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Irish Patents Office Annual Report 2014

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Foreword



In accordance with the provisions of Section 103 of the Patents Act, 1992, I now have the honour to submit my Report to the Oireachtas for the year ended 31 December 2014, in respect of the execution of my statutory functions under the Patents Act, 1992 (as amended), the Trade Marks Act, 1996 (as amended); the Industrial Designs Act, 2001, the various Statutory Rules and Regulations made under these Acts; and the European Communities (Supplementary Protection Certificate) Regulations. Decisions under these Acts, Rules and Regulations rest with me in my statutory capacity, subject to certain rights of appeal to the High Court.

I also have certain statutory functions under the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, which are mainly concerned with dealing with registration of copyright licensing bodies, references and applications relating to licensing schemes operated by those bodies and the resolution of disputes regarding royalty amounts payable under those schemes which arise for the most part in respect of the public performance of sound recordings. During 2014, the transposition of the Orphan Works Directive into Irish Law afforded me some further competence in relation to the process for accordng an “orphan” status to a copyright work.

As the statutory office responsible for the granting and registration of intellectual property rights in Ireland, specifically patent, trade mark and industrial design rights, the Patents Office provides an important service to Irish business and enterprise. In addition to administering the relevant legislation concerned with the processing of applications for patents, trade marks and industrial designs and maintaining the electronic registers and databases of these rights, my Office continued to provide assistance and information on the intellectual property system to Irish business and enterprise and also to students and young entrepreneurs and innovators. We recognise that raising business awareness and better consumer understanding, is necessary to assist aspiring innovators to take well-informed decisions about their IP and that of their competitors and how to maximise the value of their innovation and creativity. We have sought to do this in co-operation with other state agencies such as Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices and with Universities and Institutes of Technology in order to increase awareness of the importance of Intellectual property rights for all types of enterprises irrespective of their size or the nature of their business.

My Annual Report for 2014 provides information on how my Office has delivered its services and discharged the various statutory functions during the year. The narrative mentions operational efficiencies and improvements made to the way we deliver some processes and services in order to do more with less resources and how we have sought to reduce the administrative burden on business with initiatives such as the e-filing of trade marks and designs and by expanding the range of database search options and e-payment options available to business. The narrative is supported by a range of business statistics.

Looking to the future, my Office will continue to implement a customer orientated business strategy aimed at advancing the IP system in Ireland for the benefit of Irish business and enterprise. Our strategy focuses on expanding the range of business friendly e-services and tools and continuing with our awareness programme in order to promote the importance of IP and to encourage more informed use and understanding of the IP system.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerard Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerard Barrett

Controller

General Commentary on Trends, Objectives and Activities

Trends

The growth of innovation is largely dependent upon a stable economy and a climate of ongoing economic growth. In 2014 Ireland was the fastest growing economy in the European Union according to the EU Commission's autumn economic forecast. This is encouraging after the recent years of financial crisis and stagnation. The forecast shows that Irish firms and foreign owned companies are beginning to invest again, with investment growing by 11% in the first half of the year, albeit from a very low base.

Sustainable growth and development in Ireland is dependant upon increasing levels of innovation across the economy. The European Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard for 2015 saw Ireland move up from ninth to eight place out of 28 EU Member States. The annual Innovation Union Scoreboard provides a comparative assessment of the research and innovation performance of the 28 EU Member States and the relative strengths and weaknesses of their research and innovation systems. Of the eight dimensions that make up the European Commission's Innovation Union scoreboard, Ireland is ranked first in two of them: Innovators and Economic Effects. The Innovators dimension measures how innovative firms are, while Economic Effects captures the economic success stemming from innovation in terms of employment, revenue and exports.

Patents and SPCs

While Ireland offers a supportive environment for innovation, according to international scoreboards, this largely reflects the presence of high-tech multinational firms and is not necessarily supported by high levels of patent filings. In its Economic Survey of Ireland for 2013 the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) indicated that "indigenous" (domestic) enterprises had a low capacity to innovate and this seems to be reflected in the continuing low number of national patent filings. The OECD also advocated building greater linkages between enterprises and the higher education sector in order to provide a new engine of growth. Research performing organisations (RPOs)⁽¹⁾ are third level bodies in the Higher Education Institute (HEI) sector in receipt of State funding to assist with research. Much of their work involves research collaborations with business and technology/knowledge transfer activities aimed at transferring relevant intellectual property (IP) and expertise to business. The RPO sector saw 145 directly filed patent families⁽²⁾ reaching publication stage in 2014, including 9 where there was collaboration between RPOs.⁽³⁾

In contrast to the continuing declines in national patent filings, figures for international (PCT) and European filings abroad by Irish resident applicants show a positive upward trend. This combined with encouraging export led growth figures suggests that export orientated Irish companies (many of which may be foreign owned multinationals) are continuing to look to exploit the potential for international sales and are ensuring that their intellectual property assets are protected in key foreign markets. However, these figures should not be regarded as giving the complete picture. This is because many Irish based foreign owned firms which develop IP in Ireland often have a policy of filing applications to protect those IP rights through their parent company which is headquartered abroad. In such cases, even though the R&D which has given rise to the IP may have been carried out in Ireland, the applications might not necessarily be recorded as filings by Irish resident firms.

Foreign patent filings by Irish resident persons or bodies at selected patent authorities

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
PCT ^(a)	443	415	391	432	440*
EPO ^(b)	765	699	663	718	709
UK	289	330	336	361	Not Available
USA ^(c)	796	829	947	1,039	Not Available

Sources: WIPO Statistics Database (*provisional), EPO Statistics Database, UKIPO "Facts & Figures", USPTO Patent statistics.

(a) The PCT system makes it possible to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in each of a large number of countries by filing a single "International" patent application. The above count is based on the international filing date and country of residence of the first named applicant.

(b) A European Patent Application is a single procedure which confers patent protection in all of the European Patent Convention contracting states (38) that are designated by the applicant.

(c) US filings refer to utility patents, also known as "patents for inventions."

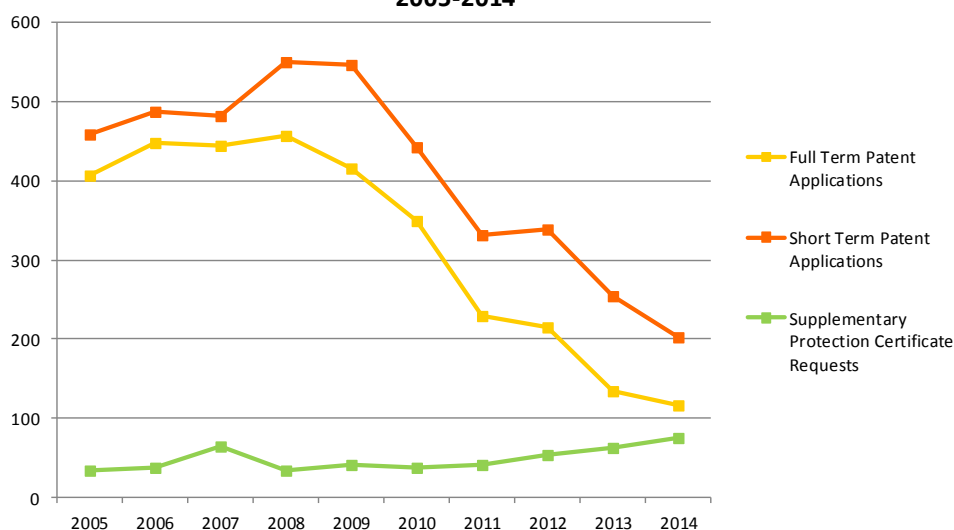
(1) The RPO sector includes all the Universities and Institutes of Technology, as well as the National College of Art and Design, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Teagasc, the State's agricultural and food research body.

(2) A patent family is a set of either **patent** applications or publications taken in multiple countries to protect a single invention by a common inventor(s) and then patented in more than one country.

(3) Filings where an RPO is named as an applicant and excludes filings made by campus companies, spin-outs etc.

General Commentary on Trends, Objectives and Activities

**Patent and Supplementary Protection Certificate Applications
2005-2014**



- National full term Patent filings received during 2014 were down by 12.5% on 2013 (from 135 to 118) while the number of short term patent applications filed was down 20% on 2013 (from 255 to 203). The shift from long term patents to short term patents is also quite marked with a ratio of filings of almost 2:1. The figures would seem to suggest that applicants are choosing to make their patent applications via the European route as opposed to through national offices.
- Applications for Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) continued to increase in 2014, up 19% from 63 in 2013 to 75 in 2014. SPCs are of considerable importance to the pharmaceutical and medicinal products industry and are a highly valuable IP right. Ireland is also now one of Europe's leading locations for the pharmaceutical industry with pharmaceutical exports worth in the region of €40 billion to the economy, a substantial portion of overall GDP.

Trade Marks and Designs

In contrast to patents, the number of national trade mark applications received has started to increase having been in decline in recent years. This may be related to increasing awareness of the broad applicability of trade marks and their use as part of wider IP strategies in protecting brands as well as their relative cost effectiveness. Filings of Community Trade Mark applications by Irish resident applicants in 2014 remained relatively unchanged from 2013. However, international trade mark applications using the Madrid system made by Irish resident increased by 9% on 2013 which may reflect the strong growth in food and drink exports to international markets outside the EU and the importance of branding Irish products in those markets.

Trade Mark applications by Irish resident persons or bodies at selected patent authorities

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CTM ^(a)	832	808	827	1054	1,040
Madrid ^(b)	101	130	121	172	187*
UK	543	601	482	397	Not Available

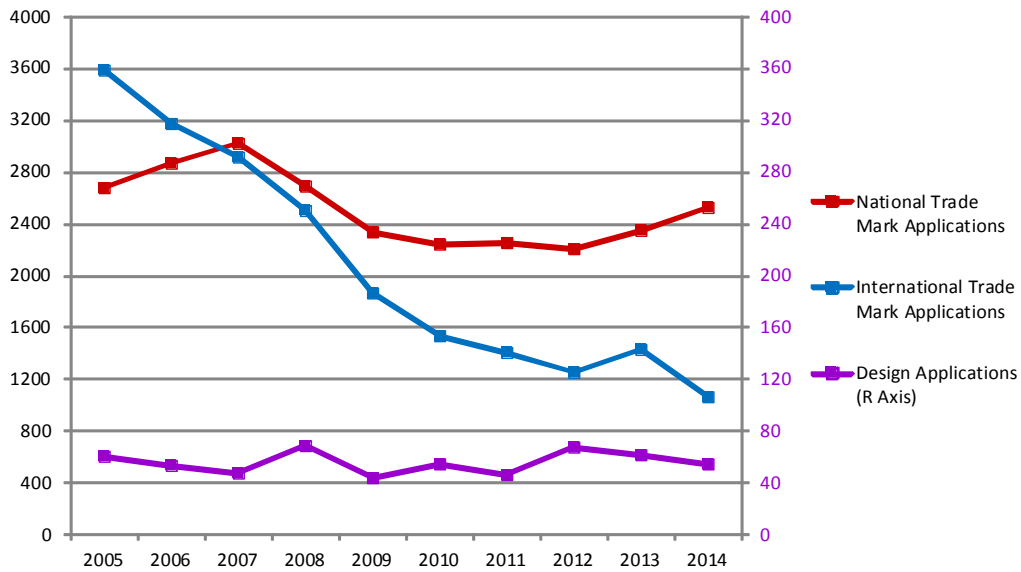
Sources: OHIM Statistics SSC003.1, WIPO Statistics Database (*provisional), UKIPO "Facts & Figures".
Some historical filing figures will vary from year to year due to the ongoing update of databases at WIPO, EPO and OHIM.

(a) The CTM system provides for a single application and registration procedure which provides trade mark protection across the 27 EU member states.

(b) The Madrid system offers a trade mark owner the possibility to obtain trade mark protection in several countries by filing a single application. An international mark is equivalent to an application or a registration of the same mark effected directly in each of the countries designated by the applicant. The above figures comprise international filings by Irish applicants through the Irish Office and international filings by Irish applicants through other intellectual property offices which are members of the Madrid System.

General Commentary on Trends, Objectives and Activities

Trade Mark and Design Applications 2005-2014



- Applications for the registration of industrial designs which have been at a very low level since 2003 when the Community Design registration system first came into being, continued to decrease in 2014 (from 61 to 54). The 54 applications covered a total of 141 designs.
- The total number of national trade mark applications received in 2014 showed an encouraging increase of 7% over the 2013 figure (from 2,354 to 2,523). International applications for marks seeking protection in Ireland decreased by 26% by comparison to 2013 (from 1,427 to 1,058). This is mainly due to applications for international trade marks being made to the EU via the Community Trade Mark system administered by OHIM. This has become the preferred route for international applicants desiring trade mark protection within Europe as opposed to individual national applications.

Patents Office Mission and Objectives

The central mission of the Patents Office is:

“To provide an efficient and effective system of industrial property protection that will encourage technological progress and promote enterprise through the implementation by the Office of the relevant legislation.”

This is to be achieved through the protection of intellectual property rights in the fields of patents, trade marks and designs and the proactive dissemination of relevant knowledge and information in conjunction with each of these activities.

A new Statement of Strategy for the period 2014-2016 was completed in December 2013. The following commentary and accompanying statistical report considers the activities of the Office in the context of delivering on the 6 main objectives set out in the Strategy Statement.

These six objectives are seen as central to fulfilling the mission of the Office and maintaining its operational efficiency. The mission and strategy of the Office also ties in with the wider national objectives of supporting and encouraging enterprise and innovation and fostering an effective business environment in Ireland.

Objective 1

Continue to grant patents and register trade marks and designs based on efficient administrative procedures and standards of service (which are in line with those reflecting best international practice and which meets the needs of customers).

The Office continued to deliver its services with increasing efficiency and effectiveness in 2014. Customer Service standards were revised where necessary and processes were further streamlined and automated. There were practically no processing backlogs and the majority of customer service targets were met to a very satisfactory level.

The Irish Office went live with the electronic filing of trade mark applications in April 2014. This incorporates functionality which increases efficiency and effectiveness for both applicants and trade mark examiners. A key benefit for users of the system is the assurance they have that any terms that they choose from the approved harmonised classification list contained in TMclass will be accepted by the Office. This has helped to streamline the application process and provide a degree of additional predictability for users. It also assists the examination process leading to quicker decisions on applications for protection. By the end of 2014, 80% of all trade mark applications were received electronically via the Office's website. Paper files are no longer created for trade mark applications which are received electronically and a largely paperless process is in place for search and examination which is in line with best international practice.

Work is ongoing on the development and implementation of designs e-filing which is scheduled to go live in mid 2015. Work will commence on the development of functionality to allow e-filing of patent applications in 2016.

Net receipts accruing to the exchequer in 2014 were €8.250m, a reduction of €0.129m or 1.5% on the 2013 figure of €8.379m. The greater proportion of the Office's fee income comes from renewal fees on European Patents. Declines in national patent and trade mark renewals have been evident since 2008. The decline in renewal fee income may be attributable to business closures and to economic and financial considerations dictating the ability to renew an IP right. The Office's net expenses for 2014 of €2.760m was a slight increase of €16,000 over the corresponding 2013 figure of €2.744m. The greatest reductions in expenses continue to be in the area of staff salaries (reflected in the levelling off of staff numbers) and in postal and telecommunications services. The reduction in the postal expenses is as a direct result of the Office's commitment to paperless filing and to the use of email.

Objective 2

Seek to incorporate new technology in order to improve systems and procedures and service to customers and which will also have regard to the demands of the information society and e-business.

During 2014, staff continued to refine the work processes and technology solutions that underpin its core products and services to provide more efficient service delivery. Our commitment to quality customer service is outlined in our Customer Service Action Plan which is available on our website. 94% is the average level of achievement against target for the 37 customer service targets which establish optimum time limits for carrying out various customer focused activities and tasks. These are detailed in the "Performance Targets" section of the report.

Since 2010, the Office has pursued an e-communications programme which has the aim of improving service delivery and more efficient processing by combining electronic filing, electronic file processing and electronic communications in a way that will ultimately facilitate the introduction of paperless processing in the Office. The vast majority of Office correspondence is now issued by email and customers are encouraged to correspond by email with the Office, where possible.

In 2011 the Office introduced an electronic drop box which facilitates the submission of encrypted patent, trade mark and design applications and associated documents electronically and securely via the Internet. The drop box facility is not available to all applicants but rather for registered attorneys who make or intend to make a number of applications for intellectual property rights in the course of a year. At the end of 2014, 21 firms were availing of the electronic drop box facility for patent filings.

The OHIM Co-operation Fund and the OHIM Software Package programmes assist national offices to develop and implement a suite of modern, web based tools to support the trade marks and designs lifecycle. Projects involving the introduction of new tools which the Office has either completed or are underway include:

- TMclass:** A database of harmonised classifications terms acceptable in all EU Offices including OHIM.
- TMView:** An online search tool providing free of charge access to the trade mark registers of all EU Offices including OHIM.
- Designview:** An online search tool providing free of charge access to the design registers of all EU Offices including OHIM.
- TM e-filing:** Online filing of trade mark applications incorporating online payment of the application fee.
- Design e-filing:** Online filing of design applications incorporating online payment of the application fee.
- E-Services:** Expanding the range of trade mark and design fees which can be paid online.

A project to expand the amount of national patent documents which are electronically archived which commenced in 2013 continued in 2014. The aim of the project is to scan all available patent application specification documents from the 1960s to the early 2000s, and to make them available on the website. It is estimated that there are approximately 58,000 documents to be scanned. This project will facilitate ease of access to the data for both the public and for staff, as well as reducing the requirement for storage space for paper files. The project continued in 2014 with over 18,800 documents scanned to date. It is estimated that the project will take 4 years to complete.

In line with Government policy to promote the increased use of electronic payments in the public service and throughout the economy, the Office established two new commercial bank accounts in 2011 which has improved the fee payment options available to its customers. 96% of the Office's statutory fees are now paid electronically compared to 91% in 2013. In November 2013, the Office introduced a credit card terminal (CCT) to further facilitate the payment of all fees via telephone. By year end, the Office had received 1,119 payments via the CCT.

During 2014, staff continued to refine the work processes and technology solutions that underpin its core products and services to provide more efficient service delivery. In this regard, nine substantive enhancements to the PTOLEMY administration system were developed during the year, all of which were aimed at improving operational efficiency and ensuring the Office's core business systems remain current.

Towards the end of 2014, planning for two other "Software Package" projects, e-filing of Designs and e-Services, commenced. E-Services aims at expanding the range of trade mark and design fees which can be paid online. Both projects are scheduled for completion in 2015.

Objective 3

Contribute to the drafting and subsequent implementation of any new IP legislation which creates functions for the Controller.

The regulation of intellectual property rights in Ireland is a vital part of the overall legislative framework that promotes, protects and encourages innovation. It is consistent with best international practice, reflecting the country's commitment to EU Intellectual Property Law and to other international treaties and conventions, such as the European Patent Convention and the various Treaties and Agreements of the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The Intellectual Property Unit (IPU) of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has responsibility for intellectual property policy and preparation of legislation in this field. The Patents Office furnishes advice and assistance on these matters, in particular on the impact of proposed legal or regulatory changes on the work of the Office. Matters on which the Office provided input and observations during 2014 were:

- The Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 (Act No. 36 of 2014) which provided for a broadening of the scope of the "Bolar" type research exemption provision as set down in Section 42 and also amended Section 29(3) and Section 29(4) of the Trade Marks Act 1996 in order to give effect in Irish legislation to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks.
- Changes to the Trade Mark Rules consequent on amendments to Section 29(3) and Section 29(4) of the Trade Marks Act 1996.
- The proposals for the modernisation of trade mark law in the EU, involving changes to the the Community Trade Mark Regulation (207/2009/EC), the Trade Mark Fees Regulation (2869/95/EC) and Directive 2008/95/EC which harmonises the national trade mark systems of EU Member States.
- Rules considered by the Select Committee of the Administrative Council of the EPO relating to Regulation (EU) No 1257/2012 and Regulation (EU) No 1260/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2012 implementing enhanced co-operation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection with regard to procedures, governance and supervision of the activities related to the tasks entrusted to the European Patent Office, renewal fees and financial procedures, applicable translation arrangements and the associated compensation scheme.
- Possible changes to the provisions regarding patent agents in Section 106 of the Patents Act 1992 arising from a query from the EU Commission on the transposition of the Services Directive and consequential amendments to the Register of Patent Agent Rules 1992.
- The European Union (Certain Permitted Uses of Orphan Works) Regulations 2014, S.I. No. 490/2014 which transposes the Orphan Works Directive Directive 2012/28/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 into Irish law.

Objective 4

To increase awareness of intellectual property.

One of the main objectives of the Patents Office is to assist businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs understand how IP can help them create value from their ideas and to be able to access information on IPRs, which will enable them to use, manage and enforce their intellectual property to its fullest potential. The Office has specifically directed its IP awareness programme towards assisting small and micro-enterprises and individual entrepreneurs and innovators.

During 2014, the Office participated in some 56 events speaking on IP at “Start your own business” courses run by the County Enterprise Boards (now Local Enterprise Offices) and either had a presence or provided a talk at various business advice and enterprise exhibitions and shows throughout the country. The Office participated in the first national Innovation Showcase at the Convention Centre Dublin which had over two thousand attendees many of whom were provided with information and advice on IP matters either at the event or thereafter at one-to-one sessions with a member of staff. “MeetWest” is a popular and successful business networking event at which Office staff held one-to-one sessions with various businesses who had specifically requested our presence.

The Patents Office held 54 IP clinics in 2014. The clinics give an opportunity to members of the public, inventors, entrepreneurs and business people to discuss with Patents Office staff, on a one to one basis, their ideas and matters concerning IP (patent, trade mark or design) applications they intend to make or have already made to the Office. This particular approach has been found to be very helpful in providing basic guidance on procedures and forms required for the registration of IP rights, the processes of obtaining IP protection in Ireland or abroad and the timeframes involved. Assistance in constructing a do-it-yourself search strategy for patents, trade marks or registered designs and accessing and using online patent, trade mark and design databases is also provided.

A significant part of the Office’s awareness raising efforts is directed at second level students through involvement with the annual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition and the annual Student Enterprise Awards.

The Office has found that our presence at the annual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition is a useful avenue for imparting knowledge on intellectual property rights to the younger generation and to offer advice on IP and particularly on the patents system to participants, parents and members of the public attending the event. The Office also continued with its sponsorship of a special award which is presented to the student or group of students whose project best demonstrates the use of technology in new or improved applications, enhanced efficiencies and novel innovations. The winners of the 2014 Patents Office sponsored prize at the 50th anniversary of the exhibition were Conor Ryan, Stephen Lynch and Stephen Woods, Bush Post Primary School, Dundalk, Co Louth with their project “Moo Boots: protective boots for cattle”.



The Student Enterprise Awards run by the Local Enterprise Boards is the biggest enterprise competition for second level students in Ireland with some 16,000 potential participants. The National Finals took place in April 2014. The competition provides an excellent vehicle for the Office to engage with second level student entrepreneurs to reflect an awareness of IP when developing a business idea and establishing and running a successful enterprise. The SEA workbook has now incorporated a new chapter specifically relating to Intellectual Property, thus reinforcing awareness of IP amongst second level students.

The Office’s website continued to be the main vehicle for making information on IP available to the public as well as an efficient means of providing a range of interactive search and fee payment services. The number of visits to the website in 2014 increased by 27% (from 691,799 in 2013 to 882,771 in 2014) and there were 275,871 unique visitors in 2014. Page views remained strong with just under 4 million views in 2014.

The online register pages continue to remain the most popular with views of the online Trade Mark Register increasing by 14% on 2013 (from 579,883 visits in 2013 to 663,021 in 2014).

Objective 5

Recognise staff as a key asset of the Office and utilise business planning and individual performance management and development in order to improve business performance and processes and enhance organisational effectiveness.

As of 31 December 2014, the Office had 47 authorised posts, the same as in 2013. However when career breaks, work-sharing and other family friendly working arrangements are taken into account, the Office operated with a staffing level of 42.78 full time equivalents during 2014. The number of staff working in the Office has decreased significantly since the Office first decentralised to Kilkenny in 1998. Since 2008, for example, the number of staff has decreased by over 34% from 63 to the present level of 47. The Office has risen to the challenge of meeting the demands of high levels of public service with less resources and without compromising operational effectiveness through better and more efficient procedures and use of technology.

The Office is committed to ensuring that all staff performance is appraised regularly and that staff reviews are completed in a timely fashion. The Performance Management Development System (PMDS) operated in the Office links to the Offices' annual business plan and affords each member of staff the opportunity to set individual goals, to initiate and deliver change and continue to improve work practices in order to deliver an efficient and high quality service.

In accordance with the PMDS system, a development plan for training was drafted which took into account the various training needs which staff had identified in their personal development plans for 2014. Outside of continuing on-the-job training, staff undertook a total of 31.5 training days during 2014. Training was provided in areas such as financial procedures in the Civil Service, human resources, writing skills and Health and Safety.

Staff have continued to play a pivotal role in reducing energy consumption within the office in line with the Public Sector Programme contained in the Government's Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The plan has a target of reducing energy consumption, increasing staff awareness of energy efficiency and monitoring the performance of heating/air conditioning equipment. The energy saving measures put in place by staff have resulted in significant energy consumption savings in the past year (compared with 2008, the benchmark year) and a consequential saving in energy costs.

- Electricity consumption has decreased by 21% in the last 12 months (compared with 2008)
- Fuel consumption has decreased by 7.6% in the past 12 months (compared with 2008)

Energy consumption savings achieved in 2014 resulted in the Patents Office receiving an award in the Best Energy Team category at the OPW awards held in Dublin in November 2014.

Objective 6

To represent Ireland at international fora.

Patents Office staff represent Ireland on the Administrative Council of the EPO and its various Committees, the Administrative Board and Budget Committee of OHIM and several of its technical and liaison committees which deal with various issues concerning intellectual property. In addition, staff participate in meetings of governing and technical bodies of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) (which administers both the Patent Co-operation Treaty and arrangements under the Madrid Protocol dealing with international trade mark applications) in addition to a number of international IP treaties.

Both the EPO and the OHIM offer alternative routes to obtaining IP protection in Europe and the Office's involvement with these organisations is aimed at ensuring that Irish interests are appropriately represented, at keeping abreast of best practice at an international level and to facilitate collaboration with other national and international industrial property offices.

The Office has bilateral co-operation programmes with the EPO and OHIM under which it receives assistance towards participation in various IP awareness raising events, specialist IP training, ICT projects to facilitate IP data exchanges, the development of tools to provide better access to IP information and the harmonising of practices and procedures. Our participation also facilitates dialogue on the content and structure of co-operation programmes between those organisations and other national IP Offices in Europe which in turn enables the Office to further enhance or develop its customer services in line with best international practice.

International Co-operation



The Office participates in co-operation activities with its international counterparts, the Office for Harmonisation of the Internal Market (OHIM) and the European Patents Office on a number of projects, which are designed to promote harmonisation across national IP offices, and make things easier for users of the patent, trade mark and design systems.

The following are examples of some of the co-operation projects undertaken in 2014.

IPORTA and INNOVACCESS

The Office also successfully completed its participation in the EU programme called IPORTA which commenced in 2012 and concluded in December 2014. The project involved the participation of 26 European IP Office. The EPO and OHIM were observers. The programme was co-ordinated by CRP Henri Tudor on behalf of the Luxembourg IP Office. The project seeks to strengthen the co-operation between national intellectual property offices from the member states and associate countries and to promote activities and tools related to the use and management of intellectual property rights. Its aim is to build synergies among national IP Offices with national business support organisations and with other IP stakeholders such as the European and China IPR Helpdesk and the Enterprise Europe Network in order to help SMEs to better integrate IP into their business strategies and to better exploit them. More information can be found at www.innovaccess.eu.

The Office together with Enterprise Ireland indicated its interest in participating in a new EU Horizon 2020 supported programme entitled VIP4SME which is aimed at enhancing IP supports to small, medium and micro enterprises or individual inventors in order to facilitate better understanding of their intellectual capital, to increase their innovation capacity and to boost competitiveness.

OHIM CO-OPERATION & SOFTWARE PACKAGE PROGRAMME

The OHIM Co-operation Fund was established in February 2010 to streamline working methods and modernise EU IP offices through up-to-date administrative solutions. Supported projects under the Software Package programme which were completed in 2014 were e-filing of trade marks in April and Irish data was added to the Designview search tool in December 2014.

The Office has received support from OHIM for maintaining the TMView and Designview tools.

The Office expects to complete work on two other projects in 2015; the e-filing of Designs and e-Services.

Under a bilateral agreement with OHIM the Office availed of assistance towards the cost of a range of awareness raising events where information on the Community Trade Mark and Registered Community Design Systems was disseminated.

OHIM CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME

The OHIM Convergence Programme seeks to harmonise practice and procedures across all European Community Trade Mark Offices in areas which do not require any legislative change. The programme seeks to establish and communicate clarity, legal certainty, quality and usability for both applicant and participating offices in a number of key areas.

Staff of the Office participate in the Working Groups established for each of the seven convergence projects.

Trade Marks

CP1 - Harmonisation of the classification of goods and services: Completed - common communication issued 2013.

CP2 - Convergence of Nice Classification Class Headings: Completed - common communication issued 2013.

CP3 - Absolute grounds of refusal in respect of figurative marks: Work ongoing - common communication expected in 2015.

CP4 - The scope of protection of black and white marks: Completed - common communication issued 2014.

CP5 - Convergence of practice in accessing relative grounds of refusal regarding likelihood of confusion: Completed - common communication issued 2014.

Designs

Work on the convergence of practice with regards to Designs commenced during 2013 and continued in 2014.

Project CP6 (Graphical Representation of a Design), which aims to harmonise practices with regards to the graphical representation of a design application: work ongoing.

Project CP7 (Harmonisation of Product Indications) which will focus on creating a harmonised product indication database.

By the completion of the Programme it is anticipated that this Office will be delivering better service with a more consistent and transparent approach with increased levels of predictability (with certainty in appropriate areas) for users which will increase the likelihood of “getting it right first time”.

Office Website and Publications

Patents Office Website

The website (www.patentsoffice.ie) provides a general introduction to intellectual property and specific information about how to protect your ideas as well as including a section on IP for business.

Material published on the website includes previous years annual reports, a range of IP information booklets, the Office’s current statement of strategy and customer service action plan and all primary and secondary legislation governing the functions of the Patents Office.

The following services are available online:

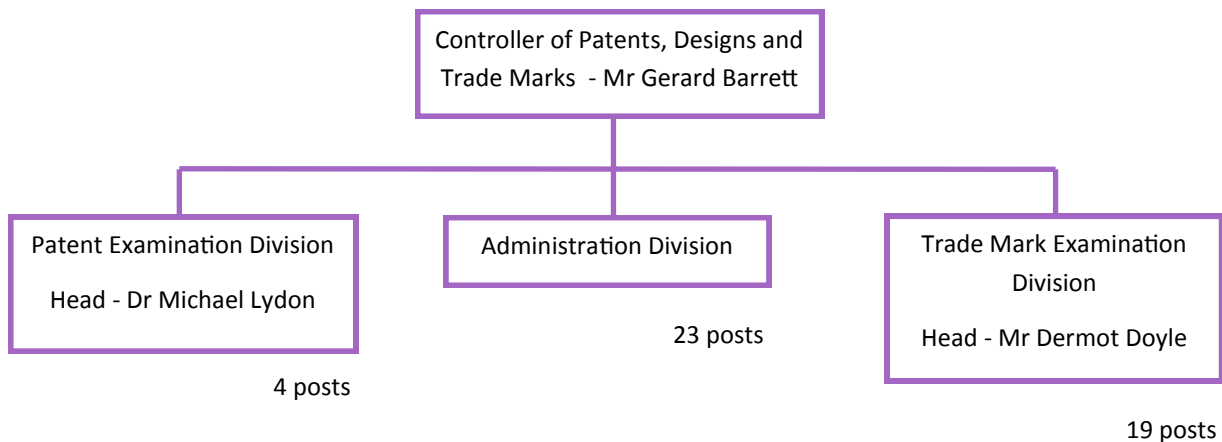
- View and search the Registers and Databases - search for patents, trade marks, designs
- Access and view the registers of copyright licensing bodies
- Access and view the registers of patent and trade mark agents
- Pay your patent, trade mark or design renewal fees online
- Pay your patent grant and trade mark registration fees online
- View the decisions of the Controller in trade mark inter-partes cases
- Search and view the Patents Office Journal online
- Online filing of Trade marks
- View and search TM View and Design View
- Assistance in selecting trade mark classifications using TMClass

The Official Journal

The fortnightly journal is published on our website. Each journal issue has a searchable index, along with information on actions relating to patent, trade mark and design applications and registrations. For example, you can view details of accepted trade marks and designs in any journal. The journal also contains details of patents applied for, published and granted including patents granted under the European Patent Convention designating Ireland.

The journal also contains information such as official notices, details of methods of payment of statutory fees and Patents Office opening hours. During 2012, an interactive facility was introduced into the online journal which now allows users access to the Register extract for any particular patent, trade mark or design contained within a journal by clicking on a hyperlink within the journal.

Organisation Structure and Personnel



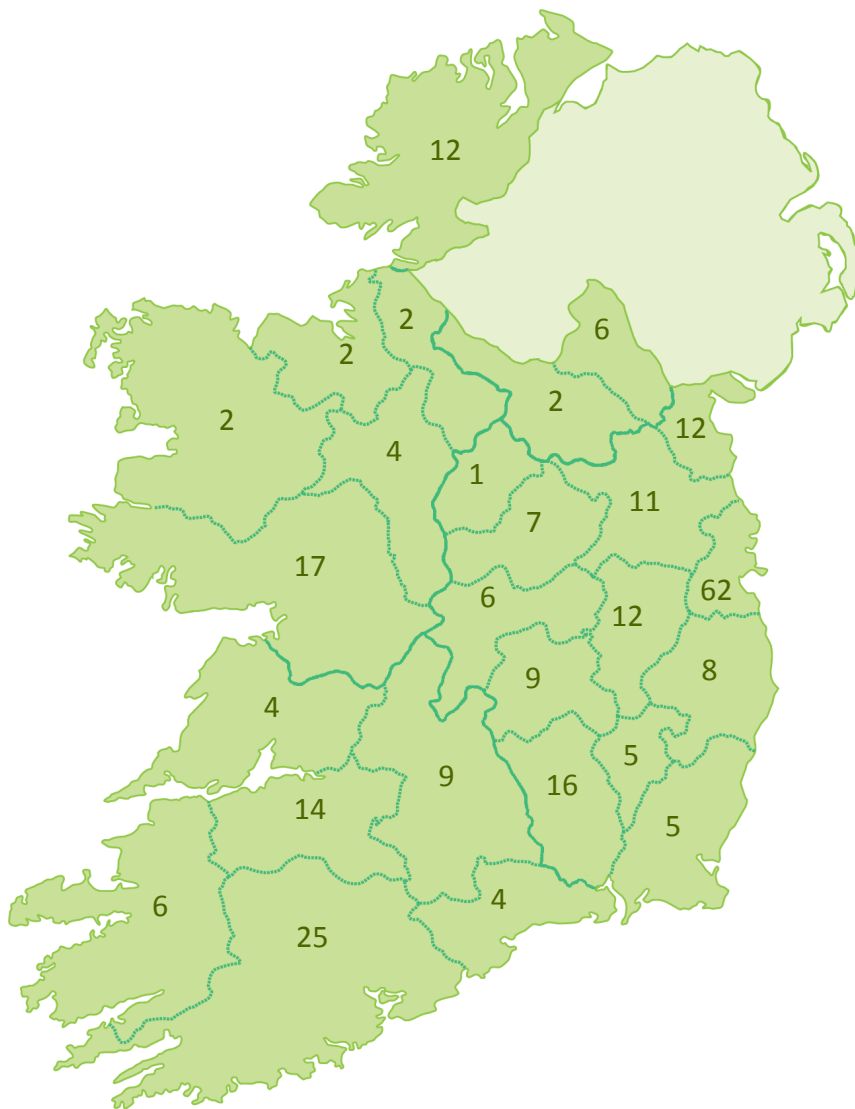
Number of Staff serving @ 31 December 2014

Title	Number
Controller	1
Senior Patent Examiner	1
Assistant Principal	1
Patent Examiner	3
Higher Executive Officer	4
Administrative Officer	1
Executive Officer	17
Staff Officer	1
Clerical Officer	17
Services Officer	1
TOTAL	47

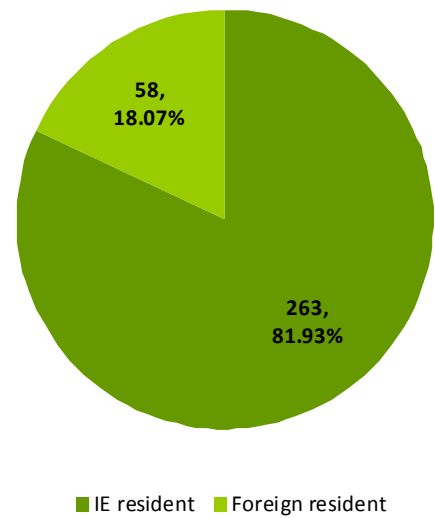
The staff figure of 47 includes 2 Higher Executive Officers, 1 Administrative Officer, 6 Executive Officers and 5 Clerical Officers who availed of a work-sharing scheme, which permits a variety of attendance patterns. Three staff availed of a teleworking scheme, which permits staff to carry out their duties from home for part of the week. The number of full-time equivalent posts in the Office at 31 December 2014 was 42.78.

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation provides information technology services to the Office. There are three staff members of the Department's IT Unit situated in the Office.

Business Statistics - Patents



National patent applications by country of first applicant.



National patent applications by county in 2014

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED			YEAR	PATENTS GRANTED		
Full Term	Short Term	TOTAL		Full Term	Short Term	TOTAL
216	338	554	2012	101	89	190
135	255	390	2013	116	98	214
118	203	321	2014	69	79	148

As at 31 December 2014, there were a total of 1,111 pending applications on hand. Of these, 242 applications were awaiting the submission of evidence of novelty.

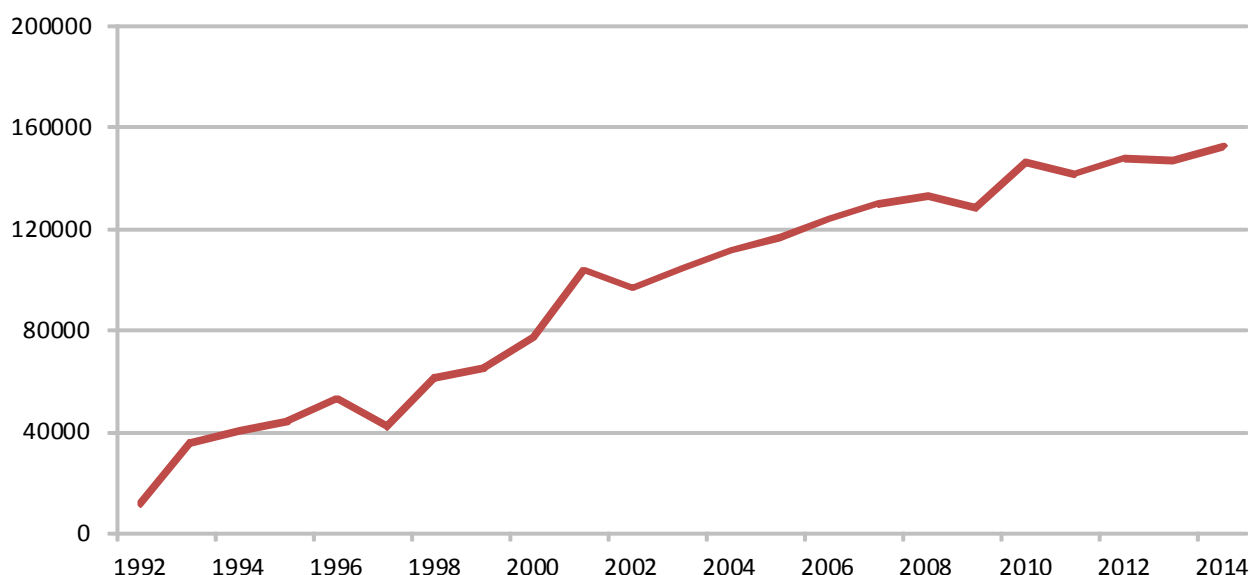
The number of applications received from applicants in the State was 263 compared with 333 in 2013.

European Patent Applications designating Ireland

Year	Filings	Year	Filings	Year	Filings
1992	11,755	2000	76,806	2008	133,248
1993	35,762	2001	103,659	2009	128,378
1994	40,705	2002	96,779	2010	146,726
1995	44,161	2003	104,529	2011	141,373
1996	52,755	2004	111,537	2012	147,551
1997	41,875	2005	117,096	2013	147,487
1998	61,584	2006	123,912	2014	152,400
1999	65,708	2007	129,890		

This table shows the total number of European applications designating Ireland (first arising in 1992). This figure is not included in the total number of patents granted in 2014 having effect in the State. These patents were entered in the national Register of Patents and have the same legal status as if they had been granted by the Office.

European Patent Applications designating Ireland



Patents granted in 2014 having effect in the State

2014	Total	Number of patents granted to Applicants from within the State	% of patents granted to Applicants from within the State
Granted by Office	148	116	78%
Granted by EPO	57,749	269	0.46%
Total Grants	57,897	385	0.66%

Patent Activity

	2012	2013	2014
Patents and patent applications the subject of assignments	932	833	827
Patents revoked	0	0	0
Patents surrendered	3	3	2
Patents lapsed	32,193	41,337	54,914
Patents restored/reinstated	14	18	10
Patents renewed	42,586	42,242	42,061
Patents expired	636	979	959
Patents in force	96,899	110,486	111,109
Hearings	0	0	0
PCT applications received for transmission to WIPO	54	26	19
European patent applications received for transmission to EPO	7	1	0

Requests for Supplementary Protection Certificates

A total of 75 requests for Supplementary Protection Certificates were received during the year under the European Communities (Supplementary Protection Certificates) Regulations, 1992 (medicinal) and 1996 (plant protection products). During the year, 34 certificates were granted (medicinal and plant protection), 4 requests were rejected and 8 requests were withdrawn. At the end of the year there were 175 requests pending.

Register of Patent Agents

At the end of 2014, there were 80 individuals and 5 partnerships entered in the Register of Patent Agents.

CLASSIFICATION OF PATENTS GRANTED BY THE OFFICE IN YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014 ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC)

Note on Patent Classification

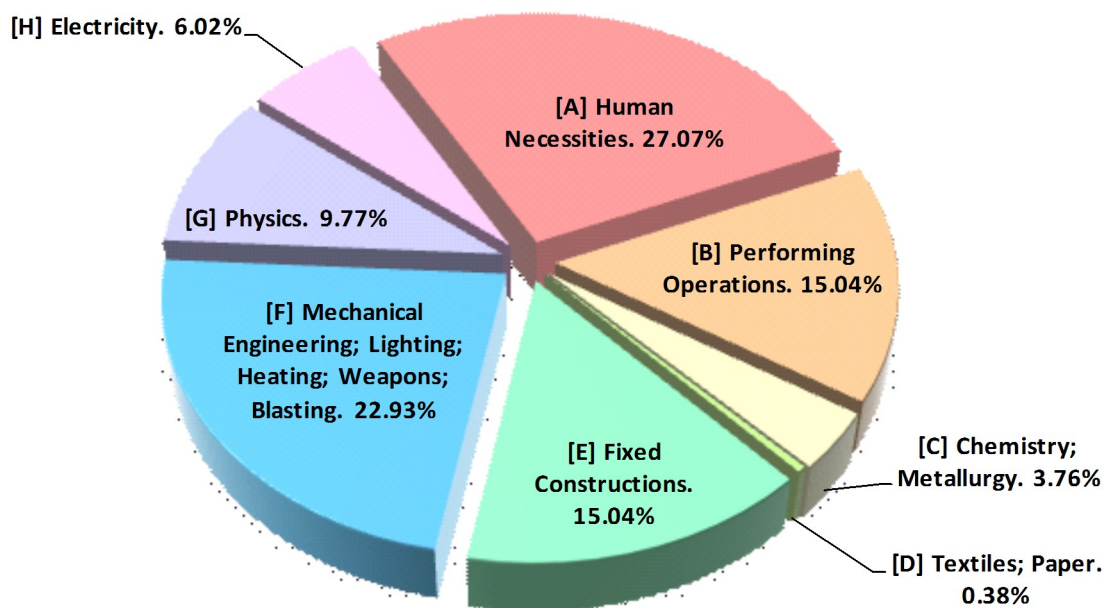
Patents are given classifications based on their technical content. Such classification allows retrieval of patents according to the nature of the inventions revealed therein. The International Patent Classification (IPC) consists of about 70,000 classification symbols divided between 8 basic sections (A to H), relating to different basic kinds of technology. The Classification system is revised constantly to ensure that new and emerging technologies are accommodated therein, with a new edition released yearly, taking effect from 1 January of that year.

A classification code is given for each inventive thing in a patent. A patent may contain two or more inventions as long as they are sufficiently related; for instance, a new chemical compound and its use as a medicine or herbicide, or a new laser and its use in eye surgery or data readers. Accordingly, a patent may need a number of classification symbols to cover the whole of its content. The accompanying table and graph collates the total number of classifications allocated to granted patents in 2014. Each individual classification represents an inventive element disclosed in a patent, so this is akin to a tally of inventiveness. The classifications are grouped by IPC section.

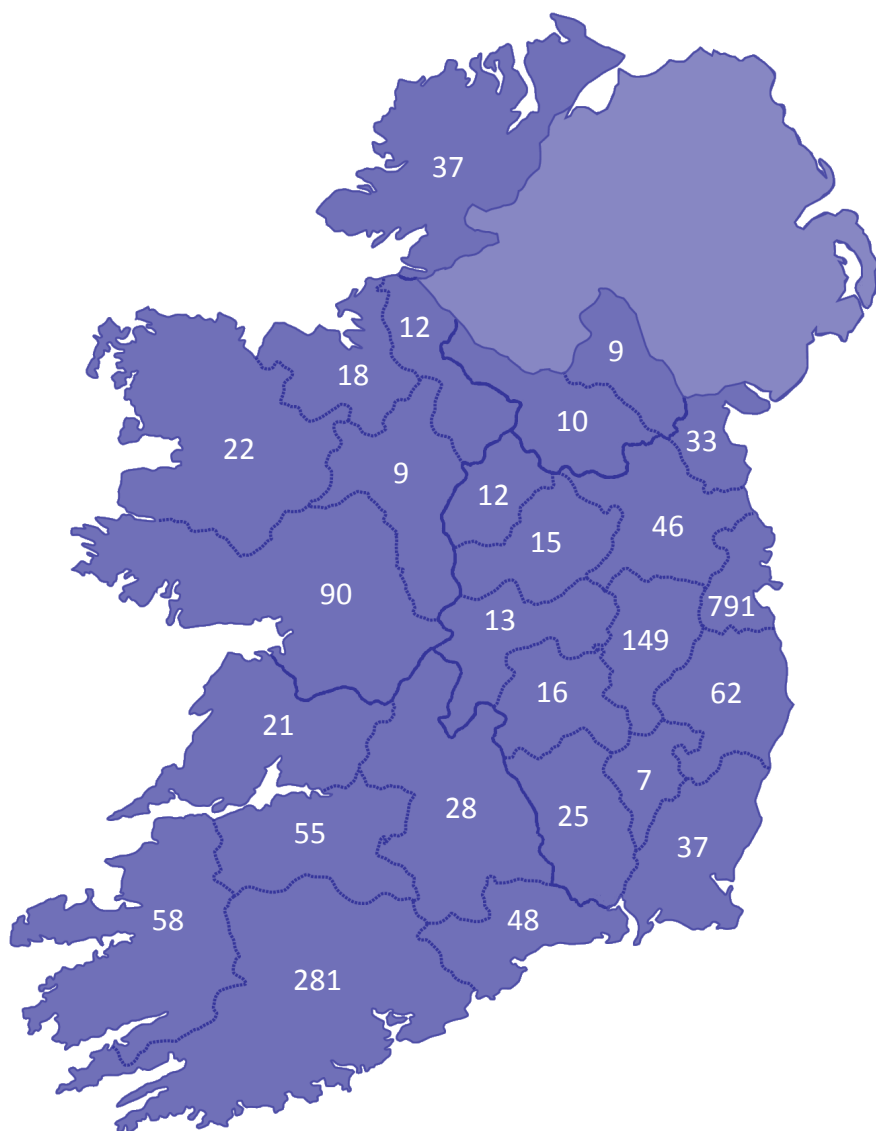
CLASSIFICATION	No of grants*
A. HUMAN NECESSITIES: e.g. Foodstuffs, Health, Personal Articles	72
B. PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING: e.g. Shaping, printing, vehicle technology.	40
C. CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY	10
D. TEXTILES; PAPER	1
E. FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS: e.g. Building, drilling, mining.	40
F. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING	61
G. PHYSICS: e.g. Optics, computing, nuclear physics.	26
H. ELECTRICITY: e.g. Electronic circuits, electricity generation and distribution.	16

* Note:- Because it is possible that a granted patent may be classified in more than one technical field, the number of classifications into which these patents fall will exceed the total number of patents granted.

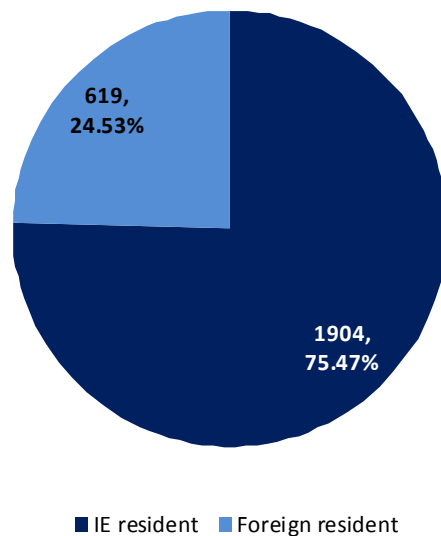
Granted Patent Classifications by IPC section in 2014



Business Statistics - Trade Marks



National Trade Mark applications by country of first applicant.



National Trade Mark applications by county in 2014

National Applications				Year	International Registrations			
Received	Advertised	Opposed	Registered		Received	Advertised	Opposed	Protected
2,210	1,781	61	1,648	2012	1,250	1,290	12	1,260
2,354	1,650	32	1,486	2013	1,427	1,103	17	1,075
2,523	2,013	53	1,684	2014	1,058	974	11	1,084

Trade Marks Activity

	2012	2013	2014
Number of trade marks the subject of assignments	1,427	1,458	1,229
Number of licences of trade marks recorded in the register	50	6	14
Trade mark registrations removed for non payment of renewal fees	3,824	3,395	1,963
Trade mark registrations surrendered	12	7	10
Trade mark registrations restored	8	8	19
Trade mark registrations renewed	4,874	4,053	3,619
National trade marks revoked in full and in part	7	9	5
International trade marks revoked in full and in part	5	3	4
National trade marks declared invalid	0	1	0
International trade marks declared invalid	0	0	0
National registered trade marks in force	63,674	61,737	61,423
International trade marks in force	23,964	22,988	22,260
Total trade marks in force	87,638	84,725	83,683

Hearings & Miscellaneous Matters

	2012	2013	2014
Hearings (<i>ex-parte</i>)	6	6	9
Hearings (<i>inter-partes</i>)	7	12	11
Hearings (<i>inter-partes by way of written submission</i>)*	7	14	8
Applications to convert Community Trade Mark applications into national applications	42	32	28
International Trade Mark applications filed and transmitted to WIPO	46	70	82
Community Trade Mark applications filed through the Office and forwarded to OHIM	1	0	2

* This figure shows the number of inter-partes proceedings that were decided by way of written submissions in lieu of attending at a hearing. This procedure was first introduced in 2012.

Register of Trade Mark Agents

At the end of 2014, there were 217 individuals and 4 partnerships entered on the Register.

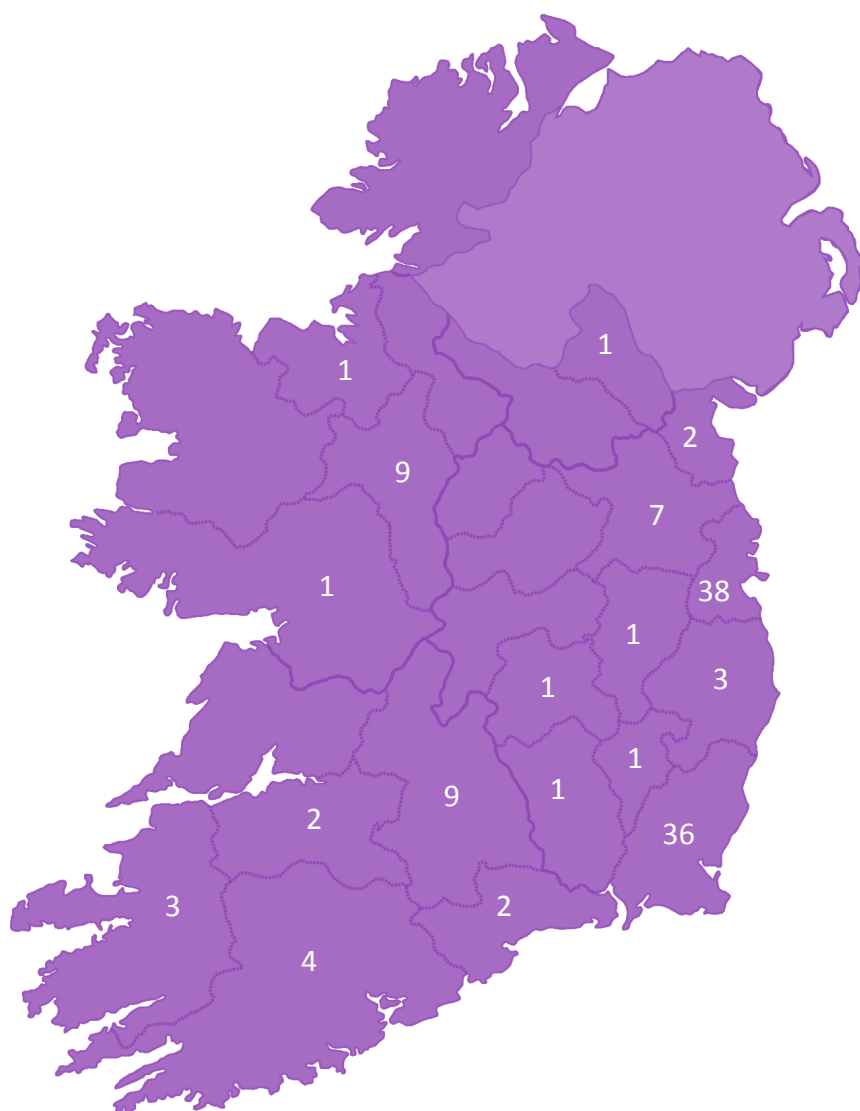
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES INTO WHICH TRADE MARKS

REGISTERED IN 2014 FALL

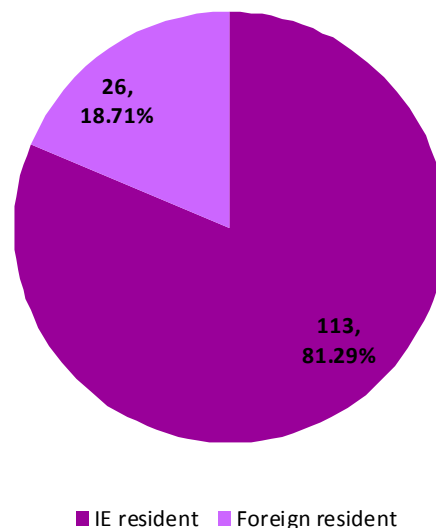
A multilateral treaty called the “Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks” established a classification system for trade marks. The Nice Classification comprises 45 class headings which describe in very broad terms the nature of the goods or services contained in each of the 34 classes of goods and 11 classes of services into which trade marks may fall. The classification is administered by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the current (tenth) edition has been in force since January 1, 2012.

Class	Classification of Goods	No. of marks in classification	Class	Classification of Goods	No. of marks in classification
1	Chemical Products, etc.	34	24	Tissues (piece goods), etc.	39
2	Paints, etc.	30	25	Clothing, including Boots, Shoes and Slippers	118
3	Bleaching Preparations, etc.	83	26	Lace and Embroidery, etc.	17
4	Industrial Oils, etc.	27	27	Carpets, etc.	21
5	Pharmaceutical Substances, etc.	235	28	Games, etc.	66
6	Unwrought and Partly Wrought Common Metals and their Alloys	45	29	Meat, Fish, Poultry and Game, etc.	151
7	Machines and Machine Tools, etc.	34	30	Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Sugar, Rice, etc.	212
8	Hand Tools and Instruments, Cutlery, etc.	33	31	Agricultural Products, etc.	76
9	Scientific Apparatus and Instruments, etc.	242	32	Beer, etc.	85
10	Surgical Instruments, etc.	23	33	Wines, Spirits and Liqueurs	62
11	Installations for Lighting, etc.	55	34	Tobacco, etc.	24
12	Vehicles; Apparatus for Locomotion by Land, Air or Water	40	35	Advertising, Business Management, etc.	278
13	Firearms, Ammunition and Projectiles; Explosive Substances; Fireworks	0	36	Insurance, Financial Affairs, etc.	118
14	Precious Metals and their Alloys, etc.	34	37	Building Construction, Repair, Installation Services.	75
15	Musical Instruments (other than talking machines and wireless apparatus)	4	38	Telecommunications	109
16	Paper, etc.	206	39	Transport, Packaging and Storage of Goods, etc.	92
17	Gutta Percha, India Rubber, etc.	24	40	Treatment of Materials	35
18	Leather, etc.	39	41	Education, Entertainment, etc.	302
19	Building Materials, etc.	43	42	Scientific and technological services	149
20	Furniture, etc.	49	43	Providing food and drink	80
21	Small Domestic Utensils, etc.	71	44	Medical services, etc	87
22	Ropes, etc.	10	45	Personal and social services	61
23	Yarns, Threads	1			

Business Statistics - Designs



National Design applications by country of first applicant.



National design applications by county in 2014

	2012	2013	2014
Design Applications*	67	61	54
Number of designs applied for*	187	185	139
Designs Registered	151	167	138
Designs Lapsed	67	253	82
Designs Renewed (1927 Act)	5	0	0
Designs Renewed (2001 Act)	127	46	43
Designs in force (1927 Act)	489	351	214
Designs in force (2001 Act)	1,012	1,112	1,000
Community Design Applications filed with OHIM via this Office	3	0	5

*Note: Rule 19 of the Industrial Designs Regulations 2002 provides that up to a maximum of 100 designs may be combined in one multiple application for registration of designs.

**DESIGNS REGISTERED UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS ACT, 2001 DURING THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2014 LISTED ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION**

The Locarno Agreement established a classification system for industrial designs. The Locarno Classification comprises a list of 32 classes of goods in which industrial designs may be incorporated. The classification is administered by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the current (ninth) edition has been in force since January 1, 2009.

Class	Classification	Designs Registered
1	Foodstuffs	0
2	Articles of Clothing and Haberdashery	18
3	Travel Goods, Cases, Parasols and Personal Belongings, not elsewhere specified	1
4	Brushware	0
5	Textile Piecegood Articles, Artificial and Natural Sheet Material	0
6	Furnishings	13
7	Household Goods, not elsewhere specified	5
8	Tools and Hardware	2
9	Packages and Containers for the Transport or Handling of Goods	6
10	Clocks and Watches and other Measuring Instruments, Checking and Signalling Instruments	4
11	Articles of Adornment	46
12	Means of Transport or Hoisting	0
13	Equipment for Production, Distribution or Transformation of Electricity	0
14	Recording, Communication or Information Retrieval Equipment	6
15	Machines, not elsewhere specified	2
16	Photographic, Cinematographic and Optical Apparatus	0
17	Musical Instruments	2
18	Printing and Office Machinery	0
19	Stationery and Office Equipment, Artists' and Teaching Materials	4
20	Sales and Advertising Equipment, Signs	0
21	Games, Toys, Tents and Sports Goods	3
22	Arms, Pyrotechnic Articles, Articles for Hunting, Fishing and Pest Killing	0
23	Fluid Distribution Equipment, Sanitary, Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Equipment, Solid Fuel	0
24	Medical and Laboratory Equipment	0
25	Building Units and Construction Elements	9
26	Lighting Apparatus	0
27	Tobacco and Smokers' Supplies	0
28	Pharmaceutical Products and Cosmetic Products, Toilet Articles and Apparatus	2
29	Devices and Equipment Against Fire Hazards, for Accident Prevention and for Rescue	1
30	Articles for the Care and Handling of Animals	8
31	Machines and Appliances for Preparing Food or Drink, not elsewhere specified	0
32	Graphic Symbols And Logos, Surface Patterns, Ornamentation	9
	Total	141

*A Design may be registered in more than one class; hence, the total number of designs in the classes exceeds the number of designs actually registered.

COPYRIGHT

References to the Controller under the Copyright & Related Rights Act, 2000

Under Section 38 of the Act, disputes between persons playing sound recordings in public and the owner of the copyright subsisting in the recordings, regarding the equitable remuneration payable to the copyright owner, may be referred to the Controller for determination. There were no disputes under this section in 2014.

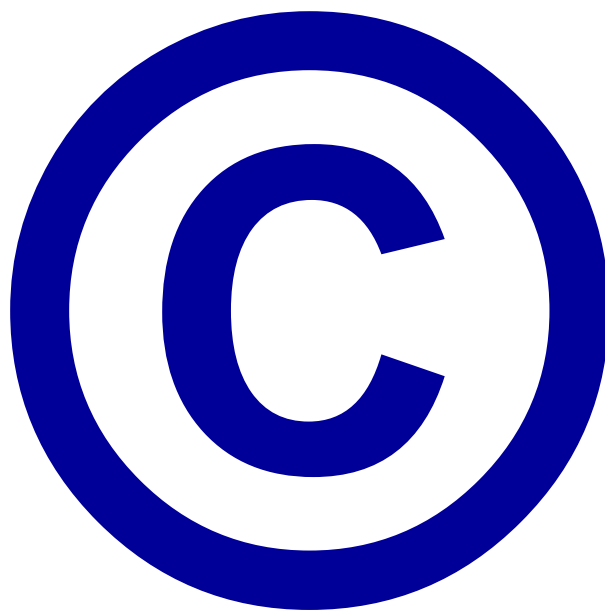
Under Section 152 of the Act, dispute between persons or organisations requiring a licence under a scheme, which is in operation and the operator of that scheme regarding the equitable remuneration payable, may be referred to the Controller for determination. There were 2 Section 152 disputes pending at the start of 2014, both of which were settled by the end of the year.

Registers of Copyright Licensing Bodies

The Act also makes provision for the Controller to establish and maintain the following Registers.

- The Register of Copyright Licensing Bodies.
- The Register of Licensing Bodies for Performers' Property Rights.
- The Register of Licensing Bodies for Database Rights.

There are 13 bodies registered in the Register of Copyright Licensing Bodies and 1 in the Register of Licensing Bodies for Performers' Property Rights. There are no entries in the Register of Licensing Bodies for Database Rights.



LEGISLATION

The Intellectual Property Unit of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has responsibility for policy and the preparation of legislation relating to intellectual property.

Legislation enacted in 2014

Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 (Act No. 36 of 2014)

The purpose of this Act was twofold. Firstly, it amended the Patents Act 1992 so as to enhance the research exemption in our patents legislation to benefit companies in the pharmaceutical sector in Ireland. The amendment provides legal certainty on the aspect of immunity from patent infringement where critical research and clinical trials are carried out in order to develop new or generic versions of medical and veterinary products without infringing the protection afforded by the original existing patent.

Secondly, the Act gave effect in Irish legislation to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks. The Treaty aims to reduce red tape by harmonising the administrative procedures of trade mark offices globally but does not impact on substantive trade mark law. While Ireland's legislation is broadly consistent with the requirements of the Treaty, in order to accede to the Treaty, some technical amendments to Section 29(3) and Section 29(4) of the Trade Marks Act 1996 were required. This Act was signed into law on 23 December 2014.

The European Union (Certain Permitted Uses of Orphan Works) Regulations 2014, (Directive 2012/28/EU), S.I. 490 of 2014

The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/28/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on certain permitted uses of orphan works. In line with the Directive, the Regulations apply to publicly accessible libraries, educational establishments, museums, archives, film or audio heritage institutions and public service broadcasters (up to 31 December 2002). The Regulations provide for an exception to copyright law for these organisations in respect of categories of works first published in the EU that are still protected by copyright but whose authors or other right holders cannot be identified and located. The categories of works are: works in the print sector (books, journals, magazines and newspapers), cinematographic and audio-visual works, sound recordings and works embedded or incorporated in other works or sound recordings (e.g. pictures in a book).

The exception to copyright law will allow these cultural organisations to digitise orphan works and make them publicly available on-line in all EU Member States. The Directive also applies to unpublished works (such as letters, manuscripts, etc.) under certain conditions. The regulations came into effect on 29 October 2014.

Financial Information

RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014 (Accounts not yet audited by C&AG)

RECEIPTS	€000
Patent fees (Notes 1 & 2)	5,879
Trade Mark fees	1,372
International Trade Mark Registration – fees received from WIPO (Note 3)	1,078
Design fees	11
Other fees	118
Less refunds made in respect of fees paid in error	93
Less transaction fees arising in respect of online credit card payments	115
Net receipts accruing to the exchequer	8,250

EXPENSES	€000
Salaries	1,781
Travel & Subsistence	41
Miscellaneous & Incidental expenses	71
Postal & Telecommunications Services	104
Office Machinery and other Office Supplies	287
Office Premises Expenses	89
Information resources, books periodicals, etc.	1
Subscriptions to Industrial Property Unions	386
Net expenses	2,760

Note 1:

In accordance with the European Patent Convention, to which Ireland is a party, the Patents Office is obliged to remit to the European Patents Office 50% of all renewal fees received in respect of European Patents which have been validated in Ireland and which are entered in the national register of patents.

	€000
Patent Fees	11,178
Less Proportion of patent renewal fees transferred to the European Patent Office	5,299
Net Patent fees which accrue to the Exchequer	5,879

Note 2:

The Patents Office acts as a receiving Office for patent applications made under the Patent Co-operation Treaty and as such receives fees for onward transmission to both the EPO and WIPO. These fees do not accrue to the Irish exchequer and are therefore not included in the figure for net receipts. Details of the fees transferred to the EPO and WIPO during 2013 are shown below:

	€000
PCT Basic and Designation Fees transferred to WIPO, Geneva	24
PCT Search fees transferred to EPO, Munich	36
Total	60

Note 3:

As a consequence of Ireland's ratification of the Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks (the Madrid Protocol) on 19 July 2001, the Office receives fees due in respect of International Trade Mark applications seeking protection in Ireland from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

PERFORMANCE TARGETS 2014

The Patents Office Customer Service Action Plan is based on the Twelve Quality Customer Service Principles set out in the 'Government's Quality Customer Service Initiative' and outlines the actions which will be taken to give effect to these principles. The customer services targets included in this plan are reported below:

Area of Activity and Level of Achievement

Patents					
1.	Issue formal filing receipts for correctly filed applications within 5 working days.	75%	7.	Transmit European and PCT applications to EPO/WIPO within 5 working days of receipt.	100%
2.	Issue certified copies of patent documents within 5 working days of receipt of request.	99%	8.	Approve the grant of short term patents within a period of 6 months from filing of a proper, complete application.	62%
3.	Issue patent renewal certificate within 3 working days of receipt of payment.	100%	9.	Following receipt of all necessary documents and responses to official objections associated with patent applications, to decide on whether to grant or refuse a patent within two months.	95%
4.	Process applications for registration of assignments within 7 working days of submission of a fully completed application.	97%	10.	Issue notification of formal defects within 15 working days of filing.	90%
5.	Issue confirmation that amendments requested to the patents register in respect of names and address of proprietors and addresses for service have been recorded within 5 working days of receipt of a properly completed application.	97%	11.	Issue notice of substantive defects within 2 months of filing.	99%
6.	Grant patents within 3 working days of receipt of grant fee.	97%	12.	Classify for publication 90% of all non-divisional patent applications within 18 months after the priority filing date.	65%

Supplementary Protection Certificates

1.	Issue notification of formal defects within 10 working days of filing date.	100%	2.	Issue formal filing receipts for correctly filed SPC applications within 5 working days.	80%
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Designs

1.	Issue formal filing receipts for correctly filed design applications within 5 working days.	81%	4.	Issue design renewal certificates within 3 working days of payment of the renewal fee.	100%
2.	Issue initial objections letter/acceptance letter within 12 weeks of receipt of application.	100%	5.	Issue Certificates of Registration within 5 working days of the application being registered by Examination Division.	95%
3.	Respond to 95% of all written correspondence on individual applications in examination within 5 weeks.	100%			

Area of Activity and Level of Achievement

Trade Marks					
1.	Issue formal filing receipts for correctly filed trade mark applications within 7 working days.	87%	10.	Issue to relevant parties copies of notices of opposition and applications for revocation or declaration of invalidity within 2 weeks of receipt.	100%
2.	Process applications for registration of trade mark assignments within 7 working days of submission of a properly, fully completed application.	100%	11.	Respond to 95% of all written correspondence on individual applications in examination within 2 weeks.	100%
3.	Issue certified copies and extracts from the Trade Marks Register within 5 working days of request.	100%	12.	Respond to individual requests for extensions of time prior to the expiry of the relevant deadline where those requests are made not later than 2 weeks before such expiry.	100%
4.	Issue trade mark renewal certificate within 3 working days of receipt of payment.	100%	13.	Register trade marks within 3 working days of receipt of registration fee.	97%
5.	Issue confirmation that requests for amendments to the Trade Marks register in respect of names and addresses of proprietors and trade mark agents and addresses for service have been recorded within 5 working days of receipt of a properly completed application.	94%	14.	Issue 80% of written statement of grounds of decisions in hearings within 2 months following request for same.	70%
6.	Accept applications for trade marks within a period of 2 months from the filing of a properly completed application and where no objections have been raised by the Office.	95%	15.	Issue 90% of decisions in hearings within 1 month of hearing.	100%
7.	Issue initial objections/acceptance letters within 8 weeks of receipt of new application in the Division.	97%	16.	Issue a request for payment of registration fees within 7 working days of the expiration of the period for filing of opposition where no opposition is received.	100%
8.	Respond to 95% of written correspondence on individual applications (opposition, revocation and invalidity) within 2 weeks.	100%	17.	Where opposition is determined in favour of the applicant, the request for registration fees to issue within 7 working days of publication of the withdrawal of opposition.	100%
9.	Transmit application for International Trade Mark Registrations within 5 working days of receipt of correctly filed applications.	100%			

General

1.	Issue payment receipts for all fees received (in the form of cheque, bank draft and money order) within 2 working days.	100%
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COMING IN 2015

E-filing of Designs

The provision of an online e-filing service for industrial designs is similar to the service already in place for trade marks. The functionality will allow for the filing of multiple design applications, requests for deferment of publication and online payment of the application fee by debit or credit card. The designs e-filing service will make it easier for business to apply to register industrial designs in Ireland and will also be in line with best international practice.

E-Services

Currently the Office can facilitate requests to pay all fee types over the telephone via a credit/debit card terminal or by EFT. However, only renewal and registration/grant fees can be paid online via the Office's website. The E-Services project will facilitate the online payment of all trade mark and design fees with all patent fees to be included at a later date.

Federated Register

The Federated European Patent Register service provides the public with information on the legal status of European Patents and the legal status of national patents. In the first phase of the project (already completed) the Federated Register provided a direct link to a specific application or publication number in a number of national patent registers including Ireland. The second phase, which will be completed in 2015, will give the opportunity for the user to consult legal status data of EP documents in the national phase in several offices displayed in a single unified list. This list will be built on the fly by retrieving data in real-time from each national office's register databases including the Irish patents register.

Upgrade of web servers and website

An upgrade of the website infrastructure and web servers is being carried out in order to replace out of date and unsupported operating systems. A new content management system will also be put in place to facilitate refinement of web pages, easier creation and management of content and expanded capabilities to manage graphics, photos, video and audio so as to provide improved services to users. This will be followed by a redesign of the Office's website.

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e-mail patlib@patentsoffice.ie

Website www.patentsoffice.ie

Opening Hours

9:30-5pm Mon-Fri



Brollach



De réir na bhforálacha d'Alt 103 d'Acht na bPaitinní, 1992, tá sé mar onóir dom anois mo Thuarascáil don bhliain dar críoch an 31 Nollaig 2014 a chur faoi bhráid an Oireachtais. Pléitear sa Thuarascáil le comhlíonadh na bhfeidhmeanna reachtúla atá agam faoi Acht na bPaitinní, 1992, (arna leasú); faoi Acht na dTrádmharcanna, 1996, (arna leasú); faoin Acht um Dhearaí Tionscail, 2001; faoi na Rialacha agus faoi na Rialacháin Reachtúla éagsúla arna ndéanamh de bhun na nAchtanna sin; agus faoi Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Deimhniú Forlíontach Cosanta). Is fúmsa, i gcáil reachtúil, atá sé cinntí a dhéanamh faoi na hAchtanna, faoi na Rialacha agus faoi na Rialacháin sin, faoi réir cearta áirithe achomhairc chuig an Ard-Chúirt.

Tá feidhmeanna reachtúla áirithe agam freisin faoin Acht Cóipchirt agus Ceart Gaolmhar, 2000, a bhaineann go príomha le déileáil le clárúchán comhlachtaí ceadúnúcháin chóipchirt, le tagairtí agus iarratais a bhaineann le scéimeanna ceadúnúcháin atá á bhfeidhmiú ag na comhlachtaí sin agus le díospóidí a réiteach maidir le dleachtanna is iníoctha faoi na scéimeanna sin, a éiríonn den chuid is mó as taifeadtaí fuaimne sin a sheinm go poiblí. De bharr thrasuí na Treorach maidir le Saothair Dílleachta i ndlí na hÉireann, bhí tuilleadh cumhachta agam sa phróiseas um stádas "dílleachta" a bhronnadh ar shaothar faoi chóipcheart sa bhliain 2014.

Agus í ar an oifig reachtúil a bhfuil freagracht uirthi as cearta maoine intleachtúla a dheonú agus a chlárú in Éirinn, go háirithe cearta paitinne, cearta trádmhairc agus cearta dearaidh thionsclaíoch, cuireann Oifig na bPaitinní seirbhís thábhachtach ar fáil do ghnólachtaí agus d'fhiontair Éireannacha. Mar aon leis an reachtaíocht ábhartha a riar maidir le próiseáil a dhéanamh ar iarratais ar phaitinní, ar thrádmharcanna agus ar dhearaí tionsclaíocha, agus mar aon le clárú agus bhunachair shonraí leictreonacha a choinneáil i leith na gceart sin, lean an Oifig seo ar aghaidh le cúnamh agus le faisnéis faoin gcóras maoine intleachtúla a chur ar fáil do ghnólachtaí agus d'fhiontair Éireannacha, in éineacht le mic léinn, le fiontrairthe óga agus le nuálaithe. Aithnímid gur gá feasacht gnólachtaí a ardú agus tuiscint níos fearr a thabhairt dóibh ar thomhaltóirí chun cabhrú le nuálaithe atá ag teacht chun cinn cinntí eolacha a dhéanamh faoina Maoin Intleachtúil (MI) agus faoi MI a gcuid iomaitheoirí agus chun an chuid is fearr a bhaint as luach a nuálaíochta agus a gcruthaitheachta. Rinneamar iarracht é sin a dhéanamh i gcomhar le gníomhaireachtaí eile stáit, ar nós Fhiontraíocht Éireann agus Oifigí Fiontar Áitiúla, agus le hOllscoileanna agus le hInstitiúidí Teicneolaíochta d'fhonn feasacht a mhéadú ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le cearta maoine intleachtúla do gach cineál fiontar beag beann ar a méid agus ar chineál a gcuid gnó.

I mo Thuarascáil Bhliantúil do 2014, tugtar faisnéis faoi conas a sholáthair an Oifig a cuid seirbhísí agus conas a chomhlíon sí na feidhmeanna reachtúla éagsúla atá aici le linn na bliana. Luaitear inti na héifeachtúlachtaí oibriúcháin agus na feabhsuithe a rinneadh ar an dóigh a soláthraímid próisis agus seirbhísí áirithe d'fhonn níos mó a bhaint amach agus níos lú acmhainní againn. Luaitear inti freisin an dóigh a ndearnamar iarracht an t-ualach riaracháin atá ar ghnólachtaí a laghdú trí thionscnaimh ar nós trádmharcanna agus dearaí a ríomhchomhdú agus trí mhéadú a dhéanamh ar an raon roghanna cuardaigh atá ann ar an mbunachar sonraí agus ar an raon roghanna ríomhíocaíochta atá ar fáil do ghnólachtaí. Gabhann raon staitisticí gnó leis an bhfaisnéis sin.

Ag féachaint romhainn, leanfaidh an Oifig ar aghaidh le straitéis gnó atá dírithe ar an gcustaiméir a chur chun feidhme, agus é mar aidhm léi an córas MI in Éirinn a chur ar aghaidh chun tairbhe gnólachtaí Éireannacha agus fiontar Éireannach araon. Is é aidhm na straitéise méadú a dhéanamh ar an líon ríomhsheirbhísí agus ríomhuirlisí fabhrach don ghnó atá ar fáil agus leanúint ar aghaidh lenár gclár feasachta d'fhonn an tábhacht a bhaineann le MI a chur chun cinn, úsáid níos eolaí as an gcóras MI a spreagadh agus tuiscint níos eolaí ar an gcóras sin a chothú.

Gerard Barrett

Ceannasaí

Trácht Ginearálta ar Threochtaí, ar Chuspóirí agus ar Ghníomhaíochtaí

Treochtaí

Bíonn fás na nuálaíochta ag brath go mór ar gheilleagar cobhsaí agus ar thimpeallacht ina mbíonn fás geilleagrach leanúnach a bheith ann. Sa bhliain 2014, bhí geilleagar na hÉireann ar an ngeilleagar is gasta fás san Aontas Eorpach de réir réamhaisnéis gheilleagrach an fhómhair ó Choimisiún an AE. Is údar misnigh é sin tar éis na géarchéime airgeadais agus na marbhántachta airgeadais atá feicthe againn le blianta beaga anuas. Léirítear sa réamhaisnéis go mbíonn gnólachtaí Éireannacha agus cuideachtaí faoi úinéireacht eachtrach ag infheistiú arís, agus méadú 11% ann in infheistíocht sa chéad leath den bhliain. Is fiú a rá, áfach, go raibh an méadú sin ag teacht ó bhonn an-íseal infheistíochta.

Bíonn fás agus forbairt inbhuanaithe in Éirinn ag brath go mór ar leibhéil nuálaíochta a mhéadú ar fud an gheilleagair. I Scórchlár an Aontais Nuálaíochta do 2015 ón gCoimisiún Eorpach, bhog Éire suas go dtí an t-ochtú háit as 28 Ballstát den AE. Bhí sí sa naoú háit sa bhliain roimhe. Is i Scórchlár an Aontais Nuálaíochta – rud a chuirtear le chéile gach bliain – a thugtar measúnú comparáideach ar an bhfeidhmíocht taighde agus nuálaíochta de chuid na 28 Ballstát den AE agus láidreachtaí agus laigí coibhneasta a gcuid córais taighde agus nuálaíochta. I gcás na n-ocht réimse a chuirtear san áireamh i Scórchlár an Aontais Nuálaíochta ón gCoimisiún Eorpach, tá Éire rangaithe sa chéad áit in dhá cheann díobh, is iad sin: Nuálaithe; agus Tionchar Eacnamaíoch. Léiríonn an ghné Nuálaithe cé chomh nuálach atá gnólachtaí agus pléann an Tionchar Eacnamaíoch leis an rath eacnamaíoch ó thaobh fostaíochta, ioncaim agus onnmhairí de a thagann as nuálaíocht.

Paitinní agus Deimhnithe Forlíontacha Cosanta (DFCanna)

Cé gur againn in Éirinn atá timpeallacht ina dtacaítear le nuálaíocht againn in Éirinn, léiríonn sé sin - de réir scórchláir idirnáisiúnta - láithreach na ngnólachtaí ilnáisiúnta ardeicneolaíochta sa tír agus ní gá go dtacaíonn ardlíon comhdúchán paitinní léi. Sa Suirbhé Eacnamaíochta ar Éirinn uaithi do 2013, chuir an Eagraíocht um Chomhar agus Forbairt Eacnamaíochta (ECFE) in iúl go raibh acmhainn íseal chun nuáil ag fiontair “dhúchasacha” (intíre) agus is cosúil go bhfuil an méid sin le feiceáil i líon íseal leanúnach na gcomhdúchán paitinní náisiúnta. Mhol ECFE go bhforbrófaí tuilleadh nasc idir fiontair agus earnáil an ardoideachais ar mhaithe le hinneall nua fás a chur ar fáil. Is é is eagraíochtaí taighde⁽¹⁾ ann ná comhlachtaí tríú leibhéal in earnáil na nInstitiúidí Ardoideachais a fhaigheann cistiú ón Stát chun cabhrú le taighde. Baineann méid mór dá gcuid oibre le comhpháirtíochtaí taighde leis an ngnó agus gníomhaíochtaí aistriú teicneolaíochta/eolais arb é is aidhm dóibh maoin intleachtúil (MI) ábhartha agus saineolas ábhartha a aistriú chuig an ngnó. In earnáil na nInstitiúidí Taighde, bhain 145 sraith paitinní⁽²⁾ a comhdáíodh go díreach céim an fhoilseacháin amach in 2014. Bhí comhoibriú idir Institiúidí Taighde⁽³⁾ i gceist le 9 gcinn díobh sin.

I gcodarsnacht le laghdúithe leanúnacha i líon na gcomhdúchán náisiúnta, mar sin, is treocht dhearfach aníos a léirítear sna figiúirí maidir le comhdúcháin idirnáisiúnta (an Conradh Comhoibriúcháin i dtaobh Paitinní (CCP)) agus Eorpacha ó iarratasóirí atá lonnaithe in Éirinn. In éineacht le figiúirí dearfacha maidir le fás faoi réir onnmhairí, tugann an méid sin le fios go leanann cuideachtaí Éireannacha atá dírithe ar onnmhairí (a bhféadfadh go mbeadh cuid mhór acu ina gcuideachtaí ilnáisiúnta atá faoi úinéireacht eachtrach) le hiarracht a dhéanamh tairbhe a bhaint as an acmhainn atá ann díolachán idirnáisiúnta a dhéanamh agus go mbíonn siad ag cinntiú go bhfuil a sócmhainní maoin intleachtúla faoi chosaint i bpríomh-mhargáí eachtracha. Mar sin féin, níor cheart a mheas go dtugtar léargas iomlán ar an scéal sna figiúirí sin. Agus iad ag forbairt MI in Éirinn, tá sé mar bheartas ag mórán gnólachtaí faoi úinéireacht eachtrach atá lonnaithe in Éirinn iarratais a chomhdú chun na cearta MI sin a chosaint trína máthairchuideachta a bhfuil a ceanncheathrú lonnaithe thar lear. I gcásanna den sórt sin, fiú amháin gur in Éirinn a rinneadh an Taighde agus an Fhorbairt as ar tháinig an MI, ní gá go dtaifeadtar na hiarratais sin mar chomhdúcháin ó ghnólachtaí atá lonnaithe in Éirinn.

Comhdúcháin phaitinní eachtracha ó dhaoine nó ó chomhlachtaí atá lonnaithe in Éirinn chuig údarais phaitinní roghnaithe

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
An Conradh Comhoibriúcháin i dtaobh Paitinní (CCP) ^(a)	443	415	391	432	440*
Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa (OPE) ^(b)	765	699	663	718	709
An Ríocht Aontaithe	289	330	336	361	Níl figiúirí ar fáil
Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá ^(c)	796	829	947	1,039	Níl figiúirí ar fáil

Foinsí: Bunachar Sonraí Staitisticí na hEagraíochta Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (EDMI) (*figiúirí sealadacha), Bunachar Sonraí Staitisticí OPE, “Facts & Figures” ó Oifig Maoin Intleachtúla na Ríochta Aontaithe (UKIPO), Staitisticí Paitinní Oifig Paitinní agus Trádmharcanna na Stát Aontaithe (USPTO).

(a) A bhfuil le Córas an Chonartha Chomhoibriúcháin i dtaobh Paitinní (CCP), is féidir cosaint paitinne d’aireagán a iarraidh go comhuaineach i líon mór tíortha trí iarratas aonair ar phaitinn “Idirnáisiúnta” a chomhdú. Tá an comhaireamh thuas bunaithe ar dháta comhdúcháin idirnáisiúnta agus ar thír chónaithe an iarratasóra chéadainmnithe.

(b) Is é is iarratas ar Phaitinn Eorpach ann ná nós imeachta aonair lena dtugtar cosaint paitinne i ngach stát conarthach (38 stát) faoi Choinbhinsiún na Paitinne Eorpaigh atá ainmnithe ag an iarratasóir.

(c) Baineann comhdúcháin na Stát Aontaithe le paitinní fónais, nithe ar a dtugtar “paitinní i gcomhair aireagán” freisin.

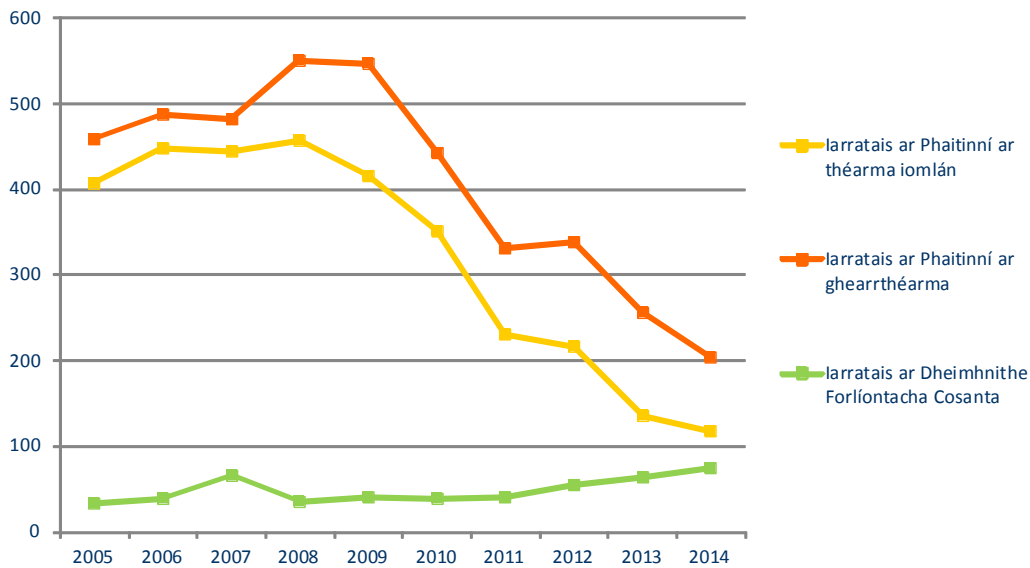
1) Áirítear in earnáil na nInstitiúidí Taighde gach Ollscoil agus gach Institiúid Taighde, chomh maith leis an gColáiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne is Deartha, Coláiste Ríoga na Máinlianna agus Teagasc, arb é comhlacht taighde talmhaíochta agus bia an Stáit.

2) Is é is sraith paitinní ann ná sraith d’iarratais ar **phaitinn** nó sraith d’fhoilseacháin a rinneadh i roinnt tíortha éagsúla chun aireagán aonair ó aireagóir(i) coiteann(a) agus a gcuirtear paitinn orthu i níos mó ná tír amháin ina dhiaidh sin.

3) Comhdúcháin ina bhfuil an Institiúid Taighde ainmnithe mar iarratasóir – ní áirítear leo comhdúcháin arna ndéanamh ag cuideachtaí campais, mac-chuideachtaí, etc.

Trácht Ginearálta ar Threochtaí, ar Chuspóirí agus ar Ghníomhaíochtaí

Iarratais Náisiúnta ar Phaitinní agus Dheimhnithe Forlíontacha Cosanta
2005 – 2014



- I gcomparáid leis na figiúirí do 2013, bhí laghdú 12.5% ar líon na gcomhdúcháin Paitinní lántéarmacha náisiúnta a fuarthas le linn 2014 (ó 135 comhdúcháin go 118 comhdúcháin) agus bhí laghdú 20% ar líon na n-iarratas ar phaitinní gearrthéarmacha a fuarthas (ó 255 iarratas go 203 iarratas). Is an-soiléir freisin atá an t-aistriú ó phaitinní fadtéarmacha go paitinní gearrthéarmacha - is é 2:1 an cóimheas ina leith sin, beagnach. Tugtar le tuiscint sna figiúirí gur fearr le hiarratasóirí a n-iarratais phaitinní a dhéanamh tríd an mbealach Eorpach ná trí oifigí náisiúnta.
- Lean iarratais ar Dheimhnithe Forlíontacha Cosanta (DFCanna) de bheith ag méadú in 2014, iad tar éis ardú faoi 19% ó 63 iarratas in 2013 go 75 iarratas in 2014. Meastar go mbaineann tábhacht shuntasach le DFCanna don tionscal táirgí cógaisíochta agus íocshláinte agus is ceart an-luachmhar MI iad. Tá Éire ar cheann de na príomháiteanna san Eoraip anois don tionscal cógaisíochta. Is fiú €40 billiún don gheilleagar iad onnmhairí cógaisíochta na tíre, rud is comhionann le sciar suntasach den Olltáirgeacht Intíre iomlán.

Trádmharcanna agus Dearaí

I gcodarsnacht le paitinní, tá líon na n-iarratas náisiúnta ar thrádmharcanna ag méadú arís tar éis dóibh bheith ag laghdú le blianta beaga anuas. D'fhéadfadh gur tháinig an méadú sin as feachtas mhéadaitheach ar infheidhmeacht leathan trádmharcanna agus ar an úsáid is féidir a bhaint astu mar chuid de mhóstraitéisí MI chun brandaí a chosaint. D'fhéadfadh gur tháinig sé as a gcost-éifeachtúlacht choibhneasta freisin. I gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2013, ní raibh ach athrú beag ann i líon na n-iarratas ar Thrádmharcanna Comhphobail a chomhdaigh cónaitheoirí Éireannacha in 2014. Mar sin féin, bhí méadú 9% ann ar an bhfigiúr do 2013 maidir le líon na n-iarratas idirnáisiúnta ar thrádmharcanna a rinne cónaitheoirí Éireannacha trí chóras Mhaidrid. D'fhéadfadh go léireodh an méadú sin an fás láidir in onnmhairí bia agus dí chuig margaí idirnáisiúnta lasmuigh den AE agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le táirgí Éireannacha a bhrandáil sna margaí sin.

Iarratais ar Thrádmharcanna a ó dhaoine nó ó chomhlachtaí atá lonnaithe in Éirinn chuig údarais phaitinní roghnaithe

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Thrádmharcanna Comhphobail CTM ^(a)	832	808	827	1054	1,040
Maidrid ^(b)	101	130	121	172	187*
An Ríocht Aontaithe	543	601	482	397	Níl figiúirí ar fáil

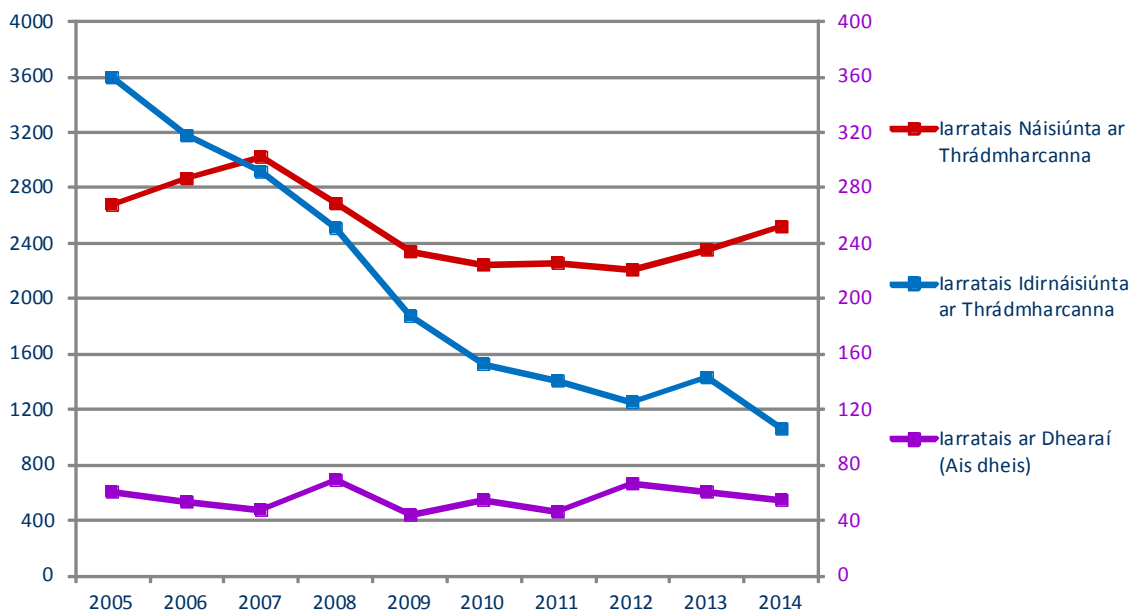
Foinsí: Staitisticí SSC003.1 ón Oifig um Chomhchuíbhiú sa Mhargadh Inmheánach (OCMI), Bunachar Sonraí EDMI (*figiúirí sealadacha), "Facts & Figures" ó UKIPO. Beidh figiúirí áirithe stairiúla comhdúcháin éagsúil ó bhliain go bliain de bharr nuashonrú leanúnach na mbunachar sonraí de chuid EDMI, OPE agus OCMI.

(a) Foráiltear le córas na dTrádmharcanna Comhphobail do nós imeachta iarratais agus clárúcháin aonair lena dtugtar cosaint trádmhairc ar fud na 27 Ballstát den AE.

(b) Le córas Mhaidrid, tugtar deis d'úinéirí trádmhairc cosaint trádmhairc a fháil i roinnt tíortha éagsúla trí iarratas amháin a chomhdú. Tá marc idirnáisiúnta coibhéiseach le hiarratas ar an marc céanna nó le clárúcháin an mhairc chéanna a chuirtear i bhfeidhm go díreach i ngach ceann de na tíortha atá ainmnithe ag an iarratasóir. Cuimsíonn na figiúirí thuas comhdúcháin idirnáisiúnta ó iarratasóirí Éireannacha trí Oifig Paitinní na hÉireann agus comhdúcháin idirnáisiúnta ó iarratasóirí Éireannacha trí oifigí eile maoinne intleachtúla ar baill de Chóras Mhaidrid iad.

Trácht Ginearálta ar Threochtaí, ar Chuspóirí agus ar Ghníomhaíochtaí

Iarratais Náisiúnta ar Thrádmharcanna agus Dearaí 2005 – 2014



- Lean líon na n-iarratas ar dhearaí tionsclaíocha a chlárú de bheith ag laghdú in 2014 (ó 61 iarratas go 54 iarratas). Tá líon an-íseal iarratas déanta ó 2003 nuair a tháinig córas clárúcháin Dearaí an Chomhphobail i bhfeidhm den chéad uair. Bhí 141 dearadh san iomlán i gceist leis na 54 iarratas a fuarthas.
- I gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2013, tháinig méadú 7% - arbh údar misnigh é - ar líon iomlán na n-iarratas náisiúnta ar thrádmharcanna a fuarthas in 2014 (ó 2,354 iarratas go 2,523 iarratas). Tháinig laghdú ar líon na n-iarratas idirnáisiúnta ar thrádmharcanna cosanta in Éirinn, iad tar éis laghdú faoi 26% i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2013 (ó 1,427 iarratas go 1,058 iarratas). Den chuid is mó, tháinig sé sin as iarratais ar thrádmharcanna idirnáisiúnta a rinneadh chuig an AE trí chóras na dTrádmharcanna Comhphobail atá á riar ag OCMI. Is fearr le hiarratasóirí Idirnáisiúnta atá ar lorg cosaint trádmailc san Eoraip an córas sin a úsáid ná iarratais náisiúnta aonair a dhéanamh.

Misean agus Cuspóirí Oifig na bPaitinní

Is é seo a leanas lármhisean Oifig na bPaitinní:

“Córas éifeachtach éifeachtúil um maoin thionsclaíoch a chosaint a chur ar fáil, rud a spreagfaidh dul chun cinn teicneolaíochta agus a chuirfidh fiontraíocht chun cinn trí chur chun feidhme na reachtaíochta ábhartha ag an Oifig”.

Bainfear é sin amach trí chearta maoin tionsclaíche a chosaint i réimsí na bpaitinní, na dtrádmharcanna agus na ndearaí agus trí eolas agus fhaisnéis ábhartha a scaipeadh go réamhghníomhach i gcomhar le gach ceann de na gníomhaíochtaí sin.

Ullmhaíodh Ráiteas Straitéise nua don tréimhse 2014-2016 i mí na Nollag 2013. Is sa tráchtairacht seo a leanas agus sa tuarascáil staidrimh a ghabhann léi a dhéantar breithniú ar ghníomhaíochtaí na hOifige maidir leis na sé phríomhchuspóir atá leagtha amach sa Ráiteas Straitéise a chomhlíonadh.

Meastar go bhfuil na sé chuspóir sin ríthábhachtach maidir le misean na hOifige a chomhlíonadh agus maidir lena héifeachtúlacht oibriúcháin a choimeád ar bun. Tagann misean agus straitéis na hOifige freisin leis na mórchuspóirí náisiúnta a bhaineann le tacaíocht agus le spreagadh a thabhairt d’fhiontraíocht agus do nuálaíocht agus le timpeallacht éifeachtach ghnó a chothú in Éirinn.

Cuspóir 1

Leanúint ar aghaidh le paitinní a dheonú agus le trádmharcanna agus le dearaí a chlárú bunaithe ar nósanna imeachta riaracháin agus ar chaighdeáin seirbhísí atá éifeachtúil (agus ar aon dul leo sin a léiríonn an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta agus a fhreastalaíonn ar riachtanais chustaiméirí).

Ba le breis éifeachtúlachta agus éifeachtachta a lean an Oifig lena seirbhísí a sholáthar in 2014. Rinneadh caighdeáin Seirbhíse do Chustaiméirí a athbhreithniú nuair ba ghá agus rinneadh próisis a chuíchóiriú agus a uathoibriú tuilleadh. Ní raibh aon fhíor riaráiste próiseála ann agus ba ar leibhéal an-sásúil a comhlíonadh formhór na spriocanna seirbhíse do chustaiméirí.

Ba i mí Aibreáin 2014 a chuir Oifig Paitinní na hÉireann an córas um chomhdúchán leictreonach iarratas ar thrádmharcanna i bhfeidhm. Cuimsítear leis an gcóras feidhmiúlacht lena méadaítear éifeachtúlacht agus éifeachtacht d’iarratasóirí ar thrádmharcanna agus do scrúdaitheoirí trádmharcanna araon. Mórthairbhe a bhaineann leis an gcóras d’úsáideoirí is ea an dearbhú a fhaigheann siad go nglacfaidh an Oifig le haon téarmaí a roghnaíonn siad ón liosta ceadaithe aicmithe comhchuibhithe in TMclass. Chabhraigh sé sin leis an bpróiseas iarratas a chuíchóiriú agus tabharfaidh sé leibhéal intuarthachta d’úsáideoirí. Cabhraíonn an córas leis an bpróiseas scrúdúcháin freisin agus déanfar cinntí níos tapa ar iarratais ar chosaint mar thoradh air. Faoi dheireadh na bliana 2014, ba go leictreonach trí shuíomh Gréasáin na hOifige a fuarthas 80% de na hiarratais uile ar thrádmharcanna. Ní chruthaítear páipéarchomhaid a thuilleadh d’iarratais ar thrádmharcanna a fhaightear go leictreonach agus tá próiseas gan pháipéar den chuid is mó i bhfeidhm d’obair cuardaigh agus scrúdaithe, rud atá ag teacht leis an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta.

Tá obair á déanamh faoi láthair chun ríomhchódúchán a fhorbairt agus a chur chun feidhme do dhearaí. Tá sé sceidealta go mbeidh sé sin i bhfeidhm i lár na bliana 2015. Cuirfear tús le hobair ar fheidhmiúlacht a fhorbairt lena gcumasófar ríomhchódúchán iarratas ar phaitinní in 2016.

B’ionann na glanfháltais a bhí dlite don státchiste sa bhliain 2014 agus €8.250m, rud ar laghdú €0.129m nó 1.5% ar an bhfigiúr do 2013 (ó €8.379m). Tagann an chuid is mó d’ioncam táillí na hOifige ó tháillí athnuachana ar Phaitinní Eorpacha. Tá laghduithe in athnuachaintí paitinní agus trádmharcanna náisiúnta le feiceáil ó 2008. D’fhéadfadh go mbeadh an laghdú in ioncam ó tháillí athnuachana curtha i leith dúnadh gnólachtaí agus cúinsí eacnamaíochta agus airgeadais a théann i bhfeidhm ar an gcumas atá ag gnólachtaí ceart MI a athnuachan. Agus iad cothrom le €2.760m in 2014, bhí laghdú beag €16,000 ann i nglanspeansais na hOifige i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr comhfhreagrach €2.744m do 2013. Leanann na laghduithe ba mhó i speansais le teacht chun cinn i dtuarastail foirne (atá le feiceáil i gcothromú an tsoláthair foirne) agus i seirbhísí poist agus teileachumarsáide. Bhí an laghdú i speansais phoist mar thoradh díreach ar thiomantas na hOifige do chomhdúchán gan pháipéar agus do ríomhphost a úsáid.

Cuspóir 2

Iarracht a dhéanamh ar theicneolaíocht nua a ionchorprú d'fhonn feabhas a chur ar chórais agus nósanna imeachta agus ar sheirbhís do chustaiméirí agus a thógfaidh ceann freisin d'éilimh an tsochaí faisnéise agus r-ghnó.

Ar mhaithe le seirbhísí a sholáthar ar bhealach níos éifeachtúla, lean an fhoireann le feabhas a chur ar na próisis oibre agus ar na réitigh theicneolaíochta atá mar bhonn thaca ag a croítháirgí agus ag a croísheirbhísí le linn na bliana 2014. Tá an tiomantas atá againn do sheirbhís ardchaighdeán a sholáthar do chustaiméirí leagtha amach inár bPlean Gníomhaíochta um Sheirbhís do Chustaiméirí, rud atá ar fáil ar ár suíomh Gréasáin. Is é 94% an meánleibhéal gnóthachtála i gcás na 37 sprioc seirbhíse do chustaiméirí atá againn, spriocanna lena leagtar síos uasteorainneacha ama chun gníomhaíochtaí agus cúraimí éagsúla atá dírithe ar an gcustaiméir a chur i gcrích. Cuirtear síos ar na spriocanna sin sa rannán “Spriocanna Feidhmíochta” den tuarascáil. Ó 2010 ar aghaidh, le clár ríomhchumarsáide a chur ar bun, rud arb é an aidhm atá leis soláthar seirbhísí a fheabhsú agus próiseáil a dhéanamh ar bhealach níos éifeachtúla trí chomhdúchán leictreonach, phróiseáil leictreonach comhad agus chumarsáid leictreonach a chomhcheangal ar bhealach a chabhróidh ar deireadh le próiseáil gan pháipéar san Oifig. Is trí ríomhphost a eisítear formhór mór chomhfhreagras na Roinne anois. Spreagtar custaiméirí cumarsáid trí ríomhphost a dhéanamh leis an Oifig nuair is féidir.

Thug an Oifig bosca seachadta leictreonach isteach in 2011, rud a fhágann gur féidir iarratais chriptithe ar phaitinní, ar thrádmharcanna agus ar dhearaí, in éineacht le doiciméid ghaolmhara, a chur isteach go leictreonach agus go slán tríd an Idirlíon. Níl an bosca seachadta ar fáil do gach iarratasóir. Tá sé ar fáil d'aturnaetha cláraithe a dhéanann roinnt iarratais éagsúla, nó a bheartaíonn roinnt iarratais éagsúla a dhéanamh, ar chearta maoine intleachtúla i mbliain ar bith. Ag deireadh na bliana 2014, bhí leas á bhaint ag 21 gnólacht as an mbosca seachadta le haghaidh comhdúcháin phaitinní. Cabhraíonn Ciste Comhair OCMI agus Pacáiste Bogearraí OCMI le hoifigí náisiúnta sraith uirlisí nua-aimseartha Gréasánbhunaithe a fhorbairt agus a chur chun feidhme chun tacú le saolré na dtrádmharcanna agus na ndearaí. Áirítear iad seo a leanas leis na tionscadail atá críochnaithe nó curtha ar siúl ag an Oifig chun uirlisí nua a thabhairt isteach:

TMclass: Bunachar sonraí téarmaí aicmithe comhchuibhithe a nglactar leo i ngach Oifig AE, OCMI ina measc.

TMView: Uirlis cuardaigh ar líne lena soláthraítear rochtain saor in aisce ar chlár thrádmharcanna de chuid gach Oifige AE, OCMI ina measc.

Designview: Uirlis cuardaigh ar líne lena soláthraítear rochtain saor in aisce ar chlár dhearaí de chuid gach Oifige AE, OCMI ina measc.

Ríomhchódúchán trádmharcanna: Comhdúchán ar líne iarratas ar thrádmharcanna lena gcuimsítear íocaíocht ar líne na táille iarratais.

Ríomhchódúchán dearaí: Comhdúchán ar líne iarratas ar dhearaí lena gcuimsítear íocaíocht ar líne na táille iarratais.

Ríomhsheirbhísí: Méadú a dhéanamh ar raon na dtáillí trádmharcanna agus dearaí is féidir a íoc ar líne.

Leanadh ar aghaidh in 2014 le tionscadal arb é is aidhm dó cur le líon na ndoiciméad paitinne náisiúnta atá cartlannaithe go leictreonach, rud a tosaíodh in 2013. Ba é aidhm an tionscadail ná na doiciméid sonraíochta uile atá ar fáil faoi iarratasóirí ar phaitinní a fuarthas sa tréimhse idir na 1960í agus go luath sna 2000í a scanadh agus iad a chur ar fáil ar an suíomh Gréasáin. Meastar go bhfuil thart ar 58,000 doiciméad fós le scanadh. Cabhróidh an tionscadal sin le rochtain éasca ar na sonraí a thabhairt don phobal mór agus don fhoireann, chomh maith leis an ngá atá le spás stórála do pháipéarchomhaid a laghdú. Leanadh ar aghaidh leis an tionscadal sa bhliain 2014, agus breis agus 18,800 doiciméad scanta go dtí seo. Meastar go dtógfaidh sé 4 bliana chun an tionscadal a chríochnú.

Ar aon dul le beartas an Rialtais chun úsáid mhéadaithe íocaíochtaí leictreonacha a chur chun cinn sa tseirbhís phoiblí agus ar fud an gheilleagair, bhunaigh an Oifig dhá chuntas nua bainc thráchtála in 2011, rud a thugann tuilleadh roghanna íocaíochta táillí dá custaiméirí. Is go leictreonach a íoctar 96% de tháillí reachtúla na hOifige anois, i gcomparáid le 91% in 2013. I mí na Samhna 2013, thug an Oifig teirminéal cártaí creidmheasa (TCC) isteach ar mhaithe le híocaíocht gach táille ar an teileafón a éascú tuilleadh. Faoi dheireadh na bliana, bhí breis agus 1,119 iarratas faighte ag an Oifig tríd an teirminéal sin. Ar mhaithe le seirbhísí a sholáthar ar bhealach níos éifeachtúla, lean an fhoireann le feabhas a chur ar na próisis oibre agus ar na réitigh theicneolaíochta atá mar bhonn thaca ag a croítháirgí agus ag a croísheirbhísí le linn na bliana 2014. I ndáil leis sin, forbraíodh naoi bhfeabhas shubstainteacha ar chóras riaracháin PTOLEMY le linn na bliana. Ba é an aidhm a bhí le gach ceann acu ná feabhas a chur ar éifeachtúlacht oibriúcháin agus a chinntiú go mbíonn croíchórais ghnó na hOifige cothrom le dáta.

Ag deireadh na bliana 2014, cuireadh tús le dhá thionscadal eile “Pacáiste Bogearraí” a phleanáil – Ríomhchódúchán Dearaí agus Ríomhsheirbhísí. Is é an aidhm atá le Ríomhsheirbhísí méadú a dhéanamh ar raon na dtáillí trádmharcanna agus dearaí is féidir a íoc ar líne. Tá an dá thionscadal sceidealta le bheith críochnaithe in 2015.

Cuspóir 3

Cur le dreachtú agus le forfheidhmiú ina dhiaidh sin ar aon reachtaíocht nua MI a chruthaíonn feidhmeanna don Rialtóir.

Tá rialáil na gceart maoin intleachtúla in Éirinn ina cuid riachtanach den chreat fhoriomlán reachtaíochta lena ndéantar nuálaíocht a spreagadh, a chosaint agus a chur chun cinn. Tá sé ar aon dul leis an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta, a léiríonn an tiomantas atá ag Éirinn do Dhlí Maoine Intleachtúla an AE agus do chonarthaí agus do choinbhinsiúin idirnáisiúnta eile, amhail Coinbhinsiún Paitinní na hEorpa agus Conarthaí agus Comhaontuithe éagsúla na hEagraíochta Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil. Is é Aonad Maoine Intleachtúla (AMI) na Roinne Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta atá freagrach as beartas maoin intleachtúla agus as reachtaíocht a ullmhú sa réimse sin. Soláthraíonn Oifig na bPaitinní comhairle agus cúnaimh ar na hábhair sin, go háirithe ar an tionchar a d'imreodh athruithe dlíthiúla nó rialála a bheartaítear ar obair na hOifige. Is iad seo a leanas na hábhair ar chuir an Oifig leo agus ar chuir sí tuairimí in iúl ina leith le linn 2014:

- An tAcht um Maoin Intleachtúil (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2014 (Acht Uimh. 36 de 2014) lena ndearnadh foráil do raon na forála díolúine taighde de chineál “Bolar” mar atá leagtha síos in alt 42 agus lena leasíodh alt 29(3) agus alt 29(4) d’Acht na dTrádmharcanna, 1996, d’fhonn éifeacht a thabhairt i reachtaíocht na hÉireann do Chonradh Shingepór ar Dhlí na dTrádmharcanna
- Athruithe ar na Rialacha maidir le Trádmharcanna a tháinig as leasuithe ar alt 29(3) agus alt 29(4) d’Acht na dTrádmharcanna, 1996.
- Na tograí le haghaidh dlí na dtrádmharcanna a nua-aosiú sa Ríocht Aontaithe, rud lena mbaineann athruithe ar an Rialachán maidir leis an Trádmharc Comhphobail (207/2009/CE), ar an Rialachán maidir le Táillí Trádmhairc (2869/95/CE) agus ar Threoir 2008/95/CE lena gcomhchuibhítear córais náisiúnta trádmhairc na mBallstát den AE.
- Rialacha arna mbreithniú ag Roghchoiste Chomhairle Riaracháin Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa maidir le Rialachán (AE) Uimh. 1257/2012 agus le Rialachán (AE) Uimh. 1260/2012 ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle an 17 Nollaig 2012, lena gcuirtear comhar feabhsaithe chun feidhme sa réimse a bhaineann le cosaint aonadach phaitinne a chruthú maidir le nósanna imeachta, le rialachas agus le maoirsiú na ngníomhaíochtaí a bhaineann leis na tascanna a cuireadh de chúram Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa, le táillí athnuachana agus le nósanna imeachta airgeadais, le socruithe aistriúcháin is infheidhme agus leis an scéim chúitimh ghaolmhar.
- Athruithe féideartha ar na forálacha maidir le gníomhairí paitinne in alt 106 d’Acht na bPaitinní, 1992, a d’eascair as ceist a chuir Coimisiún an AE faoi thrasú na Treorach Seirbhísí agus leasuithe iarmhartacha ar Chlár na Rialacha Gníomhairí Paitinne, 1992.
- Rialacháin an Aontais Eorpaigh (Úsáidí Áirithe is Cead a Bhaint as Saothair Dílleachta), 2014, I.R. Uimh. 490 de 2014, lena ndéantar Treoir 2012/28/AE ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle an 25 Deireadh Fómhair 2012 maidir le Saothair Dílleachta a thrasú i ndlí na hÉireann.

Cuspóir 4

Tuiscint ar mhaoin intleachtúil a mhéadú.

Is é ceann de na príomhchuspóirí atá ag Oifig na bPaitinní ná cúnamh a thabhairt do ghnólachtaí, do nuálaithe agus d'fhiontraithe a thuiscint conas is féidir le MI cabhrú leo luach a bhaint amach óna gcuid smaointe agus bheith in ann faisnéis ar chearta maoin intleachtúla a rochtain, rud a chuirfidh ar a gcumas a maoin intleachtúil a úsáid, a bhainistiú agus a fhorfheidhmiú chomh fada agus is féidir. Tá an Oifig tar éis a clár feasachta MI a dhíriú go sonrach ar chúnamh a thabhairt d'fhiontair bheaga, do mhicreafhiontair agus d'fhiontraithe agus do nuálaithe aonair.

Le linn 2014, ghlac an Oifig páirt i dtuairim is 56 imeacht. Labhair sí faoi MI ag cúrsaí “Do Ghnó Féin a Chur ar Bun”, a bhí á reáchtáil ag na Boird Fiontar Contae (Oifigí Fiontar Áitiúil anois), agus bhí baill dá cuid i láthair nó chuir sí caint ar fáil ag taispeántais éagsúla chomhairle gnó agus fiontraíochta a bhí ar siúl ar fud na tíre. Ghlac an Oifig páirt sa chéad Sárthaispeántas Nuálaíochta náisiúnta ag an Ionad Comhdhála, Baile Átha Cliath. D'fhreastail breis agus dhá mhíle duine ar an sárthaispeántas agus cuireadh faisnéis agus comhairle ar fáil do roinnt mhaith díobh faoi chúrsaí maoin intleachtúla ag an imeacht nó ag seisiúin duine le duine le ball foirne ina dhiaidh sin. Is é is “MeetWest” ann ná imeacht rathúil móréilimh líonraithe gnó inar chuir foireann na hOifige seisiúin duine le duine ar siúl le gnóthais éagsúla a d'iarr orainn go sonrach bheith i láthair.

Chuir Oifig na bPaitinní 54 clinic MI ar siúl in 2014. Tugann na clinicí deis do dhaoine den phobal, d'aireagóirí, d'fhiontraithe agus don lucht gnó plé duine le duine le foireann Oifig na bPaitinní a dhéanamh ar a gcuid smaointe agus ar cheisteanna a bhaineann le hiarratais MI (paitinní, trádmarcanna nó dearáí) a bheartaíonn siad a dhéanamh nó atá déanta acu cheana féin chuig an Oifig. Táthar den tuairim go bhfuil an cur chuige ar leith sin an-úsáideach maidir le buntreoir a thabhairt maidir le nósanna imeachta agus le foirmeacha a theastaíonn chun cearta MI a chlárú, maidir leis na próisis a bhaineann le cosaint MI a fháil in Éirinn nó thar lear agus maidir leis na tréimhsí ama a bhíonn i gceist. Tugtar cúnamh freisin maidir le straitéis chuardaigh ‘déan féin é’ i gcomhair paitinní, trádmarcanna nó dearáí cláraithe a chur le chéile agus maidir le bunachar sonraí paitinní, trádmarcanna agus dearáí a rochtain agus a úsáid.

Dírítear cuid shuntasach d'iarrachtaí na hOifige chun feasacht a ardú ar dhaltáí dara leibhéal ach páirt a ghlacadh sa Taispeántas bliantúil Eolaithe Óga agus Teicneolaíochta de chuid BT agus sna Dámhachtainí Fiontair Mac Léinn bliantúla.

Creideann an Oifig go bhfuil ár láithreach ag an Taispeántas bliantúil Eolaithe Óga agus Teicneolaíochta de chuid BT ina bealach tábhachtach chun eolas a thabhairt do dhaoine óga maidir le cearta maoin intleachtúla agus chun comhairle faoi mhaoin intleachtúil agus faoin gcóras paitinní go háirithe a thabhairt do na rannpháirtithe, na tuismitheoirí agus na baill den phobal atá ag freastal ar an imeacht. Lean an Oifig freisin le hurraíocht a dhéanamh ar dhuais speisialta a bhronntar ar an dalta nó ar an ngrúpa daltaí a mbaineann a dtionscadal an úsáid is fearr as teicneolaíocht i bhfeidhmchláir nua nó fheabhsaithe agus a mbaineann a dtionscadal na héifeachtúlachtaí feabhsaithe nó na nuálaíochtaí núíosacha is fearr amach. Ba iad Conor Ryan, Stephen Lynch agus Stephen Woods, Iar-bhunscoil na Sceiche, Dún Dealgan, Co. Lú, na daoine a bhuaigh an duais a d'urraigh Oifig na bPaitinní ag comóradh 50 bliain an taispeántais in 2014. Bhuaigh siad í lena dtionscadal “Moo Boots: protective boots for cattle”.



Tá Dámhachtainí Fiontar na nDaltaí atá á reáchtáil ag na Boird Fiontar Áitiúil ar an gcomórtas fiontair is mó do dhaltáí dara leibhéal in Éirinn, agus d'fhéadfadh 16,000 duine páirt a ghlacadh ann. Bhí na Babhtáí Ceannais Náisiúnta ar siúl i mí Aibreáin 2014. Tugann an comórtas deis den scoth don Oifig dul i dteagmháil le fiontraithe is daltaí dara leibhéal d'fhonn feasacht ar MI a léiriú nuair a bhíonn smaoinemh gnó á fhorbairt acu agus nuair a bhíonn fiontar rathúil á bhunú agus a reáchtáil acu. Is é atá i leabhar oibre an SEA anois ná caibidil nua a bhaineann go sonrach le Maoin Intleachtúil, rud a athdhaingníonn feasacht ar MI i measc daltaí dara leibhéal.

Lean suíomh Gréasáin na hOifige de bheith ar an bpríomh-mhodh chun faisnéis maidir le MI a chur ar fáil don phobal mór. Bealach éifeachtúil chun raon de sheirbhísí idirghníomhacha cuardaigh agus íocaíochta táillí ba ea an suíomh Gréasáin freisin. Tháinig méadú 27% ar líon na gcuartheanna ar an suíomh Gréasáin in 2014 (ó 691,799 in 2013 go 882,771 in 2014) agus bhí 275,871 cuairteoir uathúil in 2014. Bhí ardlíon amharc leathanaigh go fóill, agus pas beag níos lú ná 4 milliún amharc in 2014.

Bhí na leathanaigh chlárúcháin ar líne ar na leathanaigh ba mhó amharc go fóill, agus bhí méadú 14% ar líon na n-amharc ar an gClár Trádmarcanna ar líne i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2013 (ó 579,883 cuairt in 2013 go 663,021 cuairt in 2014).

Cuspóir 5

Baill foirne a aithint mar shócmhainn thábhachtach de chuid na hOifige agus úsáid a bhaint as pleanáil ghnó agus as bainistíocht agus forbairt feidhmíochta aonair d'fhonn feidhmíocht ghnó agus próisis ghnó a fheabhsú agus éifeachtacht eagrúcháin a bhreisiú.

Bhí 47 post údaraithe ag an Oifig amhail an 31 Nollaig 2014. B'ionann é sin agus an líon post in 2013. Tar éis sosanna gairme, postroinnt agus socruithe oibre eile a thacaíonn leis an teaghlach a chur san áireamh, bhí leibhéal foirne de 42.78 coibhéis lánaimseartha ag an Oifig le linn 2014. Tháinig laghdú mór ar líon na mball foirne ag oibriú san Oifig ó dhíláraigh an Oifig chuig Cill Chainnigh i 1998 den chéad uair. Ó 2008 ar aghaidh, mar shampla, tá an líon foirne tar éis titim faoi 34%, is é sin, ó 63 duine go 47 duine faoi láthair. Agus níos lú acmhainní aici, tá an Oifig tar éis glacadh leis an dúshlán a bhaineann le freastal ar ardleibhéal seirbhíse poiblí gan dochar a dhéanamh dá héifeachtacht oibriúcháin trí nósanna imeachta níos fearr agus níos éifeachtúla agus trí theicneolaíocht a úsáid ar bhealach níos fearr agus níos éifeachtúla.

Tá rún daingean ag an Oifig a chinntiú go ndéantar measúnú rialta ar fheidhmíocht na foirne ar fad agus go gcuirtear athbhreithnithe foirne i gcrích ar bhealach tráthúil. Nascann an Córas Bainistíochta agus Forbartha Feidhmíochta (CBFF) atá i bhfeidhm san Oifig le plean gnó bliantúil na hOifige agus tugann sé deis do gach ball foirne spriocanna aonair a shocrú, athrú a thionscnamh agus a sholáthar agus leanúint de chleachtais oibre a fheabhsú chun seirbhís éifeachtúil ardchaighdeán a sholáthar. De réir an CBFF, rinneadh plean forbartha i gcomhair oiliúna a dhreachtú, rud inar cuireadh san áireamh na riachtanais éagsúla oiliúna ar aithin na baill foirne iad a bheith acu ina bpleananna forbartha pearsanta do 2014. Lasmuigh den oiliúint leanúnach ar an láthair oibre, thug an fhoireann faoi 31.5 lá oibre san iomlán le linn 2014. Cuireadh oiliúint ar fáil i réimsí amhail nósanna imeachta airgeadais sa Státseirbhís, acmhainní daonna, scileanna scríbhneoireachta agus Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht.

Lean an fhoireann le ról rithábhachtach a imirt maidir le hídiú fuinnimh san oifig a laghdú, ar aon dul leis an gClár Earnála Poiblí atá i bPlean Gníomhaíochta an Rialtais um Éifeachtúlacht Fuinnimh. Is é sprioc an phlean ná ídiú fuinnimh a laghdú, feacht na foirne ar éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a mhéadú agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fheidhmíocht an trealaimh théimh/aerchóirithe. Mar thoradh ar bhearta coigilt fuinnimh atá déanta ag an bhfoireann, tá coigiltí suntasacha ar ídiú fuinnimh bainte amach sa bhliain seo a chuaigh thart (i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2008, arb í bliain na tagarmharcála) agus tá coigilt iarmhartach tagtha chun cinn i gcostais fuinnimh.

- Tá laghdú 21% tagtha ar ídiú leictreachais sa 12 mhí seo a chuaigh thart (i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2008)
- Tá laghdú 7.6% tagtha ar ídiú breosla sa 12 mhí seo a chuaigh thart (i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2008)

De bharr na gcoigiltí a baineadh amach ar ídiú fuinnimh in 2014, bronnadh dámhachtain sa chatagóir don Fhoireann Fuinnimh is Fearr ar Oifig na bPaitinní ag dámhachtainí Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí a cuireadh ar siúl i mBaile Átha Cliath i mí na Samhna 2014.

Cuspóir 6

Ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar Éirinn ag fóraim idirnáisiúnta.

Déanann foireann Oifig na bPaitinní ionadaíocht d'Éirinn ar Chomhairle Riaracháin OPE agus ar a Coistí Éagsúla, ar Bhord Riaracháin agus ar Choiste Buiséid OCMI agus ar roinnt dá coistí teicniúla agus dá coistí idirchaidrimh a dhéileáil le saincheistean éagsúla a bhaineann le maoin intleachtúil. Anuas air sin, glacann baill foirne páirt i gcruinnithe na gcomhlachtaí rialaithe agus na gcomhlachtaí teicniúla de chuid na hEagraíochta Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (WIPO) (a riarann an Conradh Comhoibriúcháin i dtaobh Paitinní agus socruithe faoi Phrótaic Mhaidrid lena ndéileáiltear le hiarratais idirnáisiúnta trádmhairc) agus i roinnt conarthaí idirnáisiúnta maidir le maoin intleachtúil. Tairgeann OPE agus OCMI bealaí malartacha ar chosaint MI a fháil san Eoraip agus díritear baint na hOifige leis na heagraíochtaí sin ar a chinntiú go ndéantar ionadaíocht chuí do leasanna Éireannacha, ar choinneáil ar an eolas faoin dea-chleachtas ag leibhéal idirnáisiúnta agus ar chomhoibriú le hoifigí maoin tionsclaíche náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta eile a éascú.

Tá clár chomhair dhéthaobhaigh ag an Oifig le OPE agus le OCMI, clár faoina bhfaigheann an Oifig cúnamh le haghaidh na nithe seo a leanas: páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí éagsúla atá dírithe ar fheacht ar MI a ardú, páirt a ghlacadh i sainoiliúint MI, páirt a ghlacadh i dtionscadail TFC arb é is aidhm dóibh malartú sonraí MI a éascú, uirlisí a fhorbairt chun rochtain níos fearr a chur ar fáil ar fhaisnéis MI agus cleachtais agus nósanna imeachta a chomhchuíbhí. Freastalaíonn ár rannpháirtíocht sna cláir ar chomhphlé a dhéanamh ar ábhar agus ar struchtúr clár comhair idir na heagraíochtaí sin agus oifigí náisiúnta eile MI san Eoraip, rud a chuireann ar chumas na hOifige a seirbhísí do chustaiméirí a fheabhsú agus a fhorbairt tuilleadh de réir an deachleachtais idirnáisiúnta.

Comhoibriú Idirnáisiúnta



Glacann an Oifig páirt i ngníomhaíochtaí comhair lena macasamhlacha i dtíortha eile, leis an Oifig um Chomhchuibhiú sa Mhargadh Inmheánach (OCMI) agus le hOifig Paitinní na hEorpa ar roinnt tionscadal arb é is aidhm dóibh comhchuibhiú a chur chun cinn ar fud oifigí náisiúnta MI agus cúrsaí a éascú d'úsáideoirí na gcóras paitinne, trádhmhairc agus dearaidh.

Is éard atá sna nithe seo a leanas ná samplaí de roinnt de na tionscadail chomhair ar tugadh fúthu in 2014.

IPORTA & INNOVACCESS

Chomh maith leis sin, d'éirigh leis an Oifig a rannpháirtíocht i gclár de chuid an AE darb ainm IPORTA a chur i gcrích. Thosaigh an clár in 2012 agus chríochnaigh sé i mí na Nollag 2014. Bhí 26 Oifig MI san Eoraip páirteach sa tionscadal. Breathnóirí iad OPE agus OCMI. Chomhordaigh CRP Henri Tudor an clár thar ceann Oifig Maoine Intleachtúla Lucsamburg. Féachann an tionscadal le comhar idir oifigí náisiúnta maoine intleachtúla ó na ballstáit agus ó thíortha comhlachaithe a neartú agus le cur chun cinn a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí agus uirlisí a bhaineann le cearta maoine intleachtúla a úsáid agus a bhainistiú. Is é is aidhm dó sineirgí a thógáil i measc oifigí náisiúnta maoine intleachtúla le heagraíochtaí náisiúnta tacaíochta gnó agus le geallsealbhóirí MI eile amhail Deasc Chabhrach na hEorpa agus na Síne um Chearta Maoine Intleachtúla agus an Líonra Fiontar Eorpach d'fhonn cabhrú le fiontair bheaga agus mheánmhéide MI a chomhtháthú ina straitéisí gnó ar bhealach níos fearr agus tuilleadh leasa a bhaint astu. Is féidir tuilleadh faisnéise a fháil ag www.innovaccess.eu.

I dteannta Fhiontraíocht Éireann, chuir an Oifig in iúl gur mian léi páirt a ghlacadh i gclár nua a dtacaíonn Fís 2020 de chuid an AE leis dar teideal VIP4SME. Is é aidhm an chlár tacaí MI d'fhiontair bheaga, d'fhiontair mheánmhéide agus do mhicrifhiontair a fheabhsú d'fhonn tuiscint níos fearr ar a gcaipiteal intleachtúil a éascú, a n-acmhainn nuálaíochta a mhéadú agus iomaíochas a bhreisiú.

COMHAR LE OHIM AGUS TIONSCADAL PACÁISTE BOGEARRAÍ

Bunaíodh Ciste Comhair OCMI i mí Feabhra 2010 chun modhanna oibre a chuíchóiriú agus oifigí MI an AE a nua-aoisiú trí réitigh riaracháin atá cothrom le dáta. Ar na tionscadail a dtacaítear leo faoin gclár Pacáiste Bogearraí a cuireadh i gcrích in 2014 bhí ríomhchomhdúchán trádhmharcanna i mí Aibreáin agus cuireadh sonraí Éireannacha le huirlis cuardaigh Designview i mí na Nollag 2014.

Fuair an Oifig tacaíocht ó OCMI le haghaidh uirlisí TMView agus Designview a chothabháil.

Tá an Oifig ag súil leis go gcuirfear obair i gcrích ar dhá thionscadal eile in 2015; is iad sin, Dearaí agus r-Sheirbhísí a ríomhchomhdú.

Faoi chomhaontú déthaobhach le OCMI, bhain an Oifig leas as cúnamh le haghaidh an chostais a bhaineann le raon imeachtaí chun feasacht a ardú mar ar scaipeadh faisnéis faoin gCóras Trádhmharc Comhphobail agus faoi Chóras Clárúcháin Dearaí an Chomhphobail.

CLÁR CÓINEASAITHE OCMI

Féachann Clár Cóineasaithe OCMI le cleachtas agus le nósanna imeachta a chomhchuibhiú ar fud gach Oifige Trádhmharcanna sa Chomhphobal Eorpach i réimsí nach dteastaíonn aon athrú reachtaíochta uathu. Is é aidhm an chlár ná soiléireacht, cinnteacht dhlíthiúil, cáilíocht agus inúsáidteacht a bhunú agus a chur in iúl don iarratasóir agus do na hoifigí rannpháirteacha araon i roinnt réimsí tábhachtacha.

Glacann foireann na hOifige páirt sna Grúpaí Oibre a bunaíodh le haghaidh gach cinn de na seacht dtionscadal coinéasaithe.

Trádmharcanna

CP1 - Aicmiú earraí agus seirbhísí a chomhchuíbhíú: Curtha i gcrích - eisíodh teachtaireacht choiteann in 2013.

CP2 - Cinn Aicmiú Nice a Chóineasú: Curtha i gcrích - eisíodh teachtaireacht choiteann in 2013.

CP3 - Glanfhórais le diúltú i ndáil le marcanna fíoracha: tá obair ar siúl fós, táthar ag súil leis go n-eiseofar teachtaireacht choiteann in 2015.

CP4 - Raon na cosanta do mharcanna dubha agus bána: Curtha i gcrích - eisíodh teachtaireacht choiteann in 2014.

CP5 - Cleachtas a chóineasú maidir le forais choibhneasta le diúltú a rochtain maidir leis an dóchúlacht go mbeidh mearbhall ann: Curtha i gcrích - eisíodh teachtaireacht choiteann in 2014.

Dearaí

Cuireadh tús le linn 2013 le hobair chun cleachtas a chóineasú i ndáil le Dearaí agus leanadh ar aghaidh léi in 2014.

CP6 - Léiriú Grafach Dearaidh, arb é is aidhm dó cleachtas a chomhchuíbhíú i ndáil le léiriú grafach iarratais dearaidh: tá obair ar siúl fós.

CP7 - Sonraí Táirgí a Chomhchuíbhíú, a dhíreoidh ar bhunachar sonraí comhchuíbhithe um léiriú táirgí a chruthú.

Ag deireadh an Chláir, táthar ag súil go mbeidh seirbhís níos fearr á soláthar ag an Oifig seo, rud lena ngabhfaidh cur chuige níos comhsheasmhaí agus níos trédhearcaí agus leibhéil mhéadaithe tuarthachta (agus cinnteacht i réimsí cuí) d'úsáideoirí, rud

Láithreán greasáin agus foilseacháin na hOifige

Suíomh greasáin Oifig na bPaitinní

Soláthraíonn an suíomh greasáin (www.patentsoffice.ie) réamhrá ginearálta do mhaoin intleachtúil agus eolas sonracha ar conas do smaointe a chosaint agus tá rannán ann ar MI do ghnó.

Áirítear ar an ábhar atá foilsithe ar an ngréasán tuarascálacha bliantúla ó bhlianta roimhe seo, réimse de leabhráin fhaisnéise MI, ráiteas reatha straitéise na hOifige agus plean gníomhaíochta seirbhíse do chustaiméirí agus gach reachtaíocht phríomha agus thánaisteach a rialaíonn feidhmeanna Oifig na bPaitinní. Tá na seirbhísí seo a leanas ar fáil ar líne:

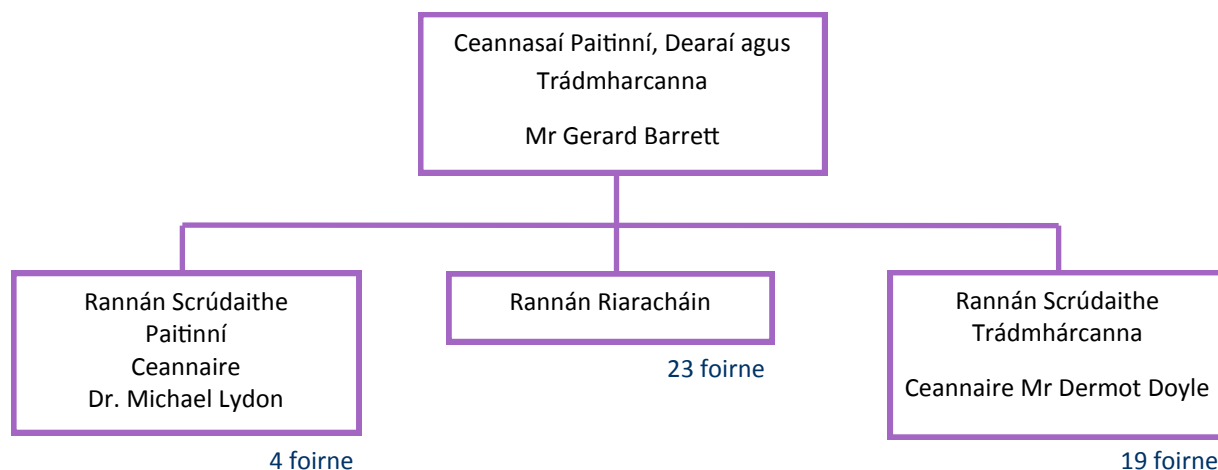
- Cláir agus Bunachair Sonraí d'amharc agus do chuardach – cuardach do phaitinní, trádmharcanna, dearáí
- Rochtain agus amharc ar chláir chomhlachtaí cheadúnaithe chóipchirt
- Rochtain agus amharc ar chláir na ngníomhairí paitinne agus trádmharcanna
- Íoc do tháillí paitinne, trádmhairc nó dearaidh ar líne
- Íoc do tháillí ceadaithe paitinne agus cláraithe trádmhairc ar líne
- Amharc ar chinntí an Rialtóra i gcásanna trádmharcanna idirpháirtíoch
- Cuardaigh agus amharc ar Iris Oifig na bPaitinní ar líne
- Chomhdú ar líne de trádmharcanna
- TMView agus Designview d'amharc agus do chuardach
- Cúnamh i roghnú rangú trádmhairc ag baint úsáide as TMclass

An Iris Oifigiúil

Tá innéacs inchuidaithe ag gach eagrán den Iris, in éineacht le heolas ar ghníomhaíochtaí a bhaineann le hiarratais agus clárú paitinní, trádmharcanna agus dearáí. Mar shampla, is féidir leat féachaint ar shonraí de thrádmharcanna agus dearáí san Iris ar glacadh leo. Tá mionsonraí san Iris freisin ar phaitinní ar cuireadh isteach orthu, a foilsíodh agus a tugadh, ar a n-áirítear paitinní a tugadh faoi Choinbhinsiún Paitinne na hEorpa ag ainmniú Éire.

Tá eolas san Iris freisin mar fhógraí oifigiúla, mionsonraí ar mhódhanna íocaíochta táillí reachtúla agus uaireanta oscailte Oifig na bPaitinní. I rith 2012, tugadh saoráid idirghníomhach i gceist maidir leis an irisleabhan ar líne a cheadaíonn d'údáideoirí rochtain a fháil ar an gClár agus aon phaitinn, trádmhairc nó dearadh ar leith atá san irisleabhar a bhaint amach trí chliceáil ar an hipearnasc laistigh den irisleabhar.

Eagrú, Struchtúr agus Pearsanra



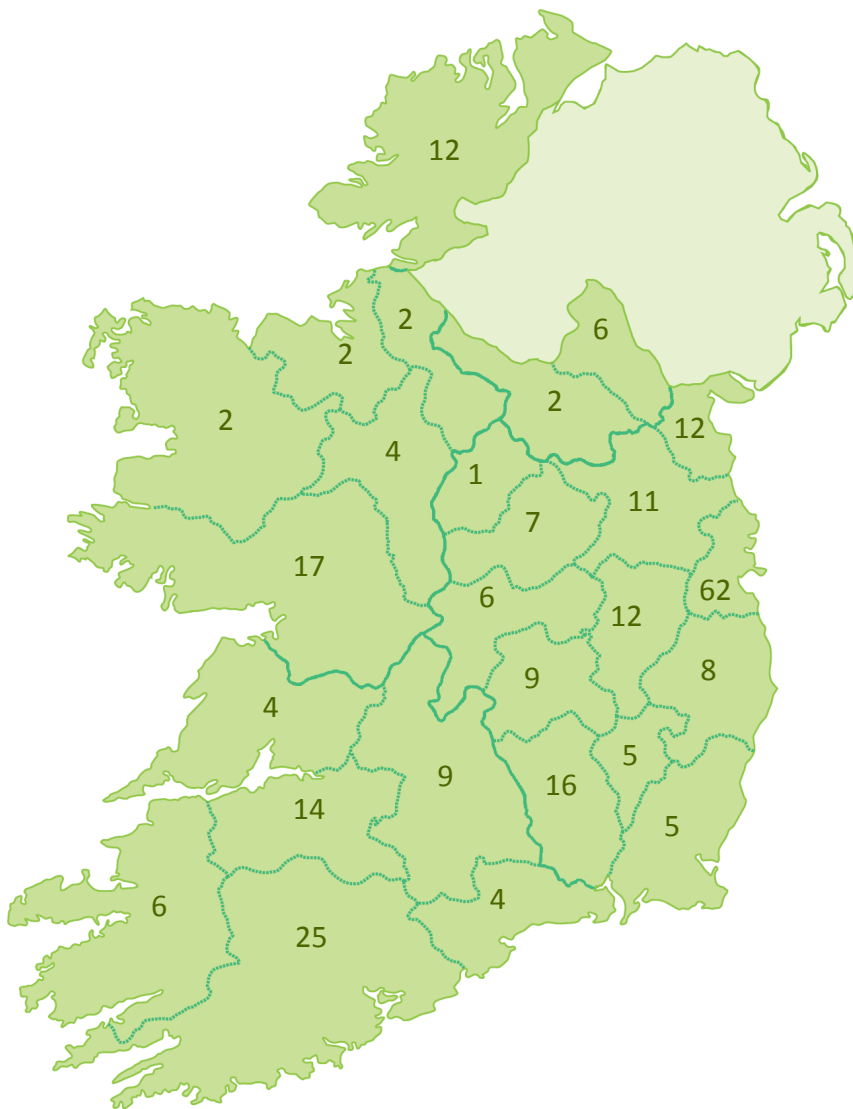
FOIREANN AR SEIRBHÍS AR AN 31 NOLLAIG 2014

Foireann	Líon na bpost
Ceannasaí	1
Scrúdaitheoir Sinsearach Paitinne	1
Príomhoifigeach Cúnta	1
Scrúdaitheoir Paitinne	3
Ardoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin	4
Oifigeach Riaracháin	1
Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin	17
Oifigeach Foirne	1
Oifigeach Cléireachais	17
Oifigeach Seirbhísí	1
Iomlán	47

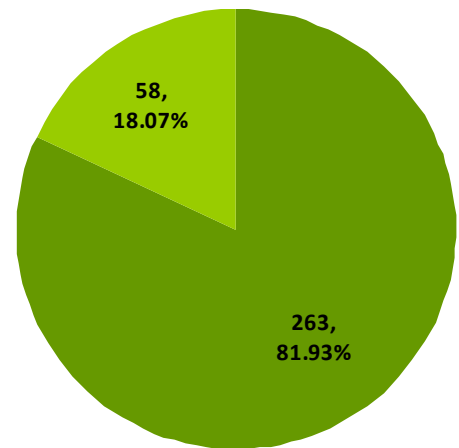
A chuimsíonn 14 foirne (2 Ardoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, 6 Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, 1 Oifigeach Riaracháin agus 5 Oifigeach Cléireachais) a bhain feidhm as scéim oibre i bpáirt a cheadaíonn patrúin éagsúla tinnrimh. Bhain triúr feidhm as scéim teilea-oibre a cheadaíonn dóibh cuid dá ndualgas a chomhlíonadh ó bhaile ar feadh cuid den tseachtain. Ar an 31ú Nollag 2014 bhí comhionann le 42.78 phost iomlán san Oifig.

Solátharíonn an Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta seirbhísí teicneolaíochta faisnéise don Oifig. Ina theannta sin tá triúr ball d'fhoireann Aonaid TF an Roinn ag soláthar seirbhísí teicneolaíochta faisnéise don Oifig.

Staidreamh Gnó - Paitinní



Iarratais Náisiúnta ar Phaitinní on tír den chéad iarratasóir



- Iarratasóirí IE
- Iarratasóirí Eachtrannacha

Iarratais ar Phaitinní faoi contae í 2014

IARRATAIS FAIGHTE			BLIAIN	PAITINNÍ DEONTA		
Ar Théarma Iomlán	Ar Ghearr-théarma	IOMLÁN		Ar Théarma Iomlán	Ar Ghearr-théarma	IOMLÁN
216	338	554	2012	101	89	190
135	255	390	2013	116	98	214
118	203	321	2014	79	69	148

Ar an an 31 Nollaig 2014, bhí 1,111 iarratas san iomlán ar feitheamh idir lámha. Díobh seo, bhí 242 iarratas ag fanacht go gcuirfí isteach fianaise ar nuagacht.

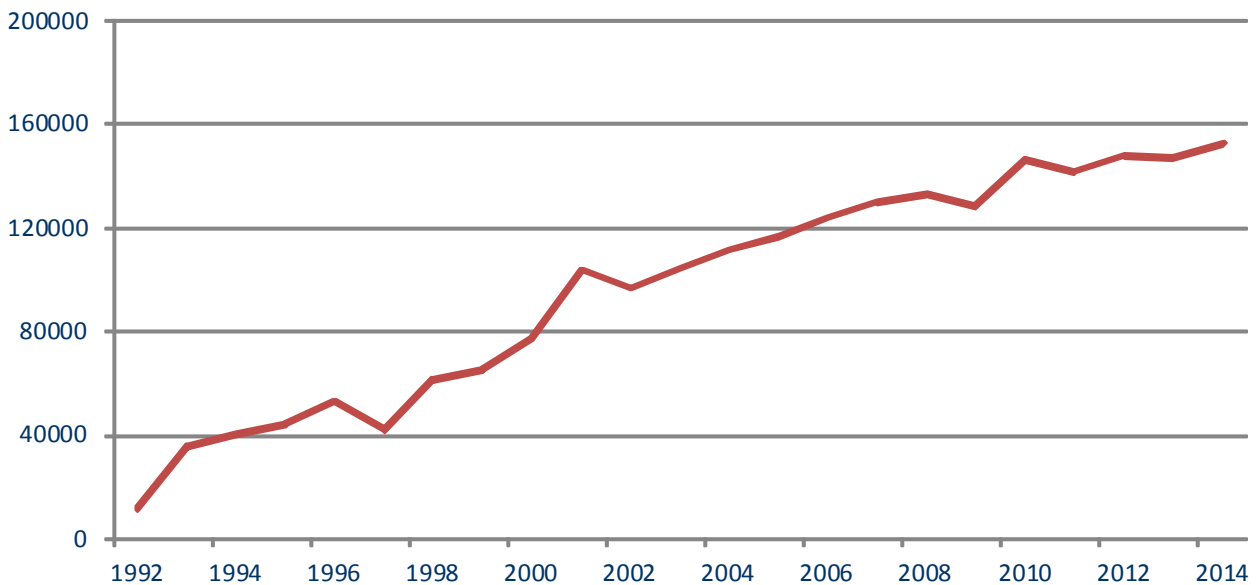
Fuarthas 263 iarratas ó iarratasóirí sa Stát i 2014 i gcomparáid le 333 i 2013.

Iarratais Eorpacha a rinne sainiú ar Éirinn

Bliain	Comhadaithe	Bliain	Comhadaithe	Bliain	Comhadaithe
1992	11,755	2000	76,806	2008	133,248
1993	35,762	2001	103,659	2009	128,378
1994	40,705	2002	96,779	2010	146,726
1995	44,161	2003	104,529	2011	141,373
1996	52,755	2004	111,537	2012	147,551
1997	41,875	2005	117,096	2013	147,487
1998	61,584	2006	123,912	2014	152,400
1999	65,708	2007	129,890		

Níl iarratais Eorpacha le sainiú ar Éirinn (cuireadh an deis seo ar fáil don chéad uair i 1992) san áireamh sna cairteanna thuas ach seo thíos na figiúirí fana gcoinne. Iontráladh na paitinní seo i gClár Náisiúnta na bPaitinní. Tá an seasamh céanna dlíthiúil acu in Éirinn is a bheadh dá mbeidís deonta ag an Oifig-se.

Iarratais Eorpacha a rinne sainiú ar Éirinn



Paitinní a deonadh i 2014 a raibh feidhm leo sa Stát

2014	Iomlán	Líon na bPaitinní a deonadh d'iarratasóirí ó laistigh den Stát	% de nan paitinní a deonadh d'iarratasóirí ó laistigh den Stát
Deonta ag m'Oifig-se	148	116	78%
Deonta ag an OPE	57,749	269	0.46%
Iomlán Deonta	57,897	385	0.66%

Gníomhaíocht Paitinní

	2012	2013	2014
Paitinní agus iarratais ar phaitinní ina n-ábhar sannta	932	833	827
Paitinní cúlghairthe	0	0	0
Paitinní tugtha suas	3	3	2
Paitinní tite ar lár	32,193	41,337	54,914
Paitinní curtha ar ais	14	18	10
Paitinní athnuaite	42,586	42,242	42,061
Paitinní éagtha	636	979	959
Paitinní i bhfeidhm	96,899	110,486	111,109
Éisteachtaí	0	0	0
Iarratais PCT a fuarthas le cur chuig WIPO	54	26	19
Iarratais ar Phaitinní Eorpacha a fuarthas le cur chuig EPO	7	1	0

Iarratais ar Dheimhnithe Cosanta Forlíontacha

Fuarthas 75 iarratas san iomlán ar Dheimhnithe Cosanta Forlíontacha i rith na bliana faoi Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpacha (Deimhnithe Cosanta Forlíontacha), 1992 (míochaineach) agus 1996 (táirgí cosanta plandaí).

I rith na bliana, deonadh 34 deimhniú (cosaint míochaineach agus plandaí), diúltaíodh do 4 iarratas agus tarraingíodh siar 8 iarratas. Ag deireadh na bliana bhí 175 iarratas ar feitheamh.

Clár na nGníomhairí Paitinne

Ag deireadh na bliana 2014, bhí 80 duine aonair agus 5 comhpháirtíochtaí iontráilte i gClár na nGníomhairí Paitinne.

AICMIÚ AR NA PAITINNÍ A DHEONAIGH AN OIFIG SA BHLIAIN DAR CHRÍOCH 31 NOLLAIG 2014 DAR LEIS AN AICMIÚ IDIRNÁISIÚNTA PAITINNE (AIP)

Nóta ar Aicmiú Paitinne

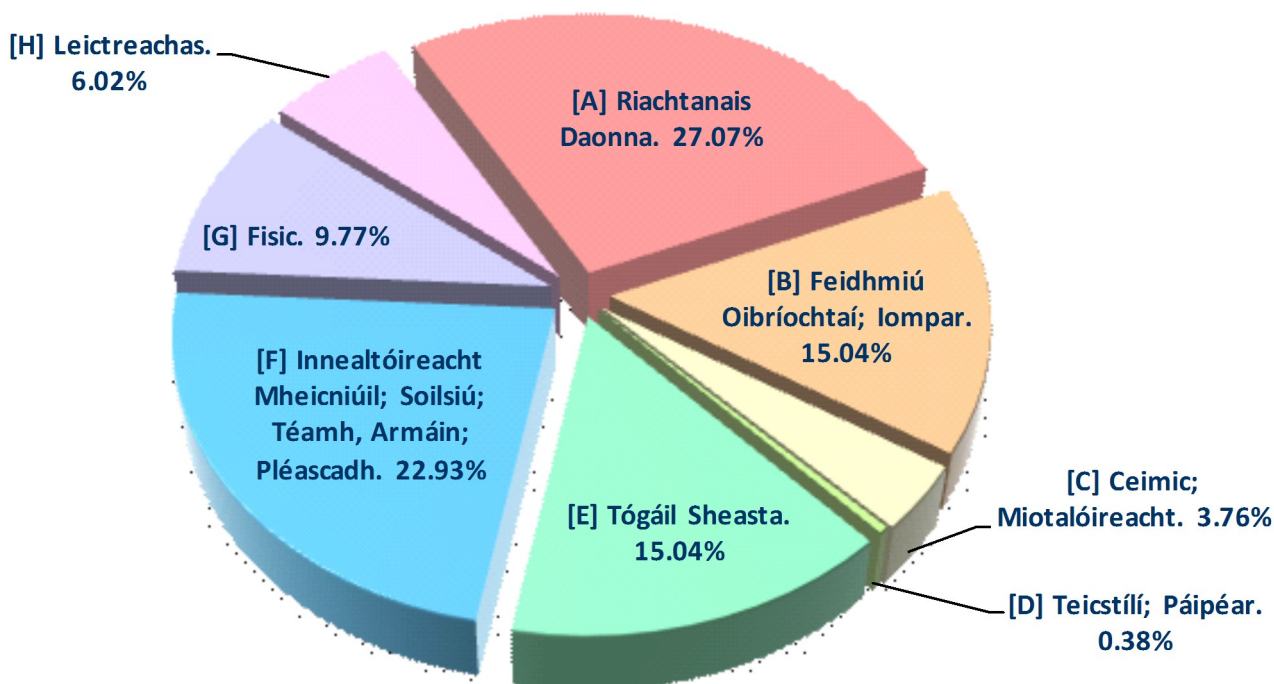
Déantar aicmiú ar phaitinní bunaithe ar a n-ábhar teicniúil. Ceadáíonn aicmiú den chineál sin aisghabháil paitinní de réir nádúr na n-aireagán a nochtar iontu. Is é an tAicmiú Idirnáisiúnta Paitinne (AIP) an córas caighdeánach do rangú paitinne. Tá sé comhdhéanta de thart ar 70,000 siombal aicmithe roinnte ar 8 rannóg bunúsacha (A go H), a bhaineann le cineálacha difriúla bunúsacha teicneolaíochta. I 2014, bhí sé ina 11ú eagrán (Int. Cl. (2011)).

Tugtar cód aicmithe ar gach ní airgtheach i bpaitinn. Is féidir dhá aireagán nó níos mó a bheith i bpaitinn chomh fada is atá leorghaol eatarthu; mar shampla, comheascán nua ceimice agus a úsáid mar mhíochaine nó mar luibhicíd, nó léasar nua agus a úsáid i máinliacht súl nó léamh sonraí. Dá réir sin, is féidir go dteastódh líon áirithe siombal aicmiúcháin lena n-ábhar ar fad a chlúdach. Déanann an tábla agus an graf atá leis seo comhordú ar líon iomlán na n-aicmí a leithdháileadh do phaitinní i 2013. Seasann gach rangú ar leith do ní airgtheach a nochtar i bpaitinn, agus dá bhrí sin is ionann seo cuid mhaith agus cuntas scóir ar airgtheacht. Tá na haicmí curtha i ngrúpaí de réir rannóga AIP.

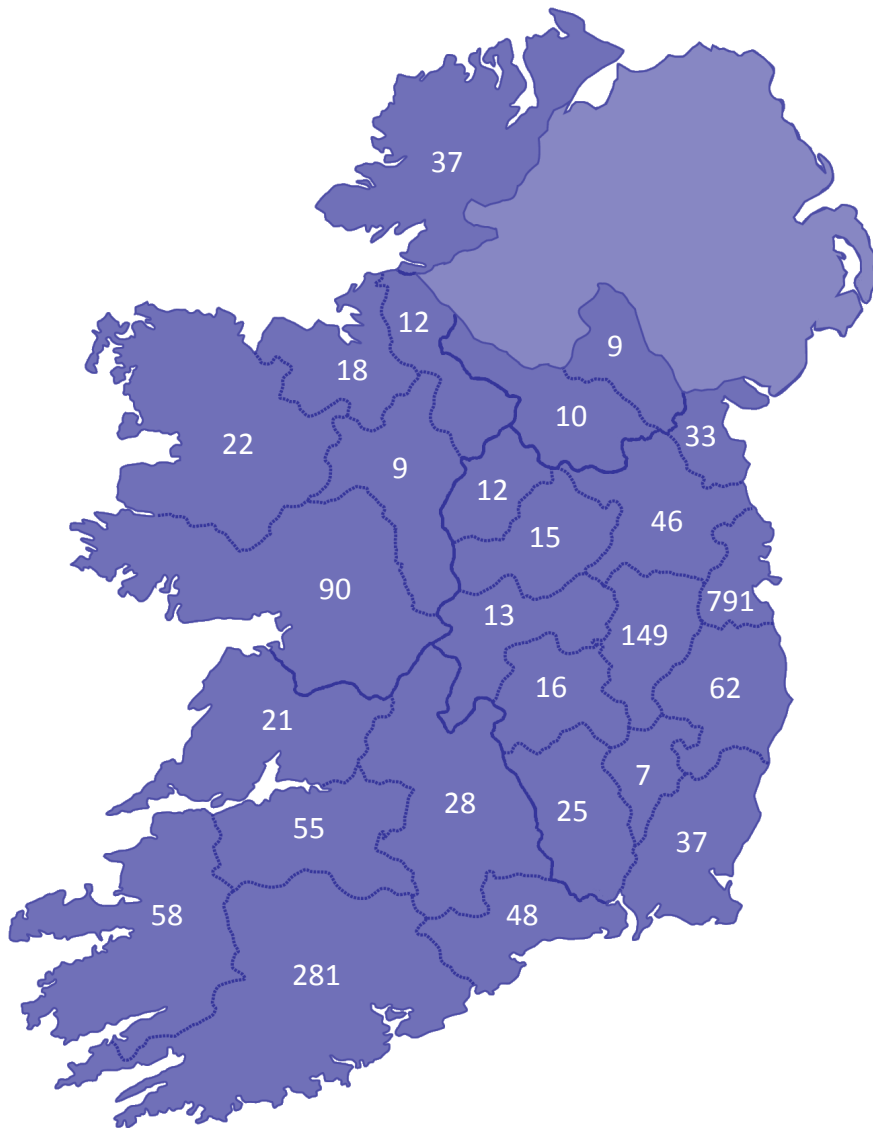
AICMIÚ	An líon deonuithe san Aicmiú *
A. RIACHTANAIS DAONNA m.sh. Ábhair bia, Sláinte, Nithe Pearsanta.	72
B. FEIDHMIÚ OIBRÍOCHTAÍ; IOMPAR: m.sh. Teicneolaíocht múnlaith, priontála, feithicle.	40
C. CEIMIC; MIOTALÓIREACHT	10
D. TEICSTÍLÍ; PÁIPÉAR	1
E. TÓGÁIL SHEASTA: m.sh. Foirgníocht, druileáil, mianadóireacht.	40
F. INNEALTÓIREACHT MHEICNIÚIL; SOILSIÚ; TÉAMH, ARMÁIN; PLÉASCADH	61
G. FISIC: m.sh. Optaic, ríomhaireacht, fisic núicléach.	26
H. LEICTREACHAS: m.sh. Ciorcaid leictreonacha, giniúint agus dáileadh leictreachais.	16

* Nóta:- Toisc gur féidir paitinn a dheontar a bheith aicmithe i níos mó ná réimse amháin teicneolaíochta, beidh líon na rangaithe ina mbeidh aireagán níos mó ná líon na bpaitinní a dheontar.

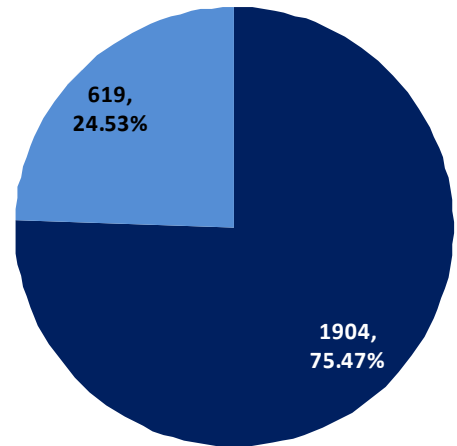
Aicmithe de réir Choidanna IPC do Phaitinní Deonaithe in 2014



Staidreamh Gnó - Trád Mharcanna



Iarratais Náisiúnta
Trádmharcanna on tír den chéad
iarratasóir



- Iarratasóirí IE
- Iarratasóirí Eachtrannacha

Iarratais ar Thrádmharcanna faoi contae í 2014

Iarratais a Fuarthas	Iarratais Náisiúnta				BLIAIN	Clárúcháin Idirnáisiúnta ina sainíodh Éire			
	Fógraithe	Curtha ina gCoinne	Dearaí cláraithe			Iarratais a Fuarthas	Fógraithe	Curtha ina gCoinne	Cosanta
2,210	1,781	61	1,648	2012	1,250	1,290	12	1,260	
2,354	1,650	32	1,486	2013	1,427	1,103	17	1,075	
2,523	2,013	53	1,684	2014	1,058	974	11	1,084	

Gníomhaíocht Trádmharcanna

	2012	2013	2014
Líon na dtrádmharc ina n-ábhar sannta	1,427	1,458	1,229
Líon na gceadúnas ar thrádmhairc taifeadta sa chlár	50	6	14
Clárúcháin Trádmharc asbhainte de dheasca neamhíocaíocht na dtáillí athnuachana	3,824	3,395	1,963
Clárúcháin trádmharc tugtha suas	12	7	10
Clárúcháin trádmharc tugtha ar ais	8	8	19
Clárúcháin trádmharc athnuaithe	4,874	4,053	3,619
Trádmhairc Náisiúnta cúlghairthe go hiomlán nó i bpáirt	7	9	5
Trádmhairc Idirnáisiúnta cúlghairthe go hiomlán nó i bpáirt	5	3	4
Trádmhairc Náisiúnta fógraithe neamhbhailí	0	1	0
Trádmhairc Idirnáisiúnta fógraithe neamhbhailí	0	0	0
Trádmhairc náisiúnta cláraithe i bhfeidhm	63,674	61,737	61,423
Trádmhairc Idirnáisiúnta i bhfeidhm	23,964	22,988	22,260
Iomlán na dTrádmharc i bhfeidhm	87,638	84,725	83,683

Éisteachtaí agus Ilnithe

	2012	2013	2014
Éisteachtaí (<i>ex-parte</i>)	6	6	9
Éisteachtaí (<i>inter-partes</i>)	7	12	11
Eisteachtaí (<i>inter-partes ar mhodh aighneacht i scríbhinn</i>) *	7	14	8
Iarratais le hiarratais Trádmhairc na bPobal Eorpacha a aistriú go hiarratais náisiúnta	42	32	28
Iarratais idirnáisiúnta trádmhairc ina raibh Éire ina hOifig Tionscnaimh comhadaithe atá curtha chuig WIPO	46	70	82
Iarratais Chomhphobail comhadaithe tríd an Oifig agus a cuireadh ar aghaidh chuig an Oifig um Chomhchuíbhiú sa Mhargadh Inmheánach (OHIM)	1	0	2

*Léirítear san fhíor seo líon na n-imeachtaí idir na páirtithe a cinneadh bunaithe ar aighneachtaí i scríbhinn in ionad bheith i láthair ag éisteacht. Tugadh an nós imeachta sin isteach den chéad uair in 2012.

Clár na nGníomhairí Trádmhairc

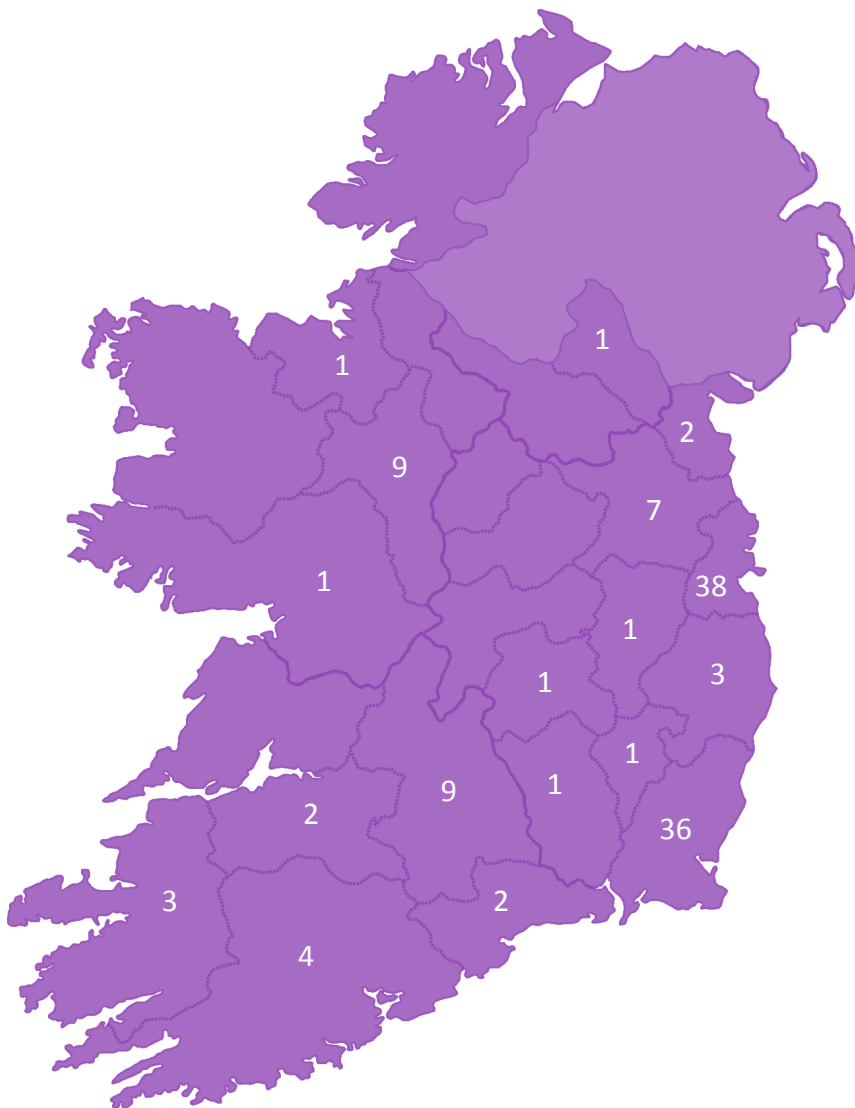
Ag deireadh na bliana 2014, bhí 217 duine aonair agus 4 comhpháirtíocht iontráilte ar an gClár.

**AICMIÚ IDIRNÁISIÚNTA AR EARRAÍ AGUS AR SHEIRBHÍSÍ INA GCUIRTEAR NA
MARCANNA A CLÁRAÍODH IN 2014**

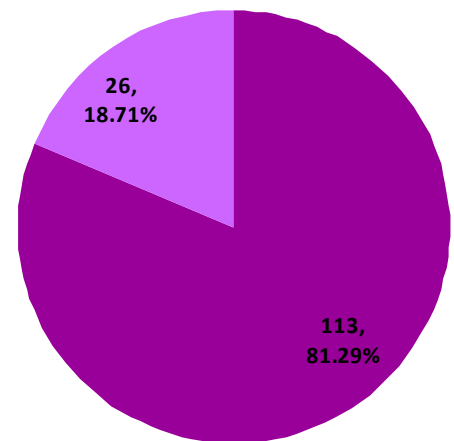
Rinne conradh iltaobhach ar a ghairtear “Comhaontú Nice Maidir le hAicmiú Idirnáisiúnta Earraí agus Seirbhísí chun Críocha Clárú Marcanna”. Tá Aicmiúchán Nice comhdhéanta de 45 ceannteideal aicmiúcháin a dhéanann cur síos an-leathan ar nádúr na n-earraí nó na seirbhísí atá i ngach ceann de na 34 aicme earraí agus na 11 aicme seirbhísí inar féidir trádmarcanna a chur. Riarann An Eagraíocht Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (WIPO) an t-aicmiúchán agus tá an t-eagrán reatha (an deichiú ceann) i bhfeidhm ó Eanáir 1, 2012.

Aicme	Aicmiúchán Earraí	Líon na marc san aicme	Aicme	Aicmiúchán Earraí	Líon na marc san aicme
1	Táirgí Ceimiceacha, srl.	34	24	Fíocháin (gréasáin), srl.	39
2	Péinteanna, srl.	30	25	Éadaí, ag áireamh Buataisí, Bróga agus Slipéir	118
3	Ullmhóidí Tuartha, srl.	83	26	Lása agus Bróidnéireacht, srl.	17
4	Oláí Tionsclaíochta, srl.	27	27	Cairpéid, srl.	21
5	Substaintí Cógaisíochta, srl.	235	28	Cluichí, srl.	66
6	Miotail Choitianta agus a gcóimhiotail Neamhoibrithe agus Páirt Oibrithe	45	29	Feoil, Iasc, Éineoil agus Géim, srl.	151
7	Meaisíní agus Inneal Úirlisí, srl.	34	30	Caifé, Tae, Cócó, Siúcra, Rís, srl.	212
8	Uirlisí agus Ionstraimí Láimhe, Sceanra, srl.	33	31	Táirgí Talmhaíochta, srl.	76
9	Fearas agus Ionstraimí Eolaíochta, srl.	242	32	Beoir, srl.	85
10	Uirlisí Máinliachta, srl.	23	33	Fíonta, Biotáille agus Licéir	62
11	Fearas Soilsithe	55	34	Tobac, srl.	24
12	Feithiclí; Fearas Gluaiseachta ar Thalamh, san Aer agus ar Uisce	40	35	Fógraíocht, Bainistiú Gnó, srl.	278
13	Airm Thine, Lón Lámhaigh agus Diúracáin; Substaintí Pléascacha; Spréachairí	0	36	Árachas, Gnóthaí Airgeadais, srl.	118
14	Miotail luachmhara agus a gCóimhiotail, srl.	34	37	Tógáil Foirgníochta, Deisiúchán, I Seirbhísí suiteála.	75
15	Uirlisí Ceoil (seachas meaisíní cainte agus fearas raidió)	4	38	Teileachumarsáidí	109
16	Páipéar, srl.	206	39	Iompar, Pacáistiú agus Stóráil Earraí, srl.	92
17	Guma Peirc, Cúitiúc, srl.	24	40	Cóiriú Ábhar	35
18	Leathar, srl.	39	41	Oideachas, Siamsaíocht, srl.	302
19	Ábhair Thógála, srl.	43	42	Seirbhísí eolaíochta agus teicneolaíochta	149
20	Troscán, Srl.	49	43	Soláthar bia agus dí	80
21	Acraí Beaga Tí, srl.	71	44	Seirbhísí míochaine, srl.	87
22	Rópaí, srl.	10	45	Seirbhísí pearsanta agus sóisialta	61
23	Snáitheanna	1			

Staidreamh Gnó - Dearaí



Iarratais Náisiúnta Dearaí on tír den chéad iarratasóir



■ Iarratasóirí IE
■ Iarratasóirí Eachtrannacha

Iarratais ar Dhearaí faoi contaie í 2014

	2012	2013	2014
Iarratais ar Dhearaí*	67	61	54
Líon na ndearaí iarrtha*	187	185	139
Dearaí cláraithe	151	167	138
Dearaí tite ar lár	67	253	82
Dearaí athnuaithe (Acht 1927)	5	0	0
Dearaí athnuaithe (Acht 2001)	127	46	43
Dearaí athnuaithe (Acht 2001)	489	351	214
Dearaí i bhfeidhm (Acht 2001)	1,012	1,112	1,000
Iarratais Chomhphobail comhadaithe trí Oifig na bPaitinní agus a cuireadh ar aghaidh chuig an Oifig um OCMI	3	0	5

*Nóta - Déanann Riall 19 de Rialacháin um Dhearahd Tionsclaíoch 2002 soláthar gur féidir 2 dhearahd nó níos mó faoi réir ag uaslíon de 100 dearadh a bheith comhcheangailte in aon iarratas amháin ar chlárú dearaí.

DEARAÍ A CLÁRAÍODH FAOI ACHT DEARADH TIONSCLAÍOCH, 2001 I GCAITHEAMH NA BLIANA DAR CHRÍOCH 31 NOLLAIG 2014

Bhunaigh conradh iltaobhach dá ngairtear “Comhaontú Locarnó ag bunú Aicmiúcháin Idirnáisiúnta do Dhearáí Tionsclaíocha” córas aicmiúcháin do dhearáí tionsclaíocha. Tá Aicmiú Locarnó comhdhéanta de liosta de 32 cineál earraí inar féidir dearáí tionsclaíocha a ionchorprú. Riarann An Eagraíocht Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (EDMI) an t-aicmiúchán agus tá an t-eagrán reatha (an naoú ceann) i bhfeidhm ó Eanáir 1, 2009.

Rang	Aicmiúchán	Dearáí Cláraithe
1	Ábhair Bia	0
2	Baill éadaigh agus Mionéadaí	18
3	Earraí Taistil, Cásanna, Parasóil agus Earraí Pearsanta, nach bhfuil sonraithe in áit eile	1
4	Earraí scuaibe	0
5	Earraí Gréasáin Teicstíle, Leatháin Shaorga agus Nádúrtha	0
6	Feistis	13
7	Earraí Tí, nach bhfuil sonraithe in áit eile	5
8	Uirlisí agus Crua-earraí	2
9	Pacáistí agus Gabhdáin d’Iompar nó do Láimhseáil Earraí	6
10	Cloig, Uaireadóirí agus Ionstraimí eile Tomhais, Ionstraimí Seiceála agus Comharthaíochta	4
11	Earraí Maisiúcháin	46
12	Modhanna Iompair nó Árdaithe	0
13	Trealamh do Tháirgeadh, Dáileadh nó Tarchur Leictreachais	0
14	Trealamh chun Taifeadadh, Cumarsáide nó Aisghabháil Faisnéise	6
15	Meaisíní, nach bhfuil sonraithe in áit eile	2
16	Gaireas Fótagrafaíochta, Cineamatagrafaíochta agus Optaice	0
17	Uirlisí Ceoil	2
18	Meaisíní Priontála agus Oifige	0
19	Stáiseanóireacht agus Trealamh Oifige, Ábhair Ealaíontóirí agus Múinteoireachta	4
20	Trealamh Díolacháin agus Fógraíochta, Comharthaí	0
21	Cluichí, Bréagáin, Pubail agus Earraí Spóirt	3
22	Airm, Earraí Piortheicniúla, Earraí chun Fiaigh, Iascaireachta agus Marú Lotnaidí	0
23	Trealamh Dáilithe Leachta, Trealamh Sláintíochta, Téimh, Aerála agus Aerchóirithe, Breosla Soladach	0
24	Trealamh Míochaine agus Saotharlainne	0
25	Aonaid Foirgníochta agus Eilimintí Tógála	9
26	Fearas Soilsithe	0
27	Tobac agus Soláthairtí do Lucht Caite Tobac	0
28	Táirgí Cógaisíochta agus Cosmáide, Earraí agus Fearas Maisiúcháin	2
29	Gléasanna agus Trealamh in aghaidh Guaise Tine, Cosc ar Thionóisc agus chun Tarrthála	1
30	Earraí um Chúram agus Láimhseáil Ainmhithe	8
31	Meaisíní agus Fearas Ullmhúcháin Bia agus Dí, nach bhfuil sonraithe in áit eile	0
32	Siombalacha Grafacha agus Comharthaí, Patrúin Dreacha, Ornadaíocht	9
	IOMLÁN	141

*Is féidir dearadh a bheith cláraithe i níos mó ná aicme amháin, agus dá bhrí sin sáraíonn líon na ndearaí sna ranganna líon na ndearaí atá cláraithe.

Tagairtí don Cheannasaí faoin Acht Cóipchirt agus Ceart Gaolmhar, 2000

Díospóidí idir daoine atá ag seinm taifeadtaí fuaimne go poiblí agus úinéir an chóipchirt atá ar marthain sna taifeadtaí maidir leis an luach saothair cothromasach atá iníoctha le húinéir an chóipchirt, féadfar iad a tharchur chuig an gCeannasaí lena chinneadh faoi alt 38 den Acht. Ní raibh aon díospóidí faoin alt sin in 2014.

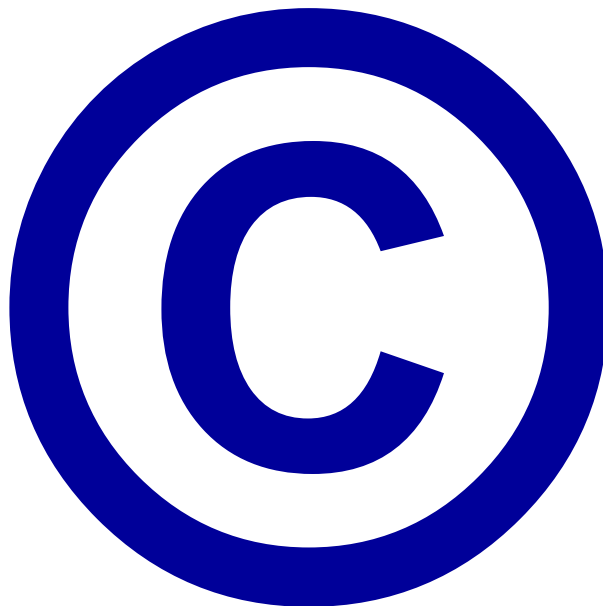
Díospóid idir daoine nó eagraíochtaí a dteastaíonn ceadúnas uathu faoi scéim atá i bhfeidhm agus oibreoir na scéime sin maidir leis an luach saothair cothromasach atá iníoctha, féadfar í a tharchur chuig an gCeannasaí lena chinneadh faoi alt 152. Bhí dhá dhíospóid alt 152 ar feitheamh ag tús na bliana 2014. Réitíodh an dá cheann díobh faoi dheireadh na bliana.

Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin Cóipchirt

Déanann an tAcht soláthar chomh maith dom leis na Cláir seo a leanas a bhunú agus a chothabháil;

- Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin Cóipchirt
- Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin um Chearta Maoin Thaibheoirí
- Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin um Chearta do Bhunachair Sonraí

Go dtí seo tá 13 comhlacht cláraithe sa Chlár na gComhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin Chóipchirt agus 1 (ceann amhain) sa Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin um Chearta Maoin Thaibheoirí. Níl aon iontrálacha sa chlár de Chomhlachtaí Ceadúnaithe do Chearta Mbunachair Sonraí.



REACHTAÍOCHT

Is é Aonad Maoine Intleachtúla na Roinne Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta atá freagrach as beartas agus as reachtaíocht a bhaineann le maoin intleachtúil a ullmhú.

Reachtaíocht a achtaíodh in 2014

An tAcht um Maoin Intleachtúil (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha) 2014 (Acht Uimh. 36 de 2014)

Bhí dhá chuspóir ag an Acht seo. Ar an gcéad dul síos, rinneadh leasú leis an Acht ar Acht na bPaitinní, 1992, ionas go bhfeabhsófaí an díolúine taighde inár reachtaíocht maidir le paitinní le leas cuideachtaí san earnáil cógaisíochta in Éirinn. Soláthraítear cinnteacht dhlíthiúil leis an leasú maidir leis an ngné de dhíolúine ó shárú paitinne nuair a dhéantar taighde agus trialacha cliniciúla d'fhonn leaganacha nua nó cineálacha de tháirgí míochaine agus tréidliachta a fhorbairt gan an chosaint a thugann an phaitinn bhunaidh atá ann cheana a shárú.

Ar an dara dul síos, tugadh éifeacht leis an Acht do Chonradh Shingeapór ar Dhlí na dTrádmharcanna i reachtaíocht na hÉireann. Is é aidhm an Chonartha an rómhaorlathas a laghdú ach nósanna imeachta riaracháin na n-oifigí trádmharcanna ar fud an domhain a chomhchuíbhíú ach níl aon tionchar aige ar dhlí substainteach na dtrádmharcanna. Cé go bhfuil reachtaíocht na hÉireann comhsheasmhach le ceanglais an Chonartha den chuid is mó, bhí roinnt leasuithe teicniúla ar alt 29(3) agus alt 29(4) d'Acht na dTrádmharcanna, 1996, ag teastáil chun aontú don Chonradh. Síníodh an tAcht sin isteach sa dlí an 23 Nollaig 2014.

Rialacháin an Aontais Eorpaigh (Úsáidí Áirithe is Cead a Bhaint as Saothair Dílleachta), 2014 (Treoir 2012/28/AE), I.R. Uimh. 490 de 2014

Leis na Rialacháin, déantar Treoir 2012/28/AE ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle an 25 Deireadh Fómhair 2012 maidir le húsáidí áirithe is cead a bhaint as saothair dílleachta a thrasú. Ar aon dul leis an Treoir, tá feidhm ag na Rialacháin maidir leis na nithe seo: leabharlanna a bhfuil rochtain ag an bpobal orthu, forais oideachais, músaeim, cartlanna, institiúidí oidhreacht scannán nó fuaime agus craoltóirí seirbhíse poiblí (go dtí an 31 Nollaig 2002). Déantar foráil leis na Rialacháin d'eisceacht ón dlí cóipchirt do na heagraíochtaí sin i dtaca le catagóirí saothar a foilsíodh den chéad uair san AE atá faoi chosaint le cóipcheart fós agus nach féidir a n-údar ná sealbhóirí cirt eile a shainnithint agus a aimsiú. Is iad seo na catagóirí saothar: saothair san earnáil chló (leabhair, irisleabhair, irisí agus nuachtáin), saothair chineamatagrafaíochta agus chlosamhairc, taifeadtaí fuaime agus saothair atá leabaithe nó curtha san áireamh i saothair eile nó i dtaifeadtaí fuaime eile (e.g. pictiúir i leabhar).

Cuirfidh an eisceacht ón dlí cóipchirt ar chumas na n-eagraíochtaí cultúrtha sin saothair dílleachta a dhigitiú agus a chur ar fáil ar líne i ngach Ballstát. Tá feidhm ag an Treoir freisin maidir le hoibreacha neamhfhoilsithe (amhail litreacha, lámhscríbhinní, etc.) faoi choinníollacha áirithe. Tháinig na rialacháin i bhfeidhm an 29 Deireadh Fómhair 2014.

Faisnéis Airgeadais

FÁLTAIS AGUS CAITEACHAS 2014 (Níl cuntais iniúchta fós ag an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste)

FÁLTAIS	€000
Táillí Paitinne (Nótaí 1 & 2)	5,879
Táillí Trádmhairc	1,372
Clárúchán ar Thrádmhairc Idirnáisiúnta – táillí a fuarthas ó WIPO (Nóta 3)	1,078
Táillí Dearaidh	11
Táillí eile	118
Lúide aisíochtaí i leith táillí a íocadh i ndearmad	93
Lúide táillí idirbhearta i leith íocaíochtaí ar-líne le cártaí creidmheasa	115
Fáltais ghlan fabhraithe don Státchiste	8,250

COSTAIS	€000
Tuarastail	1,781
Taisteal & Cothabháil	41
Ilnithe & Focostais	71
Seirbhísí Poist agus Teileachumarsáide	104
Meaisíní Oifige agus Soláthairtí eile Oifige	287
Costais Áitreabh Oifige	89
Foinsí eolais, leabhair, tréimhseacháin, srl.	1
Síntiúis do Chumainn Mhaoine Tionsclaíocha	386
Iomlán	2,760

Nóta 1:

Ag teacht leis an gCoinbhinsiún don Phaitinn Eorpach, ina bhfuil Éire rannpháirteach, tá ar Oifig na bPaitinní 50% de na táillí uile athnuachana a fhaightear i leith Paitinní Eorpacha a ndearnathas bailí orthu in Éirinn agus atá iontráilte ar chlár náisiúnta na bpaitinní, a chur chuig Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa.

	€000
Táillí Paitinne	11,178
Lúide an cion de na táillí athnuachan paitinne a aistríodh go hOifig na bPaitinní Eorpacha	5,299
Táillí Paitinne glan fabhraithe don Státchiste	5,879

Nóta 2:

Feidhmíonn Oifig na bPaitinní mar Oifig fháltais d'iarratais ar phaitinní a dhéantar faoin Chonradh Comhair Paitinní agus sa cháilíocht sin faigheann sí táillí le tarchur chuig Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa agus chuig An Eagraíocht Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil araon. Ní fhabhraíonn na táillí do Státchiste na hÉireann agus dá bhrí sin níl siad san áireamh sa bhfigiúr ar an bhfáltais glan. Seo a leanas mionsonraí ar na táillí a aistríodh chuig an EPO agus an WIPO i rith 2013:

	€000
Táillí Bunaigh agus Sainithe CCP tarchurtha chuig WIPO, an Ghinéiv.	24
Táillí cuardaigh CCP tarchurtha chuig EPO, Munich.	36
Iomlán	60

Nóta 3:

De bhun daingnithe na hÉireann ar an bPrótacal maidir le Comhaontú Maidrid maidir le Clárú Idirnáisiúnta ar Mharcanna (Prótacal Maidrid) ar an 19 Iúil 2001, faigheann an Oifig táillí dlite i leith iarratas Idirnáisiúnta Trádmhairc a lorgaíonn cosaint in Éirinn, ón Eagraíocht Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (WIPO).

SPRIOCANNA FEIDHMIÚCHÁIN 2014

Tá na bPaitinní Plean Gníomhaíochta um Sheirbhís do Chustaiméirí na hOifige bunaithe ar na Prionsabail um Sheirbhís do Chustaiméirí Dhéag Ardchaighdeáin leagtha amach i “Seirbhís Ardchaighdeáin do Chustaiméirí an Rialtais Thionscnamh” agus leagtar amach na gníomhartha a bheidh éifeacht do na prionsabail a thabhairt. Tá na spriocanna seirbhísí custaiméirí san áireamh sa phlean seo

Réimhse Gníomhaíochta agus Leibhéal Bainte Amach

Paitinní			
1.	Admhálacha foirmeálta a eisiúint ar chomhadú iarratais foirfeacha laistigh de 5 lá oibre.	75%	
2.	Cóipeanna deimhnithe de dhoiciméid phaitinne a eisiúint laistigh de 5 lá oibre i ndiaidh iarraidh a fháil ar a leithéid.	99%	
3.	Eisiúint na dteastas athnuachan paitinne laistigh de 3 lá oibre i ndiaidh fáil na híochaíochta.	100%	
4.	Iarratais ar chlárú sannaithe a phróiseáil laistigh de 7 lá oibre tar éis iarratas atá comhlánaithe go hiomlán agus i gceart a bheith tagtha isteach.	97%	
5.	Dearbhú a eisiúint go bhfuil iarratais ar leasuithe ar chlár na bpaitinní maidir le hainmneacha agus seoltaí iarratasóirí, úinéirí agus gníomhairí paitinne agus seoladh na seirbhíse taifeadta laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis iarratas atá comhlánaithe i gceart a fháil.	97%	
6.	Paitinní a dheonadh laistigh de 5 lá oibre ó fháil na táille deonaithe.	97%	
7.	Iarratais Eorpacha agus PCT agus sonraí bainteach leo a thraschur go dtí EPO/WIPO laistigh de 5 lá oibre ó fhaightear iad.		100%
8.	Deonú paitinní gearrthréimhseacha a cheadú laistigh de thréimhse 6 mhí tar éis d’iarratas cuí iomlán a bheith comhdaithe.		62%
9.	Tar éis gach doiciméad riachtanach agus freagraí ar agóidí oifigiúla a fháil a bhaineann le hiarratais ar phaitinní, cinneadh a ghlacadh maidir le paitinn a dheonú nó a dhiúltú laistigh de dhá mhí.		95%
10.	A chinntiú go n-eisítear fógra i dtaobh fabhtáí foirmeálta laistigh de 15 lá oibre tar éis comhdaithe.		90%
11.	Fógra maidir le lochtanna substainteacha a eisiúint laistigh de 2 mhí ón gcomhdúchán.		99%
12.	90% de na hiarratais neamhrannóige ar fad ar phaitinní a aicmiú lena bhfoilsíú laistigh de 18 mhí tar éis an dáta comhdúcháin tosaíochta.		65%

Deimhnithe Cosanta Forlíontacha			
1.	Fógra ar mháchainil foirmeálta a eisiúint laistigh de 10 lá oibre ón dáta comhdaithe.	100%	
2.	Admhála a eisiúint ar iarratais foirfeacha DFC ceartchomhdaithe laistigh de 5 lá oibre.		80%

Dearaí			
1.	Admhálacha foirmeálta comhdaithe a eisiúint laistigh de 5 lá oibre ar iarratais ar dhearaí atá comhlánaithe i gceart.	81%	
2.	Litir tosaigh agóidí / litir glactha a eisiúint laistigh de 12 sheachtain tar éis an t-iarratas a fháil.	100%	
3.	Freagra a thabhairt ar 95% de na chomhfhreagras ar iarratais aonair faoi scrúdú laistigh de 5 seachtaine.	100%	
4.	Deimhnithe athnuachana dearaidh a eisiúint laistigh de 3 lá oibre oibre tar éis an íochaíochta a fháil.		100%
5.	Deimhnithe clárúcháin dearhtai a eisiúint laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis don rannóg scrúdaithe an t-iarratas a ghlacadh.		95%

Réimhse Gníomhaíochta agus Leibhéal Bainte Amach

Trádmharcanna					
1.	Admhálacha foirmeálta a eisiúint ar iarratais ar thrádmharcanna atá comhlánaithe i gceart laistigh de 7 lá oibre.	87%	10.	Cóip d'fhógra ar agóid, iarratas ar aisghairm mar gheall ar neamhúsáid, nó dearbhú neamhbhailíochta a eisiúint chuig gach páirtí bainteach leis an chas taobh istigh de 2 seachtain ó fhaightear iad.	100%
2.	Iarratais ar shannadh a phróiseáil laistigh de 7 lá oibre tar éis iarratas atá comhlánaithe go hiomlán a fháil.	100%	11.	Freagra a thabhairt laistigh de 3 seachtaine ar 95% den chomhfhreagras scríofa ar fad maidir le hiarratais aonair atá á scrúdú.	100%
3.	Cóipeanna deimhnithe agus sleachta as Clár na dTrádmharc a eisiúint laistigh de 5 lá tar éis an iarratais.	100%	12.	Freagra a thabhairt ar iarrataí aonair ar shíneadh ama roimh an sprioc ama reatha, i gcás go ndéantar na hiarrataí sin tráth nach déanaí ná 2 sheachtain roimh dhul in éag na sprice ama reatha.	100%
4.	Deimhnithe athnuachana ar thrádmhairc a chur amach laistigh de 3 lá oibre tar éis an íocaíochta a fháil.	100%	13.	Trádmharcanna a chlárú laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis an táille clárúcháin.	97%
5.	Dearbhú a eisiúint go bhfuil taifeadadh déanta ar iarratais ar leasuithe ar Chlár na dTrádmharcanna i ndáil le hainmneacha agus seoltaí úinéirí agus gníomhairí trádmharcanna agus seoladh na seirbhíse laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis iarratas atá comhlánaithe i gceart a fháil.	94%	14.	Cúinsí scríofa a eisiúint faoi chinntí in éisteachtaí laistigh de 2 mhí tar éis na héisteachta.	70%
6.	Glacadh (le haghaidh fógraíocht san Iris) le hiarratais ar thrádmharcanna taobh istigh de 3 mhí ón dáta comhdaithe i gcásanna nár chuir an Oifig aon rud ina gcoinne.	95%	15.	Cinnithe in éisteachtaí a eisiúint laistigh de mhí amháin tar éis na héisteachta.	100%
7.	Litir tosaigh agóidí/glactha a eisiúint laistigh de 12 sheachtain tar éis iarratas nua a fháil sa Rannóg.	97%	16.	Iarratas ar íocaíocht táillí clárúcháin a eisiúint laistigh de 7 lá oibre ó dheireadh na tréimhse inar féidir achomharc a chomhdú sa chás nach bhfuarthas aon fhreasúra.	100%
8.	Freagra a thabhairt ar chomhfhreagras ar iarratais indibhidiúla (agóidí, aisghairm, neamhbhailíocht) laistigh de 5 seachtaine.	100%	17.	Sa chás go gcinntear an freasúra i bhfabhar an iarratasóra, iarratas ar íocaíocht táillí clárúcháin a eisiúint laistigh de 7 lá oibre ó tharraingt siar an fhreasúra a fhoilsiú.	100%
9.	Iarratais ar clárúcháin trádmharc idirnáisiúnta a tharchur laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis na n-iarratas atá comhlánaithe i gceart.	100%			

Ilchineálach

Ginearálta

Admhálacha íocaíochta a eisiúint laistigh de 2 lá oibre ar gach táille (i bhfoirm seice, dréacht bainc nó órdú airgid) a fuarthas.	100%
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AG TEACHT IN 2015

Ríomhchódúchán Dearaí

Soláthrófar seirbhís ríomhchodúcháin ar líne do dhearaí tionsclaíocha cosúil leis an tseirbhís atá i bhfeidhm cheana féin do thrádmharcanna. De bharr fheidhmiúlacht na seirbhíse, beifear in ann roinnt iarratas ar dhearaí a chomhdú, iarrataí a dhéanamh ar iarchur foilseacháin agus an táille iarratais a íoc ar líne le cárta dochair nó creidmheasa. A bhfuil leis an tseirbhís um ríomhchodúchán dearaí, beidh sé níos éasca do ghnólachtaí iarratas a dhéanamh ar dhearaí tionsclaíocha a chlárú in Éirinn. Beidh an tseirbhís ag teacht leis an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta freisin.

Ríomhsheirbhísí

San am i láthair, is féidir leis an Oifig freastal ar iarrataí chun gach cineál táille a íoc thar an teileafón trí theirminéal cártaí creidmheasa/dochair nó trí ríomhaistriú airgid. Mar sin féin, ní féidir ach táillí athnuachana agus táillí clárúcháin/deontais a íoc ar líne trí shuíomh Gréasáin na hOifige. Déanfaidh an tionscadal Ríomhsheirbhísí éascú ar gach táille trádmhairc agus dearaidh a íoc ar líne, agus gach táille paitinne le cur ar áireamh ann tráth níos déanaí.

An Clár Cónasctha

Cuireann seirbhís Chlár Cónasctha na bPaitinní Eorpacha faisnéis ar fáil don phobal faoi stádas dlíthiúil Paitinní Eorpacha agus faoi stádas dlíthiúil paitinní náisiúnta. Sa chéad chéim den tionscadal (atá críochnaithe cheana féin), sholáthair an Clár Cónasctha nasc díreach le huimhir iarratais nó foilseacháin ar leith i roinnt clár náisiúnta paitinní, lena n-áirítear clár na hÉireann. Tabharfaidh an dara céim, a chríochnófar in 2015, deis don úsáideoir féachaint ar shonraí faoi stádas dlíthiúil doiciméad Paitinní Eorpacha sa chéim náisiúnta i roinnt oifigí, agus na sonraí sin ar taispeáint i liosta aontaithe aonair. Cuirfear an liosta sin le chéile ar ala na huairé trí shonraí a aisghabháil i bhfóir-am ó bhunachair sonraí clár de chuid gach oifige náisiúnta, clár paitinní na hÉireann ina measc.

Freastalaithe Gréasáin agus an suíomh Gréasáin a uasghrádú

Tá uasghrádú á dhéanamh faoi láthair ar bhonneagar an tsuímh Ghréasáin agus ar na freastalaithe Gréasáin ar mhaithe le córais oibriúcháin atá as dáta agus gan tacaíocht a athsholáthar. Chomh maith leis sin, cuirfear clár nua bainistíochta inneachair i bhfeidhm chun freastal ar leathanaigh Ghréasáin a fheabhsú, ar inneachar a chruthú agus a bhainistiú ar bhealach níos éasca agus ar inniúlachtaí a leathnú chun grafaic, grianghraif, físeáin agus ábhar fuaime a bhainistiú ar mhaithe le seirbhísí níos fearr a chur ar fáil d'úsáideoirí. Athdhearfar suíomh Gréasáin na hOifige tar éis na hoibre sin ar fad.

Déan teagmháil linn

Oifig na bPaitinní
Oifigí an Rialtais
Bóthar Hebron
Cill Chainnigh
Éire

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Uaireanta oscailte

9:30-5pm Dé Luain—Dé hAoine

