

# Financial incentives as a tool for improving the V4 innovation ecosystem and enhancing IP protection

NATIONAL REPORT – POLAND

Justyna Ożegalska-Trybalska

Project conference, September 25, 2023 (online)

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- Visegrad Fund
- 
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*The project is co-financed by the Governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.*

# Country characteristic (IP protection, innovation indicators)

Poland is an Emerging Innovator with performance at 60.5% of the EU average

<b>Poland</b>	Performance relative to EU in 2022	Performance change 2015-2022	Performance change 2021-2022
PCT patent applications	38.1	1.9	1.1
Trademark applications	89.0	18.5	8.0
Design applications	141.0	1.1	4.9

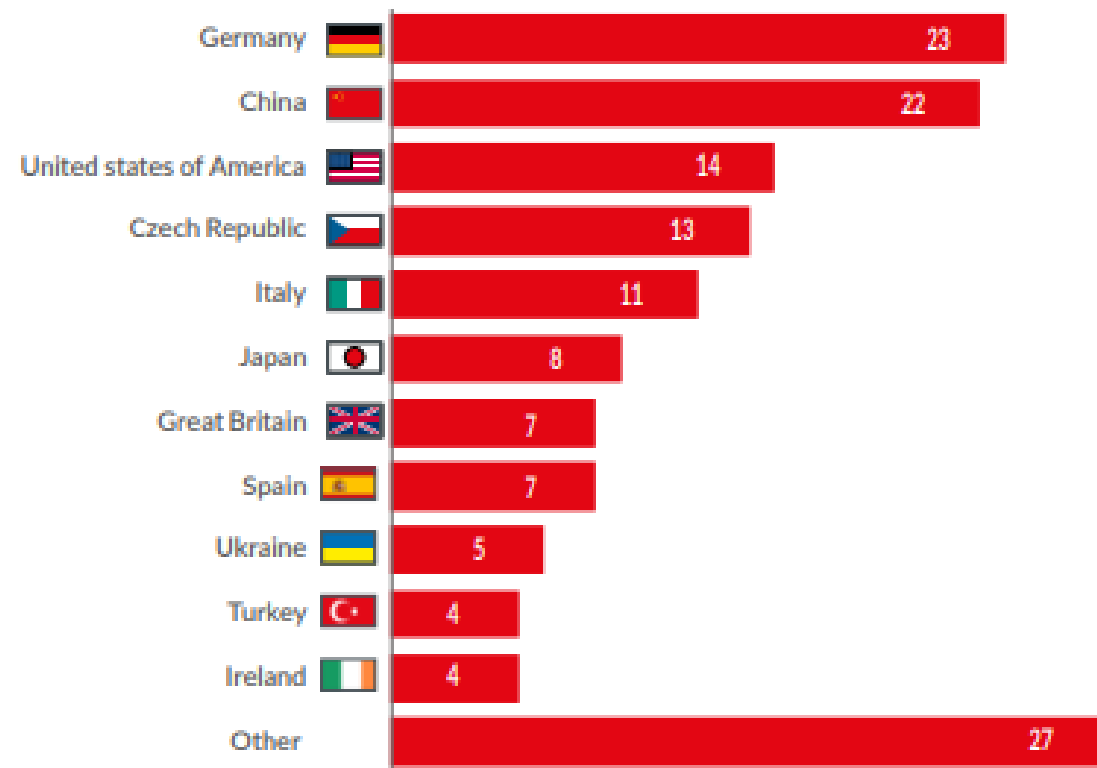
## 1. PATENT APPLICATIONS AND GRANTED PATENTS

### 1.1. Domestic and foreign patent applications broken down by the procedure

Procedura	Domestic / Foreign	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
DOMESTIC PROCEDURE		4269	3946	4058	3430	3284
	domestic	4203	3877	4006	3375	3233
	foreign	66	69	52	55	51
PCT		53	53	40	58	39
	domestic	2	10	4	2	7
	foreign	51	43	36	56	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>4322</b>	<b>3999</b>	<b>4098</b>	<b>3488</b>	<b>3323</b>

## Country characteristic – co-operation with V4 countries

*Patent and utility model applications filed in Poland in 2022  
by foreign entities broken down by the country*



\* by the seat of the first applicant

# POLISH INNOVATION AND R&D ECOSYSTEM

## INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- The Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy
- The Ministry of Education and Science
- The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
- The National Science Centre (NCN)
- The Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP)
- Patent Office of the Republic of Poland

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Act of 30 May 2008 on certain forms of support for innovative activities (OJ.2022.2474)
- Act of 28 April 2022 on the rules for the implementation of tasks financed from European funds in the financial perspective 2021-2027

# PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON IPR FINANCING AND SUPPORT

NATIONAL (5 direct, 1 indirect financing), including

- SMART Path - FENG.01.01-IP.01-002/23
- 2.3.2 Technology Credit
- Incubator of innovativeness 4.0

LOCAL (5), including

- Voucher for innovations, Voucher for a patent (Lublin Region), Voucher for consultancy
- Grant program for R&D work of science institutions (Podkarpackie region)

INSTITUTIONAL (1), including

- Program Titanium supporting international patent applications

EU

- SME Fund



# BEST PRACTICES

## Decentralisation of funds for financing IP protection

- available for companies and universities in less industrialised regions of Poland
- distributed at an institutional level

## Support for the prospective applicants at the stage of building IP strategy helping in applying for optimal form of IP protection

## Combined forms of support (free consultancy support for the preparation of formal protection applications + financing of administrative fees + financing of protection maintenance)

## PROBLEMS/BARRIERS

- transparency of programs v. exaggerated requirements for obtaining support from EU-funded programmes for micro companies and SMEs
- (low) competitiveness of national programmes in relation to EU programmes (SME Fund)
- low competitiveness of IP protection support services in programmes where IP-related services and costs are one of many possible eligible costs
- lack of complete data on the number of funded projects, allowing monitoring of the success of projects and their impact on the number of industrial property applications

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- centralised management of support programmes /centralised information base on currently available support programmes at national, local level
- centralisation of forms of support - one-stop-shop programmes for indirect (consultation on IP strategy) and direct forms of support (funding of applications)
- actions aimed at enhancing cooperation in the area of IP protection in the VF region



# Financial incentives as a tool for improving the V4 innovation ecosystem and enhancing IP protection

## Final conclusions & recommendations

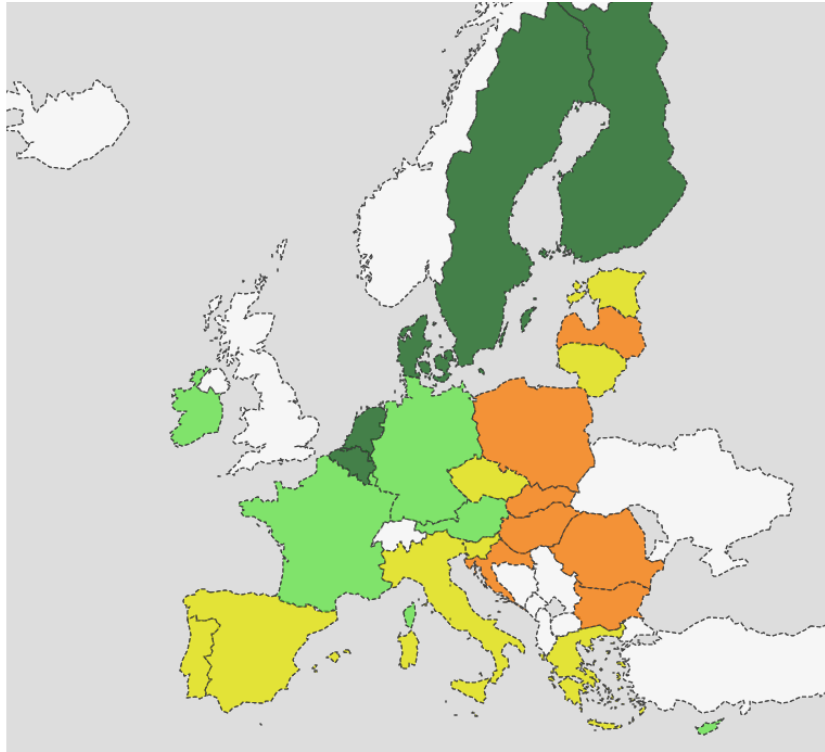
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# V4 REGION CHARACTERISTIC

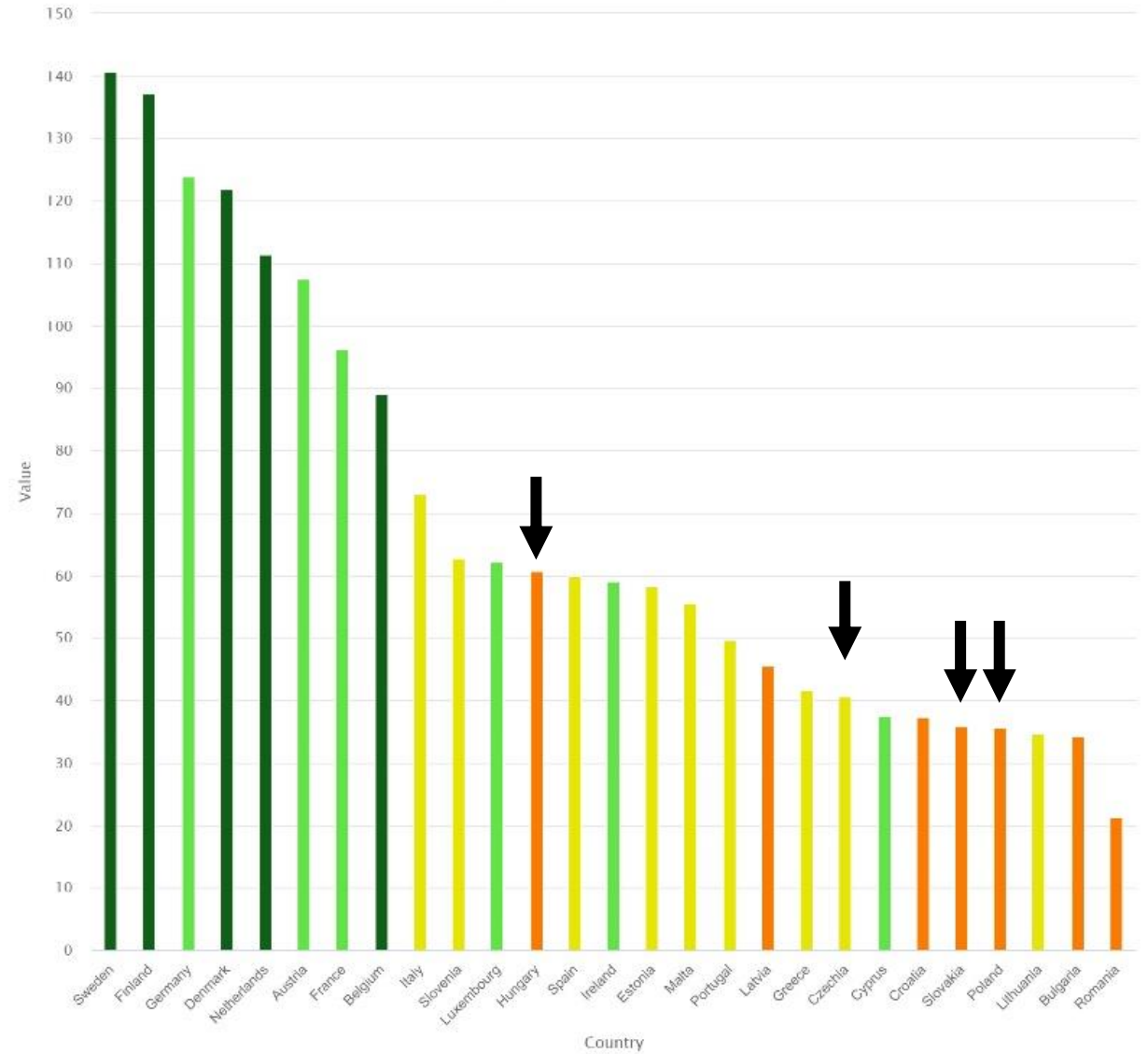


**Legend:**  
 ■ Innovation leader  
 ■ Strong innovator  
 ■ Moderate innovator  
 ■ Emerging innovator

Source: European innovation scoreboard 2022

## 3.3.1 PCT patent applications (Regional)

Source: European Innovation Scoreboard 2022

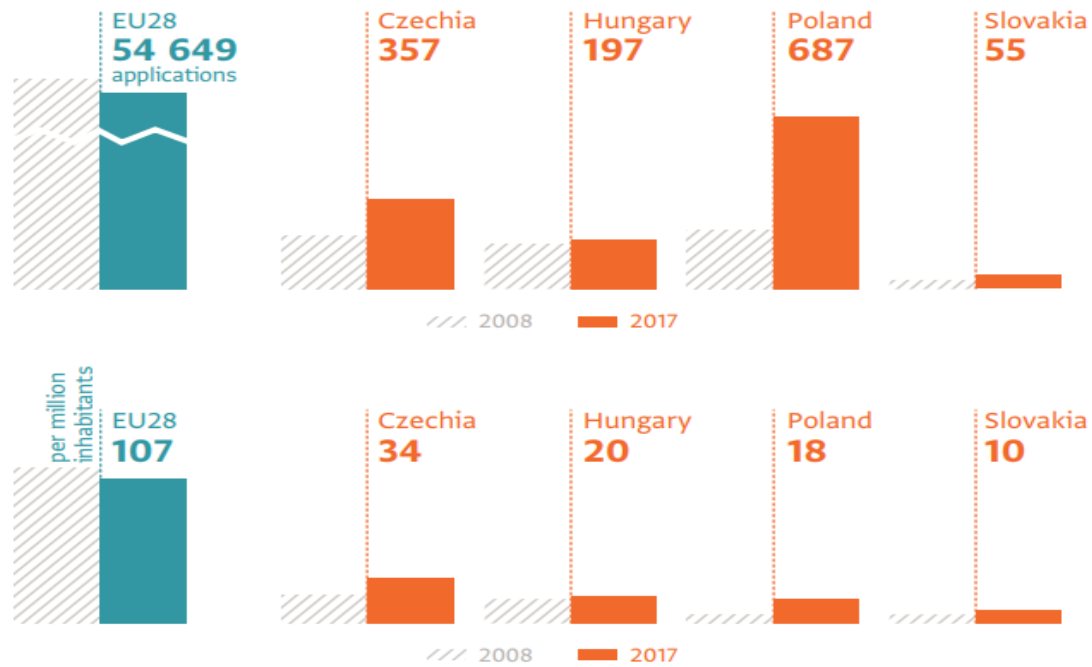


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# V4 REGION TRENDS IN PATENTING (historical)

## PATENT APPLICATIONS

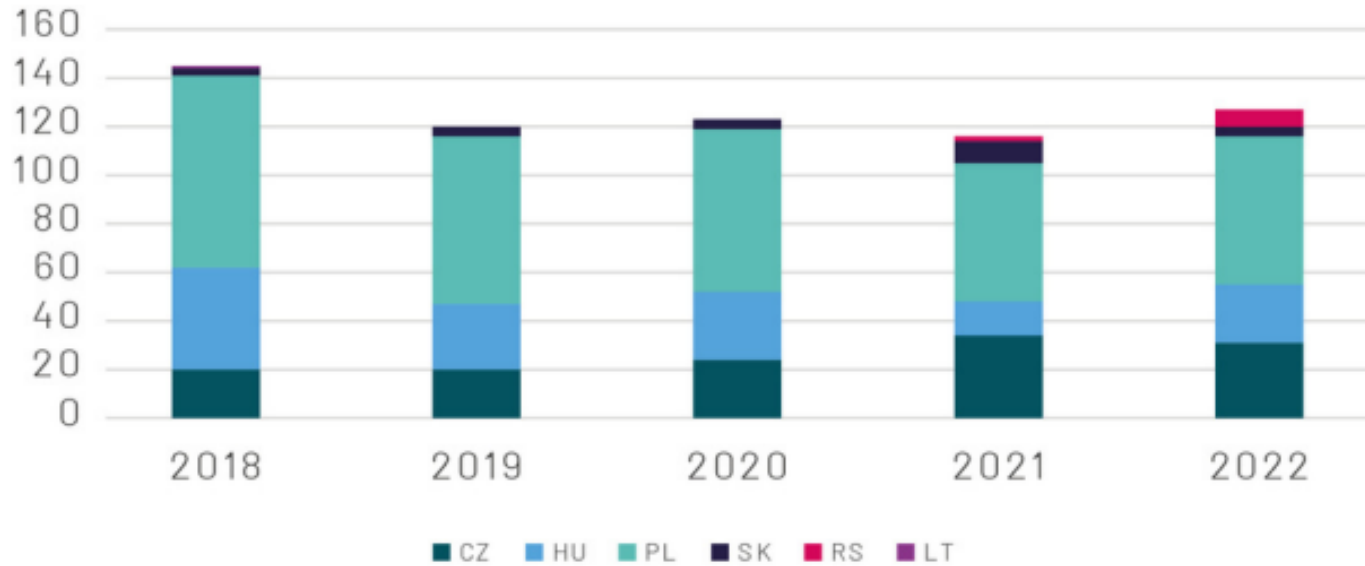
the total number of applications per country and per million inhabitants; the application is divided equally among all inventors and subsequently among their countries of residence



Source: Visegrád Group Countries. Selected Indicators of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic 2019, s. 48

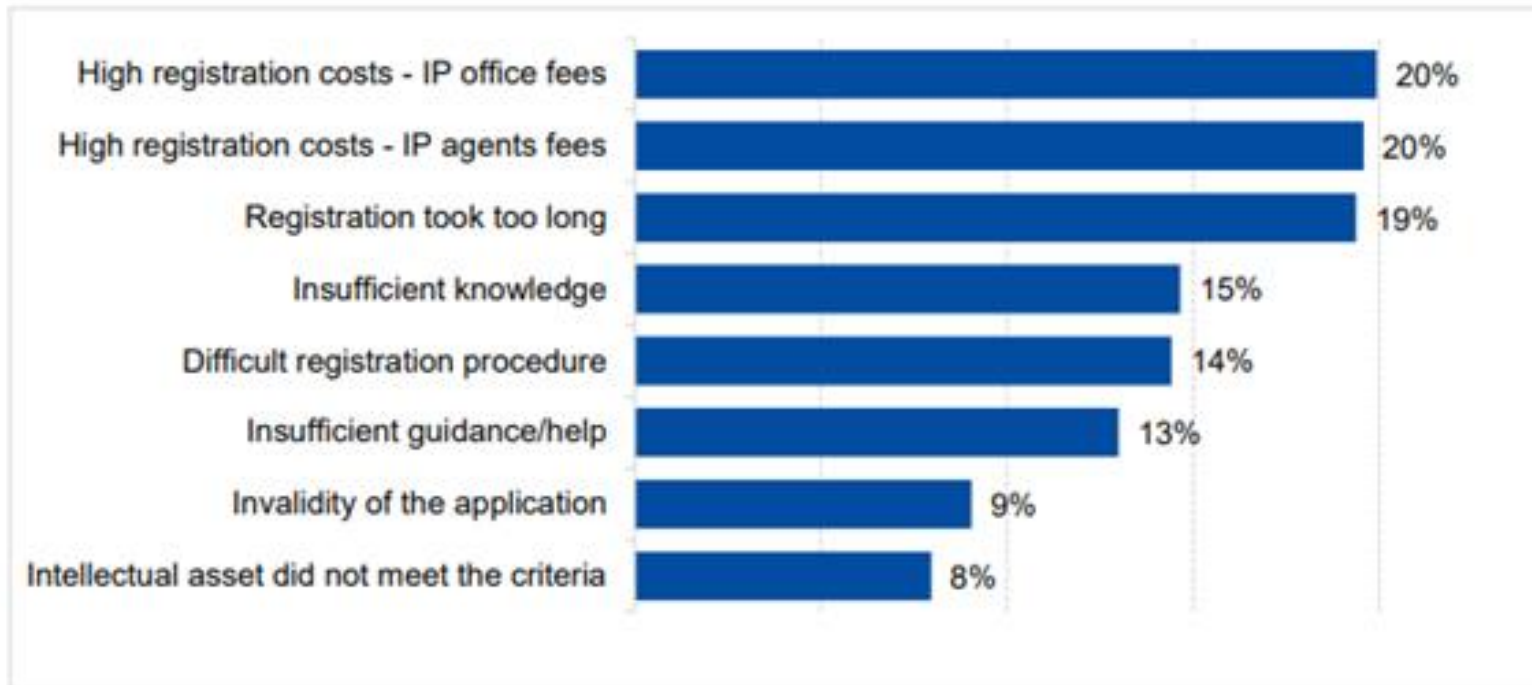
# V4 REGION TRENDS IN PATENTING VIA VPI (2018-2022)

Number of international applications by country of origin (2018-2022)



Source: VPI statistics

# BARRIERS IN OBTAINING FORMAL IP RIGHTS



Base: SMEs that have registered IPRs (n = 4 278).

Question: Q11. What difficulties did you experience when registering an Intellectual Property Right?

Source: 2022 Intellectual Property SME scoreboard, EUIPO, s.66

PROGRAMME/SUPPORT SCHEME		FORM OF SUPPORT	PERIOD	TYPE OF FINACING	FORM OF SUPPORT	TYPE OF IP	BENEFICIARIES
<b>POLAND</b>							
1	SMART Path- FENG.01.01-IP.01-002/23	direct/indirect national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	all (obtaining & management)	large companies
2	2.3.2 Technology Credit	direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	all (obtaining & defence)	micro, SMEs
3	Incubator of innovativeness 4.0	direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	universities
4	Program Titanium supporting international patent applications	direct, institutional	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	patents	universities
5	Patent Plus	direct, national	historical	public	non-refundable (grant)	patents	SMEs, universities
6	Protection of intellectual property	direct/indirect local	historical	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	micro, SMEs
7	Measure 3.2: Support for implementation of the results of R&D works Sub-action 3.2.2: Credit for technological innovations	direct, institutional	historical	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	SMEs
8	Measure 1.5 Voucher for innovations (Lublin Region)	direct, local	historical	public	non-refundable (voucher)	patents, utility models	micro, SMEs (smart specializations)
9	Measure 1.5 Voucher for a patent (Lublin Region)	direct, local	historical	public	non-refundable (voucher)	patents	SMEs from the region
10	3.5 Voucher for consultancy (Lublin Region)	direct, local	historical	public	non-refundable (voucher)	all	SMEs from the region
11	Grant program for R&D work of science institutions (Podkarpackie region)	direct, local	historical	public	non-refundable (grant)	all (national)	universities
12	Intellectual Property in your company	indirect, national	historical		Free IP related services	all	micro, SMEs

**CZECHIA**

13	<b>The Country for the Future (4<sup>th</sup> call)</b>	direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	SMEs (new technologies)
14	<b>Technological incubation (1<sup>st</sup> call)</b>	direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	start-ups
15	<b>Operational Programme Technologies and Application for Competitiveness</b>	direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	SMEs
16	<b>TREND (10<sup>th</sup> call)</b>	direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	patents, utility models, industrial designs	SMEs, universities
17	<b>National Centre of Competence (2<sup>nd</sup> call)</b>	direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	patent, utility model, industrial design	SMEs, universities (targeted profile)
18	<b>ZÉTA (4th call)</b>	direct, national	historical	public	non-refundable (grant)	patent, utility model, industrial design	SMEs, universities (international research projects)

**HUNGARY**

19	<b>Stimulating business research, development and innovation (GINOP PLUSZ-2.1.1-21)</b>	Direct, national	recent	Public	non-refundable (grant)	all (national & international)	micro, SMEs, universities
20	<b>Support for market-driven RDI projects 2021-1.1.3-PIACI KFI</b>	Direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	SME, universities
21	<b>University of Debrecen Innovation Fund</b>	Direct, institutional	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	university
22	<b>Support of activities fostering the domestic and international protection of intellectual property to facilitate industrial utilization (2020-1.1.3-IPARJOG)</b>	Direct, national	historical	public	non-refundable (grant)	all, national, international	SMEs, universities
23	<b>Support of activities fostering the domestic and international protection of intellectual</b>	direct, national	historical	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	universities



	property to facilitate industrial utilization (2021-1.1.1-IPARJOG)						
24	Thematic Excellence Programme TKP2021	Direct, national	historical	public	non-refundable (grant)	all	universities
25	IP pre-diagnosis (IP Scan) service by the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO)	Indirect, national	historical	public	free IP related services	all	SMEs
26	Hungarian Startup University Program (HSUP)	Indirect, national	historical	public	free IP related services	all	universities
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>							
27	Support for the cooperation of business entities and scientific and research institutions – innovation vouchers	direct, national	recent	public	non-refundable (grant)	(obtaining & management)	SMEs/other
28	Patent Fund by the National Technology Transfer Centre of the Slovak Republic	direct, national	recent	public	micro-loan	all	universities
29	University Technology Transfer Offices	direct/indirect	variable	Public/private	non-refundable (grant)/ free IP related services	all	universities
30	Expert support services by the National Technology Transfer Centre of the Slovak Republic	Indirect, national	recent	public	free IP related services	all	universities/ research institutions
31	National Business Centre (NPC)	Indirect, national	recent	public	free IP related services	all	start-ups/ companies
32	Prediagnosics of IP and Patent/State-of-the-Art Searches	Indirect, national	recent	public	free IP related services	patents	SMEs, universities
33	FIT – Innovation and Technology Fund	Indirect, national	recent	public	free IP related services	all	SMSs
34	National Holding Fund	Indirect, national	recent	public	free IP related services	all	all applicants
35	Innolab	indirect, local	recent	public	free IP related services	all	all applicants



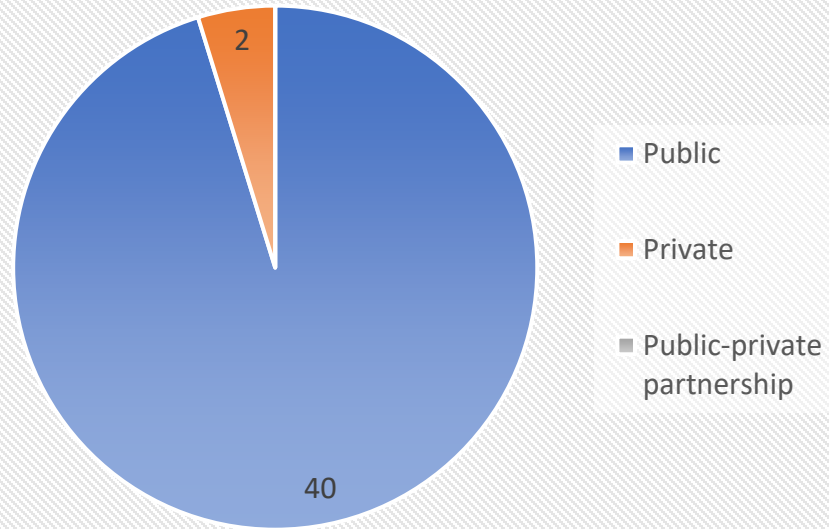
36	<b>The Regional Innovation Center of the Košice Region</b>	indirect, local	recent	public	free IP related services	all	SMEs
37	<b>INOVA Innovation Centre</b>	indirect, local	recent	public	free IP related services	All	all applicants
38	<b>Business &amp; Innovation Centre Bratislava</b>	Indirect, local	recent	public	free IP related services	All	all applicants
39	<b>STU Scientific, s.r.o.</b>	Indirect, local	recent	public	free IP related services	All	all applicants
40	<b>STU InQb - University Incubator</b>	Indirect institutional	recent	public	free IP related services	All	students, research
41	<b>UVP TECHNICOM – University Science park</b>	Indirect institutional	recent	public	free IP related services	All	universities/ research institutions
42	<b>TIP UPJŠ – Technology and Innovation Park of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice</b>	Indirect institutional	recent	public	free IP related services	All	universities

# DIRECT (INDIRECT)/ONGOING (HISTORICAL) PROGRAMMES SUPPORTING IP PROTECTION IN V4

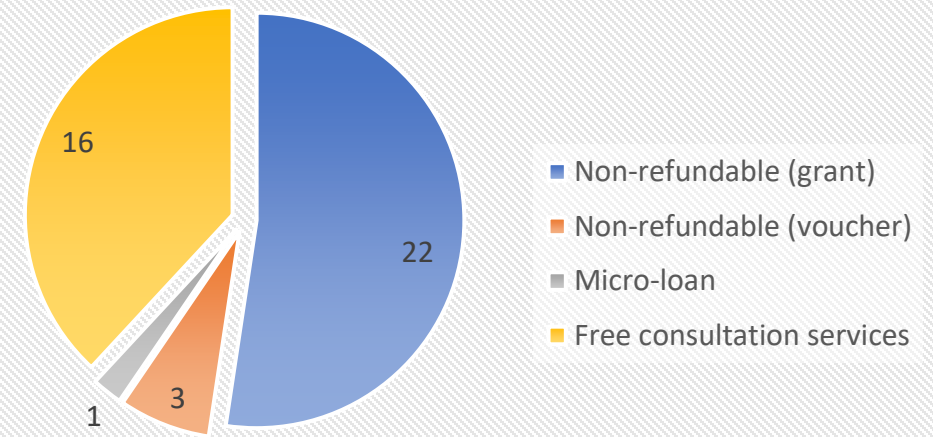


# SOURCE AND FORM OF FINANCING

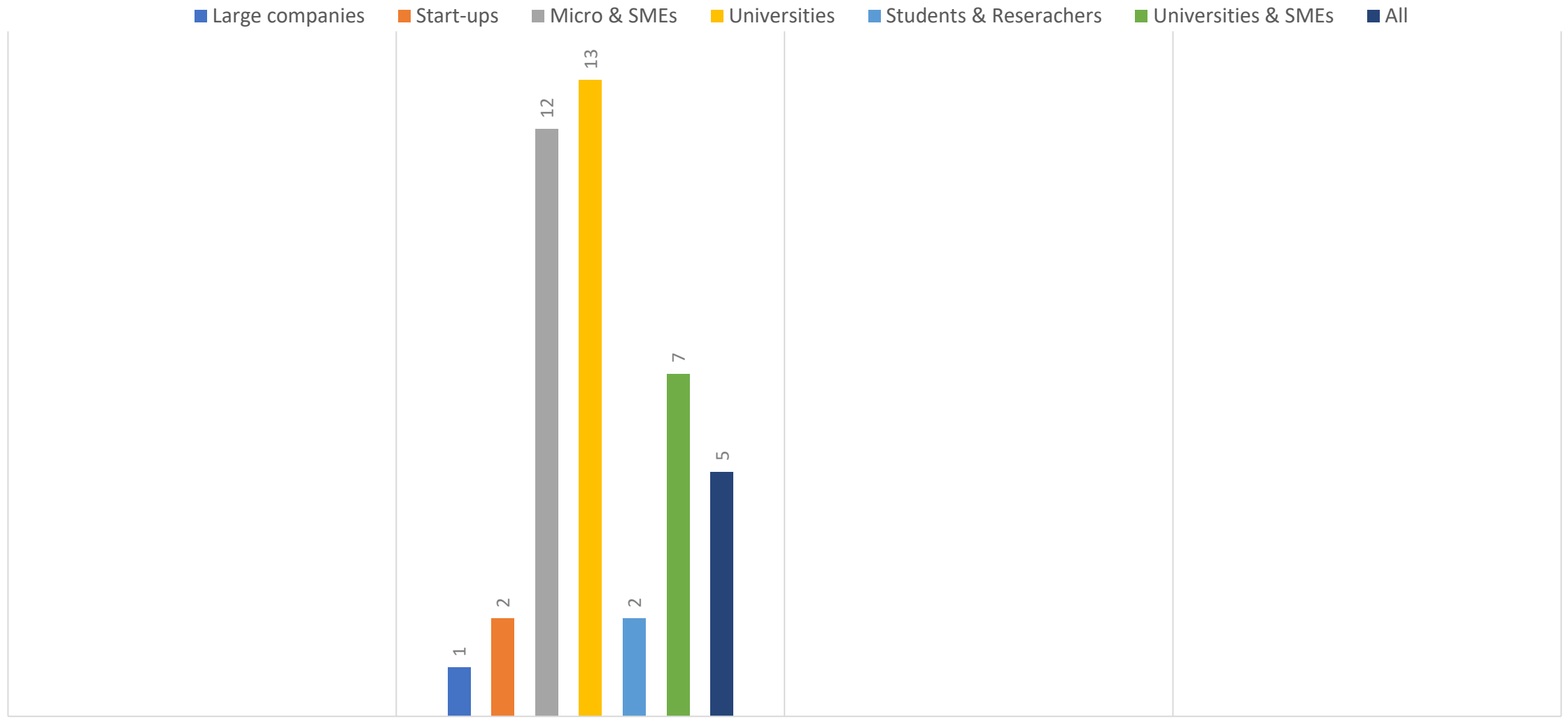
Form of support



Type of support

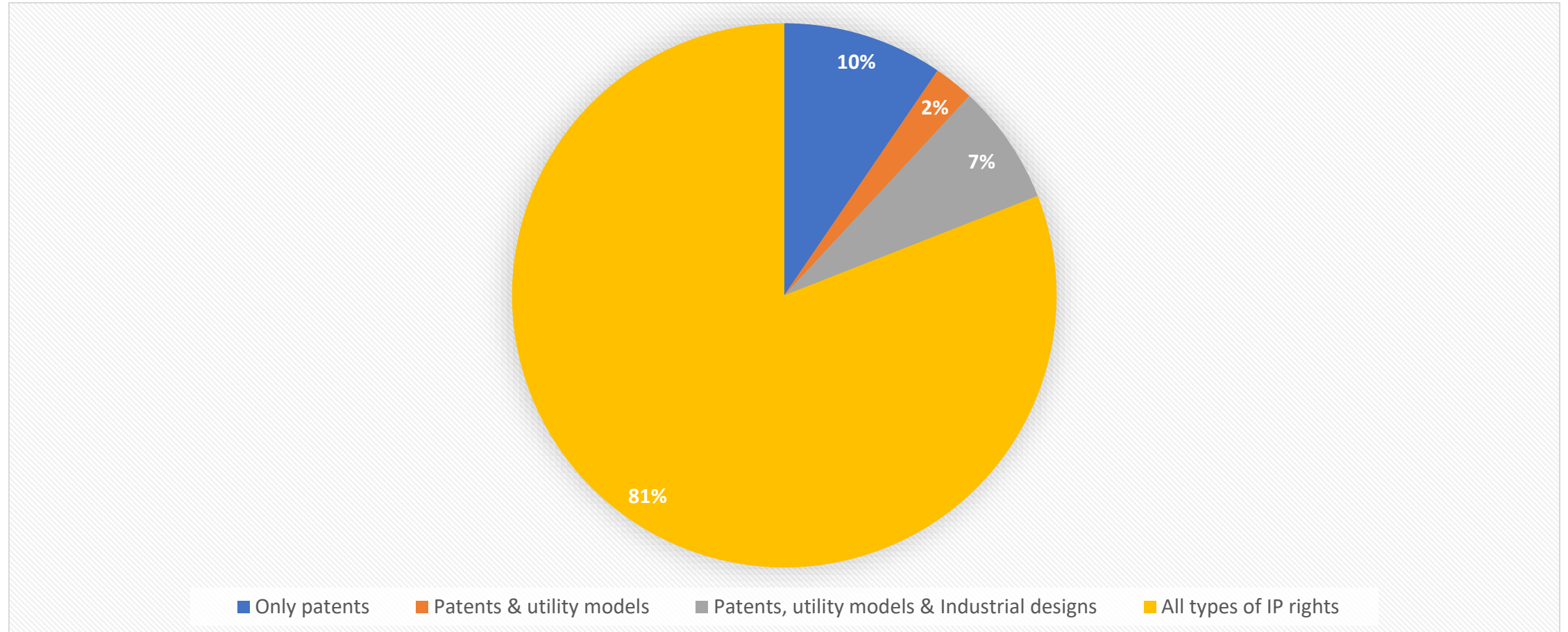


# BENEFICIARIES

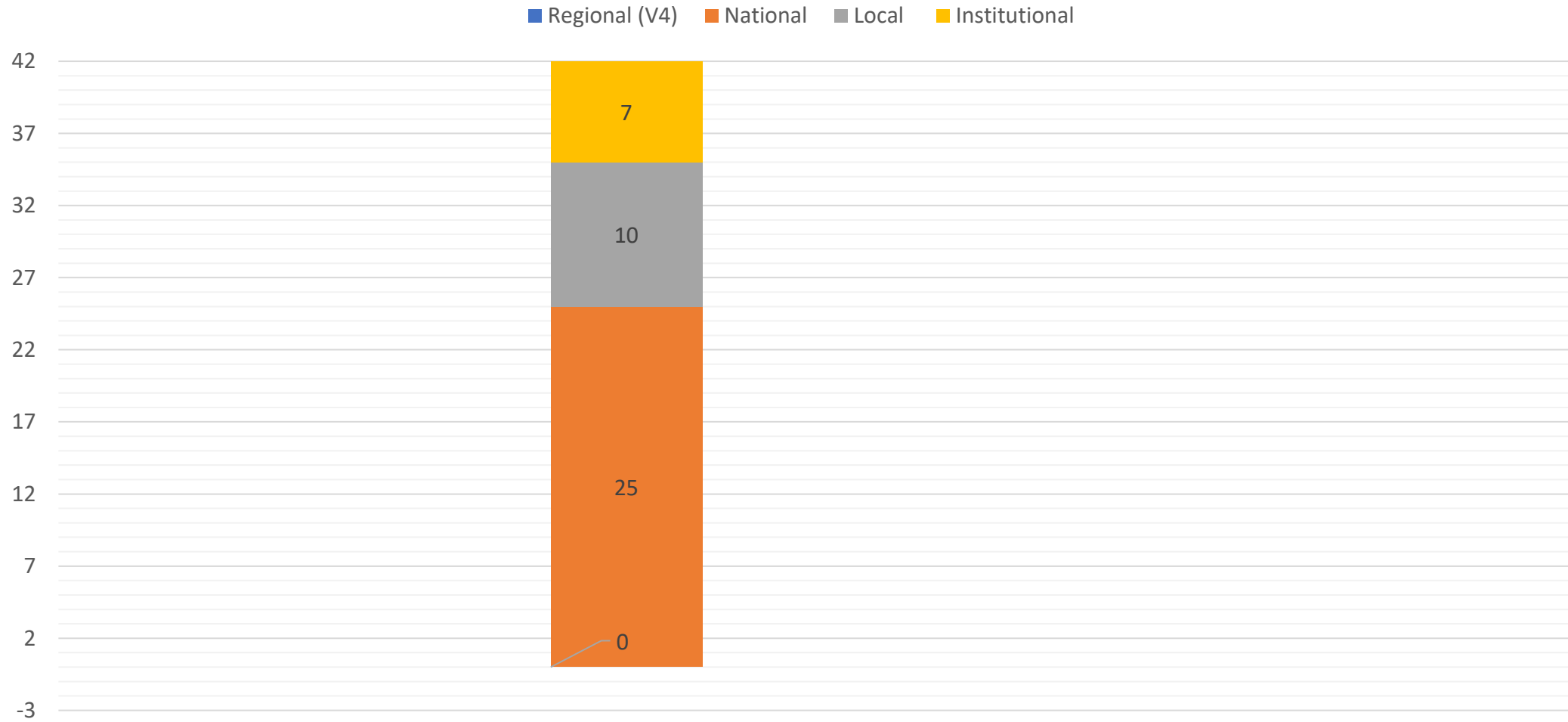


KATETEGORIA 2

# IP SUPPORTED



# PROGRAMME OUTREACH



# IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS/BARRIERS

## NATIONAL LEVEL

- Formalities involved in obtaining IP support
- Lack of forms of financing other than public support
- Lack of a central management/contact point for applicants
- Lack of central data base of supporting programmes/data related to supported projects

## REGIONAL LEVEL

- Support at national level limited only for entities having seat within a country
- Support for IP protection not explicitly included among priority areas of activities in the Presidency Programmes of V4
- **Lack of existing regional support programmes for 4V**
- Existence of 'competing' funding schemes for IP protection at EU level

supported by

• Visegrad Fund

# IDENTIFIED BEST PRACTICES

Local and institutional programmes directly aimed at obtaining IP rights financed from internal resources, e.g.

*Titanium programme supporting international patent applications, University of Gdańsk, Poland*

Targeted support for projects related to emerging technologies, e.g.

*the Country for the Future, Czechia*

Indirect consultancy services („IP Scans”) provided by national patent offices, e.g.

*IP in your company, the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland*

*IP pre-diagnosis (IP Scan) service by the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office*



# RECOMMENDATIONS

Divergence of financing sources and forms of supporting

- Increase of funding from national sources
- Increase of the share of private and institutional funding
- Development of private/public-private partnerships financing schemes
- Tax incentives

IP protection as a priority areas for future Presidency Programmes of V4

Support for the activities of the Visegrad Patent Institute

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Establishment of regional financing scheme to support the activities of the Visegrad Patent Institute

„VPI Voucher” for VPI services, e.g. new the International-Type Search (ITS) service available via

- National programmes
- Regional programs/projects
- Visegrad Fund
- Special fund supporting IP protection in VF

IP support tools focused on start-ups

- Simplified procedures
- Accessibility at local level