

Annual Report/ 2018

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NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
CENTER OF GEORGIA
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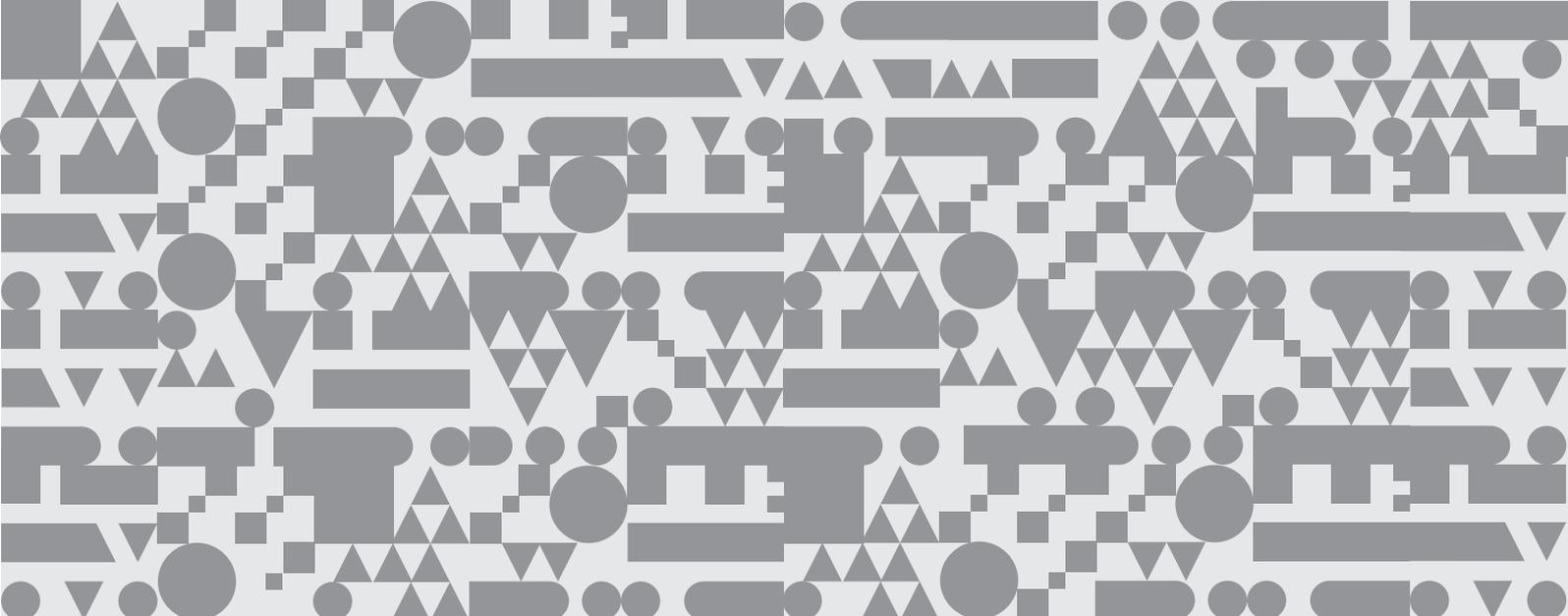


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Foreword

Dear Reader,

We would like to present the annual report of the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti for 2018. In the report you will find information on the projects and activities, implemented in the reporting year, as well as the statistical data reflecting the filing of applications and protection of intellectual property objects.

In 2018 Sakpatenti kept active on the international level. It is noteworthy that Mr. Nikoloz Gogilidze, Chairman of LEPL National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, was elected as the Chair of the Special Union for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Union) during the 58th Series of Meetings of General Assembly of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (Geneva, Switzerland). He was nominated for the position of the Chair of the Union by the Central European and Baltic States Group (CEBS). It is remarkable that the representative of Georgia was also heading the Special Union for the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Union) and the Working Group for the Preparation of Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This is a result of the active involvement of Georgia in the activities of the above-mentioned organization.

From the perspective of Georgia's effort toward protection of Georgian geographical indications abroad and deepening bilateral relations in this field, significant fact is the signing of the Agreement on the Mutual Recognition and Protection of Geographical Indications, Appellations of Origin and Indications of Source between Georgia and the Swiss Confederation.

In reporting year Sakpatenti hosted a number of high level officials. Especially notable is the visit of Mr. Minelik Getahun, Assistant Director General of WIPO. On behalf of WIPO he has declared eagerness to jointly implement priority projects in Georgia. It will support public awareness raising campaign on the protection of intellectual property and will facilitate the development of this system in Georgia.

Additionally, WIPO Intellectual Property Academy Executive Director Mr. Sherif Saadallah, paid a second official visit to Georgia. During the visit, the launching of the WIPO Academy Distance Learning Georgian language course (DL101GE) was announced officially. The course was translated and finalized by Sakpatenti, it will give an opportunity to interested persons to pass this course already in the Georgian language. Besides, Sakpatenti's Training Centre's trainers training (ToT) program and development of study programs were also evaluated. The Executive Director of WIPO IP Academy officially granted certificates indicating the status of the accredited trainers of the WIPO Academy to the Georgian tutors. Besides participating in the Sakpatenti Training Center projects, the certificate will permit each tutor to engage in various international training projects, organized by WIPO.

In 2018, entity continued its efforts in implementation of global projects. Within the cooperation with European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), Sakpatenti was integrated in the "Quality and User Satisfaction Survey" (USS), a supplementary tool approved by the EUIPO, and Center started to introduce other tools (CESTO, Design Class, Front Office, HDB). In addition, the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti is the first non-EU IP office to join the Quality standards tool



(EUIPN) search network of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). Integration of Sakpatenti with the above-mentioned tool is one more step of successful cooperation with the EUIPO, which is aimed at systemic development of electronic management and implementation of the next stage of integration of offices.

In the reporting year significant steps were made for further development and improvement of examination procedures for industrial property objects. Numerous visits and training courses for capacity building of examiners took place. The improvement of examination quality is indicated by the fact alike to the previous years, the active work carried out for raising public awareness on the significance of the intellectual property protection and popularization of the field yielded its results, which was manifested in the increase of the number of applications in various fields. In particular, as compared with the previous year, in 2018, the number of applications for inventions increased by 12%. Along with this, the number of the local applications for inventions increased by 37%; the amount of applications for inventions, filed on behalf of the higher educational institutions and independent scientific-research units increased by 50%.

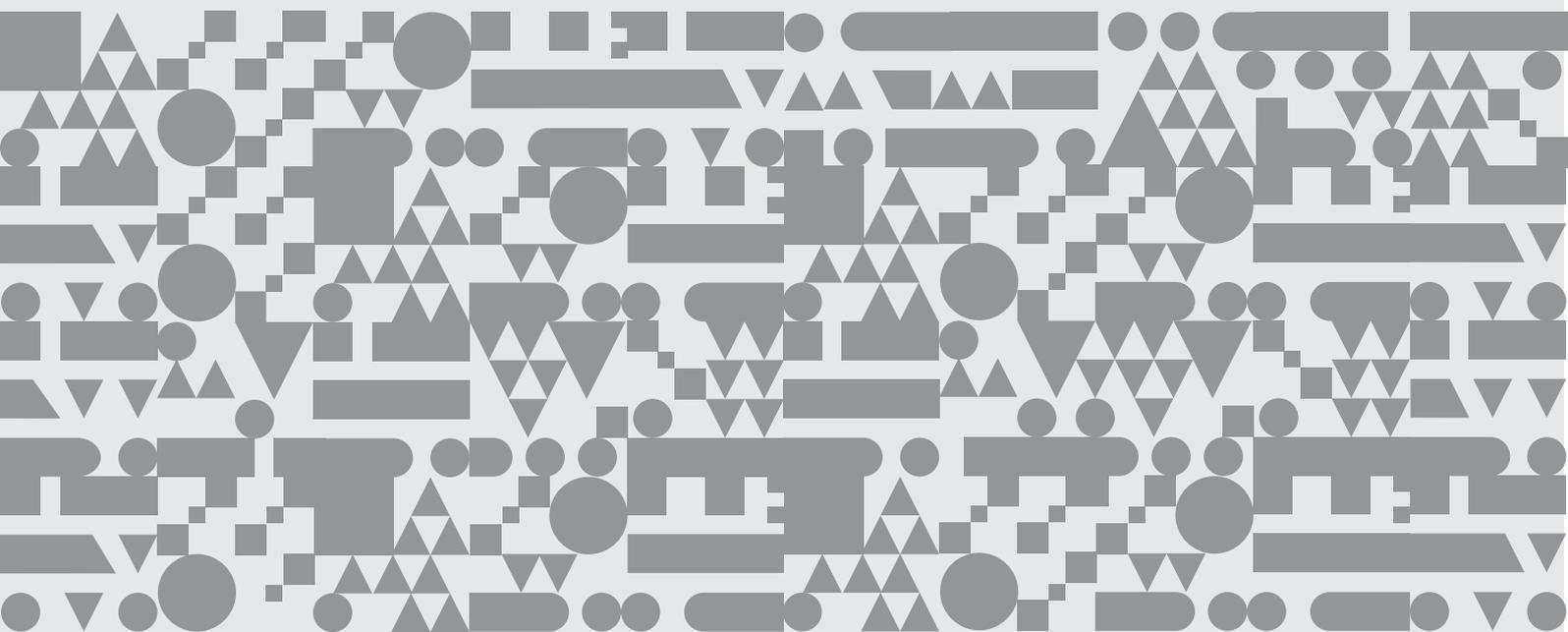
In addition, in the reporting year the number of the deposited objects also increased by 45%. The year by year increased figures, convinced us that the measures carried out by the center boost the interest of the Georgian population in the protection of intellectual property.

Familiarization with the statistical data offered in the present report will allow you to analyze the tendencies related with the protection of various IP objects.

Sakpatenti's yearly goal is to improve the intellectual property protection system in Georgia to a higher level and to facilitate its further development. I anticipate that Sakpatenti's highly motivated and dedicated team will successfully achieve its set objectives and implement outlined projects in the future as well.

Manana Pruidze
Acting Chairperson

LEPL National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia
Sakpatenti



Events



January

11

Legislative amendments, prepared by the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, entered into force. Its aim is to harmonize the legislation of Georgia in the intellectual property field with the EU acquis. The amendments will facilitate effective enforcement of exclusive rights from the civil and legal viewpoints.

23

A representative of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti delivered a presentation at the meeting on the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part. The objective of the meeting was to enhance capacities of public organizations from the viewpoint of monitoring and advocating reforms related with the Association agreement (Kobuleti, Georgia).

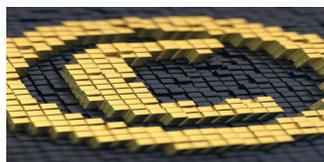
30



The 4th session of the Georgia-Belarus Intergovernmental Committee on Economic Cooperation took place, where the management of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia SAKPATENTI participated. During the session, the parties agreed on the development of cooperation in the particular priority directions, including in intellectual property protection (Minsk, Belarus).

February

7



A representative of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti delivered a presentation at the workshop organized with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of Turkey and the Turkish World Foundation on the topic of copyright: "Exceptions and Limitations of Copyright and Related Rights". The aim of the meeting was sharing experience of the participating countries concerning the discussed issues (Tbilisi, Georgia).

9

UPOV PRISMA 

The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti joined the new electronic filing system – "UPOV PRISMA" of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), an online application tool for drafting and submitting plant variety application data to participating PVP Offices in the electronic format. By using the platform it is possible to file new plant varieties applications electronically at Sakpatenti.

15



For the purpose of revision and improvement of the production specifications of Georgian geographical indications “Sulguni” and “Tushuri Guda”, sensory analysis took place at the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti. Based on sensory analysis more precise organoleptic characteristics of those geographical indications were defined. The meeting was organized within the project “Support to Sustainable Value Chains through the Development of Geographical Indications in the Dairy Sector”, funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

27



Seminar “The Effective Use of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks” was jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti. At the seminar, the active users of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks – patent attorneys and representatives of private companies received form experts recommendations on managing the Madrid Goods and Services database and issues of electronic services.

28



A meeting took place between Mr. Nikoloz Gogilidze, Chairman of National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, and Mr. Marcus Höpperger, Director, Madrid Registry, Brands and Designs Sector, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). During the meeting the parties considered integration of Sakpatenti databases into the WIPO registration system. In particular, by means of the WIPO E-filing tool, the Georgian users will have an opportunity, to extend electronically, applications filed at Sakpatenti to the member states of the Madrid System by using Georgian interface. In addition, the international applications where Georgia will be indicated as a country of extension automatically will be received by Sakpatenti.

March

2



A fact of successful enforcement of rights on Georgian appellation of origin “Kindzmarauli” took place in the Russian Federation. An entrepreneur was arrested who was accused of storing 830 bottles of counterfeit alcoholic beverage, labeled with the Georgian appellation of origin “Kindzmarauli”. The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, through a hired legal company, was engaged in the legal proceedings related to the given case. The court passed a verdict of guilty against the accused infringer. The counterfeit goods bearing the given appellation of origin were also destroyed (Volgograd, Russian Federation).

5



Module 4 Training: “Trademarks and Trademark Enforcement” was jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti for trainers of the Georgian Intellectual Property Training Center. The aim of the training was to acquire information on relevant teaching methodologies while preparing training programs on trademarks and trademark enforcement, in particular, development of specific training materials and exercises related to the given IP object, which will be intended for government officials, representatives of law enforcement bodies, lawyers, representatives of small and medium enterprises and other target groups.

6

A representative of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti participated in the Sub-regional Roundtable on Copyright and Related Rights: Marrakesh and Beijing Treaties, organized by WIPO in cooperation with the Copyright Directory of the Ministry of Culture of Albania. The meeting purpose was to introduce to the participants the WIPO-administered Marrakesh and Beijing Treaties, challenged existing in the region concerning the given issues and the ratification and accession procedures of the Treaties (Tirana, Albania).

12

Representative of Sakpatenti participated in the seminar organized by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) “Absolute Grounds for Refusal of Registration”. Similar events facilitate capacity building of Georgian examiners (Alicante, Spain).

14



A meeting of the EU-Georgia Sub-Committee on Geographical Indications, envisaged by the Association Agreement with the European Union, took place. At the meeting, Decision No1/2018 of the Geographical Indications Sub-Committee modifying Annexes XVII-C and XVII-D to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part, was signed. The given Decision provides renewal list of geographical indications, protected according to the principle of reciprocity on the basis of the Association Agreement. As a result of signed Decision four new Georgian geographical indications: “Tkibuli tea”, “Machakhela honey”, “Kutaisi greens” and “Akhalkalaki potato” was granted protection on the territory of the European Union. The list of EU geographical indications, protected on the territory of Georgia, was also renewed.

15

Representatives of Sakpatenti participated and delivered a presentation at the workshop organized with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of Turkey and the Turkish World Foundation on the topic: “Collective Management in the Field of Copyright and Basic Regulations on Collecting Societies”. The purpose of the meeting was sharing experience of various countries and demonstration of problematic issues. The similar meetings give an opportunity to familiarize with the practice of various countries, which will enable states to overcome existing IP related problems and regulate them on the legislative level (Kiev, Ukraine).

15



Sakpatenti representative attended the conference “Industrial Property Today and Tomorrow” held by the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria. The objective of the event was to share information about the current and future challenges in the field of intellectual property (Sofia, Bulgaria).

19



A meeting took place with the participation of stakeholders, where amendments to be made to the Law of Georgia “On Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications of Goods” were discussed, which implies approximation of the Law with the Geneva Act of Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration. In particular, the amendments cover harmonization of definitions of appellations of origin and geographical indications with the Geneva Act, definition of the state control mechanism, identification of basic elements of specifications of goods and terms of making amendments to them. Amendments are also related with specification of procedures of conducting examination, consideration of legal mechanisms of protection of exclusive rights, and other significant issues.

19



The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti became the first IP office outside the EU to join the Quality standards tool (EUIPN) search network of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). Integration of Sakpatenti with the above-mentioned tool is one more step within the successful cooperation with EUIPO, which is aimed at systemic development of electronic management and implementation of the next stage of integration of offices. Quality standards tool (EUIPN) of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) is an online search tool which provides easily accessible information on services and related quality standards offered by each participating IP Office.

23



The second round of negotiations took place between Georgia and the Republic of Moldova on mutual recognition and protection of geographical indications. The Chairman of Sakpatenti and Director General of State Agency on Intellectual Property of Republic of Moldova (AGEPI), as well as representatives of various state agencies of the two countries participated in the meeting. The parties agreed on the main part of the text of the Agreement, exchanged views on the latest developments in the field of geographical indications in the countries of the parties and outlined future cooperation plans.

28



Representatives of the European Patent Office (EPO) visited Georgia to finalize the text of the “Agreement with the European Patent Office on Validation of European Patents” (Validation Agreement). Within the visit, a meeting took place at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti. The parties discussed future cooperation opportunities and perspectives of Georgia on joining EPO.

April

12



With the support of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti the Millennium Innovation Competition 2018 took place, organized by the Millennium Challenge Foundation. Sakpatenti awarded the team on the third place, with the project “Water Shield”, with a special prize. The Millennium Innovation Competition’s aim is to promote creation of innovation and new technologies among youth.

14



The European Law Students Association Tbilisi (ELSA Tbilisi) and Sakpatenti organized a study visit for 11 students from Poland. Students attended a lecture on “Intellectual Property Law” . The purpose of the event was to raise awareness on intellectual property among youth, namely, to inform students on the intellectual property system and importance of protection of individual IP objects.

17



For the purpose of raising qualification, a representative the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti attended a seminar organized by the State Intellectual Property Office of the People’s Republic of China, where the participants familiarized with the patent system of the People’s Republic of China, patent examination and administrative structure (Zhengzhou, Henan province, China)

26



In 2018, by the decision of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the slogan of the World Intellectual Property Day, April 26, was: “Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity”. The World Intellectual Property Day campaign celebrated the brilliance, ingenuity, curiosity and courage of the women who are driving change in the world and shaping our common future.

May

2



A workshop on e-filing system of international trademark applications was held for examiners of the Department of Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Designs of Sakpatenti. The workshop was aimed to introduce main features and recent developments in filing and extension of international applications by the Madrid system.

2



Representatives of Sakpatenti participated in the fifth workshop within the “International Project for Cooperation on the Copyright and Related Rights”, organized with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of Turkey and the Turkish World Foundation, where the following topics were discussed: future cooperation and prospects in copyright and related rights field, raising awareness on the significance of copyright and combatting piracy. The involvement in the meeting was intended to familiarize with opinions and practice of various countries (Istanbul, Turkey).

7

To familiarize with the latest developments in the intellectual property field, a representative of Sakpatenti attended “IP Seminar – IP Case Law Conference”, organized by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), where substantial and procedural issues of trademark and design registration and specificity of work of the Board of Appeals were discussed (Alicante, Spain).

15



The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti organized a workshop “Overview of Activities and Practice of the Boards of Appeals of European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)”. The meeting, purpose was to introduce to interested parties the practice and experience of the EUIPO Boards of Appeals, it was led by top officials of the Boards of Appeal of EUIPO.

17



The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti organized a meeting with small and medium business representatives. During the meeting issues of IP management, branding strategy, its economic significance and protection mechanisms were discussed. Along with this, Sakpatenti representatives held individual meetings with interested companies, assessed the intellectual property assets of the companies in order to assist them in drafting an IP portfolio. The meeting was held within the Project “Value of Intellectual Property for SME” – (VIP4SME), funded by European Union Program for Research and Innovations “Horizon 2020”, and it envisages organization of information meetings, workshops and face-to-face meetings for representatives of small and medium enterprises.

31



The Agreement on the Mutual Recognition and Protection of Geographical Indications, Appellations of Origin and Indications of Source between Georgia and the Swiss Confederation was signed. On the basis of the signed Agreement, according to the principle of reciprocity, Georgian geographical indications, appellations of origin and indications of source were protected on the territory of the Swiss Confederation, the procedures related with their use and rights enforcement were also defined (Bern, Switzerland).

4



The final, Module 5: Training on Copyright and Related Rights was organized by WIPO and the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti for trainers of the Georgian Intellectual Property (IP) Training Center. The training aim was to coach preparation of training programs on copyright and related rights and their enforcement, using relevant teaching methodologies, in particular, development of specific training materials and exercises related to the given IP object, which will be intended for government officials, representatives of law enforcement bodies, lawyers, representatives of small and medium enterprises and other target groups.

10



For the purpose of capacity building, a representative of the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti attended WIPO/CEIPI/INPI Advanced Course on Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Licensing, organized by WIPO and the Center for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI) with the support of the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI-France). During the course the process of technological transfer, its basic aspects, the role of IP in this field and forms of licensing were discussed (Strasbourg, France).

12

In accordance with Resolution N 328 of the Government of Georgia, amendments were made to the fees related to patenting, registration and deposition of intellectual property subject-matters. The Resolution was enacted on the basis of the amendments implemented in the Patent Law of Georgia in 2017, according to which relevant fees were determined for proceedings for issuing a supplementary protection certificate at various stages (registration, publication and annual renewal).

13



A workshop was organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia, aimed to draft the text of the Resolution approving the “Rule of Granting a Compulsory License for the Use of a Patented Invention and Utility Model”, on the basis of the amendments entered in the Patent Law of Georgia on January 11, 2018, in accordance with the commitments under the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union. During the meeting protection standards of inventions under the TRIPS Agreement and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, exceptions and limitations to patent rights, as well as issues related with special compulsory licenses system were discussed.

14



The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti successfully introduced Trademark Vision – search system of figurative elements. Henceforth, Sakpatenti examiners as well as applicants are able to use the artificial intelligence through Sakpatenti website, figurative elements search system, which will facilitate improving examination quality of trademark applications. Georgia thereby joined the countries (EU, United Kingdom, France, Australia and Chile), which are using Trademark Vision artificial intelligence technology.

18

Sakpatenti representative participated in the study tour, organized within the project “Support to Sustainable Value Chains through the Development of Geographical Indications in the Dairy Sector”, which objective was to familiarize with the geographical indications system and control mechanisms in France and Switzerland, as well as sharing knowledge and experience of producers, associations, controllers and representatives of other public agencies of these countries (Thones, France, Mase, Switzerland).

19



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti organized “Training on Tutoring and Teaching” within the international project “Intellectual Property for Youth and Teachers”. The project is intended for the countries wishing to introduce teaching inventiveness and innovation into their educational programs. The project is aimed to lay foundation for teaching intellectual property at schools and universities, which will facilitate raising awareness on the significance of intellectual property and stimulating inventive activities among youth.

20



The National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) jointly organized a international conference “Intellectual Property (IP) and Education”. During the conference, the importance of intellectual property and its teaching within various educational programs as well as methodologies of teaching innovation at the primary, post and graduation levels were discussed.

July

2



Sakpatenti representatives participated in the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks to discuss Proposed Regulations under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks. Active participation and voicing the position of Georgia was significant for Sakpatenti. It was also important to share experience of other countries on the discussed issues. It is planned to take into consideration the recommendations offered by the International Bureau concerning the given issues (Geneva, Switzerland).

12



The fourth International Conference “Georgia Against Counterfeiting and Piracy” was organized. It is jointly hosted by The National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti and Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), U.S. Department of Commerce. The conference aimed to facilitate effective implementation of intellectual property enforcement mechanisms, deepening a dialogue between the private and public sectors, sharing interoffice and international experience and establishing contacts between stakeholders in the direction of rights enforcement (Batumi, Georgia).

17



The Summer School on Intellectual Property Law was held for the third time. The event was organized by the European Law Students Association Georgia (ELSA Georgia), the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, the Department of Education, Sport and Youth Affairs of Tbilisi City Hall, the World Project Organization (WPO) and the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of U.S. Department of Commerce. 45 students from 17 countries, European and Georgian universities, listened to lectures on mechanisms of legal protection of intellectual property objects and tools of their international registration.

19



To raise qualification, a representative of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti participated in the Seminar on The Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, organized by WIPO. The seminar objective was to offer detailed information on the issues of international registration of designs, to introduce the Hague system and the specificity of accession of new members as well as to introduce the latest developments and the projects planned for the future (Geneva, Switzerland).

20



Training on intellectual property rights for Georgian journalists took place, organized together with Sakpatenti by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of U.S. Department of Commerce and the Embassy of the United States of America to Georgia. Organization of similar meetings for journalists has already become traditional in Georgia and it is aimed at raising awareness in the IP field.

20



The full national patent collection of Georgia became available in WIPO's global patent search system Patentscope. The collection includes patents issued by Sakpatenti from its establishment (1992) until today, altogether around 8850 documents. It includes ca. 6900 patents on invention and ca. 1950 patents on utility model.

20

The Georgian national patent collection was updated in Espacenet – patent search system of the European Patent Office (EPO), which includes 100 million patent documents. In the system the renewal and update of Georgian patent data takes place automatically once a month. The inclusion of the Georgian patents in the system will improve their searchability on the global scale as they will be placed among the global prior art documents.

21



The Workshop on Adjudication of Civil Intellectual Property Infringement Cases took place with the participation of Georgian judges, organized by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the United States Embassy in Georgia. At the meeting, American judges shared with their Georgian colleagues the US judicial practice on disputes related to IP objects. Sharing experience of the United States of America regarding IP protection will facilitate and assist Georgian judges to implement the IP legislation of Georgia according to international standards.

26

Sakpatenti joined WIPO CASE - Centralized Access to Search and Examination platform administered by WIPO, which will help Sakpatenti patent examiners to get access to the search and examination documentation and to further improve the quality and efficiency of patent examination.

August

11



According to the Order of the Chairman of LEPL National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, amendments were made to the Instruction "On Procedures Related with Filing a Trademark Application and Registration". In accordance with the amendment, upon changing the name and surname of a representative (patent attorney) with respect to a trademark, and in case of a legal entity – upon changing the legal address, no fee shall be paid for the change in the Register.

14



As a result of the activities conducted by the Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of Latvia, goods infringing rights on the geographical indication "Churchkhela" were removed from the trading units. The above-mentioned activities were conducted upon the request of the Georgian party at the Meeting of the EU-Georgia Sub-Committee on Geographical Indications set up according to the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union.

24

According to the Order of the Chairman of LEPL National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, the format and size of electronic proceedings on IP objects were approved. If the format and/or size of the file to be submitted is not represented in the list approved by the Order, the file shall be submitted with the acceptable format, whereas files of large size, which do not satisfy the requirements, shall be reduced (contracted) to the necessary size or divided into parts so it can satisfy the requirements of the above-mentioned Order.

September

3



To raise qualification, Sakpatenti representative attended training organized by WIPO and the Norwegian Industrial Property Office (NIPO), aimed at sharing experience on trademark system and examination practice (Oslo, Norway).

7

The electronic office management system was fully launched at the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti. The system allows paperless exchange of internal documentations. The system has simplified and rendered more effective the process of tracking various tasks and enabled permanent monitoring of the assignments accomplishment progress and other organizational issues, which is aimed at further improvement of the management mechanisms at Sakpatenti. The project was implemented within the agreement signed with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the electronic management system development program.

15

Access to electronic proceedings system: efiling.sakpatenti.ge was terminated and accordingly, electronic filing on intellectual property objects, searching information and proceedings concerning them shall be carried out only via: online.sakpatenti.gov.ge.

17



Mr. Sherif Saadallah, Executive Director of WIPO Intellectual Property Academy paid a second official visit to Georgia. Within the WIPO professional development program, he opened the international English-language "Professional Development Program on Geographical Indications", organized by the WIPO Academy and the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti Training Centre, which was held in Georgia for the second time in 2018. Georgia became the first among the countries with the transition economy to conduct professional development program.

19



Registration started for the WIPO Academy Distance Learning General Course (DL101GE), which is available in Georgian language. The Georgian language version of the course was developed by the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, within the cooperation with the WIPO Intellectual Property Academy. At the first stage the pilot version of the course was offered for school teachers. The course is free of charge and is intended for teachers of technical and natural sciences subjects, to allow them on the basis of the gained knowledge to stimulate pupils in inventive activity and to guide them in the process of creating valuable inventions and innovative projects.

24



The Fifty-Eight Series of Meetings of the General Assembly of the Member States of WIPO opened in Geneva, Switzerland, which was attended by Sakpatenti delegation, headed by its Chairman Mr. Nikoloz Gogilidze. During the General Assembly, Mr. Nikoloz Gogilidze was elected as the Chair of the Special Union for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Union). He was nominated for the position of the Chair of the Union by the Central European and Baltic States Group (CEBS). It is noteworthy that the representative of Georgia was also heading the Special Union for the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Union) and the Working Group for the Preparation of Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which is a result of the active involvement of Georgia in the activity of the above-mentioned organization (Geneva, Switzerland).

October

4

A representative of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti participated in the process of substantive hearing of a constitutional appeal related with copyright and related rights at the Constitutional Court of Georgia (Batumi, Georgia).

6



For the purpose of raising qualification, Sakpatenti examiners passed a study course organized by the Israel Patent Office, covering peculiarities of assessment of novelty, inventive step and non-obviousness of inventions in the fields of pharmaceuticals, medicine, organic chemistry and biotechnology (Jerusalem, Israel).

10



Sakpatenti representative participated on behalf of Georgia in the technical meeting “Quality at Source”, organized by the European Patent Office (EPO), which was aimed to harmonize the platform of patent data exchange between EPO and validation countries with the program “Quality at Source”, created initially as the standard of data exchange between EPO and its member states (Vienna, Austria).

13



At the third pavilion of Expo Georgia, the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, together with other private and public organizations, participated in the exhibition “Start-In-Georgia” – “Everything for My Start-up”, organized by Start Business Solutions. The objective of the event was to facilitate newcomer entrepreneurs in establishing necessary contacts. The event is annual and Sakpatenti supported the organizers for the second time.

19



The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, within the Project “Value of Intellectual Property for SME” – (VIP4SME), funded by the European Union Program for Research and Innovations “Horizon 2020”, organized a meeting with patent attorneys and lawyers working in the intellectual property field. The above-mentioned project assists entrepreneurs in drafting an IP strategy and its management, which in its turn will facilitate increasing the competitiveness and creating economic value, as well as raising awareness in the IP field.

21



To raise qualification, Sakpatenti representatives participated in the Advanced International Certificate Course (AICC) on Intellectual Property Asset Management for Business Success. The course was organized by WIPO, in collaboration with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA) and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) (Seoul, Republic of Korea).

24



The 100 000th application for a trademark registration was recorded in Sakpatenti electronic database, filed for registration at Sakpatenti by a Georgian company for pharmaceutical products. This figure once again stresses the popularity and significance of trademark as an intellectual property object for the business sector. The increasing number of applications is also conditioned by the active steps taken by Sakpatenti in the direction of improvement of the working process standards and raising public awareness.

November

1



The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti participated in the “EXPOVINA” is the annual wine event. The participation in the event was aimed to facilitate popularization of Georgian geographical indications and appellations of origin. Up to 65 000 wine importers received detailed information on Georgian appellations of origin (Zurich, Switzerland).

3



Sakpatenti was a co-organizer of the “Chacha Festival”, founded on the initiative of the Georgian Chamber of Culture and held for the first time. Companies producing “Chacha” participated in the Festival, which facilitates popularization of the registered Georgian geographical indication “Chacha”. A special corner was arranged with Sakpatenti stands where products protected by geographical indications according to various regions of Georgia were exhibited. For the purpose of raising public awareness, Sakpatenti representatives offered the participants information on the significance of protection of geographical indications, including “Chacha” (Telavi, Georgia).

5



To raise qualification, Sakpatenti representative participated in the Training Course on Trademark Law and Examination organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Republic of Korea with the assistance of the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO). The participants familiarized with the trademark regulations of various countries related and the latest developments in trademark examination (Daejeon, Republic of Korea).

12



The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti joined the WIPO-administered program "e-Filing", by means of which Georgian users will be able to file their international applications electronically, which will simplify for them the procedure of extension of trademarks to the member states of the "Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks". It is noteworthy that Georgia is the third member state of WIPO, which will use the electronic system of filing international applications.

12



Sakpatenti representative participated in the Fortieth Session of the WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), during which, among other items, the Proposal Concerning the Protection of Country Names and Geographical Names of National Significance (document SCT/39/8 Rev.2), submitted by various countries including Georgia, was discussed (Geneva, Switzerland).

15



The final stage and the awards ceremony of the young inventors' competition "Leonardo da Vinci" took place. Every year Sakpatenti is involved in the work of the Competition Commission and participates actively in the evaluation process of the submitted projects, as the competition serves to increase interest among teenagers in innovations and technical progress, reveal teenagers endowed with an inventor's talent and stimulate the development of pupils' creative thinking and practical skills.

21

Georgia acceded to the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), according to which, taking into consideration the necessities of countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities, production and export of medicines will become possible as an additional form of compulsory licenses.

27

Sakpatenti representatives participated in VIP4SME Steering Committee meeting N3 within the Project "Value of Intellectual Property for SME" – (VIP4SME), funded by European Union Program for Research and Innovations "Horizon 2020". The project assists entrepreneurs in drafting an IP strategy and its management, which in its turn facilitates increasing the competitiveness and creating economic value, as well as raising awareness in the field of intellectual property. During the meeting, issues related with the project implementation, future plans and recommendations were considered (Bordeaux, France).

December

5

The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti representative attended the meeting of the Secretariat of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM. Representatives of the GUAM member countries considered issues of cooperation in the intellectual property field between the member states. Georgia, together with other countries, submitted a proposal to amend the draft agreement on mutual recognition and protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin between the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM member states (Kiev, Ukraine).

24

The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti organized training on the electronic system of proceedings of applications for intellectual property objects and the Madrid eFiling system. The training was offered free-of-charge and was intended for patent attorneys and other interested parties.

International Affairs/ 2018

To implement the objectives reflected in the Action Plan of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, which incorporates public awareness raising activities in the IP field, training of specialists, further development and improvement of the examination procedures on intellectual property objects, as well as development of the branding system and facilitation of innovation activities, in 2018 Sakpatenti actively cooperated with international organizations, foreign partners and the Government agencies.

Cooperation with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

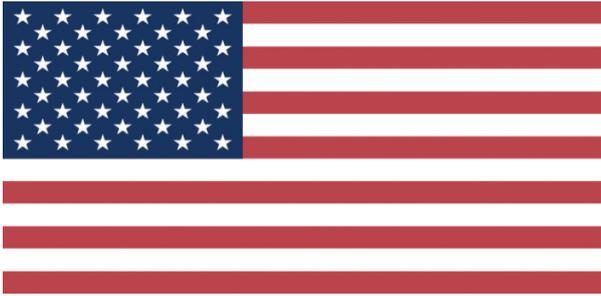


As stated by the “Framework Agreement of Cooperation between WIPO and the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti”, signed in 2003, in the reporting year the two offices jointly carried out the following activities:

- To familiarize with the ongoing processes at Sakpatenti, to discuss the role of WIPO in the development of the intellectual property field in Georgia and to outline the future plans, Mr. Minelik Getahun, Assistant Director General of WIPO, paid his first, two-day official visit to Georgia. During the meeting with Sakpatenti management, Mr. Getahun on behalf of WIPO expressed readiness for joint implementation of priority projects in Georgia, which will raise public awareness on the protection of intellectual property and will facilitate the development of this system in Georgia.
- WIPO and Sakpatenti delivered international English-language “Professional Development Program on Geographical Indications” twice (2017 and 2018). In the reporting year course was offered second time. It is noteworthy that taking into account the experience and knowledge of Georgia in this field, Georgia has become the first among the countries with economies in transition, where, by the decision of the WIPO Academy, the professional development course was held. The course is intended for officials from intellectual property offices of various countries and relevant ministries and is aimed to enhance the knowledge of officials in this field. The course was attended by representatives of 13 countries. To familiarize with the course progress, Mr. Sherif Saadallah, Executive Director of WIPO Intellectual Property Academy paid his second official visit to Georgia. During the visit, the launching of the WIPO Academy Distance Learning Georgian-language course (DL101GE) was announced officially, which was translated and finalized by Sakpatenti. From September 19, 2018, interested persons were given an opportunity to pass the course already in the Georgian language. In addition, during the visit, the successful completion of the project of training of Sakpatenti Training Centre trainers and development of study programs (TOT) was evaluated. The Executive Director of WIPO IP Academy officially granted to the Georgian trainers the status of accredited trainers of the WIPO Academy, thus, they are authorized to participate in various international training projects, organized by WIPO besides the projects of Sakpatenti Training Centre. Within the visit, meetings were held with Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Agriculture of Georgia, and Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, to discuss future plans of cooperation with the WIPO Academy.
- Mr. Marcus Höpperger, Director, Madrid Registry, Brands and Designs Sector, WIPO, offered a seminar for patent attorneys of Georgia and lawyers working in the IP field. At the meeting, the interested parties received information on the significance of trademark protection, the necessity of drafting branding strategies of companies, basic characteristics and latest developments of the Madrid System for international registration of marks, as well as processes of searching trademarks, filing and managing applications abroad. Within the visit, Mr. Marcus Höpperger also held a meeting with Sakpatenti management, the parties considered the ongoing projects related with trademarks (integration of Sakpatenti databases into the WIPO registration system; by means of the Madrid System, filing and extension of international applications in Georgia).
- In 2018 Sakpatenti started work on harmonization of the Law of Georgia “On Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications of Goods” with the Geneva Act of Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration. For this purpose, Ms. Alexandra Grazioli, Director of Lisbon Registry, from the Brands and Designs Sector at WIPO, and Mr. Pascal Bernardoni, representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), paid an official visit to Georgia. The planned legislative amendments cover harmonization of definitions of appellations of origin and geographical indications with the Geneva Act, definition of the state control mechanism, identification of basic elements of

specifications of goods and terms of making amendments to them. Amendments are also related with specification of procedures of conducting examination, consideration of legal mechanisms of protection of exclusive rights, and other significant issues.

- To raise qualification of the examiners of the Department of Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Design of Sakpatenti, in 2018 a two-day workshop was delivered by Mr. Peter Baker, Project Manager of Brands and Designs Sector, at WIPO. The Workshop on eFiling System of International Trademark Applications purpose was to introduce basic characteristics and recent developments in filing and extension of international applications by the Madrid system. The participants were familiarized with the opportunities of electronic filing, processing and inter-office dispatch of applications and communication with applicants. It is noteworthy that Georgia will become the third member state of WIPO to use the eFiling system of international applications. At the given stage this system is used only by the IP Offices of the Benelux Countries and Australia.
- With the support of the WIPO Academy, Module 4: "Training on Trademarks and Trademark Enforcement" and Module 5: "Training on Copyright and Related Rights" were organized for trainers of the Georgian Intellectual Property (IP) Training Center. The aim of the training was participants to acquire knowledge on preparation of training programs on trademarks, copyrights, related rights and its enforcement, mainly focusing on development of relevant teaching methodologies, specific training materials and exercises related to the given IP objects. The main target audience of the courses are envisioned as: government officials, representatives of law enforcement bodies, lawyers, representatives of small and medium enterprises and other target groups. The training was led by foreign (WIPO) and Georgian field experts. It is noteworthy that previously training modules were offered on each IP object (designs, geographical indications and appellations of origin, inventions and utility models), whereas Modules 4 and 5 represented the final stage and completed the training course. The first module for Georgian trainers was organized by WIPO expert mission in December, 2015. After the completion of the five Module Project, the Georgian trainers received WIPO certificates and were officially granted the status of accredited trainers of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy.
- Within the International Project "Intellectual Property for Youth and Teachers" (IP4YOUTH&TEACHERS), "Training on Tutoring and Teaching" was delivered for Georgian teachers. The project is aimed to lay foundation for teaching intellectual property at schools and universities, which will facilitate raising awareness on the significance of intellectual property and stimulating inventive activities among youth. The project is intended for the countries wishing to introduce teaching inventiveness and innovation into their educational programs. Interested and motivated school teachers from Georgia were given an opportunity to receive training in IP issues and to familiarize with methods of teaching inventiveness.
- In the reporting year, registration started for the WIPO Academy Distance Learning General Course (DL101GE), which interested persons can pass already in the Georgian language. The course, is offered free of charge and it was finalized in the Georgian-language version by Sakpatenti within the cooperation with the WIPO IP Academy. Upon successful completion of the course, the participants will be granted the certificates of the WIPO Academy. During the course, the participants were tutored by trainers of Sakpatenti Training Centre, accredited by WIPO. In future it is also planned to develop the Georgian versions of the WIPO Academy specialized distance learning courses for individual IP objects (trademarks, copyright, inventions, etc.).
- In 2018, Sakpatenti participated in the Fifty-Eighth Series of Meetings of the General Assembly of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (Geneva, Switzerland), during which Mr. Nikoloz Gogilidze, Chairman of LEPL National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, was elected as the Chair of the Special Union for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Union). He was nominated for the position of the Chair of the Union by the Central European and Baltic States Group (CEBS). It is noteworthy that the representative of Georgia was also heading the Special Union for the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Union) and the Working Group for the Preparation of Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which is a result of the active involvement of Georgia in the activity of the above-mentioned organization. Within the Assembly, an official meeting of Sakpatenti Chairman with Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, took place. Mr. Francis Gurry stressed the substantial achievements of Georgia in the development of the intellectual property system and protection of intellectual property rights. He also noted that relations with Sakpatenti have moved to a higher, more intense stage, and mutual cooperation has become more comprehensive. The parties also discussed the implementation of current and future projects. During the Assembly, Mr. Nikoloz Gogilidze also met with Ms. Binying Wang, WIPO Deputy Director General. During the meeting it was noted that WIPO will continue to support Sakpatenti in finalizing the process of integration of Sakpatenti into the Madrid Goods and Services (MGS) program. In addition, it was decided that WIPO service encouragement activities will be held in Georgia.
- In 2018, as in previous years, for capacity building of Georgian examiners, WIPO financed distance learning courses of the WIPO Academy and one-year master's program (Shanghai, China).
- In the reporting year, the top officials and representatives of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti participated in sessions of the WIPO Standing Committees and official meetings.



Cooperation with the Government of the United States of America

In the harmonization of the IP field in Georgia with the Western standards, the National IP Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti is supported by the Government of the United States of America. In 2018, with the support of the US Embassy to Georgia, the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the following events took place:

- As in previous years, a workshop on intellectual property rights for Georgian journalists was held, which is organized annually by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) and the Embassy of the United States of America to Georgia. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness in the IP field. The session was led by American and European experts. The journalists were given an opportunity to familiarize with the principles and importance of intellectual property, as well as the current situation concerning the IP protection and rights enforcement in Georgia.
- The Workshop on Adjudication of Civil Intellectual Property Infringement Cases was held for Georgian judges, organized by the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) and the US Embassy to Georgia. The American judges shared with their Georgian colleagues the US judicial practice on disputes related to IP objects. In addition, the practice of the Chamber of Appeals of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti and courts of Georgia was also discussed and the views and recommendations of the American judges were heard concerning the above-mentioned. Sharing experience of IP protection in the USA will facilitate and assist Georgian judges to enhance and approximate Georgian IP legislation with international standards.
- The Summer School on Intellectual Property Law was held for already the third time. The event was organized by the European Law Students Association Georgia (ELSA Georgia) and the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti. The event was supported by the Department of Education, Sport and Youth Affairs of Tbilisi City Hall, the World Project Organization (WPO) and the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) of U.S. Department of Commerce. 45 students from 17 countries arrived to participate in the ELSA Summer School. Students from European and Georgian universities listened to lectures delivered by Sakpatenti top officials and sectoral specialists on mechanisms of legal protection of intellectual property objects and tools of their international registration, and also received detailed information on functioning of the intellectual property system of Georgia.

Cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

Within the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), which incorporates supporting of Sakpatenti in the development of the IP field, in 2018 the following activities were carried out:

- Within the cooperation with EUIPO, Sakpatenti was integrated with the “Quality and User Satisfaction Survey” (USS), a supplementary tool approved by EUIPO, and work began for introducing other tools (CESTO, Design Class, Front Office, HDB). In addition, the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti is the first non-EU IP office to join the Quality standards tool (EUIPN) search network of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). Integration of Sakpatenti with the above-mentioned tool is one more step within the successful cooperation with EUIPO, which purpose is to develop systemic electronic management and implementation of the next stage of integration of offices. EUIPN of EUIPO is an online search tool which provides easily accessible information on services and related quality standards offered by each participating intellectual property office.
- To share the practice and experience of the EUIPO Board of Appeals, in the reporting year a workshop “Overview of Activity and Practice of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) Board of Appeals” was organized. The high level representatives of the EUIPO Board of Appeals discussed the recent trademark and design case-law, including absolute grounds of refusal, objections to the registration of 3D trademarks, relationship between well-known and universally recognized trademarks, relationship between trademarks and designs.



Cooperation with the European Patent Office (EPO)

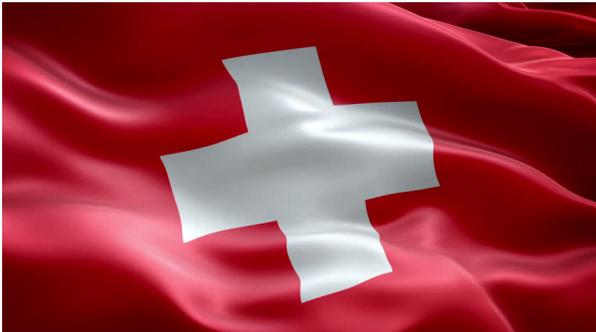
In 2018, the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti and the European Patent Office (EPO) worked on the final text of the Agreement with the European Patent Office on Validation of European Patents

(Validation Agreement). To finalize the Agreement text, representatives of the European Patent Office Mr. Pascal Phlix and Mr. François-Régis Hannart visited Georgia. Within the visit, a meeting took place with Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and Sakpatenti management, where the parties discussed future cooperation opportunities and perspectives of Georgia on joining EPO. The European Patent Office, which carries out examination of patent applications and grants European patents, unites 38 member states.



International Cooperation with Intellectual Property Offices

- In 2018, Agreement on the Mutual Recognition and Protection of Geographical Indications, Appellations of Origin and Indications of Source between Georgia and the Swiss Confederation was signed. The ceremony took place at the office of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property. On behalf of Georgia, the Agreement was signed by Mr. Nikoloz Gogilidze, Chairman of National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti. On the basis of the signed Agreement, according to the principle of reciprocity, Georgian geographical indications, appellations of origin and indications of source were protected on the territory of the Swiss Confederation, the procedures related with their use and rights enforcement were also defined.



- In the reporting year, the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) was signed. The purpose of the Memorandum is to establish a mutually-agreed framework to guide and promote cooperation activities between the parties in the IP field. Within the Memorandum, the parties agreed that intellectual property is a tool to encourage innovation and to stimulate economic and technological developments in both countries, recognized the benefits of close cooperation in strengthening the existing IP systems through the exchange of information and best practices and by promotion of education activities.

- In 2018, the second round of negotiations took place between the parties of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova to adopt the text of the Agreement on “Mutual Recognition and Protection of Geographical Indications between Georgia and the Republic of Moldova”. The Chairman of Sakpatenti and Director General of State Agency on Intellectual Property of Republic of Moldova (AGEPI), as well as representatives of various state agencies of two countries participated in the meeting. The parties agreed on the main part of the text of the Agreement, also exchanged views on the latest developments in the field of Geographical Indications in the countries of the parties and outlined future cooperation plans. The draft Agreement on “Mutual Recognition and Protection of Geographical Indications between Georgia and the Republic of Moldova” provides for recognition of geographical indications and appellations of origin by the parties according to the principle of reciprocity, ensuring their protection under the national legislations and regulation of issues related with protection and use of rights on them.

Conferences/ 2018



Title:
“Georgia Against Counterfeiting and Piracy”

Date and Venue:
July 12-13, 2018, Batumi, Georgia

Organized by:
National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti; Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), U.S. Department of Commerce

To facilitate effective implementation of intellectual property enforcement mechanisms, deepening a dialogue between the private and public sectors, sharing international experience and establishing contacts between stakeholders, the fourth International Conference “Georgia Against Counterfeiting and Piracy” was held.

During the conference, tools and practices for proper enforcement of intellectual property rights, international practice concerning securing evidence and calculation of damages were considered. The participants also discussed branding strategies, the impact of technology and artificial intelligence and selling of counterfeits on

the Internet. Attention was focused on amendments made to the Law of Georgia “On Border Measures Related to Intellectual Property” in 2018, in accordance with DCFTA Agreement, and other urgent topics. The participants of the event also discussed the outcomes of the measures taken in the recent period against counterfeiting in Georgia as well as current challenges.

The conference was attended by more than 100 delegates, among the participants were representatives of IPR Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Homeland Security, USA, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), World Customs Organization (WCO), IP offices of various countries, International Chamber of Commerce, local and foreign companies, Interagency Coordination Council for Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement, functioning at Sakpatenti, state agencies and business associations.

The Conference was organized in partnership with the Georgian Bar Association, International Chamber of Commerce Georgia (ICC Georgia), Adjara Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The event was sponsored by companies “Shalvino”, “BLC Law Firm” and “Mikadze, Gegetchkori, Taktakishvili Law Firm”.





Title:
“Intellectual Property (IP) and Education”

Date and Venue:
June 20-21, 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia

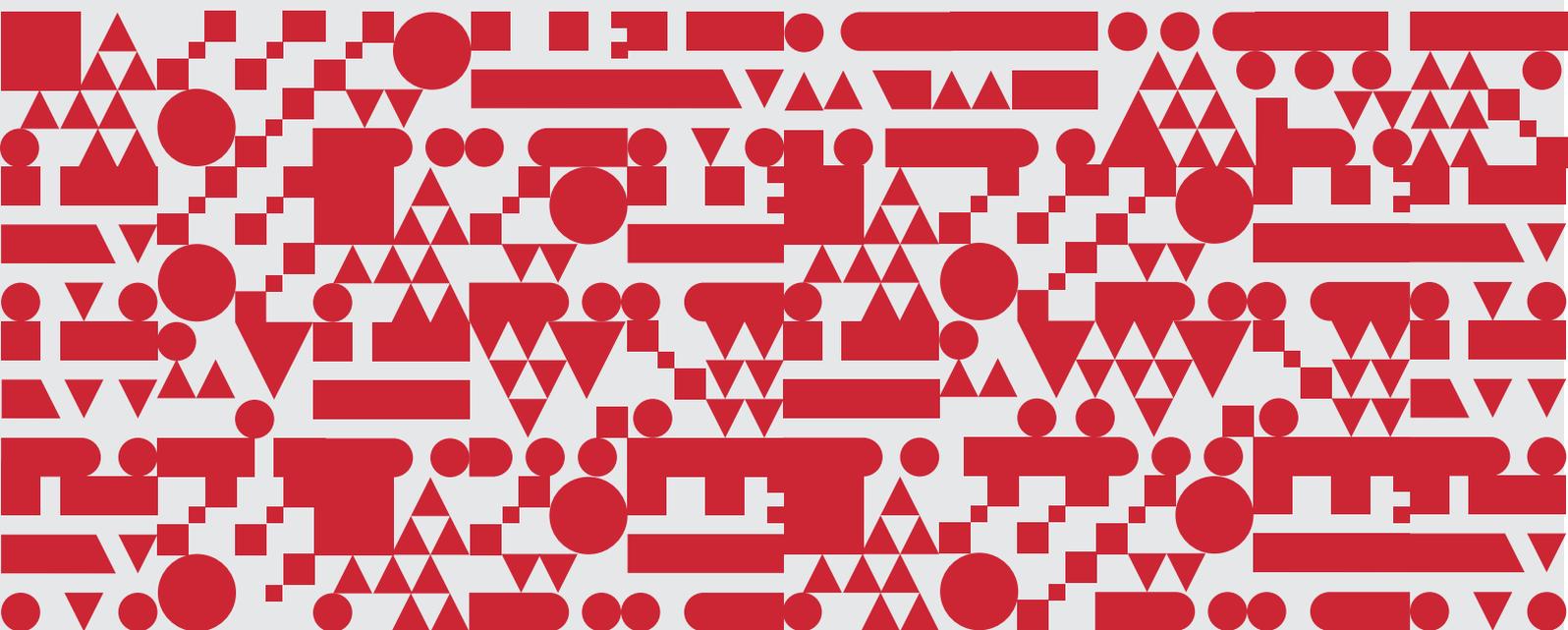
Organized by:
National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia Sakpatenti; World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

International Conference “Intellectual Property (IP) and Education” was held in order to introduce the importance of intellectual property and worldwide IP educational programs. The Conference was attended

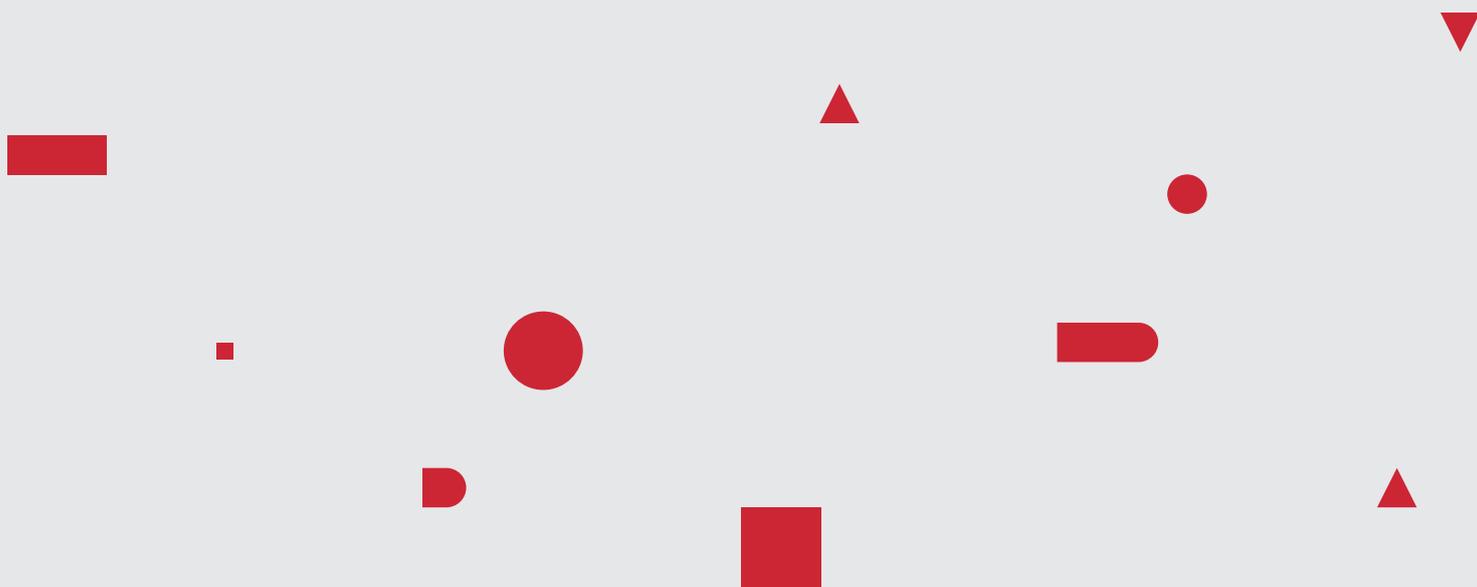
by representatives of the state and private schools and higher educational institutions of Georgia, the government agencies participating in the educational system and international organizations.

During the Conference, the importance of intellectual property and its teaching within various educational programs as well as methodologies of teaching innovation at primary, post and graduation levels were discussed. The invited experts shared the success stories of implementing educational projects in various countries. In addition, the conference participants received information on the WIPO educational programs, including distance learning courses, professional development programs, master’s programs and summer schools.





Trademark



Trademark

In order to increase the number of applications for trademarks, one of the most frequently used IP objects, which can be achieved by improving trademark examination procedure and capacity building of examiners, as well as by updating the legislation, in 2018 the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti carried out the following activities:

- Sakpatenti joined the WIPO-administered program eFiling, by means of which Georgian users will be able to file their international applications electronically, which will simplify for them the procedure of extension of trademarks to the member states of the “Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks”. It is noteworthy that Georgia is the third member state of WIPO, which will use the electronic system of filing international applications. At present this system is used only by the Intellectual Property Offices of the Benelux Countries and Australia;
- The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti completed work on the Georgian translation of the WIPO administered program Madrid Goods and Services Manager (MGS) interface, which will make it possible to work in this system in the Georgian language. The use of MGS will simplify for applicants the procedure of trademarks registration both in Georgia and member countries of the Madrid Union;
- Work was continued on drafting of amendments to be made to the “Trademark Law” of Georgia and the Trademark Instruction to ensure their harmonization with modern requirements and further improvement of examination procedure;
- The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti became the first IP office outside the EU to join the Quality standards tool (EUIPN) search network of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). Integration of Sakpatenti with the above-mentioned tool is aimed at systemic development of electronic management and implementation of the next stage of integration of offices;
- The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti has successfully introduced Trademark Vision – search system of figurative elements for Sakpatenti examiners as well as applicants. Thereby Sakpatenti joined the IP Offices of the countries of the European Union, the United Kingdom, France, Australia and Chile, which are using Trademark Vision artificial intelligence technology;
- To bring the activity of Sakpatenti in line with international standard ISO 9001 2015, necessary measures were taken. The above-mentioned standard

establishes unified requirements of documentary provision and is directed towards regulation and organization of the work process, revealing the main risks of this process and determination of the means of their management or reduction, as well as improvement of performance discipline, personal responsibility and outcomes;

- In 2018, the number of trademark applications filed electronically increased considerably and represented 69% of the total amount. In addition, to facilitate the procedure of trademark applications for applicants, from June 2018 the rule of electronic filing and proceedings of applications was introduced, namely, 20% reduction on the fees was established. Due to this decision, the number of the filed applications requesting electronic proceedings increased. From the entry into force of this decision to the end of 2018 the number of the filed applications requesting electronic proceedings is 27% of the total amount.

In 2018, as in previous year, in the national as well as international trademark applications, the applications for pharmaceutical products predominated (1121), a considerable amount of applications were also filed in advertising and office functions (897). A great number of applications was filed from the Russian Federation (476), the USA (456) and the Federal Republic of Germany (399). In 2018, 15 applications were sent from Georgia to the International Bureau under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, and at the same time 13 applications were sent requesting subsequent extension.

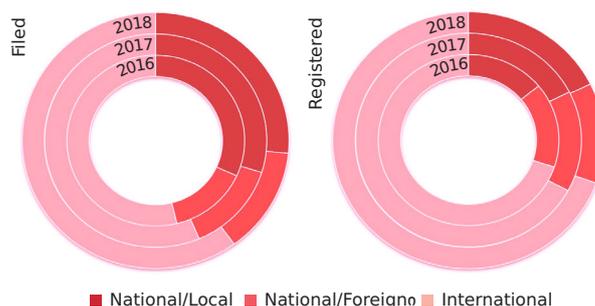
The leading classes according to the number of local trademark applications are as follows:

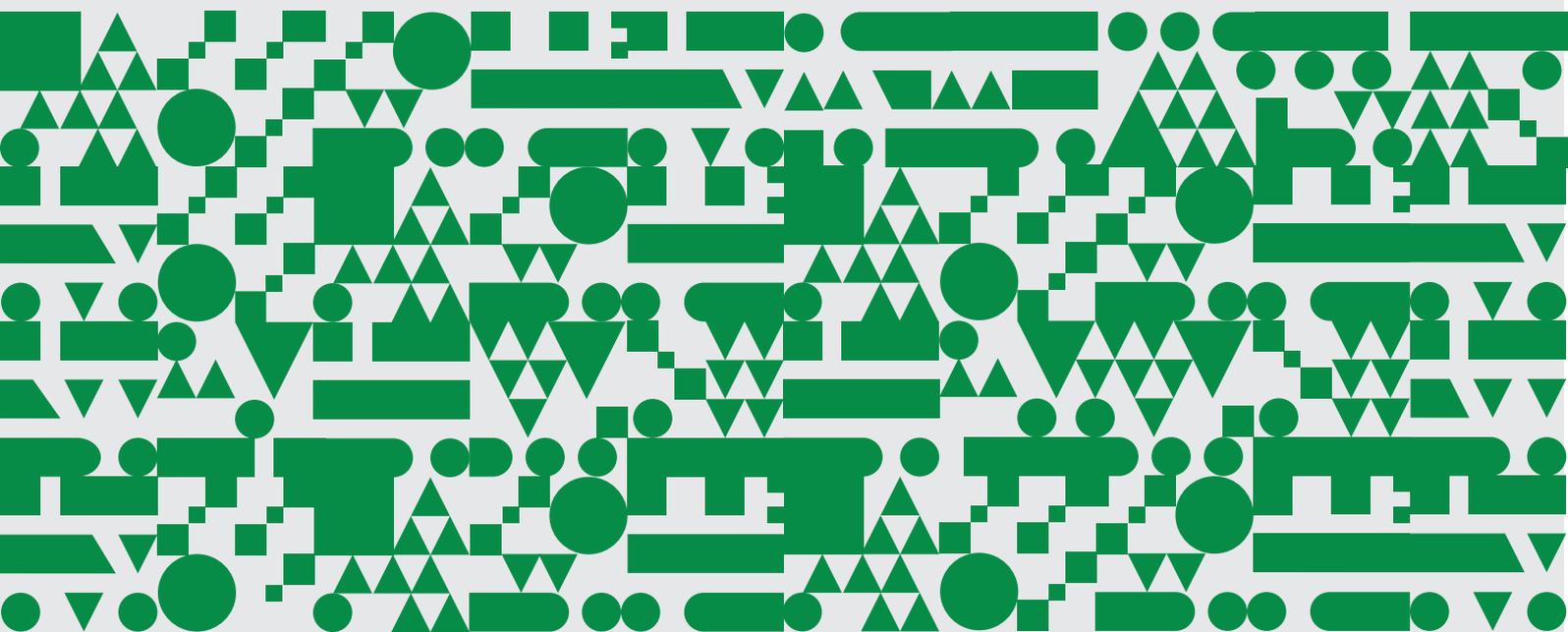
- Class 5: Pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations, etc. – 320 applications;
- Class 33: Alcoholic beverages (except beer) – 269 applications;
- Class 35: Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions – 294 applications.

The leading classes according to the number of trademark applications filed under the national procedure and the Madrid Protocol are:

- Class 5: Pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations, etc. – 1121 applications;
- Class 35: Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions – 897 applications;
- Class 9: Data processing equipment, computers; computer software, etc. – 753 applications.

Trademark		Filed Applications			Registered Applications		
		2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
National Procedure	Local	1478	1664	1373	656	630	833
	Foreign	669	768	691	745	548	591
International Procedure		2504	3145	3101	3248	2407	3257
Total		4651	5577	5165	4649	3585	4681





Geographical

Indication and

Appellation of Origin

Geographical Indication and Appellation of Origin

For revealing new geographical indications and appellations of origin, their registration and protection abroad, improving specifications of registered geographical indications and enforcement of their rights, as well as raising public awareness on geographical indications and appellations of origin of goods, in the reporting year the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti carried out the following activities:

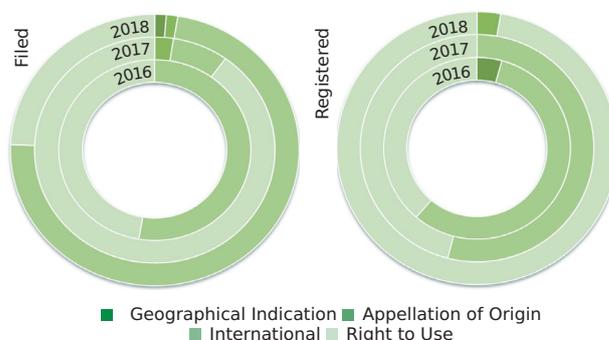
- In 2018, the procedure of registration of “Khashmi Saperavi” as an appellation of origin of wine was completed. By the registration of this appellation of origin, the special characteristics and reputation of wine “Khashmi Saperavi” was defined officially;
- Sakpatenti began the procedure of registration of “Bolnisi” as an appellation of origin of wine. The aim of the protection of this appellation is to stress the special qualities and high reputation of wine “Bolnisi”;
- In cooperation with “OriGIn Georgia”, work was continued for revealing and study of potential geographical indications and appellations of origin for the purpose of their future protection;
- On the initiative of “OriGIn Georgia”, a scientific-practical work “Geographical Indications – Quality

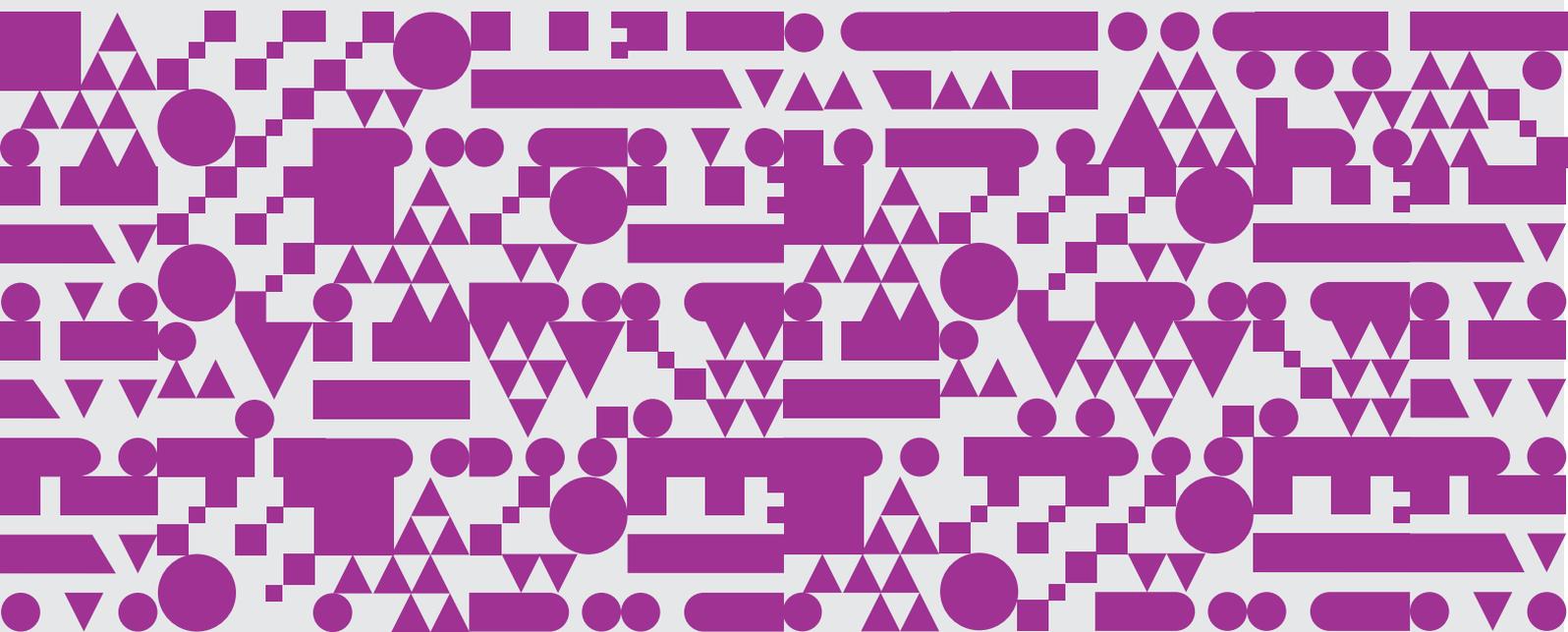
and Development” (authors: David Gabunia, Merab Kvimsadze, Eka Gabunia) was published. The publication is aimed to assist the interested persons in understanding the essence of this IP object and in solving the practical tasks related with its use in the agricultural sector.

In 2018, 57 applications requesting extension to Georgia under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration were filed, among which traditionally the appellations of origin for wines are leading. Sakpatenti granted rights to the use of geographical indications and appellations of origin of goods for the following items:

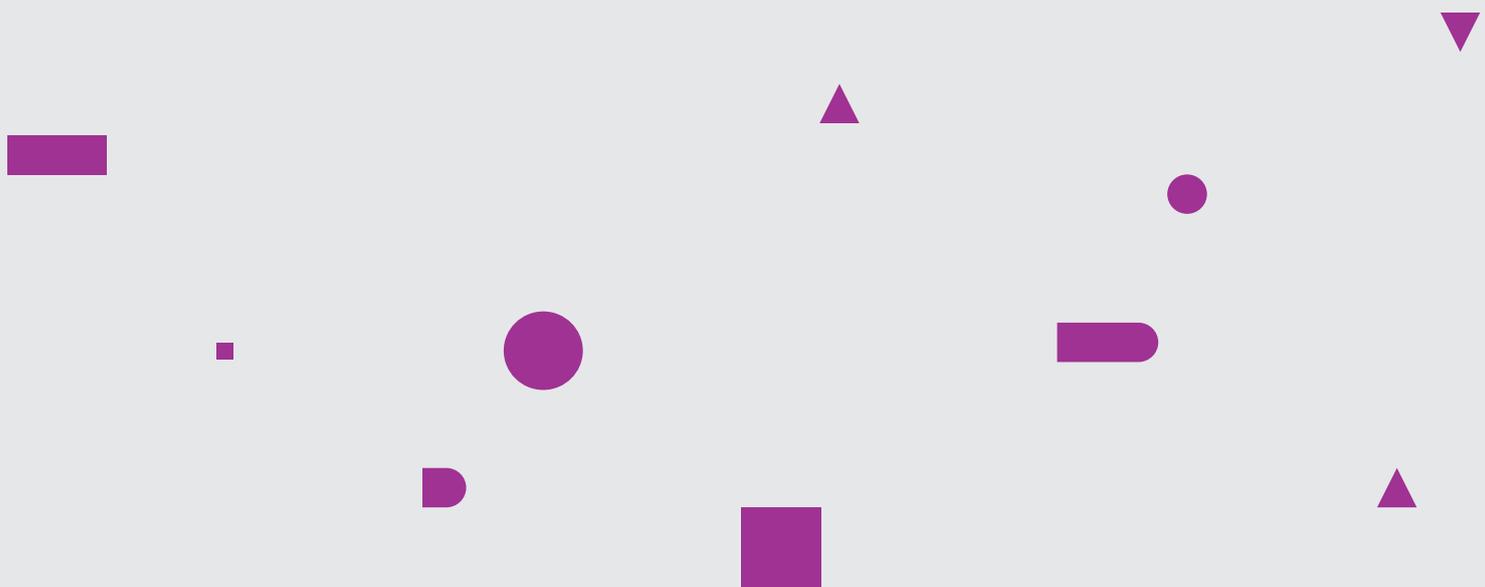
- “Kindzmarauli” – 5 certificates;
- “Mukuzani”, “Khvanchkara” – 4 certificates for each;
- “Akhasheni”, “Tsinandali” – 3 certificates for each;
- “Napareuli Red”, “Napareuli White”, “Mitarbi” and “Borjomi” – 1 certificate for each;
- “Chacha” – 3 certificates;
- “Tvishi”, “Vazisunabi” – 2 certificates;
- “Sulguni”, “Kakheti”, “Manavi”, “Sairme”, “Nabeghlavi”, “Tibaani” – 1 certificate for each.

Geographical Indication and Appellation of Origin		Filed applications			Registered appellations		
		2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
National Procedure	Geographical Indication	0	0	1	4	0	0
	Appellation of Origin	0	1	1	0	0	1
International Procedure (Lisbon Agreement)		50	3	57	53	31	0
Right to Use of Appellation of Origin		45	34	19	36	34	36





Design



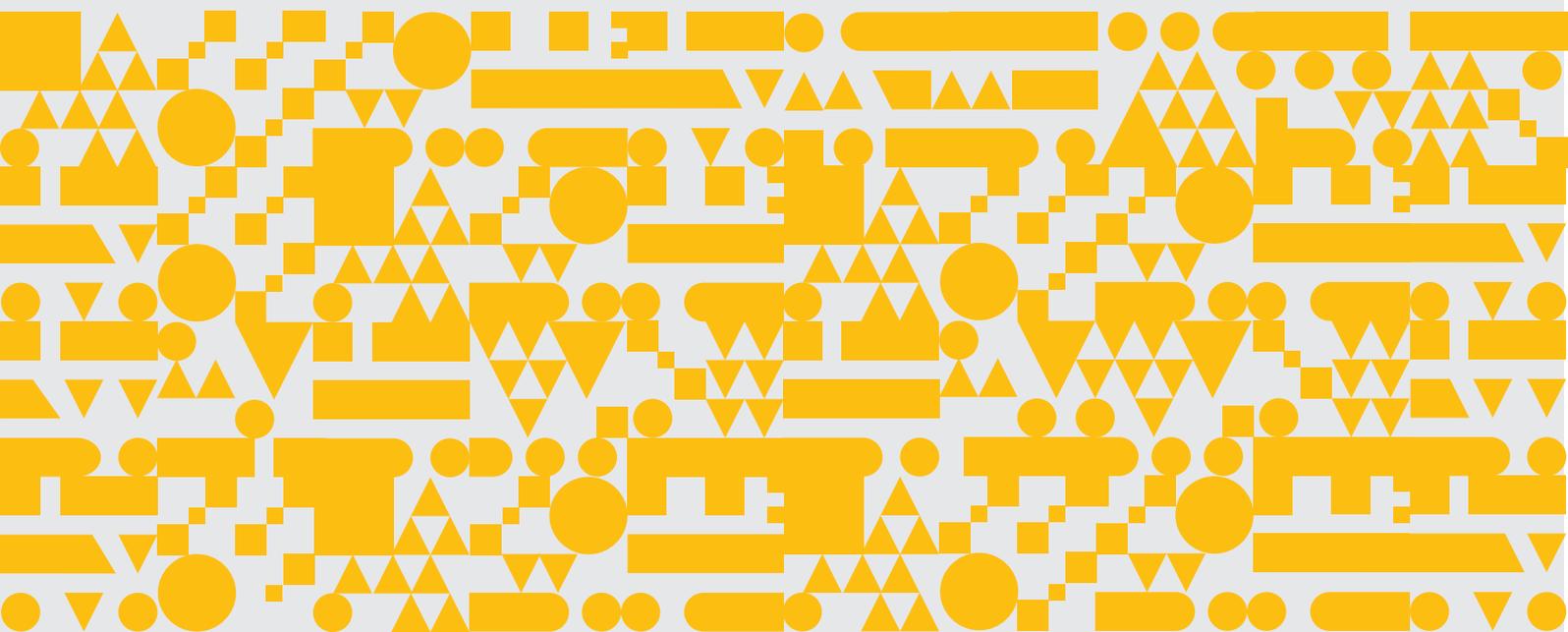
Design

To raise public awareness on the importance of the legal protection of the IP object - design, to further develop, improve and harmonize with the international standards the procedures related with filing and registration of applications for designs, in 2018 Sakpatenti carried out the following activities:

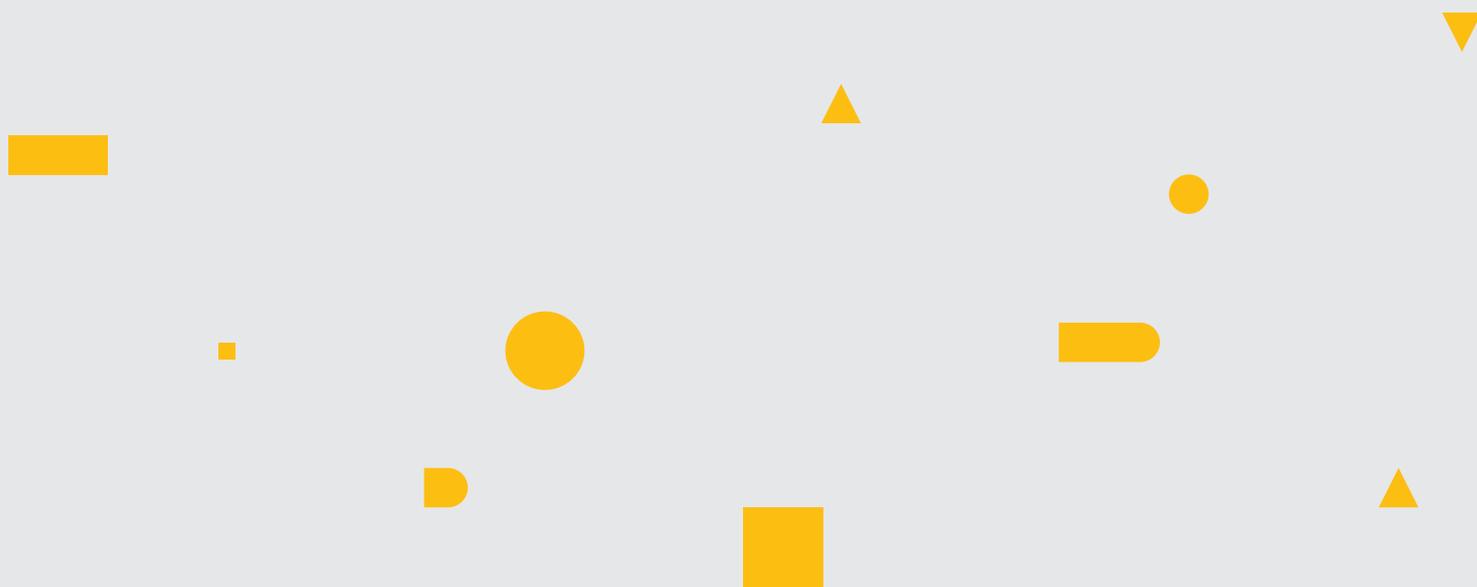
- The harmonized database of product indications DesignClass was translated into the Georgian language, developed by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) on the basis of the Locarno International Classification, which will assist users to indicate precisely and translate the product indications in which designs are included or for which designs are used;
- Work was continued on the draft amendments to be made to the “Law of Georgia on Design” and the Design Instruction in order to harmonize them with modern requirements and to improve further the examination procedure;
- In 2018, work was continued in order to bring the activity of Sakpatenti in compliance with international standard ISO 9001 2015. This standard establishes unified requirements of documentary provision and is directed towards regulation and organization of the work process, revealing the main risks of this process and determination of the means of their management or reduction, as well as improvement of performance discipline, personal responsibility and outcomes;
- To assist applicants in filing design applications, from June 2018 the rule of electronic filing and proceedings of applications was introduced, namely, 20% reduction on the fees was established. This decision was followed by a favourable result - the number of the filed design applications, requesting electronic proceedings increased. From the entry into force of this decision to the end of 2018 the number of the filed applications requesting electronic proceedings reached 53% of the total amount.

Design			Filed Applications			Registered Design Applications		
			2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
National Procedure	Local	Legal Entity	9	16	14	18	9	14
		Natural Person	30	51	29	14	32	30
	Foreign		2	11	13	4	4	11
International Procedure			232	174	126	231	121	145
Total			273	252	182	267	166	200





Invention



In order to popularize the invention field, to improve the quality of patent examination and to harmonize the work of the national office with the international standards, in 2018 Sakpatenti carried out the following activities:

- The information of all patents granted by Sakpatenti from its establishment became available in Patentscope - the global patent search system of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Patentscope is a global patent search system which includes PCT applications as well as national patent applications and patents from many countries, 70 million documents in total. In 2018, 8850 documents from Georgia were added to the collection: ca. 6900 patents on invention and ca. 1950 patents on utility model. Prior to the inclusion of the collection in Patentscope, the data was thoroughly processed and prepared according to WIPO standards in the new electronic system of Sakpatenti. The data includes bibliographic notes as well as full text image data of the patent documents. The renewal and update of Georgian patent data in the system will take place automatically once a month. The inclusion of the Georgian patents in the above-mentioned system will improve their searchability on the global scale as they will be placed among the global prior art documents;
- In 2018, Georgian national patent collection was updated in Espacenet – patent search system of the European Patent Office (EPO), which includes 100 million patent documents from more than 100 countries. The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti has been submitting data to Espacenet since 2005. In the reporting year, all the patents granted from the establishment of Sakpatenti to present were uploaded. The Georgian documents will be updated monthly, which will simplify for the interested persons to search information worldwide;
- The National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti joined WIPO CASE electronic platform administered by WIPO, which will help patent examiners of Sakpatenti to get access to the search and examination documentation and further improve the quality and efficiency of the patent examination. WIPO CASE represents the Centralized Access to Search and Examination system. It enables patent offices of various countries to share securely the search and examination documentation related with patent applications in order to facilitate work sharing programs. Prior to gaining access to WIPO CASE by Sakpatenti, the national patent collection of Georgia was included into the system.

- According to the Action Plan, in order to facilitate innovative activities, in 2018 Sakpatenti carried out 322 preliminary patent searches in cooperation with Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation and Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA). It is noteworthy that the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti participated in the renewed competition of "State Scientific Grants for Applied Research" 2018 (Rustaveli Foundation), in the program "Co-financing Grants for Start-ups" (GITA), in the Competition of Young Inventors and Researchers "Leonardo da Vinci" (Rustaveli Foundation) and the competition of start-ups – "Creative Business Cup (CBC) Georgia".

In 2018, as compared with the previous year, the number of invention applications increased by 12%. Along with this, it is noteworthy that the number of local applications for inventions increased by 37%; the number of invention applications filed on behalf of higher educational institutions and independent scientific-research units increased by 50%. In 2018, the majority of the national as well as foreign applications for inventions and utility models were filed in human necessities (Section A), the largest number of foreign applications was filed from the USA (44), Germany (15) and Italy (13).

The leading sections according to the number of national applications for inventions are:

- Section A: human necessities – 31 applications;
- Section B: performing operations; transporting – 24 applications;
- Section E: fixed constructions; building; mining – 14 applications.

The leading sections according to the number of foreign applications for inventions are as follows:

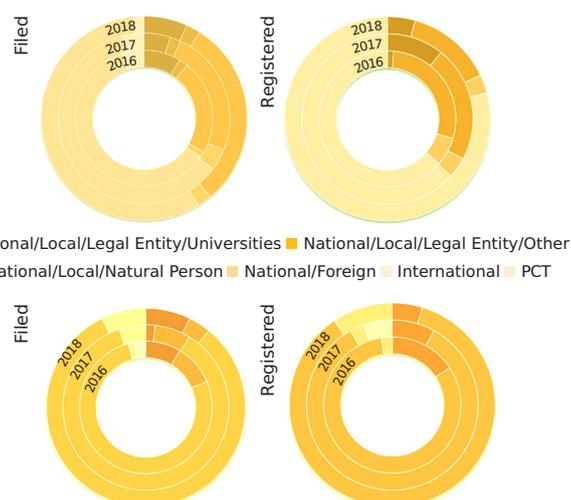
- Section A: human necessities – 70 applications;
- Section C: chemistry, metallurgy – 50 applications;
- Section E: fixed constructions; building; mining – 9 applications.

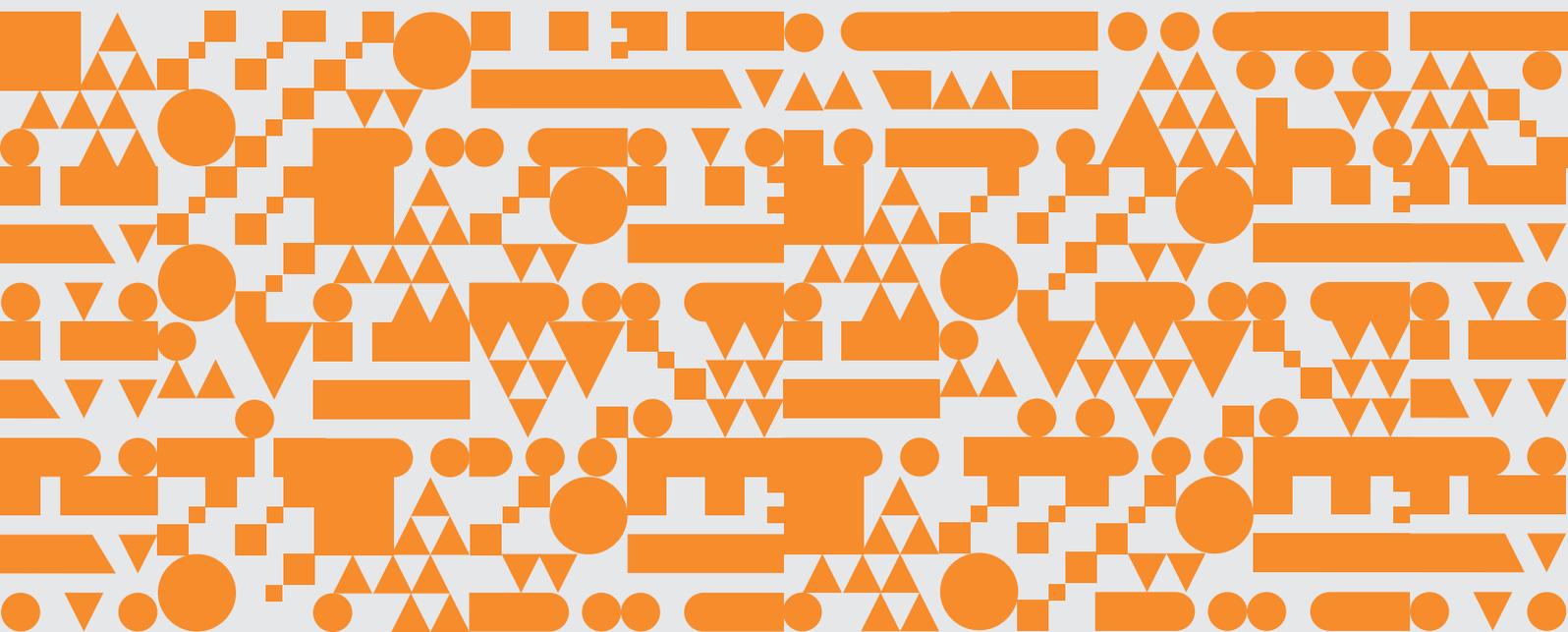
The leading sections according to the number of national applications for utility models are as follows:

- Section A: human necessities – 26 applications;
- Section C: chemistry, metallurgy – 9 applications;
- Section B: performing operations; transporting – 7 applications;
- Section E: fixed constructions; building; mining – 7 applications.

Invention				Filed Applications			Registered Patents		
				2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
National Procedure	Local	Legal Entity	25	12	18	19	9	1	
		Universities	6	5	6				
		Other	65	58	79	39	28	35	
	Natural Person	4	10	6	7	6	0		
Foreign									
International Procedure				174	147	151	112	163	97
Total				274	232	260	177	206	133
PCT Applications filed with Sakpatenti as a Receiving Office				15	10	5			

Utility Model				Filed Applications			Registered Patents		
				2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
National Procedure	Local	Legal Entity	6	1	4	6	3	2	
		Universities	7	4	2				
		Other	54	49	45	31	31	36	
	Natural Person	1	3	4	1	1	4		
Foreign									
International Procedure				2	0	0	0	2	0
Total				70	57	55	38	37	42





**New Plant
Varieties and
Animal Breeds**



New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds

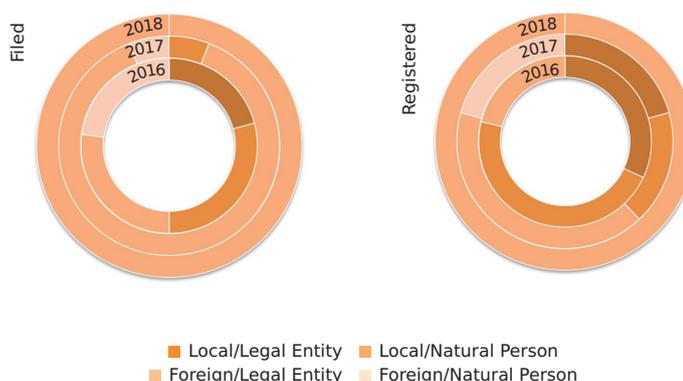
In order to bring the system of protection and examination quality of one of the IP objects, new plant varieties and animal breeds, in compliance with the international standards, in 2018, Sakpatenti carried out the following activities:

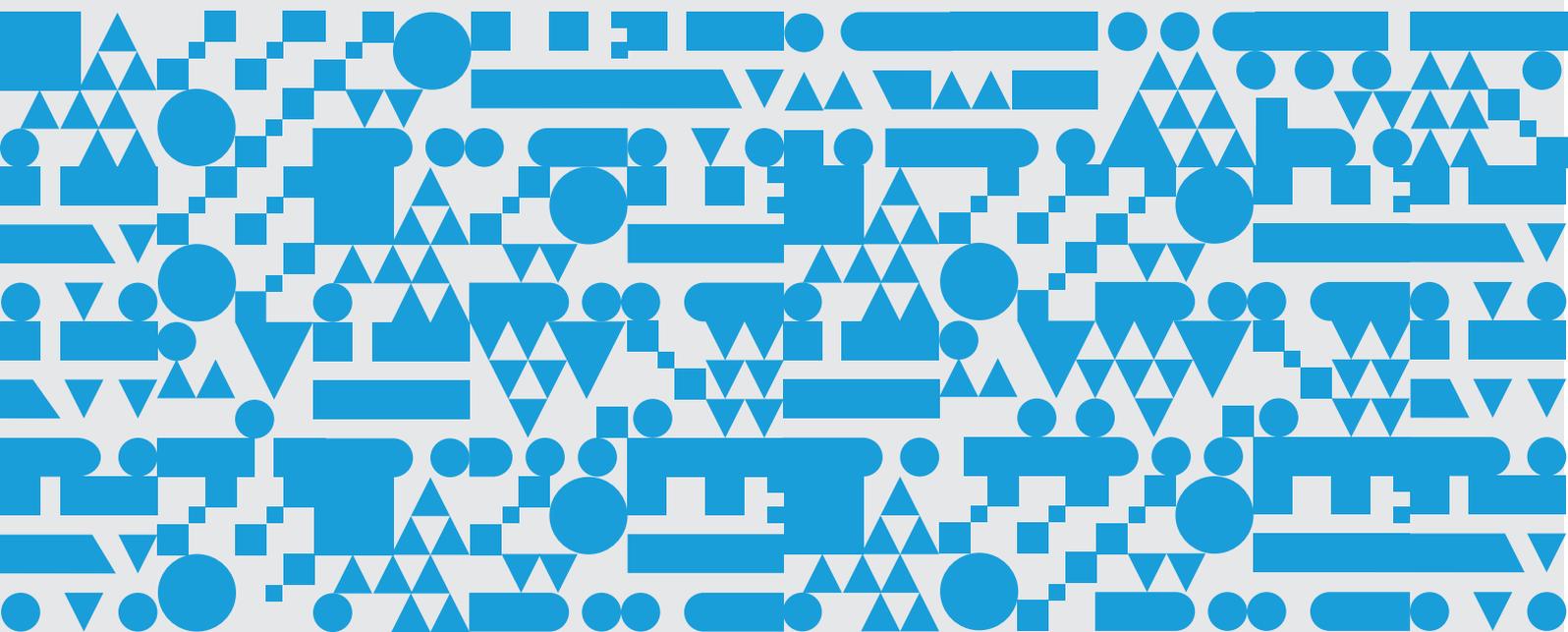
- The Office participated in the process of creation of the National Catalogue of Agricultural crops, which is an issues related with harmonization of the national legislation with the European Union Regulations and European legislation. The meeting was held at the Scientific-Research Centre of Agriculture, with the financial support of the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX). The objective of creation of the Catalogue is putting high-quality seeds and planting materials on the Georgian market;

- In 2018, Sakpatenti carried out preliminary works for drafting amendments to the Law of Georgia on New Breeds of Animals and Varieties of Plants, which is aimed to harmonize the Law with the international standards.

In the reporting year, 1 application for new plant variety was filed with the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti by a foreign legal entity. 4 new plant varieties were registered and certificates confirming the breeder's rights were issued. All the 4 varieties belong to foreign legal entities, of these, there are 2 new varieties of blueberry and 2 new varieties of raspberry.

New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds		Filed Applications			Registered Varieties/Breeds		
		2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Local	Legal Entity	10	0	0	15	12	0
	Natural Person	14	1	0	22	10	0
Foreign	Legal Entity	13	15	1	10	24	4
	Natural Person	11	1	0	0	12	0
Total		48	17	1	47	58	4





Copyright



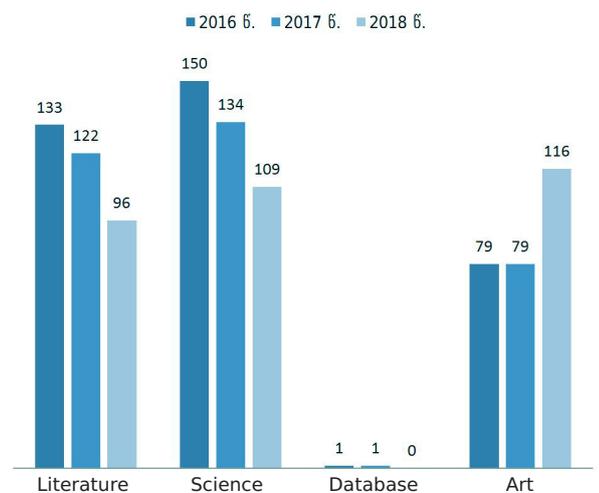
Copyright

In 2018, raising public awareness on the importance of legal protection of copyright and related rights remained one of the priority directions of activity of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti. In the reporting year, a number of activities were carried out, the results of which were reflected in the number of filed applications requesting depositing works. In particular, the public was again informed about the possibility of electronic filing of applications for depositing works, as

a result of which, the number of applications filed by means of the electronic system increased. Of the 357 filed applications requesting depositing works, 188 applications were filed electronically.

It is noteworthy that, as compared with 2017, in the reporting year, the number of filed applications requesting depositing computer programs increased by 68%.

Object	Category	2016	2017	2018
Literature	Description	1	-	1
	Dramatic Work	-	2	2
	Translation	5	3	7
	Collection	4	4	1
	Literary Work	52	50	33
	Monograph	1	-	2
	Musico-dramatic Work	-	2	1
	Synopsis	9	9	2
	Scenario	49	38	37
	Compiled Work	12	5	5
Science	Book	-	9	5
	Computer Program	9	28	47
	Collection	-	4	-
	Methodological Work	46	29	19
	Monograph	-	2	-
	Map	-	6	-
	Scientific Work	48	31	30
	Scientific Article	6	13	2
	Scientific-Methodological Work	25	5	11
	Textbook	16	10	-
Database	Compiled Work	-	5	-
	Book	-	1	-
Art	Database	1	1	-
	Architectural Project	4	5	18
	Audio-Visual Work	13	3	5
	Graphics	-	3	-
	Decorative-Applied Art	4	10	12
	Design	9	10	26
	Dramatic Work	1	-	-
	Sketch	1	4	1
	Video Commercial	-	1	-
	Theatrical-Decorative Art	1	-	-
	Illustration	-	4	-
	Logo	6	5	9
	Multimedia Work	19	-	-
	Musical Work	-	9	8
	Musical Work with Words	14	11	21
	Garden and Park Art	-	1	-
	Work of Fine Arts	2	8	7
	Photography	2	4	4
	Sculpture	1	1	5
	Book	2	-	-
Total		363	336	321



Lawmaking and Litigation/ 2018

As a result of the work of many years of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, from January 1, 2018, the updated legislation regulating the intellectual property field entered into force. Within the new legislative framework, the mechanisms of protection and enforcement of IP rights were further elaborated and expanded, which in its turn is a precondition of the improvement of the standard of the intellectual property field. The amendments were made to the following legislative acts regulating intellectual property:

- The Patent Law of Georgia;
- The Law of Georgia on Copyright and Related Rights;
- The Law of Georgia on Design;
- The Trademark Law of Georgia;
- The Code of Civil Procedure of Georgia;
- The Law of Georgia on Pesticides and Agrochemicals;
- The Law of Georgia on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Activity.

The above-mentioned legislative amendments are mostly related with prevention of infringements of rights in IP objects, full definition of legal mechanisms for carrying out adequate sanctions which were not provided for by the procedural legislation existing until 2018. The amendments will facilitate effective enforcement of exclusive rights from the viewpoint of civil law.

In 2018 too, the work was continued on the draft Law “On Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications of Goods”, which is aimed at further improvement of the current legislation and its harmonization with the international standards. The planned legislative amendments cover the state control mechanism for the production/use of a registered appellation of origin or geographical indication, identification of basic elements of specifications of goods and terms of

making amendments to them; the obligation to use on goods the sign of a protected appellation of origin or geographical indication; definition of legal mechanisms of protection in case of infringement of exclusive rights on an appellation of origin or geographical indication, as well as specification of procedures of conducting examination as to form and substantive examination.

In order to elaborate the current legislation and to bring it in compliance with the international standards, normative administrative and legal acts, Resolutions of the Government of Georgia and drafts were prepared and published. In addition, the draft Resolution of the Government “On the Rule of Granting Compulsory Licenses for the Use of a Patented Invention and Utility Model and on the Definition of the Composition of the Standing Council Taking Decisions on Granting Compulsory Licenses” was prepared and the composition of the Council granting compulsory licenses, the grounds for granting compulsory licenses, their scope and terms of use were determined. Accordingly, proceeding from the norms of the law, the Rule of Granting Compulsory Licenses for the Use of a Patented Invention and Utility Model was drafted, which stipulates how the Standing council shall take a decision concerning granting a compulsory license upon the request of a potential receiver of a compulsory license.

In 2018, 183 appeals were filed with the Chamber of Appeals at the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, the majority of which (182), as in previous years, were related with decisions of examination on trademarks. As compared with 2017, the number of appeals increased by 30%. It is noteworthy that in 2018 20 appeals were filed with the court with respect to the decisions of examination of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti and the Chamber of Appeals. 5 disputes were settled in favour of Sakpatenti, 3 – in favour of the plaintiff.

Subject-matter		2016					2017					2018				
		Filed	Heard	Upheld fully	Upheld partially	Rejected	Filed	Heard	Upheld fully	Upheld partially	Rejected	Filed	Heard	Upheld fully	Upheld partially	Rejected
Invention	Applicant	1	1			1	1	1			1					
	Third Party															
Utility Model	Applicant															
	Third Party	1	1	1												
Design	Applicant	1				1										
	Third Party						1	1		1	1	2	1		1	
Trademark	Applicant	127	113	48	11	53	103	107	32	6	65	161	145	43	14	88
	Third Party	22	22	6	1	17	16	12	1	-	11	21	11	2		9
Total		152	137	55	12	70	121	121	33	6	77	183	158	46	14	98

To ensure the financial support of the activities of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti, the source of which are the fees paid for the services related to patenting, registration and deposition of intellectual property objects, the Office achieved the following results:

- The received cash incomes, as compared with the previous year, increased by 461 thousand GEL. Especially noteworthy are the incomes received from non-residents in foreign currency which is mainly explained by the activities carried out in order to raise

awareness in the IP field (increase of interest of non-residents applicants with respect to registration of trademarks in Georgia);

- By means of the purchases carried out during the year, economy of 19310 GEL was achieved. 186 procedures of simplified procurements were carried out with the total value of 829.5 thousand GEL. The procedures of the conducted simplified electronic tenders included 15 contracts with the value of 157.3 thousand GEL, whereas the consolidated tenders expenditure, reflected in 10 contracts, was 19.3 thousand GEL.

Budget Incomes (Cash Figures)

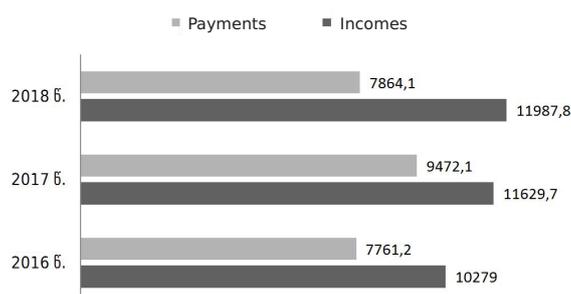
Thousand GEL

#	Economic Classification Code	Specified Plan	Cash Incomes	Including Budget Resources	Total Income	Result +/-
1	Incomes from basic activities	11900,0	11976,1	0	11976,1	76,1
1,1	Incomes from services rendered to non-resident natural persons and legal entities	7606,0	7679,3	0	7679,3	73,3
1,2	Incomes from services rendered to resident natural persons and legal entities	4294,0	4296,8	0	4296,8	2,8
2	Incomes from non-basic activities	11,7	11,7	0	11,7	0,0
2,1	Grants to be received	11,7	11,7	0	11,7	0,0
2,2	Positive exchange difference	0		0		0,0
2,3	Other incomes from non-basic activities	0,0	0	0	0	0,0
	Sum Total of Incomes	11911,7	11987,8	0	11987,8	76,1

Budget Payments (Cash Figures)

Thousand GEL

Economic Classification Code	Title	Specified Plan	Own Resources	Budget Resources	Total Income	Result +/-
2,1	Payment for work	3314,5	3314,5	0,0	3228,0	-86,5
2.1.1.1	Salary	3027,0	3027,0	0,0	2966,1	-60,9
2.1.1.1.3	Bonus	257,5	257,5	0,0	257,5	0,0
2.1.1.1.4	Allowance	30,0	30,0	0,0	4,4	-25,6
2,2	Goods and Services	2002,5	2002,5	0,0	1838,3	-164,2
2,5	Subsidies	240,3	240,3	0,0	240,3	0,0
2,6	Grants	180,0	180,0	0,0	118	-62,0
2,7	Social welfare	84,0	84,0	0,0	84	0,0
2,8	Other expenses	3136,0	3136,0	0,0	2318,7	-817,3
2.8.2.1.15	Payments (to the budget, according to the legislation)	3100	3100	0,0	2202,9	-897,1
31	Increase of non-financial assets	440,0	440,0	0,0	36,8	-403,2
	Sum Total of Payments	9397,3	9397,3	0,0	7864,1	-1533,2



Public Relations, Publishing and Information Activities/ 2018

To facilitate public awareness rising in the intellectual property field, publication of specialized literature carried out by entity is noteworthy. In particular, the following was published in 2018:

- On the initiative of "OriGIn Georgia", a scientific-practical book "Geographical Indications – Quality and Development", authored by David Gabunia, Merab Kvimsadze and Eka Gabunia (246 pages, 500 copies). The book describes the principles of a significant IP object – geographical indication, its formation, use and protection obstacles. It analyses the impact of geographical indications on the development of the agricultural sector and production of competitive goods, as well as the European Union experience, current challenges in Georgia and ways of their overcoming. The publication is intended for persons working in the agricultural field and the persons interested in intellectual property field;
- Book I from the series "Absolute Grounds for Refusal of Trademark Registration" – "European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) Examination Guidelines and Practice of Georgia" (132 p., 300 copies), author: Elene Sekhniashvili;
- Information booklets were published repeatedly: "Design", "Trademark", "Geographical Indication and Appellation of Origin", "New Plant Variety and Animal Breed" (1300 copies), as well as cognitive literature intended for schoolchildren (fairy-tales): "Umbrella", "Washing-machine", "Compass", "Star-candles" and "Doremus Solasi". In addition, information flyers, maps of geographical indications of cheeses and wines (in total – more than 5000 copies);
- According to the requirement of the Paris Convention, 24 issues (№№1(485)-24(508) of the Official Bulletin of Industrial Property were published in Georgian and English, including 2 issues of the special edition of the Bulletin;
- 2 issues of bilingual publication – the Official Bulletin for the Protection of New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds (№№1(54)-2(55), which were sent to the relevant sectoral scientific-research institutions;
- Specifications and abstracts of applications for inventions and utility models were prepared, including those to be published on CD ROMs – in total 280 patent specifications, numbering 12242 pages.
- According to the legislation, public information documents were copied (in total, 2100 pages);
- To popularize the given field, the following were published at Sakpatenti printing office: "Annual Report of the Georgian Copyright Association" (500 copies) and the journal of the Georgian Copyright Association "Author©racy" (200 copies), as well as book "Kvevri and Kakhetian Wine", authors: Teimuraz Ghlonti, Zurab Ghlonti (300 copies).

The above-mentioned publications replenished the collections of the National Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti Library, which renders services and offers consultations to applicants, students and other persons interested in the IP field. During 2018:

- At the library consultations were offered free of charge to about 2700 potential applicants, and telephone consultations were rendered to up to 50000 applicants;
- Work was continued on the patent libraries project PATLIB, which envisages free of charge access to commercial databases and non-patent literature for visitors of Sakpatenti library.

In order to improve services delivered for users and to implement effective management of the Office, in general, in the reporting year, Sakpatenti carried out the following activities:

- The electronic office management system was created and introduced, which allowed paperless exchange of documentation and simplified the access to documents;
- The electronic signature was integrated in the electronic office management and filing systems, which enhanced the reliability of electronic identification of correspondence and documents;
- Trademark Vision – the search system of figurative elements was introduced successfully. Sakpatenti examiners as well as applicants were given an opportunity, by means of Sakpatenti website, to use the artificial intelligence figurative elements search system, which facilitates improving examination quality of trademark applications.
- WIPO-administered search system Global Brands Database was integrated with Sakpatenti new electronic filing system, this enabled Sakpatenti examiners and users to search by the figurative system; due to the integration of the database the quality of service in the international database was improved.
- Sakpatenti examiners were equipped with up-to-date computers, which facilitated simplification of searching and increasing of its speed.
- Within the USAID Project - Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD 2020), the assessment program of the institutional resources of the National

Intellectual Property Centre of Georgia Sakpatenti was implemented. The aim of the program was to outline the objectives and tasks of the Organization, to compare the current quality of the work performance with the optimal quality, to identify the gaps in the work performance and to carry out specific measures to improve them. According to a results of the conducted research and assessment, an action document "Quality Management Guidelines" was drafted and approved in 2018, in which all core and supporting processes of Sakpatenti are specified. The document contains detailed recommendations and methods regarding improving the current performance gaps at the Office.

In the reporting year, 6067 applications for inventions, utility models, designs, trademarks, geographical indications, new plant varieties and animal breeds as well as for depositing of copyright and related rights were filed with Sakpatenti. In 2018 the filing team

processed 19966 items of Sakpatenti inward and outward correspondences. In the reporting period, in total 26033 documents were processed.

In accordance with Resolution № 328 of the Government of Georgia (June 12, 2018) on Making Amendments to the Resolution № 182 of the Government of Georgia (July 3, 2010) "On Approval of Fees for the Service Related with Patenting, Registration and Deposition of Intellectual Property Subject-Matters", the fees were differentiated for applications for registration of IP objects, filed with Sakpatenti on paper, and applications filed electronically. In particular, a 20% discount was introduced for electronic applications requesting issuance of relevant titles of protection (patent, certificate), which further simplified the access to the intellectual property protection procedure for users. In 2018, the 20% reduction was applied to 671 applications.

Number of Filed and Processed Applications According to Subject-Matters

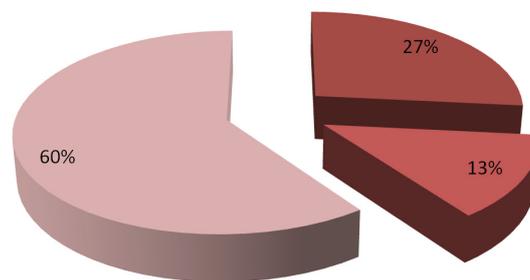
Object		2016	2017	2018
Invention		274	232	260
PCT Applications		15	10	5
Utility Model		70	57	55
Design	National	41	78	56
	International	232	174	126
Trademark	National	2147	2432	2064
	International	2504	3145	3101
Geographical Indication and Appellation of Origin	Geographical Indication	0	0	1
	Appellation of Origin	0	1	1
	International	50	3	57
	Right to use	45	34	19
New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds		48	17	1
Copyright and Related Rights (Deposition)		363	336	321
Total		5789	6519	6067
Correspondence		11436	14687	19966

Statistics/ 2018

Trademark

NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS

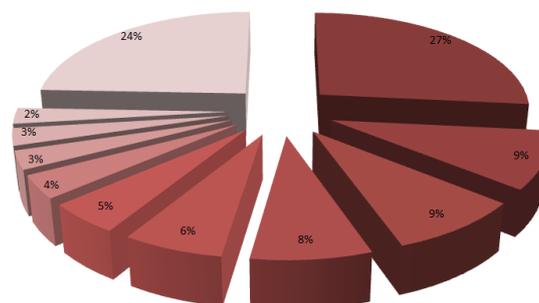
PROCEDURE	QTY
NATIONAL/LOCAL	1373
NATIONAL/FOREIGN	691
INTERNATIONAL	3101
TOTAL	5165



■ NATIONAL/LOCAL ■ NATIONAL/FOREIGN ■ INTERNATIONAL

NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

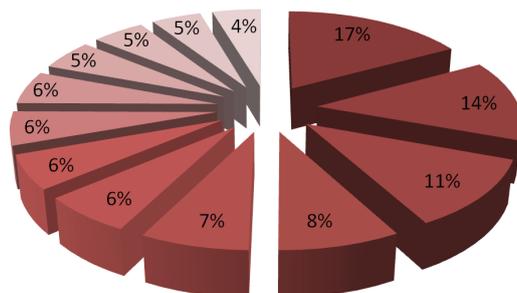
CODE	QTY
GE	1373
RU	476
US	456
DE	399
CN	334
CH	251
TR	191
IT	152
FR	142
HU	132
OTHER	1259



■ GE ■ RU ■ US ■ DE ■ CN ■ CH ■ TR ■ IT ■ FR ■ HU ■ OTHER

NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO CLASSES

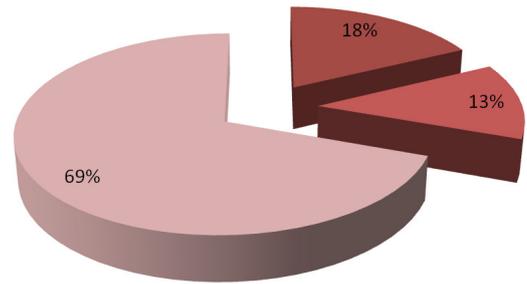
CLASS	QTY
5	1121
35	897
9	753
30	538
3	479
33	416
43	377
41	370
29	368
25	339
42	325
32	307
36	299



■ 5 ■ 35 ■ 9 ■ 30 ■ 3 ■ 33 ■ 43 ■ 41 ■ 29 ■ 25 ■ 42 ■ 32 ■ 36

NUMBER OF MARKS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER

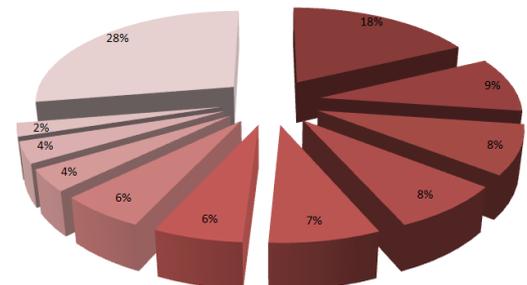
PROCEDURE	QTY
NATIONAL/LOCAL	833
NATIONAL/FOREIGN	591
INTERNATIONAL	3257
TOTAL	4681



■ NATIONAL/LOCAL ■ NATIONAL/FOREIGN ■ INTERNATIONAL

NUMBER OF MARKS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

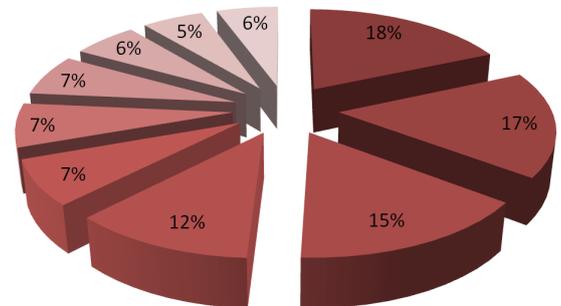
CODE	QTY
GE	833
US	442
RU	392
DE	367
CN	348
TR	280
CH	273
FR	175
IT	170
GB	106
OTHER	1295



■ GE ■ US ■ RU ■ DE ■ CN ■ TR ■ CH ■ FR ■ IT ■ GB ■ OTHER

NUMBER OF FILED LOCAL APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO CLASS

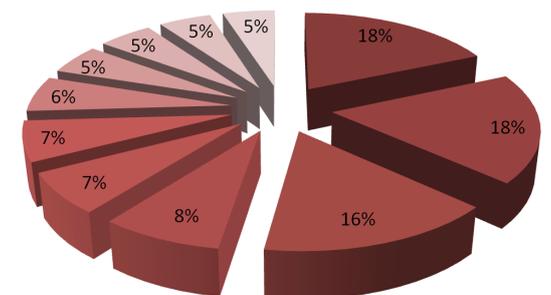
CLASS	QTY
15	320
235	294
333	269
443	201
532	125
630	121
736	116
841	101
929	96
1037	96



■ 15 ■ 235 ■ 333 ■ 443 ■ 532 ■ 630 ■ 736 ■ 841 ■ 929 ■ 1037

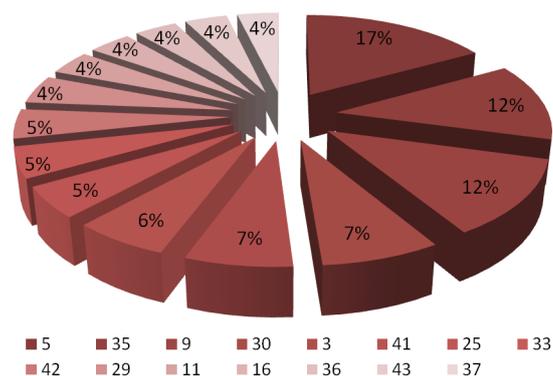
NUMBER OF MARKS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER ACCORDING TO CLASSES

CLASS	QTY
35	203
5	202
33	173
43	89
36	75
41	74
30	66
29	56
37	56
32	54
44	54



■ 35 ■ 5 ■ 33 ■ 43 ■ 36 ■ 41 ■ 30 ■ 29 ■ 37 ■ 32 ■ 44

NUMBER OF LOCAL TRADEMARKS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER ACCORDING TO CLASS	
CLASS	QTY
5	1062
35	785
9	761
30	473
3	427
41	387
25	312
33	308
42	296
29	288
11	247
16	243
36	241
43	241
37	235



Applications/Trademarks Sent to the International Bureau of WIPO under the “Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks”

No	Applicant/Holder	Trademark	Id. or Reg. No	Class
	1	2	3	4
1.	Zaal Dugladze		28251	33
2.	Irakli Shioshvili		28577	33
3.	Leonardo Beraia	გამარჯობა	26771	29, 32
		Гамарджоба		
		Gamarjoba		
4.	Leonardo Beraia	ბიჭო	30142	29, 32, 33
		Бичо		
		Bicho		
5.	JSC “Telavi Wine Cellar”	GEMIERI	27949	33
6.	LTD “Vazi-1”	ჩინებული CHINEBULI ЧИНЕБУЛИ	16786	32, 33
7.	LTD “Alcoholic Beverages Factory”		28601	33
8.	LTD “Bauweg”		18983	35
9.	LTD “Vaziani Company”		27720	33

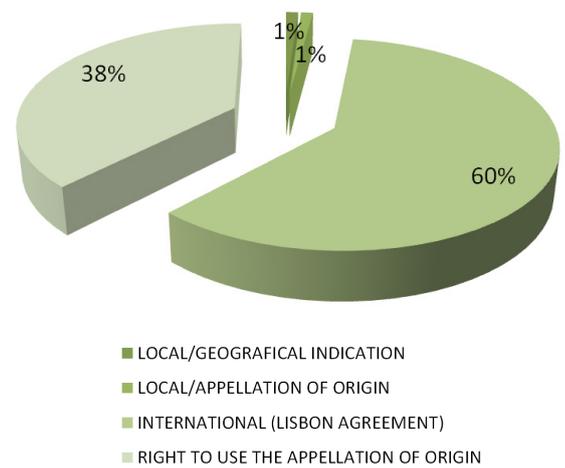
	1	2	3	4
10.	LTD "Vaziani Company"		96321	33
11.	LTD "Wineman LTD"	სანთელი SANTELI	25318	33
12.	LTD Samp Company"		29203	5
13.	LTD "Soft Drinks Georgia"	Ragnar რაგნარი	29124	32
14.	LTD "Georgian Wine House"	ანშია	29901	33
		ANSHIYA		
		Аншия		
15.	LTD "KIndzmarauli Kvareli"	Iosif Иосиф იოსებო	28020	33

Sent Applications/Trademarks Requesting Subsequent Extension

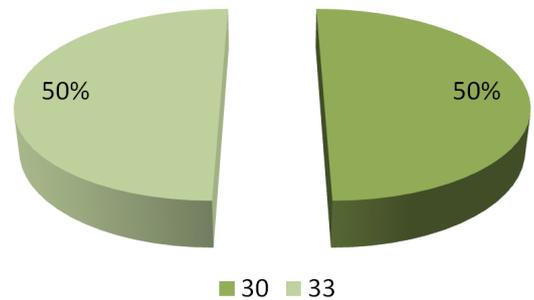
№	Applicant/Holder	Trademark	Id. or Reg. №	Class
1.	JSC "Tbilvino"	საქართველოს ველები GEORGIAN VALLEYS ДОЛИНЫ ГРУЗИИ	15365	33, 35
2.	JSC "Tbilvino"		20842	33, 35
3.	JSC "Tbilvino"		21601	33
4.	JSC "Tbilvino"	თასი	23708	33
		TASI		
5.	JSC "Tbilvino"	დიდებული	23708	33
		Didebuli		
		Дидебули		
6.	JSC "Tbilvino"		29783	33
7.	JSC "Telavi Wine Cellar"		28979	33
8.	JSC "Teliani Valley"	ბერიკა	26019	32, 33
9.	JSC "Bank of Georgia"		20138	9, 12, 14, 16, 20, 25, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45
10.	JSC "Bank of Georgia"		20137	9, 12, 14, 16, 20, 25, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45
11.	LTD "Wineman LTD"	გოდოლი	26241	33
		GODOLI		
12.	LTD "Wineman LTD"	კახიფარის მარანი KAHIPARI MARANI	25611	33
13.	LTD "Wineman LTD"	სალამური	25319	33
		SALAMURI		

Geographical Indication and Appellation of Origin

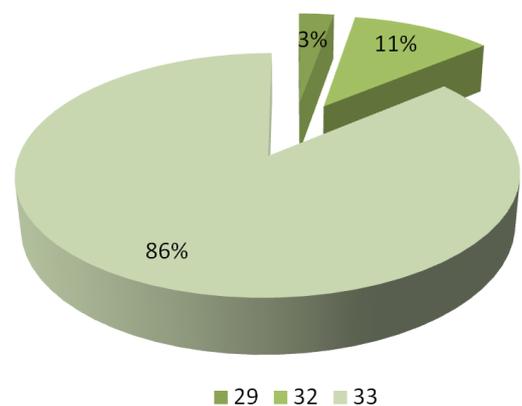
NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS	
PROCEDURE	QTY
LOCAL/GEOGRAFICAL INDICATION	1
LOCAL/APPELLATION OF ORIGIN	1
INTERNATIONAL (LISBON AGREEMENT)	57
RIGHT TO USE THE APPELLATION OF ORIGIN	36
TOTAL	95



NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO CLASSES	
CLASS	QTY
30	1
33	1



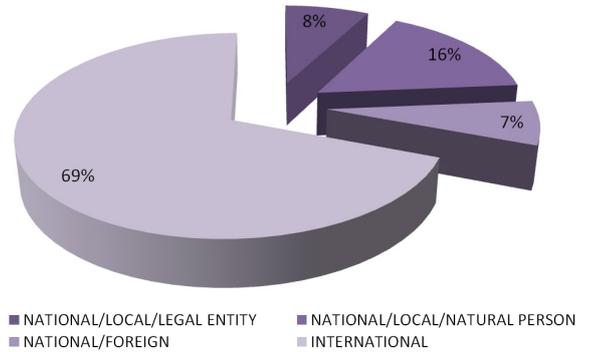
NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO CLASSES OF THE RIGHT OF USE	
CLASS	QTY
29	1
32	4
33	31



Design

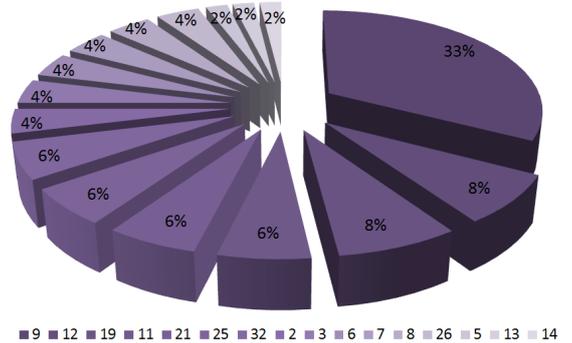
NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS REQUESTING EXTENSION OF PROTECTION TO GEORGIA

PROCEDURE	QTY
NATIONAL/LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY	14
NATIONAL/LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON	29
NATIONAL/FOREIGN	13
INTERNATIONAL	126
TOTAL	182



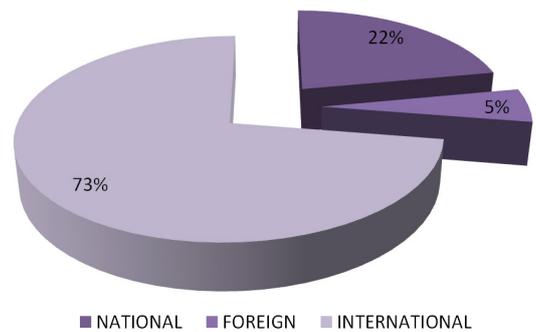
NUMBER OF FILED LOCAL APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO CLASSES

CLASS	QTY
9	17
12	4
19	4
11	3
21	3
25	3
32	3
2	2
3	2
6	2
7	2
8	2
26	2
5	1
13	1
14	1



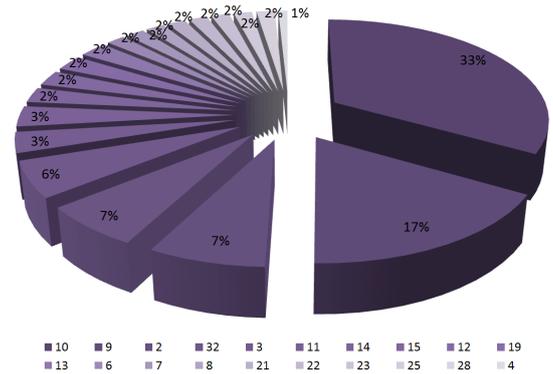
NUMBER OF MARKS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER

PROCEDURE	QTY
LOCAL	44
FOREIGN	11
INTERNATIONAL	145
TOTAL	200



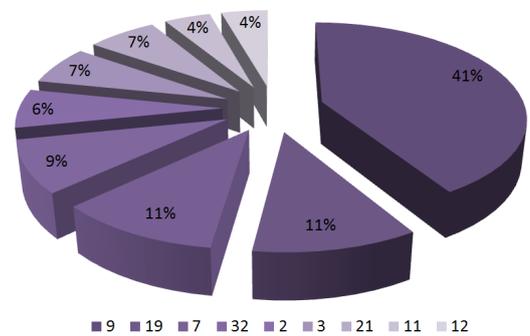
NUMBER OF FILED INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO CLASSES

CLASS	QTY
10	41
9	21
2	9
32	8
3	7
11	4
14	4
15	3
12	3
19	3
13	3
6	2
7	2
8	2
21	2
22	2
23	2
25	2
28	2
4	1



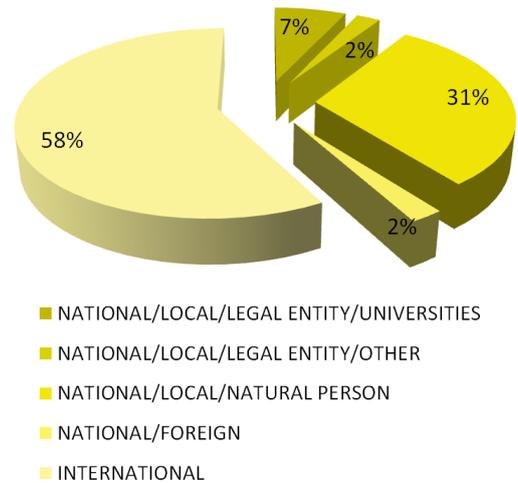
NUMBER OF FILED LOCAL APPLICATIONS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER ACCORDING TO CLASSES

CLASS	QTY
9	19
19	5
7	5
32	4
2	3
3	3
21	3
11	2
12	2
14	2
26	2
6	1
8	1
13	1
25	1
31	1

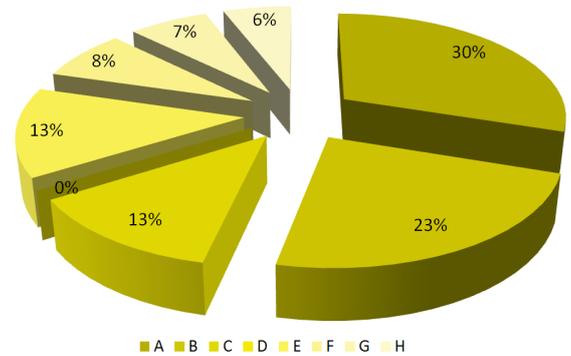


Invention

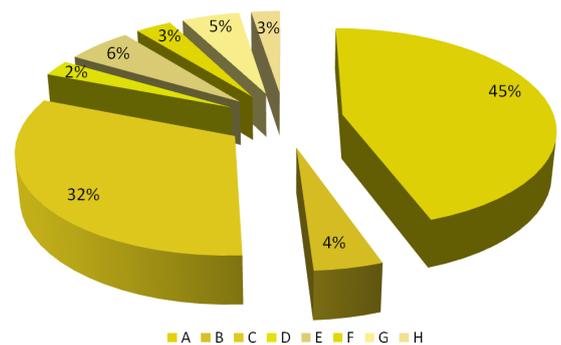
NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS	
PROCEDURE	QTY
NATIONAL/LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY/UNIVERSITIES	18
NATIONAL/LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY/OTHER	6
NATIONAL/LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON	79
NATIONAL/FOREIGN	6
INTERNATIONAL	151
TOTAL	260



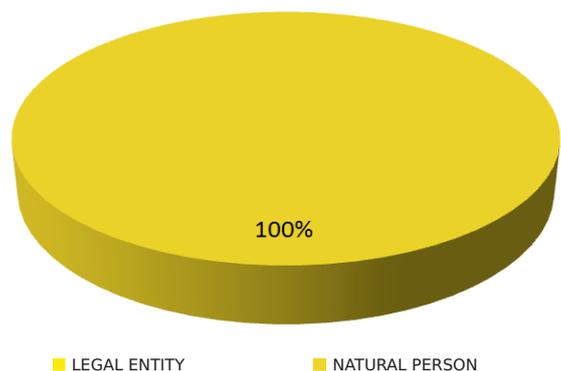
NUMBER OF FILED LOCAL APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO BRANCHES	
BRANCH	QTY
A	31
B	24
C	13
D	0
E	14
F	8
G	7
H	6



NUMBER OF FILED FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO BRANCHES	
BRANCH	QTY
A	70
B	7
C	50
D	4
E	9
F	5
G	8
H	4

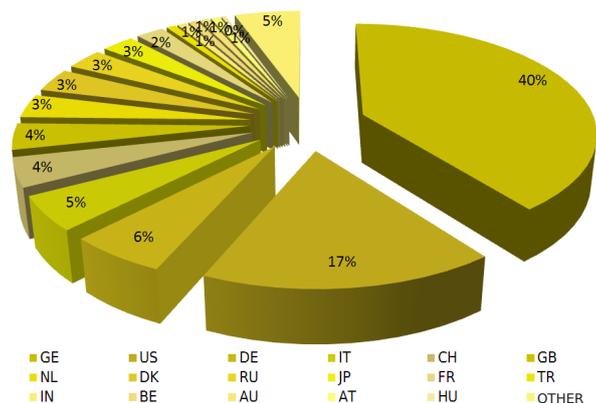


PCT APPLICATIONS/SAKPATENTI - RECEIVING OFFICE	
APPLICANT	QTY
LEGAL ENTITY	0
NATURAL PERSON	5
TOTAL	5



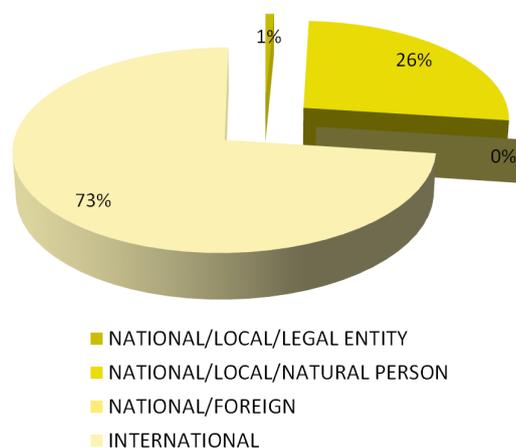
NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

CODE	QTY
GE	103
US	44
DE	15
IT	13
CH	11
GB	10
NL	9
DK	9
RU	8
JP	7
FR	6
TR	2
IN	2
BE	2
AU	2
AT	2
HU	1
OTHER	14
TOTAL	260



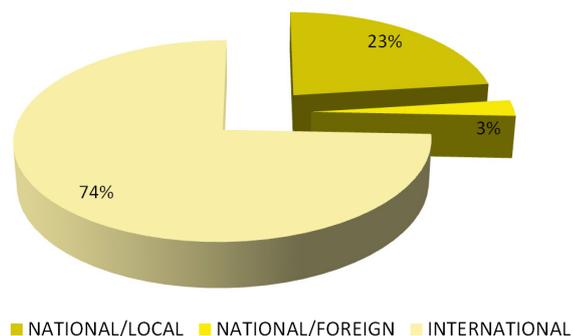
NUMBER OF PATENTS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER

PROCEDURE	QTY
NATIONAL/LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY	1
NATIONAL/LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON	35
NATIONAL/FOREIGN	0
INTERNATIONAL	97
TOTAL	133



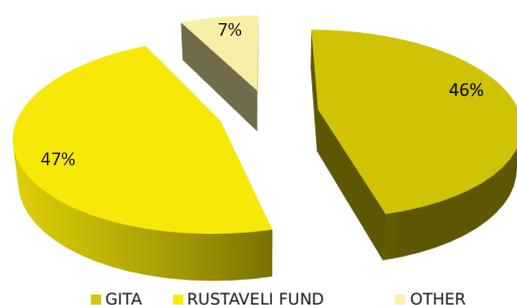
NUMBER OF CANCELED PATENTS

PROCEDURE	QTY
NATIONAL/LOCAL	26
NATIONAL/FOREIGN	3
INTERNATIONAL	84
TOTAL	113



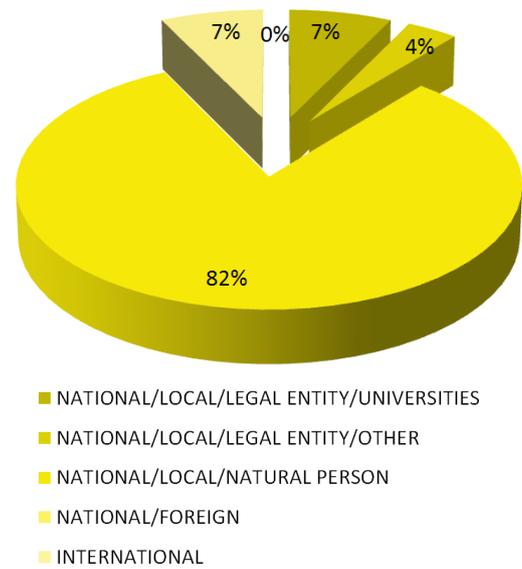
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FILED FOR PRELIMINARY SEARCH

APPLICANT	QTY
GITA	148
RUSTAVELI FUND	150
OTHER	24
TOTAL	322

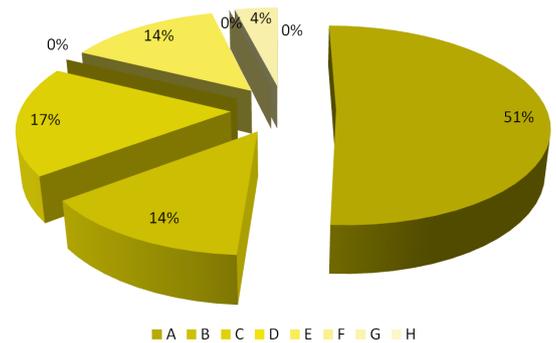


Utility Model

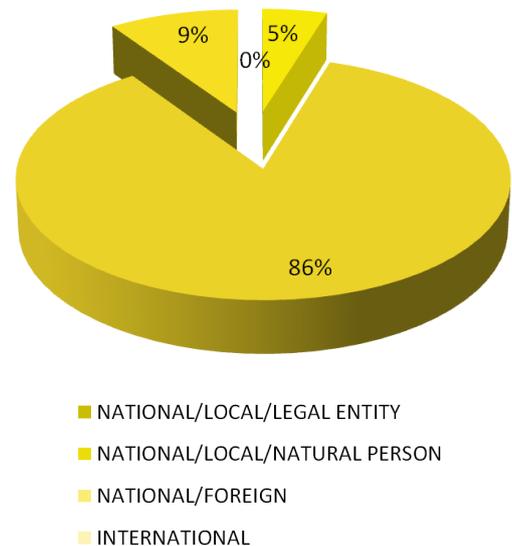
NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS	
PROCEDURE	QTY
NATIONAL/LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY/UNIVERSITIES	4
NATIONAL/LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY/OTHER	2
NATIONAL/LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON	45
NATIONAL/FOREIGN	4
INTERNATIONAL	0
TOTAL	55



NUMBER OF FILED LOCAL APPLICATIONS ACCORDING TO BRANCHES	
BRANCH	QTY
A	26
B	7
C	9
D	0
E	7
F	0
G	2
H	0



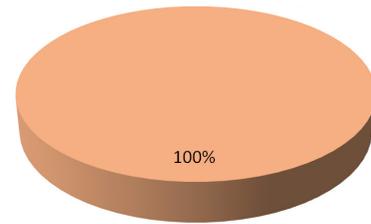
NUMBER OF PATENTS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER	
PROCEDURE	QTY
NATIONAL/LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY	2
NATIONAL/LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON	36
NATIONAL/FOREIGN	4
INTERNATIONAL	0
TOTAL	42



New Varieties and Breeds

NUMBER OF FILED APPLICATIONS

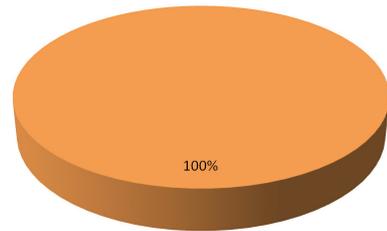
APPLICANT	QTY
LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY	0
LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON	0
FOREIGN/LEGAL ENTITY	1
FOREIGN/NATURAL PERSON	0
TOTAL	1



■ LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY ■ LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON
■ FOREIGN/LEGAL ENTITY ■ FOREIGN/NATURAL PERSON

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FILED ACCORDING TO CROPS

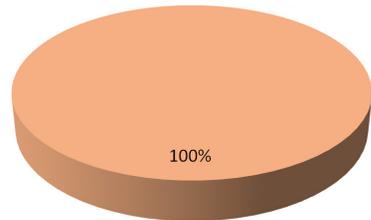
CROP	QTY
BLUEBERRY	1
TOTAL	1



■ BLUEBERRY

NUMBER OF VARIETIES ENTERED IN THE REGISTER

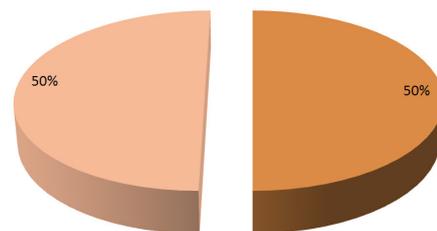
APPLICANT	QTY
LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY	0
LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON	0
FOREIGN/LEGAL ENTITY	4
FOREIGN/NATURAL PERSON	0
TOTAL	4



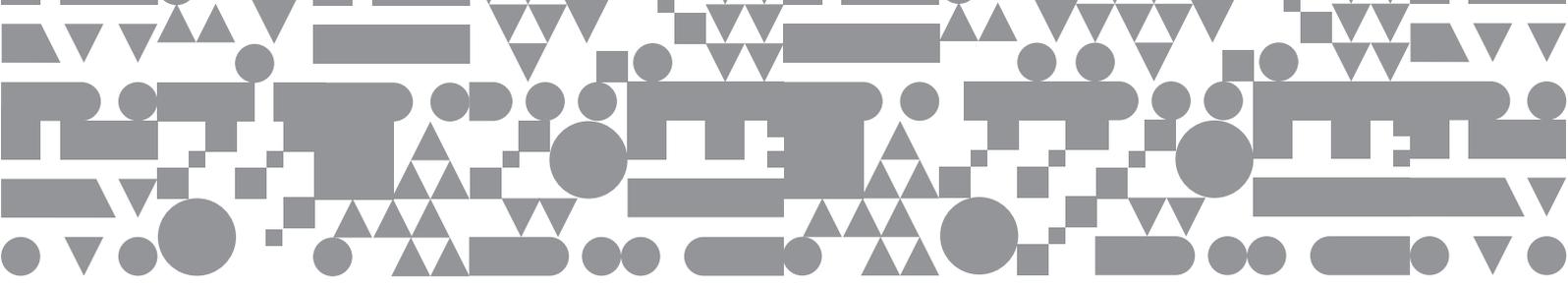
■ LOCAL/LEGAL ENTITY ■ LOCAL/NATURAL PERSON
■ FOREIGN/LEGAL ENTITY ■ FOREIGN/NATURAL PERSON

NUMBER OF VARIETIES ENTERED IN THE REGISTER ACCORDING TO CROPS

CROP	QTY
BLUEBERRY	2
RASPBERRY	2
TOTAL	4



■ BLUEBERRY ■ RASPBERRY



Action Plan/ 2019

- Capacity building for examiners (EUIPO, EPO, USPTO/CLDP);
- Holding of a regional professional development program on geographical indications (WIPO);
- Training of teachers in teaching innovation (WIPO);
- Organization of international conference “Designs as a Tool for Economic Growth” (WIPO);
- Delivering a presentation on “Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Georgia” at the session of WIPO Rights Enforcement Committee;
- Drafting new trademark and design guidelines with the assistance of EUIPO;
- Cooperation with EUIPO Dispute Hearing Council;
- Signing the Validation Agreement with EPO;
- Bilateral meetings with EPO member countries;
- Offering an IP course for SMEs, researchers, scientists, lawyers, patent attorneys, pupils and staff members;
- Negotiations on concluding agreements on mutual protection of geographical indications with EFTA member countries;
- Holding of OriGIn meeting - Regional Conference on Geographical Indication;
- Organization of a conference “Georgia against Counterfeiting”;
- Publishing books by Georgian and foreign authors in IP field in the Georgian language;
- Working on legislative amendments;
- Promotion of raising awareness on issues of geographical indications protection among farmers, producers and representatives of Governmental structures (OriGIn – Georgia);
- Revealing in Georgian regions potential geographical indications and promotion of their legal protection (OriGIn – Georgia);
- Participation in developing a multi-level control system of correspondence of GI products with the established specifications (OriGIn – Georgia);
- Participation in creation of farmers and producers’ associations around geographical indications and assistance in introducing modern forms of branding in their activities (OriGIn Georgia).

The background of the entire page is a complex, abstract pattern of red geometric shapes. These shapes include various sizes of squares, circles, triangles, and rounded rectangles, some of which are arranged in a way that suggests stylized human figures or architectural elements. The pattern is dense and covers the entire surface, with the text area being a clear white space in the lower-middle section.

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