

THE STATE PATENT BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ANNUAL REVIEW OF YEAR 2015

Vilnius, Lithuania
2016

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INTRODUCTION

The State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania

is the executive body of the Republic of Lithuania, state budgetary agency carrying out the state legal protection of industrial property (inventions, designs, trademarks and service marks, semiconductor product topographies) in Lithuania and central industrial property office functions in European Union.

The State Patent Bureau

of the Republic of Lithuania (SPB) was established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. On the 15th of December 2000 under regulation No. 1454 SPB was assigned to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania.

Mission

To legalize exclusive rights to industrial property objects; and to secure the needs of the society in the protection of industrial property.

The State Patent Bureau carrying out its tasks publishes the Official Gazette "Inventions. Designs. Trade Marks", Patent Specifications and Annual Reports. Data on Industrial Property protected in the Republic of Lithuania are included also into Database of the Patents of the Republic of Lithuania, Database of the European Patents entered into force in the Republic of Lithuania, Database of Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania, Database of the Designs of the Republic of Lithuania and into databases of European Patent Office, EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and World Intellectual Property Organization.



With regard to statistical data of last year's activity of the State Patent Bureau, last year could be evaluated as a stable one. In comparison to the year 2014, the total amount of applications received (around 5.6 thousand) remained essentially the same. The amount of applications for trademarks and designs remained at the same level, but the number of European patents that became effective in Lithuania has grown by 11 percent.

On the other hand, the number of applications for national patents has decreased by 29 percent in comparison to 2014. Assessing the average level of patent applications in 2010-2014, the number of national patent applications received decreased by 8 percent in 2015. This number of applications could have been determined by several reasons: expiry of the opportunity to use the national route under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in 2014 and the intensity of use of state financial support for patent projects by the applicants.

Last year we have also seen the tendency of decrease in the amount of notifications about international trademark registrations expanded in Lithuania and a rather small amount of national design applications.

In 2015, we focused on the improvement of the SPB services: expanded the list of electronic services, developed the possibility of two-way electronic communication, simplified the procedure for submitting powers of attorney, upgraded the trademark and design register administration software, and optimised the SPB activity processes. These results allow us providing the services to the users more conveniently, faster, and simpler.

In 2015, the SPB especially actively participated in the projects of the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (trademarks and design): from the start of operation of the Cooperation Fund, SPB implemented 21 projects and actively participated in convergence – unification of EU patent office practice. Just like every year, last year the SPB cooperated with the World Intellectual Property Organisation and the European Patent Office. In 2015, the SPB continued the preparatory work for joining the unitary European patent and a single patent litigation system.

In 2015, the SPB was especially focused on promoting the industrial property protection, especially in the field of design protection. The general awareness of the industrial protection possibilities among business entities grew by 6 percent in 2015 and reached 74 percent.

I would like to thank the SPB staff for the excellent results of last year and continuous engagement in the improvement of the SPB activities. I would also like to thank the Patent Attorneys Association and other users of the system for their cooperation and constructive proposals for the improvement of the SPB service quality.

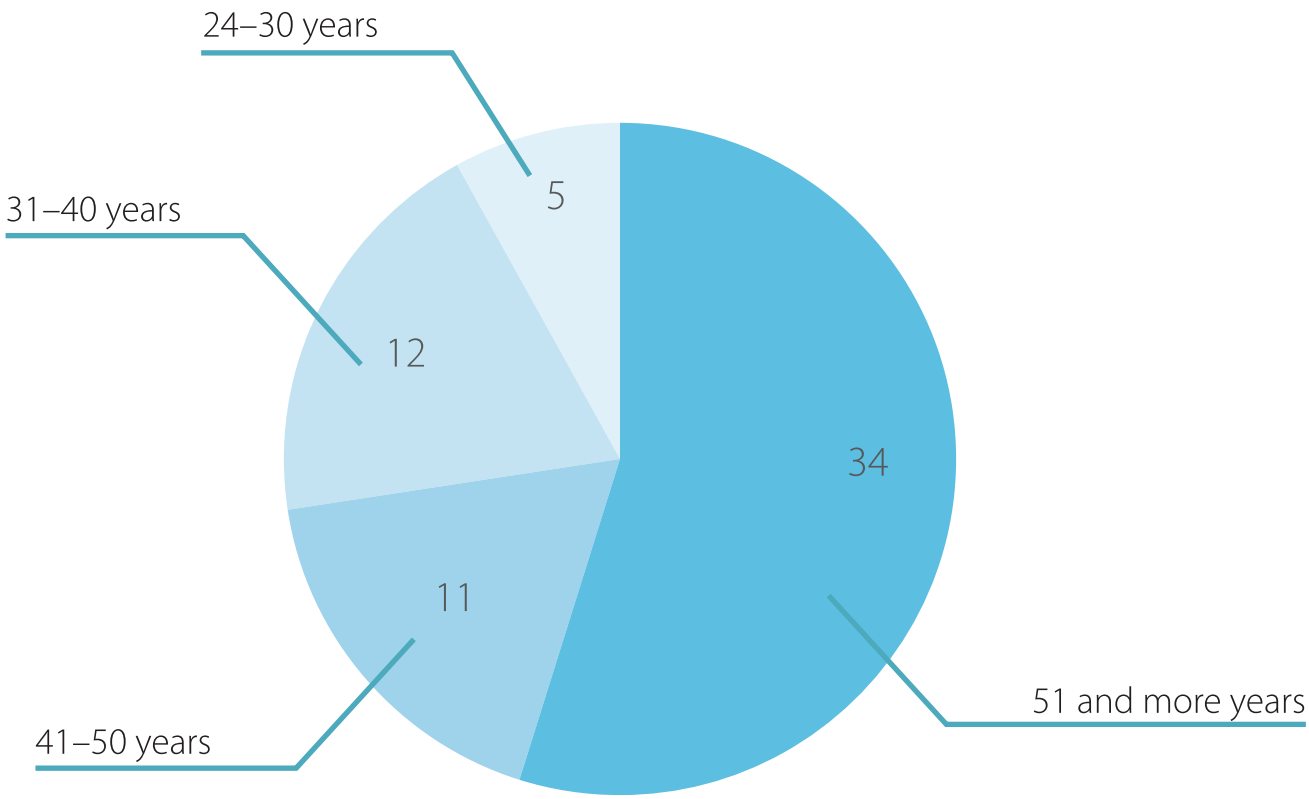
Director of State Patent Bureau
Arūnas Želvys

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

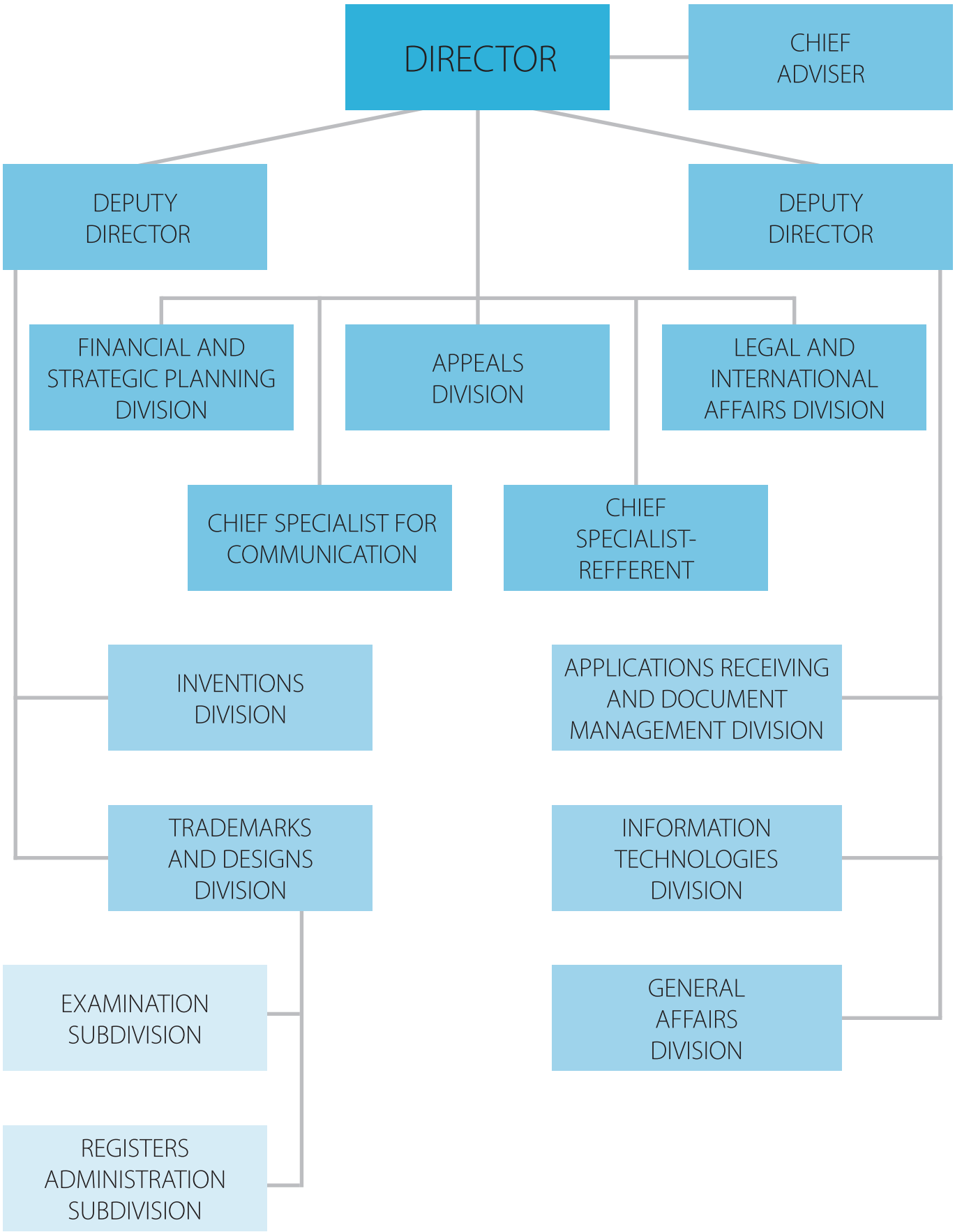
In 2015, the number of positions in SPB remained unchanged, i.e., 60, out of which 39 are public servants and 21 are employees with employment contracts. In 2015, SPB saw the reorganisation of the structure by reducing the number of positions of managing employees. In the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2015, four positions of deputy heads of divisions (Appeals, Financial and Strategic Planning, Information Technologies, and Legal and International Affairs) were withdrawn. Instead, the positions of chief specialists or advisers were introduced.

In 2015, SPB employed 6 new employees – 2 public servants and 4 employees with employment contracts. 2 public servants were dismissed in a year.

DISTRIBUTION OF SPB PERSONNEL AGE



STRUCTURE OF THE STATE PATENT BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



INVENTIONS

MAIN RESULT
IN THE FIELD OF INVENTION PATENTS

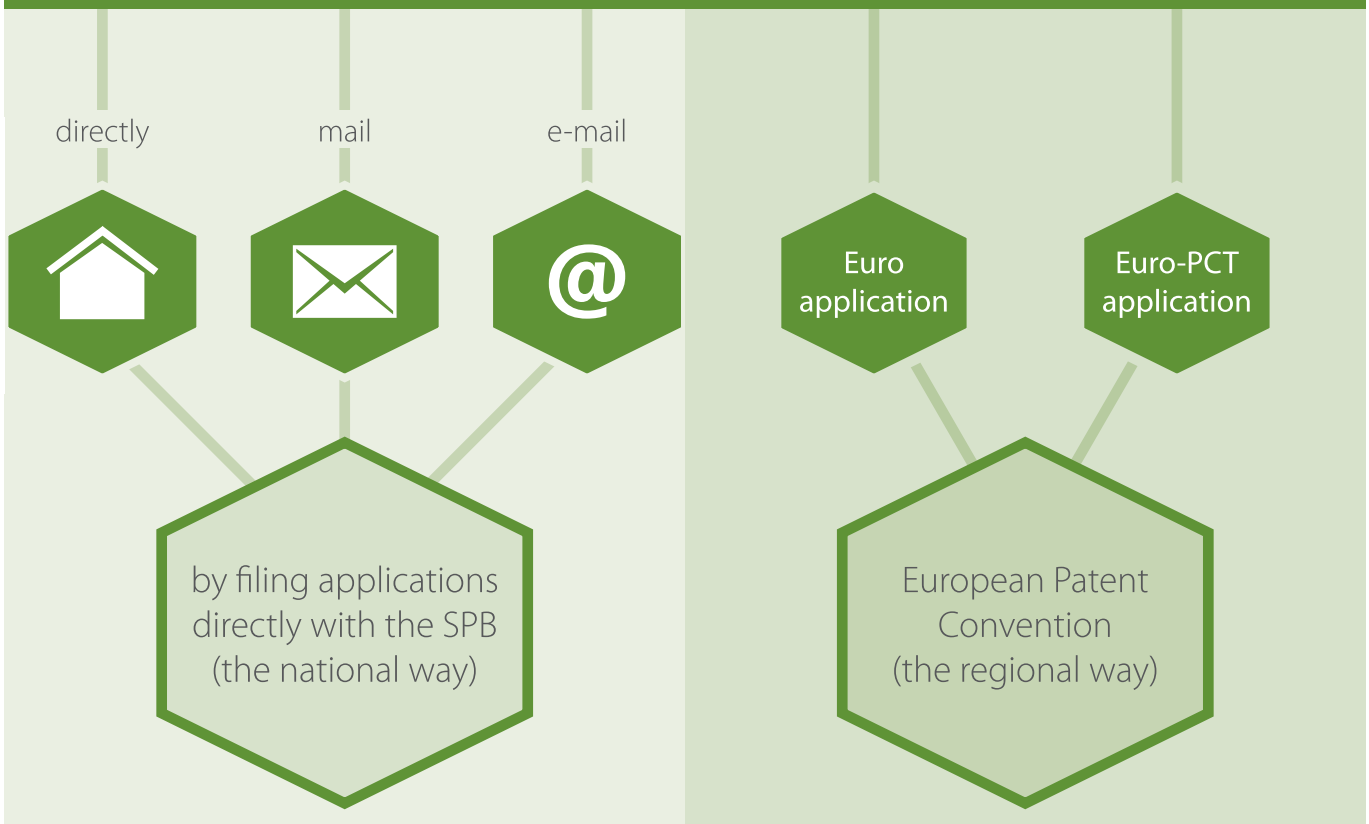
11%

The number of the European patents that came into effect in Lithuania increased by 11 percent.

10%

The number of national patents issued increased by 10 percent.

WAYS TO OBTAIN PATENT PROTECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



1994

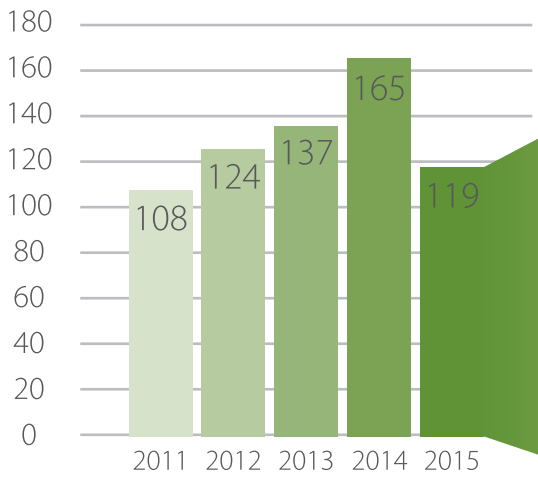
Patent protection for inventions is granted under the Patent Law of the Republic of Lithuania, which has come into effect in 1994.

2015

- In 2015, 119 national patent applications were filed with the State Patent Bureau. 101 of them were filed by Lithuanian applicants. Conventional priority was requested in 12 patent applications.
- In its capacity of the receiving office, the SPB received 9 international applications in 2015.
- 54 applications for supplementary protection certificates have been received in 2015.
- 5 applicants applied to SPB for search of national patent applications in the EPO. 4 applications were sent to the European Patent Office for the search.



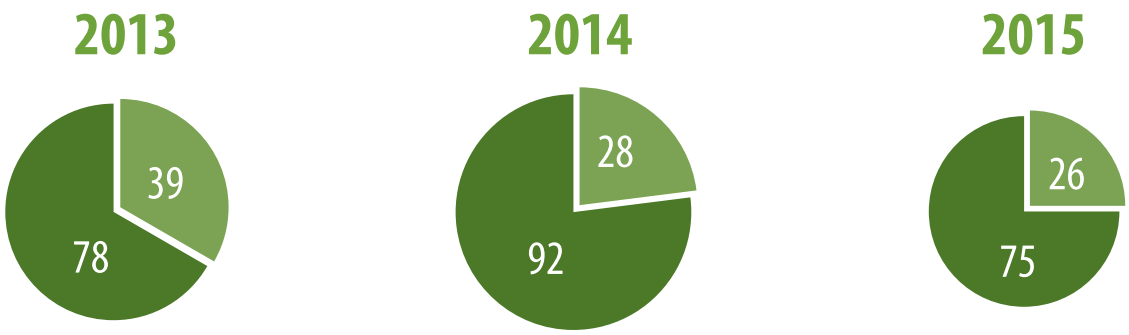
FILING OF PATENT APPLICATIONS



DISTRIBUTION OF PATENT APPLICATIONS BY APPLICANT'S COUNTRY IN 2015

Country	Number of applications	%
BY	3	2,52
CN	5	4,20
DE	1	0,84
EE	1	0,84
FR	1	0,84
JP	2	1,68
LT	101	84,88
PL	2	1,68
RU	2	1,68
TR	1	0,84
Total	119	100

NUMBER OF PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED BY LITHUANIAN APPLICANTS IN 2013–2015



	Legal persons	Natural persons
Total:	117	120	101

LITHUANIAN ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE FILED PATENT APPLICATIONS IN 2015

No.	Applicants	Number of applications	No.	Applicants	Number of applications
1.	KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY	12	21.	FELIKSNAVIS UAB	1
			22.	FIVE WAYS COMPANY UAB	1
2.	VILNIUS GEDIMINAS TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	11	23.	Fabrica Moderna UAB	1
			24.	Frelaris UAB	1
3.	VILNIUS UNIVERSITY	11	25.	GTV UAB	1
4.	Pupa Supa UAB	2	26.	INOVATYVIŲ PROCESŲ SPRENDIMAI UAB	1
5.	CENTER FOR PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY	2	27.	Kleismantas UAB	1
6.	Žemaitijos Pienas AB	1	28.	Lamberta UAB	1
7.	Aleksandras Stulginskis University	1	29.	Metiksa UAB	1
8.	BENJAMIN RIVER PRODUCTIONS UAB	1	30.	MATURĖ UAB	1
			31.	Neurotechnology UAB	1
9.	BOD GROUP	1	32.	ORIGMED UAB	1
10.	Lithuanian Energy Institute	1	33.	Precizika Metrology UAB	1
11.	My Research UAB	1	34.	Probiosanus UAB	1
12.	AIZ UAB	1	35.	Saulės Vėjo Aruodai UAB	1
13.	ALDREA UAB	1	36.	TUTUTIS UAB	1
14.	Altechna R&D UAB	1	37.	Vėjo Projektai UAB	1
15.	Aukšto Slėgio Filtravimo Sprendimai UAB	1	38.	WOODHOUSES.LT	1
16.	BALTIC ORTHOSERVICE UAB	1	39.	State Research Institute Centre for Innovative Medicine	1
17.	BALTSETA UAB	1			
18.	Bioseka UAB	1	40.	Vlado Bložės PĮ	1
19.	EKSPLA UAB	1	41.	V. Stankaus Individuali Įmonė	1
20.	Ekorama UAB	1	42.	Visumos Projektai VŠĮ	1

PATENTS ISSUED

In 2015, SPB granted 133 patents – 10 more national patents than in 2014.

Nearly half of them were oriented at meeting the human necessities.

It is almost twice as much as the national patents of the same type granted in 2014.

Patents in the fields of chemistry, metallurgy, mechanics, physics, and other technological processes accounted for a major proportion of national patents granted in 2015.



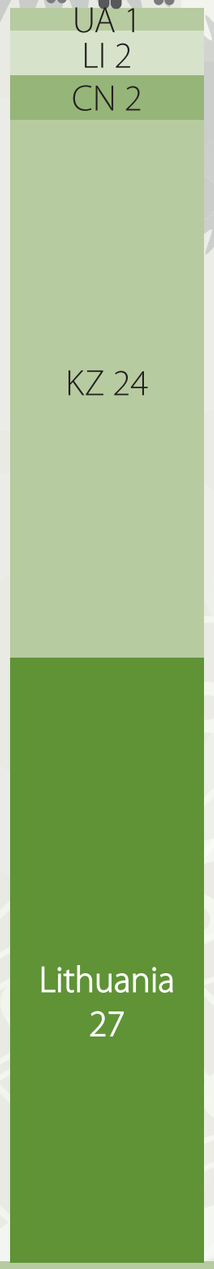
PATENTS ISSUED IN 2015 BY PATENT OWNER COUNTRY



Country	Number of patents	%
CN	4	3,01
IE	1	0,75
KZ	24	18,05
LI	2	1,50
LT	96	72,18
UA	1	0,75
US	5	3,76
Total	133	100

Number of patents
granted in 2015 by IPC chapter

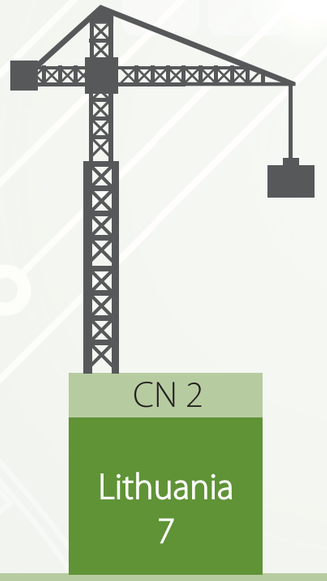


















Human necessities (A)	Performing operations, transporting (B)	Chemistry, metallurgy (C)	Textiles, paper (D)	Fixed constructions, mining (E)	Mechanical Engineering, Lighting, Heating, Weapons; Blasting (F)	Physics (G)	Electricity (H)
56	14	21	0	9	14	14	5

EUROPEAN PATENTS

2015

In 2015, 1390 European Patents granted by the European Patent Office (EPO) came into effect in the Republic of Lithuania. 1328 of them were issued under the European Patent Convention (EPC).

The number of European patents that came into effect in Lithuania in 2015 is the highest in the last five years.

Out of 1390 patents, the majority of them apply in chemistry and metallurgy as well as meeting human necessities.

The owners of nearly half of the European patents that came into effect in Lithuania are from the United States and Germany.

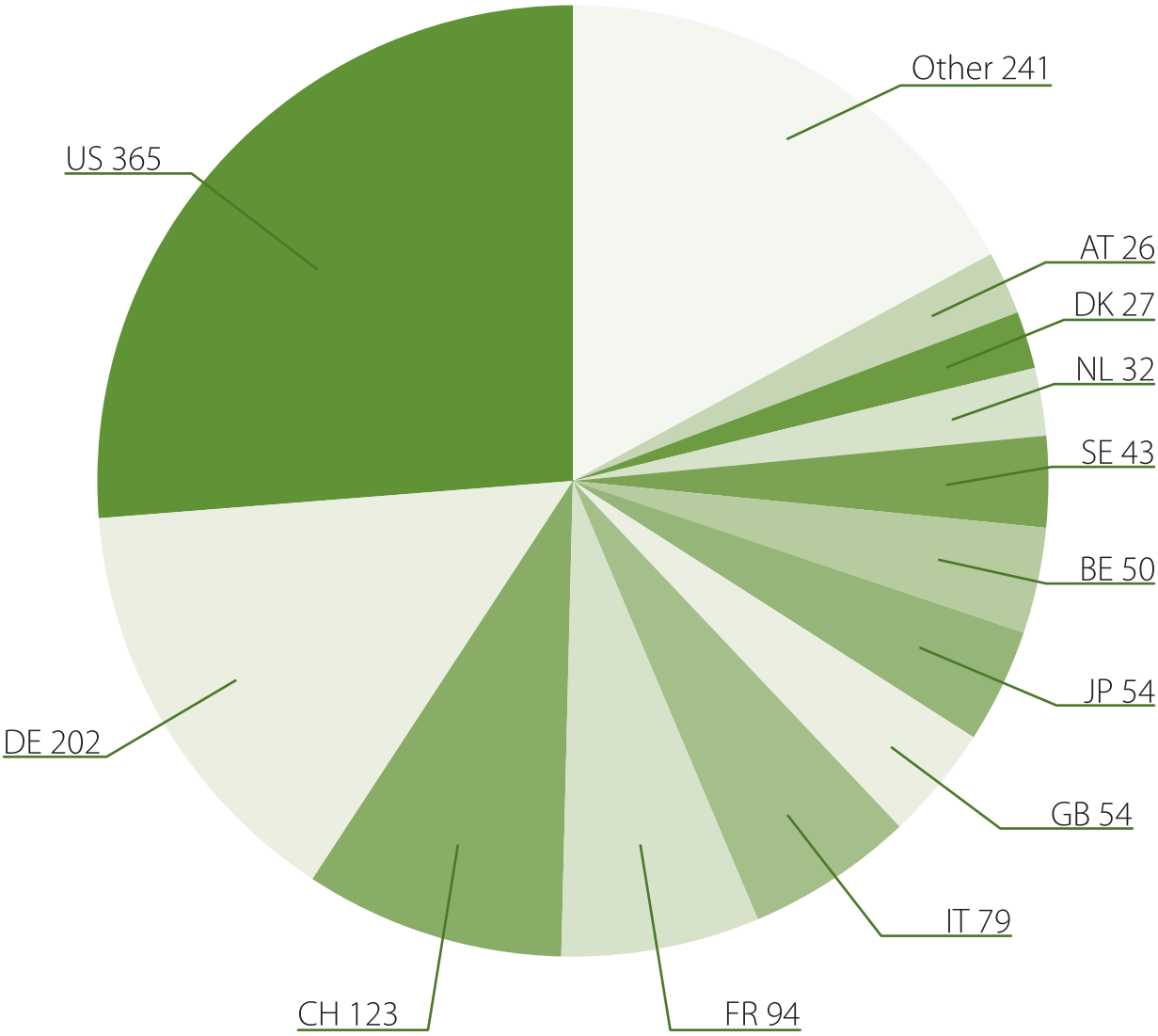
%

The number of patents granted to Lithuanian owners amounted to 6.4 percent of all patents that came into effect in Lithuania in 2015 (7.17 percent in 2014).

EUROPEAN PATENTS THAT CAME INTO EFFECT IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

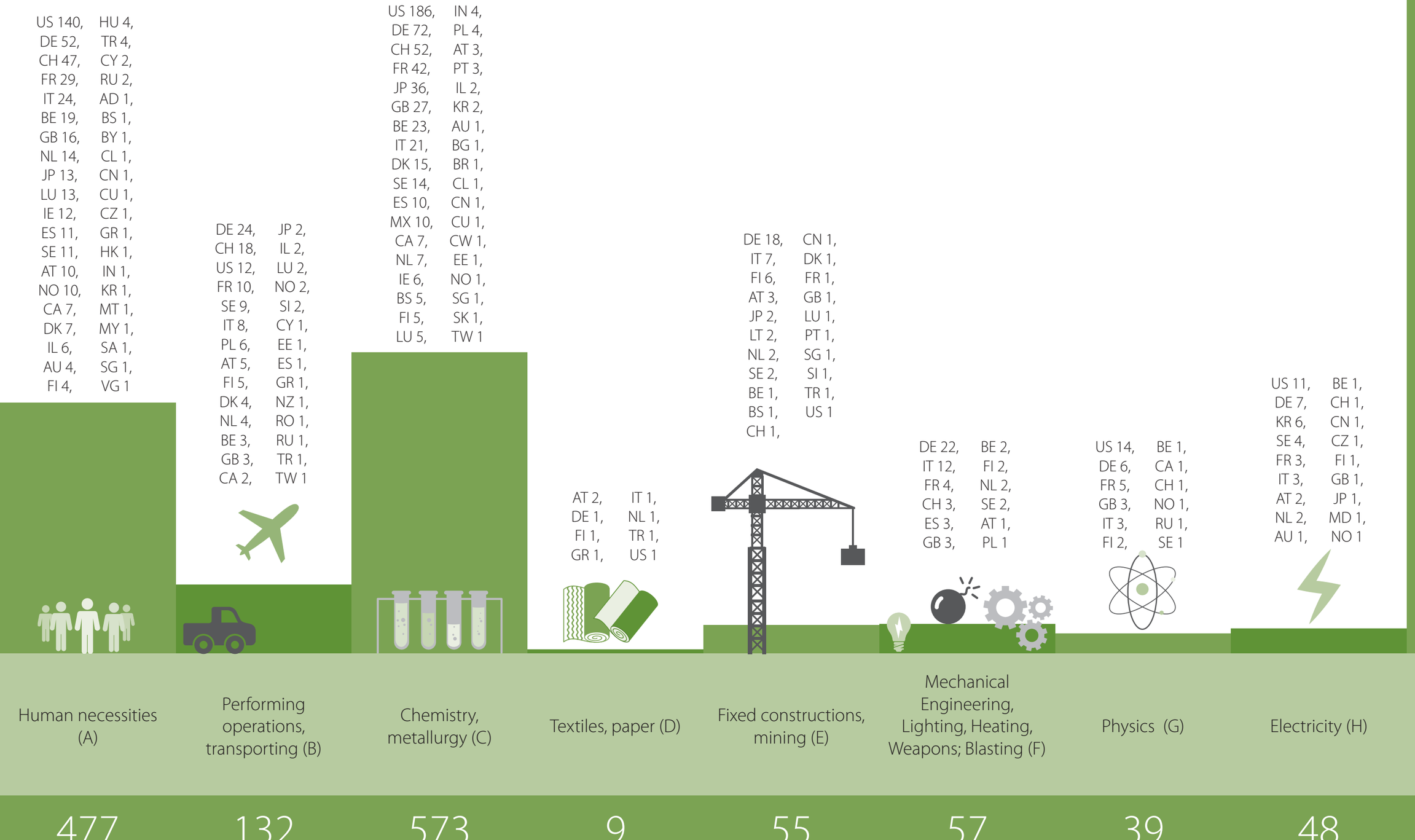


EUROPEAN PATENTS THAT CAME INTO EFFECT IN 2015
BY PATENT OWNER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



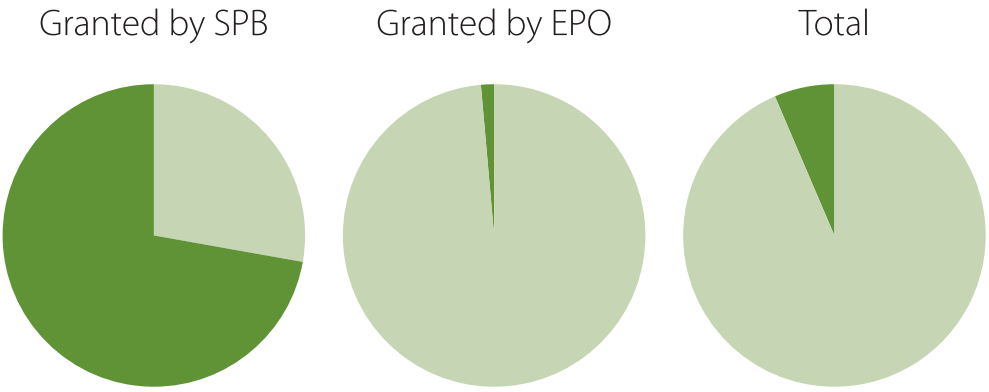


Number of European patents that came into effect in the Republic of Lithuania in 2015 by IPC chapter



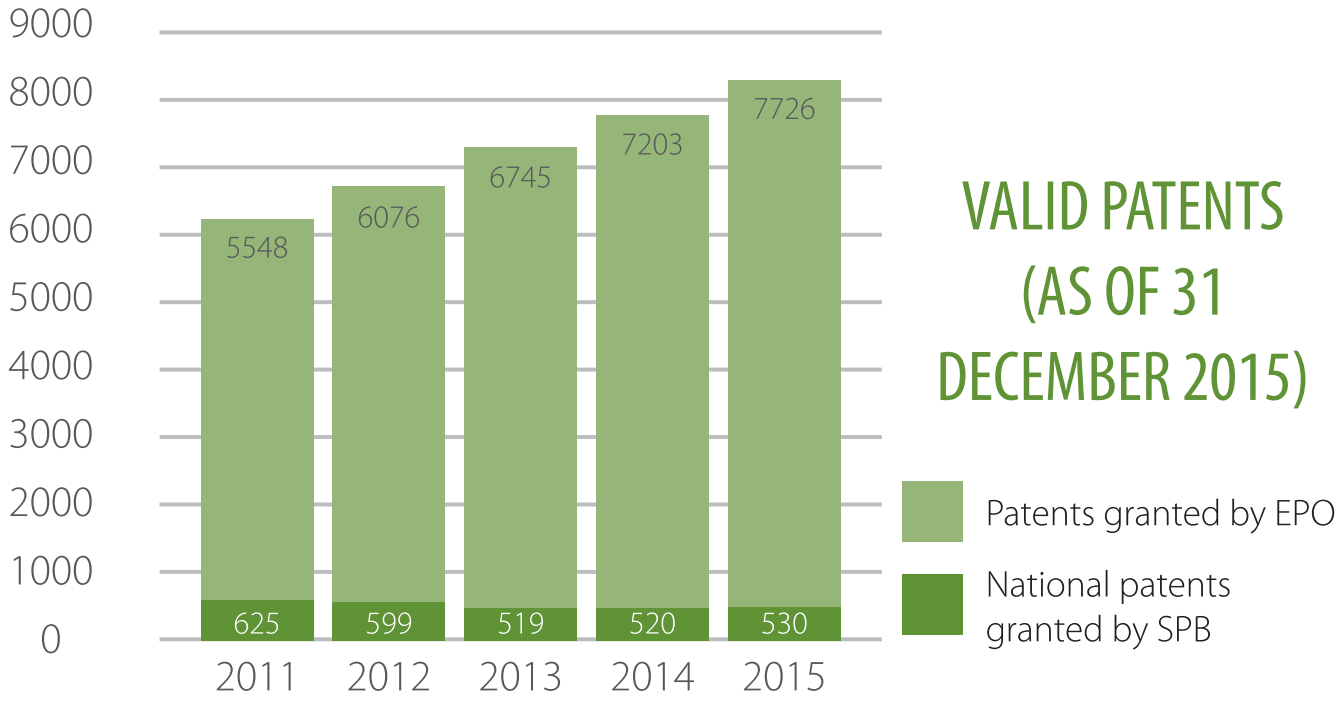
Human necessities (A)	Performing operations, transporting (B)	Chemistry, metallurgy (C)	Textiles, paper (D)	Fixed constructions, mining (E)	Mechanical Engineering, Lighting, Heating, Weapons; Blasting (F)	Physics (G)	Electricity (H)	Total
477	132	573	9	55	57	39	48	1390

PATENTS THAT CAME INTO EFFECT IN LITHUANIA IN 2015



Number	133	1390	1523
Patent owners from Lithuania	96 (72,2%)	2 (0,14%)	98 (6,43%)

VALID PATENTS (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2015)



In 2015,
124
transfer agreements
were registered,
118
of which were for
European patents.

2015

In 2015,
3
licence agreements
were registered,
2
of which were for
European patents.

TRADEMARKS

Protection of trademarks is provided under the Law on Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania, which came into effect on

1 January 2001.

WAYS TO GET EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO A TRADEMARK IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

NATIONAL WAY	INTERNATIONAL WAY	REGIONAL WAY
Under the Law on Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania by filing applications directly with the SPB	Starting from 15 November 1997 – granted under the Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement on International Trademarks Registration	Starting from 1 May 2004, according to the Regulation of the Council (EC) No. 207/2009 of 26 February 2009 on the Community trade mark, the EU trademark registered with the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) is protected in Lithuania

From the establishment of the State Patent Bureau until 31 December 2015,
73,738
trademark registration applications have been filed via the national way.

During the period,
60,813
trademarks have been entered into the Trademarks Register of the Republic of Lithuania;
36,173
of them are valid registrations;
34,687
changes in the Register,
11,996
transfer of rights and
1,294
license agreements were recorded; also,
2,310
marks given as security (withdrawals of security) and
512
seizures (withdrawals of seizures) were entered.

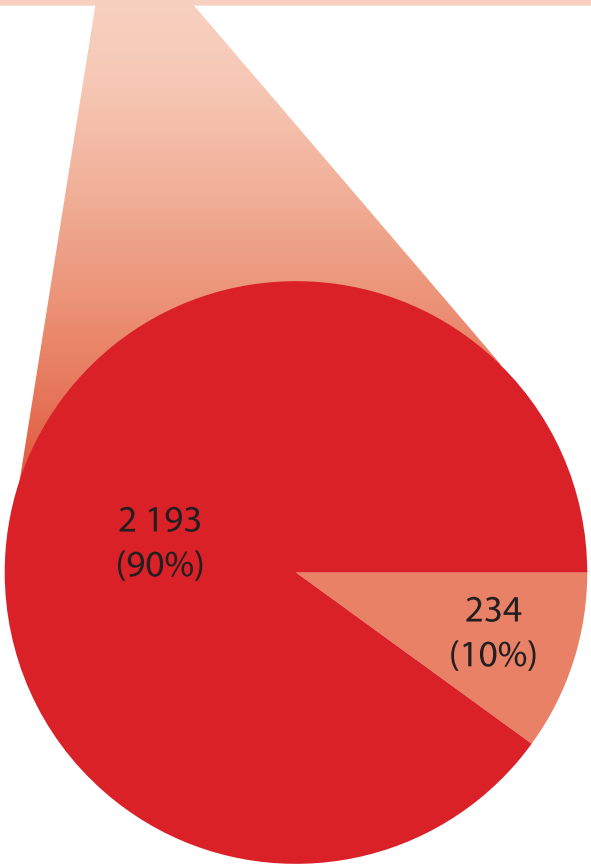
Since 1997,
57,530
notifications regarding the extension of international mark registrations in Lithuania have been received from the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);
54,681
decisions were adopted to grant protection, having performed the examination.

At the end of 2015

75,260 registrations of trademarks, applications for which have been filed via the national and the international ways, and **1,502,862** Community trademarks registered in the Register of Community Trademarks of the EU were in effect in Lithuania.

TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS FILES IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN 2010–2015

Year	Trademark applications filed to the SPB via the national way	Notifications about extensions of international marks registrations in Lithuania
2011	2287	2137
2012	2270	1931
2013	2277	2054
2014	2457	1693
2015	**2427**	**1552**



2,427 TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS WERE FILED WITH SPB IN 2015, INCLUDING:

By Lithuanian applicants – 2 193 (90%)

By foreign applicants – 234 (10%), (LV – 29, US – 27, DE – 26, CH – 19, EE – 19, other 37 countries – 116)

DISTRIBUTION OF APPLICATIONS IN 2015
by class according to the International Classification of Goods and Services

Class 5. Number of applications – 169, 4%
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.

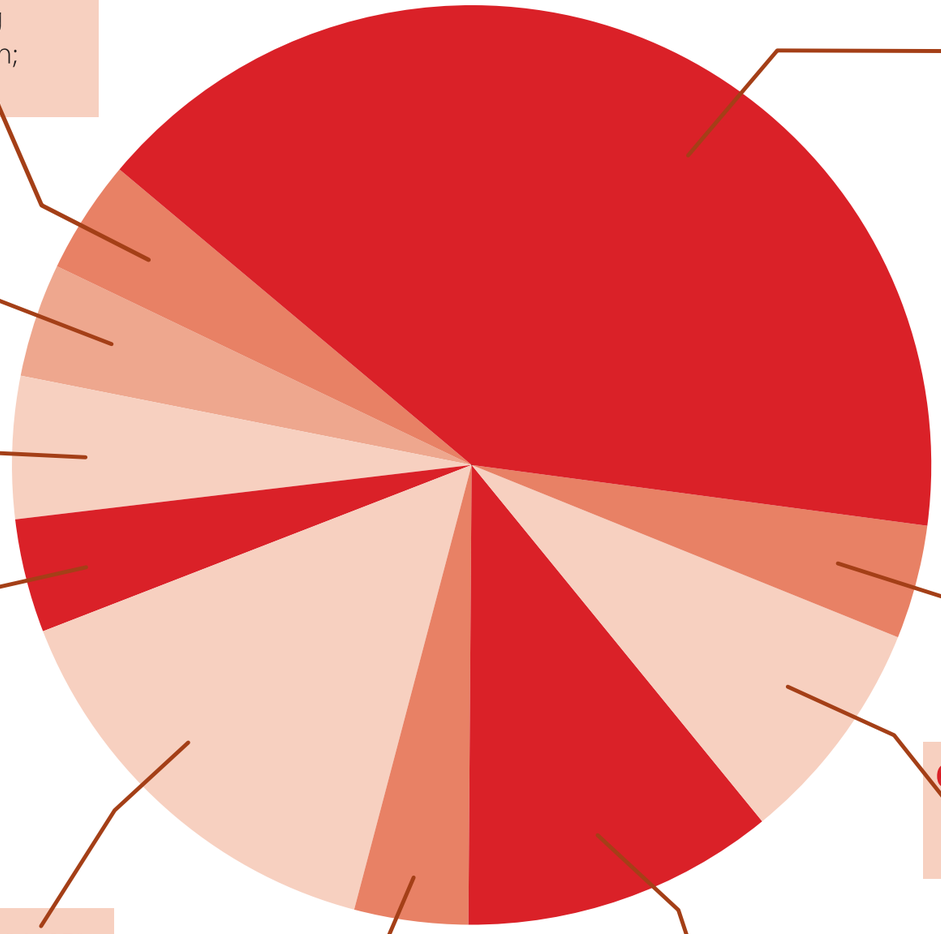
Class 29. Number of applications – 169, 4%
Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, compotes; eggs; milk and milk products; edible oils and fats.

Class 30. Number of applications – 185, 5%
Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments); spices; ice.

Class 32.Number of applications – 169, 4%
Beers; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages; fruit beverages and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages.

Class 35.Number of applications – 606, 15%
Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions.

Class 36. Number of applications – 155, 4%
Insurance; financial affairs; monetary affairs; real estate affairs.



Other classes. Number of applications – 1646, 41%

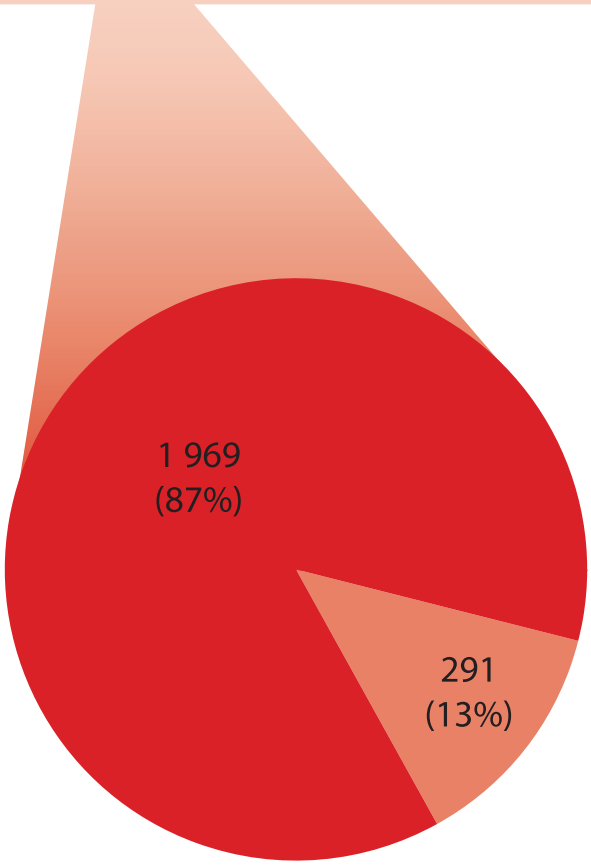
Class 44. Number of applications – 175, 4%
Medical services; veterinary services; hygienic and beauty care for human beings or animals; agriculture, horticulture and forestry services.

Class 43. Number of applications – 301, 8%
Services for providing food and drink; temporary accommodation.

Class 41. Number of applications – 424, 11%
Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities.

TRADEMARK REGISTRATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN 2010–2015

Year	National registrations	International registrations, which have been granted protection, in the Republic of Lithuania
2011	1560	2356
2012	1700	1877
2013	1750	1894
2014	2137	1937
2015	**2260**	**1804**



2,260 TRADEMARKS WERE REGISTERED IN 2015, INCLUDING:

By Lithuanian applicants – 1 969 (87%)

By foreign applicants – 291 (13%), (LV – 42, US – 36, CH – 32, GB – 20, RU – 13, KR – 10, NL – 10, other 42 countries – 128)

IN THE YEAR 2015

14
trademarks were registered, the applications of which contained a request claiming the conventional priority.

In the year 2015,
419
transfers of rights and
119
license agreements,
1,684
changes at the Register,
1,521
renewals,
177
securities of mark rights (withdrawals of securities) and
18
seizures (withdrawals of seizures) were entered into the Register of the Trademarks of the Republic of Lithuania,
1,779
registrations were cancelled, including
1,727
that were cancelled without the extension of the registration effect time.

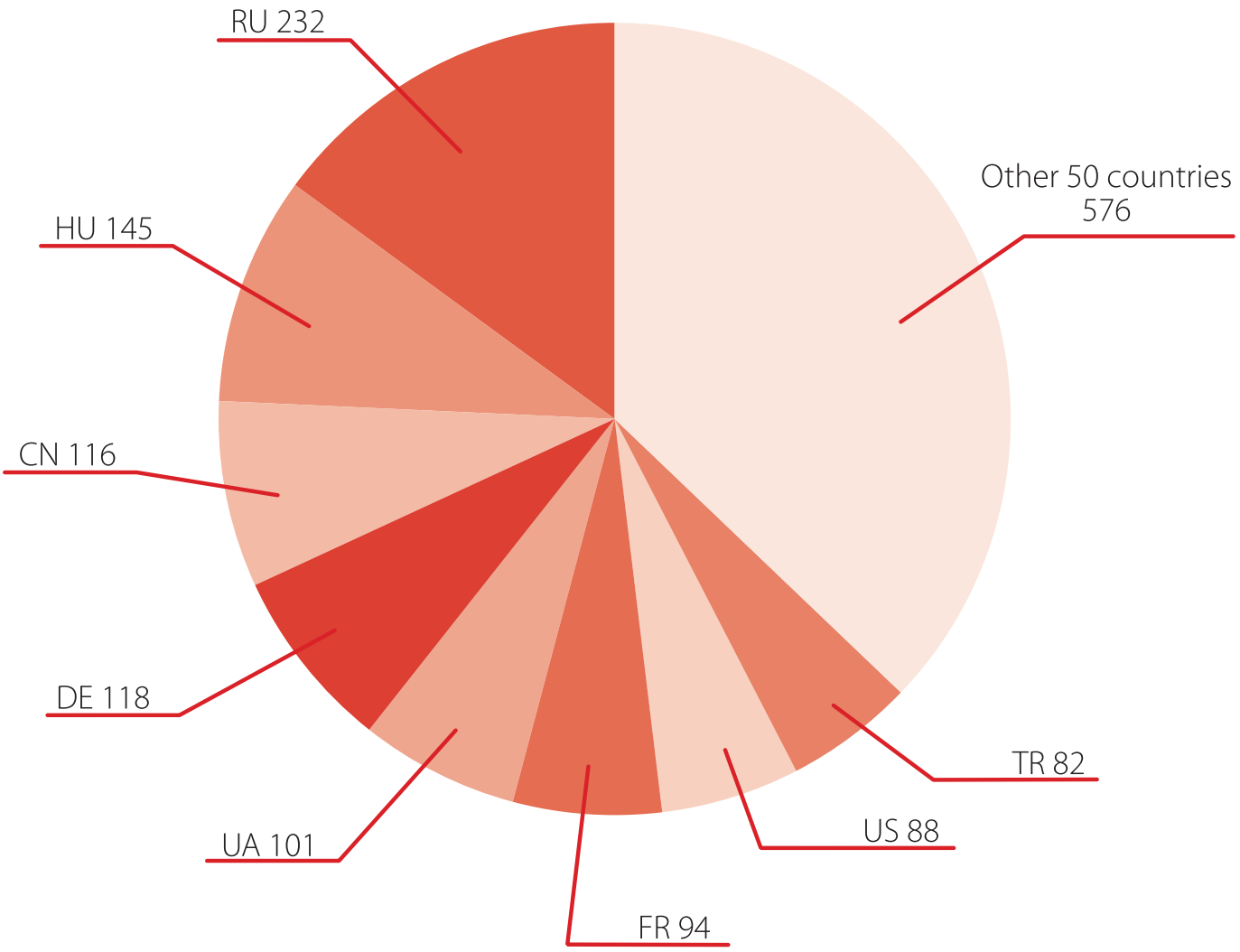
According to Article 38 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 207/2009 of 26 February 2009 on the Community trade mark (codified version),
740
trademark searches were performed and search reports were presented in 2015.

PROTECTION OF TRADEMARKS

UNDER THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE MADRID AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF MARKS

In 2015, **1,552** notifications from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) were received regarding the protection of international registration of marks in Lithuania. The SPB adopted **1,804** decisions to grant protection to international mark registrations.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE EXTENSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA BY MARK OWNERS' COUNTRY





Since 1997
when the Madrid Protocol
came into effect, until the end of 2015
the SPB has received

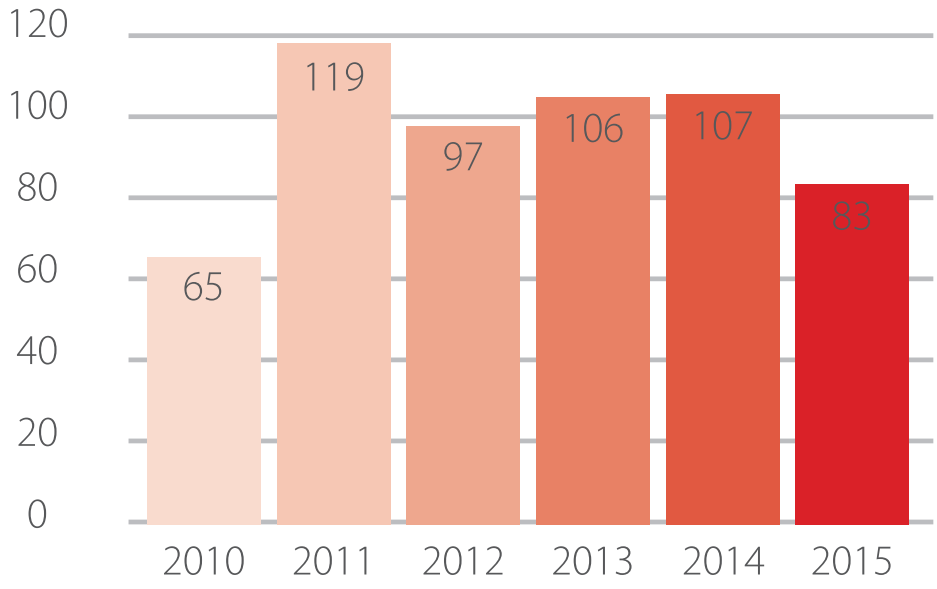
1,279

international applications filed on the basis of a national application or registration using the possibility to acquire mark protection in other countries available under the protocol.

1,140

international marks filed on the basis of a Lithuanian application or registration, are entered in the WIPO International Trademark Register.

THE DYNAMICS OF INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS FILED UNDER THE MADRID PROTOCOL BY LITHUANIAN APPLICANTS



COUNTRIES WHERE LITHUANIAN TRADEMARK OWNERS APPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARK REGISTRATION EXTENSIONS

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
AZ	5 (1,4%)	10 (1,4%)	12 (3,0%)	5 (1,3%)	1 (0,3%)	7 (0,4%)
BY	28 (7,8%)	41 (5,7%)	44 (10,9%)	29 (7,5%)	21 (5,5%)	17 (1,0%)
CN	10 (2,8%)	6 (0,8%)	5 (1,2%)	9 (2,3%)	11 (2,9%)	8 (0,5%)
EE	21 (5,8%)	28 (3,9%)	24 (5,9%)	28 (7,2%)	42 (11,0%)	26 (1,5%)
EM	13 (3,6%)	26 (3,6%)	29 (7,2%)	35 (9,0%)	37 (9,7%)	23 (1,4%)
GB	3 (0,8%)	16 (2,2%)	3 (0,7%)	8 (2,1%)	13 (3,4%)	6 (0,4%)
IE	3 (0,8%)	8 (1,1%)	1 (0,2%)	6 (1,6%)	8 (2,1%)	5 (0,3%)
LV	25 (7,0%)	54 (7,6%)	28 (6,9%)	39 (10,1%)	40 (10,5%)	27 (1,6%)
PL	16 (4,5%)	28 (3,9%)	12 (3,0%)	14 (3,6%)	25 (6,5%)	23 (1,4%)
RU	37 (10,3%)	60 (8,4%)	55 (13,6%)	58 (15,0%)	47 (12,3%)	28 (1,7%)
UA	28 (7,8%)	38 (5,3%)	37 (9,2%)	24 (6,2%)	11 (2,9%)	12 (0,7%)
Other countries	172 (48%)	372 (52%)	158 (39,2%)	135 (34,8%)	126 (32,9%)	153 (89,1%)

DISTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARK REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS FILED IN LITHUANIA IN 2015 ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Class	Class heading	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.	46 (5%)
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.	49 (6%)
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.	54 (6%)
30	Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments); spices; ice.	98 (11,5%)
35	Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions.	112 (13%)
Other		494 (58,5%)

DESIGN

Protection of design is provided under the Law on Design of the Republic of Lithuania, which entered into force on

1 January 2003.

WAYS TO OBTAIN EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO A DESIGN IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

NATIONAL WAY	INTERNATIONAL WAY	REGIONAL WAY
Under the Law on Design of the Republic of Lithuania, by filing applications directly with the SPB	Since 26 September 2008, when Lithuania joined the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement on International Registration of Industrial Design, registration of international design may be extended to Lithuania	Under Council Regulation No. 6/2002 of 12 December 2001 on the Community Design, under which a Community design registered with the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) is protected in Lithuania from 1 May 2004

Since the establishment of the State Patent Bureau until 31 December 2015, the SPB has received

1,832

applications for the registration of design via the national way.

1,592

design registrations have been entered in the Register of Design of the Republic of Lithuania,

319

of the registrations are in effect.

Since 2008,

332

notifications regarding the designation of the international design registrations in Lithuania have been received from the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Having performed the examination,

332

decisions to grant the protection were adopted.

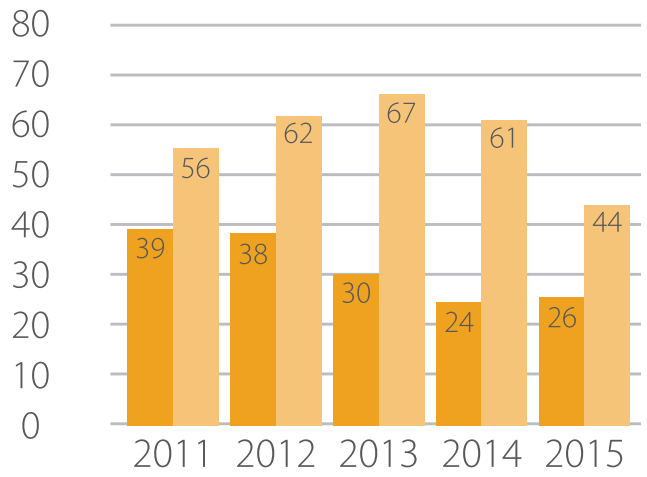
3,312

designs the applications for protection whereof have been filed via the national and the international way, and

888,167

designs entered in the EU Register of Community Designs were in effect in Lithuania as of the end of 2015.

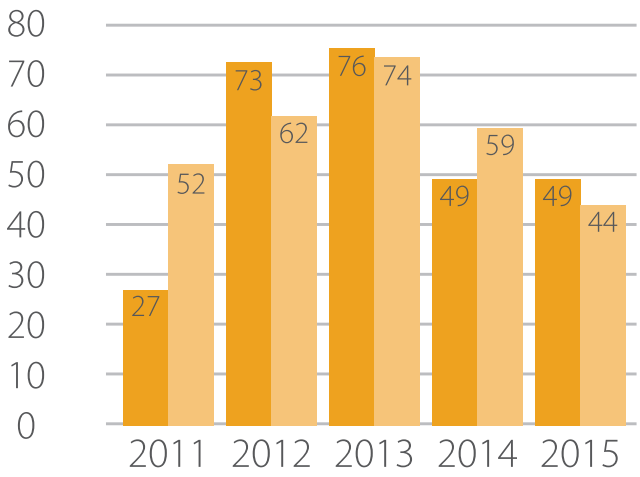
FILING OF DESIGN APPLICATIONS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN 2010–2015



Design applications filed with the SPB via the national way

Notifications on international registration of designs extended to Lithuania

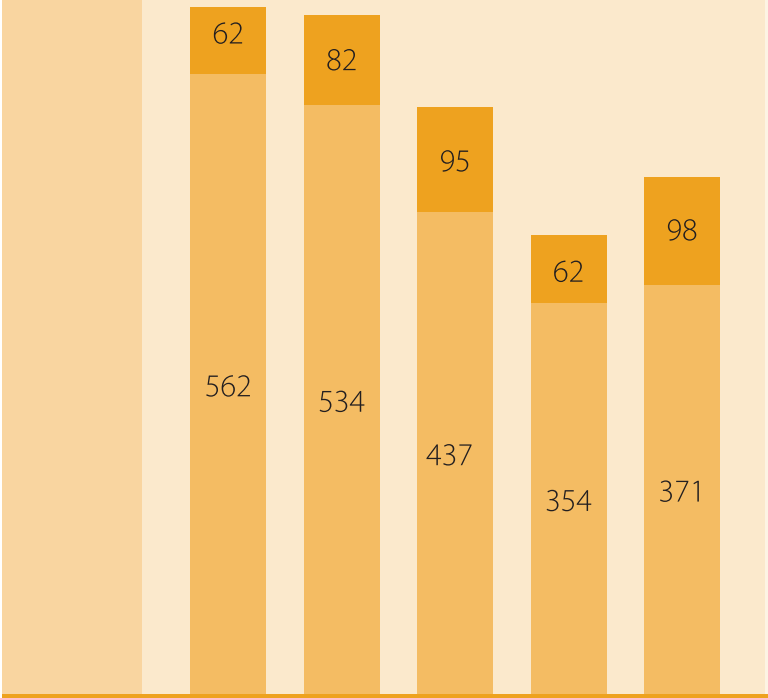
DESIGN REGISTRATIONS
IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN 2010–2015



National design registrations (including renewals)

International design registrations granting protection in the Republic of Lithuania

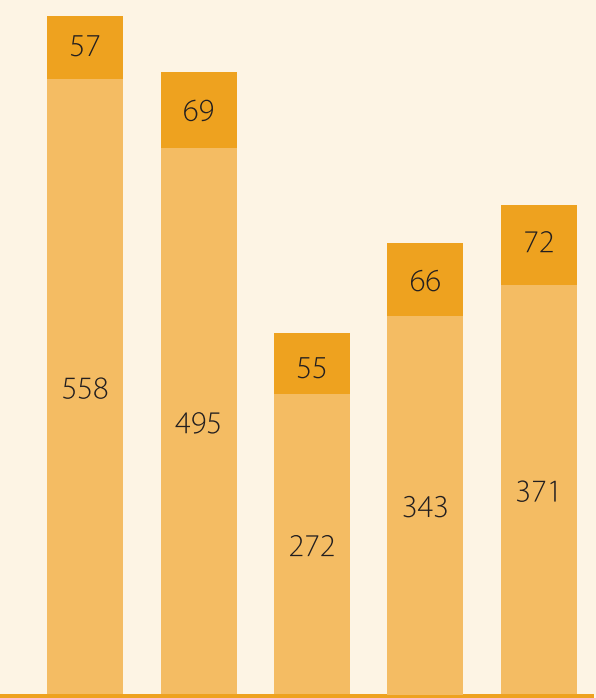
NUMBER OF DESIGNS, PROTECTION FOR WHICH WAS REQUESTED IN 2010–2015



Number of designs in the applications filed via the national way

Number of designs included in the registrations extended via the international way

DESIGNS THAT HAVE BEEN GRANTED PROTECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN 2010–2015



Registered national designs

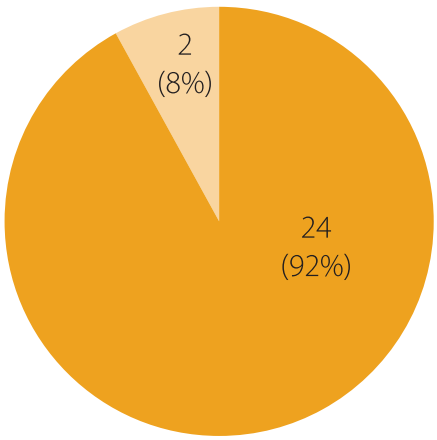
Registered international designs

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total:	623	616	532	416	469

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	615	564	327	409	443

2015

26 applications (**98** designs) have been filed with the SPB in 2015.

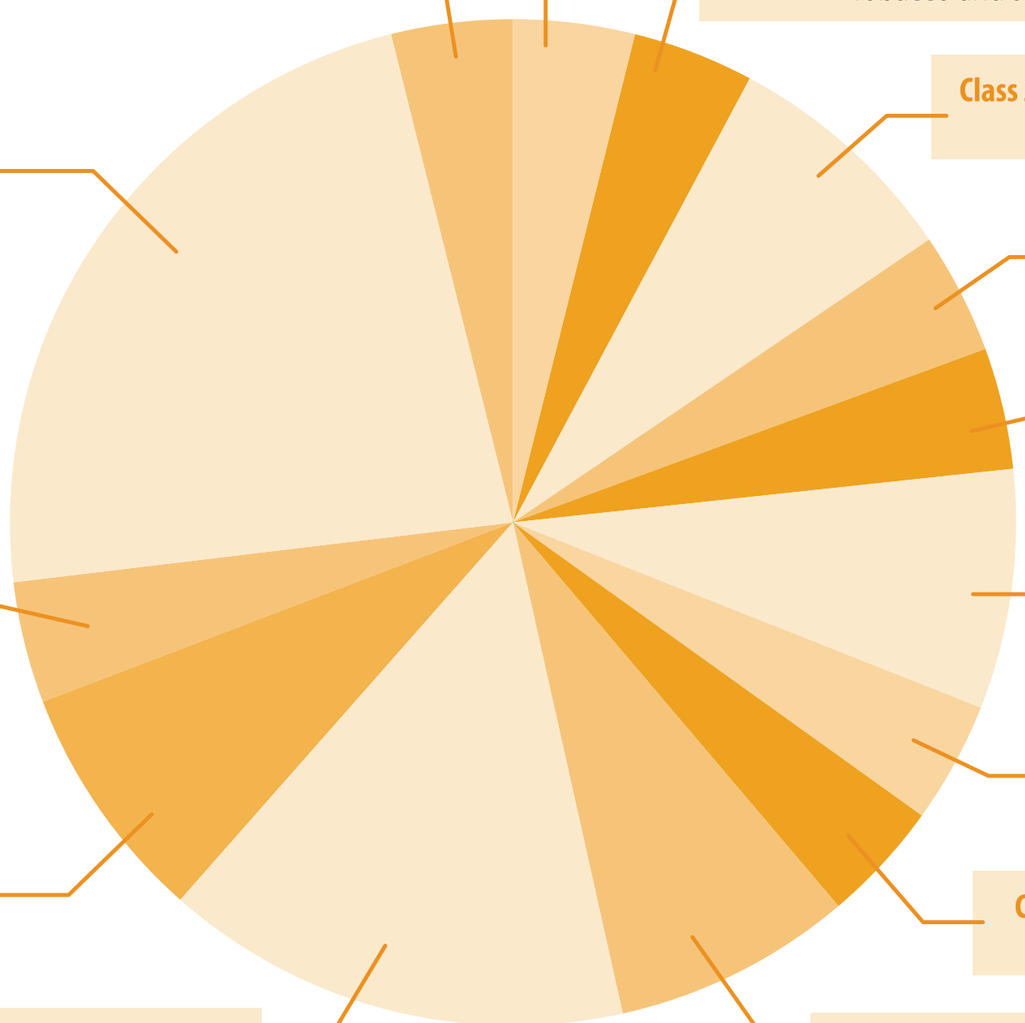


By Lithuanian applicants – 24 (92%)

By foreign applicants – 2 (8%)

AREAS OF THE DESIGN APPLICATIONS
ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL LOCARNO CLASSIFICATION

In 2015, the applicants filed design applications in the following areas:



Class 32. Number of applications – 1, 3,9%
Graphic symbols and logos, surface patterns, ornamentation

Class 1. Number of applications – 1, 3,9%
Foodstuffs

Class 27. Number of applications – 1, 3,9%
Tobacco and smokers' suppliers

Class 26. Number of applications – 2, 7,7%
Lighting apparatus

Class 2. Number of applications – 6, 23%
Articles of clothing and haberdashery

Class 22. Number of applications – 1, 3,9%
Arms, pyrotechnic articles, articles for hunting, fishing, and pest killing

Class 21. Number of applications – 1, 3,9%
Games, toys, tents and sports goods

Class 19. Number of applications – 2, 7,7%
Stationery and office equipment, artists' and teaching materials

Class 3. Number of applications – 1, 3,9%
Travel goods, cases, parasols, and personal belongings

Class 13. Number of applications – 1, 3,9%
Equipment for production, distribution or transformation of electricity

Class 6. Number of applications – 2, 7,7%
Furniture

Class 12. Number of applications – 1, 3,9%
Means of transport or hoisting

Class 9. Number of applications – 4, 15%
Packages and containers for transportation and storage of goods

Class 11. Number of applications – 2, 7,7%
Articles of adornment

2015

25 applications (**72** designs) have been registered by the SPB in 2015. All of them were registered on behalf of Lithuanian applicants.

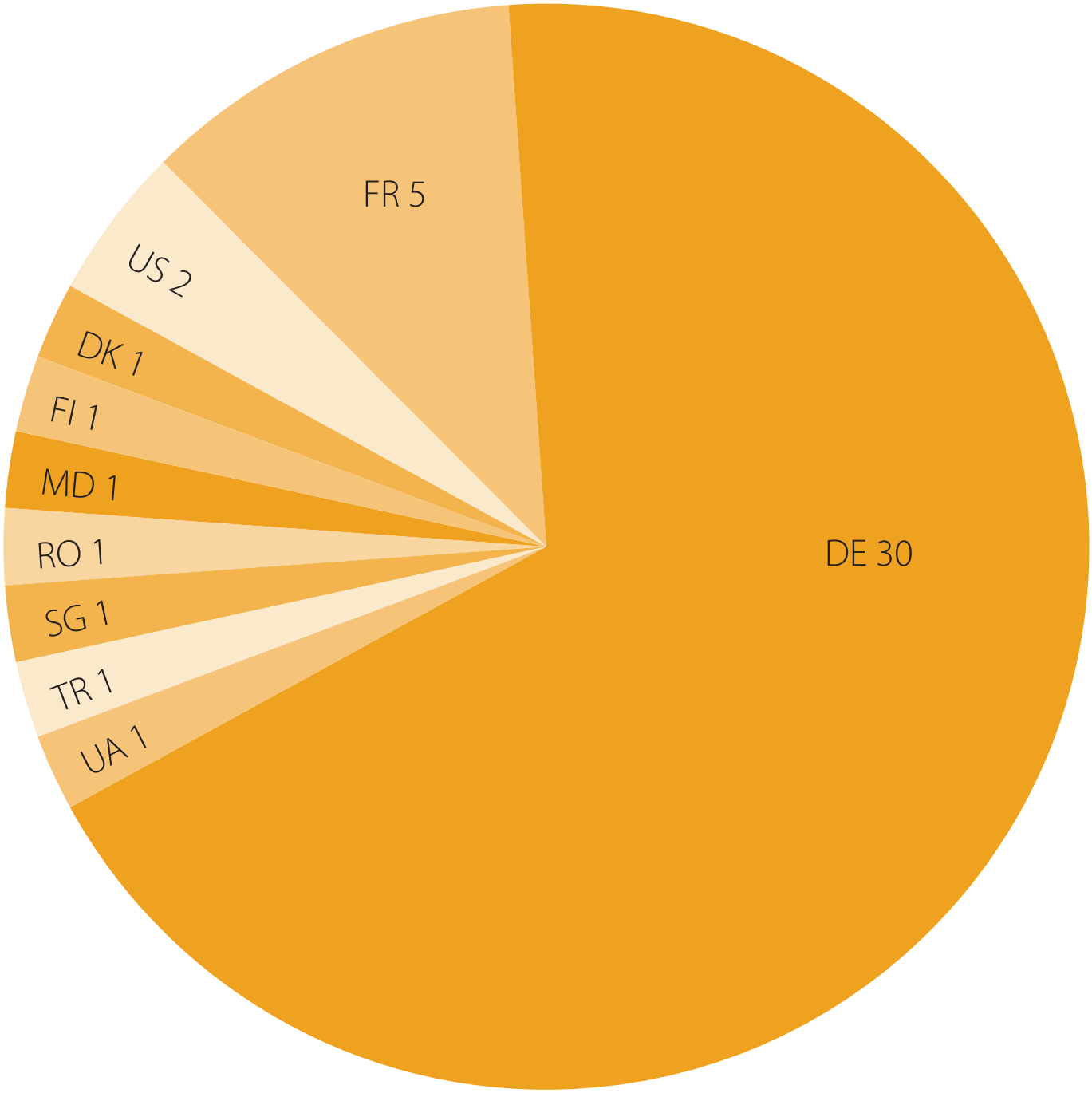
In 2015, **1** agreement on the transfer of rights have been entered into the Design Register of the Republic of Lithuania, **4** changes in the register were made, **24** design registrations were renewed and **27** design registrations were cancelled through non-renewal.



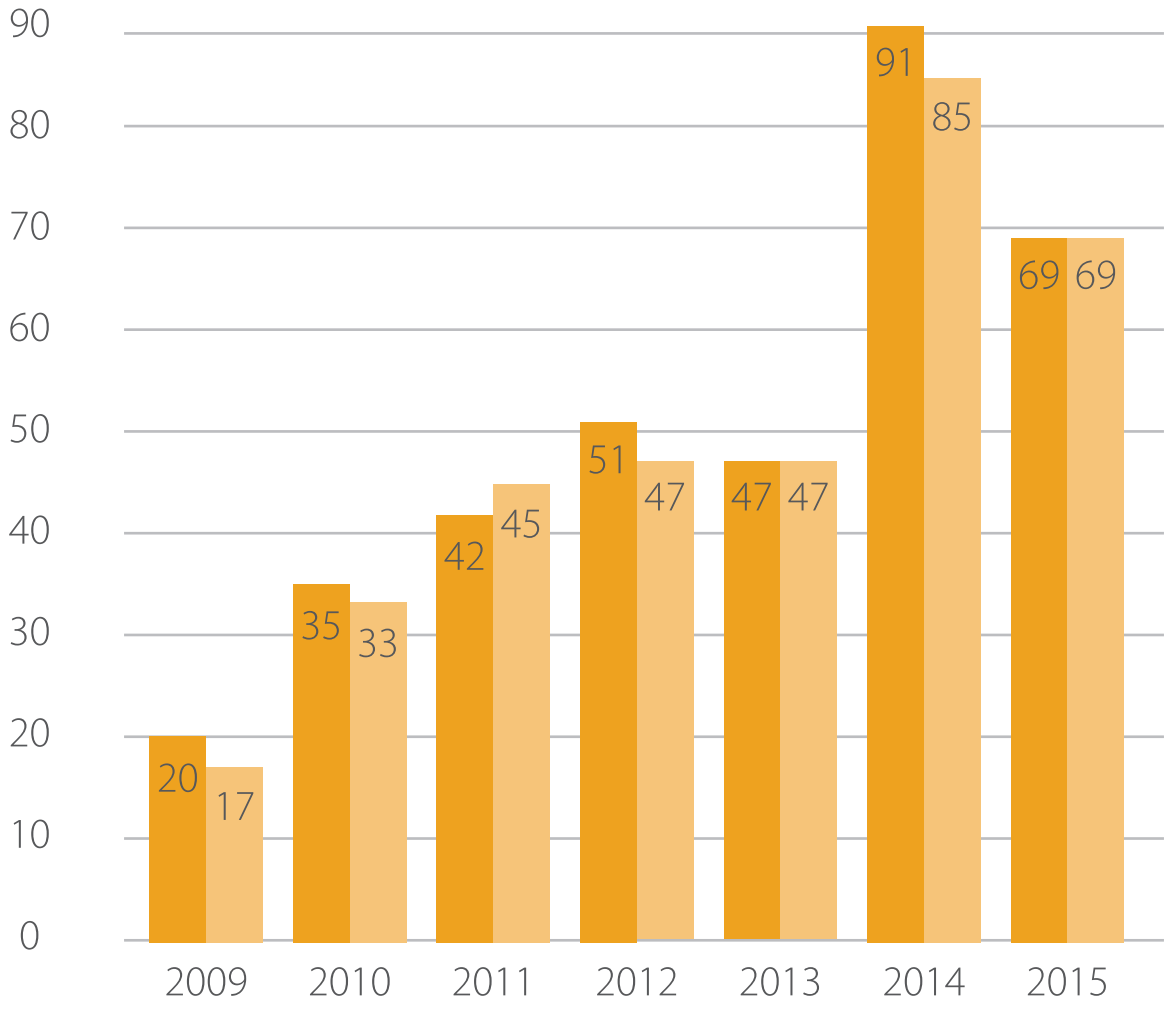
PROTECTION OF DESIGNS UNDER THE GENEVA ACT OF THE HAGUE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

In 2015, **44** notifications of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) concerning extensions of international design registrations to Lithuania were received. The SPB adopted **44** decisions to grant protection to international design registrations.

DISTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS EXTENDED TO THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IN 2015 BY DESIGN OWNERS' COUNTRY

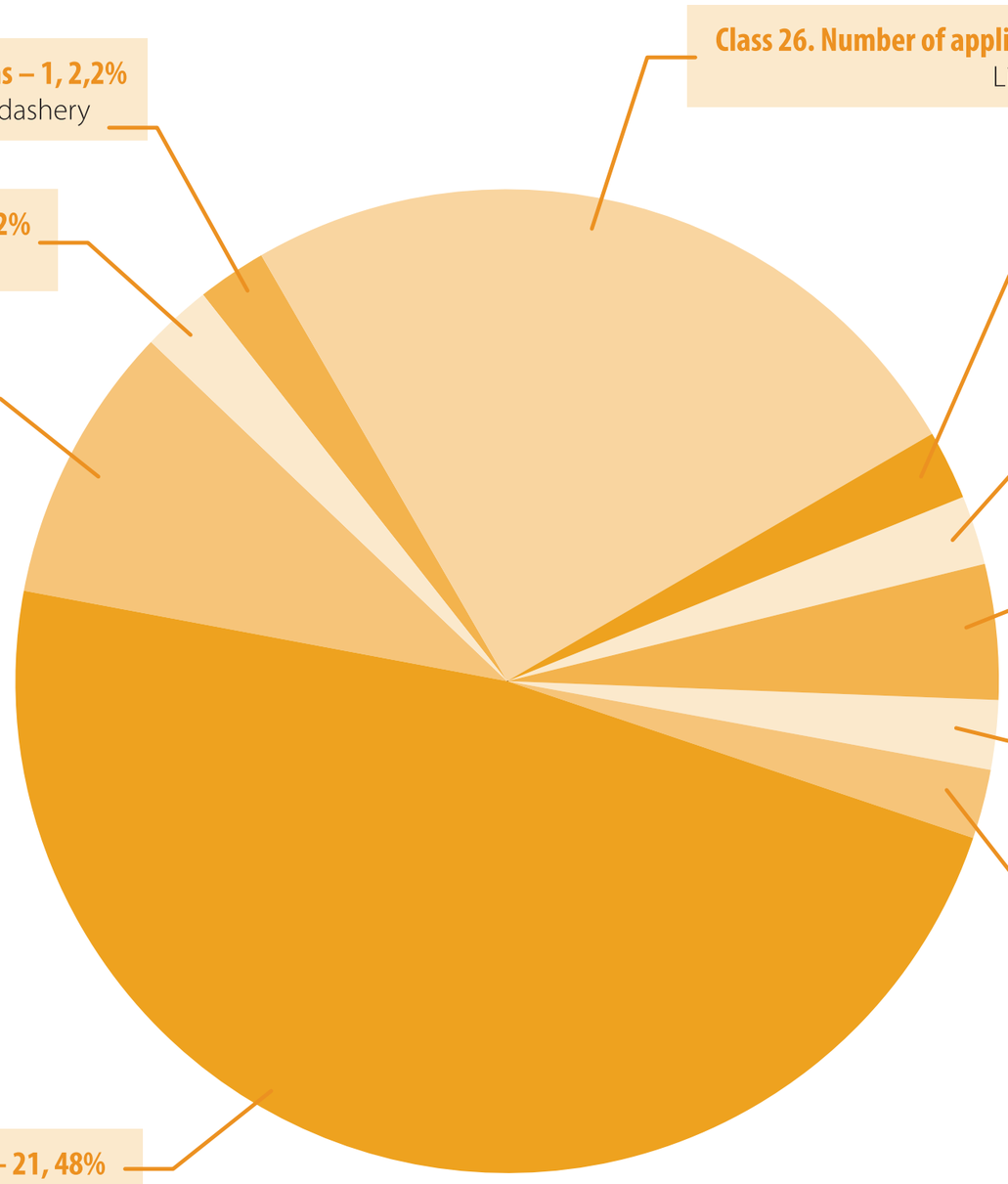


EU DESIGN APPLICATIONS FILED FOR REGISTRATION/REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF LITHUANIAN APPLICANTS IN 2009–2015





AREAS IN WHICH INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS WERE EXTENDED:



Class 2. Number of applications – 1, 2,2%
Articles of clothing and haberdashery

Class 8. Number of applications – 1, 2,2%
Tools and hardware

Class 9. Number of applications – 4, 9%
Packages and containers for transportation and storage of goods

Class 12. Number of applications – 21, 48%
Means of transport or hoisting

Class 26. Number of applications – 11, 25%
Lighting apparatus

Class 24. Number of applications – 1, 2,2%
Medical and laboratory equipment

Class 21. Number of applications – 1, 2,2%
Games, toys, tents and sports goods

Class 15. Number of applications – 2, 4,8%
Machines not elsewhere specified

Class 14. Number of applications – 1, 2,2%
Recording, communication or information retrieval equipment

Class 13. Number of applications – 1, 2,2%
Equipment for production, distribution or transformation of electricity

TOPOGRAPHIES OF SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCTS

TOPOGRAPHIES OF SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCTS

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.

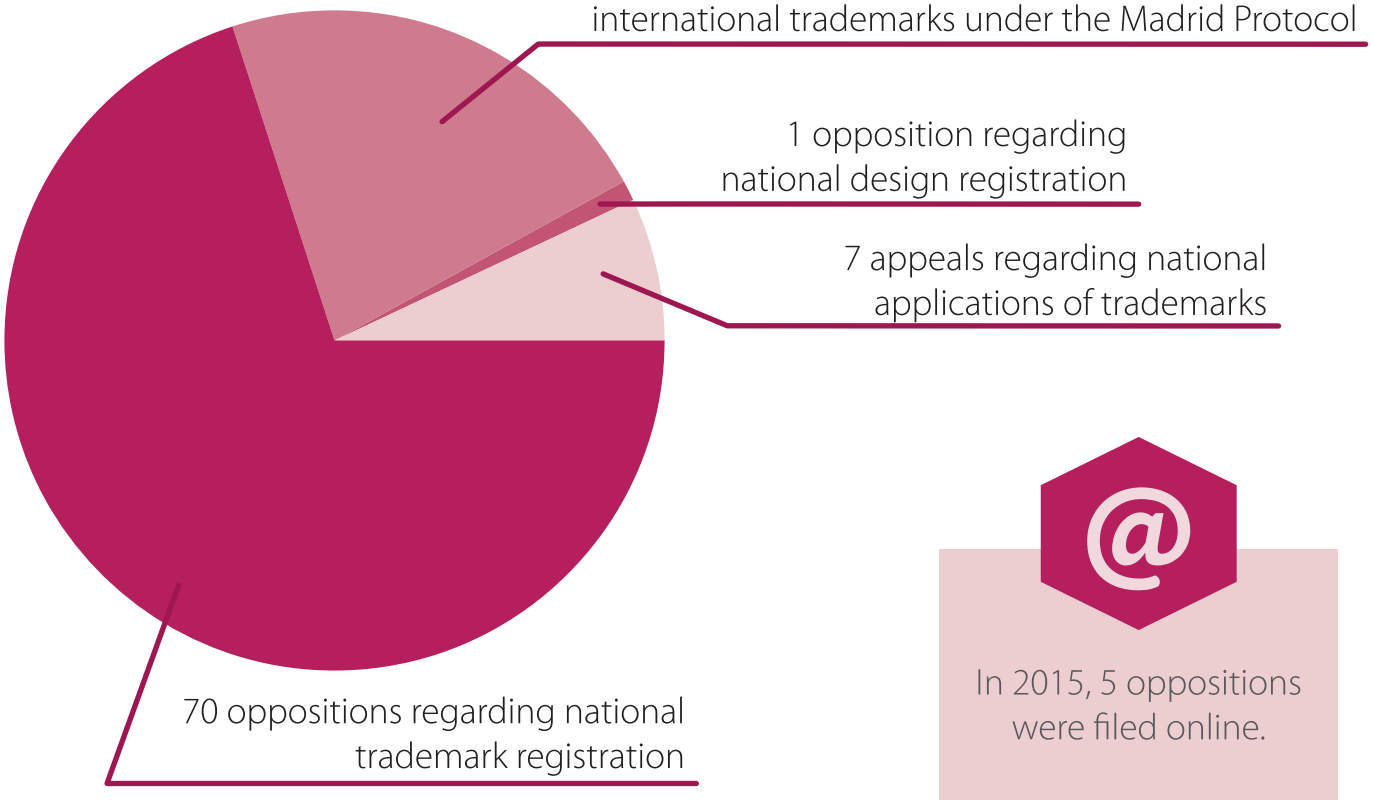
Till 2016

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

APPEALS AND 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, in connection with patent applications and applications for a supplementary protection certificate that are appealed against by the applicants. It also examines applications for the registration of a topography, assessment of design/trademark examinations and protection of the infringed intellectual property rights of interested persons.

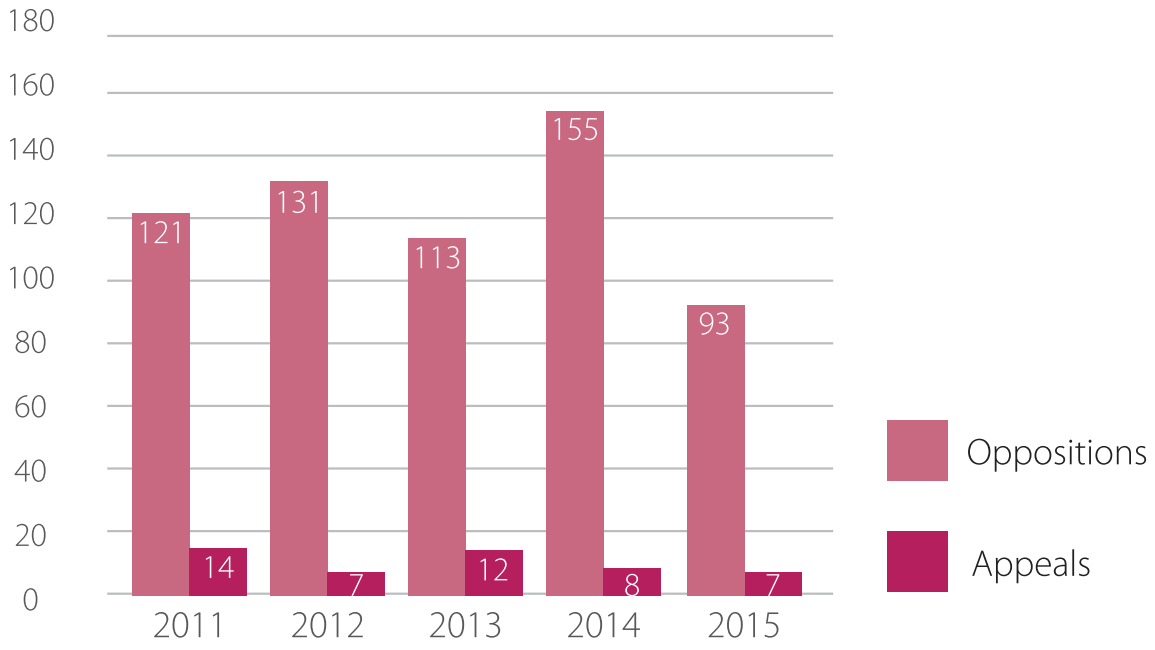
In 2015, 93 oppositions and 7 appeals were filed with the Appeals Division:



@

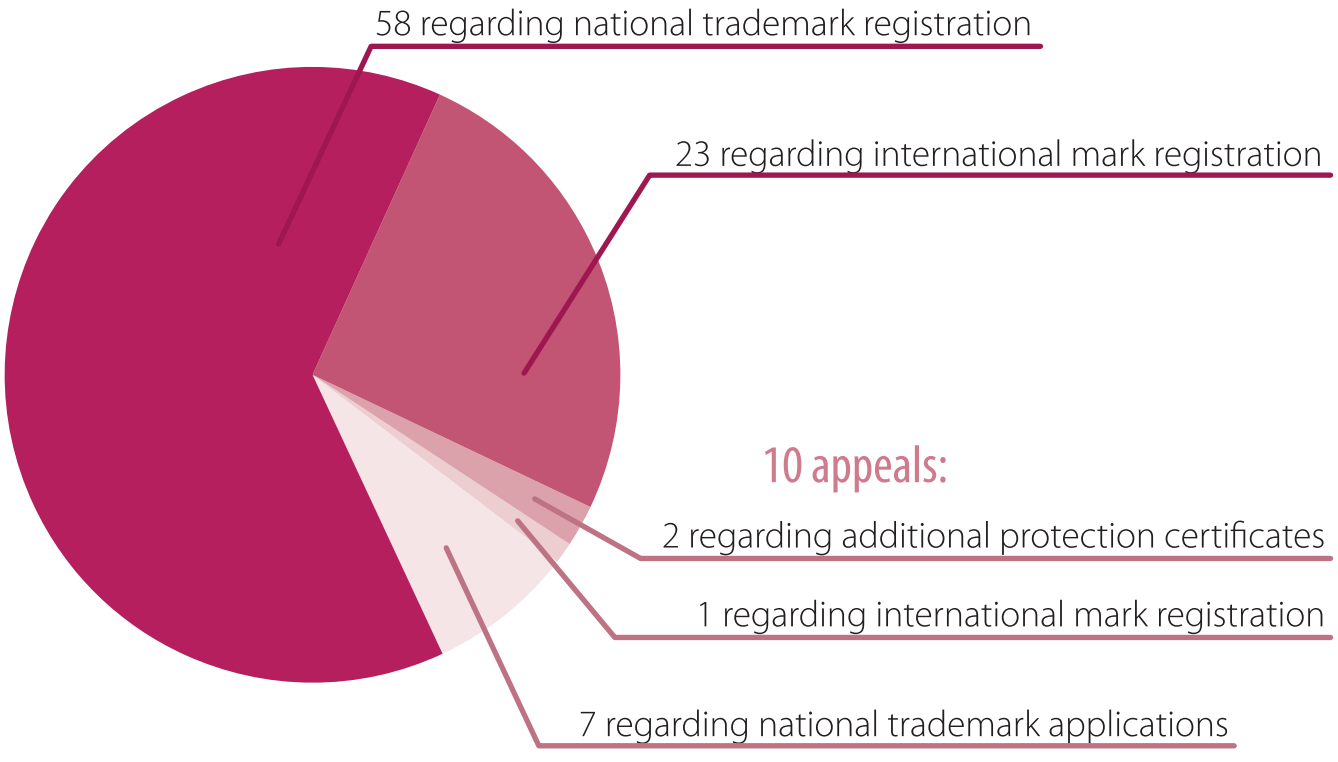
In 2015, 5 oppositions were filed online.

Appeals and oppositions received in 2010-2015:



In 2015 the Appeals Division adopted 85 decisions after the examination of:

81 oppositions:

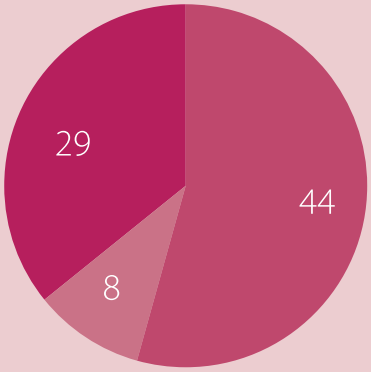


10 appeals:

2 regarding additional protection certificates

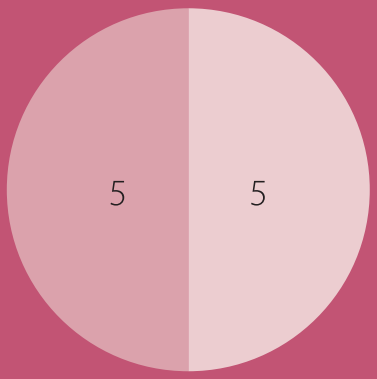
1 regarding international mark registration

7 regarding national trademark applications



By decisions adopted,

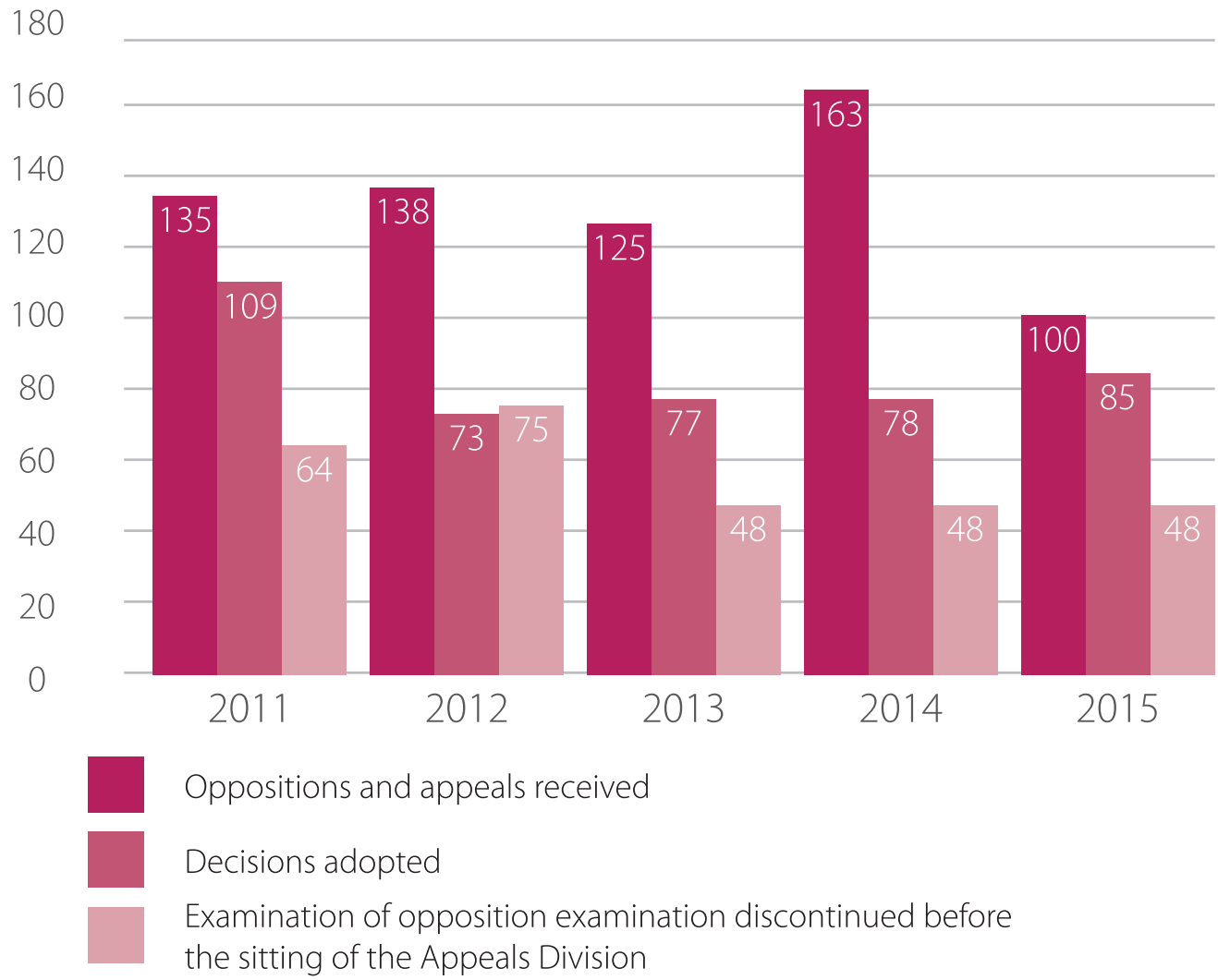
- oppositions were granted in 44 cases;
- oppositions were partly granted in 8 cases;
- oppositions were rejected as unjustified in 29 cases.

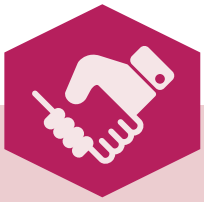


Results of appeal examinations:

- appeals were rejected and decisions of the SPB experts upheld in 5 cases;
- 5 appeals were granted and the decisions of the SPB expert were rejected in full or in part.

Summary of Appeals Division data for 2011–2015:





Parties in the dispute have an option to reach a peace settlement of the dispute after the opposition is filed: if the parties reach a mutual agreement, the examination of such an opposition by the Appeals Division is discontinued. In 2015 agreements were reached regarding

48 oppositions: examinations of

36 oppositions regarding national mark registrations and

12 oppositions regarding international marks registrations were discontinued.

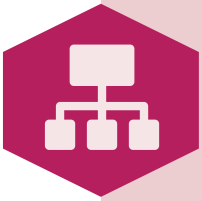


It should be noted that the right to appeal in court against a decision of the Appeals Division was exercised on

8 occasions.

In the course of the year, the first instance court overturned the decision of the Appeals Division on

2 occasions.



The Trademark Register and Design Register administration system (Backoffice) was introduced in the Appeals Division in 2015. It included the data of appeals and oppositions regarding national and international trademarks.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

MAIN RESULTS
OF EDUCATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

6%

Awareness of industrial property protection possibilities among business entities increased by 6% and reached **74%**.



The State Patent Bureau (SPB) continuously seeks to inform and educate the society about obtaining the protection of industrial property objects (inventions, design, trademarks, and topographies of semiconductor products) in Lithuania, the European Union, and the world.

For the purpose of publicising this information, events, competitions and news in the SPB website and the media were used in 2015: **14** events were organised or taken part in, **2** competitions/awards were announced and implemented, and over **120** messages concerning industrial property were prepared and published in the SPB website.

EVENTS

1

Seminars and discussions Possibilities of legal protection of trademarks and design in Lithuania and the European Union were organised in trade, industry, and crafts houses of Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Kaunas, and Vilnius. The main target audience of these seminars and discussions was the representatives of small and medium businesses.

2

A seminar on intellectual property violations and damage compensation for the judges of Lithuanian courts was held in Druskininkai. The judges of Latvian, Romanian, and Portuguese courts as well as the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) shared their experience. The seminar was attended by 50 judges of Lithuanian courts, 5 public prosecutors, and the employees of the Ministry of Justice and SPB.



Seminar for the judges of Lithuanian courts
on intellectual property violations and damage compensation (photo from SPB archive)

3

In the international conference "Unitary patent protection: what's next?" held in Vilnius, the speakers of the European Patent Office, the European Union Commission, Lithuania, Latvia, and Hungary discussed the advantages and challenges of the new system and its effect on the businesses and scientific and academic communities of the country. The points of the discussion were the effects of the new system on improvement of the investment climate of Lithuania, increasing the competitiveness, and attracting large investors.



Participants of the international conference "Unitary patent protection: what's next"
(photo from SPB archive)





Participants of the international conference
(photo from SPB archive)

Speakers of the conference:
Jean Luc-Gal, the representative of the European Union Commission (on the left), and Stefan Luginbuehl, representative of the European Patent Office
(photo from SPB archive)

The seminar "Design Protection: Are We Aware of and Use All Possibilities?" Discussed the legal and practical aspects of the designer's freedom of creation and the newest practice of the EU Court of Justice in the field of design. The information about the effect of intellectual property on the EU economy according to the study carried out by the OHIM and the European Patent Office was presented. The seminar analysed the reasons for relatively small number of registered designs and presented the projects of the European Trade Mark and Design Network in the field of design under the Cooperation Fund and Convergence Programme.



SPB Director A. Želvys greets the participants of the seminar "Design Protection: Are We Aware of And Use All Possibilities?" (photo from SPB archive)

5

In 2015, SPB representatives moderated and spoke in many conferences and lectures: on 24 November, they moderated one of the parts of the seminar "Intellectual Property and Its Significance in Creating a Competitive Knowledge Economy" organised by the Ministry of Economy in cooperation with WIPO and spoke in the MITA information seminar "Implementation of Cooperation in Search of National Patent Applications in Lithuania" and the innovation forum "Innovation Drift". On 5 November, SPB read a paper in the conference "Innovative Business: Have All Opportunities Been Exhausted?" in the KTU Santaka Valley and on 26 November, gave a lecture to the students of KTU in Technological Entrepreneurship.



SPB Director A. Želvys in the Vilnius Innovation Forum Innovation Drift 2015
(photo from Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology archive)

COMPETITIONS, AWARDS

1

In April, celebrating the World Intellectual Property Day, the designer Nauris Kalinauskas was awarded the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) medal for creative activity in industrial design. N. Kalinauskas has been designing interior elements, furniture, and series of furniture for various Lithuanian furniture manufacturers since 1996. In 2000-2015, the designer participated in many major international design exhibitions in London, Milan, New York, Singapore, Tokyo, etc. In 2007, he was the first in Lithuania to receive the prestigious Red Dot award and has been the prizewinner of the exhibition Baldai (Furniture) in Lithuania many times.



World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) medal
(photo from SPB archive)

2

The design competition "Create and Protect Your Design" was organised together with OHIM. The first prize was awarded to the designer Lina Maslenskienė for the design of toy cardboard sailing boat Kurėnas. The second prize was awarded to Justė Kubilinskaitė-Tarvydienė, the representative of the creation studio INDI, who presented the line of light fixtures and furniture made of recycled paper. The third prize went to Ieva Šileikaitė for the design of table setting equipment (puzzle coaster) "Sudėliok Lietuvą". The aim of the competition was to encourage the creation and protection of designs and introducing the Community and national design protection system and legal registration of design.



After the awards ceremony of the competition "Create and Protect Your Design": SPB Director A. Želvys, representative of INDI J. Kubilinskaitė-Tarvydienė, designer L. Maslenskienė, designer I. Šileikaitė, and SPB Deputy Director L. Mickienė

From 2006, the European Patent Office has been organising the European Inventor awards, which is one of the most significant events promoting innovation and their protection in Europe. The organizers of the awards seek to find and evaluate the authors of inventions significant to the economy of public, who create innovation in their countries. With the purpose of ensuring wider recognition to Lithuanian inventors, in November, SPB nominated the Lithuanian inventor Prof. Arminas Ragauskas for the European Inventor 2016 awards.

3

Information about industrial property presented clearly and attractively

Videos and brochures informing about search tools TMView and DesignView as well as electronic SPB services for online registration of trademarks and design were prepared with the purpose of introducing the EU design and EU trademark systems. Videos are intended to be the means of encouraging small and medium-sized innovative companies, start-ups and young creators to discover and use these tools in creating trademarks and design in an attractive form and modern style (videos are available in the SPB Youtube channel SPB Lithuania).

The information about Lithuanian patents was presented to EPT Espacenet and INPADOC databases every month. SPB internet databases of inventions, trademarks, and design were updated on a regular basis.

Information electronic publication "Annual Review of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania 2014" was prepared. SPB statistics for 2014 and 12 official bulletins were published.

SPB representatives cooperated with Lithuanian journalists and media and provided the information about obtaining of the industrial property objects and commented on various matters of this topic.



LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MAIN RESULTS IN LEGISLATION:

Simplified procedure of filing the powers of attorney with SPB.

Forms of documents issued by SPB adapted for electronic use.



Completed preparation for publishing the official SPB bulleting **twice** per month instead of once.

Completed preparation related to the introduction of the unified European patent and the Unified Patent Court system in Lithuania.

LEGISLATION IN LITHUANIA

2015

In 2015 the focus of law-making activity was on the improvement of e-services of the SPB.



In order to simplify the procedure of filing the powers of attorney with SPB, the applicants are now provided the possibility to file not only original powers of attorney, but also their copies signed by the principal or the agent or the data from the Register of the Powers of Attorney managed by the Central Mortgage Office. This change was implemented with the purpose of reducing the administrative load and taking into account the proposals made by the system users.

In order to consolidate the provisions, the Regulations of Examination of Appeals and Oppositions, Regulations of Design Registration, Regulations of Filing, Examinations and Issue of Patents, Regulations of Trademark Registration, and Regulations of Topographies of Semiconductor Products were amended by Order No. 3R-60 of 09/09/2015 of the Director of SPB.

In order to adapt the forms of the documents issued by SPB for electronic use, a new form of the extract from the registers and databases administered by SPB was approved by Order No. 3R-72 "On approval of the form of the extract from the registers and databases issued by the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania" of 20 November 2015 of the Director of SPB and the list of identification codes of data in the registers and databases was reviewed.

In order to ensure faster and simpler access of the public to patent information, the description of the procedure for publishing the official bulletin of the SPB was approved by Order No. 3R-79 "On approval of the description of the procedure for publishing the official bulletin of the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania" of 22 December 2015 of the Director of SPB, which improved the procedure of preparation and publication of the official bulletin of SPB, providing that the SPB bulleting be published twice per month (before it was published once per month). More frequent publishing of the bulletin ensures more expedient and efficient dissemination of industrial property information, because the interested persons are able to learn about the effectiveness of registered rights or amendments in the Patent, Trademark and Design Registers faster.

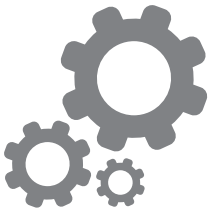
The list of e-services provided by SPB was supplemented by Order No. 3R-81 "On amendment of Order No. 3R-41 "On Online Filing of Documents with the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania" of 31 August 2011 of the Director of State Patent Bureau".

Proposals of the draft legislation needed for the ratification of the Agreement on the Unified Patent Court signed on 19 February 2013 in Brussels and the Agreement on the Setting Up of the Nordic Baltic Regional Division of the Unified Patent Court signed on 4 March 2014 in Brussels were updated in 2015 and submitted to the Ministry of Justice. In order to prepare for the ratification of these international agreements, the draft action plan of the creating the preconditions of the activity of the Unified Patent Court in Lithuania was prepared, the proposals for inclusion of performance of obligations of the Agreement on the Unified Patent Court in the planning documents were made, and the issues of providing the premises in Vilnius for the Court, where the regional division could examine the cases were addressed. The SPB representative participated in the meeting of Nordic and Baltic countries in Stockholm regarding the matters of setting up the regional court. The representatives of SPB participated in all meetings of the Preparatory Committee, meetings of Team 7 for European Patent Litigation Certificate of the Work Group for Legal Matters of the Preparatory Committee, and the meetings of the Select Committee of the Administration Council of the European Patent Office.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

MAIN RESULTS IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

OHIM and EPO projects were implemented, which resulted in the updated software of the register and the tools for improvement of SPB services were introduced.



A higher discount for national patent application searches by EPO was achieved (the discount was increased from **50%** to **75%**).



2015

In 2015 the SPB continued active cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) (Trademarks and Design), European Patent Office (EPO) and took an active part in the activities of the organizations. Cooperation agreements signed with the organizations were successfully implemented.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Same as each year since 1992 when Lithuania joined WIPO, Lithuania was represented at WIPO General Assemblies and WIPO committee meetings. In 2015, employees of the SPB attended 10 sessions of WIPO committees, working group sittings and meetings as well as other events organized by WIPO. In 2015, SPB cooperated with WIPO in implementing the bilateral cooperation plan for 2015 of Lithuania and WIPO related to dissemination of information on industrial property. One employee took part in WIPO training. The bilateral cooperation plan for 2016 between SPB and WIPO was agreed on in 2015.

OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION IN THE INTERNAL MARKET (OHIM)

In 2015, the State Patent Bureau worked in close cooperation with the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) in charge of the policymaking in the sphere of trademarks and design.

In 2014 representatives of the SPB represented the Republic of Lithuania at 6 meetings of Administrative Council and Budget Committee as well as joint meetings of Administrative Council and Budget Committee to discuss organizational, administrative and financial issues relevant to OHIM. Experts of the SPB attended 15 technical cooperation meetings of OHIM and representatives of patent offices as well as interoperability meetings of OHIM and representatives of patent offices on the issues of trademarks and design. 16 employees of the SPB attended 8 training courses held by OHIM Academy.

Educational events for the public and industrial property information dissemination events were held in the framework of bilateral cooperation plans with OHIM (see more in chapter Raising Awareness of Industrial Property Protection and Information Activities).

In 2015 the SPB successfully participated in the projects of OHIM Cooperation Fund (CF):

Project Backoffice was successfully implemented, which resulted in a new trademark and design register administration software introduced in SPB;

Forecasting, the tool for prognosis of industrial property object registration statistics, was introduced;

Call Center, the database of frequently asked questions, was introduced;

In 2015, while implementing the project Enforcement Database, contact persons of the institutions responsible for protection of intellectual property (the police, the customs office) were determined and their data was transferred to OHIM;

While implementing the OHIM project Anti-Counterfeiting Intelligence Support Tool (ACIST), SPB cooperated with the police department in providing the data about confiscated goods to OHIM;

The pilot project Case Law was implemented in 2015: key civil cases of the Lithuanian courts heard between 2006 and 2015 in the field of copyright were selected and analysed as well as criminal intellectual property cases and trademark cases of 2015. Publicly available court judgments and their summaries were submitted for publication in the database of the European Intellectual Property Violation Monitoring Centre.

OHIM Convergence Programme was also being implemented. Its purpose is to harmonise and unify the practice of trademark registration, to improve national trademark registration systems, to develop common classification tools for goods and services, and to carry out the inspection of the Lithuanian terms of classification of goods and services. In 2015, most focus was on convergence projects regarding submission of graphic design (CP6) and harmonisation of design product names (CP7).

More about convergence projects:
http://www.vpb.gov.lt/index.php?p=632&l=lt&n=633

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO)

In accordance with the European Patent Convention (European Patent Convention, EPC), in 2015 representatives of the SPB represented Lithuania at 4 meetings of the EPO and 3 meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee to discuss organizational, administrative and financial issues of EPO as well as the issues of legal regulation of European patents. Representatives of the SPB also attended 4 meetings of the EPO Select Committee to discuss the issue procedure and the fee system for European patents with unitary effect. In 2015 employees of the SPB took part in 7 different events held by EPO – committees, meetings of representatives of the member states and other business events.

Realising the need to expand special professional expertise in the sphere of patenting, and using the opportunities available in the framework of the multilateral cooperation program with the EPO, 9 employees of the State Patent Bureau attended 6 training courses held by the European Patent Academy in 2015, 15 employees of the SPB had the opportunity to perfect their foreign language skills.

In cooperation with MITA, the agreement regarding searches between EPO and SPB was implemented. Under the agreement, Lithuanian entities are entitled to a discount for searches of national patent applications in EPO. In October 2015, the EPO Administrative Council approved a higher discount for Lithuanian entities – it will be 75 percent as of 2016. In 2015, the bilateral cooperation plan between EPO and SPB was being successfully implemented.

COOPERATION WITH PATENT OFFICES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2015, the employees of the SPB attended annual cooperation summits and expert-level meetings of Nordic and Baltic patent offices, participated in the activities of the Preparatory Committee of the Unified Patent Court and events organized by patent offices of other countries.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

MAIN RESULTS
IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

91%
of activities in the State Patent Bureau may be done online by the applicants.

The proportion of applications filed online was
59%
in 2015.

The main purpose of SPB information systems is to ensure the automation of processes, data protection, and provision of e-services to the public.

State Information Resources Interoperability Platform and the E-Government Gateway Portal are used for providing e-services. On 31 December 2015, after adoption of the Regulations for Online Document Filing for SPB, patent, trademark, and design applications may be filed online as of 2015 and 64 out of 70 activities performed in SPB may be done online via E-Government Gateway. In 2013, there were 22 such services (31 percent). In 2015, the use of e-services increased from 45 percent to 59 percent. 33.2 percent of applications (3 percent in 2014) and 64 percent of various requests were filed online. In 2016, the availability of SPB services is expected to be 94 percent and the intensity of use – 68 percent. In order to raise awareness of SPB e-services, forms of extracts from the registers and databases issued by SPB were approved by order No. 3R-72 of 20 November 2015. Communication with the applicants is maintained via the Electronic Applicant Service System (EPAS), where the documents to SPB are filed in electronic form only.

2015

SPB continued the development of information systems. The main task of the IT Division employees was to upgrade and maintain the systems and workstations and to ensure their operation.

Technical requirements for hardware and software purchased were prepared.

The new Online filing plug-in for online filing of translations of European patent definitions has been deployed in cooperation with the EPO.



The IT Division designed the layout and published the official bulletin of SPB, designed other SPB publications and brochures, and the exhibitions organized by SPB.



The software for filing national patent application data for performing searches with EPO was installed.

The software was developed and European patent classification in the database was upgraded.

QaS

By the project QaS (Quality at Source), SPB seeks to ensure that the users are presented with quality data and therefore, it strives to provide the information to the users from the data source directly. To this end, SPB developed the database of references, where all references mentioned in the Lithuanian patents starting with patent 3001 were entered. This database is updated every month and reference data is transferred to EPO.

Electronic reference data transmission software was improved so as to ensure that EPO receives the most comprehensive data about Lithuanian patents.

In order to verify the completeness and integrity of the data of various patent offices, the main world patent offices decided to exchange the lists of patents in their databases. To this end, SPB developed the software, which allows providing this information to interested parties on a regular basis.

The web service was developed, which allows presenting the data about the legal status of the European patents to the European Patent Federal Register. The online database of the European patents in the SPB website was supplemented by tax payment information and is automatically updated every day.

Linra

A new trademark and design administration system Linra, including new TMView and DesignView versions, data filing with the international databases, uploading the data of international trademarks, appeal and opposition data, and automatic generation of design and trademark bulletin was introduced in cooperation with OHIM. All data was transferred from the former patent application administration system (Common Software).

Project management, cooperation, and help service software Jira was purchased.

Technical specification of the patent administration system was prepared.

The Division was engaged in the maintenance and updating of computerized workstations.

The function of issuing PDF documents signed by e-signature PDF-LT was introduced in the EPAS e-service system.

The operating system of the computer network management was upgraded (Windows Server 2012 instead of Windows Server 2003, which is no longer supported).

A new version of the document management system Avilys was installed.

Data analysis and reporting system QlickSense was installed.

A modern back-up copy service was purchased. All SPB server data is now copied to a remote data centre every night via an optic cable.



In order to ensure cyber security, SPB is cooperating with Infostruktūra VĮ and the Lithuanian National Computer Emergency Response Team CERT-LT and performs data security audits and risk assessment. The security is taken into account when preparing public procurement documents for hardware and software. The SPB website and e-service systems are protected by the cyber umbrella administered by Infostruktūra VĮ. The data between Lithuanian authorities is transmitted via secure national data transmission network. The requests for technology level searches of national patent applications and related documents are transmitted to the European Patent Office via secure transmission channel Patnet2. EPO search reports and written opinion documents are transmitted via the same channel ensuring data safety.

Data security documents are periodically updated and coordinated with the Ministry of the Interior: data security provisions, continuity plan, regulations for secure e-information management, and user administration regulations.

SPB data is backed up in a remote data centre every night and therefore, in case of a large accident, the operation of information systems may be restored in that data centre.

The purpose of security regulations is
to create the possibilities for safe and automatic management of the data in the information system: Lithuanian Patent Register, Lithuanian Trade Mark Register, Lithuanian Design Register, and other subsystems of the information system.

AIMS OF ENSURING THE SECURITY OF E-INFORMATION:

ensuring the confidentiality of e-information



ensuring the integrity of e-information



ensuring the availability of e-information



A security representative was appointed in SPB with the purpose of ensuring the security of e-information.

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EPC – European Patent Convention
EPO – European Patent Office
EUIPO – European Union Intellectual Property Office
IPC – International Patent Classification
OHIM – Office for Harmonization in the Internal Marker
PCT – Patent Cooperation Treaty
SPB – the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania
WIPO – World Intellectual Property Organization

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