



The protection and exploitation of Intellectual Property in Greece

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Intellectual property includes several rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright etc.) which are a very important asset for businesses or organizations and can facilitate innovation and the development of a significant competitive advantage in the market.

However, recognizing intellectual property rights and protecting them is not an easy task. It requires significant financial resources, the development of an appropriate strategy (depending on the type of the right and the proper timing), as well as the cooperation with specialized experts such as lawyers and patent attorneys.

In the European Innovation Scoreboard report, the three worst indicators for Greece included two indicators related to Intellectual Property. Greece's performance in PCT patent applications was at 19% of the European average and industrial design applications at 22.8%.

There are many reasons for the poor performances, but the main ones are related to the small number of Greek companies, which base their business model on technological innovation, and the fact that the majority of the country's research institutions (Universities & Research Centers) do not have mechanisms, incentives and know-how to protect the intellectual property generated in them.

Just recently (2022), the Ministry of Development of Greece implemented a program, aiming to effectively manage the intellectual property capital and innovation in the country by creating Technology Transfer Offices in all of the country's research institutions. Furthermore, specialized administrators were trained to be employed in these Offices with the goal of creating spin-off companies and connecting the research centers with the market.

Greece remains low compared to other EU countries in matters of technology transfer, knowledge management, innovation, and professional training, especially training for lawyers, patent attorneys and judges specialized in this field. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and even larger companies are unaware of the ways to protect their intellectual property rights and consequences of this for their firms. For example, there is a lack of information on the tax incentives (Article 71 of Law 4172/2013 and corresponding KYA (52738/DEKNT55/2018), on the basis of which significant tax deductions are provided for profits resulting from the exploitation of intellectual property activities.



Overall, to reverse this situation and for Greece to be able to protect and exploit the innovation capital of intellectual property produced by firms and by research institutions, the following are needed:

- reform the legal framework for intellectual property, which is quite old and needs to be improved and simplified,
- ratify the regulations and the EU Treaty related to the Unitary Patent and the creation of the Unitary Patent Court,
- educate the industry managers/employees and
- introduce intellectual property education in its educational system.

This article is developed by:

Mrs. Sofia Tsakiri

Co-founder and legal advisor of “RENVIS”

<https://renvis.gr>

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