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On 14 February this year, at the AGEPI has been conducted the review meeting of the activity conducted by the Agency's staff last year, attended by Acad. Boris GAINA, coordinator of the Agricultural Sciences Division of ASM, Acad. Leonid CULIUC, coordinator of the Natural and Exact Sciences Division, c.m. Tudor LUPASCO, director of the Institute of Chemistry of ASM, c.m. Anatolie SIDORENCO, director of the Institute of Electronic Engineering and Nanotechnologies of ASM. The meeting was led by Dr. Lilia Bolocan, Director General of AGEPI, and managers of the Agency subdivisions have reviewed the main achievements of the year that has passed on patenting/registration of IPO and relevant indexes in other spheres of activity.

In her opening speech, Dr. Lilia Bolocan, Director General of AGEPI, noted that 2012 was a successful year, the objectives the Agency has set forth being implemented, but the economic crisis began also to be felt by AGEPI.

Among the most important events of the year under review AGEPI Director General highlighted the development and approval by the Government of the National Intellectual Property Strategy until 2020 and the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for 2012-2014, projects developed under the aegis of the National Commission on Intellectual Property (NCIP). Of the most important goals of the Strategy were mentioned: encouraging the creation, protection and use of intellectual property as a key tool in creating the conditions for country's transition to the innovational model of economic growth; continuous improvement of the legal framework in the field, including by harmonizing its legislation with the EU legislation, implementation of international treaties to which the Republic of Moldova is party and Moldova's integration into the European and international intellectual space; strengthening the institutional capacities of relevant bodies with functions and responsibilities for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, etc.

Ms. Bolocan reiterated in her speech that cooperation with WIPO, Member States of the Organization becomes every year more closely. Thus, in 2012, Mr. Francis Gurry, WIPO Director General, paid a two-day visit to Moldova at the invitation of Prime Minister Vladimir Filat. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and WIPO on cooperation in the field of intellectual property. Also, during his visit paid to AGEPI, the Director General of WIPO signed together with the Director General of AGEPI two reference documents: the Program on the Patent Cooperation Treaty and problems associated with patents (PCT) and the Memorandum of Cooperation on Electronic Communication under the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks.

In the year under review, our country continued to benefit from EU assistance. Thus, in 2012 has ended the Twinning Project "Support to Implementation and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the Republic of Moldova", implemented by a consortium formed of the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO) and the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks of Romania (OSIM). In the project were conducted 50 activities, including the Public Consumer Awareness Campaign entitled "STOP Piracy and Counterfeiting!"

During the reporting period, AGEPI began implementing the quality management system ISO 9001:2008, implemented the service for online submission of applications for protection and on-line payment of fees.

Speaking about the projects to be implemented in 2013, the Director General of AGEPI stopped on complex tasks, such as:

- implementation of the National Strategy by strengthening the legal, institutional and social framework adequate for the creation, protection, management and plenary use of intellectual property potential that contributes to the development of a competitive national economy;
- finalization of negotiations with the EPO on the validation of European patents in order to

promote IP rights;
- launch of cooperation relations with the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM);
- training of judges in the IP protection field by organizing a seminar with international participation;
- promotion in our country of the system of geographical indications, appellations of origin and traditional specialties guaranteed, etc.

Although statistical data show that, despite economic difficulties, the community of researchers, inventors, authors and composers, artists and performers from our country is in a constantly creative activity, however, in 2012 was attested a slight decrease (by 6.6 %) in the number of applications for protection of intellectual property objects (IPO), filed with the AGEPI, compared with the previous year.

Of the 6361 IPO registration applications, 277 were related to objects protected by copyright and related rights and 6084 applications – to industrial property objects. Of these, 1797 (29.5%) applications came from national applicants, and 4287 (70.5%) - from the foreign ones. The most requested IPO remain trademarks - 5449 applications, of which 1403 - from national applicants and 4046 - from foreign ones. Protection of inventions by patents for invention (PI) and short-term patents for invention (STPI) was requested by submission of 290 applications (265 - by national applicants and 25 - by foreign ones, including 11 applications – under the procedure of the Patent Cooperation Treaty). For industrial designs, the indicators are, accordingly, 300 applications (101 filed by national applicants and 199 - by foreign ones); for plant varieties were submitted 34 applications (24 - by national applicants and 10 - by foreign ones); 7 applications were related to appellations of origin (filed by foreign applicants); 4 applications - to geographical indications, filed by national applicants.

Following the examination of filed applications, in 2012 was granted protection to 4953 IPO, of which 1886 for the applications entered into the AGEPI by national way and 3067 for those entered by international way. Of the total number of IPOs that have obtained protection - 4250 relate to trademarks (1371 – by national way and 2879 - by international way), 229 - to industrial designs (47 - by national way and 182 - by international way), 184 - to inventions, 20 - to plant varieties, 6 - to appellations of origin (submitted by international way) and 264 - to works protected by copyright and related rights. Correspondingly, for IPO registered under the national procedure were issued 1886 titles of protection.

During 1993-2012, 95,402 industrial property objects obtained protection with the AGEPI (29,715 – under national procedure and 65,687 – under international procedure). Of these, on 31 December 2012 in the Republic of Moldova were valid circa 78,000 IPO, including circa 21,000 industrial property objects: 19170 - trademarks, 613 - patents for invention, 573 - registrations of industrial designs and 426 – short-term patents for invention; under the international procedure were valid circa 53,300 trademarks registered under the Madrid Agreement, circa 2800 registrations of industrial designs under the Hague Agreement and circa 800 appellations of origin registered under the Lisbon Agreement procedure.

Under the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) on the legal protection of inventions in the Republic of Moldova after denunciation by the Republic of Moldova of the Eurasian Patent Convention (approved by Government Decision no. 618 of 08.17.2012), on 31.12.2012 in the Republic of Moldova were valid circa 3,500 Eurasian patents.

In the field of industrial property, 191 contracts, of which 153 - assignment, 27 - license, 8 - pledge and 3 – franchise ones were registered with the AGEPI in 2012.

In the year under review, the most active higher-education institutions in patenting inventions were: SUM (23 filed applications and 17 issued patents), TUM (22 applications and 14 patents), and SUMP “N. Testemitanu” (14 applications and 13 patents). From the ASM manifested themselves: Institute of Chemistry (20 applications and 14 patents), Institute of Applied Physics (17 applications and 16 patents), Institute of Genetics and Plant Physiology (15 applications and 10 patents), Institute of

Electronic Engineering and Nanotechnologies (9 applications and 12 patents). From the agro-industrial field: Scientific-Practical Institute of Horticulture and Food Technology (17 applications and 12 patents), Institute of Agricultural Engineering “MECAGRO” (5 applications and 5 patents).

In the period 2003-2012 in Moldova were registered 2834 works protected by copyright and related rights. AGEPI has conducted in the period under review as well the monitoring of the activity of the organizations for collective management of economic rights regarding the collection and distribution of royalties accumulated on the basis of licenses issued to beneficiaries. Thus, according to Decision no.1/57 of 12.01.2012 (Official Gazette no.16-18 of 20.01.2012) was endorsed the National Association for the Protection of Intellectual Creation (NAPC) and according to Decision no. 2/2146 of 05.12.2012 (Official Gazette no. 252-253 of 11.12.2012) was endorsed the Association “Copyright and Related Rights” (AsDAC) and the Republican Copyright Office (ORDA). In order to ensure a legal marketing of audiovisual works and phonograms recorded on compact discs and audio-video cassettes, AGEPI issued on request 394,500 control marks.

In order to promote and spread intellectual product, underlying the economic development of any country, AGEPI organized within the framework of national exhibitions organized in Chisinau, Balti, Glodeni, Ceadar-Lunga and Cahul 33 specialized seminars and roundtables for representatives of the research- development, higher education sphere and for various categories of economic agents. At the same time, during the reporting year were organized the traditional training courses in the field of intellectual property, 14 persons obtaining the qualification “Counselor in Intellectual Property”. Also, 12 new patent attorneys were attested and entered in the Official Register, their total number at the end of the year being107 persons.

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