

SURVEY ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO PATENT INFORMATION, PART 2

*Survey results presented to the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)
at its ninth session on November 5, 2021*

INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighth session in 2020, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) approved publication of the results on Part 1 of the survey on Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI). The CWS also approved the revised questionnaire for Part 2 of the survey as presented by the PAPI Task Force. One additional question was added to the survey during the CWS/8. The CWS requested the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) to participate in Part 2 of the survey. (See paragraphs 70 to 72 and 122 to 125 of document CWS/8/24.)

SURVEY RESULTS

2. In May 2021, the Secretariat issued circular [C.CWS.146](#) inviting IPOs to participate in Part 2 of the PAPI survey. Responses were received through August 2021. During issuance of the survey, the new question added during the CWS/8 was inadvertently omitted from the issued survey. Because the survey platform does not allow modifications to a live survey, the International Bureau decided to issue a separate supplement survey containing only the omitted question. Respondents who completed the Part 2 main survey were then asked to also answer the supplement.

3. The International Bureau, as the Task Force Leader, analyzed the responses and posted the results to the PAPI Task Force wiki. The Task Force presents the following report for consideration by the CWS. Survey responses are available at https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/cws/en/cws_9/cws_9_item_16.zip. The Task Force requests approval by the CWS to publish the survey results in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation (WIPO Handbook).

ANALYSIS

4. Responses were received from 36 IPOs: Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Brazil; Colombia; Côte d'Ivoire; Ecuador; Estonia; Finland; Georgia; Germany; Hungary; Israel; Italy; Japan; Lithuania; Mexico; Norway; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Korea; Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; San Marino; Slovakia; Slovenia; Sweden; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States of America; Uruguay; and the European Patent Office (EPO).

5. Most respondents (28) indicated that no fees are required to access patent information. Over half of respondents (19) indicated that online interfaces are available in English. Less than half of offices provide downloadable documents in searchable text formats (e.g. plain text, HTML, XML, certain types of PDF), including for granted patents (15); published applications (13); and amendments, corrections, or updates (13). Twenty IPOs report that all available patent information can be accessed from a single web page or portal. Fifteen IPOs indicated that regional or international IP documents are accessible from their online systems.

6. Ten Offices reported that updated versions of patent documents are not available online when changes are made after publication. Full (15) or partial (7) event history is available online after grant at 22 IPOs. Nine Offices plan to implement ST.27 for legal status events in the future, while nine of the 14 IPOs not planning to implement ST.27 at this time cite insufficient resources as the main reason.

7. Thirteen IPOs report that they provide an authority file compliant with ST.37 through the WIPO Authority File Portal, while five IPOs provide an authority file that is not in the WIPO Portal. IPOs that do not comply with ST.37 for their authority file cite lack of resources (7) and difficulty of technical requirements (5) as the main reasons.

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