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ANNEX TO CIRCULAR C. PCT 1620

QUESTIONNAIRE on THE USE of e-learning resources for the training of substantive Patent Examiners

The availability of e-learning resources has steadily increased over recent years and particular resources have become more sophisticated. Various Offices have engaged in the development of e-learning resources as part of their efforts to develop a training infrastructure for new recruits and experienced examiners. While resources developed by IP institutions usually cover core competencies of patent examiners, other (non-IP) institutions have developed other e-learning facilities catering not exclusively to patent examiners but addressing skills useful for examiners as well, for example, technology specific skills such as searching dedicated databases for bio-sequences.

Examples of e-learning resources, which can be accessed through the internet, can be found in a Compilation of e-Learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau at <https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=469361>. The section of the sheet, ‘Specific e-Learning resources’ of the Compilation, illustrates a variety of topics currently covered; within this section, column D indicates different types of e-learning resources (media), and column F, the variety of access options.

When answering the questions, please note:

This questionnaire covers only e-learning resources that are suitable for the training of technical competencies of patent examiners and not for the training of behavioral or organizational competencies.

For the purpose of this Questionnaire, reading materials for self-study, which are downloadable from intranet or internet sites, are not considered as e-learning resources, even though some have been included in the Compilation.

An electronic Word copy of the Annex, which facilitates the filling in through some automated features, is available from the WIPO website at <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/circulars>.

**Responding Office:**

Name of contact person:

Position:

Email address:

**Questions**

Obligatory or recommended (voluntary) use of e-learning for the training of substantive patent examiners

1. Has your Office established a policy on the obligatory and/or voluntary use of e-learning resources for the training of substantive patent examiners of your Office?

Yes

No, there is no policy yet on the use of e-learning resources (please skip Questions 2, 3, and 4, and go to Question 5)

1. If your answer to Question 1 was Yes: Is the use of e-learning resources an **obligatory** part of the training of substantive patent examiners of your Office (e-learning resources developed by your Office or by other institutions or a combination of both)?

Yes, use of certain e-learning resources is an obligatory part of the initial training of newly recruited examiners[[1]](#footnote-2)

Yes, use of certain e-learning resources is an obligatory part of the further vocational training of examiners after the initial training1

No

1. If your answer to Question 1 was Yes: Does your Office expressly recommend to the examiners of your Office **voluntary** use of particular e-learning resources (e-learning resources developed by your Office, by other institutions, or a combination of both)?

Yes, our Office recommends use of particular e-learning resources endorsed by our Office (please go to Question 4)

Yes, our Office recommends the voluntary use of e-learning resources in general without endorsing particular e-learning resources (please skip Question 4 and go to Question 5)

No (please skip Question 4 and go to Question 5)

1. If your Office has endorsed the obligatory or voluntary use of certain e-learning resources developed by other institutions, please indicate them below (please include URL if possible):

Click here to enter text.

1. Please indicate below your views regarding the utility of e-learning resources for the training of the patent examiners of your Office and your plans for developing policies on the use of e-learning resources[[2]](#footnote-3):

Click here to enter text.

Development of and access to e-learning resources for training of substantive patent examiners

6. Has your Office developed e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at your Office?

Yes, our Office developed all of the e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at our Office

Yes, our Office developed some but not all of the e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at our Office

No

1. If your answer to Question 6 was Yes, are the e-learning resources developed by your Office accessible through the internet for external users (for example examiners of other Offices)?

Yes, the e-learning resources are accessible for anybody without prior registration

Yes, the e-learning resources are accessible for anybody after prior registration (only for identification of the user)

Yes, access to the e-learning resources is however controlled (not accessible for anybody; access is only possible after individual selection/nomination of learners and/or after payment of a fee)

No

8. If your answer to Question 6 was Yes, please indicate below those e-learning resources developed by your Office that are accessible for external users and that are not yet listed in the Compilation of e-Learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau:

Click here to enter text.

1. Do you have any observations on the Compilation of e-Learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau (https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc\_details.jsp?doc\_id=469361), for example, items missing, editorial aspects, etc.?

Click here to enter text.

1. Do you have any observations or suggestions regarding availability, access and development of e-learning resources, for example, topics missing among currently available e‑learning resources, support needed for developing, deploying or accessing such resources, options for cooperation and sharing, ….?

Click here to enter text.

Incentives for using e-learning resources

1. Are your examiners permitted to use part of their working time for voluntary e-learning?

Yes

No

1. Has your Office put in place any other incentives for the voluntary use e-learning resources?

Yes

No

13. If your answer to the Question 12 was Yes, please indicate below which incentives have been put in place?

Click here to enter text.

Other

1. Do you have any other observations or suggestions regarding the use of e-learning resources, for example, assessing success of learning, certification of successful participation, WIPO’s role in facilitating the use of or access to e-learning resources, ….?

Click here to enter text.

[End of Annex and of Circular]

1. Use of further e-learning resources may be voluntary. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Observations on access to and development e-learning resources are covered by Question 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)