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THE STATE PATENT BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ANNUAL REVIEW OF YEAR 2013

„Human genius is the source of all works of art and invention; these works are the guarantee of a life worthy of men; it is the duty of the State to ensure with diligence the protection of the arts and inventions."

Árpád Bogsch
WIPO Director General (1973-1997)



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Rimvydas Naujokas, Director of the State patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania.

Introduction

In 2013 the State Patent Bureau (SPB) faced the major challenges over the past years, particularly in the international efforts to reform the patent and trademark system in Europe and in the Lithuania's Presidency of the European Union Council.

Over the past few years, intellectual property has become an integral part of business, science and industry development. Systematic use and operation of technical knowledge, adopting world rights protection possibilities, has become a base for a common global economic strategy. Today, globalisation, knowledge economy, ideas market dominate in the European and world economy. Given the fact that the knowledge-based economy is rapidly evolving, also as the new ideas or already available technologies to create the new products are expanding, thus the importance and benefits of patent-information research is obvious, whereupon in October of 2013 the SPB and the European Patent Office (EPO) signed the Agreement to Simplify the Conditions for Lithuania to use EPO resources to perform the patent searches.

It is cheery that the academic community is increasingly interested in industrial property protection, and it is more and more often using the patent information for its scientific researches, tests, experiments and teaching. Criterion of the use of patent information is one of the factors, characterising the country's capacity to absorb and master new technologies, to enable the conditions for modern economy and competiveness.

In all the countries, the industrial property rights protection reflects the situation established in the fields of science and industry. With the recovery of economy

after the crisis, in 2013 the SPB received five percent more applications for industrial property objects for registration than in 2012.

Along with other indicators, the number of patent applications for national and European patents shows the development trends of research and industry in the country. The growing number of applications reflects the increased competiveness in different industrial sectors and economic attractiveness of Lithuania to investors.

The Lithuanian businessmen get bolder looks to the wider markets – in 2013 they filed 365 trademark applications for registration abroad according to the international agreements and the EU regulations.

The year of 2013 was full of important events:

On 19 February 2013 during the EU Competitiveness Council meeting in Brussels, the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania Ms B. Vesaite and other 23 representatives of the EU Member States signed the Agreement on the Unified Patent Court.

The Lithuanian Technical Library, under the regulatory sphere of the SPB, became the depository library of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). This status provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen cooperation in the dissemination of information on intellectual property in Lithuania, to improve awareness on WIPO activities and services, highlighting the importance of intellectual property in promoting social and economic development.

Extremely important and successful event was the Presidency of Lithuania of the European Union Council, holding twice more Trademark Workgroup meetings than planned.

The year of 2013 was also unique by the fact that it was signified by the turn of 20 years from the entry into force of the Law on Trademarks of Goods and Services of the Republic of Lithuania, the second law in the history of Lithuania. The second Law on Trademarks of Goods and Services of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted in 1993 by Seimas of Lithuania, when the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania was established.

Implementing the Program „Services to population and business" according to the Strategy Action Plan 2012-2014, dedicated for administration fields of Minister of Justice, the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania is ready in 2o14 to carry out the tasks assigned and to ensure a smooth representation of the Republic of Lithuania in the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the European Patent Organisation (EPO), the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) and other EU institutions.

Organisational Structure and Human Resources

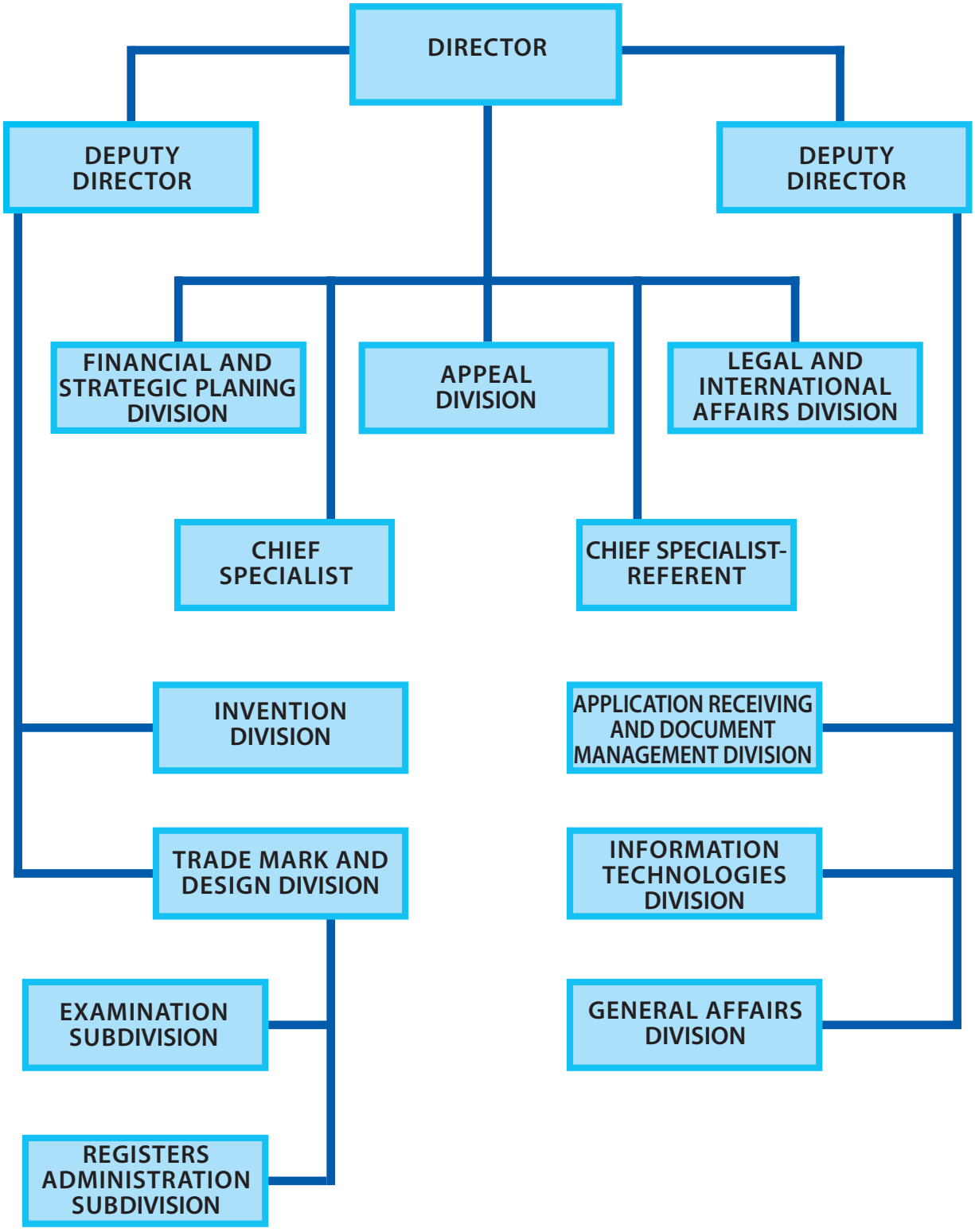
On 1 January 2013, 60 positions at the SPB were approved: 39 positions among them were of civil servants, and 21 positions of employees employed under the employment contracts. During 2013, the structure of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania and a number of approved positions remained unchanged.

Turnover among employees of the SPB was very slight in the year 2013. Three new employees were employed: 2 persons - under the employment contracts, and 1 person – a substitute civil servant. The same number of employees (three persons) were dismissed under their requests (one – under the employment contract, 2 persons – civil servants).

Distribution of personnel of SPB according to age: 18–30 years of age – 7; 31–40 years of age – 9; 41–50 years of age – 11; 51–65 years of age – 30 and over 65 years of age – 3 employees. During the last several years the mean age of the SPB employees remains unchanged – 49 years of age. In 2013, 45 women (75 %) and 15 men (25 %) were employed at the SPB. The proportion of managers at SPB is balanced, that is 5 women (45 %) and 6 men (55 %). The greater part of the SPB employees – 47 employees (78 %) – have a university degree.

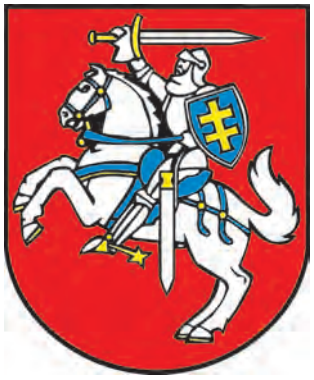
Taking into account specific activities of SPB and in order to strengthen administrative and professional capacities of SPB employees, much attention in 2013 was paid to training and improving of employees' qualifications. Employees of SPB participated in various training events, at institutions both in Lithuania and abroad (seminars organised by European Patent Academy, and OHIM academy). In 2013, 40 employees of the SPB participated in trainings, out of that number, 13 participated in trainings organised by the European Patent Academy and OHIM.

Structure of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania



Legislation and International Cooperation

Legislation



The year 2013 was marked by the 20th anniversary from the date of entry into force of the first Law on Trademarks of Goods and Services of the Republic of Lithuania since 1990, when independence of the Republic of Lithuania was restored. This Law, regulating the trademark protection, which came into effect on 1 October 1993, continued the tradition of the trademark protection of the Independent Lithuania, as during period of 1918-1940, the law to protect trademarks was already adopted in 1925; there were also signed 7 bilateral agreements for international trademark protection with Belgium, Great Britain, Italy, USA, France, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and 2 bilateral agreements on industrial property rights protection with Czechoslovakia and Latvia. In 1993 the Law on Trademarks of Goods and Services was very modern, assuming the best regulation of trademarks at the international level, as it was created by the Lithuanian State Patent Bureau in close cooperation with the Danish Patent and Trademark Office, according to the model of the law on trademarks developed by the World Intellectual Property Organization, considering the requirements of the Directive of 1988, which at that time already in force in the European Union, on harmonization of trademark laws. This law legitimized the re-registration of the trademarks registered in the Soviet Union, so already on the first day of entry into force of this law in the Republic of Lithuania the SPB has received almost 8413 applications for re-registration of the Soviet trademarks.

Year 2013 may be called the Trademark Year, because this year has been extraordinary from the point of view of significant changes fulfilled on national level in the trademark regulation field, and from the point of view of the EU announced trademark reform, which intense work has been implemented through the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

On 1 June 2013 for the Republic of Lithuania there came into force the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the ratification of the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (Official Gazette, 2012, No. 135-6877)), which aims to unify the procedural rules for the registration of trademarks in the States parties. On the same date the changes of Law on Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania Law (Official Gazette, 2000, No. 92-2844), related with the implementation of this Agreement, came into force; also the amendments in the Law on Design of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2002, No. 112-4980), Law on Legal Protection of Topographies of Semiconductor Products of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 1998, No. 59-1655), and Law on Registration Fees of Industrial Property (Official Gazette, 2001, No. 52-1811) came into effect, which helped to simplify industrial property registration procedures and reduce industrial property registration fees.

Among the most significant achievements in 2013 we could mention the results in the legislative field with the following amendments: a new edition of the Rules for the Registration of Trademarks (Official Gazette, 2013, No. 57-2911) approved by the Decree No. 3R-30 of 29 May 2013 of the Director of the State Patent Bureau; a new edition of Design Registration Rules (Official Gazette, 2013, No. 58-2937) approved by the Decree No. 3R-34 of 31 May 2013 of the Director of State Patent Bureau; amendments of Semiconductor Products Topographies Registration Rules (Official Gazette, 2013, No. 57-2917) approved by the Decree No. 3R-33 of 29 May 2013 of the Director of the State Patent Bureau; changes of Description of Procedures of Implementation of the Madrid Protocol (Official Gazette, 2013, No. 57-2914) approved by the Decree No. 3R-31 of 29 May 2013 of the Director of State Patent Bureau; changes of Examination Rules of Appeals and Oppositions approved by the Decree No. 3R-32 of 29 May 2013 of the Director of the State Patent Bureau.

The State Patent Bureau has also developed a new provisions of the Trademarks Registry and the new version of the provisions of the Design Registry, harmonizing the provisions of these legal acts, approved by the governmental decrees, with the amended provisions of the Trademark Law and Design Law, also with the provisions of the Law on State Information Resources Management; all these resolutions of the Government were approved in the beginning of 2014.

The European Union (EU)





Presidency in the EU Council

From 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013 Lithuania took over the presidency of the European Union Council. It was a big challenge for Lithuania and for the State Patent Bureau, which representatives were entrusted with the responsibility to lead the Council's working groups "Intellectual Property" and its subgroups on trademarks and patents. The main priority of industrial property was the EU trademark reform, and in 2013 during the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council there were organized 11 EU Council meetings on intellectual property (trademarks) and 1 meeting of the Intellectual Property Working Group, intended for coordination of the European Union's position in the World Intellectual Property Organization.

During the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council the substantial progress was achieved in investigation of the issues on the EU trademark reform. In March of 2013 the Commission presented the proposals for the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council amending the Council Regulation (EC) No. 207/2009 on the Community trademark (hereinafter - Regulation) and for the Directive of the European Parliament and Council to harmonize the Member States' laws related with trademarks (a new version) (hereinafter - the Directive) in order to update, modernize and simplify the provisions regulating the trademark protection, to ensure sustainability of national and Community trademark systems, their complementarity and effectiveness, to standardize the procedures and essential requirements for trademark protection, and to reduce the Community trademark fees.



Working Group of Intellectual Property (trademarks) of the EU Council

During the Lithuanian Presidency of the Working Group of Intellectual Property (trademarks) of the Council, there were examined the proposals of the Regulation and the Directive, in Council Working group there was prepared a compromise Directive proposal by representatives of Lithuania and presented to the EU Member States.

On 2 December 2013 in the Competitiveness Council, Lithuania successfully introduced and approved the progress report of the EU trademark reform package, informed the Council on the current situation of the Preparatory Committee and the Selection Committee under the European Patent Organization, where there are implemented the unitary European patent system and the unified patent court system.

During the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council, the SPB representatives participated in the coordination of a common EU position in the WIPO coordinating meetings in Geneva, presenting them to the meetings of the WIPO standing committees and ongoing annual General Assemblies. Updates and progresses of the Presidency were presented to the governing bodies of the EPO and OHIM. The Report of the Republic of Lithuania, as of the State of the Presidency of the EU Council, was presented to the OHIM Administrative Board and Budget Committee, EPO Administrative Council and the EPO Selection Committee.

Conference on "Intellectual Property Protection in the EU: Dangers, Challenges and Perspectives"

A great attention in 2013 was devoted to the Conference "Intellectual Property Protection in the EU: Dangers, Challenges and Perspectives", which was organized by the State Patent Bureau in collaboration with the OHIM and the EPO for the occasion of the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council.

In the conference there were discussed the current intellectual property protection issues and problems: the EU trademark reform, implementation of the unitary European patent system, realization of the Agreement on the Unified Patent Court, possibilities of alternative examination of intellectual property litigations by international arbitration and mediation rules, assurance of intellectual property owners and users' rights, results of the study on trade secrets ordered by the EU and the European Commission. The Lithuanian business representatives presented the progress of good practices in innovation and intellectual property protection and shared their success stories.

The event attracted the attention of nearly 200 participants, during which the official visits and presentations were made by Mr Francis Gurry, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Mr Benoit Battistelli, President of



Conference "Intellectual Property Protection in the EU: Risks, Challenges and Prospects". Vilnius, 2013.

the European Patent Office (EPO), Mr Antonio Campinos, President of the Office of Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM), Ms Kerstin Jorna, Director of the European Commission DG MARKT Intellectual Property Unit. Among other high-ranking officials of the EU Member States' ministries and intellectual property officers, in the event there participated a large variety of EU and Lithuanian business, government, non-governmental organizations, academic and media representatives, guests and speakers.

Highlights of events in the EU and Lithuania in 2013 in the field of industrial property

On **19 February 2013** Lithuania signed the historic EU Member States Agreement on the Unified Patent Court. Establishment of the Unified Patent Court is an important step towards the creation of unitary patent protection in the EU, in order to strengthen the Community's competitiveness on a global level, and to implement the unitary European patent system, which is expected to lead to faster innovation and growth in the domestic market.

On **20 January 2013** the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council of 17 December 2012 entered into force, which implements the enhanced cooperation in the area of unitary patent protection, and the Regulation of 17 December 2012, which ensures that the enhanced cooperation in the area of unitary patent protection related with applicable translation arrangements, came into effect.

In **March of 2013** there took place the introductory meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the Selection Committee of the European Patent Organization, where the candidacy of the Committee Presidents and Vice-Presidents were approved, the work guidelines of Committees were presented, as well as the main objectives and their implementation dates. The Member States, participating in activities of the Committees, put efforts to ensure effective and comprehensive functioning of the unitary European patent and the Unified Patent Court system.

On **27 March 2013** the Commission published the proposals to modernize the EU trademarks system: Proposal for Regulation of the European Parliament and Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No. 207/2009 on the Community trademark (hereinafter - Regulation) and Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to trademarks (a new version).

On **1 July 2013** the Republic of Lithuania took over the Presidency of the EU Council.

On **11-12 July** 2013 there took place the first meeting of the EU Council of Intellectual Property (trademarks), in total 11 meetings were held during the presidency period.

In **September of 2013** for the first time the importance of intellectual property and its contribution to the EU economy was assessed in a joint study on "Intellectual property rights intensive industries: contribution to economic performance and employment in the EU" conducted by the EPO and OHIM. The most significant findings: about 39 percent of all economic activity (value of which about 4.7 trillion per year) in the EU rely on the intellectual property right intensive sectors. It employs about 26 per cent (56 million) of all workers in the EU, and 9 per cent of the total EU employment is indirectly involved in the intellectual property rights intensive sectors.

On **8-9 October 2013**, Vilnius Conference on "Intellectual Property Protection in the EU: Dangers, Challenges and Perspectives", which was attended by about 200 participants, official visits and presentations were made by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Director General Francis Gurry, the European Patent Office (EPO) President Benoit Battistelli, Office of Harmonisation of the Internal Market (OHIM) President Antonio Campinos, European Commission DG MARKT Intellectual property unit Director Kerstin Jorna.

On **9 October 2013** the SPB and EPO signed the Work Agreement between on cooperation in the searches, where the national applicants, filing the patent applications, will be able to take advantage of the opportunity to make the search of technical level of their inventions in the EPO.

On **2 December 2013** in the Competitiveness Council Lithuania presented the EU trademark reform package progress report, informed the Council on the current situation in the Preparatory committee and the Selection Committee under the European Patent Organization, where there are implemented the unitary European patent and unified patent court systems.

On **31 December 2013** Lithuania passed the rotating Presidency of the EU Council to Greece.

International Cooperation

In 2013 the SPB continued the active cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Office of Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trademarks and Designs) (OHIM), the European Patent Office (EPO), participated in the activities of these organizations and European Union bodies. The bilateral cooperation agreements were successfully carried out with these organizations.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The World Intellectual Property Organization, one of the United Nations specialized international organizations, responsible for policy-making on intellectual property protection on a global scale and administration of number of international agreements in the field of industrial property, is an important partner of the State Patent Bureau, which in 2013 continued the close mutual co-operation. The longstanding cooperation was crowned by the visit of WIPO Director General Mr Francis Gurry in Lithuania on 7-9 October 2013. WIPO Director General made his presentation in the international conference on "Intellectual Property Protection in the EU: threats, challenges and perspectives." During the visit, the Director-General met with the Minister of Culture Mr Sarunas Birutis, Government Chancellor Mr Alminas Mačiulis, Rectors of Vilnius University and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuanian science communities and student societies. During the visit the Lithuanian progress and development in implementation of intellectual property protection processes was assessed, also discussed the main challenges of intellectual activity as a specific niche of discovery in the world, targeted promotion of innovations, commercial innovations and application of intellectual activity.



Francis Gurry, WIPO Director General and Rimvydas Naujokas, Director of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania after the visit with Government Authorities. Vilnius, 2013.

Same as each year since 1992, when Lithuania became a member of WIPO, Lithuania has been represented at General Assemblies of WIPO, Assembly of the Paris Union, Assembly of the Nice Union, Assembly of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union, Assembly of the Madrid Union, Assembly of the Budapest Union, and meetings of WIPO committees. Director of the State Patent Bureau Mr R. Naujokas held the position of the Vice Chairman of the Assembly of the Madrid Union.

The staff of the State Patent Bureau participated in 14 sessions of the WIPO committees, working groups and other meetings and events organized by WIPO. During the Presidency of Lithuania of the EU Council there was participated in coordination of a common EU position in WIPO. In the second semi-year of 2013, Lithuania, as the Presidency state of the EU Council, had to coordinate and present the EU's position in the work bodies of WIPO. The SPB has carried out this great and responsible work in close cooperation with the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

In 2013 the SPB cooperated with WIPO on intense base while implementing Lithuanian - WIPO bilateral cooperation plan 2013, according to which it was organized the World Intellectual Property Day, the WIPO Gold Medal was awarded to the young Lithuanian inventor. In 2013 the Lithuanian Technical Library was awarded the title name of the WIPO depository library.

Participation of the Republic of Lithuania in multilateral international treaties

Administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

In the field of industrial property

International treaty and the date when the Republic of Lithuania joined it:

- Convention on Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (Lithuania joined on 30 January 1992, the treaty took effect in Lithuania on 30 April 1992);

- Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (Lithuania joined on 21 February 1994, the treaty took effect in Lithuania on 22 May 1994);

- Patent Cooperation Treaty (Lithuania joined on 5 April 1994, the treaty took effect in Lithuania in Lithuania on 5 July 1994);

- Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Trademarks (Lithuania joined on 22 November 1996, the agreement took effect in Lithuania in Lithuania on 22 February 1997);

- Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure (Lithuania joined on 9 February 1998, the treaty took effect in Lithuania on 9 May 1998);

- Protocol of Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Lithuania joined on 15 August 1997, agreement took effect in Lithuania on 15 November 1997);

- Trademark Law Treaty (Lithuania joined on 28 October 1994, treaty took effect in Lithuania on 27 April 1998);

- The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs the Geneva Act (Lithuania joined on 26 June 2008, the agreement took effect in Lithuania on 26 September 2008);

- Patent Law Treaty (Lithuania joined on 3 November 2011, the treaty took effect in Lithuania on 3 February 2012);

- Singapore Treaty Concerning Trademark Law (the treaty took effect in Lithuanian on 1 June 2013).

The Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market (Trademarks and Designs) (OHIM)

The State Patent Bureau works closely with the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trademarks and Designs) (OHIM). In 2013 the representatives of the SPB represented the Republic of Lithuania in 6 meetings of the Administrative Board, the Budget Committee and the Joint Administrative Board and Budget Committee meetings, discussing critical issues of the OHIM organizational, administrative and financial activities. In 2013 the SPB experts participated in 14 meetings of OHIM and patent offices on technical cooperation, liaison meetings on trademarks and design issues, the SPB staff participated in trainings organized by OHIM.

On the base of implementation of plans of the bilateral cooperation with OHIM, there were organized events of public education and industrial property information dissemination (more in other sections).

In 2013 the SPB successfully participated in the projects of the OHIM Cooperation Fund (CF) with a total value of 50 million euros, where participation expenses of the SPB are covered by the CF. Part of the projects is related with development of electronic services, access to industrial property information and its simplification. In 2013 the project of implementation of the quality standards of the European trademarks and design network in the fields of applicants/customers service, trademarks and designs registration, and investigation of appeals or oppositions was partially imple-



Moments of meeting. President of the Office of Harmonisation for the Internal Market (OHIM) Antonio Campinos and Rimvydas Naujokas, Director of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania. Vilnius, 2013.

mented. While implementing the project of e- learning tools there were checked the translations of learning modules, which are accessible through the Common Gateway on site www.tmdn.org

On 8 October 2013 a bilateral meeting of the Director of the SPB Mr R. Naujokas and the President of the OHIM Mr A. Campinos took place. During the meeting there were discussed issues on the bilateral inter-institutional cooperation, Lithuanian participation in co-fund projects. There were also disputed the more active involvement of Lithuania in the Monitoring Centre activities of the European intellectual property law violations, also opportunities and benefits of the rights protection projects coordinated by the OHIM.

European Patent Organisation (EPO)

In accordance with the Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention, EPC), the representatives of the SPB in 2013 represented Lithuania in 4 (four) EPO Administrative Council meetings, in 3 (three) Budget and Finance Committee meetings, where the organizational, administrative and financial activities of the EPO and the European patent legal regulatory issues were discussed. In 2013 the SPB representatives participated in 10 (ten) more events of a wide range in the framework of the EPO - EPO Technical and Operational Support Committee (TOSC) meetings, EPO member states meeting on the patent classification issues, the 7th Annual Meeting of the EPO member states on cooperation issues, and other meetings and business events.

Assessing the need of special professional knowledge expansion in the field of patent issuance and using the opportunities of multilateral cooperation offered by the EPO program, in 2013, the State Patent Bureau staff continued to participate in the European Patent Academy training.

In 2013 there was continued the SPB - EPO cooperation plan.

On 9 October 2013 during the visit in Vilnius of the President of the EPO Mr B. Battistelli there was signed the Work Agreement between the EPO and the SPB on cooperation in the searches, where the national applicants submitting the patent applications will be able to take advantage of the opportunity to make the search of the technical level of their invention to be patented in the EPO. During the visit Mr B. Battistelli met with the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania Mr J. Bernatonis, Deputy Chairman of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania Mr P. Auštrevičius. During the meeting the importance of policies of protection of intellectual property and patents for innovation development, exchange of views on the ratification of the Agreement on the Unified Patent Court, the further Lithuanian and EPO cooperative future was discussed.



Mr Benoit Battistelli, President of the European Patent Office (EPO) and Mr Juozas Bernatonis, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania during the meeting in Vilnius, 2013.

Cooperation with Patent Service Offices and other International Cooperation

In 2013, the State Patent Bureau continued its cooperation with patent offices of other states. In 2013 May 14-15 in Riga (Latvia) there was held the Nordic-Baltic Summit of heads of state patent offices. The meeting discussed the issues of management of the European Patent Office, the European patent unitary effect and implementation of the Unified Patent Court; also an exchange of views and information about activities of the Selection and Preparatory Committees; reform process of the Community trademark system, common and the EU positions harmonization in the international organizations. Also in Helsinki (Finland) there took place the Nordic-Baltic meeting of representatives of the state patent offices, regarding the trademark issues, where it was discussed the European Union trademark documents.



Ryga (Latvija), 2013.

Inventions

Patent protection for inventions is granted according to the Law on Patents of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 4-127), which entered into force on 3 February 2012.

There are three ways to obtain patent protection in the Republic of Lithuania: filing an application directly with the SPB (national way), under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) (international way) and under the European Patent Convention (Euro and Euro–PCT applications) (regional way).

The patent application, which makes a set of documents, is directly filed to the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania, by direct mail, and since 2013 – also electronically.

In 2013, 127 applications have been filed with the SPB, 117 of those were filed by the Lithuanian applicants. Conventional priority was requested for 7 patent applications.

In 2013, 10 international applications proceeded to the national level, all of them had priority (or priorities) of earlier application (or applications).

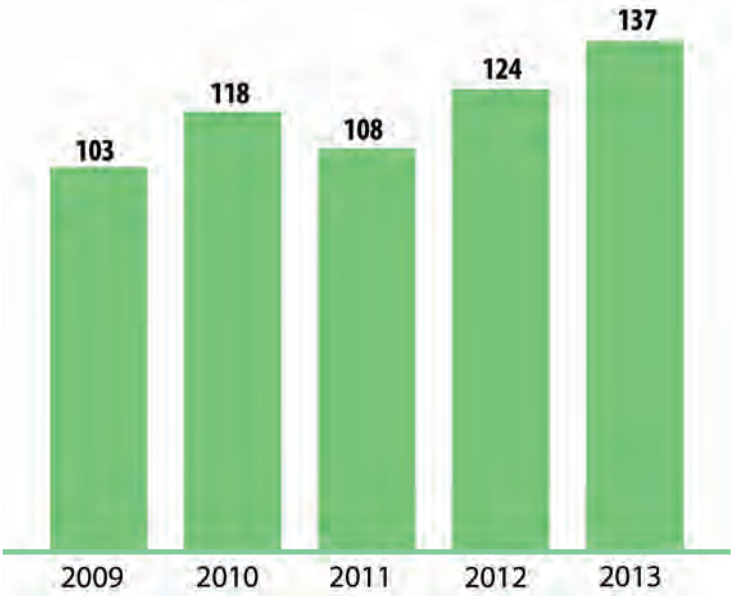
In 2013, 18 international applications were filed with SPB as receiving office.

In 2013, 28 applications for supplementary protection certificates were filed.

European patents that came into effect in the Republic of Lithuania

Patents that came into effect in the Republic of Lithuania in year 2013	Number	Patent owners from Lithuania	Share of patents granted to owners from Lithuania %
Granted by SPB	93	79	85
Granted by EPO	1309	2	0,15
Total:	**1402**	**81**	**5,8**

Filling of patent applications (National applications filed to SPB and international applications transferred to national level to SPB)



Distribution of national applications by countries in year of 2013

Countries	Number of applications	%
CN	4	2,92
CZ	1	0,73
EE	3	2,19
IE	1	0,73
JP	3	2,19
LT	117	85,40
RU	4	2,92
TW	3	2,19
UA	1	0,73
Viso	**137**	**100**

Number of patent applications filed by applicants from the Republic of Lithuania, 2011-2013

Applicants	Number of applications		
	2011	2012	2013
Legal persons	46	73	78
Natural persons	47	36	39
Total number of persons	**93**	**109**	**117**

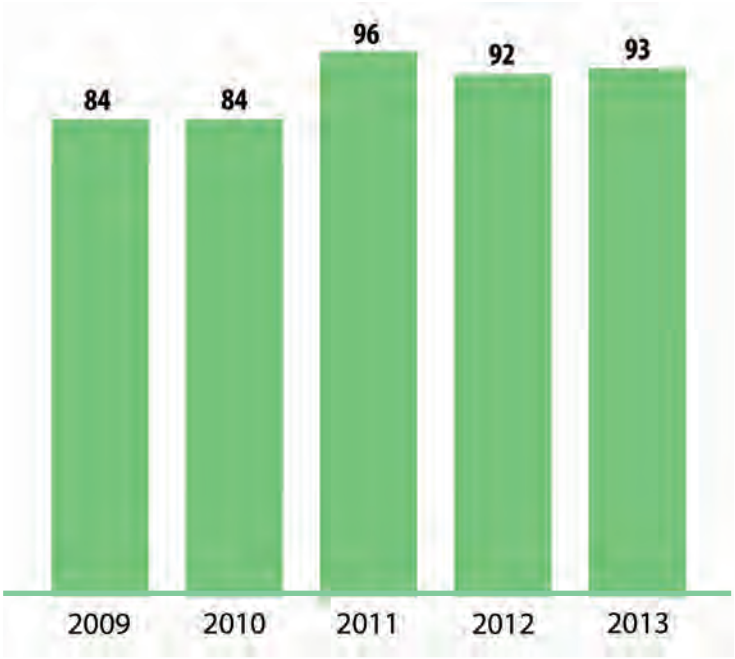
Lithuanian institutions/companies that filed applications in the year 2013

No	Applicants	Number of applications
1.	Kauno technologijos universitetas	8
2.	VMTI FIZINIŲ IR TECHNOLOGIJOS MOKSLŲ CENTRAS	8
3.	Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universitetas	7
4.	Aleksandro Stulginskio universitetas	3
5.	UAB „WILARA“	3
6.	VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS	3
7.	AB „LIFOSA“	2
8.	UAB „ARVI“ ir Ko	2
9.	UAB „BIOCENTRAS“	2
10.	UAB „ELMO technologijos“	2
11.	UAB „MOKSLINIŲ TYRIMŲ PLĖTROS LABORATORIJA“	2
12.	Vlado Bložės PĮ	2
13.	„DOMUS SOLUTION“ UAB	1
14.	BALTO LINK, UADBB	1

15.	Independent expert bureau by Dr. R. Tamosaitis (Dr R. Tamošaičio nepriklausomas ekspertų biuras)	1
16.	Integrated Optics, UAB	1
17.	UAB „ART SET“	1
18.	UAB „Acorn Intelligence“	1
19.	UAB „Altechna R&D“	1
20.	UAB „Baltijos biotechnologijos“	1
21.	UAB „Bioseka“	1
22.	UAB „Ekovalitas“	1
23.	UAB „EKSPLA“	1
24.	UAB „ELINTA“	1
25.	UAB „EVITEKS“	1
26.	UAB „FibroLT“	1
27.	UAB „GRIGO“	1
28.	UAB „GTV“	1
29.	UAB „Geldmeta“	1
30.	UAB „NAUJASIS NEVĖŽIS“	1
31.	UAB „Optida“	1
32.	UAB „Precizika – MET SC“	1
33.	UAB „Thermal Generator“	1
34.	UAB „VIDULUS“	1
35.	UAB Biotechnologinės farmacijos centras „Biotechpharma“	1
36.	UAB GEOLA DIGITAL	1
37.	UAB NOMADS	1
38.	UAB PROFARMA	1
39.	UAB „Good Service Solution“	1

40.	UAB „My Research“	1
41.	UAB „ENERGIJOS TAUPYMO CENTRAS“	1
42.	UAB „RMD TECHNOLOGIES“	1
43.	UAB „VILTECHMEDA“	1
44.	Vilnius Academy of Arts	1
45.	Vytautas Magnus University	1
46.	Všį „Visumos projektai“	1

Granting of patents



Patents granted in the year 2013 by countries of patent owners

CN	2	2,15
CZ	2	2,15
DK	1	1,075

IL	1	1,075
JP	2	2,15
LT	79	84,95
LV	1	1,075
MU	1	1,075
NZ	2	2,15
RU	1	1,075
SE	1	1,075
Total	**93**	**100**

Number of patents granted in year 2013 by IPC sections

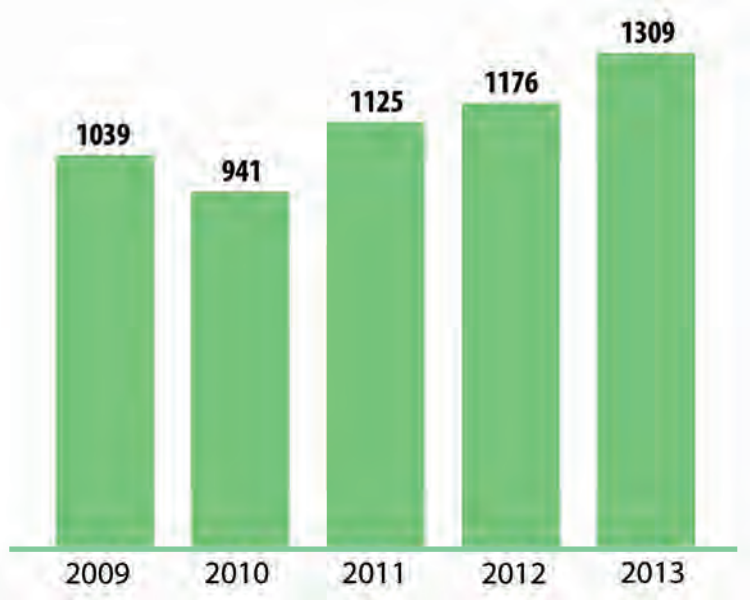
Human necessities	A	19	CN 2, NZ 2, MU 1, RU 1, SE 1	26
Technological processes; transportation	B	10	LV 1, CZ 1	12
Chemistry; metallurgy	C	13	-	13
Textiles; paper	D	-	DK 1	1
Construction; mining industry	E	4	CZ 1	5
Mechanical engineering; lightning; heating; weapons; blasting	F	18		18
Physics	G	9	JP 2	11
Electricity	H	6	IL 1	7
Total		**79**	**14**	**93**

European patents

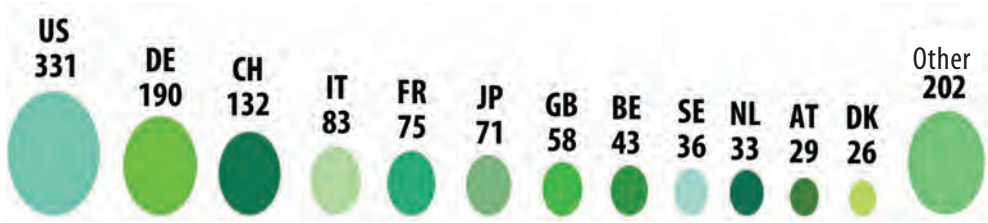
In 2013, SPB received 2 European patent applications as a receiving office.

1309 European patents granted by European Patent Office (EPO) came into effect in the Republic of Lithuania in 2013. 1208 of them were granted under the European Patent Convention (EPC).

European patents that came into effect in the Republic of Lithuania



European patents that came into effect in the year 2013 by countries of patent owners

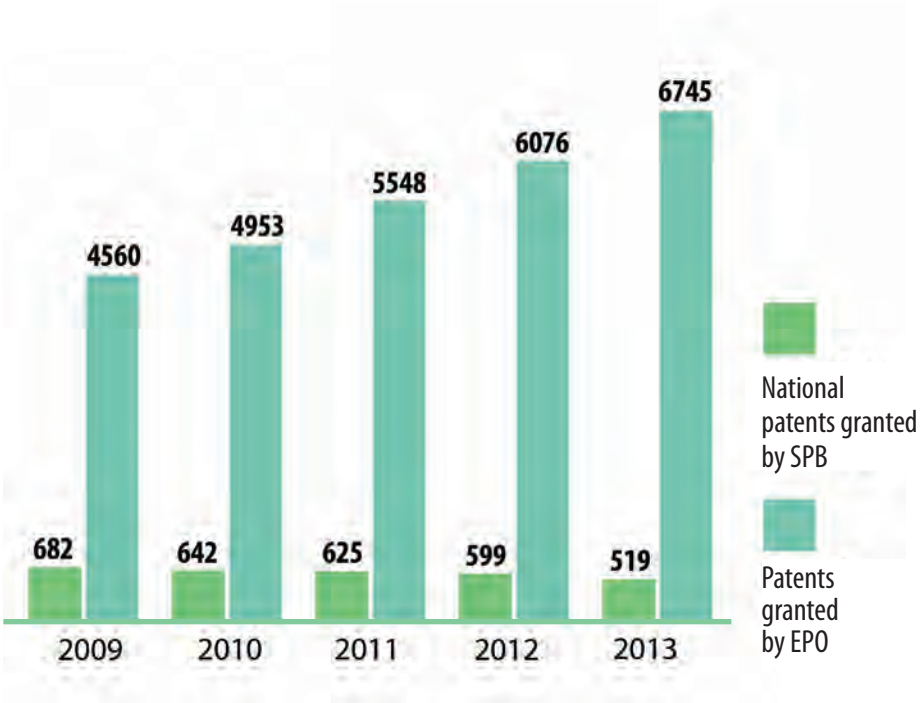


Total
469
141
509
9
43
41
59
38
1309

Number of European patents that came into effect in the Republic of Lithuania in the year of 2013 by IPC sections

IPC sections		Country code and number of patents	Total
Human necessities	A	US 139, CH 59, DE 47, IT 28, FR 21, JP 21, BE 19, GB 18, DK 11, NL 9, SE 9, IL 8, AT 7, ES 7, NO 7, CN 6, IE 6, LU 6, IN 5, CA 4, GR 4, AU 3, BM 3, HU 3, SI 3, TR 3, CZ 2, RU 2, CL 1, CU 1, FI 1, KR 1, LI 1, LT 1, LV 1, MC 1, SG 1	469
Technological processes; transportation	B	DE 31, IT 15, NL 14, CH 9, AT 8, GB 8, FR 8, SE 8, US 7, ES 4, FI 4, JP 4, MX 4, DK 3, NO 3, AU 2, BE 2, BG 1, CN 1, CY 1, GR 1, IN 1, PL 1, RU 1	141
Chemistry; metallurgy	C	US 163, DE 75, CH 57, JP 38, FR 33, GB 23, IT 22, BE 14, DK 10, ES 9, SE 9, CA 6, NL 6, IE 4, IL 4, MX 4, FI 3, HU 3, IN 3, BM 2, BS 2, CN 2, NO 2, PL 2, SA 2, AU 1, BG 1, LV 1, MY 1, NZ 1, PT 1, RU 1, SG 1, SI 1, SK 1, TR 1	509
Textiles; paper	D	CA 2, IT 2, CY 1, FI 1, FR 1, JP 1, TR 1	9
Construction; mining industry	E	DE 16, BE 3, ES 3, FI 3, IT 3, AT 2, CH 2, DK 2, FR 2, NL 2, CL 1, IL 1, PL 1, SE 1, US 1	43
Mechanical engineering; lighting; heating; weapons; blasting	F	DE 9, IT 8, AT 7, FR 3, BE 2, CA 2, CH 2, GB 2, TR 2, AN 1, FI 1, NO 1, US 1	41
Physics	G	US 13, DE 6, FR 6, GB 5, JP 5, AT 4, CH 3, IT 3, BE 2, CA 2, NL 2, AU 1, BM 1, CN 1, CZ 1, FI 1, LT 1, NO 1, SE 1	59
Electricity	H	SE 8, US 7, DE 6, KR 4, GB 2, GR 2, IT 2, JP 2, AT 1, BE 1, CN 1, FI 1, FR 1	38
Total		US 331, DE 190, CH 132, IT 83, FR 75, JP 71, GB 58, BE 43, SE 36, NL 33, AT 29, DK 26, ES 23, CA 16, FI 15, NO 14, IL 13, CN 11, IE 10, IN 9, MX 8, AU 7, GR 7, TR 7, BM 6, HU 6, LU 6, KR 5, PL 4, RU 4, SI 4, CZ 3, BG 2, BS 2, CL 2, CY 2, LT 2, LV 2, SA 2, SG 2, AN 1, CU 1, LI 1, MC 1, MY 1, NZ 1, PT 1, SK 1	**1309**

Patents in effect at the end of the year 2013



In year 2013, 129 transfer agreements were registered; 123 of those were registered for European patents.

6 licence agreements were registered in 2013, 2 of those – regarding the European patents.

Topografies of semiconductor

Legal protection of topographies of semiconductor products in the Republic of Lithuania may be obtained by filing applications directly with the SPB, under the Law on Legal Protection of Topographies of Semiconductor Products, which came into effect on 1 December 1998.

No applications for registration of semiconductor products have been filed since the Law on Legal Protection of Topographies of Semiconductor Products came into effect.

Trademarks

Protection of trademarks is granted by the Law on Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2000, No. 92-2844 as amended), which entered into force on 1 January 2011.

There are three ways to get exclusive rights to a trademark in the Republic of Lithuania: (1) under the Law on Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania by filing applications directly with the SPB (national way); (2) starting from 15 November 1997 – under the Protocol relating to 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); and (3) starting from 1 May 2004 – under the EU Council Regulation No. 207/2009 of 26 February 2009 on the Community Trademark (Codified Version), according to which any trademark, registered as a Community trademark with the EU Office for Harmonization for the Internal Market (OHIM), is protected in Lithuania (regional way).

From the establishment of the State Patent Bureau until 31 December 2013, the SPB received 68854 applications for registration of a trademark via national way. Within this period 56416 trademarks have been registered at the Register of Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania, 33702 of them were valid registrations; 31166 changes at the Register, 11101 transfers of rights and 1114 license agreements were recorded. Also, 1966 marks given as security (withdrawals of security) and 348 seizures (withdrawals of seizures) were entered.

Since 1997, 54285 notifications regarding the extension of international marks registrations in Lithuania have been received from the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); 50940 decisions were adopted to grant protection, having performed the examination.

At the end of 2013, 75461 registrations of trademarks, applications for which have been filed by the national and international routes, and 986496 Community trademarks, registered at the Register of Community trademarks of the EU, were in effect in Lithuania.

Trademark applications filed in the Republic of Lithuania in 2009 – 2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of trademark applications filed with the SPB via national way	2108	2240	2287	2270	2277
Number of notifications of international trademark registrations designated in Lithuania	2472	2032	2137	1931	2054

Prekių ženklų registracijos Lietuvos Respublikoje 2009 – 2013 metais

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
National trademarks registrations	2777	1585	1560	1700	1750
International registrations of trademarks that have been granted protection in the Republic of Lithuania	3933	2805	2356	1877	1894

In 2013 there were 2277 trademark applications filed with the SPB, among them:

From Lithuanian applicants – 2008 (88%),
From foreign applicants - 269 (12%).

Distribution of applications by country of origin of applicants

Country	LT	US	CH	GB	LV	RU	DE	EE	FR	Otther 40 countries
Number of applications	2008	45	37	22	19	13	12	10	10	101

In year 2013, the number of applications was filed for the following classes according to the International classification of Goods and Services:

Class	Title of the class	Number	%
5	Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; dietetic food and substances adapted for medical or veterinary use, food for babies; dietary supplements for humans and animals; plasters, materials for dressings; material for stopping teeth, dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for destroying vermin; fungicides, herbicides.	153	4
30	Coffee, tea, cacao and artificial coffee; rice, tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionary; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking–powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments); spices; ice.	191	5
35	Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions.	576	15
41	Education; training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities.	342	9
43	Catering; temporary accommodation.	231	6
Other headings of goods and services according to the Nice Agreement classification		2387	61

In the year 2013, 1750 trademarks were registered, among them:

From Lithuanian applicants – 1 505 (86%)

From foreign applicants – 245 (14%).

Breakdown of the registration by country of origin

Country	LT	US	CH	LV	NL	DE	CN	FR	RU	Other 29 countries
Number of registrations	1505	48	39	14	13	12	11	11	11	86

In year 2013, 22 trademarks were registered, the applications of which contained a request claiming the conventional priority.

In the year 2013, 551 transfers of rights and 33 license agreements, 2784 changes at the Register, 4468 renewals, 252 securities of mark rights (withdrawals of securities) and 32 seizures (withdrawals of seizures) were entered into the Register of the Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania, 3285 registrations were cancelled, among them 3217 registrations were cancelled without extension of the effect time of the registration.

In the year 2013, 1360 searches were conducted under the Article 38 of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 207/2009 of 26 February 2009 on the Community Trademark (Codified version) by request of the OHIM.

Protection of trademarks under the Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement on International Registration of Marks

In year 2013, 2054 notifications of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) were received regarding protection of international registration of marks in Lithuania. The SPB adopted 1894 decisions to grant protection to international mark registrations.

Breakdown of International registrations extended to the Republic of Lithuania in year 2013, by the countries of mark owners

Country	RU	CN	TR	HU	DE	FR	CH	UA	PL	CZ	Other 45 countries
Number of international registrations	327	206	139	135	120	105	102	89	88	83	660

The Lithuanian applicants filed 1090 international applications from year 1997 to the end of 2013 using the opportunity to acquire protection of trademarks in other countries, granted by a membership of Lithuania in the Madrid Protocol. 1044 trademarks of Lithuanian applicants have been registered at the International Trademark Register.

Number of international applications filed under the Madrid Protocol by Lithuanian applicants

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of applications	3	14	9	14	43	60	80	63	101	84	78	94	60	65	119	97	106

Countries, where the Lithuanian trademark owners apply to extend international trademark registrations

Country	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
AZ	9	3,5	5	14	10	1,4	12	3,0	5	1,3
BY	20	7,8	28	7,8	41	5,7	44	10,9	29	7,5
CZ	2	0,8	5	1,4	25	3,5	1	0,2	5	1,3
EE	23	9,0	21	5,8	28	4	24	5,9	28	7,2
EM	13	5,1	13	3,6	26	3,6	29	7,2	35	9,8
GB	14	5,5	3	0,8	16	2,2	3	0,7	8	2,1
IE	8	3,1	3	0,8	8	1,1	1	0,2	6	1,6
LV	25	9,8	25	7,0	54	7,6	28	6,9	39	10,1
PL	19	7,5	16	4,5	28	3,9	12	3,0	14	3,6
PT	9	3,5	3	0,8	9	1,3	0	0,0	1	0,3
RU	34	13,3	37	10,3	60	8,4	55	13,6	58	15,0
UA	18	7,1	28	7,8	38	5,3	37	9,2	24	6,2
Kitos valstybės	61	24	172	48	372	52	158	39,2	135	34,8

Distribution of international applications for trademarks registration submitted in Lithuania in 2013 according to the international qualification of goods and services:

Klasė	Klasės antraštė	Skaičius	%
3	Bleaching preparations and other substances for laundry use; cleaning, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations; soaps; perfumery, essential oils, cosmetics, hair lotions; dentifrices.	10	5
5	Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; dietetic food and substances adapted for medical or veterinary use, food for babies; dietary supplements for humans and animals; plasters, materials for dressings; material for stopping teeth, dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for destroying vermin; fungicides, herbicides.	17	8,5
9	9 Scientific, nautical, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, checking (supervision), life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for conducting, switching, transforming, accumulating, regulating or controlling electricity; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; magnetic data carriers, recording discs; compact discs, DVDs and other digital recording media; mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus; cash registers, calculating machines, data processing equipment, computers; computer software; fire-extinguishing apparatus.	10	5

29	Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, compotes; eggs; milk and milk products; edible oils and fats.	16	8
35	Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions.	21	10,5
Other headings of goods and services according to the Nice Agreement classification		126	63

Design

Protection of design is provided by the Law on Design of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2002, Nr. 112-4980, as amended), which entered into force on 1 January 2003.

There are three ways to get exclusive rights to a design in Lithuania: under the Law on Design of the Republic of Lithuania, by filing an application directly with the SPB (via national way); under the Council Regulation No. 6/2002 of 12 December 2001 on the Community Design, under which a Community design registered with the EU Office for Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM) is protected in Lithuania from 1 May 2004 (via regional way). Since 26 September 2008, after Lithuania joined the Geneva act of the Hague Agreement on International Registration of Industrial Design, registration of international design may be extended to Lithuania (via international way).

From the establishment of the State Patent Bureau until 31 December 2012, the SPB has received 1782 applications for registration of design via national way. 1549 design registrations have been registered at the Register of Design of the Republic of Lithuania, 338 registrations among them came in effect.

Since 2008, 227 notifications regarding the designation of the international designs registrations in Lithuania have been received from the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); having performed the examination, 226 decisions were adopted to grant the protection.

At the end of 2013, 2424 design registrations, applications for which have been filed by national and international route, also 725964 Community designs registered in the EU Community design register were in effect in Lithuania.

Filling of design applications in the Republic of Lithuania in 2009- 2013

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Design applications, filed with the SPV via national way	29	22	39	38	30
Number of notifications received on international registration of designs extended to Lithuania	12	29	56	62	67

Design registrations in the Republic of Lithuania in 2009 – 2013

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
National design registrations (including renewals)	79	46	27	73	76
International design registrations that have been granted protection in the Republic of Lithuania	11	27	52	62	74

Number of designs, protection for which was requested in 2009 – 2013

Year	Designs that were submitted via national way	Designs extended via international way	Total
2009	64	47	111
2010	32	160	192
2011	62	562	624
2012	82	534	616
2013	95	437	532

Designs that have been granted protection in the Republic of Lithuania in 2009 – 2013

Year	Registered national designs	Registered international designs	Total
2009	91	44	135
2010	35	132	167
2011	57	558	615
2012	69	495	564
2013	55	272	327

In the year 2013, 30 applications (95 designs) were filed with SPB, among them:

From Lithuanian applicants – 27 (90 %)

From foreign applicants – 3 (10 %).

Breakdown of applications according to countries of applicants

Country	LT	DE
Number of applications	27	3

Breakdown of design applications according to the international Locarno classification

In the year 2013, the applicants have filed design applications in the following areas:

Class	Class according to headings of international Locarno classification	Number	%
9	Packages and containers for transportation and storage of goods	6	20
6	Furniture	5	17
2	Articles of clothing and haberdashery	3	10
12	Apparatus for locomotion by land, air or water equipment for production	3	10
19	Stationary and office equipment, artists' and teaching material	3	10
Other classes		10	33

In 2013 the SPB completed 28 design registrations (55 designs), all of which are completed by Lithuanian applicants.

In 2013, 1 agreement on transfer of rights and 2 license agreements were registered at the Register of Design of the Republic of Lithuania, 3 changes in the Register, renewal for 48 designs were entered and 51 registrations were cancelled.

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

In 2013, 67 notifications of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) concerning designation of international registration of the design in Lithuania were received. The SPB adopted 74 decisions to grant protection to international registrations of design.

Distribution of international registrations extended to the Republic of Lithuania in 2013 by the countries of design owners

Country	BE	CH	DE	FR	GB	LI	LT	NL	NO	TR
Number of registrations	1	1	53	4	1	1	1	1	1	3

In the year 2013 international registrations designated in the following areas:

Class	Products according to Locarno classification	Number	%
12	Means of transport or hoisting	34	51
26	Lighting apparatus	22	33
13	Equipment for production, distribution or transformation of electricity	2	3
14	Recording, communication or information retrieval equipment	2	3
	Other classes	7	10

Community design protection by Lithuanian applicants in 2009 -2013:

Year	Applications for Community design registration	Community design registrations
2009	20	17
2010	35	33
2011	42	45
2012	51	47
2013	47	47

Appeals, oppositions

The objective of operations of the Appeals Division of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania is to review the SPB expert decisions, passed following the procedure defined by legislation after examination of a patent application, an application for a supplementary protection certificate, an application for registration of a topography, a design, or a trademark, that are appealed by the applicants, and also to protect the infringed intellectual property rights of interested persons.

Appeals and oppositions are usually examined by a written procedure. The oral procedure is applied only in exceptional cases when the dispute is very complicated or is significant to formation of the practice of Appeals Division.

Making a review of the statistical data of 2013, it should be noted that 113 oppositions and 12 appeals were filed with the Appeals Division:

– 76 oppositions regarding national trademark registrations;

– 36 oppositions regarding international trademark registration under the Madrid protocol;

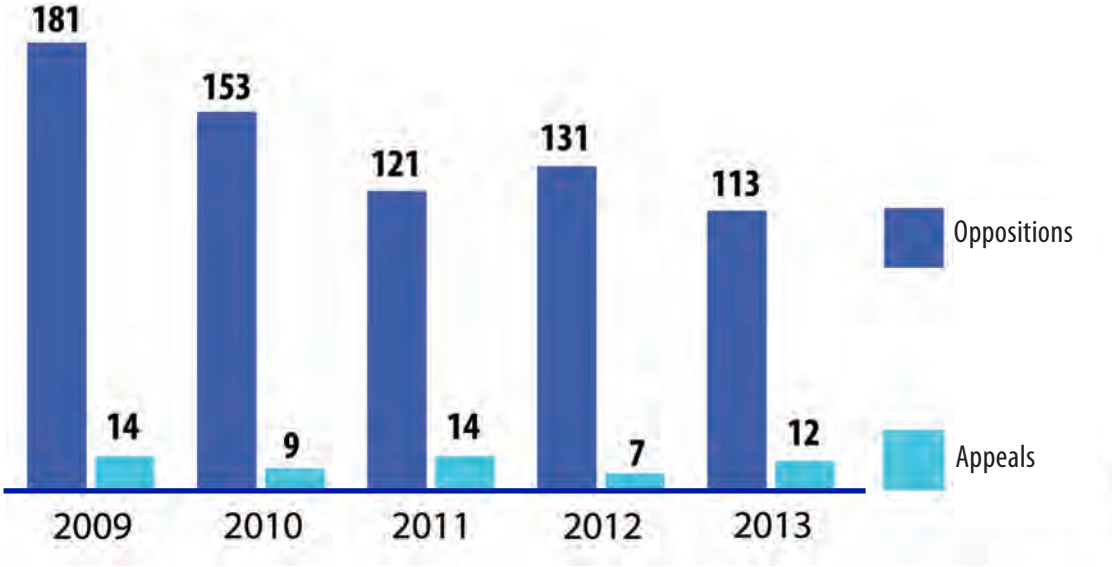
– 1 opposition regarding design registration;

– 2 appeals regarding patent application;

– 10 appeals regarding national trademark application.

In one case an opposition regarding national trademark registration was refused to be accepted for examination, as non-compliance of opposition submission procedure was determined.

Number of appeals and oppositions received in 2009-2013:



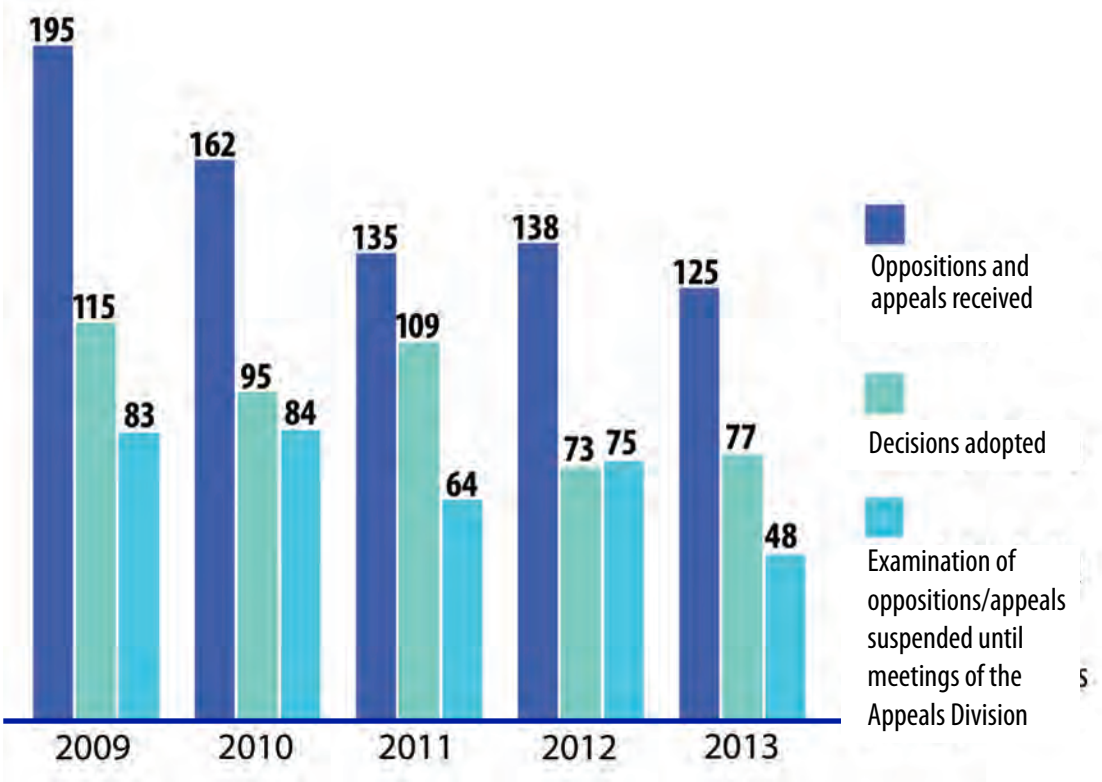
In 2013 the Appeals Division adopted 77 decisions after examination of:

- 5 appeals (2 appeals regarding patent application, 3 – regarding national trademark registration);

- 81 oppositions (56 oppositions regarding national trademark registration, 25 – regarding international registration of marks).

By decisions adopted, in 47 cases the oppositions were granted, in 4 cases – oppositions were partly granted, 25 – oppositions were rejected as lacking ground. Results of considered appeals: 2 appeals were rejected and SPB experts' decisions were remained as valid, in 1 case – appeal was partly granted, and 2 appeals were fully granted and decisions to register trademark for all or partial goods (or services) were adopted.

Generalized data of the Appeals Division in years of 2009-2013:



Parties of the dispute also use an option for peaceful dispute resolution after filing an opposition. If an agreement is reached in such way, the examination of such oppositions in the Appeals Division is discontinued. In 2013, this number was reached 46 oppositions: examination of 36 oppositions regarding national trademark registra-

tions, 9 oppositions regarding international registration of marks, 1 opposition regarding registration of trademark was discontinued in the Appeals Division. In two cases the applicants renounced their appeals regarding national trademark examination in the Appeals Division. These figures illustrate that the parties are often characterized by flexibility and the ability to find a mutually acceptable option when the dispute is for the national registration of the mark, because it is up to 4 times more compared to the disputes concerning international registrations. One of the reasons is that the proprietor of the mark takes a fairly passive position on the declaration of opposition and does not take any action on purpose of protection in Lithuania.

It should be noted that in 2013, the right of appeal against decision of the Appeals Division following the proceedings in court was used in 8 cases. During this year in two cases the Court fully or partially changed the adopted decision of the Appeals Division. It is interesting to note that in 2013 for the first time the Vilnius Regional Court solved the dispute when it was discussed the issue of registrability of two colours (blue and yellow), representing the expressed mark. The Appeals Division decided to refuse to register a two-colour combination as a trademark, the Vilnius Regional Court approved that this decision was lawful and justified.

Intellectual Property Popularization and Information Activities

The State Patent Bureau (SPB) constantly pursues the aim that the Lithuanian society and business could get a closer view of benefits and advantages of national trademarks, designs and patents and their registration systems in order to promote diversified and targeted availability and dissemination of public information about the protection of industrial property in Lithuania. In order to contribute to implementation of the Lithuanian Innovation Strategy for the year 2010-2020, the patent information centres of the SPB and the Lithuanian Technical Library (LTL) implemented the measure No.3.5.3 to "Popularize measures of the industrial property protection, provide information and methodological assistance to individuals seeking for an invention patent, or register a design or trademark."

In 2013, the SPB implemented 12 different measures according to the SPB plan of public education measures for 2013 and 9 measures according to the SPB plan of industrial property information dissemination for 2013, which enabled contribution to the implementation of the Lithuanian Innovation Strategy for the year 2010-2020.

In 2013, the SPB personnel organized more than ten seminars and conferences on the topic of protection of the EU and Lithuanian industrial property rights, developed and delivered a variety of themes on the subject, organized and participated in national and international exhibitions, developed and distributed more than one hundred of information reports, articles and publications on intellectual property issues and actively continued to enhance the dissemination of information through introduction and advancement of online services and databases.

The most important events and happenings of the SPB in 2013

In January of 2013 the Lithuanian Technical Library (LTL) acquired the status of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Depository Library. Granting of this status aims to strengthen further and develop the cooperation relations between WIPO and Lithuania, to improve and adopt the best international practices in the field of information dissemination, to increase awareness of the activities of WIPO and the services provided in the area of intellectual property, highlighting their importance in the social and economic developments of the state.

On 25 April 2013 the State Patent Bureau hosted Door Open Day, during which all interested in the protection of industrial property have been invited to become acquainted with the activities of the State Patent Bureau, to discuss directly the issues of concern on the topics of patent, trademark and design protection with the experts working in the SPB.

On 25 April 2013, the Lithuanian Technical Library had an exhibition dedicated to the 130-year anniversary of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. There were also exhibited the recent WIPO publications, which the Lithuanian Technical Library received as a WIPO Depository Library in 2013.

On 26 April 2013, the SPB, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trademarks and Designs) (OHIM), organized the seminar "Protection of design developers in the European Union. 10 years of Community design" to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day. The participants actively debated whether it is difficult to develop a competitive design in the EU, in which way it can be protected. The seminar opened discussions of legal and practical aspects of the protection of the registered and unregistered design in the European Community, debates about the ways of design protection both under copyright law and in terms of legal options of industrial design. Design developers shared their experiences on problems and challenges in design protection, which they faced in developing fashion, graphic design and furniture industries.

On 10 May 2013, the State Patent Bureau, Klaipeda University and Lithuanian Technical Library signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at strengthening cooperation in industrial property, innovation and dissemination of information and public education, the exchange of scientific knowledge and experience, publications and information about the protection of intellectual property.

On 10 May 2013 the seminar was held on theme "A New Approach to Scientific Work in the Perspective of Intellectual Property Protection", where the reports on the protection of intellectual property and tendencies of processes were given by representatives from the SPB and LTL.

On 14-18 October 2013, the Lithuanian Technical Library patent information centres in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda and Panevezys organized the patent information week PATINFO 2013.

On 16 December 2013, the seminar was organized by the State Patent Bureau and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) on the topic "European Trademark System Reform – what it promises to the EU and national trademark owners and users". The participants – patent attorneys, lawyers, also governmental, academic and business representatives – were acquainted with the most rel-



President of European Patent Office Mr Benoît Battistelli and Rimvydas Naujokas, Director of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania meeting with Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Petras Austrevicius in Vilnius, 2013

evant European trademark system reform processes, regulatory changes of protection of intellectual property rights, influence of internet domain on the trademark law, the latest practices in the European Union Court of Justice, the right way to follow in order to create the right trademark from the perspective of developer, client and patent attorney.

In June, November and December 2013, in cities of Klaipeda, Kaunas, Siauliai and Vilnius, the SPB under the Cooperation Agreement with OHIM organized seminars-discussions on the topic of "Possibilities of Trademark and Design Legal Protection in Lithuania and the EU", in which the SPB experts introduced to the seminar participants the possibilities of trademark and design legal protection in Lithuania and the European Union, introduced how to use the SPB, OHIM and WIPO trademark or design databases in order to search for trademarks or designs.

In 2013 the SPB staff also made presentations in the seminar organized by the Vilnius Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts on the topic "European and Lithuanian patent systems", also in the 16th Conference of Young Scientists of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, AIPPI Annual Conference in Vilnius, also in the discussion on patenting organized by the Lithuanian Young Lawyers' Association.

On 9 October 2013 Mr Benoît Battistelli, President of the European Patent Office (EPO), paid a visit to Lithuania. During the visit, President of the EPO met Mr Bernatonis,

Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, and Mr Auštrevičius, Lithuanian Deputy Speaker. During the meeting the importance of intellectual property protection and patent politics in the fields of innovation and development was emphasized, also the views on the Agreement on a Unitary Patent Court ratification were exchanged, as well as the Lithuanian and EPO future cooperation perspectives were defined. There was signed a Working Agreement on Simplified Patent Conditions between the SPB and the European Patent Organization on cooperation in patent searches.

In 2013 the experts of the SPB made two working visits to the Latvian and Finnish Patent Offices.

Awards

On 26 April 2013 the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania, together with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), already for the third consecutive year, awarded the WIPO nomination "Best Young Inventor" to a competition winner in Lithuania. The aim of this award is to promote youth to become more active in the field of innovation and to draw attention of the creators to importance of intellectual property rights protection. This year, the honourable WIPO award was awarded to the designer programmer Mr Alexey Zaicevskij for invention related with the camera's rotation and stabilization mechanisms, which can be used in the light manned aircrafts. The honourable award was handed by the Deputy Minister of Justice Mr Giedrius Mozūraitis.

Publications and Information Dissemination

In 2013 there were issued several information leaflets: "Trademarks", "Design", as well as a portfolio of legal regulations "Legislation regulating prevention of inventions, designs, trademarks and topography of semiconductor products in the Republic of Lithuania", also there were participated in two exhibitions. In 2013 there were prepared 95 press releases and news.

In 2013, implementing the measures according to the action plan of public awareness and information dissemination, the SPB provided a monthly information on the Lithuanian patents to the European Patent Office (EPO) Espacenet and INPADOC databases. The SPB online databases of inventions, trademarks and designs were periodically updated. The technical reports on information activities of patents, designs and trademarks were submitted to the WIPO.

In 2013 there was prepared an e-publication "The State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania Annual Review of Year 2012", also announced the official statistics of 2012 and 12 official bulletins (gazettes) of the SPB.

In collaboration with OHIM, in 2013 the design data of the Republic of Lithuania was integrated into the European design search system (DesignView). By assistance from this system, the design register data of the Republic of Lithuania became an integral part of the European Union design search database. Now, nearly 3000 SPB registered designs are available through DesignView database.

In 2013, participating in the project Federated Patent Register, executed by EPO, there was introduced a direct interface (called deep linking), and the legal status data of the national patents were made available in the European Patent Office online databases, i.e. the possibility to perform a patent search both in the European and the Lithuanian patent databases was implemented by a "one stop" principle.

In 2013, taking part in the project, executed by the EPO and Google, on the introduction of automatic translation system of patent documents, all the e-patents, submitted to the EPO in an electronic template – almost 10 000 – were digitized into the Lithuanian translations of the European patent definitions. Also 3 technical non-patent literature publications were developed in Lithuanian and English.

In 2013, according to the Agreement of the European Patent Office and the European Union Commission, there was automated translation into English and Lithuanian, which enabled the participants from the Lithuanian and World patent system to access the European patent documents in their national language. Currently, the total number of languages is 32.

It should be noted that implementation of this project was one of the political Lithuanian conditions for approval of the unitary European Union patent regulation package: the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing the enhanced cooperation in the area of unitary patent protection (Regulation on the European unitary patent system), Council Regulation, ensuring the applicable translation arrangement enhances cooperation in the area of unitary patent protection (Regulation on the translation arrangement), and the international Agreement on a Unitary Patent Court.

In 2013 the working group was formed for preparation of Lithuania to use the resources of the European Patent Office according to the SPB and EPO Agreement on cooperation in patent searches.

Information Technology

Operation, maintenance and improvement of information systems was further carried out by the Information Technology (IT) division of State Patent Bureau in 2013; these processes were focused on the development of electronic services, maintenance of existing systems and introduction of new systems.

During the development of electronic services, "Online Filing" software and its portlet were installed with the help of the European Patent Office, which allows applicants to submit their national patent applications electronically. A big interest of applicants in this software application encouraged the expansion of types of applications that may be submitted; therefore the portlets of additional protection certificate applications and portlets for submission of additional applications via the Internet are currently developed and tested.

Another project was developed at the same time as the "Online Filing" project: "Designview" Web service was installed in cooperation with the Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market (OHIM) for the access to the information on the registered designs of national services that use this service. The data of "Designview", like the ones introduced earlier for the trademarks of "TMView" systems, are updated every day. Introduction of electronic system allowing the presentation of trademark applications electronically was launched as well.

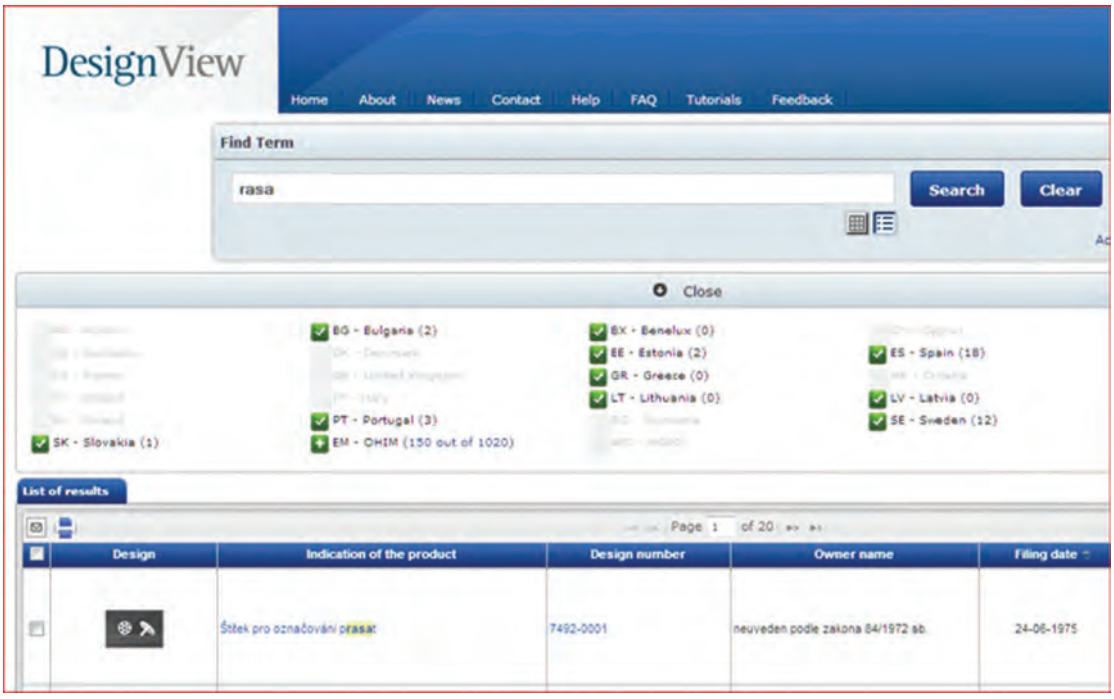


Figure 1. DesingView portal

In order to facilitate the access for the users of patent system to the national patent registers of the Member States of European patents network, the implementation of the project "Deeplinking" was continued, which is a larger part of the Federated Patent Register project, and enables to reach national patent registers of European states by means of "one-stop" principle.

Key requirement for the developed and SPB administered databases is the ability to share data with other systems in order to achieve more efficient movement of such data, reducing the risk of errors and data corruption to a minimum. In 2013, SPB installed the software that enables to get data on existing European patents in XML format, and then save them to the database of SPB. The system that allows the transfer of national patent data and legal status and bibliographic data of the European Patent Office valid in Lithuania to the European Patent Office in XML format was previously installed. Thus, two-way SPB and the European Patent Office data flows are ensured.

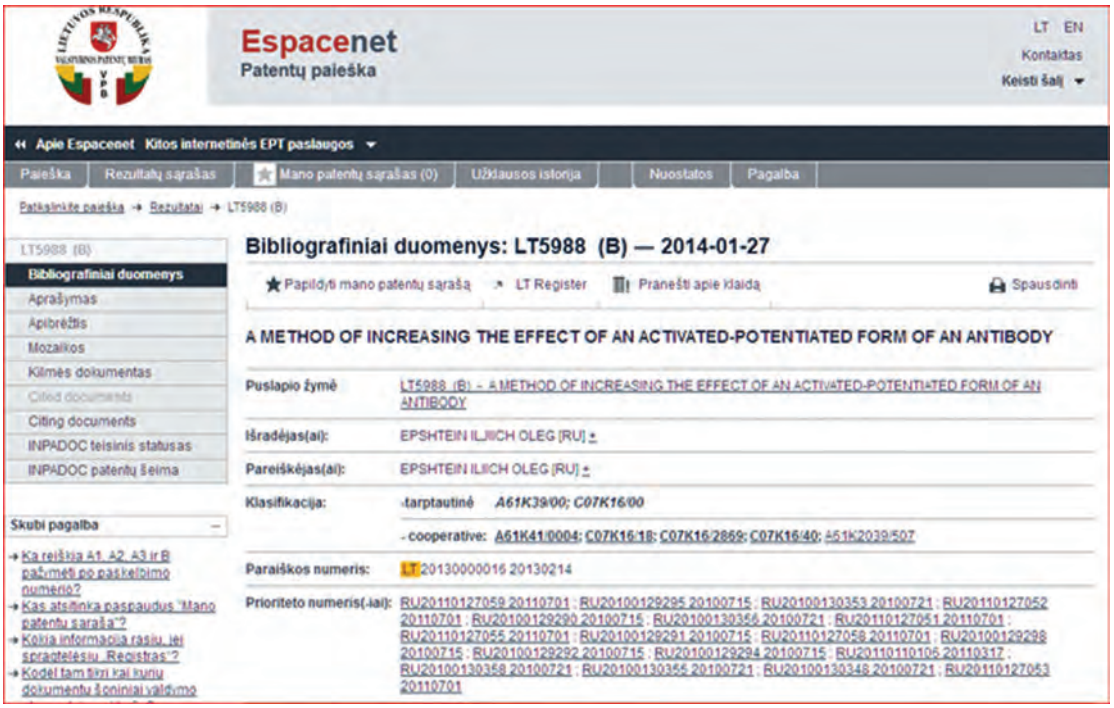


Figure 2. Database of Espacenet patents

In order to ensure the continuous and more efficient work of the employees of information technology department, the installation and use of the system for the management of projects, processes, configurations and incidents operating on the basis of open-source was launched inside the department, which will allow the removal of encountered technical problems more operatively, distribution of work more evenly, and the storage of settings of technical provisions and their changes.

The audit on the risk of SPB information systems and IT security was carried out at the State Patent Bureau. According to received results and recommendations, the plan for removal of shortages was developed in 2013, which is consistently enforced. During the execution of one of the recommendations, a new version of security documents is developed.

In 2013, a virtualization project which allows the development of virtual official servers, their isolation from each other, the development and testing of software in temporary virtual servers and the restoration of system workability in case of failure as quickly as possible. Currently, 24 virtual servers, which would previously have had to be equipped with one physical server, operate on three physical servers with installed virtualization environments.

Two-way interaction electronic services were already installed in December 2012; in 2013 the list of services was expanded, which made half of SPB enforceable services in 2013.

In 2014, it is planned to continue to increase the number of electronically incoming applications and to issue digitally signed documents. Hereby the maturity of SPB electronic services will reach the highest level. The aim is that at least 63% of SPB actions could be carried out using the systems of SPB electronic services.

Statistical data

Report of registrated exclusive rights

Registration of industrial property objects		Year		Rate of change, %
		2012	2013	
Inventions	National patents	92	93	1
	European patents that came into force in the Republic of Lithuania	1176	1309	11
	Total:	**1268**	**1402**	**11**
Topographies of semiconductor products	Applications	0	0	0
	Registrations	0	0	0
Trademarks	National registrations	1700	1750	3
	Protection granted for the international registrations extended under Madrid Protocol	1877	1894	1
	Total:	**3577**	**3644**	**2**
Design	National registrations	35	28	-21
	Protection granted for the international registration of industrial designs extended to the Republic of Lithuania	62	74	19
	Total:	**97**	**102**	**5**
Total:		**4942**	**5148**	**4**

Report of the filed applications

Registration of industrial property objects			Year		Rate of change, %
			2012	2013	
Inventions	National applications	Of Lithuanian applicants	109	117	7
		Of foreign applicants	9	10	11
	International applications (PCT national level)	Of Lithuanian applicants	0	0	0
		Of foreign applicants	6	10	67
	Extended European patent applications		1175	1309	11
	Total:		**1299**	**1446**	**11**
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	1996	2008	1
		Of foreign applicants	274	269	-2
	Notifications on international registration of trademarks extended, under the Madrid Protocol		1931	2054	6
	Total:		**4201**	**4331**	**3**
Design	Notifications on international registration of industrial designs extended to the Republic of Lithuania		62	67	8
	Total:		**100**	**97**	**-3**
	Total:		**5600**	**5874**	**5**

Report on state fees (thousand litas)

Registration of industrial property objects	Year		Rate of change, %
	2012	2013	
Inventions	5025,5	5625,6	12
Topographies of semiconductor products	0	0	0
Trademarks	2560,1	3548,1	39
Design	74,3	55,5	-25
Total:	**7659,9**	**9229,2**	**20**

Supplementary protectin certificates

Išradimo objektas	Filed applications		Issued sertificates	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
Medical products	20	28	10	19
Plant protection products	2	0	1	2
Total:	**22**	**28**	**11**	**21**

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Abbreviations:

SPB – State Patent Bureau
MJ – Ministry of Justice
LTL – Lithuanian Technical Library
EPO – European Patent Organisation
EPO – European Patent Office
WIPO – World Intellectual Property Organisation
WTO – World Trade Organization
OHIM – Office for Harmonization of the Internal Market of European Union
PCT – Patent Cooperation Treaty
EPC – European Patent Convection
TRIPS – Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

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