

COOPERATION AGREEMENT 2010

between
OHIM and SIPO

1. Objectives

To promote and raise awareness on the CTMs and the RCDs within the territory of the Member States by means of the following activities:

- 1. Provide information and/or advice services on CTM and RCD (phone calls, emails, letters, face to face advice, etc.)***
- 2. Publications either on paper or electronic (according to annual programme)***
- 3. Upgrades and maintenance of Seniority databases***
- 4. Implementation of seminars for promoting the CTM and RCD systems targeted to entrepreneurs, representatives, chambers of commerce, associations of manufacturers, associations of exporters, universities, etc.***
- 5. Fairs***
- 6. Promotion of the TM View***

2. Expected results

- Increase the knowledge on the CTM and the RCD systems among interested circles in the Member State***
- Improve the quality of the applications filed by nationals of the Member State***
- Increase the number of applications filed by nationals of the Member State***

3. Approximate timetable

1 year (2010)

4. Detailed description of the activities

Activity 1: Providing information/advice services on CTMs and RCDs

Several employees of SIPO's Information and Promotion Department and of the Trademark and Design Department are responsible for providing information concerning CTMs and RCDs to customers seeking advice on the protection of trademarks and industrial designs. All of them are responsible for answering questions relating national, international and CTM/RCD questions.

The basic information given to customers contains the main features of all means of getting protection for trademarks and industrial designs in Slovenia, comprising national ways, Madrid and Hague systems and CTM and RCD. Information and advice are delivered in person at SIPO premises, by phone, email and sometimes also by post.

The basic information on and material support of the activities dedicated to CTM/RCD system is provided also at two PATLIB Centres at Central Technological Library at the University of Ljubljana and at University of Maribor Library. The employees of these two centres are not financed by this agreement.

Activity 2: Publications on CTMs and RCDs

Since a great part of our customers use publications in the Slovenian language rather than English, we've already published some booklets and flyers on CTM and RCD system. We offer them to customers visiting the Office, seminars and workshops and for presentations on different fairs.

In 2010, we intend to prepare and publish more detailed instructions on how to register CTM and RCD. This publication will be available to our customers both on paper and electronically on our website.

Activity 3: Upgrading the structure and maintenance of the Seniority database

We developed a Seniority database and made it available to the public in 2007, we also maintained it during the years 2008 and 2009. Our intention is to further maintain the data in this database also in the year 2010.

During the period 2008 we were faced with the problem of how to accommodate multiple references in this database (multiple CTM to one Slovenian trademark or one CTM to multiple Slovenian trademarks). We plan an upgrade of the basic structure of our internal trademark register and of the information databases on our SIPO-DS server.

Activity 4: Seminars for promoting the CTM and RCD systems

SIPO is regularly organising different seminars, workshops and presentations for SMEs' representatives, students and general public on patents, trademarks and industrial designs. Such events normally last three hours, while the preparation activities for them take about 2.5 hours.

For 2010 we have again a series of at least 10 presentations on patents, trademarks and industrial designs for university students, and further seminars/workshops on trademarks and industrial design in different parts of Slovenia in cooperation with local organisers.

Activity 5: Fairs and exhibitions

Every year SIPO promotes its activities and intellectual property rights system at different fairs in Slovenia. For 2010 we plan to be present at: Informativa Fair (January, 2 days, dedicated to teachers and professors), International Craftsmanship Fair in Celje (September, 8 days, 180,000 visitors) and Student arena in Ljubljana (October, 3 days, 25,000 visitors – university and secondary school students).

Activity 6: Promotion of the TM View

Beside the preparations for implementing the idea of a joint database, containing national trademarks, CTMs and international marks in one database, we will start with the promotion activities to inform and prepare possible users and interested public for the TM View.

These activities will consist of up to 4 seminars/workshops when the TM View is ready to be presented to the public.