# 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]