

Questionnaire on the Term “Quality of Patents” and Cooperation between Patent Offices in Search and Examination

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The answers to this questionnaire have been provided on behalf of:

Country: **Azerbaijan**

Office **Patent and Trademark Office of the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent**

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Q.1. Various aspects may be relevant to the concept of “quality of patents”. It may relate to, for example, quality of patent procedures and management in the office, quality of search and examination, quality of granted patents or quality of a patent system. In addition, the expression “quality of patents” may be understood differently depending on the perspectives of various stakeholders, for example, the perspectives of a patent office, an applicant etc.

How does your office understand the term “quality of patents”?

Quality of patent" is understood by us as a totality of the following terms:

- **quality of drafting the patent application;**
- **quality of invention with regard to the patentability (novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability);**
- **quality of the search for the state of the art;**
- **quality of examination.**

Q.2 What experiences does your office have with respect to cooperation with other patent offices in the area of search and examination?

Those types of cooperation may include, for example, access to documents/databases of other offices, use of search and examination work products, expertise and resources available in other offices, collaborative search and examination, outsourcing search and examination etc.

With respect to cooperation with other offices our experience relates to the early period of National IP Office, when patent search and examination of a number of patent

applications were carried out for us by ROSPATENT. We also have free access to EAPO EAPATIS Search System.

Q.3. When performing prior art search, patent examiners prepare search strategies and queries (for example, indications of databases and publications, classification codes, search terms and key words used) to find relevant prior art.

Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search queries with other offices?

No, doesn't.

Q.4. In order to facilitate the cooperation, what kinds of platforms and tools to share information on search and examination are available in your office? Such platforms and tools include, for example, WIPO CASE, databases allowing other offices to retrieve information and external databases used to retrieve information.

(i) Platforms and tools provided by your office - **AzSearch.**

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office - **WIPO CASE as an Accessing Office;**

EAPATIS, ESPACENET, Information and Retrieval System of FIPS Rospatent and etc.

Q.5. What are the impacts of such cooperation in the area of search and examination to your office? If your office has different types of cooperation and each type of cooperation has different impacts, please indicate them separately.

Optimization of the search and examination process, improvement of examination quality as well as decrease of an application processing terms and etc.

Q.6. What kinds of capacity building are required for different types of cooperation between patent offices in search and examination? Please indicate any specific capacity building needs to conduct such cooperation successfully.

In this context, the capacity building is understood to refer to various activities and trainings that support development of knowledge and skills of office employees for effective cooperation between offices in search and examination.

Capacity building and trainings are expected to be aimed to:

- **disclose the previous search strategy for the necessity of an additional search;**
- **search and examination in some specific fields (such as pharmaceuticals, health care, computer-implemented inventions);**
- **development of methodical materials on the patent examination quality; patent search quality and etc.**