

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by

BULGARIA

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:

1173 patent applications for inventions and utility models have been filed in Bulgarian Patent Office last year. The number of applications received in 2001 was 126 more in comparison with the same number in 2000 and that represents increase of 11 %. The increased activity is mainly due to the growth of the number of the foreign applicants. 381 Bulgarian patent applications have been filed during the year. The number of Bulgarian patent applications in the previous year was 329 (Figure 1). 272 of those applications were for patents for inventions and 109 - for utility model applications.

24 applications have been filed in the Bulgarian Patent Office branch situated in Varna

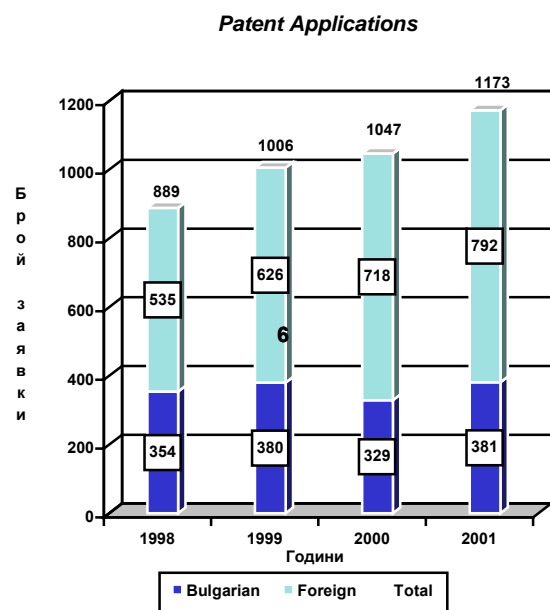


Figure 1

that is 6,3 % of the total number of Bulgarian patent applications.

During the year 2001 the application activity for patent protection by foreign applicants was higher in comparison with the previous year. The number of the foreign patent applications was 792 that represents 10 % increase in comparison with the year 2000 when the same number was 718 (Figure 1). Applicants from 40 countries have filed applications in Bulgaria. The main part of the foreign patent applications was filed by American, German, British, French, Belgium, Italian, Dutch, Swiss, Swedish applicants etc.

19 Bulgarian patent applications according to PCT have been proceeded and filed to the International Bureau of WIPO in the year 2001.

Applications Fled in 2001 by Countries

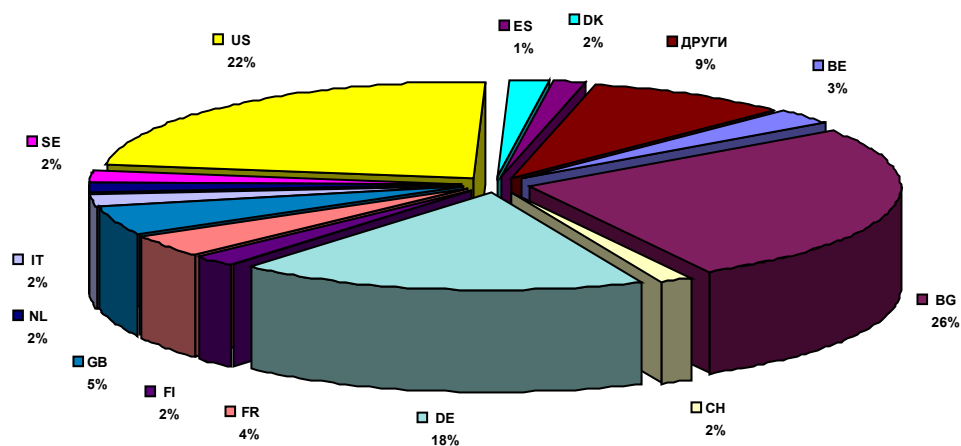


Figure 2

The applicants have filed 26 applications for new plant varieties in the year 2001 as 21 of them – of Bulgarian and 5 – of foreign patent applicants (Figure 3).

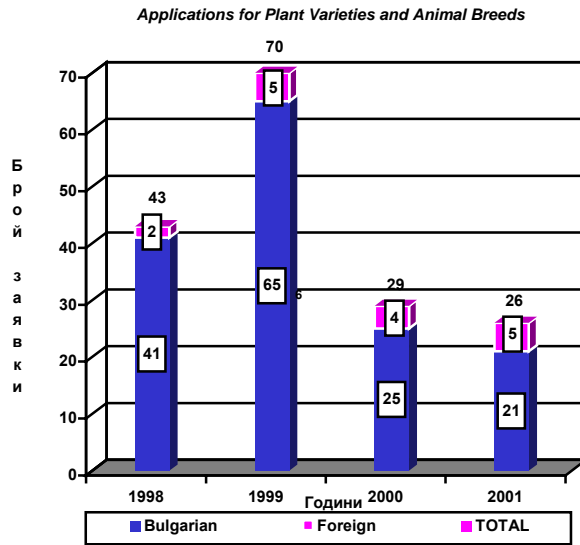


Figure 3

A general review of the inventive activity in the different fields shows that no essential change has occurred in comparison with the previous years.

In the year 2001 were granted 481 patents for inventions and utility models (Figure 4), 60 certificates for new plant varieties and animal breeds, 89 inventors' certificates transformed to certificates for new plant varieties and animal breeds, 2 topologies of integrated circuits.

Patents Granted in 2001 by Countries

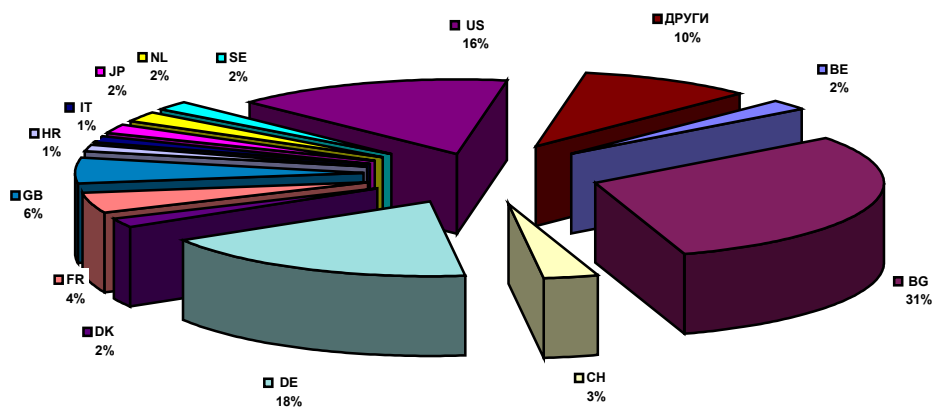


Figure 4

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.):

Official publications on paper

In the year 2001 BPO continued preparing and publishing of its official publications on paper. 12 regular issues of the Official Bulletin in Bulgarian and 11 issues of the Patent Abstracts of Bulgaria (in the part for inventions and utility models) in English have been prepared for publishing by means of word processing.

481 specifications with totally 11388 pages have been processed and issued.

In the year 2001 the total number of granted patents for inventions and utility models was 601. During the year 79 certificates for new plant varieties and animal breeds, 131 inventors' certificates transformed to certificates for new plant varieties and animal breeds and 2 certificates for topologies of integrated circuits were granted.

The Patent Office maintains another very important source of patent information, namely:

State Register for Inventions

State Register for Utility Models

State Register for New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds

State Register for Topologies of Integrated Circuits.

In the year 2001 BPO continued extracting of data from the national database and printing of specifications on paper to be sent to the producing Hungarian firm Arcanum and included into the ESPACE-PRECES CD-ROM product. 481 specifications on paper with totally 11388 pages (included in the Official Bulletin from No. 12/2000 to No. 11/2001) and files containing bibliographic data and abstracts (in Bulgarian) were sent during the year.

- Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of patent information:

The following main types of announcements were published in the year 2001 in the Official Bulletin:

- * bibliographic data and abstracts of patent applications-1086;
- * announcements for granted patents - 420;
- * bibliographic data and abstracts of utility model applications - 96;
- * announcements for granted utility model patents - 58;
- * announcements for new plant varieties and animal breeds applications - 24;
- * announcements for certificates granted for new plant varieties - 59;
- * announcement for 1 certificate granted for new animal breed;
- * announcements for inventors' certificates transformed to plant varieties certificates - 89;
- * announcements for certificates for topologies of integrated circuits - 2;
- * announcements for marks registered - 1752;
- * announcements for industrial designs registered - 196;

* changes of the legal status of the patents; assignments of rights and changes of the applicant's name etc.; announcements for licensing agreements.

In each number of the Official Bulletin of the BPO were published as well:

- numerical and systematic indexes of applications and grants for inventions and utility models;
 - numerical index of applications and published certificates (if any) for new plant varieties and animal breeds.
- Mass storage media used (paper, microforms, optical storage, etc.):

In the year 2001 Bulgarian patent documentation was continuously stored on paper, microforms, on CD/DVD-ROMs.

- Word processing and office automation:

In the year 2001 the texts of 481 specifications with totally 11388 pages and 23 regular numbers of the Bulletin (12 - in Bulgarian and 11 - in English language) were composed by means of word processing and circulated for public use.

In 2001 a new-designed web site of the Patent Office with completely remade content has been set up and launched on the Internet.

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

- 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):

The new patent applications of the Bulgarian patent documents are classified according to the 7th edition of the IPC. The Bulgarian Patent Office does not reclassify patent documents.

- Hybrid system indexing:

Hybrid system indexing is used in classifying of patent applications.

- Bibliographic data and full-text processing for search purposes:

During the year 974 specifications (487 of them – in systematically ordered files and 487 – in numerical files) of patents for inventions and utility model patents were prepared and ordered for examiners' use in the Bulgarian patent file. 1181 first pages of published patent applications and 154 specifications of rejected applications for patents for inventions, which are published and examined since 01.06.1993 onwards, were lodged into the file.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

– File building:

In 2001 the Central Patent Library has continued to maintain and to update the specialised paper file for the examination including the patent documents of Bulgaria, Germany and Russia as well as the first pages of the patent documents of Great Britain and the PCT applications, copies of which have been made from the ESPACE-WORLD series.

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

– In-house systems (online/offline):

In the CD-ROM collections of the office 1082 searches were carried out.

– External databases:

In external on-line databases 8 searches were made. The examiners in the office use mainly EPIDOS - Vienna database – 4 searches and STN database – 4 searches.

The access to Delphion and esp@cenet databases via Internet was utilized in everyday use.

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

- Oracle Based Administrative system has been developed from outside company and implemented in BPO with the following functions:
 - To manage the correspondence of BPO and create a Data Base for control of terms and the movement of the documents;
 - To Search in the systems;
 - Many various control functions.No other changes in this field in comparison with 2000 year.

– Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), carriers used:

- An upgrade of the K360 HP 9000/800 Server was made:
 - New 512 MB RAM module (Total 1GB RAM on the Server);
 - New 36GB SCSI HDD.
- There are new 22 Intel Pentium III Based PC with Windows 98 as OS in the place of old such.
- New peripheral devices, i.e. 10 Laser Jets (1 of them color), 6 Scanners, etc. were installed in the office.

4 DVD-ROM workstations for using in the Central Patent Library have been delivered, installed and put into operation this year as well as 20 PC – printer workstations for use in the office. Upgrade of the K 360 server with a second processor, RAM and FWD has been made.

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):

- Collecting, acquisitions, preparation:

The annual increment to the paper collections in the Central Patent Library for 2001 amounts to approximately 200000 patent documents of 6 countries and 1 international organisation (EPO). During the year under review some 4500 patent documents on microforms from 2 countries were received.

- Collection management, preservation:

The Central Patent Library presently disposes of about 19 200000 patent documents on paper of 27 countries and 2 international organisations and of about 5000000 patent documents on microforms of 15 countries and 2 international organisations.

The existing CD-ROM files of 25 countries and 1 international organisation (WIPO - PCT documents) continued to be completed and maintained.

- 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):

During the year 2001 the Central Patent Library was visited by 2999 persons who made use of 7762 folders containing patent documents on paper, 3163 volumes of theoretical literature, 16514 patent bulletins and who obtained 12875 copies of the above mentioned material. In 2001 some 380 searches in the CD/DVD-ROM databases and more than 250 searches in the Internet databases were carried out for the public with the assistance of the library staff.

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:

Bibliographic data and English language abstracts of patent applications for inventions and utility models published in 12 numbers of the Official Bulletin (up to number 12/2001) has been sent to EPIDOS - Vienna and to the European Patent Office Branch in the Hague. The same data have been loaded into the web page of the office.

In the year 2001 the BPO continued sending to the producing firm ARCANUM, Budapest, Hungary specifications to be incorporated in the ESPACE-PRECES and ACCESS-PRECES CD-ROM products. 481 specifications (included in the Bulletin from No. 12/2000 to No. 11/2001) and files containing bibliographical data and abstracts (in Bulgarian) were sent during the year.

In the frame of the mutual exchange of patent information 8281 specifications for 637 patents were sent abroad during the year. The Official Bulletin of the BPO has been sent monthly to 66 subscribers in Bulgaria and 48 foreign subscribers in 40 countries. 12 issues of Patent Abstracts of Bulgaria in English were sent to 7 Industrial Property Offices and libraries abroad.

Loading of national data in Bulgarian and in English language to the Bulgarian esp@cenet server continued. In this connection all bibliographic data of published applications and grants for inventions and utility models for the period 01.12.00 – 31.06.2001 have been extracted from the internal databases and sent to the EPO Branch in the Hague.

National data to be incorporated into the UPOV-ROM database for new plant varieties have been sent to UPOV this year.

- Medium used for exchange of priority documents:

According to the Bulgarian Patent Law submitting of priority document on paper in three months period after the application date is obligatory to claim the priority (if any, in less than twelve months period before the application date). Bulgarian Patent Office grants such priority documents for Bulgarian patent applications filed abroad and requires providing of the same on paper for foreign applications filed in Bulgaria.

During the year 28 priority documents of Bulgarian patent applications were granted and sent abroad.

- Medium allowed for filing applications:

Up to the present the paper is the only medium for filing applications according to the Bulgarian patent legislation and the requirements of the Patent Office. The applicant or his (her) representative should file the application in the required form on paper. Application forms are made available to patent representatives and applicants on diskettes. Since this year they are accessible in the BPO web site as well (www.bpo.bg).

- 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):

According to the main trend for transition to electronic carriers of patent information the Bulgarian Patent Office collects and maintains CD-ROM files for examiners use (in the Patent Information Department) and for the public (in the Central Patent Library). The collections for the examiners at present are as follows:

- ESPACE-EPA - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-EPB - since 1995 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-WORLD - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-UK-A - since 1995 to now and continues;
- ESPACE-PRECES - since the beginning and continues;
- ESPACE-ACCESS PRECES - 1997 up to now and continues;

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

- ESPACE-FIRST - since 1988 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-BULLETIN - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-ACCESS - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-ACCESS EP-B - since 1978 up to now and continues;
- ESPACE-LEGAL – since 1992 up to 1999 and continues;
- ESPACE-ACCESS-EUROPE – since 1978 up to now and continues;
- BREF - since 1978 (FR-A, WO-A, EP-A) up to now and continues;
- PAJ – since 1976 to 1993 (according to the IPC) and since 1994 up to now and continues (according to the number of patent); since 1989 – to 1997 – unexamined patent applications of foreign applicants, ordered according to IPC (Sections A - H)
- USAPAT - since 1994 up to now and continues;
- USAPat Backfile – since 1790 to 1994 and continues;
- USAApp – since week 11, 2001
- GLOBALPat – since 1971 to 1996 (according to the IPC) and since 1997 up to 1999 (according to the IPC and the document publication date);
- USPS - since 1975 up to now and continues;
- CASSIS-BIB - since 1969 up to now and continues;
- CASSIS-CLASS – since 1995 up to now and continues;
- CASSIS-ASSIGN - since august 1980 and continues;
- CASSIS-ASSIST – since 1995 up to now and continues
- DIAPAT-RU - since 1994 up to now and continues
- PCT Gazette –since 1999 – up to 2001

The collections on CD-ROM for public use in the Patent Library are for 25 countries and 1 international organization.

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:

Seminars organised and financed under PHARE-RIPP Programme:

- Seminar for New Examiners of the Non Member-States Patent Offices (EPO), Berlin, 1 person;
- Seminar “Information for Receiving Sections”, The Netherlands, 1 person;
- Seminar “Substantive Examination Practice in the Field of Chemistry with Focus on Pharmaceuticals”, EPO, Minich, 1 person;
- Seminar “Appeal Procedures at the European Patent Office”, EPO, Minich, 1 person;
- Seminar “Administrative Procedures and Related Information Systems in the Patent Granting Procedure”, EPO, The Hague, 1 person;
- Common Software Users Meeting, The Hague, EPO, 1 person;
- Colloquium for Judges and Prosecutors on Patent Litigation, EPO, Munich, 5 persons.

- Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.):

5 officials of the office visited the Chinese Industrial Property Office in the frame of the bilateral cooperation program between the two offices.

Representatives of the Bulgarian Patent Office took part in different official visits and working meetings in the frame of WIPO activities the most important of which are the following: SCIT Meeting, Geneva, 1 person; 36th Series of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, Geneva, 2 persons, 5th Session of SCP, Geneva, 1 person; 1st Session PCT, Geneva, 1 person; IPDL Standards workshop, Geneva, 1 person.

Officials of the BPO participated in different meetings and Working Groups in the frame of EPO activities, like for example: Meeting of the Ad hoc Epoline Working Party, Munich, 1 person; Meeting of the Committee on Patent Law, Munich, 2 persons; Meeting of the Administrative Council, Munich, 2 persons; Meeting with Candidate States on Community Patent and EPC Revision, Brussels, 1 person.

A national Seminar "Patent information Services to the public" in cooperation with WIPO –took place in the Patent Library to the BPO last year. Seminar "Information Centers (Provision of IP Info) was organized in the Patent Library as well with the assistance of the EPO employees.

IX. Other relevant matters.

In the year 2001 the international activity have been carried out in the following main directions: participation in the meetings of the governing bodies, committees and working groups of the WIPO, cooperation with the EPO in the frame of PHARE – RIPP Program and bilateral cooperation etc.

Other Seminars and Training Courses:

- International Seminar "One-Shop System", Vienna, APO, 2 persons
- Annual Conference of regional Information Centers, PATLIB 2001, Dublin, 2 persons;
- Working Group for Defining the Possible Different Ways of Cooperation and Products Exchange of Delivery" in the frame of "One-Shop System", Vienna, 1 person;
- Internet Working Group, One-Shop System, Vienna, 1 person;
- Products Exchange and Non-commercial Services Working Group, One-Shop System, Vienna, 1 person;
- Subgroup Commercial Services and Products, One-Shop System, Vienna, 1 person;
- EPIDOS Annual Conference, UK, 1 person;
- International Symposium on the European Patent System: Chance and Implementation for Turkey, Istanbul, 2 persons;
- International Conference " Intellectual Property, Internet. Electronic Commerce and Traditional Knowledge, in cooperation with WIPO and University for National and World Economy, Sofia, Boyana

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