

HELLENIC  
INDUSTRIAL  
PROPERTY  
ORGANISATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

OBI

National institution for the protection  
of inventions & industrial  
designs and for the provision of technological  
information



## **PREFACE**

2019 was an exceptionally dynamic year for the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation, which was highlighted by the change of leadership with the assumption of the duties of Director General by Mr. Panagiotis Kanellopoulos and Chairman of the Administrative Council by Mr. Dimitrios Chronis, the establishment of the Hellenic Industrial Property Academy and the introduction of the Electronic Filing for all Industrial Property titles.

The Minister of Development and Investments, Mr. Adonis Georgiadis, in the framework of the inaugural event for the Hellenic Industrial Property Academy (10.9.19) stated: "There is no doubt that, over time, OBI has shown very important work. This self-financed Organisation has contributed to the change of mentality in Greece, to the restructuring of patents and industrial production.

Cooperation with partners abroad has always been very harmonious and will continue in the future in an even more harmonious way, because the goal for the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation is to progress along with the respective European Union Organisations and all together to serve the common good.

After all, intellectual property is a field that ultimately produces enormous added value and great wealth for the whole European economy, an aspect that we must maintain and strengthen."

2019 is a milestone year, just shy of the completion of 100 years since the filing of the first patent in 1920 and, as the Minister of Development and Investments pointed out, OBI is moving forward by modernizing both its services and the wider area of Industrial Property.

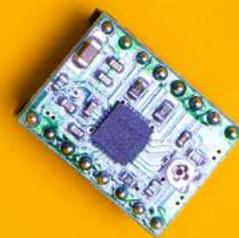
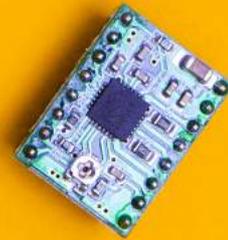
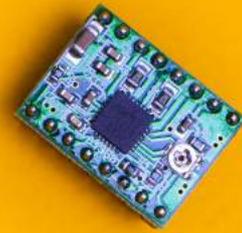
## **ELECTRONIC FILING**

On April 15th, 2019, the new Electronic Filing application was made available to the public.

E-filing is a modern system that aims to better serve stakeholders as part of the integrated planning of the Organisation to modernize and improve its relationships with inventors and designers.

Applications for all Industrial Property titles, as well as payments, are now made **ONLY** electronically through the new system, at <https://efiling.obl.gr>.

# INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION



## HELLENIC INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ACADEMY

It is a self-sustained Office of the Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) and has a public mission for the development of an Industrial Property ecosystem in Greece.

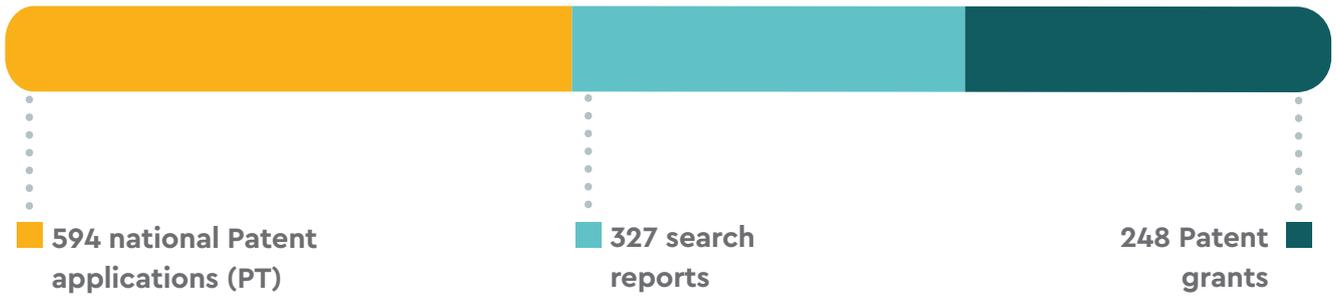
The establishment of the Academy aims at the development of a national education and training system in the field of industrial property, offering equal access to educational opportunities in Greek, European and International industrial property law.

Aim of the Academy is to strengthen Greek innovation with the improvement of users' skills by organizing courses, conferences, seminars, workshops as well as educational programs based on distance learning technologies (e-learning).

**will  
operate in  
collaboration with:**

- The European Patent Academy of the European Patent Organisation (EPO).
- Peer Academies of other countries.
- The European Patent Office (EPO).
- Universities and Academic Institutions in Greece and abroad.
- International Organisations in charge of related research and educational programs.

# ANNUAL DATA

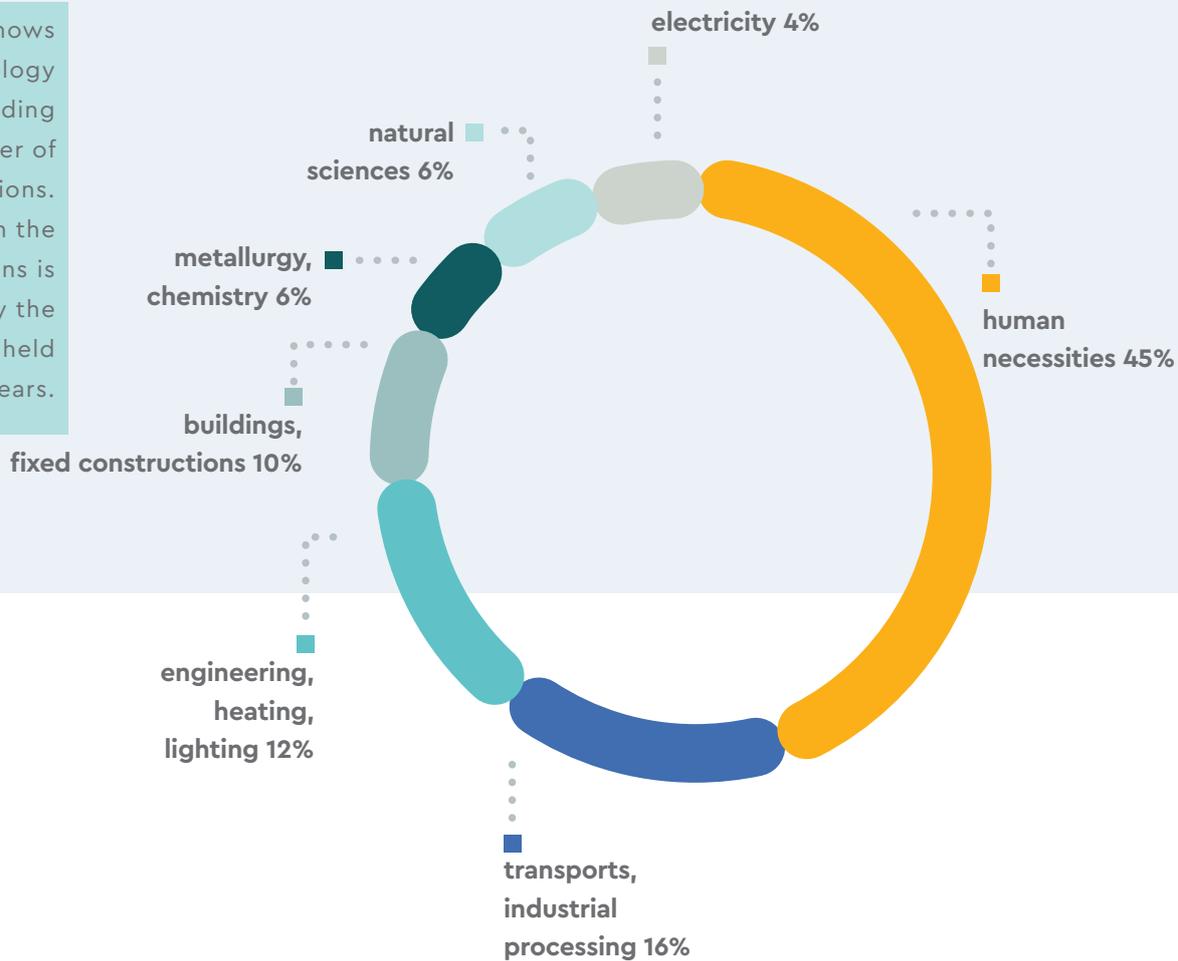


The 327 PT applications that were examined referred to the whole spectrum of science and technology.

## INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY TITLES (FILINGS)

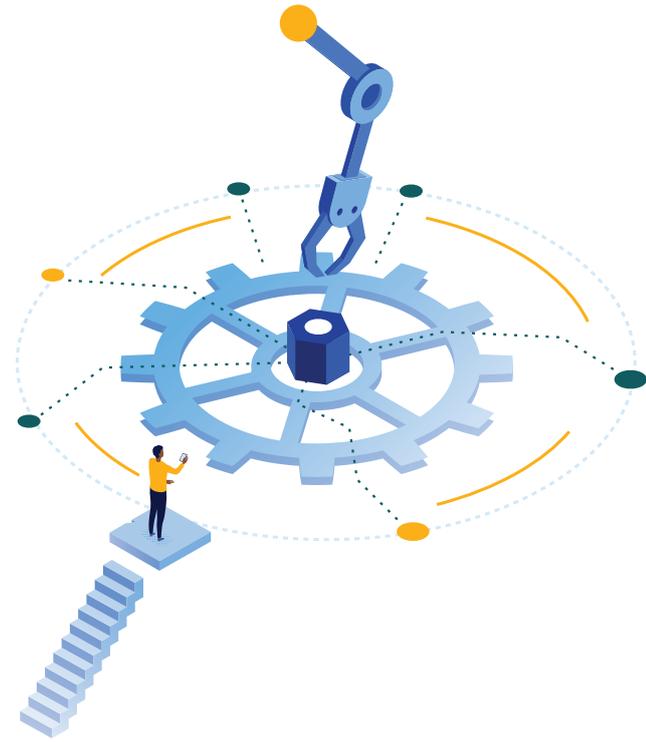
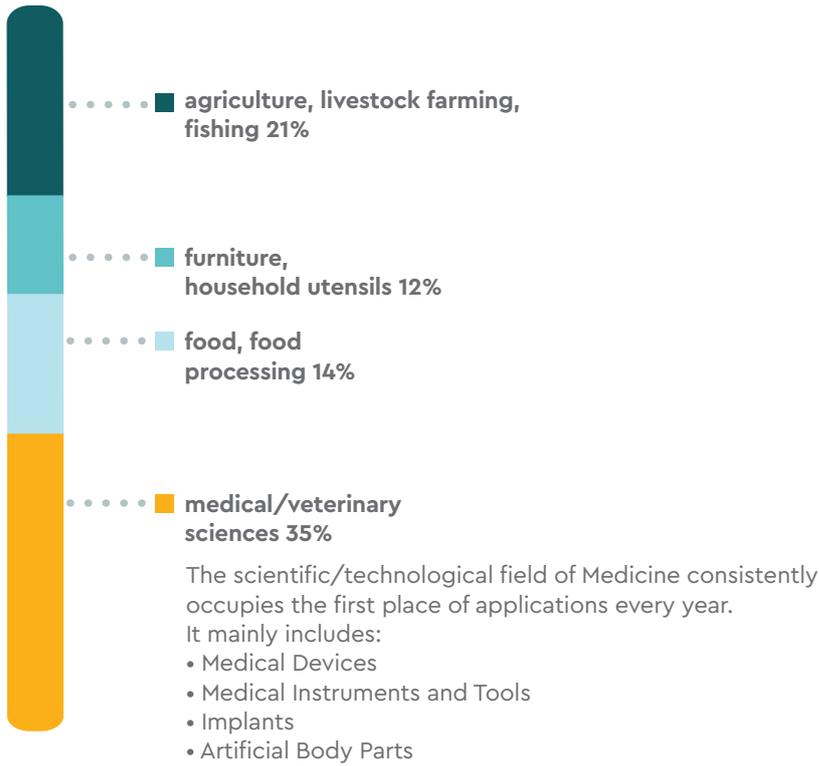
* 2019	PT	UMC	SPC	ID
	594	28	74	86

The adjacent diagram shows a breakdown in technology sectors, with the corresponding percentage on the total number of applications. For 2019, the first place in the number of PT applications is occupied by a large margin by the Human Needs sector, a place held steadily for the last 15 years.

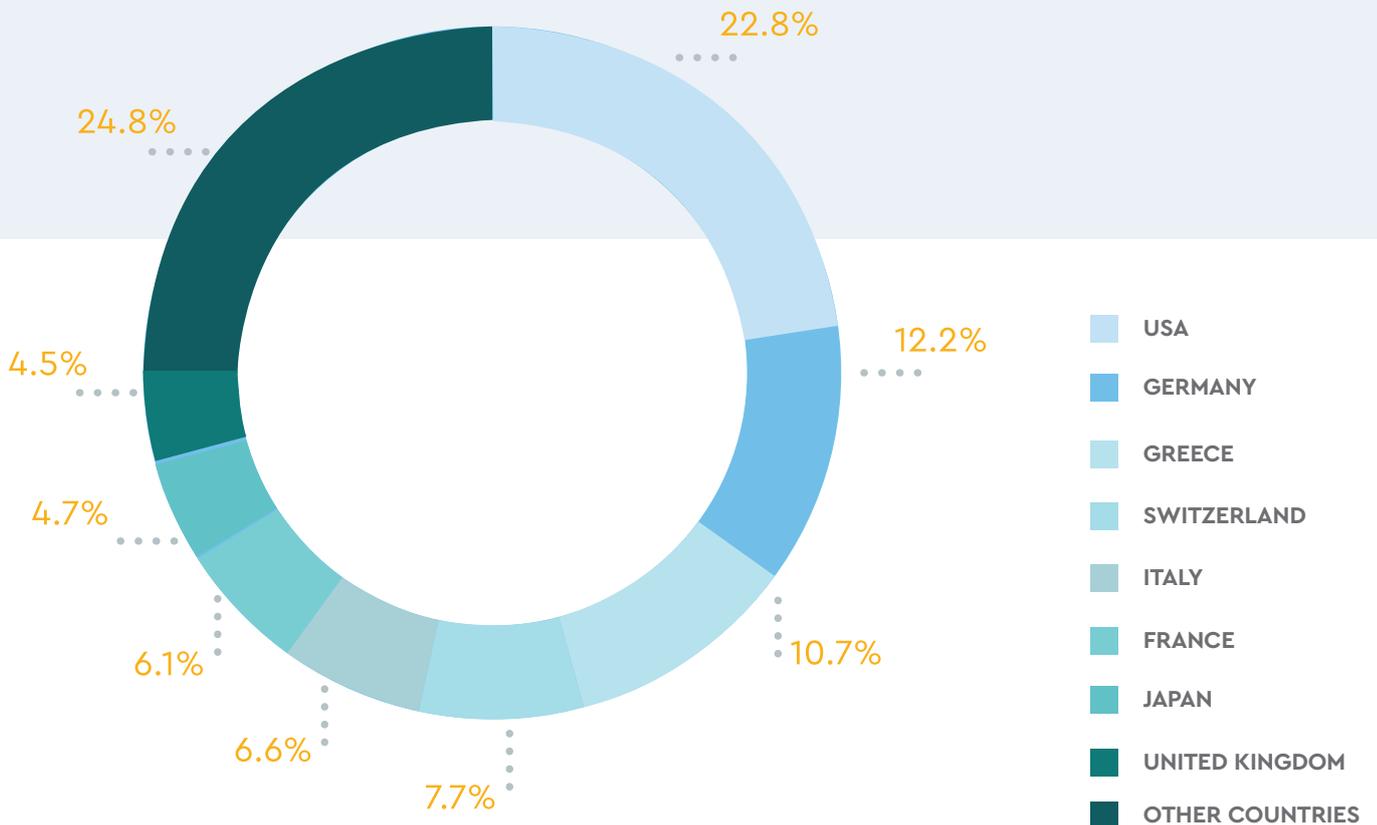


## 62 pre-searches were conducted

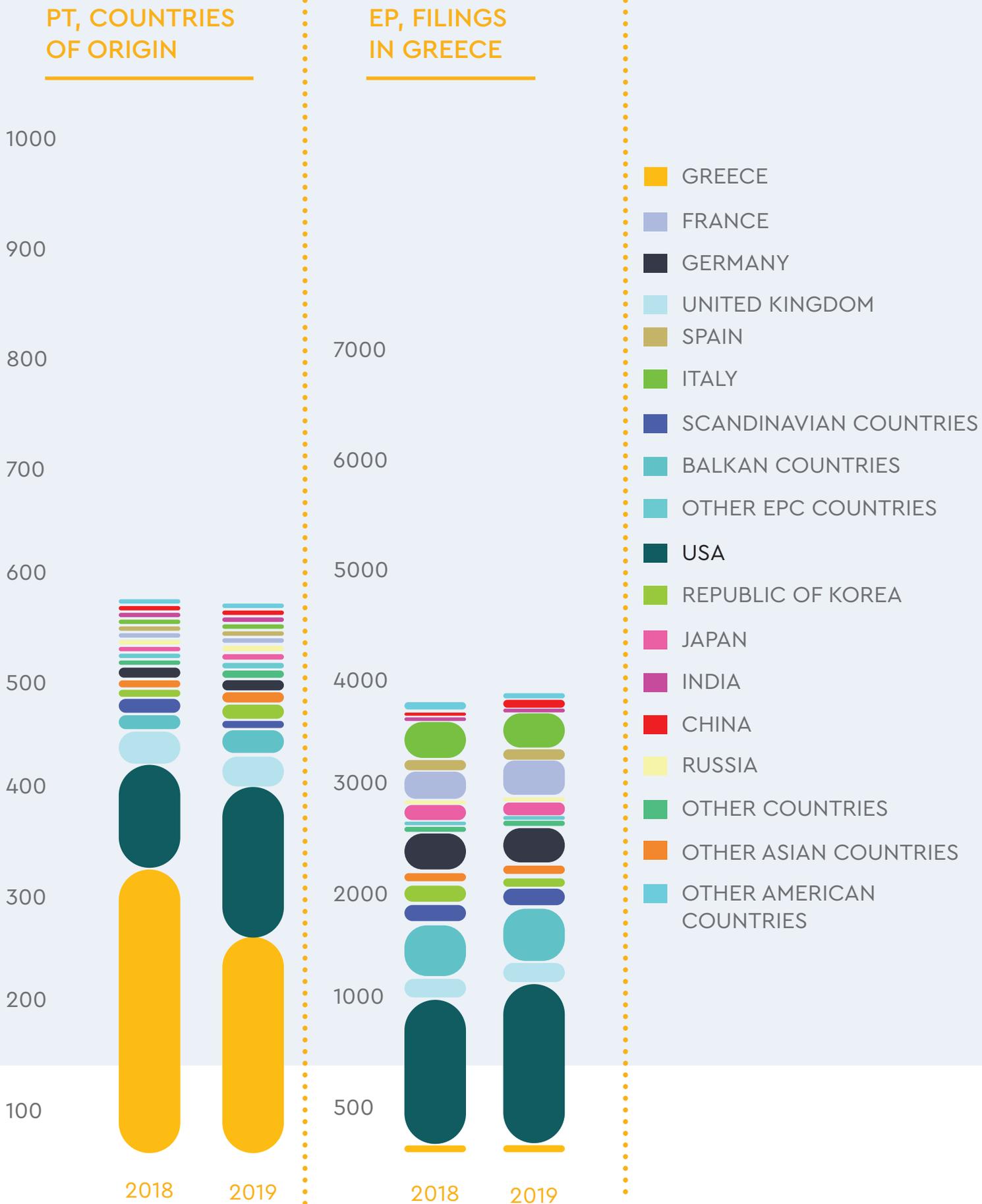
Analyzing the human necessities sector, we observe that the main technological fields that form this sector are the following:



## EUROPEAN PATENTS THAT ARE VALID IN GREECE BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (02.01.2020)



# COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN 2018–2019



## EVENTS

### **Informative Events and Exhibitions:**

17 events in collaboration with Universities, International Organizations and Research Institutions

### **Informative Events addressed to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises:**

7 events and 24 SMEs visits with regard to the VIP4SME project as well as presentation of the "IA Management tool" for managing Intellectual Capital.

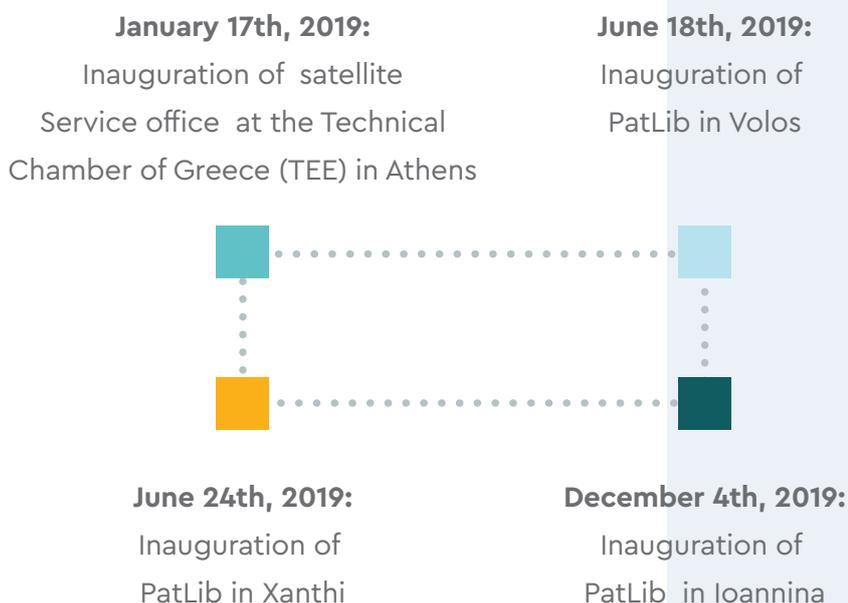
## **ATHENS XCLUSIVE DESIGNERS WEEK, 27–31.3.19, Zappeio Megaron**

For the first time, as part of the Ideas Powered Project of the EU Observatory, OBI participated in the 25th "Athens Xclusive Designers Week", with a pioneering event. From 27.03.2019 to 31.03.2019, the Organisation, in collaboration with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights, participated in the Greek Fashion Week, aiming to raise awareness against copying and counterfeiting of products.

In the context of the event which was held at Zappeion Megaron, the public had the opportunity to watch a fashion show exclusively dedicated to the #FightFake campaign. The main goal of this live campaign was to deliver a strong message against copying and to strengthen and encourage the fight against it. To inform young – and not only – designers, manufacturers, consumers of fashion products (such as clothes, shoes, accessories) about Intellectual Property, aiming to understand and invest in a healthy behavior of original goods' consumption. To promote them as talented innovative designers for whom Intellectual Property is a key intangible asset and IP rights stand as financial assets.

## **OBI IN THE REGION**

The Organisation expanded its customer contact points in the Region, inaugurating four new regional sub-Offices (PatLibs):





## COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

- Signing of a Cooperation Agreement between the Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) and the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EVETH).
- Signing of a Cooperation Agreement with the Network of Industry Associations of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.
- Signing of a Cooperation Agreement with the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH).
- Memorandum of Understanding between WIPO – OBI – Industrial Property Academy aimed at certified training and research in Industrial Property (signed in Geneva).
- Signing of a Cooperation Agreement between OBI and the H2B HUB of the Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Signing of a Cooperation Agreement between OBI and the Science & Technology Park of Epirus S.A.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

- Law No. 4605/2019 – Government Gazette 52/1–4–2019 “Harmonization of Greek legislation with Directive (EU) 2016/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on the protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure (OJ L 157, 15.6.2016). Measures to accelerate the work carried out by the Ministry of Economy and Development and other provisions”.
- Draft Ministerial Decision regarding the “Implementation at OBI of the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/933 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 amending Regulation (EC) No. 469/2009 concerning the supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products”.
- Reform and modernization of the legal framework regarding the taxation of enterprises that use patents in their production. Specifically, under article 71A of Law No. 4172/13, a company's profits from the sale of products, for the production of which an internationally recognized patent was used, are exempt from income tax for 3 consecutive years.  
In 2019, OBI received 9 applications for inclusion in article 71A of Law No. 4172/13 in order for the business applicants to benefit from the tax exemption (OBI tax incentives).

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Visit of the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO),

**Dr. Francis Gurry, March 20–21, 2019**

High-level meeting on Intellectual Property (IP) in the presence of General Secretaries of the Greek Administration and representatives of OBI and OPI, where were discussed ways to promote a developmental agenda for all aspects of Intellectual Property in Greece.

### Visit of the Chinese Delegation, September 23, 2019

A delegation from the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) met with OBI's officials aiming at collaborating on technology transfer, exchange of best practices, co-organization of trainings and events to raise public and user awareness on industrial property issues. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two Offices.

OBI also participated in the following:

- 59th General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), where an amendment to Rule 69.1 (a) of the PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) was adopted, increasing the time available for the start of the international preliminary examination.
- WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Patents, where patent law issues are discussed.
- Working Party on Intellectual Property of the Council of the European Union.
- EPO Patent Law Committee, where issues of convergence practices of industrial property offices are discussed and the amendment of the rules of the Munich Convention for the improvement of procedures before the EPO.
- European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights.
- Meeting of Expert Group on the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights of the European Commission.
- Meeting of Expert Group on intellectual property strategy of the European Commission.



■ In total, 1,295 hours of training were provided.

## ISO CERTIFICATIONS

OBI has been certified by approved external bodies with ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 and ELOT 1429 Certificates.

## OPINION OF THE PUBLIC FOR OBI IN 2019



excellent impression from their first contact with OBI



Very Good impression from their first contact with OBI

extremely satisfied with the time of implementation of its services



very satisfied with the time of implementation of its services



extremely satisfied with the quality/reliability of the services of the Organisation



very satisfied with the quality/reliability of the services of the Organisation





# HELLENIC INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION

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## \* ABBREVIATIONS

PT: Patents

UMC: Utility Model Certificates

SPC: Supplementary Protection Certificates

ID: Industrial Designs

EP: European Patents

