



The Intellectual
Property Office of the
Republic of Serbia

IPR Enforcement in Serbia

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Role of the IP Office in development of IP system

- IP Office of Serbia – special organization in state administration responsible for the tasks related to industrial property rights, copyright and related rights; Supervision over the work of IPO by the Ministry of Economy;
- As a professional body follows international and EU regulations in the field of legal protection of intellectual property and implements them into the laws on intellectual property rights in Serbia;
- Supervision over the work of collective management organizations for copyright and related rights;
- Raising public awareness on importance of IPR protection through dissemination of information and educational function

The role of the IPO in economic development

- Encourage the use of IP in business community and in scientific work
- Cooperation with all relevant actors in innovation infrastructure of Serbia
- Role in education/training of all stakeholder groups
- Raising public awareness on importance of IPR protection through different kind of media
- **Improving the efficiency of enforcement institutions through Coordination Body for IPR enforcement**



Stakeholder groups



IPR Enforcement competent authorities

- The Law on Special Powers for the Purpose of Efficient Protection of Intellectual Property Rights adopted for the first time in 2006, in force the one from January 2022 (change: Tax administration competence on legality of software passed over to the Market inspectorate)
- The Law prescribes the special powers of state administration bodies and organizations - competent authorities, for the effective protection of intellectual property rights
- Included authorities are those whose competences are not prescribed by other Laws
- Customs administration competence with regard to the IPR enforcement on the border prescribed by the Customs Law

IPR Enforcement competent authorities

1. Administrative bodies:

- Customs administration
- Market Inspection, Health inspection, Urban, Construction, Tourist and other inspections prescribed by the Law
- Republic Broadcasting Agency

2. Police - Ministry of Interior

3. Republic Public Prosecutor's Office

4. Courts



Coordination Body for Efficient IPR Protection in the Republic of Serbia

- The first EU Twinning project Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights took place 2014-2016
- The second EU Twinning project took place 2019-2022
- Main beneficiary - The Ministry of TTT, Sector for Market Inspection, but also involved Customs Administration, the Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecutor's Office, the Intellectual Property Office as well as other inspections
- The Government of Serbia adopted the Decision on the formation of the Coordinating Body for the effective protection of intellectual property rights in the Republic of Serbia in November 2014



Coordination Body

- The task of the Coordinating Body is to monitor and direct certain tasks within the purview of several state administration bodies in order to ensure effective protection of intellectual property rights.
- The Coordinating Body has a President, the director of the Intellectual Property Office, and the members by the position: Assistant Minister of Economy, Assistant Minister of Internal and Foreign Trade, assistant director of the Tax Administration*, assistant director of the Customs Administration, Assistant Minister of Health, Head of the Department for Suppression of Crime in the Field of Intellectual Property, Service for Combating Organized Crime in the Ministry of Internal Affairs



Coordination Body

- Other experts, bodies and organization can participate in the work of Coordination Body
- Working groups: Expert Working Group and Operational Working Group
- Professional and administrative-technical work for the needs of the Coordinating Body is performed by the Intellectual Property Office
- Regular meetings of Coordination Body held at least twice a year



Main highlights

- 2017: Chapter (Cluster) 7 on IPR opened in negotiation for EU accession. Positive report in 2022;
- 2022: Launch of user friendly IPO website with a web page dedicated to enforcement of IPR and to raising awareness on harmfulness of counterfeiting and piracy - “Buy Original”;
- IPStat Exchange platform developed within Twinning 2 project – expected to be functional in following months (data on IPR cases of Market Inspections and Customs); Methodology for calculation of scope and value on counterfeiting and piracy developed;
- The Laws on IPR contain the provisions transposing the Directive 2004/48/EC
- General provisions that apply also to the enforcement of IPR under civil law are included in the Law of Contract and Torts, the Law on the Litigation Procedure, and the Law on the Execution and Security



IPO website – section “Buy Original”

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Serbia. The header includes the logo and name of the office, navigation menus for 'Intellectual Property Rights', 'About us', 'Education and Information Centre', 'Support and Resources', and 'News', and a search bar. The main content area features the title 'The Intellectual Property Office' and a brief description: 'The Intellectual Property Office is an institution that is responsible for the tasks related to industrial property rights, copyright, and related rights.' Below this are two buttons: 'Learn more about IP' and 'About us'. A central graphic shows three icons (patent, trademark, copyright) connected to a central blue circle with the office logo. At the bottom, there are four search boxes for 'Patents', 'Trademarks', 'Copyright and Related Rights', and 'Industrial Design', each with a 'Search' button.

The screenshot shows the 'Buy Original' section of the website. The header includes the logo and name of the office, navigation menus for 'Права интелектуалне својине', 'О Заводу', 'Едукативно информативни центар', 'Купуј оригинал', 'Погршка', and 'Вести', and a search bar. The main content area features the title 'За њословање' and a brief description: 'Овде су неке од идеја и активности како ваше предузеће може спречити фалсификовање и пиратерију ваших производа.' Below this is a list of links: 'Кубовина и фалсификаци', 'СФрмовање и ѡреузимање ѡбгаѡака', 'Чињенице и ѡравила', 'Терминологија', and 'Информације'. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a shoe, a box, a truck, and a spilled pill bottle, with a red and white striped barrier in front of the box.

WIPO Pilot Study in Serbia

- In Q2 2022 WIPO Pilot project started: “Study in Serbia on creating effective links between the national IP strategies and the innovation ecosystem”

Phase 1: *Preparation of an Assessment Report on the Serbian national innovation system* including its strength, weaknesses, new opportunities and challenges.

Phase 2: (to be completed) *Preparation of an Assessment Report on the current national innovation priorities and policies*

Phase 3: (pending) *Facilitation of the work and providing comments to the WIPO international consultant to develop Analytical and policy suggestions in a view of the next Serbian national IP Strategy*

Development of new IP Strategy 2023 – 2027

- IP Strategy 2018-2022 expired
- The new IP Strategy will be 3rd in a row since 2011
- Support of WIPO within the Cooperation plan for 2023 with engagement of national expert
- Lessons learned from previous strategies: strategic goals should be realistic, based on IPO capacities and capacities of all relevant institutions involved in achieving the goals
- The new Organizational unit within the IP Office dedicated to the cooperation with enforcement bodies and organizations planned to be established in 2023



Some of possible goals for new IP Strategy

- Operational excellence – ensuring that our core business is of high performance supported with improved and secured IT system in line with requirements of e-government and new technologies
- Improving administrative capacities in terms of number of employees and formation of the new units at the IPO
- **Further improvement of administrative capacities of Serbian enforcement institution and exchange of data**
- Considering the introduction of intellectual property topics in early education levels
- Inclusion of the findings from the WIPO Pilot Study targeting improvement innovations indicators



Thank you!

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