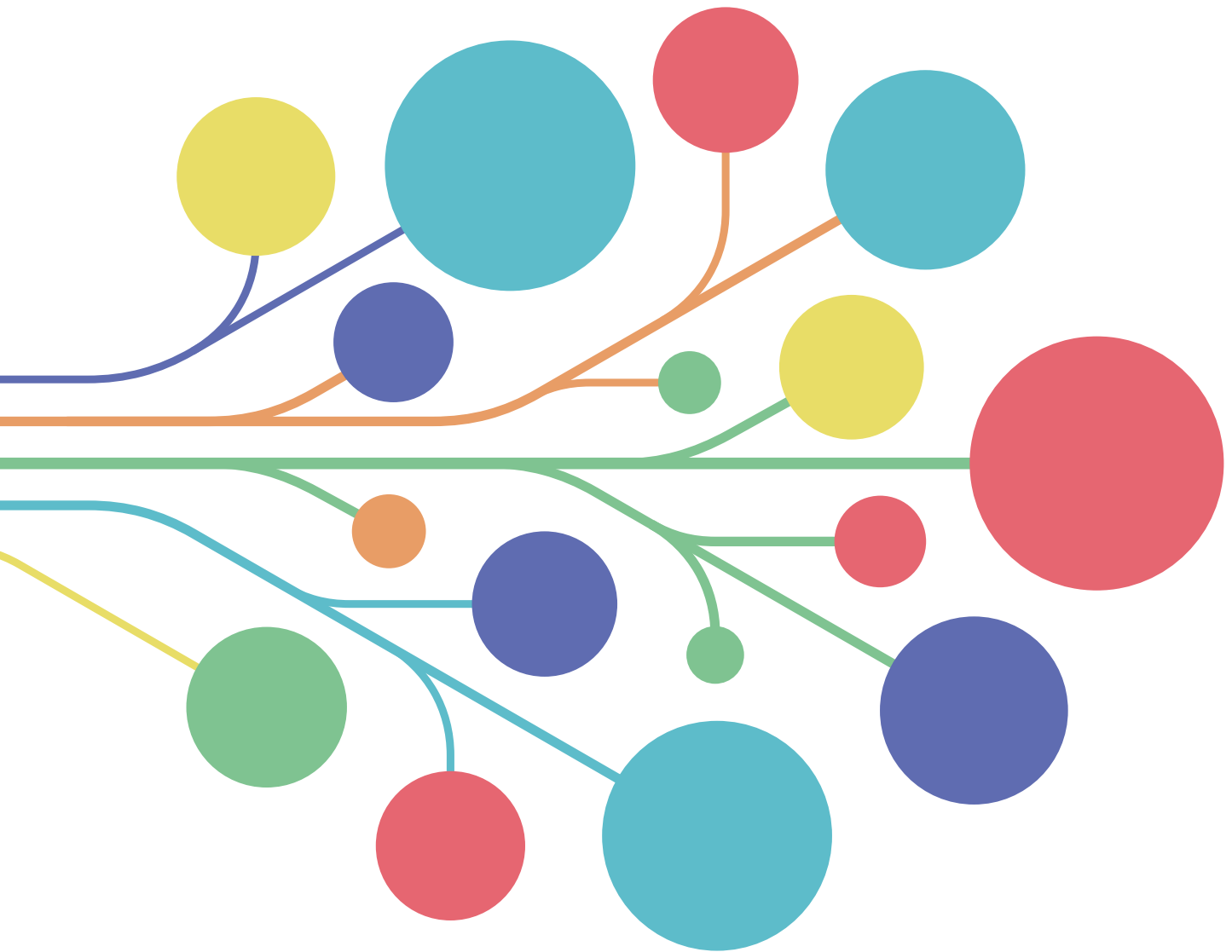


**Technology and Innovation
Support Centers (TISCs)
Report 2016**



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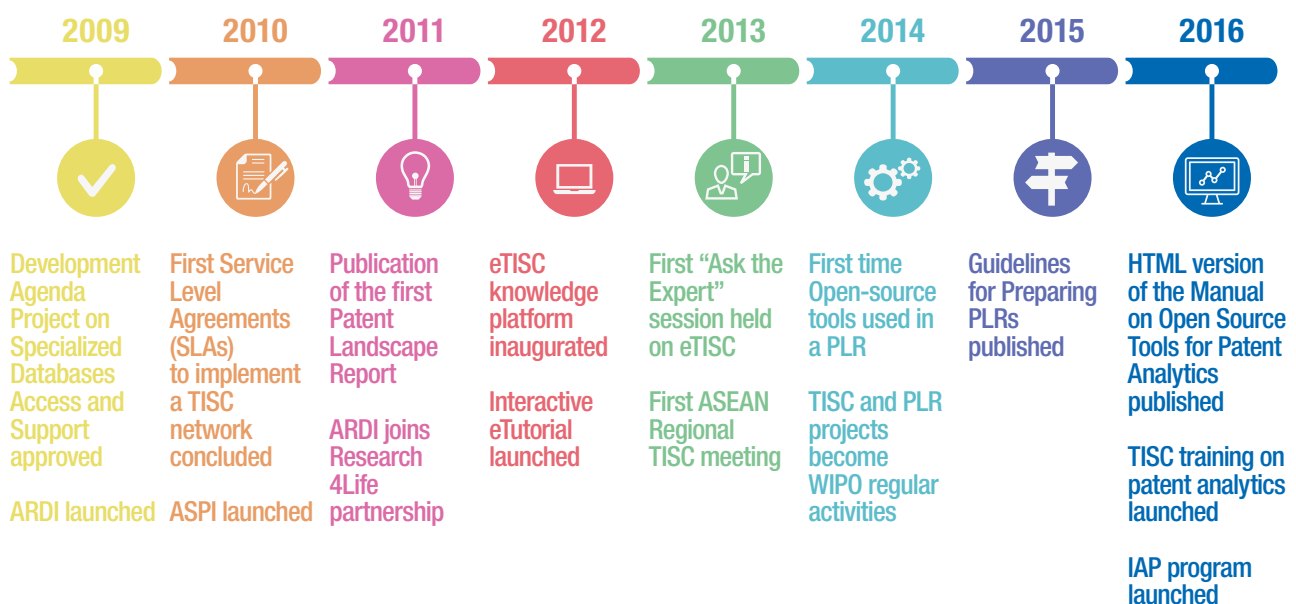
Introduction

The Access to Information and Knowledge Division is responsible for facilitating access to patent information, scientific and technical literature, search tools and databases, and for building capacity in developing countries to effectively provide services for innovation support in the field of access, search and analysis of technology information. Its activities include:

- Developing effective and sustainable Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs);
- Facilitating access to specialized technical content through the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) and Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) programs;
- Preparing Patent Landscape Reports (PLRs) in various fields of technology; and
- Providing and facilitating access to legal status information of patent applications.

The Access to Information and Knowledge Division contributes in particular to WIPO's Strategic Goal IV ("Enhanced access to, and use of, IP information by IP institutions and the public to promote innovation and creativity").

This Annual Report which is the first of its kind aims to highlight key trends and milestones since the project was launched in 2009 with a focus on the main achievements and developments in 2016.



TISCs: What are they?

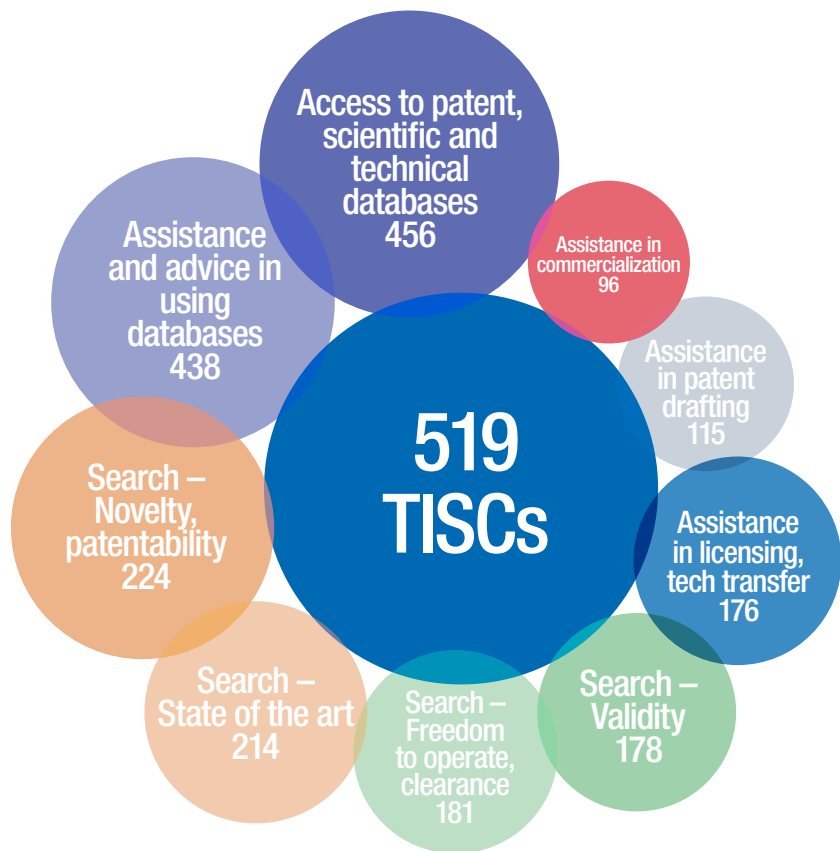
TISCs contribute to diminishing the global knowledge gap and promoting economic and social development by providing access to technology information and related services. They foster innovation by building on the rich set of technology information disclosed in patent documents, of which over 90 million have been published to date, and in scientific and technical publications. TISCs may be established within a variety of host institutions, including patent offices, universities, and research centers.

TISCs: What do they do?

TISCs provide a diverse range of services, helping inventors, researchers, and entrepreneurs unlock their innovative potential.



Figure 1: Number of TISCs providing different type of services
(Source: TISC Directory)



Number of TISCs providing different type of services

TISCs: Host institutions and networks

TISCs have been launched in an increasing number of countries world-wide, building on close cooperation between WIPO and its Member States. 59 countries have signed Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to develop national TISC networks from 2009 to 2016. 517 TISCs have been established during this period, according to data provided to the TISC Directory.

Figure 2: Number of national TISC networks over time
(Source: Service Level Agreements)

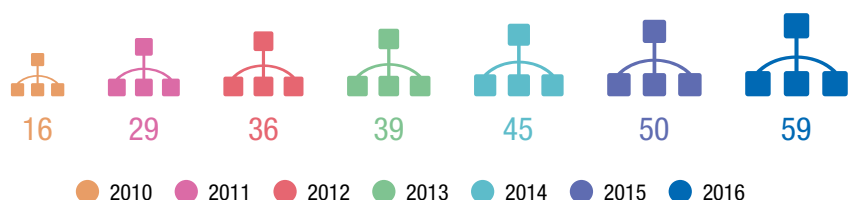
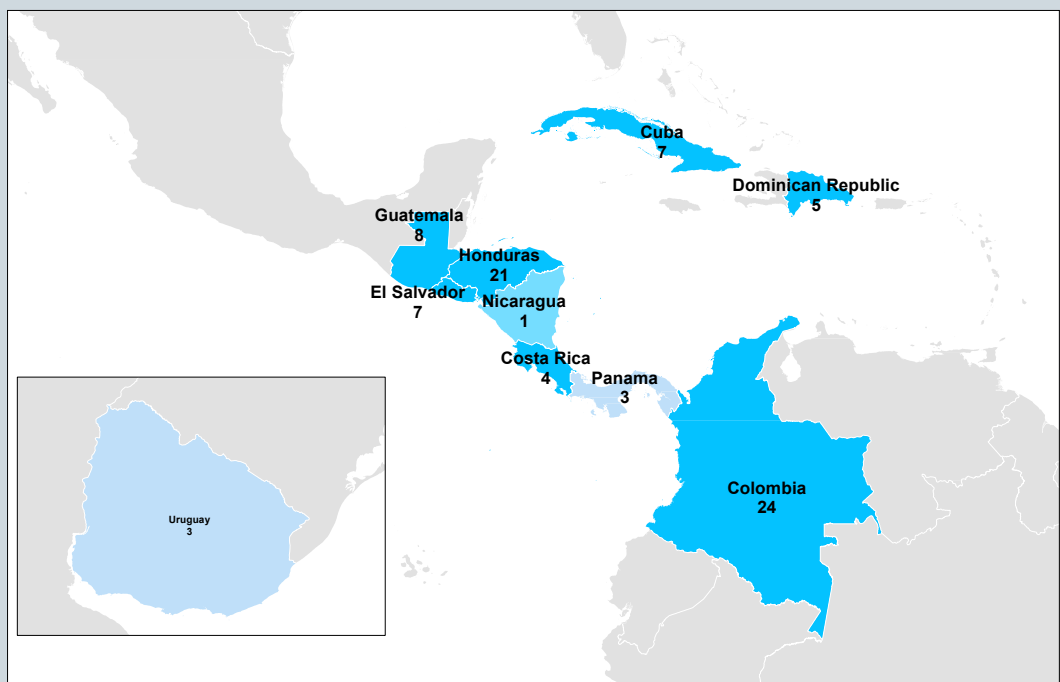


Figure 3b: TISCs in Europe, Asia and the Pacific
 (Source: TISC Directory)



Figure 3c: TISCs in Latin America and the Caribbean
 (Source: TISC Directory)



TISCs: Selected achievements

Patent applications on the rise

184 patent applications were filed by TISCs (Innovation and Technology Support Offices) in the Philippines between 2010 and 2016.

143 patent applications were filed by institutions hosting TISCs in Colombia in 2016 and a further 305 projects were identified as eligible for patent protection.

139 national patent applications and 19 international patent applications were filed by universities hosting TISCs in Morocco in 2015.

Strong demand for TISC services

Over 750 technology search requests have been received by TISCs in Morocco since 2011.

441 technology search requests and 3,909 industrial property inquiries were received by TISCs in Colombia in 2016.

Expanding training and support opportunities

181 training workshops and seminars on industrial property and technology information as well as 283 outreach activities were organized by the TISC network in Colombia in 2016.

Nine national TISC training workshops have been organized by the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (ROSPATENT) and the Federal Institute of Industrial Property (FIPS) in the Russian Federation in 2016. A Patent Protection Incentive Package (PPIP), waiving fees associated with patent filing for TISCs, was established by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

Improving networking

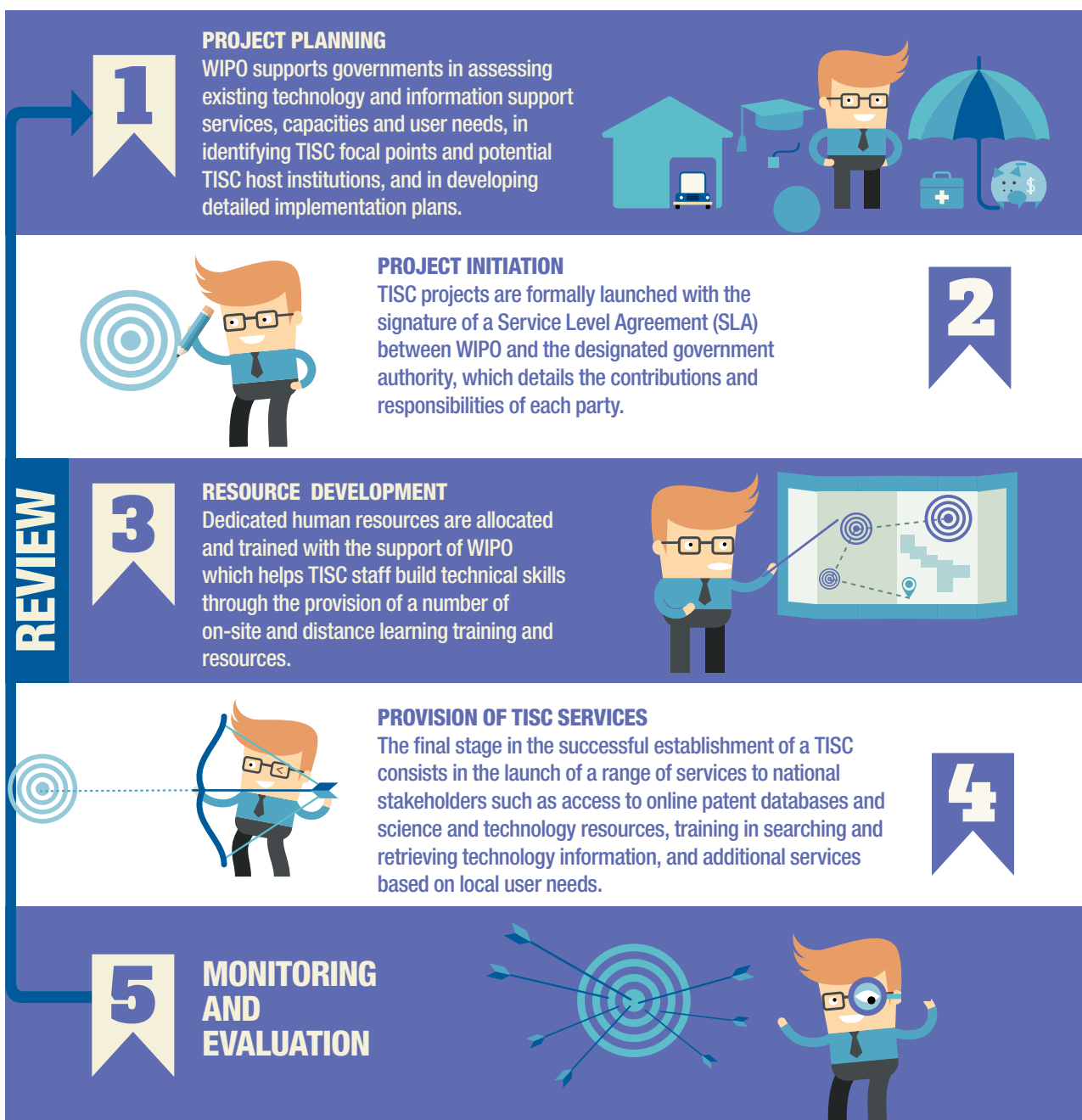
A dedicated website with links to useful resources was established by the Malagasy Industrial Property Office (OMAPI) in Madagascar, linking 37 TISCs in the national TISC network.

Since 2012, an annual TISC conference has been organized by ROSPATENT and FIPS in the Russian Federation bringing together representatives from 140 TISCs in the national TISC network.

WIPO: Supporting TISCs and TISC networks

Using a project-based approach, WIPO supports its Member States in the four key stages of the development of successful TISCs: (1) project planning; (2) project initiation; (3) resource development; and (4) service provision. Through this approach, WIPO aims to ensure the effective operation of TISCs and their long-term sustainability.

Figure 4: Stages of TISC development
(more information at: www.wipo.int/tisc)



WIPO: Resources and tools

WIPO facilitates access to technology information for TISCs and has developed a number of publications, training materials, platforms, and tools to assist TISCs in building their capacities.

Technology information: Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program

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

Figure 5: Number of institutions registered to participate in ASPI

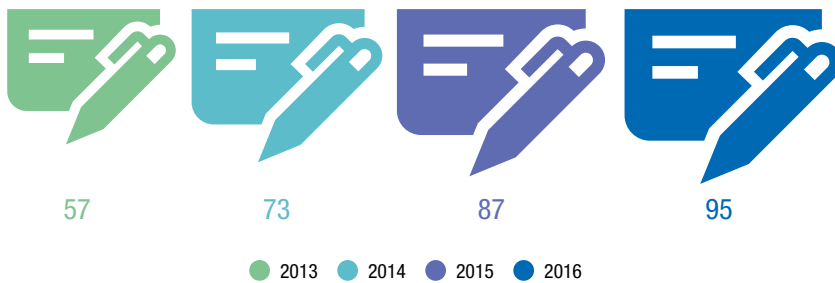
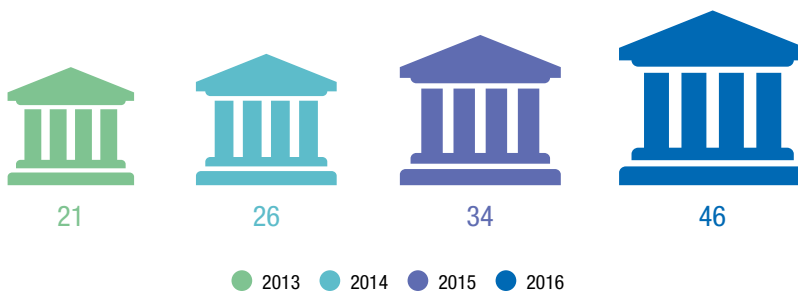


Figure 6: Number of registered institutions active in ASPI
(reflects flow including institutions beginning active participation as positive and ending active participation as negative in a given year)



Technology information: 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 publishing industry. 31 publishers currently provide free or low-cost access to around 28,000 journals, books and reference works for 117 developing countries and territories 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.

Figure 7: Number of institutions active in ARDI

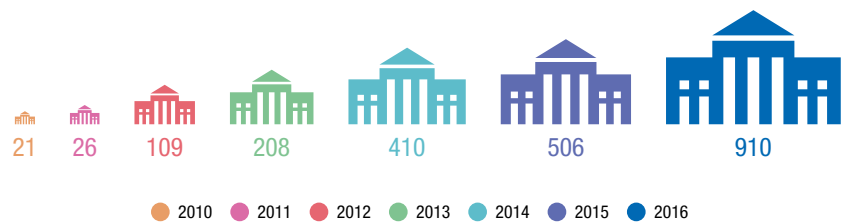
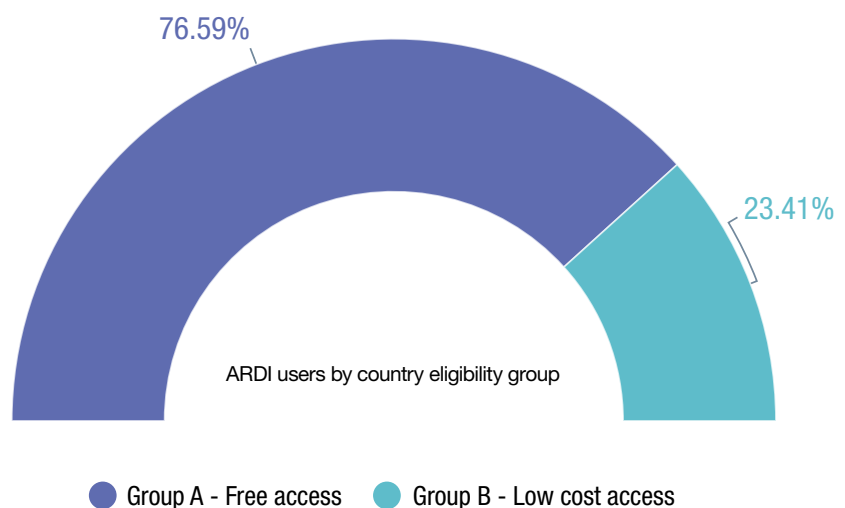


Figure 8: Percentage of institutions active in ARDI by eligibility group
(More information at: www.wipo.int/ardi/en/eligibility.html)

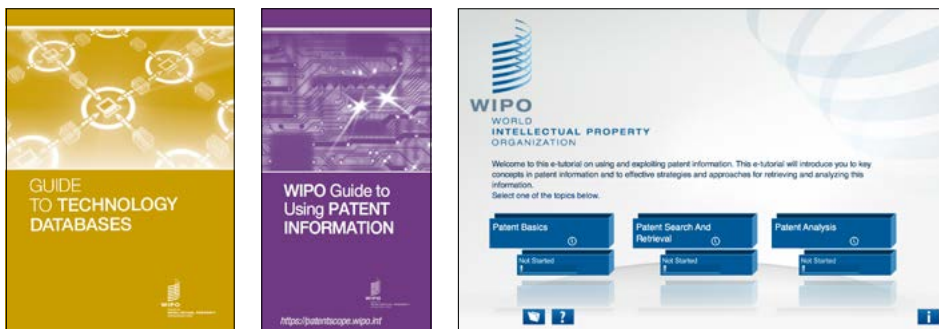


Publications and training materials

A number of publications were produced in the period 2010-2016, covering a broad range of topics. A selection of them can be found below:

Figure 9: Selected TISC-related publications

Guides and other Tools on Patent Search



Guides on Patent Analysis

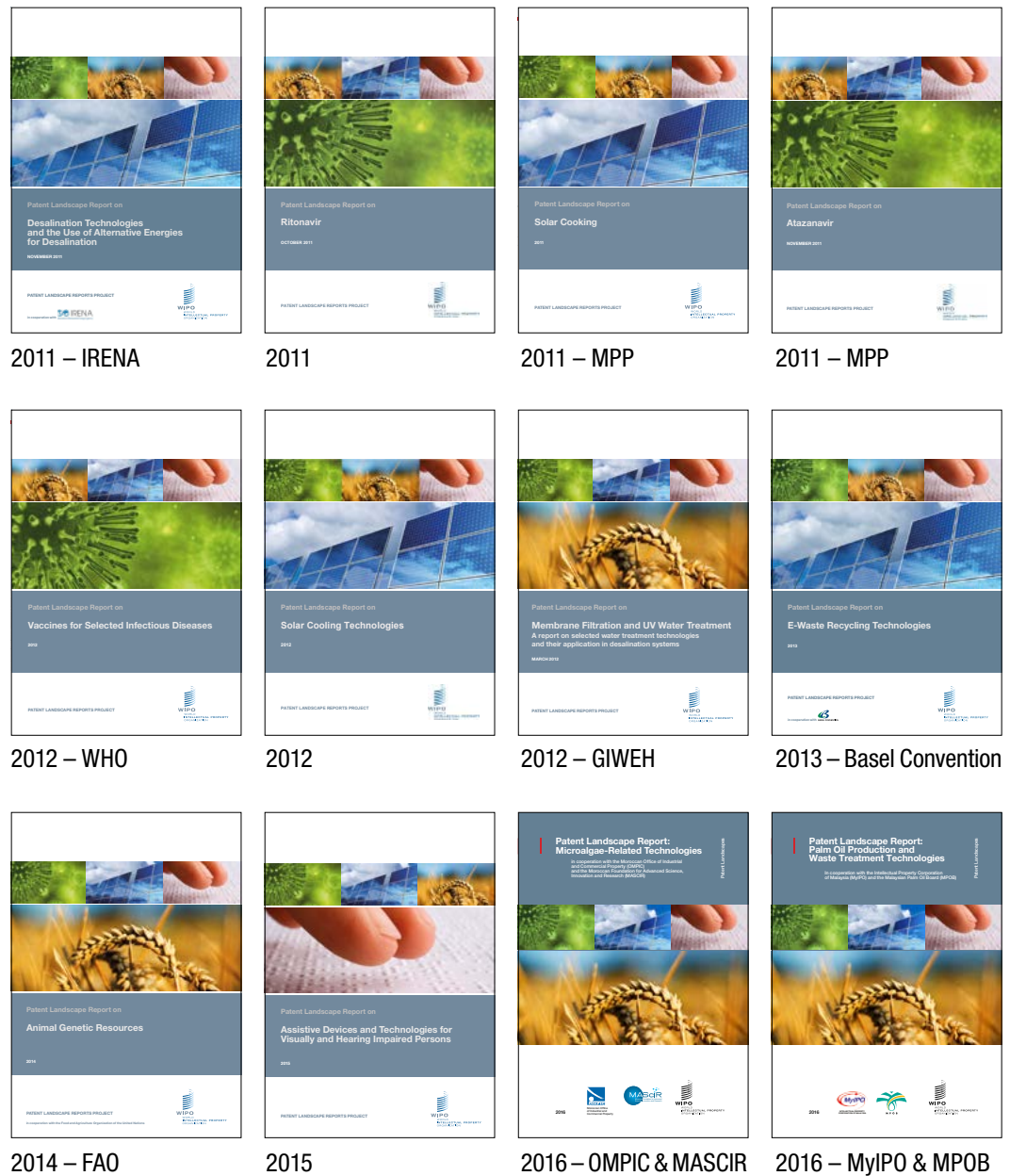


Materials for TISC Management and awareness-raising



Patent Landscape Reports (PLRs) have been prepared since 2010 in cooperation with other UN Agencies, NGOs and Member States institutions. They provide technical and commercial information of particular relevance to developing countries in the areas of public health, food and agriculture, environment and energy and disabilities. In addition, over 180 PLRs prepared by other entities are available on a dedicated database.

WIPO Patent Landscape Reports: Topics and Cooperation Partners



All these publications are available online and in print.

Figure 10:
Web statistics on patent analysis publications; not including print distribution



153,697

Downloads of Patent Landscape Reports from 2014-2016



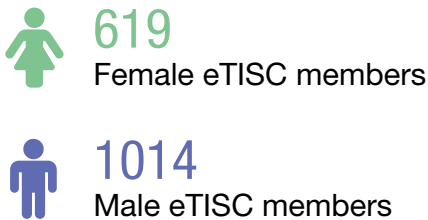
26,885

Downloads of the Guidelines for Preparing Patent Landscape reports in 2015-2016

Platforms and tools: eTISC knowledge sharing platform

eTISC connects TISC focal points, TISC staff and other individuals with an interest in patent information and related subjects. A range of features allow eTISC members to share knowledge and experiences across national and regional boundaries. In addition, it offers training opportunities through webinars and “Ask the Expert” sessions on various topics. There were 1633 eTISC members at the end of 2016.

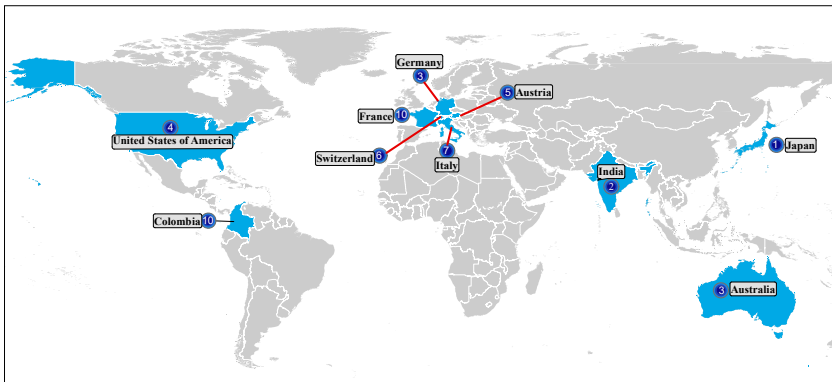
Figure 11: Number of eTISC members by gender
(Source: eTISC member list)



Platforms and tools: Patent Register Portal

The Patent Register Portal aims to assist in accessing legal status information through the provision of information on online presence of national and regional patent registers and online gazettes. It also aims at facilitating the search of this information providing additional information on the type of data that is available on patent registers and tips on particularities and limitations of each register.

Figure 12: Top 10 countries using the Patent Register Portal



WIPO: Knowledge and skills development

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. Training is implemented according to structured schedules developed through consultation between WIPO and national TISC focal points.

Training includes on-site workshops and seminars with a focus on training of trainers, distance learning carried out in cooperation with the WIPO Academy and webinars on specific topics. Such activities are supported with publications and training materials including an interactive e-tutorial available in several languages. The topics covered by WIPO include: basic concepts and skills in patent searching; different types of patent searches, including state of the art, novelty and freedom to operate, as well as patent analytics.

Figure 13: Training statistics

(Source: Lists of event participants, WIPO Academy, event statistics)

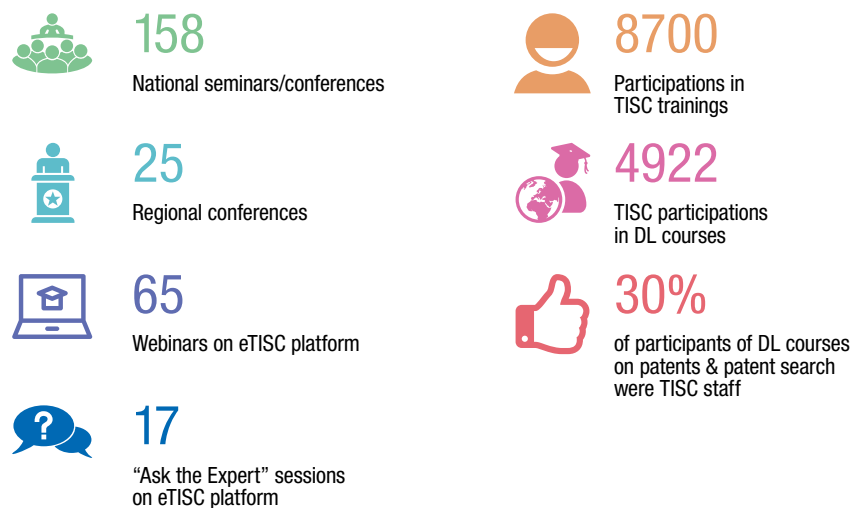
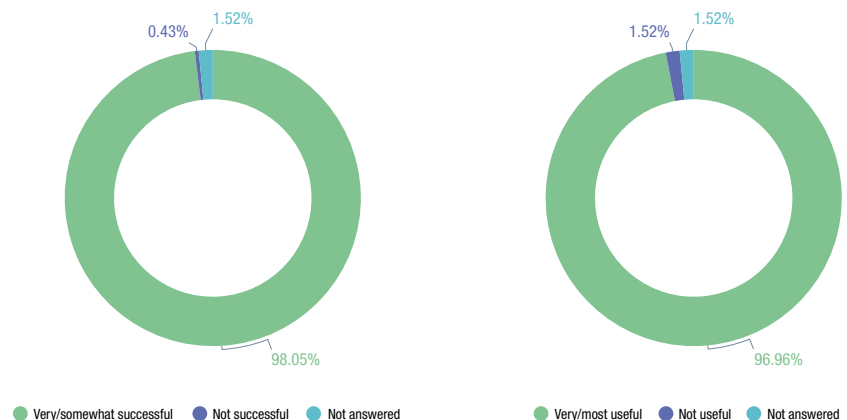


Figure 14: Participant training assessment

(Source: TISC seminar evaluations, 2016)



WIPO: Exchange of experiences and good practices

Regional conferences and study visits have been organized to enable an exchange of experiences between Member States developing national TISC networks and to promote regional cooperation.

Regional networks have been successfully established to institutionalize this exchange of experiences, notably among Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and in the Caribbean and Central America (CATI-CARD).

WIPO: TISC Project Evaluations

On-site evaluation is an important part of the follow up of the TISC project. The goal of an on-site evaluation is to assess project implementation status and possible improvements.

In 2016, four evaluations were undertaken by independent consultants to review the progress of the ongoing TISC projects in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania highlighting noteworthy successes achieved by the Member States in cooperation with WIPO and opportunities for further reinforcing the effectiveness of TISCs in these countries and their long-term sustainability.

WIPO: Future outlook

Strong and growing demand exists for WIPO support in establishing and enhancing TISC services. This demand is expected to persist in coming years, with new national TISC networks joining the global network and existing national TISC networks seeking to further develop and expand the range of services they provide.

An additional 25 Member States have requested WIPO's assistance in launching projects to create national TISC networks. Certain Member States, notably China and India, are expected to make formal expressions of interest in the near future, having already signaled their intention to do so.

2016: New areas of work and selected highlights

Patent analytics becomes new area of TISCs training

Patent analysis training modules have been developed and the first TISC workshops on patent analysis have been organized to support them in providing value-added services/responsibilities of each party.

Manual on Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics

For the first time a number of powerful open source tools are used to work with patent data. The Manual on Open Source Tools for Patent Analytics includes step-by-step guidance on how to use a selection of tools for various patent analytics tasks.

New Development Agenda Project on the Public Domain

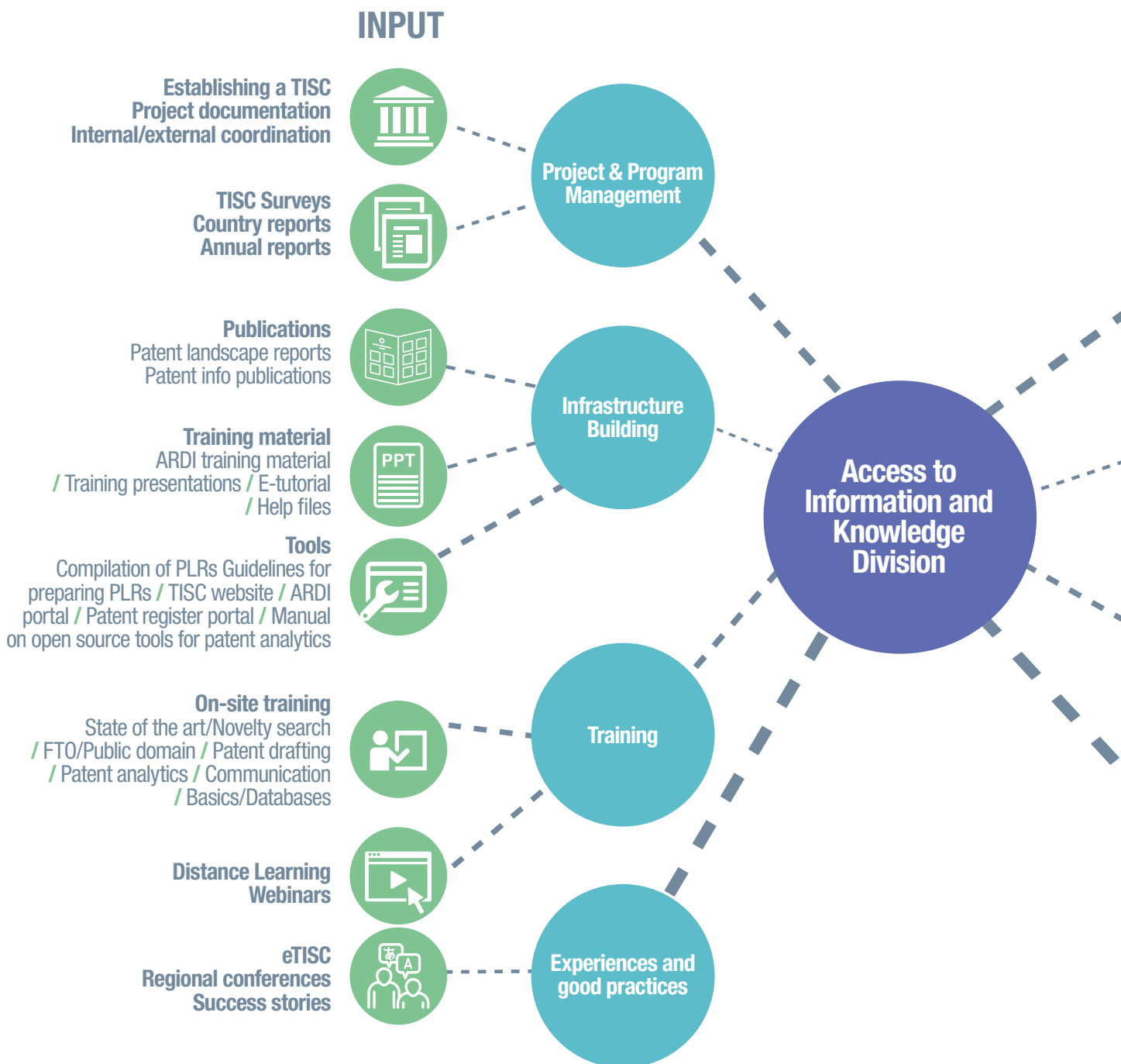
New tools are being developed to support TISCs and their users in using information in the public domain. The project will deliver a set of guides to help users identify and use inventions in the public domain to generate new research outputs and products, and enhance access to legal status information through the release of a newly designed Patent Register Portal.

Expanded Public-Private Partnership

Subsequent to Ambergite joining ASPI, new patent databases became available to developing countries.



Program 14: Structure



OUTPUT

Project & Program Management



New and revised projects



Increased internal coordination

Infrastructure Building



Resources produced
Resources accessed

Training



Trainings concluded



Participants trained
Improved knowledge & skills of participants

Experiences and good practices




Online discussions organized



Active use of eTISC



Success stories published
Regional conferences



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