

HUNGARY

International worksharing and collaborative activities for search and examination of patent applications

1. Central European regional international patent authority

In October 2015, at the 55th series of the WIPO Assemblies, the VISEGRAD PATENT INSTITUTE (VPI) was appointed as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority.

The VPI, in its capacity as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), carries out international search and international preliminary examination in accordance with the PCT, its Regulations and Administrative Instructions and the provisions of the agreement with WIPO.

In addition, the VPI carries out International Type Searches (ITS) and Supplementary International Searches (SIS).

The VPI allows inventors and enterprises from the so-called “Visegrad countries” (Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland and Hungary) and from certain neighbouring countries to benefit from the global patent system under advantageous conditions.

2. Global Patent Prosecution Highway and Patent Prosecution Highway

a) The Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO) joined right at the start – on 6 January 2014 – the *Global Patent Prosecution Highway (GPPH) project*, which involved 21 patent offices to ensure the direct information exchange among patent offices and to speed up the patent granting procedure. The participating offices accept each other’s positive opinions on patentability, so patent applications with the same priority date, filed at different offices can be granted at each office in an accelerated procedure. The framework of the GPHH system covers the bilateral agreements concluded by HIPO since 2009 under the *Patent Prosecution Highway* network.

b) Pursuant to the agreement signed by the Commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office of the People’s Republic of China and the President of HIPO on 12 October 2015, a project ensuring the acceleration of the procedures between the two offices was launched on 1 March 2016.

c) A Memorandum of Cooperation between the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic, the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office, the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland, the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) is under preparation relating to a host of cooperative activities in the field of intellectual property.

d) The contents of the European Patent Register are routinely used by the staff of the HIPO.