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ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by the

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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.

Annual Technical Report on Patent Information Activities of the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection of the Republic of Moldova in 1999

I. Evolution of patent activities:

In 1999 a total number of 271 patent applications (that is equal one to the application number in 1998) were filed with the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection (AGEPI), 256 (94%) of which constitute the applications of national applicants and 15 - of foreign applicants. 11 applications filed by foreigners were filed under PCT.

There have been filed 1117 Eurasian applications, including 968 PCT applications.

In 1999 the AGEPI granted 231 patents (202 in 1998), including 201 patents to national and 30 patents to foreign owners.

The number of Eurasian patents valid on the territory of the Republic of Moldova was at the end of 1999 of 458.

In 1999 the number of applications increased in the field of physics (by 2,6 times), of electricity (by 2 times) and decreased in the field of human necessities (by 1,3 times).

The number of applications for utility models increased from 6 in 1998 to 12 in 1999. However during the whole period of AGEPI activity there have been filed altogether 50 applications for the registration of utility models and their role in the formation of industrial property market remains insignificant.

The Regulation on the Application of the Law on Patents for Inventions was amended especially referred to the rules of granting the patent protection of inventions concerning software, rules on enforcement of biotechnologic objects protection, representing the nucleotide and amino acids sequence listings on the electronic data carriers.

Law on Topographies of Integrated Circuits entered in force in December, 1999. In accordance with this Law the term of protection of topographies shall be 10 years. The title of protection is the certificate of registration.

In 1999 there was elaborated the Draft of the Law on Introduction of Amendments and Supplements in some Legislative Acts. In accordance with the mentioned Draft the Law on Patents for Inventions will provide for an article concerning to the special protection of the pharmaceutical goods by a supplementary protection certificate.

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

The most important publications in the field of patent information are following:

- The Official Bulletin on Industrial Property Protection (BOPI),
- The patent applications laid open for public inspection,
- The Patent Register,
- The Patent Application Register,
- The Utility Model Application Register,
- Bursa Invențiilor - monthly publication, proceeded with the publication of materials about interesting and perspective domestic inventions,
- AGEPI Consultă, AGEPI Revue, AGEPI Expo - serial publications (consultations and practical recommendations).

The AGEPI announces the following in BOPI:

- Applications on inventions (bibliographic data and abstracts),
- Granted patents on inventions (bibliographic data and abstracts),
- List of patents on inventions granted on ... (date of publication of this issue of BOPI),
- Russian translations of abstracts of applications and granted patents on inventions,
- Registered utility models,
- Amendments of the legal status of applications and titles of protection,
- Oppositions, examined with the Appeal Board of the AGEPI.

In the year under review 110 applications on inventions and 251 granted patents on inventions have been published in BOPI.

In 1999 the AGEPI issued two new CD-ROMs:

Inventions, protected in the Republic of Moldova (bibliographic data, abstracts, claims and descriptions of 1416 registered patent applications and 1130 granted patents for 1993-1998) and Annual Report 1998 (in Romanian, English and Russian).

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

Both the applications on inventions (utility models) and granted patents on inventions (registered utility models) were classified according to the IPC, 6-th edition.

In 2000 the AGEPI plans to reclassify the search file documents (patent applications, patents and utility models) published by our office in accordance with the 7th edition of the IPC.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

The AGEPI has the following patent collections:

- Domestic collection. Consists of 2 parts: 1. moldovan patent applications published from 1993 onwards and arranged according to the application number; 2. moldovan patents and utility models published from 1994 onwards and arranged on the base of both the symbols of the IPC (the fifth and sixth editions) and the patent (certificate) number.

Storage media - paper, CD-ROM.

On December 31, 1999 the Domestic collection included 1250 patent specifications.

- Foreign collection. Consists of the patent documents of 7 countries (AT, CH, DE, JP, RU, SI, US) and 3 international organizations (WIPO, EAPO, EPO) arranged according to the country or organization, document type and publication number.

In the course of 1999 the AGEPI started to receive the following databases on CD-ROM: ESPACE-PRECES (Central Europe), COSMOS,

BREF (France), ROPATENT-IMAGIS (Romania), ESPACE-MEXICO, CD-BANAPA (Mexico), UPOV-ROM (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants).

The patent documents are printed on user's request from CD-ROMs.

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

In 1999 the computer network of the AGEPI has undergone essential changes. The old technical equipment was partially replaced and 25 new working places and 3 servers have been brought into action. The information system has been built up of 5 servers:

1. Document Server (Intranet Server) ;
2. Database Server (databases on inventions, industrial designs and trademarks);
3. Internet Server, providing access to the Internet network;
4. Romarin Server (database on international trademarks);
5. Terminal Server provided for serving of under level computers.

Connection of the AGEPI in the year under review to the INTERNET on a permanent basis ensured not only an extensive use of its possibilities in the work of the state examiners but also direct access of readers to the Home pages of different foreign industrial property offices and international organizations.

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):

In the middle of 1999 the AGEPI library was transferred to a new specially equipped room that favored the enlargement of its possibility to serve the increased stream of readers and to store the increasing number of received documents. Two up-to-date appointed reading-rooms (the

common room and the computer one) provide the readers free access to patent scientific and technical documentation stocks.

The computer room, supplied with six CD-ROM working stations offers favorable conditions for work with documentation carried on machine-readable carriers.

Via the AGEPI Home page the users have access to the national database from which one can receive any patent information. For the users convenience the AGEPI provides via its page free access to databases of several industrial property offices.

In 1999 the library increased its CD-ROM collection with 1000 disks. According to state at the end of the year the total number of the CD-ROMs constituted 4,5 thousand.

During the year under review more than 120 legal and natural persons have appealed to the AGEPI's services. Information service group carried out more than 100 CD-ROM searches and 340 consultations for the public. 88 documents of the applications for the protection of different kinds of industrial property objects, were elaborated.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information:

In 1999 the AGEPI received patent documentation on CD-ROM, within the established bilateral documentation exchange with WIPO, EAPO, EPO and offices of Austria, Germany, Japan, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland and USA and disks containing new databases: ESPACE-PRECES (Central Europe), ROPATENT-IMAGES, RO Bulletin (Romania), ESPACE-MEXICO, CD-BANAPA (Mexico).

According to the agreement of the mutual exchange with the INPI of France the AGEPI began to receive on CD-ROM national databases: BREF (bibliographic data and abstracts to the EP, WO, FR applications) and COSMOS (bibliographic data and facsimile representation of full descriptions to the applications) and on paper the Official Bulletin of Industrial Property (section Patents).

The AGEPI monthly carried out regular exchange of bibliographic data and abstract information with the EPO for EPIDOS-INPADOC.

The AGEPI as receiving office is prepared to accept the filing of international applications containing requests in PCT-EASY format.

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

The AGEPI regularly organizes internal training courses for our own specialists. During 1999 37 employees attended patent courses: 5 employees attended extension 220-hour courses and 32 employees attended short-time 40-hour courses.

A special 36-hour program of acquaintance with quick-changeable technologies in the field of computer engineering and software was organized within the AGEPI departments. Staff members of Registers and Publishing Divisions mastered the course in the elaboration and publication of documents in the Microsoft Word 7.0.

In the framework of the ICON-Program realized by the EPO, the leading experts of the AGEPI took part in international seminars on the examination of inventions in the field of computer engineering and biotechnology.

In 1999 the AGEPI organized and financed the participation of the inventors in the following exhibitions: the 27-th International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products (Geneva), the International Exhibition of Technical Novelties "Inventa '99" (Bucharest), the 48-th International Exhibition of Innovations, Research and New Technologies "Brussels-Eureka 1999" (Brussels), the 3-rd International Specialized Exhibition "Infinvent '99" (Chişinău).

With the view to disseminate the knowledge in the field of industrial property protection 6 interviews on television and radio have been granted, 4 essays on inventions and inventors, 18 press releases, 18 articles, 45 information communications have been published into the press within the most popular mass media. During the year under review there were organized the following regional and national symposia and seminars:

- Lecturi AGEPI (for interested circles in the Republic of Moldova and foreign patent offices);
- Day of Open Doors (for specialists in medicine, wine making and brewing, dairy and meat, for students of the Academy of Economic Sciences and International Business School);
- Development of Management of Industrial Property or Intellectual Property Offices in Countries in Transition (for representatives from 24 countries of Central and East Europe and Asia);
- Enforcement of industrial property rights (for businessmen, lawyers, judges and other interested persons).