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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

BULGARIA

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

*
– The expression “industrial design” covers designs and models.
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in this series of documents.

PATENT OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT
ON
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
1999

I. Evolution of registration activities

- Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants (registrations) with respect of the previous year:

Applications 1997 - 617 (national 306)

1998 - 706 (national 190)

1999 - 812 (national 299)

Registrations 1997 - 419 (national 220)

1998 - 638 (national 179)

1999 - 733 (national 225)

- There are no particular areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of industrial design documents and of secondary sources of industrial design information, i.e. official gazettes:

- The Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria publishes the registered industrial designs on paper in the Official Bulletin monthly.

- The publication in the Official Bulletin comprises bibliographical data and the graphical presentation of the registered industrial design.

- The dossiers are on paper and are stored following the registration number.

- The office automation is for administrative support. The database contains the bibliographic data, the legal status and correspondence, fees, etc. since 1993.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of industrial design information according to the classification systems applied:

- The Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria uses the International Classification for Industrial Designs Locarno Classification since 1968. All the documents are classified according to class and subclass of the Locarno Classification. In 1995 the file was reclassified according to the 1994 Edition of the Classification.

- The classification is used for the novelty examination and for search purposes in the paper or electronic (CD) files, for statistics and for searches in the Official gazettes.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

- The Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria maintains Register and four paper files (archives) of the industrial designs:

1. Dossiers of the registered designs arranged in numerical order according to the registration number.
2. Dossiers of the rejected design applications arranged in numerical order according to the application number.
3. Paper card file in form A4, containing the bibliographical data and the graphical presentation of all registered industrial designs, arranged according to the classification symbols.
4. The other paper card file contains the bibliographic data and the graphical presentation of all expired registered industrial designs. The file is arranged according to the classes and subclasses of the Locarno Classification.

- The updating of the files is regular depending on the number of registrations and rejections.

- The storage is in boxes and storage closets.

- The documentation from other offices is maintained and is considered as a part of the available search file and is constituted from the following official bulletins:

WIPO "INTERNATIONAL DESIGNS BULLETIN"

"OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE"

"GESCHMACKSMUSTERBLATT"

"...I PROMISHLENI OBRAZCI"

"BULLETIN OFFICIEL DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE DESSINS ET MODÈLES"

V. Activities in the field of computerized search systems for industrial designs:

- In the Bulgarian Patent Office there are not computer aided possibilities for searching industrial designs information - there are not graphical presentations available. For some purposes the computerized administrative system is used therefore.

- There are no external databases available.

- There is a computerized system for administrative support - register, legal status, fees, statistics. The system is based on IBM 4341 main frame computer with a terminal.

VI. Administration of industrial design services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g. for lodging applications, to register designs, for assisting clients on searching procedures, for obtaining official publication and registry extracts):

- The information services available to the public through the Patent Office are as follows:

1. Searches related to the legal status
2. Subject search
3. Numerical search
4. State of the art search
5. Searches in one or several classes

6. Searches on firm names
7. Combination of the above mentioned.

All the searches are carried in house and in the available collections of documents and official bulletins and paper cards.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of industrial design documentation and information.

- The international and regional cooperation is in the form of exchange of official gazettes.
- The collection of "WIPO International Designs Bulletin" on CD-ROM.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries:

- There are no activities to report.

IX. Other relevant matters.

- There are no other relevant matters to mention.