



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DIGEST:

Intellectual Property



IP OFFICE

Ukrainian National Office for Intellectual
Property and Innovations



2024 FIRST
HALF-YEAR

Introduction

In the process of Ukraine's accession to full membership in the European Union, the field of intellectual property remains one of the priority areas in the process of adapting national legislation to European standards and practices. Interaction with EU institutions, harmonisation of legislative provisions, ensuring transparency and predictability for business and creators; all this is now part of a systemic transformation that is gaining momentum.


In 2024, the activities of the Ukrainian National Office for Intellectual Property and Innovations (UANIPIO, or the Ukrainian IP Office) in the field of European integration were focused on three key vectors: systemic harmonization of national legislation with the EU acquis, formation of a favorable legal environment for the development of innovations, and strengthening the capacity of the institutional system of intellectual property of Ukraine. These steps are critical to the effective completion of the negotiation process for accession to the EU.

Here is an overview of key events and decisions that took place in the field of intellectual property during the first half of 2024: from representative events to participation in the European Commission screening and international initiatives.

Beginning of 2024. The progress of intellectual property development, implementation of the European Commission's recommendation, and the state of alignment of national legislation with the EU acquis were discussed [\[link\]](#) at a meeting between the representatives of UANIPIO and the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine. During the meeting, it was discussed that Ukraine is making maximum efforts to obtain EU membership, and intellectual property is an integral element for achieving this goal.




Meeting at UANIPIO with Alberto Fernandez-Diez, Head of the Trade and Economic Section of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, and Oksana Popruga, Economic Policy Officer of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

15 February 2024. European integration of the IP system is one of the priorities of the draft National Strategy for the Development of the Intellectual Property Sphere for the Period up to 2030, which is being developed  by representatives of UANIPPIO, national and international experts, with the active participation of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The Strategy is being developed at the initiative of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine within the framework of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Economy and WIPO on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property.

7–8 March 2024. An international seminar “Ukrainian Creative Economy as an Area of Cross-Sectoral Cooperation and Mutual Support” was held in Brussels (Belgium), organised by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC). The event brought together representatives of the European Commission, UNESCO, EU Member States, EU candidate countries, as well as specialists from the cultural and creative sectors. The inclusion  of the Ukrainian IP Office in discussions with European partners was an important step in deepening European integration and developing copyright as one of the key tools to support the resilience of Ukraine’s cultural and creative sectors in times of war.



15 March 2024. An explanatory meeting was held  between Ukraine, Moldova and representatives of the European Commission as part of the official screening of the negotiating chapter 7 “Intellectual Property Law”. The event confirmed the high level of implementation of the EU acquis by Ukraine and became an important stage in agreeing on approaches to further harmonisation of legislation in the field of IP. The Ukrainian delegation included representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and UANIPPIO. The discussion covered key areas of European intellectual property law – from trade marks, patents and geographical indications to the protection of trade secrets and copyright – and confirmed the importance of systematic professional interaction with the EU within the framework of the negotiation process for Ukraine’s membership.

25–26 March 2024. A series of events was held in Chisinau (Moldova) with the participation of the European Union delegation led by **João Negrão**, Executive Director of EUIPO. **Olena Orliuk**, Director of UANIPIO, and **Bogdan Paduchak**, First Deputy Director of UANIPIO, also attended the events. The key event was the official launch of the **EU4IP project**  – a new regional initiative to strengthen intellectual property rights in Ukraine and Moldova. EU4IP – a joint initiative of EUIPO and the national intellectual property offices of Ukraine and Moldova – is implemented with the financial support of the European Union. The project will last 48 months and aims to contribute to the effective reform of the IP system in accordance with EU law and practices. Its strategic directions include harmonisation of legislation and practices, strengthening institutional capacity, implementation of mechanisms for the protection of rights and raising awareness among small and medium-sized businesses, creators and innovators. UANIPIO's participation in the launch of EU4IP is evidence of Ukraine's systematic work on strengthening the IP infrastructure in the context of implementing the recommendations of the European Commission.



Visit of the EU Delegation to Moldova:
participation of the UANIPIO leadership
in the launch of the EU4IP project


Intellectual property protection:
representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine
and UANIPIO during the first round of negotiations
between Ukraine and the EFTA members

3–4 April 2024. The first round of negotiations [🔗](#) between Ukraine and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries on the revision of the provisions of the current Free Trade Agreement took place. Representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and UANIPIO participated in the negotiations on the topic of “Intellectual Property Protection”. The discussion covered a wide range of issues: from international agreements in the IP sphere and aspects of copyright and related rights protection to provisions on patent protection, industrial designs and trade marks. UANIPIO’s participation in the negotiations emphasises the importance of integrating the provisions of the Agreement with the EFTA countries into modern European standards for the protection of intellectual property and contributes to strengthening the contractual and legal basis for cooperation with countries that are an integral part of the economic space of Europe.





24 April 2024. As part of the Ukrainian Intellectual Property Week (IP Week 2024), the IP Office hosted a forum “From Monitoring to Protection: Tools of Intellectual Property Rights” (press release [🔗](#) in Ukrainian). The event brought together representatives of state bodies, international organisations, customs and law enforcement agencies, the expert community and rightholders to find effective solutions in the field of IP rights enforcement. The issues of combating counterfeiting, the role of customs, and strengthening interdepartmental cooperation were discussed; these mark the most important areas in the context of harmonisation with the EU acquis and Ukraine’s preparation for EU accession.

24 April 2024. **Olena Orliuk**, Director of the Ukrainian IP Office, joined a roundtable discussion organised by the UK Ministry of Justice and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), which was dedicated to the issues of unblocking investments in Ukraine ([press release](#)  in Ukrainian). The participants discussed ways to improve mechanisms for protecting intellectual property rights as a prerequisite for attracting commercial investments. The Director of UANIPIO emphasised that the launch of the High Intellectual Property Court in Ukraine is one of the important steps to strengthen the protection of rights, strengthen investor confidence and implement the recommendations of the European Commission within the framework of the European integration process.


29-30 April 2024. Representatives of UANIPIO participated in the 5th IP Case Law Conference, held at the EUIPO ([press release](#)  in Ukrainian). During the event, they discussed current challenges in the IP sphere, European judicial practice and protection of rights in the context of AI, metaverse and geographical indications. The Ukrainian delegation also held working meetings with colleagues from EUIPO and Moldova within the framework of the EU4IP project. Such cooperation contributes to the harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation with EU law and strengthening institutional capacity.



1 May 2024. New Rules for Drafting and Filing Design Applications, approved by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, have entered into force . The document harmonises national regulations with the EU acquis, which is part of Ukraine's obligations within the framework of European integration. The Rules provide for an updated procedure for filing an application, the examination of the application and the electronic document flow, also requiring UANIPIO to conduct checks for the connection of applicants with the aggressor state.

13 May 2024. The Ukrainian IP Office has published recommendations on the procedure for adding websites to the WIPO ALERT database ([press release](#)  in Ukrainian), a WIPO-administered international tool to combat copyright infringements on the Internet. In compliance with the relevant order of the Ministry of Economy, the Ukrainian IP Office has developed sample documents and explanations for right-holders on the inclusion or exclusion of websites from the national list of sites that cause concern regarding compliance with IP rights. This will promote international cooperation in the field of digital law enforcement and strengthen Ukraine's European integration vector in the field of intellectual property.


13-14 May 2024. The leadership of UANIPIO participated in the round-table, "Opening Data for Research on Ukraine", organised by the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competitiveness in Munich. **Olena Orliuk**, Director of the Ukrainian IP Office, and **Liubov Maidanyk**, Deputy Director, presented the achievements and plans of the organisation, discussed the importance of open data for research in the field of IP, the growth of Ukraine's innovative potential despite the war, as well as the priority of European integration. During the visit, working meetings were also held to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of legal IP protection.

20 May 2024. The IP Office presented a catalogue of key decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the field of copyright and related rights ([press release](#)  in Ukrainian). An organised selection with translations of decisions and their summaries will help specialists better navigate the implemented provisions of the EU acquis, unify the interpretation of norms and form a single law enforcement practice in Ukraine. The project is vital for European integration, as it contributes to the harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation with EU law and its effective application.

Olena Orliuk and Liubov Maidanyk met with Margus Viher, Director General of the Estonian Patent Office, and other representatives from the Estonian Patent Office


10 June 2024. In a working visit  of the leadership of the Ukrainian IP Office to the Estonian Patent Office, **Olena Orliuk**, Director of UANIPIO, and **Liubov Maidanyk**, Deputy Director, discussed with their Estonian colleagues the strengthening of cooperation between the offices of the Baltic Countries and Ukraine. Representatives of the IP Office exchanged experience in managing IP protection systems, implementing the latest technologies, harmonisation with EU law, as well as prospects for European integration, in particular Ukraine's accession to the European Patent Convention.



12 June 2024. During the working visit to the Baltic Countries, the leadership of the Ukrainian IP Office visited  the Patent Office of Latvia, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Culture of Latvia. Representatives of the IP Office held a number of meetings, discussing the deepening of cooperation between the offices, the harmonisation of national practice with EU law, the development of IP education and Ukraine's participation in European integration initiatives, in particular EU4IP.



Olena Orliuk and Liubov Maidanyk held a working meeting with Agris Batalauskis, Director of the Patent Office of Latvia, and Ēriks Rēķis, Deputy Director

14 June 2024. During the visit to the Baltic Countries, **Olena Orliuk**, Director of UANIPIO, and **Liubov Maidanyk**, Deputy Director, discussed  with the leadership of the State Patent Office of Lithuania, the Ministry of Justice and the Patent Attorneys' Institute of Lithuania the challenges of intellectual property, in particular the development of an innovation ecosystem, harmonization of legislation with EU law and the application of new technologies, such as cloud services, blockchain and cybersecurity. The attendees paid particular attention to the development of mediation and discussed the successful Lithuanian experience. In addition, during the meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania, the participants touched upon the impact of artificial intelligence on copyright, the prospects for creative industries and the results of copyright reform in Ukraine.

19–21 June 2024. **Bogdan Paduchak**, First Deputy Director of UANIPIO, took part [\(🔗\)](#) in the 42nd annual European Communities Trade Mark Association (ECTA) conference in Antwerp, Belgium, where key challenges in intellectual property were discussed, in particular the impact of the war on Ukraine and the IP sphere. Bogdan Paduchak emphasised the large-scale destruction of Ukraine's cultural heritage as a result of Russian aggression, the likes of which have not occurred since World War II, and also spoke about the difficulties in the work of the Ukrainian IP Office due to constant power outages and communication disruptions. At the same time, he emphasised the increase in the number of applications for registration of intellectual property rights in 2023, which indicates the activation of innovators and creators even in wartime. Bogdan Paduchak's speech became an important signal of support for Ukraine and its European integration course in the field of IP on the international arena.



Bohdan Paduchak with participants of the 42nd annual ECTA conference

25 June 2024. The European Union officially opened accession negotiations with Ukraine at an intergovernmental conference in Luxembourg (press release [\(🔗\)](#) in Ukrainian).

End of June 2024. The first meeting of the EU4IP Steering Committee on Strengthening Intellectual Property Rights in Ukraine and Moldova was held, bringing together representatives of the European Commission, EUIPO, EPO, WIPO and national IP offices of the participating countries. During the meeting, important documents for the further implementation of the project were agreed: the EU4IP Work Plan, which outlines the overall strategy for the next four years, and the first Work Plan, which details the activities that will take place during the next 18 months of project implementation (from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2025) (press release [\(🔗\)](#) in Ukrainian).