Protection of Graphical User Interface and Icons in the Republic of Moldova

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Republic of Moldova

Basic facts:
- Area 33,843 sq. Km
- Capital: Chișinău
- Declaration of Independence: August 27, 1991
- AGEPI: September 8, 1992

Memberships:
- WIPO: December 25, 1991
- United Nations: March 2, 1992
- WTO: July 26, 2001
- Council of Europe: July 13, 1995
Legal framework

• Law on protection of industrial designs (No.161/2007)

• Regulation on the procedure of filing, examination and registration of industrial designs (December 29, 2008);

• Government Decision on Fees in the Field of Protection of Intellectual Property Objects (August 13, 1997)
Scope of protection

• The scope of protection is determined by the graphical representations.

• GUIs, Icons are protected in the same conditions.

• Description shall have no effect on the scope of protection.
• It is not mandatory but can be presented.

• It is not published in Official Bulletin of Intellectual Property (BOPI).

• It is not included in the certificate of registration.
Reproductions_I

Accepted:
- Photographs (black and white);
- Photographs (color);
- Drawings (computer drawings).

Not accepted:
- Technical drawings.
Reproductions II

- dotted or broken lines

Such reproductions can be accepted by AGEPI.
Verbal elements

The industrial designs containing verbal elements are accompanied by the remark: “The semantics of the verbal part is not subject to protection".
Locarno Classification

CLASS 14-04
SCREEN DISPLAYS AND ICONS
- Graphical user interfaces [computer screen layout]
- Icons [for computers]

CLASS 32
GRAPHIC SYMBOLS AND ..... 
- Graphic designs [two-dimensional]
- Graphic symbols
- Graphic symbols [comic figures]

Icons are covered by the broad notion of graphical symbols.
Classes

14-04  32-00

EUIPO

CLASS 14-04
3D CHARACTERS
ANIMATED CHARACTERS

AGEPI

CLASS 32
GRAPHIC SYMBOLS
Classes 14-04 + 32-00

EUIPO

CLASS 14-04
ICONS [FOR COMPUTERS]

AGEPI

CLASS 32
GRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Holder - ORANGE BRAND SERVICES LIMITED, GB
Substantive examination

- Public order/morality;
- Novelty;
- Individual character;
- Conflicts with other rights (trademarks, geographical indications, copyrights, ..)
Certificate 1434, GUI, class 14-04 (Republic of Moldova)
Icons for software

Trademarks

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
Data transfer from the national database

2017

Global Design Database

2018
E-filing

- New applications
- Renewal applications
- On-line payment

From 1 January 2013

https://e-servicii.agepi.gov.md/ro
Conclusions, comments

- Representation of the GUIs or icons alone, without the product that incorporates it.
- Representation of the GUIs or icons in solid lines + the product that incorporates it in dotted or broken lines.
- Registration of the GUIs, icons as such.
- Protection of GUIs, icons encourages technological and economic development.
Thank you...

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