

THE STATE PATENT BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ANNUAL REVIEV OF YEAR 2008

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Abbreviations

GRL - *Government of the Republic of Lithuania*
SPB - *State Patent Bureau*
MJ - *Ministry of Justice*
LTL - *Lithuanian Technical Library*
EPO - *European Patent Office*
WIPO - *World Intellectual Property Organization*
OHIM - *Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market of the European Union*
USPTO - *United States Patent and Trademark Office*
LAI - *Lithuanian Association of Inventors*
LDU - *Lithuanian Designers Union*
LIC - *Lithuanian Innovation Centre*
AIPPI Lithuanian group - *Lithuanian group of the International Association for Protection of Intellectual Property*
LPAA - *Lithuanian Patent Attorney Association*
PCT - *Patent Cooperation Treaty*
EPC - *European Patent Convention*
IPC - *International Patent Classification*

State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania (SPB)

Kalvarijų St. 3,
LT-09310, Vilnius
Tel.: (+370 5) 278 0250
Fax: (+370 5) 275 0723, (370 5) 275 0733
Information tel.: (+370-5) 278 02 90
Fax: (+370-5) 275 0723
E-mail: spb@vpb.gov.lt
Information e-mail: info@vpb.gov.lt
Website: www.vpb.gov.lt

Appeal Division of the SPB
(Kareivių St. 1/ Kalvarijų St. 135,
LT-08221 Vilnius
Fax: (+370 5) 210 9225)

Lithuanian Technical Library

Šv.Ignoto St. 6,
LT- 01120 Vilnius
Tel.: (+370-5) 261 8718
Fax: (+370-5) 261 0379
E-mail: k.mackevicius@tb.lt
Website: www.tb.lt





Introduction

In the year 2008 Lithuania commemorated the 90th anniversary of restoration of the Lithuanian State and the 80th anniversary of the Patent Law of Lithuania, therefore it is very important to estimate our intellectual potential from the historic point of view. Every country, big or small, has its own creative potential and tries to protect creative operations the most simple and efficient legal way. In Lithuania economic success of Lithuania depends on knowledge, education, creativeness and innovations.

In the present annual review meant for the general public we try to present the information in as simple form as possible, which is understandable not just to professionals involved in protection of industrial property.

We paid great attention to development of positions of Lithuania in the institutions of the European Union and representation of Lithuania in the European Patent Office (EPO) in the year 2008. We seek that international, regional and national protection systems of industrial property objects would provide Lithuanian and foreign applicants with universal opportunities to protect their products of intellectual activities employing the developed and powerful legal instruments. Modern patent and trademark and design search technologies have been implemented on the website www.vpb.gov.lt of the State Patent Bureau (SPB). Patent information centers of the Lithuanian Technical Library (LTL) located in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda and Panevėžys provide information on the matters of protection of industrial property. In the year 2008 the State Patent Bureau was successfully realizing its mission - to legalize exclusive rights to the objects of industrial property and ensure needs of protection of the industrial property of the general public. Special consideration was given to the following activities in the year 2008:

- development of the protection system of national industrial property;
- efficient dissemination of information on intellectual property and awareness of the general public;
- realization of the concept of e-Government.

The State Patent Bureau represents Lithuania in International organizations in the area of protection of intellectual property and implements provisions of ten international conventions. Since September 2008 Lithuania became a member of the Hague Agreementon international registration of industrial designs and the State Patent Bureau started accepting applications for registration of the industrial design.



We hope that in the nearest future the State Patent Bureau, staff of the Lithuanian Technical Library and the body of patent attorneys and government and non-government organizations such as Lithuanian group of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), Lithuanian Inventors' Association (LIA), Lithuanian Innovation Center (LIC) shall make effort that Lithuanians who are creative and diligent, would become active in patenting their inventions and would substantiate the name of the sovereign state as creators of advanced technologies.

Rimvydas Naujokas
Director

The 80th Anniversary of the Patent Law of the Republic of Lithuania



In the picture: Gerasimas Radiukas, Manager of the Patent Division at the Trade Department of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania (year 1923).



In the picture: Rimvydas Naujokas, Director of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania (year 1991).

After restoration of the state in 1918, Lithuanians did not hurry to enact a patent law. Registration of innovations was concerned in 1923. Applications in the Republic of Lithuania were filed and documents on protection of trademarks were granted at the Trade Department of the Ministry of Finance. Patents and their register were handled by the Patent Division at the Trade Department of the Ministry of Finance, the manager of which Gerasimas Radiukas later became a patent reviewer at the Trade Department.

In 1923 the Patent Division at the Trade Department of the Ministry of Finance issued the first temporary protection certificates to the following applicants: an engineer technologist J.Kopelovitas-Jozefenas from Kaunas for his invention 'Lithuanian system of joining bricks', B. Vaicekauskas from Kelmė for his invention "A device for saving people and things from water (hydrosphere).

Within twenty-one year time various legal acts have been enacted in the postwar Lithuania. However, probably not many of us know that on May 14th 1928 'Law on protection of inventions and improvements' was enacted in Lithuania. However, the contemporary Patent Law has not introduced the definition of an invention and has not indicated its attributes. Not all inventions have been patented. Scientific theories, food and flavoring substances excluding the way of production, also the inventions, which have not been against laws and moral standards, could not get legal protection in Lithuania (paragraph 2 of the Patent Law). Patents have been granted to machinery, equipment and other technological solutions, for instance, to the US company 'Accounting and Tabulating machine corporation' for the invention 'Statistical tabulating machine' (patent No. 135); Finnish inventor J. Jochanes for the invention 'Thrashing Machine' (patent No. 27); German company 'Ringfeder G. m. b. K. Uerdingen a/Rhem' for the invention 'Buffers for trains' (patent No. 4). After restoration of the Independence on 11th March 1990 we realized that one's own patent like one's own currency is an attribute of the sovereignty of an independent state. The government of that time had to adopt protection of scientific-technical progress from the Committee of the Inventions and Discoveries of the USSR and change the form of copyright certificates to patents. This was done when the Supreme Council established a national patent service. The State Patent Bureau was established under the resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 12th April 1991. The current Patent law mostly conforms to the Law on Protection of Inventions and Improvements published by the President of the Republic of Lithuania Antanas Smetona on 14th May 1928, which was in force until 1940. As it has been mentioned before, patents of Lithuania have been issued pursuant to the first Patent law of Lithuania and corresponding articles of the Industrial regulations have been withdrawn under which only temporal protection certificates have been issued since 1923. During the interwar period over 1,000 Lithuanian patents were granted, 131 among them were of Lithuanian inventors.

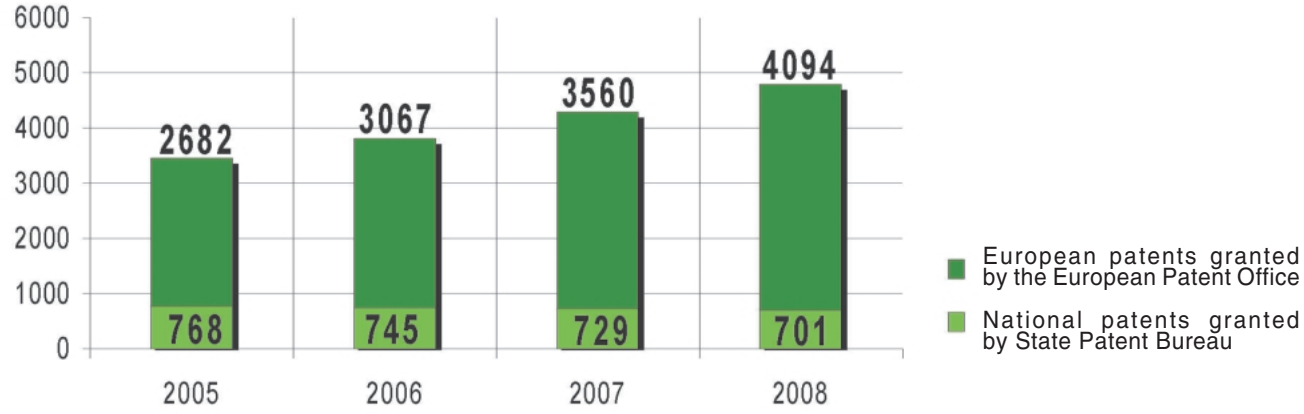
After restoration of the Independence of Lithuania on 11th March 1990 the Patent Bureau at the Department of Education and Studies under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania was founded already at the end of 1990 and Rimvydas Naujokas was appointed its manager.

Upon establishment of the State Patent Bureau in 1991, restoration of an independent protection system for protection of national industrial property was started. On 18th January 1994 the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania enacted the second Patent law of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2008 commemorating the 80th anniversary of Patent law we hope that the next stage of development of the patent system will be endorsed by solid actions in development of legal base and education of the general public in the area of protection of industrial property. Therefore, in 2008 a new edition of Patent law was prepared. There the requirements for filing a patent application and representation have been simplified, new articles on amendment of an application for granting a priority and priority period have been provided, matter on amendment of applications, concluding license agreements have been specified and a new paragraph has been introduced for the institution, which registers inventions, i.e., the State Patent Bureau. In 2008 Lithuania ratified London protocol, which has been concluded in order to reduce quite heavy expenses for translation of European patents into the languages of protected states.

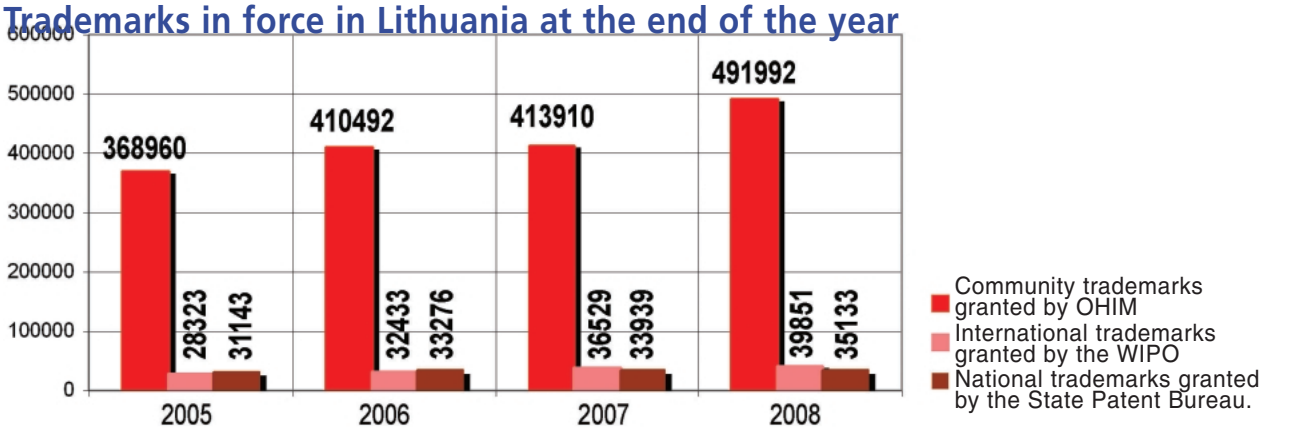
Participation of the Republic of Lithuania in international agreements in the area of industrial property

- Convention on Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization - since 30th January 1992
- Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro- organisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure - since 9th February 1998.
- Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1967 Edition of the Stockholm Act) - since 21st February 1994
- Patent Cooperation Treaty - since 5th April 1994
- Trademark Law Treaty - since 27th April 1998
- Geneva act of the Hague Agreementon international registration of industrial designs - since 26th September 2008.
- Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks - since 15th October 1997.
- Application of Article 65 (London protocol) of the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) - since 28th October 2008.
- Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks - since 22nd November 1996
- Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) - since 1st December 2004.

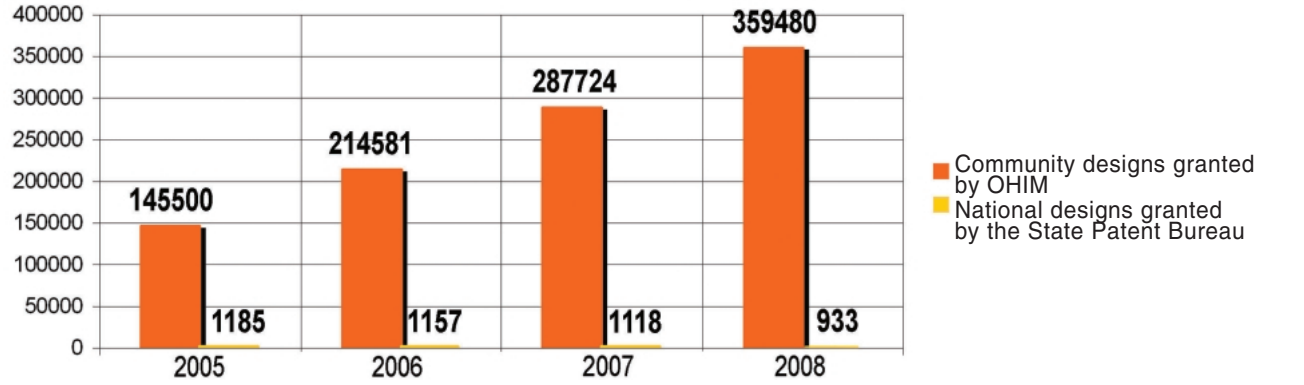
Patents in force in Lithuania at the end of the year



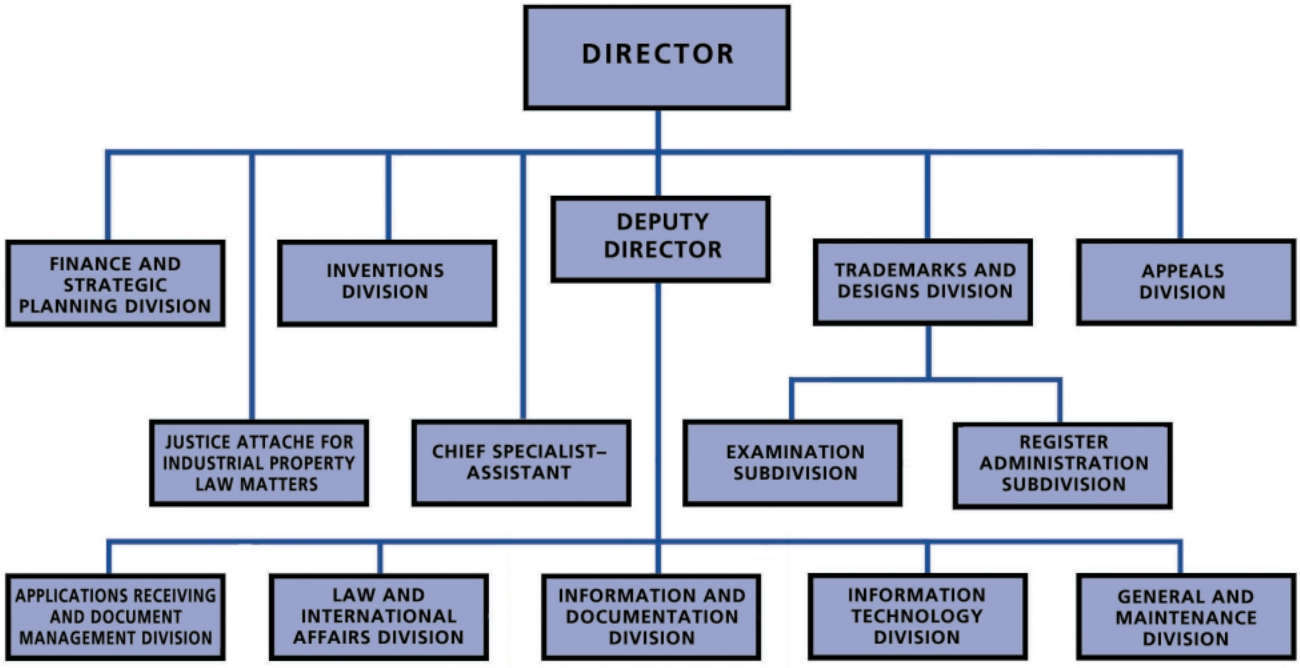
Trademarks in force in Lithuania at the end of the year



Designs in force in Lithuania at the end of the year



Organizational Structure



In 2008 the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the maximum allowed number of positions at the STB, i.e., 74, including the position for a Justice Attache for industrial property law matters. However, whereas appropriations for the wage funds have been significantly reduced for the year 2009, a list of positions at the SPB has been revised and at the end of the year 67 employees formed human resources of the SPB, 44 among them were public officials, 22 were employed under the employment contracts and 1 was a special attach whose place of work is in Brussels (Belgium), at Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union.

In 2008 the SPB employed 11 new employees, 4 of them were employed for the first time to the public service. During 2008, 6 employees terminated labour relations with the SPB, 5 among them at their own initiative, 1 was dismissed because of severe breach of the labour discipline.

The SPB employs 50 women (74.6%) and 17 men (25.4%). The proportion of the SPB employees and employees who are managers of divisions is balanced, that is 5 women (45%) and 6 men (55%) are managers of divisions. Staff of the SPB may be grouped according to the age to the following age groups: 18-30 years of age - 13; 31- 40 years of age - 10; 41-50 years of age - 13; 51-65 years of age - 30 and over 65 years of age - 1. The mean age of the SPB employees is 46 years of age.

Due to specific activities of the SPB most employees, i.e., 52 have high university education, 2 employees have higher non-university and 4 employees have post-secondary education, 2 employees have secondary vocational education and 7 employees have secondary education. Employees training and refreshment of professional competence have been organized to the employees in order to improve administrative skills of the SPB following the training plan approved by the Director of SPB for training SPB state officials and employees employed under employment contracts. In 2008 54 SPB employees refreshed their professional skills instead of the planned 60 employees.

Organizational structure of SPB (see the chart) has not been radically changed in 2008 except the names of some divisions, which have been changed subject to re-allocation of functions among structural subdivisions. Since 1st March 2008 the name of Finance Division was changed into Finance and Strategic Planning Division and since 21st August 2008 Information division was named Information and Documentation Division.

Legislation and International Cooperation

Law Enforcement



The year 2008 has been very intense and liable to SPB in the area of legislation and international cooperation.

After implementation of the action No. 706 of the program approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the years 2006-2008, a law of the Republic of Lithuania 'On Ratification of the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement on International Registration of Industrial Designs' has been enacted. The Geneva act (hereinafter referred to as Geneva act) of the Hague Agreement on international registration of industrial designs came into effect in Lithuania on 26th September 2008. The Hague Agreement on international registration of industrial designs makes an unanimous mechanism for international registration of industrial design - the Hague system. After Lithuania joined the Geneva act, Lithuanian applicants wishing to get protection for the design in any or several states, which have joined the Geneva act, may submit one application to the SPB or WIPO International office in one language and pay the fees in one currency.

In order to develop the Geneva act implementation mechanism and harmonize provisions of the national law with provisions of Geneva act, facilitating their implementation, the Design law of the Republic of Lithuania was amended and supplemented in 2008. Besides, provisions of the design register of the Republic of Lithuania, regulations for reviewing appeals and oppositions have been amended, description of the procedure for publishing the data of the Design register and Design registration regulations have been approved.

Implementing the 2006-2008 program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania the following draft legal acts have been prepared:

- a draft law of the Republic of Lithuania on ratification of Patent rights convention which has been submitted to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania;
- whereas provisions of the Patent rights convention are being implemented in the national law, a draft law of the amendment of the Patent law of the Republic of Lithuania and a draft law of the amendment and supplementation of the Law on the Fee for registration of industrial property objects have been submitted to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

A law of the Republic of Lithuania 'On ratification of application of Article 65 of the Convention on the Grant of European Patents' (the present Convention is being referred to as London protocol) was enacted on 28th October 2008.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania passed a resolution 'On amendment of the resolution No. 188 of 21st February 2001 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania 'On ratification of the provisions of the Trademark register' which has been prepared by specialists of the SPB.

International Cooperation

In 2008 the SPB carried out functions of the central industrial property service pursuant to provisions of the European Union legal acts in respect to Community marks and designs and the European Patent Convention. Besides, the SPB is in charge of representation of the Republic of Lithuania in the administrative bodies of the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) - Administrative Council and Budget Committee (7 OHIM meetings of the administrative bodies have been attended).

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

In 2008 we continued active cooperation with one of the specialized international organizations of the United Nations - the World Intellectual Property Organization, which is charge of policy formation of the protection of intellectual property on the world scale and administration of international conventions in the area of protection of industrial property.

Same as each year since 1992, when Lithuania became a member of WIPO, our state has been represented at the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly, the Nice Union Assembly, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PTC) Union Assembly, the Madrid Union Assembly, the Budapest Union Assembly and meetings of WIPO Coordination Committees. The Director of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania has been elected the vice-chairman of the Nice Union assembly.

Employees of the State Patent Bureau attended 11 sessions of WIPO committees, meetings and conferences of workgroups and other events organized by WIPO: seminars, forums and conferences.

On 26th September 2008 Geneva act of the Hague Agreement on international registration of industrial designs entered into force, therefore attendance of the WIPO seminars 'International registration of designs under the Hague system' was of great importance to representatives of the SPB, which was held in Geneva on 8-10th April 2008 and 4-6th November 2008 and attendance of the trainings which was held in Geneva on 30th June - 5th July 2008 on application of the Hague Agreement on international registration of industrial designs.

The European Patent Organization (EPO)

Under the European Patent Convention (EPC), representatives of the State Patent Bureau under the leadership of the Director R. Naujokas represented the Republic of Lithuania in 4 meetings of the Administrative Council of the European Patent Office (EPO) and 2 meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee where organizational, administrative and financial matters of EPO activities in legal regulation of European patents were discussed in 2008. The member of Administrative Council of EPO Rimvydas Naujokas was elected a member of the Supervisory Board of EPO European Patent Academy for a three-year term.

In 2008 the experts of SPB attended 12 meetings of EPO committees and workgroups on the matters of patent law, resolution of disputes, training, technical cooperation and other events organized by EPO (a symposium, conferences).

Making assessment of the needs in development of special professional knowledge in the area of granting patents and using opportunities offered by EPO program in transnational cooperation, specialists of SPB improved their qualification at 10 seminars and practical trainings organized by the Patent Academy of the European Patent Office.

European Union (EU)

In 2008 representatives of the SPB and the Justice Attache for industrial property law matters were actively attending meetings of workgroups and committees of the European Union, prepared and presented an official opinion of Lithuania on the matters discussed in Brussels on protection of the industrial design.

In 2008 14 meetings of the Patent subgroup of the EU Council Intellectual property workgroup took place for which the State Patent Bureau prepared and harmonized 12 positions, 1 meeting of the Intellectual property workgroup for which the State Patent Bureau prepared and harmonized 1 position and 1 meeting of the design subgroup of the intellectual property workgroup for which the State Patent Bureau prepared and harmonized 1 position. The State Patent Bureau prepared and harmonized 3 positions under its competence for 3 meetings, which were held in 2008, prepared and harmonized 3 positions under its competence for 3 meetings of the Competitiveness Council.

The Law enforcement attach for the matters of industrial pr operty rights represented the interests of Lithuania in the Representation of Lithuania to the European Union at different meetings, 33 institutions, workgroups, committees and sessions of the administrative bodies of the European Union, including discussing the matters relating to the intellectual property law.

The European Union Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM)

The State Patent Bureau has close cooperation with the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market of the European Union (Trademarks and designs). As provided by the Council regulation No. 40/94 of 20th December 1993 on a Community trademark, representatives of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania represented the Republic of Lithuania at 7 sessions of the administrative bodies of the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM), namely Administrative Council, Budget Committee, joint meetings of the Administrative Council and Budget Committee in discussion of relevant OHIM organizational, administrative and financial matters in 2008. Experts of the State Patent Bureau attended 3 cooperation meetings of OHIM and representatives of national patent offices in 2008.

Cooperation with Patent Offices and other International Cooperation

In 2008 the State Patent Bureau continued its cooperation with state patent offices of the neighbouring Baltic states - on invitation of the Swedish Patent and Registration Office the SPB was represented at the workgroup meeting of Nordic and Baltic states on trademarks and designs, which was held in Stockholm (Sweden) in 2008 and the meeting of representatives from Nordic and Baltic states patent offices on the matters of patents, which took place on 29-30th April. On invitation of the Latvian patent Office we attended the meeting of representatives of the Nordic and Baltic states Patent offices which was held in Riga (Latvia) on 13-14th November 2008. The Director of SPB R. Naujokas attended a meeting of the Heads of the Patent offices of the Nordic and Baltic states organized by the Norwegian Patent Office, which was held in Oslo (Norway) on 18-19th August 2008.

On invitation of different states' patent offices representatives of the SPB attended 4 international events, conferences and training seminars.

Whereas Lithuania will be in the chair of the EU in 2013, representatives of the SPB attended meetings related to adoption of the experience of the chairmanship on invitation of the Finnish Patent Office and the Ministry of Employment and Economy of Finland on 19th November 2008 in order to get ready for being in the chair of the EU.

In 2008 close cooperation continued with the United States Patent and Trademark (USPTO). On invitation of the USPTO employees of the SPB had a possibility to get some professional knowledge in 3 trainings and programs of the USPTO World Academy in Alexandria (USA).

Inventions

invent@vpb.gov.lt

Protection of inventions in the Republic of Lithuania is regulated by the Patent Law of the Republic of Lithuania, which was enacted on 18th January 1994, and came into force on 1st February 1994.

An Invention is a word usually used to describe a solution of a technical problem, which is novel and giving a positive effect, associated whether with development of a new device, product or process, or with improvement of the already known device or process. Very often it requires a lot of efforts, long-term investments into research or experiments in order to create a valuable invention. At the same time there are many simple and cheap technical improvements, which have a high market value and have brought good profits to their inventors and companies.

A Patent is a document, granted by the state authorized patent office which grants the Owner exclusive rights to use the object of patent for particular time and in a particular territory. It gives the Owner an exclusive right to prevent and to forbid others from producing, using, and offering to sell, selling or importing a product or a process, which is based on a patented invention, without a prior permission of the Owner. The limits of legal protection provided by a patent are defined by the claims of an invention and its paragraphs, defining the main features that describe the invention in particular cases of its realization or usage.

There are three ways of acquiring patent protection in the Republic of Lithuania: filing applications directly with the SPB (national way), under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and under the European Patent Convention (Euro and Euro-PCT applications).

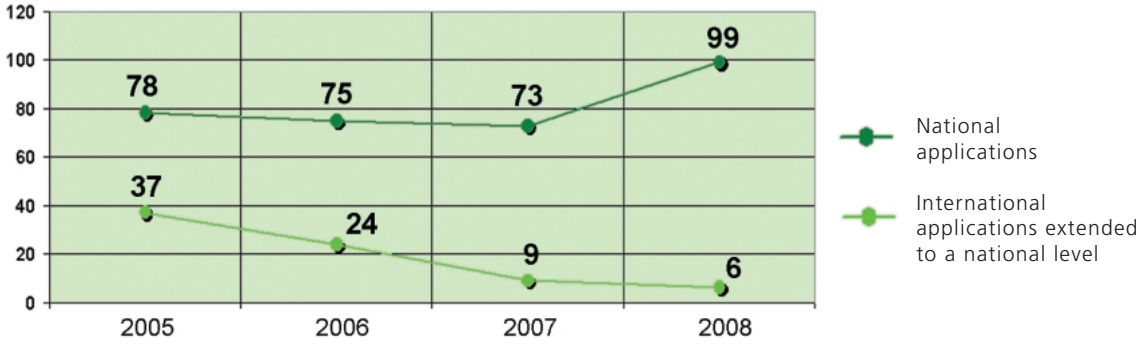
99 national patent applications were filed with the State Patent Bureau in 2008, 87 patent applications were filed by Lithuanian applicants. 9 patent applications asked for grant of a conventional priority.

6 international applications proceeded to the national level, 5 among them were with the application(s) for the priority filed previously in 2008.

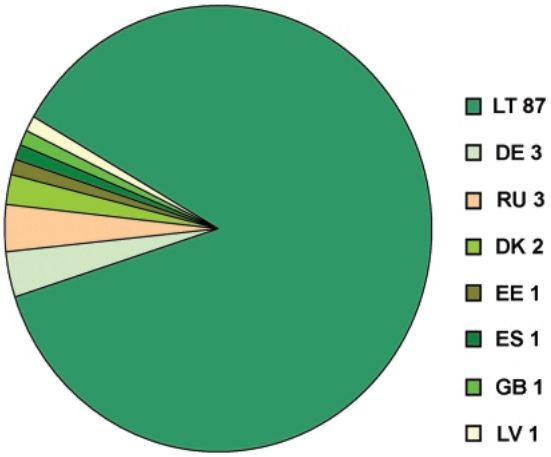
In 2008 SPB as a receiving office, received 9 international applications.

In 2008 18 applications for additional grant of protection certificates were filed.

Filed patent applications within the years 2005-2008



Distribution of national applications by states in 2008



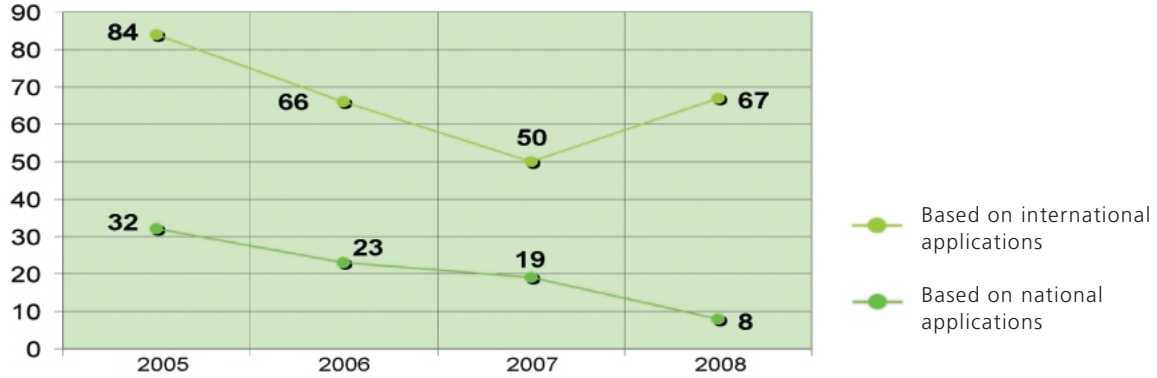
Number of patent applications filed by applicants of the Republic of Lithuania in 2007-2008

Applicants	Number of applicants	
	2007	2008
Legal entities	35	37
Natural entities	27	50
Total number of legal and natural entities	**62**	**87**

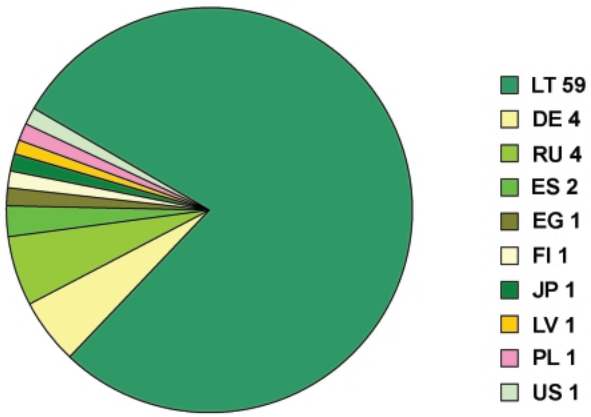
National institutions/companies that filed applications in 2008.

Seq.No.	Applicants	Number of applications
1.	KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY	6
2.	VILNIUS GEDIMINAS TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	4
3.	JOINT STOCK COMPANY ACHEMA	3
4.	INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY	3
5.	ARCHIPROJEKTAS, UAB	3
6.	J. GECEVIČIUS SCIENTIFIC SERVICES FIRM GTV	2
7.	LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE	2
8.	PUBLIC AGENCY SOIL REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGIES	2
9.	A. VRUBLIAUSKIENĖ COMPANY NAUJI VĖJAI	1
10.	INSTITUTE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY	1
11.	SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL COMPANY LASER TECHNOLOGY CENTER	1
12.	INSTITUTE OF VIABLE TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED RESEARCH	1
13.	EKSPLA, UAB	1
14.	FUREKSA, UAB	1
15.	HORTILED, UAB	1
16.	PRECIZIKA METROLOGY, UAB	1
17.	PREKYBOS PROJEKTAI, UAB	1
18.	VAIVORA, UAB	1
19.	VILTECHMEDA, UAB	1
20.	VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS	1

Grant of patents in the years 2005-2008



Patents granted in 2008 by the states of patent owners



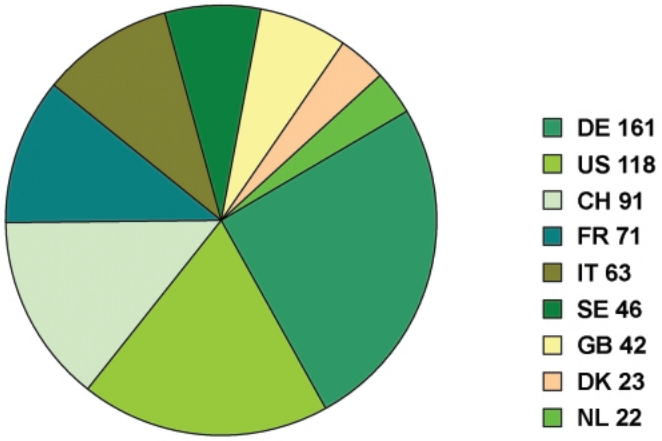
European patents

In 2008 776 European patents came into force in the Republic of Lithuania which were granted by the European Patent Office (EPO), 327 among them have been granted under the European Patent Convention (EPC).

Number of patents granted in 2008 by IPC branches

IPC branches		Lithuania (state code and number of patents)	A foreign state	Total
Meeting human needs	A	10	ES 2, EG 1, LV 1	**14**
Different technological processes; transport	B	13	DE 3, FI 1, PL 1, RU 1	**19**
Chemistry; metalurgy	C	8	RU 2	**10**
Textile; paper	D	-	-	-
Construction; mining	E	5	DE 1, JP 1, US 1	**8**
Mechanics, illumination; heating; arms; exploding operations	F	9	RU 1	**10**
Physics	G	8	-	**8**
Electricity	H	6	-	**6**
Total		**59**	**16**	**75**

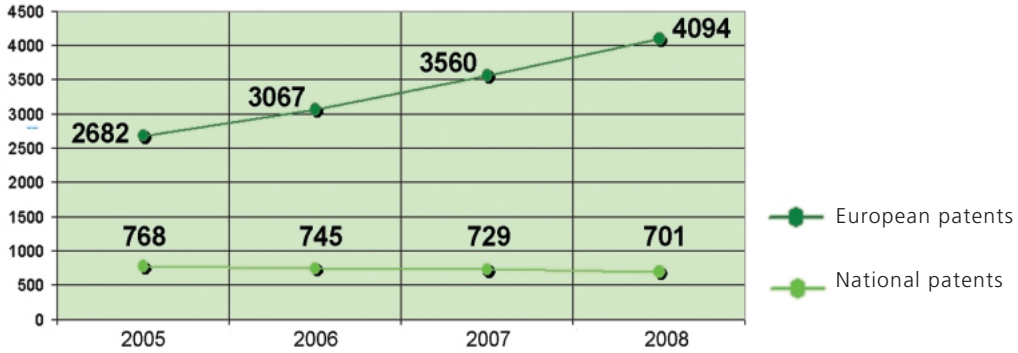
European patents that came into force in 2008 by the states of patent owners



Number of European patents that came into force in the Republic of Lithuania in 2008 by International Patent Classification (IPC) branches

IPC branches		A state code and number of applications	Total
Meeting human needs	A	DE 53, US 46, CH 44, FR 24, IT 17, SE 16, GB 13, LU 9, NL 8, DK 7, FI 7, AT 5, BE 5, SI 4, CA 3, GR 3, IE 3, IN 2, JP 2, AU 1, BG 1, CU 1, CZ 1, ES 1, KR 1	**277**
Different technological processes; transport	B	DE 24, IT 17, CH 9, BE 5, NO 5, FR 4, NL 4, AT 3, DK 3, GB 3, SE 3, ES 2, US 2, AU 1, BR 1, CA 1, JP 1, MT 1, PL 1, SG 1	**91**
Chemistry; metallurgy	C	US 68, DE 46, CH 33, FR 31, GB 24, SE 16, IT 14, DK 10, ES 7, JP 7, LU 6, HU 4, NO 4, CZ 3, BE 2, CA 2, IL 2, AT 1, CU 1, CY 1, IE 1, IN 1, LI 1, MX 1, PT 1	**293**
Textile; paper	D	DE 1, IT 1, SE 1	**3**
Construction; mining	E	DE 13, IT 6, AT 5, FR 4, SE 3, FI 3, CH 2, CY 2, DK 1, ES 1, NL 1, RU 1, VG 1	**43**
Mechanics, illumination; heating; arms; exploding operations	F	DE 6, IT 5, FR 3, US 2, CH 1, GB 1, SE 1	**19**
Physics	G	DE 10, FR 4, CH 2, DK 2, SE 2, CA 1, GB 1, LT 1, NO 1	**24**
Electricity	H	DE 8, FI 5, SE 4, IT 3, NL 3, EE 1, FR 1, HU 1	**26**
Total		DE 161, US 118, CH 91, FR 71, IT 63, SE 46, GB 42, DK 23, NL 22, FI 15, LU 15, AT 14, BE 12, ES 11, JP 10, NO 10, CA 7, HU 5, CZ 4, IE 4, SI 4, CY 3, GR 3, IN 3, AU 2, CU 2, IL 2, BG 1, BR 1, EE 1, KR 1, LI 1, LT 1, MT 1, MX 1, PL 1, PT 1, RU 1, SG 1, VG 1	**776**

Patents in force at the end of the year



In 2008 68 assignment agreements were signed, 57 of them were assignment agreements for European patents. In 2008 4 license agreements were registered, 1 among them was a license agreement for a European patent.

Semiconductor Product Topographies

Legal protection of semiconductor product topographies in the Republic of Lithuania may be acquired under the Law on Legal Protection of Topographies of Semiconductor Products of the Republic of Lithuania, by filing applications directly with the SPB. This law came into force on 1st December 1998. Since the effect date of the Law on Legal Protection of Topographies of Semiconductor Products of the Republic of Lithuania, no applications for registration of topographies of semiconductor products have been filed.

Trademarks

trademark@vpb.gov.lt

Registration and protection of trademarks in the Republic of Lithuania is regulated by the Law on Trade Marks of the Republic of Lithuania, which was enacted on 10th October 2000 and came into force on 1st January 2001.

A Trademark is any mark, the purpose of which is to distinguish goods and services of one individual from goods and services of another individual and which may be represented graphically.

At the moment there are three ways to get exclusive rights to a trademark in the Republic of Lithuania:

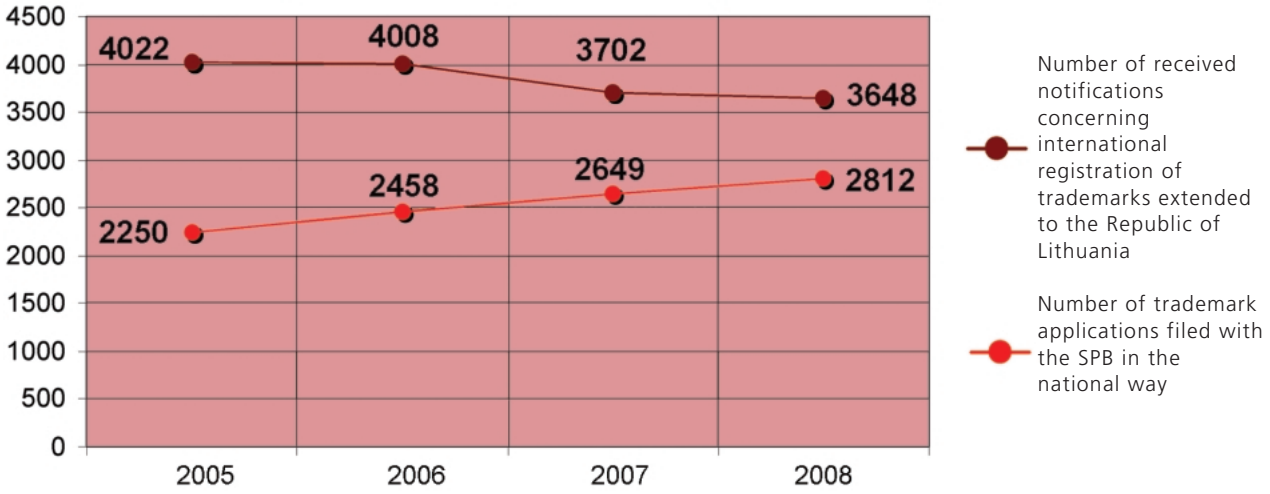
- filing applications directly with the State Patent Bureau (SPB) of the Republic of Lithuania under the Trademark Law (national way), under the Protocol of the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, according to which, the protection, provided by the international trademark registration, is extended to the Republic of Lithuania (international way); under the EU Council Regulation Concerning the Community Trade Mark of 20th December 1993 under which any trademark, registered as a Community trademark with the EU Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) is protected in Lithuania since 1st May 2004.

Since the day of establishment of the State Patent Bureau until 31st December 2008 the SPB received 57,672 applications for registration of a mark in the national way. 47,044 trademarks have been registered in the register of trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania within this period; 35,133 of them were registrations, 20,802 amendments, 8,005 assignment of rights and 835 licence agreements, 625 secured (cancellation of security) and 87 seized (withdrawals of seizures).

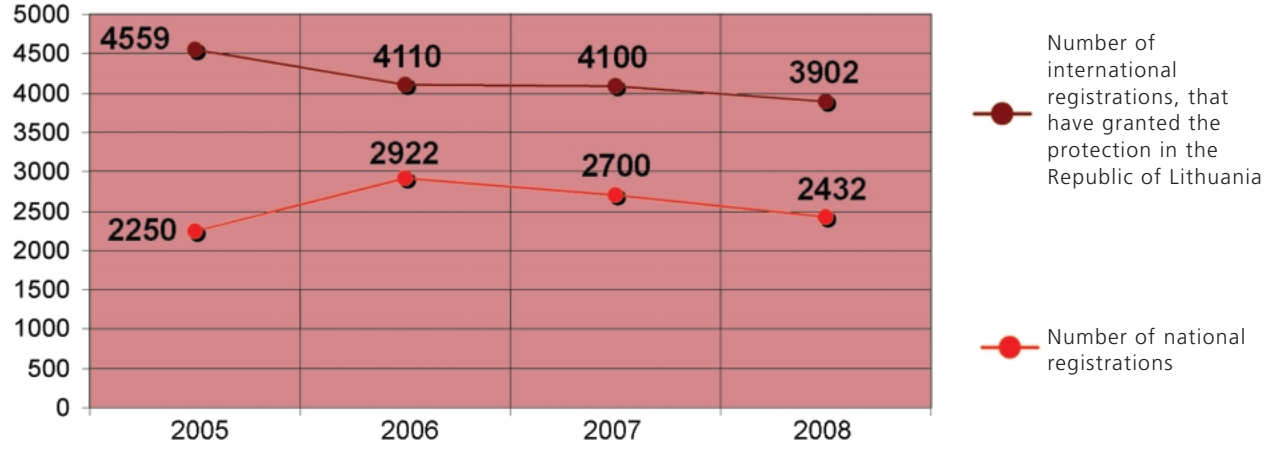
Since 1997 45,786 notifications regarding the extension of the international registration protection in Lithuania have been received from the International Registrations Department of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); after review 40,431 resolutions were passed for granting the protection.

At the end of 2008 74,984 registrations of trademarks were in effect in Lithuania, applications for applications have been filed in the national and international ways and 507,715 Community trademarks registered at the register Community trademarks of the EU.

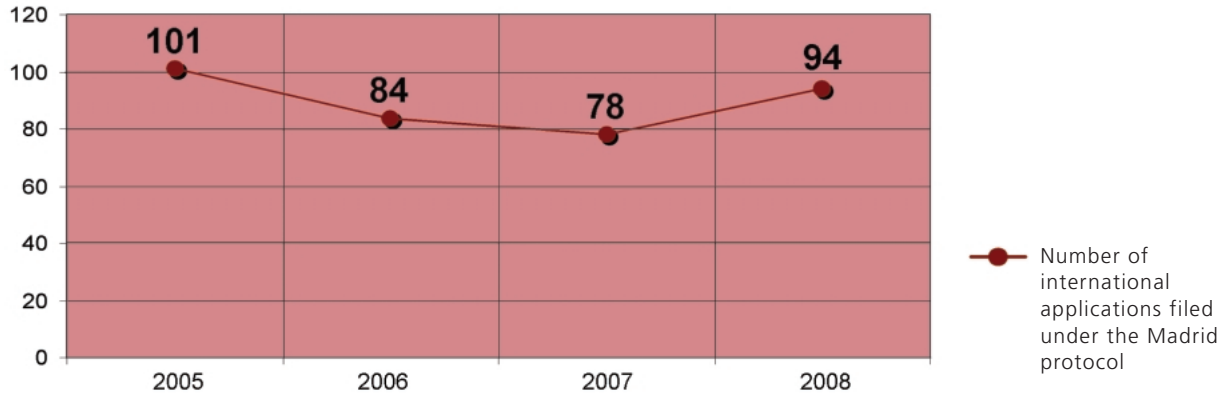
Number of trademarks filed in the Republic of Lithuania in years 2005 - 2008



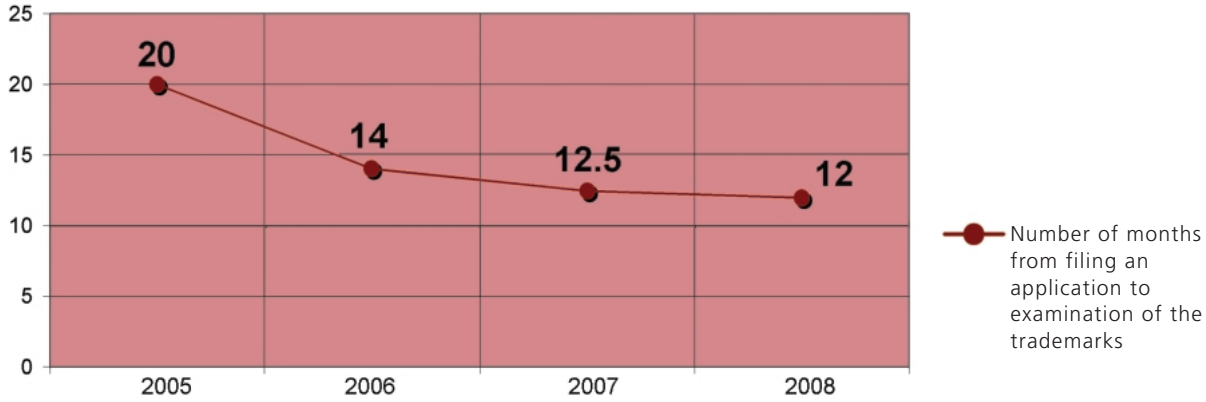
Registration of exclusive rights to trademarks in the Republic of Lithuania in years 2005 - 2008



Number of international applications filed under the Madrid protocol



Administration periods of national trademark applications



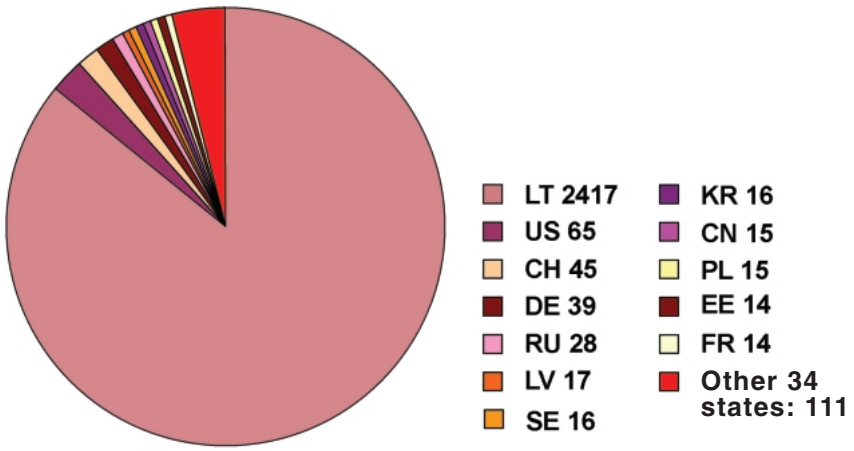
Protection of trademarks in the Republic of Lithuania granted in the national way

In 2008 the SPB received 2,812 trademark applications, among them:
2,417 (85.9%) of the Lithuanian applicants; **395** (14.1%) of the foreign applicants.

Distribution of applications for merchandises and services of the class in 2008

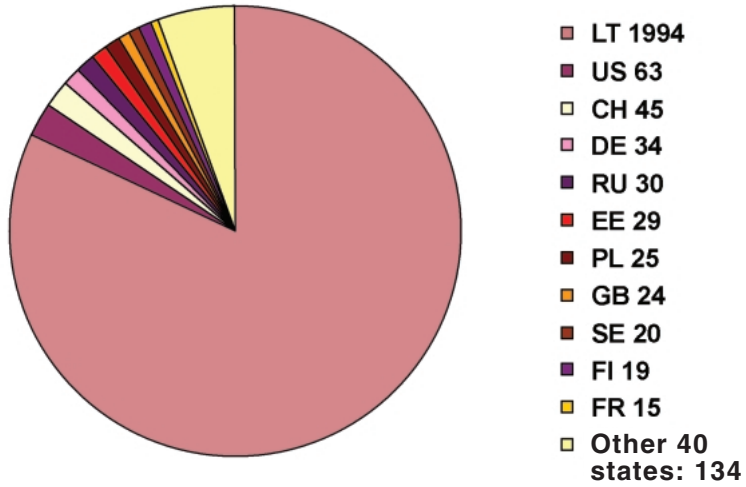
The biggest number of applications was filed for merchandises and services of the class 35 (795 or 15.9 %), 41 (474 or 9.48 %), 36 (314 or 6.28 %), 16 (271 or 5.4 %), 30 (230 or 4.6 %) in 2008 under the International classification of goods and services.

Distribution of applications by the applicant states



In 2008 2,432 trademarks were registered, among them: 1,994 (81.9%) of Lithuanian applicants and 438 (18.1%) of foreign applicants.

Distribution of registrations by the trademark owner states in 2008



In 2008 38 trademarks were registered at the SPB, the applications of which were filed with a request for granting conventional priority.

In 2008, in the Trademark Register of the Republic of Lithuania there were registered: 610 agreements on assignment of rights and 111 license agreements, 2,127 amendments in the register, registration time of effect of 1,289 trademarks was extended, and 92 security of a mark (cancellation of security) and 24 seizures (withdrawals of seizures), 1,788 registrations cancelled, 1,739 among them were cancelled without extension of the effect time of the registration.

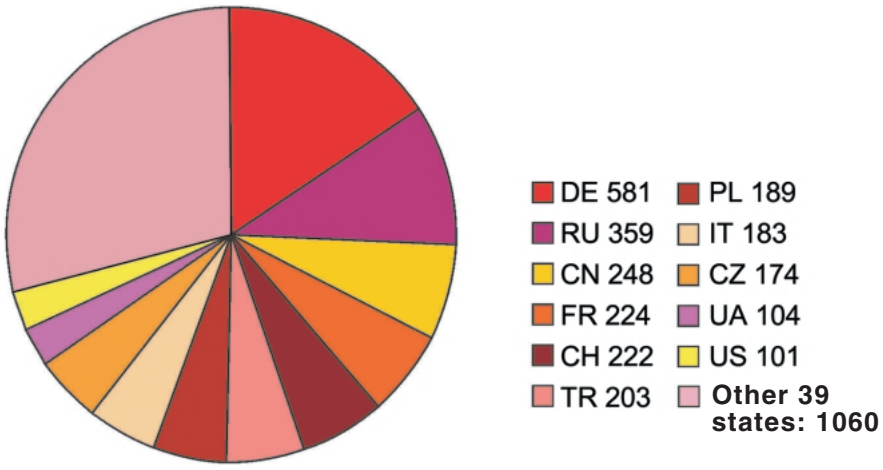
Protection of trademarks under the Protocol of Madrid agreement on International registration of marks

In 2008 3,648 notifications of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) were received regarding extension of the protection of international registrations of marks in Lithuania. The SPB passed 3,902 resolutions for granting protection to international registrations of marks.

In 2008 the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) of the EU made 41,278 searches based on the requirements of OHIM.

Distribution of international registrations extended to the Republic of Lithuania in 2008 by the states of mark owners

Lithuanian applicants filed 357 international applications from 2005 to the end of 2008 using the opportunity of getting protection of trademarks in other countries granted by membership of Lithuania in the Madrid protocol. 607 trademarks of Lithuanian applicants have been registered at the International trademark register



Design

Legal protection of industrial design in the Republic of Lithuania is regulated by the Design Law of the Republic of Lithuania, which was enacted on 7th November 2002 and came into force on 1st January 2003.

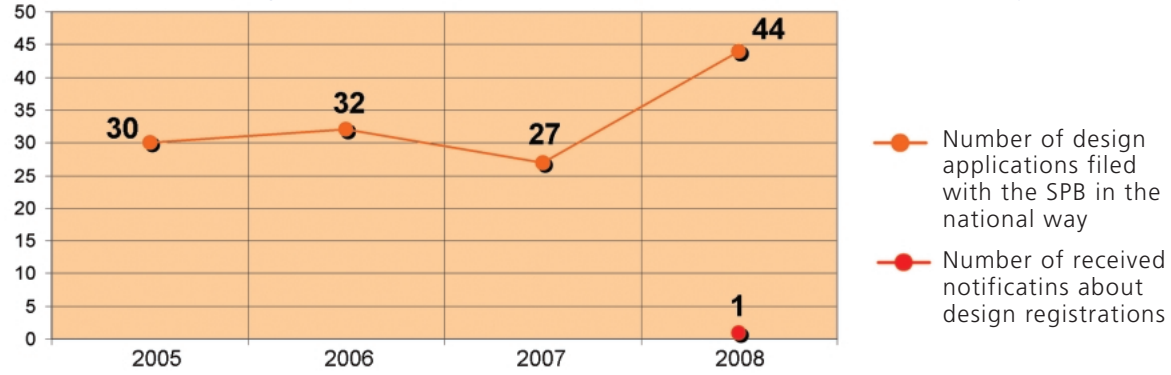
A Design is a visual appearance of the whole product or its part, which is composed of the product and (or) special features of its ornamentation - lines, outlines, colours, forms, textures and (or) material.

There are three ways to get exclusive rights to a design in Lithuania: under the Design Law of the Republic of Lithuania by filing an application directly with the SPB (national way); under the Council Regulation of 12th December 2001 concerning the Community Design, under which a Community Design registered with the EU Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) is protected in Lithuania since 1st May 2004 (regional way) and registration of international design may be extended to Lithuania after Lithuania joined the Geneva act of the Hague Agreement on International registration of industrial design since 26th September 2008 (international way).

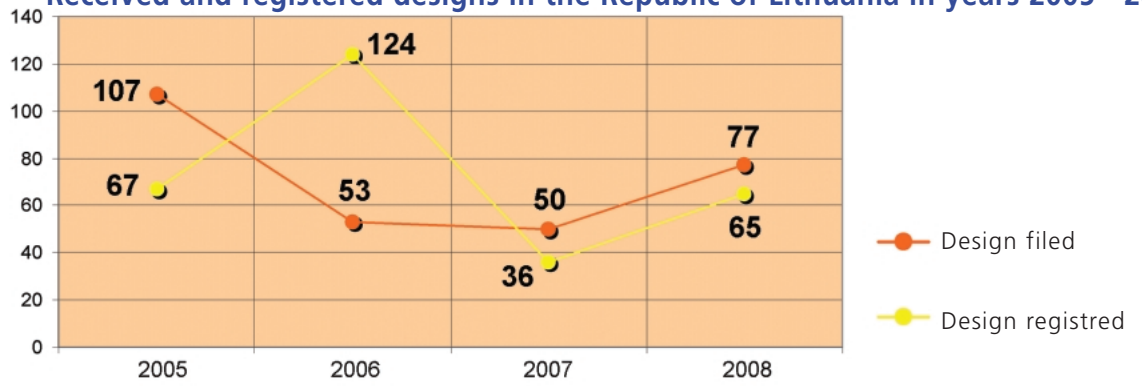
Since the day of establishment of the State Patent Bureau until 31st December 2008, the SPB received 1,626 applications for registration of designs in the national way. 1,405 registrations of designs have been registered at the Design register of the Republic of Lithuania, 442 registrations among them were in force.

There were 359,480 designs registered at the Community Design Register of the EU at the end of 2008, which are also effective in Lithuania.

Number of design applications filed in the Republic of Lithuanian in years 2005 - 2008



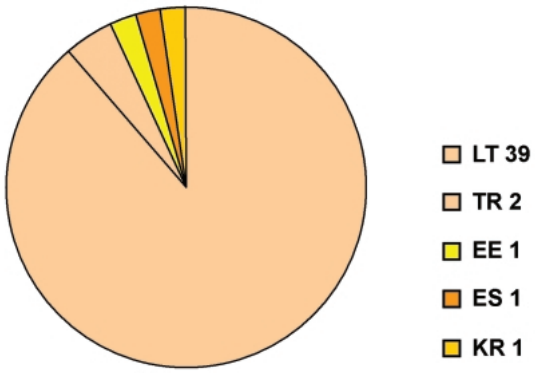
Received and registered designs in the Republic of Lithuania in years 2005 - 2008



Protection of design in the Republic of Lithuania in the national way

In 2008 44 applications (77 designs) for registration of designs were filed with the SPB, among them: 39 (88.6 %) of the Lithuanian applicants, 5 (11.4 %) of the foreign applicants.

Distribution of applications by states in 2008.



Number of the applicants of the Republic of Lithuania who filed design applications in years 2007 - 2008

Applicants	Number of applications	
	2007	2008
Legal entities	18	28
Natural entities	9	17
Total number of legal and natural entities	27	45

Distribution of design applications according to the international Locarno classification:

The foreign applicants have filed design applications in the following areas:

packages and containers for transportation or handling of goods (class 9) - 2; tools and metal articles (class 8) - 1; textile articles and natural sheet materials (class 5) - 2.

The Lithuanian applicants have filed design applications in the following areas:

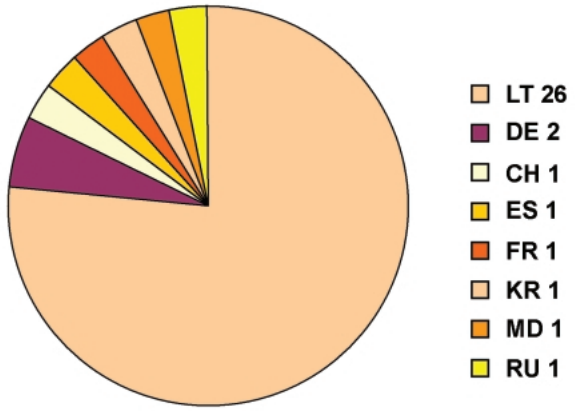
building and construction elements (class 25) - 4; games, toys, tents and sports goods (class 21) - 3, sales and advertising systems, marks (class 20) - 3, machinery that is not classified to other classes (class 15) - 2, recording, communication or information retrieval equipment (class 14) - 1, articles for decoration (class 11) - 1, watches and other measuring devices, monitoring and signaling devices (class 10) - 1, packages and containers for transportation or handling of goods (class 9) - 13, tools and metal articles (class 8) - 2, furniture (class 6) - 3, textile piece goods and natural sheet materials (class 5) - 1, travel goods, cases, parasols and personal belongings (class 3) - 1, articles of clothing and haberdashery (class 2) - 3, food products (class 1) - 1.

Institutions/companies of the Republic of Lithuania that filed most design applications

Applicants			Number of applications
Nr.	Legal entities	Location	2008 m.
1	LISENAS, UAB	Vilnius	4
2	BALTIJOS MINERALINIŲ VANDENŲ KOMPANIJA, UAB	Telšiai	3
3	LEO LT, AB	Vilnius	2
4	VILNIAUS DUONA, UAB	Vilnius	1
5	CLOSED-END COMPANY DRUSKININKŲ RASA	Druskininkai	1
6	AGRICULTURAL COMPANY SGC	Kaunas	1
7	TRAIDENIS, UAB	Alytus	1
8	RV OFERTA, UAB	Alytus	1
9	LOTOSŲ JŪRA, UAB	Vilnius	1
10	LESTA, UAB	Vilniaus district	1
11	IZORA, UAB	Raseiniai	1
12	FLAIRWOODS, UAB	Kazlų Rūda	1
13	FELIKSNAVIS, UAB	Alytus	1
14	DINASAS, UAB	Kauno district	1
15	BAUTOPAS, UAB	Vilnius	1
16	OGMIOS CENTRAS, AB	Vilnius	1
17	A. ASTRAUSKAS COMPANY PIRMAS ŽINGSNIS	Kaunas	1

In 2008 the SPB registered **34** design registrations (65 designs), among them: **26** (76.4 %) of the Lithuanian applicants and **8** (23.6 %) of the foreign applicants.

Distribution of registrations by the states of design owners in 2008.



In 2008 6 agreements on assignment of rights and 1 license agreement were registered at the Design register of the Republic of Lithuania, 17 amendments of the register, time of effect of 57 design registrations were extended and 104 registrations were cancelled.

Protection of designs under the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs

In 2008 1 notification of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) concerning extension of protection of international registration of the design in Lithuania was received.

Appeals and Oppositions

appeal@vpb.gov.lt

The objective of operations of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania Appeals Division is to review the SPB experts resolutions, passed after examination of a patent application, an application to get a certificate for supplementary protection, an application for registration a topography, a design, or a trademark, about which the applicants have expressed complaints following the procedure defined by legislation and to protect the rights of interested persons to objects of intellectual property.

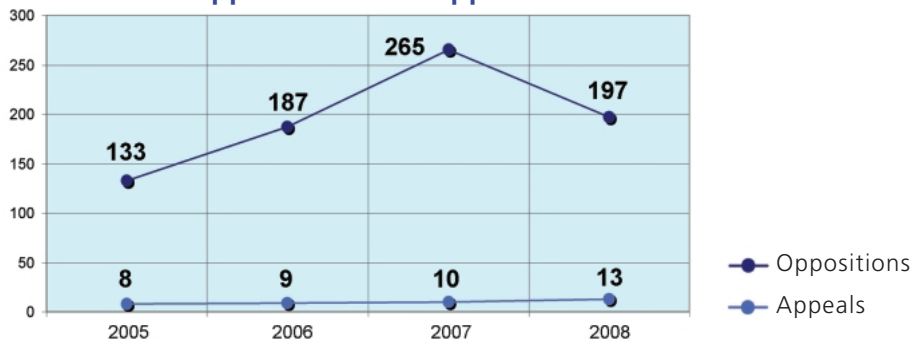
The appeals concerning patent application, appeals concerning granting certificates of supplementary protection, or defining validity terms of certificates of supplementary protection, appeals and oppositions concerning topography of semiconductor products, appeals and oppositions concerning design, and appeals and oppositions concerning trademarks are analysed in the Appeals Division following respective legal acts and the rules of analysis of appeals and oppositions AP/01/2005.

197 oppositions and 13 appeals were lodged with the Appeals Division in 2008: 130 oppositions concerning national registration of trademarks; **67** oppositions concerning registration of international trademarks under the Madrid protocol;

The vast majority (12 out of 13) of the received appeals were against conclusions of the experts of the SPB to reject national applications for registration of a trademark.

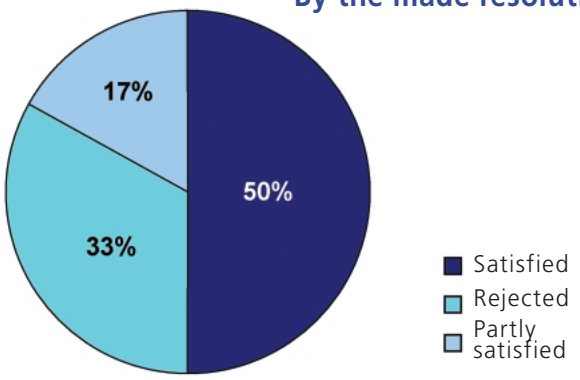
Making assessment of the number of received oppositions and appeals based on the data of previous years, the number of lodged oppositions dropped in 2008, however the number of received appeals increased: 8 appeals and 133 oppositions were received in 2005, 9 appeals and 187 oppositions were received in 2006, 10 appeals and 265 oppositions were received in 2007:

Received Oppositions and Appeals in 2005-2008



In 2008 the Appeal Division passed **81** resolutions after examination of:
8 appeals (concerning national trademark application);
83 oppositions (consideration of several uniform oppositions was combined upon passing a general resolution):
48 oppositions concerning national registration of trademarks, 35 oppositions concerning international registration of trademarks.

By the made resolutions

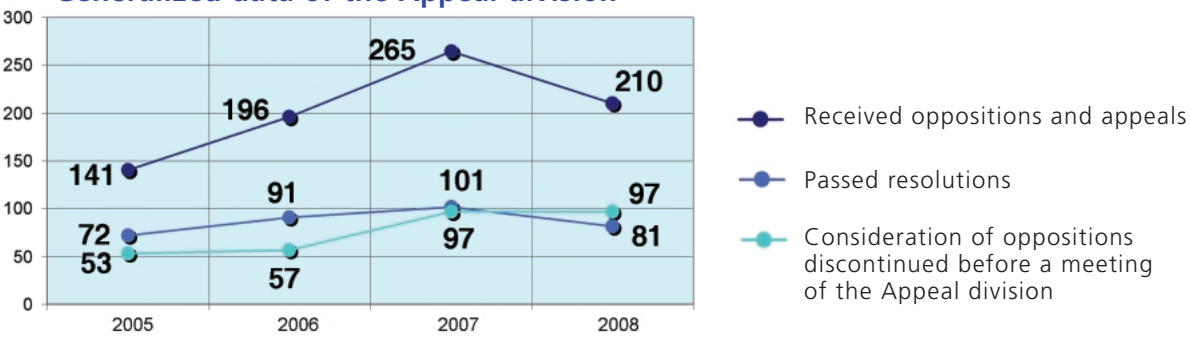


- in 42 cases oppositions have been satisfied,
- in 14 cases oppositions have been rejected,
- in 27 cases oppositions have been partly satisfied.

4 considered appeals against conclusions of the SPB experts for rejection of an application for registration of a trademark have been satisfied, 3 have been rejected as unjustified and 1 appeal has been partly satisfied.

Vast majority of the received oppositions were about misleading resemblance of the opposed trademark to the previous trademark. Besides, quite often oppositions were received in respect of invalidation of registration of a mark when the applicant had filed an application having fraudulent intentions. In rare cases oppositions concerning nonconformity to the absolute requirements set for the mark applied for registration or another grounds provided by the law have being lodged.

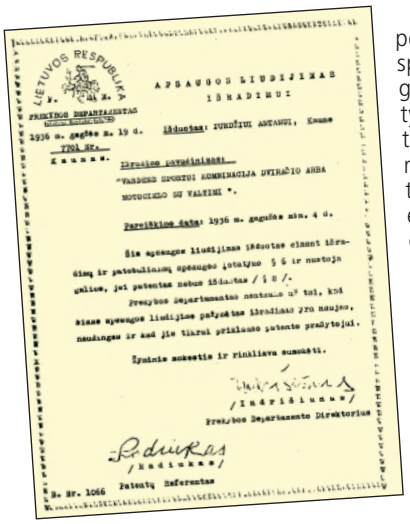
Generalized data of the Appeal division



Making assessment of the recent years data it has been observed that parties of the dispute have used an opportunity to settle the dispute in an amicable way after lodging the opposition and consideration of such oppositions has been discontinued in the Appeal Division - the data of 2007 and 2008 remained the same, in 2008 this number slightly exceeded the number of considered oppositions and appeals (91).

Patent Information and Documentation

info@vpb.gov.lt



APSAUGOS LIUDIJIMAS
IŠRADIMUI

PATENTAS



The State Patent Bureau alongside registration practice of objects of industrial property (inventions, designs, trademarks, product topographies) takes a more active role in spreading information on industrial property, realizes instruments of education of the general public on the matters of industrial property, seeks that the established productivity system of scientific institutions get surplus value from exchange of information, exploiting the knowledge of professionals in industrial property information, establishes all necessary conditions for the process of development of the advanced technologies, protection and application of them. We may offer all of this as we have been gathering experience for a long time, took part in development of the national protection system of industrial property, perform the functions of a representative of international and European Union institutions in Lithuania, we initiated development of university coordinators network of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

The year 2008 was extraordinary to our country because we commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Patent Law of Lithuania. Looking back to our path we may say that now it is very important to popularize the protection system of the industrial property, so that all citizens could properly use options of the system. Then Lithuania should demonstrate that it is not just a country of advanced technology developers but also a country of advanced technology users. However, in Lithuania the prevailing approach is that innovations are the concern of just producers of advanced technologies, that they are related only to the companies, which can carry out researches by themselves, develop and apply advanced technologies. However, such approach is narrow and not exactly right. All legal and natural entities, i.e., producers and service providers should be concerned about innovations. Contemporary companies, organizations, natural entities manage to implement or change products and processes based on the updated knowledge. Some industrial companies already have big experience in cooperation with high schools and scientific research companies; however this cooperation could be more active. The research demonstrates that development of innovations is very successful in the areas where there is close cooperation between high education establishments and scientific research companies. Scientific and technological parks, business incubators, other organizations of innovation support infrastructures could promote closer cooperation between business and science society. Five years ago when Lithuanian joined the European Union and the European Patent Office, an everlasting question still exists: to be or not to be - will Lithuania be creator of advanced technologies or just the country of users of advanced technologies?

Lithuanian Technical Library, which celebrated the 50th anniversary in 2007, has big contribution in the area of patent information, the patent fund of which reached over 38 million in 2008. Lithuanian Patent Attorney Association and the Lithuanian group of International Association for the Protection of Industrial Property (AIPPI) also play big role in it. Patent clinic has been operating successfully for several years already, which provides free information to the applicants about inventions (more on www.tb.lt). Besides there is a web portal www.teisingumas.lt of the Center of Legal Information under the Ministry of Justice which helps any citizen of the Republic of Lithuania to find legal information on registration of his/her real estate or movable - intellectual property.

Since 1997 the State Patent Bureau (SPB) has started the implementation of the "one-window" principle. The Applications Receiving and Document Management Division performs functions of single-window customer service subdivision accepting applications, personal requests, complaints, handing or sending replies, certificates, industrial property documents to individuals, providing information on registration procedural matters of industrial property objects directly and by phone, on the website of the SPB in the section 'Questions - Answers' and by e-mail.

299 questions were answered in the section 'Questions - Answers' of the SPB website, 208 by email, about 4,800 individual questions by information telephone. About 3,600 clients visited one-window customer service subdivision.

In providing public services on the website of the SPB the interested parties have an opportunity to search for information on validation of the protection of the industrial property objects, a system for search of information about inventions, trademarks and designs which enables the applicant or another interested party to search for necessary information on industrial property objects in databases, to gain information on registered objects of industrial property and to fill the application forms on the website section "Application forms".

In 2008 3,987 national applications (patent, supplementary protection certificates, trademarks, designs), 9 applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) when the SPB is a receiving office, 1 application under the European Patent Convention (EPC) when the SPB is a receiving office, 1 application under the International design application (ID) filed via the SPB, 6 Community trademark applications (CTM) filed via the SPB, 3,684 international trademark registrations (under the Protocol relating to agreement concerning International Registration of marks) where the Republic of Lithuania has been indicated, 1 International design registration (under the Geneva act of the Hague agreement concerning international registration of industrial design), where the Republic of Lithuania has been indicated, were received.

In 2008 over 28 thousand replies, industrial property documents and letters were handed or sent.

In 2008 12 official gazettes were published which were also published in Adobe® PDF format and 75 descriptions of patents were published in the electronic version.

It should also be mentioned that on 24th November 2008 a designer from Šiauliai filed the first international application for registration of the industrial design in several states of the world at the same time with the State Patent Bureau. Lithuanian design developers and users have got such an opportunity since 26th September 2008 when Lithuania joined the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning International Registration of the Industrial Design.

In 2008 the Republic of Lithuania commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Patent Law of Lithuania! On 14th May 1928 the Law on Protection of Inventions and Improvements was enacted, which was in force until 1940. Under the first Patent Law of

Lithuania named as "Law on Protection of Inventions and Improvements" patents had been issued in Lithuania and corresponding articles of the Industrial regulations had been withdrawn based on which only temporal protection certificates were issued since 1923. On that occasion on 24th April an exhibition "80 years to the Patent law of Lithuania" was opened at the gallery of the Lithuanian Technical Library. The exhibition was dedicated for commemoration of the World Intellectual Property Day which was organized by the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Technical Library. Historic development of the protection system of inventions and industrial property, descriptions of patents of prewar Lithuania, laws, patent documents of that time, publications, articles, inventions that changed and formed the world of innovations as well as samples of inventions were presented at the event.

Every year on 26th April governments and organizations of the entire world together with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day. The importance of development of intellectual property products is vital to underline, promote innovations, creativity, and positive attitude of the general society to importance of protection of intellectual property rights on economic, social and cultural development of the state on this day.

Every action of the intellectual property owner, action of the applicant should be associated with obtaining exclusive rights to the intellectual property object pointing out the importance of patent information, its analyses and application. It is great that academic society gets interested in protection of the intellectual property more and more, often use patent information in scientific research, experiments and training. It is simple to judge about potential of the state to adapt modern technologies, establish conditions for development of modern economy, and increase compatibility according to the use of patent information. Under the initiative of the State Patent Bureau since April 2003 winners of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Awards are being nominated which are recognized as the most prestigious awards in the world.

On 25th April a conference dedicated for commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Patent Law of Lithuania and the World Intellectual Property Day was held at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. The conference was organized by the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania together with Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. During the conference the Award of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was handed to the organization which used the industrial property the best in 2007 - Lietuviškas midus, UAB.

In May 2008 representatives of the SPB attended the exhibition Balttechnika (Litexpo), where the SPB had its stand and handed information publications on protection of industrial property.

In 2008 the State Patent Bureau together with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania organized training for judges in Vilnius and Molėtai. The goal of seminars was to provide knowledge on intellectual property to judges and let more experienced judges share their experience and knowledge. The speakers were judges of national courts of the European states who specialize in the area of patent disputes as well as practicing lawyers and academicians.

In 2008 the SPB signed cooperation memorandums with Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Kaunas universities of technologies and Vilnius Gediminas Technological University. Also cooperation memorandums were signed with patent offices of Georgia and Armenia.

In 2008 the SPB planned to sign a cooperation agreement with the European Patent Office (EPO), i.e., National action plan (NAP). Realization of this plan is based on partial financing of the states when the anticipated costs are covered in the following proportion: 25 % by the SPB and 75% by the EPO. This plan covers projects with the help of which the SPB realizes awareness of the general public and dissemination of information in the field of industrial property. The SPB also anticipates projects based on which the employees of the SPB may attend trainings organized by the EPO and improve their professional skills in this way. The project of training visits of the employees of the SPB has been started in 2008 despite the fact that the plan has not been signed until the end of 2008. Signing procedures have been delayed subject to long-standing harmonization of the plan details. Accordingly, in 2009 the SPB plans to start cooperation with EPO are based on this plan.

Dissemination of information on industrial property protected in Lithuania

REGISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA	REGISTRATION OF PATENTS (A,B), DESIGNS, TRADE MARKS	BIBLIOGRAPHIC, LEGAL STATUS, ADMINISTRATIVE AND ABSTRACT DATA, CLAIMS	1992-2008	PAPER, PDF (OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE SPB) EXTRACT (ON APPLICATION) DATABASES OF THE WEBSITE OF THE SPB OF PATENTS, DESIGNS AND TRADEMARKS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA	SPB LTL
DESCRIPTIONS OF LITHUANIAN PATENTS	PATENTS (B)	TEXT OF THE DESCRIPTION	1994-2008	PRECES CD-ROM esp@cenet	HPO SPB
REGISTER OF EUROPEAN PATENTS	EUROPEAN PATENTS (A,B)	BIBLIOGRAPHIC, LEGAL STATUS, ADMINISTRATIVE DATA	1995-2008	PDF, CD-ROM (OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE EPO)	EPO
ACCESS PRECES ACCESS-EPC INPADOC PFS INPADOC PRS	LITHUANIAN PATENTS (A, B) EUROPEAN PATENTS (A,B)	BIBLIOGRAPHIC, LEGAL STATUS, ADMINISTRATIVE DATA	1992-2008	CD-ROM esp@cenet esp@cenet OPS	EPO
INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF DESIGNS	INTERNATIONAL DESIGNS	BIBLIOGRAPHIC, LEGAL STATUS, ADMINISTRATIVE DATA, REPRODUCTIONS	2008	CD-ROM, online (OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE WIPO)	WIPO
INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF TRADEMARKS	INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARKS	BIBLIOGRAPHIC, LEGAL STATUS, ADMINISTRATIVE DATA, REPRODUCTIONS	1997-2008	DVD, PDF (OFFICIAL GAZETTTE OF THE WIPO)	WIPO
COMMUNITY REGISTER OF TRADEMARKS	COMMUNITY TRADEMARKS	BIBLIOGRAPHIC, LEGAL STATUS, ADMINISTRATIVE DATA, REPRODUCTIONS	2004-2008	online, PDF (OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE OHIM)	OHIM
COMMUNITY REGISTER OF DESIGNS	COMMUNITY DESIGNS	BIBLIOGRAPHIC, LEGAL STATUS, ADMINISTRATIVE DATA, REPRODUCTIONS	2004-2008	online, PDF (OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE OHIM)	OHIM

Patent Information Center of Lithuanian Technical Library

Lithuanian Technical Library (hereinafter referred to as LTL) is one of the five biggest libraries of state importance the status of which has been endorsed by the Law on Lithuanian libraries which proclaims that the state importance is given to those libraries the funds of which are exclusively significant to science, education, culture, state economy and which make the basis of the Library fund of Lithuania, ensures its integrity and satisfies needs of the general public in using publications and other type of documents and information. These libraries meet the requirements set for this type of libraries for accumulation, processing, storage, selection, evaluation of information and providing it to information users, are an integral part of the Library fund of Lithuania and represent their areas of activities in national and international projects.

The Lithuanian Technical Library is the biggest open-to-public special library of state importance that collects technical and economical publications, descriptions of inventions, standards and other regulation documents, company registries and catalogues. The LTL is a center of the state technical libraries network methodology and inter-library users (IAC). Funds of the Library include books and periodicals on the subjects of technology, economics, construction, architecture, design and business; patents of Lithuania and other foreign countries and other industrial property documents; Lithuanian and international standards, other regulation documents; company catalogues and reference books; subscribed databases. The Library has its divisions in Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai and Panevėžys.

At the end of 2008 the LTL had 8,700 registered subscribers, more than 390 thousand visitors, within one year the readers were given out about 480 thousand documents; about 7 thousand requests have been fulfilled. Within one year over 200 thematic and new exhibitions, 6 seminars have been organized at the library and outside the library. 41.7 million documents make the Library Fund.

In February the memorandum of agreement was signed in respect to cooperation between the State Patent Bureau, Lithuanian Technical Library and Kaunas Technological University (KTU). In April and May memorandums of cooperation were signed with Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) and Šiauliai University (ŠU), respectively.

At the end of 2008 Šiauliai division of the NPB was closed due to reorganization. Employees of the LTL division moved to the library of this university on mutual agreement of the parties. The major part of publications has been passed to the library of ŠU.

Mission of the LTL is as follows:

- to take part in the process of development of information and knowledge-based society;
- to ensure the needs of users in getting scientific technical information;
- to enable people using all information resources of the library;
- to organize dissemination of patent information,
- to take care of protection of the intellectual property within limits of competence;
- to implement new technologies and communication technologies;
- to support special technical libraries methodologically and
- to educate information literacy of users.

Besides, the library has to perform typical functions of libraries which have traditionally formed such as: to collect and handle information documents and publications, give primary sources and their copies to readers, fulfill requests (thematic, bibliographic, factographic), publish information and bibliographic publications, arrange seminars, organize exhibitions and creative and educative events to the general public.

Currently funds of the LTL contain over 41 million publications and documents, 95% of them are descriptions of inventions and other patent documents, the majority of which is received under international agreements free of charge (in the way of exchange). In this way over 2 million publications are received within one year period, however only 20 thousand copies using the budget assets (subscription of publications of Lithuania and foreign countries, books, e-documents and etc.).

The collection of books and periodicals of the LTL consists of over 1 million pieces. Publications are accumulated according to the profile of industry and science of Lithuania, namely: construction, architecture, design, light industry, food industry, electronics, wood treatment, navigation, aviation, management, marketing and so on.

Within one year we provided services to approximately 10,000 readers, about 800 organizations, over 40,000 visitors visit the library, over 0.5 million publications and documents were handed, about 10,000 different requests were handled. Thematic indexes were published for the most relevant topics of Lithuanian economy and economics, databases such as 'Architecture and Design', 'Contents of scientific conferences', 'Economics of Lithuanian economy' have been prepared and files have been designed.

The structure of the Llibrary is as follow: patent information center, collection of publications, administration and collection of publications, saving of publications, readers' service, organizations' service, bibliography, publication, standards and business information, information technologies, finance and accounting departments and Kaunas, Klaipėda and Panevėžys divisions.

The biggest structural division of the LTL is the Patent Information Center (PIC) which was established on the grounds of the patent division in 1999 in order to consolidate the information system of state industrial property. The PIC is a deposit Library of industrial property documents of Lithuania, foreign countries and international organizations, official publications and patent document collection, publishing and distribution center in Lithuania. At the beginning of 2009 the PIC fund had about 37.6 million documents in different data mediums, majority of which were electronic - CD-ROM and DVD-ROM disks. The main goal of the center is dissemination of patent information to the general public.

The LTL division - Patent Information Center (PIC) is a deposit Library of industrial property documents of Lithuania, foreign countries and international organizations, official publications and patent document collection, publishing and distribution center in Lithuania. On 31st December 2008 PIC fund had 37.6 million patent documents. In one year the center acquired 1.9 million patent documents. The LTL exchanged official documents with 42 patent offices in foreign countries and international organizations. Over 750 different requests and searches for patents and trademarks have been executed. An Official Gazette, annual statistical collection on registered intellectual property is prepared and distributed at the LTL and information publication 'Protection of Industrial Property' is being published.

Statistical Data

A report of applications of Lithuanian applicants for registration of patents, trademarks and designs under international agreements and regulations of EU Community trademarks and Community designs

	Year		Comparison % 2008/2007
	2007	2008	
International patent applications (PCT)	10	9	90
European patent applications	1	1	100
International trademark applications for registration of trademarks under the Madrid protocol	78	94	120
Applications for registration of Community trademarks	69	111	161
Applications for registration of Community designs	4	9	225
Applications for registration of Community designs	-	1	

A report of filed applications

			Year		Comparison % 2008/2007
			2007	2008	
Inventions	National applications	Of Lithuanian applicants	62	87	140
		Of foreign applicants	11	12	109
	International applications (PCT national level)	Of Lithuanian applicants	0	0	0
		Of foreign applicants	9	6	67
	Extended European patent applications		387	285	74
	Total		**469**	**390**	**83**
Topographies of semiconductor products	National applications	Of Lithuanian applicants	0	0	0
		Of foreign applicants	0	0	0
	Total		**0**	**0**	**0**
Trademarks	National applications	Of Lithuanian applicants	2218	2417	109
		Of foreign applicants	431	395	92
	Notifications about international registrations of trademarks extended under the Madrid protocol		3702	3648	98
	Total		**6351**	**6460**	**102**
Design	National applications	Of Lithuanian applicants	21	39	186
		Of foreign applicants	6	5	83
	Total		**27**	**44**	**163**
	Total		**6847**	**6894**	**101**

A report of registered exclusive rights

		Year		Comparison %
		2007	2008	2008/2007
Inventions	National patents	69	75	109
	Extended European patents	736	776	105
	Total	805	851	106
Topographies of semiconductor products	National registrations	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0
Trademarks	National registrations	2700	2432	90
	Granted protection for international registrations extended under the Madrid protocol	4100	3902	95
	Total	6800	6334	93
Design	National registrations	23	34	148
	Total	23	34	148
	Total	**7628**	**7219**	**95**

A report of state taxes (in thousand litas)

	Year		Comparison %
	2007	2008	2008/2007
Inventions	3224,8	3668,2	114
Topographies of semiconductor products	-	-	-
Trademarks	2935,9	2743,5	9
Design	50,4	92,6	184
Total	**6211,1**	**6504,3**	105

Financing the program "Legal Protection of National Industrial Property in Lithuania"

