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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by

AUSTRIA

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

¹ – 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.

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

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I. Evolution of patent activities:

- Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year;
- Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.

The numbers of applications, grants and registrations in 2001 in Austria are presented together with the numbers in 2000 (= 100%):

National patent applications:	2 332	in 2001	(+1,7%)
	2 293	in 2000	
Granted national patents:	1 383	in 2001	(+13,6%)
	1 217	in 2000	
Granted European patents with AT as designated state:	12 522	in 2001	(-2,2%)
	12 801	in 2000	
Utility model applications:	1098	in 2001	(+10,7%)
	992	in 2000	
Utility model registrations:	790	in 2001	(+5,2%)
	751	in 2000	
Supplementary protection certificate applications:	45	in 2001	(+12,5%)
	40	in 2000	
Supplementary protection certificate registrations:	61	in 2001	(-29,9%)
	87	in 2000	

The increase in the number of application for invention protection (patents and utility models) was due to the increasing number of domestic applications (2001: 2 951, 2000: 2 775).

The majority of national applications yielded from the technical field of building and fixed construction (14,7%), followed by transportation (12,4%) and human necessities (11,8%).

Significant growth rates compared with 2000 were recorded in the fields of iron and steel (47,83%), construction industry (18,41%) and electrical engineering (18,88%). This confirms the upward trend in these three technical fields over several years. The highest increase by numbers were recorded in biochemical industry (56,5%), though the total number of 36 application was low.

A decrease in the number of applications was recorded in the fields of inorganic chemistry (-21,43%) and mechanical engineering (-10,8%).

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

- Publishing, printing, copying (main types of publications of the office in the field of patent information, etc.);
- Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of patent information;
- Mass storage media used (paper, microforms, optical storage, etc.);
- Word processing and office automation;
- (New) techniques used for the generation of patent information (printing, recording, photocomposing, etc.).

Nothing new to report since the 1999 report.

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

- Abstracting, reviewing, translating;
- Classification and reclassification activities; Classification system used, e.g., International Patent Classification (IPC), other classification (please indicate whether or not patent documents are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification is used);
- Coordinate indexing (ICIREPAT-types and/or domestic deep indexing systems, keyword indexing);
- Hybrid system indexing;
- Bibliographic data and full-text processing for search purposes.

Nothing new to report since the 1996 report.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

- File building;
- Updating;
- Storage, including mass storage media;
- Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file.

A network (LAN) supported electronic search file system is under development.

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

- In-house systems (online/offline);
- External databases;
- Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.);
- Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), carriers used;
- Existing online thesauri; their structure, presentation and usefulness for computerized searches.

A paperless Administration System for search and examination request, including PCT international applications, became operational. A SQL-based system for processing search- and examination files (input of reports directly on the terminal with transfer to a host and processing of the fair copy) was introduced and is now implemented. It is planned to extend the system to the patent- and utility model processing, too.

A project of migration of the jukebox based system for accessing patent publications on CD-ROMs (RISP system) to a hard disk based online system has been initiated in 2001.

Activities for adopting the new formats of data structures and of publication numbers of PCT applications were carried out.

Due to the introduction of the new currency EURO the EDP supported charging system had to be adjusted.

Equipment:

Hardware: Pentium PC for all examiners via Token-Ring LAN / direct line to the Internet and the EPO(Vienna and The Hague).

Software: Windows Operating System, B-DOOR/FirstPage+, MS Internet Explorer, STN-Express, Questel Imagination, in-house produced systems for processing searches and examinations respective downloading and displaying of documents retrieved from the internet, based on Visual Basic / SQL.

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):

- Planning, administration, automation, security, buildings;
- Collecting, acquisitions, preparation;
- Collection management, preservation;
- Interlibrary lending, resource sharing, networks of patent libraries in the country;
- Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and patent information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web).

The Homepage of the Austrian Patent Office was redesigned and additional services added: Online information about bibliographic data and open annual and renewal fees for national patents, utility models and European patents valid in Austria is now available free of charge and can be interrogated by the application or registration number.

The address of the Homepage of the office has changed to:

www.patent.bmvit.gv.at

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

- International or regional cooperation in the exchange of machine-readable information, e.g., bibliographic data, abstract and/or full text information;
- Medium used for exchange of priority documents;
- Medium allowed for filing applications;
- Implementation of the Statement of Principles Concerning the Changeover to Electronic Data Carriers for the Exchange of Patent Documents² (please make a status report on the extent to which your Office has changed over to electronic data carriers for the exchange of patent documents).

Nothing new to report since the 2000 report.

² See WIPO *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* CD-ROM, Part 8.4.

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

- Training courses for national and foreign participants, use of audiovisual means;
- Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.);
- Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.);
- Studies to identify trends in new technology, e.g., by the use of patent statistics, preparation of monographs, etc.;
- Assistance furnished by offices to facilitate the changing over of receiving offices to electronic data carriers for the exchange of patent documents (see also item 4 of Chapter VI, above).

Training courses:

More than 60 training courses and seminars for national participants were organized in order to inform about the possibilities and importance of industrial property protection. The main target groups for these activities were entrepreneurs, in particular from small and medium sized enterprises, members from universities and schools, but also attorneys, management consultants and librarians.

In order to cope with the increasing demand in training activities, two seminar series were additionally instigated which are executed by the Austrian Patent Office/Partial Legal Entity. The first seminar series was of an introductory nature where an overview on industrial property rights was given. The second seminar series dealt with special topics such as patent and trademark information and protection, biotechnology, licenses, designs, software protection etc. and were arranged also in cooperation with consultation of external experts.

In addition to the activities of the APO in co-operation with WIPO and the European Patent Office training courses and information seminars on patent examination and on utility model protection were held for members of the Patent Office of China, Romania and Croatia.

Furthermore, two-week training courses on nullity and appeal and topography took place for members of the Patent Office of China and two seminars on European Patents and databases were held for members of the Patent Office of Romania.

Assistance to developing countries:

In co-operation with WIPO a two-week training course on patent search and examination procedures, and on patent information and documentation, was held for members of the offices of Armenia, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

In co-operation with EPO and WIPO a one-day seminar about patents as a source of information, took place for members of the following countries: Barbados, Brazil, Iran, Korea, Malawi, Malaysia, Philippines and Zimbabwe.

The Austrian Patent Office held a two-week seminar on Utility Models in China.

Promotional activities:

High-ranking delegations from the Intellectual Property Offices of Japan, Slovenia, Germany, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Singapore and the People's Republic of China visited the Austrian Patent Office to exchange experiences and to discuss new developments and the expansion of cooperation.

The Austrian Patent Office initiated the multilateral project "One Shop Principle" in 2001 with the goal to simplify information dissemination to customers and to offer comprehensive information services of all involved partner offices to the customers of the IP offices participating in the project. One of the main objectives is a mutual exchange of information and information products between the involved offices. The customers should be able to receive information from several source offices by contacting only one particular office, e.g. the domestic office. This would yield in a pan-European service system within the area of intellectual property that would allow customers to access necessary information in a short and effective way so that they can utilize competition advantages by using actual and relevant information. Representatives from 29 European IP offices participated in a first kick-off meeting in June. Four working groups were created and two work sessions of these working groups were held in October and November.

Exhibition and fairs:

The exhibition "Patents. Inventions. Austria" was organized as a joint project with the Technical Museum Vienna.

The Austrian Patent Office was also represented at six fairs.

IX. Other relevant matters.

None.

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