Information Services

In 2010, a total of 30,629 (2009: 6,934) searches were performed. Of them:
• 15,204 (2009: 2,533) - in the field of patents and utility models;
• 530 (2009: 231) - in the field of the industrial designs;
• 14,895 (2009: 3,936) - in the field of marks, including 7 within the CETMOS (Central European Trade Mark Observation Service) project and 61 – for OHIM.

In 2010, a total of 26 searches were made under the Special searches programme.

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Patents and Utility Models

The applications for the registration of utility models amounted to 178 as in 2009, 175 of them filed by Bulgarians and 3 – by foreign applicants.

In 2010, 200 patents were granted and 131 utility models were registered. In 2010 provisional protection were granted to 4 (2009: 2) European patent applications.

The requests for validation of European patents in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria amounted to 1427 (2009: 1050), whilst legal protection was granted to 1493 (2009: 1049) European patents.

By 31.12.2010 the national patents for inventions and utility models in force were 2332 –1830 for inventions and 502 – for utility models accordingly.


Industrial Designs
In 2010 r. 202 (2009: 295) applications for industrial designs were filed with the Patent Office, by 93 less than in 2009. 200 of the applications were filed by Bulgarian and 2 – by foreign applicants.

In 2010 the Patent Office received 34 (2009: 35) applications for industrial designs under the Hague Agreement.

The applications filed by Bulgarian applicants using the Hague system were 25 (2009: 3).

In 2010, a total of 181 industrial designs were granted legal protection via national route.

Marks and Geographical Indications
In the course of 2010, the Patent Office received a total of 4860 (2009: 5140) national applications for registration of marks (4335 of them were filed by Bulgarians and 525 – by foreign applicants).

The applications filed via the Madrid Agreement and based on the Protocol designating Bulgaria as a contracting state decreased by 22% to 2235 (2009: 2853).

In 2010, 9 applications for registration of geographical indications were filed with the Patent Office.

In 2010, a total of 6465 marks were granted legal protection via national route.

By 31 December 2010 the national mark registrations in force were 54568 (33824 belonging to Bulgarians and 20774 – to foreign applicants).