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ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES *

submitted by

YUGOSLAVIA

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.

TECHNICAL REPORT ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (FIPO) OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA FOR THE YEAR 1999

I Evolution of patent activities:

In the course of 1999, there occurred a further increase in the number of applications for the protection of inventions in comparison with 1998. There was a total of 789 applications, so in comparison with the previous year, the increase of the number of applications is about 8%, whereas the number of applications of Yugoslav applicants (340) decreased for 35%, while the number of applications for foreigners (449) is increased for 121%. In the meantime, 364 PCT applications entered the national phase, which represents 46% of the total of the applications filed.

In the Federal Intellectual Property Office, as the receiving office, in 1999, had 12 international applications filed, which is a satisfactory number bearing in mind that this is the third year of the validity of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in Yugoslavia.

With regard to the applications for the patent grant, their number increased in comparison with the previous year for 17%, while the number of applications for the grant of petty patent is decreased again and for 41%, so that it now amounts to only 8% of the total of the applications filed, in spite of the fact that the protection of an invention by petty patent can be obtained in the short period of only a few months and with decreased expenses. It is thus necessary to perform an adequate analysis for the establishment of the cause of the continual decrease of the number of the applications filed for the petty patent grant.

In the following table, there is a number of applications filed for the grant of patent and petty patent, filed in the last four years, since the establishment of petty patent in 1995.

Year	Applications for patent grant	Applications for petty patent grant		
1996	714	96		
1997	513	154		
1998	618	111		
1999	723	66		

With regard to the number of registered patents and petty patents, in comparison to 1998, a decrease of 49% has been established. The number of registered patents decreased for 57%, and the number of registered petty patents has decreased for 28% in comparison with the previous year. In the following table, there is a number of patents and petty patents shown for the period of the last four years.

Year	Number of registered patents	Number patents	of	registered	petty
1996	282	54			
1997	203	90			
1998	249	93			
1999	108	67			

Number of applications in the certain fields of technique in comparison to the total number of patent applications filed and in comparison to the previous year is shown in the following table.

Field of technique	Class	Number of filed patent applications in 1999	% of the number of applications filed in 1999	
organic chemistry	C07 A01N	172	23.8	11.2
preparations for therapeutic, dentist and hygienic means	A61K	91	12.6	6.9
health protection	A61 A61K	39	5.4	8.7
civil engineering	E01-E06	34	4.7	7.6
fermentation, sugar and raw skins	C12-C14	32	4.4	1.6
electronics	H01 H02 H05	31	4.3	6.3

The percentage of the filed patent applications from the six listed fields of technique in comparison to the number of total filed patent applications is 55.2% In comparison to 1998, it should be noted that the number of filed patent applications in the field of organic chemistry is for 149% larger than in the previous year, while in the field of preparations for therapeutic, dentist and hygienic purposes it is for 110% larger than in 1998.

The number of petty patents in specific fields of technique in comparison to the total number of petty applications filed and in comparison to the previous year is shown in the following table:

Field of technique	Class		% of number of filed petty patent applications in 1999	% of number of filed petty patent applications in 1998
civil engineering	E01-E06	7	10.6	7.2
lightening and heating	F21-F28	7	10.6	5.4
electronics	H01, H02, H05	7	10.6	6.3
articles for personal and home	A41-A47	6	9.1	10.8
use transport	B60-B64	5	7.6	7 0
guns and	F41.F42	5	7.6	7.2 1.8
explosives	1 71,1 72	5	7.0	1.0

Percentage of filed applications of petty patents for the six stated fields of art in comparison to the number of total petty patent applications filed is 56.1%. Except in the field of guns and explosives, where a significant increase has been noted, there were no significant changes in the structure of petty patent application.

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

The basic documents printed in paper form in 1999 are the following:

* 6 issues (1700 copies) of the official journal ("Intellectual Property Journal");

* 277 patent documents, whereas 26 documents belongs to petty patents (total of 19.390 copies);

* 131 patent specifications;

* 18420 copies of various forms, instructions for patent applications and for other needs of the Office;

* 50000 photocopied files.

Other publications:

Three books of the VI edition of the International Patent Classification (section G, 258pages, Section H, 231 pages and Application Manual 38 pages, in the circulation of 150 copies).

In the "Intellectual Property Journal" we publish bibliographical data, abstracts and technical drawings (one characteristic drawing) for patent applications - patent document A. In 1999, we published 1148 patent applications. After publication in the "Intellectual Property Journal", the patent application is open for inspection and can be photocopied at the request of the user in the Office.

Bibliographical data, first patent claim and drawings for registered patents and petty patents - document B are published in the "Intellectual Property Journal". In 1999 we published 154 registered patents and 80 petty patents.

Registered patents and petty patents, after the publication in the "Intellectual Property Journal" are published as document C. In 1999, we published 251 patent and 26 petty patents.

The following text processors are used in the Office: MS, WORD 6 and MS WORD 97.

Except in the Trademark department, the Office has no LAN, but all the activities are carried out partially and separately by PC computers.

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

Patent documents (patent application - A, Patent - C and petty patent) are classified according to IBC 5 and IPC 6. Other classification systems are not used.

Concerning paralleled systems of indexing, there is no change with regard to the report on the activities in 1998.

Bibliographical data included in the internal data base are used in the framework of the information system of the Office.

Search reports are done by using bases on CD-ROMs, INPADOC databases on microfiches, available classified collections of patent documents on papers and Internet.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

Search reports are made according to the WIPO recommended standards, and on the bases of available fund of paper documentation, INPADOC collection of microfiches, CD-ROM and Internet databases.

During 1999, in cooperation with WIPO, EPO, German Patent Office, some new databases are supplied and the existing collections of CD-ROM databases are completed. The Office has at its disposal more than 4200 CD-ROMs (that make 17 % more compared to the number of CD-ROMs in 1998) that are available free of charge to all the users in public library of the Office. The supply of underneath mentioned databases and publications on CD-ROMs considerably makes more accessible the dissemination of information and research report upkeep. The Office has the following data bases:

- 1. ESPACE ACCESS, ESPACE ACCESS EP-B
- 2. ESPACE ACCESS EP-B DVD ROM
- 3. ESPACE WORLD
- 4. ESPACE FIRST
- 5. ESPACE EP-A, ESPACE EP-B
- 6. PAJ UNEXAMINED APPLICATIONS CD-ROM:

- PAJ FRONT FILE

- PAJ BACK - FILE

- PAJ INDEX

- FOREIGN APPLICANTS, SECTION C

- 7. WIPO HANDBOOK, 1997 and 1998
- 8. GLOBALPAT, 1971 -1996
- 9. PCT GAZETTE, from Vol. 15/1998
- 10. PATENTBLATT CD from vol. 15/98 and from 01-09/99
- 11. WIPO Industrial Property Statistic, 1995
- 12. JOPAL
- 13. ESPACE SI, 1998. and 1999. ; bilten 1999/1-6
- 14. ESPACE DE, 1992-1994
- 15. DEPAROM ACT, DEPAROM U, 1995 1999
- 16. WIPO IPC:
 - CLASS (with 6th editions of IPC)
 - CATCHWORD indexes and revision Concordance tables for 2, 3, 4, 5 and

6th

edition of IPC

17. EAPO, vol. 3/1999

18. PATENT APPLICATIONS CANADA, vol. 001/99

All the mentioned databases are functional and available to the users in the Office.

A computer program has been made for the evidence of CD-ROMs from existing bases, allowing computerized keeping and updating.

Search reports, as paper documents, are being kept in accordance with standard, in boxes arranged according to the years of edition.

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

Except in the Sector for Distinctive Signs, the Office uses:

a) the internal system which is constituted of:

- Bibliographical database with YU-A and YU-B documents on PC computers for the period 1991-1999 (Database is CLIPPER created)
- Bibliographical database with YU-A and YU-B documents for the period from 1975-1990 (Database is created in ORACLE 5.1).

b) the external databases used for searching in the Office are: CD-ROMs, INPADOC collection of microfiches and Internet, as well.

Except in the Sector for Distinctive Signs, the equipment, used for the above mentioned activities in the Office, consists of: 10 PCs 486, 22 PCs 586, and JUKEBOX SYSTEM of the capacity for 100 CD with 4 working stations and MS ACCESS 97 base.

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):

The Services, which the Office gave to the users, refer to:

- State-of-Art search report:

In 1999, 77 searches of patent documentation were made at the written request of the user (15% on the subject of invention and 85% according to the bibliographical data). The highest percentage of patent documentation search, according to the technical fields, belongs to pharmacy and technology (80%), mechanical engineering (10%), electronics (4%) and the rest (6%).

With the help of the experts in the Office, about 526 searches of patent documentation were done, to establish state-of-art for the benefit of external users (about 24% less than in 1998. - which is the result of the delay in the Office operations due to move of premises.

In the course of 1999, we have translated 70% of amendments and additions to the VII edition of IPC.

FIPO has at its disposal 11 million patent documents, about 15,000 patent journals, 4.8 thousand referral bulletins, about 6.5 thousand journals and an expert library of about 5.3 thousand books.

The library of patent documents consists of 16 numerical collections, 6 system collections classified according to IPC and two system collections classified according to the national class.

The public library, in the Office, was visited by more than 360 users .

The total number of bibliographical information for the external users from all available information bases (on microfiches, CD-ROMs, Internet, card-files and the collection of patent documents on paper) amount to 3780.

All information supplied to the external users, except at the written requests, are free of charge.

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

With the inflow of documents from 12 foreign countries, European Patent Office, East German patent collection, including Yugoslav patents, the FIPO has at its disposal 15 collections of patent documents. However, from the beginning of the application of sanctions of the international community, only three countries continued with the forwarding of patent documents: AT, CH and PL, so that only four collections are being updated including Yugoslav patents.

FIPO, in 1999, sent 3600 patent documents in 14 countries.

In 1992, the fund of patent bulletins from 24 collections from foreign countries is enlarged and reached the number of 32, bearing in mind the formation of new states where the bulletins are being exchanged. The delivery of bulletins is stalked in 7 countries (DK, CO, HU, US, SE, CH, EP).

FIPO sent 532 copies of the "Intellectual Property Journal" in the following countries of the world:

AM, AT, AU, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CO, CU, CZ, DK, DE, EG, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, JN, IT, JP, LI, LT, LY, MK, NO, PL, RO, RU, SE, S, TR, UA, US.

The Office has no electronic data carrier for the exchange of patent documents.

The exchange of patent documents and the application filing are still carried out on paper.

The Office has available access to patent documents of other Offices on Internet, but the Office has no website or databases of its own patent collection on Internet.

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, FIPO continued with the activities on the affirmation of intellectual property and education of inventors, workers in science and businessmen. The experts in the FIPO held several lectures in the framework of seminar in the field of intellectual property protection at congresses, counseling, and various seminars: Unified management of products and technological resources(JUPITER Conference 99) in Belgrade, Energetics of Yugoslavia (ENJU) at Zlatibor, International Symposia of Processing Equipment (Processing 99) in Belgrade, Kopaonik School of inalienable natural rights, etc. In Krusevac, in the enterprise Oil Industry of Serbia - Grease Factory (NIS-FAM) a two day seminar was held, and in Novi Sad, in the framework of the exhibition of inventors of Vojvodina, three lectures were held. The experts from the FIPO took part in the inventions presentation program and the allotment of yearly awards and the announcement of the inventor of the year at The Chamber of Commerce of Serbia, and the opening of Tesla Fest 99 in Novi Sad.

In the FIPO, patent engineers have been trained and help has been given from all fields of intellectual property to enterprises, institutions and individuals. We mention only some enterprises and institutions: "Zdravlje" from Leskovac, "Hemofarm" from Vrsac, "Galenika" from Belgrade, "Zorka" from Sabac, "Zastava" from Kragujevac, "Institute Vin~a", Belgrade, Faculty of Technology & Metallurgy, etc.

In the framework of the bilateral cooperation, several significant visits have been accomplished:

(1) The representative of the FIPO, in the framework of the triparty Yugoslav delegation under auspices of the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, attended the Symposium on the protection of the plant varieties held on February 15 in Geneva, in the organization of WIPO, WTO and UPOV. On that occasion, in the administration of UPOV, a motion of the Law on the Protection of the Varieties of Plants and Patent Law are forwarded for the sake of envisaging total possibilities of invention protection in this field.

(2) The representatives of the FIPO took part at the International Conference on the Protection of Industrial Property in Turkey and the world, which was held in Istambul on June 24-25, when Director Ljubinka Radosavljevic addressed the assembly pointing out the important events from the work of the Office and the expected tasks.

(3) The Eurasian Patent Office in Moscow, in the period September 12-17, discussed the possibilities of further cooperation in the form of exchange of experts and information, and the accession of FR Yugoslavia to the Eurasian Patent Convention.

(4) In the period from October 7-8, at the invitation of Rospatent, the representatives of FIPO took part at the Conference on Industrial Property in Moscow.

(5) The delegation of FIPO took part in November 10-14 at the World Exhibition of Inventions, Explorations and New Technologies "BRUSSELS EUREKA 1999" in Brussels, where the Yugoslav inventor Mato Zubac got the price Grand Prix.

A serial of activities has been acomplished for the preparation of the visit to the National Office for Intellectual Property of the People's Republic of China.