In 2018 the Swiss AIPPI national group continued to count around 330 members, among them a new generation of young professionals. We are very proud about this development, in particular because several other IP professional organisations are active in Switzerland. Young members specifically participated in the Working Question groups – in total around 40 members joined the groups – and allowed the Swiss AIPPI national group to file the national reports on the following study questions: (i) registrability of 3D trademarks, (ii) partial designs, (iii) joint liability for IP infringement and (iv) conflicting patent applications. The national reports were published on the legal magazine sic! (www.sic-online.ch). Swiss AIPPI representatives also participated in the resolution discussion that took place in Cancun, in Autumn 2018.

Swiss AIPPI national group was led by a committee composed of Lorenza Ferrari Hofer (president), Marco Zardi (vice president), Beat Rauber (cashier), Gilles Pfend (secretary), Thierry Calame, Andri Hess, Reinhard Oertli, Michael Fischer, Thomas Widmer, Cornelis Schüller and Daniel Kraus. The committee met 4 times during the year and several of its members were reelected. In 2018 the general assembly was held on 14 June 2018 in Zurich. Communications to the AIPPI members, including invitation to participate in the AIPPI activities in the different Committees, were regularly sent by email and relevant information published on the website www.aippi.ch. The website was entirely rebuilt and refurbished in 2018.

In June 2018 AIPPI Switzerland held a successful AIPPI Swiss Day on "Blockchains and IP Rights", to which representatives of the blockchain industry were invited to discuss the potential interaction with IP rights and their use to enforce, valorize and commercialize IP rights. A report of the AIPPI Swiss Day was published on the magazine sic! (https://www.siconline.ch/en/artikel/2504-0723-2018-0105/aippi-swissday-2018-blockchains-and-ip-rights). AIPPI Switzerland also traditionally holds a seminar on the AIPPI resolutions in Autumn. In 2018, the seminar could unfortunately not take place. Nevertheless, a copy of the AIPPI resolutions were sent to the judicial authorities and to the Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI).

Together with other professional organisations, AIPPI Switzerland chaired and actively supported the working group aiming at the introduction of the full examination of Swiss national patent applications, such examination also including the novelty question. In June 2019 a motion requesting a corresponding amendment of the Patent Law was eventually accepted by the Federal Council of States, with the full support of the Federal Council (https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaeft?AffairId=20193228).
The motion will likely be treated also in the other Parliament's chamber in the course of 2019. The working group has already started the collaboration with the Swiss authorities for the implementation of the full examination procedure. AIPPI Switzerland is very proud to have contributed to the improvement of the Swiss patent system to international standards and to the enforcement of Swiss patent rights worldwide.

Moreover, in 2018 AIPPI Switzerland contributed in the consultation process for the enactment of IPI’s amended guidelines for the registration of Swiss trademarks and of Swiss patents and of the additional guidelines for the review of SPC and paediatric application protection.

Regular meetings took also place with representatives of the IPI along the year to coordinate the respective activities and with regard to specific topics, such as the electronic data processing of the IPI.

In 2018 we did not encounter major problems in respect of the collection of the membership fees, likely because of the personal and active engagement of our secretary and cashier. The main administrative challenge was the rebuilding of the website, which absorbed important time and financial resources.