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# Portugal joins blockchain-based registry of industrial property rights

**Portugal becomes the seventh country to join the European project created by the European Union Intellectual Property Office, aimed at integrating certain industrial property systems, tools and databases into blockchain.**

Portugal - Legal Update

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## Key aspects

- > The introduction of blockchain technology into the industrial property system ensures enhanced reliability during the lifecycle of trademarks and designs/models, enabling stronger connectivity within the European network of members, along with a faster and more secure information flow.
- > Now that the Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property has joined, the participating platforms collectively have over six million registered trademarks and designs/models.



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## Background and introduction to use of blockchain in intellectual property registration

Blockchain—or distributed ledger technology—enables the permanent and distributed registration of information, where the reliability of the information contained in the blockchain is cryptographically guaranteed. Typically, these blockchains are networks that function on decentralized public nodes (e.g., the Bitcoin or Ethereum network). However, they can also operate in private environments or in scenarios where user participation is managed by one or more entities.

This technology, which is commonly used to record information exchanges among participants, particularly information representing certain assets (financial or otherwise), allows for an infinite number of innovative practical applications.

In response to the new technological and economic challenges posed by an ever-changing global landscape, as well as the growing need to provide industrial property rights holders and applicants with more useful, reliable and effective tools, the European Commission has identified five key areas with specific action proposals, which are:

- improving the industrial property protection system;
- encouraging medium-sized enterprises, in particular, to use the industrial property system;
- facilitating access to and sharing of intangible assets, while also ensuring a fair return on investment;
- ensuring better industrial property enforcement; and
- improving fair competition on a global level in these areas.

This provided the backdrop for the blockchain integration of industrial property records into the official industrial property platforms of the pertinent national offices, as well as into the EUIPO's TMview and Designview. This project aims to improve data quality, integrity, and record security while speeding up information transfers.

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## Portugal joins industrial property registers on blockchain

Following Latvia, Malta, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Italy, on July 31, Portugal joined the European project for the blockchain integration of the EUIPO-associated intellectual property registration platforms. Portugal will now be able to harness the benefits of this technology for the National Innovation System (*Sistema Nacional de Inovação*).

In practice, the integration of certain industrial property tools and databases into blockchain ensures greater reliability throughout the lifecycle of industrial property records for trademarks and designs/models. This results



in a stronger connectivity within the European network of participating members and a faster, more secure flow of information.

Now that the Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property has joined, the participating platforms collectively have over six million registered trademarks and designs/models.

Data integrity and security are now guaranteed at a higher level, paving the way for new services that improve connectivity among industrial property rights holders (as well as future applicants), while also speeding up interactions among members of the European industrial property system.

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