DesignEuropa Awards – call for creative Swiss designers

Up until 20 April, designers can submit entries for the DesignEuropa Awards. The Awards celebrate outstanding achievements in the field of design and design management. Organised every two years by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the Awards have two categories open for applications and nominations: Small and Emerging Companies and Industry. There is an additional...

Switzerland sets a new record for European patent applications

In 2019, the number of patent applications originating from Switzerland filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) increased by 3.6% to reach a record high of 8,249 (2018 – 7,961). These figures can be found in the EPO’s Patent Index 2019, published today. The increase in applications from Switzerland last year was more than three times higher than the EU average of 0.9%. In 2019, Switzerland...

Trade marks in Switzerland still at a high

Trade marks in Switzerland continue to be popular. More than 17,000 applications for trade marks were received by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) in 2019, which is slightly more than the previous year. There are now more than 500,000 trade marks in force nationally. Applications for design rights, on the other hand, have remained stable, while the number of patent...

Fit for the digital age - modernised copyright rules to come into force on 1 April 2020
The revised Copyright Act strengthens the rights of creative artists and cultural industries, as well as facilitating research. The Federal Council put into force the revised act, which adapts the applicable law to technological developments, as of 1 April 2020. Further information can be found in the Federal Council's media release (only available in German, French and Italian).

24.02.2020 | Law and policy, Event, Training
«CAS IP Law»: Course begins in autumn

The Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) is launching the certification course CAS IP Law this autumn. The course was developed in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI). The goal of the cooperation is to foster knowledge about intellectual property. The IPI supported the ZHAW in the conception of the course and is also providing several experts as...

11.02.2020 | Law and policy, Copyright
Switzerland ratifies two international treaties on copyright

On 11th February 2020, Switzerland ratified two agreements of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The Beijing Treaty improves protection for actors at international level by enabling them to make a case against any unauthorised use of their performances. Actors already have this level of protection at national level. The Marrakesh Treaty improves access to copyright-protected...

| Partners and initiatives
Partnership for Swiss innovation

SMEs and start-ups should be given the best conditions to start well on the market. This is why the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) and Switzerland Innovation are working together to connect universities and innovative companies at five locations in Switzerland. The exchange between science and industry via this comprehensive platform helps to develop ideas in such a way...

| Partners and initiatives, IP news
Workshop on protecting competition project work

In Bern, young people recently competed to reach the final of the national Swiss Youth in Science competition. In the process, they also learned about protecting their
intellectual property. On 18 January at the Neufeld grammar school in Bern, the foundations were laid for the final of the Swiss Youth in Science competition. The young people presented their competition entries in seven...

15.01.2020 | Media release, Law and policy

**Greater efficiency in the fight against counterfeiting**

Whether it is counterfeit watches or handbags, it should soon be easier for the Federal Customs Administration (FCA) to destroy fake products in small consignments. A new procedure aims to reduce the administrative effort by giving the authorities more leeway for their checks. These checks are essential – the importation of small consignments from Asia into Switzerland increased sixfold between...

18.12.2019 | IPI, Law and policy

**The motion “Towards a modern Swiss patent” has been approved – the IPI is preparing a preliminary draft of the revision of the Patents Act**

The National Council, as second chamber, has approved the motion “Towards a modern Swiss patent” from Councillor of States Thomas Hefti. The motion, which was approved on 12 December 2019, has three objectives: a full patent examination for Swiss patent applications, the introduction of a utility model, and an extended opposition procedure. The IPI, as the competent federal authority, will...