

IN FOCUS

Combating Counterfeiting of Medicines and Similar Crimes

The Scientific Center of Drug and Medical Technology Expertise was founded in 1992 according to the recommendations by the World Health Organization. The aim of the organization is the implementation of the national pharmaceutical policy in the Republic of Armenia addressed to the ensuring of safe, effective and qualified medicine.

Hakob Topchyan, the Director of the Center, spoke about that on November 8-9, 2012, the Center in cooperation with the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare, Council of Europe, and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, organized a two-day training course on “Combating counterfeiting of medicines and similar crimes and protecting public health through legal instruments, awareness raise and cooperation in the country and multinational levels” in Marriott Armenia Hotel. The participants involved representatives from various legal and customs fields of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Armenia.

The training course was the first

of its kind to be organized in the CIS. Mkrtych Shakaryan, head of the Inspection Department, informed that a similar training course is soon going to be organized in Ukraine as well.

The participants of the training course were welcomed by Sergey Khachatryan, the Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia, Sabine Walser, the person in charge of the fight against counterfeiting in the Pharmaceuticals Quality and Health Department of the Council of Europe, Tatyana Kolpakova, the acting CEO of WHO Armenia office, and Hakob Topchyan, the Director of the Center. The training course was comprised of issues on key problems of counterfeiting pharmaceuticals, drug substances, the methods for fight against counterfeiting, problems to appear in the distribution chain, the shortcoming of the online shopping, and some other issues.

The trainers were senior specialists from institutions in Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Great Britain, who have experience in fighting against medicine counterfeiting



and similar crimes. The specialists have all participated in drafting the “Medicrime” Convention.

The “Medicrime” Convention is about the fight against counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 8 December, 2010, and was put into circulation. This convention is the first international document about medicines and medical products and defines criminal responsibility. The Republic of Armenia joined the convention on 20 September 2012.

In this issue:

- Business Software Alliance
Monitoring on Piracy Rate p. 2
- Microsoft Armenia Raises Public
Awareness on Fake Software p. 2



Geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country). The use of a GI may act as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities, is made according to traditional methods, or enjoys a certain reputation, due to its geographical origin.

Business Software Alliance Monitoring on Piracy Rate

“Business Software Alliance” (BSA) software industry international union (www.bsa.org) was established in Armenia in 2007. Its main purpose is to protect Intellectual Property and foster innovation, to represent the rights of software companies, to raise awareness of enforcement bodies. BSA also supports necessary legal amendments in the IPR enforcement field.

Narine Mkrtychyan, BSA Legal Advisor, informed that 5 years ago BSA started the «Mystery Shopper» monitoring project aimed at data collection on piracy

rate among companies dealing with computer software, as well as assessing the legal awareness of the employees on copyright protection in relevant companies and shops selling software which is of high importance. The results of the last monitoring conducted in November 2012 show unprecedented positive growth in the field: high records on decreased piracy rate are shown by half of the 43 shops involved in the monitoring.

The results of visits and support by the Police promoted the positive change in this field.

Narine Mkrtychyan spoke about the court case against one Armenian company in 2012 according to which the Microsoft Corporation claimed damages of 2.471.000 AMD drams as a compensation for copyright infringement, since the company used non-licensed software on eleven computers. This is the first registered court case for the use of illegal or pirated software in Armenia.

At present BSA has got seven court cases out of which three are concerning private companies and four are resellers.

Microsoft Armenia Raises Public Awareness on Fake Software

The Microsoft Corporation functions in the Republic of Armenia protecting its legal rights since 2007. The main functions of the Microsoft Corporation include: collaboration with the Government of Armenia in the field of education, health, e-governance, intellectual property protection, social and others; support to the local IT industry through transferring modern technologies and skills; creation of ecosystem of partners; support to

the local private and public organizations in the development of the IT infrastructure in Armenia; new advanced business solutions; training and certification.

The public awareness in this field in the Republic of Armenia is being implemented by various events, through social media, training courses and through partners, as was described by Grigor Barseghyan, the Microsoft

Armenia Country Manager.

Each year the Business Software Alliance organization implements the «Mystery Shopper» monitoring in Armenia aimed at assessing the work of the local partners of Microsoft Corporation, which are involved in the software industry trade. The monitoring results then are published through press release and are sent to the organizations involved in the monitoring in a written form.

EU Twinning Project Strengthening the Enforcement of IPR in the Republic of Armenia

RA Intellectual Property Agency

#3 Government Building, Room 220

Republic Square, Yerevan 0010, Republic of Armenia

Email: jhw@dkpto.dk



This project is funded by the European Union.

This project is implemented by the Danish Patent and Trademark Office and EPLO (contractor).

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.