

Annual Report 2024

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General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP)

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ABBREVIATIONS:

GDIP - General Directorate of Industrial Property

MECI - Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation

EU - European Union

EPO - European Patent Office

EUIPO - European Union Intellectual Property Office

INTA - International Trademark Association

WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization

IP - Intellectual Property

NPEI - National Plan for European Integration

TTC - Technology Transfer Centers

TSIC - Technical-Scientific Information Centers

EUIPO - European Union Intellectual Property Office

EPO - European Patent Office

WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization

GI - Geographical Indication

DO - Designation of Origin

DPA - Department of Public Administration

INTRODUCTION

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

This report basically shows and reflects the implementation, impact, perspective of standards and staff efficiency as professional experts in the field of industrial property. The report is based on statistical data of the directorates and constituent sectors of the GDIP on work carried out during 2024.

The Annual Report of the General Directorate of Industrial Property serves as a communication bridge to transparently disseminate various knowledge about the Directorate and its voluminous work with the reader. Also, this report serves the current implementation of law on industrial property and to raise awareness of the latter's importance throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania.

The General Directorate of Industrial Property clearly defines short-term and medium-term strategies and objectives, to fully accomplish its vision.

The GDIP main objective is to afford industrial property protection at the same level as in European countries. Its task is to increase the quality of examination of industrial property objects and raise awareness among the general public about the importance of rights derived from their registration. The benefits and advantages arising from the protection of industrial property objects are driving factors for the economic development of businesses, as well as helping to establish fair competition in the market where they operate, turning them into valuable contributors to the growth of national economy.

This is the main reason why it is extremely important to set up a functional and reliable national industrial property system, which accordingly creates a stimulating environment where businesses, industries and individuals feel secure that their work and investment are protected from theft, counterfeiting and misuse.

The General Directorate of Industrial Property constitutes a key link in this system, as it is the only policy-making institution and representative of Albania in world organizations on intellectual property related issues.

The European Commission, in "Chapter 7" of the 2023 report on the Republic of Albania, stated: Albania is moderately prepared for intellectual property rights.

Further align the legislation on copyright and related rights with the EU acquis;
Improve the functioning of collective management agencies and payment of royalties to holders of these rights;

Further align the legislation on industrial property rights and the system of enforcement of intellectual property rights.

In view of the foregoing and considering the full confidence and will that development of the industrial property system in the Republic of Albania is on the right track, the General Directorate of Industrial Property, with determination and dedication, will continue to advance the development of cooperation and negotiations, with all stakeholders and interested parties in this field, to accomplish not only its mission, but also to promote the development of innovation in the country.

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OF ALBANIA

Dear reader,

Through the publication of the annual report of the General Directorate of Industrial Property, I am pleased to share with you the work and activity carried out by this institution during 2024.

This report is an important tool of transparency and accountability, in which our directorate aims to present the results and work carried out throughout the timeframe of this calendar year.

The year 2024 ended with satisfactory results for the General Directorate of Industrial Property. This year's figures are a reflection of hard work to raise awareness about the importance of registering industrial property objects, not only of local businesses, but also of foreign companies, which have shown interest in the Albanian market.



I would also like to mention that these results are a reflection of work of all stakeholders involved in the Industrial Property system, who have played a key role in the successful fulfillment of our tasks. Kindly allow me to share with you some of the main achievements of our institution.

The GDIP offers its services only on the online platform. The elimination of time for recording and receiving administrative acts after they are posted by the GDIP, as well as the circulation of applications during examination, significantly shortened the examination period and consequently accelerated the receipt of services.

In addition, errors that occurred during scanning, indexing and delegation process of filed documentation were also massively reduced. All administrative acts drafted are now digitalized in the SAPI system and examiners can access them in real time, without the need for confirmation from the protocol.

In January 2024, a new phase was introduced on progress and strengthening of the Training Center and the Center's Strategy for a 5-year period 2023-2028 was successfully finalized with a view of providing each stakeholder \ interest group with on-site information, providing an improved environment with contemporary methods and stimulating innovation, science and technology.

In the context of strengthening relations at national and international level, GDIP has paid special attention to cooperation with partners at the national and international level in the field of industrial property, to strengthen cooperation according to the area of responsibility.

Namely, we succeeded to sign 7 cooperation agreements in 2024, and specifically with:

- “Eqerem Çabej” University of Gjirokastra;
- Faculty of Law, Tirana;
- Start-up Agency;
- European University of Tirana;
- Canadian Institute of Technology;
- Western Balkans University;
- Logos University College;

Regarding the Trademarks, the General Directorate of Industrial Property of the Republic of Albania (GDIP) implements the common European practice CP8. The GDIP published a practical document regarding the use of a trademark in a form that differs from that in which it is registered, in order for interested businesses to be introduced to the latest practices adopted by the European Intellectual Property Office.

The document, developed in the framework of international cooperation activities of these units, aims to increase clarity, transparency, legal certainty and predictability, for the benefit of users and examiners of IP Offices. This document also aims to be a reference for all other interested parties.

Another important moment for this year is the successful completion of the first acceleration program focused on strengthening entrepreneurship through Intellectual Property protection implemented in Albania, IP4Startups! Through this program, the certification of 10 winning startups was achieved, which underwent intensive training on Industrial Property for 2 consecutive months.

The continuous improvement of legal basis, with a view of approximation with the legislation and standards of EU countries, continues to be the focus of GDIP’s activity.

Two draft laws are formulated and forwarded for approval to the Council of Ministers, namely the “Draft Law on Patents and Utility Models” and the “Draft Law on Trademarks”, which will be approved by 2025, and two draft laws on Albania’s accession to Nairobi and Singapore Treaties have also been sent for review to the line ministries.

The General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) has continued its promotion policies by following certain strategies regarding the increase of awareness and promotion of industrial property rights throughout the country. 11 cities of the Republic of Albania have been affected, with the aim of informing about IP objects and their importance, in order to attribute value to the business they represent. The focus of the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) is the close cooperation with education system to raise awareness of younger generations regarding the field. The GDIP has developed 11 open lectures in the auditoriums of universities of the Republic of Albania, with a view of informing and raising awareness of young people on IP objects as well as the ways of searching in European registers and the register of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

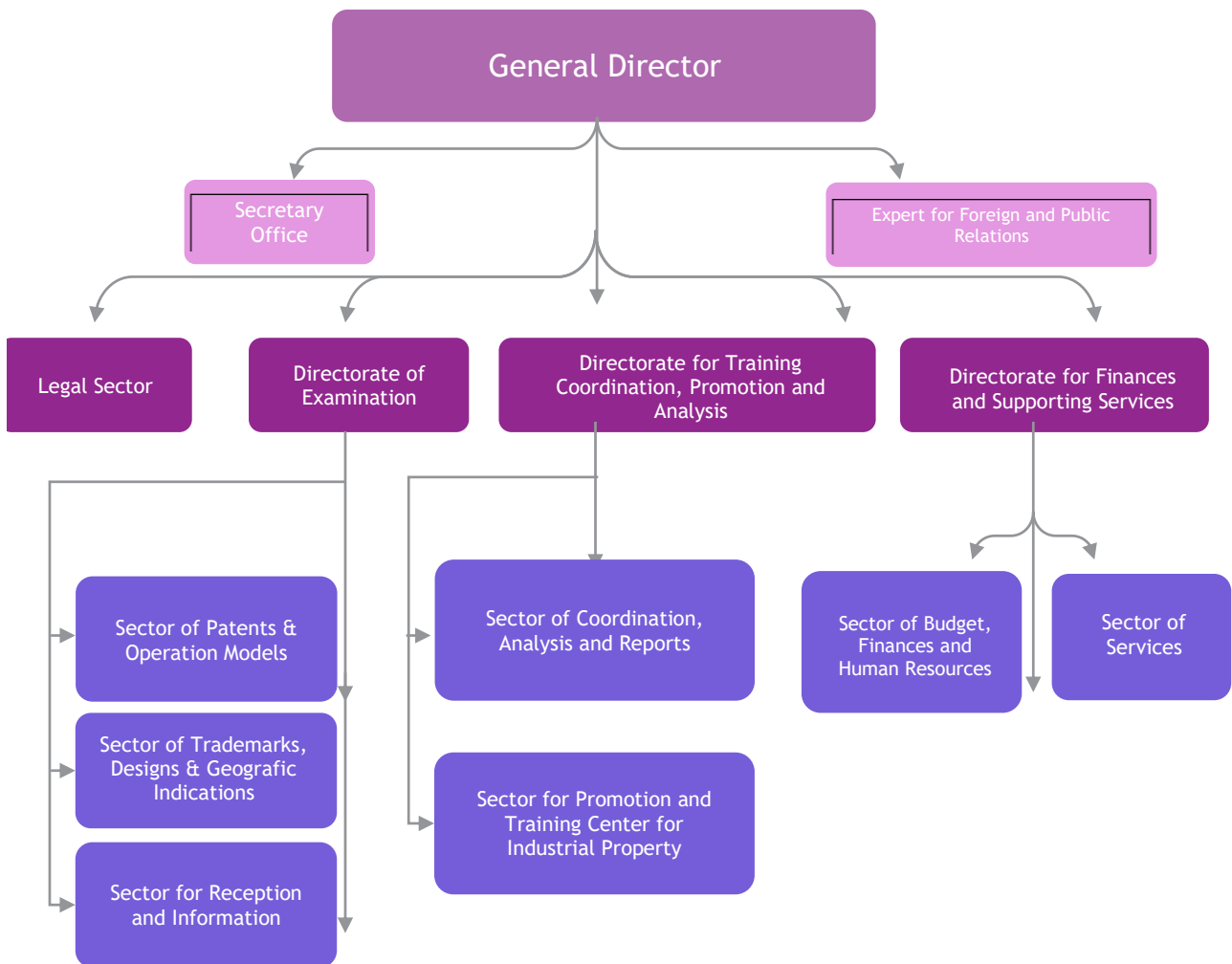
As a result of work carried out in relation to promotion, GDIP closed year 2024 with an increase of (742 patent applications, 35 industrial design applications, 1575 trademark applications) which translates into better quality services to citizens and higher performance levels. On December 4, 2024, an important moment was marked for business and state institutions that provide services to business

community, where GDIP was awarded the “*Best Institution for Intellectual Property Management Award*” within the framework of the 128th anniversary of Tirana Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In conclusion of my remarks, allow me to express my gratitude to all partner institutions, national level institutions involved in the intellectual property protection system and members of the inter-institutional working group of Chapter 7 “Intellectual Property”, representatives of the Delegation of European Union to Albania, as well as our international partners.

I express my deep gratitude to the International Intellectual Property Organizations, specifically the World Intellectual Property Organization, the European Patent Office and the European Union Intellectual Property Office, who have made a valuable contribution to the General Directorate of Industrial Property, providing the necessary technical assistance and have appreciated the performance of our institution in all its achievements.

Last but not least, I would like to especially thank staff members of the General Directorate of Industrial Property, who with dedication and perseverance managed to fulfill all priorities and objectives set earlier on time, assessing the performance of 2024 as quite successful.

Yours respectfully,
MARIA SOLIS KAPEDANI
ACTING GENERAL DIRECTOR



SCOPE OF ACTIVITY OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY (GDIP)

The General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) is a non-budgetary public institution headquartered in Tirana, which registers, administers and promotes industrial property objects and operates as an autonomous agency under the supervision of the Minister responsible for economy. The GDIP also plays a key role in raising awareness on the importance of protecting industrial property objects among interested parties, stakeholders involved in the system, as well as universities and educational institutions throughout the country.

STATUS

The General Directorate of Industrial Property is the institution charged by law with the registration, administration and promotion of IP objects.

The General Directorate of Industrial Property is the only institution through which the Albanian state grants rights to patents on inventions and utility models, topographies of semiconductor products, trademarks and service marks, industrial designs and geographical indications, recognizing the owners of these rights as owners of these objects through their registration.

The GDIP also performs the role of coordinator of Chapter 7, “Intellectual Property”, for which it reports to the Stabilization and Association Committee and the Subcommittee on Internal Market and Competition, as well as to the Delegation of European Union, on the progress and activity carried out, in fulfillment of the obligations imposed thereupon by strategic documents.

MISSION

The mission of the General Directorate of Industrial Property is to strengthen the protection of industrial property within the territory of the Republic of Albania, through the recognition, registration and promotion of rights over Intellectual Property objects, to ensure the same level of protection as that of European Union countries.

FOCUS

The GDIP focus is to improve the functioning of industrial property system, with a view of promoting and supporting innovation through stimulating research work, especially that of Albanian companies, universities and individuals, in order to promote the economic development of the country. More specifically, this system serves as a tool to promote investments in research and development, as well as to guarantee success in the market.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensuring internal and wider management and coordination to improve the protection and enforcement of intellectual property worldwide;
- Achieving an excellent organization for strengthening cooperative relations at the national and international level;
- Successfully overcoming the challenges in implementing the goals, objectives and initiatives undertaken in the “New National Intellectual Property Strategy 2022-2025”.

STATISTICAL DATA REGARDING THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OBJECTS

Directorate of Examination

As one of the most important structures of the GDIP, its functional task is to register IP objects, administer the registers of these objects, prepare and publish IP bulletins, and inform the public about the procedures for registering IP objects in the country.

The Examination Directorate, as part of the General Directorate of Industrial Property, has 15 employees who are structured in 3 sectors and has as its functional duty the registration of IP objects, as well as the administration of registers of these objects. Specifically:

1. Sector of Reception and Information, which consists of 3 employees and has as its main duty the reception of applications for registration and maintenance, publication and provision of information regarding IP objects.
2. Sector of Patents and Utility Models, which consists of 4 employees and has as its main duty the examination of applications for patents and utility models as well as the administration of registers for these objects.
3. Sector of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, which has 7 employees and has as its main duty the examination of applications for trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications and designations of origin as well as the administration of registers for these objects.

Sector of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographic Indications

The Sector of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications is an integral part of the Examination Directorate and plays a crucial role in the registration of trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications and designation of origin, as well as the administration of registers of these objects. The activity of this sector consists of the implementation of examination procedures in accordance with the legislation in force.

Applications for Trademark registration:

During 2024, 1575 applications were submitted for trademark registration to the General Directorate of Industrial Property, while during 2023, a total of 1311 applications were submitted for trademark registration, in 2022, 1165 applications were submitted, and in 2021, 1404 applications were submitted.

Therefore, a significant increase in the number of trademark registration applications of 16.8% is noted, according to the graph below:



Applications for Trademark registration under Madrid Agreement (International Trademark)

The Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Trademarks (1891) is an international treaty managed by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It allows for the registration of trademarks in multiple countries through a single procedure and one international application. This systematizes and simplifies the registration of trademarks for entities wishing to protect their trademark in multiple countries.

This agreement is a basic tool for businesses seeking to extend the protection of their trademarks in different markets and avoid the complexities of separate registrations for each country.

The Madrid Protocol (adopted in 1989) is a document aiming to modernize and improve the Madrid Agreement system for the international registration of trademarks. The Protocol is an addition and an alternative that makes international registration simpler and more flexible for many countries.

Albania acceded to the Madrid Agreement on 1 September 1993 and subsequently also acceded to the Madrid Protocol on 25 March 2008.

This means that Albanian applicants can benefit from the opportunities offered by both systems for international trademark registration, as well as seek protection in the countries being part of these agreements.

During 2024, a total of 2677 international applications were applied for the extension of protection for the Republic of Albania, for 2023 there were 2954 applications, for 2022 there were a total of 2017 and for 2021 there were a total of 1741 applications for trademark registration under the Madrid Agreement.

Regarding trademark registration certificates, during 2024, GDIP issued 1,020 registration certificates, in 2023, 1,311 registration certificates were issued, in 2022, 963 registration certificates were issued, and in 2021, 1,245 trademark registration certificates were issued.



What is noticeable from the graphs above is the growing trend for international registrations aiming to extend protection to Albania.

Certificates of Registration issued by GDIP

In terms of trademark registration certificates, during 2024, the GDIP issued 1020 registration certificates, in 2023, 1087 registration certificates were issued, in 2022, 963 registration certificates were issued and in 2021, 1245 trademark registration certificates were issued.



Renewal of Trademark Applications:

The trademark can be renewed for an indefinite term for ten-year periods, after the owner files a request for this purpose with the GDIP and pays the relevant fee.

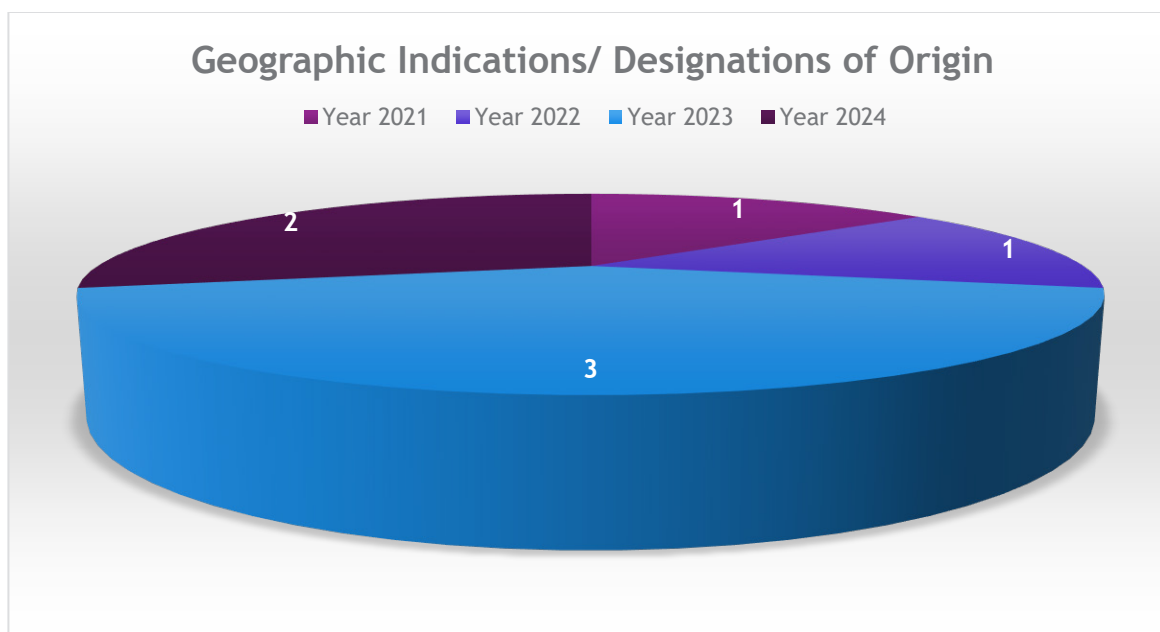
During 2024, 569 applications for trademark renewal were filed, in 2023 the number of applications was a total of 485, in 2022 the number of applications was 535 and in 2021 the number of applications for trademark renewal was 521.



As it can be seen from the comparative table above, there is an increase of approximately 15% in applications for the renewal of registered trademarks for an additional period of 10 years.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHIC INDICATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS OF ORIGIN

Regarding applications for the registration of Geographical Indications/ Designation of Origin, a total of 2 applications were submitted to the GDIP in 2024, 3 applications were submitted in 2023, 1 application was submitted in 2022 and only one application for registration of Geographical Indications/ Designation of Origin was also submitted in 2021.



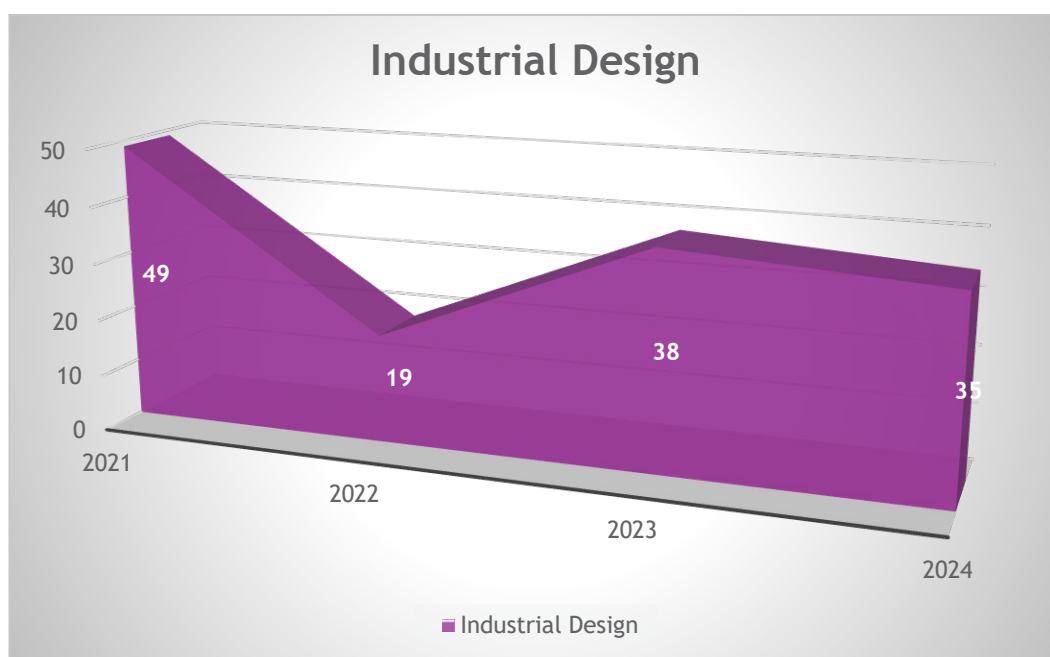
The number of Geographical Indications/Designation of Origin registered to date is 22 out of 30 applications filed with the General Directorate of Industrial Property of the Republic of Albania. Over the past few years, there has been an increasing trend in applications for GI/DO registration by Albanian applicants.

Industrial Designs in the Republic of Albania

In the Republic of Albania, industrial designs are protected through registration with the General Directorate of Industrial Property, which implements all legal procedures for their registration, as well as through the Hague system for their international registration.

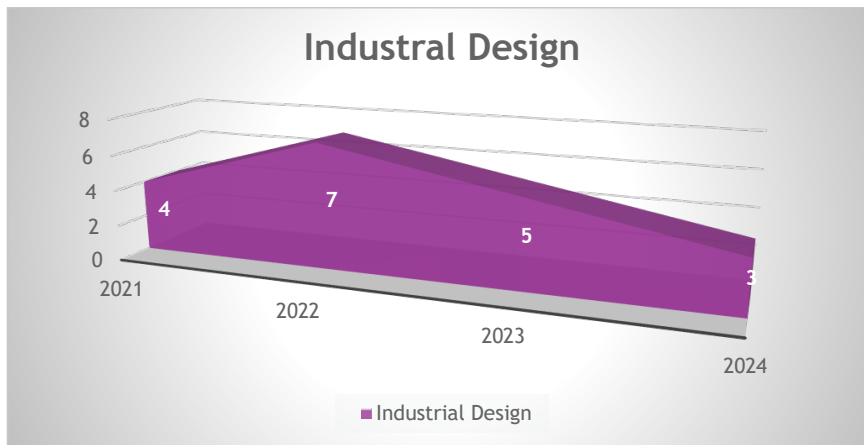
The Hague Agreement is an international treaty that enables the registration of industrial designs at a global level through a simple and centralized procedure. This system is managed by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and was created to afford protection for industrial designs in many countries with a single application.

During 2024, a total of 35 applications for industrial design registration were filed with the General Directorate of Industrial Property, while in 2023, 38 were filed, in 2022, 19 were filed and in 2021, 49 applications for industrial design registration were filed according to the following table:



In the meantime, regarding applications for the renewal of protected industrial designs, a total of 3 applications were submitted in 2024, 5 applications were submitted in 2023, 7 applications were submitted in 2022 and 4 applications for the renewal of industrial designs were submitted in 2021.

The industrial design registration may be renewed, against a specified fee, for an additional period of five years, up to a period of 25 years.



CHAMBER FOR EXAMINATION OF OBJECTIONS/COMPLAINTS

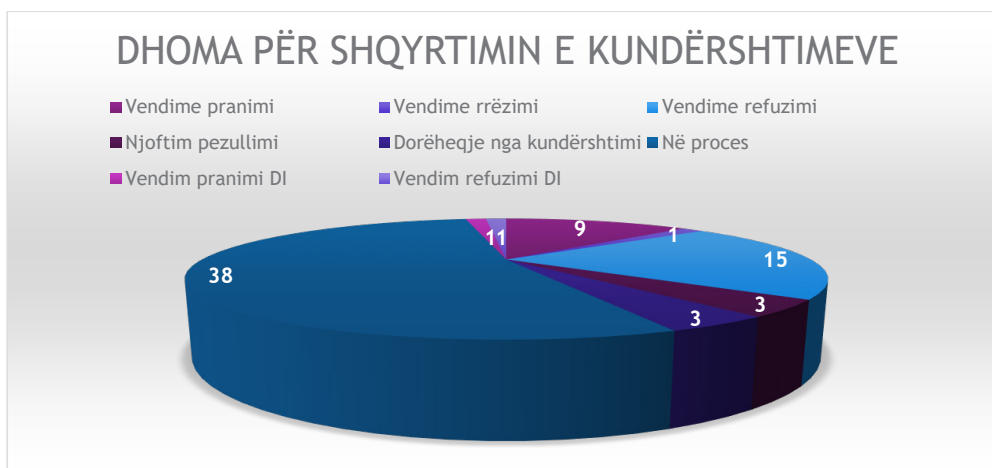
The Chamber for Examination of Complaints was established in accordance with Article 193 of Law No. 9947, dated 07.07.2008 “On Industrial Property”, as amended, which scope is the examination of requests for objection and observation.

The Chamber for the Examination of Complaints is a structure established within the examination unit and is composed of 3 members of this unit, appointed by the General Director.

This Chamber started to operate after the entry into force on 06.06.2018, of the Decision of Council of Ministers No. 315, dated 31.5.2018 “On approval of the regulation on trademarks”, which provides for the administrative procedure for the review of requests addressed to this Chamber.

During 2024, 71 applications for complaints to the granting of industrial property were filed, including 2 requests for complaints to the published Industrial Design and 69 requests for complaints to the published trademark, for which it was decided as follows:

- Decision on full acceptance of the request for complaints - 9 decisions;
- Decision on rejection of the request for complaints - 1 decision;
- Decision on rejection of the request for complaints - 15 decisions;
- Notification on suspension of the complaints procedure - 3 notifications;
- Acceptance of withdrawal of the request for complaints - 3 notifications;
- Decision on full acceptance of the request for complaints for industrial design - 1 decision;
- Decision on rejection of the complaints for industrial design - 1 decision;
- In the complaints process - 38 applications for which a “Notice of Completion of Flaws in the Request for Complaints “ and a “Notice of Participation in the Complaints Procedure” have been issued.



PATENTS FOR INVENTIONS AND UTILITY MODELS

The Sector of Patents and Utility Models has as its functional task the registration of applications for Industrial Property objects, such as patents for inventions and utility models, as well as the administration of registers of these objects.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS:

For the period from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, Sector of Patents and Utility Models has accomplished the following tasks:

- I. **The main objective** of work of the Sector of Patents and Utility Models is the examination of Industrial Property objects in conformity with Law 9947 dated 07.07.2008, “Industrial Property”, as amended, to continue with priority in order to enhance the quality of examination, enabling an increase in the number of documents issued.
 - The Sector of Patents and Utility Models has carried out all links of the examination process of IP objects with priority, in all steps to be followed for applications, from the formal examination to the certificate issuance phase.

STATISTICAL DATA FOR 2024

The Sector of Patents and Utility Models has as its functional duty the registration of applications for Industrial Property objects such as patents for inventions and utility models, as well as the administration of registers of these objects. This Sector has faced a large volume of work this year and carried out all the assigned tasks on time and with high quality standards.

During 2022 the Sector of Patents and Utility Models had 742 patent applications, of which 12 were national patent applications with Albanian applicants and 730 patent applications were patents issued by the European Patent Office which seek protection in Albania.

APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS

APPLICATIONS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
National Patent Applications	5	12	23	20	9	12
European Patent Office Patents	908	885	923	601	658	730
Cooperation Treaty Applications	0	1	2	0	3	0
Supplementary Protection Certificate Applications	0	1	3	4	4	11
TOTAL Patents	913	898	948	621	667	742

Table 1. Applications for National Patents

National applications are mainly in the following fields:

- 2 patents are in the mechanical field
- 2 patents are in the food technology field

8 patents are in the personal/household goods field (human needs)

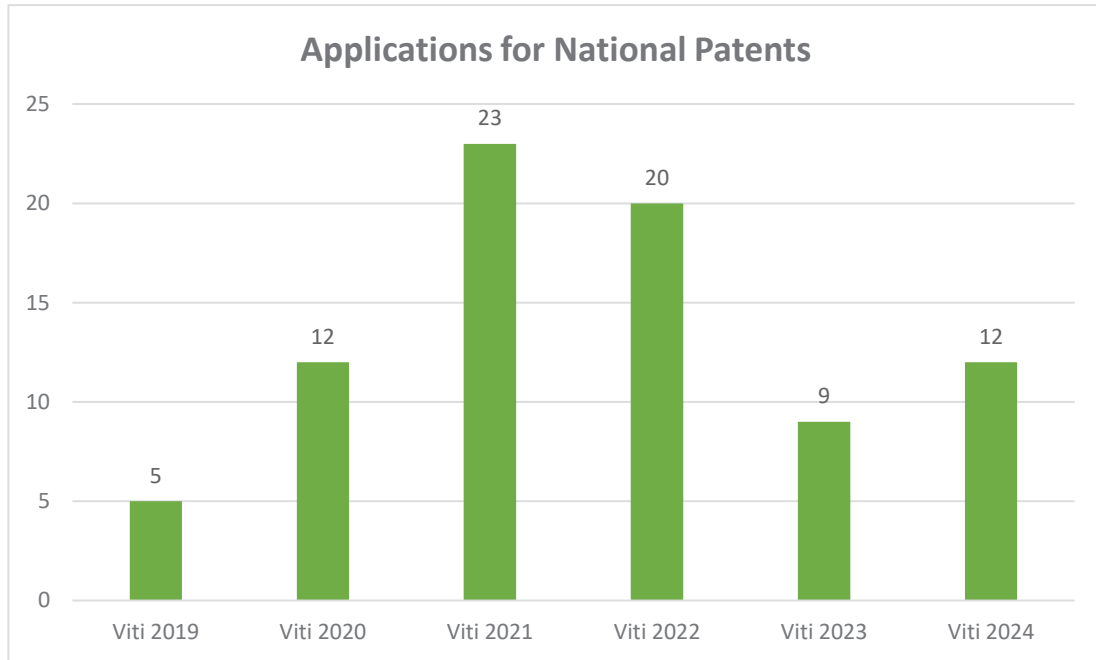


Table 2. Applications for European patents

Applications for extension/recognition of the validity of European patents

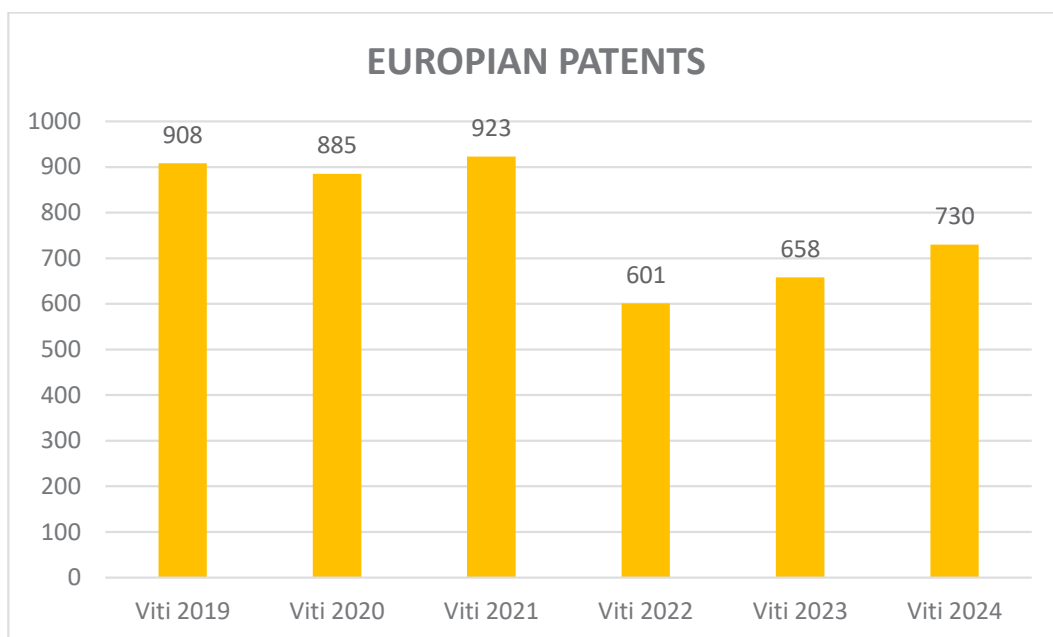
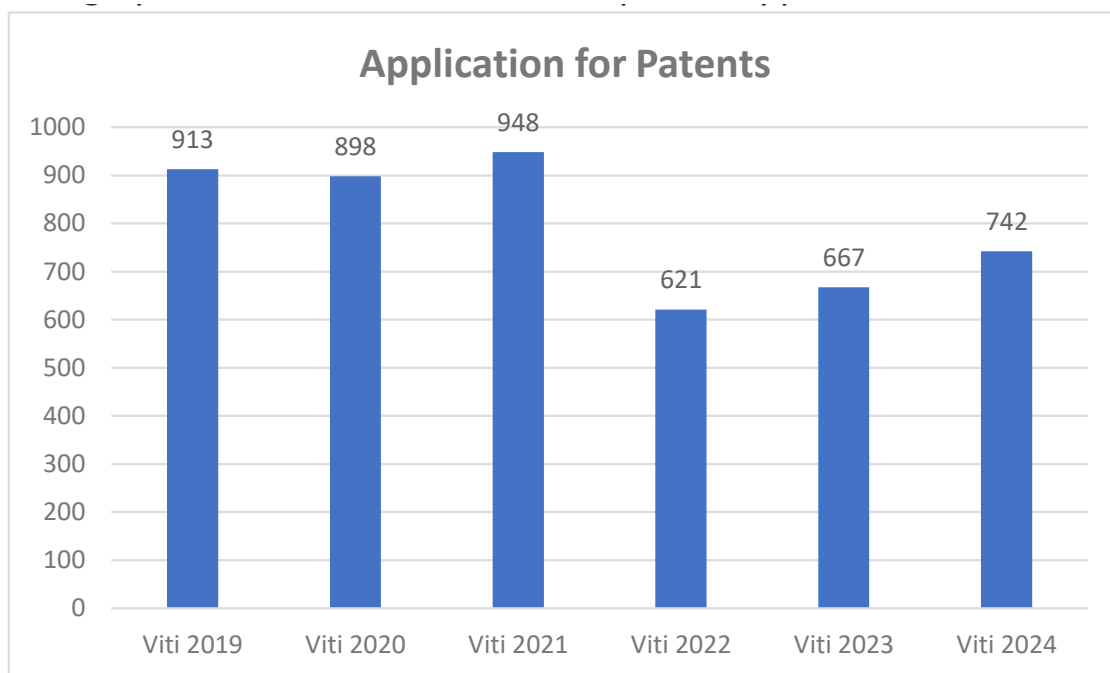


Table 3. Applications for patents over years

The graph below shows the trend of patent applications filed over years.



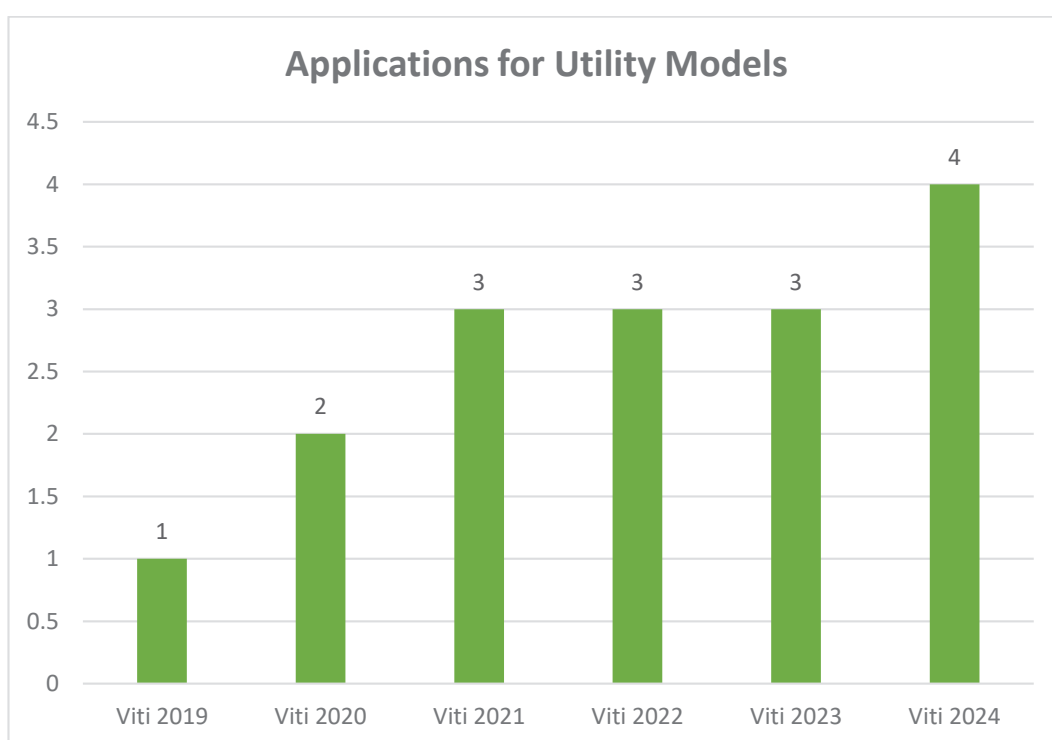
APPLICATIONS FOR UTILITY MODELS

During **January - December 2024**, 4 applications for Registration of Utility Models were filed, while for **January - December 2023** there were 3 applications for Utility Models.

Applications for Utility Models.

APPLICATIONS	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
Applications for Utility Models	1	2	3	3	3	4

Table 4 - Applications for Utility Models.



STATISTICS FOR THE EXAMINATION OF PATENTS

PATENTS FOR INVENTIONS	January – December 2022	January- December 2023	January- December 2024
Applications for registration of national patents	20	9	12
National Registered\ Rejected Patents	4/17	10	13/
Requests for Validity of Patents from EPO	601	658	730
Validated, Rejected Patents	629/22	557/5	808/40
Requests for Registration of Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC)	4	4	11
Registered Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC)	4	6	7
Requests for Renewal of Patents	4873	5239	5153
Renewed\ Rejected Patents	5527	3766	5279/232
Requests for changes in the registry of patents (# name + #address + # property + # claims)	194	315	183
Accepted changes to the registry	156	267	173
Requests to re-issue patents within the deadline	6	3	11
Re-issued patents within deadline, accepted/rejected	10/5	3/1	10/1
Total documents filing cases regarding the patents	6464		
Total documents issued by the Sector of Patents	6845	6762	7959

1. Administrative acts issued by the Sector of Patents and Utility Models

During **2024**, the Sector of Utility Models issued a **total of 7959** administrative acts for patents, utility models and changes in their related register.

The Sector of Patents has prepared **22 Memos for the Finance Sector** regarding the requests for reimbursement of various payments made related to patents.

The following table shows the requests and acts issued by the GDIP, during January - December 2023 - 2024

PATENTS FOR INVENTIONS	January-December 2023	January-December 2024
Total patent applications	667	742
Applications for European patents (validity/extension)	658	730
Number of registered patents	557	808
Applications for national patent registration	9	12
Registered national patents	10	13
Applications for supplementary protection certificates	4	11
Registered supplementary protection certificates (SPC)	6	7
Applications for utility models	3	4
Registered utility models	4	1
Applications for patent renewal	5239	5153
Patent renewals examined	3766	5511
Applications for changes in the patent register	316	183
Changes in the patent register	267	173
Applications for patent re-issuance	4	11
Examined Re-issuance	4	12
Patent applications rejected	5	40
Expired patents	17	1029
Corrections of errors	64	56
Requests for extension of validity time		35
Notifications under the examination process		254
Total documents filed on patent-related matters		15949
Total documents issued by the Sector of Patents and Utility Models.	6762	7959

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 1. The main objective** of the Examination Directorate is to increase the quality of services through compliance with the deadlines and examination procedures, according to contemporary standards for the protection of industrial property in the Republic of Albania.

All applications related to the Industrial Property (IP) objects are applied through e-Albania platform and the entire examination process is carried out and managed on-line through SAPI system *as of July 31, 2023*.

The main objective of the Examination Directorate is to increase the quality of examination by complying with the foreseen deadlines and standardizing the examination process of industrial property objects.

In the framework of the above objectives, the following achievements have been finalized:

- Throughout 2024, all applications for IP objects were examined at a high quality in support of the Industrial Property legislation and within legal deadlines, sent for review to the relevant sectors of the Examination Directorate;
- ✓ The staff of this directorate has been trained by experts from the European and world international organizations (WIPO) to standardize examination procedures and unify decision-making, according to the best common practices;
- ✓ New staff has been trained by more experienced GDIP employees;
- ✓ Staff has been trained to standardize examination procedures, in order to avoid different positions in administrative acts on similar issues;
- ✓ The Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC) Manual has been drafted to assist the employees of the Examination Directorate, unifying examination practices.
- The Examination Directorate plays a key role in identifying and addressing issues encountered in the configuration of the Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS).

Objective 2. Strengthening cross-institutional cooperation in the country in order to protect IP objects.

- In relation to this objective, national cross-institutional cooperation in the field of IP enforcement and protection has been further strengthened. The Examination Directorate in this regard has a substantial contribution to the process of cooperation and exchange of necessary information between law enforcement institutions in the field of Industrial Property (IP), such as the General Customs Directorate, State Inspectorate of Market Supervision, Copyright Directorate, Financial Crime Police and judicial bodies of all levels.

Objective 3. Strengthening cross-institutional cooperation with international organizations of the area, in order to ensure the international protection of Industrial Property (IP) objects.

- The Examination Directorate has cooperated with the international institutions, WIPO and EPO in which the Republic of Albania is a member state, as well as with EUIPO where the Republic of Albania has the status of an observer state. This has resulted in the high quality and timely implementation of obligations arising from international agreements, as well as the improvement of examination of applications for the international registration of IP objects. The exchange of data regarding the international registrations of IP objects (WIPO, EPO) and legal obligations arising from these actions in relation to these objects, have been carried out in a timely and high quality manner.

Objective 4. Improvement of legal framework.

- The Examination Directorate has played an active role as part of the working group for the realization of one of the most important objectives of GDIP for 2024, which is the improvement of legal framework. Specifically, significant contributions have been made regarding the draft law on Trademarks, the draft law on Patents, Utility Models and Supplementary Protection Certificates, the Regulation on GDIP functional operation and the Regulation on SAPI system functional operation.

II. Other promotional and information activities for patents

The Examination Directorate has been, throughout 2024, whenever requested, part of training groups in various training activities for the public, businesses, students, etc, regarding awareness-raising of subjects in the field of Industrial Property, developed by GDIP.

Participation and activities organized by the Directorate, as well as other organizations with which the GDIP cooperates.

We have participated in the training sessions organized by European Patent Office (EPO) Academy which have been held online throughout 2024 as a result of global pandemic and movement restrictions.

- In the framework of cooperation with EPO, a student from the Polytechnic University of Tirana, who attended the internship offered by EPO in cooperation with GDIP, at the Patent Sector in January-February 2024.
- Training for new staff by more experienced GDIP employees to standardize examination procedures;
- Training for staff and authorized representatives regarding patent classification and patent claims.
- Study visit to Bern on April 7-12, in the framework of the Albanian-Swiss project in the field of Intellectual Property (ALSIP).
- Following the implementation of calendar approved by the Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation (MECI), GDIP in meetings with businesses in the framework of awareness campaign for the registration of Industrial Property objects, meetings with businesses were held in the Saranda area on October 2-4, 2024 and in the Himara - Dhërmi area on November 6-8, 2024.
- “Future2Tech” Fair, 9 -10 October 2024
A two-day fair dedicated to innovation, technology, education and investment. Representatives of the patent sector actively participated in the GDIP stand, providing valuable information to all participants and those interested in the field of industrial property and especially on the importance, benefits and application procedures for the protection of inventions through patents and utility models. This fair is considered a very good opportunity to promote industrial property objects and have more direct contact with the exhibitors of innovative ideas present at this fair.
- Industrial Property Startup Training Program “IP4STARTUP”, August 1 - October 21, 2024
An acceleration program tailored to the specific needs of innovative startups. To support the innovative ideas of selected startups, representatives of the patent sector have provided training on topics related to the importance of protecting inventions through patents and utility models, procedures for applying and registering them with the GDIP, property rights in employer-employee relations and patent licenses.
- Participation in workshop on the topic “**WIPO Assessment Mission on the Current Status of Technology Transfer (TT) Systems in Albania and North Macedonia, and Awareness-Raising**” by experts from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on November 5, 2024.
- Workshop on Intellectual Property with Startups in the framework of the Agreement with the Startup Agency - September 10, 2024 - ongoing.

In the framework of the agreement of GDIP with the Startup Agency and workshops organized for this purpose, representatives of the Patent Sector have made their presentations on the

protection of inventions through patents and utility models in the Republic of Albania, conditions and procedures for registration.

- “Tastes and Traditions”, Fair – November 16, 2024, Peshkopi;
Representatives from the Patent Sector attended the information meeting dedicated to producers and farmers of Dibra district, for the identification of products with potential for registration as Geographical Indications.

Training sessions and qualifications:

I. We have participated in the training sessions organized by EPO Academy, which have been held online throughout 2024, as a result of global pandemic and movement restrictions.

No.	Time Period	Topics held by EPO Academy and WIPO
1	22 January – 1 March, 2024	“Tutored self-paced course on patentability criteria and clarity”
2	22 February – 25 April, 2024	“Patenting seminar series on artificial intelligence and applied fields”
3	4 March – 12 April, 2024	“Tutored programme on clarity and non-unity”
4	30 April 2024	“Update on recent decisions of the Boards of Appeal”
5	2 May – 28 June, 2024	The ANSERA-based SEARCH tool for experienced users
6	3 June – 5 July 2024	“Novelty and inventive step”
7	1 October, 2024	“Computer implemented inventions”
8	8 October, 2024	“iLearn Together”
9	15 May 2024 – 31 January, 2025	WIPO Pilot Project for Needs-Assessment, Network Building, and Capacity Building of Patent Examiners in the Central European and Baltic States and Mediterranean Countries (CEBSMC)
10	30 September – 4 October 2024	Trade and Public Health Workshop, WHO and WIPO Secretariats
11	14-18 October 2024	Standing Committee on the Law of Patents: Thirty-Sixth Session WIPO
12	5 November 2024	WIPO Assessment Mission on the Current Status of Technology Transfer (TT) Systems in Albania and North Macedonia, and Awareness-Raising Workshop, WIPO and ASCAL support;
13	29 November, 2024	Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore: Forty-eighth Session– WIPO;
14	2-6 December, 2024	Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore: Forty-ninth session, WIPO;

Sector of Reception and Information

During 2024, the main objectives of the Reception and Information Sector within Examination Directorate at the GDIP were:

1. Active participation in the legal activity of reception and information sector, implementing and fulfilling legal duties on time;
2. Direct participation in increasing the quality and observing the deadlines for examining the submitted requests, related to IP objects, in conformity with Law No. 9947, dated 07.07.2008, "On Industrial Property, as amended;
3. Periodic control of the implementation of legal obligations by sector experts;
4. Increasing the quality of drafting the Industrial Property Bulletin;
5. Active participation in the promotion of IP throughout the Republic of Albania;
6. Preparation of reports and other materials related to the activity of the Sector and active participation in the process of drafting the institution's strategic plans, legal improvements for IP objects;
7. Maintenance, administration and processing of the archive of IP objects;
8. Timely and high quality examination of international applications regarding the recognition of IP rights;
9. Providing official information requested by the public, within the shortest time possible, with ethics and professionalism;
10. Timely completion of procedures of collegial bodies, where employees of the reception and information sector have functions as members, such as the case of the Chamber for Examination of Complaints, as well as any other body or commission in the GDIP;
11. Increasing the professional capacities of sector employees through knowledge and study of legal acts and by-laws in the field of IP and professional discussion on IP issues;
12. Active participation in GNPIE.

**Objektivat janë përmbushur duke realizuar detyrat funksionale të sektorit,
The objectives are met by implementing the functional duties of the sector,
which for 2024 were:**

- Reception (in SAPI system) of all requests related to the registration of IP objects and carrying out the first steps of examination procedure for applications for the registration of IP objects, which is the recognition of filing date through the issuance of the proof of filing, which constitutes a notion/ legal act of primary importance, as it is related to the legal recognition of the moment from which the legal rights over IP objects begin for the subjects.
- Electronic processing, digitization and electronic forwarding for further examination to the relevant sectors of the Examination Directorate, of all supplementary written documents received at the GDIP by physical mail, relating to necessary evidentiary documents concerning the protection of rights over IP objects;
- Issuance of duplicates, information, extracts from the national electronic IP database;
- Examination and forwarding to international offices of applications related to the international registration of IP objects;
- Verbal and electronic information of the public regarding the procedures and actions carried out by the examination sector about IP facilities;
- Administration, maintenance and periodic, continuous processing of paper archive of IP objects at the GDIP etc.

- The reception and information sector has actively contributed during 2024 by collaborating in the continuous improvement of the content and form (configuration) of computer system for the registration of industrial property objects, which marked a qualitative step forward in the work of the institution;
 - The reception and information sector has also performed any other tasks assigned by the superiors.
- In order to achieve the goal of implementing functional duties, the Reception and Information Sector has, *inter alia*, achieved the following figures:

The Sector has examined and concluded with an administrative act the procedures initiated with 6967 requests, which consist of:

1562	Applications for registration of national trademarks;
12	Applications for patents for inventions;
4	Applications for utility models;
35	Applications for registration of industrial designs;
2	Applications for registration of geographical indications;
1174	Investigations for Industrial Property (IP) object;
7	Applications for duplicates;
21	Applications for inspections;
121	Applications for extracts from the IP register;
29	Applications for International registrations of IP object.

- **The Sector has published:**
34 Industrial Property Bulletins.
- **The Sector has received, processed, digitized, reflected in the system and forwarded for follow-up in the following sectors:**
Around 5021 additional documents.
- **The Sector has informed via email the public by:**
1113 Information e-mails
info@GDIP.gov.al
Via green line
08001993
- **Related works completed at the patents archive with units:**

Separation, measurement, transportation and systematization of documentation for 1994-2010 and the period 2010 onwards.

- **Related works completed at the brands archive with units:**
 - Receipt via minutes: 1499 files.
 - Completion of 2638 index sheets.
 - Sorting by serial number and distribution in final archiving boxes: 11230 files.
- **Regarding the works with the archive of Industrial Property (IP) objects, other activities are completed, among others:**

Preparation of documentation for the destruction of archival documents that have exceeded the retention period, for the year 2024, which includes:

- Measuring the volume of documentation for the patent/trademark archive.
- Participation in meetings with the General Directorate of Archives, with the aim of destroying the documentation for year 2013.
- Preparation of legal documentation for the destruction of documentation foreseen for year 2013.

COORDINATION AND PROMOTION OF PUBLIC AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY, WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Directorate of Coordination, Promotion, Training and Analysis

The Directorate of Coordination, Promotion, Training and Analysis is a structure of particular importance in terms of raising awareness of the registration and protection of industrial property objects. This directorate consists of two sectors, the Coordination, Reporting and Analysis Sector (4 employees) and the Promotion and Training Center Sector (4 employees).

The role of the Directorate of Coordination, Promotion, Training and Analysis is to promote industrial property at the national level and protect interested parties from counterfeiting and copying of goods and services.

In this context, information materials on industrial property such as videos, books, leaflets, articles for social networks and official website of the GDIP have been prepared and distributed.

Technical cooperation has been undertaken in the form of bilateral agreements in the field of industrial property with regional and international counterpart offices.

In addition, inter-institutional cooperation agreements have been signed for the establishment of Scientific Technical Information Centers (STICs), for further cooperation.

Meanwhile, the GDIP continues to coordinate its work with international organizations WIPO, EPO and EUIPO, according to the technical agreements in force. Through these successful cooperations, the provision of new services has been enabled and high-level technical and professional assistance has been provided, thereby significantly increasing administrative and institutional capacities, as well as improving the quality of services.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF 2024

11 March, 2024 – The workshop “Building Respect for Intellectual Property for Judges, Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Officials”



In the framework of the Albanian-Swiss project (ALSIP) in the field of intellectual property, the General Directorate of Industrial Property organized the Workshop on the topic “Building Respect for Intellectual Property for Judges, Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Officials”, where we had the pleasure of having present Mrs. Olga Alleman, representative of the ALSIP project.

This activity is organized in close cooperation with the School of Magistrates, where it is worth noting that cooperation between institutions is to be appreciated.

Also, special attention was paid to the presentation of concepts of Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse, how it affects the field of intellectual property and respect for copyright.

June 20, 2024 – The Conference with the topic: “Intellectual Property and Innovation - Albania and the path to European Union”

In close cooperation with the main partners of ICC Albania, the American Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry France – Albania, as well as with the support of the Albanian-Swiss project in the field of Intellectual Property ALSIP and “Saneca II/GIZ Albania” project.

The purpose of this Conference was for various stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences, challenges and opportunities related to the rights, protection and use of intellectual property in sectors such as technology, innovation, pharmaceuticals and geographical indications.

In her speech, the new Director General of Industrial Property Mrs. Maria Solis stressed the promotional role of the GDIP, legal reform, steps being taken to approximate the legislation with EU directives in the field of industrial property, the National Strategy for Intellectual Property 2022-2025 - as the most important strategic document, numerous activities and initiatives undertaken in the field of IP.

The activity was welcomed by the Deputy Minister of Economy, Culture and Innovation, Mr. Endrit Yzeiraj, who stressed that the Albanian Government has attached special importance to intellectual property, for the very contribution that industrial property policies make to the country’s development. Also, one of the important chapters in the process of negotiations for membership in the European Union is related to Intellectual Property. Part of the panel was the Deputy Head of Mission of Swiss Embassy in Albania, Mr. Philip Arnold, who is one of the main supporting partners in this field through ALSIP project.

This conference was conceived in the form of 3 consecutive panels with representatives of state institutions from Albania and Kosovo, representatives from business community, partners, lecturers from the University of Tirana, international collaborators from ICC and WIPO, who shared knowledge and concrete cases from daily practice.





IP4STARTUP - The first program in Albania for training Startups on Industrial Property

The first acceleration program focused on strengthening entrepreneurship through the protection of Intellectual Property implemented in Albania, IP4Startups, has been successfully developed!

In an evening of special importance due to the participation of a high technical level and representatives of the innovation and startup directorates, the certification of 10 winning startups was also held, which underwent intensive training on Industrial Property for 2 consecutive months.

This program was implemented by the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) with the support of the Albanian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (ALSIP).

10 startup businesses were certified by the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) and the Albanian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (ALSIP), after a 2-month training in industrial property objects. The IP4StartUP program is designed to inform innovative businesses in the “war” of unfair competition and to be protected by law in the only “mortgage” of industrial property.





Topics addressed interactively during training sessions included copyright, employment contracts, patents for inventions and trade secrets.

With the support provided by the program, startups are now prepared to register their trademarks and protect their assets.

Experts from the General Directorate of Industrial Property, the State Inspectorate of Market Surveillance and the General Directorate of Customs offered their expertise through an interactive workshop session on topics such as Reinforcement, economic benefits from reinforcements, licensing and sub-licensing. This activity received media attention in the country, with over ten portals publishing the news.



24 October, 2024 – Open Lecture at the Faculty of Justice, Tirana.

The General Directorate of Industrial Property organized today an open lecture with students of the Faculty of Law on the recognition of Industrial Property objects.

The lecture was held by Prof. Dr. Alessandro Cogo from the Faculty of Law of the University of Turin and the Scientific Director of WIPO LLM in IP. This lecture was held following the request at the World Intellectual Property Organization Academy of the Permanent Ambassador to the UN, Mission of the Republic of Albania to the UN in Geneva, Prof. Vasilika Hysi.

The lecture was focused on the main sources and principles of International IP Law and the influences intellectual property brings to global economy. This open lecture, the first of its kind, was welcomed by representatives of the General Directorate of Industrial Property as well as by the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law.



November 8, 2024 – Workshop for prosecutors and judges on the topic “Court practice of the Administrative Court regarding Industrial and Intellectual Property”.

GDIP, together with the Albanian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (ALSIP) and in cooperation with the School of Magistrates, organized the joint meeting on the topic: Court practice of the Administrative Court regarding Industrial and Intellectual Property”

This is the third meeting of this kind held to share experiences between GDIP and the judiciary.

In this session with the School of Magistrates, the following topics were discussed:

- ✧ Presentation on the administrative bodies of the GDIP that review conflicts in the field of industrial property;
- ✧ Copyright and other related rights in the Republic of Albania
- ✧ Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on the intellectual property market;
- ✧ Discussions on the arguments regarding AI and whether they fall under copyright or industrial property regulations;
- ✧ Civil, criminal and administrative liabilities arising from AI legal actions;
- ✧ Judicial practice of the Administrative Court regarding the Industrial and Intellectual Property;



December 12, 2024- Meeting with Authorized Representatives in the framework of closure of the calendar year 2024

In the framework of closure of calendar year, the General Directorate of Industrial Property welcomed the Authorized Representatives in a meeting to discuss and exchange experiences in the services received by GDIP.

The Industrial Property law, tariffs, innovations and challenges of the system were discussed, especially after the transition to online services as of May 1, 2022. The General Director of GDIP, Mrs. Maria Solis Kapedani, stated that the institution will consider each of the proposed suggestions and guaranteed a smooth cooperation with them.



COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, WIPO/ EPO/ EUIPO

May 13-24, 2024 - Adoption of the new Landmark Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Related Traditional Knowledge

This Diplomatic Conference, hosted by WIPO, is the final stage of negotiations before the adoption of an international legal instrument. The future instrument aims to “enhance the efficiency, transparency and quality of the patent system” and “prevent patents from being wrongly granted for inventions that are not new or inventive in relation to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources”.

This is the first WIPO treaty to address the nexus between intellectual property, genetic resources and traditional knowledge, and the first WIPO treaty to include provisions specifically for indigenous peoples and local communities.

Therefore, what does this treaty bring? In general, where an invention claimed in a patent application is based on genetic resources, each Contracting Party shall require applicants to disclose the place of origin or source of genetic resources. Where the invention claimed in a patent application is based on traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, each Contracting Party shall require applicants to disclose indigenous peoples.



June 3, 2024- The General Directorate of Industrial Property of the Republic of Albania (GDIP) implements CP8.

The General Directorate of Industrial Property of the Republic of Albania (GDIP) published a practical document regarding the use of a trademark in a form being different from that in which it was registered.

The document, developed in the framework of international cooperation activities of these units, aims to increase clarity, transparency, legal certainty and predictability, for the benefit of users and examiners of IP Offices. This document also aims to be a reference for all other interested parties.



September 18-19, 2024 - Patlib Conference Ankara/Turkey

The PATLIB 2024 Conference focuses on basic patent information to basic patent knowledge services for businesses.

PATLIB centers are always part of host organizations, such as universities, trade centers or national patent offices, becoming part of the engagement with local inventors and how this engagement varies between different target groups.



September 23-25, 2024 - Expert mission in the field of innovation with the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office in the framework of TAIEX/EC Instrument.



In the framework of TAIEX/EC instrument, the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) had the pleasure of benefiting from an expert mission, bringing a new spirit of international cooperation in the field of innovation.

This meeting aimed to strengthen the bridges of cooperation between our two institutions, where a GDIP-HIPO cooperation agreement was signed.

This mission, focused on the development and strengthening of innovation ecosystem, represents a very good opportunity for the exchange of experiences and best practices.

Such inter-institutional cooperation not only helps to build capacities, but also to strengthen the links between young innovators and intellectual property institutions, building a strong foundation for the future of innovation in Albania.

October 1-2, 2024 - High-Level Diplomatic Conference on the topic: “Intellectual Property in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” Budapest, Hungary.

This conference of such level is the first held by the Hungarian Office (HIPO) and has a special importance due to the fact that Hungary has already taken over the presidency of European Union. The meeting was also honored by the presence of the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the President of the European Union Intellectual Property Office – EUIPO.

In order to understand challenges that Artificial Intelligence brings to the world of Industrial and Intellectual Property, heads of counterpart offices from all over Europe as well as successful professional artists, creators and innovators were brought together.



November 5, 2024 - Workshop for the establishment of a Technology Transfer Center

A workshop was held in Tirana to enable the establishment of a Technology Transfer Center (TTO) in one of the universities of our country. This workshop was organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization and the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP).

WIPO lecturers shared with the rectors and representatives of the universities the importance of Technology Transfer Centers, investment in them and budget allocation.

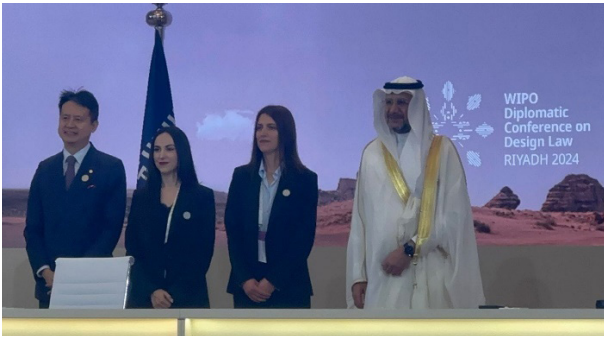
This was the first meeting of such level and comes in the framework of long-term cooperation.



November 11-22, 2024 - WIPO Member States adopt the Industrial Design Law Treaty in Riyadh.

This new treaty will make it easier, faster and more affordable for designers around the world to protect their designs, both at local and international level.

A major step forward in empowering designers and fostering international design cooperation.



November 28-29, 2024 - 125th anniversary of the Austrian Patent Office

On November 28-29, 2024, the Austrian Patent Office celebrated its 125th anniversary, marking one of the oldest and most important institutions for the protection of intellectual property in Europe.

The event was supported by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

The three highest-rank heads of these organizations welcomed the event, emphasizing the global importance of intellectual property rights.

The 125th anniversary of the Austrian Patent Office marks a rich history of supporting and protecting innovation, contributing to the development of technology and economy of Austria.



29 November - 6 December 2024 - 48th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC).

The 48th session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) has been held, where the protection of our cultural and natural assets is being discussed.

The IGC, hosted by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is an important forum where member states work to ensure the protection of traditional knowledge (TK), cultural expressions (TCEs) and genetic resources (GR).

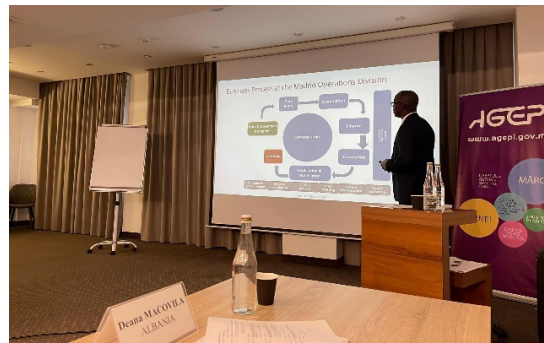


December 3-4, 2024- Regional Workshop on XML and API Systems in Madrid System

On December 3 and 4, 2024, the Regional Workshop organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with the State Industrial Property Agency of Moldova and with the assistance of the National Industrial Property Administration of China was held in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova.

The workshop, entitled “Implementation of XML and API Systems for Information Exchange in Madrid System for Selected Countries of Eastern Europe and Adjacent Regions”, aims to improve the technological infrastructure and effective exchange of information between industrial property offices.

This activity marks a significant step towards strengthening regional and international cooperation within the framework of Madrid System.



COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

March 29, 2024 - Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the General Directorate of Industrial Property and “Eqerem Çabej” University, Gjirokaštër.



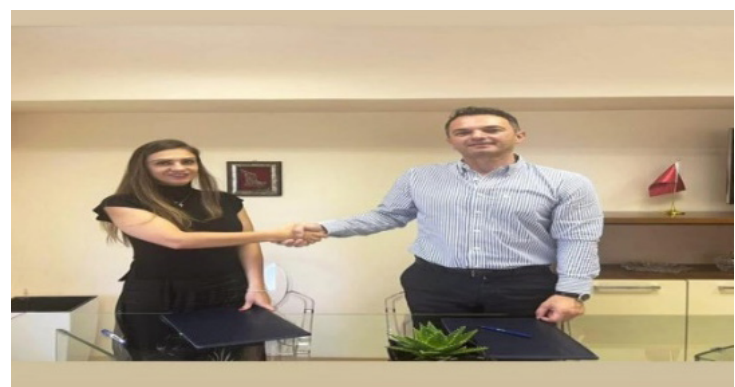
May 9, 2024 – Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the General Directorate of Industrial Property and Faculty of Law of University of Tirana.



July 5, 2024 - Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the General Directorate of Industrial Property and Logos University College.



July 24, 2024 - Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the General Directorate of Industrial Property and the Start-up Agency.



October 3, 2024 - Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the General Directorate of Industrial Property and Western Balkans University.



November 26, 2024 – Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the General Directorate of Industrial Property and the Canadian Institute of Technology.



December 13, 2024 – Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the General Directorate of Industrial Property and the European University of Tirana.

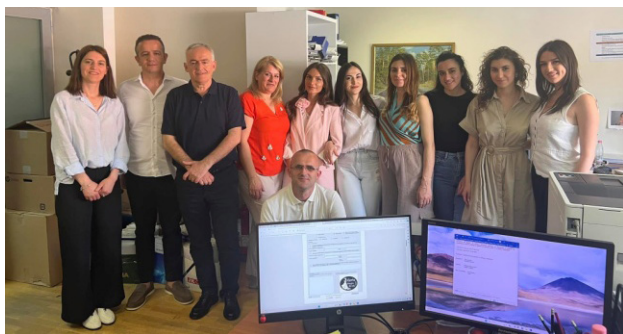


STUDY VISIT TO REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AREA

April 8-12, 2024- Study visit to the Intellectual Property Office in Bern/Switzerland



May 21, 2024 - Official visit in Tirana by the delegation of Kosovo Office



May 27, 2024 - Study Visit in Belgrade/Serbia.



October 2, 2024 - Official visit at the Industrial Property Agency of the Republic of Kosovo.



Sector of Promotions and Training Center

As part of the Directorate of Coordination, Promotion, Training and Analysis, during 2024 it has held a series of meetings and activities aimed at promoting and informing on the field of industrial property.

Based on Law No. 9947, dated 7.7.2008 “On Industrial Property”, as amended, as well as the “National Intellectual Property Strategy 2022-2025”, GDIP has the functional task of registering, administering, promoting IP objects as well as informing all stakeholders in the field of Industrial Property, in the territory of the Republic of Albania.

Raising awareness in the country is one of the main priorities of our work. The focus of the directorate is on close cooperation with businesses, with a view of informing them about the field of IP. To achieve these objectives, GDIP organizes numerous activities, meetings, training sessions and workshops throughout the year, with the aim of informing and raising awareness among local businesses about the importance of registering IP objects.

Meetings with Businesses

In support of local business, the Promotion Sector, through public awareness-raising campaigns on industrial property objects, has held a series of meetings with businesses in several of the country’s cities planned in the calendar at the beginning of year (approved by MEKI), specifically::

- February 1, 2024, meeting with the topic “Importance and procedures for the protection of industrial property” in Tirana, with entrepreneurs from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia, organized by Bloconomy.
- July 31 - August 2, 2024 Meeting with businesses in Vlora.
- August 5-7, 2024, Meeting with businesses in Pogradec.
- September 2-4, 2024 Meeting with businesses in the Municipality of Berat.
- September 18-20, 2024 Meeting with the Mayor of Gjirokastra.
- 2-4 October, Meeting with businesses in Saranda.
- 7-9 October 2024, Meeting with businesses in Korça.
- 9-11 October 2024, Meeting with commercial entities in Livadh – Borsh coastal area.
- 23-25 October 2024, Meeting with businesses in Kukës.
- 4-6 November 2024, Meeting with businesses in Himara region.



Cross-institutional meetings

The importance of organizing local producers in an organization to register Gjirokastra indigenous products, was also the purpose of the meeting of Gjirokastra Mayor, Mr. Flamur Golemi, and the General Director of the General Directorate of Industrial Property, Mrs. Maria Solis Kapedani.

A fruitful meeting to organize and register Industrial Property objects in this municipality with the support and guidance of GDIP.

Local businesses, local producers, associations established to protect the economic ecosystem was also the direct and well-received proposal to enable the protection and security generated from the registration of trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications.



November 27, 2024

A meeting was held with the Mayor of Përmet, Mrs. Alma Hoxha, with the aim of identifying forms of cooperation between the Municipality of this city and local businesses operating in this area.

Our collaboration with this municipality aims to support local producers, focusing on the promotion and protection of unique and traditional products of Përmet.

All these products represent a golden opportunity to develop and protect the agricultural and culinary heritage of Përmet, contributing not only to the preservation of traditions, but also to increasing the competitiveness and export of these products to national and international markets. Geographical indications, through the legal protection they provide, help guarantee the quality and origin of these products, improving their reputation and supporting the sustainable development of local economy.



EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Training sessions in Universities

The focus of the General Directorate of Industrial Property is close cooperation with the education system to raise awareness of younger generations regarding the field.

The GDIP organizes open lectures every year in university auditoriums and pre-university system, a practice that has been consolidated for several years, which has proven very successful in raising awareness among younger generations.

The purpose of lectures held is to inform and raise awareness of young people on IP objects as well as ways to search in European registers and the register of World IP Organization.

The General Directorate of Industrial Property has signed cooperation agreements with higher educational institutions, with a view of promoting industrial property, informing and raising awareness of students, academic and scientific staff, and professionals involved in scientific research work regarding the importance of protecting Industrial Property rights:

- January 25, 2024, Training at the European University of Tirana on the topic: “Technology and Innovation, Intellectual Property”
- March 20, 2024, Training on the topic: “Recognizing the importance of industrial design and benefits of its registration” held at the Polytechnic University of Tirana.
- March 29, 2024, Signing of the Cooperation Agreement with “Eqerem Cabej” University of Gjirokastra for the establishment of Technical and Scientific Information Center at this University
- March 30, 2024, Training on the topic “Creativity and Innovation in Younger Generations” with the students of Epoka University
- April 3, 2024, Training on the topic: “Recognizing the importance of industrial design and benefits of its registration” with students of the Canadian Institute of Technology
- April 5, 2024, Training at the “EU for Innovation” event with the students of Metropolitan University.
- April 29, 2024, Training on the topic: “Approximation of legal framework with the European Union directives in the field of IP, in the framework of negotiation process” with the students of the University of Tirana, Faculty of Law
- May 16, 2024, Training on the topic: “Recognizing the importance of industrial design and benefits of its registration at “Beder University College”
- July 1, 2024 Representatives of the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP) were part of the activity on the topic: “Biotechnology and intellectual property rights. Theoretical and practical reflections on EU legislation and jurisprudence and perspectives on the legislation of the Republic of Albania”, held at the premises of the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana, and at the invitation of the latter.
- October 31 Training on the topic: “Introduction to Industrial Property and rights arising from the registration of its objects” at “Luigj Gurakuqi Shkodër” University
- December 2-4, 2024 Open lecture hour on the topic: “How to encourage students to deepen their knowledge in the field of industrial property” at F. S. Noli University. Korça.
- December 16-18, 2024 Training on the topic: “Introduction to Industrial Property and rights arising from the registration of its objects” at “Eqerem Çabej” University, Gjirokastrë.



November 5th 2024

A workshop was organized in Tirana to enable the creation of a Technology Transfer Center (TTO) in one of the universities of our country. This workshop was hosted by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP).



Training Center

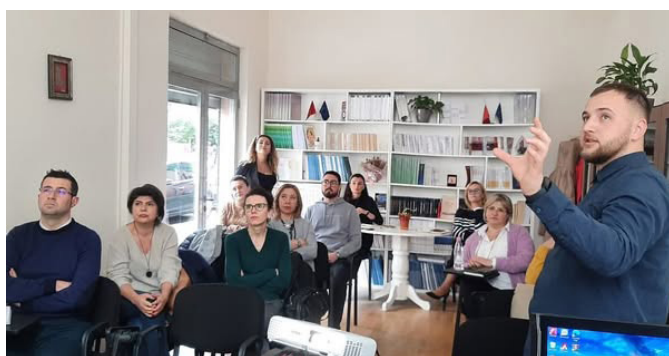
The Training Center in the Field of Industrial Property, an integral part of the structure and organization of the GDIP, organizes activities, courses, training sessions and seminars in the field of IP.

Easily accessible by the interested public, the Center also serves as an “Info Point” to provide information to all interested parties in the field of industrial property.

The mission of the Center is to train institutions directly or indirectly involved in the IP protection system, such as customs, courts, prosecutors, economic crime police, the State Inspectorate for Market Surveillance, authorized representatives, IP experts, students and primary schools, both public and private; as well as to raise awareness among the public, business and groups of interest.

In the framework of inter-institutional cooperation with other law enforcement structures in the field of intellectual property, meetings and training sessions have been held at the Training Center on issues related to intellectual property rights and their implementation in the Republic of Albania.

- January 18, 2024, together with authorized representatives, we attended the training on the topic: “Drafting claims for patent examiners and authorized representatives” provided by Kostandin Kruti, a graduate in mechanical engineering and with two-year experience at the European Patent Office of Germany;
- January 25, 2024 Training on the topic “Patent classification provided by Kostandin Kruti for patent examiners and authorized representatives;
- January 26, 2024 Launch of the Training Center Strategy 2023-2028;
- February 27 The Training Center, in cooperation with EUIPO experts, conducted online training on working practices such as CP3 and CP5 for the examination of trademarks and authorized representatives;
- July 29-31 Online Training: “Industrial Property Objects, Procedure and Importance of Registration”. For three consecutive days, our experts provided in-depth knowledge on industrial property, covering key topics such as trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications and patents for inventions.





OBJEKTET E PRONËSË INDUSTRIALE, PROCEDURA DHE RËNDËSIA REGJISTRIMIT

MEET OUR SPEAKER



BRUNILDA ÇUKO
Drejtoresh e Sektorit të Pronësive dhe Objekteve të Pronësive Industriale dhe Procedurave të Registrimit të Pronësive Industriale



LINEDA ARAPA
Përkrahëse e Financimit të Sektorit të Markës, Drejtoreshë Industriale dhe Tregtare, Kompani të Drejtimit të Ekonomisë



ENEIDA SHIROKA
Përkrahëse e Financimit të Sektorit të Pronësive dhe Objekteve të Pronësive Industriale dhe Procedurave të Registrimit të Pronësive Industriale



SUELA QATIPË
Drejtoreshë e Sektorit të Pronësive dhe Objekteve të Pronësive Industriale dhe Procedurave të Registrimit të Pronësive Industriale

PËRSHKRIMI I TRAJNIMIT:

Ky trajnim synon të ofrojë një kuptim të theksuar mbi pronësinë industriale, duke përfshirë njohuri bazë dhe procedurat e regjistrimit për markat tregtare, dizajnin industrial, treguesin gjeografikë dhe patentën për shpikje.

TEMAT E TRAJNIMIT:

- Njohuri bazë mbi Pronësinë Intelektuale
- Markat Tregtare
- Dizajni Industrial
- Treguesi Gjeografikë
- Procedura e Regjistrimit për Markat Tregtare, Dizajnin Industrial dhe Treguesit Gjeografikë
- Patentat për shpikje: Njohuri bazë dhe procedura e regjistrimit

26 January 2024

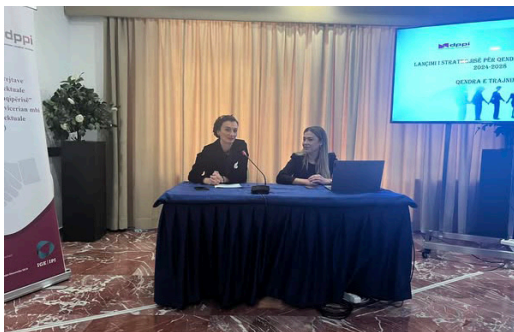
We presented a new phase on the progress and strengthening of the Training Center at the General Directorate of Industrial Property, the launch of the Strategy for this Center.

Together with all our partners and collaborators on this journey, we successfully finalized the Center's Strategy for a 5-year period 2023-2028.

The purpose of this Strategy is to supply each stakeholder\ interest group with related information and training, to provide an improved environment with contemporary methods and stimulate innovation, science and technology.

The role of national and international partners, the Albanian-Swiss ALSIP project, enabled the creation of a sustainable, comprehensive and productive strategic document for the Training Center.

A special thanks to the Albanian-Swiss ALSIP project, as well as the expert Mr. Andreas Kurt, who led this strategy.



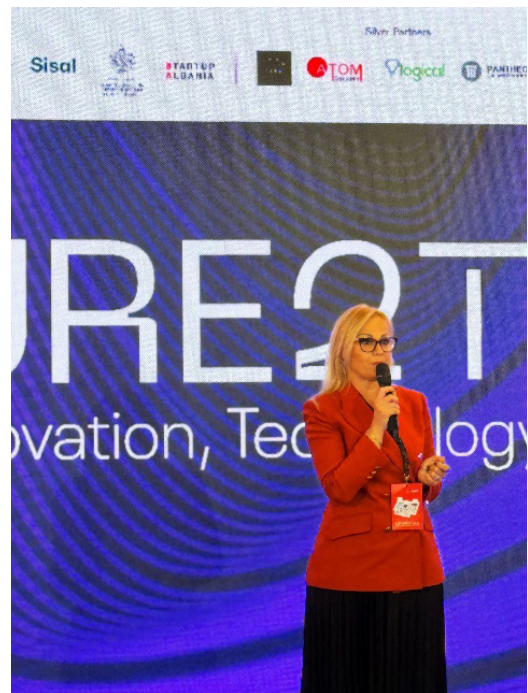
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Participation in Fairs

October 9-10, 2024

For the first time, GDIP participated in the “Future2Tech” innovation fair where, through a stand, GDIP representatives informed participants about the importance of registering patents for inventions and utility models. This event, which is considered one of the most important for technology and innovation, brought together a large number of companies from the country and the region, wherefrom their products and services were promoted. In the space dedicated to GDIP, information meetings were held with young people and fair participants and they were informed about the importance of registering IP objects, in particular about patenting and the latest inventions patented in the world.

For all those curious and interested in inventions, our representatives also presented the “ESPASNET” program, a search engine in Albanian where students, young people and anyone interested can obtain information on patents granted for inventions all over the world.



11-13 October 2024

On 11-13 October 2024, GDIP participated in the largest handicraft fair, “TiranAgro”, which brought together the most important stakeholders of local market, consumers, investors and businesses of the consumer products sectors. At the stand dedicated to producers, businesses and participants of the fair, GDIP representatives informed interested parties about the scope of GDIP and benefits brought by the registration of its objects. In the meetings the directorate held during these days, it aimed to identify products with potential for geographical indications, identify relevant areas and promote businesses with products produced in Albania.



November 16, 2025

The ‘Tastes and Traditions’ fair was held in Peshkopi, as well as an information meeting dedicated to producers and farmers of Dibër District for the identification of products with potential for registration as Geographical Indications.

This activity was carried out by the General Directorate of Industrial Property in cooperation with Peshkopi Municipality and with the support of the Albanian-Swiss Intellectual Property Project (AISIP).

Farmers and producers of Dibër District were introduced in detail to the steps and importance of registering characteristic products of the area with potential as Geographical Indications

The General Director of GDIP, Mrs. Maria Solis Kapedani, the Mayor of Dibër, Mr. Rahim Spahiu and Mrs. Borana Kalemi, project manager at AISIP, emphasized the importance of cooperation between farmers and local producers, to organize themselves into associations for the registration and protection of products as GIs.

The attendees at this fair appreciated this event and clearly expressed the need to organize into associations, in order to register the products of their area with potential as Geographical Indications.



November 27, 2024

With producers and artisans from Përmet city, we had the opportunity to discuss the field of industrial property and especially the importance of registering products from the area as geographical indications (GI-s) and designation of origin (NO).

Part of the reference panel was Mrs. Brunilda Shamo, a field expert at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, who spoke in a broader aspect regarding products with potential for registration as GI-s and the importance of organizing in associations for this purpose.

We also stressed the need of registering products with potential as geographical indications, as a key indicator in the promotion of cultural heritage, development of local economy and enrichment of the range of authentic Albanian products.



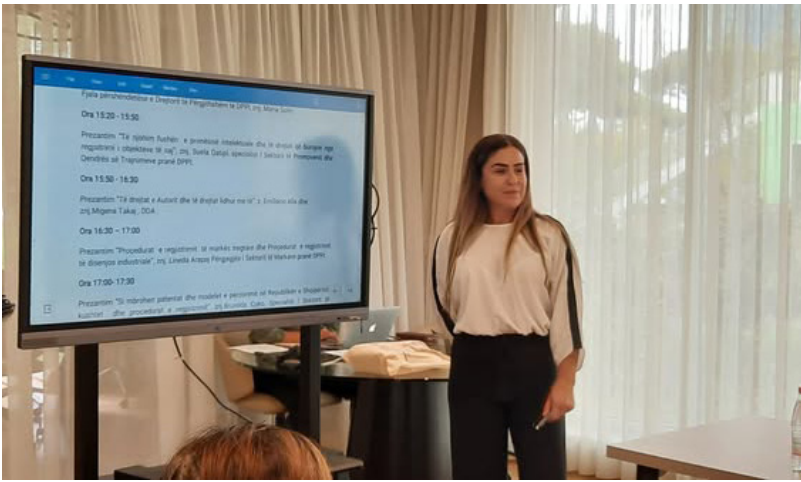
Training in the field of Intellectual Property with Start-Ups

After signing the Cooperation Agreement, in cooperation with the Start-Up Agency and the Directorate for Copyright, the General Directorate of Industrial Property organized the first cycle of training sessions with a focus on informing Start-ups about the intellectual property portfolio.

Representatives of the two institutions responsible for intellectual property, referred to the participants the topics

- Introduction to intellectual property and the rights arising from the registration of its objects;
- Copyright and related rights;
- Trademark registration procedures and industrial design registration procedures;
- How patents and utility models are protected in the Republic of Albania, registration conditions and procedures;
- International protection of IP objects.

The participants in the first cycle of this training showed enthusiasm about the quality and quantity of information provided to them and how important it is to register industrial and intellectual property objects from the early stages of conception of the enterprise.



June 23, 2024

At the invitation of Partners Albania for “Change Development”, we were pleased to be part of the first call that Partners Albania has foreseen for 2024, for start-ups and business sector.

Focused on the industrial property topics, participants had the opportunity to learn about the procedures, importance and benefits that registering IP objects brings to business.

Representatives shared concepts of the field with the attendees and presented the “IP prediagnostics tool”, an intellectual property self-assessment tool for small businesses and young entrepreneurs.

GDIP offers support and assistance to any interested entity and any start-up to be protected in the domestic and international market.



World Intellectual Property Day, April 26

In the framework of World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, the General Directorate of Industrial Property, through a stand set up in Tirana city, enabled the distribution of leaflets and promotional materials on IP objects.

Under the slogan “Building our common future in innovation and creativity” launched by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), dedicated to this day, we informed about its importance.

Together with representatives from the General Directorate of Customs, we welcomed young representatives, from business and young entrepreneurs who showed interest in more information about the field of IP, the protection of products and goods from counterfeiting.



Contest with students of the pre-university system

The World Intellectual Property Day, April 26, was celebrated this year by the General Directorate of Industrial Property, amidst the enthusiasm, energy and innovative ideas of students participating in the contest with the topic “We create for the Planet” that GDIP had conceived to celebrate and promote on this day.

A tradition already established for years, the General Directorate of Industrial Property, in cooperation with “SANECA” project, funded by the German government and implemented by Giz Albania (German Cooperation for Albania), organized in the premises of “Reja”, the contest with the Pre-university Education Institutions of Tirana city.

The students of Tirana city expressed their creative ideas towards a cleaner and greener future.

The competition was greeted with the speech of the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation (MECI), Mr. Endrit Yzeiraj, who extended his highest appreciation for this activity and offered his support to encourage these students to make their ideas a reality.

Promotional materials were distributed to all students and each of them was awarded a certificate of participation.

The best creations in the field of innovation and industrial design were awarded with symbolic prizes by our supporting partner, GIZ Albania.

Among the many very special works of these students, the contest jury awarded prizes to the following schools:

- First place winner “Turgut Ozal” College, a tablet prize.
- Second place winner “Petro Nini Luarasi” General High School prize, a voucher for the purchase of school supplies.
- Third place winner “9-year 17 Shkurti” School, a voucher for the purchase of school supplies.

At the end of the event, the Acting General Director of GDIP thanked the collaborators, students and leading teachers for the commitment and dedication shown in the realization of such contest.

The joy reflected in the portraits of students makes us their main supporters, to advance their innovative ideas in creating a cleaner and greener environment for all of us.



GDIP IN THE MEDIA

The participation of the General Directorate of Industrial Property in media during 2024 was as follows:

In October 2024, the Acting General Director, Mrs. Maria Solis Kapedani gave a special interview in the economic magazine “Monitor”. The interview is titled “High interest in registering Industrial Property”.

On October 9, 2024, the Acting Director of the General Directorate of Industrial Property, Mrs. Maria Solis Kapedani gave an interview to explain the importance of registering Industrial Property objects. Why is it so important for the business and entrepreneurial community to register their industrial property? The interview was conducted for the economic television, SCAN TV, with journalist Elisabeta Dosku.

On December 13, 2024, the economic magazine “Business Mag” dedicated an article to GDIP on the importance of Industrial Property registration and guarantees that registered businesses benefit from. The topic of this article is “Protecting businesses from industrial espionage through industrial property registration”.

The General Directorate of Industrial Property is recognized with the award as the best institution for “Intellectual Property Management”

The Commerce and Industry Chamber of Tirana, on its 128th anniversary, recognized the General Directorate of Industrial Property as the best institution for “Intellectual Property Management”.

The Acting Director of GDIP, Mrs. Maria Solis, stated that this award is a testament to the continuous commitment to help businesses increase their value through innovation and protection of new ideas. In her speech, she stressed that registration with the National Business Center does not mean registration of industrial property assets.

Such assessment confirms the commitment of GDIP with the support of MECI (Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation) on the path towards innovation and sustainable development in the Albanian market, contributing to the creation of a favorable climate for businesses and new enterprises.



LEGAL INITIATIVE IN THE AREA OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

LEGAL SECTOR



The protection of rights over industrial property objects is one of the most important aspects regulated by the legislation on industrial property.

The main objective of Legal Sector is to assist in ensuring that working practices of other sectors of the Directorate are compliant with the procedures provided for by the legislation in force “On Industrial Property”, by-laws issued for its implementation and international agreements in the field of Industrial Property; to prepare practices for the approval or amendments to legal acts, by-laws or internal acts of the Directorate, which regulate the functional activity of the Directorate; to pursue all cases in Court where the GDIP is a defendant or third party.

The continuous improvement of legal basis with the aim of approximation with the legislation and standards of EU countries is the focus of GDIP’s activity.

The protection of rights to industrial property objects is one of the most important aspects regulated by the legislation on industrial property.

1. Based on the comments of line ministries, 2 draft laws have been revised and forwarded for approval as follows:

Both draft laws have undergone two consultation processes, due to change in the name of ministry responsible for the economy. The consultation process at the Ministry of Finance and Economy began with the publication in the DRPNC (Digital Register for Public Notices and Consultations) of the preliminary notice according to the legislation in force on public notification and consultation in the period 1.12.2023-28.12.2023. The draft laws have also been forwarded for opinion to the Chief Negotiator’s Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, National Agency of Information Society and the High Judicial Council. On 16.12.2023, a meeting was held with the authorized representatives of IP objects, where they discussed recommendations and comments on the draft law. The comments and recommendations of the relevant institutions were reflected.

Then the draft laws went through consultation process once again at the Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation. From this consultation process, the GDIP has reflected comments and recommendations of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After reflecting some of the comments and recommendations, the GDIP has once again sent to MECI (Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation), the full packages of the two draft laws, which were subsequently sent for approval to the Council of Ministers.

These two draft laws are foreseen in the National Plan of European Integration (NPEI) to be approved in 2025.

After their approval, the GDIP will begin work to formulate draft decisions.

- a) *“Draft Law on Patents, Utility Models” with all accompanying documentation*
 - *RIA Report (Albanian);*
 - *Accompanying Report*
 - *Table of Conformity (Albanian-English);*
 - *Albanian and English versions of the new draft law “On Patents and Utility Models”.*
- b) *Draft Law “On Trademarks and Service Marks” with all accompanying documentation.*
 - *RIA Report (Albanian);*
 - *Accompanying Report*
 - *Table of Conformity (Albanian-English);*

2. Drafting and adoption of two draft laws:

- “On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks”; This draft law, with the accession of the Republic of Albania to Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, aims to create a modern and dynamic international framework for the harmonization of administrative procedures for the registration of trademarks. Based on the Trademark Law Treaty of 1994 (TLT), the Singapore Treaty has a broader scope and addresses the latest developments in the field of communication technologies.

- “On the accession of the Republic of Albania to Nairobi Treaty for the Protection of Olympic Symbol”. This draft law, with the accession of the Republic of Albania to Nairobi Treaty for the Protection of Olympic Symbol, aims to protect the use of Olympic symbol - *five intertwined rings* - against use for commercial purposes (in advertising, on goods, as a trademark etc). Each state party to this treaty will be obliged to refuse or invalidate the registration as a trademark and to prohibit, by appropriate measures, the use, as a trademark or sign, for commercial purposes, of any sign consisting of or containing the Olympic Symbol, as defined in the Charter of the International Olympic Committee, except with the authorization of the International Olympic Committee.

Currently, these two draft laws have been sent to the Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation (MECI) and are under consultation with the line institutions.

3. The two following draft decisions are formulated:

- Draft Decision “On some amendments to the Decision of Council of Ministers no. 457, dated 3.7.2019 “On the approval of procedures for participation in the Training Center in the field of Industrial Property, as well as the determination of relevant fees”, in this draft decision. The latter aims to determine the remuneration of lecturers who provide training in the field of Industrial Property, at the Training Center;

- Draft Decision “On some amendments to the Decision of Council of Ministers no. 752, dated 19.12.2018 “On the approval of regulation on the organization, functioning and determination of the remuneration of members of the Board of Appeal of the General Directorate of Industrial Property”. The purpose of drafting this act is to regulate the remuneration of members of the Appeals Board proportionally to the nature of difficulty of work and its importance.
- Draft Decision “On some amendments to the Decision of Council of Ministers no. 252, dated 9.5.2018 “On determination of the amount and criteria for the remuneration of chairman, members and technical secretary of the supervisory council of the General Directorate of Industrial Property”, the purpose of this draft decision is to change the amount of remuneration of the chairman, members and technical secretary of the Supervisory Council of the GDIP, which oversees the work activity of the GDIP.
- Draft decision “On some amendments and additions to the Decision of Council of Ministers no. 325, dated 31.5.2023 “On the approval of salary structure, salary levels and other salary supplements of the deputy minister, cabinet officials, prefect, sub-prefect, civil servants and employees in some public administration institutions”, as amended. The purpose of the proposal of this draft decision is to add to the special nature of work of the chairman and members of the chamber for annulment/derogation.

These draft decisions have been sent together with explanatory reports to the Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation (MECI) and we are awaiting their approval.

4. Representatives of the Legal Sector are members of Chapter 7 “On Intellectual Property” and chair the subgroup on “Industrial Property”, who have had a key role in *the screening process by making their presentations to EU representatives*.

It has also continuously followed and contributed to the drafting of NPEI for the Industrial Property section and have participated in the meetings organized for reporting in relation to this chapter. It has also followed the process of work carried out by other members of the subgroup.

5. The Legal Sector, as a member of the group of Chapter 3 “Right of establishment, freedom to provide services” has provided its contribution in relation to the chapter.
6. Has provided input/contribution for the formulation of NPEI 2025-2027, regarding the acts foreseen by the GDIP for approval.

CHAMBER FOR REVOCATION/ INVALIDATION

The Legal Sector is also part of the Chamber for Revocation/Invalidation, acting as the chairman and members of this chamber. A total of 24 requests have been filed with the Chamber for Revocation/Invalidation during last year, of which:

- 19 requests for trademark revocation;
- 2 requests for trademark invalidation;
- 3 requests for appealing decisions refusing trademark registration.

Regarding these requests, out of 19 requests for revocation, the Chamber has accepted the request in 5 cases and rejected the request in 6 cases;

8 requests are under review.

Out of 11 decisions taken by the Chamber, 6 decisions have been appealed to the First Instance Administrative Court, Tirana.

From the request for invalidation, the Chamber has accepted the request in 1 case and 1 case is ongoing.

The decision accepting the request for invalidation was appealed to the First Instance Administrative Court, Tirana.

Out of 7 requests for appeal of decisions refusing to register a trademark, the chamber accepted the request in 6 cases and rejected the request in 1 case.

No decision was appealed to the court.

COURT CASES

Representation of the GDIP in court cases regarding industrial property rights.

During 2024, 22 cases were pursued before the court with the authorization of the Director General. The GDIP is represented before the court in cases where the decisions of the Complaints Chamber, the Cancellation/Validation Chamber and the Board of Appeal are appealed, in which the GDIP attends the trial in the quality of defendant and defends its decisions through objections, explanations and evidence presented in court. The GDIP also participates in court proceedings as a third party in cases regarding the invalidation, revocation of trademarks, unfair competition etc.

During 2024, the GDIP has pursued 22 cases before the court.

- 5 cases before Tirana District Court
- 12 cases before the First Instance Administrative Court, Tirana
- 4 cases before the Administrative Court of Appeal, Tirana
- 1 case before the High Court.

Out of the total of 22 court cases, 1 case before the First Instance Administrative Court has ruled to dismiss the claim and uphold the decision of the Chamber for Review of Complaints. 1 case before the First Instance Administrative Court has ruled to accept the claim.

The Administrative Court of Appeal has upheld 1 decision of the First Instance Administrative Court of Tirana and the Appeal Board's decision. In 1 case before the Administrative Court of Appeal, the parties have reached an agreement.

18 cases before the Administrative Court of First Instance, Tirana, and District Court, are still under review.

FINANCE AND SUPPORTING SERVICES

CONSOLIDATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES

Human Resources is responsible for the recruitment, selection, training, development, evaluation and remuneration of employees.

Human resources management is oriented towards the development of employee skills. One of our main objectives is the development of human capital, as we strongly believe that our staff is the most important capital and a strategic resource of the institution.

During the period January-December 2024, a total of 10 (ten) employees with part-time contracts were recruited at GDIP, 1 (one) employee through the Department of Public Administration (DPA) according to Law 152/2013, “On the Civil Servant”, as amended by the Decision of Council of Ministers no. 243, dated 18.03.2015, “On admission, parallel movement, probationary period and appointment in the executive category”, Chapter IV, point 19.

REVENUES

The GDIP activity is focused not only on implementing its function for the registration and administration of industrial property objects, but also on strengthening its role as the institution responsible for encouraging individuals and commercial companies to register their industrial property as an investment serving the future of business.

The income of the GDIP consists of:

1. Main activity, national applications;
2. Inherited investments, ongoing projects;
3. Income from the protection of trademarks under Madrid Agreement and its Protocol for the international registration of trademarks;
4. The Hague Agreement for the international registration of designs;
5. Income from EPO, for the international registration of patents.

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

Membership in the European Union is the strategic priority of the Republic of Albania. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the Republic of Albania and the European Communities and their Member States entered into force on 1 April 2009.

On 28 April 2009, Albania applied for membership in the European Union. The European Union Council decided to grant Albania the status of candidate country in June 2014 and in March 2020 decided to open accession negotiations. The Council's decision to open accession negotiations was a logical consequence of Albania's achievements in its deep reforms, particularly in relation to the reform of the judiciary.

This decision served to give further impetus to the process of necessary reforms, to prepare Albania for the subsequent launch of accession negotiations. Currently, Albania has met all the conditions for holding the first intergovernmental conference. Albania has established the full institutional framework for accession negotiations and is preparing these structures for the accession negotiation process”.

In Chapter 7 of the 2023 report for the Republic of Albania, the European Commission stated:

Albania has some level of preparation/is moderately prepared for intellectual property rights. Good progress was made during the reporting period, in particular with the adoption of the “National Strategy for Intellectual Property 2022-2025” and legislative alignment with the EU acquis in the areas of copyright and related rights, as well as industrial property rights.

In the coming year, the Republic of Albania should in particular:

1. adopt the applicable legislation amending the law on copyright and related rights;
2. continue to improve the functioning of collective management organizations and payment of income to the right holder;
3. further harmonize the legislation on industrial property rights and system for the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Albania is a country with a tradition of nearly 100 years in the field of Intellectual Property. The first traces date back to around 1920, with the registration of “Hobdari” trademark. It is archival sources that enable us to learn that the Republic of Albania can be worthily ranked alongside the countries of the region and beyond, as a country where the trademark and importance of its protection do not have their origins now, but since the beginning of the 20th century.

Always open to the harmonization of international standards for the intellectual property protection, the Republic of Albania has acceded to a large number of international conventions in this field.

The process of accession to the European Union is in itself a comprehensive, multi-sectoral process. Membership requires deep and comprehensive reforms, affecting all governmental sectors, aiming at the complete transformation of legal and institutional framework, economy and doing business etc. The features of the process of accession to the European Union also determine the role and way in which the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA) exercises its duties. In this context, on 19-20 January 2023, after two preliminary screening meetings (February 2019 and October 2022) in Brussels, a bilateral meeting was held between Albania and the EU on Chapter 7 “Intellectual Property”. The parties reviewed the Albanian legal framework for all intellectual property issues, from industrial property to copyright, as well as the implementation level.

NEW NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STRATEGY

2022-2025

The General Directorate of Industrial Property, in the capacity of the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-institutional Working Group set up by the Prime Minister's Order No. 118, dated 23.9.2020, and with the support of the institutions involved in this process, has proposed the drafting of the new National IP Strategy.

The new National IP Strategy will contain a set of rules to be defined and implemented by the institutions involved in IP system to encourage and strengthen the development, management and protection of IP at national level. It will materialize the fundamental effort to build a comprehensive dialogue between various stakeholders, creating proper conditions for the protection of Intellectual Property.

The objectives of this Strategy are as follows:

- stimulating economic, scientific and cultural development in the country;
- ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market by striking the right balance between the interests of intellectual property rights-holders and users' interests;
- strengthening the system of registration and protection of intellectual property.

The Strategy envisages five objectives:

1. improving the legal framework;
2. developing and strengthening the institutional framework;
3. strengthening coordination and cooperation between institutions, both at national, regional and international levels;
4. raising awareness of the importance of intellectual property system;
5. identifying geographical indications and designations of origin.

Through this Strategy, the results expected to be achieved are as follows:

- Improving the regulatory and legislative framework in the field of intellectual property;
- Strengthening the administrative capacities of institutions involved in the IP system;
- Increasing the level of public awareness (organization of seminars, conferences and promotional activities);
- Strengthening cooperation and coordination between institutions involved in the field of IP;
- Strengthening the system of enforcement and protection of IP;
- Promoting and drafting policies for the registration of geographical indications and designations of origin, as an asset and national interest;
- Commercialization of IP objects, as well as technology transfer.

This document was drafted with the contribution of experts from the inter-institutional working group set up by the Prime Minister's Order no. 118, dated 23.09.2020 "On the establishment of the inter-institutional working group for the coordination, drafting and monitoring of the implementation of strategic document for Intellectual Property 2021-2025" as well as with the technical assistance provided by experts from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as one of our most important partners on the journey of institutions towards a sustainable intellectual property system.

This strategy is one of the most important achievements in the reforms undertaken by the Albanian government in the field of intellectual property, as a cornerstone and requisite step towards the European integration process, which shows that Albanian institutions know how to launch reforms and turn them into measurable and achievable objectives. Therefore, the adoption of such strategic documents is a proof of improvement of work and activity of the institutions.

June 12, 2024 - Meeting of the cross-institutional Working Group for Monitoring the National Intellectual Property Strategy 2022-2025 and for achieving the objectives for the second half of 2024



The first meeting for 2024 of the cross-institutional Working Group for Monitoring the National Intellectual Property Strategy 2022-2025, was held.

With the participation of all institutions, the achievements foreseen in the Strategy's action plan for the first 6 months were jointly discussed, as well as the main tasks to be accomplished for the second 6 months of 2024.

December 20, 2024 - Meeting of the cross-institutional Working Group for Monitoring the National Intellectual Property Strategy 2022-2025 and for the second 6 months of 2024.

The second meeting for 2024 of the cross-institutional Working Group for Monitoring the National Intellectual Property Strategy 2022-2025, was held. The achievements for the second 6 months of 2024 were discussed, as well as the new challenges for preparation of the new draft Intellectual Property Strategy 2026-2030.

Acknowledgements

This report is drafted thanks to the work and dedication of GDIP employees.

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Instagram: Dppi Albania (GDIP Albania)



LinkedIn: Drejtoria e Përgjithshme e Pronësisë Industriale
(General Directorate of Industrial Property)

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