

Czech Republic – updated information (March 2021)

### **International worksharing and collaborative activities for search and examination of patent applications**

The Czech IP Office takes part in several cooperation projects in terms of search and examination. At the regional level, the Office joined the EPO Utilization Implementation Project (UIP) in 2015. This project enables the utilization of the results of patent examination performed by IP offices of the EPC Contracting States in the patent procedure before the European Patent Office (EPO).

The Office has its representative in the Working group for the development of the new search tool ANSERA, which will replace existing EPO tool EPOQUE. The group was established in 2020.

The Office joined the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) and signed the relevant agreements with the USPTO, the Finnish Patent and Registration Office (PRH), the Japanese IP Office and recently with Chinese IP Office (SIPO). Based on the exchange of search and examination results, the PPH offers the accelerated patent examination to applicants.

Further, the Office signed bilateral agreements on the cooperation with the IP Offices of Croatia, Hungary, Finland, Poland, Austria, Slovakia, and Spain. In these Offices, the patent procedure is accelerated based on the submission of the search report elaborated by the respective contracting Office.

Since 1 July 2016, the Office as one of branch offices of the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI) acting as a PCT International Searching and Examining Authority performs activities of VPI. In addition, this Institute joined the Global PPH network in January 2018.