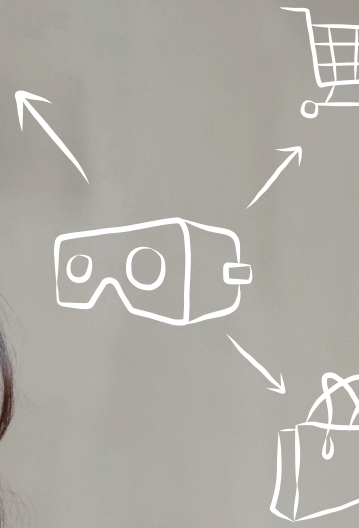


BOIP



Benelux Office for
**Intellectual
Property**

www.boip.int

Your idea
deserves IP

EN



Copyright
Intellectual Patents
Property Trademarks
Designs **i-DEPOT**

Know your rights!

Are you an entrepreneur? Have you converted an idea or concept into something that you want to put on the market? If so, you can protect your creation by applying for **intellectual property rights** (IP rights). There are different types of IP rights. You can use one right or a combination. The right(s) that you choose will depend on various factors. Find out how it works and what BOIP can do for you in this brochure.

Why is intellectual property important?

Knowing the basics when it comes to intellectual property can make the difference when it comes to the success of a business. That's why it is important to know:

- The different types of IP rights
- What protection each right provides
- How to acquire rights.

What is Intellectual Property?

Intellectual Property (IP) is an umbrella term for rights to ideas and creative concepts that have been converted into something tangible, such as a design, script, music, brand, game, software, invention, text or photo. Such products can be protected simultaneously using more than one type of IP right. Protection starts with registration. BOIP is an expert in the field of IP.

Different types of IP rights

If you have developed an idea into something tangible, it can be protected under various intellectual property rights. Some rights apply automatically; you have to register your creation to secure others.



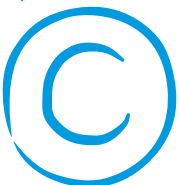
Copyright

Protects: original works

Applies: automatically to works that are original and have a tangible form

Benefits: the right to publish and make copies of the work, and personality rights

Examples: books, paintings, software



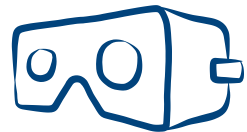
Patent rights

Protects: technical products of processes

Applies: by registering with the Netherlands Patent Office (Netherlands) or the Intellectual Property Office (DIE) (Belgium) or the Office de la propriété intellectuelle (Luxembourg)

Benefits: right to exploit your patent

Examples: medicines, machines





Trademark rights

Protects: a distinctive sign of

Applies: by registering with BOIP

Benefits: right to prohibit others from using it, monopoly on use

Example: Coolblue (logo)

Important because: as an entrepreneur, you invest time, energy and money in your business to build up a good name. This makes the name of your company, product or service, and the logo valuable. You don't want others to piggyback on your reputation. You need to protect your trade name, brand name and/or logo. You can do just that by registering a trademark.

Design rights

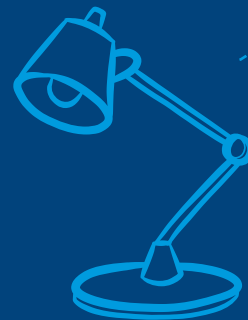
Protects: the design of a product

Applies: by registering with BOIP

Benefits: right to prohibit others from using it, monopoly on use

Example: furniture

Important because: if your main focus as an entrepreneur is design, it is advantageous to protect your designs and drawings. Design rights give you the exclusive right to use your design and to protect them from being copied or used by others without your authorisation.



Idea deposited in i-DEPOT

Proves: that you devised your idea by a certain date

Applies: by recording your idea in BOIP's i-DEPOT

Benefit: PDF with authenticated date stamp

Example: the first draft/sketch of an invention

Trade name rights

Protects: the name under which your business trades

Applies: by providing proof that you were the first to trade under the name, e.g. letterhead paper

Benefit: right to use the name in a specific area

Example: company name

ABC



Domain name rights

Protects: the unique address of a webpage

Applies: by registering with a company providing domain name services, that has access to the domain name registration system

Benefit: right to use the domain name

Example: www.boip.int



Which IP rights do I have?

Different conditions apply for different IP rights. You can download the IP checklist on the BOIP website to identify your potential IP rights. You can also find extensive information on how to acquire those rights on the BOIP website.



Breeders' rights

Protects: plant varieties

Applies: by registering with the competent national authority

Benefit: right to cultivate and trade cultivated materials

Example: Jonagold apples

Benefits of IP registration

- Monopoly on your work
- Protection against unauthorised use
- Mark of professionalism
- Your IP rights are valuable



Protection of ideas

Do you regularly have new ideas as an entrepreneur? An idea as such cannot be protected and, so, you cannot apply for IP rights for one. However, if you record your idea or concept in the BOIP i-DEPOT, you can prove that your idea existed as of a given date. This can be useful if a dispute later arises about who was the first to create something.

Trade secrets

Protects: valuable company information or know-how

Applies: when the relevant criteria are met, i.e. the information has commercial value, is confidential and reasonable measures have been taken to keep it secret

Benefit: right to protection against third parties misappropriating your trade secrets

Example: the Coca-Cola recipe

Benelux Office for Intellectual Property

The Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) is the **official body** for trademark and design registration in the Benelux. BOIP can also record the existence of an idea on a given date in an i-DEPOT.

This makes BOIP an expert in the field of intellectual property in the Benelux. Entrepreneurs can turn to BOIP for information and to apply for and manage their trademark and design applications online.

We will be happy to help you further

Do you want to know more? Please contact our Information Centre. You will find our opening hours and contact details on www.boip.int/en/contact.

All about Intellectual Property

www.boip.int