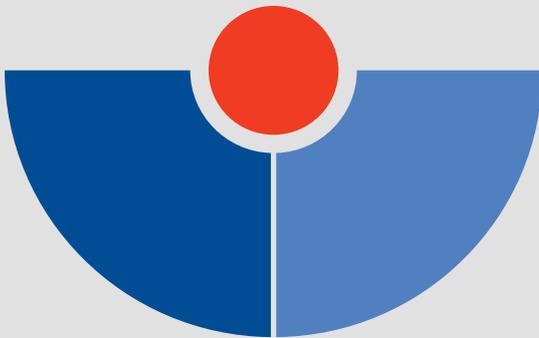


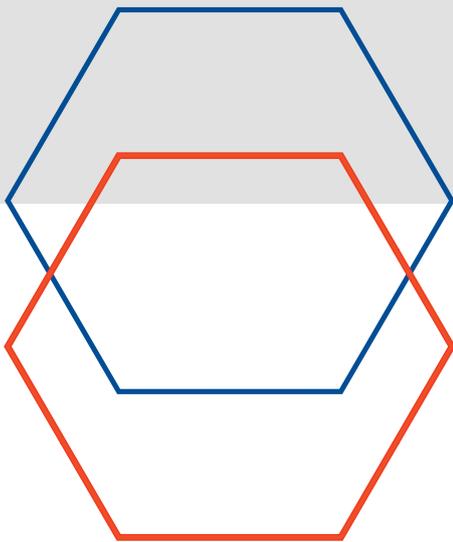
ROMÂNIA



STATE OFFICE
FOR INVENTIONS
AND TRADEMARKS



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

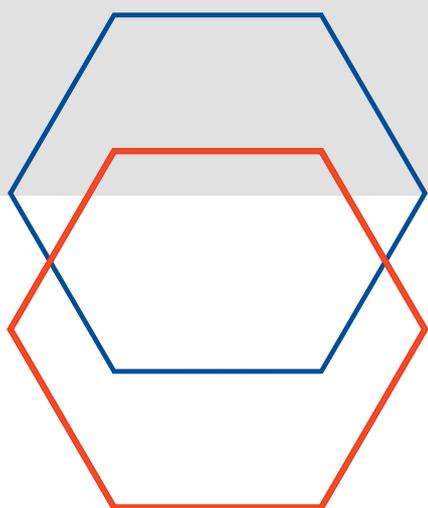




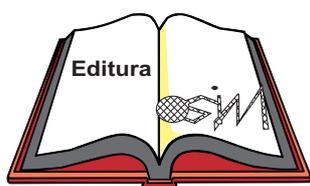
STATE OFFICE FOR INVENTIONS AND TRADEMARKS



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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01

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

The State Office for Inventions and Trademarks continued, by its initiatives and activities carried out in 2023, to exert its role of unique authority on the Romanian territory in the field of ensuring the industrial property protection and encouraging innovation and competitiveness.

I would like to present here the Annual Report of OSIM activity for the year 2023. It comprises our main achievements and reflects the entire range of events and actions we carried out last year.

Among the most significant results achieved last year, I would like to mention:

Establishing the new Division for Invalidity - Loss of rights within Legal Directorate of OSIM, as a consequence of amending and completing the Government Decision No. 573/1998 on the organization and functioning of OSIM, by GD no. 389/2023, as published in the Official Gazette No. 368 of 28th of April 2023.





Even though 2023 was a challenging year for all the sectors of the economy and industry, we scored a slight increase of the number of applications filed with OSIM in its three fields: patents, trademarks, designs, as compared to the previous year. Thus, in 2023 the number of trademark applications filed by national route was 12269, showing an increase of 12.98% as compared to 2022. At the same time, a number of 12302 trademark registration applications filed by national route were examined in 2023, 12.81% more than in 2022.

A slight increase may be noticed, as well, in the number of patent applications filed with OSIM in 2023, from 843 to 889 applications. In this context, 314 patents were issued in 2023, 303 belonging to Romanian owners and 11 to foreign owners.

Last year, 654 designs with 2009 graphic representations were filed for registration with OSIM and 342 design certificates were issued.

The cooperation with international, regional and European intellectual property organizations, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) as well as with national offices, especially the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI) from the Republic of Moldova, continued in 2023.

OSIM specialists were involved in several cooperation projects, among which it is worth mentioning the Back-Office system optimization project, by means of which the trademark invalidity files were integrated in the system, a new phase thereof being successfully completed in 2023 and resulting in an extension of the system functionality and an improvement of the operational effectiveness of our organization, in this area.

OSIM also actively participated in the EPO pilot project „ANSERA” for a modern search system, which aims at the replacement of the current system „EPOQUENET” that has been used by the Member States for a very long time. With the support of EPO specialists, OSIM joined the other participating national offices and started to test the new search instrument.

By participating in specialized exhibitions, by organizing and participating in seminars, round tables and various conferences on subjects relating to industrial property protection, OSIM aimed in 2023, like in the previous years, to promote the importance of industrial property rights protection in the academic and business environment and to increase awareness of the way people can protect the result of their creations.

I conclude by inviting you to go through the pages of the Annual Report 2023, that shows the accomplishments of the whole team of OSIM, the members of which aim to become better and better each day and to meet the needs of our applicants despite all the impediments.

*Marian-Octavian ȘERBĂNESCU,
Director General*





02

INTRODUCTION

OSIM MISSION

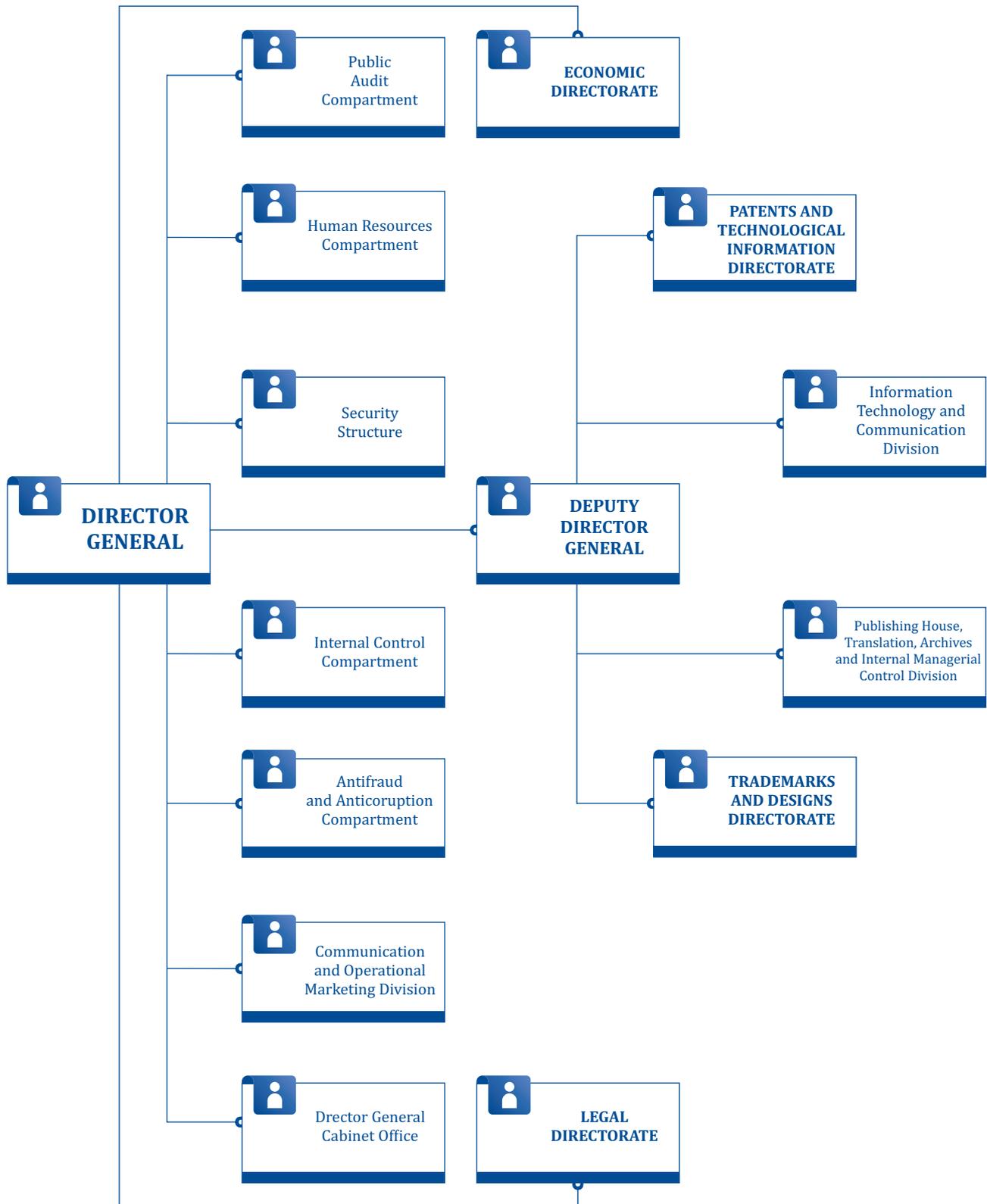
The mission of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), as unique authority on the Romanian territory in the field of granting industrial property protection, is to support innovation, competitiveness and profitability as economic growth factors.

OSIM provides high quality specialized services while granting industrial property titles, promoting industrial property by all available means and ensures Romania's international cooperation in accordance with the treaties, conventions and agreements in its field of activity to which Romania is a party.



ORGANIZATION OF OSIM

In compliance with the Government Decision No. 573/1998, as amended by the Government Decision No. 272/2020 and the Order of Minister of Economy No. 2738/2020, the organizational structure of OSIM in 2023 has been the following:





The general objectives that our organization had in view are the following:

1

To observe, perform and maintain at the highest level the integrated management system in accordance with the requirements of the Order of the Government General Secretariat No 600/2018 and of ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2022.

2

To improve the quality of the organization activities by commitment of its entire staff, its main goals being to ensure uniform protection of industrial property rights (IPR), to harmonise certain aspects specific to IPR by creating a unique system of granting of protection titles; to provide qualified human resources and suitable technical means to meet the actual demands in the field.

3

To support innovation, competitiveness and profitability as economic growth factors, in compliance with the legal regulations in the industrial property field, so that OSIM, as organization, is able to be considered an assembly of processes oriented to its applicants and other industrial property (IP) stakeholders.

4

To further improve Romania's representation at European and international level, by involvement of OSIM in decision-making processes concerning collaboration, observance and fulfillment of IP programs together with the national and international bodies in the industrial property field.

General objectives achievement degree for the reporting period

General objective no. 1	100%
General objective no. 2	100%
General objective no. 3	100%
General objective no. 4	100%
Mean score of objectives achieved	100%

Said objectives which are in direct connection with OSIM duties are completed with specific objectives which necessarily arise from the horizontal cooperation with international and European bodies in this field

of activity, as well as from OSIM commitment to support innovation and competitiveness of Romanian industry and economy through the specific industrial property rights-related aspects.

ACTIVITY OF THE MONITORING COMMISSION

OSIM Commission for monitoring the internal managerial control system, hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”, continued its activity.

As a strategic decision, beside the integrated management system already existing in OSIM (under provisions of Order of GGS No 600/2018 as corroborated with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015), the management has decided the implementation of the Information security management system (SR EN ISO/IEC 27001:2018), the requirements of which are to maintain the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information by applying a process of risk management which gives the concerned parties the confidence that the risks are appropriately managed. As a consequence of the assumed objective of developing the integrated management system, a series of measures and activities were needed for the achievement thereof.

The result of this decision was that, on 15.12.2023, OSIM got the second surveillance audit for ISO 9001:2015.

The revision and/or elaboration of 14 operational procedures continued during the year 2023 in order to align them with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015.

At the end of 2023, the situation of the procedures existing in OSIM was the following:

Existing procedures on 31.12.2023

Activities inventoried	129
Total number of formalized procedures	129
Procedures applicable at compartments level	102
Procedures applicable at organization level	27

Also, in accordance with the requirements of ISO 27001:2018 the Policy Statement of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks in the field of the Integrated Management System and the Policy Statement of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks in the field of the Information Security Management System were elaborated and approved. In support of the Policy Statement in the field of the Integrated Management System, the Quality Policy Statement of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks was revised.





Moreover, the Monitoring Commission:

- drafted, monitored and analyzed the Action Plan for achieving the general objectives of the organization;
- set performance or result indicators associated to specific objectives;
- elaborated the Program for developing the Internal Managerial Control System and ensured its monitoring and accomplishment;
- updated, in collaboration with the Risk Management Team, the risk registers and the plans for reducing risk effects;
- analyzed the elaboration of the Internal Managerial Control System development stages while ensuring updating thereof;
- analyzed the data resulting from processes and took the necessary steps for the general objectives to be accomplished;
- drafted and presented reports on the Internal Managerial Control System to higher bodies and other concerned partners;
- ensured the inventory of procedural activities;
- ensured updating of formalized procedures in accordance with the legal provisions in the field (Order of GGS No 600/2018), as corroborated with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 27001:2018.

In December, the OSIM management system was subjected to an external audit by the Management System Certification Body QSCert. The surveillance external audit did not find any nonconformity and the certification body confirmed that the integrated management system of OSIM is effective and meets the audit criteria and recommended to maintain the Quality and Information Security Management System in compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2018 in the field *Services of general public administration*.

Considering all the above, we may state that, at the end of 2023, OSIM has an integrated management system complying with the reference standards: SR EN ISO/IEC 27001:2018 – *Information Technology. Security Techniques. Information security management systems. Requirements*, integrated with ISO 9001:2015 – *Quality management system. Requirements*, and Order of GGS No 600/2018 for the approval of the Code of internal managerial control of public entities.

03

PROTECTION TITLES

PATENTS

Within our knowledge-based society, intangible assets, in particular the patents, have an increasingly important role from the economical point of view. In its triple quality of legal, technical and economical instrument, the patent mirrors the society innovative capacities and dynamism.

Innovation support materialized in research and development projects shall certainly involve protection of innovation results by filing patent applications based on which, following examination, patents are granted, as industrial property titles which, on the one hand, confer on their owners the exclusive right of exploitation of their inventions and, on the other hand, essentially contribute to the innovative profile of the entity that owns them, while being a worldwide information dissemination way, due to their publication in patent databases.

It is worth mentioning that patenting is currently becoming increasingly important for small and medium-sized enterprises, which can be seen in the high number of European projects aiming to support innovative enterprises.

In Romania, the patent granting procedure is carried out in accordance with the Patent Law 64/1991, as republished on 19 August 2014.

According to the law, a patent is an industrial property right that confers on its owner an exclusive right to exploit the invention for a duration of 20 years, at the most. A patent can be granted for any invention having as a subject-matter a product or a process, in all technological fields, agriculture included. The technical solutions that are new, involve an inventive step and are susceptible of industrial application can be protected by a patent, the compliance with legal patentability conditions being assessed in the substantive examination procedure.

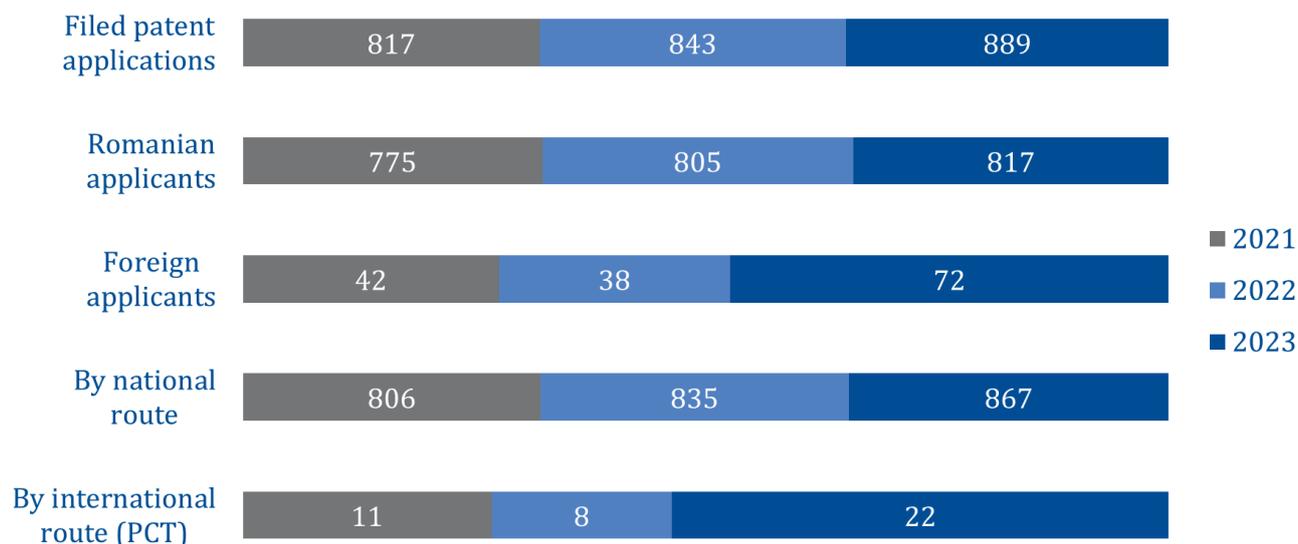
The assessment of the compliance with the above-mentioned patentability conditions in the substantive examination procedure is conducted by taking as a reference point the state of the art at the international level on the filing date or the priority date of the patent application, as the case may be, comprising technical knowledge accessible to the public worldwide.

If the invention cannot be retrieved in the state of the art and if it is not obvious for a person skilled in the art, it is deemed to be new and inventive. The patent granted by OSIM allows its owner to enjoy protection of the invention on the territory of Romania.

In 2023, 889 patent applications were filed with OSIM, of which 817 were filed by Romanian applicants and 72 by foreign applicants.

All the patent applications were entered in the National Register of Filed Patent Applications and the bibliographical data thereof were introduced into the OSIM database.





18 months after the date of filing the application, the invention is published by OSIM which makes the description, claims and drawings available to the public and publishes the abstract and the bibliographic data in the Official Industrial Property Bulletin, Inventions Section, issued monthly.

The patent applications, as filed, were analyzed in respect of the fulfillment of the legal conditions for according the filing date and constituting the regular national filing.

All patent applications filed in 2023 were classified according to the International Patent Classification (IPC).

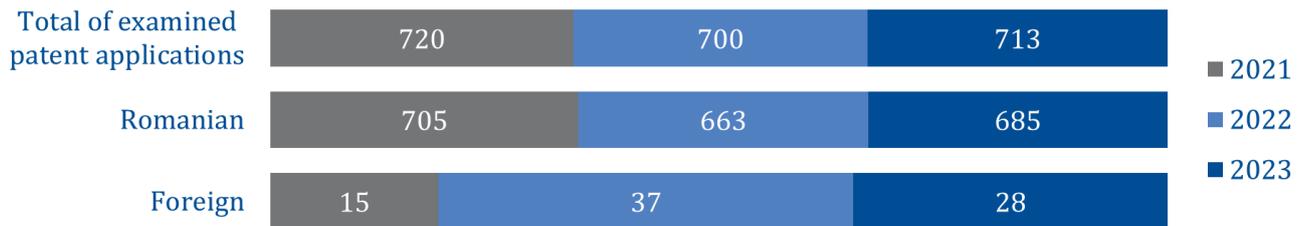
The substantive examination procedure involves a series of activities, such as:

- searching the prior art in the relevant field, by using the EPOQUE application of the EPO and the RO-Patent Search database;
- drawing up search reports for each patent application;
- examining the patentability conditions: novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability, and sending the results of the analysis to the applicant;
- elaborating the technical examination report and upholding the same before the Examination Board with a view to making a decision in respect of the application concerned.

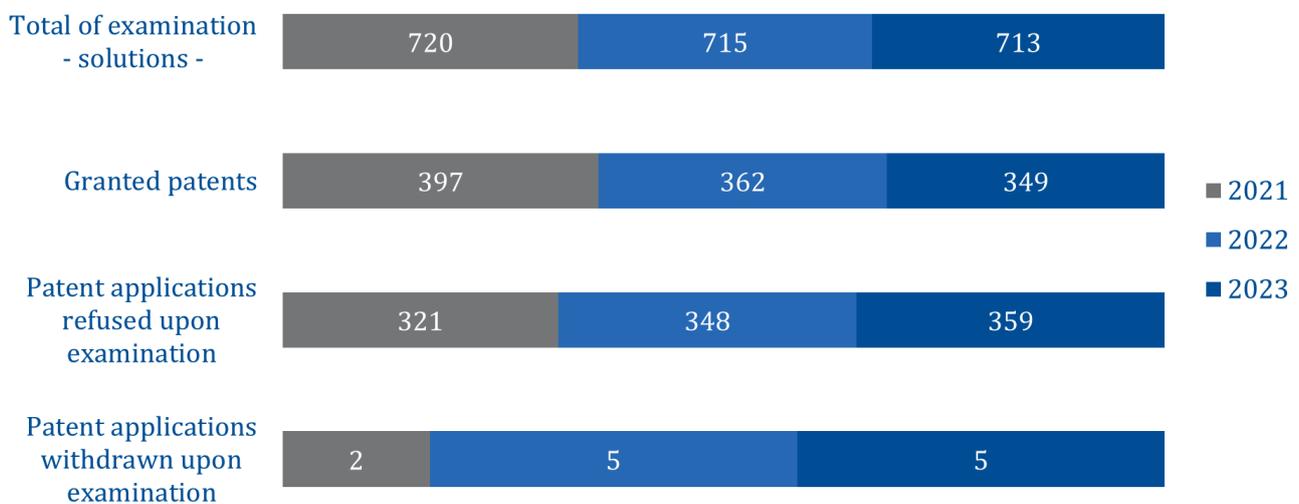
713 patent applications filed by both Romanian and foreign applicants underwent substantive examination, of which 349 ended by decisions to grant the patent, 359 were rejected and 5 were withdrawn.



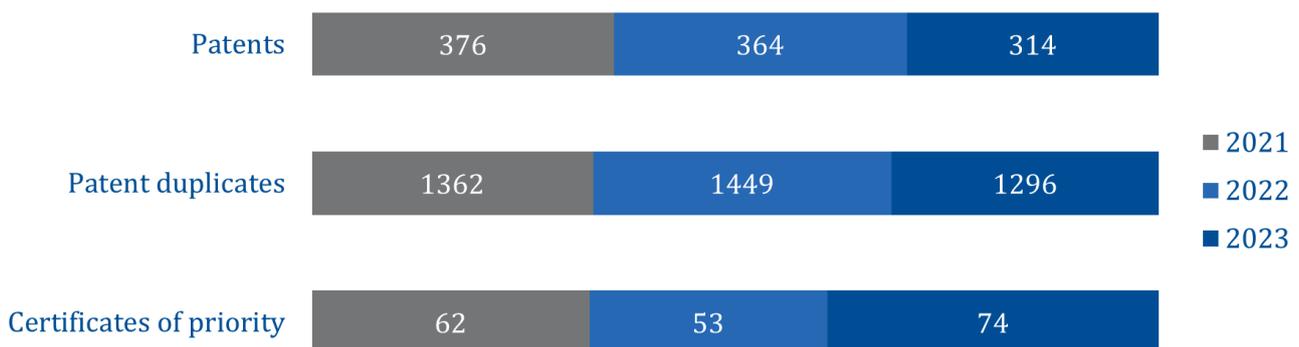
Patent applications in substantive examination



Examined - by decisions



Issuance of protection documents



A number of 314 patents were issued in 2023, of which 303 to Romanian owners and 11 to foreign owners.

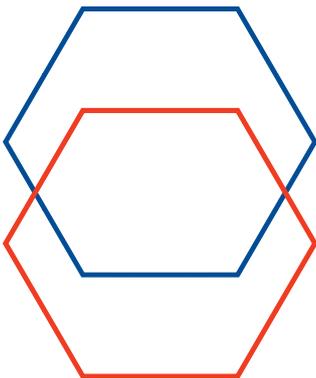
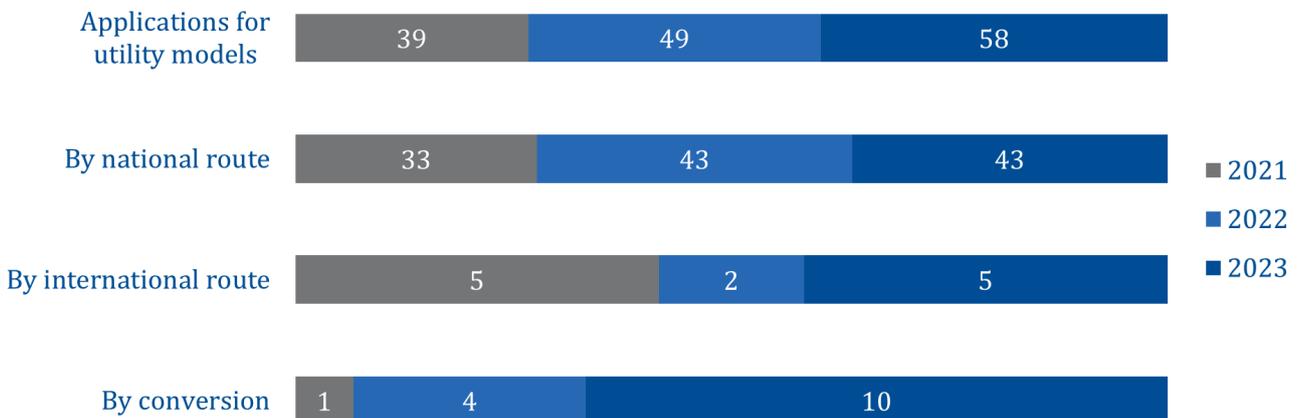
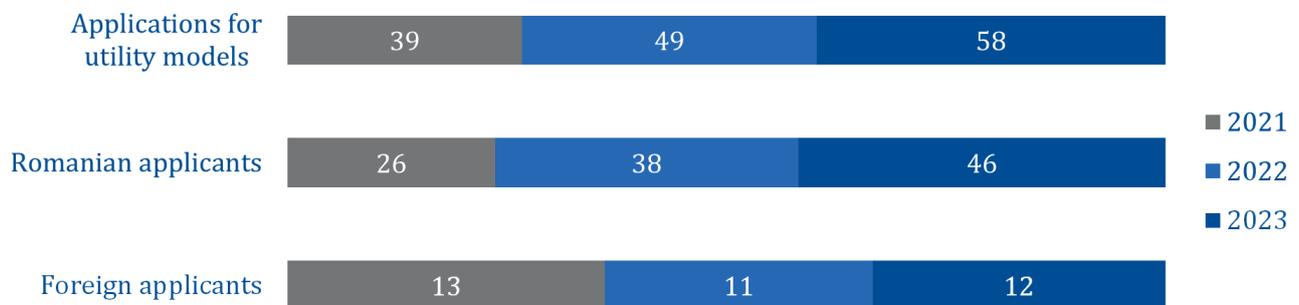


UTILITY MODELS

Beside the patent, there is the utility model that represents a faster way of protecting the inventions, the registration procedure of which is established by the Law 350/2007 on utility models. This is why the utility model may be a strategic means for start-up SMEs.

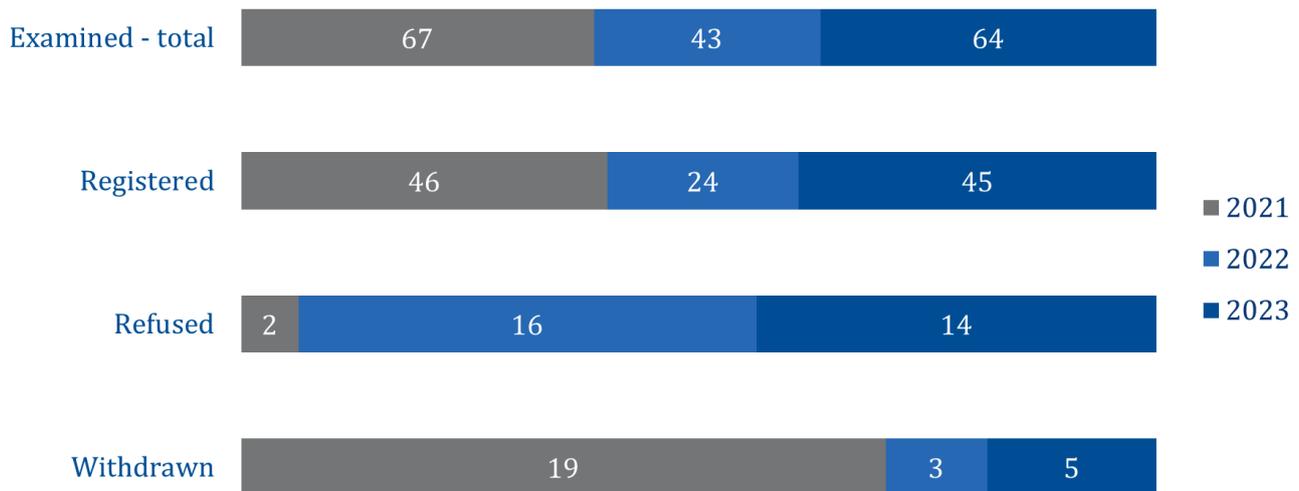
In 2023, 58 applications for utility models were filed, 46 of which belong to Romanian applicants and 12 to foreign applicants.

Applications for utility models



Following the examination of the fulfillment of the legal requirements, the Examination Board made 45 decisions to register the utility model, 14 refusal decisions and 5 withdrawal decisions.

Examination of utility model applications



Issuance of utility model certificates



SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATES (SPC)

Romania, as a Member State of the European Union, grants, under the three Community Regulations entered into force, namely regulations concerning the protection of medicaments, of paediatric products and of plant protection products, Supplementary Protection Certificates following an examination procedure.

In 2023, 55 Supplementary Protection Certificate applications were filed with OSIM.

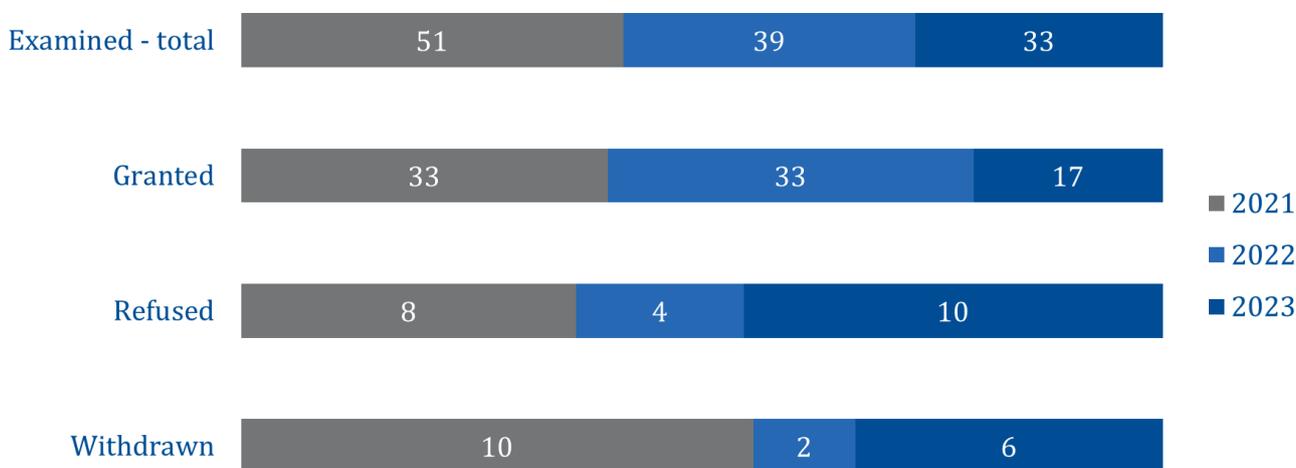
Supplementary Protection Certificate applications





After the Board examined the fulfilment of conditions for granting the certificate, in accordance with the European Regulations, there resulted 17 granting decisions, 10 refusals and 6 withdrawals.

Examination of Supplementary Protection Certificates



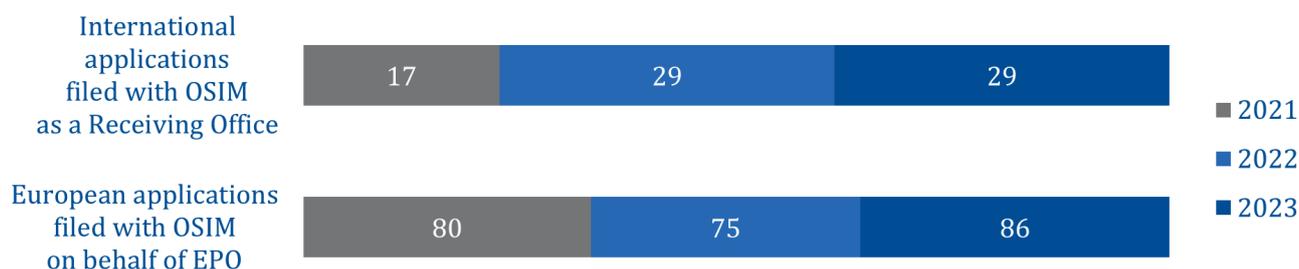
Issuance of Supplementary Protection Certificates



FILING APPLICATIONS FOR PROTECTION ABROAD

Patent applications may be filed abroad, in one or several States, either by national route (directly to the patent offices of the State on the territory of which protection is sought), or by regional or international route, under the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. In the last two cases, the application may be filed with OSIM.

In this context, 29 international applications were filed, by Romanian applicants, with OSIM as a Receiving Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and 86 European patent applications were filed with OSIM acting on behalf of the European Patent Office.

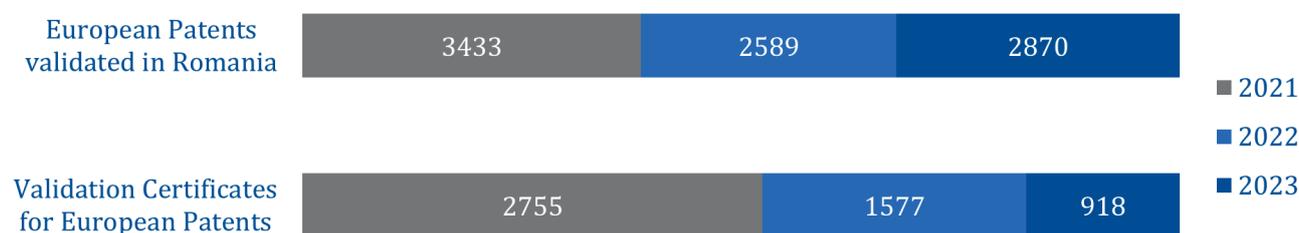


EUROPEAN PATENTS RECOGNITION IN ROMANIA (VALIDATION)

European patents granted by EPO under the European Patent Convention (EPC) may be recognized on the territory of Romania, subject to compliance with the provisions of the Law 611/2002 on Romania's accession to the European Patent Convention. For a validation in Romania, the patent owner is supposed to file with OSIM the Romanian translation of the European patent accompanied by a request for its publication, and to pay the translation publication fee and the patent maintenance fees.

In 2023, 2870 requests for publication of European patent translation were filed with OSIM. A number of 918 certificates for recognition of European patents effects in Romania were issued.

European Patents

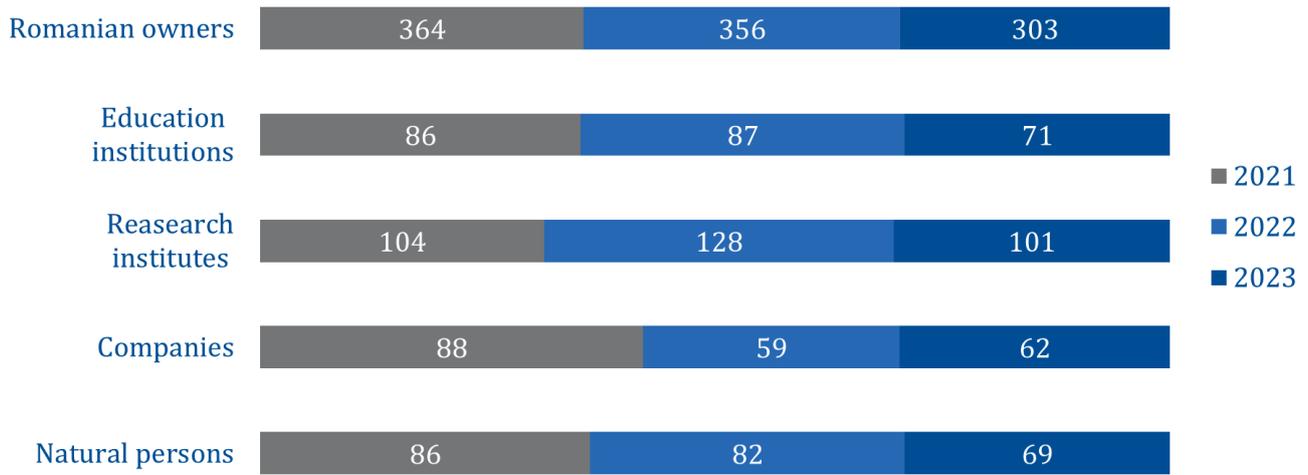




Issuance of Certificates for extension / recognition of European Patent effects



Issued patents, by categories of Romanian owners



Issued patents, by administrative units

MACROREGION ONE

■ 2021
■ 2022
■ 2023

Macroregion/Development region/County	2021	2022	2023
MACROREGION ONE	76	65	56
North-West	49	41	39
Bihor	6	2	4
Bistrița-Năsăud	2	1	3
Cluj	32	29	27
Maramureș	8	8	5
Satu Mare	1	1	0
Sălaj	0	0	0
Centre	27	24	17
Alba	0	1	0
Brașov	15	13	10
Covasna	0	2	0
Harghita	2	1	3
Mureș	5	2	1
Sibiu	5	5	3

MACROREGION TWO

■ 2021
■ 2022
■ 2023

Macroregion/Development region/County	2021	2022	2023
MACROREGION TWO	53	47	47
North East	44	40	40
Bacău	0	1	0
Botoșani	0	0	2
Iași	34	22	27
Neamț	1	1	0
Suceava	9	15	10
Vaslui	0	1	1
South East	9	7	7
Brăila	0	0	0
Buzău	2	0	0
Constanța	3	2	2
Galați	4	4	5
Tulcea	0	0	0
Vrancea	0	1	0





MACROREGION THREE

■ 2021
■ 2022
■ 2023



Macroregion/Development region/County	2021	2022	2023
MACROREGION THREE	192	191	162
South-Muntenia	17	12	11
Argeş	1	5	4
Călăraşi	2	0	0
Dâmboviţa	5	3	1
Giurgiu	0	0	1
Ialomiţa	1	0	1
Prahova	8	4	4
Teleorman	1	0	0
Bucharest-Ilfov	175	179	151
Ilfov	44	35	36
Bucharest	131	144	115

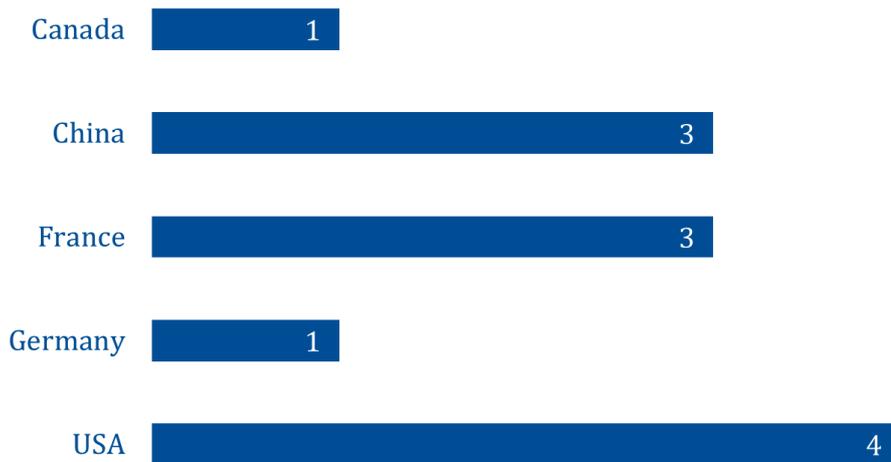
MACROREGION FOUR

■ 2021
■ 2022
■ 2023



Macroregion/Development region/County	2021	2022	2023
MACROREGION FOUR	65	53	53
South-West Oltenia	42	30	34
Dolj	5	1	5
Gorj	1	0	2
Mehedinţi	1	0	0
Olt	2	0	2
Vâlcea	10	6	6
West	23	23	19
Arad	0	1	2
Caraş-Severin	2	1	2
Hunedoara	3	4	6
Timiş	18	17	9

Patents issued in 2023, by owner's country of residence



TRADEMARKS AND DESIGNS

The protection of the industrial property rights relating to trademarks and designs has a high importance, its goal and finality being to protect the product of human intelligence and, at the same time, to ensure the benefit reflected upon the consumers by using said product.

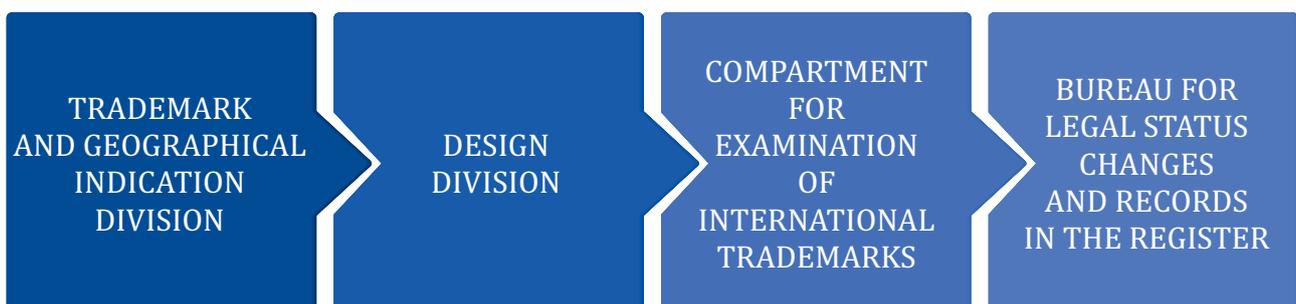
The rights conferred by the protection of trademarks and designs is one of the basic instruments of the economic, social and cultural development of a nation.

The trademarks and the designs are intangible assets which contribute to the increase of a business value, making it better known, the main effect of which is its market value increase.

The Trademark and Design Directorate is one of the specialized directorates of OSIM that deals with the examination of trademarks, geographical indications and designs applications.

The organizational structure of said Directorate is the following:

- Trademark and Geographical Indication Division;
- Design Division;
- Compartment for Examination of International Trademarks;
- Bureau for Legal Status Changes and Records in the Register.





TRADEMARK AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION DIVISION

The Trademark and Geographical Indication Division carries out the activity of examination and registration of trademark applications filed by national route, by virtue of the Law 84/1998, as republished, and it is headed by a Head of Division, subordinated to the Director of the Directorate.

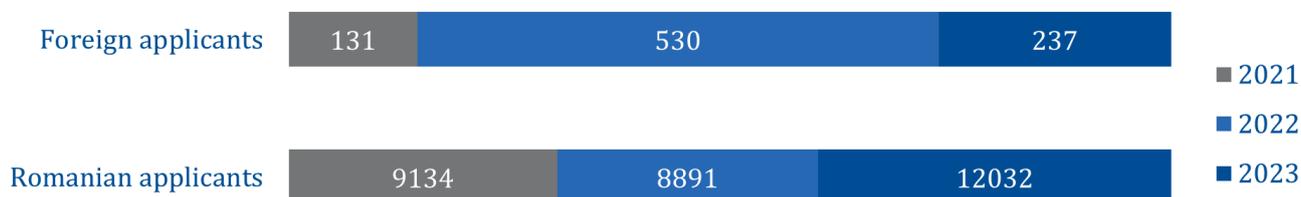
The organizational structure of the Trademark Division is the following:

- The Trademark Preliminary Examination Bureau – carries out activities concerning the preliminary examination of trademark applications filed by national route and the constitution of the regular filing, according to the law. It is headed by a Head of Bureau subordinated to the Head of Division.
- The National Applications Examination Bureau – carries out activities concerning the examination of trademark applications filed by national route, both relating to absolute grounds and the oppositions against the applications admitted for registration. Said Bureau is headed by a Head of Bureau subordinated to the Head of Division.

TRADEMARKS FILED BY NATIONAL ROUTE

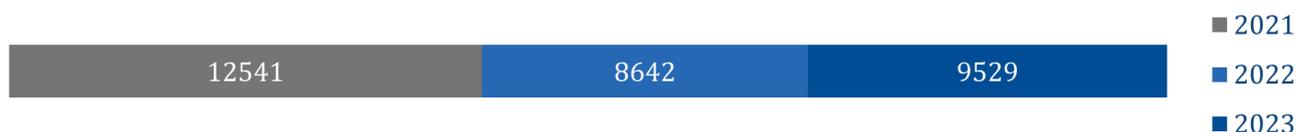
In 2023, 12269 applications for trademark registration were filed by national route. An increase by 12.98% may be noticed in relation to 2022.

Trademark applications for registration filed by national route



A number of 12302 applications for trademark registration filed by national route underwent preliminary examination in 2023, by 12.81% more than in 2022, and 9529 applications for registration of national trademarks were subjected to substantive examination.

Examination of trademark applications filed by national route



In 2023, 587 oppositions to the publication of trademark applications admitted for registration were filed. Considering that, in 2022, 650 oppositions were filed, a decrease in the number of oppositions to the registration of trademark applications filed by national route can be noticed.

Filing of oppositions to trademark applications



The Opposition Examination Board solved, in 2023, 520 oppositions filed against national trademarks.

Examination of trademark application oppositions



In 2023, the specialists of the Trademark and Geographical Indication Division took part in various projects and actions developed in cooperation with EUIPO:

- „FrontOffice” Project: – „TM e-services”;
- „BackOffice” CF Project – ECP 2 (observations, testing, proposals for improvement);
- Project ECP2 – Major Improvements to BACK OFFICE BO (ongoing project);
- Project ECP3 – Decision desktop.

COMPARTMENT FOR EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARKS

The Compartment for Examination of International Trademarks carries out activities of examination of trademark applications filed by international route, both relating to absolute grounds and the oppositions filed against the applications admitted to registration. This compartment is subordinated to the Director of the Directorate.

In 2023, 1480 applications for trademark registration were filed by international route with Romania as designated state and 46 applications for trademark registration with Romania as state of origin.

Applications for trademark registration by international route



Examination of trademark applications filed by international route





A number of 26 oppositions filed against the registration of international trademark applications were settled, as well.

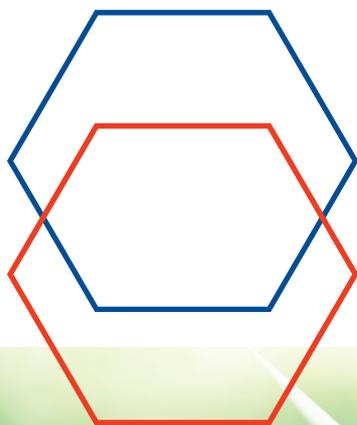
Examination of oppositions against trademarks filed by international route



Activities specific to Project ECP 4: Collaborative Network - Language Check are also carried out within this Compartment, the project being conducted by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) in cooperation with the national offices in order to assist the examiners of the European organization in the decision-making within the process of examination of absolute grounds. The above-mentioned project aims at the unitary regulation of the activity of language check, consisting of the identification and translation of the verbal elements of the European trademark applications which have a notional content in Romanian, accompanied by supplementary explanations of phonetic (ortographic/orthoepic), morphological, lexicological, semantic nature that EUIPO examiners need in order to understand the meaning in Romanian of certain verbal elements contained in the European trademarks.

Within this project, which has started in the middle of 2017, a number of 83708 verbal elements of the trademarks filed with the European Union Intellectual Property Office which have notional content in Romanian were translated in 2023, while offering information/explanations related thereto.

BUREAU FOR LEGAL STATUS CHANGES AND RECORDS IN THE REGISTER

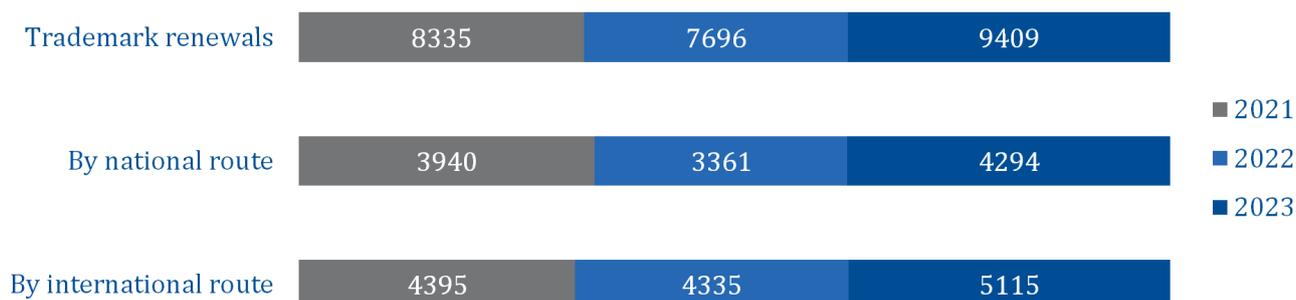


Concerning the entering of changes occurred in the legal status into the Trademark Register, 5561 such changes were entered in 2023.

4294 requests for trademark renewal were filed for national trademarks, 3442 of which were examined and 5115 requests for renewal of protection for international trademarks having Romania as designated state.



Requests for trademark renewals

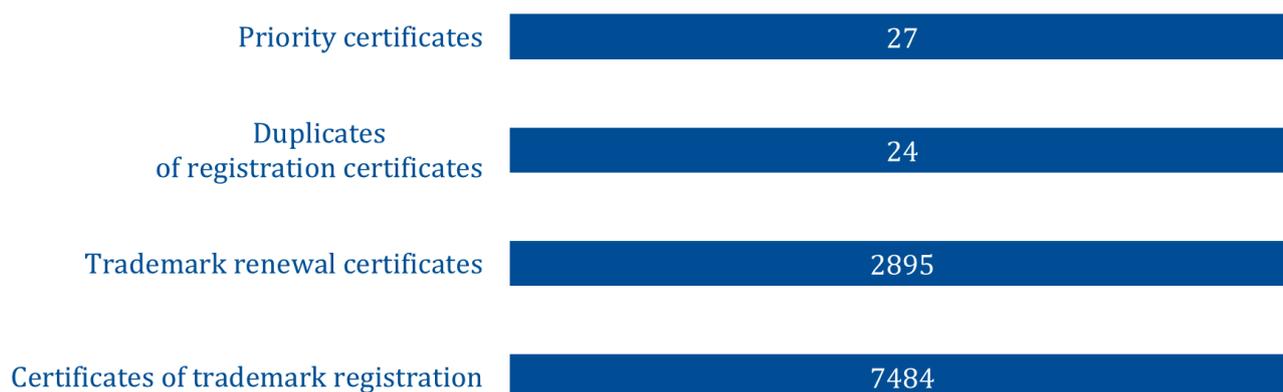


Examination of trademark renewal requests



In 2023, a number of 7525 trademarks admitted for registration were entered in the Trademark Register and 10430 protection titles were issued, 7484 of which were certificates of trademark registration, 2895 renewal certificates, 24 duplicates of trademark certificates and 27 priority certificates.

Issuance of trademarks protection documents in 2023

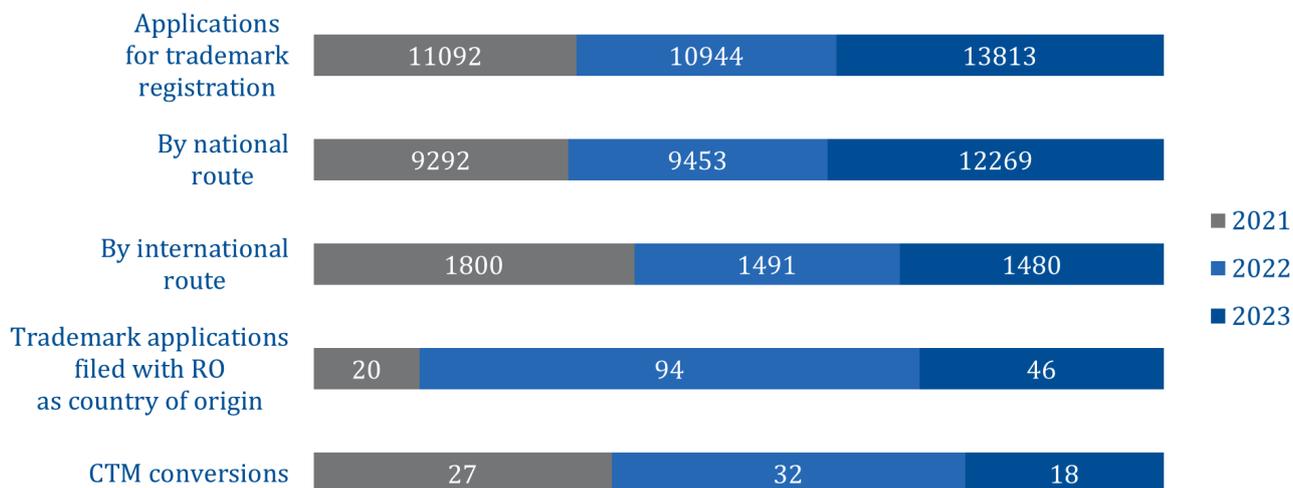




REGISTERED TRADEMARKS

A total number of 13813 applications for trademark registration were filed in 2023. It shows an increase by 21%, as compared to 2022.

Applications for trademark registration



DESIGN DIVISION

In 2023 the Design Division carried out the activity of registration, examination and issuance of protection titles in the field of designs in accordance with the provisions of Law 129/1992, as republished, the Division being under the direct coordination of the Director of the Trademark and Design Directorate, and conducting documentary search in the field of design, as well.

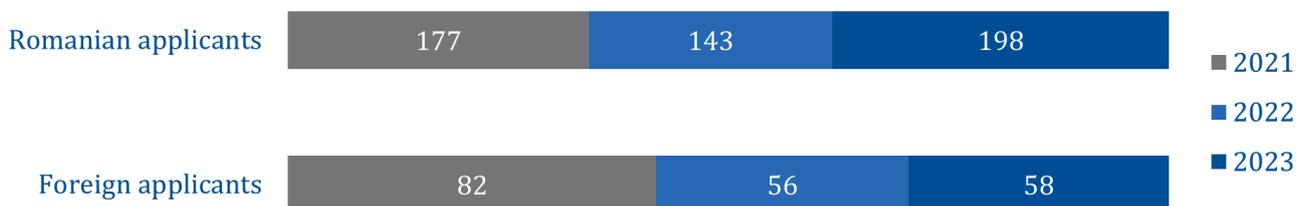
The right in a design is recognised by the registration and issuance of a registration certificate in accordance with the provisions of Law 129/1992 on the protection of designs, as republished.

The object of an application may be registered if it constitutes a design, it is new and it has an individual character.

Designs determined exclusively by a technical function, technical drawings, graphic representations which cannot be typographically reproduced and those that have a purpose and appearance contrary to public order and morality cannot be registered.

In 2023, 256 applications for design registration were filed (of which 159 applications were simple applications and 97 multiple) which comprise 654 designs, with 2009 graphic representations. Of the total number of design applications filed for registration, 201 applications were filed by national route and 55 applications, by international route.

Applications for design registrations



Applications for design registration – foreign applicants



Designs contained in applications for registration



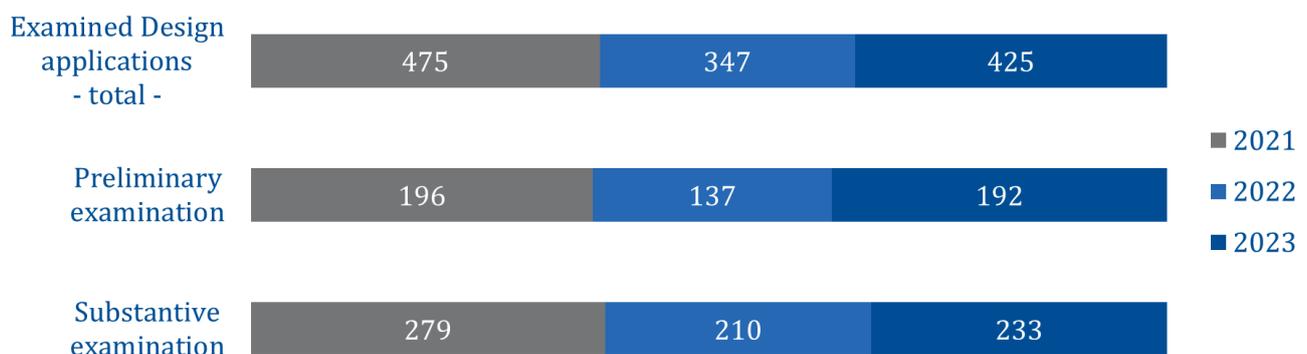
EXAMINATION OF DESIGN APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

This year, the total number of designs subjected to preliminary examination was of 491, with 540 graphic representations, contained by 192 applications for registration.

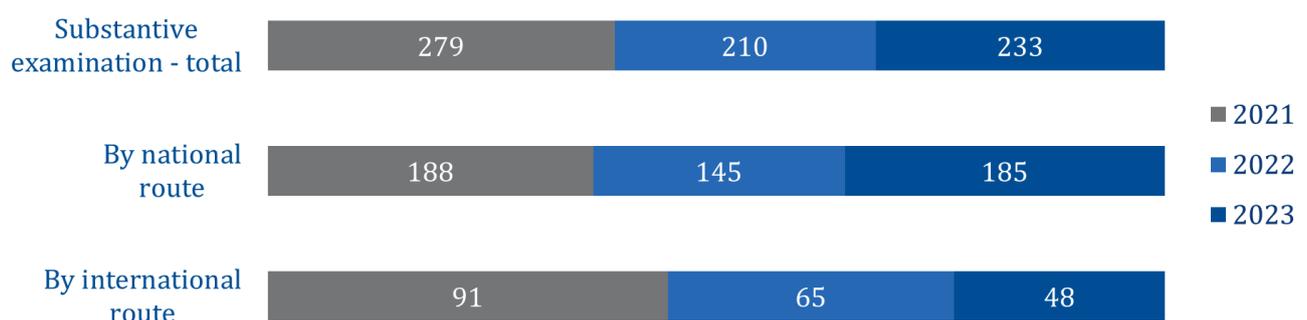
403 designs were published with 621 graphic representations contained by 220 applications for registration.

593 designs, with 1888 graphic representations contained by 233 applications for registration were subjected to substantive examination. Insofar the number of renewal requests is concerned, 181 requests were examined in 2023.

Examination of Design applications for registration



Substantive examination of Designs





Examination of Design renewal applications



905 procedures were carried out within the post-examination procedures, of which:

- a number of 114 changes in the legal status of design applications were published, as follows: 21 transfers of rights and 93 other types of changes (changes of headquarters/address of applicant/owner/representative, representative change/recordal/renunciation);
- mentions of reinstatement in respect of 5 protection certificates were recorded and published.

ISSUANCE OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

In 2023, 342 Design certificates were issued, of which: 164 registration certificates, 175 renewal certificates and 1 duplicate of the certificate for maintenance in force and 2 priority certificates.

Issuance of Design registration certificates



Issuance of Design renewal certificates



OSIM specialists took part in 2023, as well, in the projects developed by EUIPO, some of which are mentioned below.

Within the framework of Project 1.2.5. “Quality Standards”, the Design Division summarized and periodically transmitted to EUIPO both its own performance indicators and the indicators received from the Trademarks Division and the Appeals Division.

The examiners within the Design Division took part this year, the same as during the previous years, in the activities carried out in the framework of the Projects „Back Office” and „Front Office” by checking and testing criteria contained in the data base and also by making proposals for the data base improvement.

The requirements regarding the Project ECP1 OSIM – Front Office Implementation were analyzed and discussed together with EUIPO representatives.

Check-ups were made and observations were sent regarding:

- Project CF 1.2.5. „Quality Standards” (periodically sending performance indicators for the Design Division and Trademark and Appeal – Revocation Divisions);
- „FrontOffice” Project:
 - „DS e-filing” (sending requirements + improvements);
 - „DS e-services” (implemented, specific requirements are being occasionally sent);
- Project CF “BackOffice” - ECP2 (sending observations, tests, proposals for improvement);
- Project ECP2 – Major Improvements for BACK OFFICE BO (ongoing);
- Project ECP 3 – Decision desktop;
- Convergence – ECP4:
 - CP7 – Product indications for designs (DesignClass) – online participation in work group sessions.

In addition, in 2023, the Design Division specialists took part in Conferences, Work groups, Expert Committees, of which it is worth mentioning:

- The International Conference „Perspectives of Intellectual Property Law”, organized by the Faculty of Law within the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, in cooperation with OSIM;
- Annual Liaison meeting in the design field (videoconference);
- The 3rd Special session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications – SCT;
- The Preparatory Committee of the Diplomatic Conference to conclude and adopt a Design Law Treaty (DLT);
- Expert Committee for Locarno Classification;
- Working group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs;
- Intellectual Property Working Group – Designs and CUE;
- International Innovation Conference „Women in innovation and business: inspiration, involvement, investment” (videoconference);
- Virtual Practical Demonstration of the Functionalities of the New eLisbon System for CEBS Lisbon Members.





APPEAL PROCEDURE

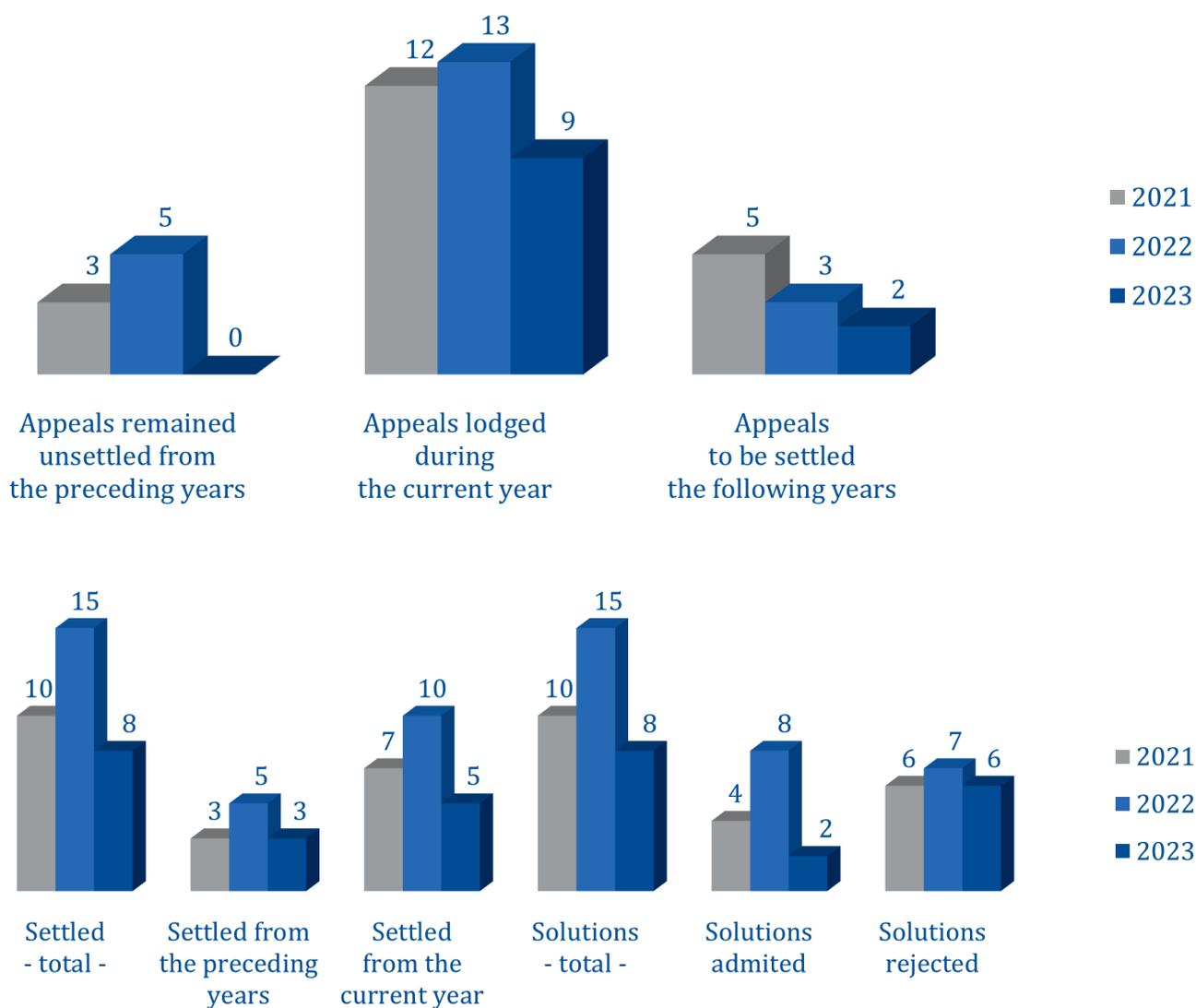
In OSIM, the activity of examination of applications for industrial property protection titles is carried out at two decisional levels:

- examination and
- appeal.

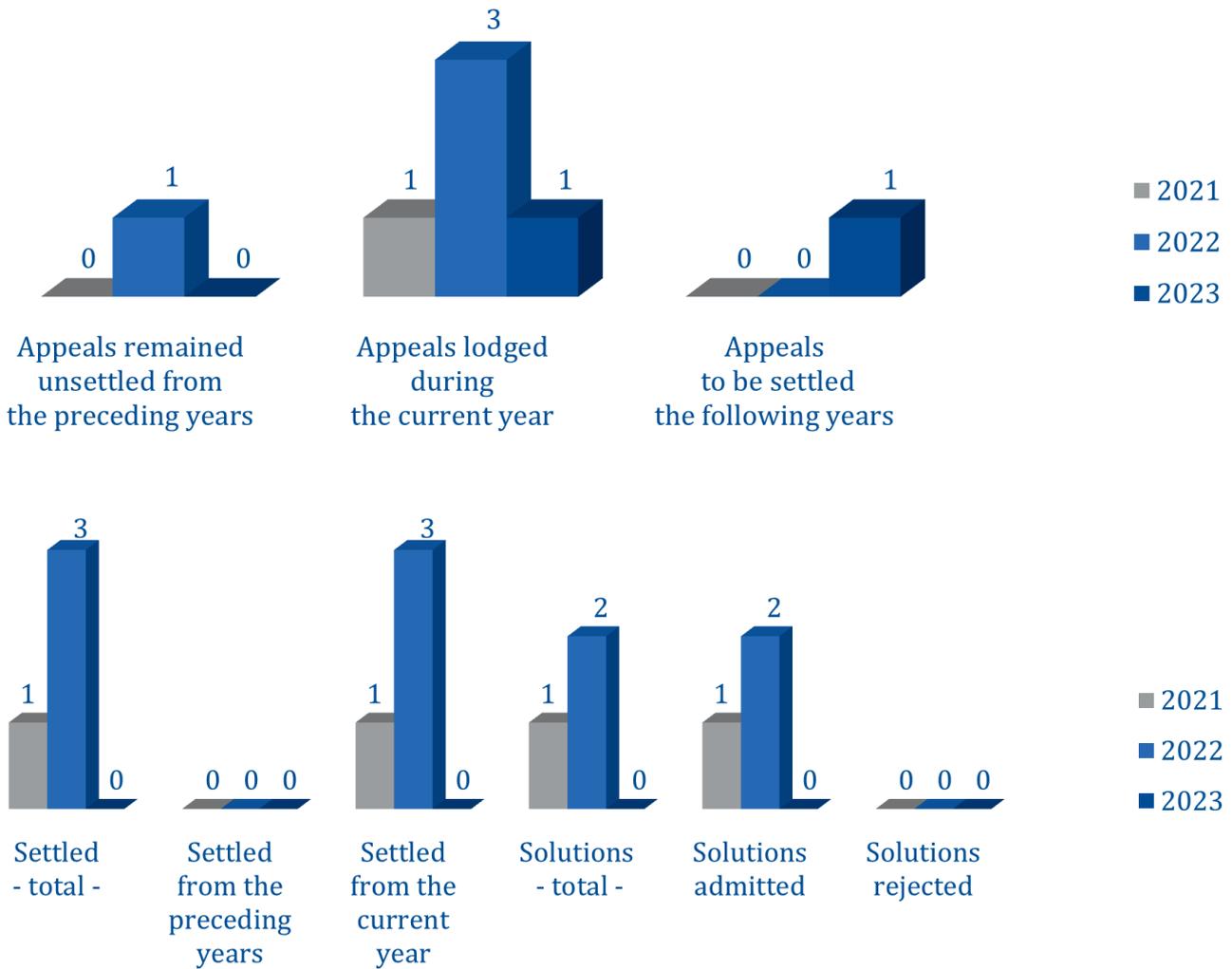
The appeals are settled by Boards consisting of 3/5 members who are specialists in the Appeal and Legal Division within the Legal Directorate and in the Patents and Technological Information Directorate.

ACTIVITY OF PATENT, DESIGN AND TRADEMARK BOARDS OF APPEAL

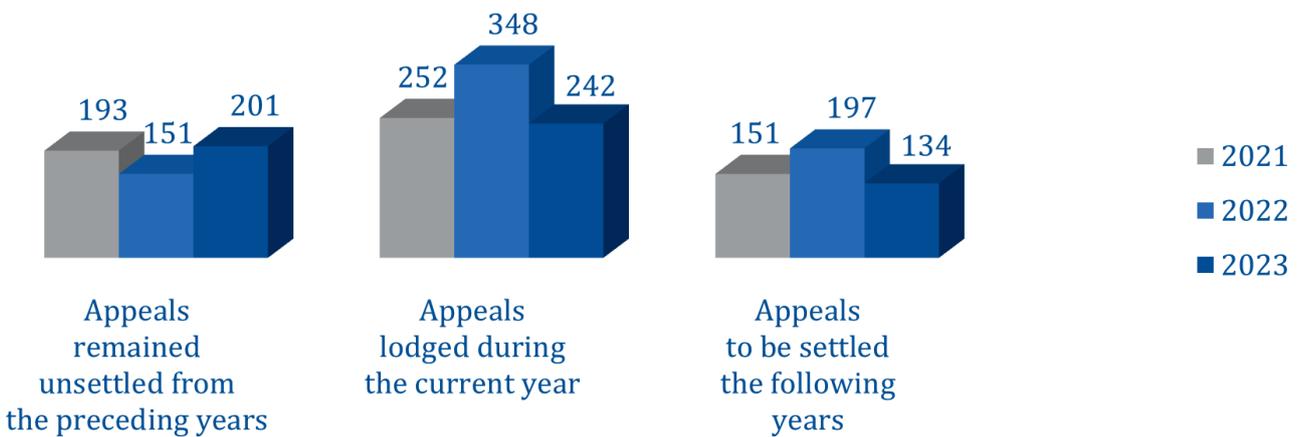
Appeals lodged with the Patent Board of Appeal within the Appeal Division

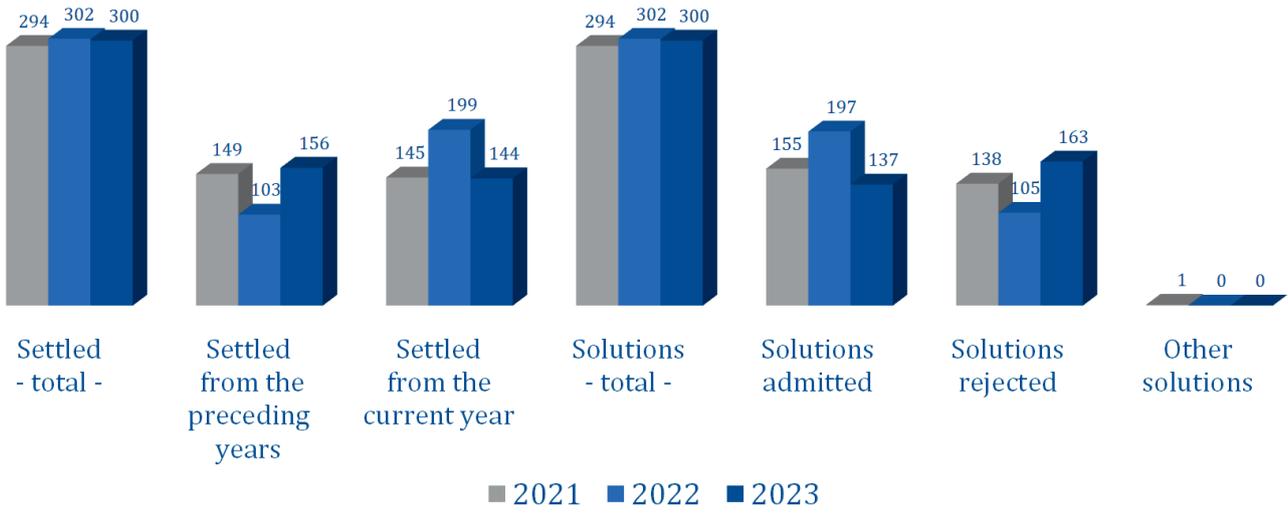


Appeals lodged with the Patent Board of Appeal within the Legal Division

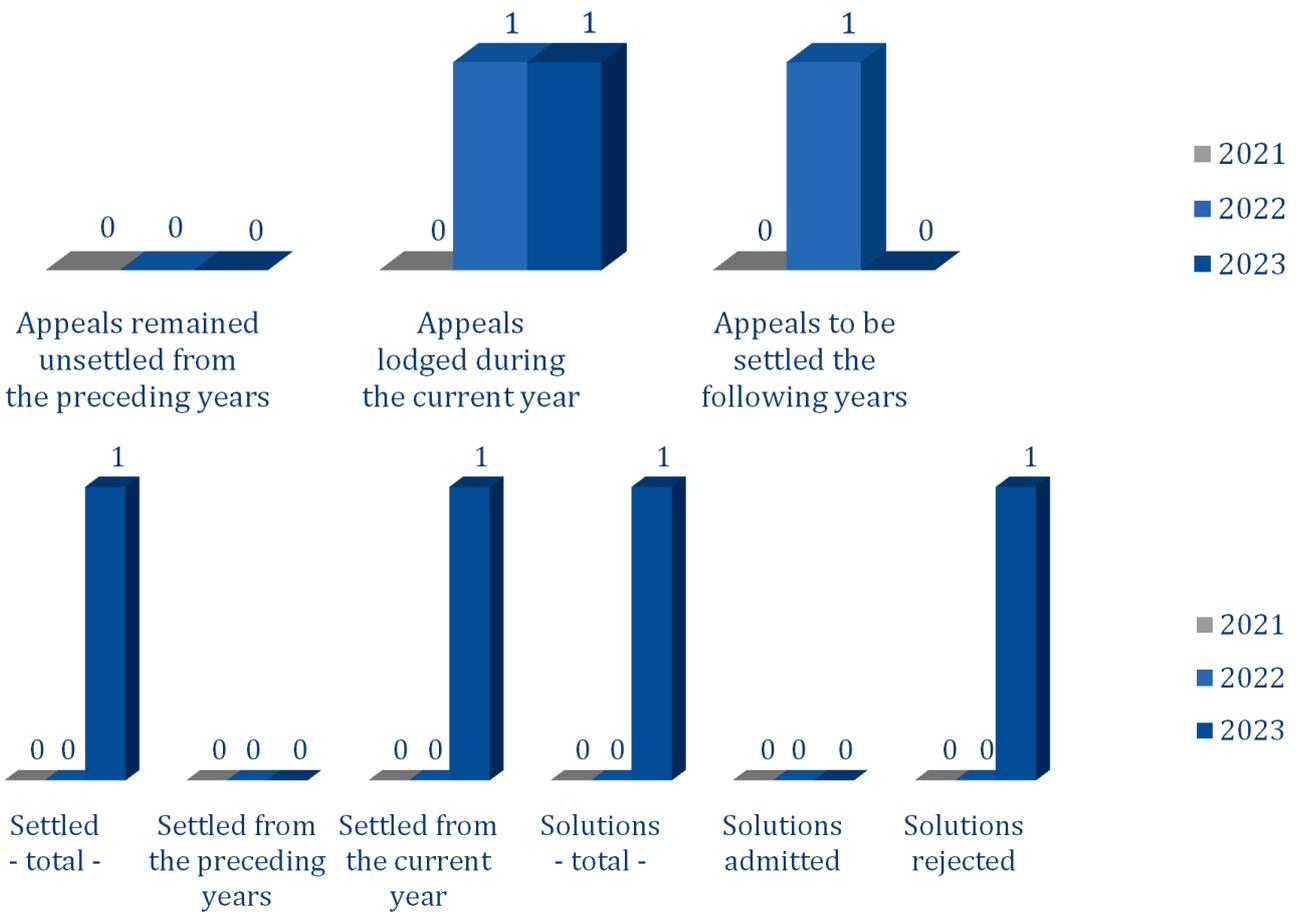


Appeals lodged with the Trademark Board of Appeal within the Appeal Division





Appeals lodged with the Designs Board of Appeal within the Appeal Division



The specialists of the Appeal Division answered 531 internal/external petitions entrusted to them for settling.

In 2023, the OSIM specialists of the Appeal Division, Legal Directorate, participated in conferences, symposia, scientific communications in IP field, of which we mention:

1

„IP Mediation Conference 2023” organized in Alicante – Spain.

2

„First edition of the reunion of the Boards of Appeal members from European Union Intellectual Property Offices organized in Alicante – Spain, with the participation of 2 rapporteurs of the Appeal Division.

3

The 7th edition of the International Conference „Georgia Against Counterfeiting and Piracy”, organized in Batumi – Georgia.

4

„Legislative Evolutions in Commercial Trade-marks. Aspects relating to the process of examination of IP objects within the context of the initiatives for harmonization of legal framework applicable to the European acquis. Digitalization of associated processes”, organized in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova.

5

Symposium PRIOCHEM 2023, ICECHIM, with the oral presentation of the paper „Patent Protection of Research Results in the Field of Polymeric Nanomaterials”.

6

Annual session of scientific communications of the Institute of Plant Protection Research and Development, under the auspices of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, with the oral presentation of the paper „Patent – Instrument for sustainable development of agriculture and environment protection”.





04

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

In 2023, the Government Decision no. 389 of 26th of April 2023 for the amendment of Annex 2 of the Government Decision No. 1326/2021 on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Economy and the Government Decision No. 193/2002 on the organization and functioning of the Romanian Bureau of

Legal Metrology, as well as for the amendment and completion of the Government Decision No. 573/1998 on the organization and functioning of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks was approved. The GD No. 389/2023 was published in the Official Gazette No.368 of 28th of April 2023.

ACTIVITY OF OSIM REPRESENTATION BEFORE LAW COURTS

In all cases in which OSIM was summoned as a party, both representation and defense of OSIM interests before the law courts were ensured, based on the documents of the case and the technical opinions provided by the specialized directorates/divisions.

OSIM appeared before the courts in court-hearings while observing the legal time limits for submitting and upholding counter-statements, objections to expert reports, written conclusions, filing the documents required by the courts for case judgement, etc.

Between 01.01 – 31.12.2023, 81 final decisions were pronounced and in 66 cases we won in court (namely 81.48% of cases).



Situation of litigations pending in courts

Final court decisions, pronounced in 2023	81
Pending files, on roll of the court in 2023	361
New files lodged in 2023	103
Total number of civil files on the roll of the law courts in 2023	442

The situation of requests made by criminal investigation bodies concerning legal search in respect of granted industrial property protection titles in 2023 and of requests by other authorities, as shown by the Legal Division records is the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal investigation files in respect of which legal search was performed concerning protected industrial property rights, upon request by Police bodies: 	Trademark files	8
	Design files	3
	Patent files	1



As from May 2017, the data concerning the legal status of the trademarks protected on the territory of Romania are transmitted, upon the request of Police bodies, by the Trademarks Division.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search files upon the request of other institutions: law courts, ministries, natural persons and legal entities: 	Trademark files	18
	Design files	4
	Patent files	1



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and documentation concerning foreclosure measures, upon request by bailiffs: 	Trademark files	18
	Design files	4
	Patent files	1

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers to letters from national authorities, other than criminal investigation bodies: 	Files	30
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05

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITY

International cooperation plays an essential role in European, regional and global collaboration and favors collaboration with international organizations, facilitating the exchange of information and experience between Member States, contributing to the improvement of practices and standards at international level.

OSIM maintains its collaborative relationships with European intellectual property organizations by continuing the initiatives and carrying on European programs with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO), as concrete examples of cooperation in the field of intellectual property at the European level.

EUROPEAN UNION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (EUIPO)

A. Implementing Cooperation Projects

During 2023, the bilateral cooperation between OSIM and EUIPO focused mainly on improving the functionality of the electronic tools previously developed within the framework of the cooperation activity, in particular the internal application for managing the procedure of examination and registration of trademarks and designs – the Back Office system.

In September 2023, OSIM successfully completed a new stage of the Back Office System improvements project by integrating trademark invalidity files into the system. This implementation increased the functional range of the system and the operational efficiency of the office. The major benefit of this project is that OSIM is now able to keep electronic records of all invalidity files and this way it can monitor the invalidity process electronically.

All these improvements are the result of the work carried out by EUIPO and its partners within European cooperation projects. The projects are intended to support national intellectual property offices in developing more effective, reliable and applicant-friendly tools and services.

OSIM examiners have been involved in the activities of defining and implementing common practice in the field of trademark and design examination to ensure transparency, legal certainty and predictability, for the benefit of national offices and users.





B. Promotion Activity

The activity of disseminating information on the importance of industrial property protection both nationally and across the EU, as well as the organization of educational events for various categories of participants, were a significant component of the activity of cooperation between OSIM and EUIPO during the year 2023, as well as during the previous years.

OSIM supported and promoted the SME Fund project, which is a grant scheme designed to help EU small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to protect their intellectual property rights. The project is aimed at companies that want to develop their intellectual property strategies and protect their intellectual property rights, nationally or across the EU.



EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO)

In the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement concluded between OSIM and EPO, the specialists of our organization continue to benefit from both professional training courses of the EPO Academy and language training courses.

All these courses can represent valuable tools for improving the professional competence and language skills of our specialists, offering them the opportunity to develop their abilities specific to their field of activity, while refining their knowledge and skills to face the professional challenges.

It is also worth mentioning the IT Cooperation Project launched within the EPO Strategic Plan 2023, which aims to equip EPO Member States with modern tools made by a community of national experts, end users and international partners.

In this context, OSIM joined the Pilot Project on the new modern search system of the EPO, ANSERA, intended to replace the current EPOQUENET system in use by the Member States for a very long time. Moreover, in appreciation of the support offered by the EPO specialists, OSIM joined the other participating national offices and started the testing of the new search tool.

50 years have passed since the signing of the European Patent Convention (EPC). This convention was signed in 1973 and represented a historic moment in the development of the European patent system. As is the case with such important anniversaries, the event was marked by various activities and initiatives meant to invite us to celebration and reflection on the progress made in the field of intellectual property over the past 50 years. Over time, the number of signatory states to the Convention has increased, which reflects the increased interest and commitment to the European patent system.

On the basis of this Convention, efforts were made to create the Unitary European Patent, which aims to create a European patent valid in multiple EU member countries.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

International organizations, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), can facilitate information and good practice exchange between countries willing to improve their intellectual property protection systems.

Participation in WIPO programs and initiatives, such as the World Intellectual Property Day, can be enabled by bilateral cooperation, offering access to global resources and networks to each partner-country.

In the framework of the collaboration with WIPO, OSIM along with ORDA, organize events intended to give incentive to innovation and research, thereby contributing to evolution and progress in key-areas.

Consequently, bilateral cooperation with WIPO is a key element in organizing and implementing actions regarding intellectual property rights, thereby offering valuable opportunities for knowledge, resources and experience exchange in the field.

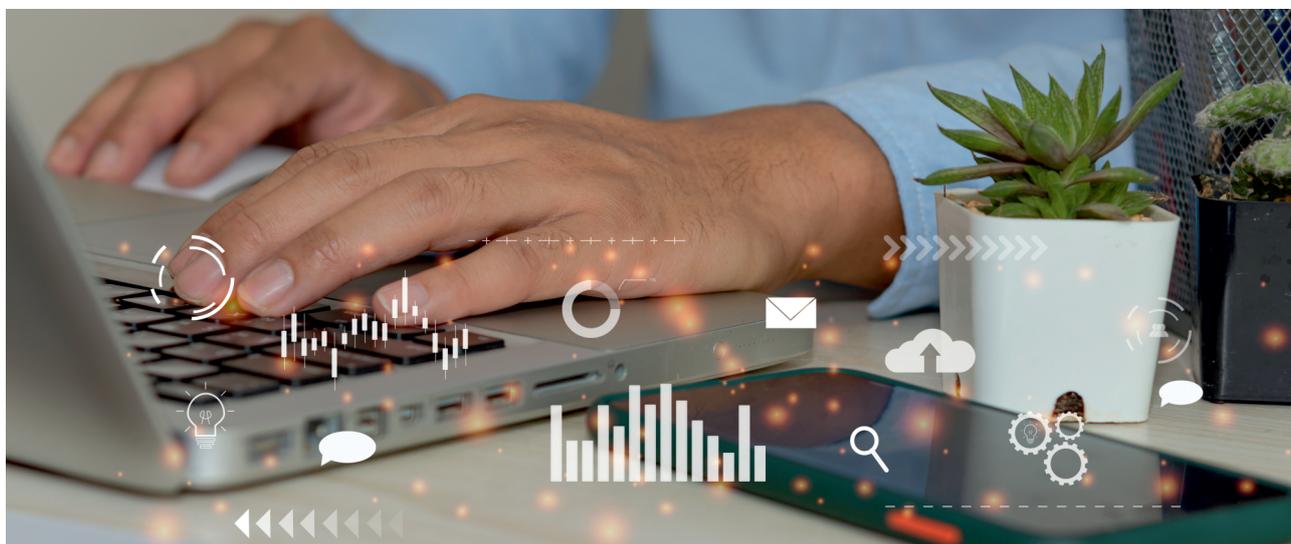
STATE AGENCY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA (AGEPI)

The pandemic period affected the capacity of our organization of organizing meetings and events together with AGEPI, which led to a break in the usual collaboration and interactions between our offices.

Renewing dialogue and collaboration is always an important step forward. Such meetings provide an extraordinary platform for exchanging ideas, identifying joint opportunities and establishing clear directions for further cooperation between OSIM and AGEPI.

Therefore, between 27-29 September 2023, AGEPI held the Trilateral Meeting AGEPI-OSIM-ORDA, a first meeting in which the priorities and common objectives of the three organizations, as well as practical ways of collaboration were discussed. The specific areas of interest in which each party can make a valuable contribution were highlighted and the concrete work plan for the coming year was established.

It is gratifying to see that the commitment to strengthen regional cooperation in the field of intellectual property is taking shape and we hope that this first meeting is only the beginning of a well-established collaboration beneficial to the parties involved.





06

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY PROTECTION PROMOTION ACTIVITY

OSIM experts within the Communication and Operational Marketing Division were involved, during the year 2023, in actions of promoting the protection and valorization of industrial property, consisting of seminars, conferences, round tables, qualifying examination for acquiring the quality of IP attorney, fairs and exhibitions. Moreover, thematic papers, statistical and synthesis studies, essential for the decision-making process, were developed within this Division.

Participation in exhibition events such as: national exhibitions of research, innovation and technological transfer, technical fairs, represented last year, the same as in the preceding years, an important component of the activity of OSIM experts, who had the opportunity to share with the participants information of interest in the field of industrial property. Among the events attended by OSIM experts we mention:

1

International Exhibition of Student Innovation and Research Cadet INOVA, VIIIth Edition;

2

EUROINVENT – European Exhibition of Creativity and Innovation, Iași, XV-th edition;

3

International Exhibition of Inventions and Innovation „TRAIAN VUIA”, Timișoara, IXth edition;

4

International Inventions Exhibition – INVENTICA, Iași, 27th edition;

5

International Exhibition INVENTCOR, Deva, IVth edition;

6

International Exhibition of Research, Innovation and Inventions, PRO INVENT, Cluj-Napoca, XXIst edition;

7

UGAL INVENT – EXHIBITION OF INNOVATION AND RESEARCH, Galați, VIth edition;

8

Exhibition of Wine and Oenotourism – Revino Bucharest Wine Show;

9

National Seminar "Industrial Design in Romania – 30 years after the adoption of the first design protection law in our country", Bucharest;

11

World IP Day 2023 – Women and Intellectual Property: Accelerating innovation and creativity, Bucharest;

13

Seminar "Industrial Property – key-element in business development", Constanța;

10

Seminar „Industrial Property – Catalyst for Innovational Development in Academic, Research and Business Environment”, Târgoviște;

12

Business Development Potential in the Era of Digitalization, Intellectual Property and European Funding, Bacău;

14

Seminar "National and European Trademark. Similarities and Differences", Cluj-Napoca.



During the national seminar „Industrial Design in Romania – 30 years after the adoption of the first design protection law in our country”, papers were upheld and debates on current issues in the field of designs took place with the participation of specialists of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the Court of Appeal of Bucharest, the Doctoral School of the University Nicolae Titulescu and the Intellectual Property Law Science Association, as well as the National Chamber of Industrial Property Attorneys of Romania.

In the framework of the seminar „Industrial Property – Catalyst for Innovational Development in Academic, Research and Business Environment” that took place in Târgoviște, OSIM representatives delivered presentations on topics relating to the industrial property rights protection at the national and European level.

The specialists of OSIM participated in the XIX-th edition of the event „THE CREATIVITY TROPHY 2023” organized by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Navigation and Agriculture of Constanța. THE CREATIVITY TROPHY was awarded by OSIM to companies from Constanța county for their remarkable activity in the industrial property field.





Moreover, the delegates of OSIM organized a seminar under the title „Industrial Property – key-element in business development”, during which, the papers made by the specialists of OSIM had in view that large, small and medium-sized enterprises play an important role in the dynamics of the economy, both nationally and across Europe. The experts of the Communication and Operational Marketing Division drew a parallel between the national and European trademark, presenting the main similarities and differences, as well as the national trademark registration system versus the European trademark registration system. They also provided information regarding the continuation of the project SME Fund – Ideas Powered for Business.

Last year, the specialists of OSIM participated in 2 webinars organized by EUIPO on topics regarding the implementation of tools, services, certifications and common practices by the European Union Intellectual Property Network.

Throughout the year 2023, the experts of said division also took part in the fairs and exhibitions organized by Romexpo, of which it is worth mentioning:

1. International Trade Fair of Furniture, Equipment and Accessories – BIFE-SIM;
2. International Fair of Products and Equipment in the Field of Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture and Animal Husbandry – INDAGRA;
3. Romania's Tourism Fair;
4. #TotulPentruCasaTa Fair 2023 (Construct Ambient Expo, Romtherm, Expo Flowers & Garden and Mobila Expo);
5. International Consumer Goods Fair – TIBCO 2023.

In 2023, OSIM organized the qualifying examination for acquiring the quality of industrial property attorney for the following industrial property law objects: Patents and Utility Models, Trademarks and Geographical Indications, Designs. A total number of 106 people registered for the exam, of which 103 candidates took part in the examination. Candidates' pass rate was of 100%.

Promotion activity across the country

Exhibitions/Fairs/Salons of inventions	13
Webinars	2
Seminars/Conferences/Round tables	5
Examen	1

At the OSIM Reading Hall, 730 persons were lent specialized assistance consisting of information concerning the protection of inventions, trademarks and designs.

Services – OSIM Reading Hall

Designs renewal	6
Designs	9
Trademarks renewal	87
Trademarks forms	127
Trademarks online filing	523
Patent Applications	6
OSIM data base	139
Users	730



The Public Relations Compartment responded promptly and professionally to all requests for information received at the OSIM headquarters, by phone or by e-mail; in this context, 16974 requests were registered, the fields of interest being those presented in the graph below.

Fields of interest

Patents/ Utility models	2061
Trademarks	14276
Designs	358
Others	321





The specialists of the division have drawn up a series of statistical analysis studies as it can be seen below.

Statistical Analysis in 2023

Statistics fees	12
EPO	3
WIPO	1
Annual Report/OSIM site	30
Creativity Trophy	6
Others	10

PATLIB ACTIVITY

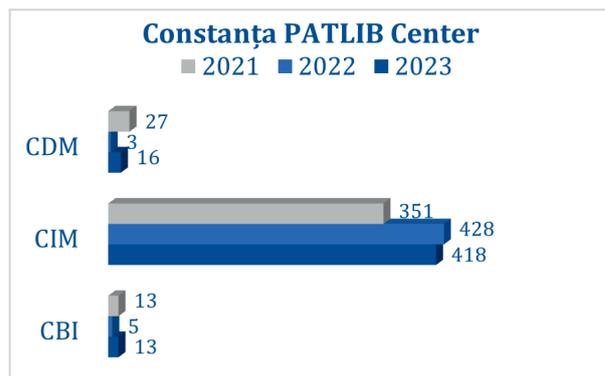
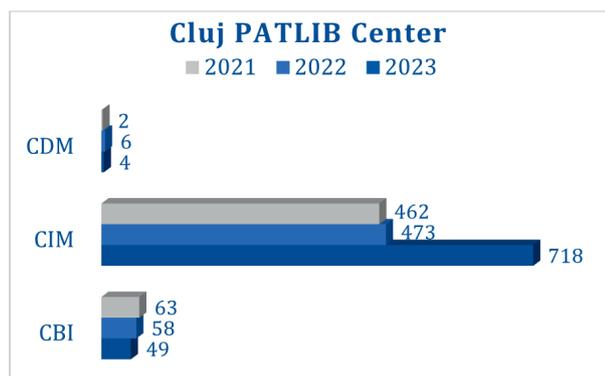
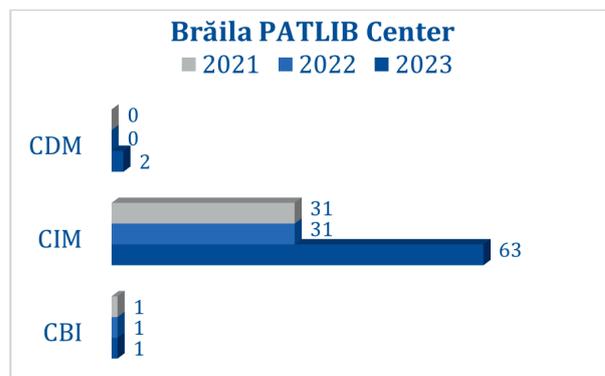
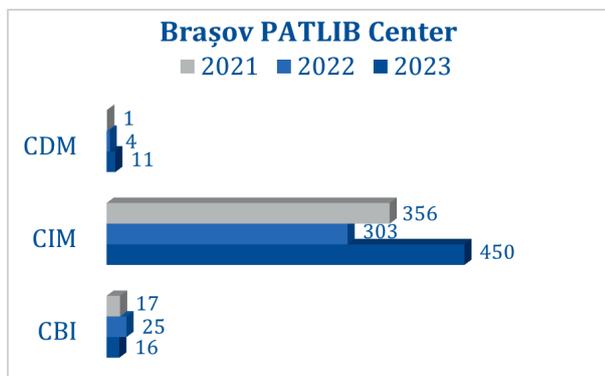
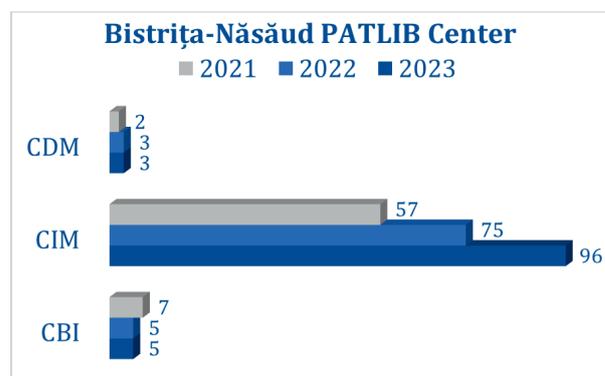
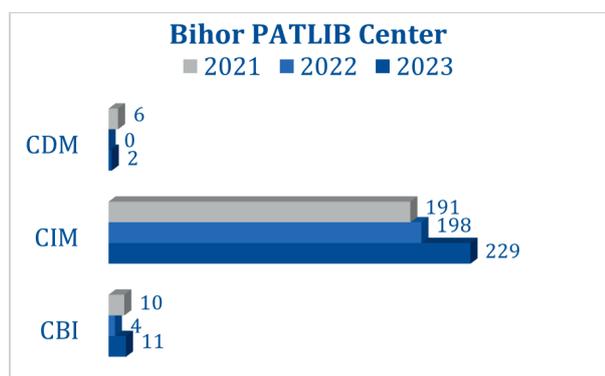
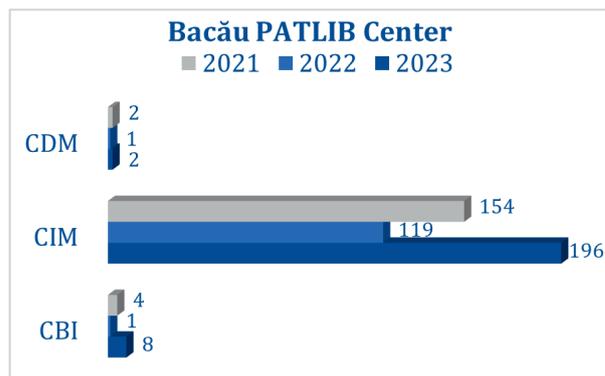
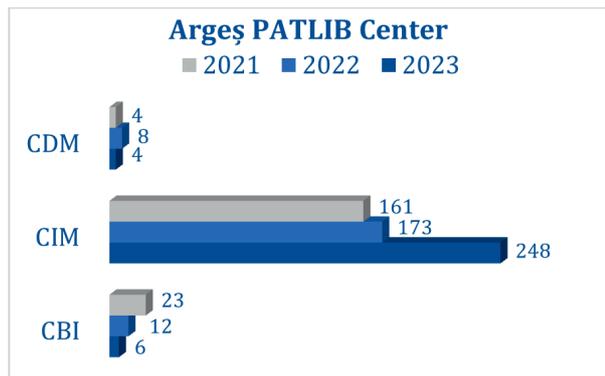
The Regional Centres of OSIM are established by virtue of Art. 14 (1) of the Government Decision No 573 of 7 September 1998 (as updated) on the organization and functioning of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks, which stipulates: "The State Office for Inventions and Trademarks may support the activity of regional centres in the field of industrial property by lending technical assistance, consultancy and endowing them, in accordance with the legislation in force". The Regional Centres are territorial entities attached to local institutions from which they benefit by financial support, premises with office supplies and personnel, while OSIM provides them with support in the field of staff training and with all the publications of OSIM.

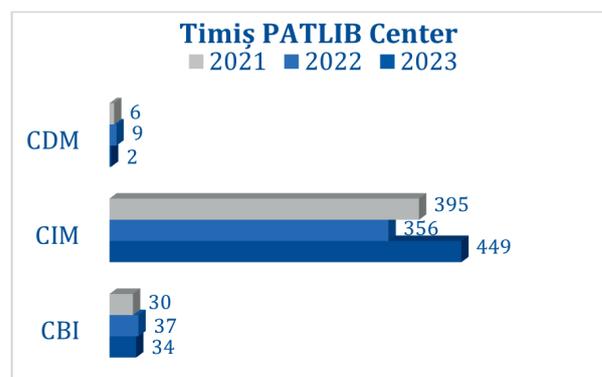
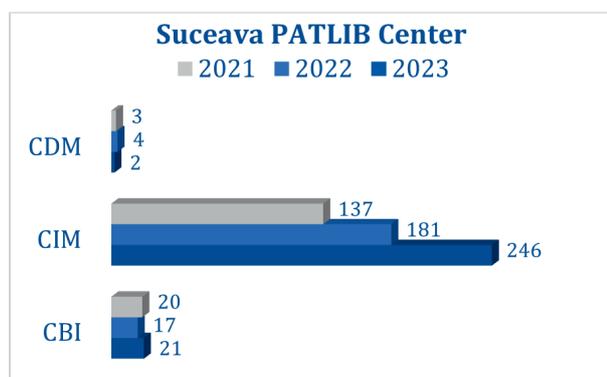
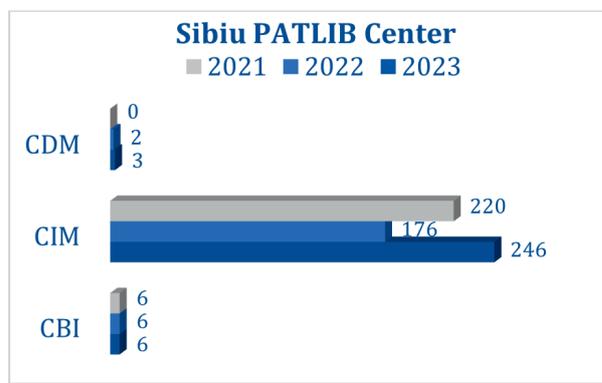
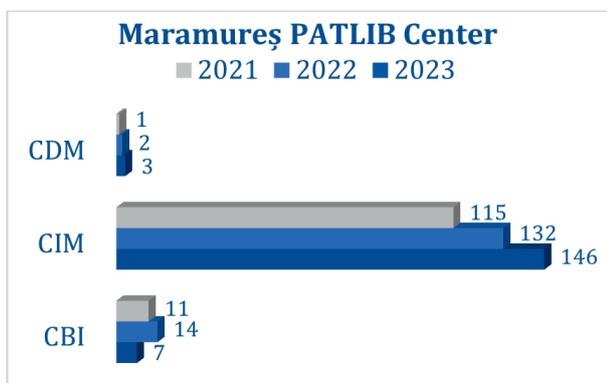
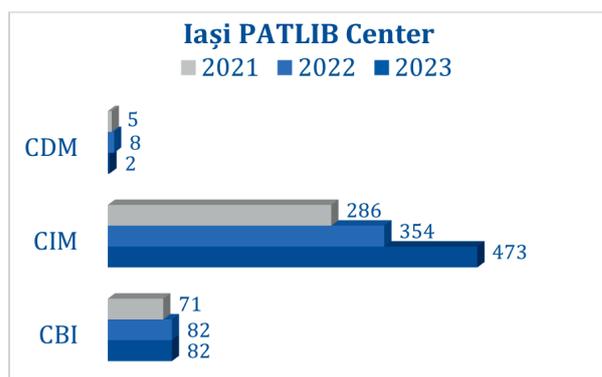
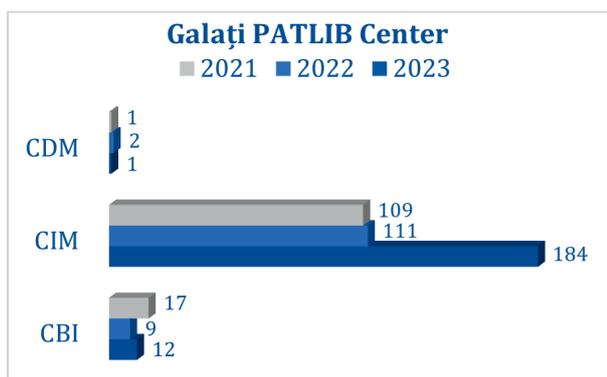
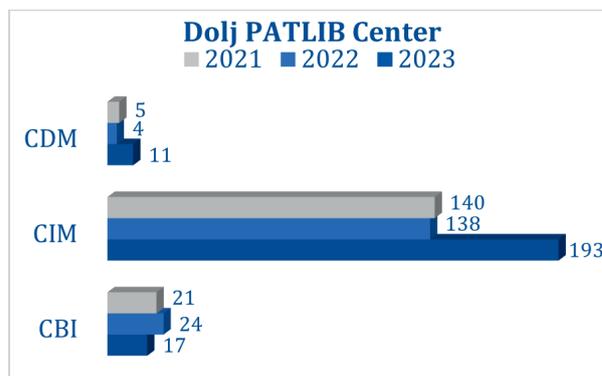
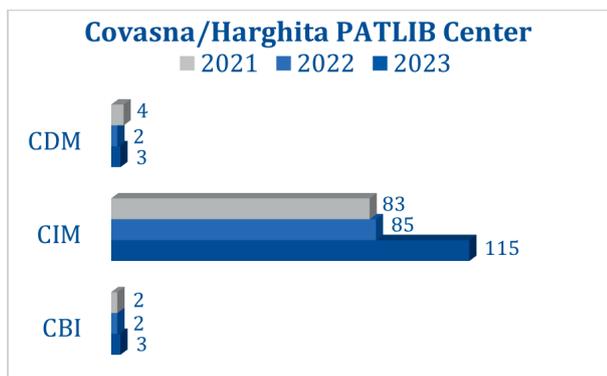
The establishment of Regional Centers was aimed at the promotion of the industrial property protection importance across the country, at the dissemination of public information on industrial property and raising awareness of local communities on this field of activity. The centres operate within the framework of local host-institutions, based on collaboration conventions concluded with OSIM, for jointly setting the objectives, as well as the duties and obligations of each party.

The main goal of the Regional Centres is to promote the industrial property protection and the services provided by OSIM across the Romanian territory.

Other activities of the Regional Centres concern the provision of services, such as: documentary search, technical assistance lent to applicants, within their Reading Halls, training regarding database utilization, evaluation of the economic potential of inventions and development of industrial property strategy, presenting lectures on industrial property protection in seminars, round tables, fairs organized in the respective regions as well as courses of initiation in the industrial property field, in particular in the case of Centres hosted by universities.

Applications by administrative units*





*where: CDM – Applications for design registration;
 CIM – Applications for trademark registration;
 CBI – Patent applications.

PATLIB Conference 2023 was held between 11-12.05.2023 in hybrid mode, i.e. in both on-line mode and in-person, in Tallin, Estonia. The generic of this edition was the impact of the virtual environment (artificial intelligence and metaverse) on innovation and industrial property, the purpose of the event being to create a link between the end of the PATLIB 2.0 Project and the future activities of the PATLIB network.

The conference benefitted by the presence of representatives of national offices as well as of Regional Centers.



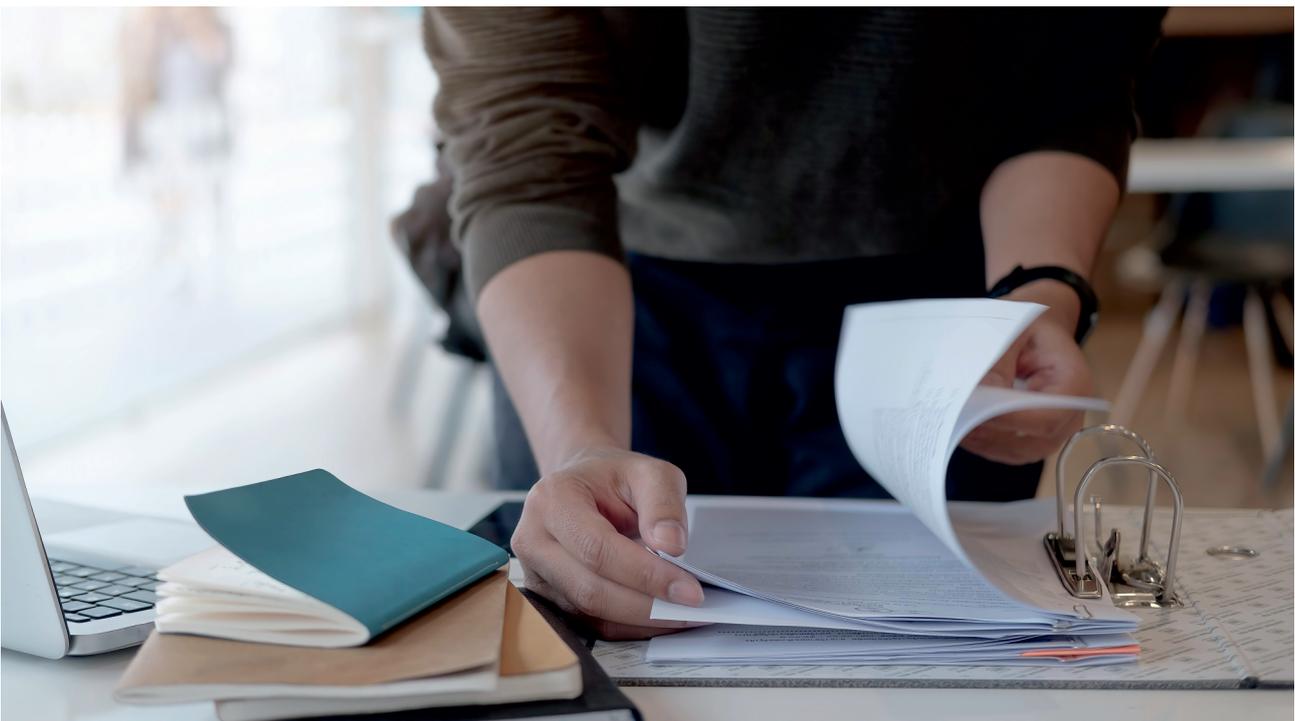
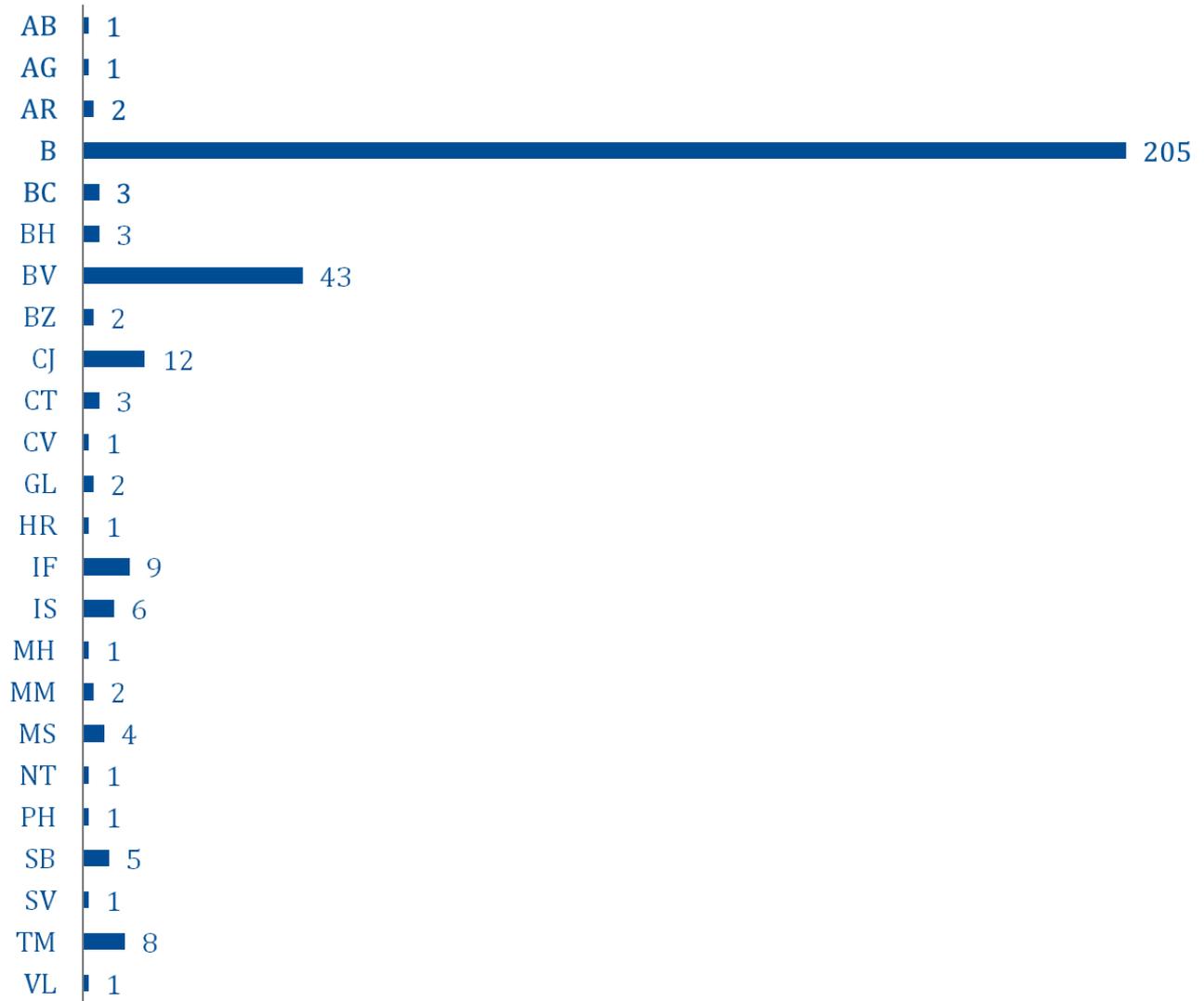
INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

On 31.12.2023, 318 industrial property attorneys were registered with the National Chamber of Industrial Property Attorneys in the 4 fields:





Industrial property attorneys, by county



07

SERVICES PROVIDED TO OUR CLIENTS

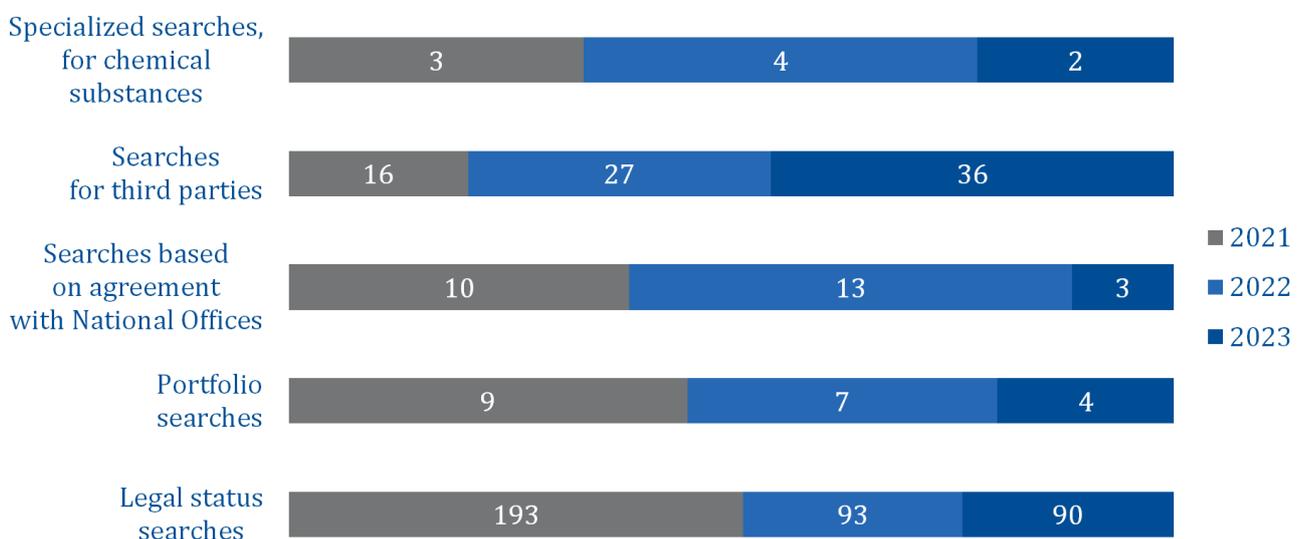
SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF INVENTIONS

Based on the national search orders and the Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of industrial property concluded between OSIM and the Intellectual Property Offices of Slovenia and Macedonia, 36 search reports with written opinion on novelty and theme search reports for Romanian applicants, as well as 3 search reports for the Intellectual Property Office of Slovenia were carried out and sent in the reference year.

10 theme searches for third parties were carried out for Romanian third parties, upon order, in specialized technical fields, such as mechanics and electrical engineering-electronics, in patent data bases and non-patent literature.

2 specialized searches regarding the existence, in Romania, of patents having certain chemical substances as their object were carried out, as well.

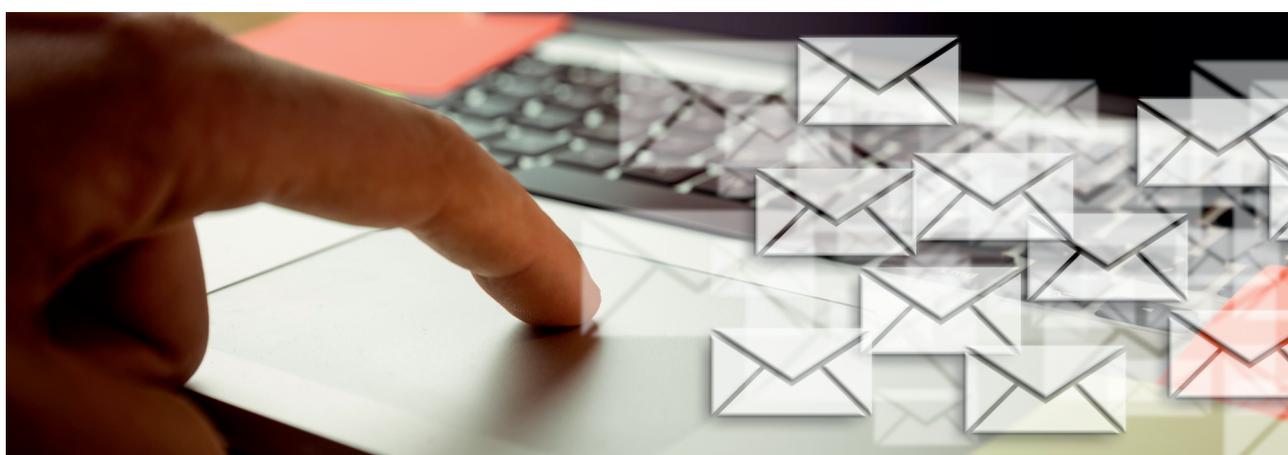
The range of services was completed by a number of 90 legal status communications referring to national patents, European patents and SPCs.





IDEA ENVELOPE SERVICE

Established in 2008, with a view to storing and keeping safely, under non-public conditions, documents containing ideas of creations in various fields, which cannot be protected under the current industrial property laws or copyright and related rights law, the “Idea envelope” service scored a number of 76 requests in 2023.



SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF TRADEMARKS

In accordance with the provisions of Law no. 84/1998, as republished, and of OSIM Order No. 4/2021, OSIM carried out, at the request of the interested parties, 1502 documentary searches. Also, based on the OSIM-EUIPO Cooperation Agreement, 150 documentary searches were carried out.

Trademark searches



SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF DESIGNS

Documentary search in the field of designs is conducted under the provisions of the Design Law 129/1992, as republished, and of the Order of the Director General of OSIM No 80/01.08.2018, that regulate the tariffs for said activity.

In 2023, 42 requests for documentary search were submitted.

Design searches



PUBLISHING HOUSE, TRANSLATIONS, ARCHIVES AND INTERNAL MANAGERIAL CONTROL DIVISION

In 2023, the Publishing House, Translations, Archives and Internal Managerial Control Division (SETFACIM) comprised 3 compartments with distinct activity, led directly by the Head of Division.

The organizational structure of the Division, at the reporting date, is the following:

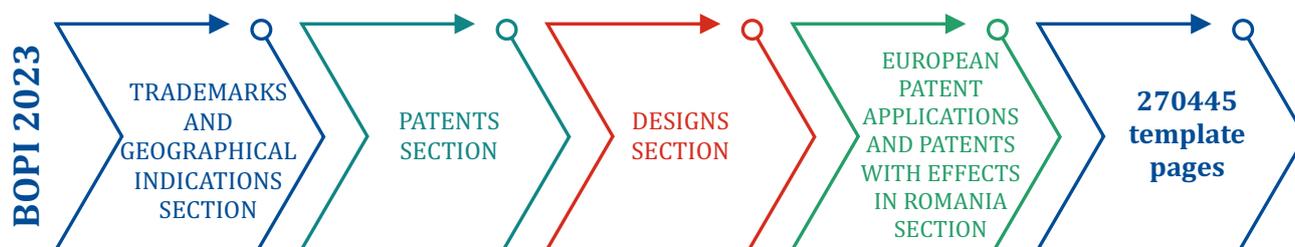


PUBLISHING HOUSE

The general policy of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM) in the field of publishing the information in its own field of activity has always been oriented towards improving the system of information dissemination within the national and international social-economic environment. In order to facilitate the carrying out of this task, OSIM has got its own publishing house – OSIM Publishing House® – authorized by the Ministry of Culture since 1993. The main activity thereof is to edit and print, in accordance with G.D. No 573/1998 on the organization and functioning of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks, as amended, the OSIM publications.

In the reference year, 12 issues/section were edited and published for the four sections of BOPI.



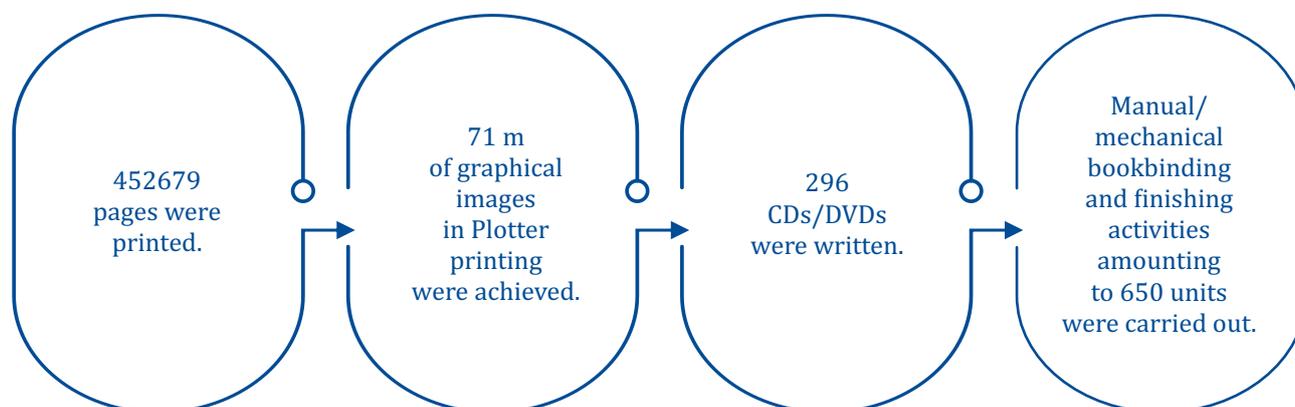


OSIM publications are carried out in both the classic printed version (paper version) and in electronic format and are distributed as CD or online/FTP, and all the sections of BOPI are posted on the OSIM website, under the heading Publications.

Currently existent publications and promotional materials were updated and printed. For better informing the public concerned, the OSIM Publishing House[®] section of the official OSIM webpage www.osim.ro hosts the information brochures.

The Division also carried out the design, layout and printing of posters, roll-ups, diplomas and other materials needed within the events organized by our organization.

TYPOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP



Specialized Publications

616 publications were sent to the National Library of Romania as Legal Deposit.

Specialized publications were periodically sent to the National Library of Romania and the Metropolitan Library, in order to be distributed across the country.

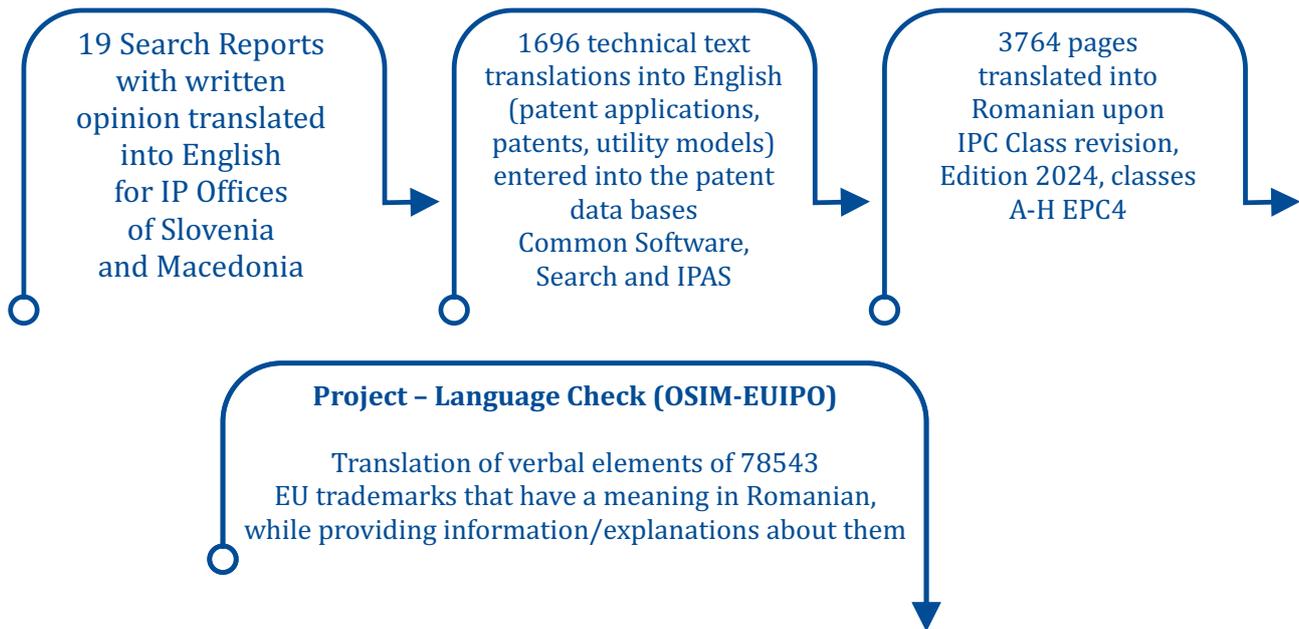
Based on the conventions concluded by OSIM with the EPO, WIPO and AGEPI, SETFACIM prepares and transmits monthly the data corresponding to the specifications of patent applications, patents and utility models, in compliance with international standards in the field, with the data structures recommended /agreed with our external partners.

WIPO: • 950 documents in XML and HTML format amounting to 11517 pages were processed.

EPO: • 1169 documents amounting to 13733 pages were sent.
• 3755 RO-EP files amounting to 228336 pages were sent and checked.

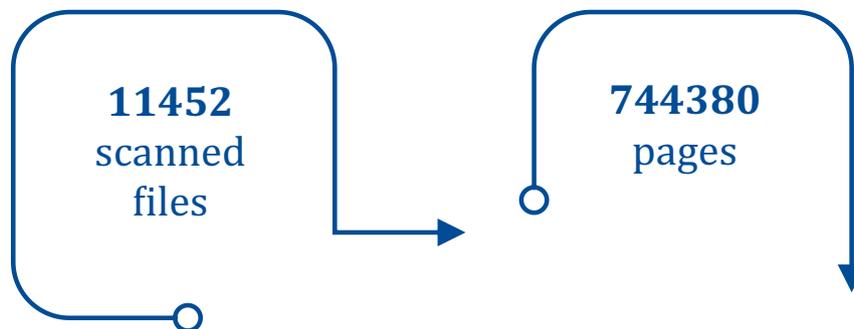
AGEPI: • 1169 documents in PDF format were sent as data exchanges.

TRANSLATIONS COMPARTMENT

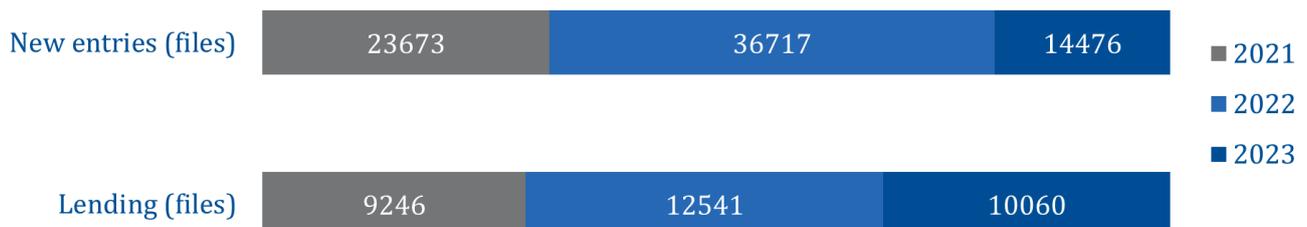


ACTIVITY OF OSIM ARCHIVES

In 2023, a special importance was given to the digitization of documents, so that the activity of setting up electronic archival units for trademarks continued.



Regarding the management of OSIM's documentary funds, the staff of the Archives Compartment made available to the colleagues from the specialized divisions of OSIM 10060 archival units for which 375892 pages were certified and also took over from the specialized divisions 14476 new archival units and 10301 returned units.



Within the National Patent Collection, 1080 new entries were entered in the registers (patent applications, patents and utility models).





ACTIVITY WITHIN THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE SCIM MONITORING COMMISSION

In 2023, the Technical Secretariat of the Monitoring Commission prepared the meetings of the Commission, proposed the risk profile and the risk tolerance limit, based on the Risk Register at OSIM level and sent the approved Plan of Measures on the management of significant risks to the structures concerned, for implementation.

It also prepared the Synthesis of the results of the self-assessment, as provided in Annex No. 4.2 of the Order of the Secretary General of the Government (OSGG) No. 600/2018 for the approval of the Code of internal managerial control of public entities, by centralizing the pieces of information from the self-assessment questionnaires, as signed and transmitted by the heads of the departments from the first management level, it elaborated Chapter II of the Centralized Report regarding the stage of implementation and development of the internal managerial control system (Annex No. 3 of OSGG no. 600/2018).

It assessed the structural compliance of the new or revised system procedures and operational procedures with the provisions of OSGG no. 600/2018 or with the internal regulations; also, all the system and operational procedures, corrective and improvement actions at the organization level were recorded, based on the data transmitted by the heads of departments from the first management level and the Commission documents were recorded, stored and archived.

Also, within the Technical Secretariat of the Monitoring Commission were centralized, at the organization level, the action plans for achieving the general objectives of the organization, as submitted by the departments, and the development stages of SCIM, and the documents relating to the semester and annual data analysis submitted by the OSIM departments were received and registered, with a view to preparing the analyses performed by the management.



08

ENSURING THE IT&C SYSTEM



By virtue of the G.D. No 573 of 7 September 1998 on the organization and functioning of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks, as republished, the activities intended to ensure the operation of the information technology and communications system are incumbent upon the Information Technology and Communications (IT&C) Division.

The IT&C Division activity was aimed to meet the following specific objectives, derived from the general objectives of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks – as updated in 2023:

1. modernization of OSIM information system by replacing the voice-data network and the firewall system;
2. integration of information from the OSIM IT system into the national and international IT structures:
 - implementation of a new complex module integrated into the Back Office system for Trademarks and Designs for the processing of trademark applications filed by international route in which Romania is the country of origin, and of trademarks registered by international route, in which Romania has been a designated state, respectively;
 - regular updating of external databases at the requested quality level, according to international agreements and conventions.
3. reducing the time of access to information by increasing the correctness and availability of data within the OSIM IT system;
4. contribution to the development of the institutional capacity by development and optimal utilization of OSIM IT system;
5. implementation of the project for carrying out the IP Register infrastructure in Blockchain, under the Cooperation Agreement with EUIPO;
6. ensuring the increase of awareness in Romania regarding the role of industrial property and improving the way of disseminating the information. The IT&C Division has timely updated the OSIM website and implemented new versions for the online Registers;
7. increasing the degree of compliance with ISO 9001:2015, ISO/IEC 27001:2013 and SCIM within the IT&C Division.





09

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Compartment is directly subordinated to the Director General of OSIM and comprises 3 experts. According to the legislation in force, the Human Resources Compartment has as its main objective the management of human resources.

In 2023, the Human Resources Compartment carried out the following activities:

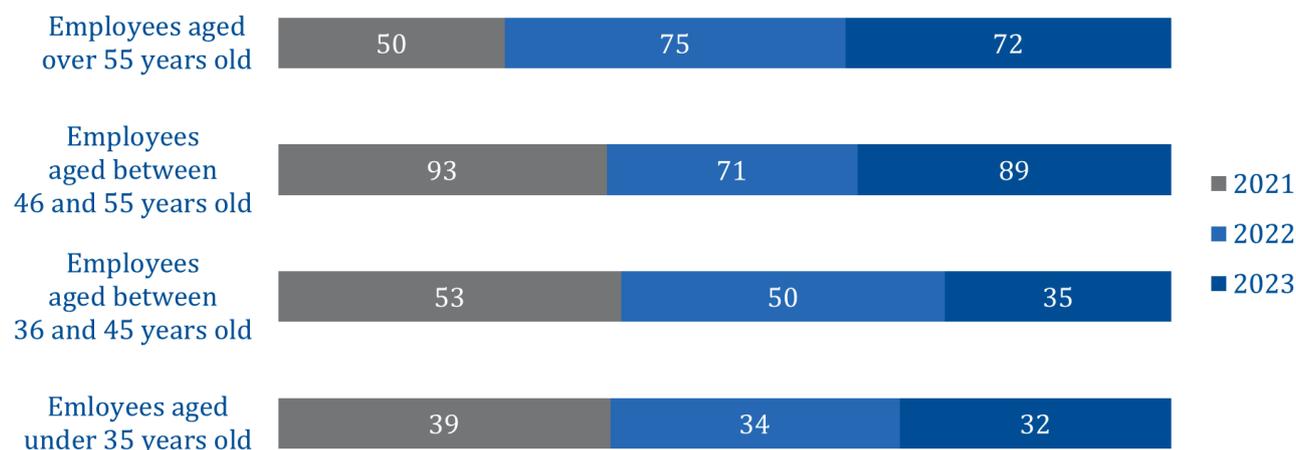
- registration and transmission of personnel data in REVISAL, amounting to a number of 342;
- 1217 documents introduced into the personnel files, including the payroll program;
- drawing up, recording and issuing 417 certificates;
- conclusion of 104 additional acts to the Individual Employment Contracts;
- issuance of 81 orders and decisions on secondment/suspension/appointment/relocation of employees;
- management of requests for employees' annual rest leave, in a number of 2885;
- management of requests for employees' sick leave, in a number of 221;
- checking of the time sheets of OSIM Directorates, in a number of 275;
- management of employees' job descriptions, in a number of 178;
- managing the employees' self-evaluation and evaluation sheets, in a number of 426;
- drawing up the positions and staff lists, in a number of 92.

Also, the Human Resources Compartment provided advice in the process of completing/updating declarations of assets and interests, amounting to 22, ensuring the carrying out of this process, their publication on the Intranet page of the organization, and their transmission to the National Integrity Agency.

The professional training of employees continued in 2023, with the staff of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks participating in 45 professional training courses.

On 31.12.2023, the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks had a number of 86 examiners for protection titles of the total number of 228 posts occupied.

Share of employment, by age groups



10

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY – BUDGET

The Income and Expenditure Budget of OSIM for 2023 was approved by the main credit release authority, the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism.

In 2023, the total income of OSIM amounted to 80886.87 thousand lei, of which, the major value is covered by the income made from activities relating to inventions and trademarks.

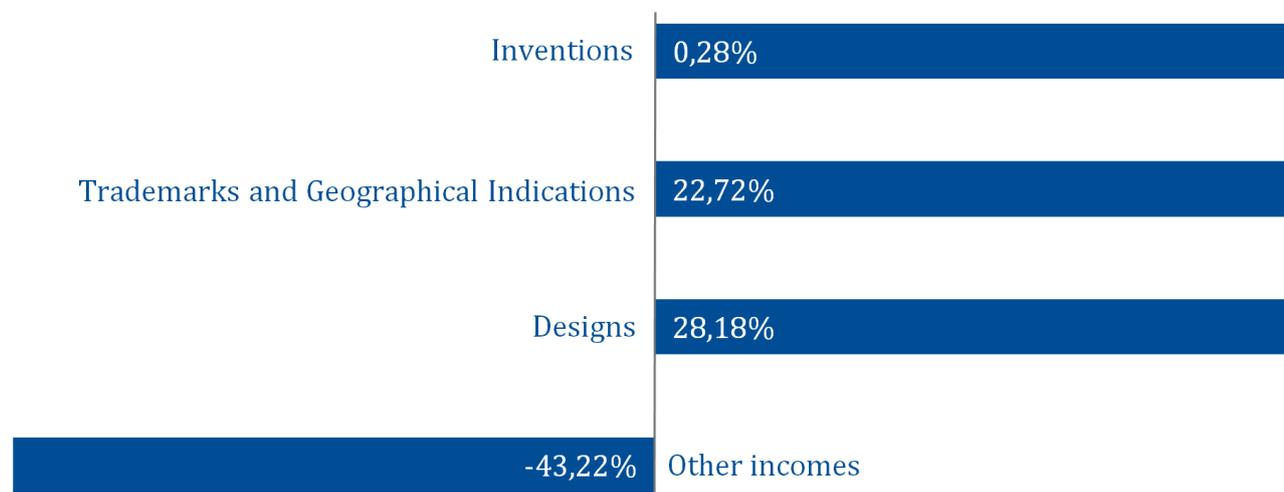
Incomes – thousand lei

Indicator	2022	2023	%
Inventions	45.149,07	45.274,91	0,28
Trademarks and geographical indications	24.933,02	30.596,97	22,72
Designs	495,20	634,74	28,18
Other incomes*	7.714,58	4.380,25	-43,22
Total incomes	78.291,87	80.886,87	3,31

* *The amount consists of:*

- ✓ *recovered amounts from: EUIPO projects, exchange rate differences and delegations financed by EPO, EUIPO, WIPO; recovered amounts from projects with non-refundable foreign financing;*
- ✓ *services and publications.*

Incomes 2023 vs. 2022





The expenditures incurred by OSIM in 2023 recorded a value of 50887.88 thousand lei, compared to 57321 thousand lei, the amount approved by the Income and Expenditure Budget.

This level of expenditures allowed the carrying out of all the activities deriving from OSIM attributions, in good conditions.

Expenditures – thousand lei

Indicator	2022	2023	%
Personnel expenditures	21.714,81	23.699,72	9,14
Goods and services	5.324,87	5.642,91	5,97
Capital expenditures	586,84	2.893,91	393,13
Projects with non-refundable foreign financing	4.352,26	6,80	-99,84
Transfers abroad	18.625,84	18.409,67	-1,16
Other expenditures	228,65	234,87	2,72
Total expenditures	50.833,27	50.887,88	0,11

Expenditures 2023 vs. 2022

Personnel expenditures	2,72%
-1,16%	Goods and services
-99,84%	Capital expenditures
Projects with non-refundable foreign financing	393,13%
Transfers abroad	5,97%
Other expenditures	9,14%



11

STATISTICS

A. APPLICATIONS
FOR PROTECTION TITLES – TOTAL

	2021	2022	2023
1. Patent applications	817	843	889
2. Applications for TSP ¹ registration	0	0	0
3. Applications for Supplementary Protection Certificates	60	60	55
4. Utility model applications	39	49	58
5. Applications for trademark registration	11092	10944	13813
6. Applications for trademark renewal	8335	7696	9409
7. Applications for geographical indication registration	0	0	0
8. Applications for design registration	259	203	256
9. Applications for design renewal	176	143	178
TOTAL	20778	19938	24662

¹ TPS – Topographies of Semiconductor Products





Applications by administrative units

Macroregion Development region County	2021			2022			2023		
	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM
MACROREGION ONE	133	1835	29	122	1765	22	112	2479	32
North – West	94	918	14	82	968	11	74	1309	12
Bihor	10	191	6	4	198	0	11	229	2
Bistrița-Năsăud	7	57	2	5	75	3	5	96	3
Cluj	63	462	2	58	473	6	49	718	4
Maramureș	11	115	1	14	132	2	7	146	3
Satu Mare	1	68	0	0	61	0	0	82	0
Sălaj	2	25	3	1	29	0	2	38	0
Centre	39	917	15	40	797	11	38	1170	20
Alba	4	117	8	5	90	1	2	167	1
Brașov	17	356	1	25	303	4	16	450	11
Covasna	1	32	4	2	33	1	2	49	0
Harghita	1	51	0	0	52	1	1	66	3
Mureș	10	141	2	2	143	2	11	192	2
Sibiu	6	220	0	6	176	2	6	246	3

Macroregion Development region County	2021			2022			2023		
	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM
MACROREGION TWO	147	1420	48	133	1571	20	157	2090	36
North – East	109	743	15	114	834	13	123	1149	12
Bacău	4	154	2	1	119	1	8	196	2
Botoșani	4	48	2	5	37	0	1	66	0
Iași	71	286	5	82	354	8	82	473	2
Neamț	7	76	3	5	76	0	10	115	6
Suceava	20	137	3	17	181	4	21	246	2
Vaslui	3	42	0	4	67	0	1	53	0
South – East	38	677	33	19	737	7	34	941	24
Brăila	1	31	0	1	31	0	1	63	2
Buzău	3	75	3	3	71	0	3	97	2
Constanța	13	351	27	5	428	3	13	418	16
Galați	17	109	1	9	111	2	12	184	1
Tulcea	2	25	1	0	34	0	3	52	0
Vrancea	2	86	1	1	62	2	2	127	3

Macroregion Development region County	2021			2022			2023		
	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM
MACROREGION THREE	486	4877	86	454	4706	73	466	6253	104
South – Muntenia	58	621	24	53	655	10	34	896	10
Argeş	23	161	4	12	173	8	6	248	4
Călăraşi	4	42	1	1	27	0	0	38	0
Dâmboviţa	12	62	5	8	93	0	14	108	5
Giurgiu	0	34	0	0	41	0	5	47	0
Ialomiţa	3	32	2	1	39	0	0	48	0
Prahova	16	257	12	30	243	2	9	358	1
Teleorman	0	33	0	1	39	0	0	49	0
Bucharest – Ilfov	428	4256	62	401	4051	63	432	5357	94
Ilfov	105	704	10	107	732	13	109	1101	10
Bucharest	323	3552	52	294	3319	50	323	4256	84

Macroregion Development region County	2021			2022			2023		
	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM
MACROREGION FOUR	111	920	15	96	849	28	82	1210	26
South – West Oltenia	55	336	6	40	329	13	33	482	22
Dolj	21	140	5	24	138	4	17	193	11
Gorj	4	40	0	3	34	6	3	51	5
Mehedinţi	3	15	0	1	26	0	2	49	0
Olt	8	39	0	1	49	0	1	68	0
Vâlcea	19	102	1	11	82	3	10	121	6
West	56	584	9	56	520	15	49	728	4
Arad	11	104	1	7	85	2	6	157	0
Caraş-Severin	5	18	1	1	22	0	0	39	0
Hunedoara	10	67	1	11	57	4	9	83	2
Timiş	30	395	6	37	356	9	34	449	2





Patents

	2021	2022	2023
1. Filed patent applications – total, of which:	817	843	889
- Romanian applicants	775	805	817
- foreign applicants – total, of which:	42	38	72
- by national route	806	835	867
- by international route (PCT)	11	8	22
2. Granted patents¹ – total	397	362	349
3. Issued patents – total	376	364	314
4. Patent duplicates – total	1362	1449	1296
5. Issued priority certificates – total	62	53	74

¹ Decisions to grant

European patents (EP)

	2021	2022	2023
European patents validated in Romania	3433	2589	2870
European patent validation certificates	2755	1577	918

Supplementary protection certificate (SPC)

	2021	2022	2023
SPC applications for registration	60	60	55
Issued SPC	34	33	21

Utility models

	2021	2022	2023
1. Utility model applications – total, of which:	39	49	58
- Romanian applicants	26	38	46
- foreign applicants	13	11	12
2. Issued certificates – total	56	26	23

Patent applications, by categories of Romanian applicants

Categories of applicants	2021	2022	2023
- Natural persons	226	184	204
- Companies	140	111	175
- Research institutes	232	312	241
- Education institutions	177	198	197
Romanian applicants – total	775	805	817

Trademarks, trademark renewals and geographical indications

	2021	2022	2023
1. Trademark applications for registration – total, of which:	11092	10944	13813
• By national route	9292	9453	12269
- Romanian applicants	9134	8891	12032
- foreign applicants	131	530	237
• CTM conversion	27	32	18
• Trademark applications filed with RO as country of origin	20	94	46
• By international route	1800	1491	1480
2. Trademark renewals – total, of which:	8335	7696	9409
- by national route	3940	3361	4294
- by international route (Madrid)	4395	4335	5115
3. Issued certificates – total	13077	12884	10430
4. Applications for geographical indication registration – total	0	0	0

Designs and Design renewals

	2021	2022	2023
1. Applications for design registration – total, of which:	259	203	256
• Romanian applicants	177	143	198
• Foreign applicants – total, of which:	82	60	58
- by national route	4	8	3
- by international route (the Hague)	78	52	55
2. Design renewals – total	176	143	182
3. Issued certificates – total	363	277	342

Designs contained in the applications for design registration

	2021	2022	2023
Designs contained in the applications for registration – total, of which:	824	567	654
• Romanian applicants	452	372	433
• Foreign applicants – total, of which:	372	195	221
- by national route	7	9	4
- by international route (the Hague)	365	186	217





B. EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

	2021	2022	2023
1. Examined patent applications – total, of which:	1194	900	841
- Examination of patent applications – in the preliminary examination	474	185	128
- Examination of patent applications – in the substantive examination	720	715	713
2. Examination of applications for TSP ¹ registration	0	0	0
3. Examination of SPC ² applications	51	39	33
4. Examination of utility models	67	43	64
5. Examination of trademark registration applications	15364	11089	11700
6. Examination of trademark renewal applications	3940	7798	8557
7. Examination of trademark oppositions	482	777	546
8. Examination of design registration applications	475	347	425
9. Examination of design renewal applications	176	137	181
10. Examination of design oppositions	4	4	1
Total number of examined applications – OSIM	21753	21134	22348

¹ TSP - Topographies of semiconductor products

² SCP – Supplementary protection certificate

Patent application examination (CBI)

	2021	2022	2023
a. Patent applications examined – total, of which:	720	700	713
- Romanian (RO)	705	663	685
- foreign – of which:	15	37	28
- by national route	5	16	11
- by international route (PCT)	10	21	17

	2021	2022	2023
b. Patent applications examined - by decisions – total, of which:	720	700	713
- Granted patents	397	362	349
- patent applications refused upon examination	321	348	359
- patent applications withdrawn upon examination	2	5	5

Substantive examination of supplementary protection certificate (SPC) applications

	2021	2022	2023
Substantive examination of SPC applications – total, of which:	51	39	33
- SPC granted	33	33	17
- SPC refused	8	4	10
- SPC withdrawn	10	2	6

Examination of utility model applications

	2021	2022	2023
Examination of utility model applications - total, of which:	67	43	64
- registered utility model applications	46	24	45
- refused utility model applications	2	16	14
- withdrawn utility model applications	19	3	5

Examination of applications for trademark registration

	2021	2022	2023
Examined - total, of which:	15364	11041	11700
a. Examination of applications by national route - total, of which:	12541	8642	9529
- admitted	11550	7771	7969
- refused	746	774	1073
- cancelled/withdrawn	245	97	487
b. Examination of applications by international route - total, of which:	2823	2399	2171
- admitted	2784	2283	2097
- refused	39	116	74

Examination of applications for trademark renewal

	2021	2022	2023
Examination of applications for renewal - total, of which:	8335	7696	8557
- by national route	3940	3361	3442
- by international route	4395	4335	5115

Examination of applications for design registration

	2021	2022	2023
Examined - total	475	347	425
a. preliminary examination	196	137	192
b. substantive examination - total, of which:	279	210	233
• by national route, of which:	188	145	185
- admitted to protection	172	136	183
- protection refused	15	9	2
- renunciation	1	0	0
• by international route, of which:	91	65	48
- admitted to protection	91	65	48
- protection refused	0	0	0
- renunciation	0	0	0

Examination of applications for design renewal

	2021	2022	2023
Examination of applications for design renewal	176	137	181





C. STOCK OF PENDING APPLICATIONS

	2021	2022	2023
Total stock of pending applications on 31 December 2023 - Patents and Technological Information Directorate, of which:	4081	4112	4093
- Stock of patent applications in the Preliminary Examination	1186	1210	1274
- Stock of patent applications in the Substantive Examination	2624	2593	2499
- Stock of utility model applications	47	61	59
- Stock of applications for topographies of semiconductor products (TSP) registration	0	0	0
- Stock of supplementary protection certificate (SPC) applications	224	248	261
Total stock of pending applications on 31 December 2023 - Trademarks and Designs Directorate, of which:	3134	3317	2756
- Stock of trademark registration applications	2335	2600	2014
- Stock of trademark oppositions	686	655	663
- Stock of design registration applications	112	60	79
- Stock of design oppositions	1	2	0

D. ISSUANCE OF PROTECTION DOCUMENTS

	2021	2022	2023
1. Patents	376	364	314
2. Patent duplicates	1362	1449	1296
3. Priority certificates	62	53	74
4. Utility model certificates	56	26	20
5. Certificates of TSP registration	0	0	0
6. Supplementary Protection Certificates	34	33	21
7. European patent validation certificates	2755	1577	2870
8. Certificates of trademark registration and renewal	13077	12884	10430
9. Certificates of design registration and renewal	363	277	342
TOTAL	18085	16663	15367



E. APPEALS

Appeals lodged with the Inventions Board of Appeal within the Appeal Division

	2021	2022	2023
Appeals remained unsettled from the preceding years	3	5	0
Appeals lodged during the current year	12	13	9
Appeals to be settled next year	5	3	2
Settled – total, of which:	10	15	8
- settled, from the preceding years	3	5	3
- settled, from the current year	7	10	5
Solutions – total, of which:	10	15	8
- admitted	4	8	2
- rejected	6	7	6

Appeals lodged with the Inventions Board of Appeal within the Legal Division

	2021	2022	2023
Appeals remained unsettled from the preceding years	0	1	0
Appeals lodged during the current year	1	3	1
Appeals to be settled next year	0	0	1
Settled – total, of which:	1	3	0
- settled, from the preceding years	0	0	0
- settled, from the current year	1	3	0
Solutions – total, of which:	1	2	0
- admitted	1	2	0
- rejected	0	0	0

Appeals lodged with the Trademarks Board of Appeal

	2021	2022	2023
Appeals remained unsettled from the preceding years	193	151	201
Appeals lodged during the current year	252	348	242
Appeals to be settled next year	151	197	134
Settled – total, of which:	294	302	300
- settled, from the preceding years	149	103	156
- settled, from the current year	145	199	144
Solutions – total, of which:	294	302	300
- admitted	155	197	137
- rejected	138	105	163
- other solutions	1	0	0





Appeals lodged with the Designs Board of Appeal

	2021	2022	2023
Appeals remained unsettled from the preceding years	0	0	0
Appeals lodged during the current year	0	1	1
Appeals to be settled next year	0	1	0
Settled - total, of which:	0	0	1
- settled, from the preceding years	0	0	0
- settled, from the current year	0	0	1
Solutions - total, of which:	0	0	1
- admitted	0	0	0
- rejected	0	0	1

F. SERVICES

Services in the IP field

	2021	2022	2023
The Idea Envelope	67	65	76
Specialized searches, by chemical substances	3	4	2
Searches for third parties – Inventions	16	27	36
Searches performed under agreements concluded with National Offices	10	13	3
Portfolio searches	9	7	4
Legal status searches	193	93	90
Trademark searches	798	1150	1652
Design searches	19	39	21

G. ARCHIVES ACTIVITY

	2021	2022	2023
New entries	23673	36717	14476
Lendings	9246	12541	10060

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ABBREVIATIONS

AGEPI	– State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova
BOPI	– Official Industrial Property Bulletin
CCINA	– Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Navigation and Agriculture
CEBS	– Central European and Baltic States Group
CIM	– Trademark Registration Application
CMO	– Operational Marketing Compartment
CTM	– Community Trademark
CUE	– Council of the European Union
DLT	– Design Law Treaty
EP	– European Patent
EPC	– European Patent Convention
EPO	– European Patent Office
EU	– European Union
EUIPO	– European Union Intellectual Property Office
GD	– Government Decision
IP	– Industrial Property
IPC	– International Patent Classification
IPR	– Industrial Property Rights
ISO	– International Standardization Organization
ISO/IEC	– International Standardization Organization ISO – International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
ITC	– Information Technology and Communications
OSGG	– Order of Secretary General of the Government
OSIM	– State Office for Inventions and Trademarks
PCT	– Patent Cooperation Treaty





REVISAL	– General Record of Employees
RO	– Romania
SCIM	– Internal Management Control System
SETFACIM	– Publishing House, Translations, Archives and Internal Managerial Control Division
SME	– Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
SPC	– Supplementary Protection Certificate
TSP	– Topographies of Semiconductor Products
WIPO	– World Intellectual Property Organization



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