



Oifig Maoine Intleachtúla na hÉireann
Intellectual Property Office of Ireland

Intellectual Property Office of Ireland

Annual Report 2025



Contents

1.0 IPOI Functions, Mission and Objectives	7
1.1 Objective 1 Operational & Customer Service Excellence	8
1.2 Objective 2 Information Services Excellence	8
1.3 Objective 3 Supporting a Robust IP Legal Framework	9
1.4 Objective 4 Staff and Workplace Excellence	10
2.0 Intellectual Property Trends and Indicators	12
2.1 Patents	13
2.2 Trade Marks and Designs	15
2.3 Madrid Applications	16
2.4 Official Journal	16
3.0 International Co-operation	18
3.1 European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)	18
3.2 World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)	20
3.3 European Patent Office (EPO)	20
4.0 Events 2025	23
5.0 Website and Social Media	27
5.1 Intellectual Property in Education Programme	28
6.0 Public Sector Duty Statement	29
6.1 Official Languages Act (2003 & 2021)	30
6.2 Protected Disclosures Act 2014	30
7.0 Better Regulation and Reducing Administrative Burden	31
8.0 Organisation and staffing	32
9.0 Energy Efficiency in the IPOI	33
10.0 Business Statistics	34
10.1 Patents	34
10.2 Trade Marks	38
10.3 Designs	42
10.4 Copyright	45
11.0 Knowledge Development Box	47
12.0 Financial Information	48
12.1 Receipts and Expenses - Year Ended 31 December 2025	50
13.0 Performance Targets 2025	52

Foreword



I have the honour to submit my Annual Report to the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for the year ended 31 December 2025 so that it can be laid before each House of the Oireachtas in accordance with Section 103 of the Patents Act 1992.

My Report is in respect of the execution of my statutory functions under the Patents Act, 1992 (as amended), the Trade Marks Act, 1996 (as amended), the Industrial Designs Act, 2001, the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, the various Statutory Rules and Regulations made under these Acts; and the European Communities (Supplementary Protection Certificate) Regulations. Decisions under these Acts, Rules, and Regulations rest with me in my statutory capacity, subject to certain rights of appeal to the High Court. My report also includes a report on the KDB Certification Scheme as required by Section 18 of the Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Act 2017.

In addition to its core business of administering the relevant legislation concerned with the processing of applications for intellectual property rights (Patents, Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs), Trade Marks and Industrial Designs), and maintaining the electronic registers and databases of these rights, the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland (IPOI) performs a number of operational and regulatory functions including:

- Administering proceedings before the Controller in relation to IP rights including hearings on oppositions to Trade Mark registrations.
- Maintaining the registers of Patent and Trade Mark attorneys authorised to operate in the State.
- Administering the registration and compliance reporting by copyright licensing bodies/collective management organisations as well as the resolution of disputes regarding royalty amounts payable to those bodies arising in public performance of sound recordings.
- Contributing to policy and legislative development on IP rights.
- Providing assistance and information on intellectual property rights.

My report provides more detailed information on how the Office discharged its various statutory and regulatory functions and ancillary activities and is supported by a range of business statistics.

The main business statistics, in summary, include the following,

- 591 National Patent Applications were received, and 110 Patents were granted; 48 Supplementary Protection Certificate applications were received and 27 were granted, rejected, or withdrawn. A total of 201,974 European Patent Applications designating Ireland were received in 2025.
- The Office received 3,328 National Trade Mark Applications and 823 International Trade Mark Registrations designating Ireland. A total of 1,609 National Trade Mark applications were registered and 810 International Trade Mark Registrations protected. 57 National Design applications, containing 134 Designs, were received and 87 Designs were registered by end of year.
- The Office attended a record number of information raising events in 2025. These included the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, the Student Enterprise Programme Awards, the National Ploughing Championships, as well as collaborating with the Local Enterprise Network and providing presentations at over 59 secondary schools.

Throughout 2025 the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland continued to deliver on its core functions to actively promote, support, and protect innovation in Ireland, contributing to a stronger and more competitive Irish economy.

The economic environment is characterised by moderate but resilient growth, supported mainly by strong domestic demand and rising real incomes, even as overall momentum remains subdued. At the same time, inflation has eased back from the previous year, helping to stabilise business costs, while improving financing conditions and easing interest rates are gradually encouraging investment. That is borne out in the strong increase in the number of Trade Mark and Design filings and the steady number of Patent applications filed at national and European level. However, this economic recovery is tempered by ongoing trade tensions and tariff uncertainties, which weigh on exports and business confidence, alongside persistent geopolitical risks that continue to create volatility. Together, these factors define a year of cautious stabilisation, where recovery is evident but still constrained by external and structural pressures.

At national level, the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland continued to contribute actively to a wide range of intellectual property conferences, exhibitions, and seminars throughout the year.

At international level, the Unified Patent Court and the Unitary Patent system continued to mature during the year, further simplifying patent enforcement across Europe and contributing to reduced legal fragmentation and costs for users. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) also played a significant role in advancing the international IP framework, with diplomatic initiatives addressing both emerging and long-standing challenges. These developments reflected a growing international commitment to improving the accessibility, efficiency, and inclusiveness of the global intellectual property system.

The work of the Office would not be possible without the strong cooperation and engagement of a wide range of public and private representative bodies, all of whom share a common objective of strengthening the intellectual property ecosystem for Irish businesses and IP system users. I would like to thank the Irish intellectual property representative bodies and the wider business community for their ongoing support throughout the year. I also wish to acknowledge the excellent cooperation and collaboration with our European and international partners, including the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), and WIPO.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued support provided to the Office by the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, which is critical to the effective delivery of IPOI's statutory functions. In this regard, I extend my thanks to Mr Declan Hughes, Secretary General, and Mr John Newham, Assistant Secretary General. I would further like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Department's Intellectual Property Unit, in particular Ms Tara Coogan and Ms Jean O'Neill.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all my colleagues in the IPOI for their continued hard work, dedication, and professionalism throughout 2025. I would also like to acknowledge and thank those staff members who retired, were promoted, or transferred from the Office during the year for their committed service and valued contribution. I warmly welcome all new colleagues who joined the Office during 2025 and look forward to working together as we continue to support innovation and enterprise through an effective and responsive intellectual property system.

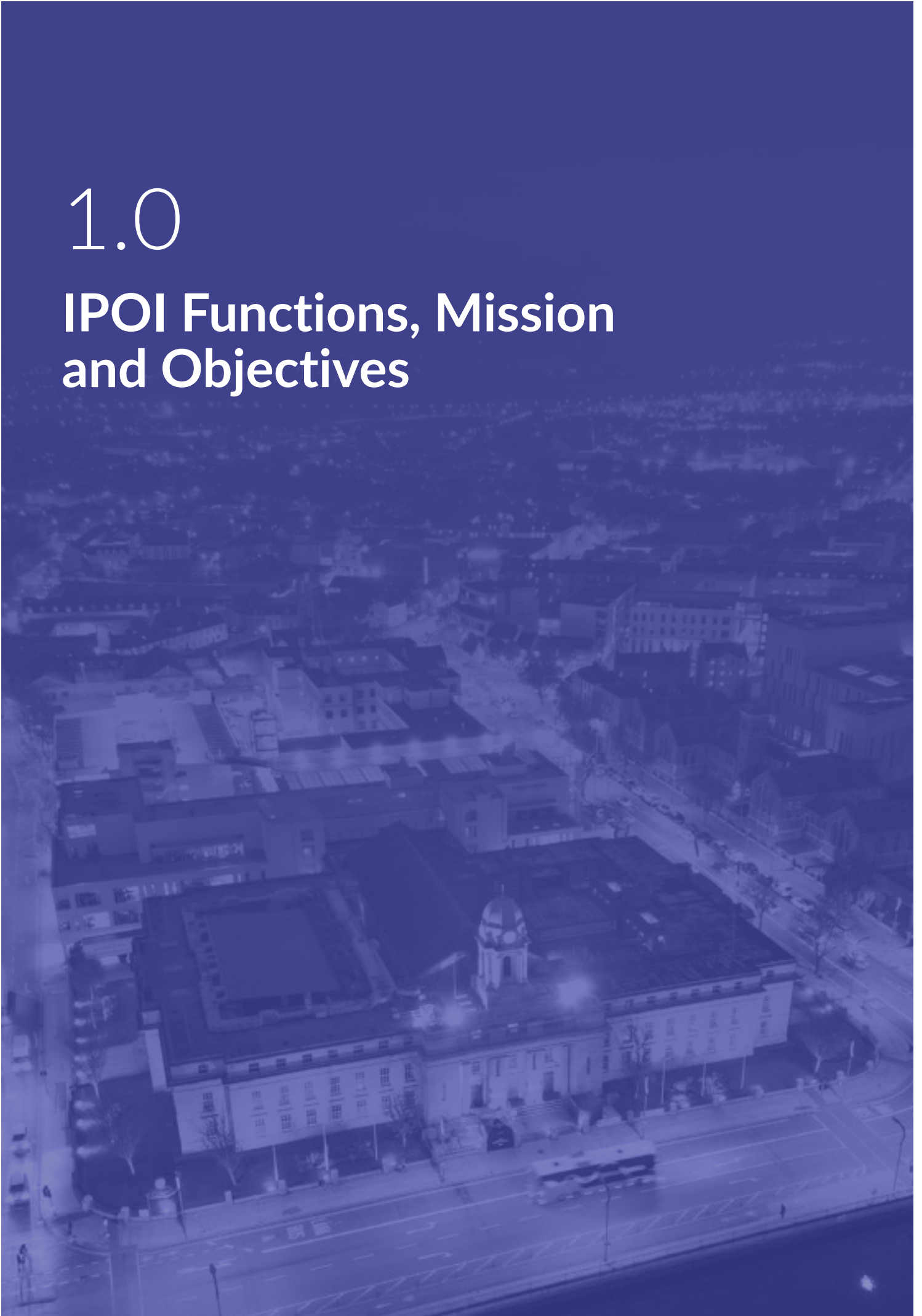


James Kelly

Controller of Intellectual Property

1.0

IPOI Functions, Mission and Objectives



1.0 IPOI Functions, Mission and Objectives



The Intellectual Property Office of Ireland (IPOI) is an independent statutory office under the aegis of the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment with responsibility for the grant and registration of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in Ireland, specifically patent, trade marks and industrial design rights. The IPOI is staffed by 47 civil servants who are assigned by the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment.

During 2025, the Office continued to work towards achieving the strategic goals outlined in the IPOI Statement of Strategy 2023-2025. These priorities are also aligned with the Department's Statement of Strategy. Specifically, IPOI strategy will contribute to achieving the desired outcome of "a business environment facilitating investment and development, competition in the marketplace, and high standards of customer protection" through continuing to develop a modern regulatory regime for intellectual property, which stimulates economic growth by encouraging innovation.

The central mission of the IPOI is: "To deliver a modern, digitalised Intellectual Property Office, encouraging innovation and enterprise, which provides world class professional services to be proud of." This objective will be achieved by safeguarding IPRs in patents, trade marks, and designs within a robust legal framework that promotes innovation in Ireland. Additionally, the IPOI aims to actively disseminate accessible knowledge about IPRs and the broader intellectual property system.

The current IPOI Strategy Statement 2023 to 2025, sets out the key priorities for the Office, which are aligned with four strategic objectives namely:

1. Operational & customer service excellence,
2. Information services excellence,
3. Supporting a robust IP legal framework and,
4. Staff and workplace excellence

This commentary, along with the accompanying business statistics, reviews the Office's efforts in achieving these four objectives throughout 2025. It also provides insights into emerging IP trends and the evolving intellectual property landscape during the year.

1.1 Objective 1

Operational & Customer Service Excellence



The Office is committed to constantly reviewing its administrative procedures and delivering a responsive quality service in line with performance targets. The Office's Customer Service Action Plan 2023-2025 outlines key service targets and defines optimal timeframes for completing various internal and external customer-related tasks. These targets are detailed in the "Performance Targets" section of this report.

The Office offers a well-established suite of user-friendly digital services, including e-filing for patents, supplementary protection certificates (SPCs), trade marks, and designs, as well as online trade mark and design searches and e-payments. In 2025, nearly all applications for IP rights were submitted online (97% for patents and SPCs, 99% for trade marks, and 66% for designs). Additionally, almost all statutory fees were paid electronically, either through online payments or electronic fund transfers (EFT). The IPOI is also currently considering further automation of its e-payments facility to allow payment of all IPOI fees online. While the IPOI has not yet fully transitioned to a paperless system, efforts are underway to replace all paper-based processes with digital alternatives. Throughout 2025 Office staff, in collaboration with the ICT Unit, continued to drive digital transformation by introducing solutions to streamline and digitise workflows.

1.2 Objective 2

Information Services Excellence



A key objective of the IPOI is to provide comprehensive information on all aspects of intellectual property rights, helping SMEs, micro-enterprises, and entrepreneurs maximise the value of their ideas, strengthen their businesses, and gain a deeper understanding of the IP system. In 2025, the information centre handled over 4,000 email and 3,500 telephone inquiries. The Office, building on the information cards produced last year, introduced the Intellectual Property information card as a poster in Irish and English for all schools. The poster is distributed to schools where the Office provides the IP in Education presentations and was also given to business studies teachers at the BSTAI Conference. To date it has been well received.

The Office exhibited at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in January and the Student Enterprise Awards finals in May. The IPOI sponsored prizes at both events. Staff also participated in several IP focused seminars and training courses run by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Network focusing on SMEs, EI New Frontiers Programme for colleges and National College of Art and Design. The Office took part in the Future IP Europe R&D Summit in Dublin in September, and this year had a stand at the National Women's Enterprise Day in Kilkenny and also at the Irish Business Design Challenge, as part of Design Week 2025. Over the course of 2025, the Office provided IP presentations to 59 schools nationwide as part of the IP in Education programme, run in conjunction with the Student Enterprise Programme. The Office also provided IP clinics which gave an opportunity to members of the public, inventors, and entrepreneurs to discuss their IP application on a one-to-one basis with Office staff. More information on the Office's outreach events is detailed further in this report.

The Office collaborates with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), European Patent Office (EPO) and the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) through bilateral cooperation programmes. These initiatives provide support for participation in IP awareness events, specialised training, ICT projects for IP data exchange, and the harmonisation of practices and procedures. Throughout the year, Office staff leveraged the financial and technical support offered by the WIPO, EPO and EUIPO, benefiting from funding, mentorship, and access to expertise and resources.

1.3 Objective 3

Supporting a Robust IP Legal Framework



The regulation of IPRs is a vital part of the legislative framework that promotes and encourages innovation. The legislation under which the Office operates affords applicants and proprietors the right to be heard in certain circumstances and before any discretionary powers set out in the relevant Acts and Rules are exercised adversely. During 2025, the Office held three inter partes hearings concerning trade marks.

The Unitary Patent (UP) and Unified Patent Court (UPC) system continues to expand, with demand remaining strong among European applicants with overall UP uptake across Europe reaching 28.7% in 2025. Although Ireland has not yet ratified the UPC

agreement, Irish businesses can and are already availing of the UPC in strong numbers. Irish patent holders may continue to obtain European patents with unitary effect, valid in all EU Member States participating in the system at the time of registration.

IPOI staff represent Ireland in various international fora, ensuring that the Office's stance on intellectual property matters is effectively communicated, recognised, and upheld. Senior Management represents Ireland on the Administrative Council of the EPO and its associated committees, the Management Board and Budget Committee of the EUIPO, and the WIPO General Assembly. Additionally, Office staff who are experts in their fields, participate in numerous EPO and EUIPO technical and liaison committees, as well as Project Working Groups that drive European convergence and harmonisation initiatives.

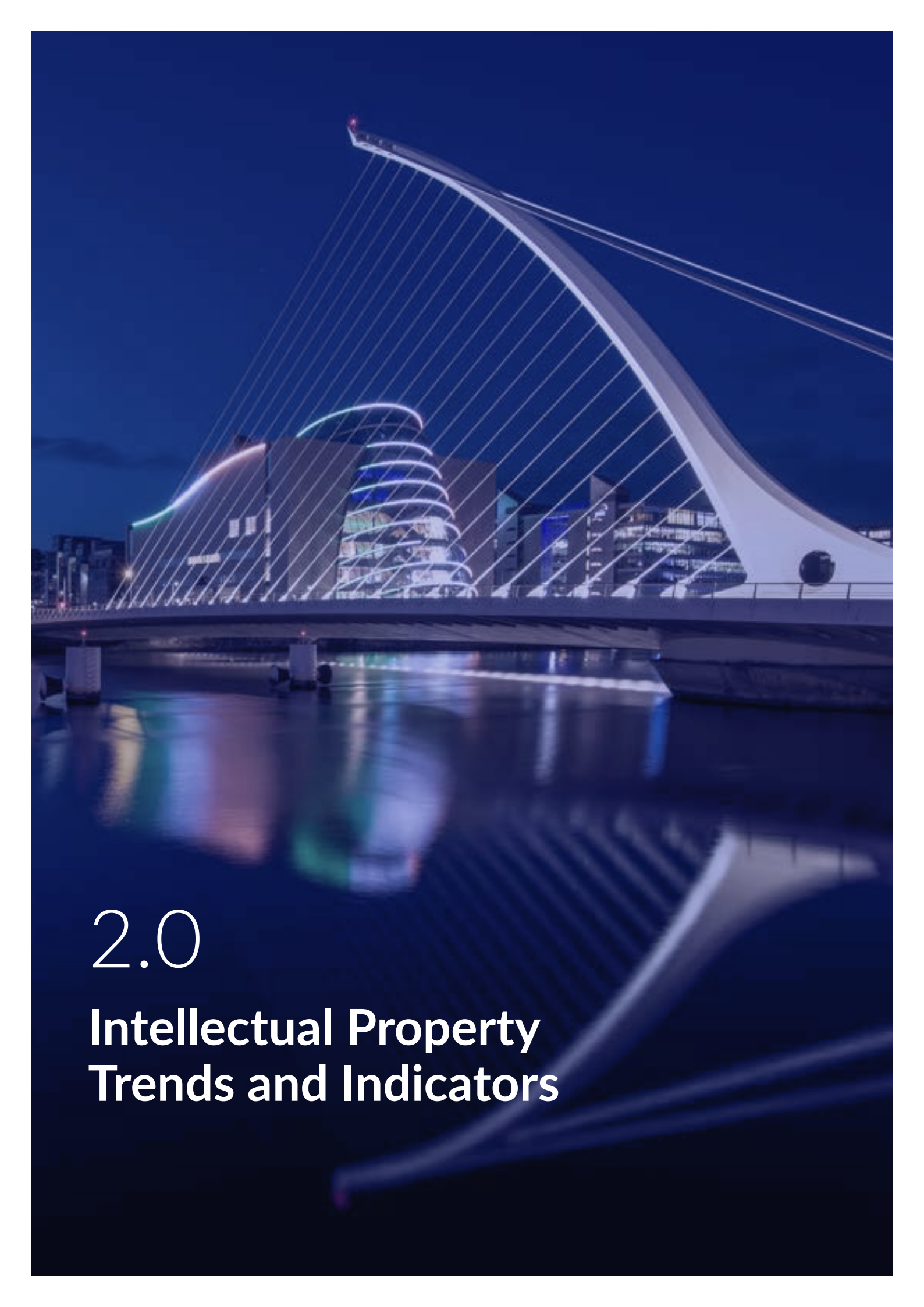
Engagement at the international level fosters dialogue on the design and implementation of cooperation and convergence programmes between these organisations and other national and regional IP offices in Europe. This, in turn, enables the Office to refine and enhance its legal and regulatory frameworks, operational procedures, and customer services in accordance with global best practices.

1.4 Objective 4

Staff and Workplace Excellence



The Office is dedicated to fostering a culture of excellence and continuous self-development among staff to provide outstanding customer service. As outlined in the Statement of Strategy 2023-2025, the Office has made training and staff development a priority, ensuring employees possess the essential skills and capabilities needed. To help achieve this, staff performance is appraised regularly. The Performance Management Development System (PMDS) gives staff the opportunity to set individual goals, to drive change and continue to improve work practices to deliver an efficient high-quality service. In accordance with PMDS, a Training Development Plan was drafted which considered the various training needs identified by staff in their personal development plans for 2025. All units of the Office also complete a Team Charter, which sets out the purposes of the team, defines best practice and is a useful tool in the blended working environment. In 2025, staff had the opportunity to participate in various information sessions and training both virtually and in person, covering a wide range of topics related to their work, training on the next stage of National Archiving and also on AI and Copyright, as well as mental and physical wellbeing.



2.0

Intellectual Property Trends and Indicators

2.0 Intellectual Property Trends and Indicators



The WIPO Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. The World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025¹ ranks 139 economies worldwide based on their innovation capabilities, using 78 indicators grouped into innovation inputs and innovation outputs. In 2025, Ireland ranked 18th globally, placing 10th within Europe. The results highlight Ireland's pronounced strengths in IP-intensive and digital activity: Ireland ranks 1st globally for ICT services exports and intellectual property payments, 2nd for intangible asset intensity, and 3rd for software spending. At pillar level, Ireland ranks 10th for Institutions and 15th for Business Sophistication, reflecting a strong regulatory and business environment, while ranking 24th in Human Capital and Research, pointing to ongoing challenges in domestic R&D intensity. Overall, Ireland continues to perform more strongly on innovation outputs (17th) than on innovation inputs (21st), demonstrating a strong ability to translate knowledge and intellectual assets into economic value.

These results underscore the central role of intellectual property in Ireland's innovation and growth model and directly reinforce the IPOI's mandate to support the development, protection and effective commercialisation of IP, both for internationally traded sectors and for the evolving domestic innovation ecosystem.

Globally, innovation growth during 2025 was led by computer technologies, particularly artificial intelligence and machine learning, alongside continued advances in clean energy technologies, battery development, and electric and autonomous mobility. While innovation investment showed signs of recovery, geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation and supplychain uncertainty continued to weigh on global R&D spending and venture capital activity.

Against this global backdrop, Ireland's economic performance remained strong in 2025. According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO)², the domestic economy expanded by 4.9%, significantly outperforming most EU peers. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which includes multinational activity, increased by 12.3%, driven largely by exceptionally strong export performance in pharmaceutical and ICT-related sectors. Consumer spending grew by approximately 2.9%, supported by rising real incomes, while construction activity strengthened, with new home construction increasing by 19.4%.

1 [Global Innovation Index 2025 - GII 2025 results](#)

2 [Home - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

Inflation remained relatively contained for much of the year. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood at 1.9% in January 2025, remained close to 2% for most of the year, and rose to 3.2% in November, driven primarily by food, energy and services costs. Ireland's labour market continued to perform at historically strong levels, with employment reaching a record high of approximately 2.83 million by yearend, and the unemployment rate remaining close to 5%, supporting domestic demand and economic resilience.

2.1 Patents

2.1.1 National patent applications

The total number of national patent applications filed in 2025 showed a decrease of 24% on 2024 (from 774 to 591). Within that overall figure, national short term patent filings received during 2025 decreased on the 2024 total (from 642 to 424) with the number of long-term patent applications increasing from 132 to 167. This reflects a return to normal numbers of patent applications following a spike in the number of patent applications received in the past two years, in particular, national short term patent filings received from China.

2.1.2 Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs)

Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) extend patent protection for medicinal and plant protection products by up to 5 years to account for delays in obtaining regulatory approval in the early years when bringing the product from patented status to marketability. Manufacturers take account of SPC rights to secure an extension of their market exclusivity to recoup the costs of investments in research and development. A total of 48 SPC applications were received in 2025, which is a decrease of 9% over the 2024 total of 53 applications.



48 SPC
applications
in 2025

2.1.3 European Patents designating Ireland

The number of patent applications received at the EPO in 2025 increased slightly by 1% to 201,974. European patent applications which designate Ireland are entered on the Irish Patent Register following publication of grant at the EPO and have the same legal status as if they had been granted by the Office.

Overall European patent applications filed by Irish resident companies increased by 5.5% in 2025 as compared to 2024. A total of 1,179 applications filed in 2025 means that Ireland is now ranked in 10th place in terms of European patent applications per million of inhabitants.

Table 1: **Developments in number of European Patent applications from Ireland since 2020**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
EP applications from Irish resident companies ¹	980	1015	1180	1071	1118	1179

Source: EPO Patent Index 2025 data for Ireland. Historical filing figures shown in previous years may vary from year to year because of the updating of database by the relevant patent authorities.

Figure 1. **Ireland number of patent applications per technology field 2025**

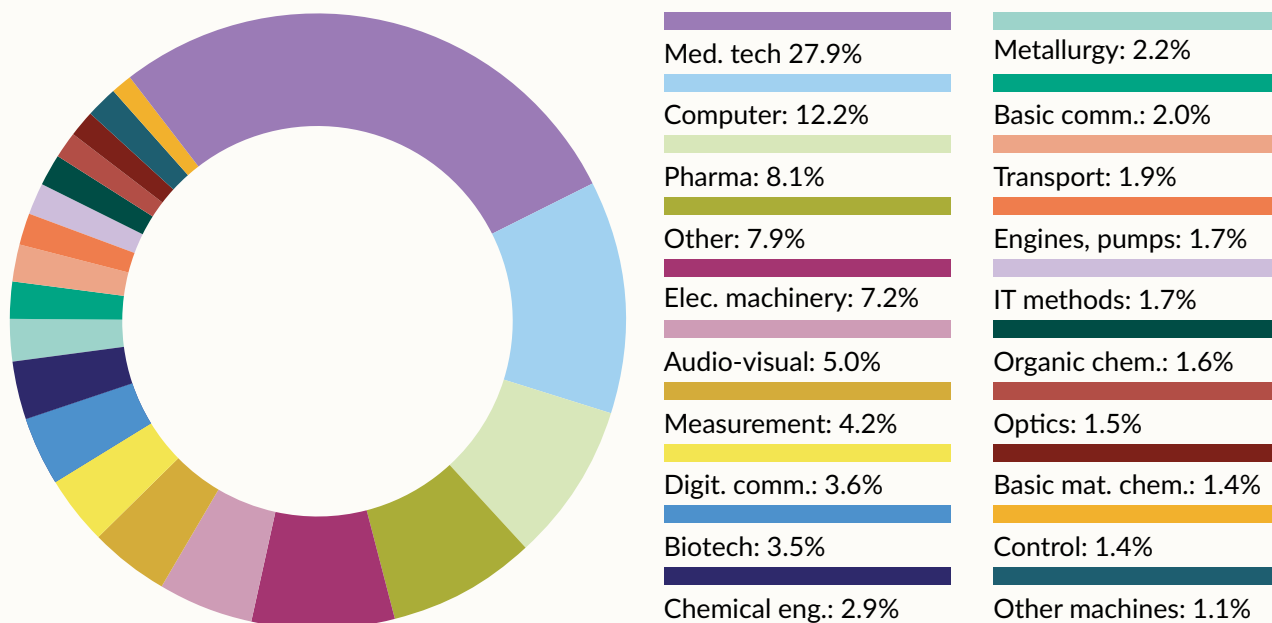
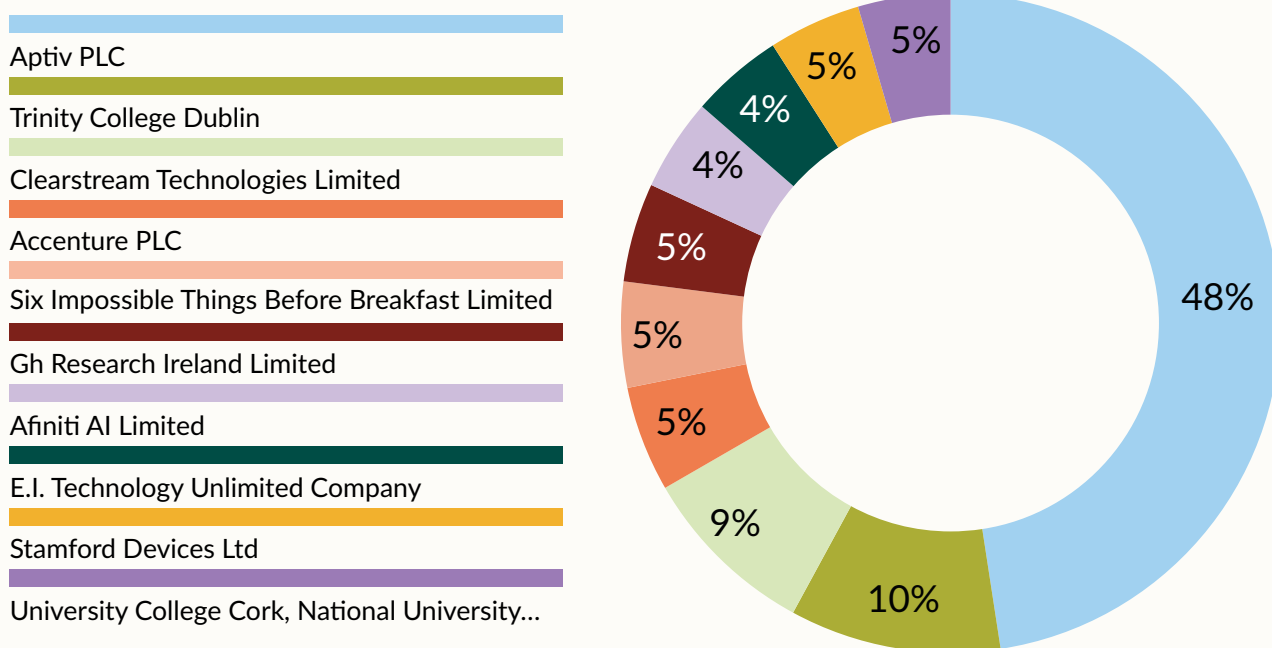


Figure 2. **Ireland Top 10 applicants 2025**



Source: [Statistics & Trends Centre | epo.org](https://statisticsandtrendscentre.iepo.org)

2.2 Trade Marks and Designs

The total number of National trade mark applications increased by 42% from 2,336 in 2024 to 3,328 in 2025. The number of Industrial Design applications received has always been unpredictable and has fluctuated in recent years. In 2025 a total number of 134 individual design applications were received, a 23% increase on the 2024 figure.

2.2.1 European Union Trade Marks (EUTMs) and Registered Community Designs (RCDs)

Some applicants choose to apply for a European Union Trade Mark (EUTM) rather than gaining a specific Irish registration because they wish to obtain trade mark protection in the EU and an EUTM registration covers all 27 EU countries. The number of filings of EUTM applications by Irish resident applicants increased by 23% from 1,527 applications in 2024 to 1,876 applications in 2025. Community Design applications filed by Irish resident applicants decreased from 304 to 274 in 2025.

Table 2. EUTM and RCD applications by Irish resident applicants

	2023	2024	2025
EUTM applications	1,351	1,527	1,876
EUTM registrations	1,166	1,278	1,437
RCD applications	304	301	302
RCD registrations published	326	304	274

Source: [Statistics - EUIPO](#)

2.2.2 International Trade Marks

The Madrid Protocol is an international system of trade mark registration which offers a trade mark owner the possibility to obtain trade mark protection in several countries by filing a single application. The Madrid system, which is administered by WIPO, offers a smart business solution for any company seeking to protect and manage its trade marks in international markets (usually outside the EU). The extent to which it is used by Irish resident companies can provide a useful indicator of their intent to break into foreign markets and to create new markets for existing and new product ranges. The Madrid Union currently has 114 members, covering 130 countries. These members represent more than 80% of world trade.

A total of 823 International Trade Mark registrations were received, which is a decrease of just 6 on the 2024 figure. A total of 810 International Trade Mark registrations were protected during the year.

2.3 Madrid Applications

Table 3. International Applications & Registrations via Madrid System for TM holders resident in Ireland

	2023	2024	2025
Madrid Applications where country of holder is Ireland (by filing date)	251	291	312
Number of International Registrations where country of holder is Ireland	263	280	295
Designations in registrations where country of holder is Ireland	2,213	2,248	3,044
Subsequent Designations where country of holder is Ireland	287	188	141

Source: WIPO IP Statistics ([Madrid System Statistics \(wipo.int\)](https://wipo.int))

WIPO recorded 295 international registrations for holders of trade marks domiciled in Ireland in 2025, up 5% on 2024. These registrations included 3,044 designations of other Madrid members in which the holders sought to extend protection for their trade marks. A total of 141 additional Madrid members were subsequently designated in already existing international registrations from Ireland, to extend their original geographic scope of protection to additional Madrid member countries or jurisdictions

2.4 Official Journal

The fortnightly journal is published on the IPOI's website in PDF and searchable versions. Each journal issue has a searchable index, along with information on actions relating to patents, trade marks and designs. For example, it is possible to view details of accepted trade marks and registered designs in any journal. The journal contains details of patents applied for, published, granted, and lapsed, including patents granted under the European Patent Convention designating Ireland. The journal also contains information such as official notices, details of methods of payment of statutory fees and Office opening hours. The online journal has an interactive facility which allows users access to the Register extract for any patent, trade mark or design by clicking on a hyperlink within that journal.

3.0

International Co-operation



3.0 International Co-operation



The Office participates in co-operation activities with its international counterparts, the EUIPO, the EPO, and WIPO on several projects, to promote harmonisation across national and regional IP offices, and make things easier for users of the patents, trade marks and design systems.

3.1 European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)



The Office continued to actively contribute to many initiatives and projects managed by the EUIPO throughout the year.

The first round of the new EUIPO Virtual Community meetings launched under the EUIPO Strategic Plan 2030 were held in March. These continued on a quarterly basis throughout 2025. IPOI staff actively participated in and contributed to these. The Virtual Communities have, through their work, already delivered real and substantial progress that will benefit Intellectual Property Offices across the EU and the customers and users of their services.

The Convergence Programme of the EUIPO, launched in 2011, facilitates the convergence of practice between the EUIPO and National Offices. Working together with European User Associations, the key objective is to reach common ground in areas where IP offices have different practices. This complements the work being done to create common IT tools under the Cooperation Fund. Staff of the Office continued to build on the achievements of previous years through their active participation in various Working Groups established to support the aims of cooperation and the convergence of practice.

In support of one of our key goals, to deliver high quality IP rights, the Office consolidated the progress achieved by the awarding of ISO9001 quality certification to it in 2023. Our processes and procedures were successfully externally audited as part of the continuous review of this system. In addition, a new fully trained internal audit team was formed to ensure that the Office continues to operate to best practice standards. This project was greatly helped by financial and expert assistance from the EUIPO.

The SME Fund, launched by EUIPO in 2021, continued to successfully grow and expand. This scheme was created to help European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) develop their IP strategies and protect their IP rights, at national or EU level. The fund is operated by the EUIPO in conjunction with the national IP Offices including the IPOI. Under the terms of the scheme, Irish SME's could be eligible to receive 75% off the basic application and registration

fees of national and EU trade marks and designs. In addition, SMEs could apply for a refund of 90% of the cost of an IP audit conducted by recognised experts. The SME Fund, subject to the availability of the budgeted funding, may also reimburse the search fees that are part of the application procedure for a national patent.

The main benefits for users arising from the various Convergence Programmes are:

- Clarity and transparency: Shared communication initiatives keep stakeholders informed of advancements in a timely manner, with unified information.
- Quality and usability: effective and efficient access to protection offered by registration systems both at the national and EU level.
- Legal certainty: increased legal certainty due to greater consistency in decisions made at national and EU level.
- Time and cost savings: potential reductions in application processing times and cost savings for both IP offices and applicants.

The Office continued to receive support from the EUIPO to maintain our data input to their flagship tools TMview and Design View. In addition, under a bilateral agreement with EUIPO, the Office availed of assistance towards the cost of an expanded range of awareness raising events where information on the EU Trade Mark and EU Design Systems was disseminated.

A new system to cater for Craft and Industrial Geographical Indications was introduced across the EU on 1st December 2025. This manages a new EUwide intellectual property right, and it protects the names of certain nonagricultural products that are strongly linked to a specific geographical area. IPOI staff members were closely involved with the preparations for the launch of the new system.

IPOI staff also actively participated and engaged in a number of high-level meetings organised by the EUIPO. These included the Management Board and Budget Committee which is responsible for the strategic oversight, accountability, and sound financial management of the Office. The Annual Cooperation meeting of the European Union Intellectual Property Network. This is the main forum where cooperation across European IP offices is planned, evaluated, and aligned.

3.2 World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)



The IPOI continued to fulfil its responsibilities around intellectual property protection arising from Ireland's membership of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the multilateral treaties for which WIPO acts as depositary. As part of these commitments, the Controller attended the WIPO Heads of Office Meeting in April 2025 and the WIPO General Assembly in July 2025, the annual gathering of all WIPO Member States at which strategic priorities and the future direction of international IP policy are discussed.

The Office also maintained ongoing engagement with WIPO throughout the year, particularly in relation to initiatives promoting effective and accessible dispute resolution mechanisms for IP and technologyrelated matters. The IPOI looks forward to continuing its close cooperation with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre and to supporting greater awareness of the benefits of alternative dispute resolution for rights holders and innovators.

3.3 European Patent Office (EPO)



Throughout 2025, IPOI staff continued to play an active role in the work of the European Patent Office (EPO), contributing to the activities of its principal bodies and committees. Office representatives participated in meetings of the Administrative Council, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Technical Cooperation and Support Committee, and the Patents Law Committee.

During the year, the IPOI also worked closely with the EPO to deliver on the objectives of the Cooperation Agreement for the period 2024–2026. This agreement provides targeted funding and technical assistance across four priority areas and supports the continued development of the Office's operational capabilities, while strengthening collaboration and knowledge transfer between the EPO and national patent offices.

A significant milestone under this co-operation was the IPOI's collaboration with the EPO on the implementation of a new Legal Interactive Platform (LiP) tool that acts as a central repository for both legislative documentation and links to our website, enabling staff to access and gather information more efficiently. In 2025, Ireland was one of only two EPO Member States selected to implement this tool, reflecting the IPOI's strong engagement with digital innovation and its readiness to adopt advanced artificialintelligence solutions in patent administration.

The four projects supported under the agreement are as follows:

1.



Knowledge and outreach:

Supporting the promotion of intellectual property awareness and fostering the values of innovation, entrepreneurship and technology, particularly within the education sector.

2.



Convergence of practices:

Advancing further alignment of patent practices across EPO Member States to ensure consistency and improved outcomes for users of the patent system.

3.



IT cooperation:

Strengthening the IPOI's data management, information security and digital capabilities through enhanced use of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence.

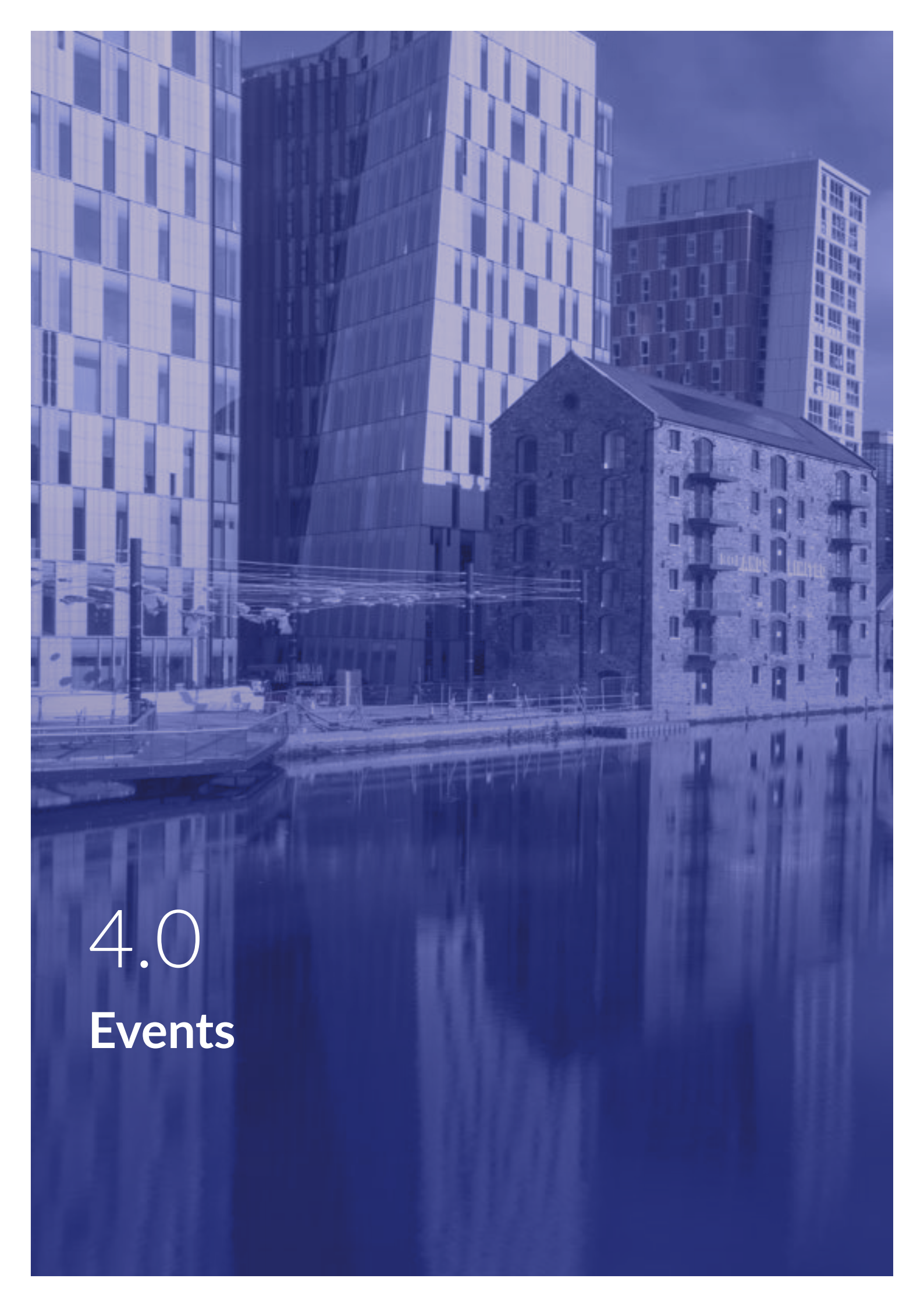
4.



Capacity support for Member States:

Delivering targeted assistance to national patent offices experiencing temporary capacity constraints in patent search and examination.





4.0 Events

4.0 Events 2025

Throughout 2025, the IPOI attended a variety of events and meetings, both nationally and internationally, as well as hosting various meetings in our Kilkenny office. This is a snapshot of some of the events attended.

January

IPOI attended BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in Dublin

IPOI information team attended the Transition Year (TY) Show in Limerick

Conference on Geographical Indicators in EUIPO attended by the Office

EPO – Roundtable on ICT



Pictured are James Kelly, Controller of the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland, Katie Zheng and Elisha Zhu from Loreto on the Green, Dublin, winners of the IPOI sponsored award.



Pictured left to right: Mr Gordon Humphreys, Chairperson of the First & Second Boards of Appeal, Ms Susy Scardocchia, Legal Assistant of the Second Board of Appeal, Mr James Kelly Controller of the IPOI, Mr Sven Stürmann, President of the Boards of Appeal, Ms Keeva Doherty, Legal Assistant of the Fourth Board of Appeal, Mr John Nolan, Head of Trade Mark Examination, IPOI and Ms Beatriz Benito, Board of Appeal, Cabinet Co-operation team.

February

EUIPO Boards of Appeal Seminar to IP Practitioners and IPOI in Dublin

EPO -IT Co-operation Working Groups

EPO Technical Visit

March

CIPTA/APTMA regional meeting Dublin – Presentation given by Controller

Office participated in Enterprise Week and provided presentations both virtually and in person

EPO – Administrative Council & Select Committee



Pictured at the 182nd Administrative Council James Kelly, Controller of IPOI and Borghildur Erlingsdottir Director General of the Icelandic Intellectual Property Office



Pictured at TOSC meeting at EPO are Avril Hetherington, Dolores Cassidy and Lianne Maher

April

EUIPO/WIPO/EPO Conference: IP as a catalyst for Innovation & Growth

EPO Technical and Operational Support Committee meeting

May

Office attended EUIPN Annual Cooperation Meeting in Cyprus

INTA Group attended by the Controller

C5 Pharma & Biotech Patent Litigation Conference attended by the Office

EPO Budget & Finance Committee attended by Controller

Office presented their sponsored Student Enterprise Awards to the winners of each category in Mullingar

IPOI Meeting with IP and DP Committee Law Society of Ireland

Office attends Local Enterprise Event in Kildare



Pictured at the EPO Budget & Finance Committee are Claire O' Reilly of the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland and Beata Oleszek, Principal Expert, International Cooperation Department of the Patent Office of Poland.



Pictured are James Kelly, Controller of the IPOI and António Campinos, President of the European Patent Office (EPO) signing the working agreement on search co-operation.

June

EUIPO – Management Board attended by Controller

EUIPN Points of Contact Meeting attended by the Office

EPO - Administrative Council & select committee attended by Controller, during which the Search Co-operation Agreement was signed

July

PATLIB 2025 Conference in EPO Vienna attended by the Office

WIPO General Assembly Meeting, Geneva attended by the Controller



Pictured here is James Kelly, Controller of the IPOI with colleagues from WIPO and fellow member states at the 66th session of the World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO General Assembly



Pictured are Alena Lane, Fergal Brady, Dolores Cassidy (Head of Patent Examination) Michaela Hogan, our newest recruit, and Karen Ryan.

August

EPO Reserve Fund Pensions & Social Security Committee training attended by Controller

Office attended the Tullamore Show

Office increased number of Patent Examiners appointed

September

Future IP Europe Event, Dublin attended by Office and participated in a fire side chat panel discussion

EPO Data Quality Working Group attended by the Office

EPO -IT Co-operation Working Groups

IP Trends Seminar, Law Society attended by the Controller and presentation given

EUIPO EIPIC Working Group (virtual) attended by the Office

National Ploughing Championships attended by the Office



Pictured are James Kelly, Controller of the IPOI and Agris Batalauskis, Director of the Patent Office of the Republic of Latvia signing a Memorandum of Understanding between their Offices.



Pictured here is James Kelly, Controller of the IPOI with colleagues from WIPO and fellow member states at the 66th session of the World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO General Assembly

October

EPO Convergence of Practice attended by the Office

Office attended EPO Co-Op Agreement handover

EPO INPADOC Team attended by the Office

EPO Patent Law Committee attended by the Office

EUIPO Liaison Meetings attended by the Office

EPO Administrative Council and Select Committee

EPO Budget and Finance Committee

Office attended the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland (BSTAI) conference

National Women's Enterprise Day in Kilkenny Castle attended by the Office

November

EPO Technical Operational Support Committee attended by the Office

EUIPO Management Board and Budgetary Committee attended by the Controller

Meeting with Director of UPC Medication & Arbitration Centre

Office participated at the Design and Crafts Council Ireland Irish Design Week 2025

IP and Patent Workshop provided to the 2026 Stripe YSTE finalists

Patent & Trade Mark Agent Board meetings held



Pictured at the Irish Business Design Challenge Awards at Trinity College Dublin Portal is Caroline Kelly IPOI and Mary Blanchfield, CEO of Design and Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI)



Pictured are Mary Anne Walsh and Caroline Kelly, IPOI with Javier Moreno, Deputy Director Cooperation and Partnerships, European Union Intellectual Property Office.

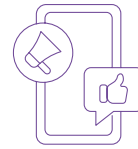
December

EPO Administrative Council attended by Controller

Office attends EUIPN Contacts meeting in Alicante

Office provided information presentations as part of the Enterprise Ireland New Frontiers Programme

5.0 Website and Social Media



The IPOI website provides access to a range of online interactive search and fee payment services. Online services include e-payments, e-filing of patent, SPC, trade mark and design applications, viewing and searching of patent, trade mark and design registers and databases, the registers of copyright licensing bodies and patent and trade mark agents. Material published on the website includes previous year's annual reports, the full suite of IP information booklets, the Office's current Statement of Strategy and Customer Service Action Plan as well as all primary and secondary legislation governing the functions of the Office. The website received 246,687 visits in 2025. As in previous years the interactive online register search pages continue to be one of the most popular website pages, along with the Register of Trade Mark Agents and Guide to Completing the Application.

Having expanded its presence on all its digital channels, the Office continues to increase the number of followers in 2025 by providing topical, relatable content, highlighting attendance at events and running targeted information campaigns aimed at SMEs and students. LinkedIn followers increased by 40.5% during the year, gaining 495 followers. The theme of the 2025 World Intellectual Property Day was "IP and music: Feel the beat of IP". The Office this year posted a video by Davy Long where he outlined the importance of copyright for protecting his music, both as a musician and songwriter. Also posted this year, were videos by the Office's Patent Examiners and Trade Mark Examiners marking WIPO's Celebrating and Empowering IP Examiners.



5.1 Intellectual Property in Education Programme

In 2025 the IPOI information team continued to extend the IP in Education programme for secondary school students. In collaboration with the Student Enterprise Programme, the team attended schools across the country and provided the presentation to over 3,000 students. The informative and topical sessions on intellectual property are specifically targeted at Transition Year students who typically take part in events such as the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition and the Student Enterprise Awards where intellectual property should be considered as part of their entries. The format of the presentation “What is Intellectual Property?” is very interactive with IPOI speakers presenting on the different IP rights. Students are encouraged to take part in the presentation by integrating question and answer segments throughout and several everyday examples of how IP affects the choices we make daily. Products and logos are used during the presentation to help students identify with the various IP rights, such as patents, trade marks, copyright, designs, and trade secrets. The presentation updated every year, also covers the rapidly evolving area of artificial intelligence, counterfeit goods, together with the addition of our IP in Education animated explainer video and new sound slides for copyright and AI. The Office has also transformed the Intellectual Property information card into the format of a poster double sided in Irish and English, which has been distributed to schools attended from September 2025.



All award winners pictured with Caroline Kelly IPOI, Giuliana Keane, Sophie Gillard, Katelyn Murtagh and Toni O’Loone, Rohaan Bhatnagar, Emma Fallon & Saoirse O’Driscoll

6.0 Public Sector Duty Statement



The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, set out in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, places a statutory obligation on public bodies to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect the human rights of those to whom they provide services, as well as their staff.

The Act requires public bodies, having regard to their functions, purpose, size and available resources, to report on developments and achievements in the discharge of this duty as part of their annual reporting arrangements.

The IPOI is committed to fostering a culture of respect for human rights and equality for both staff and service users. In its daytoday activities, and particularly in its engagement with stakeholders, the IPOI ensures that no member of the public or other stakeholder experiences discrimination on any of the protected grounds set out in equality legislation—gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, disability, age, race, religion, or membership of the Traveller community. The same standards of equality and fairness apply across the organisation for IPOI staff.

Mechanisms in place within the IPOI to support compliance with the public sector duty include:

- The implementation and ongoing review of accessibility requirements under the Disability Act 2005, including the appointment of an IPOI Access Officer.
- Embedding equality and human rights commitments within the IPOI Customer Service Plan, informed by engagement with service users and stakeholders.
- Implementation of the Civil Service Dignity at Work Policy, including measures addressing bullying, harassment and sexual harassment.

The Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2024–2026 remains in effect in 2025, providing a framework to promote a positive and inclusive workplace culture, ensure equality of opportunity for staff, and equality of access to services for customers. James Kelly, Controller of the IPOI, is a member of the Departmental working group responsible for overseeing delivery of the Strategy's actions and reporting on progress.

6.1 Official Languages Act (2003 & 2021)

The IPOI is committed to meeting its obligations under the Official Languages Acts 2003 and 2021. In accordance with Section 4(b) of the Acts, the IPOI reports annually on compliance with these statutory requirements.

Claire O'Reilly, Assistant Principal Officer, was appointed to oversee performance and reporting in relation to the Official Languages Acts.

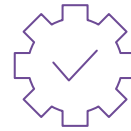
Actions undertaken during 2025 to support compliance included:

- Publishing the required proportion of social media content in the Irish language.
- Reviewing complaints received under the Acts and implementing measures to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
- Producing information materials bilingually, in both Irish and English.

6.2 Protected Disclosures Act 2014

Under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, public bodies are required to publish an annual report on protected disclosures received. The IPOI received no protected disclosures during 2025.

7.0 Better Regulation and Reducing Administrative Burden



The IPOI supports the Government's priority of strengthening Ireland's competitiveness through the application of Better Regulation principles and the reduction of unnecessary administrative and compliance burdens, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and microenterprises.

Operating in an environment characterised by accelerating digital transformation and increasing regulatory complexity, IPOI continued during 2025 to focus on ensuring that its policies, services and processes were efficient and user-focused. This was achieved while maintaining robust protection for intellectual property rights and supporting innovation across the economy.

Throughout 2025, IPOI progressed a range of actions to further embed Better Regulation across its operations. Key initiatives included:

- Reviewing existing policies, schemes and operational processes to identify opportunities to simplify requirements and reduce administrative burden;
- Applying the "Think Small First" principle to service and process design, with particular emphasis on accessibility for SMEs and individual applicants;
- Advancing a digital-first approach to service delivery, reducing reliance on paper-based processes and improving the end-to-end customer experience.

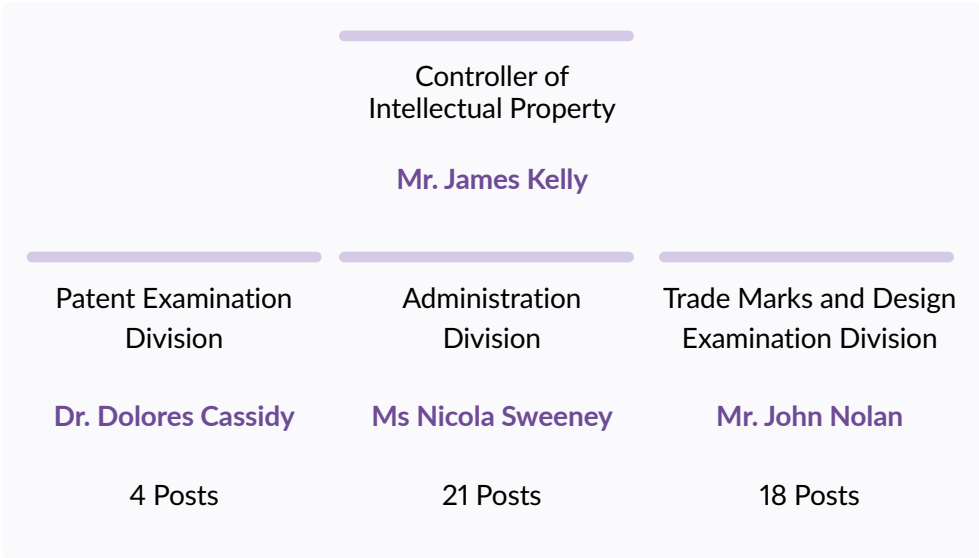
IPOI remains committed to transparency and continuous improvement in this area. Progress in embedding Better Regulation and in reducing administrative burden is monitored through a range of established performance indicators, including:

- Service performance against published processing time standards;
- Uptake of digital services, including online filing and renewal services;
- Application volumes and user profiles, including levels of engagement by individuals and smaller enterprises;
- Application of the SME Test to relevant new initiatives and service developments;
- Completion of targeted process and service reviews to identify further simplification opportunities.

These indicators are reviewed as part of IPOI's ongoing performance management and governance arrangements and are reported, where appropriate, through the Annual Report.

Through these measures, IPOI continued during 2025 to contribute to a regulatory framework that supports innovation, facilitates enterprise growth, and enables effective engagement with Ireland's intellectual property system.

8.0 Organisation and staffing



On 31 December 2025, the 47 posts were filled by 45.2 whole time equivalents. In addition, a total of three permanent staff – one Executive Officer and two Clerical Officers were availing of a work-sharing scheme. The Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment provides information technology services to the Office. There are three members of the Department’s IT Unit and six members of the IPU Team situated in the Office.

Title	Posts
Controller of Int. Property	1
Senior Patent Examiner	1
Assistant Principal	2
Higher Executive Officer	5
Patent Examiner	4
Executive Officer	19
Clerical Officer	14
Services Officer	1
Total	47

9.0 Energy Efficiency in the IPOI



In line with the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate, the IPOI ensured that the Office was a sustainable and environmentally responsible workplace in 2025 through emission reductions, the implementing of energy savings projects as well as establishing a green ethos in the Office.

Office staff play a pivotal role in delivering the Government's Energy Efficiency Action Plan which has a target of reducing energy consumption, increasing staff awareness of energy efficiency, and monitoring performance of heating/air conditioning equipment. Energy saving measures have resulted in significant savings since 2008, when the Office first joined the Optimising Power @ Work campaign. This is a cross Departmental initiative run by the Office of Public Works which aims to change staff behaviour towards energy use and eliminating energy wastage in public offices. An Energy Advisor is appointed to each participating building and sets energy savings targets. The Energy Advisor also advises staff as to how energy savings may be achieved, through no or low-cost measures. Measures included closely monitoring heating usage to avoid waste during public holidays, switching off all unnecessary lighting and reducing the temperature on heating.

Based on end of year data, the Office has saved 59% overall on energy consumption since joining the campaign. The Office continued to meet the 2030 50% target set, which derived from a 67% reduction in electricity (whole building) and 32% savings in heating. This year, the IPOI, along with the other offices in the building, has reduced its carbon footprint by over 60% compared to the benchmark year or a staggering 174 tonnes of CO₂. Having a designated officer with responsibility for monitoring energy efficiency in the building plays a large part in the ongoing reductions in energy usage. In 2025, a major project to install Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels across the Office building rooftops was completed. This project marks a significant step toward reducing the buildings environmental footprint. The solar installation is expected to generate a substantial portion of the Office's energy needs on-site, improving overall energy efficiency. This initiative underscores the commitment to clean energy and long-term operational sustainability.



10.0 Business Statistics



10.1 Patents

10.1.1 Patents

A total of 591 patent applications were received in 2025, which is a 24% decrease over the corresponding 2024 figure. The number of patents granted in 2025 was the same as 2024, 110. At the end of 2025, there were 1,135 pending patent applications on hand, which is a 10% decrease over the 2024 figure of 1,260. Ending 2025, there were 606 applications awaiting the submission of evidence of novelty, up from the 2024 figure of 386. The number of applications received from applicants in the State was 379 compared with 153 in 2024.

Table 4. Patent Applications

Applications Received			
Year	Full Term	Short Term	Total
2023	128	461	589
2024	132	642	774
2025	167	424	591

Patents Granted			
Year	Full Term	Short Term	Total
2023	51	58	109
2024	27	83	110
2025	46	64	110

10.1.2 Supplementary Protection Certificates

A total of 48 requests for Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) were received during the year under the European Communities (Supplementary Protection Certificates) Regulations, 1992 (medicinal) and 1996 (plant protection products). During the year, 15 certificates were granted (medicinal and plant protection), 3 were rejected and 9 requests were withdrawn. At the end of the year there were 261 requests pending, compared to 240 in 2024.

Figure 3. Patent & SPC Applications 2023-2025

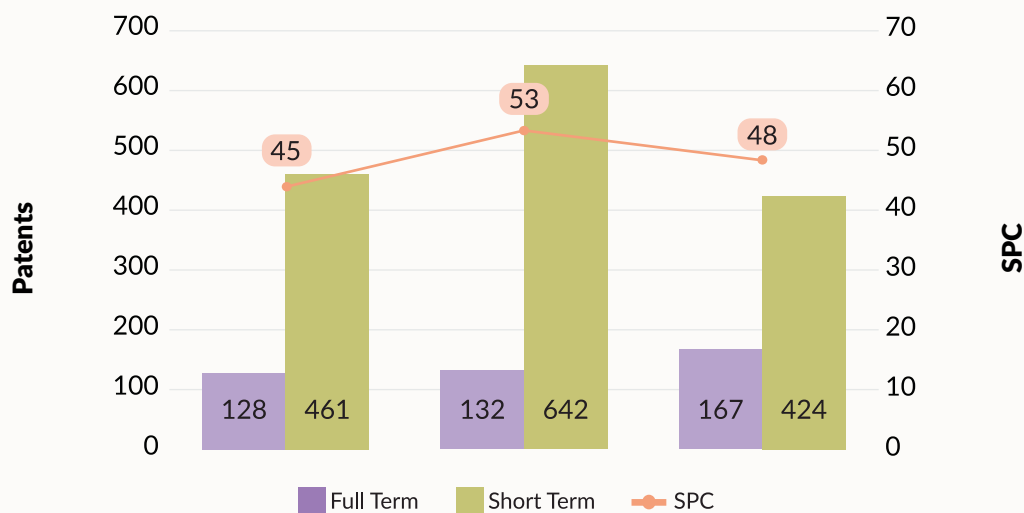


Figure 4 shows the total number of European applications designating Ireland. This figure is not included in the total number of patents granted in 2025 having effect in the State.

There were 201,974 European Patent Applications designating Ireland in 2025. For each European Patent Convention contracting state, the number of designations in applications is generally nearly 100% of the total applications, since all countries are initially automatically designated. There were 119,552 granted European Patents designating Ireland in 2025.

Figure 4. European Patent Applications designating Ireland 1996-2025

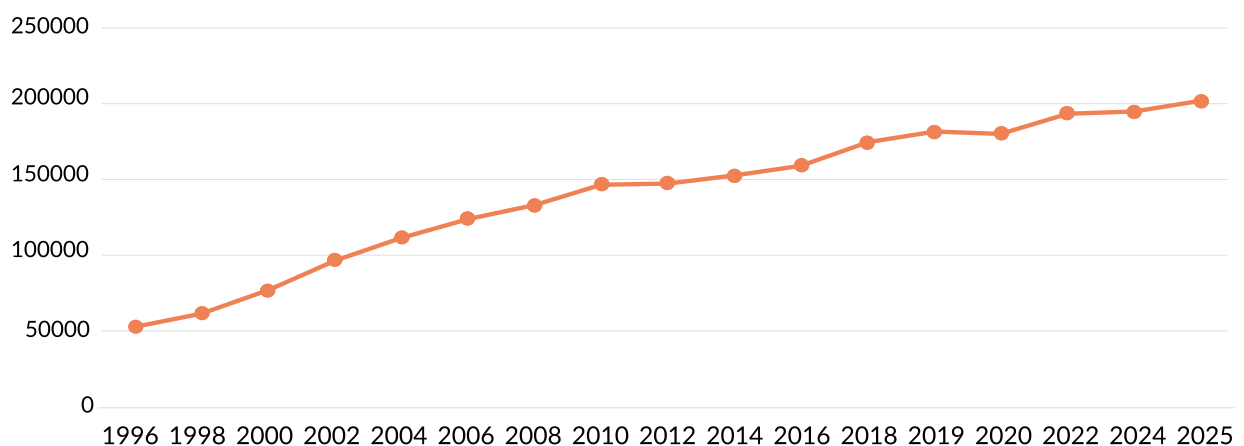


Table 5. **Patents granted in 2025 having effect in the State.**

2025	Number of patents granted to Applicants from within the State	% of patents granted to Applicants from within the State	Total
Granted by Office	30	27%	110
Granted by EPO	895	0.74%	119,552
Total Grants	925	0.77%	119,662

Table 6. **Patent Register Data**

	2023	2024	2025
Patents and patent applications the subject of assignments	633	971	698
Patents surrendered	0	0	0
Patents lapsed	86,155	93,362	110,809
Patents restored/reinstated	13	11	11
Patents renewed	60,419	60,581	59,548
Patents expired	1,542	1,776	1,444
Patents & SPCs in force	184,230	198,388	202,601
Hearings (ex-parte)	0	1	1
PCT applications received for transmission to WIPO	9	11	12
European patent applications received for transmission to EPO	0	0	0

10.1.3 Register of Patent Agents

At the end of 2025 there were 87 individuals, and eight partnerships entered in the Register of Patent Agents. The Law and Practice of Patents examination was held online in April 2025. A total of six candidates sat the exam, five passed and one failed with an overall success rate of 83%.

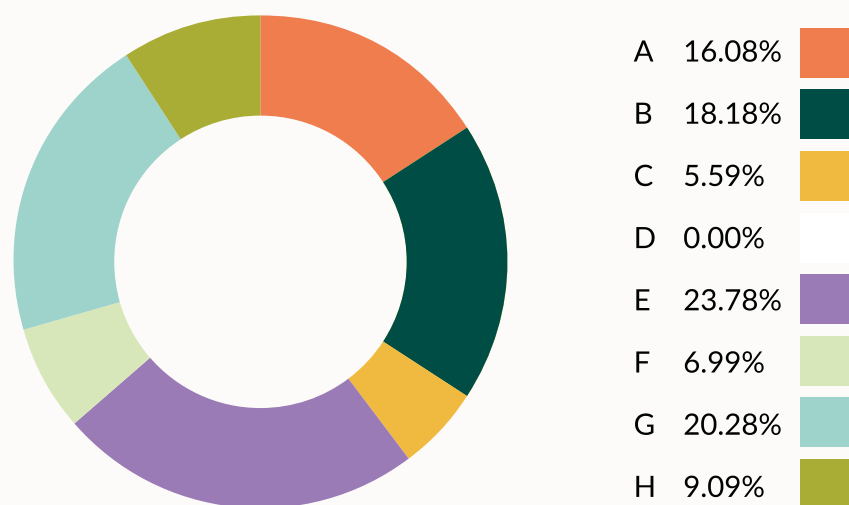
10.1.4 Classification of Patents Granted in 2025

Table 7. **Classification of Patents 2025**

Classification	No of grants*
A. Human necessities: e.g. Foodstuffs, Health, Personal Articles	23
B. Performing operations: Transporting: e.g. Shaping, printing, vehicle technology	26
C. Chemistry: Metallurgy	8
D. Textiles: Paper	0
E. Fixed constructions: e.g. Building, drilling, mining	34
F. Mechanical engineering: Lighting; heating; weapons; blasting.	10
G. Physics: e.g. Optics, computing, nuclear physics	29
H. Electricity: e.g. Electronic circuits, electricity generation and distribution	13

*Note on Patent Classification: Patents are given classifications based on their technical content which allows retrieval of patents according to the nature of the inventions revealed therein. The International Patent Classification (IPC) consists of about 70,000 classification symbols divided between 8 basic sections (A to H), relating to different basic kinds of technology. The Classification system is revised constantly to ensure that new and emerging technologies are included, with a new edition released yearly. A classification code is given for each inventive element in a patent. A patent may contain two or more inventions as long as they are sufficiently related, for instance, a new chemical compound and its use as a medicine or herbicide. Accordingly, a patent may need several classification symbols to cover the whole of its content. The accompanying table and graph collate the total number of classifications allocated to granted patents in 2025. Each individual classification represents an inventive element disclosed in a patent, so this is akin to a tally of inventiveness. Classifications are grouped by IPC section.

Figure 5. **Granted Patent Classifications by IPC Section for 2025**



10.2 Trade Marks

The following tables set out the main business statistics in relation to Trade Marks in 2025. A total of 3,328 National Trade Mark applications were received, an increase of 992 when compared with 2024. 1,609 applications were registered. A total of 823 International Trade Mark registrations were received, which is a decrease of 6 on the 2024 figure. A total of 810 International Trade Mark registrations were protected.

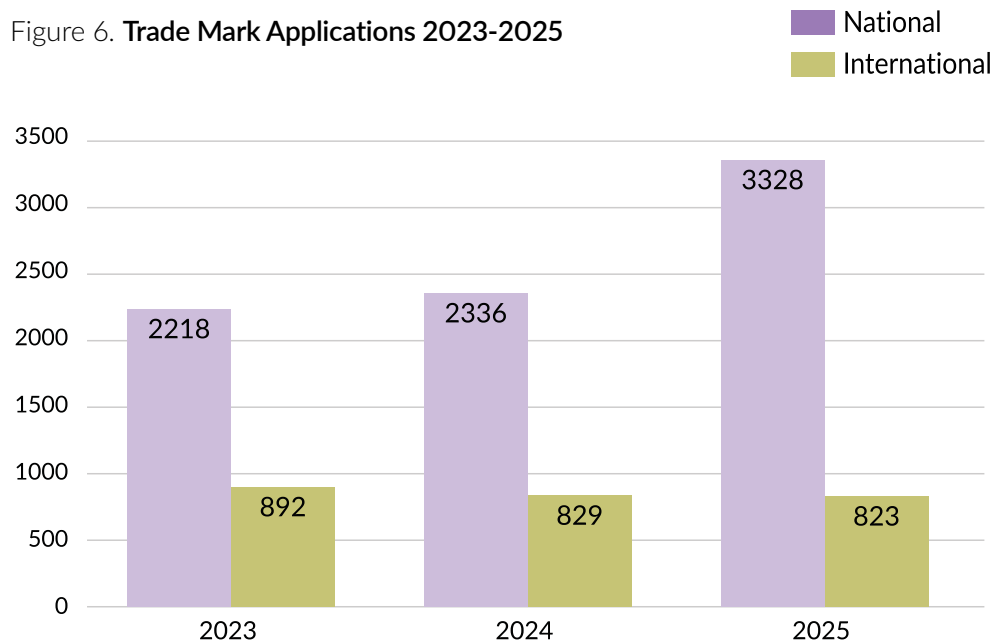
Table 8. **National Trade Mark Applications**

Year	Received	Advertised	Opposed	Registered
2023	2,218	1,791	37	1,220
2024	2,336	2,225	57	1,949
2025	3,328	1,894	47	1,609

Table 9. **International Trade Mark Registrations**

Year	Received	Advertised	Opposed	Protected
2023	892	920	12	967
2024	829	751	18	742
2025	823	749	8	810

Figure 6. Trade Mark Applications 2023-2025



10.2.1 Classification of Trade Marks Registered 2025

A multilateral treaty called the “Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks” established a classification system for Trade Marks. The Nice Classification comprises 45 class headings which describe in very broad terms the nature of the goods or services contained in each of the 34 classes of goods and 11 classes of services into which Trade Marks may fall. The classification is administered by WIPO and the current (twelfth) edition has been in force since 1 January 2025.

Table 10. Classification of Trade Marks, 2025

Class	Classification of Goods	No. of marks in classification	Class	Classification of Goods	No. of marks in classification
1	Chemical Products, etc.	34	24	Tissues (piece goods), etc.	38
2	Paints, etc.	8	25	Clothing, including Boots, Shoes and Slippers	211
3	Bleaching Preparations, etc.	93	26	Lace and Embroidery, etc.	14
4	Industrial Oils, etc.	24	27	Carpets, etc.	10
5	Pharmaceutical Substances, etc.	196	28	Games, etc.	59
6	Unwrought & Partly Wrought Common Metals and their Alloys	29	29	Meat, Fish, Poultry and Game, etc.	96
7	Machines and Machine Tools, etc.	37	30	Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Sugar, Rice, etc.	120
8	Hand Tools and Instruments, Cutlery, etc.	14	31	Agricultural Products, etc.	47
9	Scientific Apparatus and Instruments, etc.	305	32	Beer, etc.	65
10	Surgical Instruments, etc.	25	33	Wines, Spirits and Liqueurs	52
11	Installations for Lighting, etc.	39	34	Tobacco, etc.	5
12	Vehicles; Apparatus for Locomotion by Land, Air or Water	23	35	Advertising, Business Management, etc.	333
13	Firearms, Ammunition and Projectiles; Explosive Substances; Fireworks	1	36	Insurance, Financial Affairs, etc.	145
14	Precious Metals and their Alloys, etc.	43	37	Building Construction, Repair, Installation Services.	92
15	Musical Instruments (other than talking machines and wireless apparatus)	3	38	Telecommunications	62
16	Paper, etc.	167	39	Transport, Packaging and Storage of Goods, etc.	113
17	Gutta Percha, India Rubber, etc.	18	40	Treatment of Materials	37
18	Leather, etc.	50	41	Education, Entertainment, etc.	376
19	Building Materials, etc.	29	42	Scientific and technological services	190
20	Furniture, etc.	42	43	Providing food and drink	150
21	Small Domestic Utensils, etc.	80	44	Medical services, etc	135
22	Ropes, etc.	6	45	Personal and social services	84
23	Yarns, Threads	4			

*A Trade Mark may be registered in more than one class; hence, the total number of trade marks in the classes exceeds the number of trade marks actually registered.

Figure 7. **Top 5 Classes of Goods and Services 2025**

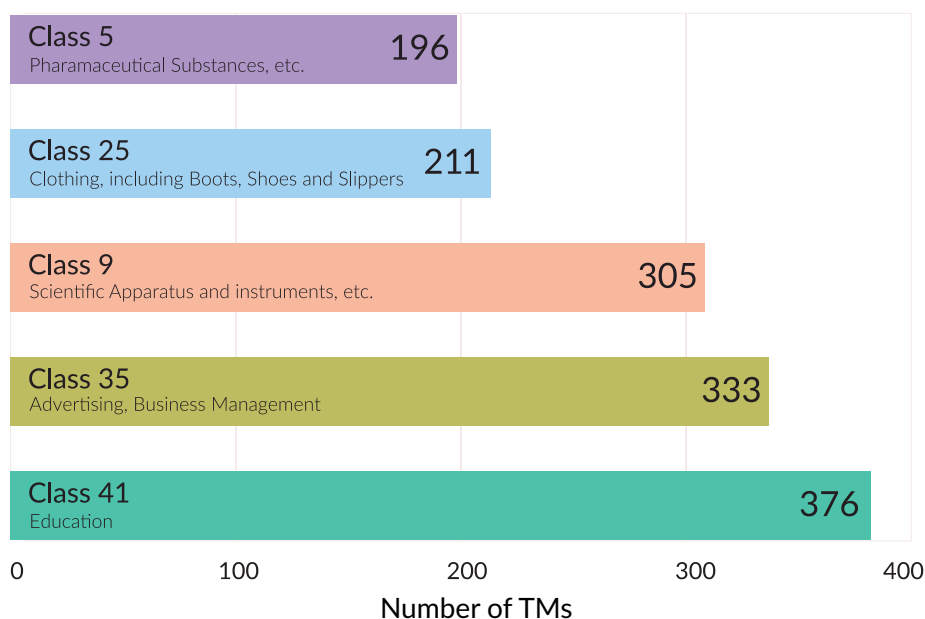


Table 11. **Trade Marks Register Data**

	2023	2024	2025
Number of trade marks the subject of assignments	1,019	953	724
Number of licences of trade marks recorded in the register	20	3	7
Trade mark registrations removed non-payment of renewal fees	2,187	1,764	1,882
Trade mark registrations surrendered	6	5	6
Trade mark registrations restored	7	10	7
Trade mark registrations renewed	3,654	3,296	3,085
National trade marks revoked in full and in part	6	2	2
International trade marks revoked in full and in part	0	2	2
National trade marks declared invalid	0	1	0
International trade marks declared invalid	0	0	0
National registered trade marks in force	49,938	49,188	49,209
International trade marks in force	20,110	19,656	19,377
Total trade marks in force	70,048	68,844	68,586

Hearings	2023	2024	2025
Hearings (<i>ex-partes</i>)	9	2	0
Hearings (<i>inter-partes</i>)	2	5	3
Hearings (<i>inter-partes by way of written submission or papers filed</i>)	5	2	1
Applications to convert EU Trade Mark applications into national applications	35	36	36
International Trade Mark applications filed and transmitted to WIPO	69	93	99

10.2.2 Register of Trade Mark Agents

At the end of 2025, there were 258 individuals, and 15 partnerships entered on the Register. The Law and Practice of Trade Marks examination was held online in April 2025. 24 candidates sat the trade marks exam, 12 passed and 12 failed with an overall pass rate of 50%.

10.3 Designs

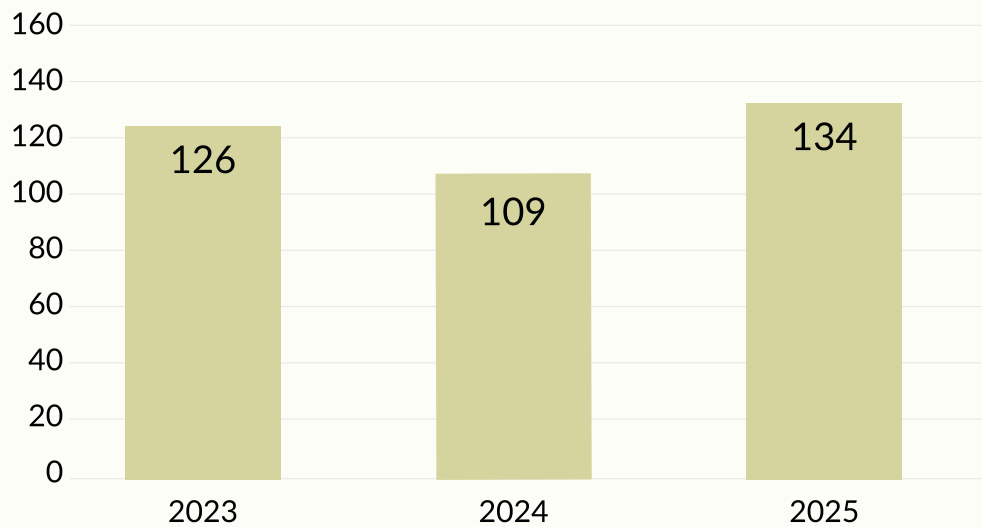
The following tables set out the main business statistics in relation to Industrial Designs. A total of 57 National Design applications were received in 2025, incorporating 134 individual designs. 87 Designs were registered during the year. A total of 1,118 National Designs remained in force at the end of year.

Table 12. Design Register Data

	2023	2024	2025
Design Applications*	47	51	57
Number of Designs applied for*	126	109	134
Designs Registered	115	107	87
Designs Expired	152	511	116
Designs Renewed	90	99	259
Designs in force	1,550	1,146	1,118

*Note: Rule 19 of the Industrial Designs Regulations 2002 provides that up to a maximum of 100 designs may be combined in one multiple application for registration of designs.

Figure 8. **Number of Designs applied for 2023-2025**



10.3.1 Classification of Designs Registered 2025

The Locarno Agreement established a classification system for industrial designs. The Locarno Classification comprises a list of 32 classes of goods in which industrial designs may be incorporated. The classification is administered by WIPO and the current 15th edition has been in force since January 1, 2025

Table 13. Classification of Designs*

Class	Classification	Designs Registered*
1	Foodstuffs	0
2	Articles of Clothing and Haberdashery	6
3	Travel Goods, Cases, Parasols and Personal Belongings, not elsewhere specified	1
4	Brushware	0
5	Textile Piece goods Articles, Artificial and Natural Sheet Material	2
6	Furnishings	2
7	Household Goods, not elsewhere specified	0
8	Tools and Hardware	2
9	Packages and Containers for the Transport or Handling of Goods	5
10	Clocks and Watches and other Measuring Instruments, Checking and Signalling Instruments	1
11	Articles of Adornment	37
12	Means of Transport or Hoisting	1
13	Equipment for Production, Distribution or Transformation of Electricity	3
14	Recording, Communication or Information Retrieval Equipment	0
15	Machines, not elsewhere specified	0
16	Photographic, Cinematographic and Optical Apparatus	1
17	Musical Instruments	0
18	Printing and Office Machinery	0
19	Stationery and Office Equipment, Artists' and Teaching Materials	0
20	Sales and Advertising Equipment, Signs	2
21	Games, Toys, Tents and Sports Goods	6
22	Arms, Pyrotechnic Articles, Articles for Hunting, Fishing and Pest Killing	0
23	Fluid Distribution Equipment, Sanitary, Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Equipment, Solid Fuel	0
24	Medical and Laboratory Equipment	2
25	Building Units and Construction Elements	10
26	Lighting Apparatus	0
27	Tobacco and Smokers' Supplies	0
28	Pharmaceutical Products and Cosmetic Products, Toilet Articles and Apparatus	1
29	Devices and Equipment Against Fire Hazards, for Accident Prevention and for Rescue	0
30	Articles for the Care and Handling of Animals	0
31	Machines and Appliances for Preparing Food or Drink, not elsewhere specified	0
32	Graphic Symbols and Logos, Surface Patterns, Ornamentation	5
	Total	87

*A Design may be registered in more than one class; hence, the total number of designs in the classes exceeds the number of designs actually registered.

10.4 Copyright

10.4.1 Collective Rights Management (CRM)

The European Union (Collective Rights Management) (Directive 2014/26/ EU) Regulations 2014 ("the CRM Regulations") were transposed into Irish law through S.I. No.156 of 2016 with effect from 10 April 2016.

The Regulations act to incorporate into Irish law EU Directive 2014/26/ EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on collective management of copyright and related rights and multi-territorial licensing of rights in musical works for online use in the internal market ("the CRM Directive"). The CRM Directive has two aims:

- to ensure that Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) act in the best interests of their rightsholders by enforcing a minimum standard of governance and transparency on all European CMO and Independent Management Agencies (IMEs).
- to facilitate the multi-territorial licensing of authors' rights in musical works for online uses.

The CRM regulations provide that the Controller is the competent authority in Ireland for monitoring compliance in the State. The regulations also provide that in addition to meeting the requirements set out in the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 which requires a CMO to register and maintain its registration as a copyright licensing body before it can operate in the State, each CMO or IME headquartered in Ireland must also submit an annual compliance statement and compliance report to the Controller, together with their registration documentation. The compliance reporting requirements of the CRM Regulations currently apply to 8 of the 16 registered copyright licensing bodies operating in the State.

10.4.2 References to the Controller under the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000

Under Section 38 of the Act, disputes between people playing sound recordings in public and the owner of the copyright subsisting in those recordings, regarding the equitable remuneration payable to the copyright owner, may be referred to the Controller for determination. Under Sections 151 and 152 of the Act, disputes between people or organisations regarding a proposed or existing licensing scheme and the operator of the licensing scheme regarding the equitable remuneration payable, may be referred to the Controller for determination. In 2025 there were no references made to the Controller under Section 38.

10.4.3 Registers of Copyright Licensing Bodies under the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000

The Act makes provision for the Controller to establish and maintain the following Registers:

- The Register of Copyright Licensing Bodies.
- The Register of Licensing Bodies for Performers' Property Rights.
- The Register of Licensing Bodies for Database Rights.

In 2025, 16 bodies were registered in the Register of Copyright Licensing Bodies, 1 body was registered in the Register of Licensing Bodies for Performers' Property Rights and there were no entries in the Register of Licensing Bodies for Database Rights. The Registers may be viewed on the IPOI website.

10.4.4 Orphan Works

Orphan Works are works such as books, films, newspaper articles and other creative material that are protected by copyright, but whose owner cannot be found or contacted to obtain permission to use them. The works may be part of collections held by Beneficiary Organisations such as libraries, museums, archives, film and audio heritage institutions and public service broadcasting organisations. The EU Directive on Orphan Works (Directive 2012/28/EU) sets out common rules for the use of Orphan Works by cultural organisations for the purpose of digitising those works for non-commercial purposes without infringing copyright. Following the completion of a diligent search to establish either ownership or the orphan nature of the work(s), any organisation wishing to register an Orphan Work in the Orphan Works Database must first apply online to the EUIPO to be registered as a "Beneficiary Organisation." To date, eight Irish organisations have been registered as Beneficiary Organisations.

11.0 Knowledge Development Box



The Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Act 2017, (No. 6 of 2017) (the KDB Act) establishes a certification scheme to enable SMEs which have inventions in the form of intellectual property (IP) equivalent to a patentable invention to qualify for the KDB and avail of the reduced corporate tax rate. Eligible SMEs are those with income arising from intellectual property of less than €7.5m and with global turnover of less than €50m where the profits result from R&D. The KDB Act provides that the Controller will oversee and operate this certification scheme. It is important to note that an application for a KDB Certificate does not constitute an application for tax relief and a KDB certificate confers no intellectual property rights on a certificate holder.

11.1 Knowledge Development Box (KDB) Report

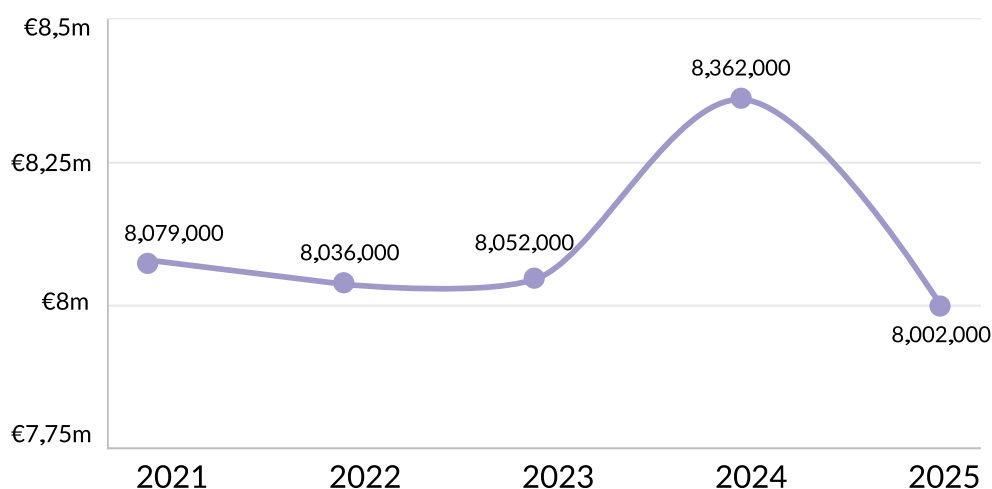
Section 18 of the KDB Act requires the Controller to include statistical information on the number of applications received, withdrawn, or refused, the number of certificates issued and information on the number of applications reviewed and the outcome of each review in the report to the Minister, made in accordance with Section 103(1) of the Patents Act 1992. The report shall not disclose any details of an invention which is the subject of an application. No KDB Certificate applications were received in 2025.

12.0 Financial Information



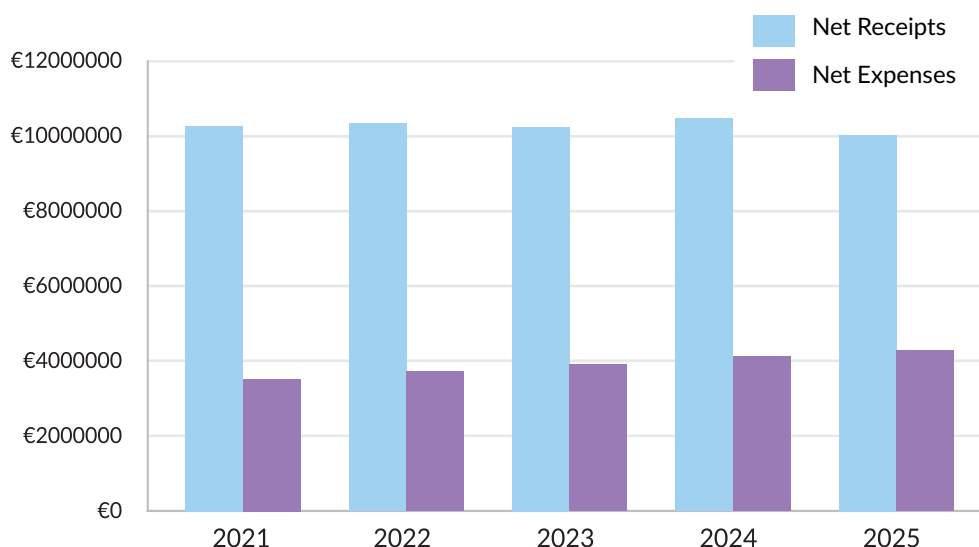
Net receipts accruing to the Exchequer in 2025 amounted to €10.023m, a decrease of €449,000 or 4.28% on the 2024 figure of €10.472m. The greater proportion of the Office's fee income comes from renewal fees on European Patents. In 2025, the Office received a net amount of €7.502m in renewal fees for granted European Patents designating Ireland, which was a decrease of 0.46% or €35,000 on the 2024 figure. The combined net income from European and National patent renewal fees amounted to €8.002m in 2025. The 2025 net figure decreased by 4.30% over the corresponding 2024 figure.

Figure 10. Net Patent fees which accrue to the Exchequer



The combined income from patent, design, and trade mark fees (including international trade mark fees) was €10.223m, a decrease of €0.441m or 4.13% compared to the 2024 figure of €10.664m. The Office's net expenses for 2025 amounted to €4.278m which represented an increase of €0.151m over the corresponding 2024 figure of €4.127m.

Figure 11. Receipts and Expenses 2021 - 2025



12.1 Receipts and Expenses - Year Ended 31 December 2025³

Receipts	€000
Patent fees (Notes 1 & 2)	8,002
Trade Mark fees	1,462
International Trade Mark Registration – fees received from WIPO (Note 3)	747
Design fees	12
Other fees	97
Less refunds made in respect of fees paid to the Office in error	78
Less transaction fees arising in respect of online credit card payments	219
Net receipts accruing to the exchequer	10,023
Expenses	€000
Salaries	2,696
Travel & Subsistence	57
Miscellaneous & Incidental expenses	131
Postal & Telecommunications Services	75
Office Equipment and Supplies & Related Services	697
Office Premises Expenses	130
Information resources, books periodicals, etc.	2
Subscriptions to Industrial Property Unions	490
Net expenses	4,278

Note 1: In accordance with the European Patent Convention, to which Ireland is a party, the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland is obliged to remit to the European Patents Office 50% of all renewal fees received in respect of European Patents which have been validated in Ireland and which are entered in the national register of patents.

³ The income and expenditure figures above are included in the unaudited 2025 DETE Appropriation Account. The C&AG will publish the audited central government appropriation accounts not later than the 30th day of September in the year following the financial year to which the accounts relate.

	€000
Patent Fees	15,504
Less Proportion of patent renewal fees transferred to the EPO	7,502
Net Patent fees which accrue to the Exchequer	8,002

Note 2: The Office acts as a receiving Office for patent applications made under the Patent Co-operation Treaty and as such receives fees for onward transmission to both the EPO and WIPO. These fees do not accrue to the Irish exchequer and are therefore not included in the figure for net receipts. Details of the fees transferred to EPO and WIPO during 2025 are shown below:

	€000
PCT Basic & Designation Fees transferred to WIPO	13
PCT Search fees transferred to EPO	15
Total	28

Note 3: As a consequence of Ireland's ratification of the Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks (the Madrid Protocol) on 19 July 2001, the Office receives fees due in respect of International Trade Mark applications seeking protection in Ireland from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

13.0 Performance Targets 2025



The Office's Customer Service Action Plan 2023-2025 sets out the IPOI's approach to delivery of certain key actions and establishes a range of performance targets related to service delivery which are reported on below.

Patents		%		%
1	Issue 90% of formal filing receipts for e-filed Patent applications within 2 working days.	99	Issue 100% of formal filing receipts for e-filed Patent applications within 4 working days.	100
2	Issue 90% of notifications of formal defects within 7 working days of filing.	39	Issue 100% of notifications of formal defects within 15 working days of filing.	50
3	Approve the grant of 80% of valid short term patent applications within a period of 12 months from the filing of an application.	18	Approve the grant of 100% of valid short term patent applications within a period of 18 months from the filing of an application.	52
4	Conduct first examination of 70% of patent applications within 12 months of receipt in the examination section.	78.25	Conduct first examination of 90% of patent applications within 18 months of receipt in the examination section.	87
5	Conduct substantive examination of 75% of full-term patent applications within 12 months of receipt in the examination section.	80.5	Conduct substantive examination of 90% of full-term patent applications within 18 months of receipt in the examination section.	86.5

Supplementary Protection Certificates		%		%
6	Issue 90% of formal filing receipts for e-filed SPC applications on the next working day.	83	Issue 100% of formal filing receipts for e-filed SPC applications within 3 working days.	96.5
7	Issue 90% of notifications of formal defects within 10 working days of SPC filing date.	100	Issue 100% of notifications of formal defects within 15 working days of SPC filing date.	100
8	Perform technical examination of 90% of all applications for Supplementary Protection Certificates at least 4 months before expiry date of the basic patent ⁴ .	68	Perform technical examination of 95% of all applications for Supplementary Protection Certificates before expiry date of the basic patent.	76

⁴ Only refers to those applications which are received earlier than 12 months before the expiry date.

Trade Marks		%		%
9	Conduct formalities check and issue 90% of formal filing receipts for e-filed Trade Mark applications within 2 working days.	99	Conduct formalities check and issue 100% of formal filing receipts for e-filed Trade Mark applications within 4 working days.	100
10	Determine 90% of TM applications for acceptance or initial objection within 40 working days of filing of the application.	39	Determine 95% of TM applications for acceptance or initial objection within 60 working days of filing of the application.	72
11	Conduct initial search in respect of 90% of new TM applications within 5 working days of receipt.	73.5	Conduct initial search in respect of 100% of new TM applications within 8 working days of receipt.	89.5
12	Issue 90% of decisions in hearings within 20 working days of hearing.	100	Issue 100% of decisions in hearings within 30 working days of hearing.	100

Industrial Designs		%		%
13	Carry out formalities check and issue formal filing receipts for 90% of e-filed Design applications within 2 working days.	99	Carry out formalities check and issue formal filing receipts for 100% of e-filed Design applications within 4 working days.	100
14	Determine 90% of Design applications for registration or initial objection within 40 working days of filing of application.	100	Determine 100% of Design applications for registration or initial objection within 60 working days of filing of application.	100

Copyright		%		%
15	Complete examination of compliance reports and registration requirements and issue 90% of copyright licensing bodies with Certificates of Registration or Renewal of Registration 5 working days before the date of expiry of the registration ⁵ .	100	Complete examination of compliance reports and registration requirements and issue 100% of copyright licensing bodies with Certificates of Registration or Renewal of Registration before the date of expiry of the registration.	100

General		%		%
16	Issue 90% of payment receipts for fees received (excluding on-line payments) within 2 working days.	99	Issue 100% of payment receipts for fees received (excluding on-line payments) within 4 working days.	99

⁵ This target is contingent on requests for registration and renewal of registration being submitted more than 30 days in advance of the renewal date.



Rialtas na hÉireann
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