

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Thirty-Second Session
Geneva, April 29 to May 3, 2024

REVISED PROJECT ON ENHANCING THE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES IN TIMES OF CRISIS – PROJECT
PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE CZECH
REPUBLIC

prepared by the Secretariat

1. During the thirty-second session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), the Committee considered a project proposal on “Enhancing the Capacities of National IP Offices in Times of Crisis”, submitted by the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic. Based upon the comments made during the discussion, the said project proposal was revised during the session.
2. The revised project proposal is contained in the Annex to this document.
3. *The Committee is invited to consider the Annex hereto.*

[Annex follows]

1. Introduction of the Project
1.1 Project Code
DA_4_10_03
1.2 Project Title
Project on Enhancing the Capacities of National Intellectual Property Offices in Times of Crisis
1.3 DA Recommendations
<p><i>Recommendation 4:</i> Place particular emphasis on the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and institutions dealing with scientific research and cultural industries and assist Member States, at their request, in setting-up appropriate national strategies in the field of intellectual property.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 10:</i> To assist Member States to develop and improve national intellectual property institutional capacity through further development of infrastructure and other facilities with a view to making national intellectual property institutions more efficient and promote fair balance between intellectual property protection and the public interest. This technical assistance should also be extended to sub-regional and regional organizations dealing with intellectual property.</p>
1.4 Project Duration
18 months
1.5 Project Budget
The total Project budget is 205,000 Swiss Francs, all related to non-personnel expenditures.
2. Description of the Project
<p>The proposed project aims to empower national intellectual property (IP) Offices with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools to manage crises. In the context of this project, crisis involves a period of discontinuity that poses severe threats to the IP ecosystem and requires critical decision-making, as a result of a destabilizing effect on the national IP Offices and/or its stakeholders.</p> <p>WIPO's ongoing work with Member States demonstrates that IP ecosystem stakeholders, including representatives of academia, private and public sectors, are exposed and vulnerable to the risks and negative consequences of disturbances, such as critical threats to national infrastructure, health and safety of national IP Offices' personnel, and broader disturbances, affecting the wider economic, institutional, resource or operational stability.</p> <p>Addressing crisis management is therefore becoming an emerging issue, requiring the need to establish an organizational resilience framework within national IP Offices to mitigate risks and minimize negative impacts to the IP ecosystem. Such framework includes developing and putting in place IP-related crisis management policies, disaster recovery and business continuity plans, as well as preparedness and response strategies. As a result, there would be a decreased operational risk for national IP Offices during the times of crisis. Whilst some national IP Offices may already have the relevant</p>

processes in place, this project provides an opportunity for the existing policies of national IP Offices to be reviewed and improved.

Key elements involve embracing digital transformation, collaborating with national IP Offices, especially in developing and least developed countries, and prioritizing communication to all relevant IP stakeholders during crises, which could be considered as part of a holistic approach to creating national IP strategies. Training of national IP Office staff, sharing and learning from experiences already gained during emergencies and crisis situations are crucial for robust business continuity.

2.1 Project Concept

This project focuses on developing tools for managing IP, innovation and creativity in times of crisis. In particular, this project aims to build and strengthen organizational resilience and capacity of national IP Offices by equipping them with the necessary know-how, skills, capabilities and tools to deliver online services, ensure business continuity, and implement measures for mitigating risks and minimizing negative impact caused by an emergency or crisis situation that may lead to the loss of IP ecosystem potential, functioning and operations, which would take years and decades to recover.

This project is complementary to existing work that WIPO undertakes, including the work under the COVID-19 Response Package.

2.2 Project Objective, Outcome and Outputs

The overall **objective** of the project is to enhance the resilience and business continuity of national IP Offices in times of crisis.

The project's intended **outcome** is enhanced crisis management capacities of national IP Offices to mitigate risks and minimize negative impact to the IP ecosystem.

The project will deliver the following **outputs**:

- i. Development of a strategic, feasible and well-functioning crises management framework accessible by all national IP Offices that will enable them to continue deliver adequate assistance to the IP ecosystem stakeholders in times of crisis.
- ii. Exchange national experiences among policy makers, regulators, and experts from national IP Offices.
- iii. Development, in cooperation with the relevant WIPO divisions, of awareness raising tools on IP and crisis management.

2.3 Project Implementation Strategy

The proposed project will achieve its objectives through the following outputs:

Output 1 – Development of a strategic, feasible and well-functioning crises management framework accessible for all national IP Offices that will enable them to continue deliver adequate assistance to the IP ecosystem stakeholders in times of crisis.

Activities:

- (a) WIPO will consult with regional group coordinators and interested Member States with a particular focus on developing and least developed countries, especially those that did not request or receive relevant WIPO assistance to ensure that the widest possible range of examples is presented based on an open invitation for Member States to volunteer their experiences (without a dedicated selection process) prior to the project being implemented.

- (b) Carry out a scoping study on knowledge, experiences and lessons learned from specific crisis situations or emergencies encountered by national IP Offices.
- (c) Present the results of the study to the CDIP to ensure targeted impact of the project. It will offer a further opportunity for all Member States to provide additional examples that may have become relevant in the interim and reflect on WIPO's findings.

Output 2 – Exchange national experiences among policy makers, regulators, and experts from national IP Offices.

Activities:

- (a) Organize a seminar to share knowledge and experiences, as well as to build on lessons learned.
- (b) Identify regional or national experts to provide immediate assistance to countries experiencing crises affecting the potential, functioning and operations of their respective IP ecosystem. Upon proper vetting, these experts could potentially form part of a pool of specialized experts and be included in IP-ROC. WIPO's own internal business continuity expert will be on hand for the project to provide the necessary training, guidance and assistance.

Output 3 – Development, in cooperation with the relevant WIPO divisions, of awareness raising tools on IP and crisis management.

Activities:

- (a) Develop tailored communication tools, including infographics, targeting a broad range of stakeholders.
- (b) Develop a set of training material and guides for national IP Offices staff (including an outline of available policy options) to improve use of IP data and information and to effectively deliver online services in times of crisis.
- (c) Make available all material developed under this project to all national IP Offices and accessible via a WIPO dedicated webpage on this project.

2.4 Project Indicators

<u>Project objective:</u>	<u>Objective indicator:</u>
Enhance the resilience and business continuity of national IP Offices in times of crisis.	At least 60% of the participants assessed to have enhanced knowledge, skills and capacity in delivering services to IP stakeholders in times of crisis at the end of the project implementation.
<u>Project outcome:</u>	<u>Outcome indicator:</u>
Enhanced crisis management capacities of national IP Offices to mitigate risks and minimize negative impact to the IP ecosystem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of an organizational resilience framework within national IP Offices. - Establishment of a network of IP experts to facilitate the delivery of services, exchange of information and cooperation in times of crisis.
<u>Project outputs:</u>	<u>Output indicator:</u>
Development of a strategic, feasible and well-functioning crises management framework accessible by all national IP Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A scoping study on best practices, experiences and lessons learned from specific crisis situations or emergencies.

that will enable them to continue deliver adequate assistance to the IP ecosystem stakeholders in times of crisis.	- Scoping study validated by the CDIP.
Exchange national experiences among policy makers, regulators, and experts from national IP Offices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one seminar organized on managing IP and delivering services in times of crisis. - At least 80% of the participants found the information disseminated in the seminar useful. - At least one expert per region identified as eligible for inclusion in IP-ROC.
Development, in cooperation with the relevant WIPO divisions, of awareness raising tools on IP and crisis management.	A set of communication tools, training material, guides and an outline of available policy options, tailored for representatives of the national IP Offices, successfully developed and disseminated to all national IP Offices via a WIPO dedicated webpage on this project.

2.5 Sustainability Strategy

To ensure sustainability of the project outputs, a dedicated webpage will be established by WIPO, offering easy access to all material delivered under this project.

Updates to the sustainability strategy will be provided in the course of the project implementation.

2.6 Selection Criteria for Pilot/Beneficiary Countries

The project is not limited to certain beneficiaries as crisis situations are not unique to specific Member States. All Member States will benefit from a best practice framework developed by WIPO as a result of the scoping exercise with a specific focus on developing and least developed countries especially those that did not request or receive relevant WIPO assistance.

2.7 Implementing Organizational Entity

Regional and National Development Sector and IP Office Business Solutions Division, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector

2.8 Links to other Organizational Entities

PCT Services Department; Madrid Registry; The Hague Registry; Copyright Management Division; IP for Business Division; Building Respect for IP Division; Information and Communication Technology Department.

2.9 Links to other DA Projects

DA Project on *Smart IP Institutions Project* ([CDIP/3/INF/2](#))

DA Project on *Improvement of National, Sub-Regional and Regional IP Institutional and User Capacity* ([CDIP/3/INF/2](#))

2.10 Contribution to Expected Results in WIPO's Program and Budget

Program and Budget 2024/25

4.2 Development of balanced and effective IP, innovation and creative ecosystems in Member States.

4.3 Increased IP knowledge and skills in Member States.

4.5 Enhanced IP infrastructure for IP Offices.

2.11 Risk and Mitigation

Risk 1: Insufficient data availability and quality.

Mitigation 1: Different research methodologies will be utilized to ensure sufficient and accurate data collection.

Risk 2: Limited stakeholder engagement.

Mitigation 2: A comprehensive engagement plan will be developed.

3.TENTATIVE IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Project Deliverables	Quarters					
	Year 1				Year 2	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Pre implementation activities: ¹ - Consultation with regional group coordinators and interested Member States						
Scoping study on knowledge, experiences and lessons learned from specific crisis situations or emergencies	X	X				
Seminar on managing IP and delivering services in times of crisis			X			
Identification and vetting of national and regional experts for inclusion in IP-ROC		X	X	X	X	
Development of awareness raising tools on IP and crisis management			X	X	X	
Project evaluation						X
CDIP side event						X

¹Implementation will start only once the pre-implementation activities have been delivered.

4. PROJECT BUDGET BY OUTPUT

<i>(in Swiss francs)</i> Project Outputs	Year 1		Year 2		Total
	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Personnel	Non-Personnel	
Scoping study on knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt from specific crisis situations or emergencies	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Seminar on managing IP and delivering services in times of crisis	-	95,000	-	-	95,000
Identification and vetting of national and regional experts for inclusion in IP-ROC	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Development of awareness raising tools on IP and crisis management	-	20,000	-	20,000	40,000
Project evaluation	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
CDIP side event	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Total	-	155,000	-	50,000	205,000

5. PROJECT BUDGET BY COST CATEGORY

<i>(in Swiss francs)</i>	Travel, Training and Grants			Contractual Services					Total
	Staff Missions	Third-party Travel	Training and related travel grants	Conferences	Publishing	Individual Contractual Services	WIPO Fellowships	Other Contractual Services	
Activities									
Scoping study on knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt from specific crisis situations or emergencies	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Seminar on managing IP and delivering services in times of crisis	20,000	50,000	-	5,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	95,000
Identification and vetting of national and regional experts for inclusion in IP-ROC	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Development of awareness raising tools on IP and crisis management	-	-	-	-	10,000	20,000	-	10,000	40,000
Project evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	-	15,000
CDIP side event	-	-	-	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
Total	20,000	50,000	-	20,000	10,000	85,000	-	20,000	205,000

[End of annex and of document]