




# Patent activities Report 2023





A glowing lightbulb sits on a dark, textured wooden surface. The lightbulb is illuminated from within, casting a warm, orange glow. The wood grain is visible, with various shades of brown and black. The lightbulb is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its base pointing towards the bottom left.

# **1. Patent application and statistical trends**

# 1. Patent filings

## 1.1 New filings

In **2023, 11,527 new** patent applications were filed with the IPTO, categorized into the various patent types as shown in the diagram below. This diagram includes first filings and foreign priority claims; applications for European Patent validations in Italy are not included. The industrial invention patent appears to be the most chosen category with a preference of 82%.

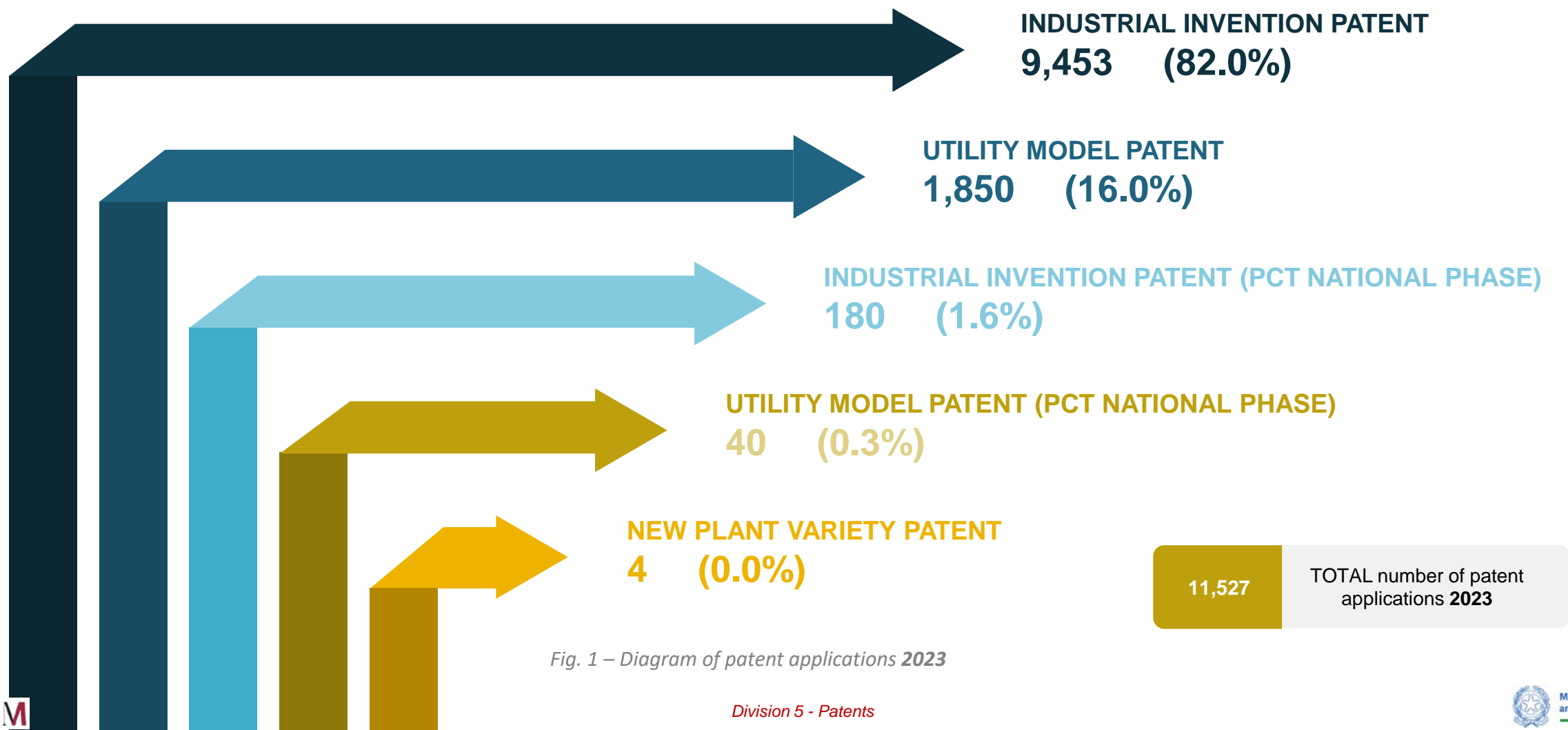
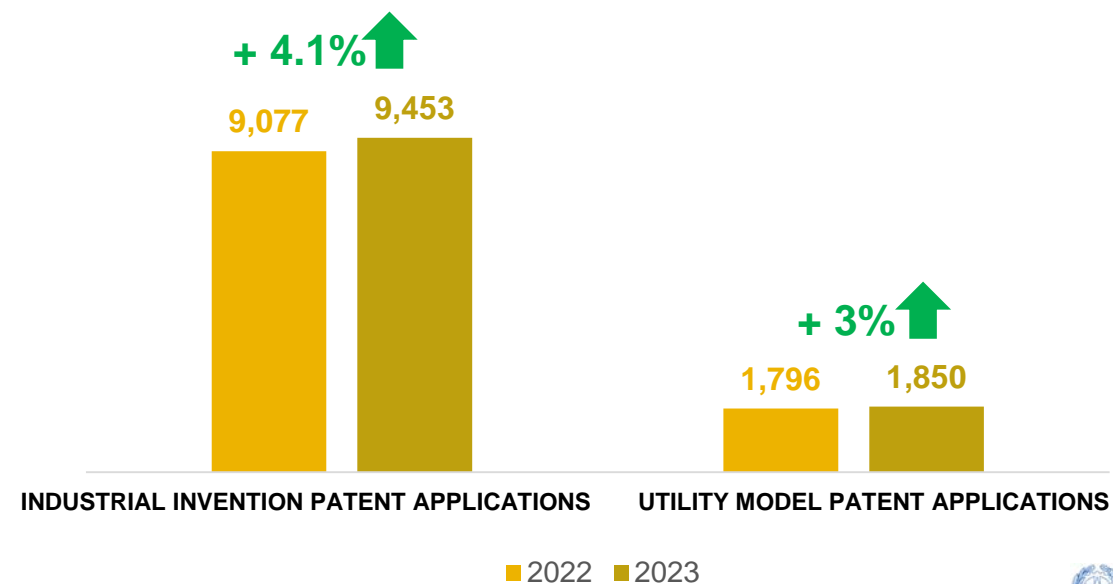


Fig. 1 – Diagram of patent applications 2023



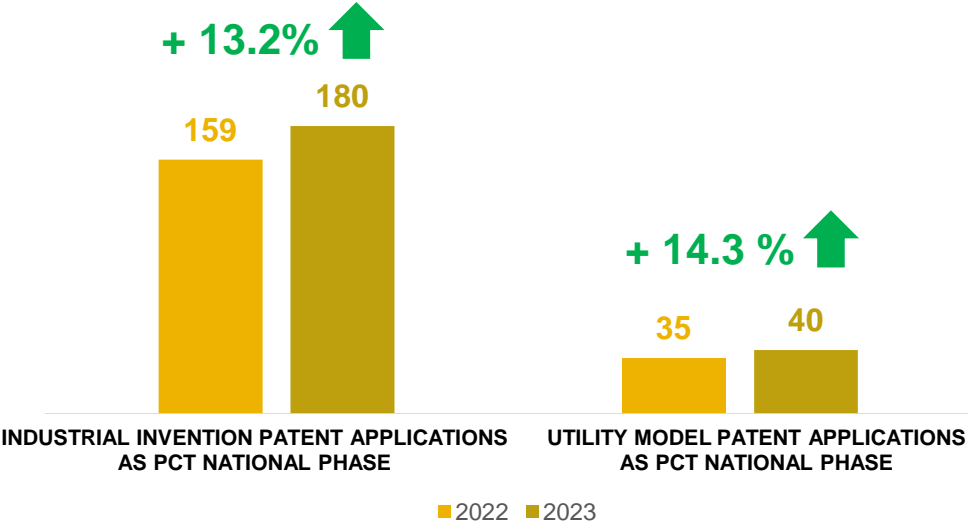
The number of **patent applications for industrial invention (9,453)** grew by **4.1%** in the past year (9,077 patent applications for industrial invention in 2022).

**Utility model patent applications (1,850)** filed in Italy also increased by **3%** (1,796 utility model patent applications in 2022).





Requests for entry into the Italian national phase from international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) increased in 2023 by **26 percent** over the previous year, reaching **180** applications for industrial invention and **40** applications for utility model.



# 1.2 Total applications received

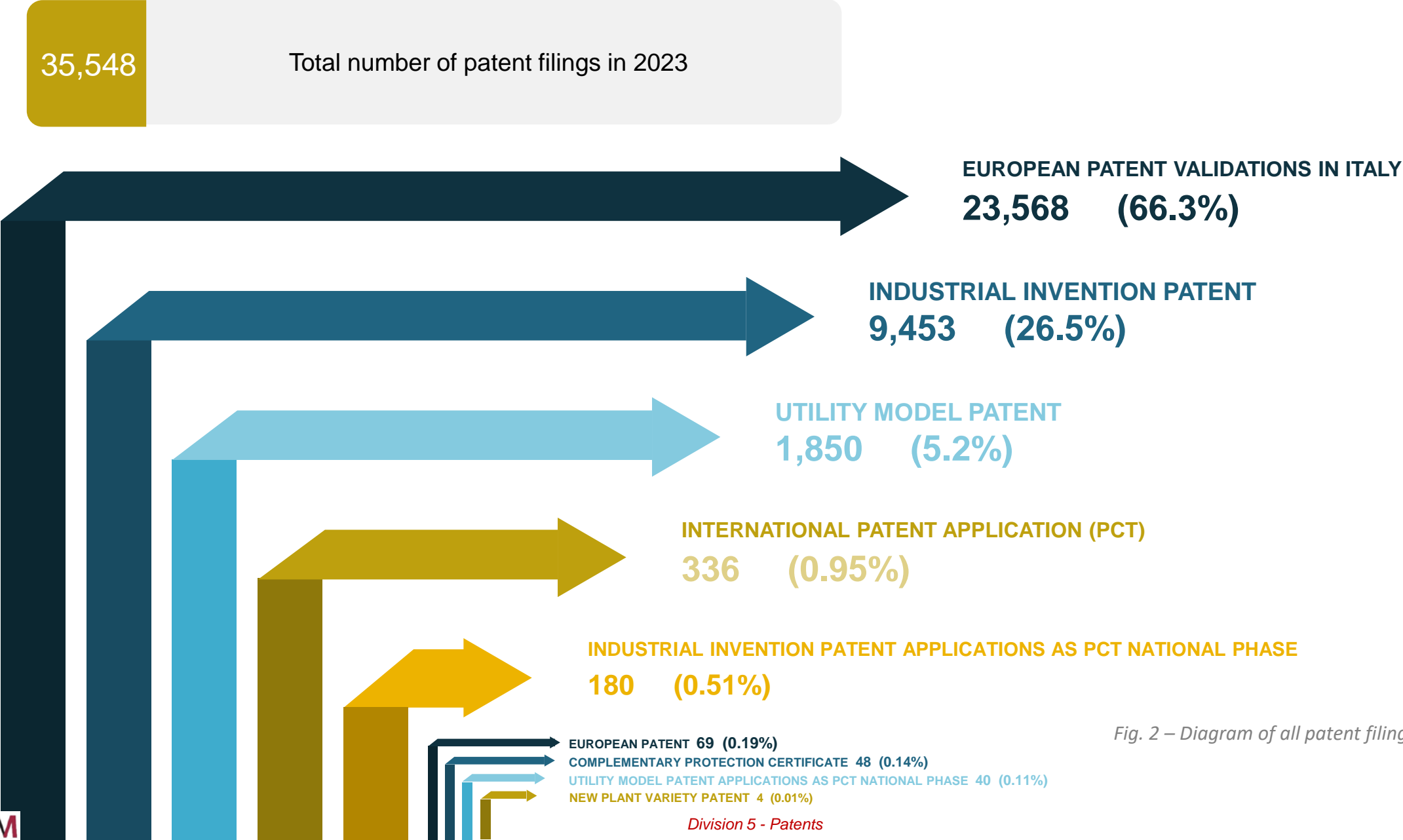
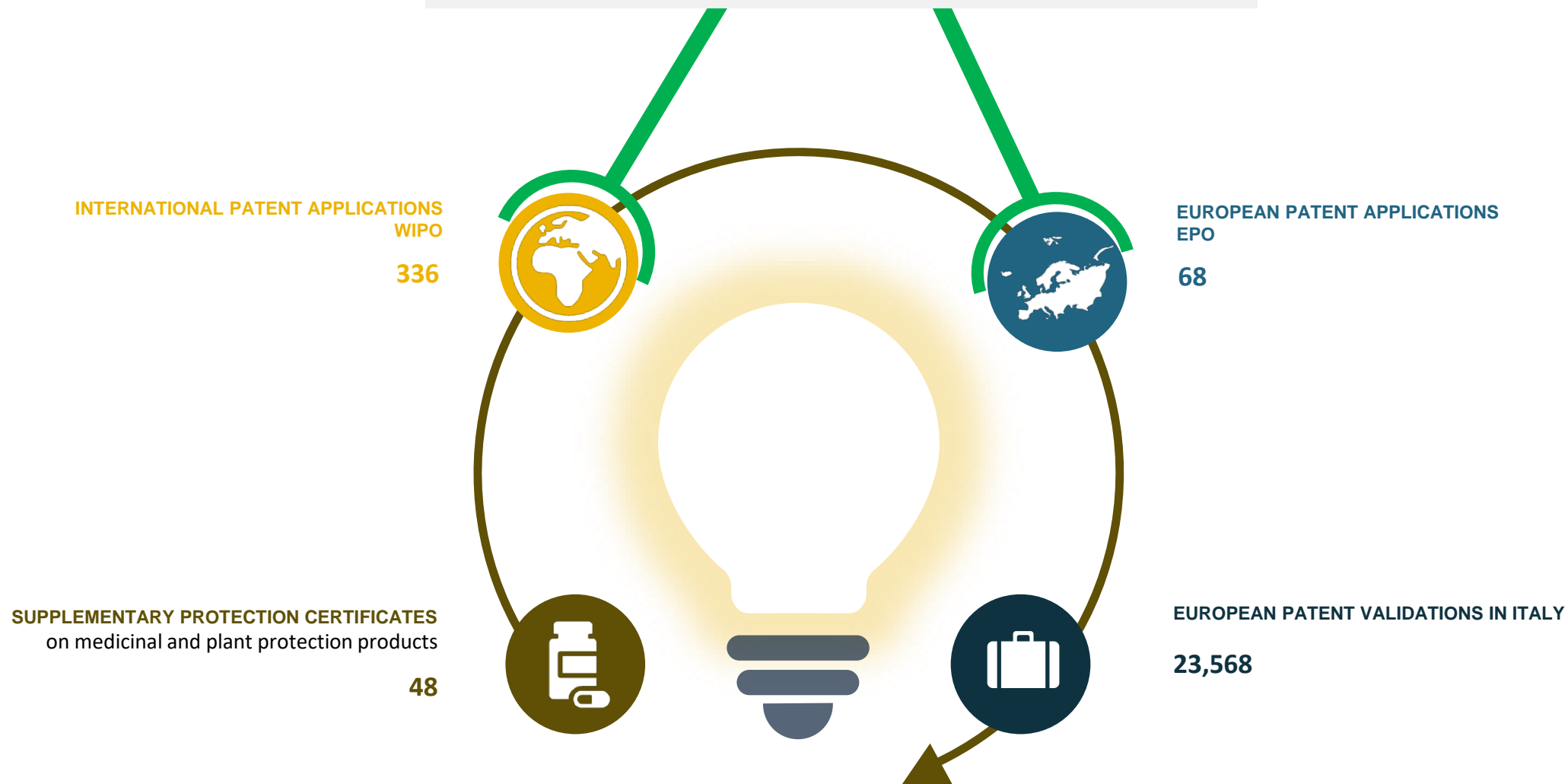


Fig. 2 – Diagram of all patent filings

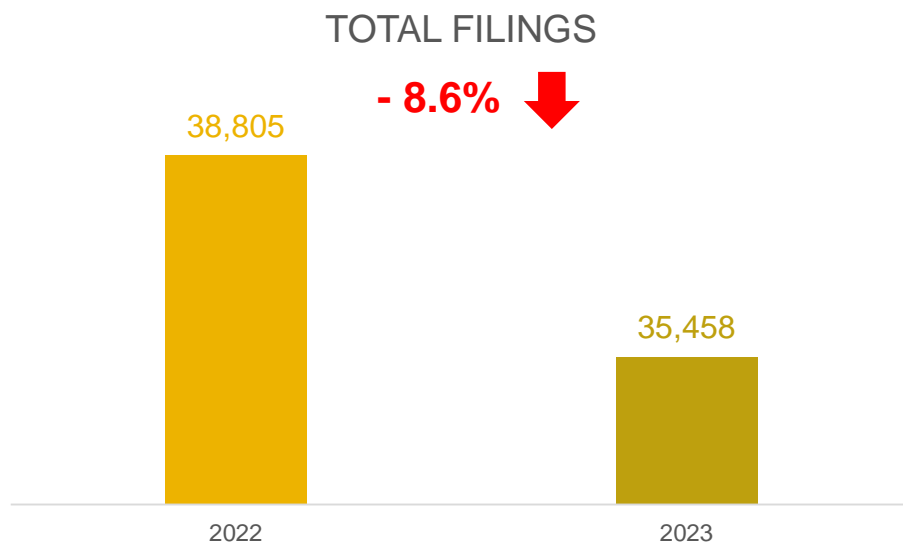


In addition to the **11,527** new patent applications, other patent applications shall be taken into accounts:

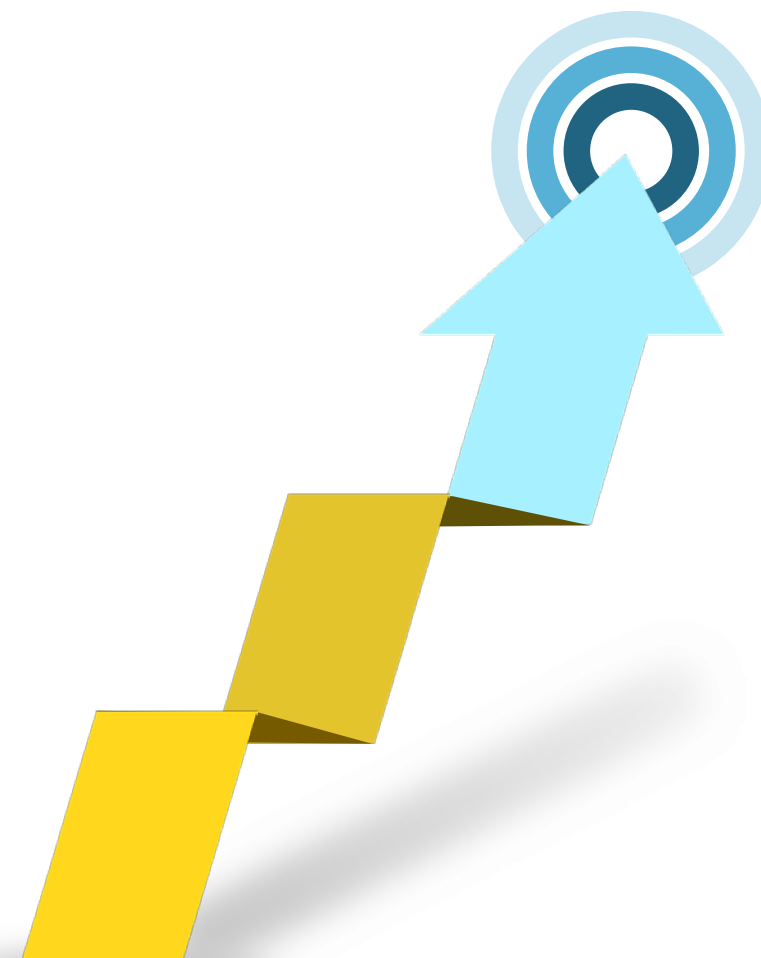
applications for which IPTO acts as Receiving Office, namely,



IPTO registers a decline in the total number of filings, from nearly 39,000 in 2022 to over 35,000 in 2023.



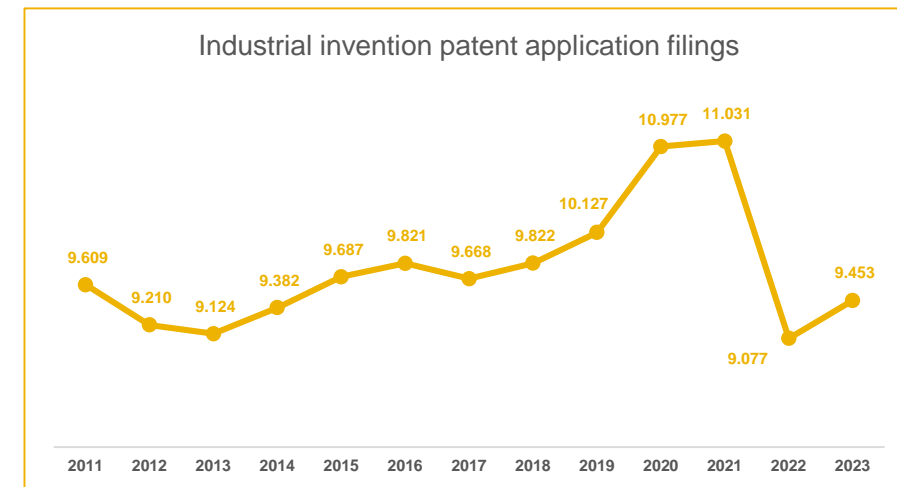
The increase in **filings of national patent applications (industrial invention and utility model)** has been counterbalanced by a 13% decrease in European Patent validation filings. A decrease due, however, to organizational choices of the European Office as well as to the entry into force, as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, of the **European patent with unitary effect**, automatically valid in Italy, without any administrative validation procedure at the IPTO.





# 1.3 Filing trends according to patent type

## INDUSTRIAL INVENTION PATENT APPLICATIONS



**2019**

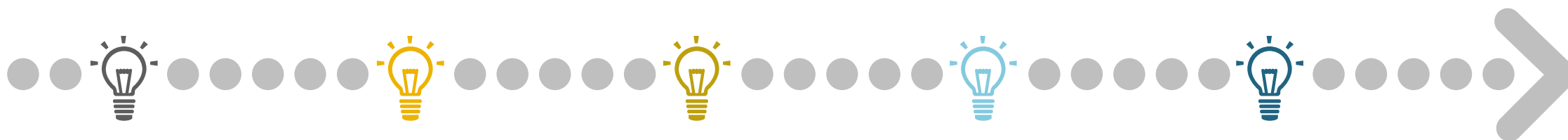
+ 3.1% YEARLY VARIATION 2018-2019  
10,127 filings

**2021**

+ 0.5% YEARLY VARIATION 2020-2021  
11,031 filings

**2023**

+ 4.1% YEARLY VARIATION 2022-2023  
9,453 filings



**2020**

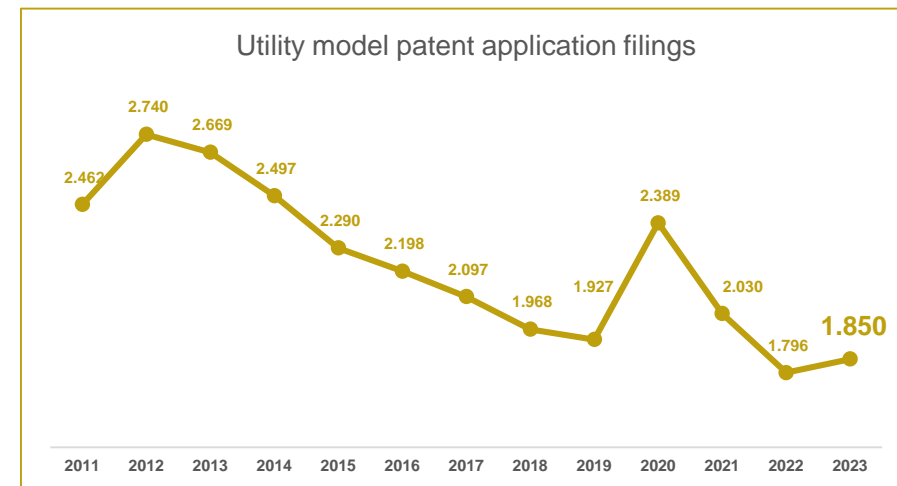
+ 8.4% YEARLY VARIATION 2019-2020  
10,977 filings

**2022**

-17.7 % YEARLY VARIATION 2021-2022  
9,077 filings

## 1.3 Filing trends according to patent type

### UTILITY MODEL PATENT APPLICATIONS



**2019**

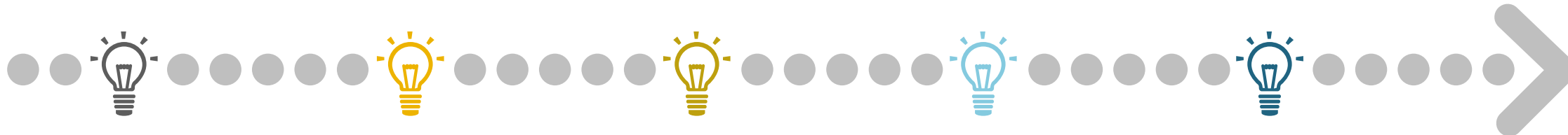
- 2% YEARLY VARIATION 2018-2019  
1,927 filings

**2021**

- 15% YEARLY VARIATION 2020-2021  
2,030 filings

**2023**

+ 3% YEARLY VARIATION 2022-2023  
1,850 filings



**2020**

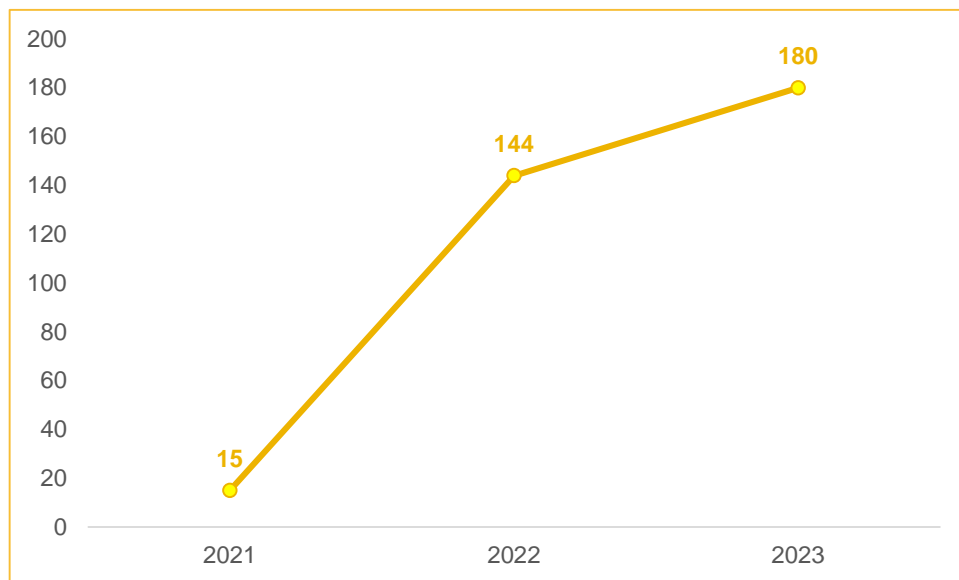
+ 24% YEARLY VARIATION 2019-2020  
2,389 filings

**2022**

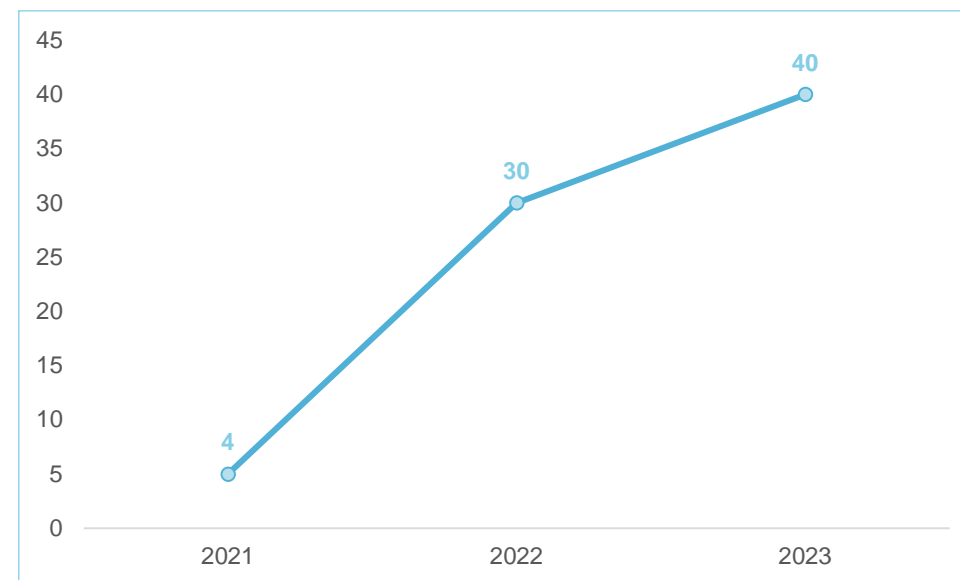
- 12% YEARLY VARIATION 2021-2022  
1,796 filings

## 1.3 Filing trends according to patent type

### INDUSTRIAL INVENTION PATENT APPLICATIONS AS PCT NATIONAL PHASE FILINGS\*



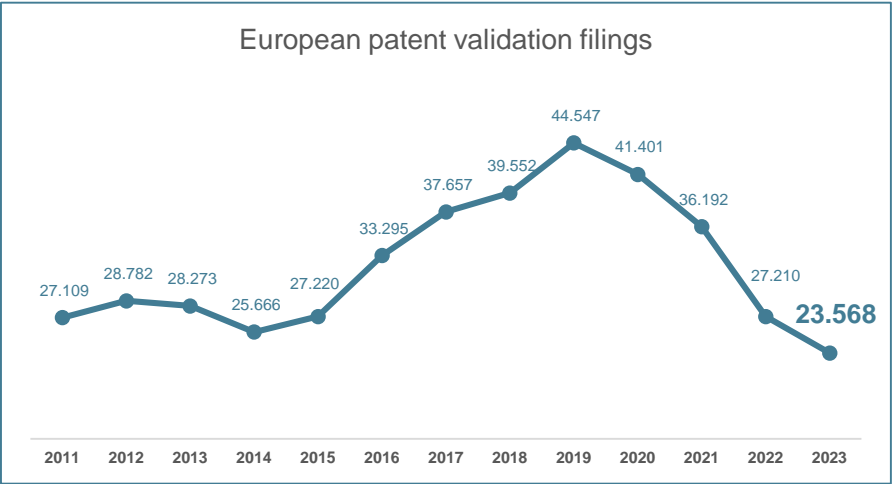
### UTILITY MODEL PATENT APPLICATIONS AS PCT NATIONAL PHASE FILINGS\*



\*Filing of Requests for entry into the **Italian national phase from international applications under the PCT**  
(new procedure that started **1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021**)

# 1.3 Filing trends according to patent type

## EUROPEAN PATENT VALIDATIONS IN ITALY



2019

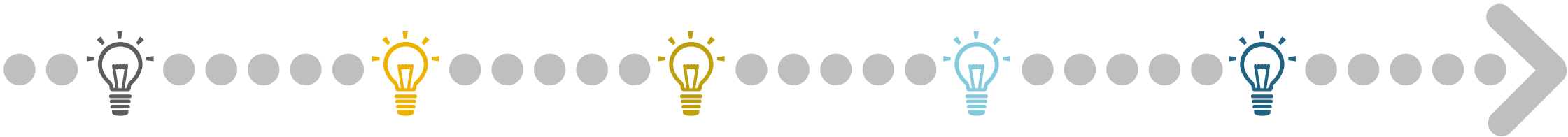
+ 13% YEARLY VARIATION 2018-2019  
44,547 filings

2021

- 13% YEARLY VARIATION 2020-2021  
36,192 filings

2023

- 13% YEARLY VARIATION 2022-2023  
23,568 filings



2020

- 7% YEARLY VARIATION 2019-2020  
41,401 filings

2022

-25% YEARLY VARIATION 2021-2022  
27,210 filings





## 2. Patents granted and Final acts

## 2. Patents granted and definitive acts

### 2.1 Patents granted

In 2023 patent certificates issued were **9,781**.

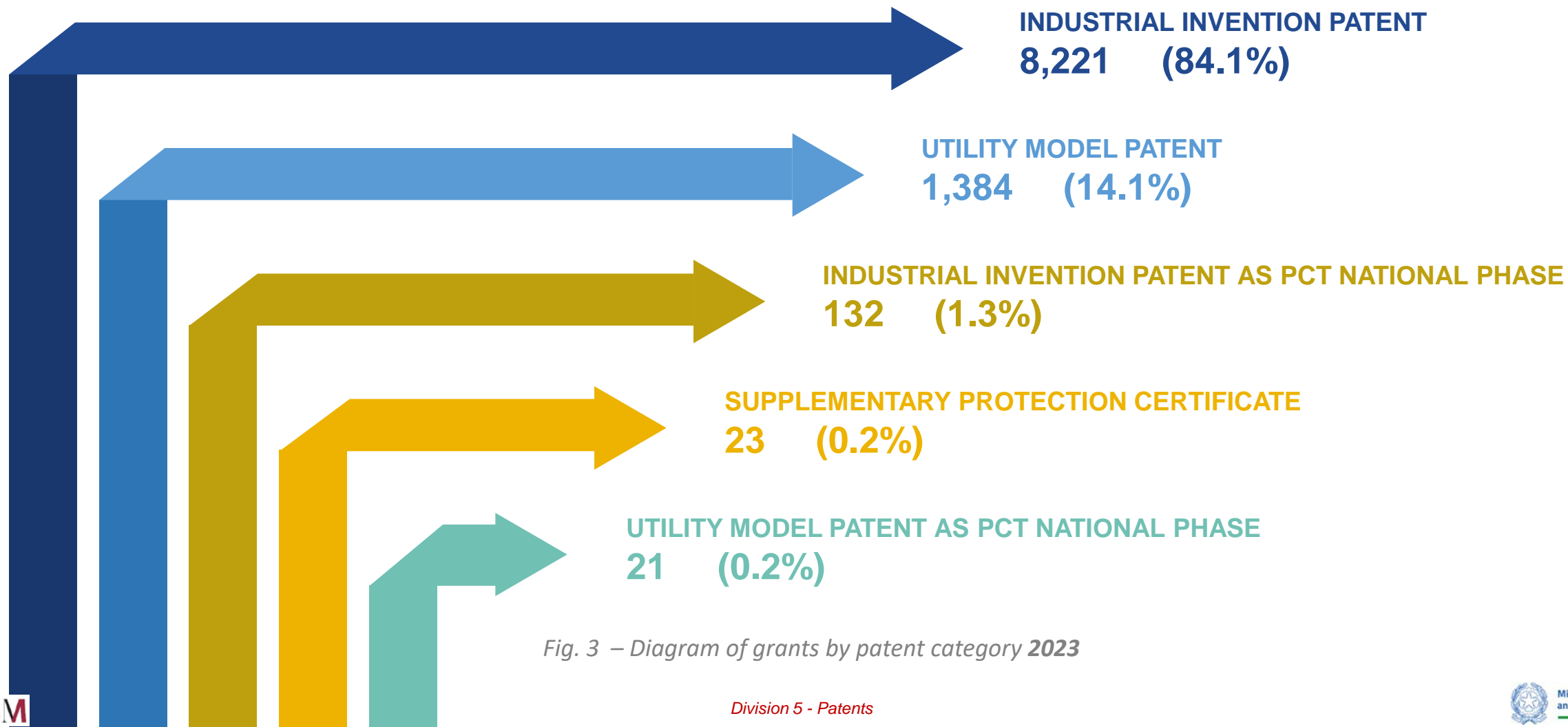


Fig. 3 – Diagram of grants by patent category 2023

The following table shows the numbers of titles released in 2023 and the previous two years.

PATENT TYPE	PATENT GRANTED 2021	PATENT GRANTED 2022	PATENT GRANTED 2023	VARIATION PATENT GRANTED 2022 - 2023
INDUSTRIAL INVENTION PATENT	7,248	7,325	8,221	↑ +12.2%
UTILITY MODEL PATENT	1,765	1,674	1,384	↓ -17.3%
INDUSTRIAL INVENTION PATENT AS PCT NATIONAL PHASE	0	27	132	↑ +388.9%
SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE	81	57	23	↓ -59.6%
UTILITY MODEL PATENT AS PCT NATIONAL PHASE	0	7	21	↑ +200%
TOTAL	9,094	9,090	9,781	↑ +7.6%

The comparison between 2022 and 2023 shows a significant **12.2 percent** increase in **patent for industrial invention granted**, which is the most important patent type.

Patent grants resulting from international applications under the **Patent Cooperation Treaty** (PCT) are also rising: patents for industrial invention far outnumber patents for utility model. More detailed analysis are available in Italian and English into the dedicated Report “**Statistics of National Phase Patent Applications from PCT**”, available at the link: <https://uibm.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/brevetti/reportistica-sui-brevetti> .

## 2.2 Definitive provisions issued by the Office

In 2023 IPTO issued **37,239** final provisions.

These numbers are related both to the trend of filings and to the complexity of the process of examining patent types with different timelines.


It can be seen that for the acceptance of European patent validations the figure is numerically close to THE filings in the reference year.

For the granting of patents for industrial invention or utility model, however, note that that the filing date of applications granted in 2023 is about 2 years earlier.

The table shows provisions issued in **2023** both by type of decision and by patent category.

PROVISION TYPE	EUROPEAN PATENT VALIDATION IN ITALY	INDUSTRIAL INVENTION PATENT	UTILITY MODEL PATENT	INDUSTRIAL INVENTION PATENT AS PCT NATIONAL PHASE	SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE	UTILITY MODEL PATENT AS PCT NATIONAL PHASE	TOTAL
VALIDATIONS	24,100						24,100
GRANTS		8,221	1,384	132	23	21	9,781
REFUSALS	21	1,824	550	4	2	2	2,443
WITHDRAWALS	3	508	57		1	3	572
CONVERSIONS ART.84 CPI		191	9	1			201
NOT ADMISSIBLE		97	37	2			136
REVOKED					6		6
PROVISIONS ISSUED BY PATENT CATEGORY	24,124	10,881	2,037	139	32	26	37,239





**Department  
Market and Protection  
General Directorate for Industrial Property  
Italian Patent and Trademark Office  
Division 5 - Patents**