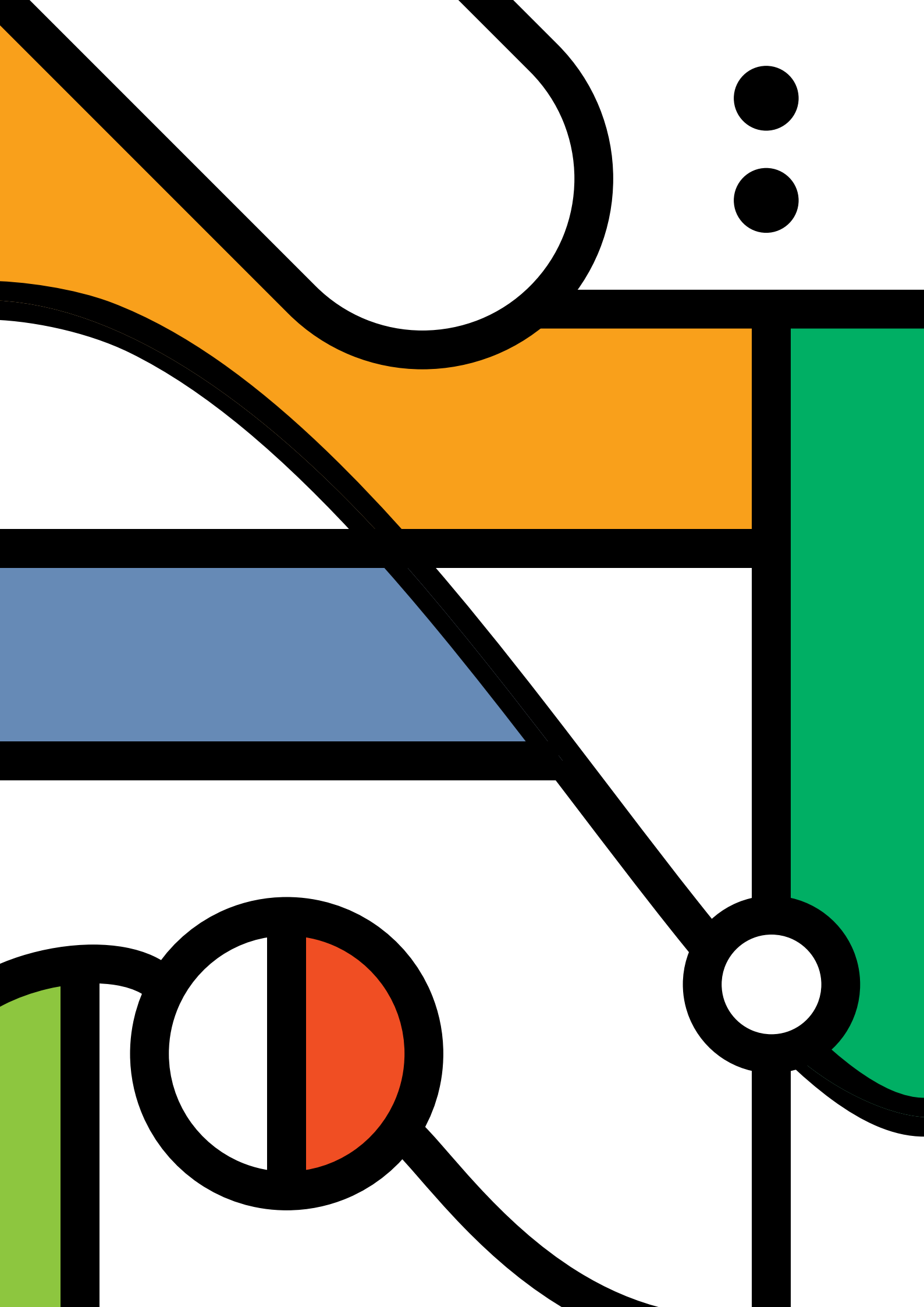


HELLENIC  
INDUSTRIAL  
PROPERTY  
ORGANISATION

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

National Institution for the Protection of  
Inventions, Trademarks and Industrial Designs.  
In addition, the Organisation provides  
technological information from published Patents.





## INTRODUCTION

2021 was clearly a milestone year for the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation. Perhaps it is the next milestone date after its foundation date in 1987.

The year was characterized by the transfer of responsibilities for Trademarks to the Organisation under Law 4796/2021, GG 63, 17.04.2021, Articles 33-48, and the concentration of all Industrial Property under the same roof. In the meantime, until the issuance of the confirmatory Ministerial Decision for the final and de facto transfer of competence, OBI worked intensively at all levels (information systems, infrastructure, staffing) in order to be fully prepared for this new subject matter.

Despite the pandemic, which imposed restrictions internationally throughout the year, OBI adapted to the conditions and sought solutions for its uninterrupted operation. The unobtrusive service of the users of the Industrial Property system was non-negotiable. The Organisation was provided with the necessary equipment to support remote work, with secure access to its information systems while complying with the state's directives.

OBI, aiming at the financial support of its applicants, not only maintained a temporary reduction of the Search Report fee by 33.33% throughout 2021, but also proceeded with a permanent reduction of the Research Report fee with a Written Opinion by 27%. The results of the reductions were clear: 2021 closed with a 20% increase in deposits. Moreover, it further improved its electronic services by upgrading the Industrial Design's management tool. Additionally, an e-services tool was implemented for the electronic submission of requests for the modification of Industrial Designs. This tool will start operating in early 2022.

In the same year, Hellenic Industrial Property Academy (EABI), an individual OBI service, consistent with its public mission, started the implementation of its educational programs.

Finally, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first Patent in Greece, and continuing the institution initiated by OBI in 2002, the 4th Greek Inventor Awards was held with particular success, honoring the innovative people of the country.

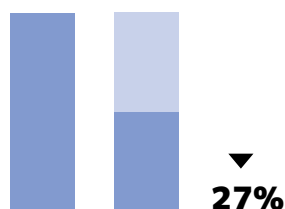
2021 opened a new, very important chapter for the Organisation, strengthening its actions and therefore its purpose as described in its founding law, i.e. «... to contribute to the technological and industrial development of the country, providing important services in the field of industrial property».

There were many demands and challenges during the year, but the determination of the executives of the Organisation was undiminished, always having as a guiding principle the development and prosperity of both the Organisation and the field of Industrial Property in our country.

**Panagiotis Kanellopoulos**  
**Director General**

## 1.1.21

The 27% fee reduction for drafting a Search Report with a Written Opinion comes into effect.



## 22.1.21-22.2.21

ECP 5 Project: As part of OBI's participation in the Ideas Powered & Authenticities projects of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) which aim to cultivate a mentality of buying exclusively authentic products among European citizens, the Organisation received for the second year approval from the National Council for Radio and Television (NCRTV) and continued the nation-wide promotion by television and radio stations of an informative video & radio spot with the actors S. Kalyvatsis and F. Tsakiri.

## 11.1.21

Commencement of the first application period for the EUR 20 million Ideas Powered for Business SME Fund which provides intellectual property vouchers to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) based in the European Union, in order to help them access and benefit from their Intellectual Property (IP) rights.

The project is open to all EU businesses that meet the official definition of an SME, offering financial support in the form of reimbursement of costs for trademark and design applications of up to EUR 1,500 per business.



## 4.2.21

Fashion & Luxury Law Course: Participation with a speaker in the online training program aimed at meeting the legal requirements of the fast-growing space of the luxury fashion industry in Greece.

## 18.2.21

Renewal of the cooperation agreement with the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Democritus University of Thrace.

15.3.21

The Social Media accounts of the Hellenic Industrial Property Academy are «on air».



19.3.21

Online seminar on Industrial Property at the Department of Economics of the University of Thessaly.

30.3.21

Hellenic Industrial Property Academy (HIPA): 2021 Action Plan & Lecture on the «4th Industrial Revolution & Industrial Property Rights» (Online event).

1.4.21

Renewal of the cooperation agreement with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Rhodes.

29.4.21

The website of the Hellenic Industrial Property Academy is «on air».



17.4.21

The Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation is the competent authority for Trademarks. The service consolidation will contribute to the institutional harmonization of our country with the practice of all other countries as well as to the simplification of procedures and the further promotion of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Establishing a single national authority will facilitate the formulation of a uniform and unified national policy for all intellectual property rights contributing to the development of the National Economy.



19.5.21

OBI renewed its certification by an accredited external body for 3 years, obtaining ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and ELOT 1429 Certificates.

The aim of the standards is to ensure a reliable level of quality in the services provided, in order to maintain continuously satisfied employees and users of its services. At the same time, they demonstrate the organisation's ability to consistently respond to and exceed the expectations of its users.



JUN

21

10.6.21

Digital tour to the University of the Aegean / Special Account for Research Funds / Office of Technology Transfer.

23.6.21

4th Greek Inventor Awards Ceremony: The 4th Greek Inventor Awarding was held with great success in the presence of the Minister of Development & Investments, Mr. Adonis Georgiadis along with representatives of the political, research, academic and economic life of the country.

The distinguished inventors were awarded on 23 June 2021, in a ceremony held at the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA).



JUL

21

9.7.21

Online seminar in cooperation with the University of the Aegean / Special Account for Research Funds / Technology Transfer Office.

20.7.21

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Municipality of Mykonos within the EUIPO Authenticities Project: For two years, the Municipality of Mykonos, the local bodies of the island, the permanent residents and the multitude of visitors to Mykonos will work together to highlight and certify Mykonos as «authentic/authenticity Mykonos».

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by OBI's Director General, Mr. Panagiotis Kanellopoulos and the Mayor of Mykonos, Mr. Konstantinos Koukas.



## 7.8.21

Anniversary book edition: On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution, OBI published a historical publication entitled «In Greece of 1825. The Diaries of Three European Voluntary Travelers». This precious edition was printed in 500 numbered copies.

## SEP

## 21

## 9.9.21

Renewal of the cooperation agreement with the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## 11-19.9.21

The Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) participated in the 85th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), the first Covid Free exhibition with a face-to-face presence in Europe. The Fair was of particular importance as it marked the restart of all productive activities and was dedicated to Greece, with its central theme being the Past, Present and Future of the country, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution.

As part of the Fair, OBI organized an event on Saturday, 11 September, titled «Innovation and Development from the Utilization of Research Achievements in Greece» which was honored with an opening speech by the Minister of Development and Investments, Mr. Adonis Georgiadis, and the Deputy Minister of Development and Investments, Mr. Nikos Papathanasis.

## 13-14 &amp; 17-18.9.21

Street events Authenticity Thessaloniki: As part of OBI's participation in the Authenticities Project of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), both residents and visitors of Thessaloniki had the opportunity to be informed and enjoy themselves at the musical street events organized in Aristotelous Square.

With live music by the music group Blonge and DJ Stelios Gala as well as the distribution of informative material and promotional gifts, Thessaloniki has maintained the pulse of the «Authentic City» by promoting the message «The authentic is eternal».

OBI, the Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Regional Unit of Thessaloniki continued their cooperation with the aim of raising awareness of the citizens and visitors of the city in matters related to the fight against illicit trade.

## 22-24.9.21

OBI participated in the organisation of the KU Leuven Summer School: The 6th Summer School of Data and Algorithms, concerning Science, Technology and Innovation Studies, took place in Thessaloniki. The opening event was honored with a speech by the President of the Hellenic Industrial Property Academy, Professor of AUTH and Member of the Administrative Council of OBI, Mr. Ioannis Katsogiannis.

**10.10.21**

Renewal of cooperation agreement with the Epirus Science and Technology Park.

**16.10.21**

Renewal of the cooperation agreement with the Chamber of Heraklion of Crete.

**13-17.10.21**

Thessaloniki Design Week: The Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation participated in the 2nd Thessaloniki Design Week, focusing on «Innovation in Design».

OBI had a strong presence in the actions with a stand, as well as an event on 15 October with the theme «Protection of Design. The Road to Market». OBI also sponsored the Small-Scale Awards on 16 October.

The Small-Scale Awards to the finalists who stood out with selected innovative industrial design proposals were awarded by Prof. Ioannis Katsogiannis and Mr. Aristides Pittaras, OBI Director for Applications & Grants.

**14-17.10.21**

BEYOND 4.0 Expo: OBI participated with a booth and specialized staff in the BEYOND 4.0 Innovation and Technology Expo. The exhibition gave the opportunity to companies from all over the world to present their innovative products and services, providing also the opportunity to conclude important agreements with visitors from Greece and abroad.

**13.10.21-16.12.21**

ECP6 Project: Within the framework of the bilateral cooperation between OBI and EUIPO for the year 2021, a video was produced and disseminated in order to provide information about all benefits arising from intellectual property rights addressed to young entrepreneurs, Startups, industrial designers and to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

This promo video, starring A. Antoniou and I. Papamatthaiou, was disseminated at a national level through social networks. Dissemination of the campaign took place nationwide, through Social Media.

**4.11.21**

Seminar on the «Protection of Patents at National and European Level» in collaboration with the Association of Greek Chemists and the European Patent Office (EPO).

**9.11.21**

Seminar on the "Protection of Patents at National and European Level" in collaboration with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) and EPO.



25.11.21	30.11.21
<p>"Seminar on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Support IP Rights Enforcement Principles in identifying infringing products". This seminar took place in Thessaloniki, in cooperation with the Municipality of Thessaloniki and EUIPO under the Authenticity program.</p>	<p>The edition of all Documents is now certified electronically with a digital signature and is sent directly to the interested parties.</p>
DEC	21
2.12.21	4.12.21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewal of cooperation agreement with the Thessaloniki Chamber of Tradesmen.</li> <li>• "Seminar on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)». Supporting law enforcement in identifying products that infringe rights". This seminar took place in Kavala, in cooperation with the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights (EUIPO).</li> </ul>	<p>Ratification of Annex XV of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of Specialized Agencies, in relation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (A/ 243, 04.12.2021).</p>
4-6.12.21	
<p>OBI participated with a virtual information booth in the 7th Exhibition of Innovation &amp; Technology Transfer (PATRAS IQ).</p>	
<p>This was the first exhibition to be held virtually with the use of parallel digital communication. The exhibition responded to the increased needs of the new reality and aimed to develop and strengthen the cooperation between the research community and the production sector.</p>	
11.12.21-18.12.21	
<p>Authenticity Street events in Thessaloniki: As part of OBI's participation in the EUIPO Authenticity program, in December, both the residents and visitors of Thessaloniki had the opportunity to learn and have fun. OBI in collaboration with the Municipality of Thessaloniki, organized Street Events at Agia Sofia pedestrian area, with live music by DJ Giannis Tsiminas who entertained with his Christmas melodies the residents and visitors of the city.</p>	<p>Mobile app Authenticity Thess: This application is free of charge and offers real-time incident reporting regarding the production and illicit trade of counterfeit goods in Thessaloniki and the wider region. In December there was an increase by 30% in the number of reports compared to last year.</p>



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# STATISTICS 2021

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OBI participates and is represented in the Standing Committee on Patent Law (SCP), the General Assembly and the Working Groups of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as well as the Working Groups of the

- European Patent Office (EPO)
- European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)
- EU Observatory on IPR Enforcement

by preparing proposals on current industrial property issues, exchanging views, and discussing issues of convergence of practices among Patent Law Offices.

## PRELIMINARY SEARCH

63 preliminary searches were carried out.

63

## DIGITAL VISITS

14 1:1 Remote visits to SMEs.  
Total Stakeholders Served by One Stop Shop: 2427.

2427

## HOURS OF TRAINING

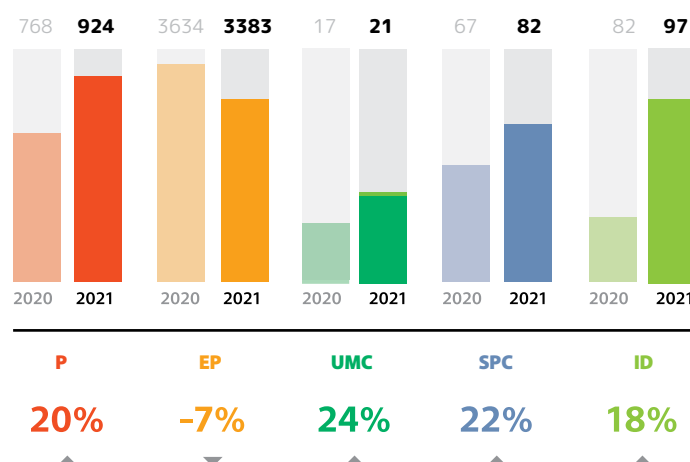
917 hours of training on technical and research themes on industrial & intellectual property, as well as corporate culture issues.

917

## INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY TITLES (FILINGS)

### In 2021 there was a significant increase in filings of almost all protection titles.

This increase is mainly due to the reduction of the search report fee by 33%, the tax incentives introduced for companies, the increased public awareness in recent years about the benefits arising from industrial property protection through visits to educational institutions, participation in online workshops, inventor awards, etc., the targeted partnerships of OBI with bodies / institutions that promote innovation as a driving force of economic growth but also public's (and applicant's) familiarization with online applications.



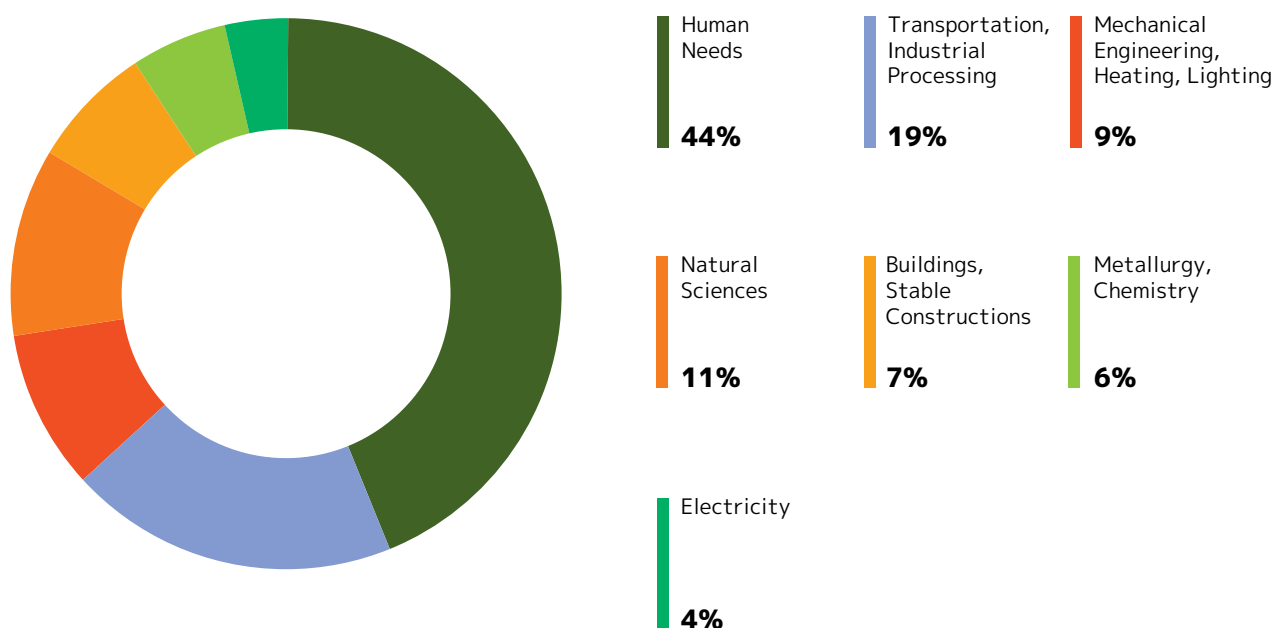
## SEARCH REPORTS

In 2021, search reports for almost all patent applications were completed before twelve (12) months had elapsed since filing, so that the applicant has the time to decide on the prospective protection of his/her invention abroad by deriving Priority rights.

The 329 patent applications examined by the three scientific staff departments of the Organisation (Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical/Biotechnological Inventions Dept.) referred to the whole spectrum of science and technology, and their categorization according to technological fields together with the corresponding percentage of all application is shown in the diagram below.

In 2021, the Human Needs sector, as shown in the diagram below, was ranked first regarding the number of applications by a considerable margin, with a percentage of 44% of all applications.

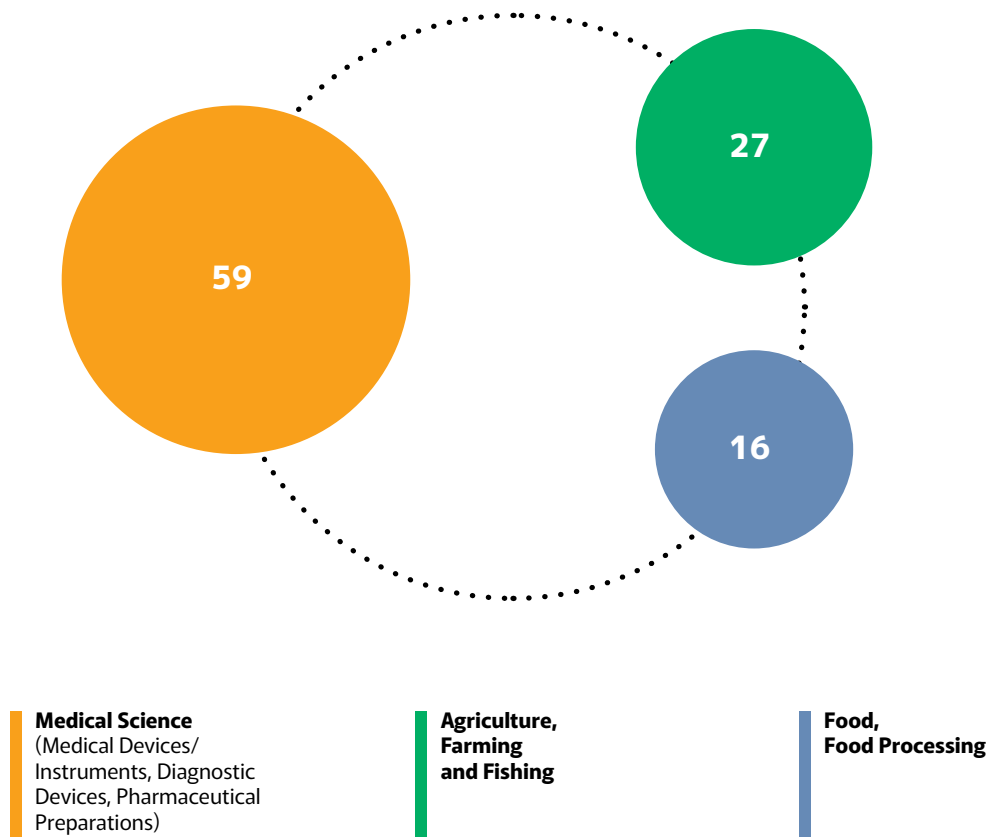
Further analysis of the Human Needs sector reveals that the majority of applications referred to the following 3 technological fields:



## STATISTICS

21

**Absolute number of patent applications for the first three fields comprising «Human Needs»:**



In 2021, some basic internal processes were modernized and automated by developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

A Working Group with expertise on this field, studied, designed and finally developed an Artificial Intelligence System and in particular a Neural Network which will at first read the incoming patent applications and direct them internally to the competent departments depending on their technical content.

Development and successful control of the system has been completed and is expected to be implemented in 2022, a fact that will significantly shorten the time taken to complete several processes. At a later stage, this system will be extended to be used as a research tool and enable the work of the Organisation's examiners when examining national patent applications.

## P - COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



GREECE

BELGIUM

CANADA

SWITZERLAND

CYPRUS

GERMANY

DENMARK

SPAIN

FRANCE

UNITED KINGDOM

IRELAND

ISRAEL

ITALY

JAPAN

REPUBLIC  
OF KOREA

CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE NETHERLANDS

NORWAY

RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION

SWEDEN

UNITED STATES

SOUTH AFRICA

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA

CZECH REPUBLIC

MALTA

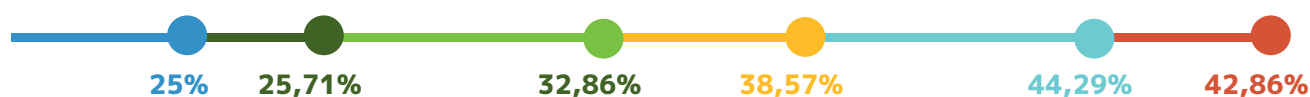
REPUBLIC  
OF SINGAPORE

SEPARATE CUSTOMS  
TERRITORY OF TAIWAN,  
PENGHU, KINMEN AND  
MATSU

EP - FILLINGS IN GREECE



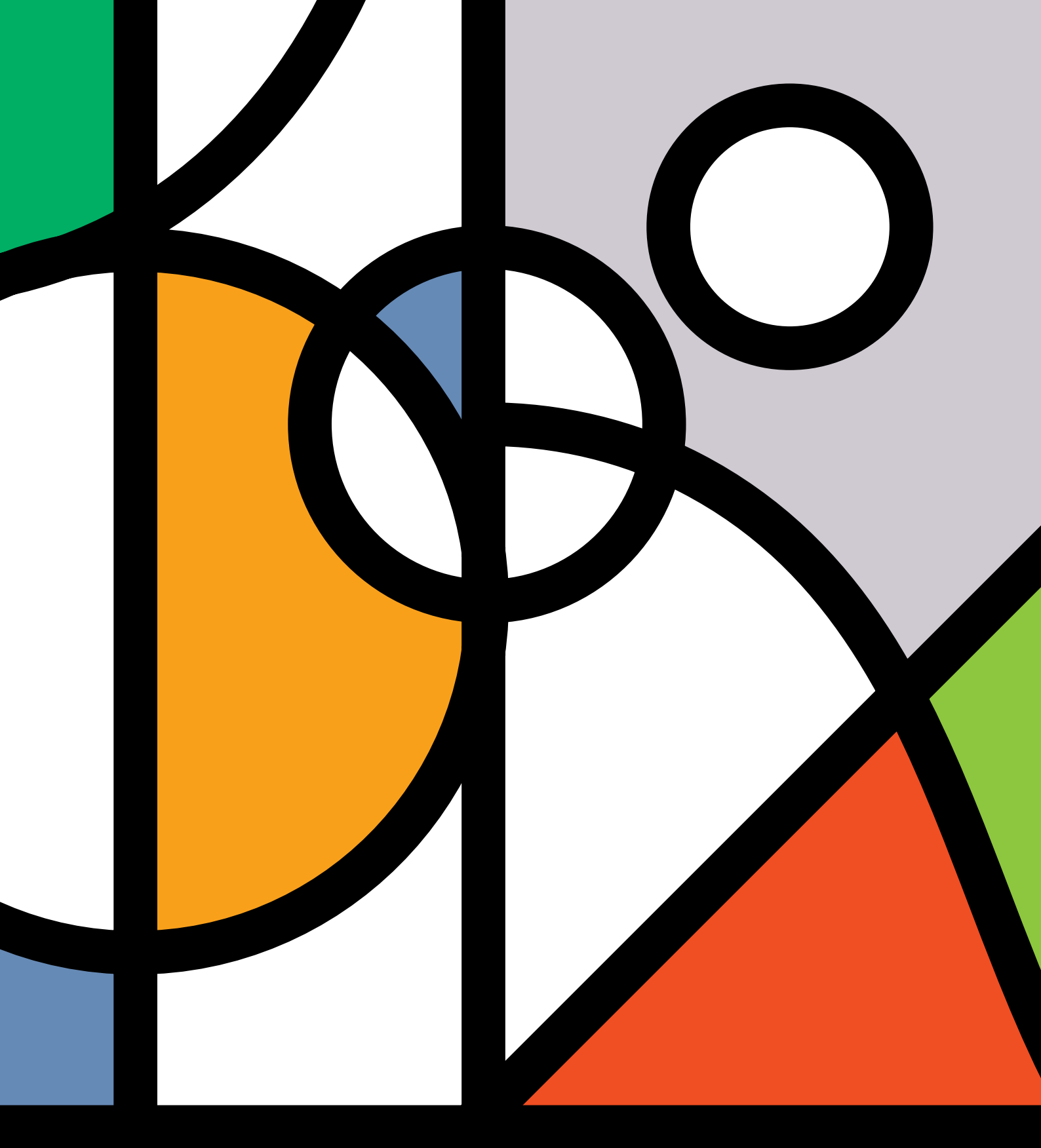
## OPINION OF THE PUBLIC



- Excellent impression from their first contact with OBI **28,57 %**
- Very good impression from their first contact with OBI **44,29 %**
- Extremely satisfied with the quality/reliability of the services of the Organisation **42,86 %**
- Very satisfied with the quality/reliability of the services of the Organisation **38,57 %**
- Extremely satisfied with the time of implementation of its services **25,71 %**
- Very satisfied with the time of implementation of its services **32,86 %**

## ABBREVIATIONS

_____	<b>P</b>	Patent
_____	<b>UMC</b>	Utility Model Certificate
_____	<b>SPC</b>	Supplementary Protection Certificate
_____	<b>ID</b>	Industrial design
_____	<b>EP</b>	European Patent
_____	<b>IND.P.</b>	Industrial Property
_____	<b>IP</b>	Intellectual Property



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