

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Sixth Session
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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF WIPO STANDARD ST.27 BY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES

Document prepared by the International Bureau

INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifth session held from May 29 to June 2, 2017, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) adopted WIPO Standard ST.27 “Recommendation for the exchange of patent legal status data” (see paragraph 50 of document CWS/5/22).
2. The CWS requested the Secretariat to issue a circular to invite intellectual property offices (IPOs) to assess their business practices and IT systems and review the provisional detailed events which were included in the new WIPO Standard ST.27 (see paragraph 52 of document CWS/5/22).
3. The Secretariat issued Circular C. CWS 92 on January 25, 2018, inviting IPOs to provide the results of:
 - (a) the assessment on their business practices and IT systems, including their tentative schedule for the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.27; and
 - (b) the review of the provisional detailed events in accordance with their respective laws and practices.

4. WIPO Standards ST.27 recommends that when implementing this Standard, an announcement be made and the International Bureau of WIPO be informed by providing a mapping table of national/regional events to the events in this Standard on the basis of the model template available in Annex IV of ST.27. Standard ST.27 suggests that the frequency of exchange of legal status data should occur at one month intervals at a minimum, ideally at weekly intervals. (See paragraphs 51 and 53 of Standard ST.27.)

IPOS' IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF WIPO STANDARD ST.27

5. In response to Circular C. CWS 92, the following 11 IPOs provided their plan on implementing WIPO Standard ST.27:

- Australia (AU)
- China (CN)
- Colombia (CO)
- Czechia (CZ)
- Germany (DE)
- Eurasian Patent Organization (EA)
- Republic of Korea (KR)
- Russian Federation (RU)
- Ukraine (UA)
- United Kingdom (GB)
- United States of America (US)

6. With respect to the assessment of IPOs' business practices and IT systems, and their tentative schedule for implementation of Standard ST.27, the responses from most IPOs indicated that they need to conduct further internal analysis before a timeline for implementation could be communicated. The following IPOs have indicated that further internal analysis is required before implementation timelines can be finalized: AU, CN, CZ, DE, RU, UA and US.

7. Although they need more time to analyze the impact of implementation of Standard ST.27 on their business and IT systems, several IPOs provided preliminary estimates of implementation timeframes which range from one to five years:

- (a) CO - intends to implement Standard ST.27 in 2018;
- (b) EA - intends to start implementing ST.27 in 2019 and enter production in 2020;
- (c) GB - plans to embed the legal status events included in ST.27 as part of a broader business transformation scheduled over the next 3 to 5 years; and
- (d) KR - does not expect to be able to provide legal status data in conformity with ST.27 until at least the end of 2019.

8. Furthermore, some IPOs indicated that implementation is dependent on finalizing the XML schema components for patent legal status based on WIPO Standards ST.27 and ST.96 before implementation can be pursued. Another obstacle to implementation identified by some of the IPOs was competing internal priorities and/or upcoming business and IT changes.

MAPPING NATIONAL/REGIONAL EVENTS TO STANDARD ST.27

9. As recommended in WIPO Standard ST.27, the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.27 requires IPOs to map their national/regional events to the Standard Events or at the very least to the Standard Categories. Annex IV of WIPO Standard ST.27 provides a model template for the mapping. When completing their mapping table, IPOs are encouraged to provide a title and description of their national/regional events in their original language and in English so that users can obtain more information about the specific national/regional event.

10. In response to the Circular mentioned above, as a participation in the Legal Status activity, and as the outcome of collaboration with regard to mapping of the national or regional patent legal status events included in the International Patent Documentation (INPADOC) database, mapping tables from the following 12 IPOs were gathered: CA, CN, DE, EA, EP, FR, GB, JP, KR, RU, UA and US (see paragraph 9 of document CWS/6/11).

11. The International Bureau prepared a draft consolidated mapping table, which includes the information received from the aforementioned IPOs. Mapping tables may be refined as WIPO Standard ST.27 is revised and IPOs further review their mapping according to the Guidance Document or any other reasons in due course. The draft mapping tables are reproduced as the Annex to this document for consideration by the CWS.

12. The International Bureau plans to publish the consolidated mapping tables of IPOs on the WIPO website once the CWS approves it.

FURTHER COLLABORATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

13. For the harmonized implementation of WIPO Standard ST.27 by IPOs, it is crucial for the IP information community to collect valuable information on the application or patent concerned. Due to various practices according to different applicable laws, the mapping between national or regional status events and the standard events may not always be straightforward. Therefore, the CWS requested the Legal Status Task Force to prepare the Guidance Document to assist IPOs to map their events to the standard events in harmonized manner. The provisional draft of Annex V of ST.27 is submitted for consideration at the sixth session of the Committee and it will be finalized in due course with more examples from IPOs. Therefore, it is requested that the CWS encourage IPOs to participate in the discussion on the Guidance Document, and share their experience in implementing ST.27 with the Legal Status Task Force.

14. Taking into account the volume of patent legal status data, the recommended frequency of data exchange and the wide use of Webservices by IPOs, the International Bureau is exploring the feasibility of developing a common Web API for the exchange of patent legal status in collaboration with IPOs. The CWS is invited to comment on whether or not the common API would be useful to assist the exchange and disseminate patent legal status information.

15. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the content of the present document and the Annex of the document;

(b) consider and approve the provisional consolidated mapping table, and request the Secretariat to publish it on the WIPO website as provisional, as reproduced in the Annex to the present document;

(c) request IPOs that have not responded to the Circular to share their implementation plan of WIPO Standard ST.27 at this session or after the session; and

(d) comment on the development of a common Web API to facilitate the exchange of patent legal status data based on Standard ST.27, as referred to in paragraph 14;

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

Consolidated IPOs Mapping Tables to ST.27: [\(annex_mappingtables to ST.27\)](#)