



# History

The Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) was established on 25 June 1991 within the Ministry of Science and Technology under the name the Slovenian Industrial Property Protection Office.

In 1994 it was assigned competence in the field of copyright and related rights, changing its name to the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office. As from December 2000 it operates as an autonomous body within the Ministry of the Economy.

## 2015

*September:* Dr Vojko Toman was appointed Acting Director of SIPO as of 21 September 2015, until the appointment of a new director.

*June:* Janez Kukec Mezek was appointed Acting Director of SIPO as of 1 June 2015, until the appointment of a new director.

## 2014

*January:* Vesna Stankovič Juričič was appointed Director of SIPO as of 23 January 2014.

## 2013

*September:* Vesna Stankovič Juričič was appointed Acting Director of SIPO in September 2013, until the appointment of a new director.

## 2012

*October:* Luka Novak was appointed Director of SIPO as of 5 October 2012.

*June:* Luka Novak was appointed Acting Director of SIPO in July 2012, until the appointment of a new director.

*May:* SIPO was re-awarded the ISO 9001:2008 Certificate for Quality Management System.

## 2011

*December:* On the initiative of SIPO Slovenia filed candidacy for the seat of the Centre of Arbitration and Mediation in patent disputes in case of unitary patent system in the European Union.

*October:* Slovenian Intellectual Property Office hosted an annual meeting of the Presidents of intellectual property offices of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and friendly offices (Austria, Croatia and Slovenia). At the meeting, which was held at Bled, actual issues concerning IP protection system were discussed at the highest level, in particular issues relating to the membership and management of EPO, WIPO and OHIM, as well as current topics in EU.

*June:* The amended Copyright and Related Rights Act was prepared by SIPO and handed over to the Ministry.

*May:* SIPO published the Slovenian version of the Study on the Economic Contribution of the Copyright-Based Industries in Slovenia, and presented it to the interested public. The study, first of its kind ever conducted in Slovenia, was initiated by the SIPO and financially supported by the WIPO and the Slovenian Ministry of Culture.

## 2010

*December:* New National Action Plan for Slovenia was signed by SIPO and EPO for the period 2010-2012 and several cooperation project agreements for 2011 with OHIM.

*November:* Within the framework of programs supported by EC, WIPO and EPO, and some other international aid projects, SIPO has been for a number of years successfully providing technical support to other less experienced IP Offices of the region. Three NPO delegations paid a study visit to SIPO, coming from Kosovo, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*October:* In 2010 SIPO joined the TMview project, making thus available for users of the unified database also the data on applications and registrations of Slovenian trademarks.

*June:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the Intellectual Property Office of Montenegro.

*January:* Dr. Jurij Žurej was appointed Director of SIPO as of 15 January.

*January:* On the initiative of SIPO, Prof. Dr. Dres. h. c. Joseph Straus, a leading academic figure in European patent law, was awarded State Order for Services.

## 2009

*September:* Dr. Jurij Žurej was appointed Acting Director of SIPO as of 1 October, until the appointment of a new director.

*June:* Intersectoral Working Group for Fight against Piracy and Counterfeiting was established, which should ensure a more effective cooperation of state authorities in exercising their powers in piracy and counterfeiting.

*April:* SIPO was awarded the ISO 9001:2008 Certificate for Quality Management System.

## 2008

*December:* A memorandum of understanding on cooperation was concluded with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks of Romania.

*October:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China.

*May:* The European Patent Forum and the European Inventor of the Year 2008 took place in Ljubljana. The event, which made part of the official program of the EU Presidency of Slovenia, was co-organised by the European Patent Office, the Government of Slovenia, the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office and the European Commission.

*May:* Under EPO project, SIPO introduced a new service for innovative SMEs that do not yet make use of intellectual property or lack experience in this field. This customised service includes a diagnosis of the current state of the company's IP, as well as recommendations for the protection thereof.

## 2007

*December:* A cooperation agreement for the year 2008 on joint promotion related to Community trademarks and designs was concluded with OHIM.

*December:* SIPO's website received the golden Netko 2007 award in the category of presentation of state and public institutions and communities.

*November:* A National Action Plan for Slovenia was signed by SIPO and EPO for the period from 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2010.

*November:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the Industrial Property Protection Office of the Republic of Macedonia.

*October:* A Copyright Board was established at SIPO.

*June:* In the framework of CETMOS, a joint project of nine Central European countries, SIPO introduced a new information service offering searches of trademark databases of all participating countries. Already in the next year, CETMOS was presented at the Conference on the European Charter for SMEs as one of the three good practice exemplary cases.

*February:* A cooperation agreement on joint promotion and informational services related to Community trademarks and designs was concluded with OHIM.

*January:* The amended Copyright and Related Rights Act and Employment Related Industrial Property Rights Act, as of then Employment Related Inventions Act, entered into force.

*January:* Slovenia ratified amendments to 11 international treaties adopted by WIPO General Assembly in October 2003, namely the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization, Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic, Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs, Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, Patent Cooperation Treaty, Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs – Complementary Act of Stockholm, Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the

Deposit of Micro-organisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure, Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks and Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification.

## 2006

*November:* SIPO presented its renewed website – new design and a number of additional contents and functions made it more accessible and user-friendly.

*June:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the Hungarian Patent Office.

*May:* SIPO was awarded the ISO 9001:2000 Certificate for Quality Management System.

*March:* The amended Industrial Property Act, Copyright and Related Rights Act and Act on Protection of Topographies and Integrated Circuits entered into force.

*February:* SIPO Industrial Property Bulletin (BIL) was made available on-line free of charge.

## 2005

*October:* Slovenia was once again elected member to the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and thereby also a member of the WIPC Coordination Committee, and SIPO Directress, Dr. Strel, was elected Vice-President of the Patent Law Treaty Assembly.

*June:* An agreement on cooperation was concluded with the University of Ljubljana.

*April:* Slovenia became party to the Patent Law Treaty.

*February:* SIPO began organising regular educational and promotional activities for general public related to intellectual property and performed by SIPO itself or in cooperation with other organisations.

*January:* SIPO awarded the status of an official information centre, which EPO placed on the list of PATLIB Centres, to the Central Technological Library of the University of Ljubljana.

## 2004

*October:* SIPO began publishing the periodical news "Novice" (in Slovenian only) to promptly inform general public about its activities and the latest events related to intellectual property.

*September:* Dr. Biserka Strel became the Directress of SIPO.

*May*

## 2003

*December:* Slovenia became party to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs.

*December:* SIPO awarded the status of an official information centre, which EPO placed on the list of PATLIB Centres, to the Maribor University Library.

*November:* Slovenia was granted observer status in the Administrative Council of OHIM.

## 2002

*December:* Slovenia became party to the Convention on the Grant of European Patents and become a full member of EPO.

*November:* The amended Industrial Property Rights Act entered into force.

*May:* Slovenia became party to the Trademark Law Treaty, WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification.

*March:* Slovenia became party to the WIPO Copyright Treaty.

## 2001

*December:* The amended Industrial Property Act, Copyright and Related Rights Act, the Employment Related Industrial Property Act and Act on Protection of Topographies of Integrated Circuits entered into force.

*August:* Slovenia became party to the Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of Figurative Elements of Marks.

*May:* Act Regulating Customs Measures Relating to Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights entered into force.

*April:* SIPO which has been operating under the Ministry of Science and Technology became an autonomous body of the Ministry of the Economy.

## 2000

*May:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM).

*March:* Mr. Erik Vrenko became the Director of SIPO.

## 1999

*July:* Slovenia became party to the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

## 1998

*July:* The two agreements between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the European Patent Organisation from 1993 were renewed, namely the Co-operation Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Patents and the Agreement implementing Article 3(3) of the Co-operation Agreement (Extension Agreement).

*May:* Slovenia became party to the Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol.

*March:* Slovenia became party to the Protocol to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro organisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure.

## 1997

*June:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the Department of Intellectual Property of the Kingdom of Thailand.

*June:* SIPO was granted the SIST ISO 9002: 1995 Certificate for quality management system as the first institution of the Slovenian State administration.

## 1996

*October:* Slovenia became party to the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organisations and Geneva Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of Their Phonograms.

*April:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the Industrial Property Protection Office of the Republic of Macedonia.

*March:* An agreement on the forwarding of prior art searches and expert opinions was concluded with the Austrian Patent Office.

## 1995

*December:* The first ESPACE CD-ROM with Slovenian patents made in co-operation with the EPO was published.

*September:* Slovenia was re-elected a member to the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and thereby also a member of the WIPO Coordination Committee.

*July:* Slovenia became member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and SIPO was appointed as the IP contact point.

*July:* The Employment Related Industrial Property Act entered into force introducing a conciliation board at SIPO for the settlement of disputes between employees and the employers concerning inventions made in the course of employment.

*April:* The Copyright and Related Rights Act and the Act on Protection of Topographies of Integrated Circuits were adopted.

*February:* Slovenia was granted the observer status in the Administrative Council of the EPO.

January

## 1994

*December:* SIPO was assigned competence in the field of copyright and related rights, consequently changing its name to the present Slovenian Intellectual Property Office to better reflect its new functions.

*December:* An agreement on data exchange and agreement on the production of CD-ROMs with Slovenian patent documents was concluded with the European Patent Office.

*September:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the Lithuanian Patent Office.

*June:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the United Kingdom Patent Office.

*March:* Slovenia became party to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

## 1993

*September:* Slovenia was elected to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and thereby also a member of the WIPO Coordination Committee. SIPO has ever since participated in the work of most of WIPO administrative and working bodies.

*July:* Two agreements were concluded between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the European Patent Organisation signed namely the Co-operation Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Patents and the Agreement implementing Article 3(3) of the Co-operation Agreement (Extension Agreement). The latter enabled the extension of validity of European patents to Slovenia and was to become the first agreement of this kind introducing a generally accepted model of co-operation between the European Patent Organisation and non-member States.

*June:* The amended Industrial Property Act entered into force simplifying the examination part of the trademark registration procedure.

*March:* A cooperation agreement on the exchange of search and examination results was concluded with the French National Institute for Industrial Property.

## 1992

*December:* A cooperation agreement was concluded with the Austrian Patent Office.

*June:* Slovenia declared the continued applicability of several treaties to which the former Yugoslavia was party, namely the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization, Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs, Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, Convention Relating to the Distribution of Programme-Carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite and Universal Copyright Convention.

April

## 1991

*November:* A cooperation agreement on the exchange of search and examination results was concluded with the German Patent Office.

*June:* The Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) was established within the Ministry of Science and Technology under the name the Slovenian Industrial Property Protection Office. Its first director became dr. Bojan Pretnar.