and Tools, Implants, Artificial Limbs, has always held the leading position of the applications.



The specialized Innovation Control and Promotion Department conducts continuous controls and corrections in the data of the Organization, improving the quality of data and thus the quality of the conducted searches. Since the beginning of the year, 278 national patent applications before the granting phase and 3173 industrial protection title applications before the publication phase have been examined and 1246 summaries have been reviewed. Those controls are certified and integrated in the OBI's Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2008).

Moreover, the Search Directorate undertakes the translation to English and the registration of all national applications for patents, patents of addition and utility models in our databases; it also undertakes the control procedure of Supplementary Protection Certificates for Pharmaceutical products - Plant Protection products – Pediatric products.

It is worth mentioning that in the framework of environmental awareness since mid-2016 OBI started communicating the relevant documentation accompanying the search reports in PDF format on CDs, instead of paper, as was the case up to then, thus managing to save 160.000 to 200.000 paper pages per year.

### ONE-STOP SHOP (OSS)

One Stop Shop continues providing information on the procedures to follow when filing an application for patent, industrial design or any other industrial property protection title, and publishes updates on technological information, intellectual property and IP rights enforcement, in cooperation with the competent bodies.

It is open daily from 08:00 am until 14.00 pm and is staffed by experienced executives by OBI's scientific personnel . Specifically, in 2016 OSS processed 4124 cases from which 975 required physical presence. In 2017 OSS examined 3046 cases from which 586 required physical presence. The OSS statistics for the period 2014 to 2016 as well as a detailed table of the processed topics for 2016-2017 appear below:

Activities	Cases	Visit to One Stop Shop (personal visits)	Provision of services through other means of communication (tel. POST, email, fax)
2014	3559	747	2812
2015	3403	606	2797
2016	4124	975	3149
2017	3046	586	2460

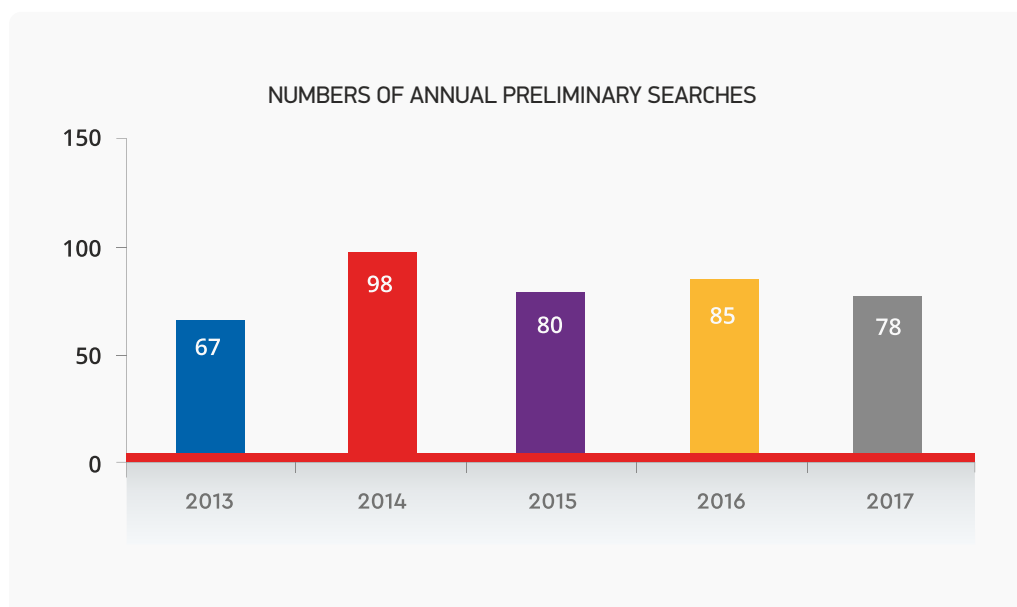
## OSS / ISSUES EXAMINED 2016 - 2017

	2016		2017	
	GROUPS	NUMBER OF CONTACTS	GROUPS	NUMBER OF CONTACTS
Individuals	3149	-	2208	-
Companies / Lawyers	975	-	838	-
Natural Persons	-	849	-	586
Communication Department	-	3197	-	2398
FAX / E-mail	-	78	-	62
CONTACT TOPIC				
BRAND	-	44	-	37
UTILITY MODELS	-	16	-	12
PRIOR ART SEARCHES	-	83	-	70
PROMOTION	-	4	-	10
IP	-	213	-	156
PATENT OF ADDITION	-	15	-	11
STATUS	-	530	-	437
COPIES	-	86	-	87
DISPUTE	-	30	-	35
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN	-	517	-	319
GENERAL	-	274	-	179
PATENTS	-	1867	-	1307
INTERNATIONAL	-	204	-	173
FEES	-	111	-	101
LEGAL	-	130	-	112

**2016-2017**

### APPLICATIONS FOR PRELIMINARY SEARCHES 2016-2017

In the period 2016-2017 85 and 78 preliminary searches were carried out respectively (80 in 2015, 98 in 2014, 67 in 2013 – 67).

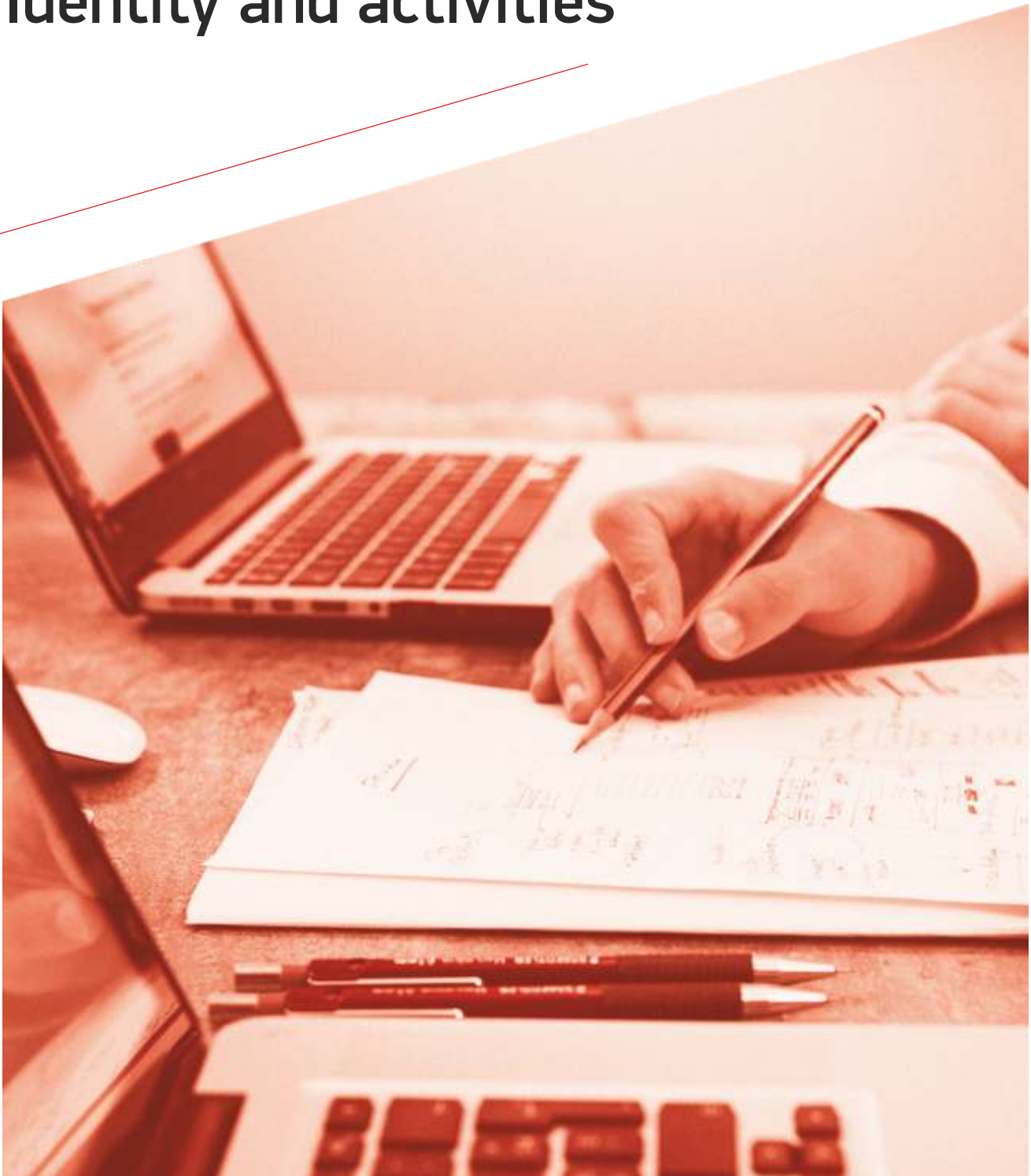


In the years 2016 and 2017, 846 and 830 public messages-requests respectively were processed through OBI's central e-mail address (info@obi.gr).



# Industrial Property Organisation

## Identity and activities



## **OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANISATION**

The Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) is the exclusive national competent body for the protection of Industrial Property in Greece. Its core mission is to grant Patents and Protection Certificates for Designs and Models.

Founded in 1987 by Law 1733/1987 as a Body governed by Private Law supervised by the then Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology, OBI has been operating since January 1st, 1988. The Organization has its registered offices in Paradise, Amarousiou. Its aim is to contribute to the technological and industrial development of Greece, through the development and management of a strong system. OBI is a non-profit organisation, is financially independent, and generates its revenue from the industrial property rights fees for the patents it grants.

## **PROVIDED SERVICES AND COMPETENCIES**

### **Granting and Monitoring validity of industrial property titles**

OBI grants the following industrial property titles:

- Patents
- Utility Model Certificates
- Industrial Designs and Models
- Supplementary protection certificates for pharmaceutical products and plant protection products

Accordingly, the Organisation:

- receives applications, checks them and grants titles
- monitors their validity
- keeps records where the protected industrial property in Greece is registered

### **Provision of technological information included in the industrial property titles**

In order to disseminate technological information, the Organisation:

- organizes info days and visits businesses all over Greece.
- disseminates information through its website
- carries out preliminary searches on demand through its access to digital patent archives

## **Strengthening and updating the industrial property protection system**

- By putting forward proposals on legislative reforms legislation proposals
- By putting forward proposals to the supervising authority on policies regarding industrial property and innovation
- By participating in European policymaking
- By informing the interested inventors (in businesses, research centers, Higher Education Institutions and any other stakeholder) about the industrial property protection procedures.

## **Representation of Greece in international and European similar organisations and in particular:**

- in the European Patent Office (EPO), established in Munich and competent for the grant of European Patents
- in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), established in Geneva and managing among others the international patents, industrial designs and models filing
- in the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), former Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM), established in Alicante, Spain, and competent among others for granting the European community design and model filing certificate

OBI also operates as a receiving office for applications to those Organisations.



(EPO) - Munich



(WIPO) - Geneva



(EUIPO) - Alicante

## Certifications

For the overall process of industrial property management and licensing and for the delivery of technological information and consulting services the Organisation was certified in 2015 by ISO 9001:2015 for the following fields of activity:

- Receives applications for the granting of industrial property titles, compiles search reports, grants and publishes IP titles
- Files transfer technology contracts
- Issues priority certificates and other certificates, attestations and copies of industrial property titles
- Receives and processes the European, European Community and International Industrial Property Title applications
- Provides technical information and consulting services
- Management of Industrial Property protection titles (fees, modifications, annulments, revocations)

OBI policy aims at the continuous improvement of the quality of services provided and of the operation of the Organisation, thus creating the broadest possible prospects for improving and developing the Industrial Property System in Greece.

Also, OBI successfully applies ISO 14001:2015 on environmental management.



## ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Organisation is managed by a seven-member Administrative Council and its Director General. The OBI Administrative Council was appointed by the decision of the Ministers for Economy and Development and Finances, and the composition is as follows:

- **Chairman of the Administrative Council:** Prodromos Tsiavos, *Lawyer in the Supreme Court of Greece), Senior Research Fellow at The Media Institute / University College London (UCL)*

- **Vice-Chairman:** Aggelos Tsakanikas, *Associate Professor, National Technical University of Athens (since April, 20th 2017)*

Paris B. Chrissos,  
*Professor, High Trade Institute of Paris  
(until April 20th 2017)*

### **Members:**

- **Georgios Frisalakis**, Representative of the Ministry of Economy and Development
- **Emmanouil Skoulas**, Representative of the Ministry of Economy and Development
- **Georgios Papanikolaou**, Industry Executive
- **Savvas Tsoutsanis**, Representative of the Technical Chamber of Greece
- **Dimitra Staikou**, Employee's Representative of OBI

Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis is **Director General** since 25.06.2015.

## ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL REPORT

YEARLY TOTAL	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2015	6.687.308€	4.639.873€	2.047.435€
2016	6.805.796€	4.783.846€	2.021.951€
2017	7.220.642€	3.702.738€	3.517.904€

## ANNEX 2 : EUROPEAN PATENTS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

USA holds the vast majority of valid patents in our country with fillings of European Patents amounting 5667; followed by Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, United Kingdom and Japan.

COUNTRY	E.P.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	5667
GERMANY	3696
SWITZERLAND	2140
ITALY	1846
FRANCE	1830
UNITED KINGDOM (GREAT BRITAIN)	1190
JAPAN	1172
NETHERLANDS	796
BELGIUM	637
SWEDEN	618
SPAIN	492
DENMARK	372
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	315
AUSTRIA	299
FINLAND	260
ISRAEL	235
CANADA	233
LUXEMBOURG	220
CHINA	213
NORWAY	181
IRELAND	171
AUSTRALIA	163
INDIA	117
GREECE	114
SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU	75
MEXICO	71
TURKEY	65

HUNGARY	50
CYPRUS	46
SINGAPORE	43
PORTUGAL	41
POLAND	38
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	37
NEW ZEALAND	33
CZECH REPUBLIC	32
BERMUDA	26
SOUTH AFRICA	24
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	23
LIECHTENSTEIN	21
SLOVENIA	19
BRAZIL	18
BAHAMAS	18
CUBA	17
MONACO	14
HONG KONG	13
CURACAO	11
CAYMAN ISLANDS	11
ARGENTINA	9
BULGARIA	8
MALASIA	7
PANAMA	7
CHILE	6
MALTA	6
UNREGISTERED COUNTRY	6
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	5
BARBADOS	5
PUERTO RICO	5
SLOVAKIA	5
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	4
LATVIA	4
UKRAINE	4
EGYPT	3
ICELAND	3
MAURITIUS	3
ROUMANIA	3
WESTERN SAMOA	3
ANGUILLA	2
ESTONIA	2
LITHUANIA	2
MOROCCO	2
SAUDI ARABIA	2
ANDORRA	1
AZERBAIJAN	1
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	1
BANGLADESH	1
ALGERIA	1
FAROE ISLANDS	1
GEORGIA	1
CROATIA	1
KUWAIT	1
LEBANON	1
SRI LANKA (CEYLON)	1
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	1
MARSHALL ISLANDS	1
OMAN	1
SERBIA	1
SEYCHELLES	1
SAN MARINO	1
THAILAND	1
TUNISIA	1
YUGOSLAVIA	1
ALBANIA	
GHANA	
TANGANYIKA (TANZANIA)	







ATHENS 2017

## OBI

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Industrial  
Property  
Organisation

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