

# WIPO



SCIT/ATR/PI/2001/EE

**E**

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

GENEVA

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**2001**

**ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES\***

submitted by

**ESTONIA**

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

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\*  
– 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**

submitted by

**ESTONIA****I. Evolution of patent activities:**

In 2001 717 patent applications were filed and 500 decisions on patent applications were made, 43 applications for registration of utility models were filed and 26 utility models were registered. 9 international patent applications for forwarding to WIPO were submitted to the office by the Estonian applicants.

Since 1 st July 2000 utility model registration applications can be submitted also for a device, a method or a substance. In the second half of year 2000 8% of the applications were submitted for the registration of methods and 4% for the substances. 21% of the applications were submitted for the registration of methods.

On 31 December 2001 2, 514 patent applications and 37 utility model registration applications were pending.

In 2001 software for patent applications and utility model registration applications and processing thereof as well as periodical statistical reports of the corresponding state registers was worked out. The periodical reports are available at the homepage of the Estonian Patent Office: [www.epa.ee](http://www.epa.ee).

In 2001 296 patent applications for registration of medicines and 41 for biotechnological inventions were submitted. The total number of patent applications for registration of medicines was 1, 348 during 1994-2001. In 2001 1 application for supplementary protection of a medical product was submitted and no applications for supplementary protection of plant protection products were submitted.

The average duration of the examination of patent application is 4,5 years. The patent application is published after 18 months from the filing date or priority date. The registration of the invention in the state register of patents is considered to be the grant of patent. A traditional letters patent as a proof of the invention's location in the patent register is issued to the patentee.

Since 1 January 2000 the work norms of the examiners have been fixed and their salaries are based on the efficiency of their work. In 2001 the annual norm of a senior examiner was 40 decisions. The first supplementary norm was 9 more decisions, i.e. 49 decisions per a senior examiner with 15% extra pay. The second supplementary norm was 9 more decisions, i.e. 58 decisions per a senior examiner with 30% extra pay.

Esp@cenet project for making national patent information available via Internet implemented by the European Patent Office is being developed. The Estonian national patent information is available via the Estonian link at the address <http://ee.espacenet.com>.

Bibliographical data, full descriptions and drawings of the applications and granted patents during the two previous years are available.

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

The main official publication concerning the patents is The Estonian Patent Gazette in the Estonian Patent Office.

Mass media uses paper as a data carrier.

Word processing is mainly based on personal computers.

Techniques as recording, microfilming and photocomposing are not in use.

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

The abstracts of the inventions are not published separately. In the Patent Gazette there are published the most important bibliographic data (including patent classification, excluding abstracts and figurative accessories) of the patent applications laid open to public inspection after the lapse of 18 months from the filing date and bibliographic data (including patent classification, abstracts and figurative accessories) of the granted patents. The first pages of patent specifications contain the abstracts in Estonian and in English.

Applications are classified in accordance with the International Patent Classification.

Bibliographic data of filed patent applications by the Estonian Patent Office are available for patent examiners in an internal computer database. Full-text processing is not possible.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

The collection of patent documents comprises over 43 million documents from 26 different countries and 2 organisations (on paper carrier (about 4 million), in microfilm or microfiche form (about 7 million) and increasingly also on CD-ROM/DVD-ROM (about 32 million) and official patent gazettes from 34 countries and 2 organizations. During 2001 about 1 million new documents, the majority of them being on CD-ROM/DVD-ROM, were added to the collections.

The search files are arranged partly according to the IPC and partly according to the number of patent document.

The library collection includes also monographs and reference literature on industrial property protection as well as non-patent literature.

The stock of the legal, scientific and reference literature is arranged according to the common principles employed in the libraries when dealing with book or journal files.

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

In-house management systems are based on existing equipment (personal computers, used software Word Perfect for Windows, Microsoft Works 2.0a, Microsoft Word, Patesoft, Mimoso etc.). The Estonian Patent Office took World Wide Web into use to carry out online patent searches.

Administrative management systems concerning patent applications/granted patents are based on main patent and utility model databases (Microsoft Works 2.0a). Data concerning legal status, statistics and working order will be processed by specially arranged and programmed sub-files. Incomplete patent data for internal use are available in CS.

Working terminals of one's own have been created for most of the employees. There are computers in use which have above-mentioned software for patent examination and for word processing. CD-ROM-s are taken in use during the patent examination. In 1994 the Estonian Patent Office joined the RIPP Common Software Project for establishing in-house computer network.

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):

The Estonian Patent Library provides services to the general public. As the library works in close cooperation with the Estonian Patent Office its main task is to serve the examining and professional staff of the Estonian Patent Office. The library acquires, processes and maintains patent documents, patent gazettes and other patent and non-patent literature. The older part of the collections is on paper, microfilm or microfiche. Now the majority of patent documents are on CD/DVD-ROMs. The library collections are acquired by purchases (the

financial resources for it are allocated from the state budget) and by exchange of publications with other industrial property offices under international agreements.

The Estonian Patent Library is the only library which collects and processes patent literature in Estonia. Library participates in the interlibrary lending at the national or the international level. Lending requests are satisfied by e-mail, ordinary mail or by fax.

The patent and trademark gazettes as well as reference literature are kept in the public reading rooms; other materials, i.e. patent documents, are stored in the stack-rooms and are lend at the request of the users. The library also stores the collection of the official gazettes and specifications of the Estonian Patent Office.

The users can carry out searches using CD/DVD-ROMs at 3 workstations.

The following CD/DVD-ROM collections are available:

IPC: CLASS

ESPACE ACCESS-A and B

ESPACE FIRST

ESPACE BULLETIN

ESPACE LEGAL

ESPACE EP-A and EP-B

ESPACE WORLD

ESPACE ACCESS-EUROPE

ESPACE PRECES

ESPACE UK

ESPACE DK

ESPACE CH

ESPACE FI

ESPACE AT

GLOBALPAT

**German databases:**

DEPAROM KOMPAKT

DEPAROM ACT

DEPAROM U

**US databases:**

US Patent Search

US Patents BIB

US Patents Class

US Patents Assist

US Patents & TM Assign

USA App

USA Pat

Other countries:

PAJ Patent Abstracts of Japan

PAJ/INDEX

COSMOS FR

Patents of Russia (Full specification, Index)

The library has the online access to the INPADOC databases through X28 connection and also is established in-house online access to all the commercial databases offered by the STN International and the Questel-Orbit via the Internet connection. This is charged on the bases of usage, Questel-Orbit has also annual fees.

The library offers copying services from paper or microforms . The users can also order printouts of the documents on CD/DVD-ROMs. These services are offered for a moderate price.

Other services are free of charge: in the reading rooms the readers can use reference materials, monograph, other books and periodicals and carry out searches in patent documents on paper.

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

The Estonian Patent Library maintains patent document and patent bulletin exchanges with 36 patent issuing authorities mainly from Europe, but also from USA and Japan. In 2001 the Estonian Patent Library received 63 titles of patent journals, 25 titles were acquired by purchase and 38 titles by exchange.

We provide the official publications of the Estonian Patent Office (Estonian Trade Mark Gazette, Estonian Patent Gazette, Estonian Utility Model Gazette, Estonian Industrial Design Gazette) in paper form to all our exchange partners.

In 2001 we purchased 16 titles of CD/DVD-ROM and obtained 14 titles CD/DVD-ROM by means of exchange. Swedish and Norwegian documents were received in microfiche form.

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

## WIPO:

1. Wipo Subregional Seminar on Biotechnology and Intellectual Property (2 participants)
2. Training Course on the Legal, Administrative and Economic Aspects of Industrial Property (in cooperation with the Center for International Industrial Property Studies (CEIPI) (1 participant)

## EPO:

3. 13<sup>th</sup> Seminar on Search and Documentation Working Methods (1 participant)
4. Training Course in the field of Patent Search (2 participants)
5. Seminar R53 "Training for Patent Information Providers" (2 participants)

## Other:

1. Training course "Legal Protection of Inventions and Processing of Patent Applications and Utility Model Registration Applications in the Estonian Patent Office" (14 participants)
2. USPTO TRIPS Intellectual Property Program in the United States and Trademark Office. Fifth Session (2 participants)
3. Visiting Scholars Program 2000 in the United States and Trademark Office (2 participants)
4. Training course in the field of patent procedures in the National Board of Patents and Registrations of Finland (4 participants)
5. Seminar in the field of Gene Technology in Tartu (2 participants)

## Language courses

1. English language courses – (4 participants)
2. German language courses – (1 participant)

## IX. Other relevant matters.

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