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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by

BULGARIA

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

¹ – 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.

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES**

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I. Evolution of registration activities:

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

Applications	1997 - 617 (national 306)
	1998 - 706 (national 190)
	1999 - 812 (national 299)
	2000 - 904 (national 361)
	2001 - 1023 (national 449)
Registrations	1997 - 419 (national 220)
	1998 - 638 (national 179)
	1999 - 733 (national 225)
	2000 - 683 (national 196)
	2001 - 784 (national 232)

- Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.

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:

- Publishing, including printing, copying techniques and electronic printing:
The Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria publishes the registered industrial designs on paper in the Official Bulletin monthly.

- Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of industrial design information:
The publication in the Official Bulletin comprises bibliographical data and the graphical presentations or coloured images of the registered industrial design.

- Mass storage media and microforms used:
The dossiers are on paper and are stored following the registration number.

- Databases and office automation:

The office automation, functioning from 01.10.2001, is for administrative support, for searching industrial designs information. There is a national database with graphical presentations or coloured images. The database contains the bibliographic data, the legal status and correspondence, fees, etc.

The new Oracle Based Industrial Design Information System (IDIS) developed from outside company was completed in the end of the 2001-year and began to work with 1-year warranty in BPO. Its functions are currently updating and in the end of the 2002-year we will have the final version.

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

- Classification and reclassification activities; Classification system used, e.g., International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Classification), other classification (please indicate whether industrial designs are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification is used)

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 1998 Edition (7th) of the Classification.

- Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes:

The classification is used for the novelty examination and for search purposes in the PC (IDIS - Industrial Designs Information System), paper or electronic (CD-ROM) files, for statistics and for searches in the Official gazettes.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

- File building:

The Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria maintains Automation Database – IDIS, Register and four paper files (archives) of the industrial designs:

1. Automation Database – IDIS
2. Dossiers of the registered designs arranged in numerical order according to the registration number.
3. Dossiers of the rejected design applications arranged in numerical order according to the application number.
4. 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.
5. 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.

- Updating

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

- Storage, including mass storage media:

The storage is in boxes and storage closets.

- Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file:

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" (WO)

"OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" (US)

"GESCHMACKSMUSTERBLATT" (DE)

"...И ПРОМЫШЛЕННЫЕ ОБРАЗЦЫ" (RU)

"BULLETIN OFFICIEL DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE DESSINS ET MODÈLES" (FR).

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

- In-house systems (online/offline)

In the Bulgarian Patent Office there are computer aided possibilities for searching industrial designs information and correspondences. There are national databases with graphical presentations and colored images. For all purposes the computerized system is used therefore.

The new Oracle Based Industrial Design Information System (IDIS) developed from outside company was completed in the end of the 2001-year and began to work with 1-year warranty in BPO. Its functions are currently updating and in the end of the 2002-year we will have the final version.

- External databases:

There is Internet external databases available.

- Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.):

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

- Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), data carriers used.

No other changes in this field in comparison with 2000 year.

VI. Administration of industrial design services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering designs, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

- Planning, administration, automation, security;
- Collection management, preservation;
- Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and industrial design information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web):

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:

- International or regional cooperation in the exchange of industrial design information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes:

The international and regional cooperation is in the form of exchange of official gazettes.

- Exchange of machine-readable information, e.g., data contained on CD-ROM or magnetic tape:

The collection of “WIPO International Designs Bulletin” on CD-ROM.

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

- Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.);
- Training courses for national and foreign participants;
- Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.).

There are no activities to report.

IX. Other relevant matters.

There are no other relevant matters to mention.

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