

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Thirtieth Session
Geneva, April 24 to 28, 2023

REPORT ON WOMEN AND IP: COMPILATION AND SHARING OF DATA

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) at its twenty-sixth session, held from July 26 to 30, 2021, while discussing the topic “Women and IP” under the agenda item IP and Development, decided to adopt a Follow-up Proposal by Mexico (contained in document CDIP/26/10 Rev.), which, *inter alia*, requested the Secretariat to undertake a series of actions and decided “*to revisit the issue of “Women and IP” periodically, when WIPO Secretariat deems to be necessary, under the IP and Development agenda item, starting at the CDIP spring session of 2023*”.

2. This document, together with document CDIP/30/12, seeks to facilitate the Committee’s revisiting of the issue of “Women and IP” at the present session. While this document reports on the compilation and sharing of sex-disaggregated data in the field of IP, document CDIP/30/12 reports on WIPO’s strategic action plan for supporting and empowering women in the field of IP, as well as provides an overview of the complementarity of WIPO’s internal and externally-facing activities. The reporting period covers the years 2021 and 2022.

I. COMPILATION OF COMPARABLE AND DISAGGREGATED INTERNATIONAL DATA ON THE GENDER OF IP RIGHTS OWNERS AND CREATORS

3. International patent applications do not include information on the gender of the applicant or creator. However, this information is valuable for the IP community, for example, to detect and understand potential innovation gaps. Therefore, since the twenty-second session of the CDIP, the Secretariat has continued to work towards developing methodologies to further understand the intersection of gender equality and IP and, based on these, to compile

comparable international sex-disaggregated data. This work was undertaken, notably, by the Department of Economics and Data Analytics (DEDA) in the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector (IPIES). In particular:

4. The Statistics and Data Analytics Division published the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) statistics disaggregated by sex in its main flagship publications and web data center during the reporting period, namely, the PCT yearly review (2021 and 2022); the World IP Indicators (2021 and 2022); and the IP Statistics Data Center (regular updates during the period).

5. The Innovation Economy Section continued to perform methodological and economic research on gender equality and IP. In 2022, the Section recruited the first Gender Research Fellow to lead the research on gender and diversity gaps in the innovation and creativity fields. The research continued to have two main avenues: (i) further improve gender disambiguation methodologies; and (ii) improve and expand the IP collections and data with sex disaggregation, including other diversity measures.

6. During the reporting period, the Innovation Economy Section further improved the gender disambiguation methodologies by:

6.1. Creating and improving more accessible versions of the World Gender-Name Dictionary (WGND) by publishing it in the Harvard Dataverse,¹ GitHub² and Amazon Web Services Simple Storage Service (AWS S3).³

6.2. Creating a STATA command (*genderit*) to allow researchers to use the WGND 2.0 in a more accessible manner. In 2022, a beta version was published in GitHub⁴ and it is currently being tested by DEDA and academic researchers.⁵

6.3. Exploring the usage of alternative sources of IP data, in collaboration with the Global Database Division (GDD) of the WIPO Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, for producing new indicators and improving the existing ones. As a result, the robustness of using the WGND on Chinese and Korean given names expressed in original characters was greatly improved.

6.4. Continuously developing the gender parity forecast series of methods, which allows for a comparison of different scenarios of when gender parity could be attained. The DEDA continued to apply these methods to PCT inventors. The methods are published and shared internally through a private GitHub⁶ repository.

7. In the same period, the Innovation Economy Section performed research on improving, expanding, and analyzing sex-disaggregated IP data by:

7.1. Updating the study titled "*Identifying the gender of PCT inventors*".⁷ The updated study expands on the gender gap indicators produced and provides a benchmark for further analyses. The study benefited from including national collection data, allowing to better

¹ See dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/WGND

² See github.com/IES-platform/r4r_gender/blob/main/wgnd/README.md

³ See ies-r4r-public.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/wgnd/wgnd_2_0.zip

⁴ See github.com/IES-platform/r4r_gender/blob/main/genderit/readme.md

⁵ A version for Python is envisaged to be released during the 2023-2024 period.

⁶ Available to external users upon request.

⁷ The Study was published in 2016 and is available at: www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4125

disambiguate Chinese and Korean given names expressed in original characters. This study will be published in the WIPO Development Studies series.⁸

7.2. Continuing to explore the gender disambiguation to patent and utility model inventors in national IP collections. The Innovation Economy Section explored ways to expand this research to other sources beyond DOCDB/PATSTAT unit-record data.⁹

7.3. Analyzing the potential of gender disambiguation of industrial design unit-record data. New data was gathered for the Hague system and national collections, thanks to the Brands and Design Sector and the GDD. Preliminary results look promising.¹⁰

7.4. Analyzing the potential of gender disambiguation of trademark unit-record data. New data was gathered for the Madrid system and national collections, thanks to the Brands and Design Sector and the GDD.¹¹

II. SHARING OF METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE COLLECTION OF SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA, THE USE OF INDICATORS, THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGIES, AND THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF GENDER GAPS RELATED TO IP

8. During the reporting period, the Secretariat undertook several initiatives to share the analyses and methodologies of women and IP-related topics. In particular, the Innovation Economy Section explored several ways to share publicly its gender disambiguation methodology, such as:

8.1. Directly contacting academic networks, United Nations (UN) entities (e.g. UN Women), IP offices, and the interested public from private companies and technology transfer offices.

8.2. Using several already mentioned web repositories, such as Harvard Dataverse Repository, GitHub Repository or AWS S3. Downloads continued to go up, reaching more than 6,600 downloads on WIPO's website and about 7,000 in the Harvard Dataverse.¹²

8.3. Disseminating the Guidelines on how to measure gender in innovation and IP data. These guidelines were translated into the six WIPO official languages.¹³

9. The Innovation Economy Section continued to generate content under the "Innovation, Creativity and Gender"¹⁴ web contents series, which aim at explaining the Secretariat's economic and methodological research to a more general audience. This series has been used not only to promote WIPO's work on the topic, but also to highlight work produced by other national IP offices, such as those from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada or Chile.

⁸ The WIPO Development Studies are available at: www.wipo.int/econ_stat/en/economics/studies/

⁹ Thanks to the collaboration with GDD, the research will increase its data coverage by including Patentscope Data during 2023.

¹⁰ The first results are expected to be published in 2023-2024. These include an ongoing collaboration with the Division for Transition and Developed Countries of the WIPO Regional and National Development Sector to produce a report on the Transformation of the Economy *via* Design – Women and Innovation.

¹¹ If resources permit, the Innovation Economy Section expects to carry out research on trademark gender gap during the 2023-2024 period.

¹² GitHub and AWS S3 do not report historical visit and download statistics.

¹³ Namely, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

¹⁴ See www.wipo.int/econ_stat/en/economics

10. Since 2021, the Innovation Economy Section co-organized with Invent Together a series of on-line seminars on the IP gender gap. The main objective of these seminars was to gather information about what is being done to address the IP gender gap, what can be replicated and scaled globally, and what new global action may be identified that will have a tangible positive impact in enabling underrepresented groups to use patents and other IP rights. Three editions of these seminars took place, focusing on the Americas region, the European region, as well as on the East Asia and Asia-Pacific regions, respectively.¹⁵

III. THE WAY FORWARD

11. In the Secretariat's experience during the reporting period, there are a series of concrete steps to be taken into consideration.

12. First, easing the access to gender-related methodological content to a less technical audience has proven to be the right strategy. The diffusion of the methodologies has reached a wider set of Member States, generating local capacity to produce analyses that are gender-responsive and sex-disaggregated.

13. Second, the Secretariat will continue to produce research on methodologies, extending and analyzing comparable and disaggregated international data on the gender of IP rights owners and creators. In particular, those aiming at extending the analysis to other forms of IP, such as utility models, industrial designs, or trademarks.¹⁶

14. *The Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.*

[End of document]

¹⁵ A fourth edition is planned for the African and Arab regions in 2023.

¹⁶ Including a collaboration with the Division for Transition and Developed Countries of the WIPO Regional and National Development Sector to explore if economic research results could be presented on diversity in the videogame industry.