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ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by the

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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

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- 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:

In the year 2001, the AGEPI received 671 applications for the registration of industrial designs, with 108 more than in 2000 (563), of which 100 have been filed under the national procedure and 571 under the Hague Agreement. The number of applications increased with 19,2%, while the number of the industrial designs comprised in these applications increased with 20,5%, in total 2502 designs; From the total number of applications filed by national applicants, 86% came from legal persons.

In the year under review, the number of issued certificates for industrial design registration reached the highest level in the last 6 years – 66 certificates.

In the year 2001, 470 international applications were registered, comprising 1751 industrial designs. As in 2000 the most active applicants in 2001 were from France (173 applications with 680 industrial designs) and Switzerland (165 – 436).

In the year under review was noticed the increased interest towards the protection of the following objects: labels (66 designs); bottles (56 designs); food products (18 designs), clothes (16 designs).

In the year 2001, there have been renewed 193 international registrations, including 1769 industrial designs.

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 most important publications in the field of industrial design documentation are the following:

- The Official Bulletin of Industrial Property Protection (BOPI);
- The National Industrial Designs and Models Register;
- The National Industrial Design and Model Applications Register.

Both Registers are published on paper carrier.

BOPI including Sections VI with information on industrial designs and models, from January 2000 onwards are available online via our AGEPI web site at www.agepi.md in portable document format (PDF).

Section VI contains:

- FF4L Registered industrial designs (bibliographic data and graphic reproduction);
- FG4L List of industrial design certificates issued in ...(date of issuing);
- FG4L List of renewal industrial designs;
- FG4L Numerical Index of industrial designs registered in the Republic of Moldova according to the Hague Agreement;
- FG4L Subject Index of industrial designs registered in the Republic of Moldova according to the Hague Agreement;
- NZ4L List of industrial designs renewed in the Republic of Moldova according to the Hague Agreement.

Section VII contains various types of notices referring to all amendments occurred to the legal status of the protected industrial property objects (List of amendments, List of cession of rights contracts, Errata, etc), etc.

The number of documents published in 2001 in BOPI was 813 applications (in 2000 - 710) and 1402 titles of protection (in 2000 – 1366).

During the year 2001, the series of publications - "The Library of Industrial Property" was completed with the following works:

- The Industrial Property Protection in the Republic of Moldova;
- How to register an industrial design in the Republic of Moldova;
- AGEPI Readings.

During the year 2001, the procedure of transfer of the AGEPI Archive into electronic format was launched based on the XEROX DocuImage 620S equipment.

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

Nothing new to report.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

At the disposal of examiners in their daily practice, there are the following databases:

- National automated searchable database "DESENE", supporting a number of search fields;
- International applications received in the International Design Bulletin (paper form and CD-ROM);
- Card - files of industrial designs grouped by categories of the Locarno Classification, of the following countries: BY, BG, FI, HR, HU, LT, MK, RO, RU, SK, TJ, UA, UZ. (from 1994 onwards).

The searches cover a period of 8 years, and - 12 years for the collection of industrial designs registered under the Hague Agreement.

Moreover, the manual paper search files consist of special books, periodicals, booklets, and a number of other lists and sources.

During the year 2001, 49 titles (489 copies) of national and foreign periodical publications on a large range of issues in the field of Industrial Property have been acquired by subscription. 1008 books, especially dictionaries, encyclopedias, juridical literature, handbooks etc., have been purchased.

The examiner's search files are updated on a regular basis.

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

In the year under review, the activity in the field of automation of informational and technological processes was oriented towards:

- integration of IPO databases on the Internet;
- automation of the application filing and examination procedures, registration and administration of the applications and protection titles;
- improvement of existing information products;
- verification and up-dating of bibliographical information on IPO.

In the year 2001 a program, which permits to get the statistics data in accordance with the established statistical parameters and the automated engendering of the statistical reports was elaborated.

The automated recording of statistics data of industrial designs represent a branch of the automated process of administration of industrial design applications.

Great attention was paid to reconfiguration of the existing servers, and namely:

- Primary Domain Controller (documentation);
- Back up Domain Controller (database);
- Internet server, for which was regenerated the operation system, being replaces with a new one.

All examiners have access to the Internet at their desks.

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):

In the year under review, the AGEPI Library obtained the Statute of Republican Library Science Center in the field of Industrial Property, becoming also a member of the Association of Libraries. The Activities Program on promotion of IP information has been elaborated and implemented.

At the disposal of all interested persons, there are the WIPO International Design Bulletin (paper form and CD-ROM) and Industrial design gazettes of different countries.

Librarians and information specialists are available in the library to assist the public in all aspects of their work with catalogues, CD-ROMs, books, etc.

The documentation represented in the AGEPI library is available to the public during 6 days (including Saturday) from 9-00 to 16-00.

The collections of IP documents were created in 8 district libraries and 7 sector libraries.

With the goal of promoting the AGEPI Library Collection and services rendered by the library 77 actions have been organized within AGEPI and also on the territory of the RM, of which 41 - book exhibitions, 12 - presentations of new publications, 11- information days. In the framework of

the 11 seminars, organized by the library staff, have participated about 270 representatives of University, Republican and Municipal Libraries, as well as experts in different fields of the national economy.

During the year 2001, have been distributed to the beneficiaries 4833 copies, including 1093 by selling.

The main priorities of the “AGEPI–Mobile” Center - Mobile Center for the Promotion of Industrial Property - were the operative rendering assistance and information services, lending practical support in the field of search procedure and industrial property protection directly to enterprises, organization and institutions.

In 2001, the AGEPI has additionally issued a lot of information prospects, leaflets, booklets regarding the industrial property protection and registration procedure.

The information provided on the AGEPI web site – www.agepi.md – covers all general topics concerning industrial designs (preparation of application, office procedures, forms).

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

Nothing new to report

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

In 2001 the AGEPI employees organized and participated in 122 conferences, symposiums, seminars and ”round tables,” of which 103 have been conducted with the AGEPI.

70 persons have graduated the Distance Learning Courses, organized by the WIPO Academy,

In the year 2001, 85 AGEPI specialists participated in 36 national events (seminars, conferences, exhibitions etc) and 14 international events.

38 employees of the AGEPI have increased their qualification with WIPO and other international institutions. The AGEPI specialists has shown a special interest in training course, organized by the Deputy Director of the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center with a view of improving the activity of the Specialized Arbitration Center under the AGEPI.

Within the AGEPI there have been organized 2 cycles of up-grading courses in the IP field, being completed by 28 persons

In the year 2001, 41 students have been listed for daily section and 27 students for extra-mural section of the Intellectual Property Institute (IPI) providing higher education in management of intellectual property in the Republic of Moldova. The instructive-educational process is based on advanced informational and pedagogical technologies, assisted by audiovisual and computer support. Beginning with 2001, IPI organizes, on the basis of License from the Ministry of Education, the following courses: Councilor in industrial property, Councilor in trademarks, Councilor in industrial design; Councilor in inventions and utility models; Councilor in the field of copyright and related rights; Representatives in industrial property; Manager in industrial property; Specialists in industrial property evaluation; Computer Operator; Modern languages.

The AGEPI representatives have also participated in the session of the WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, etc.

On March 27, the AGEPI housed the International Seminar, organized by the Coalition for Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), and, on March 28, the CIPR Joint Strategy Meeting, in the framework of which there have been outlined the future priority trends of the activity of the Coalition and Patent Offices of the CIS Member States

The Conference of the Young Specialists of the CIS Patent Offices was held in Kishinev from June 26 to 28, 2001. The representatives were from Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Tajikistan and the Republic of Moldova

Two seminars have been organized with the financial assistance and support of US Department of Commerce concerning legal tools of intellectual property protection.

The AGEPI Library staff on May 3, 2001, has organized a republican seminar entitled "The contribution of the libraries in promotion of IP information," with the participation of representatives of the national, university, public district libraries etc. Such seminars have been also organized in the territory: Balti, Ungheni, Straseni.

Two representatives of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks of Romania (OSIM) paid a working visit to the AGEPI in order to offer assistance and consultation related to the harmonization of the national

legislation with the international agreements and treaties in the light of the Republic of Moldova accession to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs.

In accordance with the AGEPI program of activity for the year 2001, there have been organized 5 national exhibitions of inventions and new technologies and assured the participation of Moldavian representatives in 5 international exhibitions

The fifth Edition of International Specialized Exhibition „Infoinvent–2001”, was organized in cooperation with the International Exhibition Center “Moldexpo”. About 80 enterprises, research institutions, private inventors participated in this exhibition, representing a lot of innovative projects. Moreover, the regional exhibitions “INFOINVENT–2001” have been organized in Balti and Cahul, in which participated successfully the innovative enterprises and inventors from the respective regions.

In the year under review, the AGEPI participated in the Interstate Exhibition in Moscow, dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Community of Independent States (CIS), as well as in the national exhibitions “Small Business,” “Moldagroteh” and “Farmer”.

IX. Other relevant matters.

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