



ANNUAL REPORT

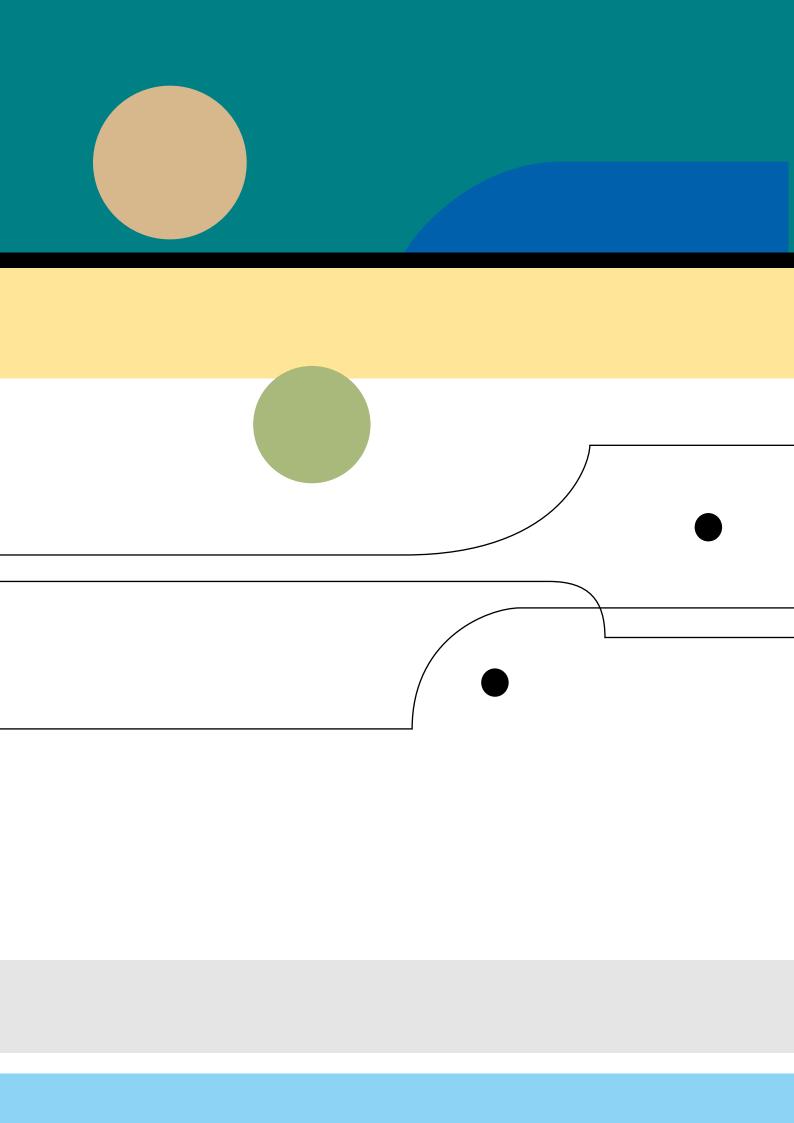
20**24**

National Institution for the Protection of Inventions, Trademarks and Industrial Designs. Source of technological information from published Patents.



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Panagiotis Kanellopoulos Director General



Preface

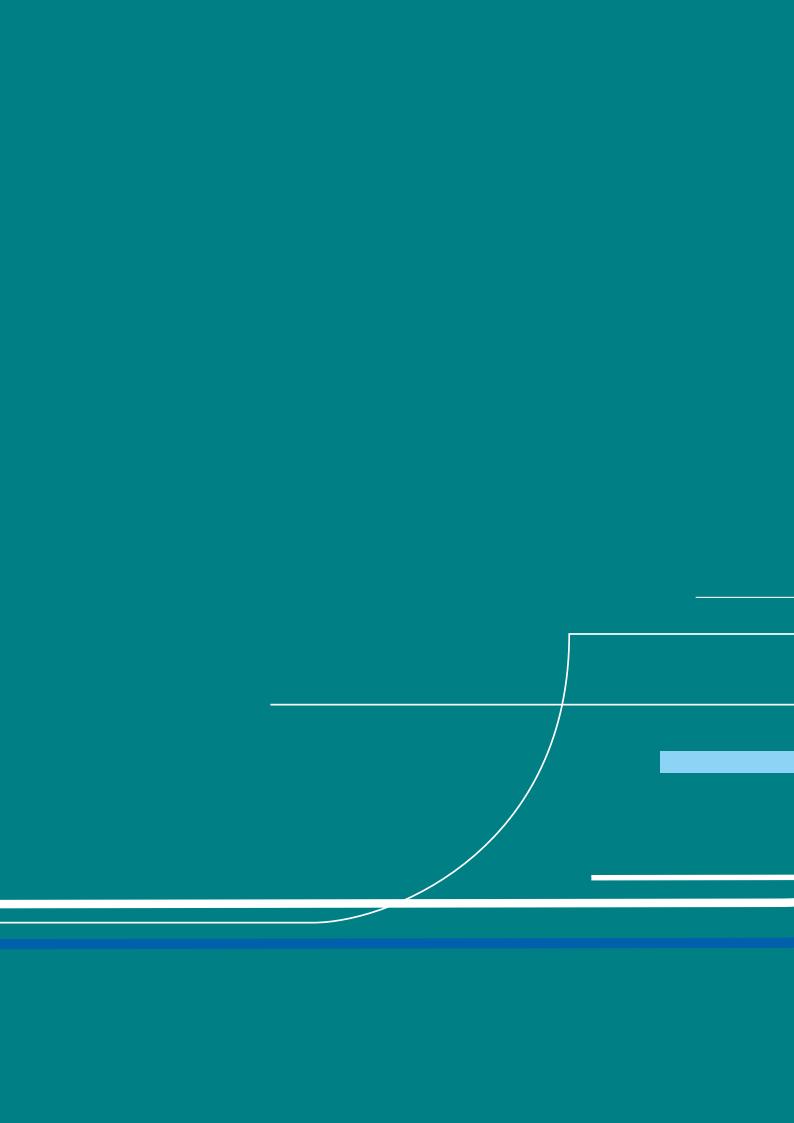
The year 2024 was one of dynamic growth, substantial initiatives, and creative outreach for the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI). With dedication to our mission to foster innovation, protect creativity, and support businesses -especially small and medium-sized enterprises- we advanced steadily with actions of high added value for the national economy and society.

Through collaborations with European and International organisations, we upgraded our services by utilizing modern tools, training programmes, and technological platforms. The co-organisation of the exhibition "Technology vs Fire. Inventions Helping us Build a Better World" with the European Patent Office (EPO), as well as the successful hosting of the annual meeting "Intellectual Property in Education", demonstrate our commitment to promoting intellectual property in key areas of social life.

At the same time, we continued the Authenticity programme with strong momentum, expanding awareness and training initiatives for combating counterfeiting and piracy, while strengthening our regional presence with new offices and targeted actions.

Finally, in terms of numbers, applications for national patents remained at the consistently high levels of the past three years, while applications for trademark protection continued their upward trajectory, reaching a new record.

OBI invests in the future with consistency, high-quality services, and dedication to its mission. The annual report that follows is evidence of this progress and a promise that we will continue to work with vision for a Greece that is innovative, competitive, and creative.



The highlights of the year

«Technology in the Fight Against Fires: Inventions Helping Us Build a Better World»

The European Patent Office (EPO), in collaboration with the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI), showcased in a dedicated exhibition the latest technological innovations and the wealth of technical information contained in patents featured on the EPO's specialized platform — a platform developed and launched to help protect the planet and its people from the devastating impact of recurring wildfires.

Within the framework of this unique interactive exhibition, cuttingedge technologies for fire prevention, protection, suppression, and post-fire restoration were presented for the first time, with the ultimate goal of maintaining the planet's ecological balance for future generations.

Patent examiners from the EPO joined forces with examiners and analysts from the national patent offices of Greece, Spain, Portugal, France, and Italy, with the objective of consolidating all relevant patent data and queries concerning firefighting technologies. The specialized platform created through this collaboration authorities and aims to better equip local national governments to prevent the destruction witnessed in previous years, while also facilitating knowledge sharing. By enabling the exchange of world-class patent information, the platform provides users with critical data and resources related to existing technologies — empowering scientists, innovators, and policymakers to develop new insights, breakthrough ideas, and meaningful partnerships.

The Director General of OBI, Mr. Panagiotis Kanellopoulos, stated:

"Research and innovation are at the forefront of forest fire prevention and response. Climate change is confronting the



world with increasingly extreme phenomena. The EPO Exhibition, in collaboration with OBI, held in Athens — at the heart of the Mediterranean — symbolizes the crucial role of the Intellectual Property system in promoting new technologies in the fight against fires."

The exhibition, organized with the valuable support of the Hellenic Fire Service, the National Observatory of Athens, and the Agricultural University of Athens, focused on four main areas:

- Fire detection and prevention
- Firefighting
- Protective equipment
- · post-fire restoration

IP in Education Annual Meeting

OBI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, the Hellenic Copyright Organization (OPI), and EUIPO, organized and hosted the Annual Meeting of representatives from national Intellectual Property offices across Europe, along with corresponding educational institutions, focusing on Intellectual Property in Education.

The meeting took place in Heraklion, Crete, and saw the participation of approximately 45 delegates from 24 countries, including officials and representatives from the EU, WIPO, the EPO, the

Copyright Information and Anti-Piracy Centre (CIAPC), the Cumulus Association Online, the European Inventor Network (EIN) Online, the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), the OECD, and others.

During the Annual Meeting, best practices for promoting Intellectual Property in Education were discussed. In parallel, several training sessions on the services of OBI and OPI were held, targeting school counselors in Heraklion, Crete.

AUTHENTICITIES Project

AUTHENTICITY THESSALONIKI - Promotional Actions

During the Thessaloniki International Fair and throughout the Christmas period, musical events were organized to promote the "Authenticity Thessaloniki" project along the lively pedestrian street of Agia Sofia.

Visitors enjoyed the musical performances while simultaneously being informed about the project at a dedicated information booth, where they also received small commemorative gifts.



Seminars Addressed to Enforcement Authorities in Thessaloniki & Corfu

Through these seminars, OBI contributes to the work of enforcement authorities in Thessaloniki and Corfu. The enforcement of Intellectual Property rights is a key priority for OBI, as the competent authority for the registration of Industrial Property.

According to an EUIPO study on the economic impact of counterfeit products in the clothing, cosmetics, and gaming sectors (published January 2024, covering 2011–2018):







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- Clothing: €12 billion lost annually on average, representing 5.2% of European clothing sales, resulting in approximately 160,000 lost jobs per year.
- Cosmetics: 4.8% of sales lost, corresponding to €3 billion in revenue and 32,000 jobs.
- Gaming: 8.7% of sales lost, totaling €1 billion in revenue and 3,600 jobs.

The sale of counterfeit products negatively affects consumers,

companies, and the economy. Consumers risk low-quality goods and potential health hazards. Moreover, counterfeiting often supports organized crime, damages the environment, and undermines trust in the rule of law.

The seminars aim to train enforcement authorities and their officials to identify counterfeit products effectively.

An additional educational seminar in Heraklion, Crete, outside the Authenticity Project but with the same objectives, also focused on the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME IN CORFU

Within the Authenticity Corfu project, OBI implemented an interactive educational programme for first-grade secondary school students.

The programme aims to educate children on Intellectual Property (Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs) and to teach them to recognize counterfeit products and understand the importance of purchasing authentic items.

Using specially designed presentations, photographic examples, and real products (authentic and counterfeit), students learn about Industrial Property and the value of authenticity.

The objective is to empower students to act as knowledge multipliers, safeguarding the interests of consumers, inventors, creators, and trademark owners.

AUTHENTICITY ARGOSTOLI

On June 7, 2024, OBI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipal Authority of Argostoli, followed by an inaugural Media Event on August 30, 2024, at the Municipal Theater of Argostoli, named "Kefalos".

The event was attended by media representatives, local authorities, and business owners from the island.





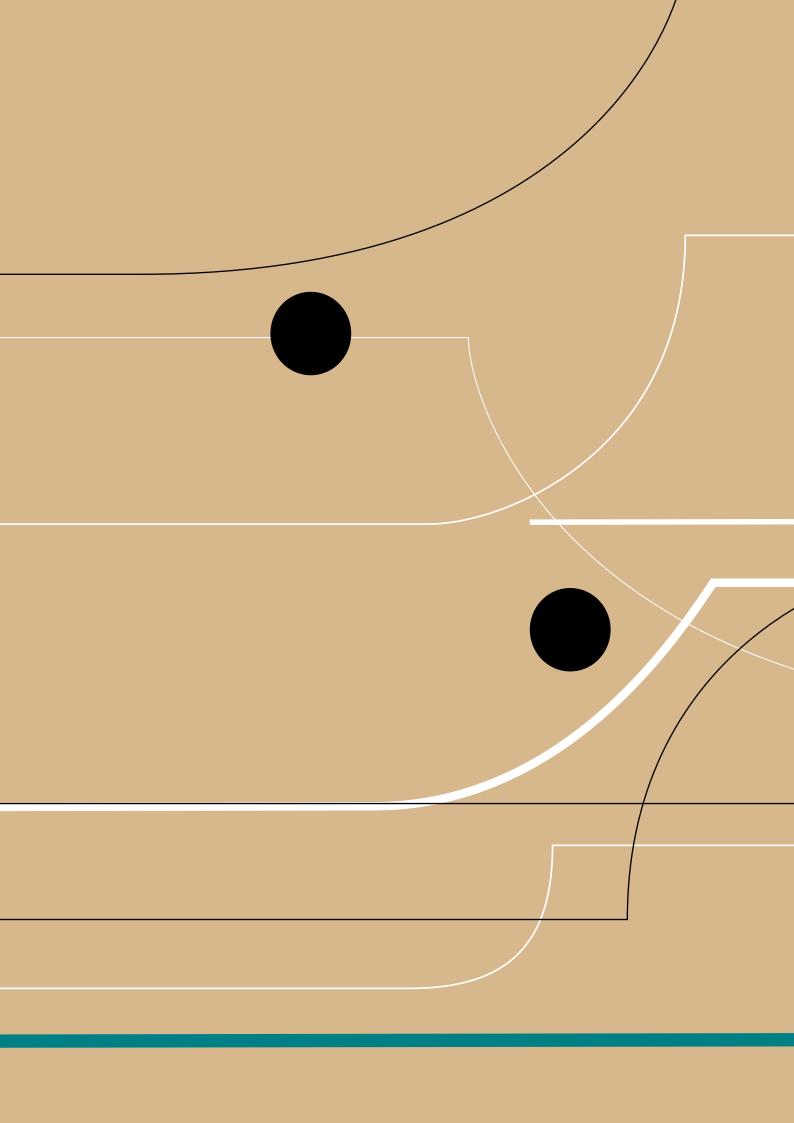
STEAM PROGRAMMES: Children Design the Cities of the Future

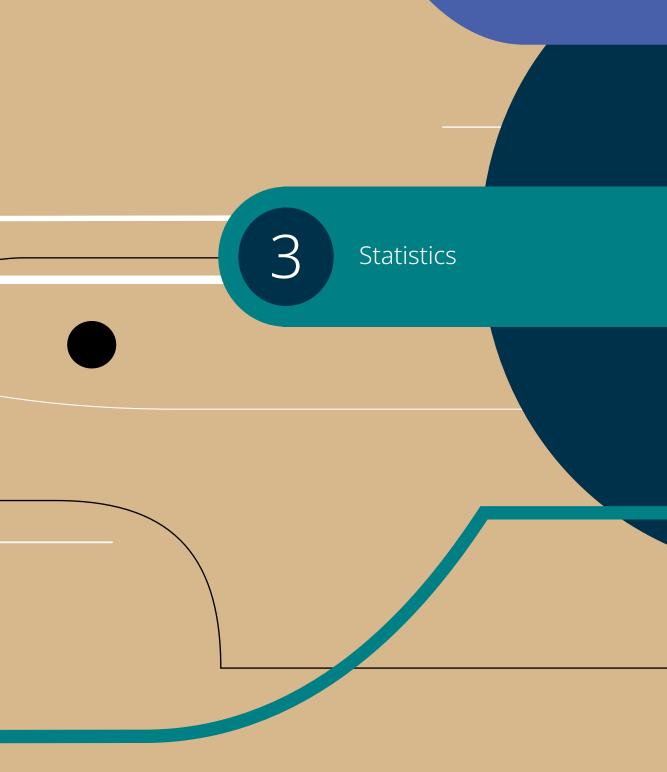
The STEAM Programme (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) continued in 2024 in collaboration with the Municipality of Argostoli.

Students in the 5th and 6th grades explored new technologies and innovations, learned about smart cities, worked in teams to develop ideas, and constructed an electric car using LEGO WeDo2 kits, competing in races at the program's conclusion.

Through this hands-on educational programme, children developed concepts for enhancing the quality of life in future cities, envisioned the cities they wish to live in, and learned the importance of using authentic products.

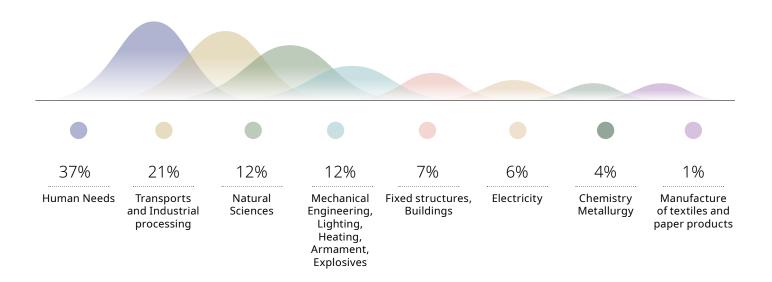
OBI, as the national authority for Intellectual Property Protection, places significant emphasis on educating students from an early age about the value of innovation and the importance of industrial property protection.



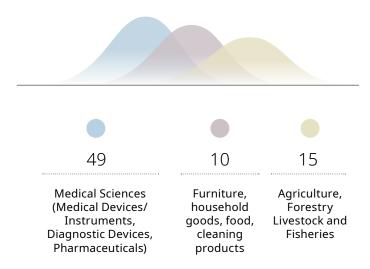


Allocation of patents applications of 2024 by technological sector

As every year the field of Human Needs ranked top among the patents' applications with significant difference as it is identified in the graph below with 37% of the total number of applications.

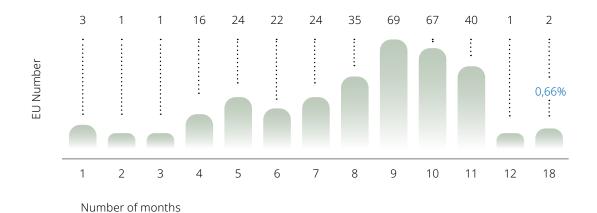


Further analysis of the field of Human Needs shows that the majority of applications (in total numbers) refer to the following three technological fields:





Average completion time - Search Directorate Target 2024





The target set by Search Directorate for the year 2024 (ISO 9001- 14001) was the completion of the initial Search Reports in less than 12 months and with an acceptable percentage of initial

Search Reports beyond 12 months of less than 5%. According to the following chart, the target was achieved by 0.66%, as only two applications for patents exceeded the specified completion time.

APPLICATIONS CONCERNING INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY TITLES



FILLINGS OF TRADEMARKS IN 2024

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4
ALBANIA	2
AUSTRALIA	1
BELGIUM	2
BULGARIA	12
BRAZIL	1
CANADA	3
SWITZERLAND	21
CHINA	37
CYPRUS	75
CZECH REPUBLIC	2
GERMANY	14
DENMARK	1
EGYPT	2
SPAIN	5
FRANCE	9
UNITED KINGDOM	20
GREECE	5990
HONG KONG	1
HUNGARY	3
IRELAND	1
ISRAEL	8
ITALY	22
JORDAN	1

JAPAN	3
SOUTH KOREA	2
KUWAIT	1
CAYMAN ISLANDS	1
LEBANON	1
LIBERIA	1
LITHUANIA	1
LUXEMBOURG	1
MONACO	2
MOLDOVA	1
MARSHALL ISLANDS	5
MALTA	2
MAURITIUS	8
NETHERLANDS	9
NORWAY	1
SWEDEN	2
SINGAPORE	3
SLOVENIA	3
TURKEY	3
UNITED STATES	47
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	2
SOUTH AFRICA	1

PATENTS FILINGS IN 2024

FILLINGS OF UTILITY MODEL CERTIFICATES IN 2024

GREECE

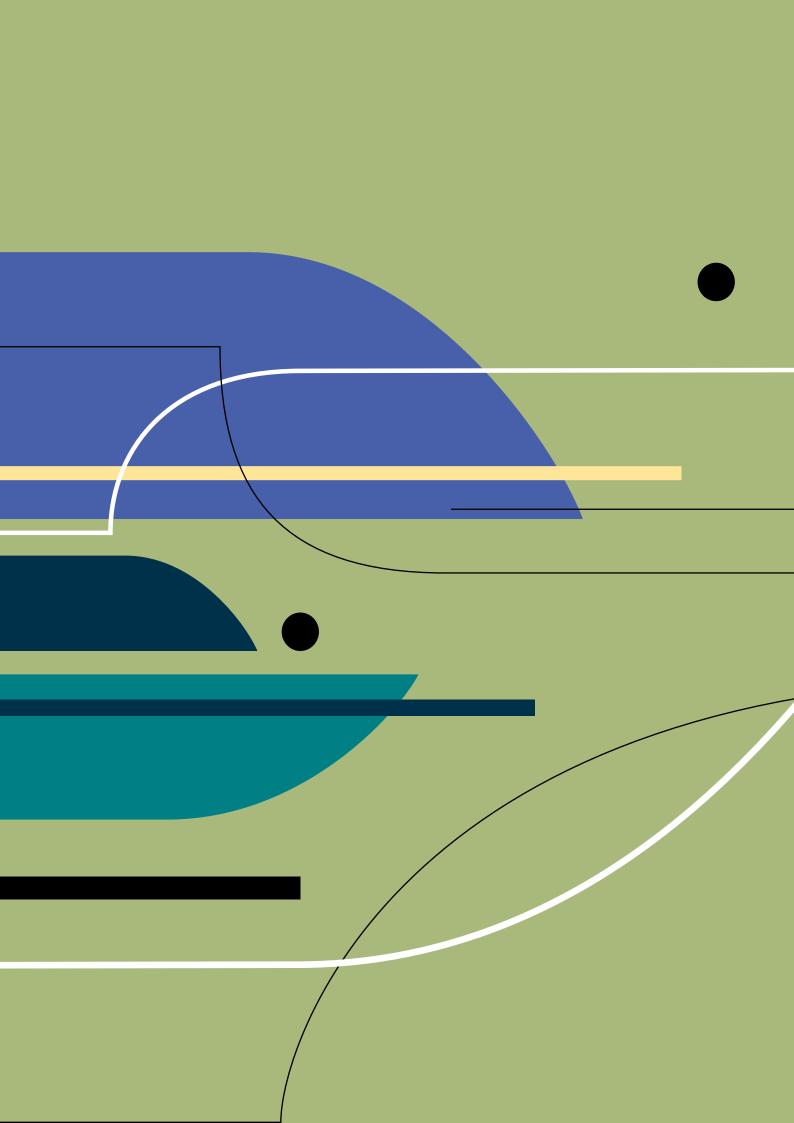
GREECE	366
BELGIUM	4
CANADA	3
SWITZERLAND	10
CYPRUS	5
GERMANY	3
SPAIN	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	3
UNITED KINGDOM	61
IRELAND	3
ISRAEL	9
ITALY	
SOUTH KOREA	7
NETHERLANDS	77
SERBIA	1
SWEDEN	52
SINGAPORE	3
TURKEY	
TAIWAN	5
UNITED STATES	304
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4
SAUDI ARABIA	4

GREECE	10
BELGIUM	-
CANADA	-
SWITZERLAND	1
CYPRUS	2
GERMANY	-
SPAIN	1
FINLAND	-
FRANCE	-
UNITED KINGDOM	-
IRELAND	-
ISRAEL	-
ITALY	6
SOUTH KOREA	-
NETHERLANDS	-
SERBIA	1
SWEDEN	-
SINGAPORE	-
TURKEY	1
TAIWAN	-
UNITED STATES	1
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	
SAUDI ARABIA	-

FILLINGS OF EUROPEAN PATENTS IN 2024

GREECE	25
MALAYSIA	2
AUSTRIA	43
NETHERLANDS	96
AUSTRALIA	26
NORWAY	33
BELGIUM	66
NEW ZEALAND	6
BULGARIA	2
POLAND	21
BERMUDA	2
PORTUGAL	9
BRAZIL	3
RUSSIA	6
CANADA	25
SWEDEN	44
SWITZERLAND	261
SINGAPORE	7
CHINA	101
SLOVENIA	3
CYPRUS	9
TURKEY	12
TAIWAN SPECIAL CUSTOMS TERRITORY	12
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	735
CZECH REPUBLIC	9
GERMANY	335
DENMARK	45
VIRGIN ISLANDS OF GREAT BRITAIN	2
SPAIN	64
SOUTH AFRICA	1
FINLAND	45

SLOVAKIA	3
FRANCE	175
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	6
UNITED KINGDOM (GREAT BRITAIN)	198
LITHUANIA	3
HONG KONG	4
ARGENTINA	1
HUNGARY	5
ROMANIA	1
IRELAND	37
ALBANIA	2
ISRAEL	38
CROATIA	3
INDIA	19
ICELAND	1
ITALY	202
MAURITIUS	1
JAPAN	174
ARMENIA	1
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	100
URUGUAY	1
CAYMAN ISLANDS	1
PERU	1
LEBANON	1
BARBADOS	1
LUXEMBOURG	13
SAINT DOMINIC	1
MONACO	2
ISLE OF MAN	1
MALTA	1
JERSEY	2



Industrial Property Titles

Procedures for Granting Titles

O Procedure for Granting Patents

Conversion to Utility

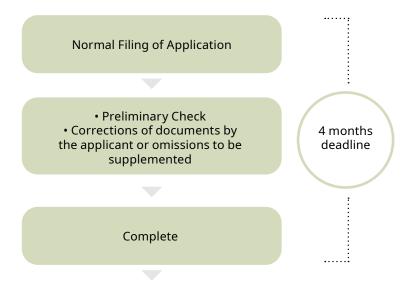
Model Certificate

(In the case where the Fee aligned to the Search Report is not paid)

• Preliminary Check • Corrections of documents by the applicant or omissions to be supplemented Payment of the Fee aligned to the Search Report Search Report Drafting Mere or Written Opinion Notification to the Applicant Submission of Amended Claims and/or Comments by the Applicant Final Search Report Drafting

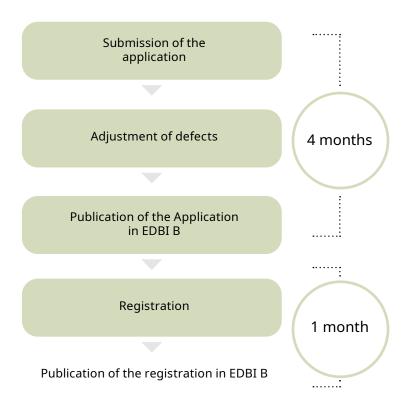
Granting, Publication of the registration in EDBI A

Procedure for the granting of Utility Model Certificates

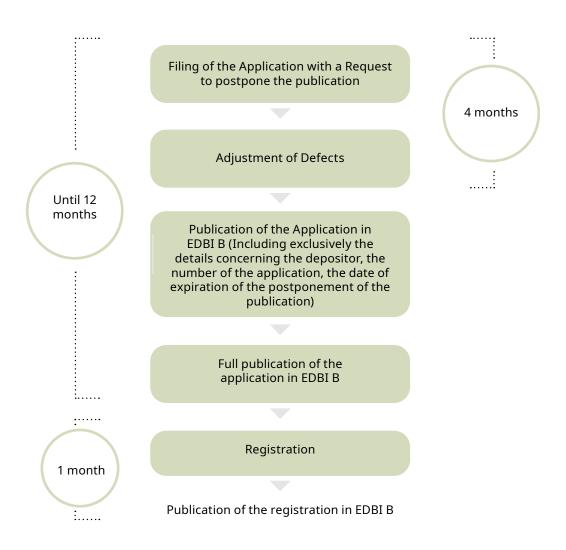


Granting of the Utility Model Certificate, Publication of the registration in EDBI A

O Procedure for registering Designs or Utility Models



Procedure of registering Designs or Utility Models in the event of postponement of publication

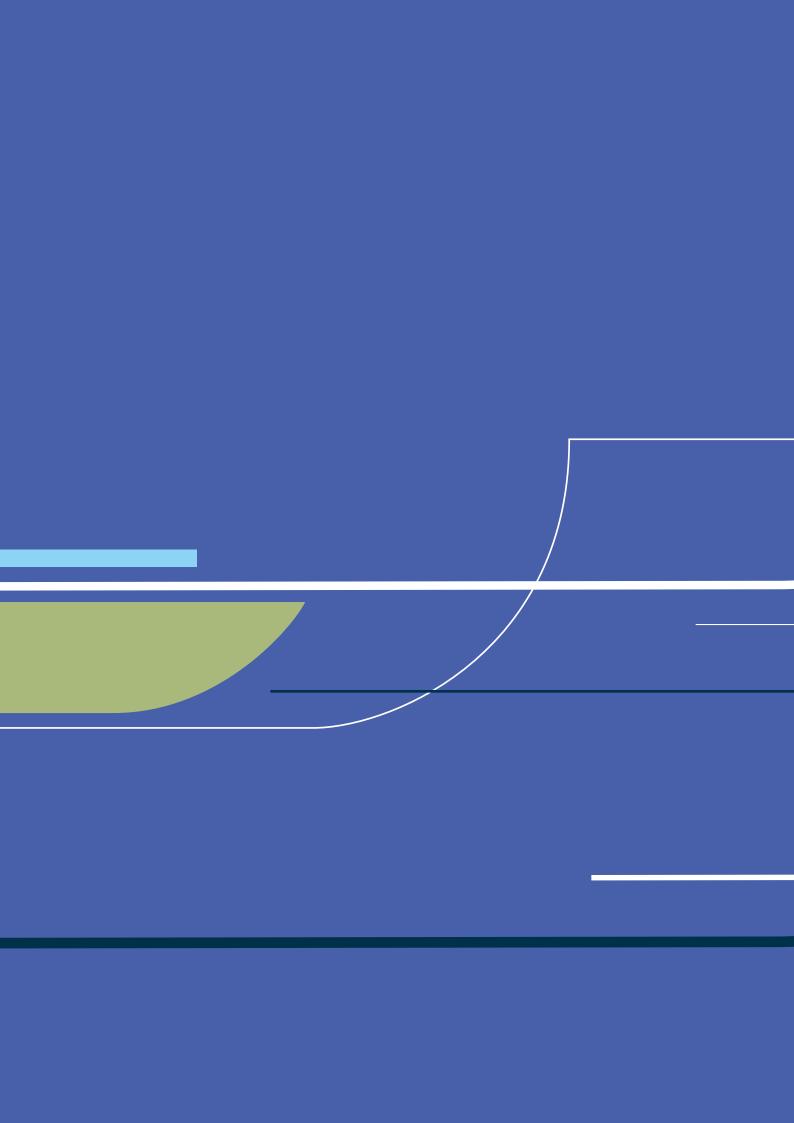


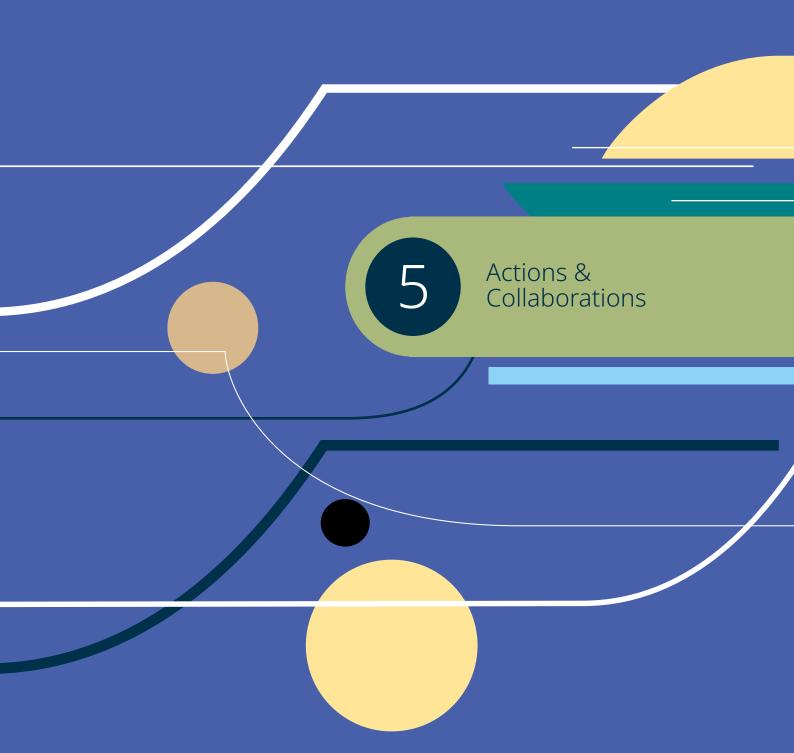
Procedure for registering Trade Marks

Submission of the Application Publication of the Application Period Publication of the Application Period Publication Publication Period Publication Publicati

O Features of Industrial Property Titles

	Trade Marks	Patents	Industrial Designs
Concept	Trademarks distinguish the products or services of enterprises/their persons from those of their competitors. Distinctive sign	Patents protect inventions/ technical creations which are new and demonstrate a level of inventiveness. Technical conception	They protect the design/the external visual impression of a product or of parts therefrom. Aesthetic creation
Application	Marks symbols, words, sounds on goods, which intends to distinguish	Product/method Industrial application	Designs which are integrated on a product.
Protection	Distinguishing products or services Prevention of confusion with products or services of other enterprises Protection against unfair competition	Ideas are converted into methods/products which are new and consist of the subject – matter of protection in absolute terms. Prevention of illegal production and exploitation	Absolute right to use which extends also to designs which give users a similar impression. It refers to the visible form of the design and it does not any case apply to the technical features.
Right to Submit Application	Statement by a legal or a natural person	Statement by the inventor and applicant	Statement by the author and applicant
Examination	Absolute grounds for inadmissibility	Search Report Mere or Written Opinion	Without examination
Duration	10 years with a right to renewal every 10 years	Up to 20 years with a right to renewal every year	Up to 25 years with a right to renewal every 5 years
Publication	Website of OBI / TM View	EDBI Online Register (EMT)	EDBI Online Register (EMT)
Territorial Protection	Greece (OBI) - EUIPO- WIPO	Greece (OBI) - EUIPO- EPO-WIPO	Greece (OBI) - EUIPO- WIPO
Exploitation	Transfer/Licensing Pledge	Transfer/Licensing Pledge	Transfer/Licensing Pledge





Collaboration Projects with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO)

OBI successfully implemented projects within the framework of annual collaboration schemes with the above organizations.

EUIPO

- Completed implementation of applications related to the management of Trademarks and Industrial Designs, specifically:
- IMAS Tool: Facilitates Trademark examiners in evaluating applications.
- Statistical Data Extraction: Provides access to data on Trademarks and Industrial Designs from the Back Office.
- Electronic Filing: Enables submission of Trademark opposition/appeal applications.
- Contributed to the project maintaining common practices and tools. In 2024, the relevant EUIPO working group prepared the common practice "CP15 Comparison of Products and Services: Approach to Terms Lacking Clarity and Precision and Common Interpretation of the So-Called Canon Criteria and Other Factors", expected to be published and implemented by 2025.
- Organized national outreach initiatives, including:
- Seminar in Heraklion, Crete, addressing Intellectual Property rights infringements.
- Two seminars in Athens on Trademark protection and promotion of $\hbox{\tt EUIPO}$ tools.
- Hosted an event in collaboration with the Board of Appeals, providing participants with updates on actions and developments in the field.
- Implemented an online seminar for SMEs on December 4, 2024, covering European and international best practices in Intellectual Property, focusing on rights registration and methodologies for public awareness.
- · Continued the "Authenticity" Project.
- Produced two videos on Intellectual Property rights infringement featuring a well-known stand-up comedian, as part of a campaign promoting the SME Fund and industrial designs.
- Participated in the SME Fund project by:
- Supporting EUIPO promotion in Greece via social media and OBI's official website.
- Continuously updating regional offices of the One Stop Shop (OSS) to support local SMEs.
- Monitoring the project's implementation during its third year.

EPO

- Launched the electronic filing tool for Patents after a pilot phase. Since April 3, 2024, this tool has served as the exclusive means for submitting Patent applications.
- Since December 1, 2024, all OBI examiners use the new research tool "ANSERA", after pilot testing, as the primary Patent research resource.
- Organized two seminars on Patent protection at national, EU, and international levels, as well as on research commercialization:
- Heraklion, Crete, in collaboration with the Science Technology Park of Crete
- Chania, in collaboration with the Technical University of Crete.
- Co-organized the exhibition "TECHNOLOGY vs FIRE: Inventions Helping Us Build a Better World", March 13–27, 2024.
- Participated in working groups concerning:
- Common portal for communication between national offices and the EPO.
- IT security issues.
- Electronic patent filing tool.
- Convergence program on practical Patent matters.
- Actions of the Observatory for preparing thematic studies.

Innovation Agency

Legislative Work

Expanded preliminary research services to design a pilot application for three new research types (Freedom to Operate Search, Competitor Monitoring, Validity Search).

Prepared amendments to Presidential Decree 259/1997, addressing provisions regarding the ratification of the 1999 Geneva Act.

Conducted multiple meetings with National Innovation Bodies and corresponding international organizations in EU countries.

International Relations

Standing Committee on the Law of Patents, General Assembly, and Working Groups of WIPO.

Working groups of:

- EPO
- EUIPO
- EU Observatory for the Enforcement of IP Rights

Activities included statements on Industrial Property issues, exchange of views, and discussions on harmonizing practices across Patent offices.

Additionally, OBI participated in:

- Diplomatic Conference on an International Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Traditional Knowledge at WIPO Headquarters, Geneva (May 13–24, 2024), resulting in obligations to disclose information about genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge in patent applications under specific conditions.
- Diplomatic Conference on the Riyadh Treaty (Law of Designs) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which simplified the process for filing Industrial Design applications at national and regional IP offices for the benefit of designers and businesses.

Cooperation Agreements

OBI signed cooperation agreements with:

- Municipality of Argostoli
- · Region of Western Macedonia
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Law School)
- · Alexander Innovation Zone

Quality Management Systems

OBI is the first national office in Greece with over 15 years of ISO 9001 certification, demonstrating organizational excellence and high-quality services.

The Quality Management System defines goals, objectives, processes, and resources needed to achieve desired results.

Policies aim to continuously enhance service quality, as well as OBI's outreach and impact on the Greek Industrial Property system. Certifications include:

ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management), ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental), ISO 45001:2018 (Workplace Safety and Hygiene), S&W (Infectious/Contagious Diseases), ELOT 1429:2008 (Technical Works)

Events – Exhibitions

OBI participated in the following exhibitions and conferences in 2024:

- 88th Thessaloniki International Fair
- Automation & Robotics (A&R) EXPO
- KOSMIMA
- 7th Thessaloniki Development Conference
- 12th Patras Regional Development Conference
- Recreating Innovation Summit (Chania)
- · Athens Science Festival
- · Organized Events
 - Fire Fighting Exhibition (OBI-EPO)
 - Seminar on Intellectual Property (OBI-EPO-ETEP-K)
 - Seminar on the European Patent System, the Unitary Patent, and Technological Information (OBI-EPO-Technical University of Crete, Chania)
 - Seminar on Trademark Protection for Lawyers (OBI-EKPA-EUIPO) Athens

- Seminar on Trademark Protection for Law Students (OBI-EUIPO), Athens
- Seminar on Trademarks (OBI-Chamber of Commerce of Heraklion, Crete)
- One-Day Scientific Event for Intellectual Property, Tripoli
- One-Day Scientific Event for Intellectual Property, Kozani
- Seminar by OBI and METEX
- Event on AI & Innovation Agency (Vasilis & Elise Goulandris Foundation)
- Event dedicated to Innovation Agency, Thessaloniki
- Event by OBI and Alexander Innovation Zone, Thessaloniki
- Online Seminar "Ideas Power for Business"
- One-Day Scientific Event by OBI and Association of Trainee and Young Lawyers of Thessaloniki – EANDiTH, Thessaloniki
- Annual Meeting of the IP in Education Network and Train the Trainers Event, Heraklion, Crete

Hellenic Industrial Property Academy (HIPA)

In 2024, HIPA continued to strengthen its role in education and training on Industrial Property. The second year of the basic training program in Industrial Property was successfully implemented, preparing participants for the first national Patent consultant certification examinations. Through seminars, workshops, and

lectures, the Academy addressed professionals and students, covering Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs. These activities reinforced OBI's mission to promote innovation and Industrial Property protection in Greece.

The Presence of OBI at Regional Level

In 2024, OBI established a new Regional Office in Western Macedonia, located in Kozani.

Regional Office Activities (2024)

Seminar "Demo Day: First Cycle of the THECLA Business Incubator", Kavala (in collaboration with the International Hellenic University)

One-Day Scientific Event "How are Rights over Patents Registered", Heraklion, Crete (in collaboration with the EPO)

Seminar "Protection of Industrial Property at National and EU Level", Heraklion, Crete (in collaboration with the Commercial Chamber of Heraklion)

Seminar "Titles of Protection and Technological Information", Virtual format (in collaboration with METEX)

Event "BEYOND 2024", Thessaloniki (in collaboration with the Region of Central Macedonia and Thessaloniki International Fair)

Seminar "IP in Education", Heraklion, Crete (in collaboration with EUIPO)

Seminar "Intellectual Property Rights", (in collaboration with OPI and the Directorate of Secondary Education)

Seminar "Protection of Industrial Property Rights", Kavala (in collaboration with THECLA Business Incubator, International Hellenic University)

Event "Patents: A Tool for the Development of Enterprises", Kozani (in collaboration with Region of Western Macedonia and Municipality of Kozani)

Seminar "The Protection of Industrial Property as a Driver of Business Growth", Thessaloniki (in collaboration with Alexander Innovation Zone) Event "Day of Science and Research at the University of Western Macedonia", Kozani (in collaboration with the University of Western Macedonia)

Seminar "Protection of Patents at National and EU Level", Chania (in collaboration with the Technical University of Crete)

Conference "Recreating Innovation Summit 2024", Chania (in collaboration with Founderhood)

Seminar "3rd Specialized Session (THECLA, 3rd Circle)", Hybrid format (in collaboration with International Hellenic University)

Seminar "Ideas Powered for Business", Hybrid format (in collaboration with EUIPO)

Annual General Assembly of Association of Enterprises and Industries of Peloponnese and Western Greece.

Event "Earth Water Fire – 3rd Ceramics Festival", Thrapsano, Heraklion, Crete

One-Day Scientific Event "Young People... in a Young Era", Amphitheater, University of Western Macedonia, Kozani (Just Transition Special Authority, EYDAM)

One-Day Scientific Event "1st Day of Career & Networking", in collaboration with METAVASIS SA, Koventarios Library, Kozani

"1st Workshop of Networking & Skills Development", METAVASIS SA, Coventarios City Hall, Kozani

Education

In 2024, OBI conducted 1,745 hours of educational activities (in-person and online) for staff development, covering: Patent examination, Trademark registration, Technical (IT) issues, Staff safety and health, Digital skills development, Administrative and organizational areas.



Communication with the Public

One-Stop Service: Number of Parties Served:

2024: 3.277 **2023**: 3.483

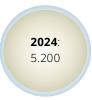




Total number of interested parties served by the One-Stop Service exclusively for Trademarks:

2024: 5.200 **2023**: 5.000

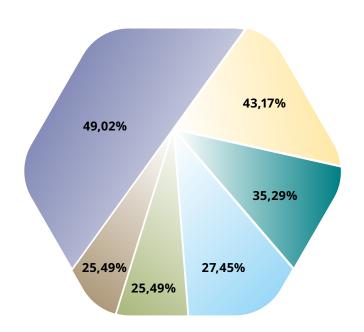




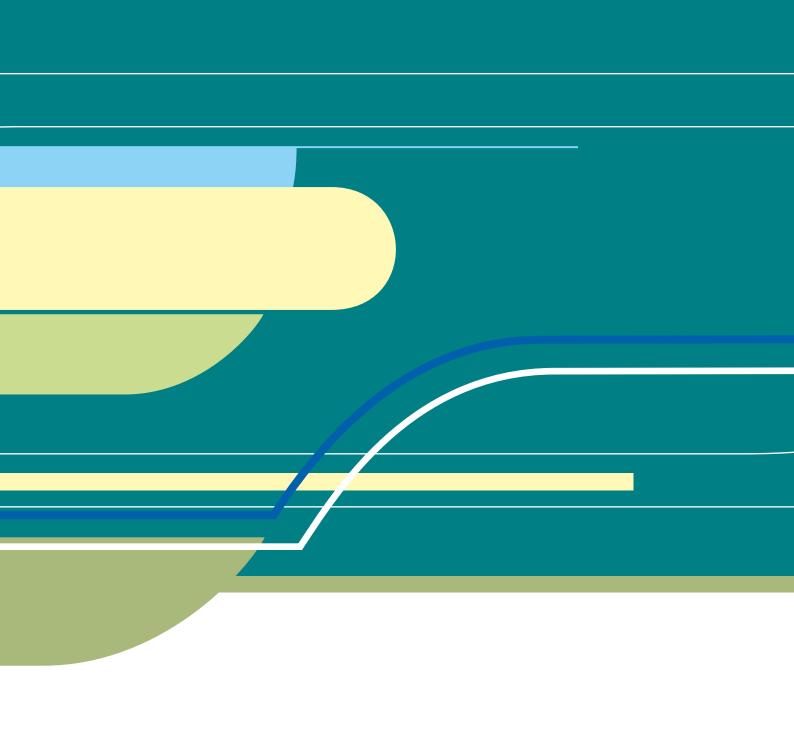
Public Opinion

27,45% reported excellent impression from first contact with OBI
43,17% reported very good impression from first contact with OBI
49,02% reported immense satisfaction with service quality/reliability
25,49% reported high satisfaction with service quality/reliability
35,29% reported immense satisfaction with service implementation time

25,49% reported high satisfaction with service implementation time









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