

Annual Technical Report on Patent Information Activities of the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection of the Republic of Moldova in 1998

The Annual Technical Report on patent information activities should cover the following items:

I. Evolution of patent activities:

A total number of 271 of applications for inventions were registered at the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection (AGEPI) in 1998 (347 in 1997). 257 applications filed by national applicants and 14 by foreign ones, 10 of these were filed as international applications under PCT.

A number of 202 patents for inventions were granted in 1998 (226 in 1997), including 180 patents granted to national and 15 to foreign applicants, respectively.

The number of Eurasian patents valid on the territory of the Republic of Moldova was at the end of 1998 of 158 (28 after the payment of the first annual fee).

The Regulations on the Application of the Law on Patents for Invention were amended, thus increasing the efficiency of the filing procedures.

At present, filing by fax and e-mail became possible, on the condition that the original or a certified copy of the document is presented at the AGEPI within two months period. When filing with the Agency in a foreign language, an official Romanian translation of the documents should be enclosed to the original, according to the Regulations of the AGEPI.

During 1998 were also consolidated procedures bearing on timing of various proceeding periods.

Six thematic groups were created within the Invention Examination Section in 1998, in accordance with the content of the IPC sections, as well as the Statistical and the Preliminary Examination Groups.

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

Here is the list of the most important publications of the AGEPI in the field of patent information:

- The Official Bulletin on Industrial Property Protection (BOPI), monthly publication;
- The Patent Register;
- The Patent Applications Register;
- The Utility Model Register;
- The Utility Model applications Register.

The AGEPI initiated two new publications:

- AGEPI revue - a supplement to the Republican newspaper “Economical review” (issued four times per year);
- AGEPI Expo - a supplement to the AGEPI journal of inventors and researchers “Intellectus”.

The above mentioned publications contain announcements on matters concerning patent and utility model protection.

In 1998 the AGEPI issued the second CD-ROM “Infinvent colectie AGEPI” containing inventions registered in the Republic of Moldova in the period of 1993-1997 and the third CD-ROM “Infinvent Legislatia” containing laws of the Republic of Moldova in the field of industrial property protection.

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

Beginning with September 1, 1998, the Republic of Moldova is a state party to the Strasbourg Agreement concerning the International Patent Classification (IPC).

The VI edition of the IPC is used now in the process of examination, search and publication of patent and utility model documents.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

Information in the field of industrial property protection is now available for examiners and all interested persons via following databases on CD-ROM:

- 4 bibliographic databases;
- 7 abstract databases,
- 12 full-text patent databases,
- 5 informative databases;

The INPADOC PES/INL database is now available for the examiners of the AGEPI through Internet. In 1998, the AGEPI participated within the TACIS project with the purpose of issuing a CD-ROM containing patent information from the CIS region.

A series of steps aimed at the modernization of the working procedures within AGEPI are planned for 1999, such as:

- replacement of manual searching by electronic one;
- direct Internet access for all the staff members;
- expansion of the possible ways of access via Internet to the foreign databases;
- development of new user interfaces.

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

A series of modifications of the informational system of the AGEPI were undertaken during 1998. Higher computer performances aimed at increasing the network productivity and introducing of modern software. In 1998 was created and implemented the management system "National Inventions database" based on the File- Server technology, with the ultimate purpose of switching the system in 1999 to the Client-Server technologies.

Experts of the Examination Section have the possibility of undertaking documentation activities using both the national inventions database and optical discs, each computer being provided with CD-ROM readers. The Invention Examination Section has at its disposal ten operational working stations Pentium 200 which are connected to the local network on a Microsoft platform, one of which has access to the INPADOC database.

VI. Administration of the industrial property 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):

In 1998 the number of readers grew up, especially within the small and medium sized enterprises. The reading hall of the library has three local CD-ROM stations.

During the period under review, the AGEPI collection of CD-ROMs was completed with more than 1000 discs, among them a collection of patent documents, GLOBAL Pat, received from the WIPO.

A total of 14 state-of-the-art searches were carried out for the external users in different technical areas by specialists of the Information Services Group.

Various information services are available for the public:

- general information concerning invention and utility model protection,
- advice concerning filing of a defined patent application;
- access to the AGEPI's library collection (national, foreign and international);
- preliminary CD-ROM search before filing an application;
- copies of patents and other documents.

The information concerning all general topics of patent and utility model registration procedure is also available on the Internet-AGEPI Home Page- under <http://www.agepi.md>.

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

During the year under review AGEPI received patent information (bibliographic data, abstracts, full text documents) on CD-ROMs from 7 countries: AT, CH, DE, JP, RU, SI, US and two international organizations, EPO and WIPO.

As mentioned above, the filing application is allowed on paper, by fax and by e-mail.

Mutually, since 1998 the AGEPI delivers its own patent documents on CD-ROM to other patent offices and provides a monthly delivery of its "Official Bulletin" to 42 countries of the world.

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

A number of different courses in the field of industrial property protection: training courses for patent counselors, courses for training and certification of patent attorneys, courses for experts upheld with the Romanian Patent Office (OSIM) and the National Association of Patent Counselors (NAPC) from Romania were organized in 1998.

Representatives of the AGEPI actively participated in the works of the Standing Committees and working groups of the WIPO, whose main directions are related to the settlement of procedure matters, distribution, standardization, management in the field of patent information, paid much attention to matters related to the elaboration of Patent Law Treaty (PLT).

Owing to the assistance of the EPO, the representatives of the AGEPI, patent attorneys and two judges had the possibility to attend 13 international seminars organized in different countries within the framework of the ICON Program concerning management of patent information, examinations of inventions in the field of chemistry, food industry, pharmaceutical products, protection of new plant varieties, inventions and trademarks registration, enforcement of industrial property rights and other important matters in this field.

Owing to the assistance rendered by the EPO and the professional re-training course, since the summer of 1998, the AGEPI has gained access to the INPADOC database. Under the experience accumulated by the AGEPI, the EPO organized in Kishinev a Regional Seminar concerning the INPADOC database.

The State Agency organized three special republican seminars on matters concerning the protection of industrial property objects, as well as the 4th International Exhibition and Conference for young people “Invention- Creativity- Innovation”.

In the framework of the WIPO cooperation the Regional Seminar “Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights” was held in Kishinev in the period October 21-22 attended by 150 specialists from Moldova, CIS countries, Hungary and Romania. The International Exhibition “Know-How-Exchange ‘98” was organized in Kishinev by the AGEPI in collaboration with other specialized organizations in May 1998. During the said exhibition the public was informed on the system of industrial property protection in the Republic of Moldova .

IX. Other relevant matters

There are no other relevant matters to mention.