

ROMANIA



STATE OFFICE
FOR
INVENTIONS AND TRADEMARKS

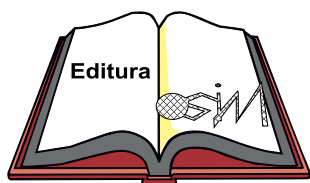
Annual Report 2024





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Foreword

Dear readers,

As every year, the moment has come for us to present you the *Annual Report of OSIM*, in which we reflect on our achievements, challenges and transformations of the preceding year.

This report offers a detailed image of the progress we made, the difficulties we overcame along the entire year and the strategies we implemented in order to provide for a sustainable and innovative development.

Although 2024 was a year marked by changes and limitations in many fields of activity of our Office, together we have succeeded in finding feasible solutions, both in the applicants' interest and in the industrial property titles owners' interest. This report reflects our constant commitment to develop and to create long-term value.

Among the important achievements of 2024, I would like to mention that the Unitary Patent System, also known as the European Patent with Unitary Effect, has become operational for Romania, starting with 1st of September 2024. The new European patent with unitary effect ("the unitary patent") offers a simplified way for obtaining patent protection, extended on a wide geographical area, while contributing to the significant reduction of administrative formalities and costs.

Also, OSIM continued its strategic partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), with the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), as well as with the national intellectual property offices, especially with the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI) of the Republic of Moldova. Thus, the OSIM specialists were involved in many international cooperation projects and they actively participated in conferences, round tables, workshops and international events.

In 2024, OSIM continued to support the industrial property protection by participating in specialized fairs and exhibitions, in debates and conferences on subjects relating to the industrial property rights. The purpose of these initiatives was of increasing the awareness of the academic and business environment on the importance of industrial property rights protection and offering useful information on the ways inventors and entrepreneurs can protect their creations.

Thank you for your attention and I conclude by inviting you to go through the pages of the Annual Report 2024, that reflects the accomplishments and the efforts of the whole team of our Office. We are confident that you will find useful and relevant information, and that the transparency of this report will emphasize our commitment to excellence and responsibility.

Marian-Octavian ȘERBĂNESCU,
Director General

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Introduction

OSIM Mission

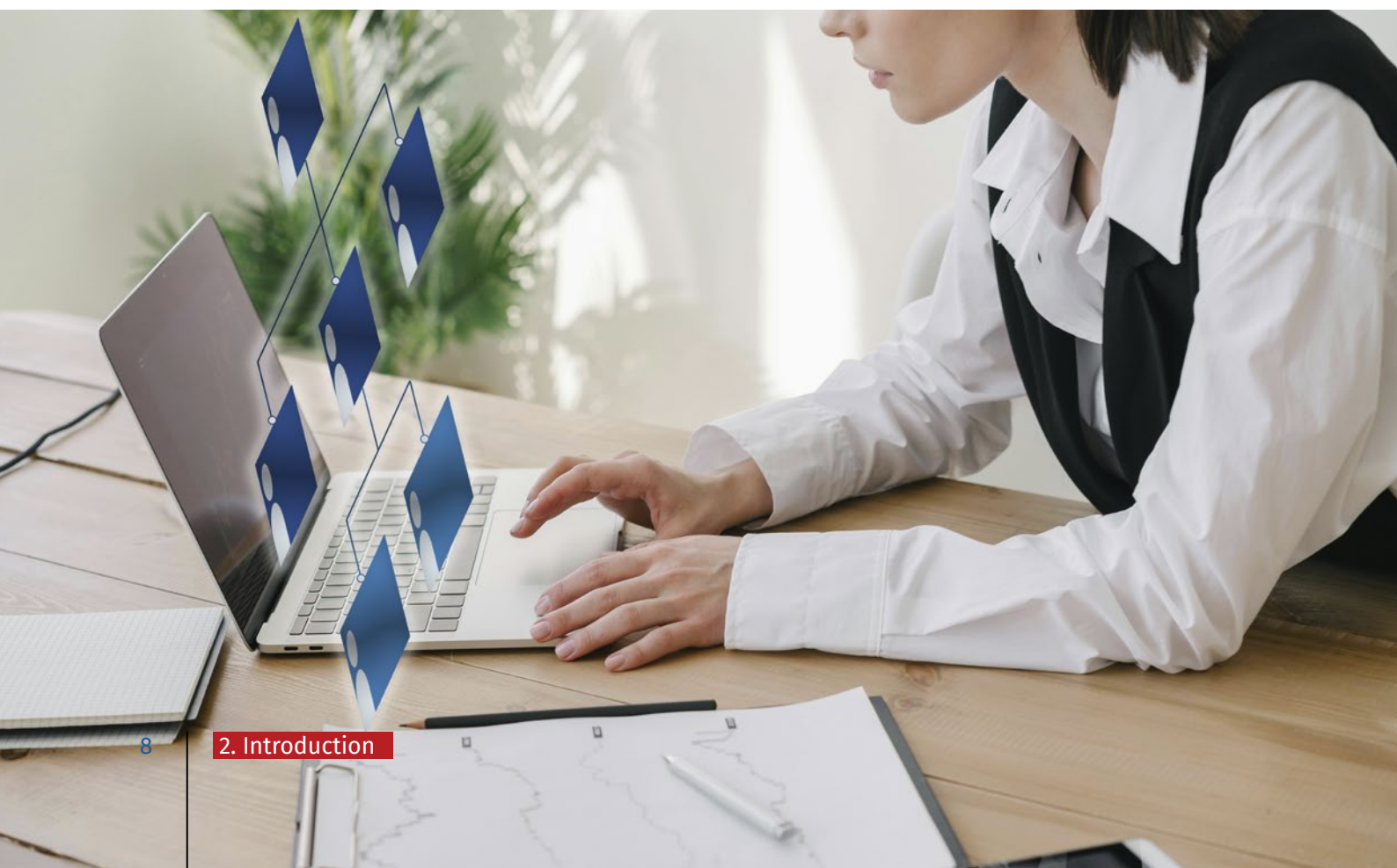
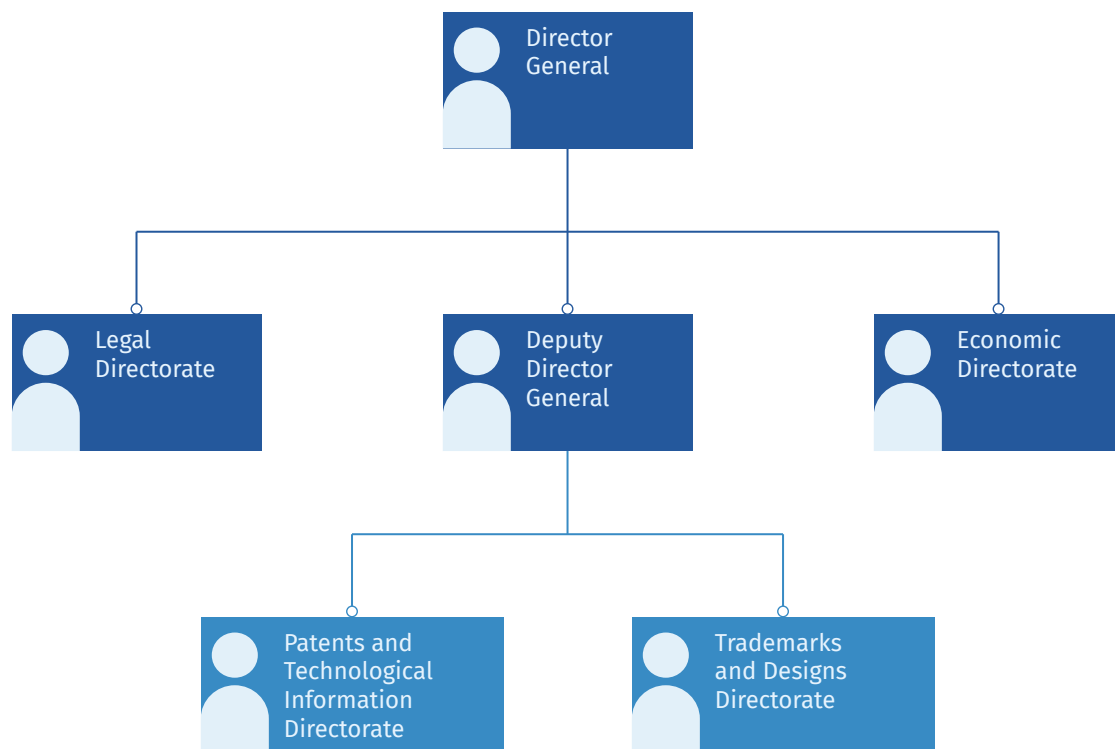
The mission of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), as unique authority on the Romanian territory in the field of granting industrial property protection, is to support innovation, competitiveness and profitability as economic growth factors.

OSIM provides high quality specialized services while granting industrial property titles, promotes 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

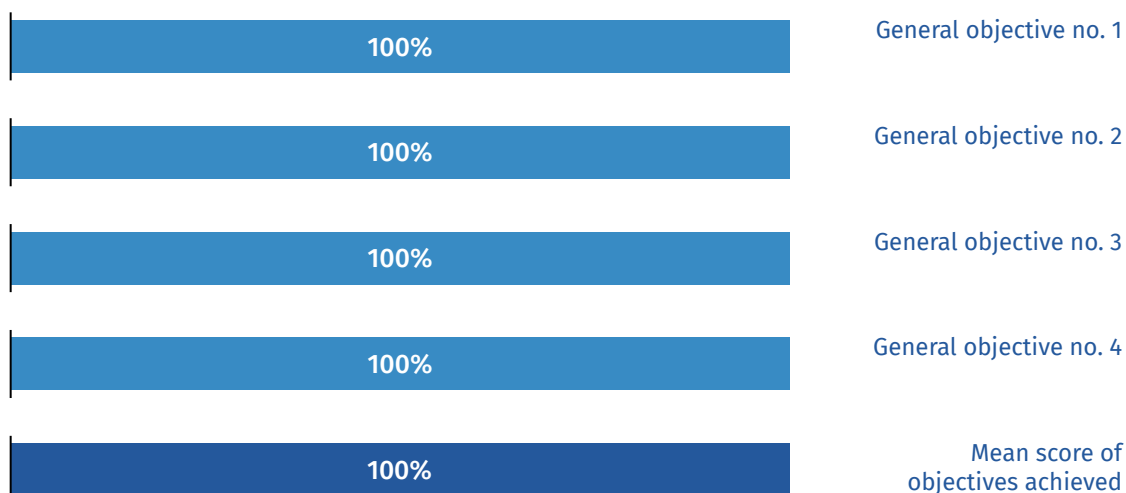
In compliance with the Government Decision No. 573/1998, as amended by the Government Decision No. 716 of 28 of June 2024 and the Order of the Minister of Economy No. 1972/2024, in 2024 the organizational structure of OSIM has been the following:



The general objectives of our organization were established as it follows:

- 1** To observe, implement and maintain the integrated management system at the highest level by meeting the requirements of the Order of the Secretary General of the Government No 600/2018 and of ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2018.
- 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 and grow 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



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.

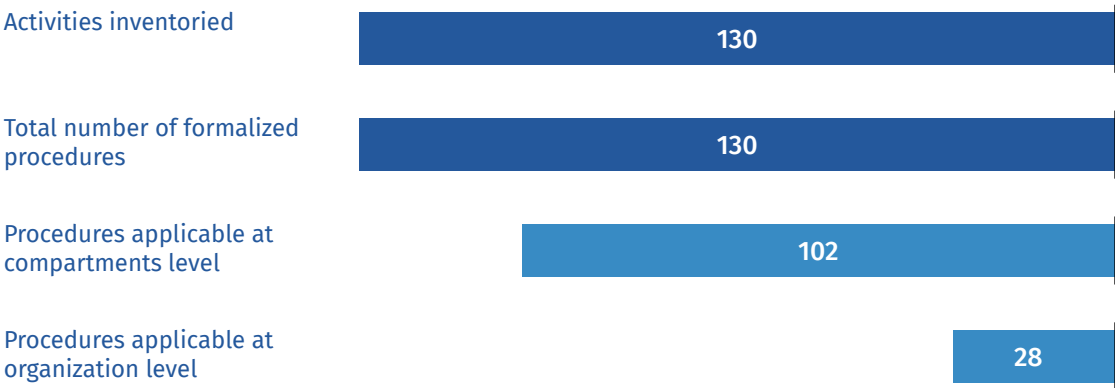
Activity of The Monitoring Commission

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

The revision and/or elaboration of 13 operational procedures and one system procedure continued during the year 2024 in order to align them with the legislative amendments.

At the end of 2024, the situation of OSIM procedures was the following:

Existing procedures on 31.12.2024



At the same time, the Monitoring Commission carried out the following activities:

- ✓ updated, in collaboration with the persons responsible for risk management, 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.

Activity within The Technical Secretariat of The SCIM Monitoring Commission

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 was assessed; 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.



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Protection Titles

Patents (BI)

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 numerous 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, contribute to the innovative profile of the entity that owns them, while being a worldwide information dissemination way, due to their publication in specific databases.

Moreover, 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.

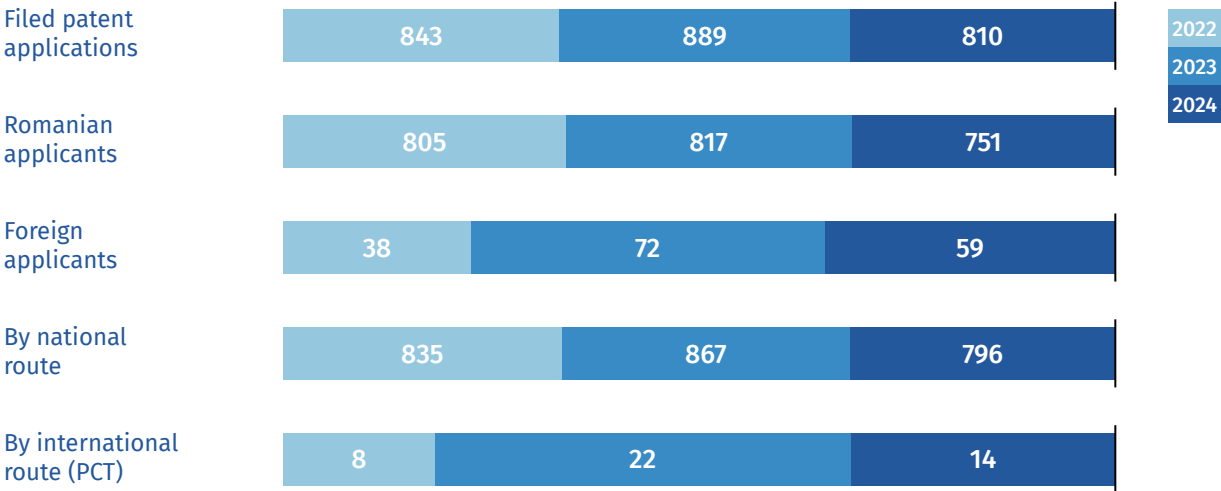
According to the law, a patent is an industrial property right that confers on its owner an exclusive right to exploit the invention for a duration of 20 years, at the most. A patent can be granted for any invention having as a subject-matter a product or a process, in all technological fields, agriculture 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. Said state comprises the technical knowledge accessible to the public all over the world.

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 2024, 810 patent applications were filed with OSIM, of which 751 were filed by Romanian applicants and 59 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.

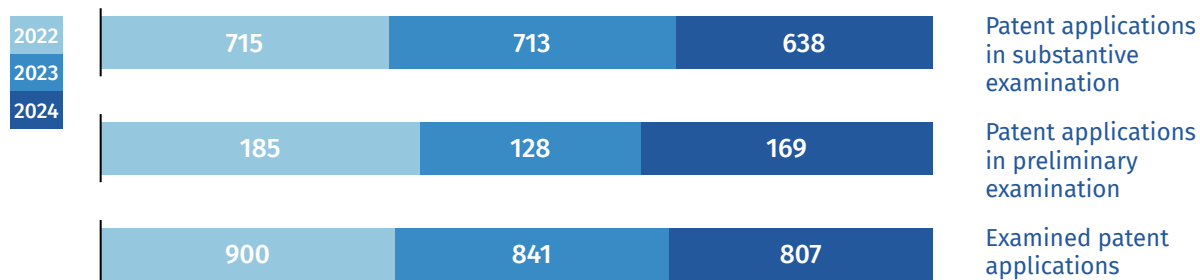
The patent applications, as filed, were analyzed in respect of the fulfillment of the legal conditions for according the filing date and constituting the regular national filing.

All patent applications filed in 2024 were classified according to the International Patent Classification (IPC).

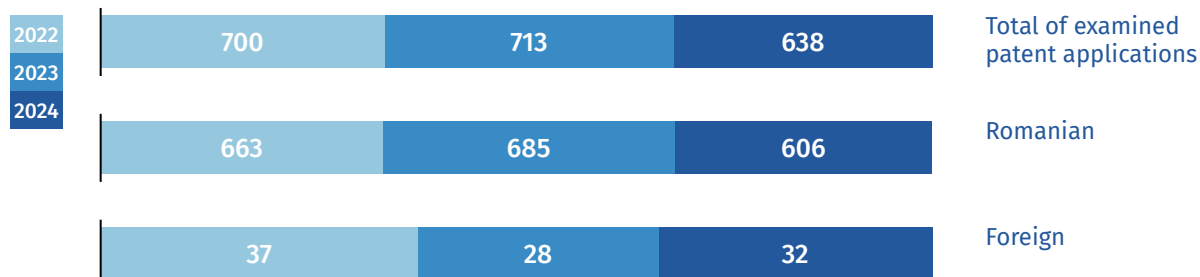
The patent application substantive examination procedure involves a series of activities, such as:

- ✓ 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;
- ✓ drawing up 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.

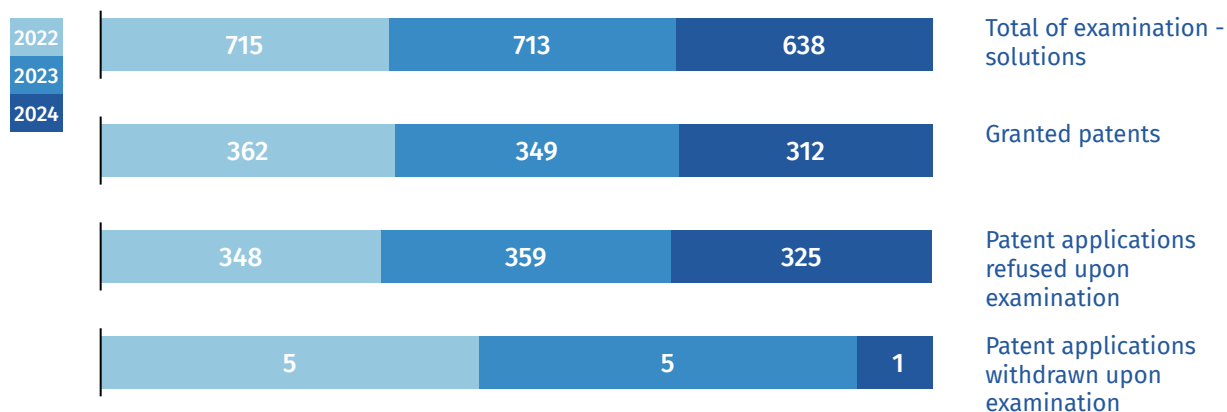
638 patent applications filed by both Romanian and foreign applicants underwent substantive examination, of which 312 ended by decisions to grant the patent, 325 were refused and 1 application was withdrawn.



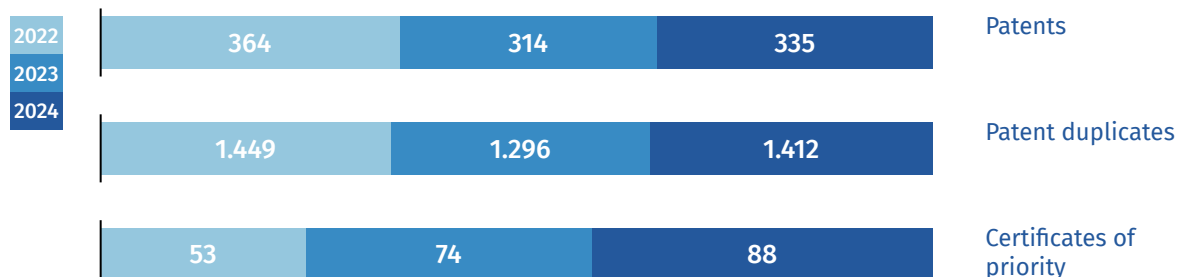
Patent Applications in Substantive Examination



Examined – by decisions



Issuance of Protection Documents



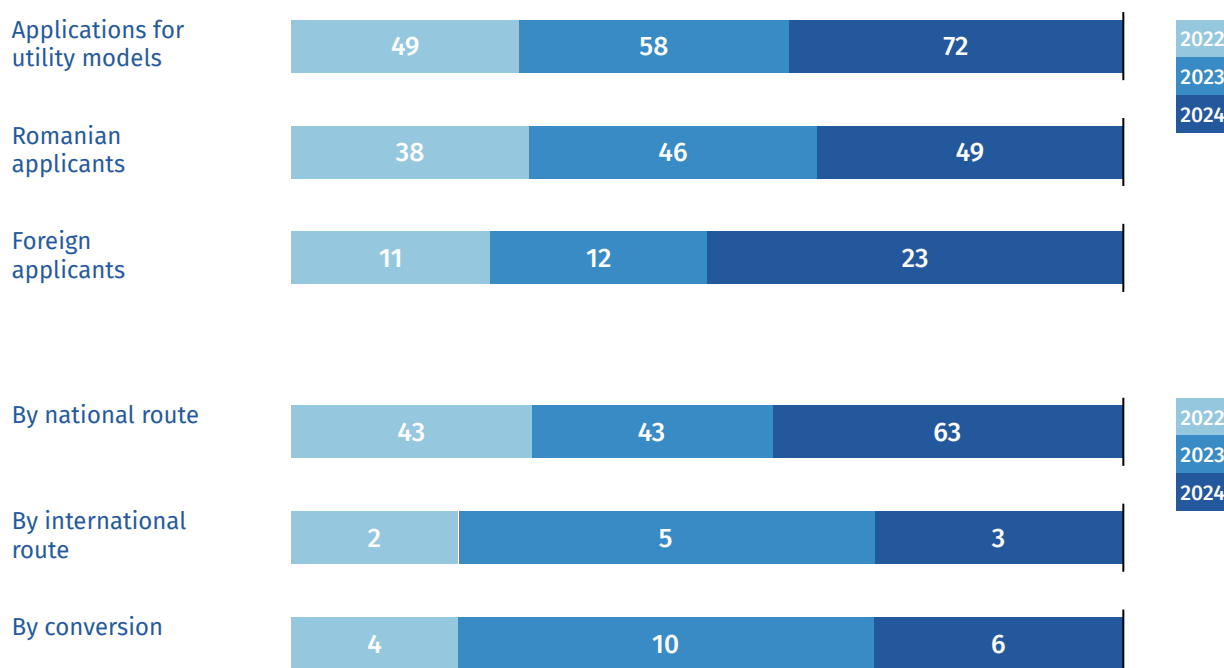
A number of 335 patents were issued in 2024, of which 325 to Romanian owners and 10 to foreign owners.

Utility Models (MU)

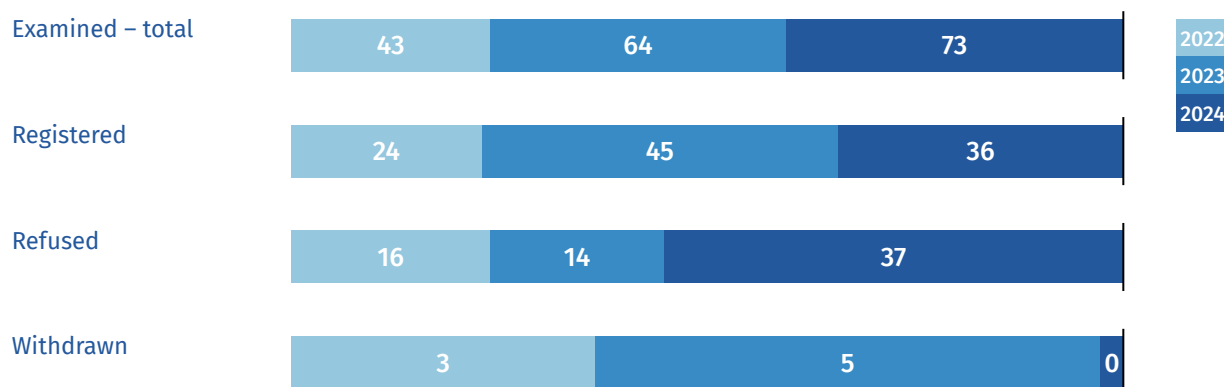
Beside the patent, there is the utility model that represents a faster way of protecting inventions. The registration procedure is established by the Law 350/2007 on utility models. The utility model may be a strategic means for start-up SMEs aiming to start a business.

In 2024, 72 applications for utility models were filed, 49 of which belong to Romanian applicants and 23 to foreign applicants.

Applications for Utility Models



Examination of Utility Model Applications



Issuance of Utility Model Certificates



Following the examination of the fulfillment of the legal requirements, the Examination Board made 36 decisions to register the utility model, 37 refusal decisions and 5 withdrawal decisions.

Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC)

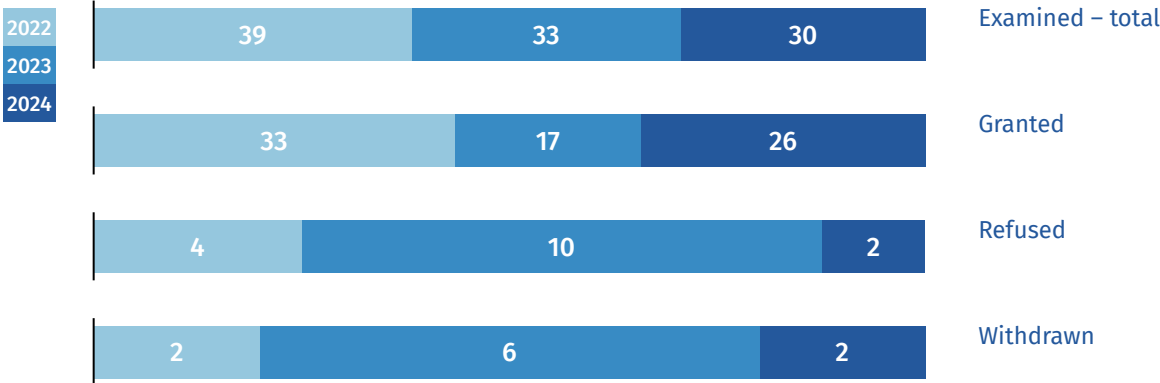
Romania, as a Member State of the European Union, grants, under the three Community Regulations entered into force, namely regulations concerning the protection of medicaments, of paediatric products and of plant protection products, Supplementary Protection Certificates following an examination procedure.

In 2024, 68 Supplementary Protection Certificate applications were filed with OSIM.

Supplementary Protection Certificate Applications



Examination of Supplementary Protection Certificates





After the Board examined the fulfilment of conditions for granting the certificate, in accordance with the European Regulations, there resulted 26 granting decisions, 2 refusals and 2 withdrawals.

Issuance of Supplementary Protection Certificates

2022	33	2023	21	2024	16
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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, 33 international applications were filed, by Romanian applicants, with OSIM as a Receiving Office, under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and 120 European patent applications were filed with OSIM acting on behalf of the European Patent Office.

International applications
filed with OSIM as a
Receiving Office

29	29	33
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2022
2023
2024

European applications
filed with OSIM on
behalf of EPO

75	86	120
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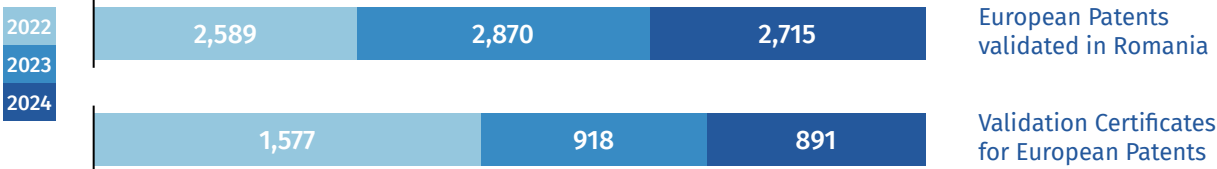


European Patents Recognition in Romania (Validation)

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 2024, 2715 requests for publication of European patent translation were filed with OSIM. A number of 891 certificates for recognition of European patents effects in Romania were issued.

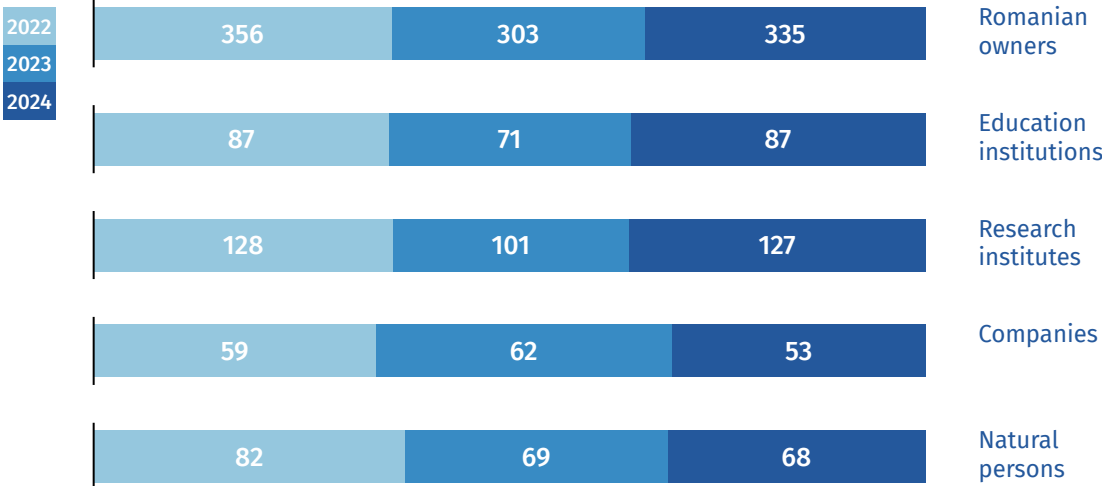
European Patents



Issuance of Certificates for Extension/Recognition of European Patent Effects



Issued Patents, by Categories of Romanian Owners



Issued Patents, by Administrative Units

MACROREGION ONE

2022	65	2023	56	2024	62
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Macroregion/Development region/County	2022	2023	2024
MACROREGION ONE	65	56	62
North-West	41	39	38
Bihor	2	4	1
Bistrița-Năsăud	1	3	0
Cluj	29	27	31
Maramureș	8	5	6
Satu Mare	1	0	0
Center	24	17	24
Alba	1	0	1
Brașov	13	10	17
Covasna	2	0	0
Harghita	1	3	1
Mureș	2	1	3
Sibiu	5	3	2

MACROREGION TWO

2022	47	2023	47	2024	58
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Macroregion/Development region/County	2022	2023	2024
MACROREGION TWO	47	47	58
North-East	40	40	48
Bacău	1	0	3
Botoșani	0	2	1
Iași	22	27	31
Neamț	1	0	0
Suceava	15	10	11
Vaslui	1	1	2
South-East	7	7	10
Buzău	0	0	1
Constanța	2	2	0
Galați	4	5	8
Tulcea	0	0	0
Vrancea	1	0	1

MACROREGION THREE

2022	191	2023	162	2024	170
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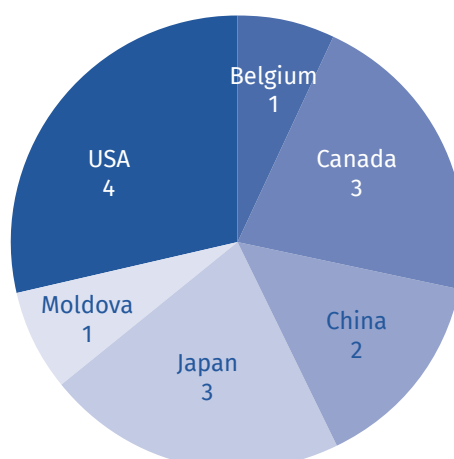
Macroregion/Development region/County	2022	2023	2024
MACROREGION THREE	191	162	170
South – Muntenia	12	11	17
Argeş	5	4	6
Dâmboviţa	3	1	2
Giurgiu	0	1	0
Ialomiţa	0	1	0
Prahova	4	4	9
Bucharest – Ilfov	179	151	153
Ilfov	35	36	25
Bucureşti	144	115	128

MACROREGION FOUR

2022	53	2023	53	2024	45
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Macroregion/Development region/County	2022	2023	2024
MACROREGION FOUR	53	53	45
South-West Oltenia	30	34	25
Dolj	1	5	7
Gorj	0	2	3
Olt	0	2	4
Vâlcea	6	6	11
West	23	19	20
Arad	1	2	2
Caraş-Severin	1	2	0
Hunedoara	4	6	7
Timiş	17	9	11

Patents Issued in 2024, by Owner's Country of Residence



Trademarks and Designs

The protection of the industrial property rights relating to trademarks and designs represents an essential element, its main goal being to protect the product of human creativity 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. Trademarks and designs are intangible assets which significantly 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

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 Compartment – 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.
- ★ The National Applications Examination Compartment – 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.
- ★ Compartment for Changes of Legal status and records in the register – carries out activities concerning post-examination procedures in the trademark field and draws up statistics and various materials.

Trademarks Filed by National Route

In 2024, 11,609 applications for trademark registration were filed by national route. A decrease by 5.39 % may be noticed in relation to 2023.

Trademark Applications for Registration, Filed by National Route



A number of 12,367 applications for trademark registration filed by national route entered examination in 2024.

Examination of Trademark Applications Filed by National Route



In 2024, 555 oppositions to the publication of trademark applications admitted for registration were filed. Considering that, in 2023, 587 oppositions were filed, a decrease by 5.45 % 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 2024, 310 oppositions filed against national trademarks.

Examination of Trademark Application Oppositions



In 2024, the specialists of the Trademark and Geographical Indication Division took part in various projects and actions developed in cooperation with EUIPO:

- ✓ Project ECP3 - Integrated Multiple Assessment IMAS
- ✓ Project ECP2 - Major Improvements to Back Office
- ✓ Project ECP8 - Set up PEER Technical Expertise Network
- ✓ Project ECP 3 - Decision Desktop

Compartment for Examination and Registration of International Trademarks

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

In 2024, 1366 applications for trademark registration were filed by international route with Romania as designated state and 61 applications for trademark registration with Romania as state of origin. A decrease by 8.35 % may be noticed in relation to 2023.

Applications for Trademark Registration Filed by International Route

2022	1,491	2023	1,480	2024	1,366
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Examination of Trademark Applications Filed by International Route

2022	2,399	2023	2,171	2024	2,714
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A number of 27 oppositions filed against the registration of international trademark applications were settled, as well.

Examination of Oppositions against Trademarks Filed by International Route

2022	32	2023	26	2024	27
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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, a number of 176,473 verbal elements of the trademarks filed with the European Union Intellectual Property Office which have notional content in Romanian were translated in 2024, while offering information/explanations related thereto.

Compartment for Changes of Legal Status and Records in The Register

Concerning the entering of changes occurred in the legal status into the Trademark Register, 3,686 such changes were entered in 2024.

4,384 requests for trademark renewal were filed for national trademarks, 3,372 of which were examined.

Requests for Trademark Renewals



Examination of Trademark Renewal Requests



In 2024, a number of 7,600 trademarks admitted for registration were entered in the Trademark Register and 9,998 protection titles were issued, 6,907 of which were certificates of trademark registration and 3,091 renewal certificates.

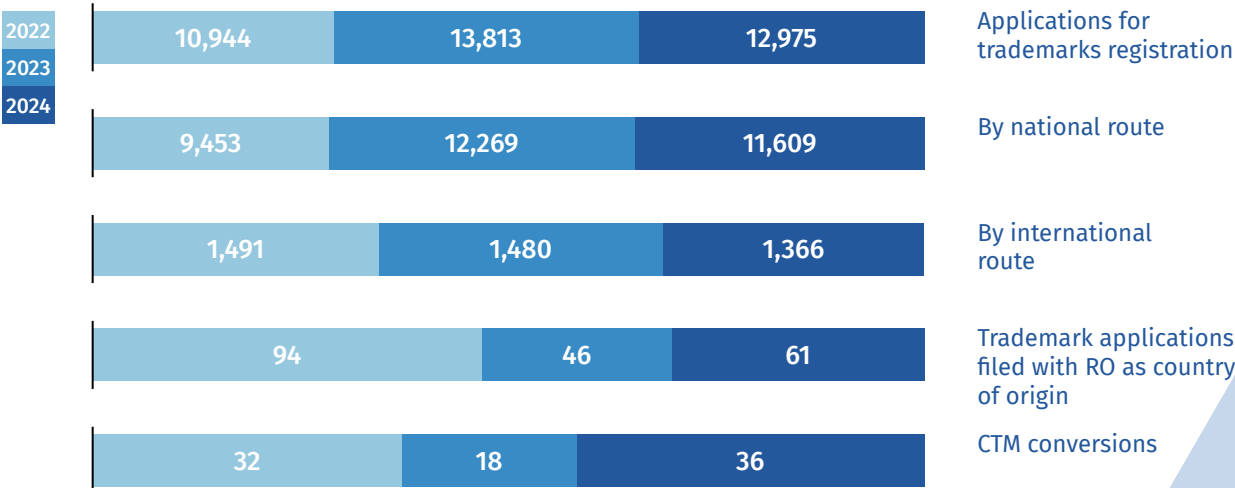
Issuance of Trademarks Protection Documents in 2024



Registered Trademarks

A total number of 12,975 applications for trademark registration were filed in 2024. It shows a decrease by 6.07 %, as compared to 2023.

Applications for Trademark Registration



Design Division

In 2024 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 Trademarks and Designs Directorate.

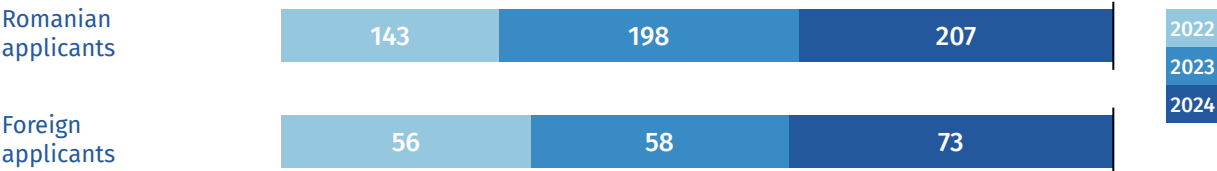
The right in a design is recognised by registration and the issuance of a registration certificate in accordance with the provisions of Law 129/1992 on the protection of designs, as republished.

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

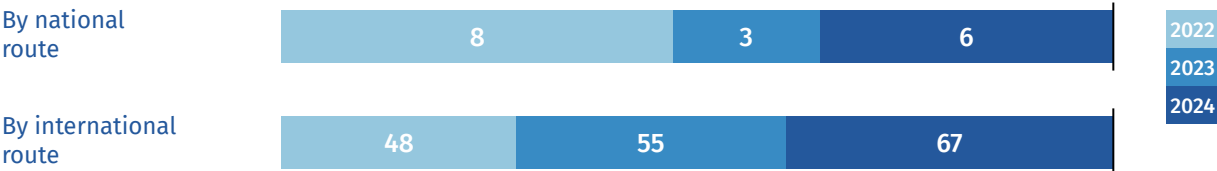
Designs determined exclusively by a technical function, technical drawings, graphic representations which cannot be typographically reproduced and those that have a purpose and appearance contrary to public order and morality cannot be registered.

In 2024, 280 applications for design registration were filed (of which 152 applications were simple applications and 128 multiple) which comprise 1,068 designs, with 2,362 graphic representations. Of the total number of design applications filed for registration, 213 applications were filed by national route and 67 applications, by international route.

Applications for Design Registration



Applications for Design Registration – Foreign Applicants



Designs Contained in the Applications for Registration



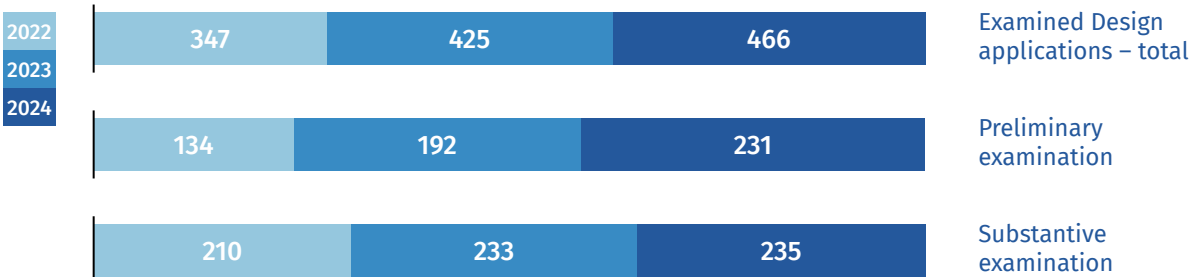
Examination of Design Applications for Registration

This year, the total number of designs subjected to preliminary examination was of 722, with 1,056 graphic representations, contained by 324 applications for registration.

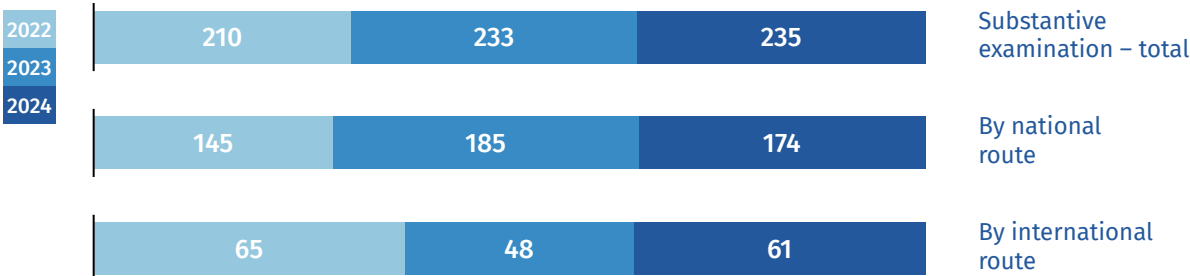
403 designs were published with 621 graphic representations contained by 220 applications for registration.

634 designs, with 1,006 graphic representations contained by 220 applications for registration were subjected to substantive examination. Insofar as the number of renewal requests is concerned, 235 requests were examined in 2024.

Examination of Design Applications for Registration



Substantive Examination of Designs



Examination of Design Renewal Applications



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

- ⇒ a number of 185 changes in the legal status of design applications were published, as follows: 8 transfers of rights and 173 other types of changes (changes of headquarters/address of applicant/owner/representative, representative change/recordal/renunciation);
- ⇒ mentions of reinstatement in respect of 19 protection certificates were recorded and published.

Issuance of Registration Certificates

In 2024, 420 design certificates were issued, of which: 161 registration certificates, 241 renewal certificates and 14 certificates for maintenance in force and 4 priority certificates.

Issuance of Design Registration Certificates



Issuance of Design Renewal Certificates



OSIM specialists took part in 2024, as well, in the projects developed by EUIPO, some of which are mentioned below:

- ✓ Project CF 1.2.5. “Quality Standards” (periodically sending performance indicators for the Design Division and Trademark and Appeal – Revocation Divisions, partially, suspended at the moment)
- ✓ Project CF “BackOffice” – ECP 2 (sending observations, tests, proposals for improvement)
- ✓ Convergence – ECP 4 (CP7 – Product indications for designs (DesignClass) – periodically sending proposals);
- ✓ Project ECP 1 – BACK OFFICE Working Group Meeting (ongoing);
- ✓ Project ECP 3 – Decision desktop.

After the change of personnel structure, in July 2024, the objectives were revised and the objective of completing the database by updating the legal status of applications filed internationally was resumed.

At the same time, after taking over the tasks related to the activity of the OSIM Archive, part of the Division working procedures were revised, the designs procedures and partly archives procedures, and the yearly and half yearly management reports were also drawn up.

To update their knowledge, examiners participated in online sessions on design protection organized by WIPO and EUIPO.

In addition to the current work, in 2024, several activities were carried out for the adoption of the European Design Protection Package, consisting of: the Proposal for an EU Directive amending Directive EC No 98/71 on the Legal Protection of Designs and the Proposal for an EU Regulation amending Regulation EC No 6/2002 on Community Designs and Regulation EC No 2246/2002 on the Fees to Be Paid for the Registration of Community Designs.

In this context, opinions on the documents resulting from the meetings of the Intellectual Property Working Group of the EU Council in Brussels were expressed and sent.

As regards the international activity, representatives of the Division participated in the following international events organized across the country, while endorsing papers:

- ✓ Symposium “Navigating through the Intellectual Property Universe in the Digital Age. Counterfeiting and piracy – Realities and challenges”, Poiana Braşov, 5 – 7.11.2024,
- ✓ Workshop on The Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, 5.12.2024.

At the same time, the Design Division specialists took part in:

- ✓ Annual Liaison meeting in the design field (videoconference) 17.04.2024 and 16.10.2024,
- ✓ Session of the Working group for the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, 21 – 23.10.2024,
- ✓ Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Design Law Treaty (DLT), under the aegis of WIPO, 11 – 24.11.2024.

As for the staff involvement in actions aiming to disseminate information on design protection, the Division specialists took part in the following Romexpo Fairs: Construct Ambient and TIBCO 2024

Since July 2024, the Design Division has resumed the documentary search activity for trademarks, in addition to design search.

Trademark and Design Searches

2022	852	2023	900	2024	914
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Starting with the same month, the Design Division has taken over the activity of the Archives Compartment, with the specific duties thereof: to manage OSIM archives and library fund (lendings, returns, new entries of archival units and books/periodicals).

Activity of OSIM Archives

In 2024, a special importance was given to the digitization of documents, so that the activity of setting up electronic archival units for trademarks continued, it being partially performed by 2 employees.

Regarding the management of OSIM's documentary funds, the work volume can be seen below:

2,338 scanned files



133,211 scanned pages

Within OSIM Archives, 21,200 new files were entered in the registers: patent applications, utility model applications, trademark and design applications.



Appeal Procedure

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

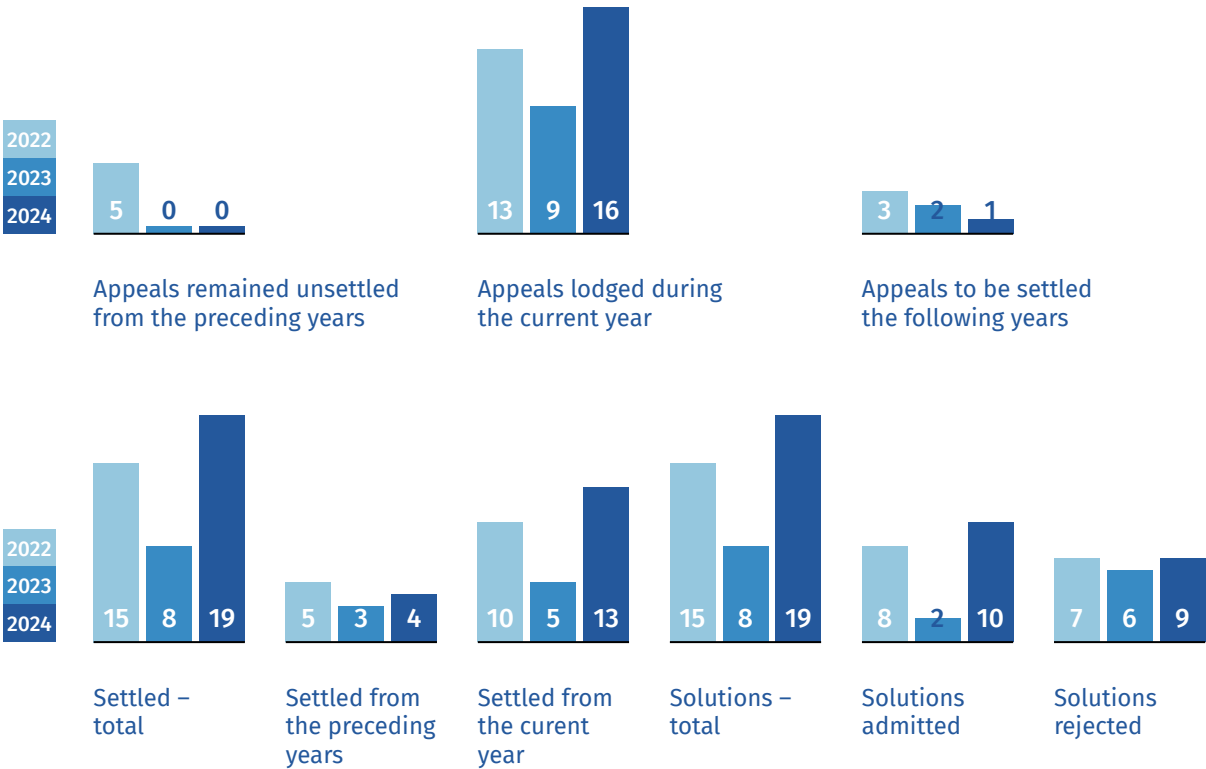
- ♦ examination;
- ♦ appeal.



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, Trademark and Design Boards of Appeal

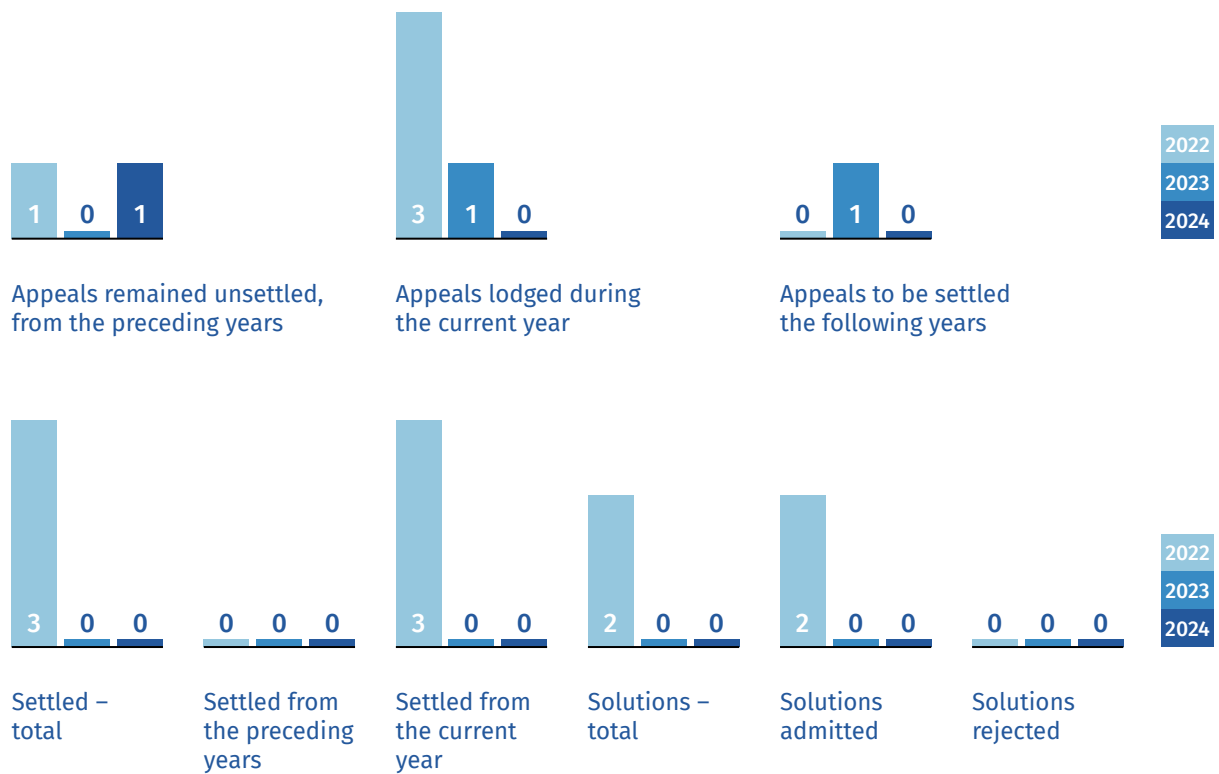
Appeals Lodged with the Patent Board of Appeal within the Appeal Division



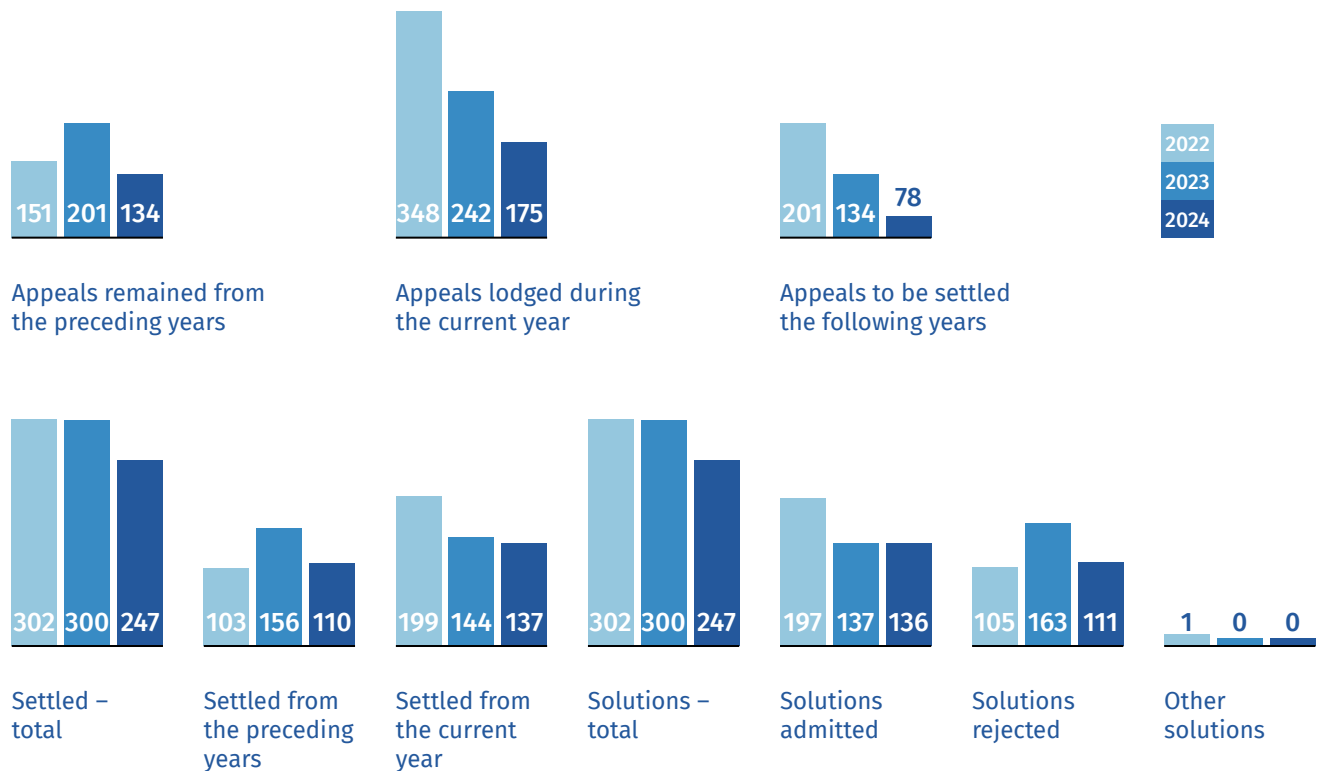
The specialists of the Appeal Division answered 446 internal/external petitions entrusted to them for settling.



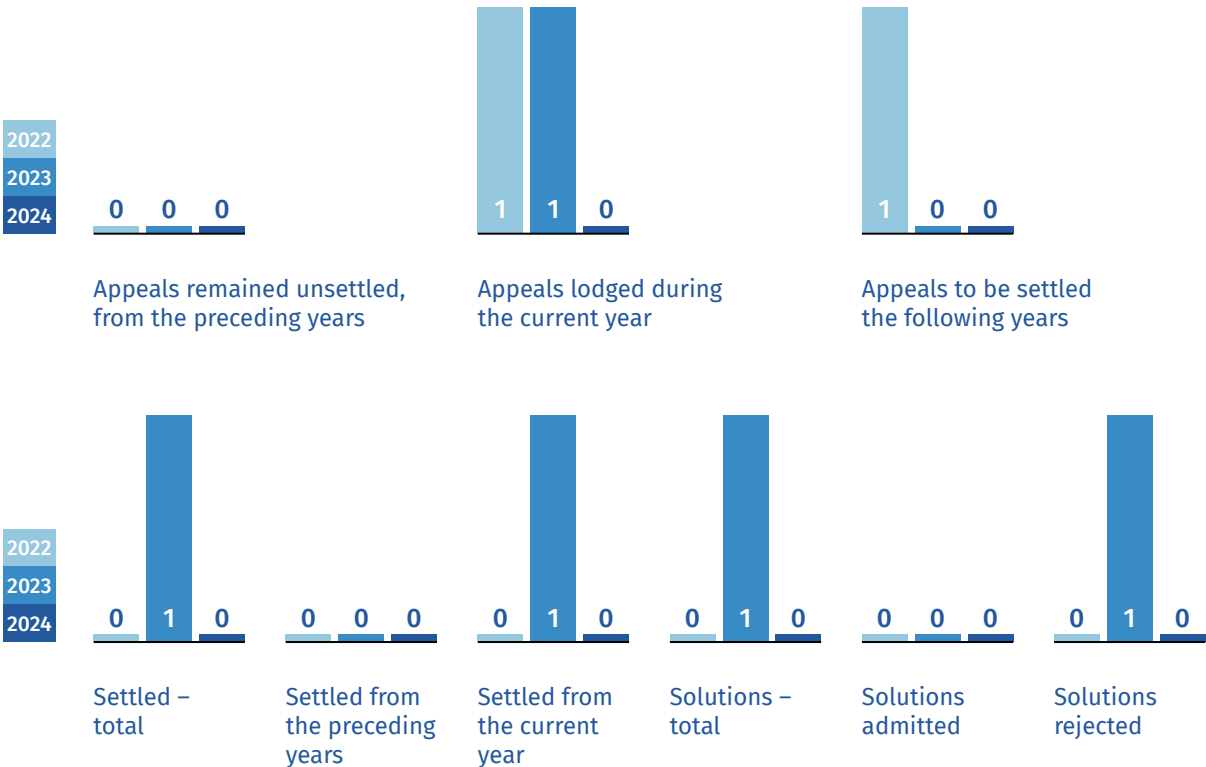
Appeals Lodged with the Patent Board of Appeal within the Legal Division



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



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



In 2024, the OSIM specialists of the Appeal Division, Legal Directorate, participated in conferences, symposia, scientific communications in IP field, of which we mention:

- ★ IP Mediation Conference/EUIPO – Alicante;
- ★ Reunion of the EUIPO Boards of Appeal – Boards of Appeal of IP Offices of the Member States;
- ★ CDIP 33/December 2024/ Geneva – WIPO;
- ★ Belt and Road Conference on IP/September 2024/Beijing.



4

Legislative Activity

In 2024, the Government Decision no. 716 of 28th of June 2024 was aproved and published in the *Official Gazette* No. 608 of 28th of June 2024. This normative act was drawn up in order to implement the provisions of Law 296/2023 on limiting the number of managerial positions, the staff normative for each organizational structure and the disestablishment of the position of head of bureau in the central public administration.

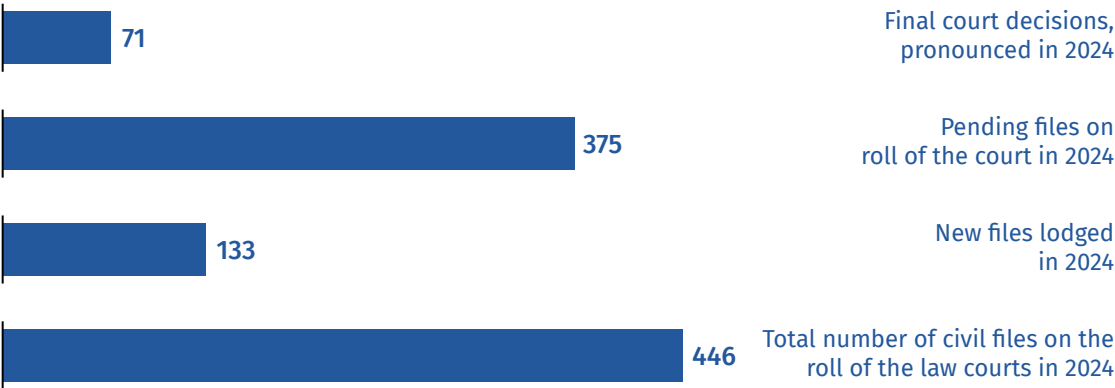
Activity of OSIM Representation Before Law Courts

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.

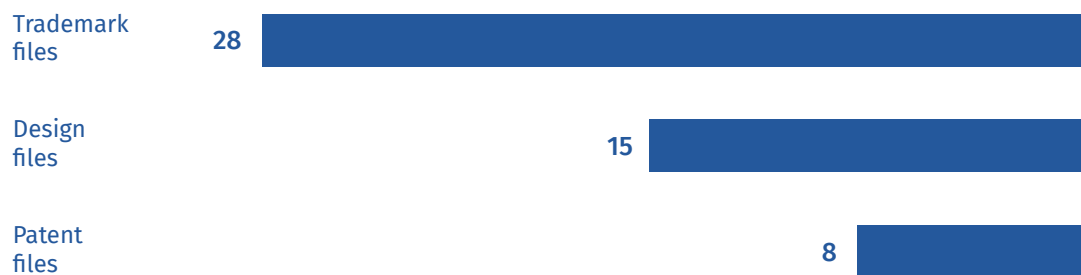
Between 01.01 – 31.12.2024, 71 final decisions were pronounced and in 58 cases we won in court (namely 81.69 % of cases).

Situation of Litigations Pending in Courts



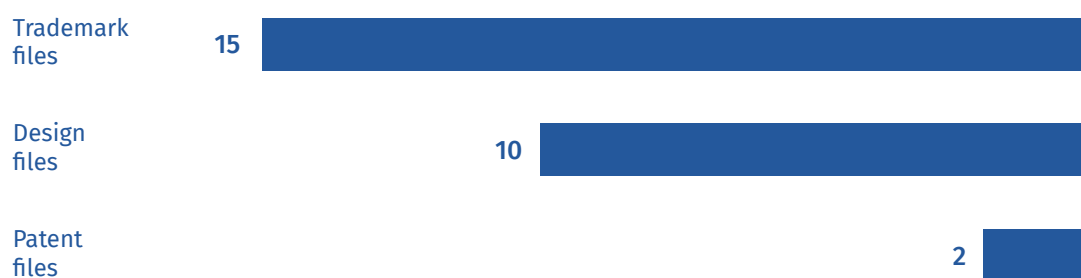
The situation of requests made by criminal investigation bodies concerning legal search in respect of granted industrial property protection titles in 2024 and of requests by other authorities, as shown by the Legal Division records is the following:

- Criminal investigation files in respect of which legal search was performed concerning protected industrial property rights, upon request by Police bodies;



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.

- Search files upon the request of other institutions: law courts, ministries, natural persons and legal entities;



- Analysis and documentation concerning foreclosure measures, upon request by bailiffs;



- Answers to letters from national authorities, other than criminal investigation bodies.





5

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.

Cooperation with the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI)

Strong regional partnerships, continuous transfer of good practices and mutual support are fundamental for promoting a sustainable intellectual property system. In this context, the continuous collaboration between OSIM and the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) has been essential in the advance of intellectual property protection and promotion in the region. Consolidated by multiple Collaboration Conventions, it has been characterized by constant interactions organized at high level, on a yearly basis, by exchanges of experts and joint events. All these initiatives aimed at effectively approaching the challenges in the intellectual property field, contributing to the development of an effective system favoring intellectual property rights protection, both in Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

Between 25-26 March 2024, the OSIM delegation, led by the Director General, Marian-Octavian Șerbănescu, paid an official visit to Chișinău, Republic of Moldova, to participate in the Launching Conference of the Project *EU4IP – Strengthening Intellectual Property Rights in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine*. The event was organized by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) in partnership with AGEPI, the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia (Sakpatenti) and the National Intellectual Property and Innovation Office of Ukraine (UANIPPO). The Project *EU4IP*, implemented by the EUIPO and co-funded by the EU, aims to support the beneficiary countries by improving their legal and administrative frameworks in the field of intellectual property and facilitating legislative harmonisation with EU regulations and policies, as they prepare for EU accession. The launch event brought together high-ranking officials from the participating countries, representatives of the EUIPO, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, as well as representatives of the national intellectual property offices of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. OSIM, as the sole authority on the territory of Romania in the field of ensuring the protection of industrial property, expressed its willingness to strengthen cooperation with the EU4IP beneficiary countries in order to support them in the European integration process, by sharing its expertise in the development of the national IP system, the lessons learned and the perspectives for the future.

On 30-31 July 2024, OSIM hosted the Trilateral Meeting at the management level between OSIM, AGEPI and ORDA. During the meeting, specific measures were discussed to strengthen trilateral cooperation in the field of intellectual property, with the objective of promoting the exchange of essential good practices in the development of a balanced system of protection of creation and innovation in Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

The members of the delegations also addressed issues concerning the implementation of the European acquis in the field of intellectual property, with the OSIM management reaffirming the commitment of our organization to support AGEPI's efforts in aligning its national legislation with the European standards in the field. A significant moment of the meeting was the signing of an Additional Act amending the Collaboration Protocol on the organization and conduct of the *Intellectual Property Competition for Youth*, initially signed in Bucharest, on 26 May 2017.

During 2024, OSIM continued to play a key role in the organization of the 8th edition of the *Intellectual Property Competition for Youth*, annual event organized by AGEPI in partnership with OSIM, ORDA and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova (MEC). The competition was organized in the context of World Intellectual Property Day, with the theme "Intellectual Property and the Sustainable Development Goals: Building our common future through innovation and creativity". The event brought together 88 participants and constituted an important platform for promoting education and awareness on the role of intellectual property. OSIM actively collaborated with AGEPI and ORDA in evaluating the submitted papers, as well as in encouraging young talents to develop their knowledge and skills in this field. This initiative highlights OSIM ongoing commitment to supporting education and promotion of the importance of intellectual property rights.

During the 25th edition of the Scientific-Practical Symposium "AGEPI Lectures", held in Chişinău on 25 April 2024, OSIM experts actively contributed to the session dedicated to "National and International Experience in the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights", by presenting two relevant papers: "Unitary Patent, a New Protection Instrument at European Level" and "European Registration of 3D Trademarks Containing Verbal and/or Figurative Elements, When the Shape itself is Not Distinctive". The symposium, which annually marks the World Intellectual Property Day, facilitated a valuable exchange of experience and good practices, this way promoting the latest developments in the field of intellectual property, both nationally and at European level.

Cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

The framework for cooperation between OSIM and EUIPO is the Cooperation Agreement, which is concluded annually between the two organizations and involves participation in projects and initiatives aimed at improving the activities carried out by national IP offices, users' experience and the general management of information in the field of trademarks and designs.

The Cooperation Agreement has the following main components:

- ★ Participation in joint projects initiated by EUIPO and aimed at improving the activities carried out by national IP offices, users' experience and general management of information in the field of trademarks and designs;
- ★ Promotion of the EU trademark and Community design systems at national level.

In this context, the following activities in the European Cooperation Projects included in the Cooperation Agreement between OSIM and EUIPO were carried out, in 2024:

- ★ Major improvements brought to the Back-Office systems;
- ★ Updating the Harmonized Database on Trademark Classification (HDB);
- ★ Participation in working groups on major improvements brought to the Back-Office system, IMAS, trademark and design classification;
- ★ Participation in the Language Check of EU trademarks;
- ★ Activities of promotion of the EU trademark system at national level;
- ★ Updating the TMview and Designview databases.

OSIM management participated in EUIPO decision-making meetings (Management Board and Budget Committee). Also, OSIM experts actively participated in Liaison Meetings on trademarks, design and cooperation, as well as in the working groups.

Cooperation with the European Patent Office (EPO)

The professional training of specialists of national offices through courses and seminars organised by the EPO and the European Patent Office Academy is an essential pillar of cooperation. Thus, 7 patent examiners participated in the EPO seminar: *OU34 – 2024 SEARCH Search tool for experienced users*; 2 patent examiners participated in the seminar *OW01-2024 – Divisional applications*; 4 patent examiners participated in the seminar *OS03 – 2024 Guided program on clarity and lack of unity*.

All training events proposed by the EPO Academy are carried out online. Within the framework of the OSIM-EPO Cooperation Agreement, specialists of



the Patents and Technological Information Directorate and of the IT Division actively participate in the following working groups: Single Access Portal (SAP) Working Group; Front Office Working Group and Ansera-Based Search Working Group. Also, within the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement, 10 examiners of the Patents and Technological Information Directorate participated in language training courses organized by the British Council.

The State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), in collaboration with the European Patent Office (EPO) and the University “Lucian Blaga” of Sibiu, organized the National Conference – “Industrial Property in Education”, a landmark event dedicated to promoting and deepening knowledge in the field of industrial property protection.

The event was organized under the Cooperation Agreement between OSIM and EPO, reflecting the joint commitment to supporting innovation and education in the field of industrial property.

The conference brought together specialists from the academic environment, representatives of public organizations, the private sector and the research environment, offering them the opportunity to debate current challenges and perspectives regarding the protection of inventions.

Key topics were addressed during the event, such as:

- ✓ The importance of industrial property protection in education and research;
- ✓ Strategies for capitalizing on innovation in academic and business environment;
- ✓ Collaboration between universities, industrial property protection authorities and industry;
- ✓ Tools and resources offered by the EPO to support innovators.

Participants had the opportunity to enrich their knowledge by presentations held by experts in the field, relevant case studies and interactive question and answer sessions.

The conference facilitated the exchange of ideas and best practices, contributing to strengthening collaboration between actors involved in education, research and innovation, in order to raise awareness of the importance of industrial property protection in Romania.

Cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

In November 2024, the 6th edition of the *Regional Conference on Intellectual Property in the Digital Economy for SMEs – Music Industry in the Digital Environment* took place, an event that is held annually under the careful organization of WIPO, ORDA, OSIM and the Romanian-American University of Bucharest. The event enjoys the participation of national authorities, WIPO representatives, representatives of intellectual property offices in the region,

national and international experts, as well as the participation of a significant number of persons who take part either in person or online.

World Intellectual Property Day is the most important annual event dedicated to celebration of creativity and innovation worldwide, held under the coordination and general patronage of WIPO. The topic of 2024 was “Intellectual Property and the Sustainable Development Goals: Building a Common Future through Innovation and Creativity”. OSIM representatives participated in the Conference “Artificial Intelligence – Its Legitimacy and Morality”, which took place at the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences “Gheorghe Ionescu Șișești” in Bucharest. The conference was organized by the Scientific Association of Intellectual Property Law – ASDPI, together with the ALAI Romania Group, the Academy of Legal Sciences, the Association ARCON Romania, ORDA and OSIM, Universul Juridic, with the support of SCA Roș & Asociații and SCA Mușat & Asociații.

As a member of WIPO, a specialized UN body, Romania continued in 2024 its active participation in the meetings of the Standing Committees of Experts and the Working Groups in the specialized fields of IP, as well as in the sessions of the General Assemblies of WIPO Member States, effectively contributing to the latest developments in this particularly complex and dynamic field.

The organization by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) of two diplomatic conferences in 2024 was justified by various strategic, legal and economic reasons. These conferences aimed at concluding important treaties: one on genetic resources and the traditional knowledge associated therewith (GR-TK), and the other on the law of industrial designs.

Between 13-24 May 2024, the Diplomatic Conference for the conclusion of a legal instrument on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge was held in Geneva, Switzerland (at the WIPO headquarters), with OSIM being represented by two OSIM specialists from the Patents and Technological Information Directorate and the Legal Directorate. They participated in the negotiations on the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge. The debates also aimed at harmonizing international regulations, the involvement of indigenous communities, and the stimulation of international cooperation to strengthen collaboration between states, organizations and communities for the sustainable management of genetic resources.

From 11 to 22 November 2024, the Diplomatic Conference on Industrial Design Law was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where OSIM was represented by two OSIM specialists from the Designs Division and the International Cooperation Compartment. They participated in the negotiations on the current standards for the protection of industrial designs, the simplification of protection procedures, and the increase of design economic importance. The Treaty to be adopted will stimulate innovation and competitiveness in the creative industries, facilitating access to international markets. These initiatives will contribute to creating a fairer legal framework, promoting innovation, and protecting the economic and cultural interests of states and communities around the world.

6

Industrial Property Protection Promotion Activity

During 2024, OSIM experts of the Communication and IP Promotion Compartment were involved in actions of promotion of protection and valorization of industrial property, consisting of seminars, conferences, round tables.

Participation in exhibition events, such as: national research, innovation and technology transfer exhibitions and technical fairs, represented last year an important component of the activity of OSIM experts who thus had the opportunity to share information of interest in the field of industrial property with participants. Among the events in which OSIM experts participated, it is worth mentioning:

National Conference “Industrial Property in Education”, Sibiu 2024

The conference was organized by OSIM in collaboration with the European Patent Office (EPO) and the University “Lucian Blaga” of Sibiu.

During the conference, papers were presented and debates took place on current topics in the field of patents, which were held by specialists from the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks, the European Patent Office and the University “Lucian Blaga” of Sibiu.

The conference was held in a hybrid format, so that the interventions of the representatives of the European Patent Office – Mr. Christian Soltmann, Product Manager – Patent Data Services and Ms. Giovanna Oddo, Training Area Lead of EPO Academy, were presented via ZOOM and the speech of Mr. Octavian Mănăilă, examiner within the Substantive Examination Division Physics-Electricity (OSIM), and that of Mr. Aurel-Mihail ȚÎȚU, Phd. Habil (University “Lucian Blaga” of Sibiu) were produced in person.

Students’ Visit as Part of Green-School Program, OSIM Bucharest

A meeting between OSIM specialists and a group of students from Virgil Madgearu College took place at the OSIM headquarters, as part of the national “Green Week” program.

During the visit, the students had the opportunity to learn about aspects related to the history of industrial property in Romania. At the same time, OSIM specialists brought to the students’ attention information regarding the registration of industrial property rights for the three fields: patents, trademarks, designs and the importance of protecting these rights.

Conference “Artificial Intelligence – Its Legitimacy and Morality”

OSIM representatives participated in the Conference “Artificial Intelligence - Its Legitimacy and Morality” which took place in Bucharest, at the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences Gheorghe Ionescu Șișești, on the occasion of World Intellectual Property Day. Within the framework of this conference, an OSIM specialist held a lecture about “Artificial Intelligence in Patenting”.

The conference was organized by the Scientific Association for Intellectual Property Law – ASDPI, together with the ALAI Romania Group, the Academy of Legal Sciences, the Association ARCON Romania, the Romanian Copyright Office and OSIM, Universul Juridic, with the support of SCA Roş & Asociaţii and SCA Muşat & Asociaţii.

World Intellectual Property Day celebrated at OSIM headquarters

April 26th is dedicated to celebrating intellectual property.

The topic of World Intellectual Property Day 2024 focused on sustainable development goals and the link between them and industrial property through which we can create a better future through creativity and innovation. In this context, OSIM had the opportunity to highlight the particularly important role that intellectual property has in terms of global development and progress.

Thus, World Intellectual Property Day 2024 was celebrated at OSIM headquarters, together with the students of the Atlas School of Bucharest. OSIM opened its doors to celebrate innovation, creativity and the importance of industrial property rights, which can contribute to building a more sustainable and equitable future for the entire society. OSIM specialists gave presentations and held discussions with students, regarding the importance of protecting industrial property and the benefits they can obtain when they protect their industrial property rights.

“DA VINCI” Technical Innovation and IT Competition, Bucharest 2024

The competition was organized with the aim of encouraging, promoting and recognizing values in the field of technical innovation and IT.

This way, students of grades V–VIII and IX–XII had a real opportunity to present their projects and innovation initiatives with a positive impact on solving problems regarding current needs of society, contributing to its development. Such events generally promote the latest news in the field, conducive to interaction and creativity.

On this occasion, the OSIM representative held a presentation on the protection of creations by means of patents.

Seminar “Protection of Industrial Property Rights in Academic, Research and Business Environment: An Integrated Perspective”, Târgu Jiu 2024

On 11 September 2024, OSIM, in collaboration with the University Constantin Brâncuşi of Târgu-Jiu, organized in Târgu-Jiu the seminar “Protection of Industrial Property Rights in Academic, Research and Business Environment: An Integrated Perspective”, where OSIM representatives gave lectures on various industrial property topics of interest and answered the questions of participants who showed particular interest in the field of industrial property.

International Symposium “Priorities in Chemistry for Sustainable Development” – PRIOCHEM XX – 2024, Bucharest

OSIM specialists were present at this traditional event of INCDCP – ICECHIM where they held talks on topics in the field of industrial property.

The event was dedicated to young researchers but also to experienced scientists who were invited to present their latest results in the field of chemistry and chemical engineering, with various applications, such as smart materials, bioeconomy, circular economy, protection of cultural heritage, new materials for energy or environmental protection.

National Science and Engineering Competition RoSEF (Romanian Science and Engineering Fair), Suceava 2024

OSIM specialists were present at the event where they held discussions on topics in the field of industrial property with the young participants in the competition.

The competition brought together about 80 students from 11 counties, who presented a total number of 40 innovative projects. The competition, organized by the University “Ștefan cel Mare” of Suceava in collaboration with Cygnus Scientific Society, offered the young participants an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in various fields such as fundamental sciences, applied sciences, information technology and robotics.

The event aims to select participants who will represent Romania at international competitions such as the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in the USA, and also in other global competitions in various countries such as Taiwan, Turkey and Switzerland.

Science Cafe, OSIM Seminar, Suceava 2024

OSIM experts participated in the event “Science Cafe” held at the Joseph Schmidt Auditorium in Suceava. During this event, OSIM experts gave lectures on the national and European filing and registration of property rights – trademarks and patents. At the same time, OSIM representatives provided promotional materials to participants and answered questions regarding trademarks and patents at national and European levels.

Creativity Trophy2024 & Seminar “Industrial Property in Business – Steps to Be Taken by Innovative Companies”, Constanța 2024

OSIM specialists participated in the event “Creativity Trophy”, organized by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Navigation and Agriculture (CCINA) of Constanța. In this 20th edition, the Creativity Trophy was awarded by OSIM to companies from Constanța county for their outstanding activity in the field of industrial property.

With this occasion, the OSIM delegation also held a seminar on the topic “Industrial Property in Business – Steps to Be Taken by Innovative Companies”, in which the papers prepared and held by OSIM specialists focused on filing and registration of property rights – trademarks and patents, at national and European level.

Last year, OSIM specialists participated in 5 webinars organized by EUIPO on topics related to the implementation of tools, services, certifications and common practice, within the European Union Intellectual Property Network.

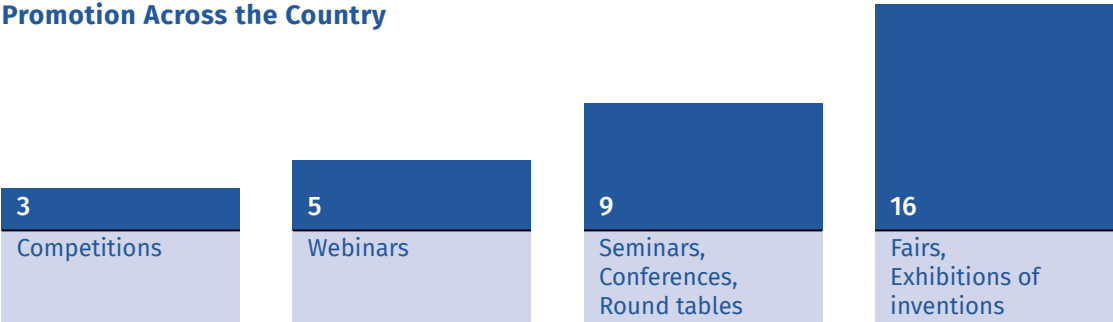
In 2024, our experts were present in International Inventions Exhibitions, including:

- ⇒ INVENTCOR International Exhibition, Deva, 5th edition;
- ⇒ Cadet INOVA International Exhibition of Innovation and Research for Students, Sibiu, 9th edition;
- ⇒ EUROINVENT European Exhibition of Creativity and Innovation, Iași, XVI-th edition;
- ⇒ TRAIAN VUIA International Exhibition of Inventions and Innovation, Timișoara, 10th edition;
- ⇒ INVENTICA International Exhibition of Inventions, Iași, 28th edition;
- ⇒ EURO POLITEHNICUS 2024 International Exhibition of Inventions, Bucharest, 1st edition.

Also, during 2024, our experts participated in the Fairs and Exhibitions organized by Romexpo, including:

- ⇒ Romanian Tourism Fair, spring edition, Bucharest;
- ⇒ Construct Ambient Expo and Mobila Expo (#TotulPentruCasaTa) Fairs, Bucharest;
- ⇒ International Consumer Goods Fair – TIBCO 2024 & Art and Antiques Fair – ANTIQUE MARKET 2024, Bucharest;
- ⇒ International Exhibition of Products and Equipment for Medicine and Dentistry – DENTA 2024, International Medicine and Pharmacy Fair – ROMMEDICA 2024;
- ⇒ International Fair of Products and Equipment for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry – INDAGRA & International Food Industry Fair – INDAGRA FOOD 2024, Romexpo, Bucharest.

Promotion Across the Country



Public Relations Compartment, IP Applications Filing

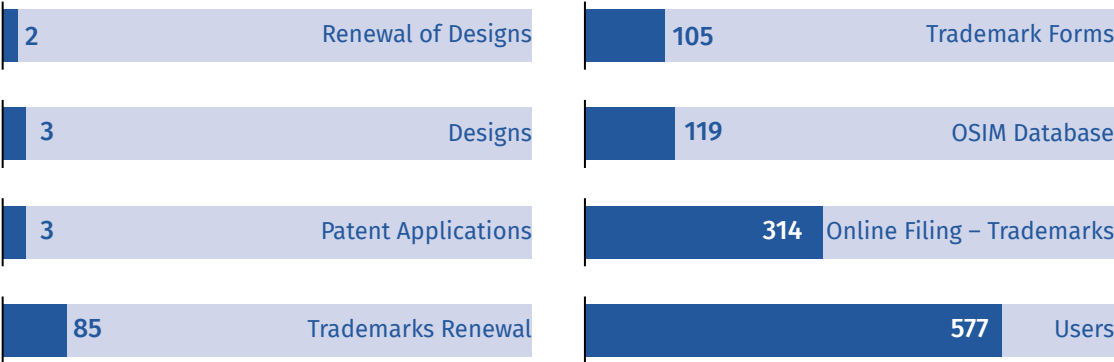
The Public Relations Compartment responded promptly and professionally to all requests for information received at the OSIM headquarters, by phone or by e-mail; in this context, 16,545 requests were registered, the fields of interest being those presented in the graph below.

Fields of Interest



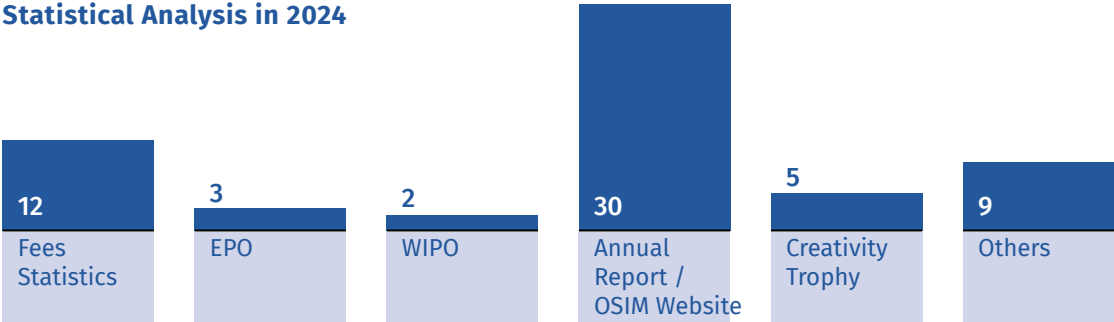
At the OSIM Reading Hall, 1,208 persons were lent specialized assistance consisting of information concerning the protection of inventions, trademarks and designs.

Services – OSIM Reading Hall



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

Statistical Analysis in 2024



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.

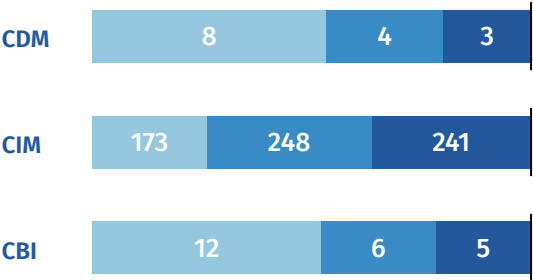
The establishment of Regional Centers was aimed at the promotion of the industrial property protection importance across the country, at the dissemination of public information on industrial property and raising awareness of local communities on this field of activity. The centres operate within the 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.

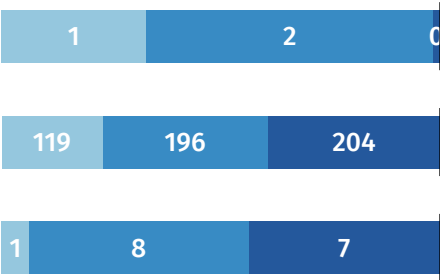
Other activities of the Regional Centres concern the provision of services, such as: documentary search, technical assistance lent to applicants, within their Reading Halls, training regarding database utilization, evaluation of the economic potential of inventions and development of industrial property strategy, presenting lectures on intellectual 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*

PATLIB Center Argeş



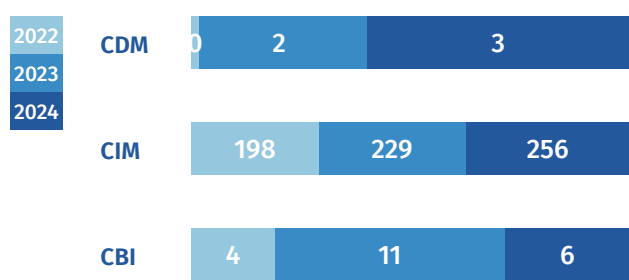
PATLIB Center Bacău



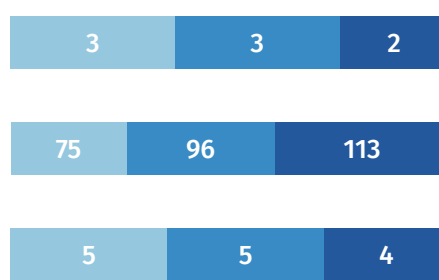
2022
2023
2024

* CDM – Design applications; CIM – Trademark applications;
CBI – Patent applications.

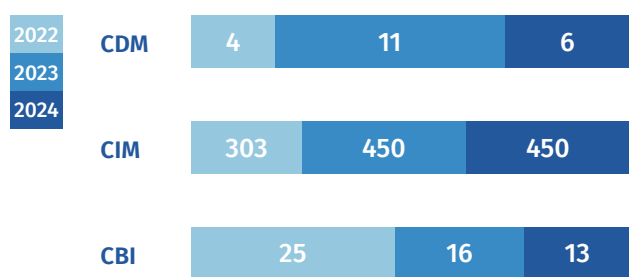
PATLIB Center Bihor



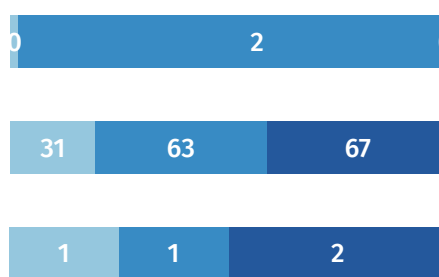
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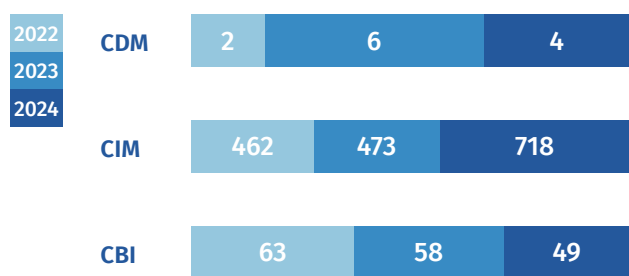
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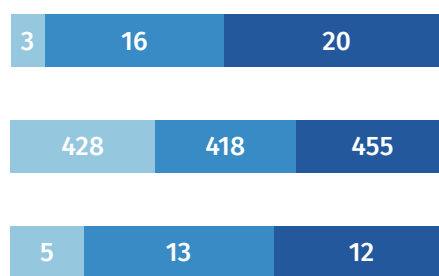
PATLIB Center Brăila



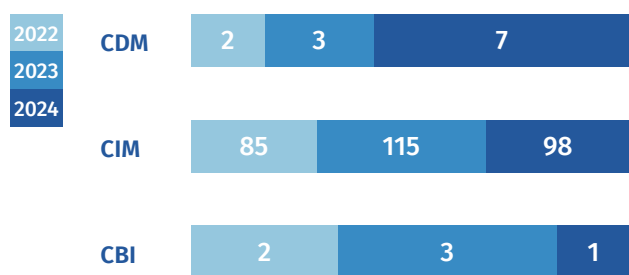
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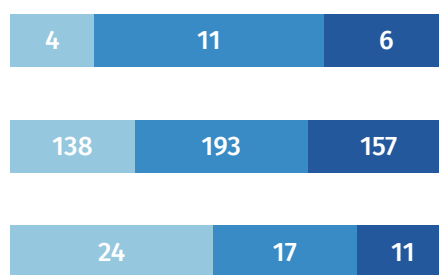
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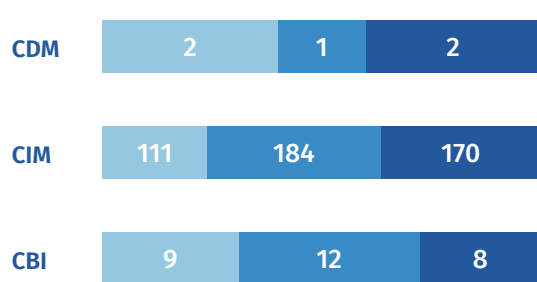
PATLIB Center Covasna / Harghita



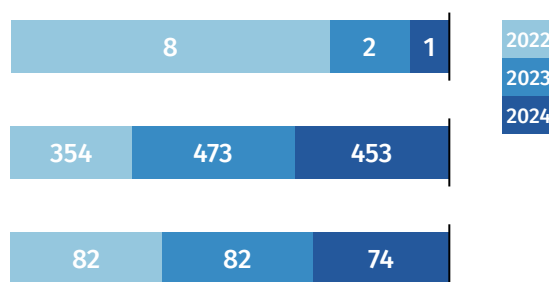
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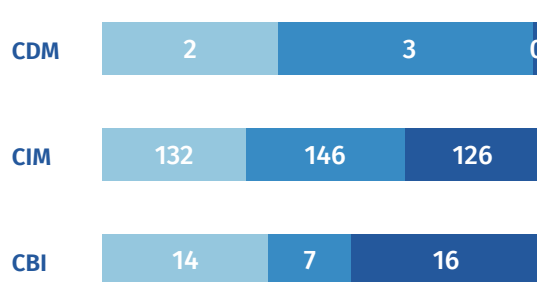
PATLIB Center Galați



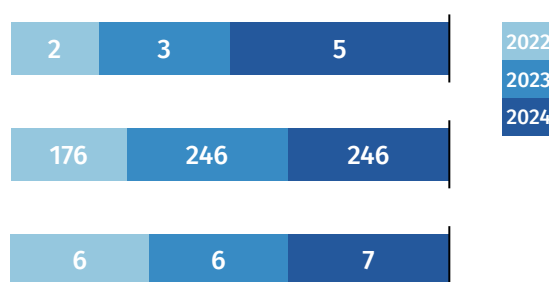
PATLIB Center Iași



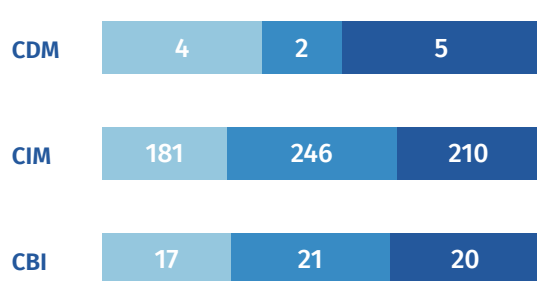
PATLIB Center Maramureș



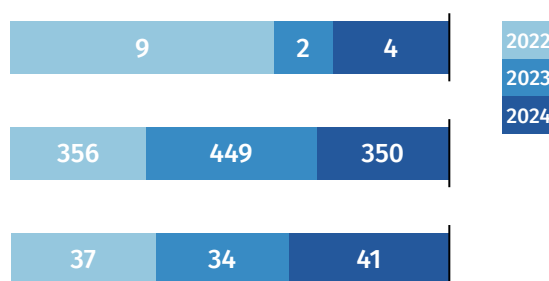
PATLIB Center Sibiu



PATLIB Center Suceava



PATLIB Center Timiș

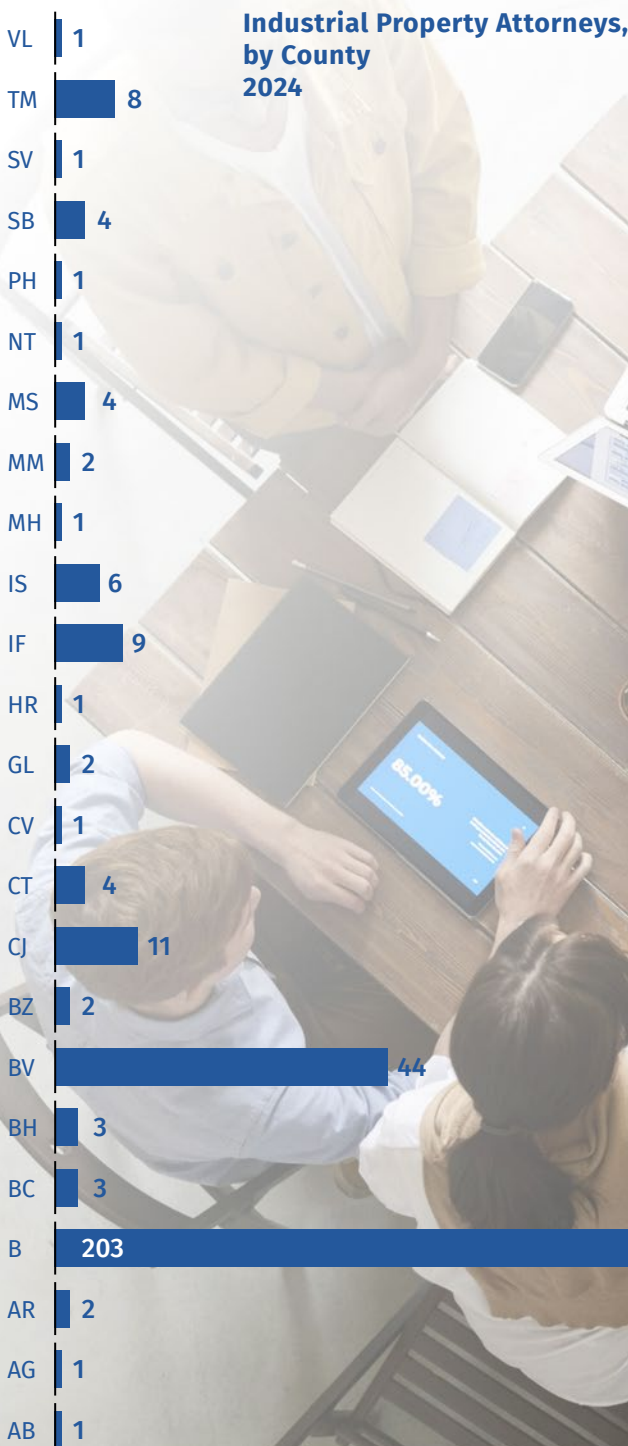
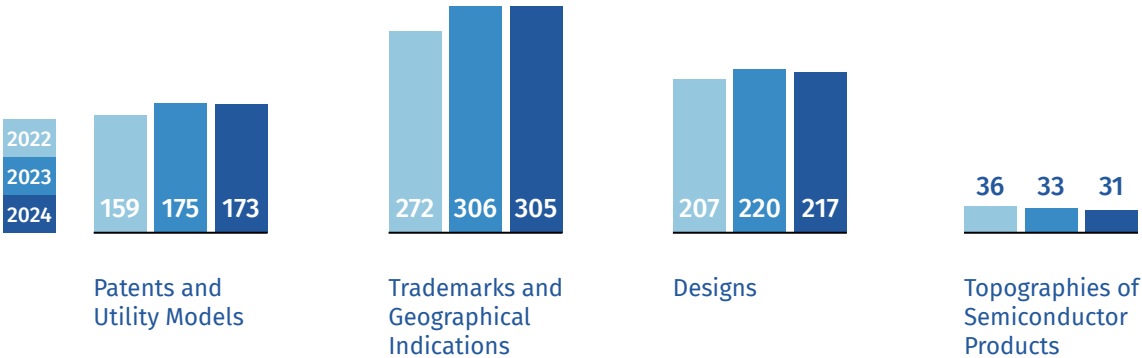


In the period 19 – 20 September 2024, Ankara hosted, in a hybrid format, the PATLIB Conference, the annual meeting of the PATLIB network which includes over 330 centers in Europe.

The conference focused on the Strategic Plan 2028, digitalization and support for SMEs, the objectives of which can be achieved through exchange of experience, by supporting initiatives such as Technology Transfer to Africa, but also through the tools offered by artificial intelligence, with the aim of facilitating the information channel between centers and users.

Industrial Property Attorneys

On 31.12.2024, 316 industrial property attorneys were registered with the National Chamber of Industrial Property Attorneys in the 4 fields:



7

Services Provided to Our Clients

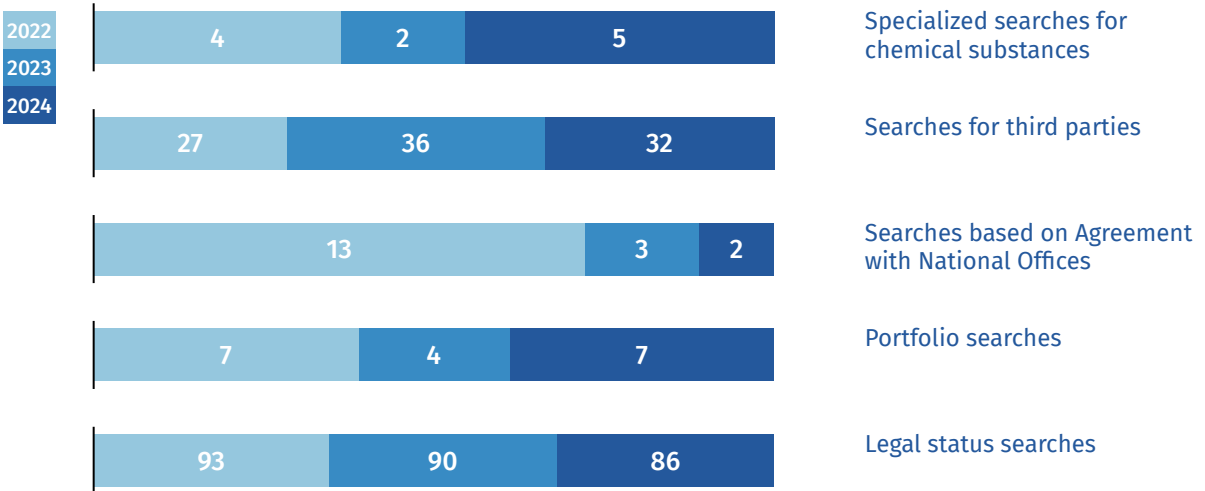
Services in the Field of Patents

Based on 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, 1 search report with written opinion on novelty was carried out for the Intellectual Property Office of Slovenia.

Also, 32 search reports with written opinion on novelty and theme search reports in specialized technical fields, such as mechanics and electrical engineering-electronics, were carried out, based on search orders, for Romanian and foreign applicants, using invention data bases and non-patent literature.

Five 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 86 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 106 requests in 2024.



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, 2,009 documentary searches.

Trademark Documentary Searches



Legal Status Changes and Transfers of Rights



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 2024, 16 requests for documentary search were submitted.

Design Searches



8

IT&C, Publishing House and Internal Managerial Control Division (TIECIM)

A. Ensuring 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 Compartment within the IT&C, Publishing House and Internal Managerial Control Division.

The IT Compartment 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 2024:

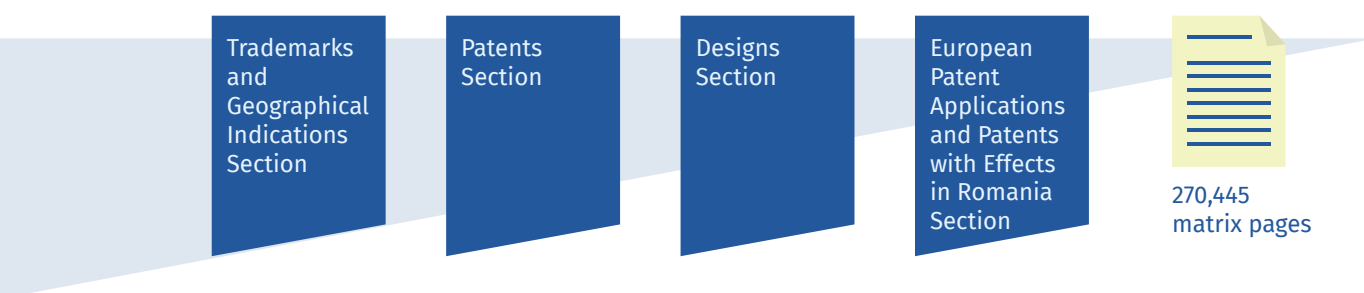
- ★ modernization of OSIM information system by implementing the internal web-site, Intranet;
- ★ modernization of OSIM information system by implementing the Ticketing System application for users' technical assistance;
 - ⇒ implementation of a new EBD download for the European patents database;
 - ⇒ integration of information from the OSIM IT system into the national and international IT structures:
 - ◆ implementation of the third version of the Back Office system for Trademarks and Designs while upgrading new technologies and functionalities;
 - ◆ integration of the new post-examination filing modules with the BackOffice application;
 - ◆ regular updating of external databases at the requested quality level, according to international agreements and conventions;
 - ⇒ reducing the time of access to information by increasing the correctness and availability of data within the OSIM IT system – the IT Compartment within the TIECIM Division has provided the technical conditions for meeting this objective. No major incidents have occurred in the reference year, as compared with 2023;
 - ⇒ contribution to the development of the institutional capacity by development and optimal utilization of OSIM IT system;
 - ⇒ implementation of trademarks and designs data transfer using the new Blockchain technology, under the Cooperation Agreement with EUIPO;
 - ⇒ ensuring the increase of awareness in Romania regarding the role of industrial property and improving the way of disseminating the information;
- ★ increasing the degree of compliance with ISO 9001:2015, ISO/IEC 27001:2013 and SCIM within the TIECIM Division.

B. 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, publish 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 classic printed version (paper version) and in electronic format to be 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 in the reference year. For better informing the public concerned, the OSIM Publishing House® section of the official OSIM webpage www.osim.ro hosts the information brochures.

The Publishing House 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



452,679 pages were printed



71 m of graphical images in Plotter printing were achieved



296 CDs/DVDs were written



Manual/mechanical bookbinding and finishing activities amounting to 650 units were carried out

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, TIECIM 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 11,517 pages were processed 	EPO 1,169 documents amounting to 13,733 pages were sent 3,755 RO-EP files amounting to 228,336 pages were sent and checked	AGEPI 1,169 documents in PDF format were sent as data exchanges 
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C. Activity within the Technical Secretariat of the SCIM Monitoring Commission

In 2024, 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 managing the significant risks, to the structures concerned, for implementation.

It also prepared the Synthesis of the results of 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 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.

9

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.

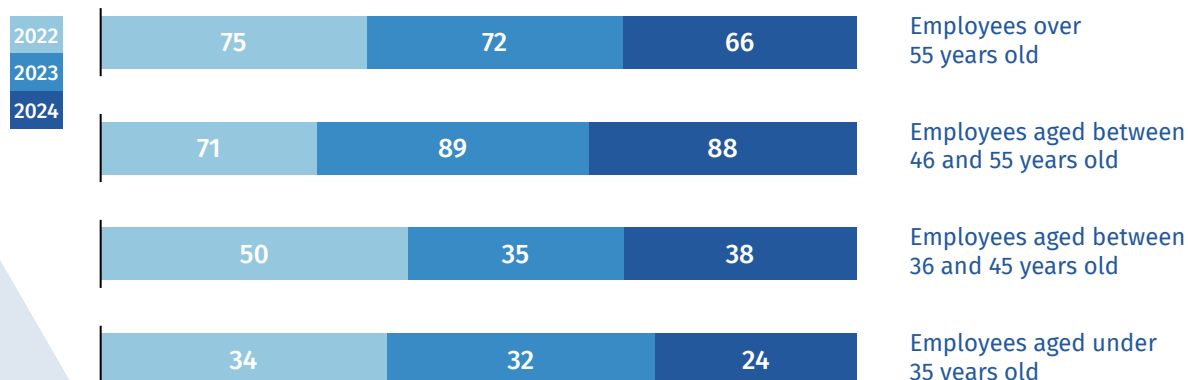
In 2024, the Human Resources Compartment carried out the following activities:

- ⇒ registration and transmission of personnel data in REVISAL, amounting to a number of 782;
- ⇒ 1,580 documents introduced into the personnel files, including the payroll program;
- ⇒ drawing up the positions and staff lists, in a number of 58;
- ⇒ drawing up, recording and issuing 346 certificates;
- ⇒ conclusion of 664 additional acts to the Individual Employment Contracts;
- ⇒ issuance of 31 orders and decisions on secondment/suspension/appointment/relocation of employees;
- ⇒ management of requests for employees' annual rest leave, in a number of 2,969;
- ⇒ management of requests for employees' sick leave, in a number of 119;
- ⇒ checking of the time sheets of OSIM Directorates, in a number of 261;
- ⇒ management of employees' job descriptions, in a number of 122;
- ⇒ managing the employees' self-assessment and assessment sheets, in a number of 430;
- ⇒ organizing 3 competitions for vacancies;
- ⇒ conclusion of 8 Individual Employment Contracts;
- ⇒ termination of 15 Individual Employment Contracts.

Also, the Human Resources Compartment provided advice in the process of completing/updating declarations of assets and interests, amounting to 78 declarations, ensuring the carrying out of this process, the publication of said declarations on the Intranet page of the organization, and their transmission to the National Integrity Agency. The professional training of employees continued in 2024, with the staff of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks participating in 71 professional training courses.

On 31.12.2024, the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks had a number of 86 examiners for protection titles of the total number of 216 posts occupied.

Share of Employment, by Age Groups



10

Economic Activity – Budget

The Income and Expenditure Budget of OSIM for 2024 was approved by the main credit release authority, the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism.

In 2024, the total income of OSIM amounted to 79,692.29 thousand lei, of which the major value is covered by the income made from activities relating to inventions and trademarks.

Incomes - thousand lei

Indicator	2023	2024	%
Inventions	45,274.91	46,452.64	2.60
Trademarks and geographical indications	30,596.97	29,995.56	-1.97
Designs	634.74	822.85	29.64
Other incomes*	4,380.25	2,421.24	-44.72
Total incomes	80,886.87	79,692.29	-1.48

* 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.

The expenditures incurred by OSIM in 2024 recorded a value of 50,276.94 thousand lei, compared to 63,115 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	2023	2024	%
Personnel expenditures	23,699.72	24,791.53	4.61
Goods and services	5,642.91	6,422.05	13.81
Capital expenditures	2,893.91	207.26	-92.84
Projects with non-refundable foreign financing	6.80	-	-
Projects with non-refundable foreign financing (FEN Post-accession)	-	99.00	-
Transfers abroad	18,409.67	19,116.62	3.84
Other expenditures	234.87	189.35	-19.38
Payments made during the preceding years and recovered in the current year	-	-548.87	-
Total expenditures	50,887.88	50,276.94	-1.20

11

Statistics

A. Applications for Protection Titles

	2022	2023	2024
1. Patent applications	843	889	810
2. Applications for Supplementary Protection Certificates	60	55	68
3. Utility model applications	49	58	72
4. Applications for trademark registratio	10,944	13,813	12,975
5. Applications for trademark renewal	3,361	4,294	4,384
6. Applications for design registration	203	256	280
7. Applications for design renewal	143	182	251
TOTAL	15,603	19,547	18,840

Applications, by Administrative Units

	2022			2023			2024		
Macroregion									
Development region	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM
County									
MACROREGION ONE	122	1,765	22	112	2,479	32	121	2,245	34
North-West	82	968	11	74	1,309	12	95	1,152	16
Bihor	4	198	0	11	229	2	6	256	3
Bistrița-Năsăud	5	75	3	5	96	3	4	113	2
Cluj	58	473	6	49	718	4	65	552	9
Maramureș	14	132	2	7	146	3	16	126	0
Satu Mare	0	61	0	0	82	0	1	70	1
Sălaj	1	29	0	2	38	0	3	35	1
Center	40	797	11	38	1,170	20	26	1,093	18
Alba	5	90	1	2	167	1	1	104	0
Brașov	25	303	4	16	450	11	13	450	6
Covasna	2	33	1	2	49	0	0	39	4
Harghita	0	52	1	1	66	3	1	59	3
Mureș	2	143	2	11	192	2	4	195	0
Sibiu	6	176	2	6	246	3	7	246	5

	2022			2023			2024		
Macroregion									
Development region	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM
County									
MACROREGION TWO	133	1,571	20	157	2,090	36	129	2,057	52
North-East	114	834	13	123	1,149	12	106	1,125	28
Bacău	1	119	1	8	196	2	7	204	0
Botoșani	5	37	0	1	66	0	3	54	2
Iași	82	354	8	82	473	2	74	453	1
Neamț	5	76	0	10	115	6	2	136	15
Suceava	17	181	4	21	246	2	20	210	5
Vaslui	4	67	0	1	53	0	0	68	5
South-East	19	737	7	34	941	24	23	932	24
Brăila	1	31	0	1	63	2	2	67	0
Buzău	3	71	0	3	97	2	0	101	1
Constanța	5	428	3	13	418	16	12	455	20
Galați	9	111	2	12	184	1	8	170	2
Tulcea	0	34	0	3	52	0	1	46	0
Vrancea	1	62	2	2	127	3	0	93	1

	2022			2023			2024		
Macroregion									
Development region	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM
County									
MACROREGION THREE	454	4,706	73	466	6,253	104	402	5,685	85
South - Muntenia	53	655	10	34	896	10	24	787	5
Argeș	12	173	8	6	248	4	5	241	3
Călărași	1	27	0	0	38	0	0	34	0
Dâmbovița	8	93	0	14	108	5	7	104	0
Giurgiu	0	41	0	5	47	0	3	58	1
Ialomița	1	39	0	0	48	0	0	29	0
Prahova	30	243	2	9	358	1	9	289	1
Teleorman	1	39	0	0	49	0	0	32	0
Bucharest - Ilfov	401	4,051	63	432	5,357	94	378	4,898	80
Ilfov	107	732	13	109	1,101	10	102	1,030	17
București	294	3,319	50	323	4,256	84	276	3,868	63

	2022			2023			2024		
Macroregion									
Development region	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM	CBI	CIM	CDM
County									
MACROREGION FOUR	96	849	28	82	1,210	26	99	992	36
South-West Oltenia	40	329	13	33	482	22	52	393	28
Dolj	24	138	4	17	193	11	11	157	6
Gorj	3	34	6	3	51	5	0	43	8
Mehedinți	1	26	0	2	49	0	0	35	0
Olt	1	49	0	1	68	0	31	61	1
Vâlcea	11	82	3	10	121	6	10	97	13
West	56	520	15	49	728	4	47	599	8
Arad	7	85	2	6	157	0	2	143	4
Caraș-Severin	1	22	0	0	39	0	0	39	0
Hunedoara	11	57	4	9	83	2	4	67	0
Timiș	37	356	9	34	449	2	41	350	4

Patents (BI)

	2022	2023	2024
1. Filed patent applications – total, of which:	843	889	810
- Romanian applicants	805	817	751
- Foreign applicants – total, of which:	38	72	59
- by national route	835	867	796
- by international route (PCT)	8	22	14
2. Granted patents* – total	362	349	312
3. Issued patents – total	364	314	335
4. Patent duplicates – total	1,449	1,296	1,412
5. Issued priority certificates – total	53	74	88

* Decisions to grant

European Patents (EP)

	2022	2023	2024
European patents validated in Romania	2,589	2,870	2,715
European patent validation certificates	1,577	918	891

Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC)

	2022	2023	2024
SPC registration applications	60	55	68
Issued SPC	33	21	16

Utility Models

	2022	2023	2024
1. Utility model applications – total, of which:	49	58	72
- Romanian applicants	38	46	49
- foreign applicants	11	12	23
2. Issued utility model certificates – total	26	23	33

Patent Applications, by Categories of Romanian Applicants

Categories of applicants	2022	2023	2024
- Natural persons	184	204	187
- Companies	111	175	126
- Research institutes	312	241	252
- Education institutions	198	197	186
Romanian applicants – total	805	817	751

Trademarks, Trademark Renewals and Geographical Indications

	2022	2023	2024
1. Trademark registration applications – total, of which:	10,944	13,813	12,975
• by national route	9,453	12,269	11,609
- Romanian applicants	8,891	12,032	10,979
- foreign applicants	530	237	630
• CTM conversion	32	18	36
• Trademark applications filed with RO as country of origin	94	46	61
• by international route	1,491	1,480	1,366
2. Trademark renew – total	3,361	4,294	4,384
3. Issued certificates – total	12,884	10,430	9,998
4. Geographical indication registration applications – total	0	0	0

Designs and Design Renewals

	2022	2023	2024
1. Design registration applications – total, of which:	203	256	280
• Romanian applicants	143	198	207
• foreign applicants – total, of which:	60	58	73
- by national route	8	3	6
- by international route (the Hague)	52	55	67
2. Design renewals – total	143	178	251
3. Issued certificates – total	277	342	420

Designs Contained in the Design Registration Applications

	2022	2023	2024
Designs contained in the design applications	567	654	1,068
– total, of which:			
• Romanian applicants	372	433	722
• foreign applicants – total, of which:	195	221	346
- by national route	9	4	7
- by international route (the Hague)	186	217	339

B. Examination of Applications

	2022	2023	2024
1. Examined patent applications – total, of which:	900	841	807
- Examination of patent applications – preliminary exam.	185	128	169
- Examination of patent applications – substantive exam.	715	713	638
2. Examination of TSP* applications	0	0	0
3. Examination of SPC** applications	39	33	33
4. Examination of utility models	43	64	73
5. Examination of trademark applications	11,089	11,700	15,081
6. Examination of trademark renewal applications	3,463	3,442	3,372
7. Examination of trademark oppositions	777	546	340
8. Examination of design applications	347	425	466
9. Examination of design renewal applications	137	181	251
10. Examination of design oppositions	4	1	3
Total examined applications – OSIM	16,799	17,233	20,423

* TPS – Topographies of Semiconductor Products.

** SPC – Supplementary Protection Certificate.

Examination of Patent Applications

	2022	2023	2024
a. Examination of patent applications – total, of which:	700	713	638
- Romanian (RO)	663	685	606
- foreign – of which:	37	28	32
- by national route	16	11	13
- by international route (PCT)	21	17	19

	2022	2023	2024
b. Examination of patent applications, by decisions – total, of which:	700	713	638
- Granted patents	362	349	312
- Patent applications refused upon examination	348	359	325
- Patent applications withdrawn upon examination	5	5	1

Substantive Examination of SPC Applications

	2022	2023	2024
Substantive examination of SPC applications – total, of which:	39	33	30
- SPC granted	33	17	26
- SPC refused	4	10	2
- SPC withdrawn	2	6	2

Examination of Utility Model Applications

	2022	2023	2024
Examination of utility model applications – total, of which:	43	64	73
- CMU registered	24	45	36
- CMU refused	16	14	37
- CMU withdrawn	3	5	0

Examination of Trademark Registration Applications

	2022	2023	2024
Examined – total, of which:	11,041	11,700	15,081
a. Examination of applications by national route – total, of which:	8,642	9,529	12,367
- admitted	7,771	7,969	9,639
- refused	774	1,073	2,412
- cancelled/withdrawn	97	487	316
b. Examination of applications by international route – total, of which:	2,399	2,171	2,714
- admitted	2,283	2,097	2,665
- refused	116	74	49

Examination of Trademark Renewal Applications

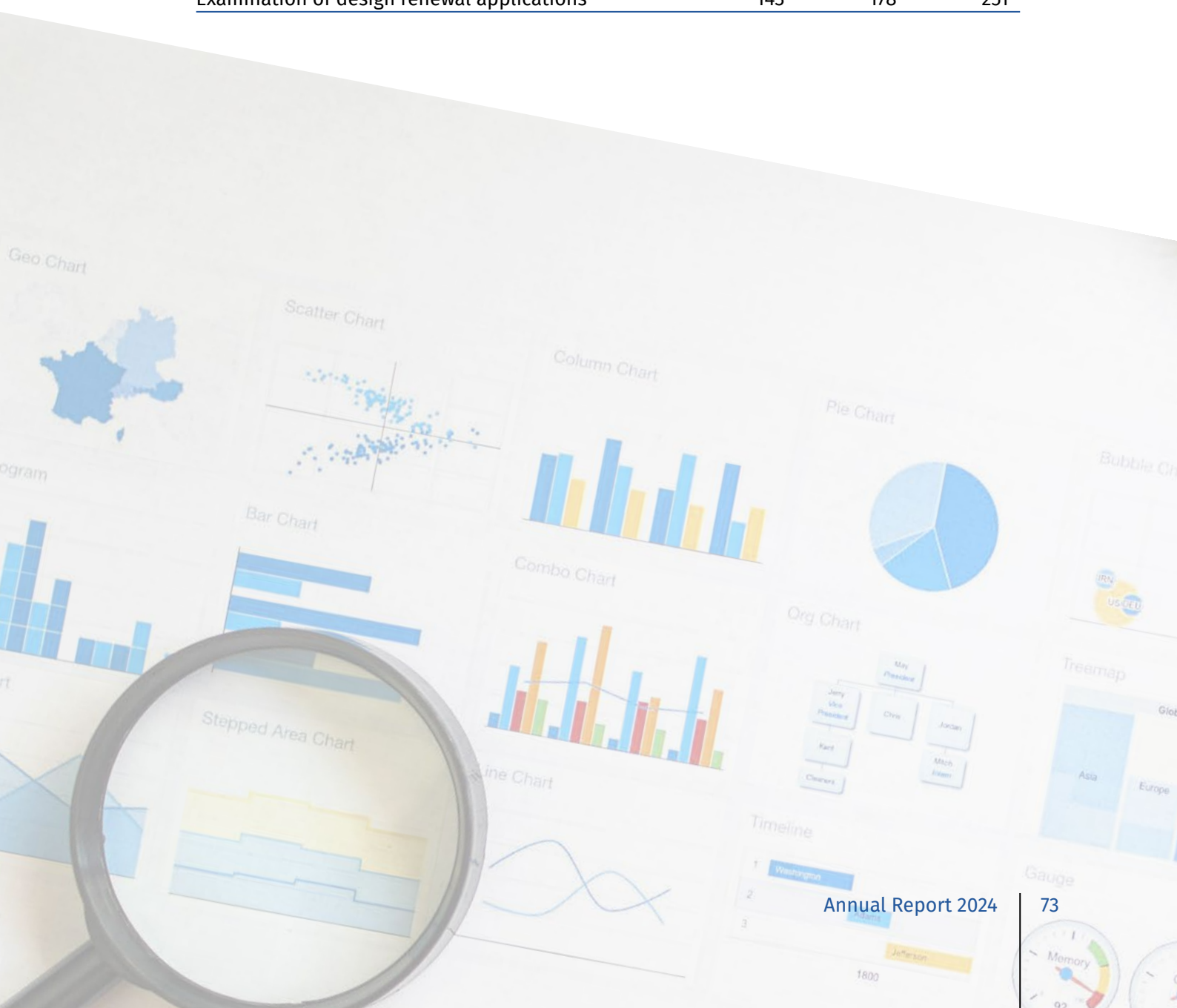
	2022	2023	2024
Examination of renewal applications – total	3,361	3,442	3,372

Examination of Design Registration Applications

	2022	2023	2024
Examined – total	347	425	466
a. in the preliminary examination	137	192	231
b. in the substantive examination – total, of which:	210	233	235
• by national route, of which:	145	185	174
- admitted to protection	136	183	167
- protection refused	9	2	5
- renunciation	0	0	2
• by international route, of which:	65	48	61
- admitted to protection	65	48	61

Examination of Design Renewal Applications

	2022	2023	2024
Examination of design renewal applications	143	178	251

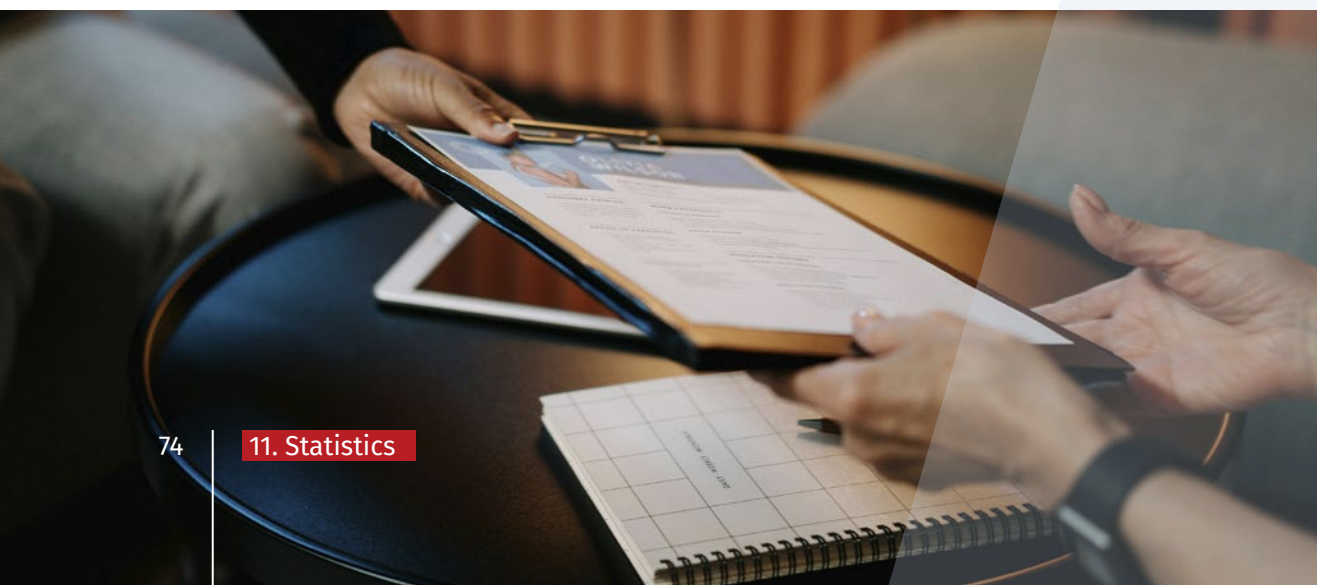


C. Stock of Pending Applications

	2022	2023	2024
Total stock of pending applications on 31 December 2024 – Patents and Technological Information Directorate – total, of which:	4,112	4,093	4,181
- Stock of patent applications in the Preliminary Examination	1,210	1,274	1,338
- Stock of patent applications in the Substantive Examination	2,593	2,499	2,482
- Stock of utility model applications	61	59	61
- Stock of applications for Supplementary Protection Certificate (CSP)	248	261	300
Total stock of pending applications on 31 December 2024 – Trademarks and Designs Directorate – total, of which:	3,317	2,756	2,503
- Stock of trademark registration applications	2,600	2,014	1,432
- Stock of trademark oppositions	655	663	965
- Stock of design registration applications	60	79	103
- Stock of design oppositions	2	0	3

D. Issuance of Protection Documents

	2022	2023	2024
1. Patents	364	314	335
2. Patent duplicates	1,449	1,296	1,412
3. Priority certificates	53	74	88
4. Utility model certificates	26	20	61
5. Supplementary Protection Certificates	33	21	16
6. European patent validation certificates	1,577	2,870	2,715
7. Trademark registration and renewal certificates	12,884	10,430	9,998
8. Design registration and renewal certificates	277	342	420
TOTAL	16,663	15,367	15,045



E. Appeals

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

	2022	2023	2024
Appeals remained unsettled from the preceding years	5	0	0
Appeals lodged during the current year	13	9	16
Appeals to be settled next year	3	2	1
Settled – total, of which:	15	8	17
- settled, from the preceding years	5	3	4
- settled, from the current year	10	5	13
Solutions – total, of which:	15	8	19
- admitted	8	2	10
- rejected	7	6	9

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

	2022	2023	2024
Appeals remained unsettled from the preceding years	1	0	1
Appeals lodged during the current year	3	1	0
Appeals to be settled next year	0	1	0
Settled – total, of which:	3	0	0
- settled, from the current year	3	0	0
Solutions – total, of which:	2	0	0
- admitted	2	0	0
- rejected	0	0	0

Appeals Lodged with the Trademarks Board of Appeal

	2022	2023	2024
Appeals remained unsettled from the preceding years	151	201	134
Appeals lodged during the current year	348	242	175
Appeals to be settled next year	197	134	78
Settled – total, of which:	302	300	247
- settled, from the preceding years	103	156	110
- settled, from the current year	199	144	137
Solutions – total, of which:	302	300	247
- admitted	197	137	136
- rejected	105	163	111



Appeals Lodged with the Designs Board of Appeal

	2022	2023	2024
Appeals lodged during the current year	1	1	0
Appeals to be settled next year	1	0	0
Settled – total, of which:	0	1	0
- settled, from the current year	0	1	0
Solutions – total, of which:	0	1	0
- admitted	0	0	0
- rejected	0	1	0

Invalidation – Exhaustion of IP rights

	2022	2023	2024
Requests for trademark invalidation	-	26	37
Requests for exhaustion of rights	-	12	10

F. Services

Services in the IP Field

	2022	2023	2024
Idea envelope	65	76	106
Specialized searches, by chemical substances	4	2	5
Searches for third parties – Inventions	27	36	32
Searches under Agreement with National Offices	13	3	2
Portfolio searches	7	4	7
Legal status searches	93	90	86
Trademark searches	1,150	1,652	2,009
Design searches	29	21	16

G. Archives Activity

	2022	2023	2024
New entries	36,717	14,476	21,200
Lendings	12,541	10,060	7,458

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Abbreviations

AGEPI	State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova
EP	European Patent
BI	Patent
BOPI.	Official Industrial Property Bulletin
EPC	European Patent Convention
CBI	Patent application
CCINA	Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Navigation and Agriculture
CDM	Application for design registration
CEBS.	Central European and Baltic States Group
IPC	International Patent Classification
CIM	Application for trademark registration
CMU	Utility Model application
SPC	Supplementary Protection Certificate
CTM	Community Trademark
CEU	Council of the European Union
DLT	Design Law Treaty
DM	Designs
IPR	Industrial Property Rights
EUIPO	European Union Intellectual Property Office
GO	Government Ordinance
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISO/IEC . . .	International Organization for Standardization ISO – International Electrotechnical Commission IEC
MU	Utility model
EPO	European Patent Office
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
OSGG	Order of the Secretary General of Government
OSIM.	State Office for Inventions and Trademarks
PCT	Patent Cooperation Treaty
CCPPI	IP Communication and Promotion Compartment
IP	Industrial Property
REVISAL . . .	General Record of Employees
RO.	Romania
SCIM.	Internal Managerial Control System
TIECIM	Information Technology, Publishing House and Internal Managerial Control
TSP	Topographies of Semiconductor Products
EU.	European Union

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