Expedited Examination Programs of IP Offices

Republic of Moldova

At the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), the standard substantive examination of a patent application shall be carried out within 18 months from filing.[1] This period excludes time accounted for by correspondence and is subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Patent Law on preliminary examination.

A request for substantive examination may be filed in the Republic of Moldova prior to the expiry of 30 months following the filing date of the patent application. The request is only deemed to be filed on payment of the examination fee and may not be withdrawn.

The Patent Law[2] establishes that the fees payable for urgent execution of the procedures for substantive examination search and request will increase by 100 per cent as compared to the established fee for the standard examination procedure and, once the fees are paid, the term for the execution of the respective actions decreases by half. Urgent execution of the procedures for substantive examination is carried out within 9 months from the request and payment of the fee.

While the standard substantive examination period is 18 months, this period may be exceeded where issues concerning substantive examination remain unresolved or where extensions for responding to AGEPI notifications are requested.[3] The examination period may also be extended by (3) three months where the applicant submits amendments to the claims before a decision is issued,[4] and where an applicant files a search report or preliminary examination report from an International Searching Authority or International Preliminary Examining Authority, the substantive examination period is (9) nine months from the filing of that report.[5]

[1] See Article 51, Paragraph (2) of the Patent Law of the Republic of Moldova.
[2] See Article 93, Paragraph (7) of The Patent Law.
[3] See Section 220 of the Regulations on the Application of the Patent Law of the Republic of Moldova.
[4] See Section 222 of the Regulations on the Application of the Patent Law of the Republic of Moldova.
[5] See Section 223 of the Regulations on the Application of the Patent Law of the Republic of Moldova.