

WIPO



SCIT/ATR/TM/1999/BY

E

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by the

BELARUS

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

Annual Technical Report of Belgospatent on Trademark Information Activities in 1999

I. Evolution of registration activities

As compared to the previous year, there were no changes in procedures and requirements concerning the process of filing applications for registration of trademarks.

In 1999, one continued to observe the tendency of lowering the number of trademark applications, which had sprung up in 1997. It refers to the applications filed both under the national procedure and under the Madrid Agreement procedure. As in the previous years, the leading place among countries-applicants which filed their applications under the Madrid Agreement procedure in 1999 was occupied by Germany (37.8 per cent), France (14.5 per cent), Switzerland (10.8 per cent), Italy (8 per cent) and the Netherlands (5.6 per cent). The number of applications filed by these countries amounted to 77 per cent of the total.

General information on applications for registration of trademarks filed in RB is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

	1998	1999	1999/1998 %
Applications for registration of trademarks filed, total	6339	5550	87.6
under the national procedure	2070	1880	90.8
of which:			
- by national applicants	1173	1152	98
- by foreign applicants	897	728	81
under the Madrid Agreement procedure	4269	3670	85.97

In 1999, there was carried out examination of 2195 marks filed for registration under the national procedure and 1896 decisions about registration were taken. There was carried out examination of 4269 applications under the international procedure as a result of which there were taken 64 decisions about complete refusal to register marks. In 1999, 1920 marks were registered under the national procedure, that is by 11 per cent less than in 1998. The number of marks registered in accordance with the Madrid Agreement procedure lowered insignificantly and amounted to 4168.

Table 2 contains data on the number of trademarks registered in RB.

Table 2

	1998	1999	1999/1998 %
Trademarks registered, total	6375	6088	95.5
under the national procedure	2160	1920	88.9
of which:			
- in the names of national applicants	914	1041	113.9
- in the names of foreign applicants	1246	879	70.5
under the Madrid Agreement procedure	4215	4168	98.9
Trademarks valid by the end of the year, total	35489	41386	116.6
under the national procedure	9830	11750	119.5
under the Madrid Agreement procedure	25659	29636	115.5

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information

In 1999, the Official Bulletin of Belgopatent was restructured. Belgopatent began to publish the Official Bulletin on Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs and the Official Bulletin on Trademarks as separate publications.

As on January 1, 2000, information about trademarks is published in the following official publications of Belgopatent:

- the Official Bulletin on Trademarks;
 - a collection of normative and methodical materials "Industrial Property";
 - the Annual Report of Belgopatent,
- as well as in the statistical reports on trademarks sent to WIPO annually.

Belgopatent official publications are produced on paper using the in-house automated subsystem of preparing Official Bulletins. Circulation of official publications is carried out in the printing-copying shop of Belgopatent provided with copying equipment for reproducing black-and-white and colored images as well as equipment for afterprinting works.

100 copies of these publications (each of them) are distributed free of charge at 68 addresses of Belarus including the government, the bodies of state power and administration, the largest republican and regional libraries, higher educational institutions and others. More than 92 enterprises, organizations and firms including 3 organizations from the USA and United Kingdom received them by subscription.

As media for storing information on RB trademarks filed and registered, paper carriers (paper cases with application documents) and hard disks in the servers with the redundancy system RAID (the national database of word trademarks) are used.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing trademark information

In 1999, in this kind of activities Belgopatent used the 7th edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services (the Nice Classification); the 4th edition of the International Classification of Figurative Elements (the Vienna Classification) and INID Codes in accordance with the WIPO Standard ST 60.

Electronic systems are not used to check the correctness of classification symbols.

The use of certain terms for classifying goods and services defined in the Nice Classification is an obligatory condition for applicants.

IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep

The manual search file of the Examination Department for Trademarks of Belgopatent consists of:

- the card index of national trademarks and marks filed for registration and containing figurative elements; this card index is constantly filled up due to registration of marks;
- WIPO Gazettes of International Marks;
- patent bulletins of foreign countries on paper carriers.

V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems

The in-house automated subsystem "Trademarks" was constructed on the grounds of the national database of word, figurative and combination trademarks and marks filed for registration containing bibliography, graphical images of trademarks and a list of goods and services. What concerns its interface and capabilities, the search system used is similar to the ROMARIN system. To conduct automated searches for the purposes of national registration, the database is replenished by way of inputting new applications as well as decisions on applications taken during the year.

In 1999, the subsystem "Trademarks" was improved in accordance with users' requirements. There was completed the automated system of clerical work, new kinds of correspondence were introduced.

The second version of the in-house automated subsystem "Trademarks" was worked out. The database structure and software with the architecture "client-server" for the DBMS Microsoft SQL server were developed. The subsystem has much better characteristics, such as response time, operational reliability, unauthorized access protection, etc. The subsystem was demonstrated to the specialists of the Examination Department for Trademarks, received their approval and has been prepared to be passed to the Department.

The examiners of the Department also have direct access to the database of international registrations on ROMARIN CD-ROMs in the local net.

External databases and systems were not used.

In 1999, there was developed a program complex of trademark fee payment accounting "Fee Stocktaking" including registration and renewal fees. The said complex was introduced in the Examination Department for Trademarks.

What concerns the hardware and software of the in-house automated subsystem "Trademarks", nothing has changed in them since the last report.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public

Information about trademarks of foreign countries published in their official bulletins is available to the public in the Central Republican Patent Collection of the Republican Scientific and Research Library.

The list of services rendered by Belgospatent in the field of trademarks presented in the report for 1998 has not changed.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information

Nothing new to report since 1998.

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

On June 9-11, 1999, on Belgospatent request the WIPO representative took part in the seminar on intellectual property protection and, in particular, on the Madrid system for international registration of marks.

In 1999, the first issue of the scientific-practical journal "Intellectual Property in Belarus" was published. One of its founders was Belgospatent.

The Training and Research Centre of Industrial Property of Belgospatent renamed as the Training and Research Republican Unitary Enterprise of Intellectual Property "RUPIS" (RUP "RUPIS") on October 13, 1999, is the only educational institution in Belarus that trains specialists in patenting.

In 1999, 22 specialists were retrained in legal protection of intellectual property and received diplomas qualifying them as patent lawyers. 8 specialists received certificates of professional skill improved after training in the framework of a short-term course "The Basis of Legal Protection for Industrial Property Subjects in the Republic of Belarus". 12 persons were prepared for an attestation examination, passed it and became patent attorneys of RB.

In 1999, RUPIS organized the seminar "Improvement of Competitive Capacity of Goods and Services on the Basis of Effective Use of Industrial Property Subjects" for national specialists.