

# Uruguay as a case of South-South cooperation in IP Territorial strengthening and knowledge transfer.

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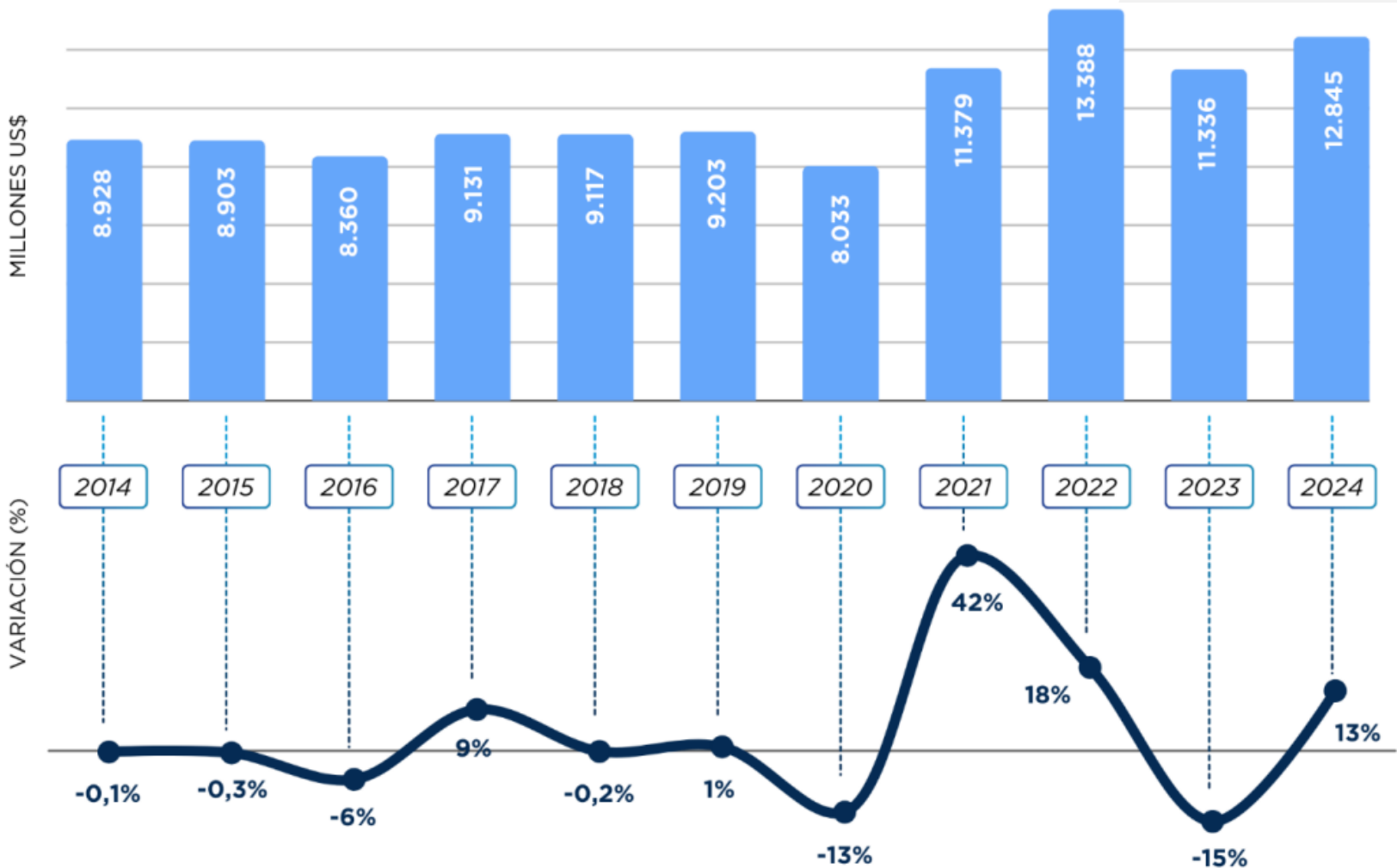
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# Exports of goods and services, Imports of goods, External Context and Perspectives and International Insertion

Uruguayan goods exports totaled US\$12.845 billion in 2024, representing a 13% increase compared to 2023. This result is mainly explained by the increase in pulp exports and the recovery of soybean exports (which in 2023 were impacted by the drought).

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# URUGUAYAN EXPORTS OF GOODS



# Exports of goods and services, Imports of goods, External Context and Perspectives and International Insertion

In 2024, a total of 1,311 companies exported goods and generated approximately 64,000 direct jobs in key sectors such as industry, agriculture, and livestock. These companies exported 789 four-digit tariff items. Furthermore, Uruguayan goods reached 172 destinations.

The main products exported in 2024 were pulp, beef, soybeans, dairy products, and beverage concentrates. Soybeans and pulp were the items with the greatest positive impact, while rapeseed and canola, rice, and malt negatively impacted 2024 exports.

# Exports of goods and services, Imports of goods, External Context and Perspectives and International Insertion

The main destination for Uruguayan exports in 2024 was China, with 24% of the total, followed by Brazil, with an 18% share, and, in third place, the European Union, with 14% of total exports. The United States and Argentina accounted for 9% and 5%, respectively. Imports of goods, excluding oil, derivatives, and energy, totaled US\$10.875 billion in 2024, increasing by 2.1% compared to 2023. Consumer goods largely accounted for this growth.

# Uruguay's STI Policy Framework

**Strategic Vision:** Uruguay has redefined its STI governance, elevating it to the highest political hierarchy as a key pillar for sustainable development and international competitiveness.

**Core Axis:** STI policy is conceived as a cross-cutting tool that integrates academia, the productive sector, and the State.

**Toward Cooperation:** Our renewed institutional framework seeks to facilitate and intensify South-South and Triangular Cooperation, optimizing knowledge transfer and investment in national capacities.

# The New Governance (The Governing Authority)

Creation of the the **National Secretariat of Science and Knowledge Valorization (NSKV):**  
Political Authority

The National Secretariat for Science and Knowledge Valorization is created under the Presidency. It centralizes previously dispersed powers, elevating STI to the highest political hierarchy to ensure effective policy coordination.

# The New Governance (The Governing Authority)

**NSKV** Duties: Vision and Transfer

Role of the **NSKV** : Propose the national strategy and, crucially, contribute to the transfer of research results, knowledge, and technologies to the productive sector and society. (**Direct objective of Intellectual Property**).

# The New Governance (The Governing Authority)

## **Uruguay Innova Fund:** The Financial Instrument

The fund is created as an operational and financial tool to support inter-institutional and interdisciplinary projects. Its mission is to achieve the efficient allocation of public resources and leverage (attraction) capital from the private sector and public companies.

## Funding for the National STI Strategic Plan (**PENCTI**)

Allocates a budget allocation to the **NSKV** for the design and execution of the **National Strategic Plan for STI (PENCTI)**. Secures resources for the policy roadmap, focusing on priority areas such as AI, biotechnology, food security, and emerging technologies.

# The New Governance (The Governing Authority)

The Uruguayan framework establishes:

A Hierarchical Authority (**NSKV**) with the mandate of Knowledge Transfer.

A Financial Mechanism (**URUGUAY INNOVA PROGRAM**) designed for efficiency and leverage in public-private cooperation.

# National Directorate of Industrial Property (DNPI)

## Duties:

- Manage intellectual property registries within its area of expertise.
- Generate national intellectual property strategies.
- Generate mediation opportunities for intellectual property disputes. (MEDIATION CENTER)
- Promote awareness-raising and public service campaigns on intellectual property rights enforcement issues. (NATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND TALKS).

# National Directorate of Industrial Property (DNPI)

- To be a national training center on intellectual property issues. (WIPO-UY IP ACADEMY)  
IPTI Training for Entrepreneurs and Innovators in Intellectual Property at the National Level
- Creation of National Technology Transfer Centers
- Provide advice on the subject at the national level to all public institutions and agencies.
- Represent the country in national and international forums on intellectual property issues.
- Participate in the negotiation of international trade agreements on intellectual property issues.

# Technology Management Division (DGT)

Its responsibilities include:

**TRAINING:** tailored, upon request on various general or specific topics such as the use of databases. Workshops with practical and concrete activities. Access to online courses. An estimated monthly workshop in the interior depending on the DNPI's capacities

**SEARCHES:** confidential, expert, paid and national and international databases, tailored analysis, free of charge. This division will also handle all searches entered traditionally through the DNPI's front desk.

**PATENT BULLETINS:** on topics of interest with periodicity to be defined between DNPI and institutions.

**TECHNOLOGICAL BULLETINS:** jointly between DNPI and institutions: patents + scientific, commercial information, etc.

**TECHNOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE REPORTS AND TAILORED ALERTS:** jointly between DNPI and institutions.

**ADVICE:** personalized on various topics: trademarks, patenting, presentation, technology

# Personalized Attention

It is a free service, open to the general public, but especially focused on entrepreneurs and inventors who wish to protect their trademarks, patents, and software.

Users can obtain initial advice via email at [marcasypatentes@miem.gub.uy](mailto:marcasypatentes@miem.gub.uy) or by phone..

# Industrial Property Promotion Fund

An annual allocation of 1,500,000 Uruguayan pesos will be allocated to a training program for national entrepreneurs and innovators to use intellectual property tools, creating value with our intangible assets with the goal of promoting the inclusion of intellectual property strategies from the creation and development of new and/or young companies, driving innovation in products, services, and business processes.

It will be financed by the Ministry of Industry, Energy, and Mining and administered by the National Directorate of Industrial Property. It will benefit all entrepreneurs in areas such as business management, technology, and innovation, providing access to resources, workspaces, and networking.

The DNPI is developing a program for female entrepreneurs and IP professionals in Sustainability and the Circular Economy in Uruguay.

# Fee Exemptions

Art. 338 Law 19355 and Decree No. 158/017, dated June 14, 2017.

The discount percentages were established according to the following scale:

Independent inventors: 90%

Small and medium-sized enterprises: 80%

Public institutions: 70%

Research centers: 60%

# Software Registration

Art. 271 Law No. 20,212 of November 6, 2023, and Regulatory Decree dated February 20, 2025

Transfer of the Software Registry from the National Library to the DNPI.

The aim is to streamline and facilitate the protection of a strategic sector for the national economy, which contributes significantly to GDP and generates knowledge and innovation.

Applicants are provided with an online submission system and a public database that allows them to follow the procedures in real time, 24 hours a day.

For additional questions, please contact [registro.software@miem.gub.uy](mailto:registro.software@miem.gub.uy)

# Agreements with national institutions linked to STI

UDELAR

Faculty of Chemistry

UTEC

Julio Ricaldoni Foundation

Pando Science and Technology Park

Uruguayan Design Chamber

# International Agreements

In all agreements, the role of DNPI is to coordinate the intellectual property chapter, coordinating with counterparts and with MERCOSUR partners.

- \* MCS-EU: since 2016
- \* MCS-EFTA: since 2017
- \* MCS-Canada: since 2017
- \* MCS-Korea: since 2018
- \* MCS-Singapore: since 2019
- \* MCS-Emirates: since 2024
- \*Uruguay-Peru: Deepening ACE 58, since 2025

# Uruguay is now a member state of the PCT: a new stage in the internationalization of assets

Uruguay acceded to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) on October 7, 2024, formalizing its accession with the deposit of the instrument with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Following this, the treaty entered into force for Uruguay on January 7, 2025, making it the 158th member of the PCT Union.

# Uruguayan case of internationally projected innovation

## **WO2017098072**

- Inventor and Applicant: José Manuel Lestido Sarasola
- Title: Set of protective panels and channeling devices for livestock during transport
- Priority Data 36425 09.12.2015 UY
- International Filing Date: 07.12.2016
- PCT Publication Date: June 15, 2017
- PCT Filing Country: Spain (via SPTO)
- Nationality: Uruguayan
- Registered Address: Avda. Gral. Rivera 6478, Montevideo

# Strategic relevance

This case demonstrates that:

- Uruguay was already generating patentable inventions with international impact, even before joining the PCT.
- Uruguayan inventors accessed the international system through indirect means, such as residencies or representations in member countries.
- With accession to the PCT in October 2025, these processes can be managed directly from Uruguay, with institutional support.

# South-South cooperation and international projection

IP as a public policy for development and regional cooperation:

- Uruguay positions IP as a tool for sustainable development and regional cooperation
- The internationalization of assets allows for scaling local solutions with global impact
- IP is transformed into technical diplomacy and an international integration strategy
- IP as a bridge between territories, capabilities, and scalable solutions

# IBEPI (Ibero-American Program for Industrial Property and Development Promotion)

One of its strategic objectives is to strengthen IP asset management capacity in each country's strategic productive sectors, as well as in research and/or academia, fostering collaborative ties between the two sectors.

Justification: The internationalization of industrial property rights strengthens the competitiveness of national companies, allowing them to access new markets, attract foreign investment, and protect their intangible assets globally.

<https://www.segib.org/programa/ibepi-programa-iberoamericano-de-propiedad-industrial-y-promocion-del-desarrollo/>

# IBEPI (Ibero-American Program for Industrial Property and Development Promotion)

One of its lines of action is to promote the internationalization of IP assets in national companies.

Activities planned for 2026 related to this line:

Promoting the Internationalization of the IP Portfolio for National Companies in IBEPI Countries.

# AUCI(URUGUAYAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION)

The Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI) manages Uruguay's international cooperation through different modalities:

- South South Cooperation
- Triangular Cooperation
- Traditional Cooperation (North-South)
- Regional Cooperation

# GAHPI MERCOSUR

This is the Ad Hoc Group on Intellectual Property of MERCOSUR, a body dependent on the Common Market Group (GMC) responsible for intellectual property issues in the regional bloc.

Its function includes the coordination and adoption of policies and regulations on this matter, with the participation of representatives of the Member States.

# GAHPI MERCOSUR


Brazil and Uruguay presented a proposal to hold a seminar on patents, trademarks, and geographical indications with the aim of strengthening ties that promote regional cooperation in intellectual property matters.

The event could be feasible during the next semester during the next pro tempore presidency. Uruguay expressed interest in hosting the event in Montevideo, possibly in March 2026.

The group presents itself as a natural body for the administration of the Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Geographical Indications.



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Thank you very much!  
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