

WIPO Regional Training Workshop on Data Quality Management, Exchange and online services

OAPI Country Report

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ABOUT OAPI

- Created on the 13th September 1962
- 17 members states
- Benin, Burkina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea Conakry, Bissau Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Togo.
- Most recent member state is Republic of Comoros since May 2013

ABOUT OAPI

- Headquarter in Yaoundé
- Common law : Bangui Agreement (Revised edition of 24th February 1999).
- There is revision process going on.
- One unique office. Centralize procedures
- One Unique IP Office for all membres states. Meaning there is no co-existence between the regional office and Nationals systems

ABOUT OAPI

- Centralized registration procedures. Only the Regional office that is OAPI is mandated to grant IP Rights.
- “File once, pay one set of taxes and your creation is protected in 17 members states”

ABOUT OAPI

- IP Rights protected at OAPI :
 - Patents (16.000)
 - Utility Models
 - Trademarks (85.000)
 - Industrials Designs (4.800)
 - Trade Names (120.000)
 - Plants Varieties (150)
 - Geographical indications (5)

ABOUT OAPI

- 110 staff members
- 3 ICT

Current automation status

Before IPAS

- Using in built system call **GesTitre** for IP Right Management since year 2000
- GesTitre a Windows client/server application developed with Delphi language using an Oracle Database at Back-end
- Scope covering Patents, Trademarks, Designs, Trade Names, Reception, Finances

Before IPAS

- Key functionalities : IP Data storage, Searches, Examination, Publication, Fees Management
- There was a need for new developments to cover more functionalities and also for using most recent technologies
- At that point decision was made in 2012 to Move to IPAS System
- GesTitre will remain for the functionalities that IPAS is not covering ex. Fees Management.

IPAS Deployment

- Complex system to deploy involving skills in a number of domains : system architecture, project management, Java environment, Database management, system integration, operating system and backup issues, etc.
- Real need to master essential knowledge on the system before starting

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IPAS Deployment

- Assistance of WIPO Team : Training of the IT Staff, IPAS software Installation, Creation of initial clean environments, Initial Design configurations
- Real need to master essential knowledge on the system before starting
- Intensive and detail examiners staff training by internal IT personnel

IPAS Deployment

- Data Migration : At least to experts needed. Internal expert for the original system and IPAS data migration expert
- A clear plan to handle specific data migration issues (missing data, unexpected values, etc.)

IPAS Deployment

- Clear migration plan between the two systems
- Internal IT staff should be available to support users
- Need to have many environments :
Training, Test, Production

IPAS Deployment

- Deployment on september 2015
- Progressive deployment module by module : Trademarks, Madrid Module, EDMS, Trade Names, Patents, Designs, Wipo Publish, Wipo File
- Deployment on september 2015
- For the moment following module are deploy : Trademark, Madrid, EDMS

IPAS Deployment

- Receiving files and user documents through the system on a daily basis
- Data capture
- Formality examination
- Data validation

IPAS Deployment

- Data validation
- Examination
- Notification (Madrid and Regional)
- Issuing certificate
- Journal publication on the web site
- Configuration of opposition and appeal not yet ready

IPAS Madrid Module

- Download weekly (Thursday) notification from Madrid server with FTP Client (FileZilla) by ICT Team
- Upload on a Test environment
- Correction of problems
- Repeat the process in Production environment

IPAS Madrid Module

- Main issues : Old nice version classification (6, 7), missing Vienna classes, few images missing
- Solution : Adding missing records in corresponding IPAS Tables
- Choice of changing sign type from ***Text only*** to ***Both Text and logo*** and loading correspondent file image

IPAS Madrid Module

- Further control by Reception staff
- Examination by examiners group
- Communication of notification to Wipo by mail
- Publication on our web site

Digitalization Project

- Started on February 2016
- Documents : Trademark (90.000), Patents (16.000), Trade names (120.000), Design (5000), Utilities Model (100), plants varieties (200)
- Finance by WIPO through FIT Japan and also by OAPI

Digitalization Project

- OAPI project team (ICT, Examiners, documentation)
- External company (15 persons)
- OAPI Temporary staff for data verification and validation (4)
- Duration : 12 to 18 months.

Digitalization Project

- Scanning
- Indexing and loading to EDMS
- Logo scanning and uploading to IPAS
- Entering some missing data of the old system into IPAS
- Verification and validation
- Approving user document
- Classification of the physical files

Future plan

- Deployment of Patents, Designs, Trade names Module before the end of 2016
- WIPO Publish on test 2016
- Online search with Wipo Publish 2017
- Online filing for agents with WIPO File 2017