



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Department of Policy and Business Practices

Intellectual property related activities in chambers of commerce

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1. General comments

DINTEC is a “consortium” between Unioncamere (Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce) and ENEA (the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Environment).

Dintec operates in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises on issues such as:

- Innovation;
- Technical regulations;
- Quality.

It deals with the design and implementation of programmes for:

- promotion of agro-food productions;
- technical support for the creation of dedicated networks;
- quality systems and environmental management;
- diffusion of patent information and patent usage promotion

Dintec IP projects:

- Innovation platform
- Newsletter
- Patnews
- Italian EP publication analysis
- Online patent application tutorial

Some Italian Chambers of Commerce, with the Dintec support, take part to the Patlib European initiative: patents libraries, that gives information to SMEs about the European patent activities and procedures. In the Italian Chambers System are nowadays present:

- 16 Patlib centres
- 33 Patent Information Points (PIP)

2. Communication Tools

What kind of communication tools do you offer? Please elaborate.

a) **On-line communication tools**

DINTEC has set up a website (<http://www.infobrevetti.camcom.it>), which contains information on the services provided by the Information Centres, located inside the Chambers of Commerce or the Specialized Agencies. This website contains a list of links related to:

- on-line patent databases
- Italian IP legislation
- IP events.

The website was built as an instrument for promotional activities as well as a tool for promote and support the interaction between the staff of the Chamber Information Centres.

b) **Hard copy publications (e.g. guides, newsletters)**

DINTEC distributes a monthly newsletter, which contains news on global industrial property issues and information on the activities of its Information Centers. The newsletter is aimed at the staff of the Centers themselves as well as at the end users of the Centers

c) **Others**

No

3. Training

Do you offer any training programs? Please elaborate.

a) **Seminars/ workshops**

Dintec works with the Italian Chamber of Commerce for the organization of meetings with entrepreneurs, economic operators, individual inventors and universities. All these events are organized at a local level.

b) **Online tutorials**

Dintec prepares documents on intellectual properties that can be accessed online.

c) **Others**

4. Consultancy/ Advisory Services

Do you offer any IP-consultancy services? This could include a helpline, legal/ financial/ commercial/consulting services etc.. Are Intellectual property aspects included in general commercial/business advice provided by your chamber?

- *Patlib Centres:*

The PatLib centres are patent libraries with highly qualified personnel and CD-ROM databases provided by the European Patent Office and the Italian Patent and Trademark Office. All Patlib Centres are connected on-line with the PatLib centres from the other 19 member states of the European Patent Office. There are currently 9 Patlib centres inside Italian Chambers of Commerce, with a total of 18 PatLib centres in Italy. The "Network Information Centres for the dissemination of a patent culture" project gave a contribution to increase the number of PatLibs.

- *PIP Centers:*

The establishment of a PatLib Centre requires substantial investments in terms of human and material resources. PIP Centres provides information and technical support in areas where the demand for such services are not high enough to justify the establishment of a PatLib. The PIP centres have been devised by the [Italian Patent and Trademark Office](#) as Information Centres, with more limited tools and resources than PatLibs, but with a greater diffusion throughout the Italian territory.

DINTEC started a new project to expand the number of existing [PATLIB Centers](#) and Patent Information Points (PIP) Centres within the Chambers of Commerce in Italy or their Specialized Agencies.

This project has led to the establishment of 20 new PIP centres within the structures of the Chambers. Through the PatLib and PIP Centres, the user may have access to complete information on trademarks and patents. It is covered Italian, European and International documentation. The user may benefit from the assistance of a trained employee of the Centre in order to effectively obtain the information requested. The user may also find information on the application procedure, on the legal status of a patent and information on patents concerning specific fields of technology as well as information material on how to apply for trademarks and patents.

In order to guarantee a certain degree of homogeneity in service delivery, all Centres receive comparable support in terms of human resources and infrastructure. Certain minimum standards have been identified in terms of:

- Guidelines on professional qualifications of staff
- Guidelines on the acquisition of hardware and software (that is different for PIP and PatLib centres)
- Guidelines on the supply of patent and trademark documentation and other bibliography (that is different for PIP and PatLib centres)
- The staff of the PatLib and PIP centres are regularly trained on technical issues relating to the use of patent databases, legal issues pertaining to intellectual property and common procedures for developing and promoting the services offered by the centres.

- *On-line connection*

On-line connection gives the opportunity to PatLib and PIP Centres to share experiences and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge between them in order to achieve a high level and a homogeneous delivery of provided service.

The on-line network is made up of a website (<http://www.infobrevetti.camcom.it>) and a virtual communication network.

5. Information gathering/ awareness raising

Do you conduct surveys or gather information in any other way? Do you carry out any awareness raising activities? Please elaborate.

- *Italian EP publication analysis*

Goal of the project:

- Built an analysis tool for Italian EP patent data.
- Give a picture of the Italian intellectual property activity.

For the time interval 1999-2006 Dintec builds 2 IP databases (patent and trademark) that are based on:

1. Basic data (applicant, IPC code, publication date, type of applicant etc.);
2. Processed data (statistical information extracted from basic data).

Dintec also prepares a patent survey report that analyses Italian intellectual property activities from a technical-scientific and statistical point of view.

- *Promotional activities*

DINTEC prepares and publishes brochures and advertisements in local newspapers and on-line banners to advertise their meetings and events

DINTEC carries out promotional activities to raise awareness of the activities of the centres as well as of the opportunities offered by the IP system, particularly in order to encourage the transfer of technology to companies that may be potentially interested in making use of it.

6. SME case studies

Do you publish case studies of SMEs who have actively used IP in their businesses? Can you provide us with any such case studies?

No

7. Facilitation of IP business opportunities

Do you provide any services to help businesses trade in IP eg IP business matchmaking, marketplaces etc?

PATNEWS

It is an online patent service managed by the Chambers of Commerce;
It was developed to help SMEs for the identification and monitoring of relevant EP patents.

Patnews could be requested online or during an audit. Activation is achieved with the following steps:

1. Dintec, or a Chamber of Commerce, discuss with the SME about the technology areas of interest and select one or more related IPC code;
2. Monthly will be sent to the SME an alert about identified patents;
3. Each listed patent is linked to the full EP document.

8. Policy advocacy

Do you engage in policy advocacy in the IP field? Please provide details.

No

9. Encouragement of innovation and IP asset development

Do you have any initiatives to encourage innovation or the development of IP assets e.g. awards, competitions, technology showcases etc ?

Dintec supports the creation of New Innovative Companies through several projects:

- “Fondi rotativi”: a way to fund the creation, more, a way to sustain the early stage of the company. (seed capital);
- New Innovative Company from valorization of patents: a project with the aim of supporting the use of patents as a valued instrument to create new innovative enterprise

10. Others

No

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We consent to the above information being posted on the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) website.

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