

## **Introduction to the VPI5 conference (7<sup>th</sup> July 2021)**

Obtaining patent protection abroad and entering the world market has never been as important, self-evident and expected as it is today. The free flow of products, goods and services along with the innovative content they carry to every corner of Europe and the world has become a part of our lives. Our regional R&D efforts pave the way for companies to develop innovative products, make our region's economy more resilient and bring it to the forefront of the world. The value created by the technical innovations is essential to our economy, and basis for these innovations, inventions, need to be protected through the available patent systems.

The Visegrad Patent Institute started its operation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 with the goal to support innovative enterprises, institutions and inventors to take the initial steps in filing international patent applications.

However, the existence of the 5-year-old Visegrad Patent Institute goes beyond this. It is an outstanding example of the clever use of the professional opportunities provided by the Visegrad Cooperation that celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Establishing a PCT authority in the CEE region is a clear example of how our countries can strengthen each other. The authorities responsible for industrial property of the V4s worked together to establish the Visegrad Patent Institute and thus have gained access to the most elite club of patent offices of the world, the PCT authorities, in order to better serve their applicants.

The shared historical and cultural inheritance of our region builds a bond among the 4 national offices of the VPI. However, it is an example of strong professional quality that the staff of these authorities can work in agreement in the complex legal field of international patent research and preliminary examination, and represent the Visegrad Patent Institute in complete unity by delivering a world-class service to our clients.

It is an honour to serve the cohesion of our region, to better understand each other through the field of industrial property rights, with special regards to patents, and to provide equal chances on the world market to the patent applicants of our region that applicants of Europe's more fortunate nations enjoy.

To celebrate the 5th year of the operation of the Visegrad Patent Institute, we are planning a professional event to enrich and inspire our current and prospective clients, such as the users of the system, the applicants and their professional representatives as well as other important players in the innovation ecosystem.

Join us on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 to celebrate and gain up-to-date, valuable information on patenting in the international playing field.