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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

LATVIA

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 Latvia
ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON
PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
IN 1999

I. Evolution of patent activities:

▪ National patent applications	236 in 1998
	126 in 1999
▪ PCT applications in national phase	49 in 1998
	56 in 1999
▪ European patents extended to Latvia	31 in 1998
	74 in 1999

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

- The Latvian Patent Office produces in multiple copies patents - B-documents. They are produced as printed paper documents. We do not prepare any A-documents. Instead the whole application is made available to the public for inspection in our office or can be supplied as a photocopy on demand. The monthly published Latvian Patent Bulletin contains bibliographic data of Inventions, Trademark and Industrial Designs.
- Patent documents are mainly stored on paper. Our office possesses a database, PATIS in FoxPro 2.5, used for registration and administration of patent, design and trademark applications and granted patents and fees. Common Software is in implementation. Our database is not accessible for outside users. Latvian Patent Specifications (B publication) are published on ESPACE-PRECES CD-ROM.
- The Latvian Patent Bulletin is generated by an EDP-system.

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

- Our office publishes an abstract document of Latvian patent applications 18 months after priority date in the Patent Bulletin. Publication contains bibliographic data, abstract and drawing or chemical formulae.
- We use the sixth edition of the IPC. We do not reclassify old documents to new IPC edition.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

- The paper and CD-ROM collections are available in the Latvian Patent Library. Library provides bibliographic and enquiry searches.

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

- On-line searching of external databases is not available at this moment.
- The following CD-ROM databases are available in 1996 in Latvian Patent Office and Latvian Patent Library:
 - ESPACE EP-A,
 - ESPACE WORLD,
 - ESPACE ACCESS,
 - ESPACE PRECES+ACCESS,
 - ESPACE LEGAL,
 - ESPACE CH,
 - USA PAT,
 - GLOBALPat,
 - DEPAROM U, ACT.

VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public:

- The Patent Library is housed in a separate building outside the Patent Office. Patent documents, as well as patent and technical literature, incoming on various carriers and acquired by purchase, subscription or by exchange, are being stored, prepared and made available for the public in the Library. The Library co-operates with other libraries in Latvia.
- Latvian patent applications open for public inspection are available in the reading room of the Patent Office.

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

- Weekly, register data are received by e-mail from the EPO with data of extension of the European patent applications.
- The Patent Bulletin is sent to 25 addresses. The patent documents are provided on paper. Latvian Patent Specifications are available on ESPACE-PRECES CD-ROM.

- Applications are filed on paper in three copies, but we allow to file the application on diskette also, but in this case one paper copy is requested.

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

- Specialists from the Latvian Patent Office took part in training courses organized by the EPO, US Patent Office and others
- We participate in “Common Software” project according RIPP-PHARE Program