



Patent Office
Republic of Latvia

2023

PUBLIC

REPORT

Riga
2024

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Abbreviations used

Library	Patent Office Library
DAS	WIPO Digital Access Service
EPO	European Patent Office
EPOrg	European Patent Organisation
EU	European Union
EUIPO	European Union Intellectual Property Office
Junior Achievement	<i>Junior Achievement Latvia</i> Association
QCS	Quality control system
CM	Cabinet of Ministers
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
Observatory	European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EPOIC	European Patent Office Information Centre
SPC	Supplementary Protection Certificate
PCT	Patent Cooperation Treaty
IPBA	Industrial Property Board of Appeal
EEFIS	National Information System 'Evaluation Electronic Form Information System'

Abbreviations used

SE	Student enterprise
Strategy	Strategy for the Patent Office, 2022–2026
MJ	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia
UANIPIO	Ukrainian National Office for Intellectual Property and Innovations
SJSC	State joint-stock company
SRS	State Revenue Service
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

Foreword

The core function of the Patent Office is the registration of industrial property in Latvia. However, it is important to emphasise that the institution's functions and tasks would be difficult to fulfil without informing the public about our work and its results. The annual public report is one way to concisely yet comprehensively introduce everyone to the work and achievements of the past year, as well as future plans. The report is not just numbers, tables, and graphs – it is also a reflection of the implementation of socially responsible projects and activities, and the strengthening of the Patent Office's position both locally and internationally.



Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the annual public report is not just an accountability document for the institution; it is a reflection of the everyday lives of about 60 people – the Patent Office's team of professionals and experts – their work, time and energy invested in achieving the best possible results for the development of the intellectual property domain in Latvia.

The past year has shown that society has recovered from the pandemic, and this is reflected in the number of industrial property registration applications. Latvia can also be proud of its companies that see their opportunities beyond the borders of the country, as the number of EU trademarks applied for is also growing steadily. These positive indicators are a testament to the fact that society is increasingly aware of the importance and guarantees of its intellectual property, as well as the opportunities that its registration and, consequently, protection, offers.

Since 1 June 2023, the European Union has implemented a unified patent system, providing patent protection in each EU member state that has joined the system. This also reduces the burden on Latvian patent applicants, who no longer need to register their patents in each country individually, thus saving both time and financial resources. Last year, the Patent Office also continued to actively implement information technology (IT) development projects, including joining the international intellectual property blockchain network. We do not plan to stop there, but rather to continue modernising IT systems even more actively, which will also improve our service to clients.

To strengthen our international position, participation in international intellectual property organisations is crucial. In 2023, there was significant activity in this area, with experts from the Patent Office participating in working groups, expert meetings, and contributing to the development of strategically important documents.

This year promises to be just as active as the last – we will continue to promote the registration of industrial property objects and educate the public about the benefits of registration and the importance of rights protection. We will participate in international initiatives by joining the OECD’s research project on Latvia’s intellectual property system. Furthermore, we will bolster the system through our involvement in developing and implementing the EUIPO Strategic Plan 2030 and other crucial documents. Participation in international events is not only a chance for us to share experience and gain new knowledge but also an opportunity to take a decisive step toward the Patent Office’s main strategic goal: to become the leading support and competence centre in the domain of industrial property rights.

Agris Batalauskis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Agris Batalauskis', with a stylized, flowing script.

Director

1. Background information

1.1. LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTION

The Patent Office is an autonomous agency under the supervision of the Minister of Justice. Its primary function is to ensure the registration of industrial property in Latvia in accordance with the law on industrial property institutions and procedures and other relevant legislation. Established in 1992, the Patent Office operates under CM Regulation No. 720 'Regulations of the Patent Office' of 15 December 2015.

The Patent Office is headed by the Director of the Patent Office. The Director determines the structure of the Patent Office, as well as the functions and subordination of each structural unit.

Structure chart of the Patent Office

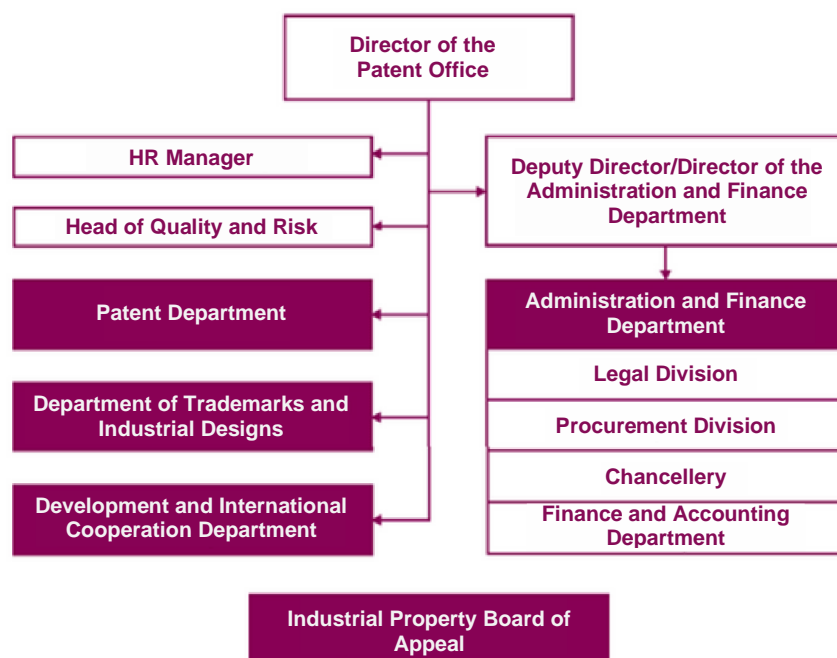


Figure 1

The Director of the Patent Office has direct authority over:

- Deputy Director/Director of Administration and Finance, under whose direct authority the Department of Administration and Finance operates;
- Patent Department;
- Department of Trademarks and Industrial Designs;
- Development and International Cooperation Department;
- Head of Quality and Risk;
- HR Manager.

1.2. FUNCTIONS AND TASKS

The Patent Office's primary objective is to implement state policy for the legal protection of industrial property, particularly inventions, trademarks, industrial designs, and topographies of semiconductor products.

The Patent Office is entrusted with the following functions:

- Registering industrial property objects – patents for inventions (including SPCs for medicinal products and plant protection products), trademarks, industrial designs, and topographies of semiconductor products – and maintaining the corresponding registers;
- Promoting public understanding of industrial property protection and strengthening its value in society and the country as a whole;
- Carrying out the functions of the state's industrial property institution as stipulated by international treaties binding on Latvia;
- Providing information services in the field of industrial property rights protection and creating a specialised information database.

To fulfil its functions, the Patent Office does the following:

- Receives and examines applications from legal and natural persons for the legal protection of inventions, trademarks, industrial designs, and topographies of semiconductor products;
- Maintains the Patent Register (which also includes SPCs for medicinal products and plant protection products), the Trademark Register, the Industrial Design Register, and the Register of Topographies of Semiconductor Products;
- Compiles and publishes the official publication of the Patent Office;
- Informs the public, organises events and training courses to promote public understanding of the benefits of industrial property protection;
- Takes measures to strengthen the value of industrial property;
- Maintains and updates the industrial property information database, collects information, and creates online and local information resources;
- Organises the qualification assessment of professional patent attorneys and maintains their register;
- Ensures the fulfilment of international treaties binding on Latvia and represents the Republic of Latvia in international organisations and events, in accordance with its competence;
- Participates in the development of normative act projects and evaluates normative act projects prepared by other institutions, in accordance with its competence;
- Provides fee-based services and performs other tasks specified in normative acts.

The Patent Office manages the organisational and administrative functions of IPBA. IPBA is a collegiate decision-making body that considers out-of-court disputes concerning patents for inventions, trademarks and industrial designs.

1.3. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Patent Office carries out its activities in accordance with the strategy approved in 2022, a medium-term planning and management document that outlines the strategic vision and sets the main goals and objectives of the institution for the next five years. The strategy¹ defines the development priorities of the Patent Office, the directions of activity and their strategic goals, as well as tasks, achievable results and performance indicators. All employees of the Patent Office are involved in achieving these goals.

MISSION

The Patent Office's mission is to serve as a centre of support and expertise in the domain of industrial property rights: to provide modern and accessible services to everyone, to ensure the protection of newly created intellectual property, to implement national and international policies, as well as to educate the public on intellectual property issues by creating a supportive environment for the implementation of innovations in the national economy.

VISION

The Patent Office is an innovative, collaborative, and well-known intellectual property institution in Latvia and worldwide, contributing to shaping the business environment as a key player in a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy.

¹ The strategy has been developed in accordance with CM Instruction No. 1 of 1 February 2022 'Procedure for developing and updating the institution's activity strategy and evaluating its implementation', the Ministry of Justice's Activity Strategy for 2022–2026 and CM Order No. 93 of 16 February 2021 'On the National Guidelines for Industrial Policy 2021–2027'.

VALUES



Professionalism

The professionalism of motivated employees is one of the institution's main values, enabling it to deliver quality services in line with industry development and trends, fulfil the institution's functions, and achieve common goals through cohesive teamwork.



Our customers

Every client is valuable and given special attention and care. We are committed to continuously learning about our clients' needs and improving our services accordingly to achieve better results together.



Development and innovation

We strive to use the latest technologies and innovations. To dynamically and flexibly adapt to changes and challenges, we continuously review, improve and digitise our processes.



Collaboration

We achieve more by collaborating with intellectual property organisations in Latvia and around the world.



1.4. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND THEIR FULFILMENT

Table 1

Activity results:				
Result	Performance indicator	Numerical values for the performance indicator		
		2021 (factual)	2023 (factual)	2026 (planned)
1. Reliable, accessible and easy-to-use industrial property data. ²	1.1. Number of visits to the Patent Office website (number of unique visits per year)	178,365	391,030	↑ 290,000
	1.2. Number of database visits to the Patent Office website (number of unique visits per year):			
	■ trademarks database	14,663	42,291	↑ 18,000
	■ inventions database	2,939	4,900	↑ 3,200
	■ industrial designs database	902	2,736	↑ 1,100
2. Efficient processes for registering industrial property rights have been provided	2.1. Number of services provided electronically by the Patent Office in relation to the total number of services provided, %	76% ³	64%	↑ Increase
	2.1.1. including telephone consultations	82%	89%	
	2.1.2. e-services	4,546 ⁴	5,400	

² Outcome of the 2022–2026 Operational Strategy of the Ministry of Justice on Commercial Law Policy

³ Service performance indicators of the Patent Office, 2021: www.lrpv.gov.lv/lv/media/3977/download

⁴ Service performance indicators of the Patent Office, 2021: www.lrpv.gov.lv/lv/media/3977/download

	2.2. The QCS of the Patent Office complies with the requirements of the international standard ISO 9001:2015 and no non-conformities have been identified in the certification and monitoring audits of the QCS (number of non-conformities in the external audit report of the QCS)	0	0	0
3. Range of services available has been expanded	3.1. Number of alternative dispute resolution modules available on the website of the Patent Office	-	-	3
	3.2. Online consultations are provided	-	Provided	Provided
4. The needs of the Patent Office's clients have been acknowledged, and existing services have been improved accordingly	4. Satisfaction with the quality of services received in industrial property registration and post-registration procedures (Clients fully or mostly satisfied out of surveyed clients, %)	92% ⁵	97%	↑ Increase
5. Events to inform the public have been organised	5.1. Public information events (number per year)	29 events	57 events	↑ Increase

⁵ Service performance indicators of the Patent Office, 2021: www.lrpv.gov.lv/lv/media/3977/download

	5.2. Satisfaction with the quality of the events attended (visitors satisfied out of surveyed clients, %)	92%	93%	Remains at the current level
6. Latvian entrepreneurs' understanding of intellectual property	6. Latvian entrepreneurs rate their knowledge of industrial property protection as very good, rather good or average (% of respondents)	28% ⁶	29% ⁷	↑ Increase
7. Children and young people are knowledgeable about industrial property rights	7.1. Number of children and young people taking part in events	2,670	9,870	Remains at the current level
	7.2. Children and young people rate their knowledge of industrial property as very good, rather good or average (% of respondents)	-	53%	70%
8. Involvement of Patent Office staff in initiatives of international organisations has been ensured	8.1. The Patent Office is represented in working groups or standing committees at WIPO, EPOrg, EUIPO, NORDIC BALTIC (number per year)	36	40	↑ Increase
	8.3. Number of active bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding with national patent offices	-	-	5

⁶ November 2019 survey 'Entrepreneurs' communication, awareness and views on industrial property protection' conducted by the Patent Office in cooperation with the public opinion research centre SKDS

⁷ 2022 survey 'Understanding of industrial property rights among entrepreneurs' by the Patent Office and the public opinion research centre SKDS

9. A sustainable and professional workforce has been ensured	9. Employee turnover (% of total number of employees)	12%	12%	↑ decrease
10. Working environment has been improved	10.1. Renovation and modernisation of the Patent Office building (7/70 Citadeles Street)	-	The procurement process has been started	Completed
	10.2. Workplaces have been consolidated into the same building	-	15 Raina Boulevard	Completed
	10.3. Employees' satisfaction with their working environment according to the survey (increase)	-	Very good: 30% Good: 63% Almost good: 5% Almost bad: 2%	↑ Increase

1.5. PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

The following priorities of the Patent Office, as set out in the **MJ work plan**, were implemented:

- Actions were taken to develop the functionality and e-services of national systems PAIS and TMDS (related to trademarks, industrial design, and patents, including the EU Unitary patent) to enhance the registration and protection of industrial property. To ensure successful implementation, a procurement process was initiated in 2023 to maintain and develop the Patent Administration Information System and the Trademark and Industrial Design Information System.
- In accordance with CM Order No. 446 of 14 July 2023 'On the Re-appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the Industrial Property Board of Appeal', a new IPBA board was appointed for a seven-year term of office.

The following priorities of the **Patent Office's work plan** were implemented:

- On 1 June 2023, the Unitary Patent System, including the newly established Unified Patent Court, became operational. The new Unitary Patent is essentially a European patent granted by the EPOrg under the European Patent Convention. Unlike a classic European patent, an owner can apply for unitary status after the patent is granted, thus obtaining a European patent with the so-called unitary effect, in other words, a European unitary patent. Unitary patent status means that patent protection is automatically provided in all EU Member States that have ratified the agreement on the establishment of the Unified Patent Court (currently 17 countries, including Latvia), with the obtained patent no longer needing to be validated in each member state separately. The Unitary Patent system was established to create a single, unified and financially accessible patent for all EU member states, thereby ensuring uniform patent protection and specialised patent litigation. EPO is responsible for granting unitary patent status and maintaining the corresponding unified patent register.
- In connection with the introduction of the Unitary Patent System, which provides for a separate litigation procedure in member states of the Unified Patent Court Agreement (including Latvia), amendments have been made to the Patent Law. These amendments stipulate that disputes concerning unitary patents will be considered by the North-Baltic regional division or the central division of the Unified Patent Court. The bill also aims to refine the regulations governing the information published by the Latvian Patent Office in its patent register and to address other shortcomings identified in practice in the Patent Law.
- On 7 March 2023, amendments to the Trademark Law and the Industrial Property Institutions and Procedures Law entered into force. These amendments were developed to transpose the requirements of Directive (EU) 2015/2436 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2015, and to actualise the regulations within the laws. The amendments to these laws provide for interested parties to file an application with the IPBA for the cancellation or revocation of a trademark registration.
- In connection with the amendments to the Law on Industrial Property Institutions and Procedures, the following were put into force in 2023: CM regulation No. 413 of 28 June 2016 'By-law of the Industrial Property Board of Appeal' and CM regulation No. 732 of 15 December 2015 'Price List for Paid Services of the Industrial Property Board of Appeal'. The price list has been supplemented with new services, and the existing fees have been updated in accordance with the increase in costs.
- Reflecting on its long-standing work in educating students and teachers about the need for intellectual property rights protection, the Patent Office updated and adapted the methodological material 'Journey into the World of Industrial Property' created in 2018 to the

state basic education and general secondary education standards.

- In connection with the planned renovation project for the building at 7/70 Citadeles Street, the Patent Office employees moved to temporary premises at 15 Raiņa Boulevard in the summer of 2023. The project aims to create a modern and ergonomic working environment for the institution's employees and clients, as well as to ensure that all Patent Office employees are located in one building.
- In 2023, the Patent Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economics, launched the Technical Assistance Instrument project 'Improving Effective Market Surveillance and Intellectual Property System in Latvia', funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM). The project aims to develop recommendations for improving these areas and implementing the necessary reforms. In the field of intellectual property, the project aims to support Latvia in improving its intellectual property ecosystem, strengthening the use of intellectual property, stimulating innovation, and enhancing the competitiveness of businesses, especially SMEs. In October 2023, OECD representatives visited Latvia to begin an assessment of the current situation in the intellectual property ecosystem and to participate in the project's kick-off meeting.
- In 2023, the Patent Office actively participated in the preparation of the EPO Strategic Plan 2028 and the EUIPO Strategic Plan 2030. Both plans are expected to be approved in 2024.



2. Financial Resources and Performance Results in 2023

2.1. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

In accordance with [Article 41\(1\)](#) of the Law on Budget and Financial Management and CM Regulation No. 803 of 9 November 2022 'On Approval of the Patent Office Budget for 2023', the Patent Office was approved with revenue of EUR 4,420,392 and expenditure of EUR 5,559,013 in 2023 (including EUR 1,138,621 from the surplus of fee-based services and other own revenues for financing expenses).

Financial resources approved for the Patent Office and their use in 2022 and 2023

Table 2

No. in order	Financial indicators	2022 (actual implementation), EUR	2023	
			Annual plan, EUR	Actual performance, EUR
1.	Resources to cover expenditure (total)	4,947,776	4,420,392	4,989,066
1.1.	Charged services and other own revenue	4,947,776	4,420,392	4,989,066
2.	Expenditure (total)	4,218,285	5,559,013	4,650,497
2.1.	Maintenance expenses	4,198,640	5,518,013	4,645,938
2.1.1.	Current expenditure	2,604,682	3,846,149	2,988,038
2.1.2.	Current payments to the EU budget and international cooperation	1,352,468	1,421,864	1,421,863
2.1.3.	Transfers of maintenance expenditure	241,490	250,000	236,037
2.2.	Capital expenditure	19,645	41,000	4,559
3.	Changes in cash balances of fee-based services and other own revenue, increase (-) or decrease (+)	-729,491	1,138,621	-338,569

2.2. SERVICES PROVIDED

One of the Patent Office's priorities is to provide high-quality and convenient services to its clients. In accordance with the procedure established in CM Regulation No. 399 of 4 July 2017 'Procedure for the Registration, Quality Control and Provision of Public Services by State Administrative Institutions', the Patent Office has published information on its website and the State Service Portal about 42 public services provided by the Patent Office, including 17 e-services provided online.

The Patent Office provides fee-based services in accordance with the price list approved by CM Regulation No. 723 of 12 December 2015 'Price List of Fee-Based Services of the Patent Office'. <https://www.lrv.gov.lv/lv/media/6165/download?attachment>. Service performance indicators for 2023 are published on the Patent Office website.

In 2023, the Patent Office provided 4,136 consultations on intellectual property rights protection, of which 72% were provided by phone and 9% using electronic channels. Three trademark searches and two industrial design searches were conducted.

In 2023, the Library provided 97 references and consultations on industrial property protection issues, of which 26% were provided using an electronic channel.

The Patent Office provided 240 consultations on the EUIPO SME Fund, primarily to Latvian entrepreneurs and patent attorneys. As a result of the explanatory information and publicity events provided, the number of applications received by the SME Fund increased by 53% compared to 2022.

The Patent Office maintains the Trademark Register, the Industrial Design Register, the Patent Register (which also includes SPCs for medicinal products and plant protection products), and the Register of Topographies of Semiconductor Products. Register entries are official records.

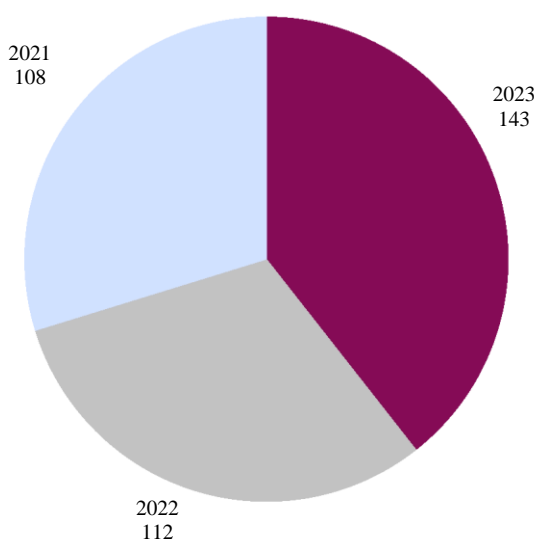
The register entries and the information provided for by the laws and regulations on industrial property, which relate to the registration of industrial property objects, are published in the official publication of the Patent Office 'Inventions, Trademarks and Industrial Designs', which is published once a month. It is available in PDF format in the 'Official Gazette' section of the Patent Office website.

2.2.1. Patents

The Patent Office received 143 national patent applications in 2023, an increase of 28% compared to 2022 (112 applications in 2022). The majority (139) were from applicants in Latvia (103 applications in 2022). One semiconductor topography was also registered in 2023.

As a result of the examinations conducted, 106 national patent applications and 105 granted patents for the protection of inventions were published in the official publication of the Patent Office, which is 48% more than in 2022 (71 patents were granted based on national applications in 2022). Together with the official publication, access to up-to-date information and individual case documents (e.g., invention description, claims, and drawings) is also provided in the public Latvian patent database.

**Number of national patent applications
2021–2023**



**Patents granted based on national
applications 2021–2023**

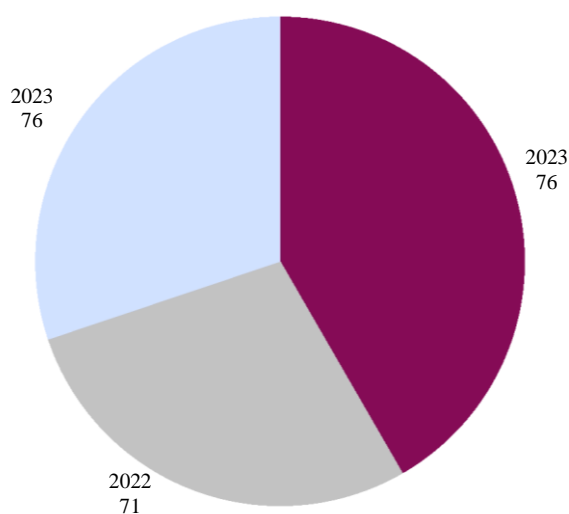
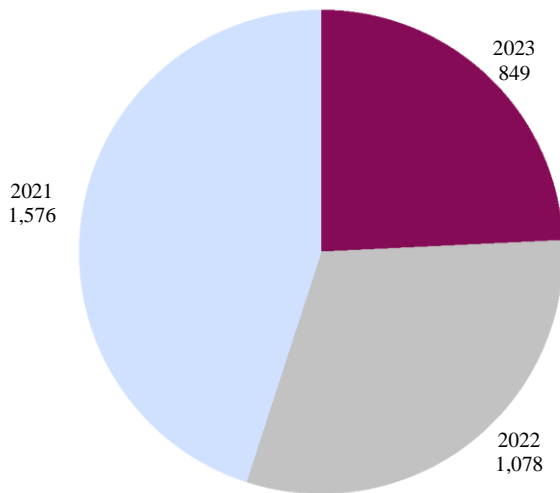


Figure 2

In 2023, 849 translations of claims of European patents granted by the EPO for validation and extension to Latvia were received. Information on 1,114 European patents validated and extended to Latvia was published in the official publication of the Patent Office in 2023, while at the same time providing access to translations of claims in the public patent database of the Patent Office.

Number of translations of European patent claims received 2021–2023



European patents published in Latvia 2021–2023

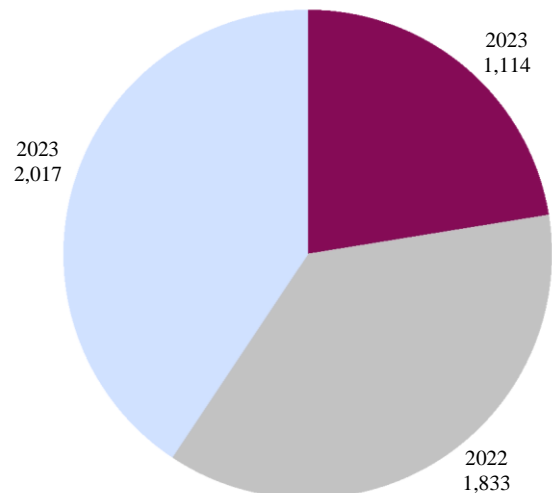


Figure 3

In 2023, 26 SPC applications were received (45 applications in 2022) and 38 SPCs were granted (37 SPCs were granted in 2022).

The largest number of changes in the Patent Register in 2023 were made for changes of ownership and personal data:

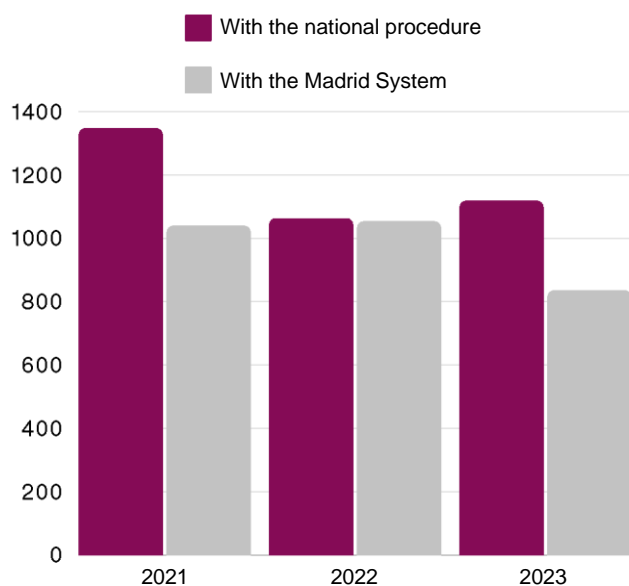
- Change of ownership for 130 patents and six SPCs;
- Changes in personal data for 272 patents and 34 SPCs;
- A note was made in the register about two licences and two commercial pledges.

2.2.2. Trademarks

The Latvian Patent Office received 1,953 trademark registration applications in 2023. Of these, 57.2% or 1,118 were applications filed with the national procedure, which is 5% more than in 2022. However, the total number of trademark applications in 2023 decreased by 7.7% compared to the previous year.

Of the total number of trademark registrations through the national procedure, 30.9% were registered using the free ‘Accelerated Trademark Application Examination’ service. This service ensures a decision on the acceptance of trademark registration within 15 working days, provided the application meets certain requirements.

Number of trademark applications 2021–2023



Number of registered trademarks 2021–2023

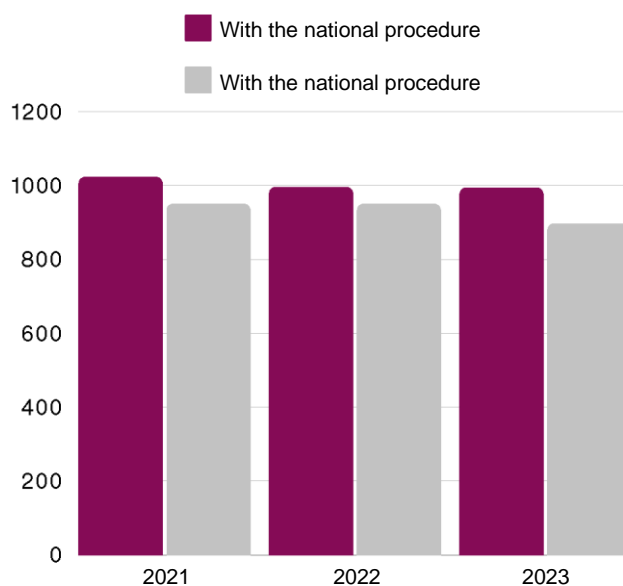


Figure 4

In 2023, a total of 1,891 trademarks were granted registration. 994 trademarks and one certification mark were registered through the national procedure, while 897 trademarks were registered through the Madrid System. In 2023, the number of registered trademarks was 97.2% of the previous year's total. In 2022, 1,946 trademarks were granted registration.

With the national procedure, the registration process, including publication, took less than three months. This is significantly faster than the statutory six-month deadline.

A steady increase has been observed in recent years in the number of trademark applications filed from Latvia to EUIPO. In 2023, 447 EU trademark applications were filed from Latvia to EUIPO and 368 trademarks were registered (compared to 275 applications and 218 registrations in 2020, 340 applications and 287 registrations in 2021, and 358 applications and 318 registrations in 2022).

During the reporting year, 24 applications for the conversion of an EU trademark into a trademark application in Latvia were received from EUIPO (37 applications in 2022).

In 2022, 58 international registration applications were received from Latvian companies and four requests for the territorial extension of the protection of international registrations were received.

In 2023, 4,516 changes were made to the Trademark Register and 2,429 trademark registrations were renewed.

2.2.3. Industrial designs

In 2023, 38 industrial design applications were received, which is 23% more than in the previous year (31 applications in 2022). All 38 applications were from Latvia. In total, the applications included 64 industrial designs, which is 21% less than in 2022 (85 designs in 2022). Meanwhile, in 2023, 96 industrial designs from Latvian applicants were registered with EUIPO.

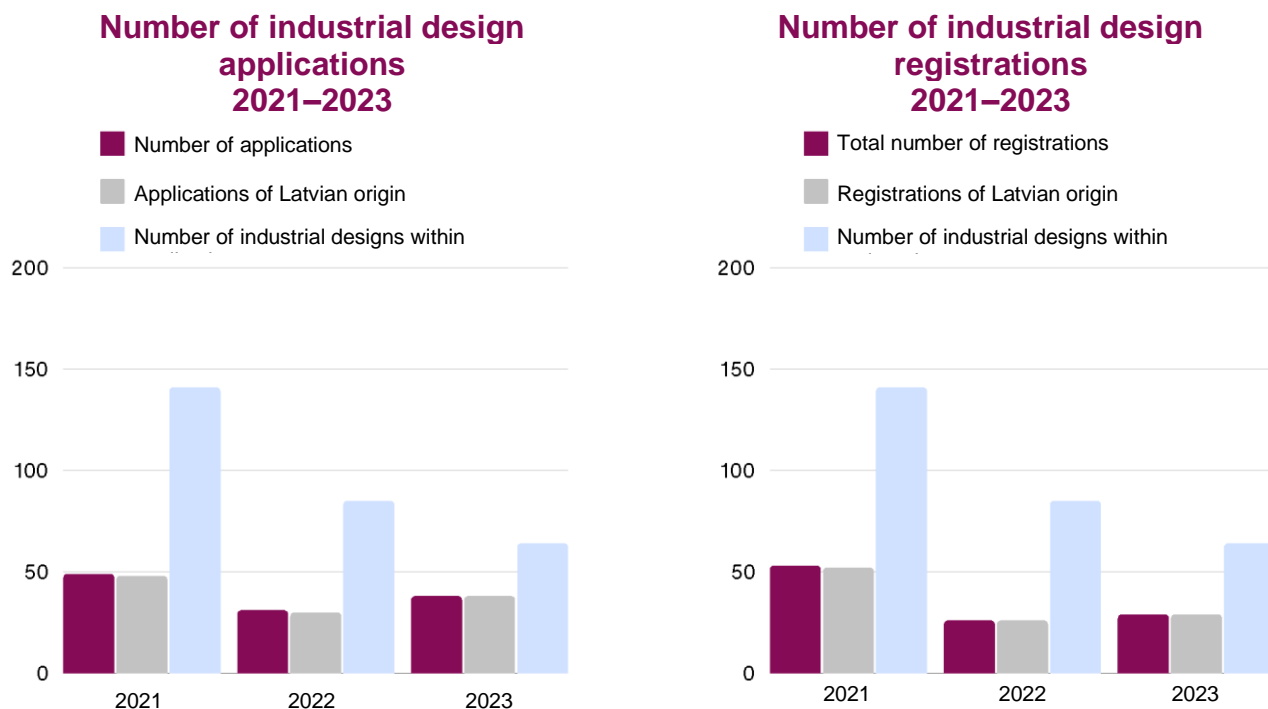


Figure 5

As a result of the examinations conducted, 29 industrial design registration certificates were issued, and 40 industrial designs were registered with the national procedure in 2023.

The duration of the industrial design registration procedure with the national procedure has remained at the level of previous years, and in 2023 it was also two months.

In 2023, under the international procedure (Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement), examinations were conducted for nine registrations related to Latvia, encompassing nine industrial designs. In 2022, expertise was carried out for 16 registrations related to Latvia, including 21 industrial designs.

In 2023, 96 Community designs were filed and registered from Latvia with EUIPO (82 Community designs in 2022).

In 2023, 13 changes were made to the Industrial Design Register and 22 industrial design registrations were renewed.

2.2.4. Promoting awareness of industrial property protection

One of the priorities of the Patent Office is to educate the public and promote awareness of the importance of registering industrial property rights, as well as the negative consequences of intellectual property infringement and the trade and purchase of counterfeit goods. In the reporting year, the Patent Office organised lectures, seminars, training events, participated in exhibitions as well as implemented other activities and contributed to the preparation of informative materials. The Patent Office organised or participated in 57 events, with a total of 7,939 participants. The events were attended by SMEs, representatives of technology transfer contact points, students, teachers, scientists, professional patent attorneys, judges, customs officials, general education school teachers, SME representatives and other interested parties. The Patent Office collaborated with a wide range of Latvian organisations – the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, BT1 Exhibition Centre, the Latvian Technological Centre, the Latvian Designers' Society, Junior Achievement, Latvian educational institutions, municipalities, the Kuldīga Digital Innovation Centre, the Enterprise Register and other industry organisations.

Contributing to the education of students and young people

Understanding the value of intellectual property fosters youth creativity, innovation and interest in entrepreneurship. The Patent Office recognises the importance of educating children and young people about intellectual property, especially industrial property – trademarks, designs and patents, already at school age. Therefore, the Patent Office carries out educational work for children and young people on intellectual property.

To improve teachers' and students' understanding of industrial property rights and the need to protect these rights, as well as the possibilities of integrating this knowledge into the learning process, the Patent Office continued its cooperation with Junior Achievement, participating in the events organised by the organisation. One of the most popular events is the traditional SME fair "Cits bazārs". At this event, the Patent Office not only had its own stand, providing consultations on intellectual property protection to students and visitors of the Domina Shopping centre, but also participated as a jury member. The Patent Office evaluated the performance of SMEs and awarded the best SMEs in the 'Knowledge-based SME product/service' category in primary and secondary school groups.

During the year, 290 Latvian teachers were informed about intellectual property protection at Junior Achievement teacher training courses. The Patent Office also participated in Junior Achievement regional student seminars 'Young Entrepreneurs School', which took place in seven Latvian cities. Patent Office representatives consulted teachers and students on industrial property protection at the Junior Achievement entrepreneurship inspiration conference 'Dare to Win'. A total of 9,371 students were informed through Junior Achievement activities.



Figure 6

For the fifth consecutive year, the Patent Office organised the ‘Creative Intellectual’ competition aimed at encouraging school-age children and young people to cultivate creativity and deepen their understanding of the significance and practical application of intellectual property, particularly in business. In the competition, students participated in two age groups, with peers working on tasks on intellectual property protection. The team from Sigulda 1st Primary School won in the 5th-8th grade group, while the team from Jelgava Spīdola State Gymnasium won in the 9th-12th grade group, also receiving the WIPO National Award for Schoolchildren.



Figure 7

A total of 52 teams from all over Latvia submitted applications to the competition, with a total of 150 participants. The closing ceremony took place on 24 November 2023, at the training centre of the airline airBaltic.

In August 2023, the Patent Office joined the 'Autorskola' project, adding content on industrial property protection. The expanded website autorskola.lv now offers previously published methodological materials and explanatory information on copyright and related rights for school students and educators. This has been supplemented with similar content on industrial property, and new sections have been created for entrepreneurs, artists (authors, performers, producers), and law enforcement officers, including useful information on intellectual property protection.

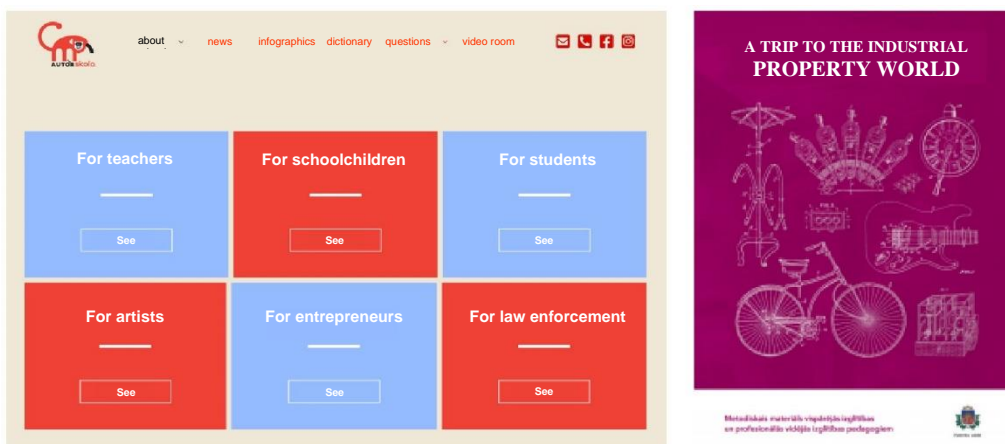


Figure 8

Participation in events

In the past year, the Patent Office participated in three international exhibitions: Riga Food, Tech Industry, and Furniture & Design Isle. Participants and visitors had the opportunity to learn first-hand about industrial property protection.



Figure 9

The Patent Office, in collaboration with the Data State Inspectorate, participated for the first time in the Lamp discussion festival in Cēsis. The event, titled 'A CASUAL date with SERIOUS consequences', was organised in the form of a discussion aimed at explaining why seemingly harmless online habits can have serious consequences and why it is important to protect personal data when conducting online activities. Alongside the discussion, festival attendees had the opportunity to see and inspect counterfeit goods of popular brands and receive consultations from Patent Office specialists on how to identify counterfeits.



Figure 10

Among the events attended by representatives of the Patent Office were also the Entrepreneurs' Experience Days, which are held annually by Swedbank in cooperation with the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia. Throughout the day, entrepreneurs had the opportunity to meet with industrial property experts in person to learn more about various issues related to industrial property protection and important details that can be useful in business.



Figure 11

Annual seminars for professionals

On 12 and 13 September 2023, the Patent Office, in cooperation with WIPO, EUIPO, and EPO, organised the annual regional judges' seminar on current issues of intellectual property protection. The two-day seminar, which took place in Liepāja with the aim of ensuring high-quality professional development and further education for court system employees, was attended by judges from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Poland, as well as several other internationally recognised intellectual property law experts – a total of 63 participants.

On 14 and 15 November, for the seventh year in a row, with the support of EUIPO, the Patent Office, in cooperation with the SRS National Customs Board, organised the annual international seminar for customs and other public administration officials 'Effective Methods of Intellectual Property Protection 2023'. The seminar was held in a hybrid format and was attended by 140 participants. In the seminar, experts highlighted mutual cooperation between all parties involved, prompt and accurate exchange of information, and regular updating of anti-counterfeiting specialists' knowledge as one of the key elements for effective anti-counterfeiting, which has also been useful in practice when detecting potentially counterfeit goods.



Figure 12

EUIPO SME fund activity 'Ideas for a Stronger Enterprise'

To strengthen cooperation with entrepreneurs, in particular SMEs, since 2021, the Patent Office has been implementing the SME Fund activity 'The Ideas Powered for business', set up by the European Commission and EUIPO. The fund provides financial support to EU-registered SMEs who wish to audit their intellectual property rights, develop their intellectual property strategy, apply for trademark and/or design registration at the national, regional or EU level, apply for a national or European patent, as well as apply for plant variety protection. A total of 305 requests were received from Latvia, applying for 429 services. Services requested by Latvian enterprises:

- 187 applications for EU trademarks;
- 83 for IP Scan services;
- 64 national trademark applications;
- 13 Community industrial design applications.



EUIPO Network of Authenticities activities

The year 2023 was marked by activities in the Network of Authenticities, a project supported by EUIPO, which was joined by the city of Liepāja as the first city from Latvia and the Baltic states. At the end of February 2023, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Patent Office and the Municipality of Liepāja on cooperation in the project Network of Authenticities, and in December a memorandum of understanding was signed with the University of Daugavpils and the Municipality of Daugavpils. The aim of the project is to raise awareness in the regions about the value of intellectual property, including industrial property, and the negative impact of counterfeiting, as well as to contribute to changing public attitudes towards the distribution and acquisition of counterfeits.



Figure 13

Competitions and campaigns organised by the Patent Office

2023 marked the tenth anniversary of the competition Trademark of the Year, organised by the Patent Office. The aim of the award is to honour Latvian entrepreneurs who recognise the advantages of the industrial property protection system.

The prize is traditionally awarded in two categories: Trademark of the Year – for Latvia and Trademark of the Year – for the World. The winner of the Trademark of the Year – for Latvia was the trademark 'woowool' of SIA LIGNEX, and the winner of the Trademark of the Year – for the World was the trademark of SIA SILVANOLS – 'SILVANOLS created by nature, perfected by science'.

A total of 60 trademarks took part in the competition, of which 41 were up for the award Trademark of the Year – for Latvia, and 19 – Trademark of the Year – for the World.



Figure 14

In order to recognise individuals and legal entities for their contribution to the development of the intellectual property field at the national or international level, a new award of the Patent Office was established in 2023 – entitled VISIONARY. It is to be awarded once a year to one candidate as part of the World Intellectual Property Day activities. The candidates were nominated by professionals, academics, and entrepreneurs in the intellectual property field and were evaluated by the Award Committee, which included representatives from the Patent Office, the Ministry of Justice, academics, and professional patent attorneys. The first award went to the robotics company SIA AERONES ENGINEERING for its determination and continuous efforts towards its goals and innovation in development.



Figure 15

To educate the public about the negative effects of counterfeit goods on health, life, the economy and the environment, and to encourage them to choose genuine products, the Patent Office organises an annual anti-counterfeiting campaign. On 19 May 2023, under the slogan ‘Be genuine – choose genuine!’, the campaign was launched at Riga Art and Media Technical School. The opening was also attended by representatives from the SRS National Customs Board, the Data State Inspectorate, and the Consumer Rights Protection Centre. They presented the latest trends in counterfeiting and the latest data on the population’s attitude towards buying counterfeit goods to more than 120 students at the school. Young people demonstrated their knowledge of counterfeiting through an interactive game.





Figure 16

2.2.5. Building a specialised information collection

The Library is an accredited library of local significance with a specialised collection in the field of intellectual property and includes Latvian and foreign publications on intellectual and industrial property. An electronic catalogue is created in the library information system ALISE, which is also accessible to users on the Patent Office website. In 2023, the information collection expanded by 108 copies. As of 31 December of the reporting year, the collection contained 2,976 copies in both paper and electronic editions.

The analytical database 'Industrial and Intellectual Property Protection' is created from the information collection and other sources. It is available on the website of the Patent Office and includes information on articles from Latvian and foreign newspapers, magazines, and books related to intellectual property protection issues and experiences in this field. As of 31 December 2023, a total of 17,490 entries were registered in the database.

2.2.6. Representation

Entrepreneurs, designers, and inventors have access to professional patent attorneys who offer services in the field of industrial property and manage procedures at the Patent Office. The list of professional patent attorneys is available on the website of the Patent Office. The Patent Office maintains the list of professional patent attorneys and organises qualification examinations for them in accordance with CM Regulation No. 146 of 8 March 2016, 'Regulations Regarding the List of Professional Patent Attorneys, Procedures for the Maintenance Thereof, and Procedures for the Qualification Examination of Professional Patent Attorneys'.

In 2023, the list of professional patent attorneys had 88 entries for amendment. One candidate passed the examination for professional patent attorneys and one certificate of recognition of the professional qualification of professional patent attorney in other member states of the European Economic Area was issued.

2.2.7. Industrial Property Board of Appeal

Out-of-court disputes arising out of the registration and post-registration procedures of industrial property objects are handled by the IPBA.

Two new services were added to the list of IPBA services in 2023, enabling stakeholders to apply not only to the courts but also to the IPBA to revoke a trademark or declare it invalid. [IPBA price list](#) is available on the website of the Patent Office.

In 2023, the IPBA received five appeals and 48 oppositions:

- Four appeals against decisions of the Patent Office refusing registration of trademarks;
 - One appeal against the decision of the Patent Office to refuse the renewal
 - of maintaining a European patent valid in Latvia;
- All 48 oppositions were filed against trademark registrations; 2.6% of trademark registrations were contested in opposition proceedings.

In 2023, the IPBA also received seven applications for trademark revocation and three applications for trademark invalidation.

In the year under review, 25 oppositions were examined in substance, of which one was against the registration of an industrial design and the rest against the registration of trademarks. In 2023, 14 oppositions were fully satisfied, four were partially satisfied, and seven were rejected. Proceedings regarding 17 other oppositions were terminated. Additionally, one appeal against the decision of the Patent Office to refuse registration of a trademark was examined and rejected. Three applications for revocation were also examined and all were granted, cancelling the registration of the relevant trademarks.

In 2023, no legal actions were brought against the decisions of the IPBA. In 2023, Riga City Court, as a court of first instance, examined the merits of two opposition cases, and the outcome of these cases was in line with what the IPBA Board had previously decided.

2.3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Patent Office fulfils the duties arising for the Republic of Latvia as a member state from its international obligations in the field of industrial property protection. It also represents the Republic of Latvia in international institutions and events, and develops bilateral cooperation with foreign and international organisations. In 2023, the Patent Office continued to strengthen its role at international level in various formats. It is represented at WIPO, EPOrg, EUIPO, NORDIC BALTIC and 48 working groups and standing committees.

2.3.1. Baltic-Nordic cooperation

In February and December 2023, the Baltic patent authorities and experts met in Vilnius and Tallinn, respectively, to discuss intellectual property strategies, regulatory developments, sanctioning issues, security matters, and opportunities to enhance cooperation among the patent authorities of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.



Figure 17

In early March 2023, a regional meeting of the heads of the patent offices of the Baltic states and Poland took place in Warsaw, Poland. The meeting included participation from the UANIPIO management, representatives from EUIPO, and the European Patent Office. During the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed committing the Baltic and Polish intellectual property authorities to promoting the integration of the Ukrainian intellectual property sector into the common European system.

Cooperation between the Baltic and Scandinavian countries takes place through annual meetings and working groups of representatives of the Baltic and Nordic authorities. Representatives of the institutions meet once a year, which provides an opportunity to discuss current issues and identify trends in the region.

In early May 2023, the Patent Office participated in a meeting of the directors of the Baltic and Nordic patent offices. In late October, it attended a meeting of the Baltic and Nordic communicators, and in late November, a meeting of the Baltic and Nordic Patent departments. One of the most important benefits of this cooperation format is the opportunity to gain practical experience from the Nordic countries on intellectual property issues.

Cooperation between Baltic and Nordic institutions also continues on a daily basis, addressing various issues within the field.

2.3.2. World Intellectual Property Organisation

During the reporting period, the Patent Office continued to implement various activities funded by WIPO and is represented in 10 working groups and standing committees. For more information, please refer to the section ‘Promoting awareness of industrial property protection’.

In July 2023, during the WIPO General Assembly session in Geneva, a delegation from the Latvian Patent Office presented two projects of significance to Latvia: the internationally acclaimed children’s programme “Tutas lietas” and a medical device for melanoma risk assessment and detection developed by the Latvian medical device company Bdetect in collaboration with Riga Technical University and the University of Latvia, which holds great importance for public health.



Figure 18

In spring 2023, the Patent Office, in cooperation with WIPO, made it possible for anyone interested to take a free remote learning course in Latvian, 'General Course on Intellectual Property' (DL-101LV). The course lasted for six weeks, and at the end of it, participants had to complete a test and answer at least 50% of the 36 questions correctly to obtain the certificate. The course generated high interest, initially attracting more than 400 registrations. However, only 165 participants from 22 different institutions, including entrepreneurs, legal practitioners, and representatives of public authorities, sat for the final exam.

At the end of the course, 146 certificates were issued, and the participant satisfaction rate was 87%. Before the course, 58% of respondents claimed to have minimal or no knowledge of topics related to intellectual property. After the course, all respondents claimed to have a good, very good, or even excellent level of knowledge.

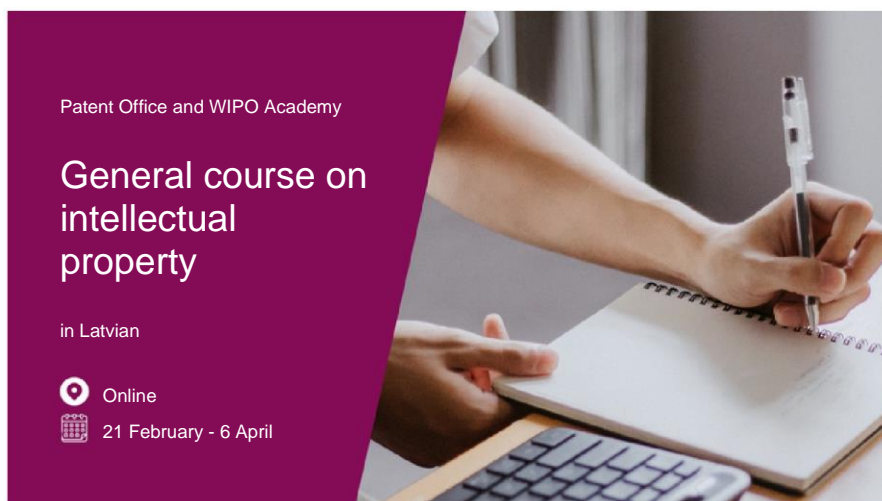


Figure 19

2.3.3. European Patent Office

During the year under review, the Patent Office represented Latvia in two working groups of the EPOrg Convergence Programme: 'Permissible elements in drawings' and 'Issuing and accepting electronic priority documents', with the aim of making recommendations for implementing uniform practices across EPOrg member states. In total, the Patent Office is represented in 18 working groups and standing committees.

In cooperation with the EPO, work was carried out on development and improvement projects of the Patent Information System. This included the accession of the Patent Office to the EPO Federative Register, which will establish a direct link between the Latvian Patent Register and the Federative Register. Additionally, a Data Quality project was implemented to introduce a new solution for transferring Latvian patent information to international databases. This aims to expand the scope of data transferred and replace the current solution with an automated and modernised data transfer mechanism.

On 16 October 2023, representatives of the Patent Office met with a delegation from the EPO to discuss bilateral cooperation and engagement in new projects for the coming years.



Figure 20

2.3.4. European Union Intellectual Property Office

The Patent Office continued to strengthen its close cooperation with the EUIPO to facilitate the exchange of views on new developments in the sector. The Patent Office is represented in 15 working groups, and one staff member has been seconded to the EUIPO to gain experience as a trademark expert.

On 8 February and 21 September 2023, the EUIPO and the Patent Office held routine online technical meetings. During these meetings, the Patent Office management and experts briefed the EUIPO on current projects and their implementation status, while the EUIPO provided information on new projects and related developments.

The staff of the Patent Office continued to participate in the EUIPO Convergence Programme, which aims to achieve common positions in areas where intellectual property offices have differing practices. The staff of the Patent Office participated in the CP14 working group 'Trade Marks Contrary to Public Policy or to Accepted Principles of Morality', where they examined the comments received from the member states' representatives on the CP14 common practice document project.

The staff of the Patent Office continued to actively participate in the EUIPO Observatory initiatives by attending working group meetings, providing data on Latvian research, and informing the public about the Observatory's published research and data. Several activities of the Patent Office have evolved from these Observatory initiatives. The most recent publications are available on the website of the Patent Office.

The Patent Office worked with the EUIPO on projects to develop and improve the trademark and industrial design information system, including the implementation of the information system administration tool, the implementation of the standardised document production tool, and the update of the information system version.

This development project (ECP3 Decision Desktop) continued to improve the functionality of the Back Office working environment for the trademark and industrial design information system experts by automating the generation of decision forms. The 'ECP2 Improvements to TMview – DSview' project involved work on the implementation of 'CTI+Blockchain and Kibana' technologies, which enable the exchange of information using blockchain technologies.

Since 31 May 2023, the Patent Office has joined the EUIPO Blockchain project, thereby supplementing the international network with information on trademarks and designs registered in Latvia. By joining the Intellectual Property Blockchain Network, Latvia became the seventh member of the project, adding more than 68,000 registered trademarks and more than 3,000 industrial designs to the database.

On 23 and 24 October 2023, the Director of the Patent Office participated in a joint visit of EUIPO and UANIPIO in Kiev, Ukraine. The visit aimed to strengthen cooperation between EUIPO, EU member states (Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland), and UANIPIO. It supported the Ukrainian authorities in becoming a member of EUIPO and facilitated the implementation of EU-funded intellectual property projects in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. During the visit, an action plan was signed between EUIPO and UANIPIO for mutual cooperation over the next two years. This includes the possibility for UANIPIO to receive support in the management of intellectual property rights, including the coordination of examination practices for trademark and industrial design registration, as well as staff training. The UANIPIO will also be able to receive information on studies related to the economic impact of intellectual property, and the work plan for the next two years will enable Ukrainian trademarks and industrial designs to be included in EUIPO databases.



Figure 21

On 1 October 2023, the new EUIPO Executive Director, João Negro, assumed his duties. He was previously the President of the EUIPO Boards of Appeal.

In the year under review, the Patent Office reached an agreement with the EUIPO to organise the DesignEuropa Awards ceremony in Riga on 24–25 September 2024.

2.4. QUALITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Since 2018, the QCS of the Patent Office has been certified as compliant with the requirements of the international standard ISO 9001:2015 in the following certification areas:

- Trademark registration and post-registration procedures;
- Preparation of applications for international registration of trademarks;
- Examination of international trademark registrations;
- Industrial design registration and post-registration procedures;
- Examination of international industrial design registrations;
- Patent grant and post-grant procedures;
- Extension and validation of European patents;
- SPC granting procedure;
- Provision of information services on the protection of intellectual property rights;
- Organisation of the qualification examination for professional patent attorneys and maintenance of the List of Professional Patent Attorneys.

The compliance of the Patent Office's QCS with ISO 9001:2015 demonstrates the institution's commitment to the quality of its services. This commitment is upheld through regular maintenance of the QCS, periodic independent audits, and certification of the system's effectiveness.

In September 2023, the Patent Office underwent an external surveillance audit of its quality management system. The audit was conducted by an accredited certification company SIA DNV Latvia. The audit found no non-conformities, confirming that the management system is effective and compliant with the requirements of the international standard ISO 9001:2015.

The Patent Office has implemented risk management alongside the QCS, aiming to identify and mitigate risks to an acceptable level, exploit potential opportunities, and promote good governance principles to ensure the achievement of the Patent Office's objectives. The Patent Office has also identified and assessed corruption risks, and it has developed an anti-corruption action plan to ensure internal controls aimed at preventing corruption. The internal anti-corruption control system includes the continuous implementation of anti-corruption measures, the review, assessment and identification of mitigating measures, as well as the identification of positions vulnerable to corruption.

According to Section 11, Paragraph one of the Law on International Sanctions and National Sanctions of the Republic of Latvia, financial and civil sanctions imposed by United Nations Security Council Resolutions and sanctions imposed by EU regulations are binding and directly applicable in Latvia. The Patent Office, as the competent authority, takes all necessary steps to ensure the enforcement of international and national sanctions. In 2023, the Patent Office made a decision to suspend the registration of a trademark because the trademark application had been filed by a person subject to national and international sanctions.



3. Staff

In 2023, the Patent Office had 64 positions. Seven employees left their jobs and six new employees joined. The actual number of employees at the end of the year was 57.

Breakdown of employees by gender 2021–2023 (end of year)

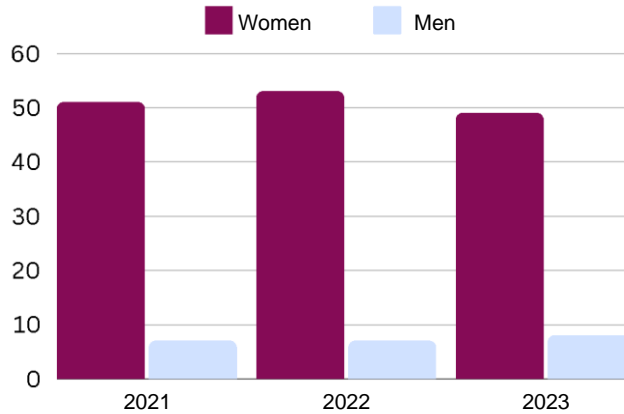


Figure 22

In 2023, 86% of all employees at the Patent Office were women, and 14% were men. In the year under review, 9% of all employees were aged 20–29, 28% were aged 30–39, 12% were aged 40–49, 23% were aged 50–59, 23% were aged 60–69, and the smallest share of employees, 5%, was over 70.

Breakdown of employees by age group 2021-2023 (end of year)

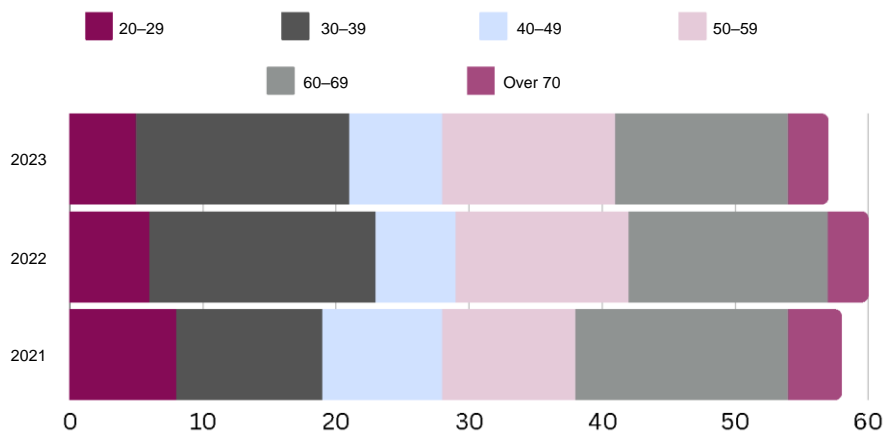


Figure 23

The Patent Office is run by well-educated, professional, and competent staff. 52 employees, or 91%, hold higher education qualifications, including master's and doctoral degrees.

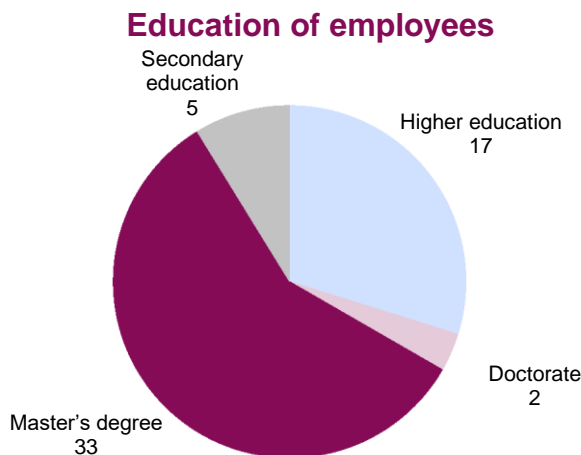


Figure 24

With a view to continuity, the future, and attracting young professionals, work continued in 2023 on setting competitive salaries. This ensures that Patent Office employees are remunerated at a level commensurate with their qualifications and job responsibilities, thereby retaining and attracting professional, competent and educated staff capable of collaborating to ensure the sustainable implementation of the Patent Office's strategic objectives and the delivery of innovations and services that meet the needs of its clients.

To improve working conditions, ongoing efforts have focused on physical improvements. Monoblocks have been replaced, and all staff have been equipped with mobile workstations, *smart card* readers, webcams, and other peripheral equipment to enhance their daily tasks.

At the beginning of 2023, a questionnaire was sent to the employees of the Patent Office to gather their views on the implemented changes in the office, working conditions, communication, and cooperation. 42 employees took part in the survey, and the majority gave a positive assessment of working at the Patent Office. Most would recommend it as a good place to work.



Patent Office employees' job evaluation

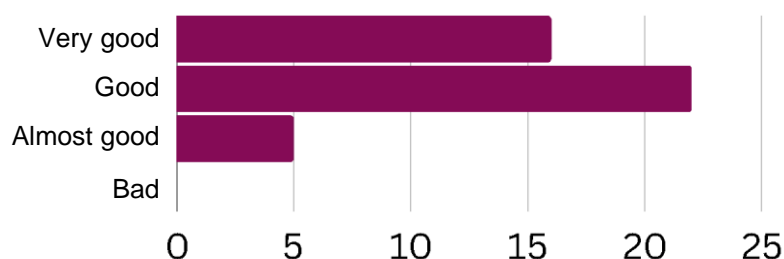


Figure 25

In 2023, five employees of the Patent Office were recognised for their long-standing, honest and creative work in promoting the development of the MJ, the justice system, the Latvian legal system, and international cooperation in the field of justice.

Baiba Graube, Director of the Department of Trademarks and Industrial Designs of the Patent Office, was awarded the MJ First Class Certificate of Recognition and the Golden Feather award for her significant contribution to the development of the MJ, the justice system, and the Latvian legal system, as well as for promoting international cooperation in the field of justice.

Līga Lārmane, Director of the Patent Department of the Patent Office, was awarded the MJ Second Class Certificate of Recognition and the Silver Feather award for her significant contribution to the work of the MJ, the development of the justice system and the legal system of Latvia, and the exemplary, honest and creative performance of her official duties.

Inta Miķelsone, Quality and Risk Manager of the Patent Office, was awarded the MJ Honorary Diploma for the exemplary, honest and creative performance of her duties.

Dace Liberte, Chairperson of the Industrial Property Appeal Board, and Māra Rozenblate, Leading Expert on European Patents at the Patent Department of the Patent Office, were awarded the Certificate of Appreciation from the MJ for their significant contribution to the improvement of industrial property law norms.



4. Communication with the public

Public communication habits are changing rapidly, making the ability to find and use new cooperation mechanisms and information tools a major challenge. The staff of the Patent Office worked hard to make information on the services and activities of the Patent Office available to the wider public through up-to-date communication formats and channels.

One of the external communication tasks of the Patent Office is to educate and raise public awareness about the importance of registering industrial property rights, the negative consequences of copyright infringement, and the consequences of the sale and supply of counterfeit goods.

The main external communication objectives of the Patent Office are:

- To raise awareness and knowledge among the Latvian population about the role and importance of intellectual property in the national economy;
- To raise awareness of the need for legal protection of inventions and motivate scientists and inventors to do so;
- To raise awareness of the need to legally protect designs and register trademarks among individual applicants and SMEs, and motivate them to do so;
- To strengthen existing cooperation and establish new ones with public institutions, organisations, educational and scientific institutions, and jointly implement information and education activities on intellectual property for target groups;
- To raise awareness of the potential harm of counterfeiting to public safety, health, the environment, the national economy, and business;
- To raise the public profile of the Patent Office in general, using the available communication tools and channels.

Communication in the media

In 2023, 109 news items in Latvian (81 in 2022) and 38 news items in English (15 in 2022) were published on the Patent Office's website regarding the latest developments in the protection of industrial property rights, while the events section provided information on 77 events (68 in 2022). The number of unique visits to the Patent Office's website in the reporting year was 391,030 (2022: 254,381).

Social media allows for the efficient delivery of information and up-to-date news to a large number of people simultaneously, as well as direct and rapid communication and feedback. Therefore, the Patent Office actively uses social media platforms to inform its followers about activities and news in the field of intellectual property, as well as to educate the public in this area.

For communication, the Patent Office maintains and regularly updates five social media accounts: X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram. At the end of 2023, an account was also created on the increasingly popular Threads platform. These accounts regularly publish information on the latest research, events, and other news related to the protection of industrial property rights in Latvia and worldwide. According to data, as of 27 December 2023, 1,763 people follow the latest news on X, 1,431 on Facebook, 151 on YouTube, 367 on LinkedIn, and 289 on Instagram.

Traditional media – TV, radio, newspapers, and online media (internet news portals) – also remain channels for disseminating information. Most of the Patent Office’s news is covered by online media. In 2023, there were 139 publications, 10 more than the previous year. 14 radio and news stories mentioned the Patent Office (9 in 2022), as well as 13 television stories and programmes. Regional press publications had 12 articles in 2023, while national press publications had the fewest articles, considering trends in media consumption: 4 articles (2 in 2022).

Media coverage of Patent Office news

Table 3

Type of media	2022	2023	Topics of interest to the media
Online media	129	139	Research/survey results, counterfeiting trends, statistics, student competitions
Radio	9	14	
TV	8	13	
Regional press	7	12	
National newspapers	2	4	





Unikāla un godalgota – preču zīme woowooll

Lēdmaniete Līga Liepiņa pirms trim gadiem nodibināja uzņēmumu SIA Lignex, vēl pēc gada reģistrēja Patentu valdē savu preču zīmi woowooll, kas šogad Patentu valdes rīkotajā konkursā **Gada preču zīme** ieguva 1. vietu kategorijā **Gada preču zīme** – Latvijai. Šogad pie pircējiem nonāks uzņēmuma radītās preces – unikāli vilnas izstrādājumi: gaisa atsvaidzinātājs automašīnām un...

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- 27400
- 27
- Patentu valde
- Preču zīme



Figure 25

Customer survey

In total, the 2023 client survey was sent to 426 Patent Office client email addresses, and 98 respondents completed the survey, representing 23% of all 2023 clients. Combining the responses from all customer surveys, 97% of respondents are completely or mostly satisfied with the work of the Patent Office.

The client questionnaire was sent to 37 email addresses of patent attorneys and intellectual property professionals. Of the 36 who responded, 26 were professional patent attorneys. When asked about the work of the Patent Office, including the process of granting patents and registering trademarks and designs, respondents generally reported being completely (34%) and mostly (66%) satisfied. This indicates that professional patent attorneys are 100% satisfied with the work of the institution as a whole.

5. Actions planned for 2024

The Patent Office will continue its activities in accordance with the functions and tasks outlined in the statute, within the limits of the funding planned for their implementation, and the approved strategy and work plans of the MJ and the Patent Office.

To ensure the compliance of normative acts with EU laws and regulations, as well as international treaties, and to address inconsistencies identified in practice, amendments are planned for the Patent Law, Trademark Law, and related CM regulations. In connection with the amendments to the Law on industrial property institutions and procedures and the shortcomings identified in practice, amendments to CM Regulation No. 146 of 8 March 2016 'Regulations Regarding the List of Professional Patent Attorneys, Procedures for the Maintenance Thereof, and Procedures for the Qualification Examination of Professional Patent Attorneys' are also planned.

Furthermore, active efforts are planned to develop the intellectual property system in Latvia. This includes drafting an information report on 'Further Actions in Improving the Quality of Latvian National Patents' and preparing a report for the Ministry of Justice based on the evaluation results of the intellectual property system in Latvia under the European Commission's Directorate General for Structural Reform Assistance (DG REFORM) Technical Assistance Instrument project 'Building an Effective Market Surveillance and Intellectual Property System for Latvia'.

The Patent Office will continue the following support measures in 2024:

- A pilot project on free patent examinations and the collection of information for the further evaluation of patent activities to support and motivate Latvian patent applicants to patent their inventions internationally;
- Support activity: possibility to recover fees paid for international (under PCT procedure) patent applications, as well as fees for the substantive examination of European patent applications;
- 'The Ideas Powered for business' SME Fund support actions to help SMEs identify and protect their intellectual property rights and support the EU's economic recovery.

Active work on public education and a better understanding of intellectual property rights protection will continue, including the Patent Office's participation in the EUIPO activity 'European Network of Authenticities' with two national cities – Liepāja and Daugavpils – involving local governments in the appraisal and protection of industrial intellectual property.

To improve the knowledge of law enforcement officials on intellectual property protection, the Patent Office, in cooperation with WIPO, EUIPO, and the EPO, will continue to organise annual international seminars for judges, customs officers, prosecutors, and police officers.

Work will continue on improving horizontal IT and e-services and on the implementation of the 2023 procurement for the maintenance and development of the Patent Administration Information System and the Trademark and Industrial Design Information System.

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