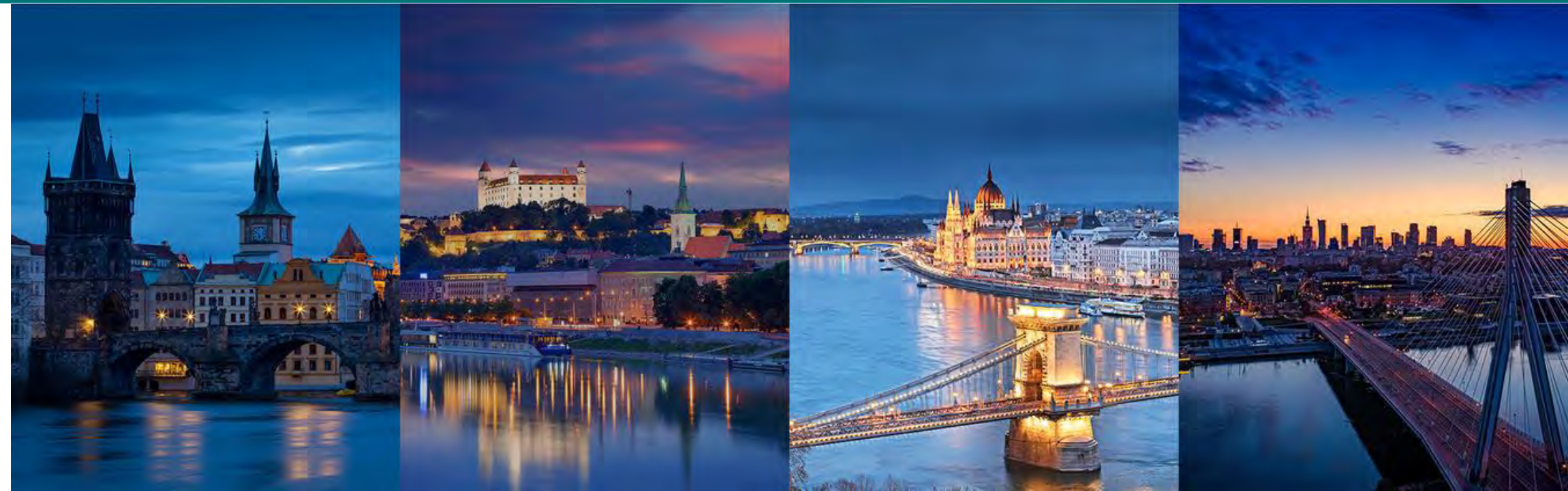


# THE PCT AUTHORITY NEXT DOOR

Visegrad Patent Institute in the service of V4 TTOs

22 November 2022



# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VPI

Signing of the VPI Agreement – February 2015

WIPO GA appointed VPI as ISA&IPEA –  
December 2015

Start of the VPI's operation – 1 July 2016

Seat of the VPI: **Budapest**



VPI, the PCT authority next door

# VISEGRAD PATENT INSTITUTE

## BRANCH OFFICES



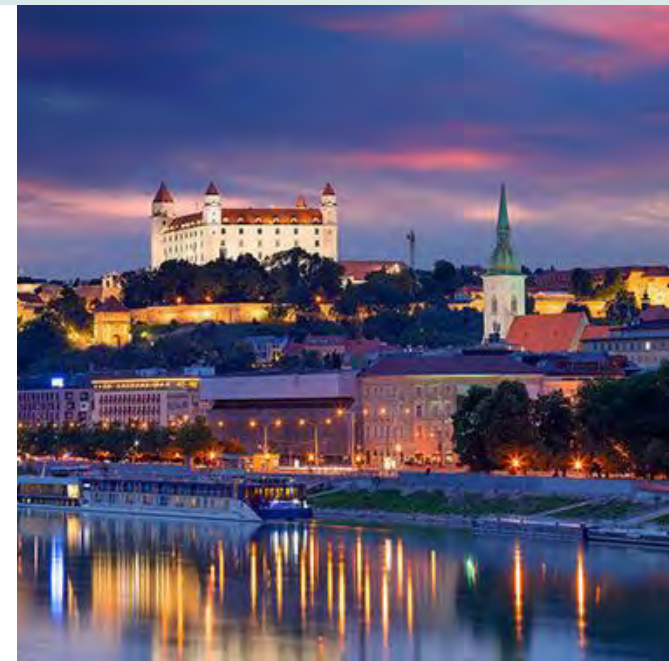
### CZECH BRANCH OFFICE

Industrial Property Office  
of the Czech Republic,  
Prague



### HUNGARIAN BRANCH OFFICE

Hungarian Intellectual  
Property Office,  
Budapest



### SLOVAK BRANCH OFFICE

Industrial Property Office  
of the Slovak Republic,  
Banská Bystrica



### POLISH BRANCH OFFICE

Patent Office of the  
Republic of Poland,  
Warsaw

# STRUCTURE OF THE VPI

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD (AB)

Chaired by the President of the AB\*

Task:  
governance, adoption of the budget and internal regulations, etc.

## SECRETARIAT

Managed by the Director\*\*

Task:  
organization of the work of the VPI,  
representation of the VPI,  
provision of administrative support to the AB, etc.

## Quality Manager\*\*\*

Task:  
monitoring of the  
quality management  
system of the VPI

### Czech Branch Office

Task:  
Search and  
examination

### Hungarian Branch Office

Task:  
Search and  
examination

### Polish Branch Office

Task:  
Search and  
examination

### Slovak Branch Office

Task:  
Search and  
examination

\*The President of the AB is elected from the Members of the AB on a rotational basis.

\*\*The Director of the VPI is appointed by the AB.

\*\*\*The Quality Manager is appointed by the AB.

# OPERATION OF THE VPI

## SERVICES OF THE VPI:

- International Search
- Supplementary International Search
- International Preliminary Examination

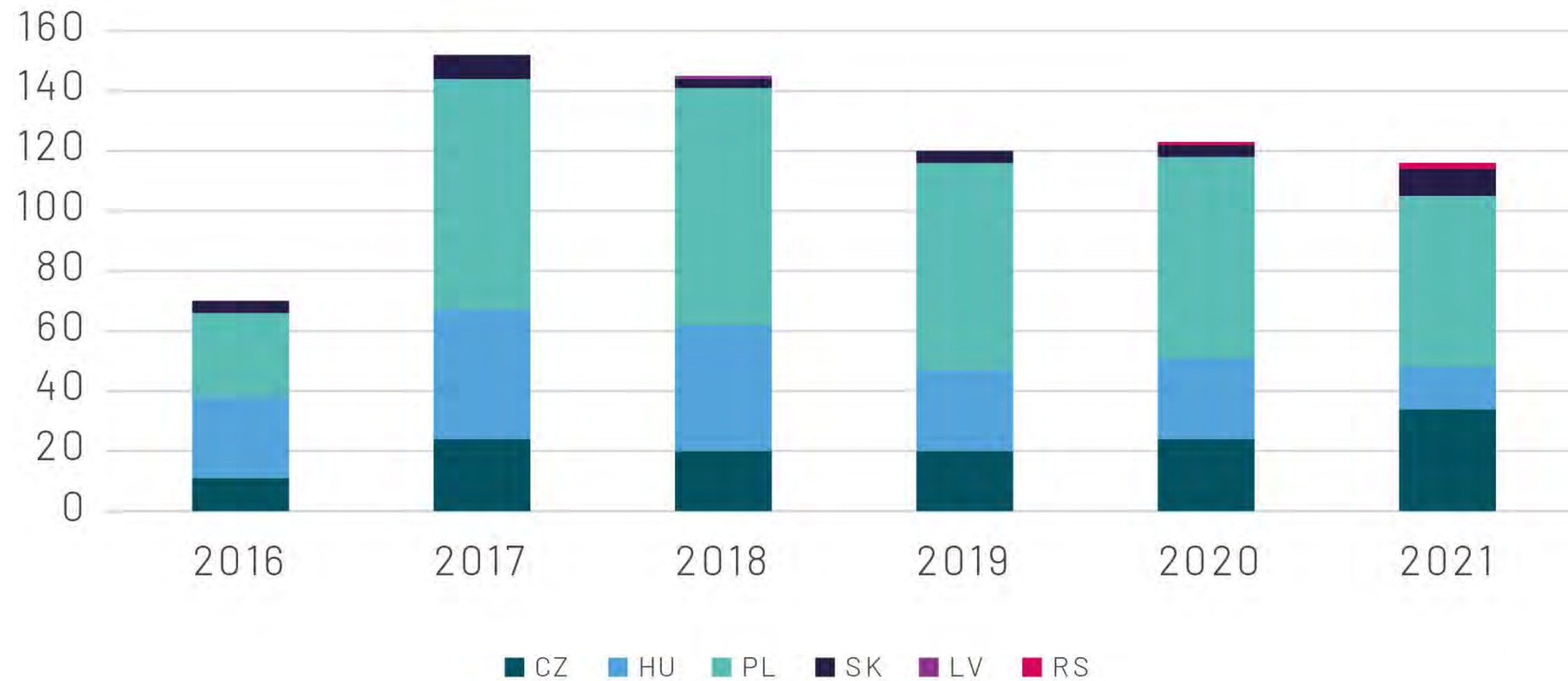
**WORKING LANGUAGES:** EN, CZ, HU, PL, SK  
(in: Agreement with the IB of WIPO)

## VPI CAN BE CHOSEN BY:

- applicants from V4 countries
- applicants from some neighbouring countries;  
Memorandum of Understanding between IP  
Offices and VPI: LT (2017), RS (2020)

# NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS

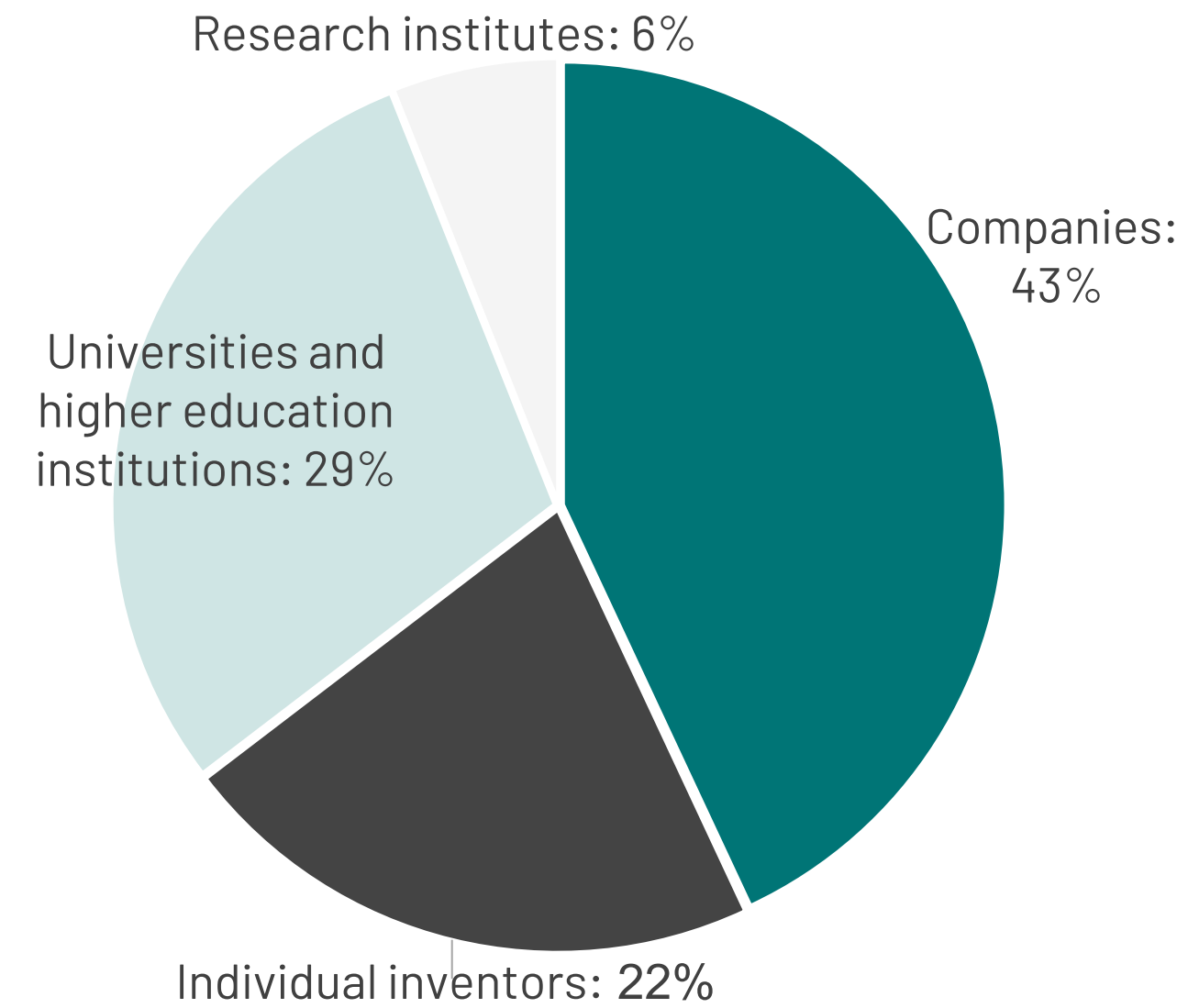
BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN  
2016-2021



# NATURE OF APPLICANTS

BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN  
2021

	Czech	Hungarian	Polish	Slovak	Serb
Companies	14	2	32	2	
Individual inventors	4	10	13	6	2
Universities and higher education institutions	12		12		
Research institutes	4	2		1	
Total	34	14	57	9	2



# BENEFITS OF USING THE SERVICES OF THE VPI

I.

## QUALITY

- VPI applies the European best practices in search and examination
  - ✓ training of examiners
  - ✓ using of the same databases as the European Patent Office (EPO)  
= predictable office decisions and predictable outcome
- Cooperation
  - ✓ Active participation in the harmonisation of search activity with the EPO - harmonisation files exercise project
  - ✓ Harmonised practice within the VPI: twice a year cross-check exercise
- VPI has a certified Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2015 standard)



# BENEFITS OF USING THE SERVICES OF THE VPI

II.

## TIMELINESS

### ISR deadlines set by the PCT are kept

- ✓ Finishing ISRs at least 1 week before the PCT deadline
- ✓ In significant % of the cases, ISR is issued 2 weeks before the PCT deadline
- ✓ Plans: further speeding up of the delivery of ISRs; target: PCT ISR 9 months deadline minus 1 month

Weeks before / after due date	Q1/2021	Q2/2021	Q3/2021	Q4/2021
> 4 weeks	6	2	7	3
3 weeks	3	5	8	1
2 weeks	4	5	8	4
1 week	10	7	7	11
0 week	1	2	1	0
+1 week [late]	0	0	0	1
+2 weeks [late]	0	0	0	0
+3 weeks [late]	0	0	0	0
> +4 weeks [late]	0	0	0	0
Total	24	21	31	20

# BENEFITS OF USING THE SERVICES OF THE VPI

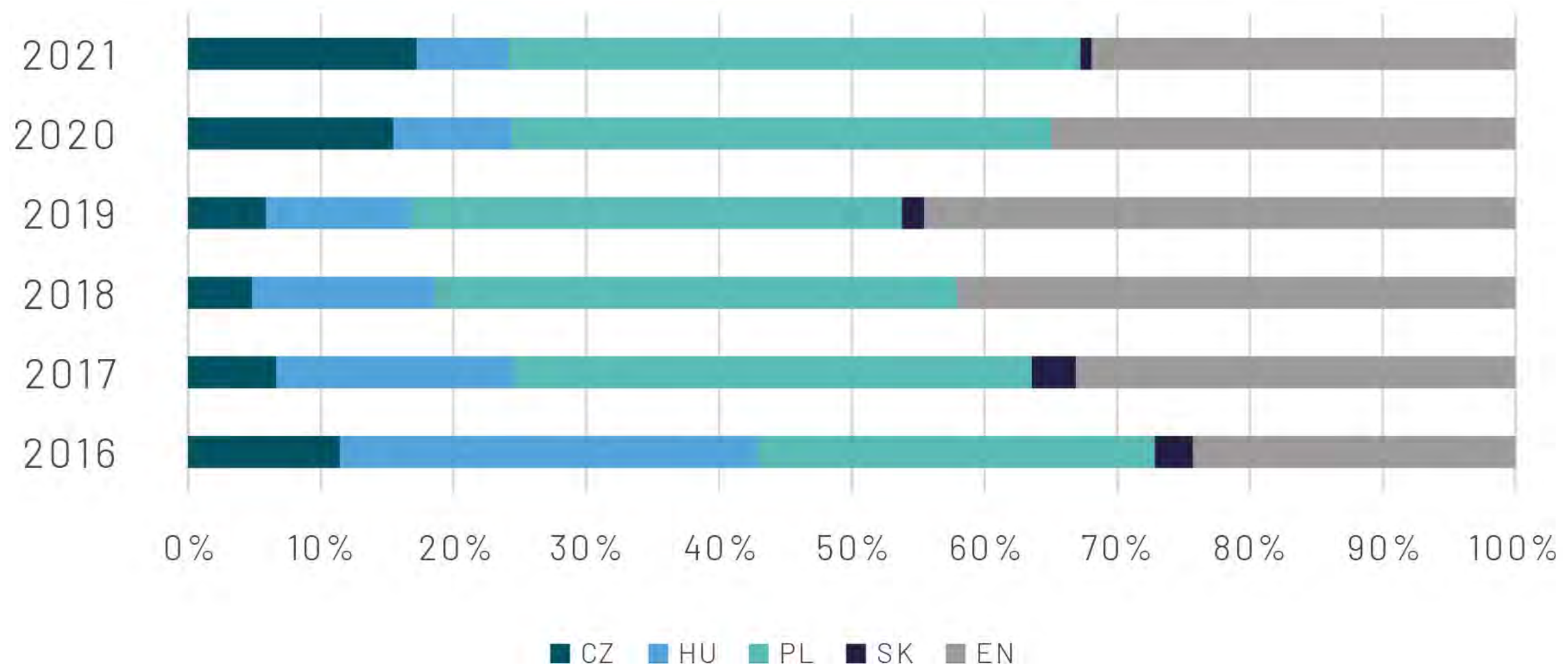
## III.

### LANGUAGE ADVANTAGES

- Applicants choosing the VPI can start the procedure in their national language, it is sufficient to file the translation for the purposes of and before the international publication
- Applicants can receive assistance in their own language during the procedure for the preparation of the search and preliminary examination report
- The international application can be filed also in English

# RATIO OF LANGUAGES

2016-2021



# BENEFITS OF USING THE SERVICES OF THE VPI

## IV.

### SAVINGS IN THE INTERNATIONAL PHASE

- 40% refund of international search fee can be claimed (fee: EUR 1775, refund: EUR 710); reference to the priority application and request for taking into account the earlier search result on the request form is needed

Eligible previous search results:

- ✓ Search report of a VPI Contracting State's National Office
  - ✓ Other National Office's search report
  - ✓ Report prepared by another ISA
  - ✓ International-type search
- Fee for international preliminary examination EUR 900 (EPO's fee: EUR 1830)

# BENEFITS OF USING THE SERVICES OF THE VPI

V.

## COST NEUTRALITY IN THE REGIONAL PHASE BEFORE THE EPO

- The applicant is entitled to a fee reduction in the regional phase before the EPO if using the VPI; fee reduction = EUR 1185 from the fee for supplementary European search report. Fee payable before the EPO: EUR 205.
- Examination fee is reduced by EUR 205 in view of the payment of the supplementary European search fee. Fee to be paid: EUR 1750 (for comparison: where the EPO was the ISA, and the applicant did not demand IPER from the EPO as IPEA, the examination fee is EUR 1955)

# BENEFITS OF USING THE SERVICES OF THE VPI

## VI.

### FAST TRACK REFUNDS

- Refund claims of international search fee in eligible cases can be submitted in an e-mail or through the ePCT
- Refunds are processed within 48 hours

# USER FRIENDLY APPROACH

We are here to help you

01

## Customer care

- ✓ Direct contact to examiner
- ✓ Fast track processing of refunds & refund deadline reminder sent by the VPI

02

## Convenient administration

- ✓ Electronic filing of application and refund claims
- ✓ Communication in national languages with BOs

03

## Overall support

- ✓ User friendly website
- ✓ Q&A on the website with quick answers
- ✓ Case studies with best practices
- ✓ Conferences
- ✓ Youtube videos

## CONTACT US

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THANK YOU

