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1. FOREWORD

The Annual report of the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2014 contains the most significant aspects of the activities undertaken, assessment of the progress during the year, and also points to steps which need to be taken in order to establish its position as a stable state institution protecting industrial property and a key factor in the implementation of the state policy in the field of innovations.

A highlight of our work during 2014 was the renovation and modernization of the internal technical IT infrastructure which was executed in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), as well as with the support of projects administered by the “Administrative Capacity” Operational Program. The possibility of submitting electronic requests for changes in the legal status of trademarks was introduced with the support of the Cooperation Fund of the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM). In order to strengthen the institutional capacity, increase public awareness of the protection of industrial property, and improve the services offered to inventors, as well as the work with academia, we continued our work under the Bilateral Cooperation Plan with the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Patent Academy (EPA). It is the eight year that we successfully signed and implemented the annual Technical Cooperation Agreement with the OHIM by conducting a series of information activities aimed at the general public, business representatives, law enforcement bodies, and industrial property representatives.

In 2015, we will focus our efforts on the implementation of electronic services related to the legal status of industrial designs and the improvement of the administrative system of the industrial property objects. We will also work on changes in the legal framework related to industrial property.

Kamen Veselinov
President
2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In 2014, another overhaul of the long awaited Law on Industrial Property Representatives began, which will be submitted to the newly elected Parliament.

3. PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY
3.1. Patents and Utility Models

In 2014, the Office received a total of 467 patent applications for inventions and registration of utility models (670 in 2013).

![APPLICATIONS FOR INVENTIONS DURING 2006-2014](chart)

Unlike last year, when the number of applications for utility models prevailed over the number of patent applications for inventions (373 to 297), in 2014 the applicants’ interest in the two objects of industrial property (IP) was almost equal – 234 applications for patents versus 233 applications for registration of utility models.

Overall, there was a decrease in the application activity in both types of applications relative to last year. With regards to applications from abroad, there was no change in the situation, the share of the applications filed remained low for both types.

In 2014, 566 decisions were made on applications for inventions, utility models, and supplementary protection certificates (SPC). The success rate of
the applications for patent for inventions was relatively low – a protection document was issued in 31% of the cases. In utility models, the share of the decisions for registration was much higher – 67%, which is mainly a result of the registration regime of these objects of IP.

The number of applications for patents, utility models, and SPC, which are subject to a pending decision, is 1,127. At the end of 2013, the number of applications for patents, utility models, and SPC, in the examination of the formality requirements, preliminary and substantive examination, was 1,330. Therefore, the number of applications which are subject to a pending decision is 15% lower.

As of December 31, 2014, there were 1,294 national patents for inventions in force (1,401 in 2013), while the number of registered utility models was 707 (606 in 2013), for a total of 2,001 (2,007 in 2013).

### 3.1.1. Patents

In 2014, the Patent Office received a total of 234 patent applications for inventions (297 in 2013). Of them, 220 were by Bulgarian applicants, and 14 – by foreign ones. There were also 6 applications filed pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).
In comparison to 2013, there were 63 fewer patent applications for inventions filed during the last year. This decrease in the application activity is approximately 20%.

The structure of the applications filed by Bulgarian applicants shows that typically the number of applications filed by private individuals (PI) exceeds considerably the number of applications filed by institutions – the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), higher education institutions (HEI), and companies (LE). This means that the economic activity of corporate enterprises, resulting in application activity, remains at a relatively low level.

As expected, the share of foreign patent applicants for inventions in Bulgaria is insignificant despite the overall low application activity in the country. However, there is an increase in the European patents in force in Bulgaria. As of December 31, 2014, their number was 8,909 (7,977 in 2013). This indicates that the interest in obtaining protection for inventions, and therefore in the economy of Bulgaria by foreign holders of patent rights, is increasing.
Once again, the largest share is attributed to applications for inventions by Bulgarian applicants from the machine building industry – approximately 46% of all applications filed. Next come applications from the electrical engineering industries and electronics and the chemistry field.

The ratio shows that regardless of the widely held belief that information and communication technologies have a leading role in the Bulgarian economy, they represent a small part of the country’s innovation potential, as far as it can be associated with patent activity. The applications in this field represent a small fraction of the applications in the “electrical engineering and electronics” group.

In 2014, the Patent Office received 3 (2 in 2013) requests for temporary protection of applications for European Patents in the country and 1,624 (1,868 in 2013) requests for the provision of legal protection of European Patents. Legal protection was provided to 3 applications and 1,613 European Patents.
In 2014, the Office received 44 applications for Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC) – the same number of applications was filed in 2013. 26 certificates were issued, and 2 applications were refused.

### 3.1.2. Utility Models

The number of applications for utility models filed in 2014 was 233 (373 in 2013), of which – 220 from Bulgarian, and 13 from foreign applicants, with 2 applications filed pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty. As with patents, the share of the foreign applicants was insignificant.

Of all applications for utility models, 199 were for registration, 26 were parallel to patent applications for inventions, and 3 were for conversions of patent applications for inventions.

The number of applications for utility models filed in 2014 represents a significant decrease in application activity for this object of industrial property. The decrease is approximately 38%.

It is important to note though, that to a large extent the high applicant activity in 2013 was the result of the possibility for the corporate enterprises
to apply for financing of projects related to the acquisition of rights to intellectual property on the innovations under the procedure effected in May 2013 “Introduction of Innovations in Companies”, part of the Operational Program “Development of the Competitiveness of Bulgarian Economy” 2007-2013.

The proportion of applications in the different fields (“Machine building”, “Electrical engineering and electronics”, and „Chemistry and pharmaceuticals”) is similar to that of patent applications, which confirms the above conclusion.

**APPLICATIONS FOR UTILITY MODELS DURING 2006-2014**

3.2. Industrial Designs

In 2014, there was a total of 244 applications filed for registration of industrial designs (70 fewer than the previous year), of which – 223 pursuant to the national route (NR) (280 in 2013), and 21 pursuant to the Hague Agreement (HA) (34 in 2013).
Similarly to the situation with the applications for inventions and utility models, there was a pronounced downward trend in the applicant activity for industrial designs in 2014. The decrease in the number of applications filed for industrial designs relative to 2013 is 22%.
During the reporting period, a total of 309 decisions were made on applications for registration of industrial designs, of which – 253 granted registrations, and 56 in relation to withdrawn or cancelled applications.

As of December 31, 2014, the number of pending applications for industrial designs was 102 (69 national and 33 pursuant to the Hague Agreement). As of December 31, 2013, the number of pending applications for industrial designs was 172. As of December 31, 2014, there were a total of 2,655 registered industrial designs in effect.

3.3. Trademarks and Geographical Indications
3.3.1. Trademarks

In 2014, the Office received 4,649 applications for national registration (NR) of trademarks (4,164 in 2013), of which – 4,215 by Bulgarian, and 434 by foreign applicants.
There were 1,771 international registrations (IR) filed to request operation on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria (2,160 in 2013) pursuant to the Madrid Agreement (MA) and Protocol.
During the reporting year, Bulgarian applicants filed 324 applications for international registration pursuant to the Madrid Agreement and Protocol (388 in 2013), as well as 25 applications for territorial expansion.

In 2014, we received a total of 459 oppositions, of which 423 were against applications for registration of trademarks pursuant to the national route and 36 against admitting the act of international registrations of trademarks pursuant to the Madrid system for international registration of trademarks, in which the Republic of Bulgaria is a designated country. The total number of decisions concerning oppositions was 428, of which 215 were about full or partial refusal of a trademark, 63 about rejection of the opposition, 141 about termination of the procedure, and 9 to not initiate proceedings. The oppositions filed were against approximately 9% of the trademarks applied for pursuant to the national route and against 2% of the international registrations, in which Bulgaria is a designated country.

There were 25 oppositions received under Article 38a of the Law on Trademarks and Geographical Indications (LTGI) (so called, absolute grounds for refusal) – only against national applications. The total number of rulings on oppositions under Article 38a of the LTGI was 22, of which – 10 were found to be justified, and 12 were found to be unjustified.

During the year, there were 4,025 final decisions issued on applications for national registration of trademarks, of which – 2,852 for registration, 52 for cancellation, 113 for refusal, and 1,008 – related to a case. Refusals constitute 2.8% of the decisions issued.

In 2014, there were also 85 decisions on applications for registration of trademarks, examined pursuant to the repealed Law on Trademarks and Geographical Indications, of which – 31 for registration, 47 for refusal, and 7 in relation to a withdrawal of application.

The total number of final decisions made on applications for registration of trademarks pursuant to the national route was 4,110.

In 2014, there were 1,704 final decisions issued on international registrations and territorial expansions, with 39 of them examined pursuant to the repealed LTGI. There were 34 refusals of admission to registration,
while there were 1,670 international registrations allowed to operate on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In total, 5,814 final decisions on applications for registration of trademarks pursuant to the national route and for international registrations and territorial expansions were issued during the year (7,351 in 2013). Together with the oppositions, the total number of decisions issued in 2014 was 6,242 (7,760 in 2013).

The total number of national applications, subject to pending decision, is 4,069 (5,063 as of December 2013).

As of December 31, 2014, the number of trademarks in effect on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, registered pursuant to the national route, was 54,862 (37,979 by Bulgarian applicants and 16,883 by foreign applicants).

3.3.2. Geographical Indications and Appellations of Origin

In 2014, the Patent Office received 6 national applications for entry of user of geographical indications and 4 of them were issued decisions for entry of user.

During the reporting period, 24 requests for international registrations for appellations of origin pursuant to the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of the Appellations of Origin and their international registration were received. 13 decisions on them were issued, with 2 appellations of origin refused for use on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

3.4. New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds

In 2014, the Office received a total of 21 applications for new plant varieties (38 in 2013) and no applications for animal breeds. Compared to 2013, the number of applications was lower by 17.

The substantive examination of the new plant varieties is carried out by the Executive Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection, and Seed Control, and of Animal Breeds – by the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding. All actions of protection after such substantive examination are performed by the Patent Office on the basis of the decisions and reports of the aforementioned executive agencies.
The data described above indicates a drop in application activity relative to 2013. In 2014, we witnessed a return of application activity to the lowest level since 2006, reached in 2012.

During the year, a total of 26 decisions on applications were issued. For 20 of them decisions were made to issue certificates, 1 application was refused, and 5 were cancelled.

As of December 31, 2014, there were a total of 392 certificates for new plant varieties and animal breeds in force.

3.5. Services to the Public

The Patent Office provides its customers with multiple services, which include a wide range of activities, such as registration of changes in the legal status of the objects of industrial property, maintenance of the vast collections of information sources, research on various objects of IP (free ones, performed with the methodological assistance of information and documentation experts, and paid ones – upon request by customers, etc.).
3.5.1. Changes in the Legal Status of Industrial Property Objects Claimed or Protected

The distribution of entries performed in 2014 in relation to changes in the legal status of the various objects of industrial property is provided in the tables below.

**TRADEMARKS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requests</th>
<th>Filed</th>
<th>Performed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewal of registration</td>
<td>3,044</td>
<td>2,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of name/address of the holder</td>
<td>1,288</td>
<td>1,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of the right</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing agreements</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special pledges established</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distrainnts</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in the tax registration (restriction of goods, refusal of rights, etc.)</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Industrial Property Representatives</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>1,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>7,236</td>
<td>6,915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INVENTIONS, UTILITY MODELS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requests</th>
<th>Filed</th>
<th>Performed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change of name/address of the holder</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of the right</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing agreements</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal of rights</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know-how contracts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>74</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EUROPEAN PATENTS IN FORCE IN BULGARIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requests</th>
<th>Filed</th>
<th>Performed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of annual fees paid issued</td>
<td>7,995</td>
<td>7,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of name/address of the holder</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of right</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing agreements</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>8,229</td>
<td>8,229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requests</th>
<th>Filed</th>
<th>Performed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewal of registration</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of name/address of the holder</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of the right</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing agreements</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges, collaterals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal of rights</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2014, there were 8 changes of name/address performed for certificates of animal breeds and plant varieties, as well as 4 for transfer of the right.

The data shows that “secondary” activities, which constitute a key element of the maintenance of the state registers of the objects of industrial property, represent a considerable portion of the activity of the Office, with the largest share attributed to secondary activities of the European Patents in force on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and trademarks.

### 3.5.2. Patent Documentation and Service

In 2014, pursuing the Patent Office’s function to provide public access to information in the field of industrial property protection, the topicality of the patent documentation was maintained, including the collections of patent documents, the Official Gazette of the patent offices and international organizations in the field of industrial property, the theoretical and periodical literature. The records of applications for industrial property objects have been filled by a total of more than 9,000 units in paper and electronic form. More than 1,900 descriptions of patent documents were scanned in order to provide the users with the publication of the applications for inventions in electronic form. The scanned documents were sent for inclusion and publication on the webpage of Espacenet, maintained by the European Patent Office. Bibliographic data, abstracts, and full descriptions of national documents for protection (patents and utility models) were sent on an ongoing basis for inclusion on the webpage of Espacenet.
During the year, the reading room of the Central Patent Library (CPL) served about 230 external users. Documents and dossiers were provided to employees of the Patent Office to perform their duties on a daily basis (626 requests were executed). Copies of a total of 438 documents (1,800 in 2013) were provided in paper and electronic form, and from Internet databases, upon request by external users and in favor of the Office’s activity. We also provided consultations and information on an ongoing basis in relation to the use of patent information and documentation, as well as to the general issues of the protection of industrial property (IP) within the competence of the employees (including via email and telephone).

In 2014, the downward trend in the demand for information services in the field of industrial property relative to previous reporting periods continued. There are various factors responsible for this – the influence of the economic crisis on all fields, including the research and development sector, innovations and application activity, the possibility to access free online databases, etc.

3.5.3. Searches

During the reporting period, there were a total of 5,933 searches performed for external clients, including state institutions, of which:

- 2,004 name searches on private individuals and legal entities for the Committee for Confiscation of Unlawfully Acquired Assets – 1,503 for patents, utility models, designs, plant varieties, and 501 for trademarks.
- 889 searches for external clients, in the field of inventions, utility models, and industrial designs for novelty, prior art of the technology, patent purity, name searches, legal status, etc., of which:
  - in the field of inventions and utility models – 174 (1,262 in 2013), including 24 under the Program on Special Searches (65 in 2013);
  - in the field of Industrial Designs – 38 (67 in 2013);
  - for legal status, analogous patents, name and numerical searches – 677.
3.040 in the field of trademarks and geographical indications (3,482 in 2013) for search of the presence of identity and similarity with earlier trademarks, subscription searches to monitor the registered trademarks, examination of the legal status of the trademark/geographical indication, etc.

3.5.4. Industrial Property Representatives (IPR)

In 2014, yet another training course for IPR candidates was organized and conducted, whose curriculum consisted of 2 modules: “Inventions and Utility Models” and “Trademarks, Geographical Indications, and Industrial Design”, with a total duration of 5 weeks. A total of 30 IPR candidates participated in the two modules of the training. Due to the late start of the preparation for the conducting of the respective exams, the examination session for IPR had to be postponed until January 2015, with 7 candidates expected to appear for the “Inventions and Utility Models” module, and 16 for the “Trademarks, Geographical Indications, and Industrial Design” module. During the reporting period, the topicality of the registers and databases of the Patent Office concerning IPR was maintained – new representatives were entered, deletions and changes in the address/name were performed, which were posted in the Official Gazette and on the website of the Patent Office. Block certificates for registration of IPR were also sent to the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market.

3.6. Disputes and Procedural Representation

The activity of the “Disputes” department concerns making decisions on appeals and requests regarding the registration of industrial property objects. In 2014, a total of 5 requests were filed in the field of inventions and utility models, of which – 3 for invalidation of a granted patent, and 2 for invalidation of the registration of a utility model, as well as 6 appeals against decisions of the examination department. During the reporting period, a total of 12 decisions were issued, of which – 8 decisions on appeals against decisions of the examination department, and 4 decisions on requests for the invalidation of a granted patent and invalidation of the registration of a utility model.
During the year, 12 requests for invalidation of registered designs and 1 appeal against a decision of the examination were received. 22 decisions were issued, of which – 20 on requests for invalidation of design and 2 on appeals.

In 2014, there were a total of 34 decisions issued by the “Disputes” department on appeals against decisions of the examination department on inventions, utility models, and industrial designs. 11 of them confirmed the decisions of the examination department.

In 2014, 88 appeals on trademarks, 51 requests for revocation, and 75 requests for invalidation of the registration were filed. Of the appeals received, 54 were against decisions on oppositions. A total of 228 decisions were issued, of which – 53 on requests for revocation, 54 on requests for invalidation, 78 on appeals, 13 decisions not to initiate proceedings, 30 on the cancelation of proceedings, as well as decisions to suspend or resume proceedings.

38 of the 78 decisions issued on appeals against decisions of the expert examination or on oppositions confirm the decisions issued by the respective departments. 12 of the decisions partially confirm the examination decisions, while the remaining 28 repeal the original decisions. Decisions for revocation
of original refusal decisions are also issued in cases when in the appeal, the applicant restricted the goods/services to these goods/services to which there were no grounds for refusal, as well as when a consent agreement has been presented or a request for revocation or invalidation subject to the appeal has been successfully submitted.

The activity of procedural representation is largely associated with the appeals cases of the decisions of the Office. During the reporting period, a total of 161 appeals were received (180 in 2013) against acts of the Patent Office.

Procedural representation on behalf of the Patent Office before the Courts in Sofia and the country in 285 cases was performed (261 cases in 2013). 154 court rulings were issued, of which 115 confirmed the decisions of the Patent Office. Therefore, the proportion of the decisions upheld by the Court was 75%.

The results of the disputes and procedural representations indicate that it is necessary to take measures to improve the quality of the decisions issued with respect to the objects of IP in the respective divisions.
3.7. Administrative and Punitive Activity

The jurisdiction of the Patent Office also includes inspections on infringements on the rights of trademarks, industrial designs, and geographical indications, as well as the enforcement of administrative penalties if infringements were established. During the year, 250 inspections were performed (289 in 2013), 173 acts of administrative offences were issued (197 in 2013), as well as 77 statements on lack of offence (92 in 2013). 215 penal provisions were prepared (295 in 2013).

More than 320 expert examinations and inquiries were prepared for pre-trial authorities.

The Patent Office also delivers opinions on cancelled prosecutor's correspondences under Article 172b of the Penal Code, sent to the Office by virtue of its competence. In 2014, the Office received 89 prosecutor's correspondences (84 in 2013). As of December 31, 2014 55 penal provisions were issued in their regard.

In relation to the penal provisions in force, BGN 66,669 was paid in fines and pecuniary sanctions by offenders.

4. INFORMATION ACTIVITY

The information activity of the Patent Office covers publications, issuing a newsletter on industrial property objects, maintenance of the Office’s website which disseminates information about events and other news, the organization of seminars, courses, and other events related to increasing public awareness and interest in the activities of the Office.

4.1. Official Gazette of the Patent Office

The Official Gazette is a monthly edition, which since 2009, has been published on the website of the Patent Office in its full volume, containing information about all objects of protection, administered by the Patent Office, about entries into the official registers, directories, information about the Industrial and Intellectual Property Representatives.

All 12 ordinary issues of the Official Gazette were published in 2014. Pursuant to the international agreements for information exchange, it was sent to national institutions, international and national organizations in the
field of industrial property, as well as to subscribers in the country, including PATLIB centers and university IP points.

4.2. Internet Website

In 2014, the topicality of the website of the Office, which covers more than 120 topics, was maintained on an ongoing basis.

Various information materials were published – official announcements, news related to the activity of the Office, statistical information, information on public procurements, information about the situation of various projects in which the Office participates, about draft laws, up-to-date information on entries and changes in the list of Industrial Property Representatives, information related to the protection of industrial property, changes in classifications, records concerning undelivered correspondence, etc.

4.3. Other Publications

Three short brochures were issued in 1,000 unit volumes, on the Common tool for similarity of goods and services, Electronic submission of Industrial Designs, and the Instrument for electronic education of small and medium enterprises.

In 2014, implementing public relations activities, over 30 materials were prepared for posting on the website of the Office, most of which were also sent to the media. Contacts with journalists from leading print and electronic media were established in relation to the publishing of information on the activity of the Office and the conduct of interviews.

4.4. Annual Reports of the Patent Office

In 2014, the Annual Report of the Office for 2013 was prepared and published, combining the most important aspects of the overall activity of the institution during the reporting period, as well as statistical data on various industrial property objects.

Furthermore, the Annual technical reports for 2013 were prepared and sent to the EPO and WIPO, as well as the annual statistics on all Industrial Property objects administered by the Bulgarian Patent Office.
4.5. Seminars

In 2014, in pursuance of the Patent Office's function to popularize industrial property, the following events were organized and conducted:

- 6 practical meetings aimed at the introduction of the current and potential users of the systems for trademarks and designs to the electronic tools created under the Cooperation Fund for Harmonization of the Internal Market of the Office. Three of the practical meetings were held in Sofia, while the other three were held in other Bulgarian cities. The total number of participants in these meetings was 192. They were organized in implementation of the Technical Cooperation Agreement for 2014 with the OHIM (Trademarks and Designs), signed for the eighth consecutive year.

- Seminar on the “Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)” in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization. Around 40 representatives of enterprises and patent experts participated in the seminar, as well as industrial property representatives, consulting agencies, and organizations in the field of industrial property rights protection. The PCT-system and its advantages were presented, as well as practical issues related to the filing of PCT-applications, the procedure for international applications, the national phase, and the activities of the Patent Office in its role of a receiving, selected, and designated institution. The lecturers were Patrick Genin, senior program expert in the “International Cooperation – PCT” department.
of the WIPO, and a state expert in the “Examinations” department of the Bulgarian Office.

- Seminar and “Discussion panel for the exchange of experience in the field of patent procedures” for approximately 50 participants, in cooperation with the European Patent Academy of the European Patent Office. The discussion panel was on the examination of patent applications in the field of biotechnologies.

- Seminar on the topic of “Intellectual Property and competitiveness of the small and medium enterprises (SME) in Europe”, organized by the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria with the assistance of the “Applied Research and Communications” Foundation, national coordinator of 14 Bulgarian units of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) – European information and consultancy network in support of
business. The seminar’s goal was to present to the public, consisting of 40 representatives of SMEs and experts on intellectual property and technological transfer, the results of the implementation of the IPorta project with the motto “EU Accessible Intellectual Property”, and with an implementation period from December 16, 2011 to December 15, 2014.

4.6. Other Events

In February, Bulgaria was visited by a delegation from the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market of the EU, headed by its president António Campinos. The event featured meetings in the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, a meeting with the deputy-minister of the Economy and Energy, and participation in the “Bulgarian Intellectual Property Day” forum.

At the meeting in the Patent Office, the focus of the discussions was on the latest developments in the Patent Office, the tasks performed under the bilateral cooperation between the two institutions, the activities related to the establishment of the European Trademark and Design Network, as well as regarding the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights. The activities related to the administrative punitive liability specific to the Bulgarian Office, which distinguishes it at the European level, were also presented.
At the “Bulgarian Intellectual Property Day” forum, the delegation from the OHIM and representatives from the Patent Office met with Bulgarian users of the European system for protection of trademarks and designs. Approximately 60 industrial property representatives and experts from the field of pharmaceuticals and the food industry took part in it. The work performed by the OHIM and the Patent Office under the Cooperation Fund and the Program for convergence of practices in the protection of trademarks and designs in the EU, was presented, as well as the latest achievements, such as the European Trademark and Design Network and the developments in the activity of the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights.
5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In the course of its work, the Patent Office performed tasks related to Bulgaria’s membership in international organizations in the field of intellectual property protection, as well as in bilateral cooperation with similar national institutions in other countries. Primarily, the cooperation is associated with the participation in three international organizations – these are the WIPO, OHIM, and EPO.

5.1. European Union

In fulfillment of Bulgaria's obligations arising from its membership in the European Union (EU), representatives of the Patent Office took part in 2014 in the meeting of the various formats of the Intellectual Property Working Group at the Council of the EU, where drafts of regulations of the EU are prepared and discussed. The Patent Office representative at the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU and national experts participated in the work for the preparation and discussion of the following documents, related to the improvement of the trademarks system in Europe:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council for the amendment of Council’s Regulation (EO) No 207/2009 regarding the Trademark of the Community;
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and Council on the protection of undisclosed know-how and trade information (secrets) against their illegal acquisition, use, and disclosure.

A representative of the Office participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the Member States for the establishment and preparation of the functioning of the Unified Patent Court.

Within the framework of EU cooperation, experts from the Patents department participated in IPorta, a project of the European Commission. The Agreement provides for cooperation between the national offices and European organizations to support business in service to small and medium enterprises. The contractual partners shall cooperate and coordinate their
activities with the purpose of enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, fostering dialogue with them, supporting the successful utilization of their intellectual property. During the reporting period, the project experts organized and participated in thematic workshops and a seminar.

5.2. European Patent Organization

Bulgaria is a full member of the European Patent Organization (EPO), which includes 38 countries and therefore in the Administrative Board and Budget Committee of the European Patent Office, whose meetings the Office attends regularly. There, the actions in the field of patent protection in the member states are coordinated and preparatory work for the introduction of a unified European patent is performed. The Office receives support from the EPO for qualification of experts (seminars, exchanges of experience, language courses), software support, and other activities (provision of software products, expert assistance in the implementation and maintenance), participation in joint projects, joint seminars for various target groups, support for initiatives for cooperation with universities for training in the field of industrial property, provision and receipt of information on industrial property objects.

In the implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Plan between the EPO and the Patent Office, Bulgarian experts participated in the following projects: “Preliminary diagnostics of small and medium enterprises”, “Discussion panel for the exchange of experience in the field of patent procedures”, “IT services and tools related to Patents”, “Enhancing knowledge of the European patent system”. A seminar-panel was organized on the topic of the examination of patent applications in the field of biotechnologies.

5.3. Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market

In 2014, the cooperation between the Bulgarian Patent Office and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) was expressed primarily in the activities pursuant to the Technical Cooperation Agreement for 2014, and under the projects of the Cooperation Fund and the Convergence Program.
Technical Cooperation Agreement

Under the Technical Cooperation Agreement with OHIM for 2014, 6 practical meetings were held with current and potential users of the services of the Patent Office in the field of trademarks and industrial designs. At the meetings, the electronic services for trademarks and industrial designs were demonstrated to a total of 192 interested parties – representatives of the business, industrial property representatives, etc. Three short brochures were issued on the Common tool for similarity of goods and services, the Electronic application of industrial designs, and the Instrument for electronic education of small and medium enterprises. An information campaign was also organized aimed at the popularization of the electronic tools created within the framework of the Cooperation Fund for Electronic Tools.

Cooperation Fund

In pursuance of the main objectives of the Cooperation Fund, which are limited to the modernization and simplification of the national systems of trademarks and designs via online services, initiatives to harmonize the systems of trademarks and designs and support the national institutions for the popularization and enforcement of the rights on trademarks and designs, the Office was actively involved in the implementation of the following 22 projects in 2014:

- Tool for electronic filing of request for renewals of the trademark registration;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for changes of name/address of the trademark holder/applicant;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for transfer of the right on trademark;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for entries of trademark licensing agreement;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for entries of special pledges on trademark;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for entries of liens on trademark;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for entries of refusal of right on
trademark;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for application withdrawal or restricting the list of goods/services;
- Tool for electronic filing of opposition;
- Tool for electronic filing of objections against the registration of a trademark;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for invalidation of the registration of a trademark;
- Tool for electronic filing of request for revocation of the registration of a trademark;
- Tool for electronic filing of applications for registration of trademarks – introduction of an improved version;
- Tool for electronic filing of applications for registration of industrial designs – introduction of an improved version;
- Creation of seniority databases – ongoing update of the relevant information;
- Videoconferencing between the OHIM and the Bulgarian Patent Office;
- Quality standards – updates of the information of the selected harmonized quality standards;
- Harmonized survey of consumer satisfaction – a questionnaire has been created and distributed which surveys the consumers’ opinion on the tools for electronic application of trademarks and industrial designs;
- Common electronic tool for similarity of goods and services – supplementing the database;
- Common databases for classification of goods and services – updating the database with Bulgarian terms;
- Designview – maintenance of an information retrieval system for applied and registered designs in the institutions participating in the project;
- TMView – maintenance of an information retrieval system for applied and registered trademarks in the institutions participating in the project.
**Convergence Program**

In 2014, the Patent Office was actively involved in the Convergence Program aimed at the establishment of a uniform approach to be applied by the Offices of all EU Member States and the OHIM in the various aspects of their activities related to trademarks. The Convergence Program covers seven projects:

- Harmonization of the goods and services classification practice for the purpose of trademarks registration;
- Common interpretation of class headings of the Nice Classification;
- Absolute grounds for refusal of trademarks comprising figurative elements;
- Scope of protection with respect to the other colors in black-and-white trademarks;
- How to deal with non-distinctive elements of the trademarks in the context of the relative grounds for refusal;
- Graphical representation of the industrial designs;
- Harmonization of the product names.

Within the framework of the Convergence Program, the Patent Office regularly provided opinions and information, presented its practice on the various issues covered by the projects, validated terms to be included in the common database of the goods and services, validated the translation of the terms into Bulgarian, etc. In 2014, 3 General Notes were issued which popularized the introduction of the common practice: on the acceptability of the classification of the general terms of the class headings (under Package 2), on the practice of black-and-white trademarks (under Package 4), and on the impact of the indistinctive and weak elements of the trademarks in assessing the likelihood of confusion (under Package 5).

**5.4. World Intellectual Property Organization**

Within the framework of the cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization during the reporting period, a seminar was conducted on the “Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)“, in which experts from the Office
participated. The work started in 2013 on the implementation of the IPAS system continued – it is an administrative information system with independent modules for all industrial property objects, developed and distributed by the WIPO. To accomplish this, a project under the “Administrative Capacity” Operational Program was prepared, whose execution was carried out mainly in 2014.

In 2014, representatives of the Patent Office participated in the meetings of the General Assemblies of the WIPO member states and in the meetings of some of the Committees of the WIPO.

Within the framework of the cooperation with the WIPO, various trainings were organized in the WIPO Academy, aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills in the intellectual property field.

In May, a delegation from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), led by Antonina Stoyanova, an employee of the Department for transition and developed countries, met with the President of the Patent Office and the department heads.

The topic of the discussion was the preparation of a National Strategy on Intellectual Property. Mr. Ron Merchant, member of the delegation, consultant on the project for the creation of the National Strategy on Intellectual Property, and former Head of the Intellectual Property Office of
the United Kingdom, shared his experience in the drafting of strategic
documents like this one, stated the reasons necessitating it, and presented a plan for its preparation.

5.5. Other

In 2014, the Patent Office also continued its work on chairing Working Group No 34 “Protection of Intellectual and Industrial Property” under the Council for European Affairs, by preparing Bulgaria’s draft opinions on EU regulations.

In February, a delegation from the Industrial Property Office of Kosovo visited the Patent Office. During the visit, training under the European project for strengthening the intellectual property system in Kosovo was organized, focused on the protection of inventions and utility models. The representatives from Kosovo were introduced to the structure of the Patent Office, its primary activities, and current statistical data. A key point of the training was the protection of inventions – the legal framework, examination of the formality requirement, examination of the description and claims, and patentability. During the training, a tour of Office was taken, as well as a visit of the Library of the Technical University of Sofia and introduction to the services related to patent information performed in cooperation with the Patent Office.
A delegation from the Industrial Property Office of Kosovo also visited the Patent Office in November. During the visit, the IPAS automated system for the administration of the industrial property objects was demonstrated, which had been provided by the WIPO and deployed under the implementation of the project “Improving the information and communication environment for application, examination, and registration of industrial property objects to achieve interoperability at the national and European level and provide better administrative services to citizens, businesses and state institutions”, executed with the financial support of the “Administrative Capacity” operation program, co-financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund.

During the visit, the “Open Doors Days” (practical meeting) event was also attended, organized by the Patent Office in cooperation with the OHIM, during which, the new electronic services related to trademarks were presented – electronic filing of oppositions and objections, requests for renewal of registration, change of name and/or address of an applicant or holder, transfer of rights, entry of licensing agreements, as well requests for revocation or invalidation of registration.
6. FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE

6.1. Information Technologies

In 2014, a task of primary importance in the field of information technologies for the Office was the completion of the project under the “Administrative Capacity” Operational Program called “Improvement of the information and communication environment for application, examination and registration of industrial property objects to achieve interoperability at national and European level, and to provide better administrative services to citizens, businesses, and public institutions”, approved for funding at the end of 2012.

We worked on creating the capability for electronic filing of requests for secondary actions related to trademarks and industrial designs.

In 2014, we continued the activities aimed at the development and improvement of the IT infrastructure of the Office.

The past 2014 was associated with the development of the information systems and technology of the Office. With the successful implementation of the planned technological and infrastructure changes, the Office took a major step forward in building a modern IT environment meeting all requirements and expectations with the relevant electronic services widely available to the public.

6.1.1. Activities and Projects in Cooperation with the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market

Within the framework of the Cooperation Fund, in 2014, the Patent Office introduced twelve new electronic services related to trademarks available to the public and businesses through the portal of electronic services of the Patent Office. In 2014, the following electronic filing services were made available:

- Request for renewal of registration of a trademark;
- Request for change of holder of trademarks;
- Request for change of the name and/or address of the holder of trademarks;
- Request for entry of licenses of trademarks;
- Request for invalidation of a trademark;
• Request for entry of a special pledge;
• Request for entry of a distraint (protective measure);
• Request for revocation of a trademark;
• Filing of refusal of right on a trademark;
• Filing of withdrawal or restriction of applications;
• Filing of oppositions;
• Filing of objections against the registration of trademarks.

6.1.2. Activities and Projects in Cooperation with the European Patent Organization

Under the cooperation program "European Patent Network" with the European Patent Office, a software module for electronic filing of patent applications e-OLF was granted to the Office, which was adapted and integrated under the abovementioned project “Improvement of the information and communication environment for application, examination and registration of industrial property objects to achieve interoperability at national and European level, and to provide better administrative services to citizens, businesses, and public institutions”.

6.1.3. Intra-Office Projects

In January 2014, a project for the reengineering of the “BPOon-line” information system, with an execution deadline by July 2015, was approved for funding by the Managing Authority of the “Administrative Capacity” Operational Program. The project was developed by the Patent Office and amounts to BGN 161,851. Its overall goal is to develop and expand the information scope of the BPOon-line system which provides information on objects of industrial property to the public and businesses. Three more electronic services are about to be implemented under the project.

In September 2014, the abovementioned project “Improvement of the information and communication environment for application, examination and registration of industrial property objects to achieve interoperability at national and European level, and to provide better administrative services to citizens, businesses, and public institutions”, approved for funding at the end of 2012, was completed. The project’s goal was to replace all existing at the
time administrative information systems for objects of industrial property by the introduction of the IPAS system developed by WIPO. The integrated information and communication environment of the Office was built on the basis of this system.

In December, after conducting a public procurement procedure, the internal IT infrastructure and local network of the Patent Office were updated and optimized. Modern servers were put into work, upon which a virtual server environment was built, and migration of the entire domain infrastructure from Windows 2003 to Windows 2008/2012, as well as of all application software products, was carried out.

At the end of the year, computer equipment was delivered, assembled, and installed: server and server equipment, 50 individual computer work stations, laptop computers, and office equipment.

6.2. Cooperation with State and Non-governmental Organizations

In 2014, the Patent Office continued participating in the Permanent Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Geographical Indications and Foods of Specific Traditional Nature, presided by the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The experts of the Patent Office submit reports, opinions, and expert advice to the Committee.

In 2014, the President of the Patent Office participated in the meetings of the Innovation Council of the Ministry of Economy and Energy.

Patent Office representatives also attended the meetings of the Monitoring Committee of the “Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy” 2007-2013 Operational Program, as well as in the Working group on the development of the “Innovations and Competitiveness” 2014-2020 Operational Program.

In 2014, opinions on the Strategy for Intelligent Specialization were also issued, as well as other documents related to the operational programs of the new programming period.

6.3. Organizational Structure and Human Resources

The organizational structure of the Office is represented in the chart below. The administration of the Office consists of three directorates with
seven specialized administration departments and one directorate with four departments of general administration.

**Organizational Structure of the Patent Office – December 2014**

6.3.1 Staff Number and Structure

The approved staff number of the Office is 115 permanent positions. As of December 31, 2014, occupied positions were 107.

In 2014, 21 employees were terminated, while a total of 14 employees were appointed under service contracts, and 5 employees under an employment relationship. Of them, 11 state servants were appointed as substitutions of servants under Art. 15 of the Law on State Servants. In 2014, 3 competitive recruitment procedures for civil servants were administered.

6.3.2. Enhancement of the Administrative Capacity

In 2014, the Patent Office was actively involved in training programs of professional development of employees in the state administration, offered by
the Institute of Public Administration, the European Patent Academy, the OHIM, and other training organizations. In 2014, a treaty for the provision of grants under the “Administrative Capacity” Operational Program was signed, co-financed by the EU through the European Social Fund for the realization of the project "Improvement and Strengthening of the Expertise of Staff of the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria in Order to Achieve Quality and Efficient Services to the Public and Businesses Representatives”.

The objectives set in conducting these trainings were to improve the professional qualification of the experts in the administration of the Office, to increase the effectiveness of the work of its employees, and develop the managerial skills of management.

The training procedures included the preparation and approval of the annual plan for mandatory and specialized training, coordination and filing of applications to training organizations, informing and ensuring the participation of the employees in the seminars under a schedule, monitoring the execution of the annual plan for mandatory and specialized training for the respective year, coordination and clarification of the changes with the relevant training organizations.

Altogether in 2014, 48 trainings were carried out in the organizations listed, in which 90 employees participated:

- Trainings with our European partners through the European Patent Academy and the OHIM – 18 employees;
- Civil servants, who passed training in the Institute of Public Administration – 67 employees, of which – 42 were trained under the “Administrative Capacity” Operational Program;
- Civil servants, appointed for the first time to the civil service in 2014 and passed mandatory training – 2;
- In other training organizations in Bulgaria – 5 employees.

6.4. Administrative Activity

In 2014, the Annual Report on the State of the Administration and a Report on Self-Assessment of Administrative Services were issued and published on time. The Report on the Implementation of the Objectives of the Office in 2013 was prepared and submitted to the Council of Ministers and the
Ministry of Economy and Energy and the goals for 2014 were approved, as well as the report on the implementation of the program budget for 2013.

To ensure the continuous process and activities of the Office, a total of seven public procurements were organized, of which three were public calls, three on open procedures, and one with a negotiation without notice.

Activity was also performed in relation to the access to public information in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Access to Public Information. In 2014, a total of 13 requests for access to public information were examined, with all request being issued the respective decisions. Four of them denied access to information.

**6.5. Budget**

The Patent Office is a secondary administrator with a budget approved by the Minister of Economy. This budget determines the amount of funds which the Office has at its disposal to perform its activities, and the amount of funds to be received as revenues in the state budget.

During the last several years, each year we have managed to reduce the expense funds which are not consistent with the needs of the Office and do not contribute to its establishment as a factor in the national innovation system and international organizations to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a member state. However, each year, as a result of our efforts, we manage to generate more revenues than planned in the approved budget. This implies that the number of services performed by a single employee, and therefore his or her productivity, is increased, and unless measures are taken to increase expenditures for salaries, the Office will soon be unable to meet the growing volume of activities at the required quality.
In 2014 once again, the designated expenditures are only 20% of the total revenues generated by the Office, which significantly hinders its activity.
Revenues

The revenues in the approved plan of the budget of the Patent Office amount to BGN 8,705,800, and the approved revenue plan as of December 31, 2014 amounts to BGN 9,804,000. The annual revenues generated in accordance with the budget amount to BGN 10,269,335 which is BGN 465,335 above the approved revenue plan, and BGN 1,563,535 above the amount laid out in the budget.

In 2014, the ongoing grants and donations received from foreign organizations affiliated with the EU, being an important revenue source, were separated in a separate financial report, outside the budget, in conformity with the modified regulations. The revenues reported in 2014 in the EU Accounts (EUA) – other EU funds amount to BGN 486,239.

The largest relative share – 89 % (BGN 9,885,410) is attributed to revenues generated by state fees collected by the Patent Office pursuant to the Tariff of the Fees approved by Decree of the Council of Ministers No 242/1999, last amended in 2011.

In 2014, the relative share of revenues generated by the services performed (searches on trademarks, designs, patent examinations, certificate issuing fees, tuition fees for IPR courses) remains the same at 2% of the revenues of the Office (BGN 248,971). The Patent Office also generates revenues from the fines imposed on the basis of penal provisions with regards to infringed rights under the Law on Trademarks and Geographical Indications, which amounted to a total of BGN 66,669 (BGN 70,738 in 2013) from the voluntary and compulsory collected fines.
In the revenues from state fees, the largest share is attributed to the trademarks pursuant to the national route – 36.27%, while the revenues from fees under the Tariff for validation and annual maintenance of European patents kept increasing and reached 30.14%, which puts them in second place.

Proceeds from the WIPO were also received under the Madrid Agreement and Protocol, and the Hague Agreement, representing 14.28% of the total amount of revenues in 2014.
Expenses

The expenses specified in the 2014 budget of the Patent Office amount to BGN 2,422,900, and the approved expense plan amounts to BGN 2,611,560. The expenses incurred in 2014 were BGN 2,524,393.
The expenditures for the staff (salaries, other remuneration, and social security payments) have a predominant place in the budgeted expenses – 71% or BGN 1,798,472.

Maintenance expenditures account for 24% of the total budgeted expenses, and were decreased by 27.84% in 2014 relative to 2013 (BGN 596,763 in 2014, and BGN 827,036 in 2013).

The expenses for membership dues, taxes and fees, and capital expenditures constitute 5% of total expenditures.

The expenditures of funds from EU Accounts (EUA) – other EU funds amount to BGN 330,820.
### APPLICATIONS FOR INVENTIONS AND UTILITY MODELS 2013 – 2014, BY FIELD AND APPLICANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIELD</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Inventions</td>
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<td>Machine building</td>
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### DECISIONS ISSUED ON APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS, REGISTRATION OF UTILITY MODELS AND SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATES (SPC) IN 2014

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<td>Cancelled, refused, withdrawn applications</td>
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<td>Withdrawn or not dated at the examination of the formality requirement stage</td>
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### APPLICATIONS FOR INVENTIONS BY BULGARIAN APPLICANTS DURING 2006 – 2014

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### FILED REQUESTS AND EUROPEAN PATENTS IN FORCE ON THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA DURING 2006 - 2014

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**FILED APPLICATIONS FOR UTILITY MODELS DURING 2006 – 2014**

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**FILED APPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS PURSUANT TO THE NATIONAL ROUTE DURING 2006 – 2014**

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**DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS IN 2013 - 2014**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF TRADEMARKS IN 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision type</th>
<th>National route</th>
<th>MA and Protocol</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>2,883</td>
<td>1,670</td>
<td>4,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused/cancelled/withdrawn</td>
<td>1,227</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,110</td>
<td>1,704</td>
<td>5,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decisions on oppositions</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total decisions</td>
<td>4,508</td>
<td>1,734</td>
<td>6,242</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FILED APPLICATIONS FOR NEW PLANT VARIETIES AND ANIMAL BREEDS DURING 2006 – 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPEALS AND REQUESTS DURING 2006 – 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objects</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inventions and utility</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>models</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial designs</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trademarks</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## REVENUES FROM STATE FEES FOR IP OBJECTS DURING 2009 – 2014, IN THOUSANDS OF BGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IP object</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trademarks – registration pursuant to the national route</td>
<td>4,085</td>
<td>3,573</td>
<td>3,210</td>
<td>3,929</td>
<td>4,136</td>
<td>3,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trademarks – international registration pursuant to the MA and Protocol (Bulgarian applicants)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trademarks – international registration pursuant to the MA and Protocol (foreign applicants)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,401</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patents, utility models, SPC, certificates</td>
<td>1,939</td>
<td>1,774</td>
<td>1,782</td>
<td>1,634</td>
<td>1,666</td>
<td>1,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European patents</td>
<td>1,097</td>
<td>1,415</td>
<td>1,946</td>
<td>2,149</td>
<td>2,568</td>
<td>2,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial designs – pursuant to the national route and the HA (Bulgarian applicants)</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial designs – pursuant to the HA (foreign applicants)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant varieties and animal breeds</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,693</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,439</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,703</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,469</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,200</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,885</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### EXPENSES OF THE PATENT OFFICE SPECIFIED IN THE BUDGETS DURING 2009 – 2014, IN THOUSANDS OF BGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense type</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the staff (salaries, other remuneration, and social security payments)</td>
<td>2,207</td>
<td>1,826</td>
<td>1,919</td>
<td>1,811</td>
<td>1,788</td>
<td>1,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance expenses, taxes and fees</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fee expenses</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital expenditures – acquisition of long-term assets</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL expenses:</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,256</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,702</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,740</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,598</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,797</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,524</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>