

**Visegrad Patent  
Institute – International  
Searching and  
Preliminary Examining  
Authority**



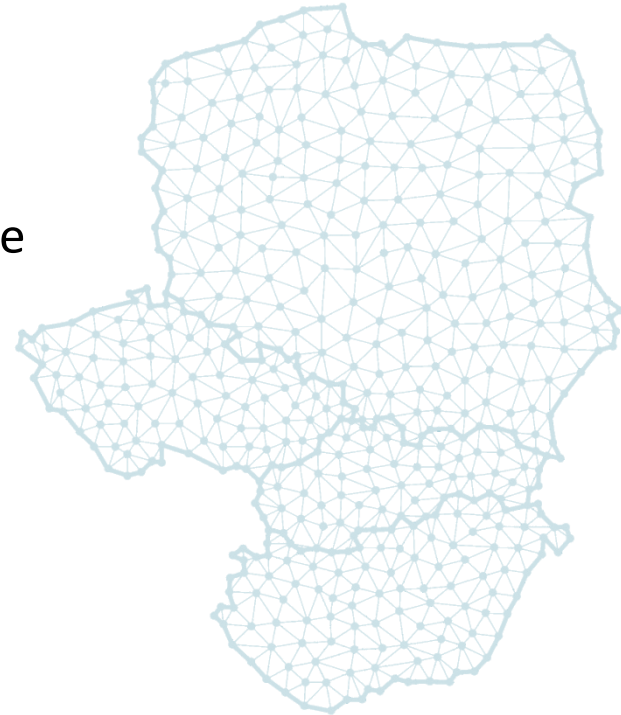
Márk Gárdonyi  
Director of the Visegrad Patent Institute

To foster innovation and creativity, and to promote economic growth in the CEE region

To increase the accessibility of the PCT system for applicants of the CEE region

by lowering the language barrier and

by offering affordable services



Established as intergovernmental organisation by the governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic

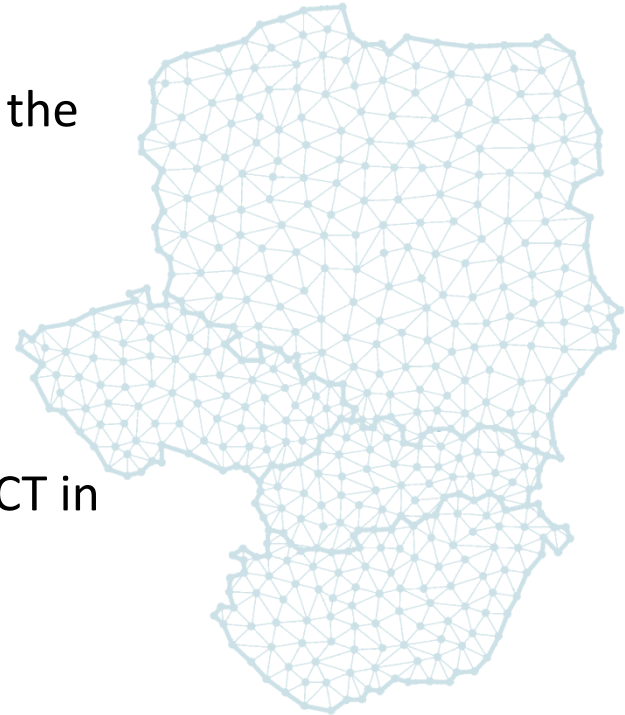
Agreement signed on 26 February 2015

Appointed as International Authority under the PCT in October 2015

Started activity on 1 July 2016

Five working languages: Czech, English, Hungarian, Polish and Slovak

PCT publication language: English



Searching applications filed in local languages – translation is only necessary for publication purpose

Comfortable contact with examiners and other officials (use of mother tongue, possibility of face to face contact)

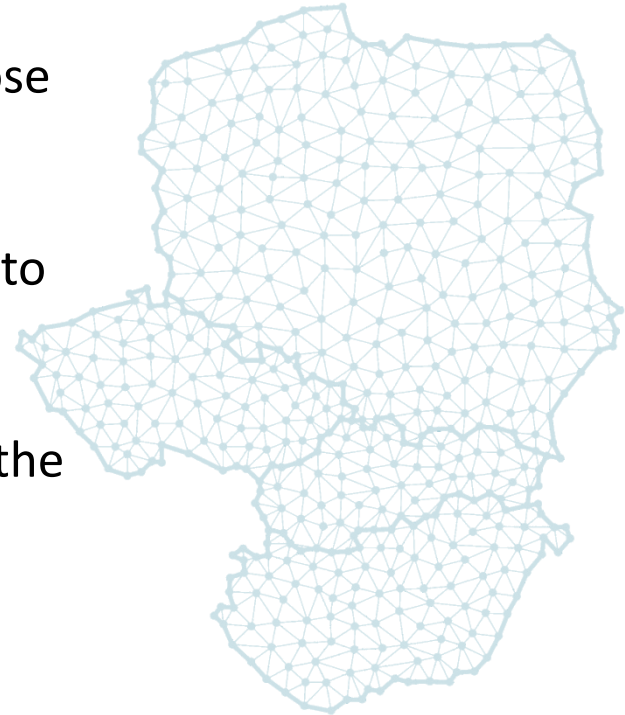
In case of earlier search available: 40 % refund of the international search fee

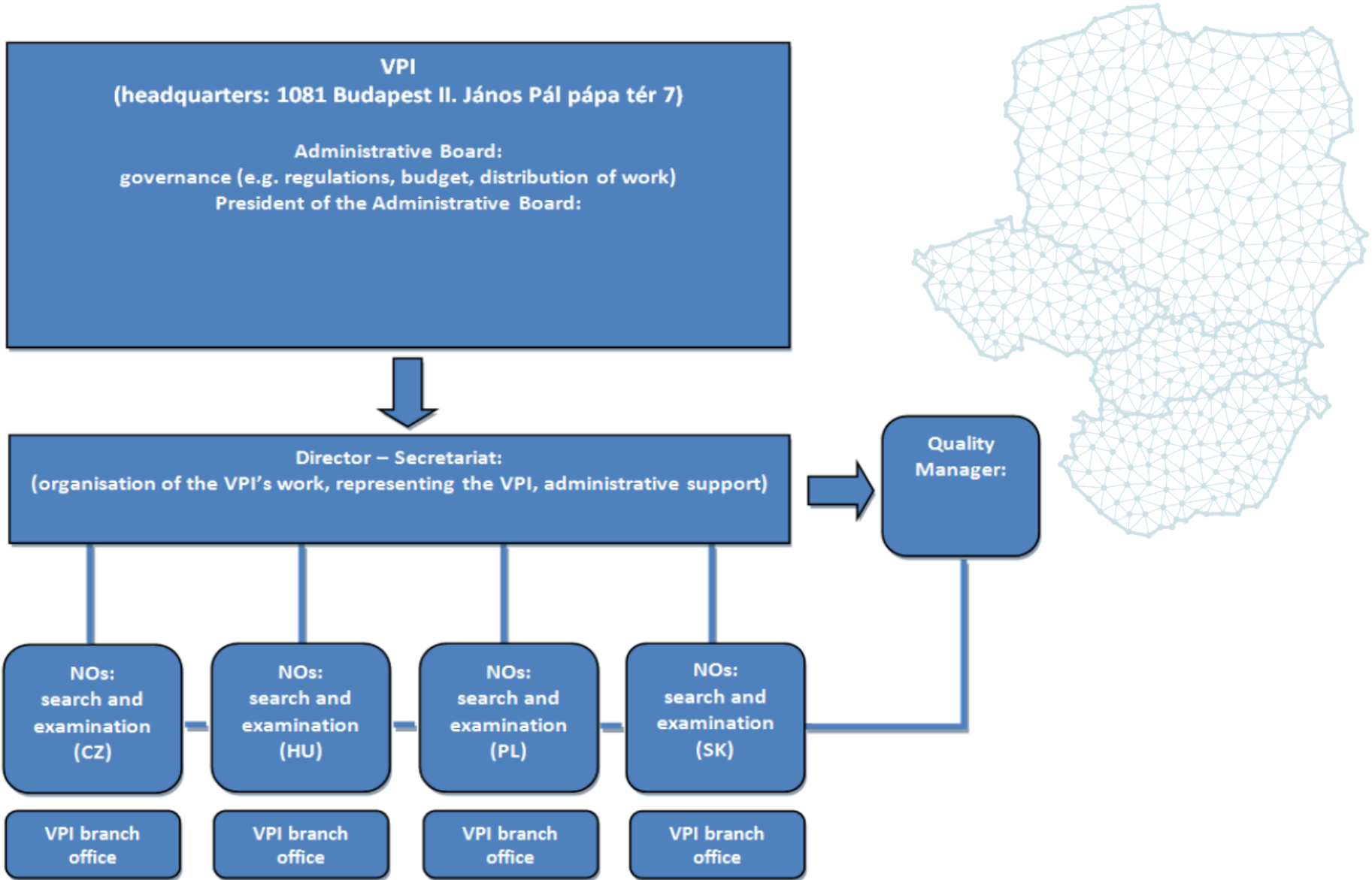
Affordable preliminary examination

High quality search and examination performed by experienced examiners

Use of essentially the same search tools and databases as the EPO

Excellent timeliness





## Tasks and responsibilities

### Administrative Board:

- General governance

### Director:

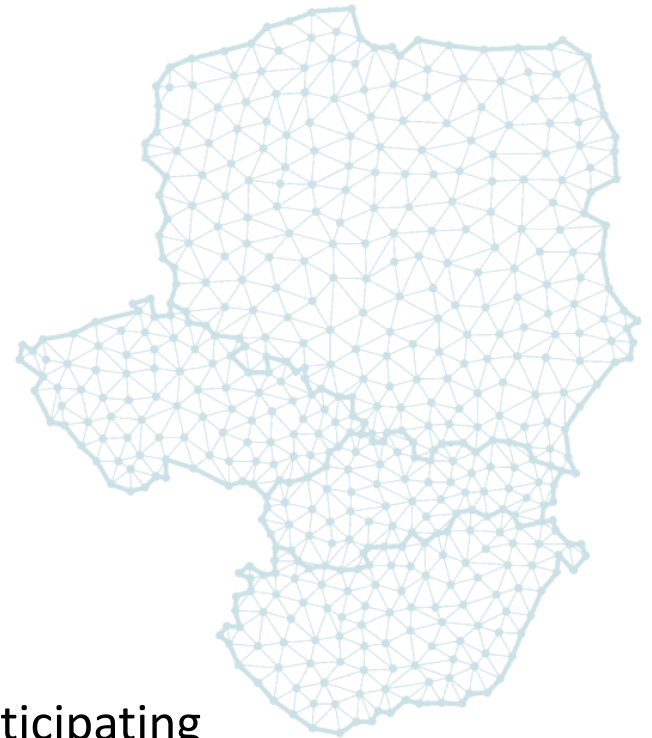
- Operative management
- Representation

### Secretariat:

- General and financial administration
- Central contact point

### Branch offices (insourced activities from participating National Offices):

- National contact point
- Search and examination work
- Administration related to files
- Quality assurance
- Internal auditors
- Webpage, e-mail, etc.



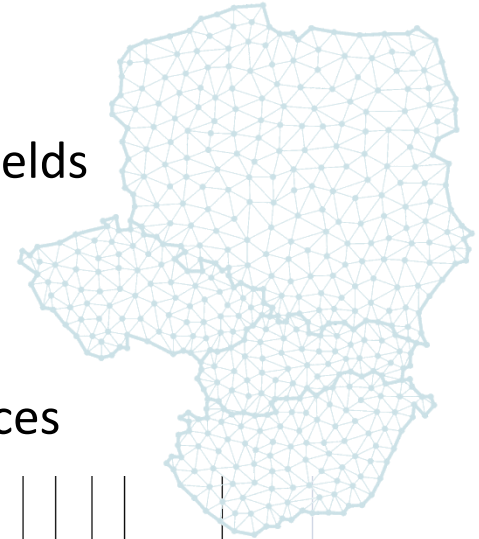
## Human Resources at the Branch Offices

185 full-time and 10 part-time examiners

Capability of searching and examining all technical fields

High language skills in many languages

Regularly updated competence map of the four Offices



patent examiners from HIPO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	Foreign language	
	Electrical machinery and apparatus,	Audio-visual technology	Telecommunications	Digital communication	Basic communication	Computer technology	IT methods for management	Semiconductors	Optics	Measurement	Analysis of biological	Control	Medical technology	Organic fine chemistry	Biotechnology	Pharmaceuticals	Macromolecular chem	Food chemistry	Basic materials chem	Materials, metallurgy	Surface technology	Micro-structure and nano-	Chemical engineering	Environmental technol	Handling	Machine tools	Engines, pumps, turbines	Textile and paper machines	Other special machines	Thermal processes and apparatus	Mechanical elements	Transport	Furniture, games	Other consumer goods	Civil engineering		
<i>Istvan Karpathy</i>	X						X	X	X		X																										E
<i>Arpad Kuthy</i>	X																																				E, G
<i>Jozsef Miklosi</i>									X	X		X																									E, R
<i>Zsolt Para-simon</i>	X									X	X																										E
<i>Laszlo Sommer</i>		X	X	X		X	X				X	X																									E, G
<i>Tamas Takacs</i>							X		X	X																											E
<i>Celesztin Varhegyi</i>			X	X	X																																E
<i>Katalin Miklo</i>													X	X	X		X						X													E, G	
<i>Ildiko Dr Prohaszkane Nemeth</i>													X	X	X		X						X													E, G	
<i>Mariann Szulmanne Dr Binet</i>													X	X	X		X						X													E	
<i>Tibor Benyi</i>														X				X																			E

# Quality assurance



Indicators, quality metrics

Identifying proposals, harmonisation and training needs



Independent external auditor

Yearly external audit reports

External audit

Pool of internal auditors of contracting Offices

Yearly internal audit reports

Internal audit

Different head or expert

Reports on non-conformities and deficiencies

Quality focused cross checking system

Head, deputy head of section or expert

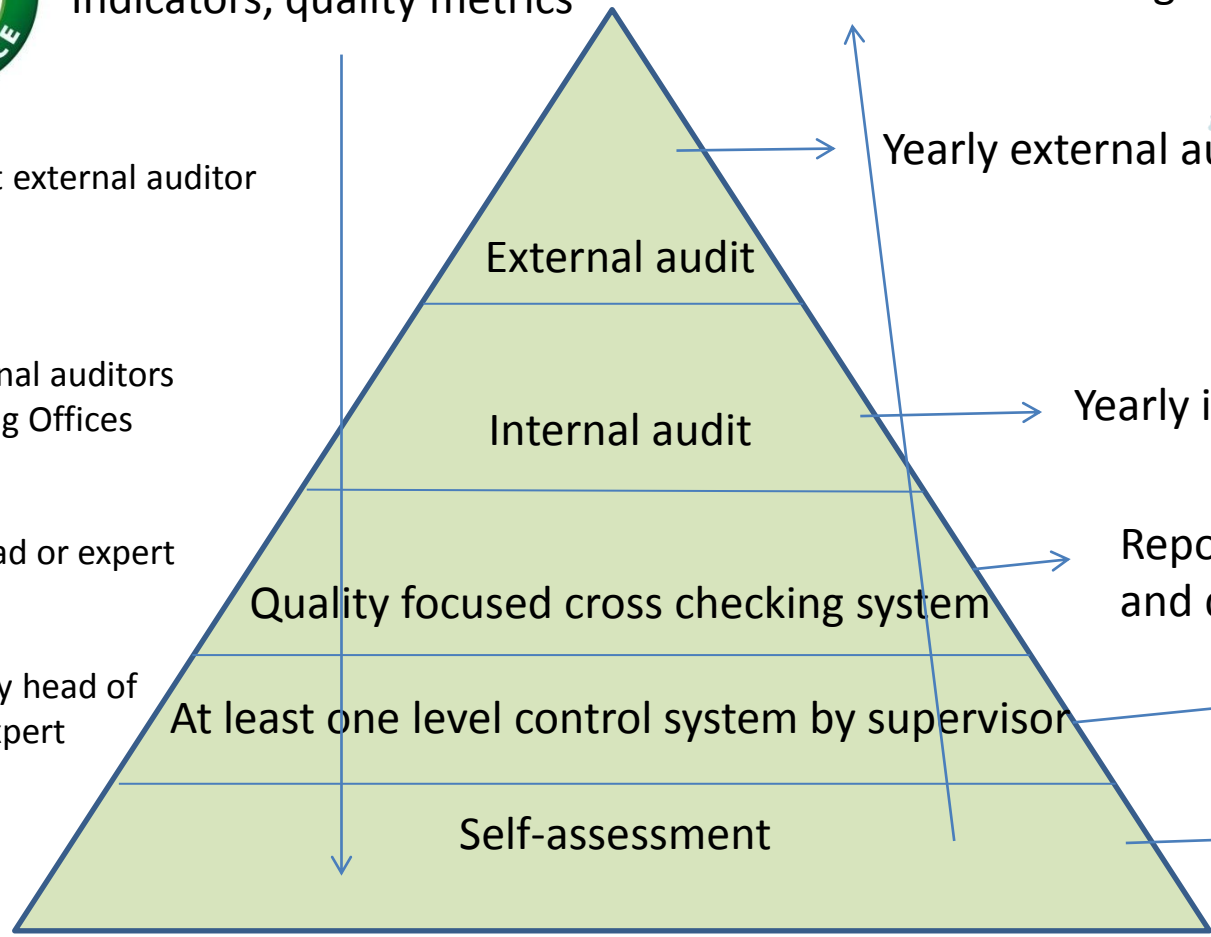
Direct feedback to examiners

At least one level control system by supervisor

Examiner

Checklists

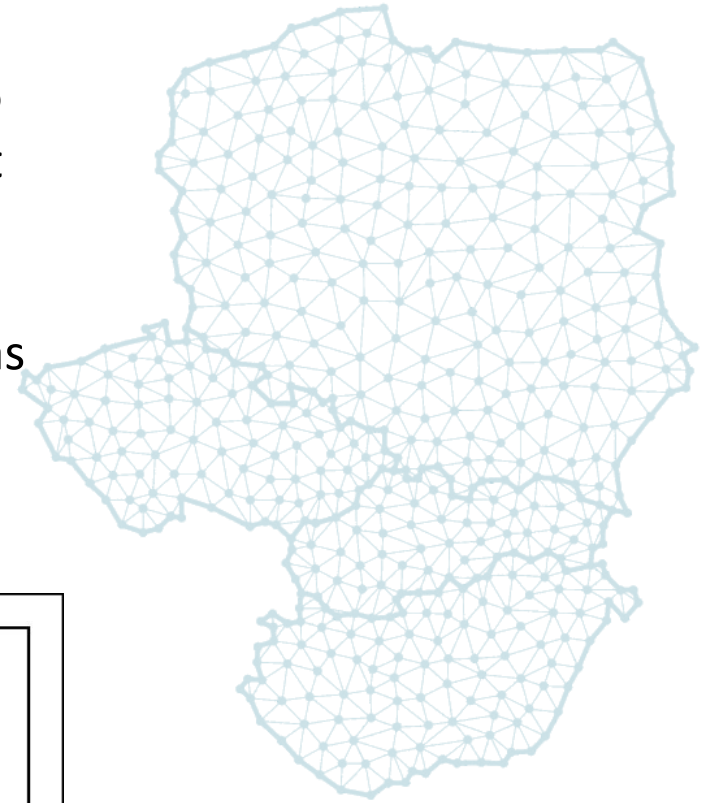
Self-assessment





Agreement with Lithuanian Receiving Office to become competent ISA for Lithuanian resident applicants from 1st June 2017

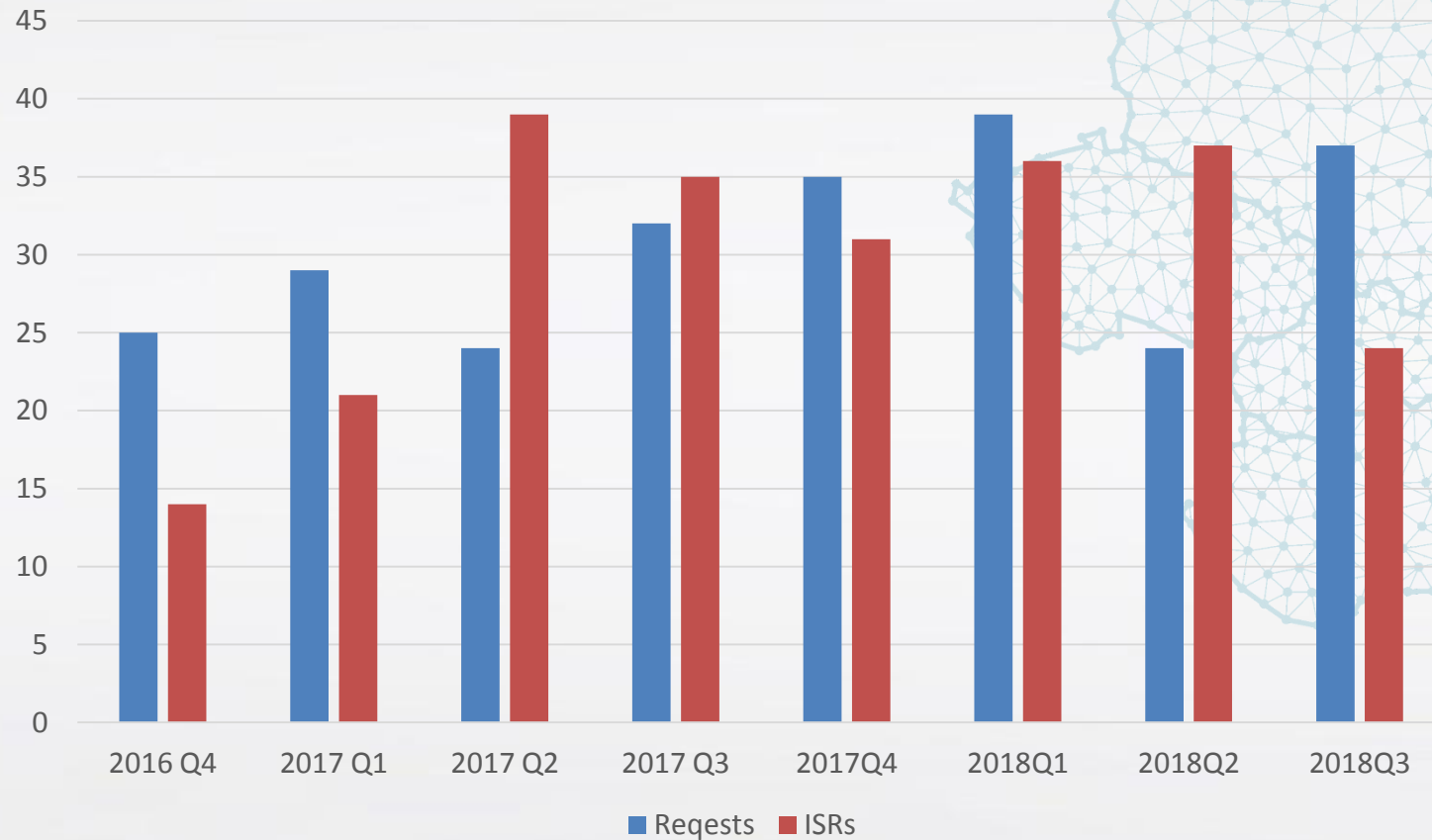
The Quality Management System of the VPI has been certified under ISO 9001:2015 on 19th September 2017, successful maintenance audit on 5th September 2018



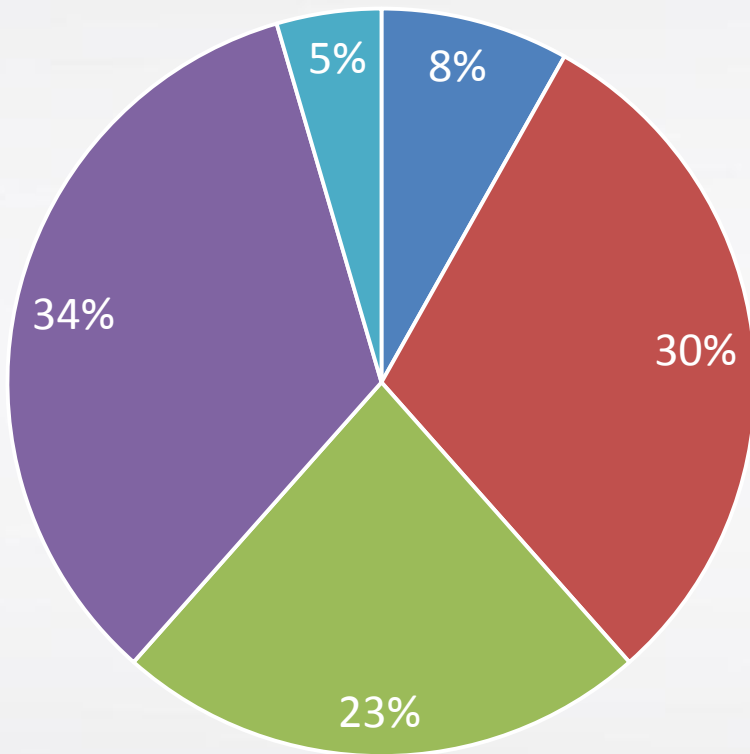
VPI has joined to the Global PPH network on 6th January 2018

## Results of the VPI

Number of international search requests received and International Search Reports issued

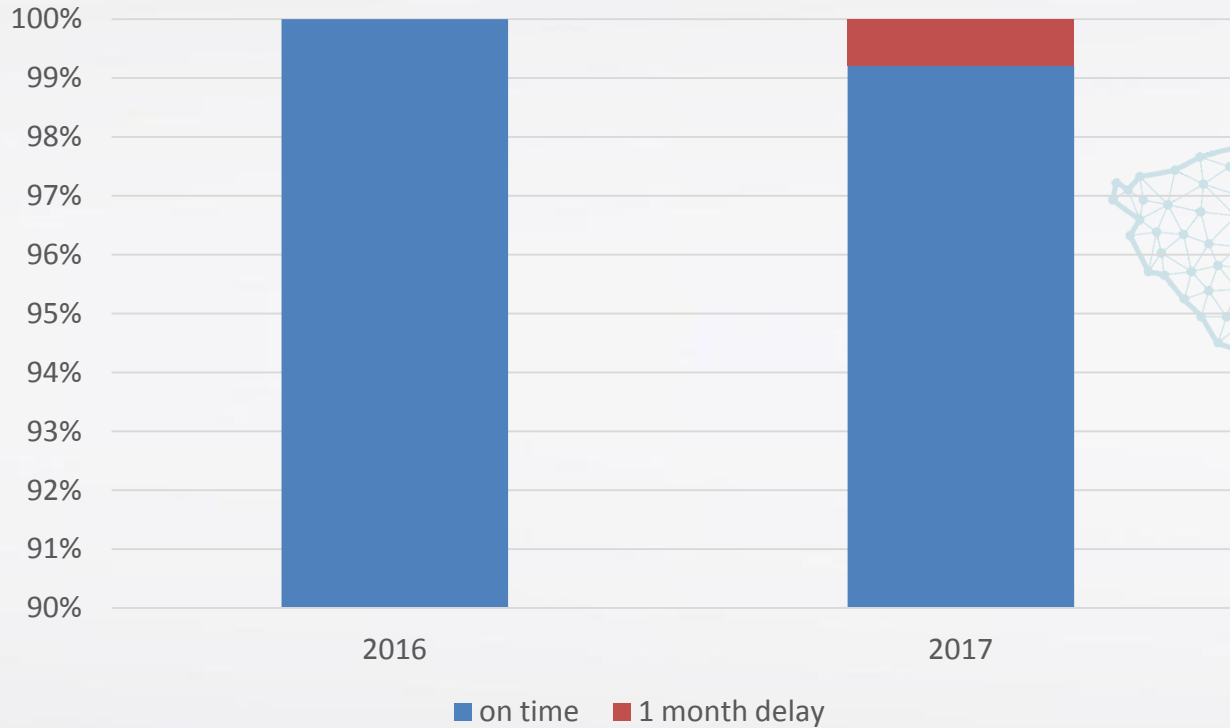


## Language of the application



■ Czech ■ English ■ Hungarian ■ Polish ■ Slovak

## Timeliness of VPI as ISA



**Thank you for your attention!**

[www.vpi.int](http://www.vpi.int)

