

IN FOCUS

Sharing Best Practices in Copyright and Related Rights Issues



Training Participants after the Award of Certificates

April 2013 was very significant for the EU Twinning Project on Strengthening the Intellectual Property Rights in Armenia as the Project conducted its next capacity building activity this time for a wider audience on Copyright and Related Rights field. The trainers were Dionysia Kallinikou, Professor of Copyright Law (Greece), Jorgen Blomqvist, PhD, Honorary Professor (Denmark), Bjorn Juell-Sundbye, Legal Advisor (Denmark) and Toomas Seppel, Copyright Lawyer (Estonia). Among the participants were representatives from RA Intellectual Property Agency,

ArmAuthor CMO (Collective Management Organization), Chamber of Advocates, Armenian-Russian Slavonic University, Yerevan State Linguistic University, RA Police, RA Prosecutor General's Office, RA Judicial Department, RA Customs Service, National Library of Armenia, Papazian Library of American University of Armenia, National Publishers Association of Armenia and several law firms.

At the seminar the following conventions were presented: Berne Convention, Rome Convention, WIPO Copyright Treaty, WIPO Performances and Phonograms treaty, Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, TRIPS provisions on copyright and related rights, Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

Another part of the seminar concerned digital libraries and enforcement of copyright and

how to set up a collective management organization. Various case laws were presented at the seminar by both the trainers and the local representatives from the RA Police and BSA Armenia.

According to the trainers it is of importance that the participants cascade the knowledge gained from the seminar to their colleagues in the corresponding institutions which can be done either with or without the assistance of member state experts. It was also stated that it is important to organize similar workshops/round table discussions, as well as deepen the cooperation of relevant institutions/departments with international and European organizations.

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Copyright is a legal concept, enacted by most governments, giving the creator of an original work exclusive rights to it, usually for a limited time. Generally, it is "the right to copy", but also gives the copyright holder the right to be credited for the work, to authorize who may adapt the work to other forms, who may perform the work, who may financially benefit from it, and other related rights.

A Step Forward for Trademark Specialists

In February 2013 a specialized three-day seminar course for trademark specialists from the RA Intellectual Property Agency was carried out in cooperation with experts Torben Engholm Christiansen and Tom Petersen from the Danish Patent and Trademark Office.

During the seminar the trainers touched upon various types of trademarks, distinctive character, grounds of refusal. Issues such as well known and reputed marks were also discussed.

Experiences on practical implementation of different relevant conventions and legislation were exchanged,

such as on Paris convention and the Madrid Protocol. During the training course the trainers also explained about how measures to enforce trademarks are implemented in Denmark and the EU. Among those measures are: administrative decisions can be appealed to a Board of Appeal both in Denmark and in the EU Trademark and Design Institution, The Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market (OHIM); administrative decisions can be tried at the courts; questions regarding interpretation of the directives can be referred by national courts to the European Court of Justice.



Trainers and Trainees

At the end of the course the participants were awarded with certificates. A follow-up training seminar will be organized later, which will be more case-based and focus will be put on interpretation of Madrid Protocol, hereunder especially the Nice-Classification of Trademarks and on the Hague Agreement on Industrial Designs.

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

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