

# Key developments

In 2022, the IP for Innovators Department (IPID) made significant contributions to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) COVID-19 response, which was launched in 2021 to assist member states in strengthening their capacities to accelerate knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable economic recovery after pandemics through effective use of the intellectual property (IP) system.

In this context, the IPID started developing a package of resources and capacity-building programs to support Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) and technology transfer structures in strengthening their capacities in identifying and supporting the rollout of innovations and inventions for combating pandemic diseases, in particular in the area of patent and technology searches and licensing in the areas of prophylactics, therapeutics, bio-analytics and bioinformatics for communicable diseases. A new patent landscape report (PLR) was published on COVID-19-related vaccines and therapeutics, providing preliminary insights on related patenting activity during the pandemic.

The WIPO INSPIRE global digital knowledge center, which provides a unique blend of information and knowledge for innovators, entrepreneurs and patent professionals on patent databases, patent registers, patent analytics, technology transfer and institutional IP policies, continued to expand with the addition of new resources. In the area of patent analytics, in addition to the new PLR on COVID-19-related vaccines and therapeutics, a second PLR was published on patenting activities and related developments in the field of hydrogen fuel cells in transportation. Other resources were developed and implemented in 2022, such as the creation of the IP and technology transfer webpage, which is the first single source of information on technology transfer developed by WIPO. In addition, a comprehensive survey involving 800 professionals from five continents was organized to collect data on the motivations of researchers and technology transfer professionals to be involved in technology transfer activities.

With new challenges posed by a growing network of 90 national TISC networks and over 1,400 operational TISCs worldwide, three initiatives were also launched in 2022 to strengthen and support the effective management of TISC networks:

- the piloting of a TISC Project and Performance Management Platform (TPPM) to support TISC coordinators in managing national projects;
- the development of a TISC host institution assessment tool to support TISC coordinators in identifying the main strengths and needs of institutions in their network; and
- the launch of a WIPO TISC staff certification program to standardize TISC operations, raise the quality of services across TISCs and improve career development pathways for TISC staff.

Special projects to strengthen technology transfer structures were also implemented, which led to the establishment of a Baltic States Technology Transfer Office (TTO) Network. Its aim is to support the development of technology transfer professionals and their practices and ultimately to promote knowledge and technology transfer among research and development institutions, businesses and the public sector in the region.

In 2022, WIPO hosted the International Knowledge and Technology Transfer Leadership Summit, organized in cooperation with the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM). Thirty-six technology transfer leaders from 29 countries and territories gathered at WIPO's headquarters in Geneva on October 13 and 14, 2022, to discuss global perspectives on knowledge and technology transfer, diversity and inclusion across the innovation ecosystem, and models of government funding for technology transfer activities. WIPO enabled five technology transfer leaders from developing countries to participate, which enriched the exchange of information and practices among technology transfer professionals worldwide.



Photo: WIPO/Martin

WIPO-AUTM International Knowledge and Technology Transfer Leadership Summit, WIPO headquarters, Geneva, October 13 and 14, 2022