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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by

SLOVAKIA

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

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by

SLOVAKIA

I. Evolution of registration activities:

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

Changes experienced in terms of application filings and registrations with respect to the previous year

In comparison with the statistics of the year 2000, there are following results in 2001 in trademark area.

	TRADEMARKS			
	2000		2001	
	Applications	Registrations	Applications	Registrations
Domestic	2083	2344	2158	1882
Foreign	1925	2677	1795	2159
Total	4008	5021	3953	4041

	TRADEMARKS	
	Applications	Registrations
2000	4008	5021
2001	3953	4041
Trend	-1.4 %	-19.5 %

The continuously growing number of designations for goods and services registered in Register is the proof that the Slovak market is of actual and potential interest for domestic and foreign producers and distributors.

Even though in 2001 when compared with the year 2000 slightly, by 2,8 % there grew the number of trademarks applications from Slovak applicants; the total number of received national applications was lower by 1,4 % and the figure was 3 953 applications.

The level of the so far most successful year in the number of the registered applications for trademarks could not be reached. There were 2 159 trademarks registered for foreign applicants and 1 882 trademarks for the national applicants.

The significant downtrend of registrations in the year 2001 – 19,5 % is given by a liquidation of delay in decisions of the trademark applications from previous years 1998 – 2000. At the present time the decisions of applications are continuous.

In 2001, in the international procedure under the Madrid Agreement and Protocol to the Madrid Agreement 7297 applications for trademarks were filed, what is less by 1,3 % as in 2000. The majority of trademarks from abroad is from Germany (2 151), Switzerland (849) and France (765). By 31 December 2001, there were 35 710 trademarks registered in the national trademark register of the Slovak Republic. On the international level 93 333 trademarks were registered for SR.

Trademark application procedure without changes.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

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

Publishing, printing, copying techniques

Trademark information forms part of the Official Gazette - “Vestník ÚPV SR”, covering all industrial property rights in one publication. Paper form issued monthly is published in standard size A4, paperback and usually in cca 300 pages. In 2001 the Gazette had a circulation of 250 copies, of which 129 were distributed by subscription. Electronic form, available to the public in the Internet free of charge, contains searchable data.

Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of trademark information

Trademark announcements contained in the Gazette are arranged in following main chapters:

- publications of trademark applications
- trademark registrations
- trademark renewals
- trademark assignments
- partial assignments
- change of data concerning trademark owners
- change in the list of goods and services
- change of wording or reproduction of trademarks
- lapse of trademark rights
- registration of licence agreements in respect of trademarks
- international registration of trademarks
- official decisions (cancellation, etc.)

- the lapse of the right of lien
- the termination of sub-licence contracts

Mass storage media and microforms used

Trademarks are available in electronic form in the Office's web site www.upv.sk as well as on ESPACE TRACES CD ROM (Trademarks from the Region of Eastern and Central European States).

Word processing and office automation

Word processing and office automation is ensured by application over the trademark database.

Techniques used for the generation of trademark information (printing, recording, photocomposing, etc.)

MS Office 97, QuarkXpress 3.32 for Windows and Corel Draw 9.0, Photoshop 6.0 is used for the data processing; the photocomposing and printing is carried out by the Office.

The Desk-Top Publishing technology is used for data and image inputs processing, for the Gazette and first pages of the trademark documents.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information:

- Classification and reclassification activities; Classification systems used, e.g., International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Classification), International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Classification), other classification (please state whether goods and services for the registration of marks and whether the figurative elements of marks are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification(s) is (are) used);
- Use of electronic classification systems to check the classification symbols furnished by an applicant and which are contained in the lists of goods and/or services;
- Obligation for applicants to use pre-defined terms of the classification applied;
- Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes.

Classification and reclassification activities; Classification systems used

Goods and services are classified in accordance with the actual version of the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Classification). In the IPO SR exist an obligatory classifying system of goods and services by applicant according the said Classification.

The last version of the International Classification of the Figurative Elements of

Marks (Viena Classification) is used as the code system of figurative elements of trademarks, which are classified by Office's expert.

Use of electronic classification systems to check the classification symbols furnished by an applicant and which are contained in the lists of goods and/or services

Classification symbols were checked by internal electronic classification system built in office registry software.

Obligation for applicants to use pre-defined terms of the classification applied

In accordance with the Trademark Law No. 55/1997 the applicant is obliged to indicate in the application the goods and services for which the trademark is filed, according to the International Classification (Nice Classification) accompanied with the appropriate number of this Classification. But there is no obligation for applicants to use pre-defined terms of the classification.

Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes

The WIPO Standard ST. 60 is used for trademarks bibliographic data coding in all relevant outcomes or records. All bibliographic data are being processed and made available to the public each 15 minutes in the Internet. All data are fully searchable and provided by help.

IV. Trademark manual 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.

File Building and updating

Since the computerized search system for trademark information has been launched the trademark manual search files building and updating has been ceased.

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

In 2001, within the frame of mutual exchange, the IPO SR received trademark gazettes from foreign offices.

V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark 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.

In-house systems (online/offline)

Slovak registered trademarks have been continuously published on joint search double-CD ROM TRACES, issued quarterly within the cooperation of the Central and Eastern European countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia). CD-ROM contains trademarks registered and valid in individual participating countries.

The online trademark database kept by the Industrial Property Office serves for national trademarks searches and also for trademark procedure. Selected registry data are available to the public in the Internet.

It is possible to carry out searches according to bibliographic data in all the databases used for the trademarks.

International trademarks searches are performed in the ROMARIN database on CD ROM received from the WIPO; also the joint CD ROM ESPACE TRACES was used for searching (both accessible on local network through the UltraNet 2000system).

External databases

WIPO Official Gazette on CD ROM

CD ROM CASSIS containing registered and pending trademarks in US

Czech registered trademarks database in the Internet

Madrid Express Database

NIVILO classifications

EUROM - Community Trademark CD-ROM

IPLEX CD ROM – full legislative texts (national original laws, multilateral and bilateral treaties)

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

Office automation management system contains trademark registry.

Administrative databases based on Lotus Domino.

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

Fast ETHERNET 1000/10/10 Mbit/s, WINDOWS NT 4.0, 2000 for servers; workstations PC Pentium, Windows 95, NT 4.0 and 2000; HP Unix for database, Informix Dynamic Server 9.21

- VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering trademarks, 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 trademark information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web).

Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and trademark information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web)

Sales of the Gazette in paper form.

General information provided by Office's experts.

On-line searches in Office's search system, self-service during a personal visit.

Searches in International Trademarks Database ROMARIN.

Searches upon request - orders in written and on-line form.

At present, traditional methods of searching trademarks (card catalogue) are not used.

Trademark information on the World Wide Web:

- general information
- information about Office activities (seminars, training courses, etc.)
- application guide and forms
- relevant laws
- Annual Reports
- selected registry data
- Official Gazette
- order forms (searches, non-patent literature)
- Nice Classification (8-th edition)
- Viena Classification (4-th edition)

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

- International or regional cooperation in the exchange of trademark information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes;
- Exchange of machine-readable information.

International or regional cooperation in the exchange of trademark information, e.g., in form of official gazettes

In 2001, within the frame of mutual exchange, the IPO SR exchanged the Official Gazettes with many offices and international organizations, including the EPO and the WIPO (i.e. to 43 countries dispatches and from 37 receives).

Exchange of machine-readable information

Participation in the joint ESPACE TRACES CD ROM project (Trademarks of BG, CZ, HU, PL, RO and SK).

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.).

Training courses for national and foreign participants, use of audiovisual means

Four Module Accredited COURSE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY conducted by the Intellectual Property Institute of the Industrial Property Office for office employees and professional public continued in 2001 with more than 60 participants.

Three-day special COURSE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY for the Tax Authority in the Slovak Republic was held in office and covered all issues connected with intellectual property protection and enforcement of rights.

Two-day SEMINAR ON COMMUNITY TRADEMARK took part in cooperation of OHIM and Industrial Property Office.

Two week COURSE ON ENFORCEMENT OF RIGHTS in cooperation with the Dutch Government within the project “Strengthening the IPO SR Activities” took part separately in May and in September 2001. The first was devoted to enforcement of trademark rights, the second one to patent enforcement. This course was specially devoted to the judges adjudicating IP cases.

Supporting activities:

CONFERENCE

THE CONFERENCE - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN SLOVAKIA I. was organized by the office celebrating April 26, the World Intellectual Property Day. The conference was attended by 25 lecturers and 80 participants

LECTURES

Lectures outside Industrial Property Office for seminars covering IP rights and their enforcement.

Lectures for students of economic, technical and law faculties of universities in Slovakia.

Special lectures for the ministries and branches of economy, defense and education.

JOURNAL

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY magazine (“Duševné vlastníctvo”) published by Industrial Property Office was issued 4 times in 2001 covering all relevant fields in IP rights, copyright, trade names, domain names, logos, licenses, creativity and management with 47 original extensive papers and a number of translations, news, decisions of Industrial Property Office and Supreme court etc.

EXHIBITIONS

UmInEx – independent exhibition of inventions and technical innovations organized by Industrial Property Office in September 2001.

Participation at INCHEBA Fair in Bratislava and the International Engineering Fair in Nitra with aim to provide free information and consultations in IP field.

AWARDS

The JÁN BAHÝĽ AWARD and the Mentions of Honour were awarded in September 2001 by the president of the office for extraordinary and exceptionally valuable technical solution. The award was named after important Slovak inventor of the helicopter – Ján Bahýľ.

PUBLICATIONS

New INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE BROCHURE, leaflet and other materials were published under new design bearing information on IPO activities, industrial property in a user-friendly form.

The first original publication CREATIVE PROCESSES OF A HUMAN was issued in volume of 1000 pieces.

Collection of speeches presented at Conference was issued.

Catalogue of Exhibits from UmInEx Exhibition with description and contact addresses was published.

Three publications covering Nice Classification and new laws in the IP field with commentaries were issued.

OTHER

The OPEN DOOR DAY - celebrating April 26, the World Intellectual Property Day

IX. Other relevant matters.

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