Mission and role

We create a legal foundation for businesses, associations and foundations.

We grant protection for company names, trademarks, inventions, and other industrial property.

We maintain and publish comprehensive business information intended to benefit society.

We offer client-oriented online services, information services and specialist services.

We supervise foundations and monitor the compliance of businesses and organisations with registration requirements.

Our strategic objectives 2020

- We promote new and growing business activities. We foster favourable operating conditions for associations and foundations.
- We are a recognised organisation that grants exclusive rights and registers companies’ distinctive marks.
- We are a pioneer in public administration online services.
- All of our information can be effectively used within our society.

INTERNAL OBJECTIVES:
- Being a single, unified PRH that benefits its clients and staff
- Our operations are cost-effective, productive and efficient.
- The PRH has the most competent and friendliest staff and the most exemplary leadership.
The level of activity in the operating environment of the Finnish Patent and Registration Office (PRH) increased slightly, which manifested as a larger number of trademark applications and, to some extent, trade register notifications. However, demand for national patent applications decreased slightly. Updated legislation concerning association and foundation issues increased the number of notifications considerably.

Our finances developed favourably, and we achieved the targets set for the productivity of work and the cost-effectiveness of operations. The processing times were in line with the targets, with the exception of national patents. Their processing times were affected by the clearing of the backlog of patent applications that had been pending for a long time. Processing times in the Trade Register and Register of Associations decreased. This is a particularly good achievement considering that, at the same time, the number of notifications increased by twenty percent.

Digitalisation plays a key role in the development of the Finnish Patent and Register Office’s processes and services. During the report year, we launched new online services and created interfaces to the public administration’s Data Exchange Layer. The general online notification service for companies was successfully launched early in 2016, and the Name Checking Service for companies in November. Online initiation of notifications and applications is increasing and, on average, in line with the targets. Clients contacted us more frequently than before. Their satisfaction with our services even increased slightly from the previous year. We introduced a new client-driven operating model in the digitalisation of services, aiming for an excellent client experience.

We participated actively in the preparation of legislation. In the working group for the comprehensive reform of the Trade Register Act, we proposed means for streamlining the registration process. The amended Associations Act entered into force as expected, so that we were able to start deregistering inactive associations in 2016. In addition, we prepared the comprehensive reform of the Patent Act and participated in the work of the working group preparing the reform of the Trademarks Act.

The personnel’s job satisfaction remained high and nearly unchanged from 2015, which was the year with the highest measured score in the PRH’s history.

Organisational changes took place also in 2016. Auditor oversight was launched as a new function. In the spring, we merged two intellectual property rights (IPR) functions, each of which used to constitute a separate result area, to form the new Patents and Trademarks result area. On the basis of the amendment to the Copyright Act, we prepared supervision of the collective management of copyright, which became our responsibility at the beginning of 2017.
Highly rated client service

Our annual survey indicated that client satisfaction with our services increased slightly from the previous year: the overall score was 4.05 (on a scale of 1 to 5). The scores for staff helpfulness and staff competence improved, as did the score reflecting our quality of service. As in the previous years, our walk-in client service received the highest score in the survey.

The feedback we received was mostly positive. Areas of development highlighted by clients included processing times, as well as making decisions and their justifications clear. We also received a number of suggestions on how to further improve our online services.

As a result of a project focused on the use of client feedback, we are now able to process feedback faster than before.

More feedback

We collected more client feedback than previously by conducting targeted service-specific surveys in addition to the general survey. The service-specific surveys involved clients responding to a few questions immediately after using the service.

Service-specific surveys provide us with accurate feedback that supports the development of specific services. Where necessary, we can take quick action in response to feedback.

First year of auditor oversight

Auditor oversight and approval duties, along with 11 employees, were transferred from the Central Chamber of Commerce to the PRH at the beginning of 2016. This also marked the start of operations for auditor oversight as a new result area. A related body that started operating under the PRH was the Auditing Board, which resolves investigative matters.

The Register of Auditors was created, with all auditors and auditing firms required to register in order to maintain their authorisation. More than 1,500 auditors registered by the deadline.

An online service was launched in spring for searching for auditors and auditing firms that operate in Finland. The information is taken from the register of auditors.

Quality inspections are a central part of auditor oversight. The result area’s officers were responsible for quality inspections conducted on the auditors of public interest entities, or PIEs. The result area also selected and trained quality inspectors for auditors who do not have PIE assignments.

The instructions pertaining to the oversight and authorisation of auditors were updated, and the Auditing Board began publishing its decisions on the PRH website.

EU audit reform introduced new responsibilities to the result area, such as market monitoring and the supervision of the newly implemented tighter requirements related to auditor independence.

The development of online services and an electronic processing system also began during the year.

Auditor oversight responsibilities also include arranging auditor examinations and authorising auditors (read more on page 9).

97.4 %
of the users recommend the Trade Register chat service “Quick response, no waiting in line. Fantastic!”

62
Authorisations of auditors and audit firms

87
Cancellations of authorisations

33
Decisions on investigative matters

157
Quality inspection decisions pertaining to auditors and audit firms
Spot check quality inspections will be conducted on the auditors of public interest entities (PIEs) at least every three years. PIEs include, for example, listed and financial companies. Quality inspections are conducted on other auditors at least every six years.

‘Quality inspection activity really seems to be at an adequate level. Of course, audits could certainly always be more precisely documented. The auditor evaluates how risks included in financial statements can be reduced through audit measures. However, instead of checking every detail, it is more important to include an assessment of risks and a specification of the necessary level of auditing in the audit plan. What is essential is that you can trust the auditor.’

Auditors who fail to comply with good auditing practice are subject to sanctions, such as warnings, admonitions or fines.

Aiming for open dialogue with the PRH

‘Finland is a small country with low limits for auditing obligation, but the standards are prepared from the perspective of large companies. Smaller companies follow the standards as applicable. All of our clients are small companies that must be audited, and I would like a more distinct line to be drawn between small and large companies in the standards,’ Mr Salo says.

‘Quality inspections could be developed so they are more like training events. Quality inspections as they are now could be performed if there is reason to doubt the quality of auditing.’
Individuals who pass an auditor's examination have the right to use the professional title of auditor after their details have been added to the Register of Auditors. The Industrial Property Attorney Board, which operates under the PRH, arranged its first attorney examinations in April, with a total of 47 examinees. The attorney examination consists of a common component that all examinees are required to take, and one or more components that are specific to particular areas of industrial law. Successful examinees are eligible to be authorised and included in the Register of Attorneys maintained by the Industrial Property Attorney Board. They also have the right to use the professional titles protected by law.

The past year marked the first time that the PRH arranged examinations for auditors and industrial property attorneys. The Auditor Oversight unit arranged the first examinations under the current examination system, with a total of 380 examinees participating.

In addition to the basic examination in auditing (HT) and examinations for auditors of public interest entities and public administration and finance (KHT and JHT) pursuant to the current legislative requirements, the PRH arranged a transition examination for auditors who under the old system were qualified for public sector auditing. Incomplete examinations under the old system can also be completed during the transition period.

Arranging examinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Total Authorisations Granted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HT examination</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KHT examination</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JHT examination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition examination</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete examination processes under the old system</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ATTORNEY EXAMINATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examinations</th>
<th>Total Authorisations Granted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common component</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent law</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trademark law</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A total of</td>
<td>9 examinees passed examinations for both the common component and an industrial law specialisation component.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bringing the register data up to date

During the past year, we took an even more active approach towards ensuring that the data in our registers is up to date. The new Foundations Act, which entered into force at the end of 2015, led to a significant increase in the level of activity among foundations with regard to submitting notifications. More than a hundred inactive foundations were removed from the Register of Foundations.

In August, over 29,000 businesses that were inactive based on the PRH’s data and information from the Tax Administration were removed from the Trade Register. The most common form of business among those deregistered was private trader.

The change that attracted the most public attention was the procedure for the removal of associations from the Register of Associations, which we began to implement immediately following the entry into force of the new Associations Act in July. The new Act allows the PRH to independently deregister inactive associations.

The deregistration procedure motivated associations to review their register data, leading to a year-on-year increase in the number of notifications received from associations.

The association deregistration procedure will continue in 2017, as the associations listed for removal were given until January 2017 to confirm that they are still operational.

A project to find new areas of improvement

The degree to which register data is up-to-date and comprehensive was also reviewed in a project focused on the current state of the registers. The project surveyed the quality and development needs of the registers maintained by the PRH. Information was also collected on the best practices used by other authorities that maintain registers, as well as on the wishes of our information service clients.

In August 2016, 29,000 inactive businesses were removed from the Trade Register. In January 2017, 35,000 inactive associations were removed from the Register of Associations.
In February, businesses and housing companies were given more extensive opportunities to submit notifications of changes to the Trade Register online. Most notifications of changes can be made on the Ytj website, which is maintained jointly by the PRH and the tax administration.

However, the clients’ shift from paper forms to online services has been slower than expected. Online notifications only accounted for 40 per cent of all Trade Register notifications. The development of online notification services continued. We prepared for the implementation of an online notification system for clients seeking registration as a private trader.

New services for businesses
Late in the year, we launched an entirely new online service based on our clients’ wishes. The name checking service allows clients to find out whether the name they are thinking about for a company is already registered in an official register such as the Trade Register. The Register of Foundations or the Finnish trademark register.

We also began redesigning the Virre information service with the aim of improving its usability. We took time out from developing the PRH’s and Tax Administration’s joint XBRL-based Financial Statements 2.0 service. However, we will continue to sort out how to use XBRL. Financial statements in XBRL format could be used to handle business reporting obligations to the Tax Administration and the PRH simultaneously.

Notifications on changes to businesses can be submitted online

Part of the national service architecture
The PRH was among the first public authorities to publish its services under the national service architecture. Our first move in this area was to publish a tool for viewing one’s own Trade Register data with the development version of the suomi.fi online service (beta.suomi.fi). Public authorities and businesses were also given the opportunity to search for Trade Register data in machine language via the Suomi.fi service channel.

Number of Trade Register notifications on the rise

Trade Register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Start-up notifications</th>
<th>Financial statements submitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29,308</td>
<td>169,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>31,904</td>
<td>178,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register of Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Registered new foundations</th>
<th>Registered annual reports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2,939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register of Associations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Registered new associations</th>
<th>Notices of changes and dissolutions submitted to the Register of Associations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,193</td>
<td>20,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,302</td>
<td>27,306</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘So far, we haven’t asked a question that they couldn’t answer, even though a few questions have required some deeper examination even at the PrH. Once we had a question that no one had ever asked before, but it didn’t take long before we received the answer,’ he chuckles.

‘There are plans on an experiment in which a business advisor from the Enterprise Agency would occasionally also take care of the PrH’s client service, and vice versa. The cooperation has benefits both ways: the PrH is frequently asked about establishing a business in general and, similarly, Enterprise Agencies receive trade register-related questions. Therefore, seamless cooperation will be necessary also in the future.

‘My message to the PrH is: thank you for your great cooperation and help,’ Mr Pötry adds.

‘The development work carried out by the joint working groups of Finnish Enterprise Agencies and the PRH is bearing fruit. The services provided by the PRH have improved significantly in recent years, and online services are becoming increasingly convenient to use. So now we are cheering and applauding, as everything is working like a dream. Cooperation is important and natural, because we have the same client base.’

Jukka Pötry
Business Advisor, Hyvinkää–Riihimäki Region Enterprise Agency

Case
HYVINKÄÄ–RIIHIMÄKI REGION ENTERPRISE AGENCY

Applause for cooperation with the PRH

Business advisors at Enterprise Agencies help people who are considering starting a business of their own. The advisors help with the formalities of starting a business, evaluate the business idea and, possibly, advise against starting a business if it does not have success potential. Slightly more than half of the clients eventually start a business.

The advisors at Enterprise Agencies help with making Trade Register notifications and inform entrepreneurs about online services, the protection of intellectual property rights and the PRH’s services, and the PRH ensures that the business advisors know how to best instruct their clients in Trade Register-related matters, etc.

Trademark is an unknown concept for most clients. The Enterprise Agencies also provide advice on the protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs).

‘Inventors and entrepreneurs who work on possibly patentable products are usually familiar with patent-related matters,’ explains business advisor Jukka Pötry from the Hyvinkää–Riihimäki Region Enterprise Agency.

‘However, nearly everyone needs advice with trademark-related questions, including reminding them that you should protect the name and logo before entering the market. We recommend protecting any IPR-protectable property.’

Online services make work easier

According to Mr Pötry, the Trade Register information chat on the PRH website provides business advisors with quick access to help.

INFO
Enterprise Agencies help anyone wanting to start a business anywhere in Finland. At Enterprise Agencies, services are provided by business advisors who are very experienced in cooperation with novice entrepreneurs. The Agencies provide up-to-date information and help with the planning and starting of a new business.
Increased demand for trademarks

In 2016, the number of national trademark applications increased from the previous year, but the number of registered trademarks decreased. Our goal is to continue increasing companies’ awareness of the significance of national trademark protection in particular.

New online services
Online renewal of trademark registration became possible in January. In addition, we improved our digital preparedness in design rights by deploying an improved design information service. Furthermore, we revised the design processing system as part of the project of the European Trademark and Design Office’s (EUIPO) cooperation fund.

Amendments to legislation
The European legislation concerning trademarks was revised, and needs for revision in Finland were inspected. The trademark directive entered into force in January. It will cause a number of amendments to national legislation. The Amending regulation on Community trademarks entered into force in March 2016. The Community trademark became the EU trademark, and the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) became the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). After the regulation entered into force, it has no longer been possible to file applications for EU trademarks with the PRH. Instead, applications must be sent directly to the EUIPO.

The amendments necessary with regard to the EU legislation and case-law were implemented by partly amending the Trademarks Act, with the amendments entering into force as of the beginning of September 2016. The Act, dating from 1964, will be completely reformed in the near future, and the PRH is a member of the working group appointed to prepare the overall reform.

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The number of filed national patent applications continued to decrease slowly. However, the number of European patents validated in Finland increased clearly from the previous year.

We have responded to the low number of patent applications by trying to identify reasons for the decreased demand, in addition to the sluggish economic situation. One of our solutions is the management model for major IPR client accounts, introduced in 2015, and the results have been very positive.

In 2016, the quality of our patent process was re-evaluated and our quality certificate was renewed. In November, we launched a new online service to make it easier to apply for patents. It was developed for users who are not experts in patenting.

In the first part of 2016, we expanded the freedom to operate review so that, in addition to Finland, it is possible to order a freedom to operate report on European Patent Convention (EPC) countries and the USA.

Preparation of the unitary patent progressed

The reform of the European patent system took a step forward in November, as Great Britain announced that it would ratify the Unified Patent Court agreement. The required number of countries has ratified the agreement, but its entry into force still requires ratification by Great Britain and Germany. Finland ratified the agreement in January 2016.

Continued development of patent services

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### Finalised National Patent Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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### International Patent Matters

**Processed PCT applications (PCT/RO)**

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<thead>
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</thead>
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**Conducted novelty searches (PCT/ISA)**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>511</td>
<td>458</td>
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</table>

### European patents validated in Finland (EPO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,121</td>
<td>5,956</td>
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</table>

### Finalised Utility Model Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>417</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2016, Oulu-based Goodwiller Oy received a Finnish patent for a new alcohol test strip device, which is now being launched in the market at a quick pace. Promilless is a disposable test strip that analyses the saliva in two minutes to determine whether you are fit to drive or not. The test is based on smart paper developed in cooperation with the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and the University of Oulu.

Goodwiller has protected its invention and trademark in an exemplary manner. The Promilless trademark and logo have been registered in Finland, and the symbol that imitates the per mille sign is a registered trademark. The first trademark for the name was applied for as early as 2012, a year before the patent application was submitted. The company is also in the process of ensuring its intellectual property rights internationally.

The patent application process was smooth and predictable, and the patent office we used provided great help with all the details.

‘Even though some of us had previous experience with patent applications, it would have taken much more time to prepare the application ourselves.’

In addition to alcohol content, many other things can be analysed from saliva. Mr Särkelä explains that Goodwiller has already developed other smart paper-based product concepts.

‘When we start expanding our business, we will apply a systematical approach to the IPrs of our new products,’ he promises.

The company is now focusing on the Promilless test and its launching in retail stores. However, the smart paper and printable biochemical inks developed in Oulu are already on their way to conquering the world.

‘At the very beginning after establishing our business we decided to systematically protect our products and to develop a strong IPR strategy to show investors and competitors that we mean business. Once you have launched a product in the market, it is not possible to protect intellectual property rights. You should protect your innovations systematically and in good time before starting to commercialise them.’

Petri Särkelä
Founder and Managing Director, Goodwiller Oy

The development team of the Promilless test: Junior Research Specialist Prathusha Dhavala, Technology Director Teemu Mäkiniemi and Senior Specialist Gitte Meriläinen.

Goodwiller Oy, founded in 2013, is a startup company in the health and wellness sector. It engages in research and development collaboration with the University of Oulu and VTT, among others.

Case
GOODWILLER OY

Trailblazing inventions should be protected in good time

From patented invention to product
‘The inventiveness of the product is related to the functionality, reliability and product concept of the test,’ explains Goodwiller Oy’s Managing Director and founder Petri Särkelä.

The saliva test that is based on smart paper is a new invention, and once it is patented, others cannot sell a copied method. The saliva test is more reliable than breath tests, and unlike the traditional breathalyser, it does not need calibration. In order to ensure the product’s reliability, it has gone through a long research process.

Equally efficient protection for future products
‘As a business, we are still a new startup of five people. Therefore, we decided to start building our IPR strategy step by step. We started from Finland and proceeded to apply for an international patent,’ Mr Särkelä explains.

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An eventful year

February
- Our seminar on protecting ICT inventions in the USA and China
- IPR joint seminars in Kajaani and Lahti

March
- IPR joint seminar in Pori

May
- PATLIB patent information conference organised jointly with the European Patent Office
- The theme of our Toukotyöt seminar was cleantech
- Our information event concerning Trade Register online services

September
- Shared stand at the Trade Fair for Industrial Subcontracting in Tampere
- We hosted the Nordic Business Register conference in Helsinki

October
- A seminar on the US patent system organised in cooperation with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
- Boost Your Business event for startup companies in Helsinki

November
- IPR joint seminars in Oulu and Helsinki
- “Grey Areas” of Computer Implemented Inventions seminar yhdessä Euroopan patenttiviraston kanssa
- The Company Name Day event in cooperation with the Communications Regulatory Authority FICORA and YitysVantaa in Vantaa
- The Public Sector Hackathon event in Helsinki

December
- Participation in the Slush event for startup companies and the related IPR seminar in Helsinki
- Finland’s Quality Innovation Award competition in Finland

We awarded inventive geniuses
The Inventive Genius contest organised by the PRH and Donald Duck (Aku Ankka) magazine attracted 105 participants with inventions that make daily life easier. The award ceremony for the most successful entries was arranged in May at the PRH’s premises in Helsinki.

The contest for under 16-year-olds aimed to encourage creativity, inventiveness and initiative in children and youth. Entries were received from all over Finland.

The judges were impressed by their high standard. There were many patentable inventions among them.

PRH in numbers 2016

AT THE END OF 2016, THERE WERE IN FORCE

Table:
- 48,978 patents granted and validated by the PRH
- 2,823 utility models
- 2,304 design rights
- 104,263 trademarks

AT THE END OF 2016, THERE WERE

- 605,981 companies in the Trade Register
- 138,859 associations in the Register of Associations
- 2,721 foundations in the Register of Foundations

CLIENT SERVICE

- 140,000 calls to our client advisory service
- 94% Patent applications
- 138,859 associations in the Register of Associations
- 2,721 foundations in the Register of Foundations

SHARE OF ONLINE SERVICES

- 27,000 visits to our face-to-face client service
- 46% Limited liability companies, Start-up Notifications
- 87% Changes to address or contact details of businesses
- 78% Notifications to the Register of Associations
- 86% National trademark applications
- 2.2 million visits to our websites prh.fi
- 6.3 million visits to our websites yty.fi

CASE Business Advisor
- Trademarks
- Patents
- CASE Invention
- Statistics
- Events
- Staff
- Finances

CASE Examinations
- CASE Accounting Services
- CASE Business Advisor
- Trademarks
- Patents
- CASE Invention
- Statistics
- Events
- Staff
- Finances

Role and Objectives
- Management Group
- Client Service
- Auditor Oversight
- CASE Business Advisor
- CASE Invention
- CASE Examinations
- Trademarks
- Patents
- Statistics
- Events
- Staff
- Finances

22|23
Client Service Management Group

2.2
million

6.3
million
High job satisfaction

Job satisfaction was assessed using the central government’s VM baro survey (on a scale from 1 to 5). Despite the organisational changes, job satisfaction among PRH employees remained high (3.74), reaching almost the same level as in the previous year.

The scores were above the central government average in all areas. According to the survey, the strengths of the PRH include good knowledge of the goals of the work, commitment to the employer’s goals and fair treatment by colleagues and supervisors alike.

New result areas
The development of the organisation and the tasks of the PRH continued. Auditor oversight is a new function and result area that was transferred to the PRH from the Central Chamber of Commerce in January 2016. In connection with the change, 11 employees were transferred from the Central Chamber of Commerce to the PRH in accordance with the principles of the transfer of a business. In addition, new supervisors were recruited to the auditor oversight function, as well as quality assurance experts and lawyers.

Early in 2016, the Patents and Innovations line and the trademarks and Designs line were combined into the Patents and trademarks result area. At the same time, the operations were reorganised, with particular focus on work with clients and participation in the preparation of legislation.

Employer–employee negotiations for the implementation of the organisational reform were carried out just after the new year, concerning 196 employees. As a result of the negotiations, six employees were left without a job. Two of them were temporarily employed in other jobs at the PRH.

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New Director General appointed
As the current Director General, Rauni Hagman, is retiring, the PRH was seeking a new Director General for the five-year period starting on 1 March 2017. In August, the Government appointed Antti Riivari, Master of Law, as the new Director General.

Playing on a Larger Team
Päivi Raatikainen and Jorma Lehtonen worked as managers in the Patent and Trademarks Lines. Now they are chiefs in the Patent and Trademarks result area.

'After the merging of the two lines, practices have been harmonised and the personnel’s skills and knowledge have been expanded. Now it is also possible to concentrate expertise on work with clients, IT development and shared operations.'

In Päivi’s job, the change has particularly clarified her job description. The content of her former duties expanded. The new job description includes many completely new duties and she has nice new colleagues.

Jorma is also constantly learning something new. At the same time, it is great to see what a broad competence base his new unit covers. Therefore, Jorma thinks that his role is to support the work of others and coach them even more efficiently than before.'

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Director General starting from 1 March 2017
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The PRH was successful in meeting the financial targets established for 2016 in the performance agreement with the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. The income and expenditure sheet showed a total income of EUR 50.9 million. This consisted almost entirely of income from ordinary operations (EUR 50.3 million), with minor items from rents, fees and other income amounting to around EUR 0.4 million. Income increased by EUR 1.4 million from the previous year.

The Enterprises and Corporations result area accounted for the largest increase in euros earned. The increase in income was attributable to higher overall demand and a change in pricing structure. The pricing of online notifications has been reduced, but clients have not shifted to using them to the extent that was anticipated. Income from foundation-related operations increased due to a change in the Foundations Act, which led to higher demand. The incomes of the other result areas remained largely unchanged.

The income and expenditure sheet showed a total income of EUR 50.9 million. This consisted almost entirely of income from ordinary operations (EUR 50.5 million), with minor items from rents, fees and other income amounting to around EUR 0.4 million. Income increased by EUR 1.4 million from the previous year.

Overall operational expenditures, as per the income and expenditure sheet, increased by approximately three per cent and totalled EUR 50.9 million during the year. The decrease in operating expenses was due to the costs of service purchases declining by approximately EUR 2 million, which was mainly attributable to duties previously handled by local authorities being transferred to the PRH.

Staff expenses were the largest expenditure item in 2016 at EUR 25.2 million, or 49.5 per cent of total expenditures. External services were purchased for EUR 13.3 million and rental expenses totalled EUR 4.5 million. The year-on-year increase in rental expenses was due to the PRH not receiving rent rebates from the lessor in 2016.

PRH is subject to net budgeting. Total income for the year amounted to EUR 50.8 million, and total expenditure was EUR 43.4 million. The surplus was thus EUR 7.4 million.

The appropriation allocated to the PRH within the normal budget spending limits is mainly intended to cover expenses incurred through the processing of issues relating to associations and religious communities because, for social policy reasons, services performed for these clients are priced below cost. Appropriations were also received for the oversight of foundations in the amount of EUR 650,000, information disclosure compensation in the amount of EUR 214,000 and appropriations for maintaining the register of industrial property attorneys in the amount of EUR 55,000.

The PRH had access to a new appropriation of EUR 2.4 million to cover the costs of auditor oversight.

The balance sheet total on 31 December 2016 was EUR 25.3 million. The balance sheet total declined by about EUR 6 million (equal to depreciation) due to replacement investments being made only to the amount of approximately EUR 370,000. Depreciation recognised on capitalised investments in fixed assets in 2016 totalled EUR 6.1 million. Interest on fixed assets amounted to approximately EUR 54,000.

The balance sheet consists almost entirely of capitalised development and construction items for data systems and related IT software.

On the assets side of the balance sheet, the majority of the total, EUR 23.4 million, consists of intangible assets. The residual value of intangible assets includes intangible rights amounting to EUR 50,000. The value of unfinished investments increased by EUR 600,000.

 Investments in fixed assets were mostly made in data systems and they amounted to EUR 400,000. The level of investment was at a considerably low level for the second consecutive year, at approximately EUR 400,000. Current receivables and other financial assets, which are included in inventories and current assets, remained at the previous year's level.

Further information on all information services: [www.prh.fi/en](http://www.prh.fi/en)