

# Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) Report 2020

Enabling local innovators to exploit their potential



### **Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) program**

The Technology and Innovation Support Center program is a global program created in 2009 to enable innovators in developing countries, least developed countries and countries in transition to better exploit their innovative potential.

The TISC program helps innovators access patent information, scientific and technical literature and search tools and databases and make more effective use of these resources to promote innovation, technology transfer, commercialization and utilization of technologies. It currently supports over 80 countries.

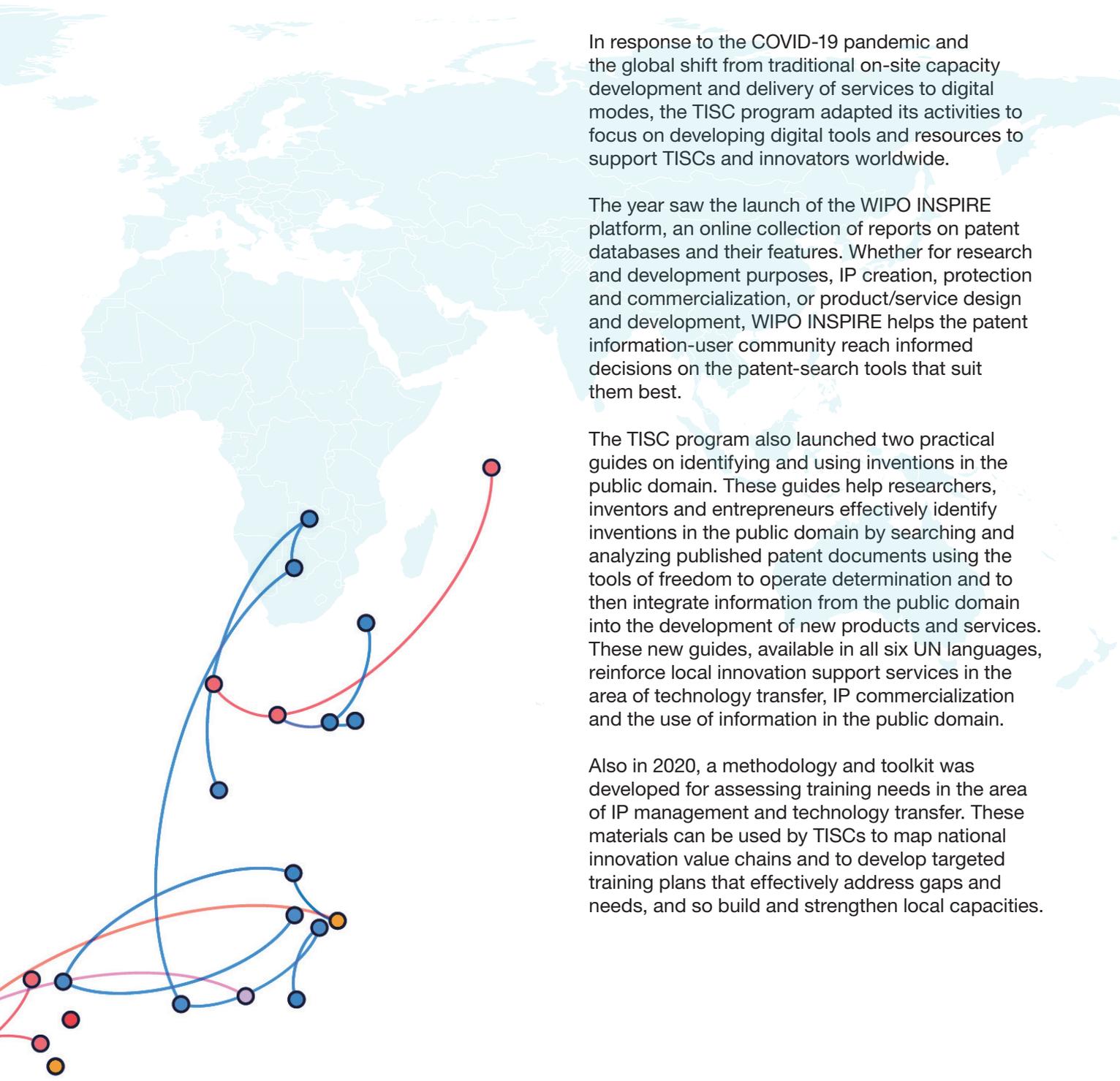
The TISC program is administered by the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The program supports WIPO's mission to help member states develop their intellectual property (IP) and innovation ecosystems to drive enterprise and economic growth and to support researchers and innovators in using IP for business growth. WIPO also provides value-added services and specialized digital resources and tools designed for strategic knowledge-sharing and innovation management.



WIPO's network of over 1,100 TISCs across 80 developing countries supports innovators in using IP to bring their inventions to the world. From getting information on IP laws, accessing scientific and technical information, to building skills in IP management, the TISCs are at the service of young entrepreneurs, researchers and other innovators as they translate great ideas to products and services that create an impact.

**Daren Tang**  
**Director General**

# Key developments in 2020



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the global shift from traditional on-site capacity development and delivery of services to digital modes, the TISC program adapted its activities to focus on developing digital tools and resources to support TISCs and innovators worldwide.

The year saw the launch of the WIPO INSPIRE platform, an online collection of reports on patent databases and their features. Whether for research and development purposes, IP creation, protection and commercialization, or product/service design and development, WIPO INSPIRE helps the patent information-user community reach informed decisions on the patent-search tools that suit them best.

The TISC program also launched two practical guides on identifying and using inventions in the public domain. These guides help researchers, inventors and entrepreneurs effectively identify inventions in the public domain by searching and analyzing published patent documents using the tools of freedom to operate determination and to then integrate information from the public domain into the development of new products and services. These new guides, available in all six UN languages, reinforce local innovation support services in the area of technology transfer, IP commercialization and the use of information in the public domain.

Also in 2020, a methodology and toolkit was developed for assessing training needs in the area of IP management and technology transfer. These materials can be used by TISCs to map national innovation value chains and to develop targeted training plans that effectively address gaps and needs, and so build and strengthen local capacities.

# TISCs: enabling local innovators and supporting innovation and technology transfer

At a time when developing new technologies to improve detection, prevention and treatment of COVID-19 became a priority worldwide, TISCs took concrete action to encourage and promote innovation in the field. This important work is highlighted in the special feature on page 17.

WIPO also joined the global efforts against COVID-19 by launching a new patent-searching tool in WIPO's global PATENTSCOPE database to facilitate locating and retrieving related information contained in published patent documents. The PATENTSCOPE COVID-19 Index, developed with support of the TISC program and promoted through national TISC networks, allows users to search, retrieve and analyze valuable sources of technologies that are relevant to the disease's detection, prevention and treatment.

The TISC program also organized a series of webinars on WIPO's support services on TISC learning resources, guides, platforms and tools. These resources can help them and innovators worldwide better navigate and extract value from patent information and from scientific and technical literature.

Innovation can come from any country and takes many forms. However, not all innovators have local access to the technological insight and related IP services they need to fully capture and protect their IP rights. The TISC program assists and empowers inventors and entrepreneurs in developing countries, least developed countries and countries in transition, building on the rich set of technological information in more than 120 million published patent documents and scores of scientific and technical publications. Typically located in institutions such as patent offices, universities, research centers, or science and technology parks, TISCs provide on-the-ground information and assistance to innovators where they need it most.

WIPO supports building capacity and skills to effectively access and use patent and non-patent scientific and technical information to stimulate research and development, technology transfer and partnerships. TISCs play an important role in strengthening the innovative ecosystem where they are established and act as a catalyst for fostering innovation and encouraging technology transfer. TISCs provide a diverse range of services at different stages in the innovation cycle from state of the art to novelty, freedom to operate searches, as well as assistance and advice on IP management and commercialization. Armed with this assistance and knowledge, researchers, inventors and entrepreneurs are empowered to use this strategic information for technological and economic development.

# Providing value-added support services

Despite the global pandemic, demand for value-added services such as assistance and advice on IP management, commercialization and patent drafting continued to grow. TISCs established around the world grew by 27 percent over 2019.

TISCs provide a diverse range of technology and innovation support services, from basic to value-added services helping inventors, researchers and entrepreneurs unlock their innovative potential.

Figure 1 indicates the growth of TISCs in recent years. Services range from basic access and support of detailed searches of patent and scientific and technical databases, through to assistance and advice in many other aspects of IP management such as patent drafting, filing, licensing, due diligence and commercialization. These latter services, which also include drafting of patent landscape reports to illustrate technical and business trends for specific technologies, have also allowed TISCs to charge nominal fees to recuperate their additional efforts and expenses.

In 2020, these value-added services saw the largest increase among the growing diversity of services offered. The number of TISCs offering advice on patent drafting and commercialization for example, increased by 65 percent and 55 percent respectively during this year. This is a direct reflection of the growing demand from local TISC users for support in later stages of innovation as their idea moves to market and their research activities translate into development of tangible products and services.

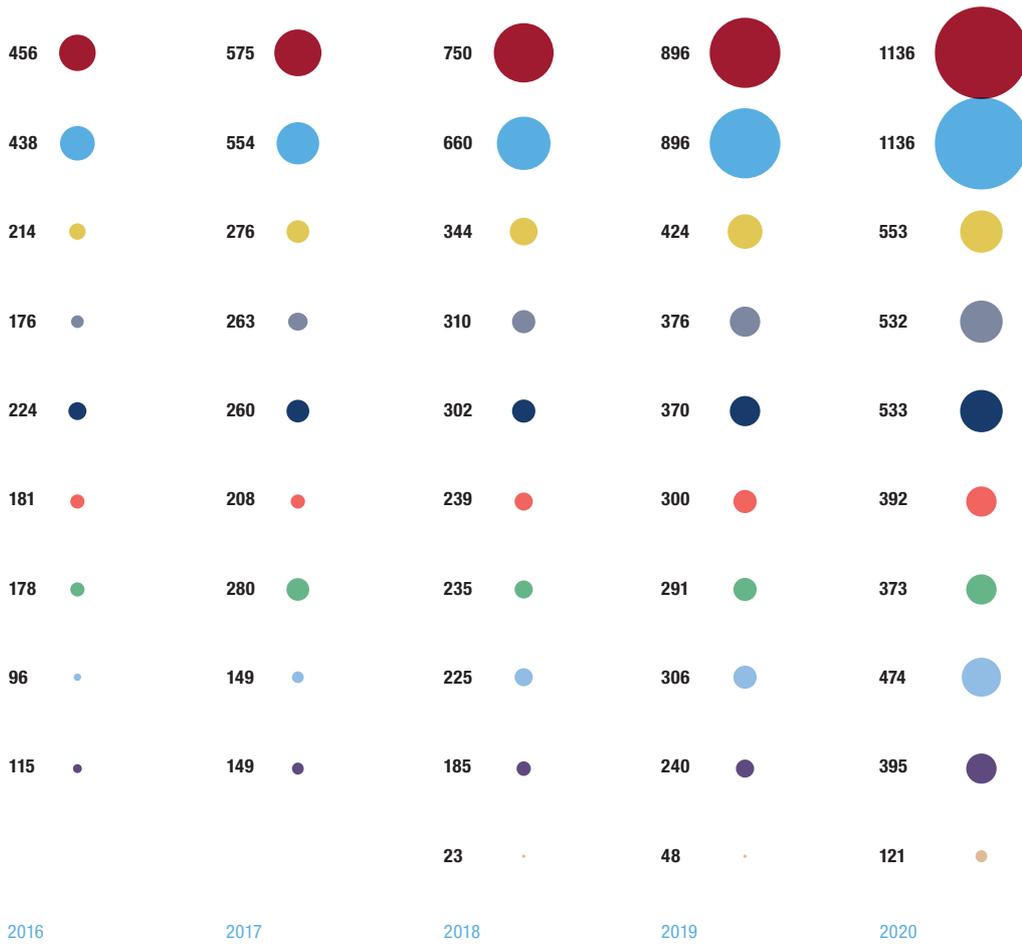
This expansion of valued-added TISC services has been supported by many new resources, tools and platforms developed by WIPO and described on page 19.

## Overview of TISC services

- Access to patent and non-patent databases
- Networking and exchange of experiences
- Awareness-raising on IP
- Patent search and analysis
- Patent filing and drafting support
- Training on access to and use of patent information
- Commercialization and technology transfer support

**Fig. 1 - Number of TISCs providing different types of services**

Source: TISC Directory, 2020



- Access to patent, scientific and technical databases
- Assistance and advice in using databases
- Search – State of the art
- Assistance and advice on IP management – Licensing, technology transfer
- Search – Novelty, patentability
- Search – Freedom to operate, clearance
- Search – Validity
- Assistance and advice on IP management – Commercialization
- Assistance and advice on IP management – Patent drafting, prosecution
- Analytics – Patent Landscape Reports (PLRs) and related services

# 1000+ TISCs across 80 countries

Since the TISC program was launched in 2009, 80 countries, of which 26 are least developed countries, have signed Service Level Agreements with WIPO to develop national TISC networks. WIPO celebrated a symbolic milestone in 2020, when the number of TISCs worldwide exceeded the 1,000 mark. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic halting activities in many countries, national TISC networks continued to expand worldwide. (See figures 2 and 3.)

The TISC network in **Algeria** has grown to 80 members, including universities, enterprises, business incubators and research centers, covering the country’s central, western, eastern, and southern regions.

**China**, which joined WIPO’s global TISC network in 2019, expanded its national network to reach a total of 51 operational TISCs by the end the year,

with a further 51 TISCs in the process of setting up their activities. China aims to have all of its 100+ TISCs operational by the end of 2021, with the goal to be present and active in 31 provincial administrative regions.

In **Colombia**, 34 TISCs are members of the national network, with eight centers now established at the regional level servicing different institutions.

In **Egypt**, TISCs increased from 50 in 2019 to 56 by the end of 2020.

The TISC network in **Kenya** prepared expansion conducting feasibility studies on the development of institutional IP policies and TISC services to be offered by several universities, academic institutions and innovation hubs.

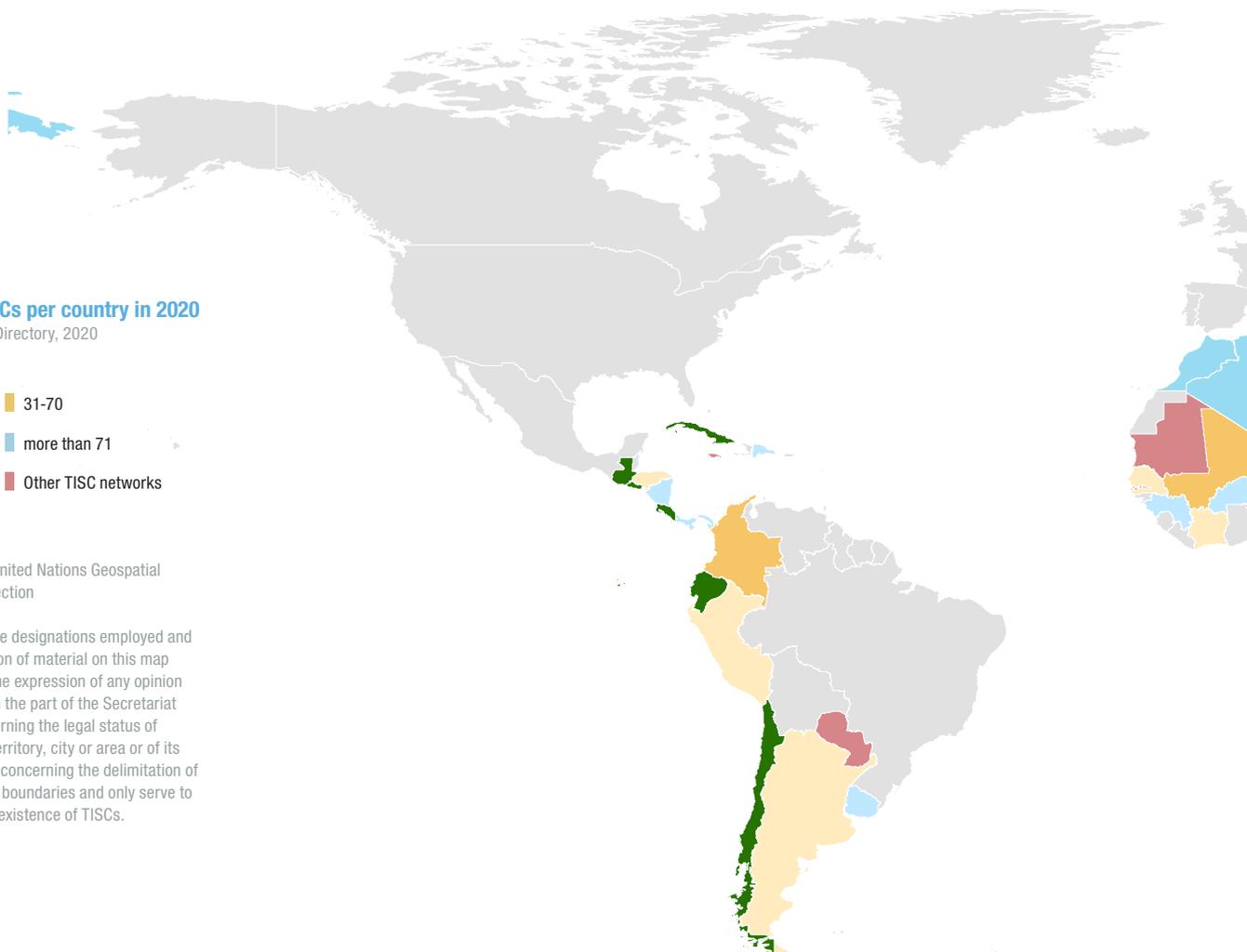
**Fig. 2 - TISCs per country in 2020**

Source: TISC Directory, 2020



Map source: United Nations Geospatial Information Section

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of WIPO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries and only serve to designate the existence of TISCs.



In **Mongolia**, three new TISCs were established bringing the number to 15.

The TISC network in **Nigeria** reinforced links between its members, with a view to expanding the network to cover six key zones in the country, with a particular focus on universities and research centers.

In **Pakistan**, seven host institutions (all universities) signed an institutional agreement with the Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan to bring the number of TISCs to 36. Seven more host institutions are in the pipeline to sign institutional agreements in 2021.

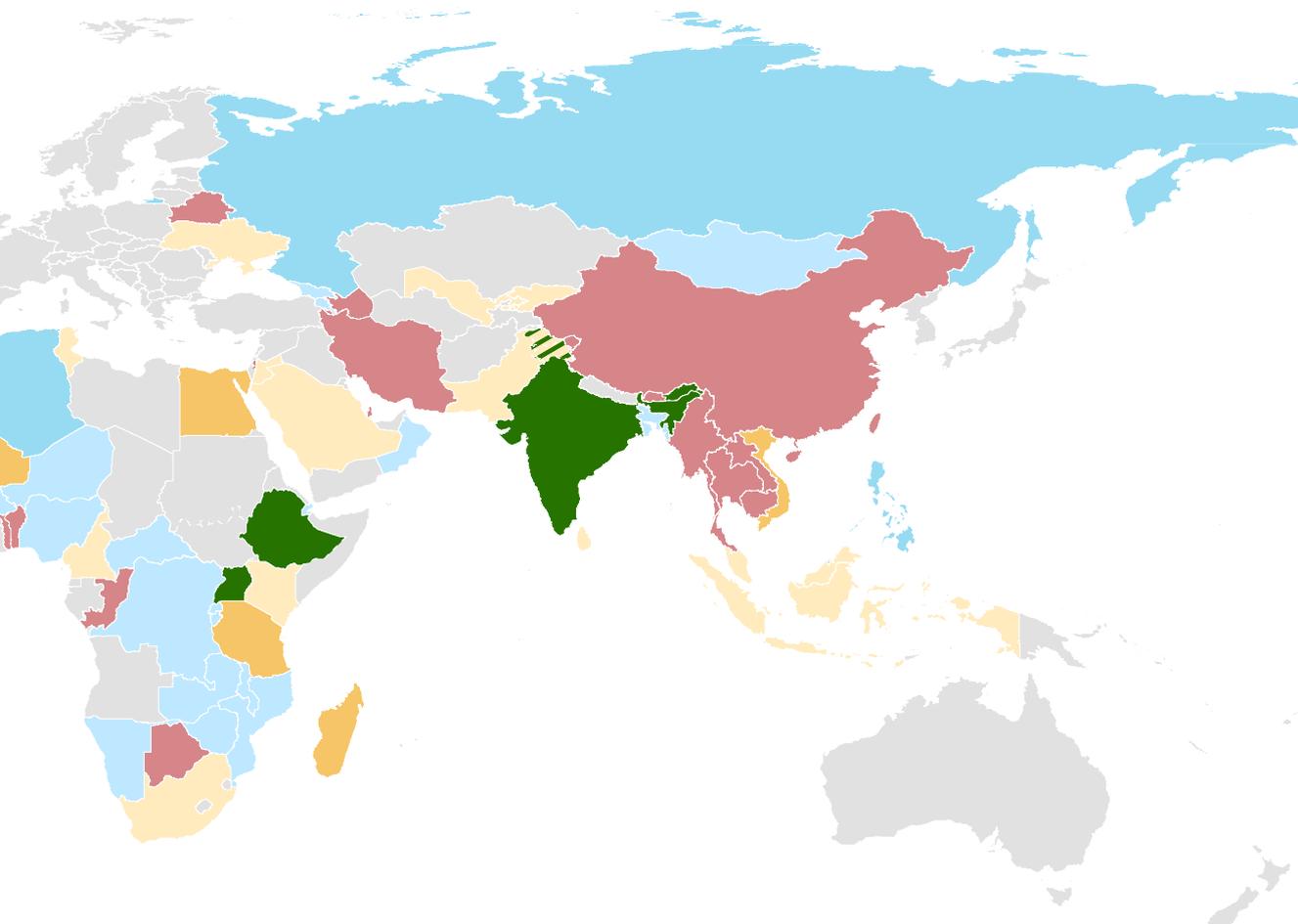
The national TISC network in **Peru** consists of 33 TISCs hosted in different institutions –

universities, research and development centers and entrepreneurial centers – situated in 18 different regions in Peru.

In **South Africa**, despite the pandemic, many expressions of interest were received and two institutions signed agreements to join the national TISC network: the National Research Foundation and the Mafikeng Digital Innovation Hub, with two more in the pipeline for 2021: Tshwane University of Technology and Durban University of Technology.

Seven new institutions joined the TISC network in **Tunisia** with three more in the pipeline.

**Sri Lanka** established two new TISCs in 2020, with two additional institutions in the pipeline for 2021.



### Increasing maturity and sustainability

Because sustainability and impact of national TISC networks is critical to their continuous development, maturity levels have been defined to reflect each national network’s current status of development and level of service provision, as well as to provide insights into its future requirements for development and correspondingly increasing impact. The sustainability of TISCs is measured by the following levels of maturity:

- **Maturity level 1:** countries that have signed a Service Level Agreement with WIPO, have signed institutional agreements at national level between the TISC national focal point and TISC host institutions and which provide at least an annual report on national TISC activities.
- **Maturity level 2:** countries that meet maturity level 1 standards and which provide basic patent information searches, e.g., state-of-the-art patent searches.

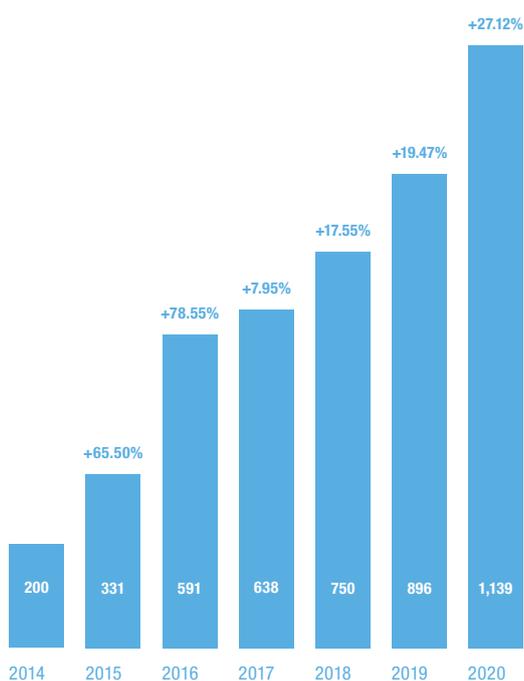
- **Maturity level 3:** countries that meet maturity level 2 standards and which provide value-added IP services, e.g., drafting patent landscape reports.

Ultimately, TISCs are financially and technically self-supporting institutions to which WIPO provides advice on demand.

By the end of 2020, 40 countries out of 80 had reached some degree of sustainability, with 26 countries providing basic patent information search services and nine countries providing additional advanced value-added services. As highlighted in figure 4, the evolution of TISC networks’ maturity, from seven networks meeting maturity level 2 and 3 standards in 2016 to 35 networks meeting advanced maturity levels in 2020 – representing a 400 percent increase in the space of four years – is a testimony of the growing sustainability of TISCs and their capacity to respond to local innovators and to support them in all stages of innovation.

**Fig. 3 - Number of TISCs and growth over time**

Source: TISC Directory, 2020



**Fig. 4 - TISC networks by maturity level**



# TISC growth generates more services for local users and fosters innovation

## **TISCs continue to face increasing demand for their services**

The worldwide growth of TISC networks and their increasing maturity and sustainability has been mirrored by a similar surge in demand for TISC services. This has come from local researchers, inventors and entrepreneurs who are the main beneficiaries of TISC support.

Following the annual end-of-year survey completed by TISCs around the world, TISCs had received an estimated 1.4 million inquiries in 2020 (see figure 5). This represents a 15 percent increase from the reported figures for 2019, and a more than 540 percent increase since 2014.

The rise in patent applications filed and in commercialization initiatives supported by TISCs are further testimonies to the growing impact of TISCs as catalysts for innovation.

In **Egypt** for example, TISCs received on average 500 inquiries per month in 2020, while in **India** and **Mongolia**, TISCs conducted respectively, 420 and 135 patent searches throughout the year.

Over 4,000 requests for information were received by TISCs in **Algeria**, with a particular focus on renewable energies, environment, agriculture and civil and mechanical engineering. The TISC network has been particularly active in supporting students, inventors and startups in the country, leveraging social media, videoconferencing and other means of distance communications to connect.

TISCs in **China** have provided their clients with a total of 339 freedom-to-operate searches, 2,589 patent analytics services/reports (including patent landscape reports and competitive intelligence reports) and nearly 50,000 state-of-the-art searches. Up until 2020, TISCs have already supported over 4,000 IP licensing negotiations and agreements.

In the **Dominican Republic**, TISCs continued to face increasing demand for their services throughout. Around 80 requests for state-of-the-art and other types of patent searches were completed and 70 patent and utility model applications were filed.

The TISC network in **Kenya** provided basic advisory IP services and assisted clients in filing their IP applications using skills and knowledge they acquired, in part, through the WIPO Academy distance learning courses.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, TISC host institutions provided 581 services to inventors, researchers, students and SMEs in many different areas including the provision of legislative information on IP protection in Kyrgyzstan (153 consultations), access to patent and non-patent information resources (230 requests) and support to the registration and filing of IP rights (198 requests).

In **Ukraine**, the 16 established TISCs received a total of 749 visits, requests for support and technology information services, representing a monthly average of 62 visits.

It is worth noting that the demand for TISC services has been expanding not only in quantity but also in scope, with notable increases for value-added services such as patent drafting, filing, technology searches and patent analysis. In **Peru** for instance, 51 percent of all TISCs provide value-added services and in 2020 alone, the TISC network received 7,500 inquiries.

In **Colombia**, TISCs received 86 percent more inquiries over 2019, totaling around 9,500 inquiries received during the year, including many requests for value-added innovation support services such as technology searches (480) and filing of IP rights, including industrial design applications (over 100) and trademark registrations (around 1,700).

## **TISC training and awareness-raising: cornerstone activities to support local innovators and to develop an IP-supported innovation culture**

In addition to expanding their innovation support services to local users, TISCs continued to dedicate a significant amount of resources to self-development and awareness-raising activities, indicating increased sustainability and maturity levels. Many activities were shifted from traditional on-site to digital formats in response to the global pandemic.

The National Center for Industrial Property (CNPI), the TISC network’s national focal point in **Burkina Faso**, organized an information and awareness-raising workshop on protection mechanisms for traditional medicine and pharmaceuticals. Around 50 participants comprising traditional healers, herbalists, pharmacists and researchers in health sciences learned about the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and its IP services.

In **China**, TISCs arranged more than 1,800 trainings both online and on-site benefiting over 300,000 people. In September, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) organized a work exchange seminar for TISCs in China. Participants shared good practices and examples of successful cases of IP information services delivery. CNIPA itself trained 419 participants from 47 TISC host institutions through online and on-site sessions and over 400 TISC staff followed the WIPO Academy distance learning courses.

The TISC network in the **Central African Republic** organized numerous media campaigns on intellectual property. These included radio broadcasts and

advertisements with broadcasters across the country, as well as an “Open Day” and workshop on trademarks for small and medium-sized enterprises.

In **Colombia**, TISCs organized over 500 workshops and training activities with more than 16,000 participants.

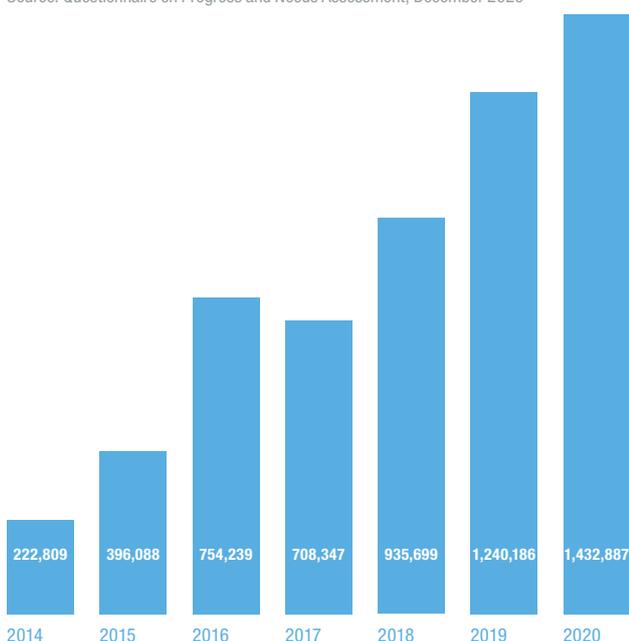
The TISC network in **Côte d’Ivoire** reinforced the skills and innovation ecosystem among its members. Over 100 participants attended training activities focused on research in scientific and technical databases (notably highlighting free or low-cost access content available through the Research4Life programs) and on institutional IP policies and strategies.

In the **Dominican Republic**, the TISC network organized 40 training activities, including lectures and specialized workshops on different IP subject matters attended by over 1,300 participants.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the TISC hosted within the Ministry of Industry established an incubator to support young entrepreneurs in their

**Fig. 5 - Number of inquiries received by TISCs**

Source: Questionnaire on Progress and Needs Assessment, December 2020



TISC national networks continue to develop providing a growing range or portfolio of basic and value-added services available specifically for local users.

research and development activities. Thirty young innovators who received a technological innovation award in 2020 currently benefit from this support.

In **Egypt**, 60 percent of TISC staff participated in the WIPO Academy distance learning general course on intellectual property (DL-101), 30 percent in the advanced course on patents (DL-301), and two percent in the advanced course on patent information search (DL-318). The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology held three awareness-building and three training activities in collaboration with the Egyptian Patent Office (EGPO).

The national TISC network in **Honduras** continued to organize training and capacity-building activities for network members. In 2020, 180 participants received training on different specialized IP subject matters.

In **India**, the TISC network conducted 695 awareness-raising activities on IP rights and two workshops encouraging women innovators to use IP were held at the beginning of the year.

In **Jordan**, a website was launched for TISCs to more effectively coordinate activities. During the year, the TISC network organized a number of initiatives to raise IP awareness and to encourage innovation. These included a series of industrial design competitions for students aged 10-17 years, the celebration of World IP Day and the launch of initiatives such as the Roots Art Environmental and Recycling Initiative to promote innovation in the field of environmental protection.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, an online TISC congress was organized in October to exchange experiences and discuss necessary conditions, resources, development and collaborative areas within the TISC network. As part of the event, prizes were awarded to ten TISC host institutions in recognition of their valuable contribution to innovation support. Winners included, in particular, the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University (KRSU), Osh Technological University (OshTU) and Osh State University (OshSU), which together provided over 60 percent of all the services delivered by the TISC network (356 out of 581 services).

In **Mali**, the Malian Centre for the Promotion of Industrial Property organized a three-day workshop in cooperation with the Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée to train researchers on industrial property, in particular on patent information, patent searches and patent protection.

In **Mongolia**, 15 percent of TISC staff attended WIPO Academy distance learning courses to strengthen their knowledge of intellectual property and one staff participated in the WIPO-CEIPI-INPI Advanced Training Course on Intellectual Property, Transfer of Technology and Licensing.

In **Morocco**, over 600 TISC staff participated in WIPO Academy distance learning courses to develop their skills in patent information and drafting, IP management and other areas, of which 53 percent were women.

In the **Russian Federation**, 11 webinars were organized for local TISCs and successfully attended by 797 participants. Subject areas included: patent analytics and how to manage technologies using patent analytics tools; patent searches in the Federal Institute of Industrial Property (FIPS) Search and Information System; changes to the Russian Civil Code in relation to the accreditation of Russian scientific and educational organizations with Rospatent; and IP rights such as appellations of origin, geographical indications, trademarks and industrial designs. To promote IP among youth, an “Intellectual Hash Track,” a competition among local TISCs, took place. Sixteen TISCs submitted a total of 19 educational project proposals and the three best projects were awarded FIPS prizes.

In **Senegal**, the national TISC focal point Senegalese Agency for Industrial Property and Technological Innovation organized online conferences with TISC host institutions to maintain contacts, exchange experiences in the implementation of the TISC project and reinforce knowledge-sharing.

In **South Africa**, the TISC network focal point, the National Intellectual Property Management Office organized IP awareness-raising activities in seven

host institutions during the 2019-2020 period and an online workshop on commercialization, IP management and technology transfer. TISC staff were encouraged to participate in webinars organized by WIPO's TISC program on new resources and tools and to register for WIPO Academy courses. In 2020, 30 TISC staff participated in basic and advanced distance learning courses on IP, patents and patent information searches, IP management, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright and related rights, software licensing and traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

In **Ukraine**, TISC staff successfully completed 84 WIPO Academy distance learning courses between 2019 and 2020. Nineteen events were organized by the central TISC in Kiev, reaching on average 45 to 60 participants during each event. An additional 44 workshops on IP, innovation and research were organized or attended by other TISCs in the country. An IP chatbot consultant, "TISC BOT," was launched providing continuous online support for innovation entities.

The Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of **Uzbekistan**, the national TISC focal point in the country, organized 40 online workshops and two awareness-raising seminars on IP protection in universities to strengthen the skills of TISC staff and their users.

In **Zimbabwe**, the TISC network participated in a provincial technology transfer workshop for institutions of higher learning organized by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development in December to raise awareness of the strategic value and usefulness of patent information in promoting innovation.

### **TISCs as catalysts for filing patent and other IP rights applications**

Many TISC networks reported a steady growth in patent applications filed with the support of TISCs as a result of the increase in the number and quality of TISC services provided to local researchers and innovators.

In **Algeria**, 40 percent of patent applications were filed through TISCs contributing significantly to the growth of patent applications in the country.

In **China**, the TISC host institution of Shaanxi Intellectual Property Service Center supported the filing of seven patent applications in the field of high-performance titanium to allow wire processing. The applicant was a business involved in processing equipment and tools, made of titanium alloy materials, for medical purposes. This led to the company's rapid growth and increase in worldwide exports.

In **Colombia**, with the support of TISCs, over 100 patent applications, 107 industrial design applications and 1,700 trademark registrations were filed.

In **India**, 268 domestic patents applications were filed during the year with the support of national TISCs.

In **Mongolia**, as a direct outcome of TISC activities, 260 patents (including both inventions and utility model patents) were granted to residents.

In **Jordan**, 31 national patent applications and 11 PCT applications were filed by residents, and seven patents were granted. The TISC network also launched 11 electronic services and 42 electronic processes to simplify the registration process for trademarks and patents as well as eased some of the procedures and deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In **Peru**, a total of 177 patent applications were filed through 22 TISC host institutions (out of 33 TISCs in the national network), which represents an increase of 78 percent compared to 2019.

In **the Philippines**, Information and Technology Support Offices (ITSOs) accounted for 54 percent of local patent filings (117) and 50 percent of local utility model filings (317), up from 41 percent and 45 percent respectively in 2019. They also filed 87 industrial design applications.

In **Uzbekistan**, TISC host institutions filed 21 patent applications and were granted 16 patents.

## TISCs have been expanding their range of services to support local users in better exploiting their innovative potential.

Many of the academic institutions also protected their creations through other IP rights, in particular, copyright protection for computer programs and databases (260 registrations).

In **Zambia**, a local inventor benefited from the national TISC network to conduct patent searches and file a patent application for an innovative solution to electricity shortages in the country, a major problem in Zambia for the past five years. The invention is now protected and is on its way to being commercialized.

### TISCs expanding the depth and range of their services

The number of sustainable national TISC networks and the demand for TISC services continues to grow. At the same time, TISCs have been expanding their range of services to help local users better exploit their innovative potential throughout the stages of innovation. Technology transfer, commercialization and IP management support services in particular are creating real value, as evidenced by a rise in the number of TISC initiatives to help local researchers, inventors and entrepreneurs bring inventions to market.

In March, the **Botswana** International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) established an “Innovation Park” to commercialize its research and development results with the support of the TISC center located at BIUST.

The TISC focal point in **Cameroon**, the National Committee for Technology Development under the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, was formally tasked with IP promotion and commercialization/utilization by small and medium-sized enterprises. An ethnobotanical study on medicinal plants in the central, southern, and eastern regions of the country was carried out to make greater use of the country’s traditional knowledge.

In **China**, many innovators and enterprises benefited from the support of TISCs in 2020, from basic services such as conducting patent searches to added-value services such as support in the development and launch of new products and services and in managing their IP. The Shanghai Library, a TISC host institution since 2019, set up an “Innovation Space” for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the public. The Innovation Space provides IP information services, such as patent searches, guidance on patent drafting and support in filing patent applications, including PCT applications.

The Gambia Technical Training Institute joined the national TISC network of **the Gambia** to encourage research and innovation in engineering, strengthen linkages with industry in the country and strengthen awareness among young innovators on the importance of IP protection.

In **India**, 22 patent commercialization and technology transfer-related activities were organized during the year to enable local researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs to exploit their inventions. Five new IP courses were added as part of the curriculum of various academic institutions across the country and the Indian Patent Office extended the license of patent search software to all TISCs.

In **Malawi**, the TISC network looked to expand and develop a partnership with the newly established Inventors Association of Malawi which provides IP advisory services to inventors in the country and supports filing of patent applications.

In **Mongolia**, TISCs developed and updated their IP policies with WIPO’s support. Their efforts to build more effective relationships between universities and businesses resulted in six licensing agreements in 2020.

The TISC network in **Morocco** launched its TISC 2.0 program, aiming to develop an integrated ecosystem for supporting the IP creation and use within universities and research organizations. This program included drafting and adoption of IP policies at several pilot universities and research organizations.

In **Uganda**, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), national TISC focal point, stepped up efforts to assist inventors in drafting IP applications to improve the quality of patent and utility model filings.

In the **Russian Federation**, there were 170 TISCs operating in 68 regions in 2020, mainly based in universities/academic institutions (90), libraries (16), and industrial enterprises (16). By the end of the year, 10 TISCs were established on the premises of the regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry, following an agreement between Rospatent and the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The goals are to develop an innovative economy, boost exploitation of IP rights and promote technological innovations.

In **Ukraine**, there was an increase in the use of patent and non-patent literature by academic and research institutions, with 70 institutions (out of which seven are TISC host institutions) registered in WIPO's Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) program. Twenty-six analytical and informational publications on issues related to IP rights protection were prepared by the central TISC for dissemination in social networks and other media platforms. In addition, educational material on IP for the international technology industry and a study on medical innovations in light of IP law, patenting and certification trends were developed. The central TISC also took part in consultations and supported the launch of the inventory procedure for technical solutions in the field of space technology with the State Space Agency.

### **TISCs without borders: regional initiatives help scale up worldwide impact and reach**

Regional cooperation has been another important pillar to help strengthen national TISC networks and increase their impact and reach. Initiatives to exchange experiences and best practices to help

TISC networks become more efficient and deliver targeted services have flourished in all geographical regions. Networks were established in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean and ongoing discussions were held to strengthen regional cooperation in other regions such as among Arab countries and countries in Central Asia.

In 2020, representatives of national TISC networks in member states of the **African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)** and **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** discussed the establishment of a TISC staff certification scheme. Defining TISC staff core competencies contributes to the harmonization and wider recognition of their skills and knowledge. The representatives identified key requirements to ensure the accessibility and added value of the TISC staff certification scheme to TISC staff located in a range of different institutions and countries.

In August, WIPO organized a session of the regional network in **Central America and the Dominican Republic (CATI-CARD)**, where network members discussed priority topics for state-of-the-art searches and training activities for institution members.

At a bilateral level, the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property, the TISC focal point in **Morocco**, supported the **Djibouti** Office of Intellectual Property and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism of the **Islamic Republic of Mauritania** in laying groundwork for development of a TISC network in their respective countries, sharing experiences and assisting in a situation and needs assessment.

# TISCs contribute to the global fight against COVID-19

In **Chile** and **Ecuador**, national coordinators of TISC networks prepared bulletins with patent information in the public domain in the field of detection, prevention and treatment of diseases related to COVID-19.

In **China**, TISC host institutions provided IP information services to innovators supporting their research and development activities related to COVID-19. More than 500 free training sessions were conducted in 2020, reaching over 70,000 people. By the end of the year, TISC institutions in China had also set up more than 70 COVID-19-related databases (half of which are accessible free of charge), which received more than 10 million visits.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the TISC hosted within the Ivorian Office of Intellectual Property supported researchers and inventors in filing patent and industrial design applications for fifteen COVID-19-related inventions including disinfectants, facemasks, drugs and medical devices.

In **Cuba**, the Cuban Industrial Property Office, TISC national network focal point, provided 389 services on issues related to the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 (13 technology searches, 16 technology alerts, and 360 advice-related services). Twenty patent applications related to treatment of COVID-19 were filed, in addition to a trademark for the SOBERANA vaccine developed by the Finlay Institute of Vaccines, a member of the national TISC network.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the TISC hosted within the Ministry of Industry collaborated with the Ministry of Scientific Research to support research in the field of health, in particular for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19.

In **Guinea**, the TISC focal point in the Ministère de l'Industrie, des PME et de la Promotion du Secteur Privé, organized a working group with ten universities and research centers to review research and identify inventions that could support efforts to fight the pandemic. One invention in particular, an automatic handwashing device developed by the Institut Supérieur de Technologie de Mamou, caught the TISC's attention. Thanks to their support in drafting, a patent application was filed with OAPI and granted

in November. The invention also received the West African Economic and Monetary Union prize for best invention in the fight against COVID-19.

In **Madagascar**, two TISC host institutions – the Centre National d'Application des Recherches Pharmaceutiques and the Institut Malgache de Recherches Appliquées – joined efforts to fight the pandemic by developing a number of phyto drugs and herbal remedies to help treat and prevent COVID-19. Some of these were distributed free of cost to schools and traditional villages highly affected by the virus.

In **Pakistan**, TISC host institutions participated in the fight against COVID-19 by supporting research and invention development important for virus prevention, detection and treatment. These efforts resulted in a number of patent and trademark registrations being filed. In addition, many TISCs provided support for mass testing of COVID-19 across the country.

In **Peru**, the TISC network was active with ten TISC host institutions reporting numerous activities contributing to the fight against COVID-19. The TISC hosted within the Instituto Nacional de Salud issued thirteen information reports on development of technologies, signed fifteen biological material technology transfer agreements, issued three technology watch reports and submitted three patent applications and two trademark registrations. Many other universities that are members of the national TISC network (namely the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniera, Universidad Privada del Norte, Universidad Continental and Universidad Nacional Tecnológica de Lima Sur) filed patent and utility model applications for inventions related to prevention and treatment of COVID-19. Members of the network conducted training and awareness-raising activities to support researchers and entrepreneurs working in COVID-19 prevention and treatment (namely the Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa, Universidad Nacional Hermilio Valdizan and Universidad Nacional Tecnológica de Lima Sur). Acting as the TISC network focal point, the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOPI) organized a special contest to promote protection of COVID-19-related inventions and issued a bulletin

to encourage research and to provide information about inventions in the public domain or available for licensing.

In **the Philippines**, ITSOs contributed to the fight against COVID-19 producing personal protective equipment for frontline health and safety workers, affordable mass test kits, facemasks and face shields, alcohol, sanitizer and disinfectants for the community. They offered safe water, food and drinks and erected testing and quarantine facilities. Many inventions related to disinfectant gel formulations, reusable face masks and medical devices were also filed with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

In the **Russian Federation**, TISCs across the country actively participated with numerous awareness-raising and educational events promoting innovation and encouraging research, partnerships and protection of COVID-19-related inventions using the patent system. A number of TISC host institutions contributed by providing supplies such as protective equipment, for example the Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU), which supplied protective equipment to the NEFU Medical Clinic.

# WIPO: Supporting TISCs with resources and tools

WIPO has developed a number of initiatives, publications, training materials and tools designed to help TISCs access and make effective use of valuable scientific and technical information. This has become ever more indispensable and reinforces TISCs' impact and sustainability as they continue to provide a broad range of services to local users.

As part of WIPO's efforts to support TISCs in building capacity, two public-private partnerships have been established with leading patent database providers and publishers, ASPI and ARDI.

## Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program

ASPI enables institutions in developing countries to obtain free or low-cost access to commercial patent database services. It is made possible through a unique public-private partnership with nine leading patent database providers.

The steady increase in institutions registered and actively participating in ASPI over the years is reflected, in practice, by a rise in the number of TISCs providing value-added services (see figure 6). These include advanced technology searches and patent landscape reports which are often supported and reinforced by their ability to access commercial patent database services such as the ones provided through the ASPI program.

## Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) program

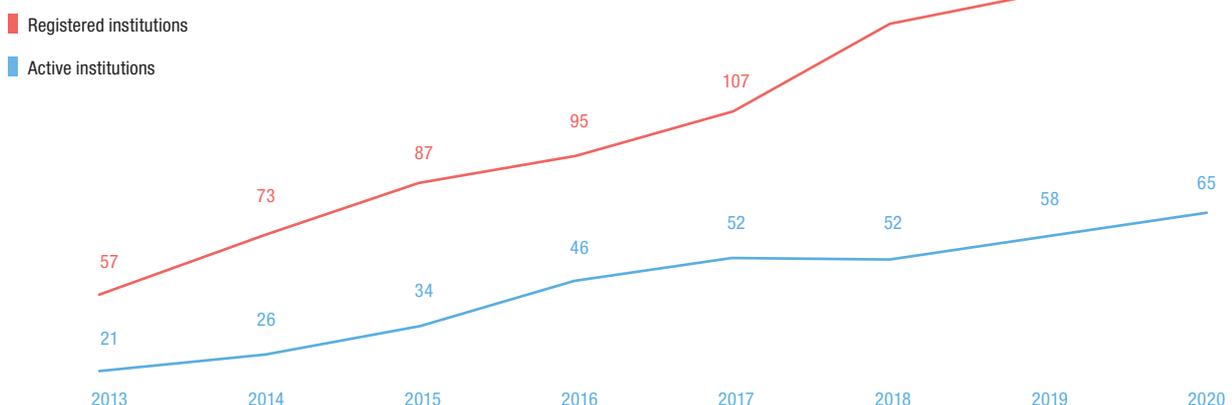
ARDI aims to increase the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries through a public-private partnership with the publishing industry. Over 50 publishers currently provide free or low-cost access for 125 developing countries to academic and professional peer-reviewed content through ARDI. The program is also a member of the Research4Life partnership, a joint initiative of several United Nations agencies, private sector enterprises, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. It is designed to enhance the scholarship, teaching, research and policy-making of the many thousands of students, faculty, scientists, and medical specialists, focusing on health, agriculture, environment and other life, physical and social sciences in the developing world.

ARDI facilitates access to over 50,000 journals, books and reference works by over 50 well-known publishers.

Academic institutions are the most prominent users of the ARDI program. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, academic institutions in many countries have occasionally closed and since access is often through the institution's library workstations, this has led to a reduction in the number of active institutions in 2020 (see figure 7).

**Fig. 6 - Number of registered and active institutions in ASPI**

Source: ASPI Database



### WIPO INSPIRE: Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports

The year 2020 saw an addition to WIPO’s suite of online services for innovators with the launch of WIPO INSPIRE which offers a range of powerful and easy-to-use functionalities for both novice and expert patent information users. WIPO INSPIRE comprises a detailed repository of a collection of reports on patent databases and search systems. It has advanced and user-friendly features including a comparison of features and services for up to four patent databases and an interactive world database coverage map which allows users to determine, at a glance, the patent databases offering coverage of a specific jurisdiction.

WIPO INSPIRE is designed to function as a “one-stop-shop” where users can access other digital products and tools (i.e., eTISC and Patent Register Portal) all in one place. These tools aim to bridge the digital knowledge gap by providing access to information in a user-friendly manner that helps users identify what information is best for their critical tasks.

WIPO’s Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, highlighted the importance of WIPO INSPIRE at its launch by stating:

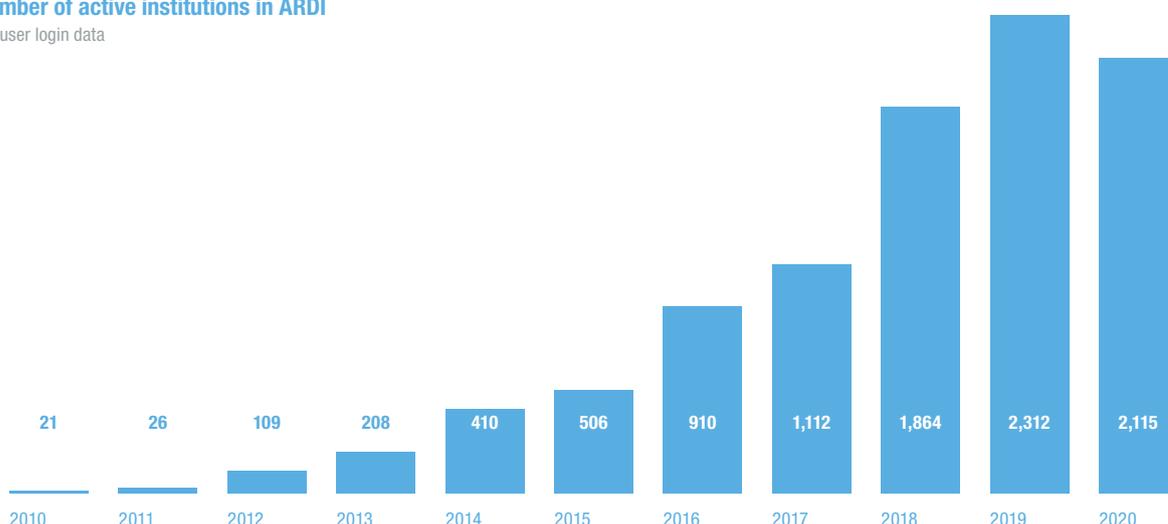
“WIPO INSPIRE is our latest digital product to help innovators spread innovation for the widest human benefit. It is a platform that helps users reach informed decisions on the patent-search tools that suit them best in their work, whether they are examining patents or making R&D related decisions. Patents disclose important technical information that also serves as building blocks for other innovators and innovations. WIPO INSPIRE facilitates this process and we hope that it will pave the way for more innovations to move faster to the market.”

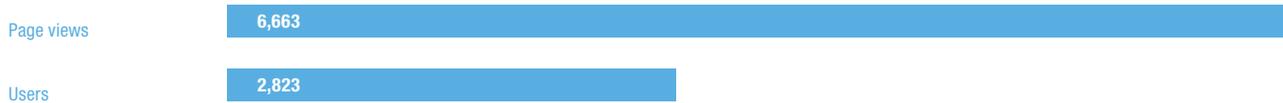
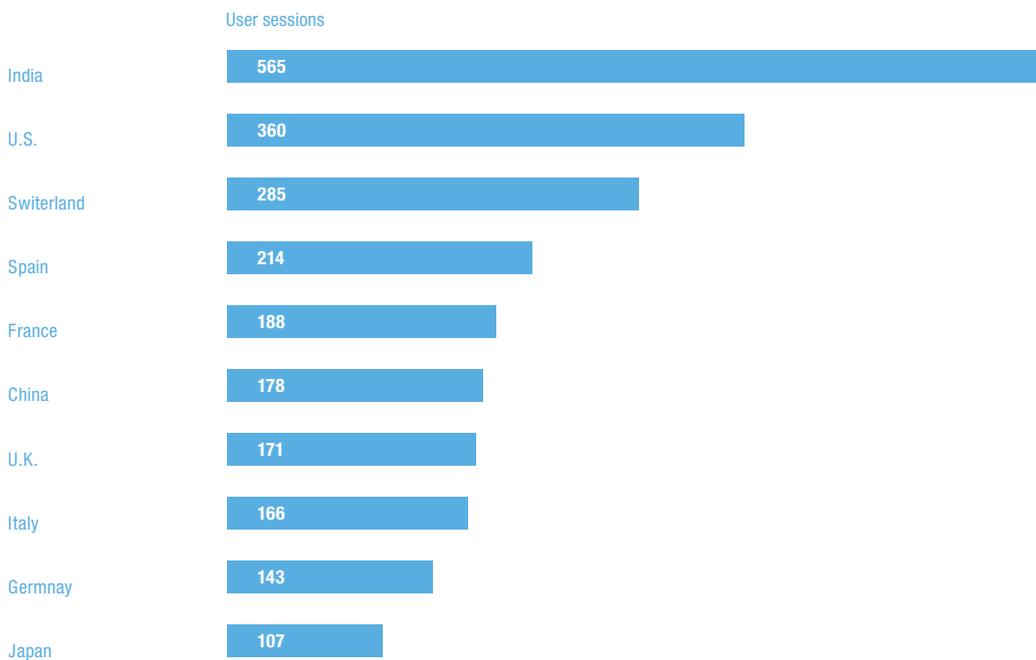
Following its official launch in November, WIPO INSPIRE was accessed by over 2,500 users by the end of the year (see figure 8).

As highlighted by figure 9, India was the biggest user of WIPO INSPIRE platform with 20 percent of the total users originating from there.

**Fig. 7 - Number of active institutions in ARDI**

Source: ARDI user login data



**Fig. 8 - WIPO INSPIRE usage, Nov–Dec 2020****Fig. 9 - Top 10 countries accessing WIPO INSPIRE**

### Patent Register Portal

The Patent Register Portal is a gateway to online patent registers and gazettes and to legal status-related information from over 200 jurisdictions and patent information collections. Information on the Portal is accessed using a searchable map and table with help files on detailed legal status-related information. It is available on WIPO's website where a short how-to video may be viewed.

In 2020, the Portal registered over 38,000 page views and 80,000 downloads of the help files (see figure 10). While a variety of users access the Portal, its use by TISCs reflects the growing demand for legal status information used in

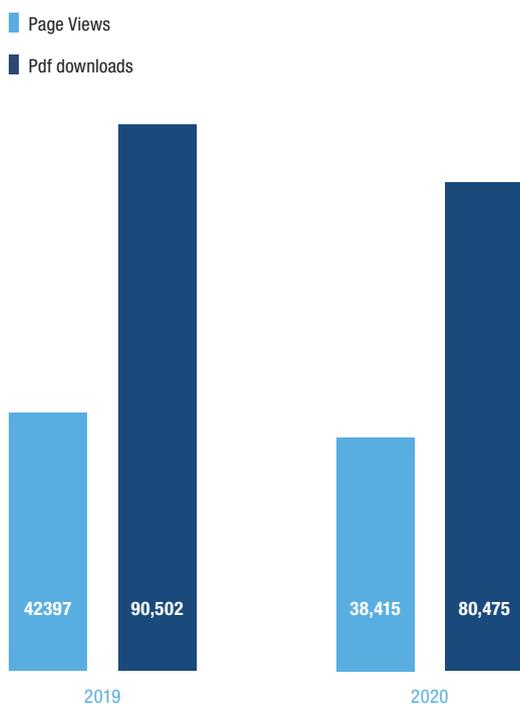
freedom to operate searches and due diligence services (see figure 11).

### eTISC knowledge sharing platform

eTISC is a virtual social platform providing the TISC community and IP users space to interact and to share knowledge and ideas in a secure environment. In 2020, it was entirely redesigned and launched with its new domain name and features.

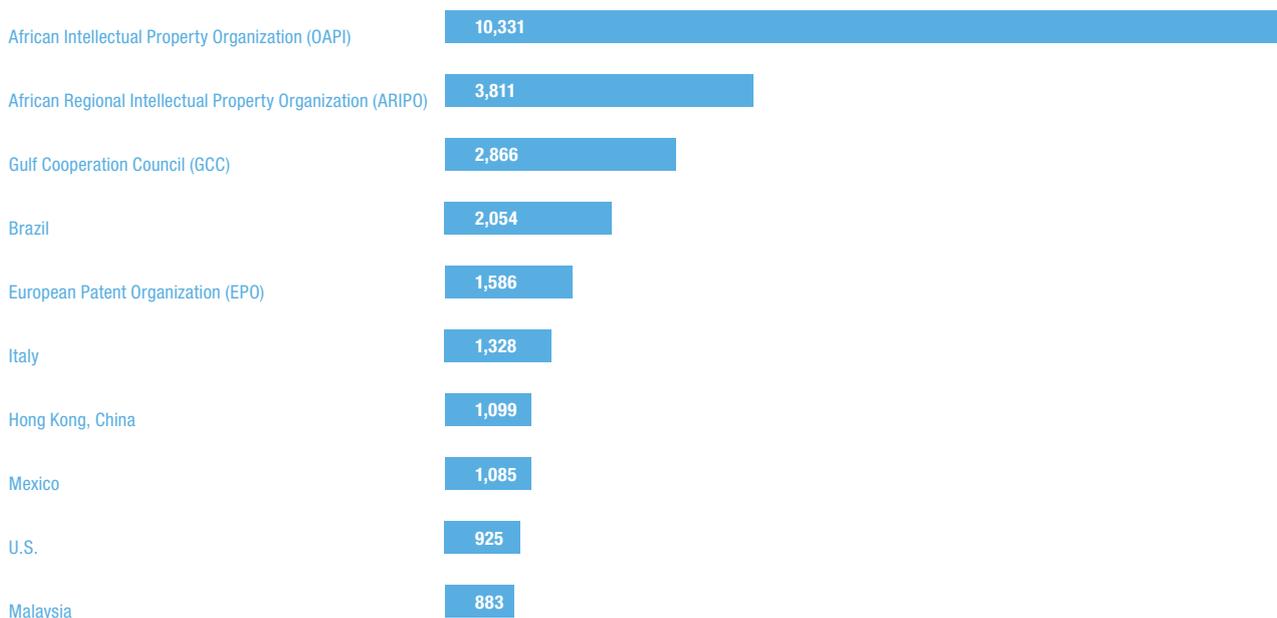
The new eTISC platform simplifies the user experience by providing an improved login system using WIPO Accounts and a more streamlined structure for accessing content.

Fig. 10 - Patent Register Portal usage



TISCs are being empowered through a growing range of capacity development initiatives, resources, tools, as well as data, information and knowledge-sharing platforms provided by WIPO.

Fig. 11 - Top 10 report downloads from Patent Register Portal



Features of the platform include:

- Group and forum discussions for sharing knowledge and experiences
- “Ask the Expert” sessions for interacting with experts in fields such as patent information and technology transfer
- News and events to help users stay up-to-date with the latest IP information.

In the quest to expand services, the Technology Transfer web forum was also integrated into the eTISC platform. Within the first six months of its launch, platform membership soared to over 600 users.

### **Publications and training materials boost capacity**

WIPO has created a number of publications to boost capacity-building among TISCs worldwide. These publications are key reference sources for a range of subject areas, including patent documentation and databases, patent searches, patent analytics and TISC management.

The publications are available in multiple languages and include brochures and guides as well as WIPO Patent Landscape Reports. These latter reports examine patent filing trends and provide technical and business information. They cover topics such as public health, food and agriculture, environment, energy and disabilities – areas of particular relevance to developing countries. Moreover, resources such as those developed to guide TISCs in drafting patent landscape reports contribute by reinforcing the quality and quantity of value-added services provided by TISCs and consequently lead to strengthening their overall impact and sustainability.

### **Developments in patent analytics**

A series of WIPO patent analytics activities, including the development of specific subject matter publications and methodological resources keep

TISCs and patent information users informed on trends across different technologies. As well, they help TISCs develop and enhance their patent analytics skills for the provision of high-quality analytical services.

**WIPO Technology Trends:** The *WIPO Technology Trends* report is a flagship publication addressed to industry, academia and policymakers, as well as to general readers interested in innovation. Based on patent and non-patent data, it shows trends in different technologies, contextualizing them with case studies, insights and perspectives from leading experts and includes policy considerations essential to understanding the complete technology landscape/ecosystem. *WIPO Technology Trends 2019* was dedicated to artificial intelligence and was one of the most successful recent WIPO publications. Even one year after its launch it continues to be of interest, with over 69,700 downloads in 2020. The taxonomy and the related patent search methodology developed for the report have been adopted by different stakeholders, including innovation research centers, such as the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne and University College London, while WIPO’s methodology has been used by the UK IPO and the Canadian IPO in their own reports on AI.

The second issue of the series relates to assistive technology aiming to enable persons with functional limitations participate in all aspects of life. The second *WIPO Technology Trends* report additionally explores the use of industrial design and introduces, for the first time, a technology readiness level assessment (more information on page 30).

**Patent Landscape Reports series:** Over 240 free-of-charge patent landscape reports in the fields of public health, energy and environment, ICT technologies and other topics are available in WIPO’s Patent Landscape Reports Database and searchable by field, country and language.

**Handbook on Patent Analytics:** A draft of The *WIPO Patent Analytics Handbook* is available on a collaborative online space (see Useful links section). It addresses some key issues and considerations in patent analytics and explores new areas such as machine learning. A revised version of this publication is expected in 2021.

### e-Tutorial on Using and Exploiting Patent Information

The e-Tutorial on Using and Exploiting Patent Information is a free online learning platform to help innovators learn how to use the wealth of technology information in patent documents to boost their own research and development. It comprises three sections: patent basics, patent search and retrieval and patent analysis.

The e-Tutorial was launched in 2020 as a certificate Distance Learning Course (DL-177) by the WIPO Academy. The new e-Tutorial is referenced as DL-177 and is currently offered in English, French, Russian and Spanish with Arabic and Chinese versions to soon follow.

By the end of 2020, over 4,500 users had registered for the e-Tutorial course coming from predominantly academic institutions, (see figure 12) with India registering as the top country (see figure 13).

Fig. 12 - e-Tutorial registrations by sector

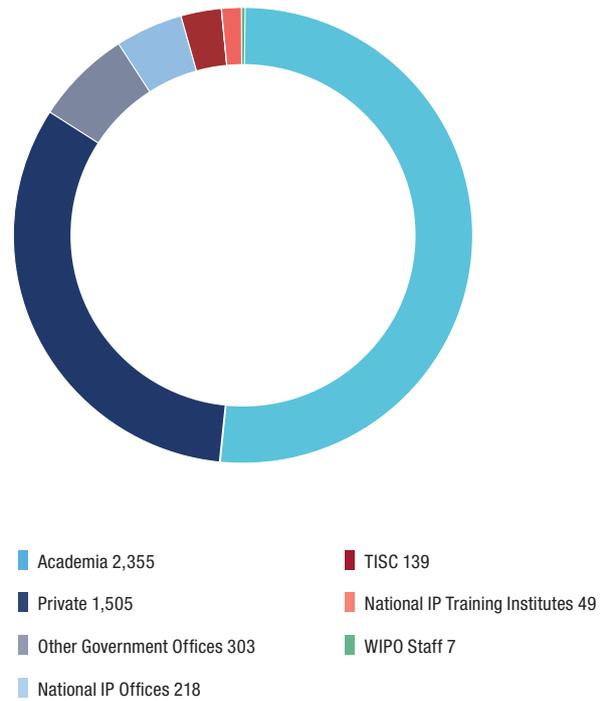
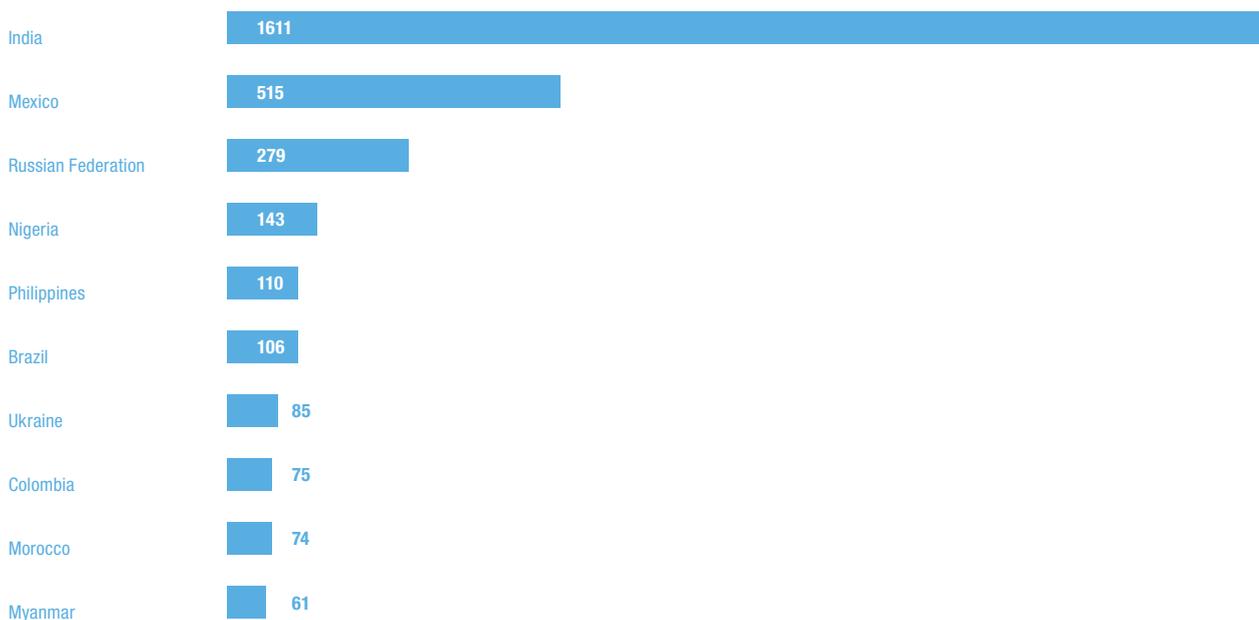


Fig. 13 - e-Tutorial registrations by top 10 countries



# WIPO supports the development of knowledge and skills

WIPO training supports TISC staff knowledge and skills, building their capacity to provide a range of high-quality services. Topics include: basic concepts and skills in patent searching; types of patent searches, including state of the art, novelty and freedom to operate; and patent analytics. Training formats consist of on-site workshops and seminars with a focus on training of trainers, distance learning in cooperation with the WIPO Academy, “Ask the Expert” sessions and eTISC platform webinars.

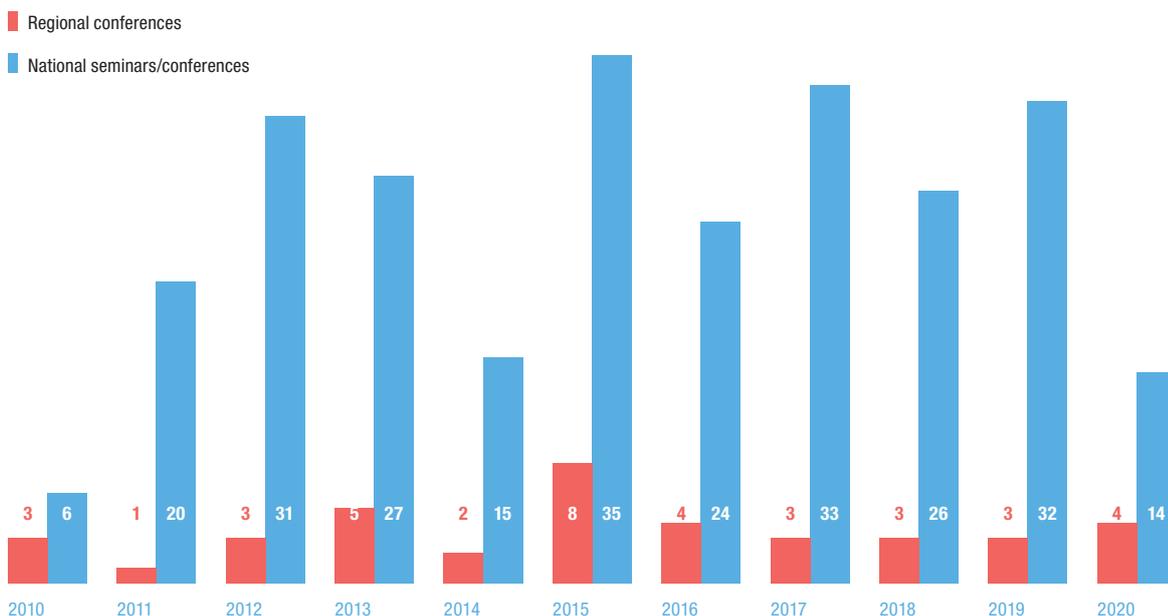
In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 training and capacity-building activities were adapted and shifted from traditional on-site to digital to continue support and to meet demand for further knowledge and skills development. This shift to a virtual means of delivering training will be further continued in 2021.

The TISC program organized a series of webinars and online training activities in 2020, including 18 national and regional trainings, webinars and “Ask the Expert” sessions on selected resources and tools (see figure 14). Session topics included the newly launched WIPO INSPIRE platform, WIPO’s guides entitled *Identifying and Using Inventions in the Public*

Training provided by WIPO supports the development of knowledge and skills among TISC staff, building their capacity to provide a range of high-quality services.

**Fig. 14 - Number of national and regional conferences organized**

Source: WIPO TISC Program, 2020



*Domain*, and the PATENTSCOPE COVID-19 Index which supports users in searching, retrieving and analyzing patent information relevant to COVID-19 detection, prevention and treatment. Online regional activities also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and lessons learned on successfully establishing and managing TISC networks.

The TISC program reinforced local innovation support services in the area of more advanced issues related to IP management and commercialization as well as information use in the public domain. In particular, its training curriculum focused on resources developed under the two Development Agenda Projects on the Use of Information in the Public Domain for Economic Development and on IP Management and Technology Transfer.

### **Practical guides on identifying and using information in the public domain**

Following the publication and June launch of two WIPO guides on identifying and using inventions in the public domain, the TISC program organized two webinars and “Ask the Expert” sessions with the lead experts who drafted the guides.

Webinars were attended by 268 participants. The experts discussed how the guides were designed to help researchers, inventors and entrepreneurs effectively identify and use information in the public domain using step-by-step training modules, checklists, templates and practical examples within the guides.

The webinars were followed by “Ask the Expert” sessions on eTISC, which provided participants and users with a unique opportunity to interact with the two experts and to ask further questions. Topics related to the guides in particular focused on freedom-to-operate (FTO) determination, FTO search strategies, FTO analysis, new product development, design and commercialization.

The guides are available for download free-of-charge on the TISC webpage in all six UN languages, on the site’s “Learning Resources” section.

### **New tools for assessing training needs in the area of technology transfer and IP management**

The Development Agenda Project on IP Management and Technology Transfer aimed to enhance innovation capabilities by developing new materials and training in the area of technology transfer and commercialization. A methodology and toolkit for assessing training needs and mapping innovation value chains was developed specifically with key users in mind, including TISCs. The aim was to make training in this field more effective and consequently make technology transfer in a country’s innovation value chain more effective. This approach was used to formulate training plans in four pilot countries, namely Chile, Indonesia, Rwanda and South Africa.

Two training activities commenced in 2019 (the first in Pretoria, South Africa the second in Jakarta, Indonesia). The first training activity in 2020 took place in Kigali, Rwanda in January, followed by a second training event in South Africa in February. Subsequent training activities were held online.

In July, WIPO organized a virtual national consultation with all stakeholders of the Chilean project to discuss a training plan for national skill certification in the field of technology transfer. The certification would be based on the completion of three modules – basic, intermediate and advanced.

Funders, developers, managers and users of IP in the four pilot countries built skills in IP management and transfer of technologies. Feedback from both participants in the training seminars and the participants’ institutions indicated this new approach to training needs assessment has been highly effective. They noted a significant positive impact of the training seminars on participants’ daily work as well as contribution to their institutions as players in the innovation value chain.

New approaches and practices for implementing online training activities, including extended course formats complementing short webinar formats were developed in response to constraints on in-person training activities. This increased WIPO’s flexibility in the delivery and effectiveness of its online training activities.

The Development Agenda Project came to a successful close in December, with the revision of the training needs assessment methodology and toolkit to be published in 2021.

**TISCs empowered through training provided in cooperation with the WIPO Academy**

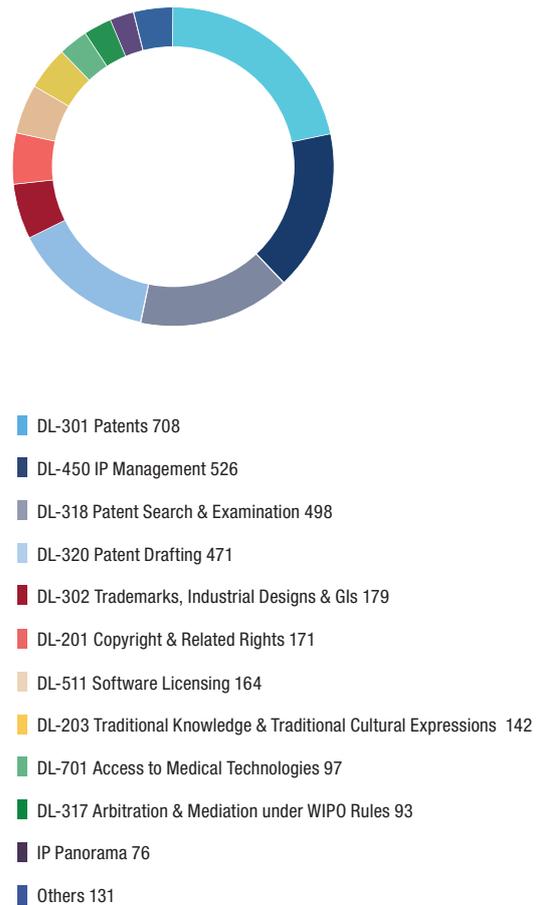
TISC staff provide essential advice and support to innovators in their country. To help them maintain and develop the knowledge and skills they need, WIPO offers TISC staff special access to the general and advanced distance learning courses offered by the WIPO Academy on a range of subjects including patent search and analysis, patent drafting and IP management.

In 2020, 4,714 TISC staff participated in distance learning courses offered by the WIPO Academy, a significant increase in comparison to previous years (see figure 15).

As shown in figure 16, the majority of TISC staff participated in the advanced courses on patents (22 percent), IP management (16 percent), patent information search (15 percent) and patent drafting (15 percent), reflecting an increased interest in areas related to value-added innovation support services, IP management in particular. Women were also engaged, representing 53 percent of all TISC staff that participated in distance learning trainings, while

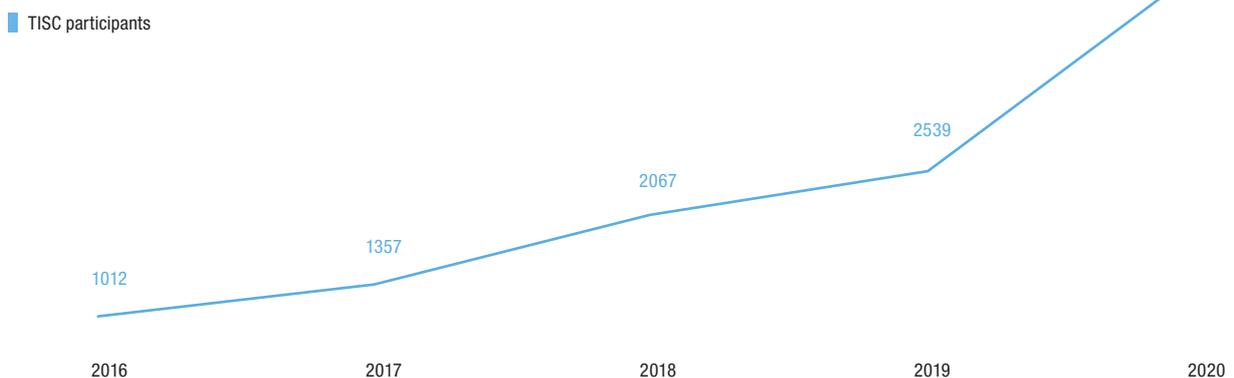
**Fig. 16 - TISC staff participation in WIPO Academy training by topic**

Source: WIPO Academy, 2020



**Fig. 15 - Rise in TISC staff participating in WIPO Academy distance learning courses**

Source: WIPO Academy, 2020



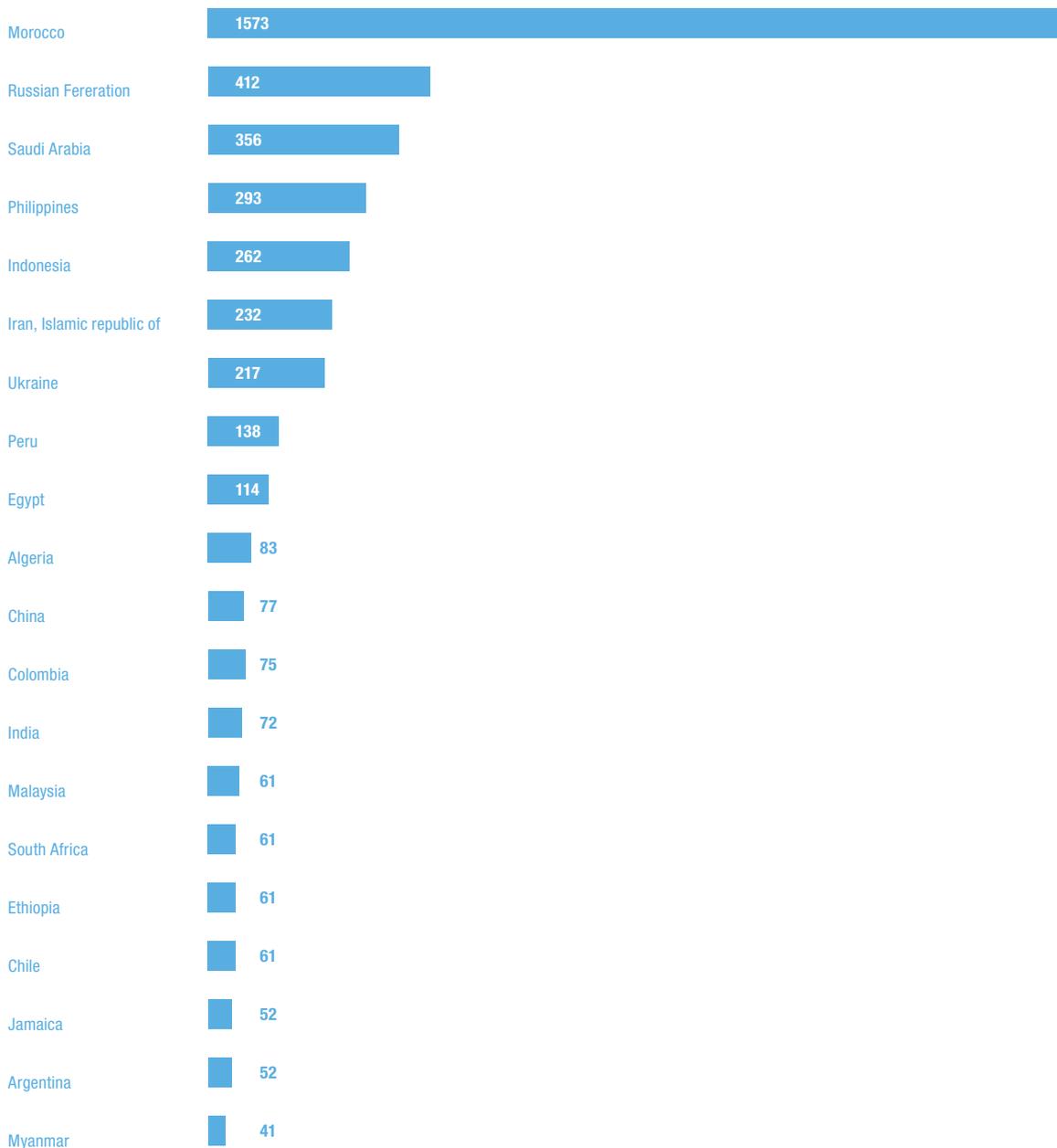
young and mid-level professionals (aged 25 to 44) were the highest group represented in the trainings (66 percent of all TISC participants).

In terms of geographical distribution (see figure 17), the TISC network in Morocco continued to represent

one of the largest groups, representing alone more than 33 percent of all TISC participants in the WIPO Academy distance learning courses, followed by TISC staff in the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ukraine, Peru, Egypt and Algeria (top 10 countries).

**Fig. 17 - TISC staff participation in WIPO Academy training by country**

Source: WIPO Academy, 2020



# Outlook for 2021

The effective implementation of WIPO's TISC program is a key priority and a major component of the assistance WIPO provides to member states. Creating and strengthening a positive environment for innovation and creativity is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the TISC program has noticeably progressed not only in number of centers and beneficiary countries, but also in its quality value-added services helping inventors, researchers and entrepreneurs unlock their innovative potential, foster innovation and encourage technology transfer, IP management and commercialization.

WIPO will continue to work, upon request of the member states, to support development of national IP and innovation ecosystems that drive innovators to use IP for business growth and that encourage universities and public research institutions to manage, access and share knowledge, technology and IP.

## **New resources are being developed to reinforce TISC capabilities worldwide**

The focus of the program continues to be supporting TISCs with the means to build their skills and better manage their portfolio of services to reinforce their role as an effective catalyst in the national innovation process. WIPO is developing a number of new tools and resources for TISCs – many of which are digital in light of the global shift from traditional on-site to digital modes – which include the following:

- Development of content for WIPO INSPIRE in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders to provide TISCs and local users with easily accessible, up-to-date and comprehensive information on free-of-charge and commercial patent and non-patent databases.
- Development of a TISC Project and Performance Management Platform to ensure national projects are run as efficiently as possible by TISC focal points. In particular, allowing specific national

The TISC program acts as a stimulant to progress and as such can be considered as having an accelerating effect on the implementation of Goal 9 of the 2030 Agenda.

TISC networks to receive better targeted on-site and online digital trainings.

- Launch of a new online portal for the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) program.
- Development of a TISC staff certification scheme based on a feasibility study undertaken in 2019 aimed to strengthen career development and ensure skills are retained in TISC networks or, at least, in the field of IP rights.
- Publication of user-friendly toolkits and training materials on using inventions in the public domain to give TISC staff practical, hands-on materials to support local inventors and enterprises in developing new products and services and in adapting, exploiting and commercializing their inventions.

- Publication of a training needs assessment methodology and toolkit to provide TISC staff and focal points with improved understanding of how to map the national innovation value chains so as to create effective training plans to build capacity in IP management and technology transfer.
- Availability of the e-Tutorial as a certificate distance learning course by the WIPO Academy to reinforce self-learning on how to effectively carry out patent search and analysis accessible in all six UN official languages, including Arabic and Chinese to be added in 2021.
- Publication of the second report in the *WIPO Technology Trends* series, focusing on assistive technology to support persons with functional limitations in participating in all aspects of life. The report, which is available in fully accessible EPUB format, was launched in March 2021. It covers assistive technologies in seven domains of mobility, including hearing, vision, cognition, communication and the built environment and self-care, as well as covering conventional and emerging assistive products.
- Launch of an interactive and accessible platform showing the technology readiness, number of patents, ease of adoption and expected impact on assistive technologies. Part of the second WIPO Technology Trends report, the assessment is the first of its kind, demonstrating how close the identified emerging assistive technologies are to commercialization. It is available along with related material on the WIPO website (see Useful links section).

# Useful links

## **WIPO TISC Program**

[www.wipo.int/tisc/en](http://www.wipo.int/tisc/en)

## **WIPO TISC Directory**

[www.wipo.int/tisc/en/search](http://www.wipo.int/tisc/en/search)

## **WIPO INSPIRE**

<https://inspire.wipo.int/>

## **eTISC Platform**

<https://etisc.wipo.int/>

## **Patent Register Portal**

[www.wipo.int/patent\\_register\\_portal](http://www.wipo.int/patent_register_portal)

## **ASPI Program**

[www.wipo.int/aspi/en](http://www.wipo.int/aspi/en)

## **ARDI Program**

[www.wipo.int/ardi/en](http://www.wipo.int/ardi/en)

## **Patent Landscape Reports**

[www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent\\_landscapes](http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes)

## **Patent Landscape Reports Database**

[www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent\\_landscapes/plrdb.html](http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/programs/patent_landscapes/plrdb.html)

## **The WIPO Patent Analytics Handbook**

<https://wipo-analytics.github.io/handbook/>

## **WIPO Technology Trends – Artificial Intelligence**

[www.wipo.int/tech\\_trends/en/artificial\\_intelligence/](http://www.wipo.int/tech_trends/en/artificial_intelligence/)

## **WIPO Technology Trends – Assistive Technology**

[www.wipo.int/tech\\_trends/en/assistive\\_technology/](http://www.wipo.int/tech_trends/en/assistive_technology/)

## **PATENTSCOPE Artificial Intelligence Index**

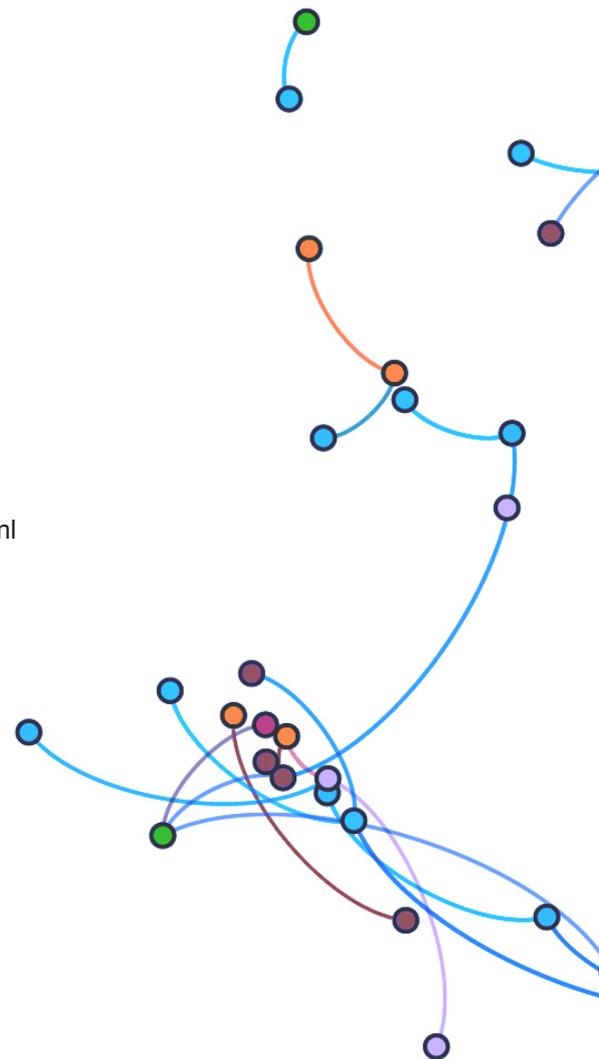
[www.wipo.int/tech\\_trends/en/artificial\\_intelligence/patentscope.html](http://www.wipo.int/tech_trends/en/artificial_intelligence/patentscope.html)

## **Inventor Assistance Program (IAP)**

[www.wipo.int/iap](http://www.wipo.int/iap)

## **Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) for TISCs**

[www.wipo.int/amc/en/center/tisc](http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/center/tisc)



**Development Agenda Project on Technology Transfer**  
[www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=372830](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=372830)

**Development Agenda Project on Public Domain**  
[www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?doc\\_id=329197](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=329197)

**WIPO TISC Webinars**  
[www.wipo.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp?group\\_id=327](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp?group_id=327)



# Key milestones of the TISC program



2009

Launch of the TISC project

Launch of ARDI



2010

Launch of ASPI

Conclusion of first Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to implement a TISC network



2012

Launch of interactive eTutorial

Inauguration of eTISC knowledge management platform



2011

ARDI joins Research4Life partnership

Publication of the first WIPO Patent Landscape Report



2013

First ASEAN Regional TISC meeting

First "Ask the expert" session on eTISC



2014

TISC and Patent Landscape Report projects become WIPO regular activities

First use of open-source tools in a WIPO Patent Landscape Report



2015

Publication of *Guidelines for Preparing Patent Landscape Reports*



2016

Launch of Development Agenda Project on the Public Domain

Launch of the Inventor Assistance Program (IAP)

Launch of TISC training on patent analytics

Online publication of *the Manual on Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics*



2017

First TISCs start providing patent analytical services

Approval of new Development Agenda Project on Technology Transfer and IP Management



2018

First workshops on the guides for identifying and using information in the public domain

Launch of the Patent Register Portal



2019

Launch of *WIPO Technology Trends 2019: Artificial Intelligence*

First workshops on targeted technology transfer training and IP management



2020

1000 TISCs established worldwide

Launch of WIPO INSPIRE

Publication of guides on identifying and using inventions in the public domain

Launch of redesigned eTISC platform

Launch of e-Tutorial as a certified WIPO Academy distance learning course

Completion of the Development Agenda Project on IP management and technology transfer



[www.wipo.int/tisc](http://www.wipo.int/tisc)

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For contact details of WIPO's  
External Offices visit:  
[www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/offices](http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/offices)

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