



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
COURT OF AUDIT

# AUDIT REPORT

## Patent protection in the Republic of Slovenia

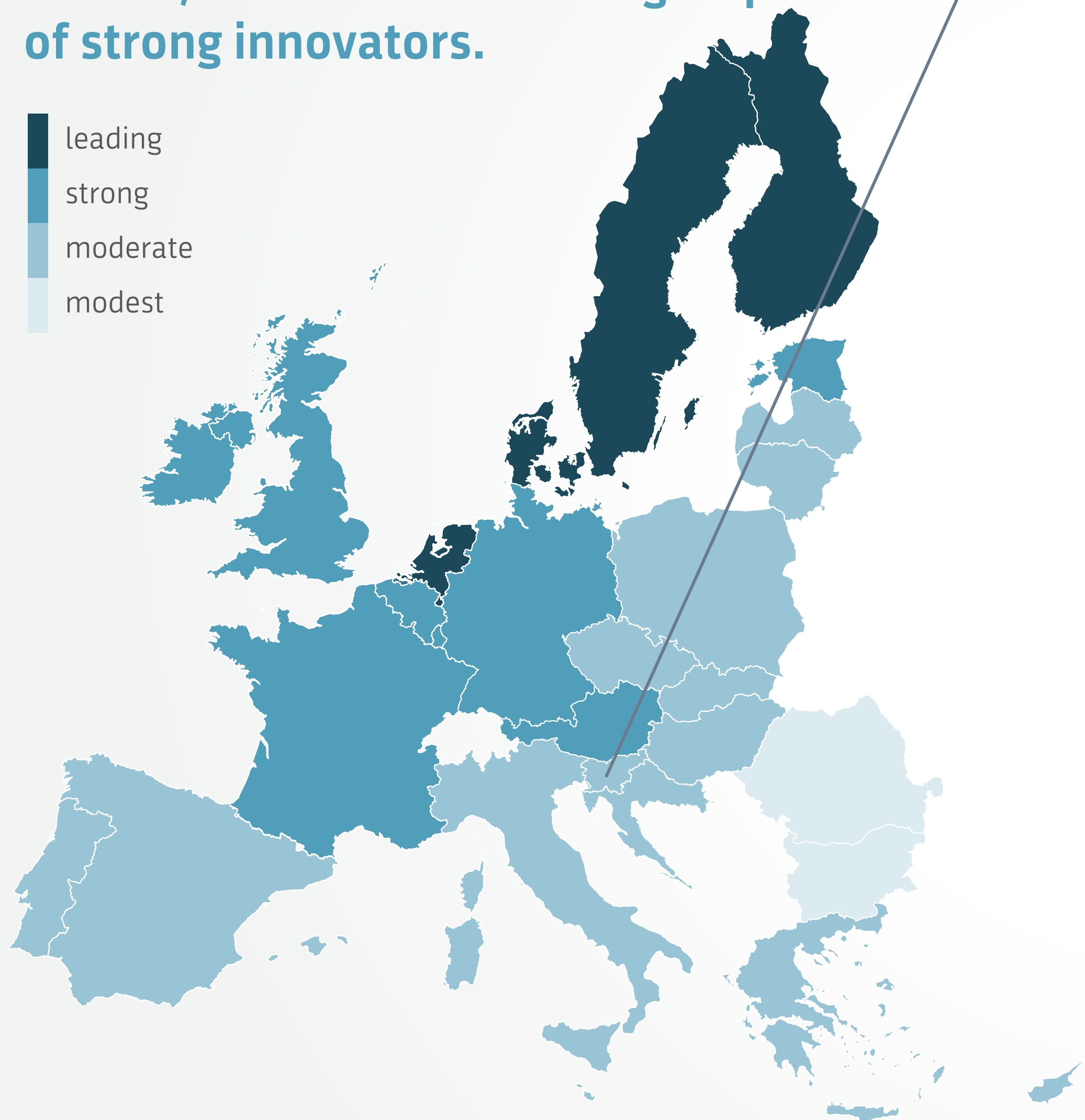
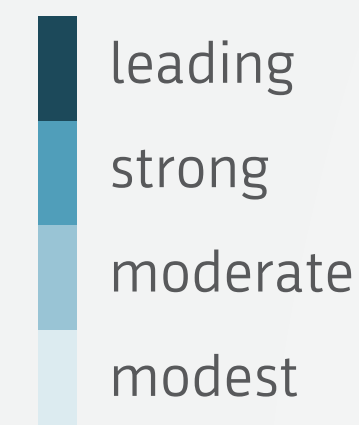
**Performance audit**

Audit period: 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2017



## Innovation performance of the EU member countries

In 2017, Slovenia was in the group of strong innovators.



# In 2019, **Slovenia** slipped into the group of **moderate innovators**.

## THE NUMBER OF PATENT APPLICATIONS IN 2017



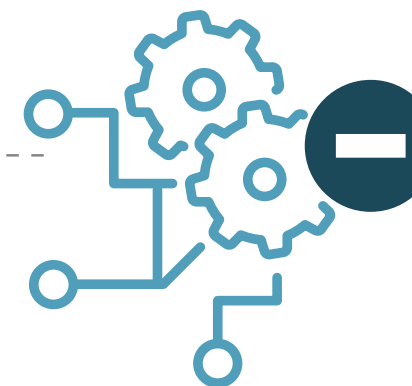
## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIELD?

<p><b>Ministry of Economic Development and Technology</b></p> <p>↳ <b>Sector</b> for corporate law, rescue and restructuring aid to companies in difficulty and <b>intellectual property</b></p> <p>shapes the policy and regulates the field</p>	<p>Subordinate body of the Ministry</p> <p><b>Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (SIPO)</b></p> <p>forms scientific bases and performs tasks</p>
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# The Ministry failed to pay sufficient attention to the field of intellectual property and to sufficiently include SIPO into its operations.

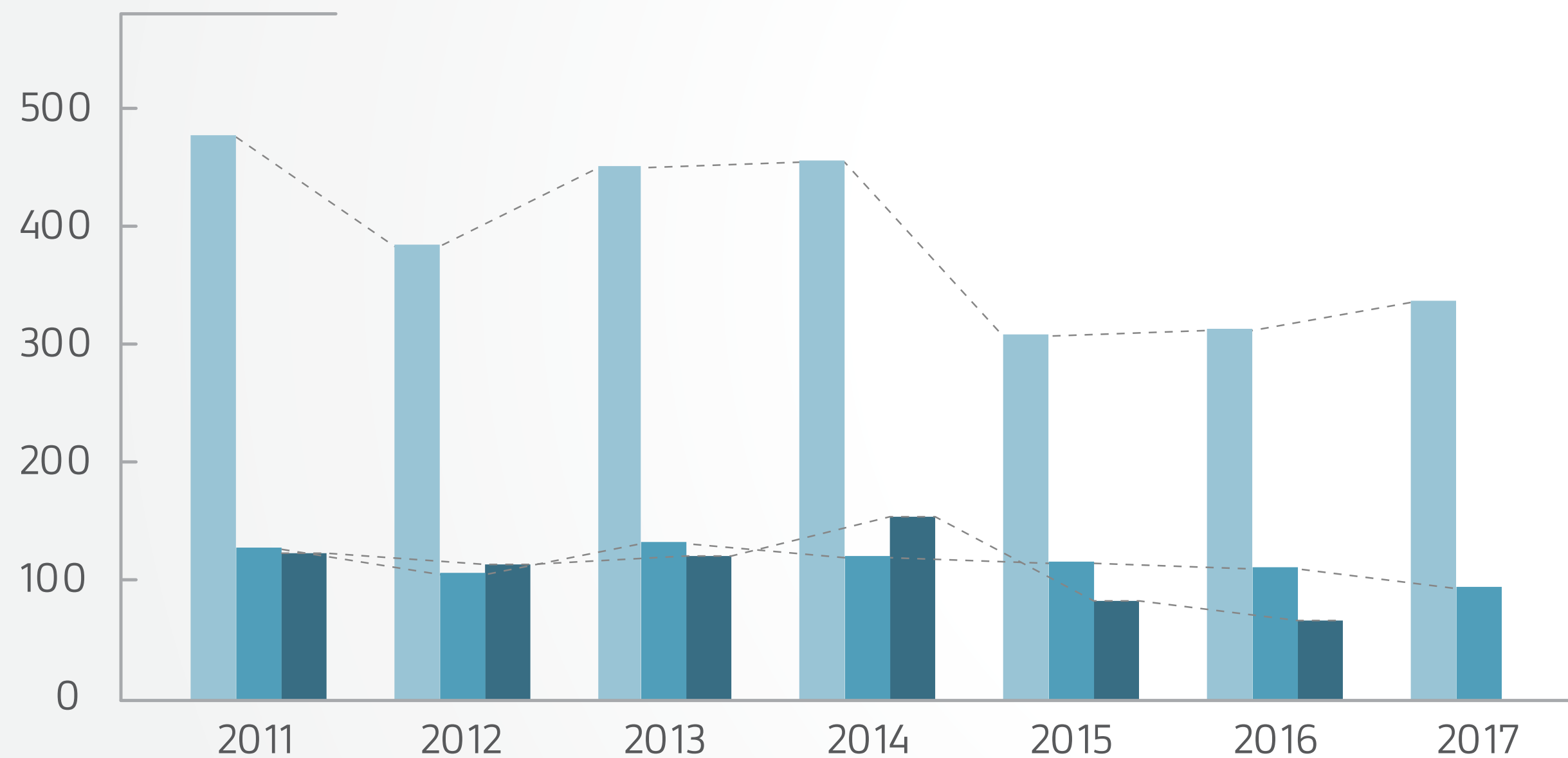


The Ministry and SIPO in the period covered by the audit **failed to draw up a strategy.**



The Ministry and SIPO lack the overview of stimulations provided for in the regulations and of **innovation promotion in practice.**

Number of patent applications



national



EPC - European



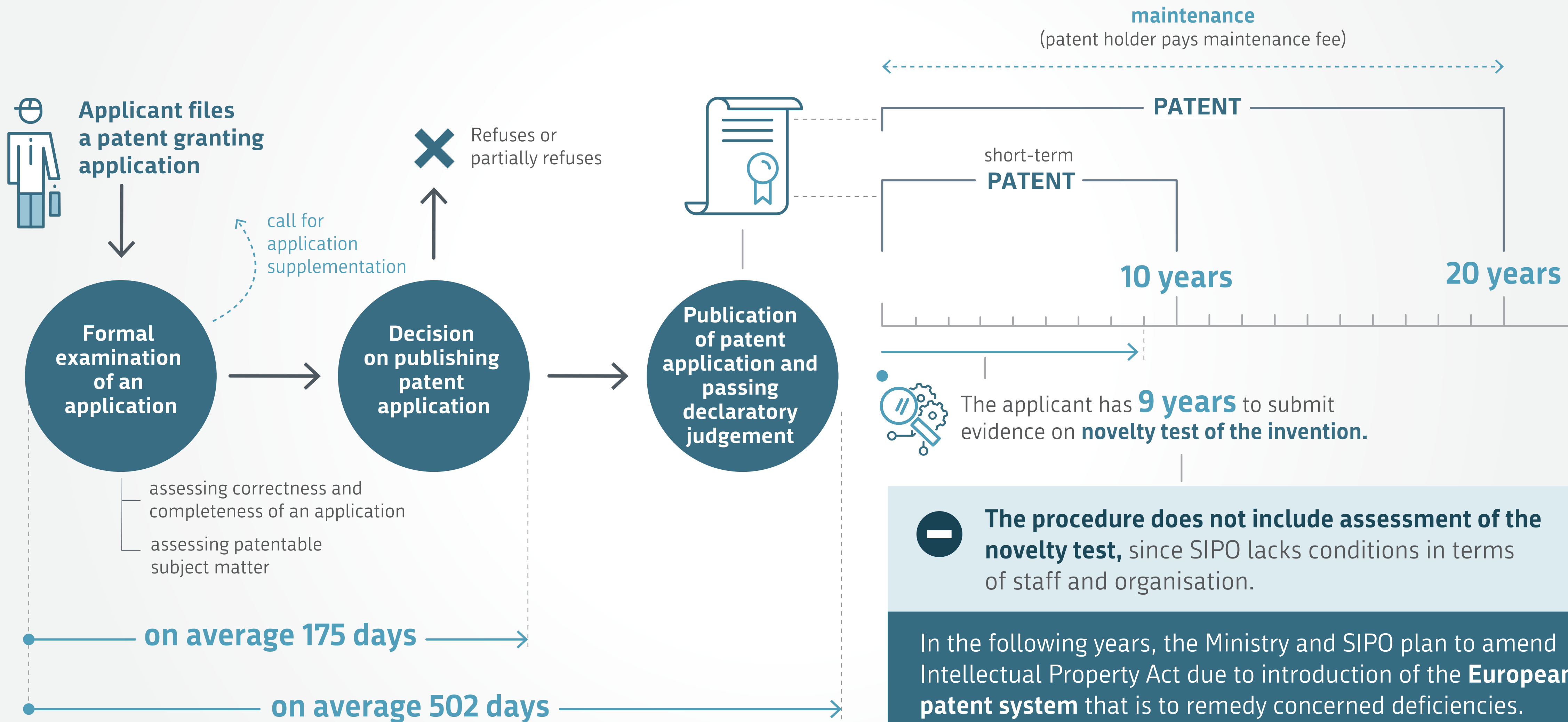
PCT - international



The field is regulated relatively well,


**except for the area of non-financial rewards and rewards for improvements** that are not considered as inventions (technical and non-technical improvements and useful ideas).

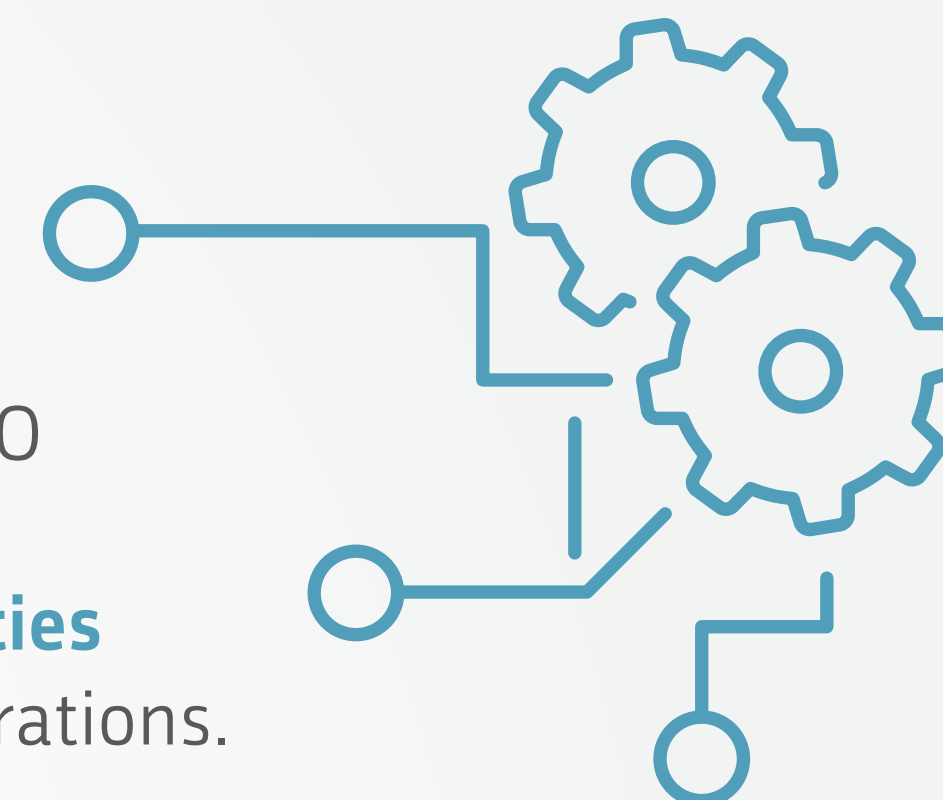
# National patent granting procedure at SIPO is relatively simple and with reasonable deadlines foreseen.



# OPINION OF THE COURT OF AUDIT

 **Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (SIPO)** were in the period 2012-2017 in the part of their operations pertaining to the patent protection system **partially efficient.**

 The Ministry and SIPO **during the audit implemented activities** to improve their operations.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### The Ministry should:



formulate strategic objectives and encourage active participation of SIPO



analyse tax incentives for innovations



ensure collecting of data on disputes relating to the field of patent protection



examine the possibility for including patent protection into educational programmes

### SIPO should:



provide official translation of International Patent Classification



systematically collect data on procedures and costs of patent application abroad



draw up a national strategy relating to intellectual property rights



be more active in carrying out promotional and educational events, especially for children and young people