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Title:

**Inter-political Strategies of Innovation in Greece during the 20th century:  
Intellectual Property and Technical Standardization**

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**Abstract:**

From the beginning of the 20th century until the Second World War, the processes of transition from “Theory to Practice” in order to develop industrial sectors based on specialised fields of research (*industry & engineering-based-science*) were at the centre of debates among science & technology experts internationally. The economy in the late 1920s has recently been described as a phase of *de-globalisation*, due to the contraction of world trade. The nation-states implemented protectionism policies worldwide in that period. The Greek state, complied with the pressures from the international conventions and organizations, and introduced a legal-regulatory system for the registration and recognition of original Intellectual ideas (inventions, patents, trademarks), in order to rationalize and scientifically strengthen the domestic production. Unlike the Greek state’s introversion (apparently) public policy, the techno-scientific communities responded in the most outward-way: they coordinated more systematically than in the past with their international counterparts participating equally in international discussions/debates on the definition of multiple measurement units, technical specifications and standards, seeking to a “consensual agreement” over the establishment of common scientific terminologies for the regulation and the unification of technical knowledge and practices. After the Second War, this kind of scientific professionals’ negotiations led to the establishment of international standardization systems, industrial organizational/regulation scientific methods, typologies and taxonomies for commercial products, as well as international supervisory and managerial institutions.

The newly established institutions of the Greek state in the early 1920s, such as the *Office of Industry* and *Office Industrial Property* (as departments of the Ministry of National Economy) as well as the *Technical Chamber of Greece* (as the Greek Engineers' Scientific Association), constituted a privileged consulting research policy sectors for the most critical period of the domestic industrialization. The role of these institutions has not been recognized yet by the Greek historiography, in spite of the fact that Industrial Property policies (Patents, Trademarks, etc.) or Technical Standards, are considered as the essential “*innovative*” and “*inter-political*” ingredients for a *successful* path to industrialization. Industrial Property and Technical Standardization were at the core of the research and expertise of lawyers, economists, industrialists and especially engineers during the Greek interwar period, but the research in both of these fields was discontinued during the Second War, only to recover more vigorously in the late 1950s. In this paper I will combine the undertakings of these institutions, as the outcome of research I have conducted thoroughly in their archival material. By highlighting the complementarities and contradictions of state initiatives, industrial enterprise ventures and the construction sector, I will discuss “*success*” and “*failure*” of producing *original* contributions that were not only usable in the domestic but also in international science & technology research agenda during the 20th century.