

# WIPO



SCIT/ATR/PI/1999/BG

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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

GENEVA

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**1999**

**ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES\***

submitted by

**BULGARIA**

An annual series of reports on the patent information activities  
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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- The term “patent” covers utility models and SPCs.
- Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in the series of documents SCIT/ATR/ID.

# PATENT OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

## ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT on Patent Information Activities 1999

### I. Evolution of patent activities:

#### 1. Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year;

1006 patent applications for inventions and utility models have been filed in Bulgarian Patent Office last year. The number of applications received in 1999 was 117 more in comparison with the same number in 1998 and that represents increase of 13,2 %. The increased activity is mainly due to the growth of the number of national applicants as well as those of the foreign applicants. 380 Bulgarian patent applications have been filed during the year and that represents an increase of 7,3 % in comparison with the previous year (Figure 1). 275 of those applications were for patents for inventions and 105 - for utility model applications. 29 applications have been filed in the Bulgarian Patent Office branch situated in Varna, that is 7,6 % of the total number of Bulgarian patent applications.

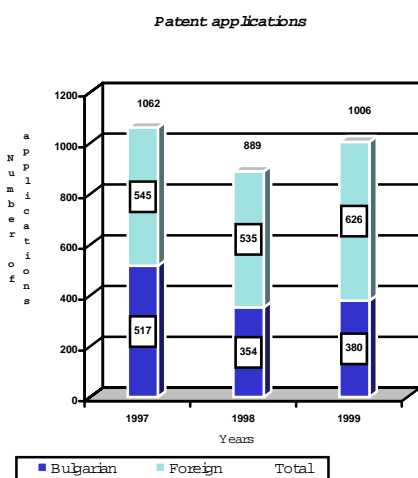


Figure 1

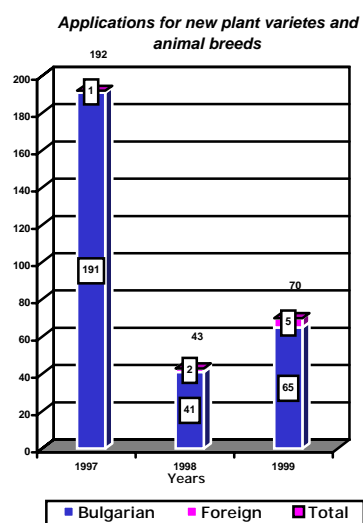
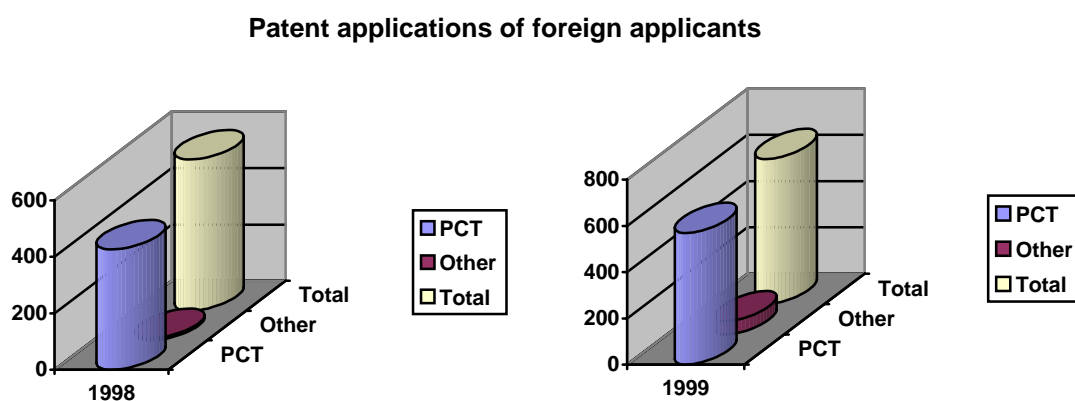


Figure 2

70 patent applications for new plant varieties have been filed and 134 certificates were granted in the office according to the Law of protection of new plant varieties and animal breeds in 1999 (Figure 2).

Last year the number of the foreign patent applications was 626, as 569 or 90,9 % of them - according to PCT. The growth of the number of the foreign applications last year is 17 % in comparison with 1998 (Figure 3). Applicants from 32 countries have filed applications in Bulgaria. The main part of the foreign patent applications was that of the US applications, German applications, GB applications, French applications, Italian applications etc.



**Figure 3**

A general review of the inventive activity in the different fields shows that no essential change has occurred in comparison with the previous years. The main interest has been directed to the following areas: organic chemistry, building, biochemistry and microbiology, basic electric elements, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical compounds, human and veterinary medicine, foodstuffs, physical and chemical processes, machinery junctions and details, measurement devices etc.

In 1999 27 Bulgarian patent applications according to PCT has been filed and processed in the Patent Office.

## **II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of patent information**

### **1. Publishing, printing, copying (main types of publications of the office in the field of patent information, etc.)**

#### **- Official publications on paper**

In 1999 BPO continued preparing and publishing of its official publications on paper. 12 regular and 2 extraordinary issues of the Official Bulletin in Bulgarian and 12 issues of the Patent Abstracts of Bulgaria (in the part for inventions and utility models) in English have been prepared for publishing by means of word processing.

927 specifications with 15732 pages have been entered and processed and totally 1105 first pages of documents have been got ready. The ready-made specifications have been printed for granting patents and 1650 specifications have been worked out for full circulation.

1393 patents for 1120 inventions and utility models were granted in 1999. During the year were granted as well 134 certificates for new plant varieties and animal breeds.

The Patent Office maintains another very important source of patent information, namely:

State Register for Inventions  
State Register for Utility Models  
State Register for New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds.

In 1999 BPO continued extracting of data from the national database and printing of specifications on paper for sending to the producing Hungarian firm Arcanum and inclusion in the ESPACE-PRECES CD-ROM product. 849 specifications on paper (included in the Official Bulletin from No. 4/1998 to No. 9/1999) and 10 diskettes containing bibliographic data and abstracts (in Bulgarian) were sent during the year.

## **2. Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of patent information**

The following main types of announcements were published in 1999 in the Official Bulletin:

- \* abstracts of patent applications - 742;
- \* announcements for granted patents - 480;
- \* announcements for inventors' certificates transformed to patents -13;
- \* abstracts of utility model applications - 95;
- \* announcements for granted utility model patents - 104;
- \* announcements for new plant varieties and animal breeds applications - 82;
- \* announcements for certificates granted for new plant varieties – 2;
- \* announcements for inventors' certificates transformed to plant varieties certificates - 150;
- \* announcements for registered trademarks – 4808;
- \* announcements for registered service marks – 668;
- \* announcements for registered industrial designs – 235;
- \* changes of the legal status of the patents; assignments of rights and changes of the applicant's name etc.; announcements for licensing agreements.

In each number of the Official Bulletin of the BPO were published as well:

- numerical and systematic indexes of applications and grants for inventions and utility models;
- numerical index of applications and published certificates (if any) for new plant varieties and animal breeds.

### **3. Mass storage media used (paper, microforms, optical storage, etc.).**

In 1999 Bulgarian patent documentation was continuously stored in paper form, microform and on CD-ROMs.

### **4. Word processing and Office automation**

In 1999 the texts of 927 specifications with totally 15732 pages and 24 regular numbers of the Bulletin (12 - in Bulgarian language and 12 - in English) and 2 extraordinary issues for marks only were composed by means of word processing and circulated for public use.

The Patent Information and Documentation Department continued downloading of paper copies of first pages of PCT applications from the ESPACE WORLD CD-ROM product for facilitating the examination activities.

## **III. Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, reclassifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents:**

### **1. Classification and reclassification activities; ...**

The new patent applications of the Bulgarian patent documents are classified according to the 6th edition of the IPC. The Bulgarian Patent Office does not reclassify patent documents.

### **2. Hybrid system indexing**

Hybrid system indexing is used in classifying of patent applications.

### **3. Bibliographic data and full-text processing for search purposes**

During the year 2506 specifications (1253 of them – in systematically ordered files and 1253 – in numerical files) of patent documents and utility model patents were prepared and ordered for examiners' use in the Bulgarian patent file. 1071 first pages of published patent applications and 1205 specifications of rejected applications for patents for inventions which are published and examined since 01.06.1993 onwards were lodged into the file.

## **IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:**

### **1. File building and updating**

151 554 patents were received and handled in the paper file for search purposes for examiners only. 2506 specifications were lodged into the numerically and systematically ordered files of the Bulgarian patent documents. In the Russian patent documents file were lodged 15677

specifications, in the German patent documents file – 44047 and in the British patent documents file - 12517 specifications.

During the year 74531 PCT applications first pages were included into the paper file for examiners.

## **V. Activities in the field of computerized and other mechanized search systems:**

### **1. In-house systems**

In the CD-ROM collections of the office 1561 searches were carried out.

In 1999 a project for a digital library containing industrial property information has been started. The first stage of the project carried out by a software firm Fadata was completed. Tests of working of the system have been accomplished and the second stage has begun at the end of the year.

### **2. External databases**

In external on-line databases 154 searches were made. The examiners in the office use mainly EPIDOS - Vienna database – 135 searches and STN database – 19 searches.

### **3. Administrative management systems (e.g. register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.)**

In 1999 the process of introducing, maintaining and improving of the administration automation system for industrial property protection applications Common Software (CS) has continued. The following main steps have been made:

- Extension of the Common Software to “Patent and Information Services” Department has been made;
- Installation and making operational of the new 1.3 version of the administrative management system Common Software in the field of trademarks has been carried out;
- Delivery of a new HP K360 UNIX server; transition to a new version of UNIX operation system; HDD upgrading of the three UNIX working stations and of the RAM upgrading of two of them;
- Throughout introducing of new software products Wingtz Professional and WordPerfect for UNIX steps were taken in direction to solving the problems concerning the Bulgarian alphabet use; Transfer of the inventions and utility models database from IBM 4341 mainframe to the HP K360 server has started in 1999.

In 1999 the first stage of a new project Automated New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds Register has been completed.

13 Pentium client workstations and 3 DVD-ROM workstations for using in the patent information activities have been delivered, installed and put into operation this year.

## **VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, for assisting clients on searching procedures, for obtaining official publications and registry extracts):**

### **1. Collecting, acquisition, preparation**

The annual increment to the paper collections in the Central Patent Library for 1999 amounts to approximately 280 000 patent documents of 10 countries and 1 international organization (EPO). During the year 1999 were received about 4700 patent documents on microforms from 3 countries.

### **3. Collection management, preservation**

The Central Patent Library to the Patent Office presently disposes of about 18780000 patent documents on paper and on microforms (about 4604700) of 22 countries and 2 international organizations.

The existing CD-ROM files of 24 countries and 1 international organizations (WIPO - PCT documents) continued to be completed and maintained.

### **4. Information services available to the public (including ...)**

4060 persons who obtained 10540 copies of patent documents visited the Central Patent Library during the year. 465 CD-ROM searches and 25 searches in the Internet databases for the public were carried out.

## **VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information**

### **1. International or regional cooperation in the exchange of machine-readable information, e.g. bibliographic data, abstract and/or full text information**

Bibliographic data and English language abstracts of patent applications for inventions and utility models published in 12 numbers of the Official Bulletin (up to number 9/1999) has been sent to EPIDOS - Vienna and to the European Patent Office Branch in the Hague.

In 1999 the BPO continued sending to the producing firm ARCANUM, Budapest, Hungary specifications to be included in the ESPACE-PRECES

and ACCESS-PRECES CD-ROM products. 849 specifications (included in the Bulletin from No. 4/1998 to No. 9/1999) and 10 diskettes containing bibliographical data and abstracts (in Bulgarian) were sent during the year.

In the frame of the mutual exchange of patent information 17243 specifications for 1376 patents were sent abroad during the year. The Official Bulletin of the BPO has been sent monthly to 91 subscribers in Bulgaria and 47 foreign subscribers in 40 countries. 12 issues of Patent Abstracts of Bulgaria were sent to 7 Industrial Property Offices and libraries abroad.

### **2. Medium used for exchange of priority documents**

According to the Bulgarian Patent Law submitting of priority document on paper in three months period after the application date is obligatory to claim the priority (if any in less than twelve months period before the application date). Bulgarian Patent Office grants such priority documents for Bulgarian patent applications filed abroad and requires providing of the same on paper for foreign applications filed in Bulgaria.

During the year 44 priority documents of Bulgarian patent applications were granted and sent abroad.

### **3. Medium allowed for filing applications**

Up to the present the paper is the only medium for filing applications according to the Bulgarian patent legislation and the requirements of the Patent Office. The applicant or his (her) representative (if the applicant is a foreign juridical or natural person) should file the application in the required form on paper. Application forms are made available to patent representatives and applicants on diskettes.

### **4. Implementation of the Statement of Principles Concerning the Changeover to Electronic Data Carriers for the Exchange of Patent Documents**

According to the main trend for transition to electronic carriers of patent information the Bulgarian Patent Office collects and maintains CD-ROM files for examiners use (in the Patent Information Department) and for the public (in the Central Patent Library). The collections for the examiners at present are as follows:

- ESPACE-EPA - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-EPB - since 1995 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-WORLD - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-UK-A - since 1995 to 1999;
- ESPACE-PRECES - since its beginning and continues;
- ESPACE-ACCESS PRECES - 1997 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-FIRST - since 1988 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-BULLETIN - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-ACCESS - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-ACCESS EP-B - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-LEGAL – since 1992 up to 1999 and continues;
- ESPACE-ACCESS-EUROPE – since 1978 up to 1999 and continues;



- BREF - since 1978 (FR-A, WO-A, EP-A) up to now and continues;
- PAJ – since 1976 to 1993 (according to the IPC) and since 1994 up to now and continues (according to the number of patent); since 1989 – to 1997 – unexamined patent applications of foreign applicants, ordered according to IPC (Sections A, G, H)
- USAPAT - since 1994 up to now and continues;
- GLOBALPat – since 1971 to 1996 (according to the IPC) and since 1997 up to now and continues (according to the IPC and the document publication date);
- USPS - since 1975 up to now and continues;
- CASSIS-BIB - since 1969 and continues;
- CASSIS-CLASS ;
- CASSIS-ASSIGN - since august 1980 and continues;
- CASSIS-ASSIST;
- DIAPAT-RU - since 1994 up to now and continues.

The collections on CD-ROM for public use in the Patent Library are for 24 countries and 1 international organization.

### **VIII. Other relevant matters concerning education and training in, and promotion of, the use of patent information, including technical assistance to developing countries**

In 1999 the international activity have been carried out in the following main directions: participation in the meetings of the governing bodies, committees and working groups of the WIPO, cooperation with the EPO in the frame of PHARE – RIPP Program and bilateral cooperation.

#### **1. Training courses for national and foreign participants, use of audio-visual means**

In the frame of PHARE-RIPP organized and financed by EPO in different forms of qualification – seminars and training courses - 17 employees of the Office have taken part in 1999.

#### **2. Assistance for developing countries (sending...)**

Two-week training course for 2 persons (one from Saudi Arabia and one from Pakistan) was carried out.

#### **3. Promotional Activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.)**

In 1999 Dr. Kamil Idris, President of the World Intellectual Property Organization, visited the Bulgarian Patent Office. During his stay in Bulgaria Dr. Idris has very useful meetings and conversations with representatives of different Bulgarian institutions, universities and agencies. This very important

visit has contributed to a great extent to the future development of intellectual property rights protection in Bulgaria.

Representatives of the Bulgarian Patent Office took part in different official visits the most important of which are the following:

- RIPP Coordination Meetings – XIII – Lithuania and XIV – Romania.
- UPOV – WIPO – WTO Joint Symposium “The Protection of Plant Varieties under Article 27.3 (b) of the TRIPS Agreement – Geneva
- Screening Sessions on Company Law – Brussels
- ESPACE-PRECES Technical Meeting – Budapest
- Visit to Chinese Intellectual Property office under Bilateral Agreement and according to a Working Program between two offices
- International Conference “Industrial Property Protection in Turkey and the World at 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Turkish Patent Institute – Istanbul
- EPO-line Meeting in Munich
- WIPO Symposium of Intellectual Property and Industrial Property Offices in Countries in Transition – Kishinev
- Negotiations between BPO and European Union for Granting Mutual Concessions Aimed to Wine Trade and Alcoholic Drinks and for Liberalization of Agricultural Goods Trade
- Conference on Intellectual Property Rights For Pharmaceuticals – Budapest
- Celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Austrian Patent Office

BPO participated by its officials in the meetings of the WIPO Plenary and its working groups as well as in the meetings of the Administrative Council and the different Committees of EPO.