

**Memorandum of Understanding  
between the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office  
and the Visegrad Patent Institute**

**WHEREAS** the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (hereinafter referred to as the "SIPO") is the central administrative institution of the Republic of Slovenia for intellectual property rights,

**WHEREAS** the Visegrad Patent Institute (hereinafter referred to as the "VPI") is an intergovernmental organization established by the states of the Visegrad Group (hereinafter referred to as the "V4 countries"), for cooperation in the field of patents and operates as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT),

**FOLLOWING** the bilateral consultation between the SIPO and the VPI during 2023,

**DESIRING** to develop enhanced cooperation between the SIPO and the VPI (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties") in the interest of innovative enterprises, research institutions, universities and individual inventors of the Republic of Slovenia and the V4 countries in order to raise their awareness of the PCT and further foster their cooperation activities,

**RESPECTING** equality, reciprocity, mutual benefit of the Parties,

**RECOGNIZING** that the intention of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "this Memorandum") shall be to create the frame of mutually beneficial cooperation activities,

**THEREFORE**, the Parties have reached the following understanding:

**ARTICLE 1  
OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Memorandum is to support the innovation ecosystems of the Republic of Slovenia and the V4 countries by the activities of the Parties.

**ARTICLE 2  
FORMAT OF COOPERATION**

The Parties agree to inform each other on activities of mutual interest.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**SCOPE OF COOPERATION**

The Parties intend to focus their cooperation on the following areas:

- raising awareness on patenting (seminars, symposia and other, e.g. scientific meetings),
- exchange of experts and consultations,
- raising awareness on incentives and various types of support for inventors and SMEs,
- cooperation in respect of the awareness raising activities concerning the commercial search services of the VPI (Global Patent Search Services, GPSS),
- promoting the possibility for holders of Slovenian national patents to use Novelty Search with Preliminary Patentability Report, NSPPR (in the framework of GPSS) in official procedures before the SIPO,
- initiating further joint projects and other cooperation activities by mutual consent of the Parties.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**FINANCING**

The Parties will finance the cooperative activities under this Memorandum with the resources allocated in their respective budgets, according to their availability and budgetary impact.

**ARTICLE 5**  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The Parties will promote the cooperative activities carried out under this Memorandum, through the mass media or any other means of disseminating information to the public.

**ARTICLE 6**  
**RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES**

Any differences arising from the interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum will be amicably resolved through consultation between the Parties.

**ARTICLE 7**  
**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

This Memorandum will respect policies related to Intellectual Property Rights established by the Parties.

**ARTICLE 8**  
**COMMENCEMENT, CONTINUATION, DISCONTINUATION AND MODIFICATION**

This Memorandum will become valid on the date of its signature by both Parties. This Memorandum will remain valid for an indefinite period.

Any Participant may at any time denounce this Memorandum. Denunciation shall be notified to the other Participant. It shall take effect two months after the date of receipt of such notification.

This Memorandum may be terminated at any time by the written consent of the Parties.

This Memorandum may be amended only by mutual written consent of the Parties. The termination of this Memorandum will not affect the validity or duration of the cooperative activities formalized while it was in effect, unless otherwise jointly decided by the Parties.

Signed in two copies in the English and Slovenian language.

Done in Ljubljana, on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Karin Žvokelj  
Director  
Slovenian Intellectual Property Office



Johanna Stadler  
Director  
Visegrad Patent Institute

