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# IP for Growth and Sustainable Development

IP is a powerful tool for growth and sustainable development, and acts as a catalyst for job creation, economic development and social vibrancy. By shifting the focus from the legal aspects of IP to its economic potential, WIPO is supporting national innovation and creative ecosystems that in turn drive growth and sustainable development.

## The positive relationship between innovation and development



Source: WIPO, *Global Innovation Index 2021*.



## Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Through WIPO's development and capacity-building programs and activities, WIPO directly or indirectly supports the SDGs, many of which depend on the development and diffusion of innovative technologies.

The CDIP is the Member State forum which guides our development work, as do the recommendations of the Development Agenda (DA). The DA project teams adopted a flexible approach and designed mitigation plans in response to global restrictions. Progress was registered with respect to the crosscutting project Tools for Successful DA Project Proposals and Registration of the Collective Marks of Local Enterprises as a Cross-Cutting Economic Development Issue, which is being implemented in Bolivia, Brazil, Tunisia and the Philippines.

## Leveraging IP to support growth and development

Through its regional and external office support structure – strengthened after the internal reorganization – WIPO engaged with Member States at the regional and national level. There was strong focus on enhancing horizontal work among the sectors during the reporting period, with regular sector-to-sector working meetings. and defining, where required, operating procedures to clarify roles and to seize opportunities for mandate implementation.

### Regional and national partnerships

The regional and external offices were able to expand their work to more actors in IP ecosystems and deepen their impact via partnerships. One lesson from the past year is that while virtual working can extend the reach of activities, physical presence is often required to develop the relationships that often lead to partnerships, and in this our network of external offices has been important.

For example, engagement with universities and research institutions was strengthened in the Arab and Latin American and Caribbean Regions, providing training and assisting them in the development of IP policies and technology transfer practices and infrastructure in order to better harvest and use the IP which they create. Similarly, the WIPO Algeria Office (WAO) forged connections with universities and is supporting their development of IP policies.

WIPO launched an initiative, in cooperation with the Eurasian Patent Organization, to create a dialogue with technoparks in Central Asian, Caucasus and Eastern European Countries around their role in supporting SMEs, universities and research institutions in their use of IP. A pilot project began development, targeting selected think-tanks in the Arab Region, sensitizing them to the impact of IP on innovation and creativity and identifying the best practices for the integration of IP into their work. The WIPO Brazil Office reached out to partners in the agri-business sector, in view of its significance to the national economy and the potential for branding and geographical indications to promote growth.

We also continued to promote and expand the use of the Global IP Services, including through roving webinars which promoted the use of the services to around 2,000 participants. The WIPO Office in China (WOC) took advantage of the easing of pandemic restrictions to participate in person in the numerous mega events held in China, reaching thousands of users and potential users. Meanwhile, the WIPO Japan Office (WJO), as well as the WOC, engaged with individual businesses, which are very large users of the Global IP Services, to provide tailored advice and feedback in their languages.

The co-location in the WIPO Singapore Office (WSO) of a member of the Industrial Property Office Business Solutions Division (IPOBSD) covering Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Asian countries continued to provide a good example of how our presence in the field can be leveraged to deepen and extend our coverage in countries and regions.

The convening power of WIPO's geographic divisions continued to be fully utilized through the organization of heads of IP office meetings. These fora, held in the Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab Regions, not only provided WIPO with an excellent way of coordinating with IP offices across the breadth of our cooperation with them, but also provided a platform for IP offices to learn from and share experiences with each other. The meetings were tailored to address specific issues of interest to heads of IP offices, such as, in Asia, financial management, and in the Pacific, branding and geographical indications.

### Developing IP ecosystems

Over the last year, we have begun to refocus development strategies in close cooperation with the Member States so that they are evidence based and impact driven.

“Through future collaboration across WIPO and with our external partners, we will provide a more strategic approach to the implementation of policies, guidelines and recommendations by Member States to strengthen their national IP systems.”

### National IP policies and strategies

After a stocktaking exercise, and with a view to strengthening project design and sustainability, WIPO developed guidelines for the development of national IP strategies in support of effective IP ecosystems. The guidelines emphasize the criticality of high-level support in Member States, the importance of local needs in driving developments, solid preparatory work, clear articulation of sought-after outcomes and a focus on implementation.

In a related vein, the reporting period also witnessed the continuation of a shift towards both more holistic and targeted policy advice support. For example, we worked with Mexico to develop policy specifically focused on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Going forward, the idea is to assist Member States look at IP and innovation policies and strategies from an ecosystem perspective through the further development of in-house expertise on these matters.





### IP dispute resolution

An important component of any IP ecosystem, IP disputes can be resolved through the courts or through alternative mechanisms, such as arbitration and mediation.

As part of its tailored services for specific sectors, the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center updated its guidance for disputes concerning fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms licensing for standard-essential patents; offered new facilities for disputes involving SMEs; and developed options to facilitate contract negotiation and dispute resolution in the life sciences sector.

To assist national judiciaries, the Center expanded its collaboration with IP authorities and courts to promote and adopt alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options, with eight new collaborations concluded for a total of 53 covered Member State entities.

At the same time, the WIPO Judicial Institute continued its work to build judicial capacity in the adjudication of IP disputes. The annual WIPO IP Judges Forum was conducted in a virtual format in 2020, extending its reach to over 400 judges from 89 jurisdictions and cementing its stature as the premier global venue for judicial exchange. A series of WIPO Webinars for Judges was also launched to enable continued global engagement throughout the year.

WIPO has increased the availability of, and access to, free-of-charge information on judiciaries and IP, as well as resources for all IP stakeholders. The WIPO Lex database now holds a total of 16,187 laws across 199 jurisdictions. WIPO Lex Judgments was launched in 2020, providing access to leading judicial decisions in IP from around the world, with dynamic crossreferencing, powerful search functionality, machine translation support, and information on national judicial systems. It includes nearly 800 decisions from 13 countries and one regional jurisdiction.

### IP knowledge and skills

The global restrictions on travel and in-person meetings generated a huge demand for IP education and training, especially through distance learning. The WIPO Academy was able to respond to that demand thanks to its previous investments in its eLearning Center.

The need to adapt from in-person education and training to online teaching environments impacted on the Academy's higher education programs, summer schools, and the national IP Training Institution projects. Curricula and programs were adapted for online teaching, enabling continuity in the higher education services offered by the Academy.

The WIPO Academy remained the global leader in providing IP education and training worldwide. Over the last year, it focused on IP skills-building, with a particular emphasis on users of the IP system: the private sector, SMEs and entrepreneurs. All of the Academy's courses were reviewed and adapted to help achieve this. This new focus led to a shift in the balance of the courses offered from traditional lectures to more interactive sessions highlighting areas such as skills-building for IP licensing and negotiation, and technology transfer. The Academy has also continued its process of reviewing and updating its courses to ensure that they remain relevant and valued by participants.

The Academy also gave greater focus to IP education for young people. The Academy's IP4Youth&Teachers Service, together with its partners, is providing a hub of resources and advisory services to Ministries of Education, certification courses, workshops,

sub-regional seminars for teachers, an upcoming competition for youth and teachers, in addition to roundtables for policymakers. These achievements have relied heavily on the support and cooperation of partners, in particular, the governments of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

## Reaching all IP stakeholders

WIPO has an important role in supporting a wide range of stakeholders within national innovation and creative ecosystems. The last year has seen concerted efforts to extend our engagement to new and underserved groups.

### Innovators and SMEs

Since October 2020, there has been a new focus on developing tools and materials that support innovators and businesses in using the IP system effectively.

The IP self-assessment tool WIPO IP Diagnostics, a beta version of which was made available in June 2020, was translated and made available in all six UN languages. In addition, to support young entrepreneurs and startups a simple easy-to-read guide on IP for startups, *Enterprising Ideas*, was completed and launched.

Work also began on projects to support SMEs via IP offices and other intermediaries. The first is a program of assistance for IP offices wanting to help SMEs, already in motion in the Central European and Baltic States (CEBS) countries, and the second is a project to integrate IP services into the services for SMEs provided by intermediary institutions.

Given the increasing interest of Member States in how IP may be used to access finance and consequently issues related to the valuation of IP, we launched a project to understand the different practices of countries in this regard with the expectation of deriving good practices to be scaled up.

We also began to reach out to innovative companies to provide them with IP management support. The first example was completed in collaboration with WIPO GREEN, where the IP strategies of seven green technology companies were analyzed and support provided to improve their use of the IP system in their business strategies.

In the area of patenting assistance, WIPO's Patent Drafting Program focuses on the development of practical patent drafting skills where participants are guided by experienced patent professionals. In 2020, more than 280 participants were trained through the program.

The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP) offers inventors the support of an experienced patent professional in their own country and in selected jurisdictions at no cost. In 2020, Peru became the sixth country to participate in the IAP, joining the ranks of Colombia, Ecuador, Morocco, South Africa and the Philippines. Also in 2020 the IAP Online Platform was launched. By the end of 2020, more than 100 inventors had benefited from the Program.

The Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) program supports access to technological information found in patent documents and scientific and technical publications, and provides assistance and advice on IP management and commercialization. There are currently 80 national TISC networks comprising over 1,250 individual TISCs in host institutions, which received an estimated 1.4 million inquiries in



2020. Training and capacity-building activities shifted from traditional onsite to digital online delivery.

Working in collaboration with the regional divisions of WIPO, TISC service-level agreements are being finalized with Kazakhstan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkmenistan. Nationally, the WIPO Office in the Russian Federation played an important role in working with the Russian TISC association, IP office and chambers of commerce and industry to improve what the existing 170 centers in the country can offer to innovators.

TISC networks benefited from the launch of the WIPO INSPIRE platform at the end of 2020. It is a hub for information and knowledge on patent databases, patent registers, patent analytics and technology transfer that integrates various digital products and tools, such as the eTISC platform and Patent Register Portal.

Another key resource for innovators and businesses was the publication of the second report in the *WIPO Technology Trends* series, focusing on trends in innovation in assistive technology to support people with functional limitations, and its accompanying interactive platform showing the technology readiness, number of patents, ease of adoption and expected impact on assistive technologies. Guides on identifying and using inventions in the public domain were also published in all six UN languages, making these publications available to a wider range of users of the TISCs.

### Women and young people

Healthy innovation and creativity ecosystems need to embrace and empower everyone. This can only be achieved by prioritizing women and youth.

Dedicated programs for women were developed over the last year, such as the Latin American Network on IP and Gender, which focuses on working together to develop and launch initiatives to engage women more in IP ecosystems, created in partnership with national IP offices. The specific “sharing sessions” on Women and IP held under the auspices of the CDIP are also notable. Other examples of nation-focused and practical activities aiming to empower women to use IP include cooperation with a community-based NGO in Uganda to provide IP training for women entrepreneurs from rural and suburban areas, and the support and mentoring of women entrepreneurs in obtaining trademark registration in areas such as fashion, tea, wine production, confectionary and fruit-processing sectors. We are grateful to the Swedish IP office and development agency for its support for the Advanced International Training Program on IP for Least Developed Countries from which these successful activities emerged.

Meanwhile, the youth populations in all countries demand attention – and represent a great opportunity. In 2021, WIPO initiated a youth engagement program and began mapping WIPO’s existing and planned youth-focused activities, to inform development of an organization-wide strategy, and a youth focal point has been appointed to engage with regional divisions and external offices to help craft additional dedicated programs in this area. An example is the WIPO Nigeria Office (WNO), which partnered with the Nigerian Government, the IP registries and relevant local associations to hold a national essay competition in IP for students from 50 educational institutions across the country.

### Academic institutions

To support Member States and their academic institutions in leveraging their IP for development and growth, WIPO continued to provide assistance in developing national models of IP and to support individual universities and R&D institutions to draft their



institutional IP policies, through online mentoring and coaching sessions using the WIPO IP Toolkit for Universities and R&D Institutions as a template and guidelines.

Bringing together good practices, the Database of IP Policies for Universities continued to be updated and now holds 740 institutional policies from 75 countries worldwide, searchable by keyword, as well as national models of IP policies created on the basis of the WIPO IP Toolkit.

WIPO also supported the development of national IP associations and Regional Technology Transfer Networks, to facilitate exchange of best practices, peer review and access to information by technology managers from academic institutions in the Baltic States.

### Indigenous peoples and local communities

WIPO's work on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions featured: (i) a pivot to virtual training, mentoring and matchmaking programs for officials, indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists and other beneficiaries; (ii) the rapid development of materials on technological developments in the life sciences related to genetic resources and genetic data; (iii) special initiatives enabling indigenous peoples and local communities to remain engaged in WIPO's work; and (iv) the launch of an innovative activity for youth.

In cooperation with the International Trademark Association, WIPO strengthened the Indigenous and Local Community Entrepreneurship Program that currently benefits 60 women entrepreneurs. This program's training webinars have reached up to 2,000 participants. The WIPO Creative Heritage Project resumed, enabling indigenous peoples and local communities to leverage IP rights in their digitized cultural heritage.

On genetic resources and genetic data, WIPO launched a new distance learning course flanked by an interactive online mentoring and matchmaking platform, and in collaboration with the Swedish IP Office we continued with an international training program for participants from 10 Asian and African countries on the use of IP systems and genetic resources and data in relation to food security, biodiversity, health and climate change. We also updated our core publication in this area, *Key Questions on Patent Disclosure Requirements for Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge*.

To keep connected with indigenous peoples and local communities in the absence of in-person meetings, WIPO ran an online quiz, briefings and a short-story competition, and continued with translation of core materials and the popular Yakuanoi animation into indigenous languages. We also launched a photography competition for indigenous peoples and local communities, targeted at young people, on the theme of climate change and climate action.

The Lisbon Registry continued to work closely with local communities to develop, protect and commercialize their geographical indications, including the Cambodian producers of Koh Trung Pomelo and Kampot Sea Salt, the Senegalese producers of Madd de Casamance<sup>1</sup> and the Togolese producers of Riz de Kovié. The implementation of these field projects on geographical indications is supported by the WIPO Funds-in-Trust (FIT) China, as well as external partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNCTAD.

1 <https://www.wipo.int/ipadvantage/en/details.jsp?id=11582>





## Creators

During 2020, 1,900 stakeholders participated in WIPO technical assistance programs and projects on copyright and related rights in 56 developing countries and least-developed countries, and one regional organization. In the first half of 2021, new types of technical assistance programs were designed and delivered to reach new audiences, including women creators, young entrepreneurs, managers of creative start-up companies, in addition to national copyright institutions. The revised approach allowed us to reach 74 countries, one regional organization and 1,665 participants in total.

In the area of copyright management, nine new copyright management organizations (CMOs) started using WIPO Connect in 2020, and six more in the first half of 2021. This brings the total number to 21, representing a 200 percent increase since January 2020.

A new initiative was launched in 2020, WIPO for Creators, a public-private partnership with the Music Rights Awareness Foundation. Its objective is to raise awareness about creators' rights and related processes and ensure recognition and fair reward for all creators regardless of their geographical, cultural or economic conditions.

“We will nurture the copyright ecosystem to be the catalyst for a dynamic and inclusive creative economy, for the benefit of all.”

## Enhancing IP infrastructure

WIPO has been providing core IP management systems to IP offices in developing and least-developed countries for nearly 20 years. Today, 90 IP offices rely on systems provided by WIPO for reception, processing, examination, publication and management of IP rights. These offices are managing 15 million IP rights using WIPO-provided systems, and many of them have been fully digitized and integrated into global IP systems.

Over the last year, WIPO has improved the provision of services and platforms to IP offices, so that they can increasingly offer their users modern and efficient IP services.

## AI applications

The Advanced Technology Applications Center (ATAC) keeps improving its internally developed AI tools for IP offices and other users. To assist with access to multilingual content, WIPO Translate, the translation tool for patent documents, has new improved language models, notably for texts in Korean, Italian and Finnish, while WIPO's Speech2Text now covers Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The tool is available on demand to produce transcriptions for any conference or meeting. The PATENTSCOPE OCR tool, which enables the production of high-quality full texts for patent publications in an efficient manner using proofreaders, has been upgraded to cover the Arabic language and is available to interested IP offices.



### International classifications and standards

The international classifications organize information concerning inventions, trademarks and industrial designs into indexed, manageable structures for easy retrieval. The classifications keep pace with the recent acceleration of technologies and product life cycles through continual modifications. Member States adopted 2,478 modifications for International Patent Classification 2022.01, including 1,570 new subdivisions, through intensified discussions on the IPC Eforum, while 548 modifications to the 2021 version of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition Nice Classification for Goods and Services were adopted, including 442 new entries for the 2022 version, and 111 modifications to the ninth edition of the Vienna Classification.

The combination of a hybrid meeting and two rounds of “evoting” (pre- and post-session voting) enabled the Committee of Nice Union to tackle the enormous number of pending proposals utilizing the Nice Classification Revision Management Solution (NCLRMS). It was also agreed that the revision period for new editions for Nice Classification and the interval of revision sessions for Vienna Classification would be shortened to three years.

WIPO Standards are at the heart of digital transformations happening in the IP community around the world. At the eighth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), Member States adopted four new standards, which are: (i) ST.90 on the Web Application Programming Interface (API); (ii) ST.69 on multimedia marks; (iii) ST.61 on trademark legal status data; and (iv) ST.88 on electronic representations of industrial designs. The CWS also approved the revisions of three existing standards, including ST.26, which helps applicants prepare biological sequence listings in a common XML format. In close collaboration with IP offices and end users, WIPO developed the WIPO Sequence Suite, a software application for applicants and IP offices that supports the implementation of ST.26. The first trial version was released in November 2020.

