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## Key developments

In 2021 the TISC program continued to expand its range of resources, enabling TISCs worldwide to better support local innovators. Examples of developments include the integration of specialized technology transfer resources into the TISC program, and the first Global TISC Conference.

WIPO INSPIRE and the Patent Register Portal, two online platforms for information on patent databases and patent registers, were updated and improved. A new online environment was developed that integrates these tools so users can easily access up-to-date information in one place, providing researchers and innovators with a better user experience.

To support TISCs in strengthening their capacities and knowledge at all stages in the innovation cycle, new resources were developed, such as a methodology and toolkit for assessing training needs in IP management and technology transfer. A digital training package related to new product development was built, and a course on the use of inventions in the public domain was piloted in two countries.

An important initiative in 2021, continuing into 2022, is to integrate existing resources – such as those developed by WIPO related to IP policies and for TTOs – and adapt them for TISCs and their users. The inclusion of technology transfer aspects in the TISC program was launched at the first Global TISC Conference, held from November 29 to December 1, 2021. One day of the conference was devoted to international technology transfer collaboration and networking as a way to support new markets and partners to access research outcomes.

The second *WIPO Technology Trends*, a flagship WIPO report on assistive technology, was published in 2021. The report identifies emerging assistive technologies and nine enabling technologies that made possible both advancements in the field and the introduction of new assistive products. The report also includes interactive visualizations of conventional and emerging assistive technologies that enable audiences to analyze the results based on their specific interests. An interactive and accessible platform based on the NASA Technology Readiness Level methodology was also launched, which indicates how close emerging assistive technologies are to being commercialized.

In the area of patent analytics, the *WIPO Manual on Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics* was updated and an online tutorial was prepared to support its use. With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to disrupt travel and onsite training, new ways of delivering training were explored. A “serious game” on patent analytics was developed, the first of its kind at WIPO. The game will be launched in 2022, using a digital board game environment in which different scenarios enable participants to practice what they have learned during the training, improve their critical thinking and understand the necessary thought processes during a patent analytics workflow.

A patent landscape report was prepared on early indications from the patenting activity related to COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics during the pandemic. The analysis was complemented by clinical trial data and initial information on use of the patent system and how different jurisdictions accelerated patent prosecution for COVID-19-related patent applications. The report was published in March 2022.

Finally, to support the growing global TISC network of 88 national networks and 1,287 TISCs worldwide in the area of project management, a TISC Project and Performance Management (TPPM) platform was developed. This will allow TISCs to manage their projects and activities within a stable and reliable communication and data-sharing environment. Alongside this, a project for the development of a TISC host institution assessment tool was developed. The tool will support TISC focal points in identifying the main strengths and needs of the institutions in their network to ensure that TISC staff receive targeted training. Both projects will be piloted in 2022.