

Capacity Building for Government Officials and IP Office Staff - the example of the European Patent Academy

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Diversity of IP offices

- IP offices differ in terms of history, actual capacity, work experience and the place they occupy in a given society
- IP training institutions act within specific socio-political settings - they need to respond to specific situations

Therefore:

- In capacity building - there is no "one fits all" approach
- Diversity seen as a strength - allows that we can all learn from each other



A) First thought capacity building

The Institutional Strengthening unit strives to share the EPO's expertise in all aspects of patent granting procedure:

- Patent administration and formalities
- Patent documentation and classification
- Patent search
- Substantive examination
- Opposition and appeals
- Related patent office tools



B) Second thought capacity building

Taking into account the complex challenges national office' staff face when advising patent system users with patent-related IP, the Institutional Strengthening unit also facilitates training on:

- Business use of patent information
- Legal and fiscal issues
- Patent litigation aspects
- Patent-related IP management



Complementing co-operation programmes

The European Patent Academy supports:

- European co-operation and offers training to staff of national offices and PATLIB centres of EPC contracting states
- Bilateral co-operation programmes and complements training programmes for staff of national offices, e.g. SIPO
- International co-operation programmes with national offices and organisations as partners, e.g. the WIPO-EPO-OEPM course for Latin American Judges and Prosecutors



Supporting IP5 co-operation

- EPO leads on the Foundation Project "Common Classification"
- The Academy's Institutional Strengthening unit organised the annual joint IP5 examiners workshop 2010 in Munich
- In close co-operation with the EPO's experts, this unit will implement the necessary training component of this foundation project

Facilitating EPN training

The Academy already contributes to building the European Patent Network, since the EPN:

"Needs to make optimum use of the resources and competences available among the EPN partners with focus on the respective core businesses of the offices involved."

In particular with training on EPO's core competence:

ad A) Training services

- Patent Search and Search Products, e.g. Search Report, Written Opinion, SIS
- Substantive Examination
- Patent classification
- Related tools training
 - EPOQUEnet
 - ESPACEnet
 - PISE

Training in IP-Management Support

The capacity of government officials and staff of PATLIB centres in dealing with such topics is enhanced through dedicated training programmes on:

- Exchange of IP business know-how
- Training on best practice examples in institutional IP advise, e.g. IP Pre-diagnosis
- Know-how exchange through public training seminars on patent licensing
- Training on business use of patent information, in particular on IPscore and PATSTAT

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

Feedback to academy@epo.org