

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)

Twenty-Eighth Session
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REVISED PROJECT PROPOSAL BY TUNISIA ON REDUCING WORK-RELATED ACCIDENTS AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES THROUGH INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), at its twenty-seventh session, discussed document CDIP/27/8 containing the Project Proposal by Tunisia on Reducing Work-Related Accidents and Occupational Diseases through Innovation and Intellectual Property. The Committee “*discussed the project proposal and requested Tunisia to develop the proposal further based on the comments by Member States and with the assistance of the Secretariat for its consideration at the next session*”.

2. The Annex to this document contains a revised project proposal by Tunisia, prepared with the support of the WIPO Secretariat.

3. *The CDIP is invited to consider the information contained in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE PROJECT
1.1 Project code
DA_1_10_19_30_31_45_1
1.2 Project title
Reducing Work-related Accidents and Occupational Diseases through Innovation and Intellectual Property
1.3 DA Recommendations
<p><i>Recommendation 1:</i> WIPO technical assistance shall be, inter alia, development-oriented, demand-driven and transparent, taking into account the priorities and the special needs of developing countries, especially LDCs, as well as the different levels of development of Member States and activities should include time frames for completion. In this regard, design, delivery mechanisms and evaluation processes of technical assistance programs should be country specific.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 10:</i> To assist Member States to develop and improve national intellectual property institutional capacity through further development of infrastructure and other facilities with a view to making national intellectual property institutions more efficient and promote fair balance between intellectual property protection and the public interest. This technical assistance should also be extended to sub-regional and regional organizations dealing with intellectual property.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 19:</i> To initiate discussions on how, within WIPO's mandate, to further facilitate access to knowledge and technology for developing countries and LDCs to foster creativity and innovation and to strengthen such existing activities within WIPO.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 30:</i> WIPO should cooperate with other IGOs to provide to developing countries, including LDCs, upon request, advice on how to gain access to and make use of intellectual property-related information on technology, particularly in areas of special interest to the requesting parties.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 31:</i> To undertake initiatives agreed by Member States, which contribute to transfer of technology to developing countries, such as requesting WIPO to facilitate better access to publicly available patent information.</p> <p><i>Recommendation 45:</i> To approach intellectual property enforcement in the context of broader societal interests and especially development-oriented concerns, with a view that "the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations", in accordance with Article 7 of the TRIPS Agreement.</p>
1.4 Project duration
36 months
1.5 Project Budget
The total Project Budget is of 523,300 Swiss Francs, all related to non-personnel expenditures

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The pilot project aims at helping to reduce work-related accidents and occupational diseases in Tunisia and three other developing countries through innovation and the use of intellectual property (IP) tools.

As explained further, the prevention of occupational risks and the improvement of working conditions is a key concern for Tunisia and other developing countries. Efforts are being made to improve the safety and health conditions of work.

One of the challenges encountered in this area is the lack of appropriate technologies that can help prevent accidents and diseases in each specific sector and industry. Appropriate technology is necessary to ensure the safety of the tools and machinery used by workers, as well as their personal protection equipment (PPE). Some of this technology might already be available, despite the lack of knowledge of potential users in developing countries or the difficulties to access it. Moreover, generating new innovative solutions for the risks encountered by workers of a particular industry or sector could also prove crucial. Collaboration between users, producers and suppliers of tools, machinery and PPE could contribute to ensure the availability of and the access to adequate material. This would reduce the risk of accidents and, in doing so, contribute to increasing the competitiveness of enterprises.

An additional challenge rests on the use of counterfeit tools, machinery and PPE that do not meet the necessary safety and health standards. Awareness raising about the risks that this counterfeit material might entail for the well-being of workers is also essential to prevent occupational accidents and diseases.

To achieve these objectives, this pilot project proposes to implement the strategies and actions described further, which will be delivered on the basis of cooperation among the main stakeholders who can contribute to improving the working conditions and the security of workers through innovation and the use of IP tools.

2.1 Project Context

Since independence in 1956, Tunisian authorities have devoted a significant share of national income to economic and social development and, above all, to improving the living conditions of the population through unprecedented school attendance, an active policy of women's emancipation, an ambitious and revolutionary family planning program launched in 1966 to limit births, and the introduction of a compensation and price control instrument to help the poor and low-income families. This policy of national solidarity was further stepped up among the poor, especially as from the 1980s, with the advent of the Structural Adjustment Programme, which followed structural changes in the world economy and the advent of a new era of globalization. Thus, the social security sector occupies an important place in Tunisia's social policy as a vector of economic and social development and one of the main elements for the preservation of social peace.

However, despite these efforts by public authorities to create healthy and peaceful working environments, the number of days lost as a result of accidents at work or occupational diseases remains high. This is likely to be detrimental both to the well-being of employees and to the growth and competitiveness of an enterprise. Indeed, a total of approximately 1,500,000 employees are involved, with an average of 46,000 work-related accidents recorded annually. The vast majority of these incidents (94.5%) occur at the workplace, while the remaining 5.5% are commuting accidents. The total number of days of work stoppage is also a parameter for assessing the severity of accidents with a deleterious impact on productivity. Thus,

approximately 1,000,000 days of work stoppage are reported annually. Added to these are cases of occupational diseases, which amount to approximately 1,600 cases where the work stoppage is either permanent or long term, depending on the severity of the disease.

This is likely to be the case for other developing countries. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO)¹, more than 2.78 million people die every year as a result of occupational accidents or work-related diseases worldwide. There are also 374 million non-fatal work-related injuries each year, resulting in more than 4 days of absences from work. Not only the human cost is incredibly high, but also the economic burden of poor occupational safety and health practices is estimated at almost 4 per cent of the annual global Gross Domestic Products.

In developing countries, occupational safety and health issues are generally less visible, but the risks are often greater than in industrialized countries. The expansion of the informal economy, as well as the counterfeit of tools, machinery and personal protective equipment, exacerbate this issue and the risks involved.

Policies aimed at addressing this problem are manifold and efforts are required from different actors. In this context, the ILO implements projects aimed at improving safety and health at work and preventing work-related accidents and occupational diseases in developing countries. A project titled "*Strengthening Labour Governance in MSMEs and Supporting the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy in Africa*" is currently being implemented in Tunisia, among other countries, with a twofold strategy: (i) supporting national labour inspectorates to better ensure compliance; and (ii) build the capacity of Governments, employers, workers and their representatives to promote and implement the existing regulations in the field of occupational safety and health.

IP can also contribute to those efforts, by providing a safer environment to workers through innovative technologies. The knowledge of and access to appropriate technology is necessary to ensure the safety of the tools and machinery used by workers, as well as their PPE. Awareness about the risks involved in using counterfeited goods that do not meet the necessary safety and health standards is also essential.

2.2 Project Objective, Outcome and Outputs

The overall project **objective** is to help reduce occupational accidents and diseases through innovation and the use of IP tools.

More specifically, the project's expected **outcomes** are to:

- i. Better understand the relationship between IP and occupational accidents and diseases; and
- ii. Improve the working conditions in certain industries and sectors, by increasing awareness on IP and the harmful effects of using counterfeit products.

The above-mentioned project objective and outcomes will be achieved through the delivery of the following project **outputs**:

1. Identify which sectors and industries account for the most work-related accidents and/or diseases and try to determine the main causes of these adverse outcomes and the impact of work-related accidents and occupational diseases on the productivity of those sectors.

¹ <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/lang--en/index.htm>

2. Assess the needs of a specific industry or sector in relation to work-related accidents and occupational diseases.
3. Identify the available innovative technology that could respond to the needs of that specific industry or sector to reduce work-related accidents and occupational diseases.
4. Raise awareness on IP and its impact on the improvement of working conditions.
5. Establish effective and sustainable networks to promote better collaboration between those who use and those who generate innovation and technology transfer in order to reduce accidents at work and occupational diseases.

2.3 Project Implementation Strategy

The overall project objective of the project will be achieved through the implementation strategy detailed below.

- ✓ Development of an economic study that analyses the impact of work-related accidents and occupational diseases on the productivity of a specific industry or sector of the pilot countries, as well as that outlines the potential benefits of using appropriate technology.
- ✓ Delivery of country studies to identify the appropriate technologies to help prevent accidents and illnesses in specific sectors or industries. The focus of the study will be on the four selected countries with the aim of determining which sectors or industries account for the most work-related accidents and illnesses, and attempting to determine the main causes of those adverse outcomes and the impact of work-related accidents and occupational diseases on the productivity of those sectors.
- ✓ Mapping of the technology needs of the specific industry or sector to combat or reduce work-related accidents and occupational diseases. In order to develop this mapping, information would be gathered from all stakeholders involved, e.g.: national institutions in charge of matters relating to work-related accidents and occupational diseases; managers and workers of enterprises of the industry or sector; suppliers; universities, research centers, technical centers and other innovation generators.
- ✓ Landscaping of the existing most appropriate technology available to address the needs of that industry or sector, using patent, scientific and technical sources.
- ✓ Raising awareness and preventing the use of counterfeit components through national seminars to raise awareness among all stakeholders (public entities, customs authorities, generators of innovation and technology, suppliers, users, workers) about the impact of innovation, the importance of access and use of appropriate technology, and the risks of counterfeit in this field. The seminars will also help to establish effective networks to foster better collaboration between the users and the generators of innovation in this field.
- ✓ Development of educational programs or of a toolkit on counterfeit detection material for the use of local partners in beneficiary countries.
- ✓ Launch of public awareness campaigns on the dangers of counterfeits. Such awareness campaigns could be conducted on social networks, radio, television, and in physical public spaces. Public awareness initiatives could be more appropriately tailored to the relevant sector or industry.
- ✓ Based on the above, produce awareness-raising material for the use of local partners in

beneficiary countries.	
2.4 Project Indicators	
<u>Project Objective</u>	<u>Objective indicators</u>
Help reduce occupational accidents and diseases through innovation and the use of IP tools.	The role of IP and innovation in reducing occupational accidents and diseases explored, and at least 50% of the employees in the selected sectors and/or industries consider that they are better equipped to effectively use the identified IP tools as a result of the project.
<u>Project Outcomes</u>	<u>Outcome indicators</u>
a) Better understand the relationship between IP and occupational accidents and diseases.	a) At least 50% of the relevant stakeholders in the beneficiary countries are aware that innovation and the use of IP tools can help reduce occupational accidents and diseases.
b) Increased awareness on IP and counterfeit products with the view to improving the working conditions in certain sectors and/or industries.	b) At least 70% of participants in the national seminars and other project activities have demonstrated increased awareness on the potential role of IP in reducing occupational accidents and diseases.
<u>Project Outputs</u>	<u>Output Indicators</u>
1. Identify which sectors and industries account for the most work-related accidents and/or diseases and try to determine the main causes of these adverse outcomes and the impact of work-related accidents and occupational diseases on the productivity of those sectors.	1. An economic study developed and published by WIPO and all beneficiary countries.
2. Assess the needs of a specific industry or sector in relation to work-related accidents and occupational diseases.	2. Four (4) studies (one in each country) identifying the appropriate technologies to help prevent accidents and illnesses in specific sectors developed.
3. Identify the available innovative technology that could respond to the needs of that specific sector and/or industry to reduce work-related accidents and occupational diseases.	3.1 Four (4) mappings (one in each country) of the technology needs to combat or reduce work-related accidents and occupational disease of the specific sectors and/or industry identified, developed. 3.2 Four (4) patent landscaping reports (one in each country) of the existing most appropriate technology available to address the needs of that sector and/or industry developed.

4. Raise awareness on IP and its impact on the improvement of working conditions.	4. At least four (4) national awareness-raising seminars (one in each country) on preventing the use of counterfeit components organized and held.
5. Establish effective and sustainable networks to promote better collaboration between those who use and those who generate innovation and technology transfer in order to reduce accidents at work and occupational diseases.	<p>4.2 Four (4) public awareness campaigns on the dangers of counterfeits tailored to the relevant sector or industry launched.</p> <p>5.1 An educational program or toolkit on counterfeit detection developed.</p> <p>5.2 A compilation of awareness-raising material and methods developed based on the results of the seminars and the campaigns.</p>

2.5 Sustainability Strategy

To ensure the sustainability of the project outputs' all the relevant material and tools developed in the context of the project will be made available on the WIPO website. In addition, they will be presented to other Member States in the context of the CDIP, and other information events. Beneficiary Member States are also strongly encouraged to make those outputs available for broader use by the interested public.

In addition, the educational toolkit and awareness-raising material will be developed in a way that could be easily customized by other countries, as well as other concerned industries or sectors.

Updates to the sustainability strategy will be provided in the course of the project implementation.

2.6 Selection Criteria for Pilot/Beneficiary Countries

The project will be implemented in Tunisia and in three other pilot countries.

The selection of the three other pilot countries will be based on the following criteria:

- existence of institutionalized national policies on social security and the fight against accidents at work and occupational diseases;
- demonstrated willingness of political authorities to increase the competitiveness of enterprises through value chain improvement and innovation capacity; and
- commitment of the country to allocate the necessary resources for the effective implementation of the project and its sustainability.

Member States wishing to participate in the project must submit their statement of interest by submitting the form contained in the Annex II to this document. In that statement, they must also indicate the institution in charge of managing the project and appoint a person responsible for monitoring the project implementation in country (i.e., a National Focal Point).

2.7 Implementing Organizational Entity

Development Agenda Coordination Division, Regional and National Development Sector

2.8 Links to other Organizational Entities

- Regional Divisions, Regional and National Development Sector
- IP for Innovators Department (IPID), IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector
- Building Respect for IP Division, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector
- Technology Transfer Section, IP for Innovators Department (IPID)

2.9 Links to other DA Projects

DA Project on Developing Tools for Access to Patent information – Phases I and II ([CDIP/4/6](#) and [CDIP/10/13](#))

DA Project on Capacity-Building in the Use of Appropriate Technology-Specific Technical and Scientific Information as a Solution for Identified Development Challenges information – Phases I and II ([CDIP/5/6 Rev.](#) and [CDIP/13/9](#))

2.10 Contribution to Expected Results in WIPO's Program and Budget

E.R. 1.1. More effective communication and engagement worldwide to raise awareness of and increase knowledge about the potential of IP to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere.

E.R. 3.3. Knowledge transfer and technology adaptation is facilitated through WIPO's IP-based platforms and tools to address global challenges.

E.R. 4.1. More effective use of IP to support growth and development of all Member States and their relevant regions and sub-regions, including through the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda recommendations.

2.11 Risk and Mitigation

Risk 1: Possibility of recurrence of Covid-19 crisis and, consequently, lockdowns and other restrictive measures that hamper the project's implementation.

Mitigation Strategy 1: Close follow-up of the sanitary situation in each beneficiary country in coordination with national Focal Points; adaptation of the modalities of implementation of activities (ex.: virtual meetings prioritized, travel minimized), where feasible.

Risk 2: The project requires expertise in different fields on IP and hence, it might be difficult to find one area to take charge of its implementation.

Mitigation Strategy 2: Involvement of different areas and divisions within WIPO. Enhanced coordination and regular communication by the appointed project manager in-house and with Member States.

Risk 3: Difficulty in identifying specific sectors or industry to be addressed by the studies and mappings, and ensuring appropriateness of scope of each patent landscaping report.

Mitigation 3: Interested Member States will be requested to provide preliminary information and indicate an industry or sector of priority that they wish to focus on. Each report will be developed in collaboration with a partner institution and the terms of reference of each report will be tailored to the specific needs of the partner. The scope of each report will also be coordinated with the WIPO units working in the respective thematic areas.

Risk 4: Insufficient utilization of the studies and patent landscaping reports developed in the context of the project.

Mitigation 4: Improved dissemination of the reports through publications by WIPO and beneficiary countries, TISCs networks or TTOs as information material, and participation in awareness raising and other events related to the topics addressed by each report.

4. TOTAL RESOURCES BY OUTPUT

<i>(in Swiss francs)</i> Project Outputs	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Total
	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Personnel	Non-Personnel	
Project coordination and implementation support		77,100		80,100		77,100	234,300
Development of an economic study		20,000					20,000
Delivery of 4 country studies (one in each country) to identify the appropriate technologies to help prevent accidents and illnesses in specific sectors.		20,000		20,000			40,000
Delivery of 4 mappings (one in each country) of the technology needs to combat or reduce work-related accidents and occupational disease of the specific industry or sectors identified				40,000			40,000
Development of 4 patent landscaping reports (one in each country) of the existing most appropriate technology available to address the needs of that industry or sector				40,000			40,000
4 national awareness raising seminars (one in each country) on counterfeiting				27,000		27,000	54,000
Development of an educational program or toolkit on counterfeit detection						20,000	20,000
4 public awareness campaigns on the dangers of counterfeits						40,000	40,000
A compilation of awareness-raising material and methods developed based on the results of the seminars and the campaigns						20,000	20,000
Project Evaluation						15,000	15,000
Total	-	117,100		207,100		199,100	523,300

5. NON-PERSONNEL RESOURCES BY COST CATEGORY

<i>(in Swiss francs)</i> Activities	Travel, Training and Grants			Contractual Services					Total
	Staff Missions	Third-party Travel	Training and related travel grants	Conferences	Publishing	Individual Contractual Services	WIPO Fellowships	Other Contractual Services	
Project coordination and implementation support							234,300		234,300
Development of an economic study						20,000			20,000
Delivery of 4 country studies (one in each country) to identify the appropriate technologies to help prevent accidents and illnesses in specific sectors					4,000	36,000			40,000
Delivery of 4 mappings (one in each country) of the technology needs to combat or reduce work-related accidents and occupational disease of the specific industry or sectors identified						40,000			40,000
Development of 4 patent landscaping reports (one in each country) of the existing most appropriate technology available to address the needs of that industry or sector						40,000			40,000
4 national awareness raising seminars (one in each country) on counterfeiting	8,000	4,000		2,000		40,000			54,000
Development of an educational program or toolkit on counterfeit detection						20,000			20,000

<i>(in Swiss francs)</i>	Travel, Training and Grants			Contractual Services					Total
	Staff Missions	Third-party Travel	Training and related travel grants	Conferences	Publishing	Individual Contractual Services	WIPO Fellowships	Other Contractual Services	
Activities									
4 public awareness campaigns on the dangers of counterfeits					10,000	30,000			40,000
A compilation of awareness-raising material and methods developed based on the results of the seminars and the campaigns						20,000			20,000
Project Evaluation						15,000			15,000
Total	8,000	4,000		2,000	14,000	261,000	234,300		523,300

6. REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE AS A PILOT/BENEFICIARY COUNTRY

TEMPLATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE AS A PILOT / BENEFICIARY COUNTRY	
Selection criteria	Brief description
1. Expression of interest	Confirmation that the intellectual property bodies of the requesting country are interested in participating in the project.
2. Institutions and legal framework	Please indicate the national body or institution that oversees the subject matter of IP the project addresses (patents, IP enforcement) Links to the institution website and the legal texts should be provided, where possible.
3. Criteria as per DA project document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existence of institutionalized national policies on social security and the fight against accidents at work and occupational diseases; • demonstrated willingness of political authorities to increase the competitiveness of enterprises through value chain improvement and innovation capacity; and • commitment of the country to allocate the necessary resources for the effective implementation of the project and its sustainability. <p>Please, to the extent possible, mention a few industries or sectors that you would like to prioritize for the purpose of this project.</p>
4. Need of support	Brief justification of the actual need for the support that will be provided by the project
5. Commitment	Confirmation that the requesting country is committed to devoting the necessary resources and logistical support as needed for the effective implementation of the project and its sustainability.
6. National Coordinator/ National Focal Point	The requesting country should propose a person, along with the person's position and organization, to act as national coordinator for the duration of the project and as the country's institutional representative.
7. Comments	Any other information the requesting country wishes to provide.

[End of Annex and of document]