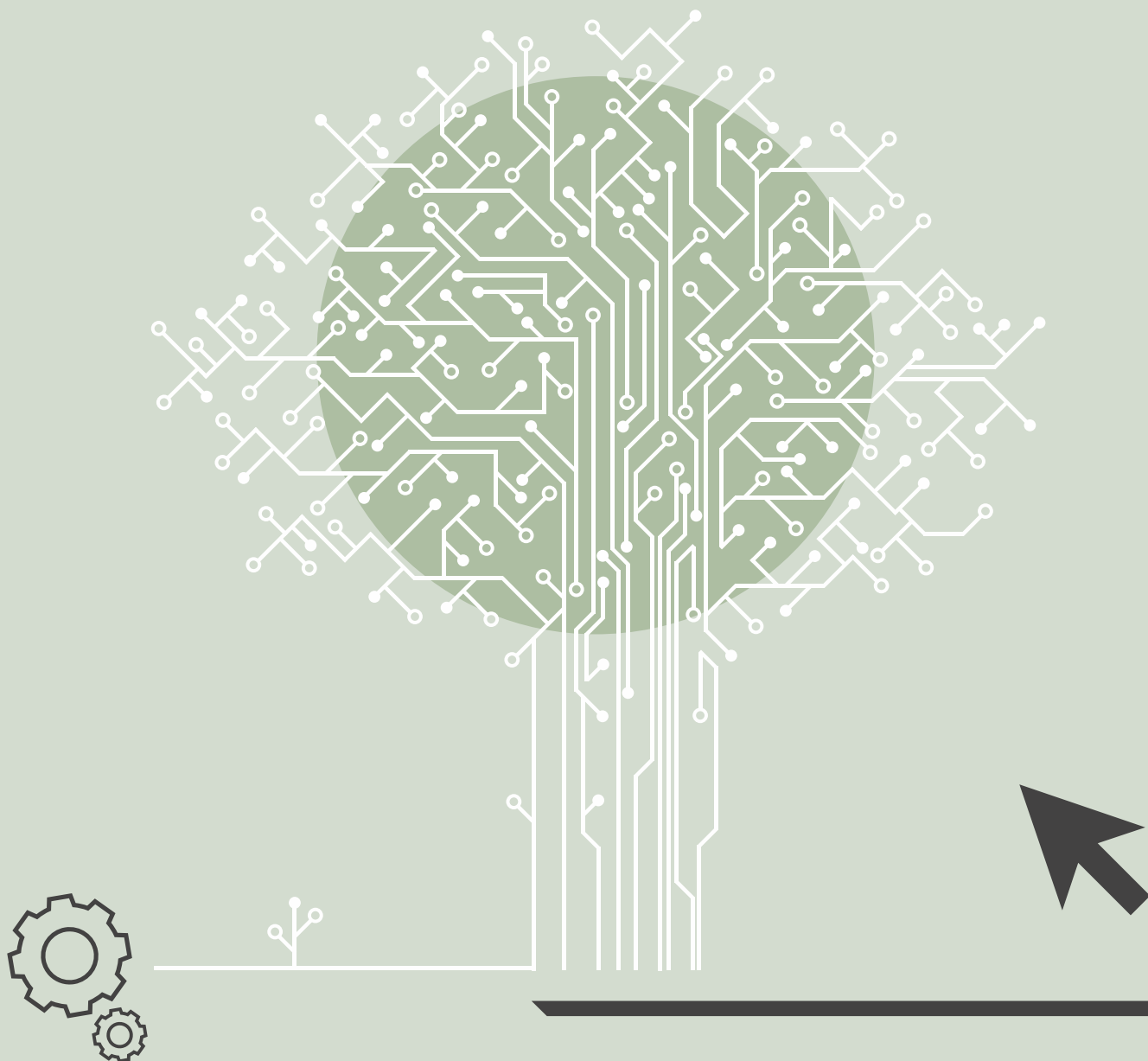


# Annual Report



HELLENIC  
INDUSTRIAL  
PROPERTY  
ORGANISATION



# 2018





The Industrial Property Organisation (OBI), having its registered offices at Paradeisos Amarousion, is the exclusively competent institution for granting patents relevant to inventions, industrial designs and models as well as for technological information 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 non profit 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 powers:

- To grant, and monitor the validity of, industrial property rights (Patents, Utility Model Certificates, Industrial Designs and Models, Supplementary Protection Certificates for pharmaceutical and plant protection products).
  - To represent Greece in similar International and European organisations (European Patent Office – EPO), (European Union Intellectual Property Office – EUIPO), (World Intellectual Property Organisation – WI).
  - 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).
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# Table of Contents

# 2018

page  
5

## President's Foreword

Dr Prodromos Tsiavos

page  
8

## Director-General's Foreword

Dr Ioannis Kaplanis

page  
13

1

## 2018-2020 Strategic Planning

OBI's Actions

page  
25

2

## Economic Growth and Industrial Property

OBI's Regional Offices (Libraries)

page  
33

3

## Information Society and Industrial Property

OBI's International Presence and Social Role

page  
45

4

## Patents and Industrial Property

OBI's Scientific Role

page  
53

## Industrial Property Organisation (OBI)

Identity and mission

page  
57

## Annex 1

Financial report

page  
58

## Annex 2

European Patents: countries of origin





## Foreword of Administrative Council's President

Dr Prodromos Tsiavos

It was only ten years ago when Industrial Property was a branch of law that concerned only a relatively limited number of specialised scientists, professionals and companies. Nowadays, it represents a key geopolitical issue at stake and a main pillar of industrial and development policy. It is common place that the European Industry should be able to address the increase in the Industrial Property portfolio acquired by both Asian and North American industries. What is more important is to find solutions to ensure better and more efficient interconnection of the academic research with innovation, industrial production and, ultimately, the market.

In this context, it is imperative to draft a National Policy for Industrial Property and establish an integrated and sustainable system of Industrial Property in Athens.

The characteristics of the National Policy for Industrial Property, which are harmonised with the overall European development policies and have already been implemented by OBI during the last three

years, are related to the connection of Industrial Property with Smart Specialisation strategies, and to the elaboration of what we have come to call. "Industrial Property Smart Policy".

However, at the same time it is imperative that higher coordination is achieved between the bodies and services involved in Industrial Property in Greece.

In 2018, at OBI's initiative, the National Council for Industrial Property was established and is competent for the coordination and cooperation of the bodies responsible for the regulation, supervision, promotion and protection of Industrial Property in Greece. The National Council for Industrial Property is an important step toward shaping and implementing coherent intellectual property policies, and boosting the development of intellectual capital in Greece. It is an institution which underscores Industrial Property but we believe that at some point in the near future it will help shape intellectual property policies at a broader scale in Greece.

The creation of the Hellenic Academy of Industrial Property was another important initiative taken by OBI with a view to strengthening the National Industrial Property System. The Academy is the tool which will enable the substantial opening of the Intellectual Property market through the introduction of Certified Patent Attorneys. It is an institution that had been sought by the market for decades and had also been suggested by both the European Union and the OECD. Certified Patent Attorneys were introduced in 2018 and, together with OBI's comprehensive digitisation, will become the cornerstone of the Greek Industrial Property system in the 21st century.

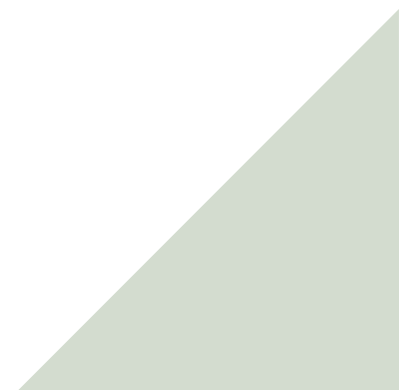
OBI's goal is to endow the Academy of Industrial Property with the degree of financial, fiscal and administrative independence it needs to accomplish its mission in an independent and self-sufficient manner and this is why OBI has taken steps toward its regulatory, administrative and technical integration. Meanwhile, the Academy's goal is to create an extensive network of synergies with Greek and foreign academic bodies as well as international organisations engaged in Industrial Property, which can provide the academic background that is required for its operation.

It is necessary to see the international dimension of the relevant academic services and collaborate with those organisations and bodies that can provide optimum services. As OBI, we have to avoid becoming set in our ways and holding the reins of all training and research activities of the Academy. Capabilities do exist. The fact that Greece assumed the Chairmanship of the Supervisory Board of the Academy of the European Patent Organisation honours our country and is also an opportunity to establish the Academy

as an institution that can help open up the Industrial Property market and develop Greece's intellectual capital.

2018 was a year in which OBI continued to implement the Smart Industrial Property policy by pursuing the digitisation of filings of applications deposited for the registration of titles in terms of both the implementation of technological infrastructure and integration of the relevant regulatory acts that are expected to be issued during 2019. Moreover, OBI launched the process required for opening three more Regional Offices (Libraries) which is also expected to be completed in 2019. At the same time, the first three Regional Offices and the Library of OBI within the Technical Chamber of Greece continue to operate.

Finally, OBI's improved financial results and the re-launch of the procedure for appointing certified public accountants for OBI, as part of the Administration's dedication to transparency and OBI's prudent management, enabled the re-launch of the negotiations for having a Collective Bargaining Agreement signed by OBI and the employees' union.





The goal of our Administration is to complete the signing process and have the Agreement approved by the supervising minister the soonest possible and certainly during 2019.

The first major stage of OBI's transformation into a know-how central hub in relation to Industrial Property, which will secure its existence and role in the decades to come, is completed with the 2018 reforms, namely the National Council for Industrial Property, the establishment of the Hellenic Academy of Industrial Property and further expansion of the Regional Offices (Libraries) and continuing digitisation of OBI and overall regulation of OBI's labour and regulatory matters.

In the years to come we expect further penetration and consolidation of the reforms we made together with all OBI's employees, in an attempt to continue OBI's tradition for excellence and contribution to the economy and industry, as well as to the academic circles and society in general.

Industrial Property should be at the core of the Greek development model for the 21st century. This is why it should concern each and every one of us.

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## Director-General's Foreword

Dr Ioannis Kaplanis

Following 30 years of operations, the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation is being prepared and plans its modernisation and enhancement of its role.

As we head toward an economy of knowledge, in which intangible knowledge assets play a key role, and the so-called fourth industrial revolution is characterised by high added value technologies, the operation of a modern and effective industrial property system which gives incentives for research and development, and promotes technological information, is vital for the promotion of innovation and economic growth. Capitalising on its 30-year experience and high quality human resources, OBI faithfully serves its purpose, streamlines its procedures in order to facilitate users and enters a new development era so as to respond to the challenges and opportunities of our times.

OBI's efforts to boost innovative activities in Greek regions, as part of Smart

Specialisation at a regional level, will play a key role, developing synergies with local and regional governments, universities and research institutes, chambers and local associations of industries, with the ultimate goal of achieving balanced and sustainable development.

In 2018, the Administration of OBI re-opened its three **Regional Offices (Libraries)** in Thessaloniki, Heraklion and Patras, which resumed operations after almost 10 years. The goal of the Regional Offices is to strengthen inventive and creative activities in their areas, providing a number of information services for the protection of Industrial Property and taking active part in the regional innovation ecosystem. The synergies attempted in each region are of strategic importance for the effectiveness of the endeavour.

In Thessaloniki, OBI collaborates with the Aristotle University and is accommodated in an area of its Library in the centre of the city, as well as at the Balkan Centre in Thermo

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where at least 20 laboratories of the University will be accommodated. In Patras, OBI keeps an area at the offices of the Association of Industries of Peloponnisos and Western Greece in the centre of the city, and at the Patras Scientific Park which is located in Rio, near the University of Patras, and accommodates at least 25 companies. In Crete, OBI collaborates with the Institute of Technology and Research, one of the most important research centres in Greece, which has assigned an area at its premises in Heraklion to accommodate the Regional Office.

**The establishment of three new Regional Offices** has already been scheduled for the upcoming period: in the Region of Thessaly, specifically in Volos, in collaboration with the University of Thessaly; in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, specifically in both Xanthi in collaboration with the University of Thrace "Democritus" and

in Komotini in collaboration with the Regional Association of Industries of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace; and in Epirus, specifically in Ioannina, in collaboration with the University of Ioannina and the Scientific and Technological Park of Epirus. Finally, the **collaboration of OBI with the Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE)** is vital for the creation of a satellite focal point of technological information in TEE's Library which can use the network of TEE's Regional Libraries.

OBI's six new regional offices and the satellite focal point of TEE are part of the European Patent Information Centres of the European Patent Office (EPO), which numbers more than 300 centres.

Pursuant to the relevant indicators of the EU and OECD, Greece is a moderately innovative country. While recording high performance in research and academic publications, it is at the

bottom of the patents and Intellectual Property registration tables. It is necessary to give a boost to the overall innovation ecosystem in Greece and in particular the part relating to the commercial utilisation of generated knowledge and its interconnection with industrial production.

The modernisation of the institutional operating framework of Industrial Property in Greece by law 4512/2016 was a breakthrough as it is the first time that **certified Patent Attorneys are introduced** in accordance with European and international experience. The competent training body will be the **Academy of Industrial Property** to be established, which collaborates with international organisations as well as with Greek and foreign educational institutes and undertakes the education, training and certification of Greek professionals in matters of Industrial Property protection.

Certified Patent Attorneys aim to enhance not only the quantity but also the quality of national filings for patents in compliance with optimum international practices. Inventors, researchers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) will now have access to fully trained professionals who may also be graduates of polytechnic faculties and generally departments of natural sciences, and will be specialised in the Industrial Property Law, thus resulting in lower cost of representation and increased competition.

Law 4512/2018 establishes e-filing for all industrial property titles and electronic payment of fees.

**Digitisation of filing processes** will make easier public service, especially in remote areas, with regular submission of applications at any hour and day of the week and will also reduce administrative costs. Thus, the Greek framework is aligned with the European one and we move on to a substantial programme of upgrading and rationalising Industrial Property in Greece.

Last year, OBI upgraded the two versions of ISO quality management systems it uses, thus contributing to organisational excellence and the provision of high quality services to the public. In collaboration with EUIPO and the consulting firm Deloitte, OBI published version 9001:2015, which refers to the goals, processes and sought-after results, as well as version 14001:2015, which refers to environmental management.

The organisation of EPO's annual **European conference** jointly with OBI was a turning-point in OBI's actions to consolidate the culture of exploiting the significant research conducted in Greek universities and research centres. The annual conference "Exploiting IP at Universities: European Progress Conference" was organised in Athens for the first time (October 2018), with the participation of more than 120 attendees from the 38 countries affiliated to EPO and opening speeches by the Deputy Minister of Economy and Development Mr Pitsiorlas, the Secretary-General for Research and Technology Ms Kyprianidou and acclaimed speakers from universities and the business world.

The individual contributions by the speakers and the fruitful dialogue that ensued aimed at promoting an integrated policy of exploiting Industrial Property on the part of Greek universities and research centres, by strengthening technology transfer offices and through synergies with enterprises and financial institutions.

Greece should implement an integrated industrial approach by strengthening the entire value chain range, aiming at producing high added value innovative products and focusing on the development of intellectual capital. Greek companies should realise that they may draw multiple benefits from the development of innovative inventive activities as the value of large enterprises is increased when their intangible assets such as patents, industrial designs, plant varieties and geographical indications are taken into account. Proper corporate strategy focused on the protection of their product will enable them to enter new markets, both domestic and international, and will also secure financing sources. The creation of the **National Council for Industrial Property**, which is scheduled by the Ministry of Economy and on which I had a discussion with the Director-General of WIPO Mr Francis Gurry during my recent visit at Geneva, aims at an holistic approach to Industrial Property and at the coordination of competent institutional bodies in Greece.

Our country can and must boost its economic growth by the exploitation of Intellectual Property in order to ensure the recovery and export orientation of its business activity.

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# 2018-2020 Strategic Planning

## OBI's Actions

### Industrial Property Organisation Strategy

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

The core of OBI's Strategic Plan is the development of a national scale National Smart Industrial Property (IndPr) 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 Smart Industrial Property (IndPr) Strategy refers to the creation of a framework within which OBI may operate and achieve the aforementioned goal. More specifically, this operating framework should enable OBI:

- to focus on networking and synergies with research and academic bodies;
- to underscore the regional dimension of IndPr by creating synergies with all 13 regions in Greece;
- to place emphasis on innovative entrepreneurship, focusing on participation in incubators, clusters and level-two associations of enterprises;
- to collaborate with local and regional governments to create the triple helix (research – public sector – enterprises);
- to create innovative/inventive discovery processes in line with business discovery processes;
- to create a link with actions of communities, organisations and groups of civil society, focusing on innovation at the level of social entrepreneurship.

## Conditions for implementing OBI's Strategic Planning

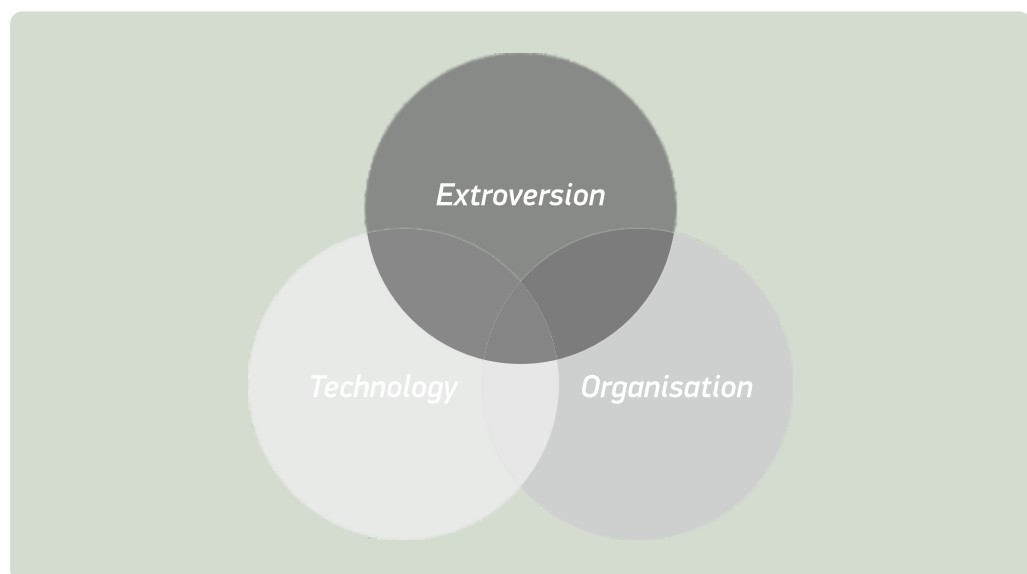
A number of conditions must be met to enable the implementation of the Smart IndPr Strategy and to create the relevant operating framework. These include the following:

- **Adapted legislative framework**, which will define the main principles and priorities that will enable policy makers to set specific strategic goals that support the Smart IndPr Strategy.
- **A National IndPr Strategy Plan**, which will determine how OBI's Smart IndPr Strategy will be implemented as part of OBI's strategic planning.
- **OBI's operational framework** defining the specific operational actions within OBI every two years, which will be monitored on a half-yearly basis in order that the specific National IndPr Strategy be implemented.

Subsequently, the means required for implementing a Smart IndPr Strategy and its implementation channels at a national and global level are analysed.

## OBI's Strategy Implementation Means

The planning and implementation of an IndPr Smart Strategy involves specific actions which shall prepare OBI for this future and equip the Organisation with the appropriate tools. Those actions are divided in three general categories:





Each one of those categories plays a separate significant role, which is described in the following paragraph.

## 1. Extroversion: Networking, Cooperation and Knowledge intensity

Part of the IndPr Smart Strategy of OBI is to become an information and knowledge intensive agency. This means that the core of its operations must focus on mining, management, use and diffusion of 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 as well as of an operation framework supporting and encouraging the Organisation's aforementioned role. These mechanisms are described subsequently and are those that shall enable the goal that OBI has defined in terms of the networking and cooperation with research and university agencies as well as the establishment of new partnerships at a regional level in Greece.

### OBI's Regional Offices (Patent Libraries)

The revival of Regional Offices (Patent Libraries) in the Greek territory is one of the means that will help improve OBI's extroversion. These are IndPr Information Centres that will operate as libraries and information points of OBI throughout the Greek territory and aim at the deployment and presence of OBI's representatives at different hubs of the Greek region as well as at the training of innovation and research bodies, such as industries and educational institutes with respect to the importance and value of IndPr.

Relevant decisions and actions have already been taken by the Administrative Council of OBI and are summed up as follows:

- These centres will be located in each region separately and will be based either in a research/academic centre or in a local government body.
- They will be created in three stages: during the first stage, which has been completed, three new centres operated in addition to the Athens-based centre, eight centres will operate in the second stage and the rest in the third stage.
- They will be connected to existing structures supporting innovation from the research/academic field.

## IP Academy

Another means that will enhance OBI's extroversion lies in the creation of an IndPr Academy, i.e. an institution at the core of the operation and organisation of the majority of the respective European and international organisations. As part of OBI's Strategic Planning, the creation of such an Academy has dual purpose and role: on the one hand, to improve OBI's extroversion and, on the other hand, to improve the quality of the material filed for consideration and evaluation by the public such as individual applicants, enterprises, industries and educational institutes.

The Administrative Council of OBI has already taken relevant decisions and actions to create the curriculum of an IP Academy, the content of which is summed up as follows:

- Standardisation of existing information actions by category of public
- Creation of educational digital area, resources and courses for using and downloading IP-related material and generally the activity carried out by OBI;
- Creation of a curriculum for "training trainers", placing emphasis on specific fields of interest as well as on geographical allocation, focus and prioritisation;
- Preparation of information and training curricula for the following categories of public: lawyers, judges, university professors/researchers, public organisations, civil servants and local governments, law enforcement agencies, small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups, enterprises carrying on innovative and research activity;
- Creation of information material for secondary and tertiary education and events, where necessary
- Emphasis on the following categories/themes: Technological education (especially in the fields of agronutrition, materials, biotechnology, pharmaceutical industry, 3D printing and sensors), search techniques and technologies;
- Creation of occupational certificate programmes
- Focus on training for the European Qualifying Examination (EQE)
- Creation of a national certification system
- Creation of an apprenticeship programme in cooperation with certified Patent Attorneys (PA) within and outside Greece as well as with research bodies (through state aids regarding apprenticeship programmes for certified PAs that undertake to accept trainee PAs);
- Preparation of a rolling report regarding IndPr professions in Greece
- Creation of a register of certified lawyers and PAs in Greece
- Creation of a scholarship programme for the Greek IndPr Academy
- International collaboration for the creation of an IndPr Academy cluster in South-eastern Mediterranean

## Training

A third pillar aiming to enhance OBI's extroversion is to carry out relevant training courses and presentations in the context of actions either directly organised by OBI or in which OBI is asked to participate. Such actions are the following:

- One-day meetings
- Conferences
- Speeches
- Seminars
- Programmes/Synergies
- Themed events
- Educational visits



OBI's involvement in such actions helps make the public more aware of OBI and its work and increases the possibilities of its synergies with various bodies.

With respect to OBI's educational extroversion and the weight placed by its Administration to this field, the actions of the last two years highlight OBI's strong activity.

## Conversion of Research into Innovation Research Performing Organisation (RPO)

Another goal set by the Administration of OBI is to render OBI the "interface" between academics, private industrial sector, the political circles and policy makers in Greece. Thus, OBI will be able to facilitate and support the conversion of research into innovation with the respective advantages and benefits for the Greek market and the country overall.

This goal includes the following:

- Maximum utilisation of know-how and scientific background of OBI's executives for the benefit of society
- Drawing on the knowledge and databases to which OBI has access, as well as the network of OBI's scientists and partners to respective international organisations

To support the above goal, the Administration of OBI recommends further expansion of the IndPr services provided by OBI mainly in the following directions:

- Coordination with other Intellectual Property organisations through a National Board for Intellectual Property to which OBI can provide infrastructure and secretarial assistance
  - Provision of IT infrastructure services to all Intellectual Property bodies in Greece (IP Cloud)
  - Information interface for overall One stop shop Intellectual Property services in Greece at a regional level.
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## 2. Organisation: Restructuring, Procedures and Legality

For OBI to become an information and knowledge intensity body, an organisational structure and a system of internal procedures that will support the implementation of such a goal will be required. Moreover, a legislative and regulatory framework defining and governing OBI's operation will be required, which will enable OBI to implement its goals with OBI being fully aligned with such framework. For these reasons, the Administration of OBI has taken the relevant steps to implement its strategic goals successfully.

### Legislative/Regulatory Matters

With respect to the arrangement of the regulatory and legislative framework governing OBI, its Administration has submitted proposals for amending the relevant law (Law 1733/1987 [A 171], Ministerial Decision 159/1987 [B 778]) and Presidential Decree 77/1988 (A 33), with respect to the following:

- **Introduction of certified Patent Attorneys (PA)**  
The suggested arrangements grant authorisation so that a presidential decree can be issued and specify the terms and conditions for establishing national certification of patent attorneys, training body, content, organisation and duration of the relevant training programmes as well as any other necessary action.
- **Preparation of programming agreements with external organisations**  
The suggested arrangements enable OBI to prepare programming agreements with international organisations, universities in Greece and abroad or other bodies engaged in training and education of Patent Attorneys (PA).
- **Establishment of electronic submission of applications to OBI**  
With the suggested arrangements, applications for granting all types of industrial property titles and certificates will be submitted to OBI, in pursuance of the provisions for industrial property, solely with electronic means and the relevant fees may be paid through e-payments.

### 3. Technology: Knowledge Structures, Systems and Management

Technological infrastructure and the information tools that will support implementation are at the heart of the Smart IndPr Strategy that the Administration of OBI has decided to put into practice. The pillars below are at the core of OBI's strategic planning for the next three years in relation to its technological development and the management of quality and quantity data:

- Digital Transformation and Technological Infrastructure
- Data Management (Data Centric, KPIs and efficiency measurement indicators)
- New website (Website re-launching)

The promotion and utilisation of new technologies is at the core of digital transformation, which will modernise and improve the operating level of OBI and service of the public with whom OBI comes in contact. Such technologies are the following:

- E-filing of patents
- E-signature
- E-payment

For OBI to communicate with the public more effectively, its Administration has decided to launch a new website. Its purpose is to help users browse OBI's website fast and easily and find all information they need about the filing of patents and enable them to communicate dynamically with OBI's staff about relevant questions and queries with respect to the filing of patents. Finally, the new website will function as a means of information and training of the public in industrial property issues, thus fulfilling the goal set by the Administration of OBI.

## **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 mark 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 Industrial Property 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 information with the following organisations:

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

### ***Positioning of OBI in the international environment***

OBI operates in a wider context of organisations with whom it is officially affiliated through bilateral partnerships and under the institutional framework that governs them. In this context, OBI must draft certain key policies.

### ***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 role of Industrial Property in the Greek economy
- Provide financial analysis regarding key subject matters so that the Management of OBI may support the Industrial Property policy drafting process
- Fill in the gaps in terms of empirical data concerning Industrial Property and Patent Rights issues

- Develop a financial approach concerning the development and updating of the IndPr policy implementation in Greece on the basis of justified data

The introduction of a role in charge of the above duties, within the structure of OBI, will help OBI focus on three key policy issues:

- application of the existing IndPr policy and addressing violations;
- innovation and development in relation to IndPr;
- maximisation of the value and contribution of IndPr to domestic economy.

### ***Driving forces of OBI's Strategy***

#### ***1. Re-launch of the operation of OBI's three Regional Offices, planning of four extra offices***

*In 2018, OBI re-launched the operation of the three Regional Offices (Patent Libraries) that had discontinued their operations in 2009 in Thessaloniki, Heraklion and Patras in order to boost inventive activity and protect intellectual property in the different regions through the provision of IT services to the public. The establishment of new Regional Offices has already been scheduled for the upcoming period, with first offices in Volos and Ioannina, and the collaborating library of TEE in Athens. OBI's new Regional Offices operate in synergy with the research and academic institutes of each area, the Regions and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.*

#### ***2. Creation of an Industrial Property Academy and introduction of Certified Patent Attorneys***

*For the first time for Greek standards, article 124 of Law 4512/2018 provides for the introduction of Certified Patent Attorneys in Greece and the establishment of a competent training body. The establishment of the Industrial Property Academy will contribute with its international experience to the education and training of Greek professionals in practical and theoretical matters of intellectual property falling under the competence of OBI. The relevant Presidential Decree has to be signed yet.*

#### ***3. Full digitisation/streamlining of processes and respective reduction of administrative costs***

*Article 123 of Law 4512/2018 stipulates that only electronic means will be used in the submission of applications for the registration of all types of titles by OBI and in the payment of the relevant fees. Digitisation of processes will improve public service, especially in remote areas, and will contribute to the reduction of administrative costs.*





#### 4. OBI's extroversion actions

*OBI's extroversion actions have been doubled since 2015 through the organisation/ participation in conferences, seminars and workshops which showcase OBI's services and present the benefits arising from registering inventions at the level of businesses and national economy. The key goals consist in dissemination of technological information and informing on the registration of Industrial Property rights and its commercial utilisation in partnership with national bodies and international organisations.*

#### 5. Evidence/Data-based Policy on IP

*The development of a well-informed policy relies on reliable data and evidence. For this reason, the strategic goal of the Administration of OBI is: a) to provide an economic analysis on key issues so as to support IP Policy drafting by the Administration of OBI; b) to be able to develop an economic approach based on data and substantiated information. A proposal in this direction is to conduct economic and statistical analyses which are a must for the provision of scientific documentation and top level analysis about matters of Industrial Property, innovation and economic growth.*



# Economic growth and industrial property

## OBI's regional offices (Patent libraries)

### INVENTIVE ACTIVITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: THREE NEW REGIONAL OFFICES OPENED

As an expanding organisation, with three new Regional Offices (Patent Libraries) in Thessaloniki, Patras and Heraklion Crete, OBI strives to showcase innovative ideas in the regions, safeguard the knowledge and technology being produced, contribute to the commercialisation of ideas and turn them to advantage in the marketplace.

Thanks to its new regional offices, OBI is able to connect the regions to the centre, so that inventors in the three regions enjoy direct access to technological information about patents or designs of interest to them.

The new Thessaloniki office is housed in the premises of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki with which OBI collaborates, and in the Balkan Centre located in an area with significant development, a cluster of service providers, educational and research institutions, processing enterprises and shopping centres. At the Thessaloniki office's official opening on 14 June, the Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) Prof. P. Mitkas

pointed out the importance of collaborating to link research activity to business, while Greece's General Secretary for Industry, Mr. E. Zafiris, stressed OBI's and the Regional Offices' contribution to integrating the overall value of the products generated.

In Patras OBI's office operates from the Federation of Enterprises & Industries of the Peloponnese and Western Greece and at the Patras Science Park. The Patras offices were officially opened at 5th know-how transfer event called the Patras Innovation Quest (Patras IQ) 2018 on 28 April, with a speech given by the General Secretary for Industry, Mr. Efstratios Zafeiris, the President of the Federation of Enterprises & Industries of the Peloponnese and Western Greece, Prof. Kleomenis Barlos, and the President and CEO of the Patras Science Park, Prof. Vasilis Anastasopoulos. OBI's Director General Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis gave a talk about industrial property in the digital age as a lever for regional development: OBI's new OBI Regional Library in Patras.

OBI's office in Heraklion Crete is housed at the Science and Technological Park

(STEP-C) / Foundation for Research and Technology (FORTH) and was opened at an event held at the Heraklion Chamber on 18 June. The opening was addressed by the President of the Heraklion Chamber Mr. Emmanouil Alifierakis, the Rector of the Crete Technological Educational Institute, Mr. Nikolaos Katsarakis, the Director of the Science and Technology Park of Crete (STEP-C) Mr. Artemis Saitakis, the President of the Heraklion Region Association of Industrial Enterprises, Mr. Eleftherios Antonakakis, Mr. Emmanouil G. Skoulas, member of the Board of OBI, and the OBI Director General, Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis.

## OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES' ACTIVITIES

OBI's regional offices in Heraklion, Thessaloniki and Patras are part of the European wide network of Patent Information Centres (PATLIB) which consists of 320 offices operating in the member states of the European Union under the aegis of the European Patent Office (EPO). All three OBI Regional Offices participated in the 2018 PATLIB conference held in Ljubljana (May 2-5) and the EPO Sophisticated searches and informative search reports seminar in Vienna (19-20 September).

The regional offices undertook an active role in showcasing industrial property in the local communities where they belong. While operating they organised a host of activities to provide more complete and immediate information to stakeholders, disseminating technological knowledge and supporting innovation. By way of example, all three offices participated in coordinated fashion in the 2018 Researcher Night on 28 September at the Hellenic Centre for Maritime Research, at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall and at the Achaia Chamber respectively.

The OBI regional offices contacted the innovation ecosystem of their region, providing practical support to researchers at university institutes, entrepreneurs, lawyers and individuals visiting their premises, and showcasing the importance of innovation and patents for economic growth.

## Thessaloniki Regional Office

The office drew up and signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece, the Greek Exporters Association and the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce & Industry. It held meetings with the Municipality of Thessaloniki on organising a Design Week, and in parallel had regular contacts with local bodies such as the Technology Transfer Office and the Liaison Office of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Alexandria Innovation Zone, Thessaloniki Technopolis, and the Researchers Association of the National Centre for Research and Technological Development, in order to collaborate and host joint events. The following activities of the Thessaloniki Office and attendances at conferences and events can be singled out:

- Regional Conference on Productive Reconstruction of the Central Macedonia Region (26-28 March).
- 5th Technology Forum at the Aristotle University Centre for the Propagation of Research Results (16 May).
- Processing, extroversion and employment workshop hosted by the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Region in Komotini (June 11).
- Export Summit VI: “The digital era, Business on the move, Exports in the fast lane” hosted by the Greek Exporters Association at the Macedonia Palace Hotel (21 June).
- Stand at the 83rd Thessaloniki International Trade Fair, plus an event organised by OBI (8-16 September).



## Patras Regional Office

The office hosted a series of info-events for local bodies, such as the University of Patras Library and Liaison Office, the Patras Special Research Grants Account's Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit, the Patras Bar Association, the Business Consultancy newspaper, companies from the Science Park, Open Coffee Patras, Orange Grove Patras, start-ups and members of the Federation of Enterprises & Industries of the Peloponnese and Western Greece. It visited the Western Greece Regional Primary and Secondary Education Directorate on the occasion of the 6th Regional Educational Robotics Competition Patras 2018, and to explore future pathways for collaboration in briefing students about industrial property. The Office also developed a contact form to standardise the guidance process for stakeholders and ensure better levels of service, and to facilitate library staff. The Patras Office engaged in the following activities and attended the following events:

- Maturing Innovative Business Ideas in the Agri-Food Sector, info-event hosted by the Western Greece Regional Development Fund (12, 18, 20 June).
- 100th General Meeting of the Federation of Enterprises & Industries of the Peloponnese and Western Greece (12-13 May).
- 6th Regional Educational Robotics Competition, talk and stand featuring info-materials aimed at children (June 16).
- Inventor and Businesses Lab, Patras IQ and National Documentation Centre, Patras Archaeological Museum (11 October).
- Expenditure Grant Programme for Patent Registration (Bodosakis), presentation hosted in collaboration with the PRAXIS Network at FORTH's Institute of Chemical Engineering Sciences (16 October).
- Attendance at the meeting of the Alliance for Business Enterprise and Development in Western Greece (SEADE) in the Western Greece Region (16 July).
- Partnership with the Regional Development Incentives Department / Western Greece Region in the context of the operation entitled "Support for creative businesses in Western Greece" (October 2018).



## Heraklion Regional Office

The office has established regular and open channels of communication with innovative bodies and the local community of Heraklion via a series of organised contacts with permanent research staff and directors of research institutes to promote innovation activities and is in contact with local trade fairs, businesses and institutional investors. It is also in contact with the Heraklion Chamber and with the Heraklion Customs Office and the Heraklion Police Directorate in order to identify solutions to combat counterfeit product distribution. At the same time, the office in partnership with the other Regional Offices developed model documents for the reception and provision of services to interested parties. The following activities and participations of the Heraklion Office can be singled out:

- PRAXIS Network seminars on funding for Horizon 2020 Research Innovation Actions (RIA) and Innovation Actions (IA) which place particular emphasis on industrial property and the transfer of technologies to the marketplace (May, June and July).
- Partnership with the Marketing Intelligence & Strategic Development Manager of IMEC in Belgium (technology transfer standard in Europe) on issues relating to European incubators and accelerators focused on hardware technologies (12 September).
- Participation in B2B meetings in the context of the nano- and bio-technology conference organised by FORTH and the Crete Technological Educational Institute (24-28 September).
- Attendance at the opening ceremony for the new cluster of entities (research labs, hospitals, diagnostic centres, medical companies, ministries, regional health administrations) at the FORTH of Personalised Medicine National Network Unit (13 September).
- Contact with Junior Achievement Greece to explore how that organisation can collaborate with OBI to train school pupils and students in business and in intellectual property as a tool for business (13 September).



## **DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES: PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

### **Development of services provided by the Regional Offices**

According to OBI's short terms plans, the newly opened regional offices in the cities of Ioannina and Volos, adding the launch of the new office in the library of the TEE in Athens, we strongly believe in the evolution of the services offered by the regional offices. It must be stated that the coordination and the appropriate staffing played a major role, adding the strong sense of cooperation, the ability of transferring the know how, the working ethics and professionalism of our colleagues. Our will and proposal of renewing their services contract, on a plan of actions, is based in three pillars:

- As a follow-on to the acquired knowledge, many months of experience gained, and targeted training, the next step for the Regional Offices is specialist training on search tools and engines, technical training on how to use EPOQUE net and technical support for the offices.
- Promoting the work of the Industrial Property Academy.

### **Educational and info-events about the Office's activities**

- Events will be hosted to inform and educate the widest possible segment of the public about industrial property issues, aimed at specific interest groups, such as members of commercial and technical chambers, economic and trade associations, professional associations, and start-uppers and entrepreneurs, members of university teaching staff, researchers and students in partnership with educational and research institutes, and students in partnership with primary and secondary education institutions.

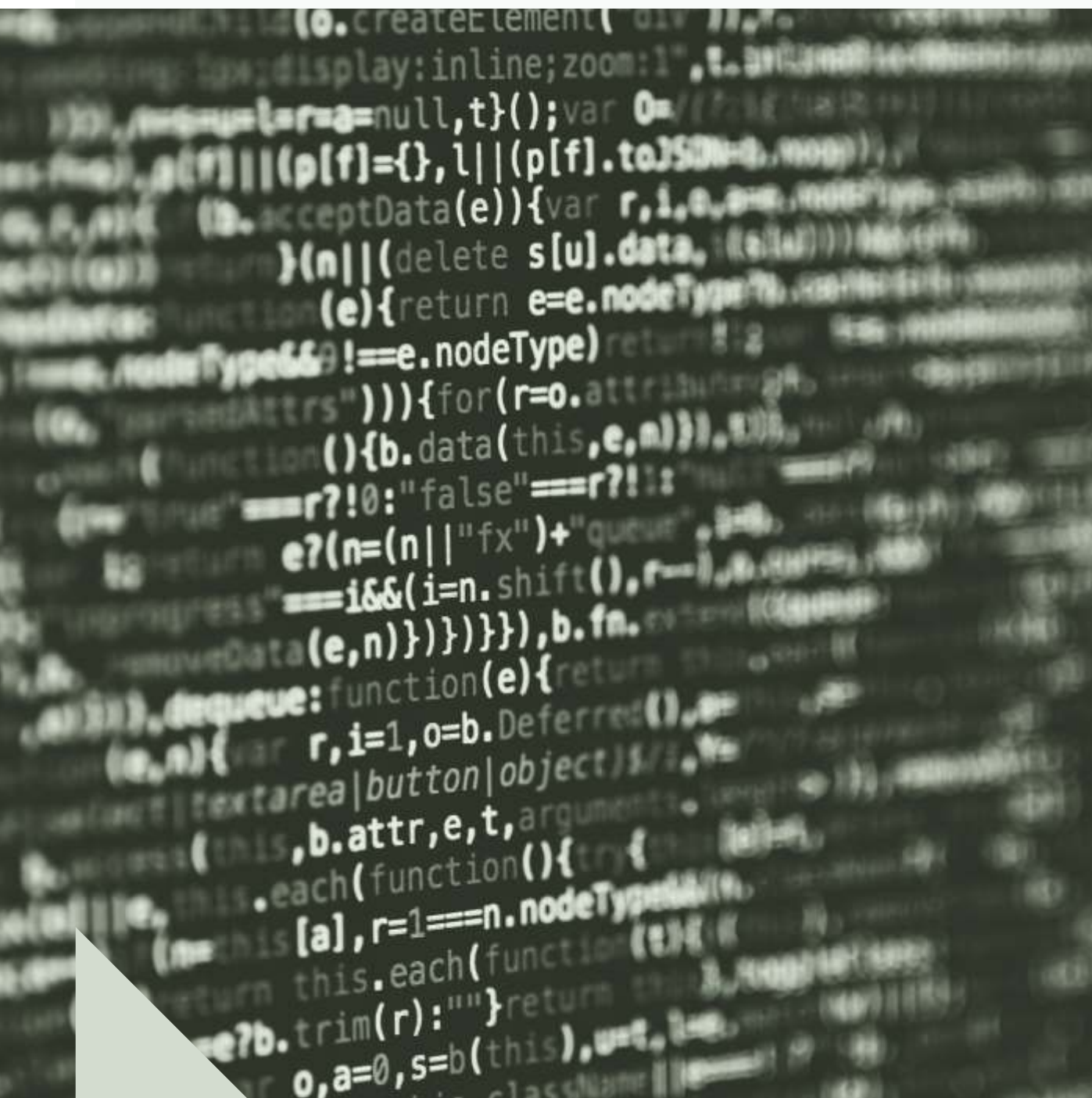


## **Meetings with the local innovation ecosystem and participation in local events**

- Stands and talks at local events relating to research, innovation and entrepreneurship and fairs, such as the Technology Forum, Researcher Nights, Patras IQ, the Development Forum and Thessaloniki International Fair.
- Visits to selected local bodies to brief them and further develop partnerships in other cities within the region.
- Official meetings with the rectors of local universities and technological educational institutions and the presidents of research institutes and foundations.
- MoUs with local bodies such as Regions, Municipalities, Chambers, Universities and Technological Educational Institutes.

## **Protection of Intellectual Property Rights**

- Collaboration with Customs Offices and Police Directorates to find solutions to combat counterfeit product distribution.



# Information Society and Industrial Property

## OBI's International Presence and Social Role

### EXPLOITING IP AT UNIVERSITIES: EUROPEAN PROGRESS CONFERENCE 2018

For the first time ever in Greece, working in partnership with the European Patent Office (EPO), OBI organised an annual Conference on Exploiting Intellectual Property at Universities: European Progress Conference 2018, which took place at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens on 18-19 October 2018. Around 120 delegates from the 38 EPO member countries attended the conference.

The conference presented the actions of OBI and EPO aimed at approaching universities, technology institutes, research centres and technology transfer agencies, to assist them promote innovation and link it with economic and build ties to the economic production sector. The conference's aim was to raise awareness about the protection of intellectual property and the training available in Greece and abroad on IP issues, and to showcase the need to capitalise on the knowledge generated at academic and research centres.

The Conference was addressed by the Alternate Minister of Economy & Development, Mr. Stelios Pitsiorlas, the General Secretary for Industry, Mr. Apostolos Makrykostas, the General Secretary for Research and Technology, Mrs. Patricia Kyprianidou, the Chairman of OBI's Administrative Council, Dr. Prodromos Tsiavos, while the President of the EPO, Mr. Antonio Campinos greeted the conference with a video message. OBI's Director General, Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis, gave a talk on "Public research and development spending and IP performance".



## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WIPO**

In the sidelines of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) annual meeting held from 24 September to 2 October 2018 in Geneva, attended by 191 states, OBI's Director General, Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis, had an important meeting with the Director General of WIPO, Dr. Francis Gurry. Their discussion revolved around the formulation and coordination of Intellectual Property policies in the context of a wider development agenda to promote innovation and sustainable development; a form of development beneficial for all. In that same context, they also discussed WIPO's support for statutory changes being made in Greece to promote Intellectual Property as a vehicle that can make a decisive contribution to innovation and to the country's development strategy more widely.

In addition OBI's Director General officially invited the WIPO Director General to a top-level meeting in Athens in March 2019 with the President of the Republic and the Ministers responsible for intellectual property issues. Both organisations seek to link inventiveness and creativity to sound business and economic production, and to capitalise on IP generated by academia and the public sector.



## ATTENDANCE AT THE 83rd THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR

In 2018 OBI was once again present with a stand at the Thessaloniki International Fair, distributing educational materials and information to more than 500 people. As part of the Fair, OBI partnered with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki to host a parallel event on Research, Innovation and Regional Development. The Secretary General for Industry, Mr. A. Makrykostas, the Rector of AUTH, Dr. P. Mitkas and the Chairman of OBI's Administrative Council, Dr. P. Tsiavos, spoke at the event. Dr. I. Kaplanis, Director General of OBI, talked about "The role of IP in Innovative Entrepreneurship & Regional and Regional Development" and the head of OBI's Thessaloniki Office, presented the services provided by the new office. The event was also attended by the spokesperson for the Deputy Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament and Ministry of Economy and Development, Mr. Dragasakis, the President of the National Research Foundation, a representative of the University of Thessaly Research Committee, officials from the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, lawyers, professors, researchers and the general public.



### PROTECTING DESIGNS: THE PATH TO MARKET

As part of its partnership programme with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), OBI hosted a workshop/seminar on "Protecting Designs: The Path to Market" at the Thessaloniki Bar Association on 23th February 2018. The event was organised following a proposal from the Thessaloniki Association of Trainee and Young Lawyers, following on from a particularly successful similar event

organised in Rhodes in 2017. The aim of the event was to explore a very promising field for creative and economic growth and to brief potential users of the IP protection system about the possibilities offered to them in Greece and abroad. The event was attended by about 70 people, mainly lawyers and designers, business people and students.

Moreover, in 2018 OBI partnered with EUIPO again to run a communication campaign to support and promote industrial designs in Greece. The campaign, whose motto was “Authentic products take you further” was aimed at 3 target groups:

- 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.

Our aims were:

- For the IP protection system to be used by creators.
- To increase the number of protected designs in Greece and Europe over the years to come.
- To make production companies aware of the importance of using design in their products in order to be competitive and enter the international market, so that they contribute to the economic growth within Europe (in the design field).
- To raise awareness among consumers and develop a culture so that they do not purchase counterfeit products.

In producing a video specifically for the communication campaign, which was posted on social media and shared widely, OBI sought to raise awareness among the 3 target groups, with a differentiated message relating to registration and protection of their creations.

## TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION AND SMES

OBI was involved in working groups and attended meetings, and also hosted events relating to technological information. These are listed below:

- OBI was a partner in the European Commission's Value Intellectual Property for SMEs (VIP4SME) project. The project runs for 4 years (December 2015 - December 2019) and, as part of the project, tools/methodologies and services will be developed to help manage IP. The project's main aims are to support and promote IP services in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to enable understanding of the value of IP, to formulate business strategies and good practices for IP management and to transform IP into commercial value and competitiveness.
- OBI participates in meetings of all Steering Committee partners and, where necessary, in meetings of the Management Board, and collaborates with the PRAXIS network, which is the coordinator of the WP2 work package on SME actions. In 2018 it was involved in the 3rd Steering Committee held in Bordeaux on 28-29th November 2018. Project commitments include the organisation of training sessions, workshops and info-days at one-to-one visits to SMEs. In 2018 one workshop was held at the Heraklion Chamber in partnership with the PRAXIS network and 15 one-to-one visits to companies took place.
- 7 events (workshops/seminars/labs) were also organised, 5 of which were in Athens and 2 in Crete, as well as 15 one-to-one visits to SMEs, primarily in the context of the VIP4SME project, 4 of which were in Crete and 11 in Athens. During the one-to-one visits to SMEs, after IP protection and Technological Information was presented, there was also a detailed presentation of the IA Management Tool.
- PATLIB2018 COMMITTEE, in which OBI represented Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, San Marino and Spain (Vienna, 18 January 2018).
- EPN Workshop on New Espacenet (The Hague, 16 November 2018)
- The Bilateral Co-operation Plan (BCP 2016-2018) was implemented with the EPO. As part of that plan, an educational seminar for SMEs was hosted in Athens which was well attended and a major success.

## INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AT EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

OBI held a series of bilateral meetings in Geneva with officials from the World Industrial Property Organisation (WIPO) where, among other things, its assistance on education and innovation promotion was discussed. Also, the support for the proposal to provide a reduced international fee for submitting PCT applications to Universities within the WIPO PCT Working Group was maintained. In terms of representations, OBI participated in the work of the following WIPO Committees and the EU Council Intellectual Property Working Group monitoring developments in its areas of competence:

- WIPO Standing Committee on Signs, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, 39th and 40th Session, Geneva, 23-25 April 2018 and 12-16 November 2018.
- PCT Working Group WIPO, 11th Session, Geneva, 18-21 June 2018.
- WIPO Standing Committee on Patent Law discussing issues relevant to that topic (28th and 29th Session, Geneva, 9-12 July 2018 and 3-6 December 2018).
- Intellectual Property Working Group, EU Council, 29 January 2018, 20 February 2018, 5 July 2018 and 13 September 2018.
- Legal & International Working Group of the European Intellectual Property Rights Violation Observatory, Brussels, 17-18 April 2018, Warsaw 27-29 November 2018.



## INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AND THE PUBLIC REALM: THE GREEK CASE

In 2018, OBI organised or participated in a number of events with the unwavering aim of keeping the general public informed about the opportunities offered by the Intellectual Property Protection System.

- Archive material was presented and the OBI Director General gave a speech at events to mark “160 years of Made in Greece”, February 28, 2018, Technopolis.
- OBI executives gave speeches at the Athens Science Festival on World Intellectual Property Day, April 26, 2018, at Innovathens, Technopolis, Athens. The event was attended by the Director General of OBI Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis, Mrs. K. Margellou, Asst. Director General and Director of OBI’s Legal Service, and Mrs. E. Manousou, OBI’s Communications Officer.
- Stand at the 5th Know-how transfer fair - Patras IQ 2018- and speech by the Director General, at the 4th Industrial Revolution - Digital Strategy workshop jointly organised with the Ministry of Economy and Development-General Secretariat for Industry, University of Patras, OBI, the PRAXIS Network/FORTH, and the Federation of Enterprises & Industries of the Peloponnese and Western Greece, 27-29 April 2018, Patras.
- Stand at the 5th Technology Forum, and speech from the Director General, 16 May 2018 Aristotle University Research Dissemination Centre / AUTH, Thessaloniki
- Stand at the Researcher Night and speech from Mr. L. Pyrgiotis, member of the Technical Chamber of Greece Central Delegation and member of OBI’s Administrative Council, 28 September 2018, NTUA
- Attendance at seminar on “Critical Factors and Drivers of Intelligent Development” 13-15 July 2018, Cyclades Chamber, Ermoupoli, Syros
- Speech at the 2nd Athens Innovation Festival, 13 November 2018, Zappeion Megaron, and 1st Thessaly Science Festival, 11-13 October 2018, Larissa.
- OBI was a support for the two conferences hosted by Trademark Companies Association of Greece-Cyprus - Albania - Romania and Fyrom on IP and E-Commerce. “The Challenge” held on 22th September 2018 at the Eugenides Foundation in Athens and on 1th December 2018 at the MET Hotel in Thessaloniki. OBI was represented respectively at those conferences by Mr. M. Skoulas, member of the OBI Administrative Council, and Dr. P. Tsiavos, Chairman of the Administrative Council, who gave speeches
- Info-event for associated lawyers presenting the new IndPr protection title online filing system, 21 November 2018, OBI.
- Speech at the 21st Patras Development Forum, 24-25 November 2018, Patras.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

OBI's educational programme aimed at pupils of 5th and 6th grade of primary schools was continued in 2018 with unabated success. In 2018, 18 classes from 9 different schools in Attica visited OBI's premises.

Those visits were intended to give children a taster of IP. Through observation, questioning and interaction, children are introduced to the world of inventions and design and come to realise, probably for the first time, that the world around them is primarily a world of inventions and designs. As part of the programme, children have the opportunity to come up with their own inventions, which are selected for prizes. These visits are free and a strict first come first serve policy applies.

## OBI ON SOCIAL NETWORK PAGES

OBI's continued presence in ever expanding audience groups, particularly younger generations, and their awareness of OBI and its services and the provision of information about OBI and its services, are intended to create an IP rights friendly culture among the general public, so as to prevent counterfeiting.

By properly targeting the audience and taking account of existing developments in the field of communications, if OBI wishes to maintain its contemporary character it is now more than vital to have social media profiles. By using them, a more modern and personalised image for OBI is created, more direct ties to the public are formed with an immense scope of expansion thereto, more feedback with user opinion, and therefore the ability for a more direct improvement and development of its services, more direct response to the public's needs, wider message communication capabilities, and generally speaking a continuous contact with existing and potential audience.

To keep our pages fresh with new information, so that OBI has a continuous presence, we draw materials from various announcements about our subject matter, which in addition to in-house materials also include materials from international organisations (EPO, WIPO, EUIPO), scientific and other publications, events in Athens and abroad hosted by various bodies, etc.

OBI uses the following social media platforms: Facebook (September 2013), YouTube (May 2015), Twitter (June 2015) and LinkedIn (May 2017). In addition to the day-to-day effort to keep in touch with its audience, it is also worth pointing out that these media were chosen as the main way of promoting design in the relevant campaign launched in 2018 in partnership with EUIPO.



## WHAT DOES OUR AUDIENCE THINK ABOUT US?

As part of its certification under the ISO 9001:2015 quality system standard, OBI attaches particular importance to the public's opinion, focuses on aspects comprising OBI's overall picture and monitors reactions and perceptions from users of its services. That is to say, there is direct and continuous feedback which as an organisation we can use to improve our image, communication, and presence in general on a continuous basis.

Research is conducted using special questionnaires which are sent to the existing users of our services by post, are available at OBI's reception at its premises, and posted on the website ([www.obigr](http://www.obigr)) and are also sent by email.

Below are statistics about the public's view of OBI in 2018:

- 36% had an excellent opinion and 43% a very good impression of their initial contact with OBI.
- 54% were extremely satisfied and 32% very satisfied with the reliability of its services.
- 35% were extremely satisfied with the time taken to provide services, 37% were very satisfied and 20% quite satisfied.
- 33% conduct searches on their own using OBI's search tools and databases while 67% opt to learn about OBI via its website.

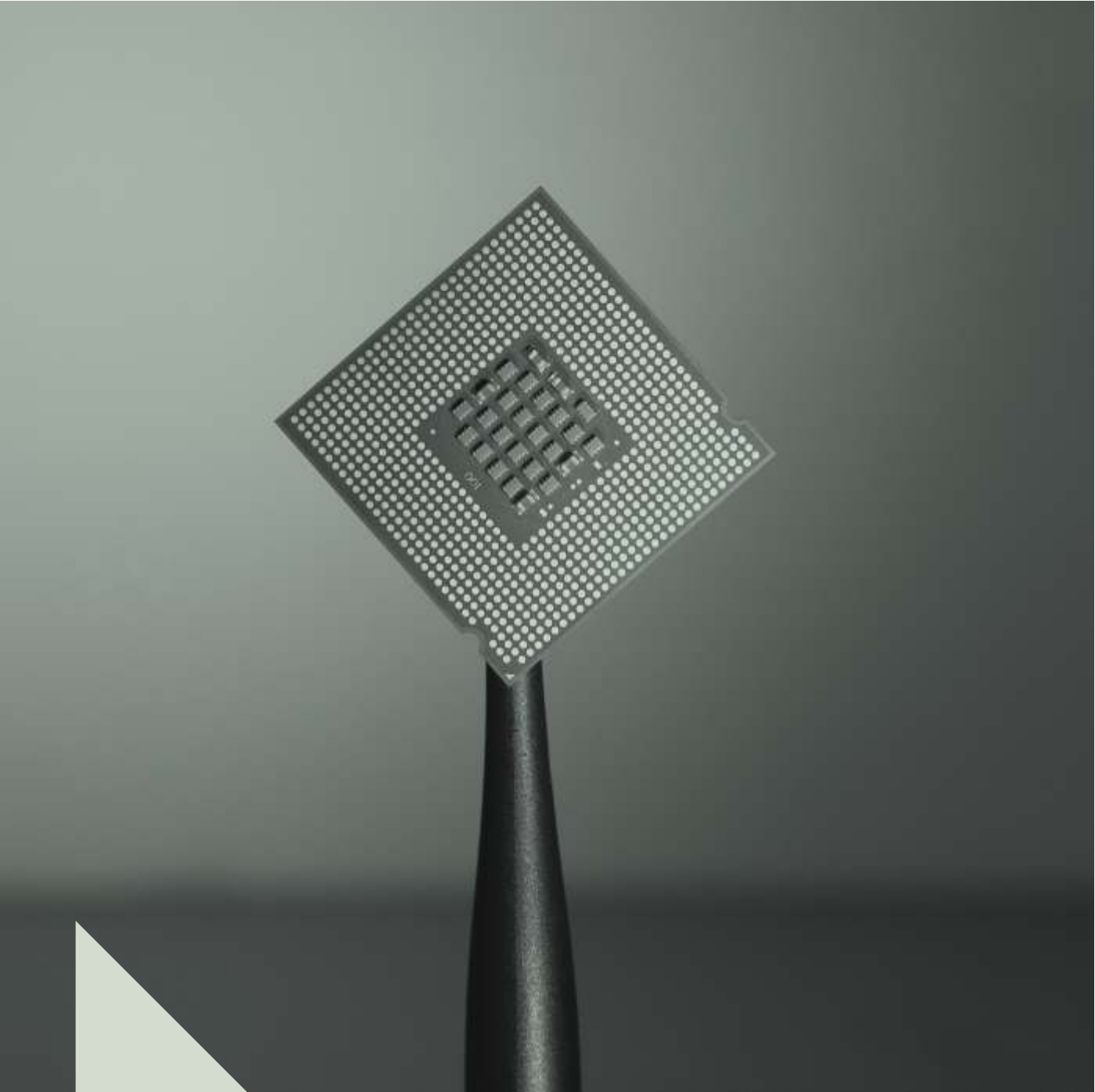
It is worth stressing that in 2018 only one complaint needed to be addressed.

Communication with our audience is two-way, and the questionnaires not only help us become better but also include particularly useful suggestions from the users since we can specifically target audience and ensure measurable results at all levels. This also means that it is possible to improve and develop OBI's services more directly, to respond more promptly to the public's needs, to communicate more messages and in general maintain steady contacts with our existing and potential audience.

## OBI'S NEW WEBSITE

OBI's website is the first point of contact with its audience and a key element in the image and identity it wants to portray. With that in mind, OBI revamped its website within 2018. OBI's new website has an improved look and feel, offering visitors the ability to retrieve the desired information in a comprehensive, simple and communicative manner. The website also allows applications for a Protection Title to be filed online and protection fees to be paid.





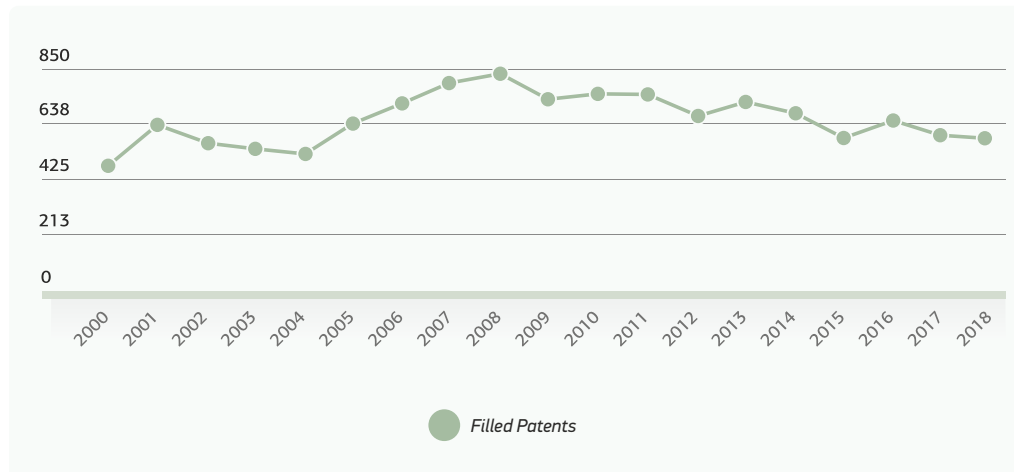
# Patents and Industrial Property

## OBI's scientific role

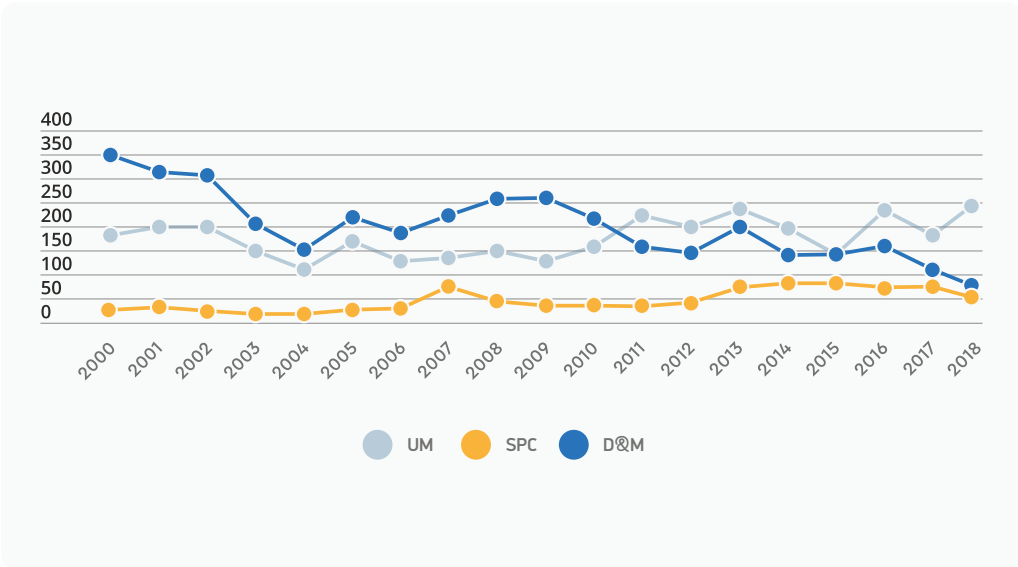
### STATISTICS AND INDICATORS: NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY TITLES

The diagram below shows how many national patents were filed from 2000 to 2018 inclusive. From 2000 to 2008 inclusive there was an encouraging trend, resulting in a year-on-year rise in filings which peaked in 2008. From the start of the crisis in 2009 to 2018 there was a less intense downward trend, though filings in 2018 were close to 2005 levels.

#### *Intellectual Property Rights (Patents)*

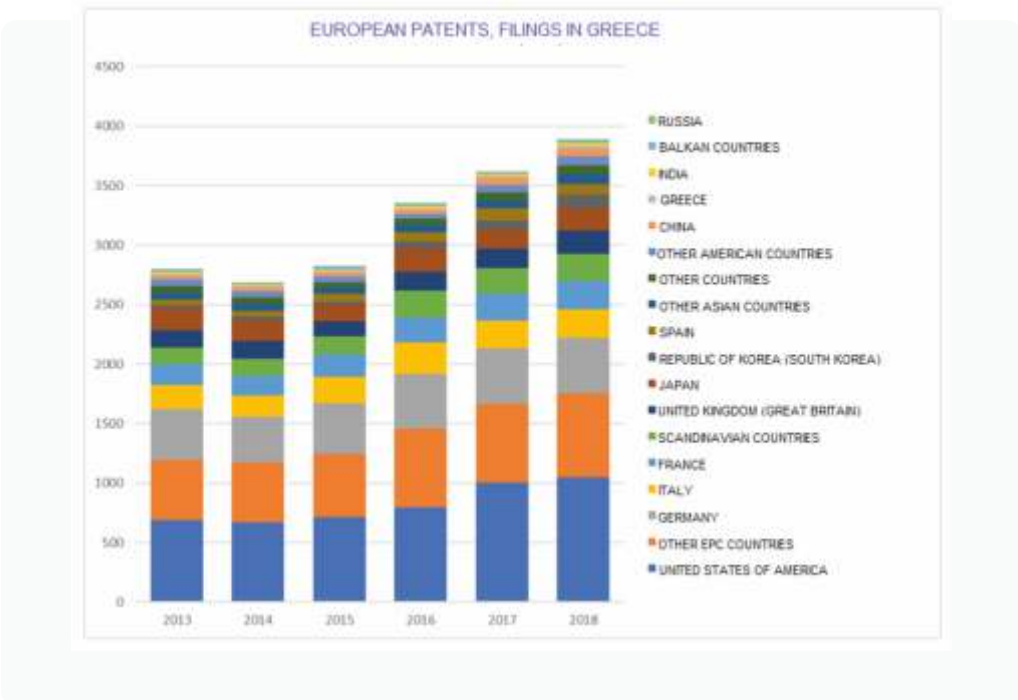


Statistics about the filing of other industrial property titles offered by OBI such as utility model certificates, supplementary protection certificates, and designs and models from 2000 to 2018 inclusive are set out below. From 2010 to 2018 inclusive the number of supplementary protection certificates and utility model certificates continued to rise slightly, whereas designs and models fell slightly, though that drop became significant in 2018.

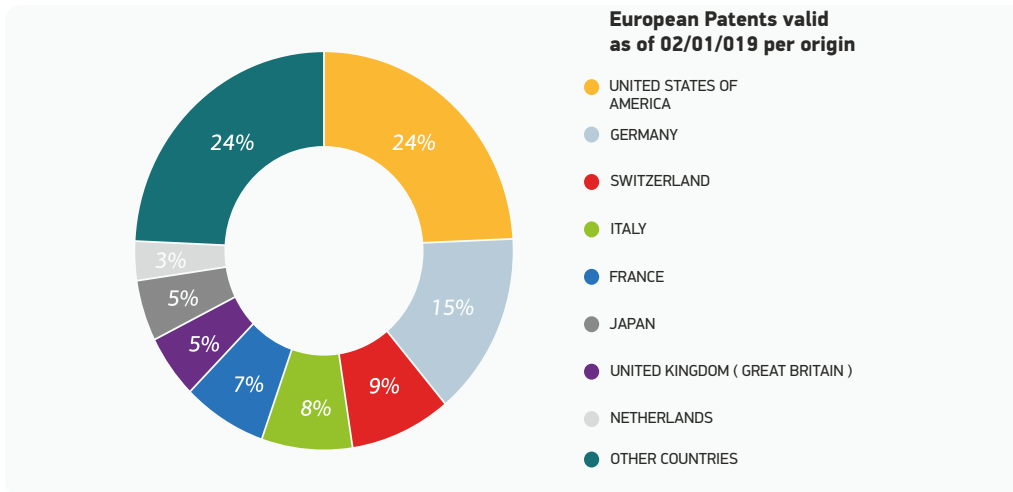


**EUROPEAN PATENTS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN**

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.





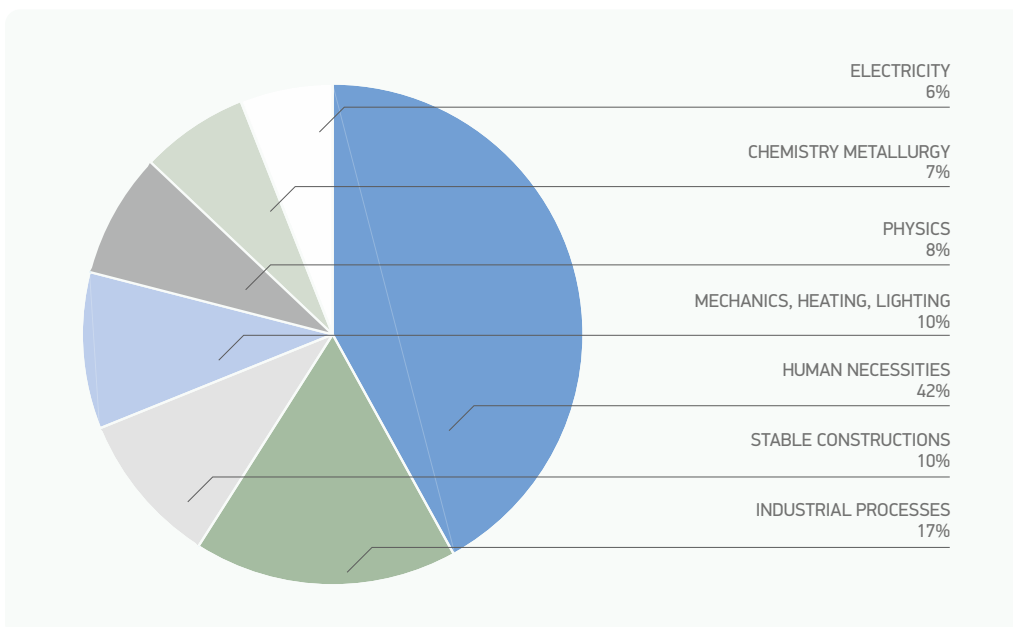


## 2018 SEARCH REPORTS

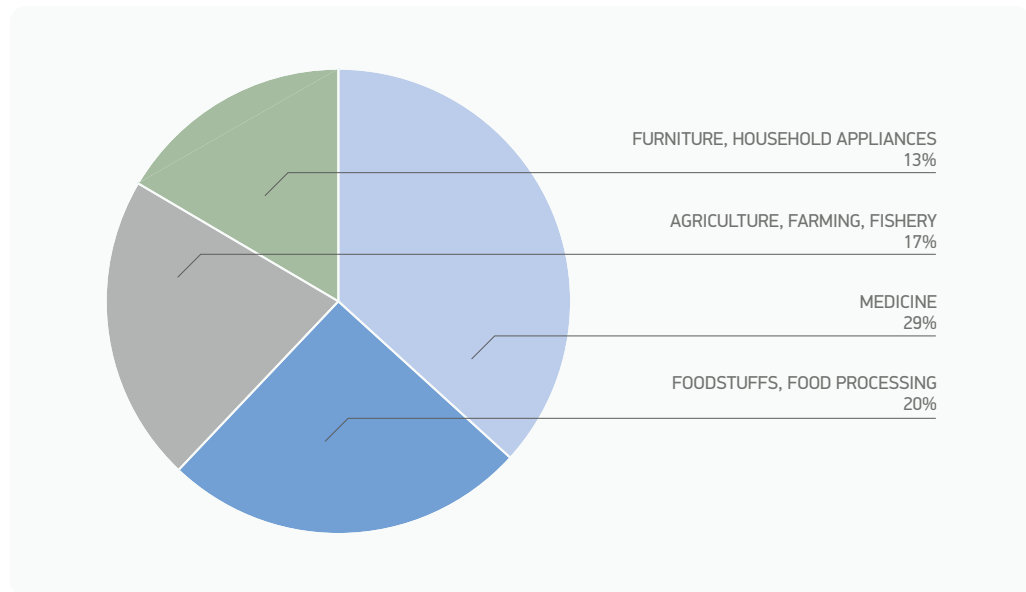
During 2018 examiners from the Search Directorate carried out a total of 350 patent searches and an equal number of reports covering the whole spectrum of science and technology were produced.

38 of those search reports were accompanied by a Written Opinion, which is to say a detailed documentation of the existence of an innovation and inventive step. Approximately 16 of the patent applications were sent to the EPO for searches to be carried out.

The 350 patent applications examined covered the entire spectrum of science and technology, and their breakdown into technology sectors is shown in the diagram below as a percentage of total applications.



That diagram makes it clear that for yet another year the top place by far in terms of patent applications was held by the Human Needs sector, a position it has consistently occupied for the last 10 years. Within that sector, the top four technological areas which by far occupy the top positions in terms of number of applications are:



The scientific / technological field of Medicine, which includes medical devices, medical instruments and tools, implants, artificial limbs, has been in the top position in terms of applications throughout the years.

### 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.

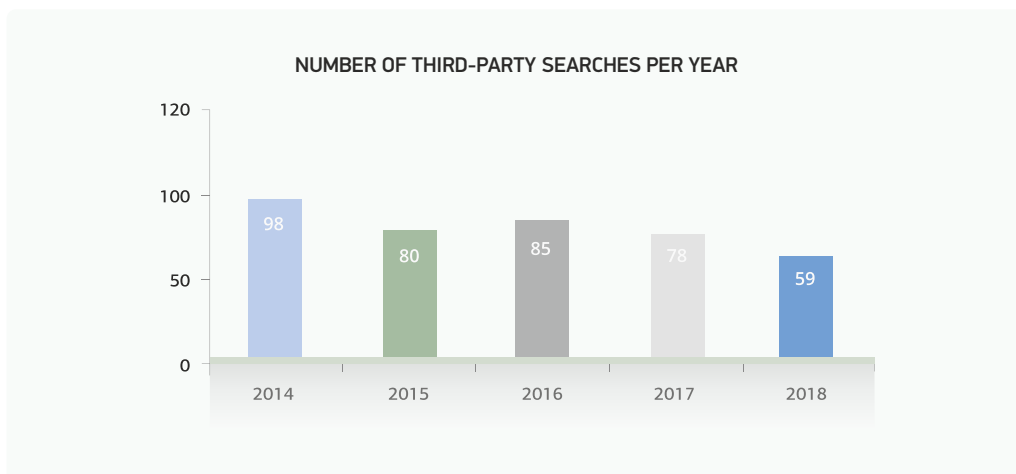
It is open daily from 08:00 am until 14.00 pm and is staffed by experienced executives assisted by OBI's scientific and legal personnel. In 2018 the One-Stop-Shop examined 2,527 cases, 371 of which required a physical presence.

OSS/2018

	2018	
	TOTAL	NUMBER OF CONTACTS
Individuals	1850	-
Companies/ lawyers	677	-
Individuals	-	371
865TE	-	2095
FAX / 24E-mail	-	61
<b>CONTACT TOPICS</b>		
TRADEMARKS	-	51
UTILITY MODELS	-	18
THIRD-PARTY SEARCHES	-	38
PROMOTION	-	2
IP	-	135
PATENT OF ADDITION	-	12
STATUS	-	343
COPIES	-	50
DISPUTE	-	14
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN	-	233
GENERAL	-	212
PATENTS	-	1009
INTERNATIONAL	-	183
FEES	-	123
LEGAL	-	104

2018

## APPLICATIONS FOR THIRD-PARTY SEARCHES IN 2018



## QUALITY SEARCHES AND INNOVATION

OBI is the first national agency with more than 10 years' experience certified with an ISO 9001:2008 quality system, which contributes to organisational excellence and providing high quality services to inventors/creators. OBI's Quality Management System sets targets and identifies processes and the resources needed to achieve the desired results.

The ISO 9001 version used was upgraded to version 9001:2015 and for this reason OBI participated along with 3 other national offices (Spain, Portugal and Slovenia) in an improvement programme financed by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) along with the consultancy firm Deloitte. The Innovation Search and Promotion Department, which reports to OBI's Search Directorate, and carries out continuous checks and makes corrections to OBI's data, thereby helping improve the quality of data and thereby the quality of searches done, participated in a working group set up by OBI (Ref. No. 317/ΓΔ/5-2-2018) to carry out the specific project (Upgrading the OBI ISO 9001:2008 Management System to the ISO 9001:2015 version).

That upgrade was implemented within a short period of time (6 months) and OBI received warm congratulations from EUIPO. It should also be stressed that OBI is certified under ISO 14001 on environmental management which has been upgraded to the ISO 14001:2015 version.

At this juncture it is worth noting that since the start of 2018 283 national patent applications prior to granting were checked, 5,328 industrial title applications prior to publication were checked and 175 industrial titles were checked for correctness in terms of the title, summary and beneficiary.

Consequently, the Department handled 5,786 industrial titles in 2018 in various stages to carry out quality controls on their data, and 410 applications were corrected. The correction rate is about 7%.

Those checks are certified and form part of the OBI Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2008). The Department is also responsible for managing the ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 quality systems.

# Industrial Property Organisation

## Profile 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 Organisation has its registered offices in Paradissos, Amaroussiou. 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

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

In order to disseminate technological information, the Organisation:

- organises 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
- By putting forward proposals to the supervising authority on policies regarding industrial property and innovation

- By participating in European policy-making
- By informing the interested inventors (in businesses, research centres, Higher Education Institutes 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 Organisation (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 Harmonisation 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.



## 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:

- Receipt of submitted applications for the granting of industrial property titles, compiling search reports, granting and publishing of industrial property titles
- Registration of transfer technology contracts
- Issuing priority certificates and other certificates, attestations and copies of industrial property titles
- Receipt and processing of European, European Community and International Industrial Property Title applications
- Provision of technical information and consulting services
- Management of Industrial Property protection titles (fees, modifications, annulments, revocations)

OBI's 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:

### **President of the Administrative Council:**

Prodromos Tsiavos,  
Lawyer at the bar of 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

### **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

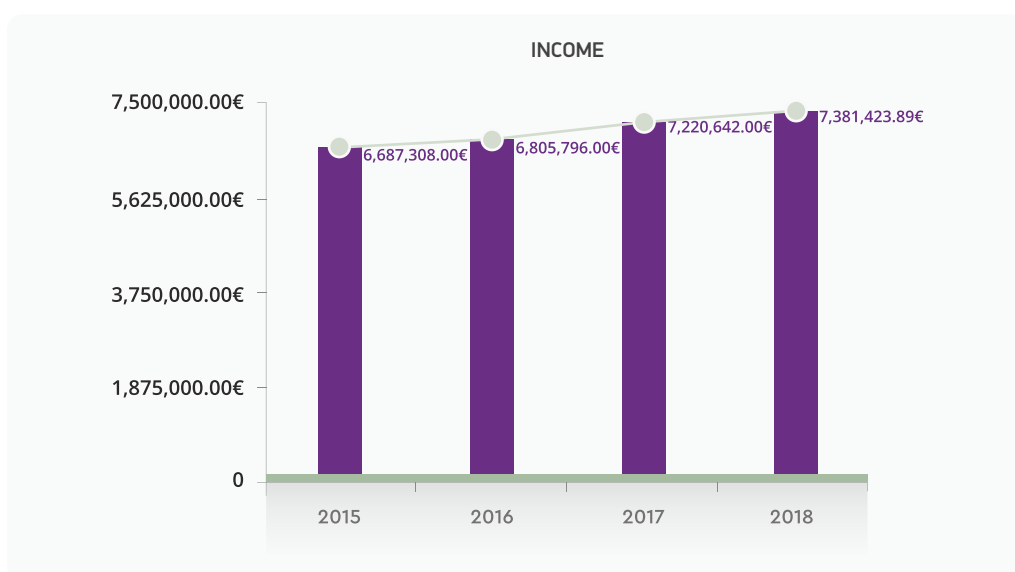
Lambros Pyrgiotis,  
Representative of the Technical Chamber of Greece

Dimitra Staikou,  
Employee's Representative of OBI

**Dr. Ioannis Kaplanis** has been Director General since 25.06.2015.

## ANNEX 1 FINANCIAL REPORT

YEARLY TOTAL	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
2015	6,687,308.00€	4,639,873.00€	2,047,435.00€
2016	6,805,796.00€	4,783,846.00€	2,021,951.00€
2017	7,220,642.00€	3,702,738.00€	3,517,904.00€
2018	7,381,423.89€	3,530,217.70€	3,851,206.19€



## ANNEX 2

### EUROPEAN PATENTS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	COUNTRY	EUROPEAN PATENTS
AD	ANDORRA	3
AE	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	10
AL	ALBANIA	
AN	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	4
AR	ARGENTINA	9
AT	AUSTRIA	323
AU	AUSTRALIA	183
AZ	AZERBAIJAN	1
BA	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	1
BB	BARBADOS	2
BD	BANGLADESH	5
BE	BELGIUM	668
BG	BULGARIA	9
BM	BERMUDA	29
BR	BRAZIL	21
BS	BAHAMAS	17
CA	CANADA	244
CH	SWITZERLAND	2135
CL	CHILE	9
CN	CHINA	265
CU	CUBA	15
CW	CURACAO	15
CY	CYPRUS	50
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC	38

DE	GERMANY	3664
DK	DENMARK	380
DZ	ALGERIA	1
EE	ESTONIA	5
EG	EGYPT	3
ES	SPAIN	536
FI	FINLAND	270
FO	FAROE ISLANDS	1
FR	FRANCE	1790
GB	UNITED KINGDOM (GREAT BRITAIN)	1216
GR	GREECE	129
HK	HONG KONG	13
HR	CROATIA	1
HU	HUNGARY	53
IE	IRELAND	200
IL	ISRAEL	243
IN	INDIA	115
IS	ICELAND	4
IT	ITALY	1884
JP	JAPAN	1254
KR	REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	401
KW	KUWAIT	1
KY	CAYMAN ISLANDS	11
LB	LEBANON	3
LI	LICHTENSTEIN	14
LK	SRI LANKA (CEYLON)	1
LT	LITHUANIA	2
LU	LUXEMBOURG	202
LV	LATVIA	4
MA	MOROCCO	1
MC	MONACO	15
MH	MARCHAL, INSULE	2
MT	MALTA	7
MU	MAURITIUS	6

ATHENS 2019

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## OBI

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**Hellenic  
Industrial  
Property  
Organisation**

5, Gianni Stavroulaki Str.  
(Former Pandanassis Str.)

Paradissos Amaroussiou


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