

Summary of the Celebratory 5th Anniversary Conference

CELEBRATORY PART



The ceremonial part was opened by the message of **Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization**. In his speech, Mr. Tang mentioned the great innovation potential of our region by highlighting the impressive achievements of inventors from recent times. Mr. Tang also emphasised the reliable cooperation with the VPI in terms of timeliness and quality.

Mr Tang's opening message was followed by the greetings of high-level representatives of the Governments of the Visegrad Countries.



First, **Mr. László Palkovics, Minister for innovation and technology** delivered his greeting messages on behalf of the host country of the VPI, Hungary. Mr. Palkovics emphasised the strong commitment of the Government of Hungary to foster the knowledge-based economy and innovation and he expressed his support for the VPI. He defined the operation of the VPI as a tool for helping players of the Hungarian innovation ecosystem to protect their inventions abroad.

The greeting from Mr. Palkovics was followed by **Mr. Karel Havlíček, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Industry and Trade and Minister of Transport of the Czech Republic**, **Mr. Karol Galek, MSc., State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic**, and **Mr. Robert Tomanek, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Technology, Republic of Poland**.



The distinguished government representatives **congratulated on the results achieved so far by the VPI, and emphasised the importance of knowledge, R&D&I and intellectual property, especially of patents** in the economies of the Contracting States. They expressed the continuous will on behalf of their respective Governments to provide the V4 cooperation, and especially the VPI, with **strong and determined political support in order to serve their innovative players**.

Greetings from the managements of the Branch Offices

Following the welcome messages of the government representatives, the participants of the conference were greeted by the **Representatives of the VPI Administrative Board (AB)**.



Mr. Matúš Medvec, President of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic and Chairman of the AB emphasised the importance of the VPI in respect of supporting economic growth and innovation.



Mr. Josef Kratochvíl, President of the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic and longest serving Member of the AB, gave an insight into the establishment of the VPI, the organisation and quality insurance of the VPI's work.



Ms. Patrycja Czubkowska, Deputy President of the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland and Member of the AB highlighted the excellent and long-established close cooperation of the Visegrad IP Offices in the VPI and emphasised efficiency and quality as the basis of the success of the VPI.



Ms. Dóra Gyetvainé Virág, Vice-President for Technical Affairs of the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office and Deputy Member of the AB said that establishing the VPI was an important milestone in our region and emphasised that the reduction of costs provided by the VPI can stimulate patenting abroad in our region.

All distinguished heads and deputy head of the delegations **welcomed that the VPI became a reliable, efficient and constructive partner in PCT**. They also congratulated on the result achieved so far and expressed their support for the cooperation under the umbrella of the VPI in the future.



The ceremonial part was closed by the **opening speech of Ms. Johanna Stadler, Director of the VPI**, who talked about the importance of increasing the visibility of the services of the VPI. Ms. Stadler emphasized the **continuous cooperation between the VPI, WIPO and the Governments of the contracting states in order to support the development of a knowledge-based economy and the protection of RDI efforts in the region** by patenting abroad.

PROFESSIONAL PART

After the keynote speech of the WIPO's expert speaker, the professional part featured in three sessions prominent intellectual property experts from the Visegrad Countries who shared their knowledge, experience and best practices using the system of the PCT and the VPI.

Overview of the PCT and its benefits



Ms. Christine Bonvallet, Director of the PCT International Cooperation Division in the Patents and Technology Sector at WIPO, delivered an overview about the **key questions of the PCT system** and highlighted the **most important benefits that filing with VPI** can carry for the applicants including timing aspects and financial benefits.

PCT experience of the Branch Offices

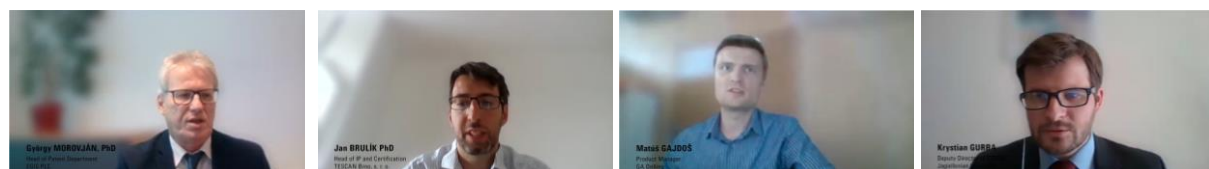


The **representatives of the VPI Branch offices**, *Ms. Dr. Katalin Mikló*, Head of Patent Department, HIPO, *Ms. Ing. Lukrécia Marcoková*, Head of Patent Department, IPO SR, *Mr. Piotr Czaplicki*, Head of Biotechnology and Chemistry Department, PPO, *Mr. RNDr. Viktor Kliment*, Senior Patent Expert, Patent Department, Chemistry Section, IPO CZ shared **insight into**

their work and the practices they follow in order to ensure top quality search results (eg. four eyes principle, training of their staff). Participants could hear a brief summary about the **customer friendly measures** that the Branch Offices follow in their work and the **harmonization efforts** to align the search results of the VPI with the practice of the European Patent Office.

PCT success stories

The **speakers**, *Mr. György Morovján*, Hungarian and European Patent Attorney (EGIS Pharmaceutical PLC), *Mr. Jan Brulik*, Head of the Patent Department, Tescan Brno, *Mr. Matúš Gajdos*, Product Manager, GA Drilling, a.s., Bratislava, *Mr. Krystian Gurba*, Deputy Director Jagiellonian University, Centre for Technology Transfer CITTRU, **came from a broad array of the economy and academy** to share some **insight into the work of their respective companies/institution**, and how **PCT can support their commercialization efforts**. Participants could compare practices of companies of various sizes as well as a university technology transfer office. During their presentations, the experts raised important questions about **planning the patenting activities as well as raising IP awareness of their staff**.



PCT filing strategies



The **speakers** of this session, *Mr. Rafał Witek*, Polish and European Patent Attorney/Partner WTS, *Dr. Gábor Harangozó*, Hungarian and European Patent Attorney, Deputy, Managing Partner, Danubia Patent & Law Office LLC, *Ing. Róbert Porubcan*, European Patent Attorney, Patent & Trademark, s.r.o. Ivanka pri Dunaji, *Mgr. Michal Lipták PhD.*, European Patent

Attorney Patent & Trademark, s.r.o. Ivanka pri Dunaji and *Mr. Michal Stipl*, Patent specialist, PatentEnter s.r.o., were **experienced patent attorneys** and patent specialists who **shared the very best of their knowledge** and their long years of experience about **timing and optimizing the patenting activities of their clients**. The exiting professional round table discussion was led by *Mr. Thierry Debled*, adjunct professor of CEIPI, who is also a European patent attorney.

Closing and follow up

The conference was very well-received within the user community, with **over 240 registrations** and good **media coverage**. This celebratory event was an **important introduction of the VPI** and a first step in **building the publicity and visibility of the VPI** among its potential users.