



## WIPO resources supporting TISCs

As TISC networks expand and provide more services to local innovators, WIPO continues to support TISCs. It has developed a range of initiatives and resources to empower TISCs, including digital platforms such as WIPO INSPIRE, which provides a unique blend of information and knowledge in different areas of IP, publications such as *WIPO Technology Trends* and other guides, and training sessions.

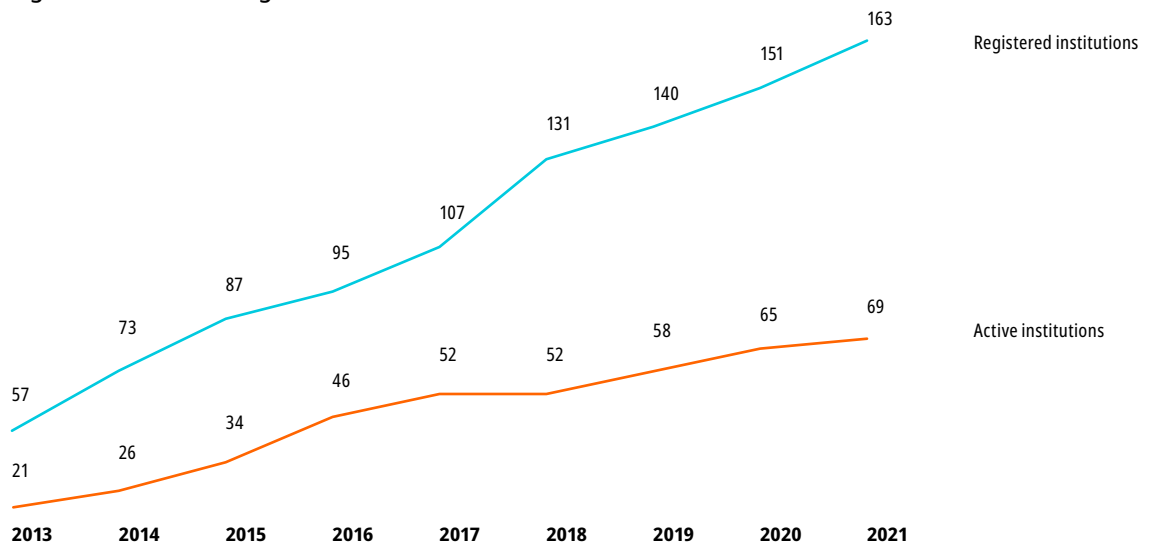
### Digital platforms and tools provide access to information

#### Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI)

ASPI enables institutions in developing countries to obtain free or low-cost access to commercial patent database services. It is made possible through a unique public-private partnership with nine leading patent database providers that offer advanced tools to access high-quality technical information contained in patent documents.

Since its launch, the number of registered institutions has grown by more than three times.

Figure 5. Number of registered and active institutions in ASPI



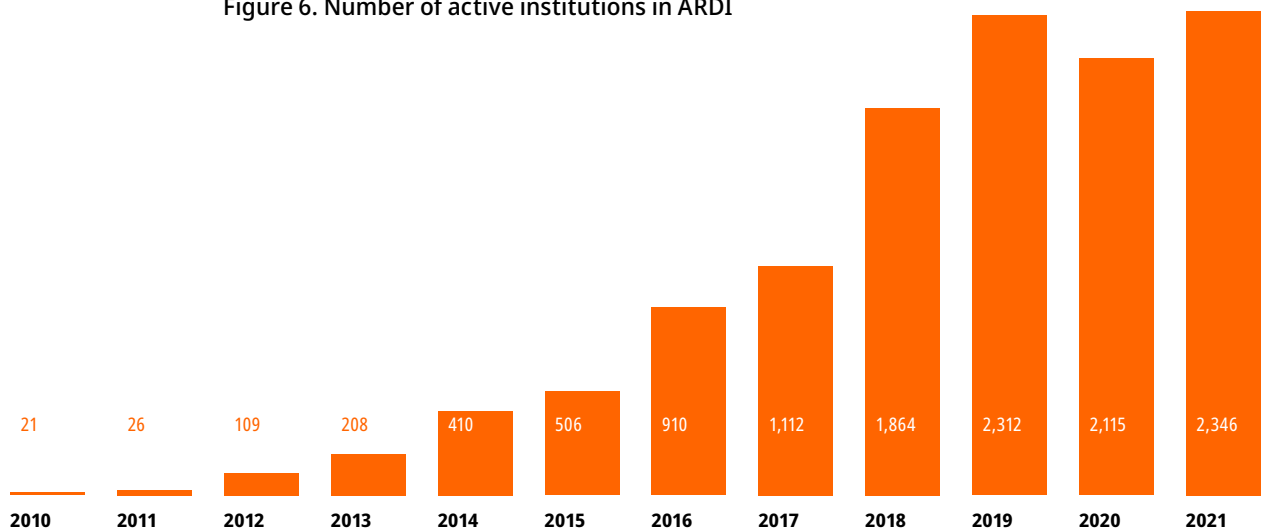
Source: ASPI database

#### Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI)

ARDI aims to increase the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries through a public-private partnership with the publishing industry. ARDI provides free or low-cost access for eligible institutions in developing countries to academic and professional peer-reviewed content. The program is also part of the Research4Life partnership, a joint initiative of several United Nations agencies, private sector enterprises, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, which provides researchers in 125 developing countries and LDCs with free or low-cost access to up to 30,000 journals and up to 131,000 books and reference works in the fields of health, agriculture, environment, applied sciences and legal information.

A new ARDI portal was launched in 2021 with a redesigned interface and improved features. Users can now create their own account and save searches, bookmark favorite content, view their search history and create search alerts. It is optimized for mobile devices and is responsive to different-sized screens.

Figure 6. Number of active institutions in ARDI



Source: ARDI user login data

**WIPO INSPIRE**

WIPO INSPIRE is a global reference for innovation, helping innovators and entrepreneurs make informed decisions at critical junctures throughout the innovation cycle. It is a one-stop platform integrating expert and social content on patent databases, patent registers, patent analytics, technology transfer and Institutional IP Policies, providing a unique blend of information and knowledge on resources, tools and good practice in these areas.

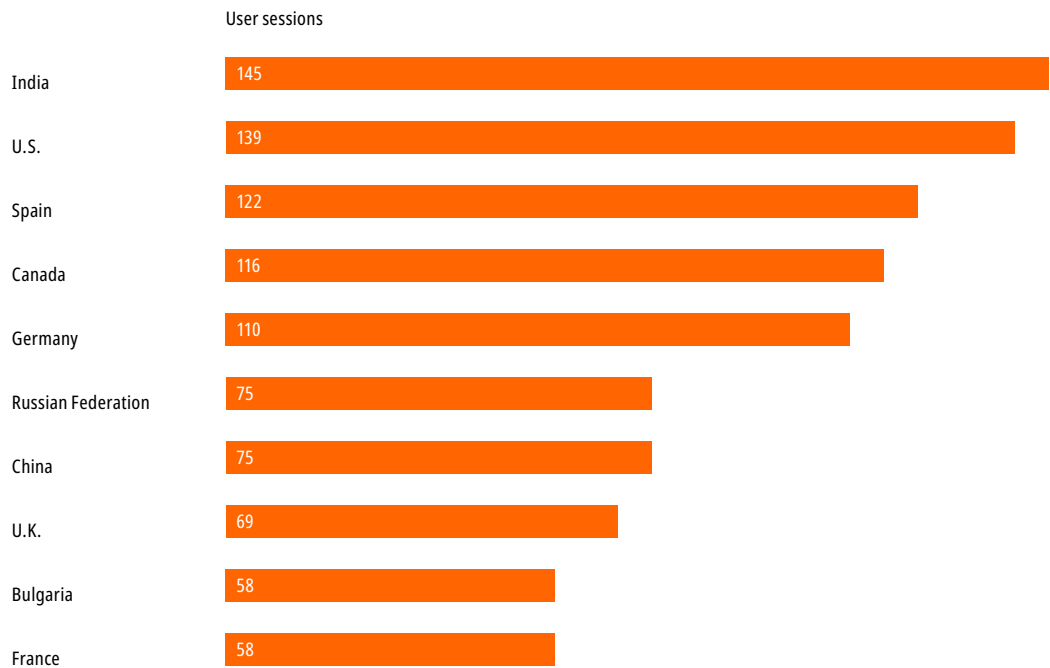
WIPO INSPIRE was updated and improved in 2021 to offer researchers and innovators up-to-date information and a better user experience. A new seamless environment was developed that integrated tools including eTISC and the Patent Register Portal so users can easily access the information in one place.

WIPO INSPIRE was accessed by over 11,487 users during 2021.

Figure 7. WIPO INSPIRE usage



Figure 8. Top 10 countries accessing WIPO INSPIRE

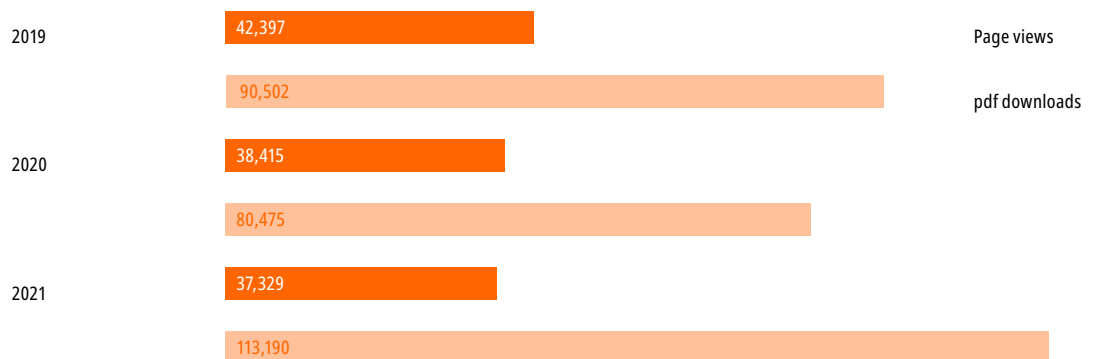


### Patent Register Portal

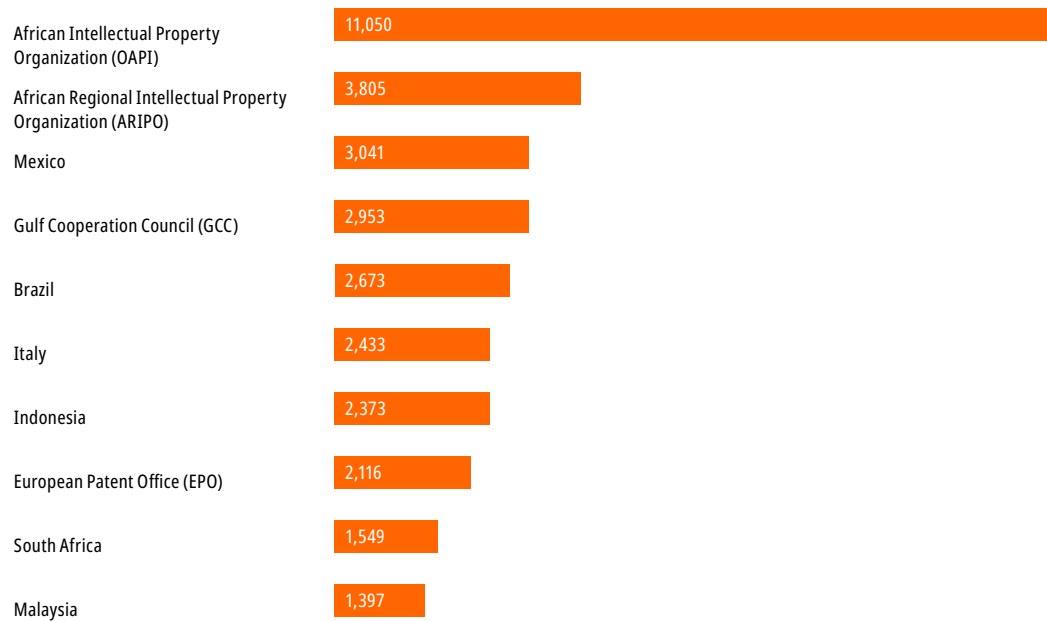
The Patent Register Portal is a gateway to online patent registers and gazettes and to legal status-related information from over 200 jurisdictions and patent information collections. Information on the portal is accessed using a searchable map and table with help files on detailed legal status-related information.

The jurisdiction files in the Patent Register Portal were reviewed and updated to ensure accuracy and completeness of content, with links to online patent registers and databases.

Figure 9. Patent Register Portal usage



**Figure 10. Top 10 report downloads from the Patent Register Portal**



**eTISC knowledge sharing platform**

eTISC is a virtual social platform that gives the TISC community and IP users space to interact and share knowledge and ideas in a secure environment.

Main features of the platform include:

- group and forum discussions for sharing knowledge and experiences;
- “Ask the Expert” sessions for interacting with experts in fields such as patent information and technology transfer; and
- news and events to help users stay up to date with the latest IP information.

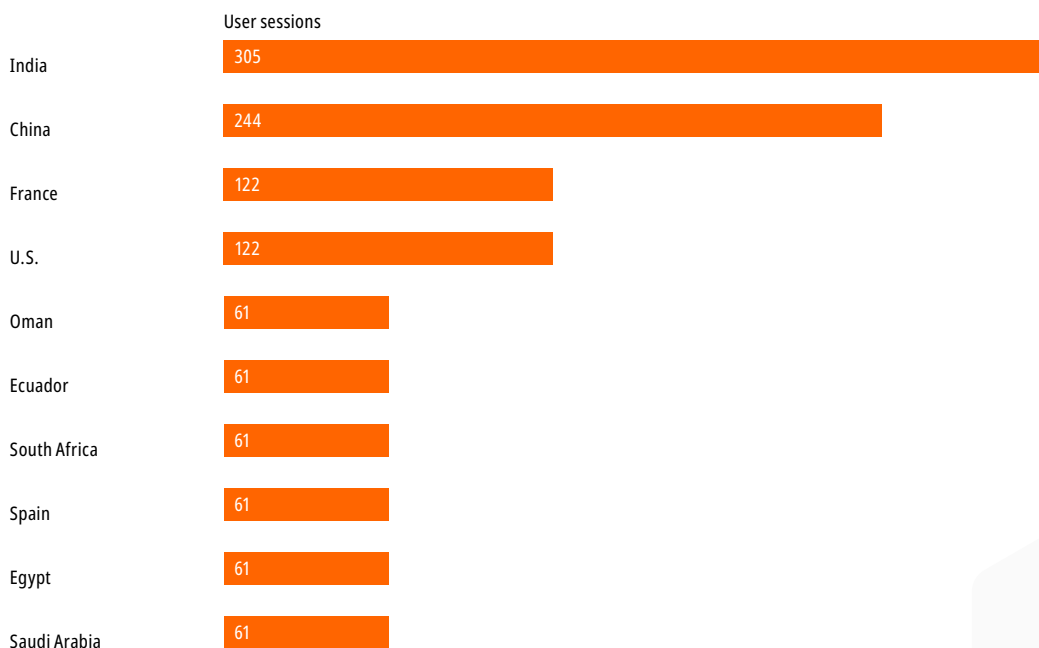
The platform was improved to provide a more interactive experience, and users have been receiving regular news items relating to a wide range of IP matters relevant to TISCs, but also other topics of interest to support the work of TISCs.

During 2021, eTISC was accessed by over 1,000 users, with most users originating from India.

**Figure 11. eTISC usage**



**Figure 12. Top 10 countries accessing eTISC**



**TISC Project and Performance Management platform**

The TPPM platform is designed to help TISC coordinators effectively manage their national projects and support local and regional networks to coordinate and interact with each other in a better and more efficient way. The TPPM platform also enables WIPO to follow up on TISC projects in its member states to assess and respond effectively to their needs for assistance and capacity building.

The TPPM platform will be rolled out for TISC networks in multiple stages through 2022. Webinars and training sessions will be organized by WIPO for national TISC focal points and staff.

**Publications boost capacity**

WIPO has created a number of publications to boost capacity building among TISCs worldwide. These publications are key reference sources for a range of subject areas, including patent documentation and databases, patent searches, patent analytics and TISC management.

The publications are available in multiple languages and include brochures and guides as well as WIPO patent landscape reports, which examine patent filing trends and provide technical and business information. Patent landscape reports cover topics such as public health, food and agriculture, environment, energy and disabilities – areas of particular relevance to developing countries. Moreover, resources such as those developed to guide TISCs in drafting patent landscape reports contribute by reinforcing quality and quantity of value-added services provided by TISCs, strengthening their overall impact and sustainability.

**Developments in patent analytics**

A series of WIPO patent analytics activities, including the development of specific subject-matter publications and methodological resources, keep TISCs and patent information users informed on trends across different technologies. In addition, they help TISCs develop and enhance their patent analytics skills for providing high-quality analytical services.

**WIPO Technology Trends:** The *WIPO Technology Trends* report is a flagship publication of interest to industry, academia, policymakers and general readers interested in innovation. Based on patent and non-patent data, it shows trends in different technologies, case studies, insights and perspectives

from leading experts, and includes policy. *WIPO Technology Trends 2021* was launched in March 2021, including a fully accessible EPUB3 version, and was dedicated to assistive technology. This includes assistive products and technologies to address functional limitations related to mobility, cognition, communication, vision, hearing, self-care and the built environment.

The report identified emerging assistive technologies and used a modified version of the NASA Technology Readiness Level methodology and impact criteria to assess how close the technologies are to commercialization, and the factors influencing the time for a product to reach the market. The results were presented in an accessible and interactive radar visualization, which uniquely combined the patenting activity with the technologies.

The report further analyzed the use of industrial designs by top patent applicants to show how different IP rights can complement each other as part of an IP portfolio. The results of the report were made available in two interactive visualizations for conventional and emerging assistive technology, allowing the audience to filter and view the results by the fields of their interest (applicant type or name, applicant's or inventor's location, category of technology, etc.). The *WIPO Technology Trends* reports were downloaded over 278,000 times in the period from 2019 to the end of January 2022.

During 2021, WIPO organized several events to promote the report and its findings, which are available in the eTISC platform, ranging from workshops to podcasts. The findings of the report also contributed to the World Health Organization *Global Report on Assistive Technology* (GRAT).

**Patent landscape reports series:** Two new patent landscape reports were prepared in 2021: the first one on COVID-19-related vaccines and therapeutics (published in March 2022) aims to provide some preliminary observations on the use and response of the patent system during the pandemic, and technology areas of patenting activity. The second report is on hydrogen technologies in the field of transportation and was launched during an international conference in Bratislava, Slovakia, in May 2022. Patent dataset and search queries from both reports will also be made available, while documentation will be made available for users who wish to use PATENTSCOPE to search for COVID-19 or SARS-COV-2, or vaccine-related patent documents, with some guidance on the usefulness of different patent classification symbols.

**Update of patent analytics methodological resources:** The *Manual on Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics*, first published in 2016, was updated in 2021, while the *Patent Analytics Handbook* will be updated in early 2022. The updated versions cover additional topics and tools, and include changes in tools that have taken place since their original publication. Both updated resources, along with an online tutorial on patent analytics, are available on a collaborative online space (see Useful links).

### Developments in other areas

Following the publication of the WIPO guides on identifying and using inventions in the public domain in 2020 and the development of a complementary toolkit providing practical tools for gathering and structuring data as the basis for decision-making within the process for using inventions in the public domain and new product development, the TISC program developed a digital training package supporting training modules on each of the practical tools included in the toolkit. The digital training package was piloted in two TISC networks – Colombia and South Africa – in 2021, and the feedback gathered will be included in the revised package to be further refined and developed in 2022, before it is rolled out to the global TISC community.

A *Technology Transfer Training Needs Assessment Manual and Toolkit* for assessing training needs and mapping innovation value chains was also developed under the Development Agenda Project on Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer: Promoting the Effective Use of Intellectual Property in Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition. The project was successfully completed in December 2020 and the manual and toolkit was finalized in 2021 and published in February 2022. The aim of the manual and toolkit is to enable the assessment of training needs for organizations involved with intellectual property management, technology transfer and commercialization/utilization. The resulting training needs

assessment informs the design of an effective training program to address the identified gaps in skills and competencies. The manual and toolkit targets readers with limited knowledge of training needs assessments, enabling them to perform training needs assessments to establish training plans for the different organizations and people within the national innovation value chain (for example, funders, developers, managers and users of IP and associated support institutions).

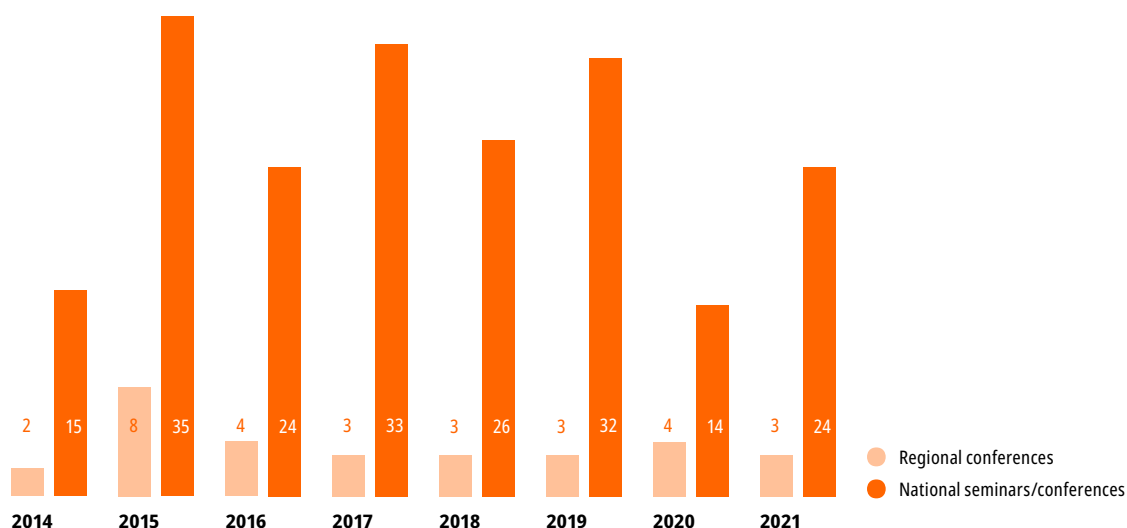
## Training expands knowledge and skills

WIPO training supports TISC staff knowledge and skills, building their capacity to provide a range of high-quality services to local innovators. Topics include basic concepts and skills in patent searching; types of patent searches, including state of the art, novelty and freedom to operate; patent analytics and IP management. Training formats consist of workshops and seminars with a focus on training of trainers, distance learning in cooperation with the WIPO Academy, “Ask the Expert” sessions and eTISC platform webinars.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, training and capacity-building activities continued to be delivered digitally in 2021, and new modes of delivery were explored, including hybrid meetings and the piloting of gamification of training in the area of patent analytics, with the development of a “serious game” to promote critical thinking and decision-making skills during the patent analytic process.

The TISC program organized 24 activities for national TISC networks in 2021, two regional events for TISC networks in Central Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the first virtual Global TISC Conference, which brought together 950 participants from 98 countries.

**Figure 13. Number of national and regional conferences organized**

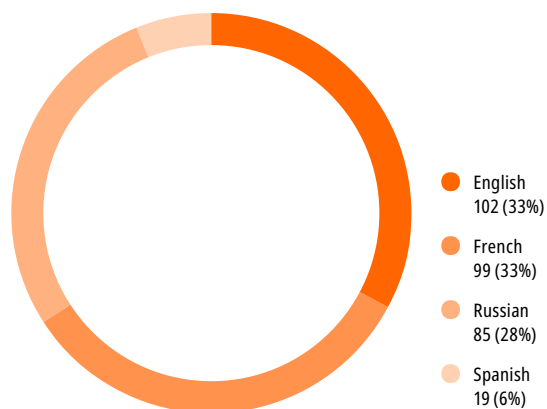


Source: WIPO TISC program, 2021

The **e-Tutorial on Using and Exploiting Patent Information** is a free online platform to help innovators learn how to use the wealth of technology information in patent documents to boost their own research and development. It comprises three sections: patent basics, patent search and retrieval, and patent analysis.

The e-Tutorial, which was launched in 2020 as a distance learning course (DL-177) by the WIPO Academy, is available in English, French, Russian and Spanish, with Arabic and Chinese versions to follow soon. The latter two are already available as self-paced learning resources on the Arabic and Chinese versions of the WIPO TISC webpage.

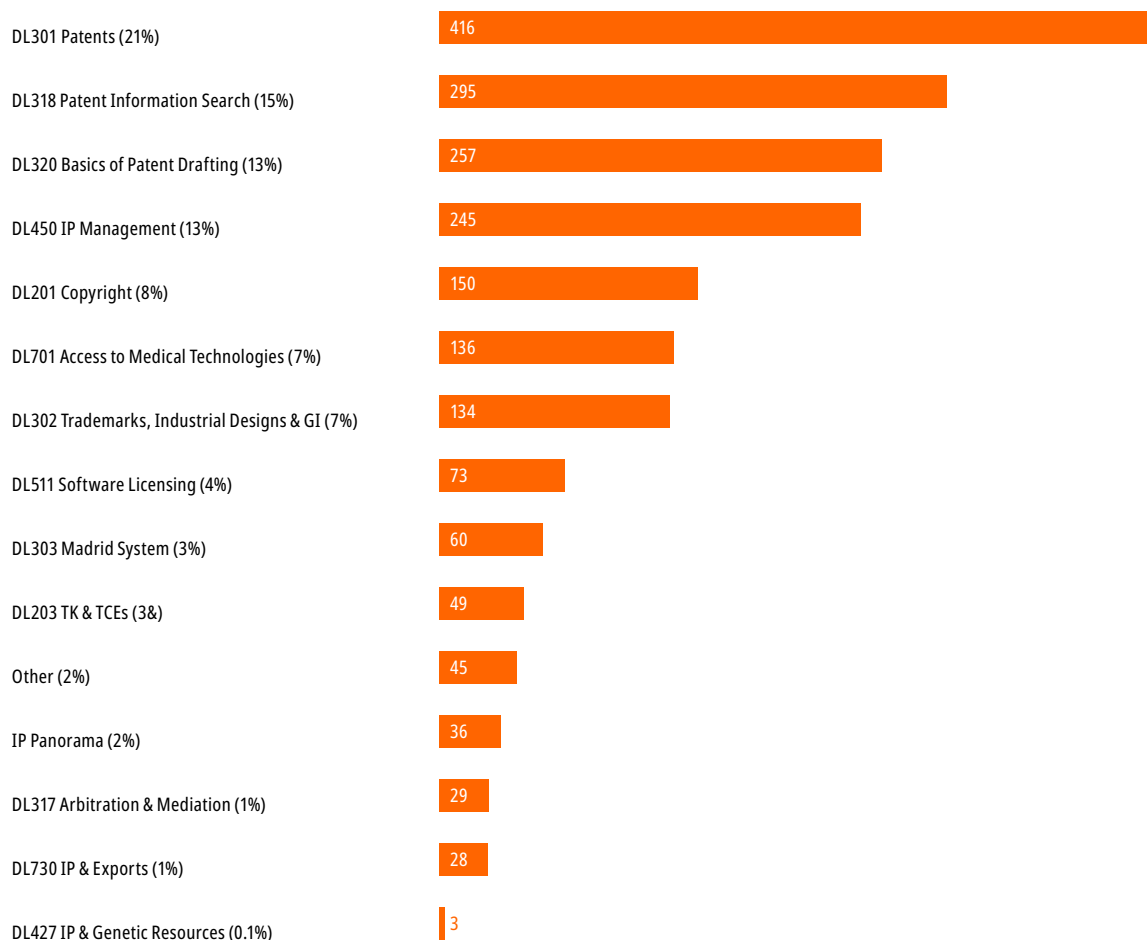
Figure 14. e-Tutorial registrations by language



Source: WIPO Academy, 2021

In 2021, 3,477 TISC staff participated in **distance learning courses offered by the WIPO Academy**. More than half of those registrations (1,956) were for advanced courses, with a notably large participation from TISCs in Morocco, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia (the top three countries), and a near-equal distribution of female and male participants.

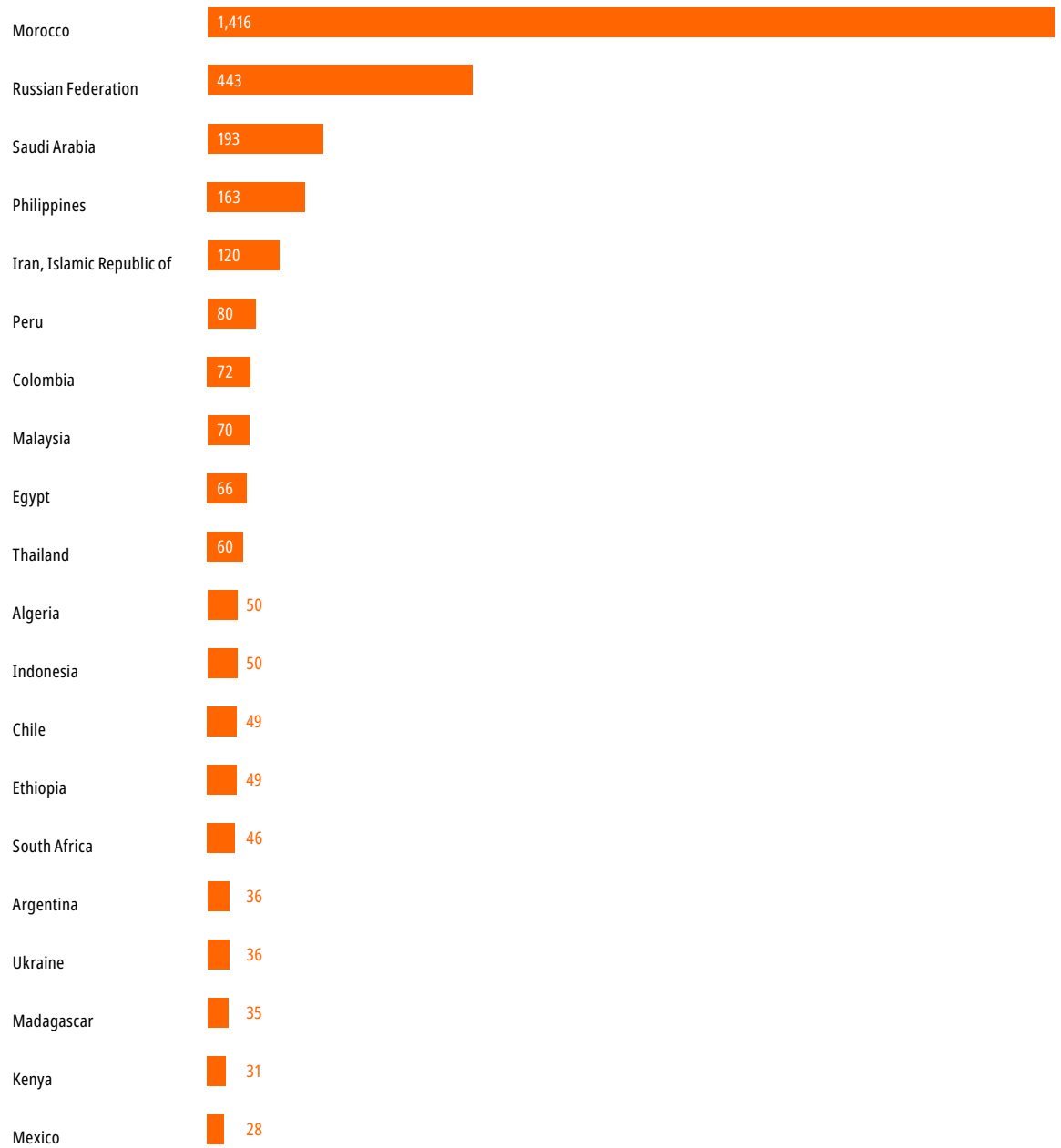
Figure 15. TISC staff participation in advanced courses of the WIPO Academy, by course



Source: WIPO Academy, 2021

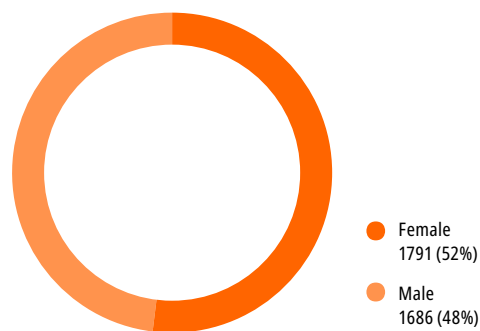


Figure 16. TISC staff participation in WIPO Academy training, by country



Source: WIPO Academy, 2021

Figure 17. TISC staff participation in WIPO Academy training, by gender



Source: WIPO Academy, 2021