

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

Project conference, September 25, 2023 (online)

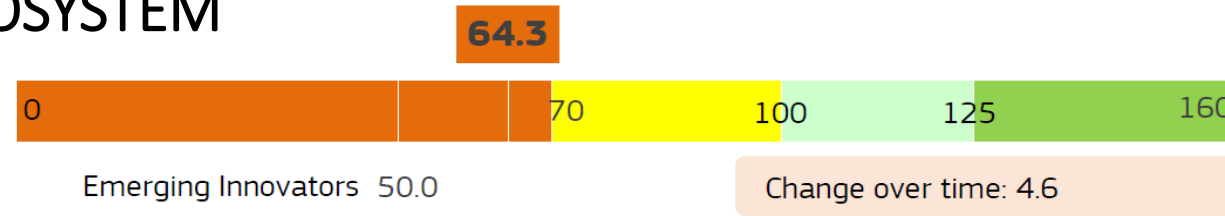
Lubomir BILSKY / SOVVA

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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.

SLOVAKIA

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM



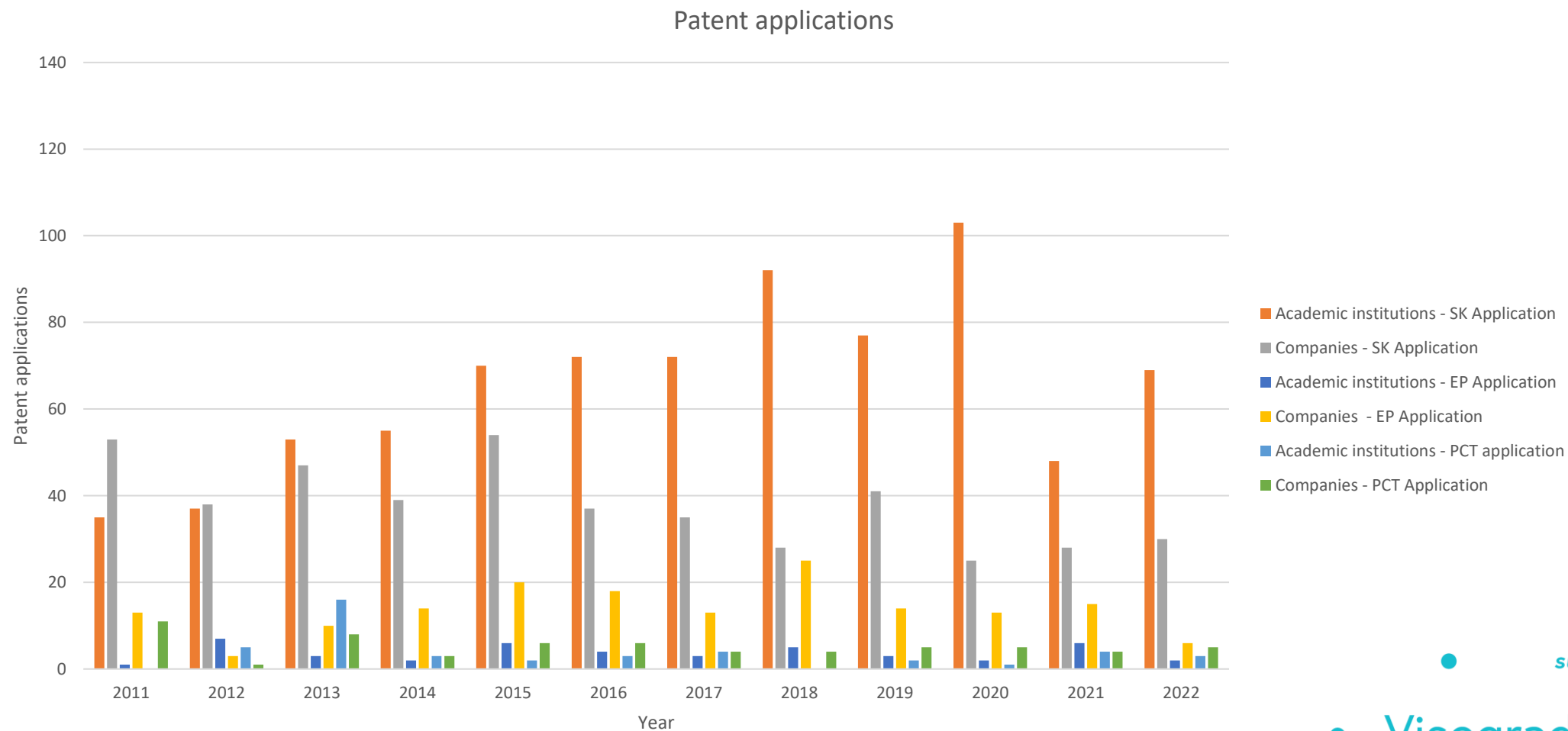
European Innovation Scoreboard 2022

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

- **INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC / PATLIB CENTERS**
- **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND SPORT OF THE SR**
 - Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information / National Technology Transfer Centre of the Slovak Republic / PATLIB
 - Slovak Research and Development Agency / Research Agency
- **MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OF THE SR**
 - Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency / Innovujme.sk / Innovation vouchers
 - Slovak Business Agency / National Business Centre
- **MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATISATION**
- **GOVERNMENTAL OFFICE OF THE SR**
 - VAIA – Research and Innovation Authority / Recovery and Resilience Facility
- **SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES + RESEARCH CENTERS**
- **UNIVERSITIES / Bratislava, Kosice, Zilina, Nitra, Zvolen**
- **INNOVATIVE SMEs / START UPS**

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IPR PROTECTION OVERVIEW



Source: Industrial Property Office of the SR; European Patent Office

supported by
Visegrad Fund

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MAPPING REPORT RESULTS



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND IPR FINANCING

❖ 9 NATIONAL

- EU structural funds – so called national projects / Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Industrial Property Office of the SR / PAATLIB centers services
- Innovation and technology fund / National holding fund

❖ 6 REGIONAL

- Innovation centers

❖ 11 INSTITUTIONAL

- Technology transfer offices at 7 universities and Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Science / technological / innovation parks
- Incubators

- *supported by*
- **Visegrad Fund**
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MAIN PROBLEMS / BARRIERS IDENTIFIED



FINANCIAL

- Lack of financial resources for covering IPR protection costs both at public and private institutions
- Limited willingness or possibility to have devoted staff for IPR / technology transfer issues
- Financial support for IPR protection provide almost solely from the EU structural fund resources (state support missing)

LEGISLATIVE

- Acts on handling the state/public property ignoring IP specifics
- No specific rules for IP assets treatment
- Commercial companies established by state/public institutions have many restrictions and inflexibilities

OTHER

- Still relatively low awareness on IP importance
- Limited motivation and experience in IP commercial utilization
- Public-private connections in area of technological co-operations can be improved

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BEST PRACTICES



INNOVATION VOUCHERS (SMEs)

- Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Enhancing the cooperation of business entities and public research institutions
- Refunding the costs of IPR protection filing and maintenance fees (up to 15.000 €)

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTRE (public academic institutions)

- Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information + Slovak Academy of Sciences + 7 universities
- Patent fund: covering the filing and maintenance fees – app. 260 patent/utility model applications supported
- Proof of Concept / Proof of Market funds

NATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE (SMEs)

- Financial support: micro-loan program / venture capital / participation at international fairs
- Non-financial support: IPR consultancy services / workshops / business incubator / accelerator

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COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS



GENERAL

- Raising Awareness and Information on IPR issues
- Enhancing R&D co-operations between companies and academic institutions
- Effective use of EU funds: Structural & Investment fund / Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Allocation of state budget resources

BUSINESS SECTOR

- Introducing new funding schemes (financial incentives) for IPR protection

ACADEMIC SECTOR

- Continue to support the operation of technology transfer offices at academic institutions
- Introducing kind of a Minimum Standards for handling the intellectual property created from public resources with aim to ensure the effective IP management (protection / utilization / commercialization)