# Draft questionnaire on the Use of Identifiers for Applicants by IPOs

If your Office uses or intends to use identifiers\* for applicants, please complete Part A (Q1 to Q7) and Part C (Q10 to Q14) of this questionnaire. If not, please complete Parts B (Q8 to Q9) and Part C (Q10 to Q14).

*[\*Note: Identifiers group applicants, which belong to the same legal entity, under a single standardized name or numerical code.]*

## PART A - IDENTIFIERS

### Q1. What are the perceived advantages of using Applicant Identifiers for your Office?

#### Q1a. for the Office itself:

[ ]  Effective management of applicant information

[ ]  Easy to change applicant’s information in all relevant records simultaneously

[ ]  Control over the length of names, in particular, ensuring that they fit in database fields or screen forms

[ ]  Effective management of foreign applicant names

[ ]  Avoiding corrupted diacritic and other specific characters

[ ]  Avoid using “similar or same looking” characters with different codes, (e.g. UTF-8hex code 0620 for Cyrillic “P” and UTF-8hex code0050 for Latin “P”)

[ ]  Other. (Please specify: )

#### Q1b. for Applicants and Patent Information Users:

[ ]  No need to repeatedly input information

[ ]  Accurate statistics

[ ]  Unifying multiple versions of an applicant name into a single, standardized name to eliminate confusion caused by inconsistency

[ ]  Availability of information regarding the parent company of the company filing for the patent (disclosed corporate structure)

[ ]  Avoiding the situation where, for example, the inventor’s name incorrectly appears as the patentee name

[ ]  Applicant name standardization also for re-assignments

[ ]  Other (Please specify: )

Comments:

### Q2. Does your Office publish (or intend to publish) the identifiers assigned to the applicant?If so, how:

### Q3. Does your Office include (or plan to include) the identifiers in the set of data for the exchange of patent information with other IP Offices?

### Q4. Which approach to assigning identifiers does your Office use (or plan to use)?

[ ]  Normative (code assigned by a national authority)

[ ]  Procedural (code assigned by an international authority, e.g. WIPO, based on the applicant’s IP portfolio in an agreed international database)

[ ]  Other (Please specify: )

### Q5. How does your Office ensure that an applicant has only one identifier?

* In case of national applicants,
* In case of foreign applicants,

### Q6a. What information does your Office request in order to assign identifiers to applicants?

[ ]  Tax number

[ ]  Social security number

[ ]  Passport number

[ ]  Copy from the register of legal entities

[ ]  E-mail address

[ ]  Other (Please specify: )

### Q6b. What information does your Office request in order to assign identifiers to foreign applicants?

[ ]  Tax number

[ ]  Social security number

[ ]  Passport number

[ ]  Copy from the register of legal entities

[ ]  E-mail address

[ ]  Other (Please specify: )

#### Q7a. Does your Office consider that a Global Identifier (GID) would be a good solution for applicant name standardization?

#### Q7b. If yes, could you suggest how the GID can be established and maintained?

#### Q7c. In case the GID is established, will your Office use both the GID and a national identifier at the same time or will your Office use the GID instead of a national identifier?

## PART B - NO IDENTIFIER

### Q8a. If your Office does not use or does not intend to use identifiers for applicants, please explain why:

#### Q8b. Please describe any alternative approach to the use of identifiers:

### Q9. Please explain any drawbacks or legal complications related to using the identifiers:

## PART C - STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS

### Q10. Which of the following options would you consider for investigation in your Office? Please mark each option that you choose with (L: Low), (M: Medium) OR (H: High) depending on the priority attributed by your office.

E.g. ☒ (H) Use of identifiers

[ ] ( ) Use of identifiers

[ ] ( ) Normalized\* names

[ ] ( ) Use of “dictionaries” of patentee names by patent information

[ ] ( ) Use of standardized\*\* names designated by applicants

[ ] ( ) Other (Please specify: )

*[Note \* Normalization – correction of “trivial” errors (which leave the possibility of multiple name variants for one applicant)*

*\*\* Standardization – using one name variant for an applicant (which might not be the ultimate owner, as IP rights can be registered in the name of a subsidiary when the beneficiary is the parent company)]*

### Q11. What is your Office’s desired outcome from the Name Standardization Task Force (set of recommendations, public database, etc.)? Please explain:

### Q12. How should the standardization effort be focused? For example, on internal systems in IPOs or on externally-held IP databases?

#### Q12a. Does your Office use (or plan to use) a computer algorithm for the normalization/standardization of applicant name?

#### Q12b. If yes, what is the name of the algorithm?

### Q13. If there are different approaches to managing applicants’ names, should the standardization effort harmonize all the different approaches for the purpose of the international exchange of patent information?

[End of Annex and of document]