

The Inventor Assistance Program

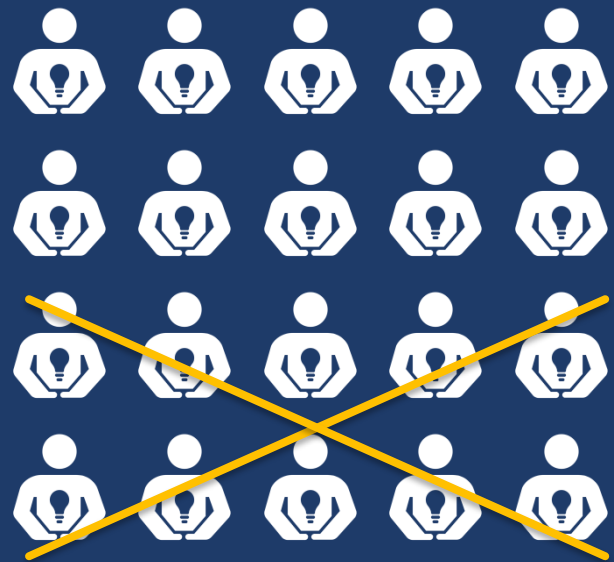
PCT Working Group

**11 June
2019**

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In some countries, more than
half of *pro se* applicants
are abandoned before
substantive examination.

Their applications get rejected
purely based on formalities.



The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP)

<http://www.wipo.int/iap>



under-resourced
inventor selected
for the IAP



inventor is matched with
a patent specialist to
navigate the patent system



invention gets
evaluated
on its merits
*increasing the odds
of a granted patent*

Status of the IAP

June 2019



2015

pilot
program

2016

formal
launch

44

inventions
selected

6

patents
granted

118

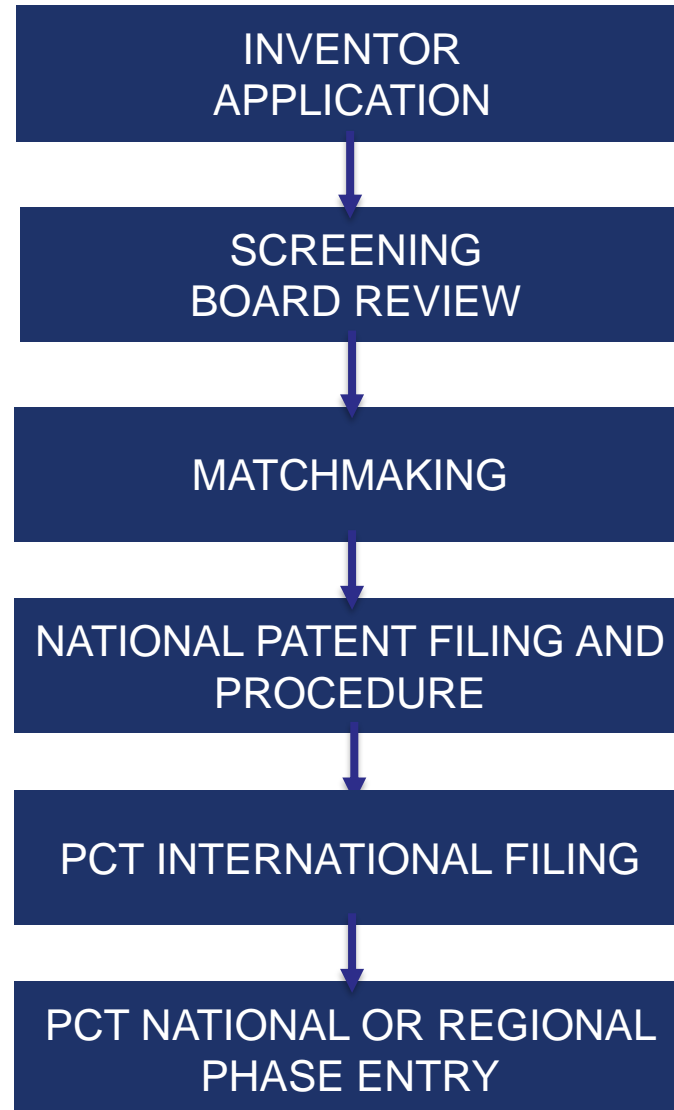
patent
specialists

<http://www.wipo.int/iap/>

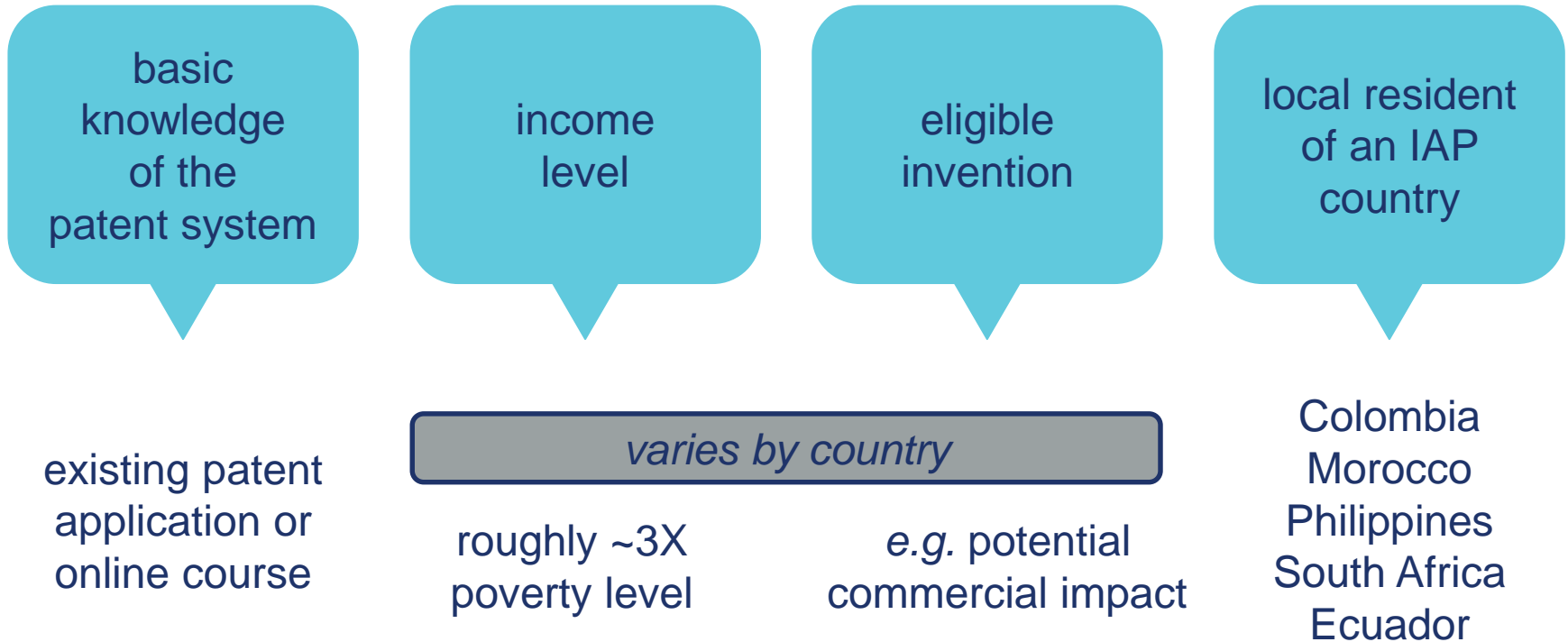
WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

HOW THE IAP WORKS

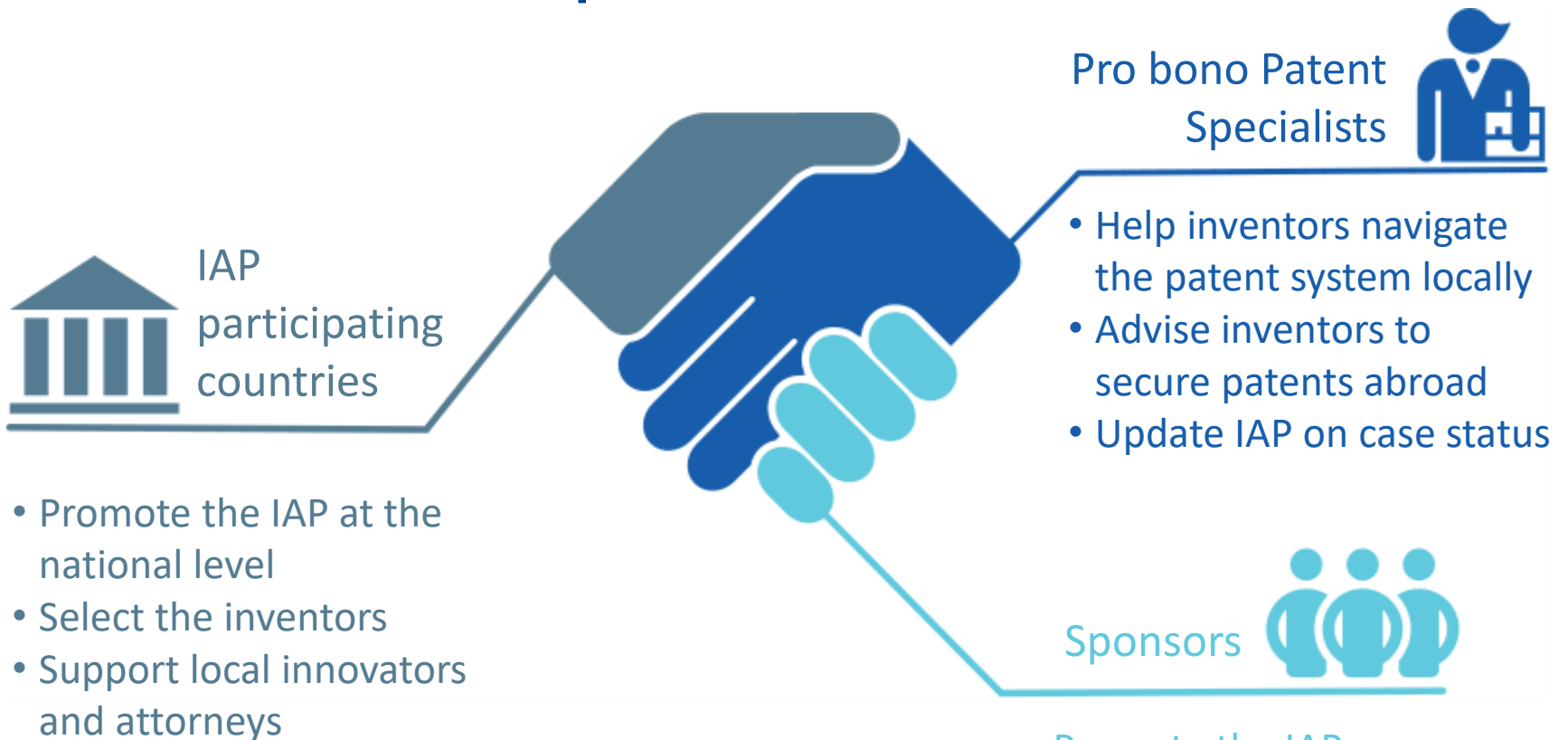
HELPING UNDER RESOURCED
INVENTORS PROTECT THEIR IDEAS



How Inventors qualify for the IAP



IAP Membership



Patent Offices Drive Local IAP Programs



NATIONAL AUTHORITY

- establish eligibility criteria and identify national focal point
- coordinate promotion to inventors and Patent Specialists
- receive IAP inquiries and applications
- coordinate matchmaking with WIPO



NATIONAL SCREENING BOARD

- decides on IAP applications
- composed of different stakeholders, including from the patent office, R&D sector, agencies responsible for business relationship

Governance of the IAP



STEERING COMMITTEE

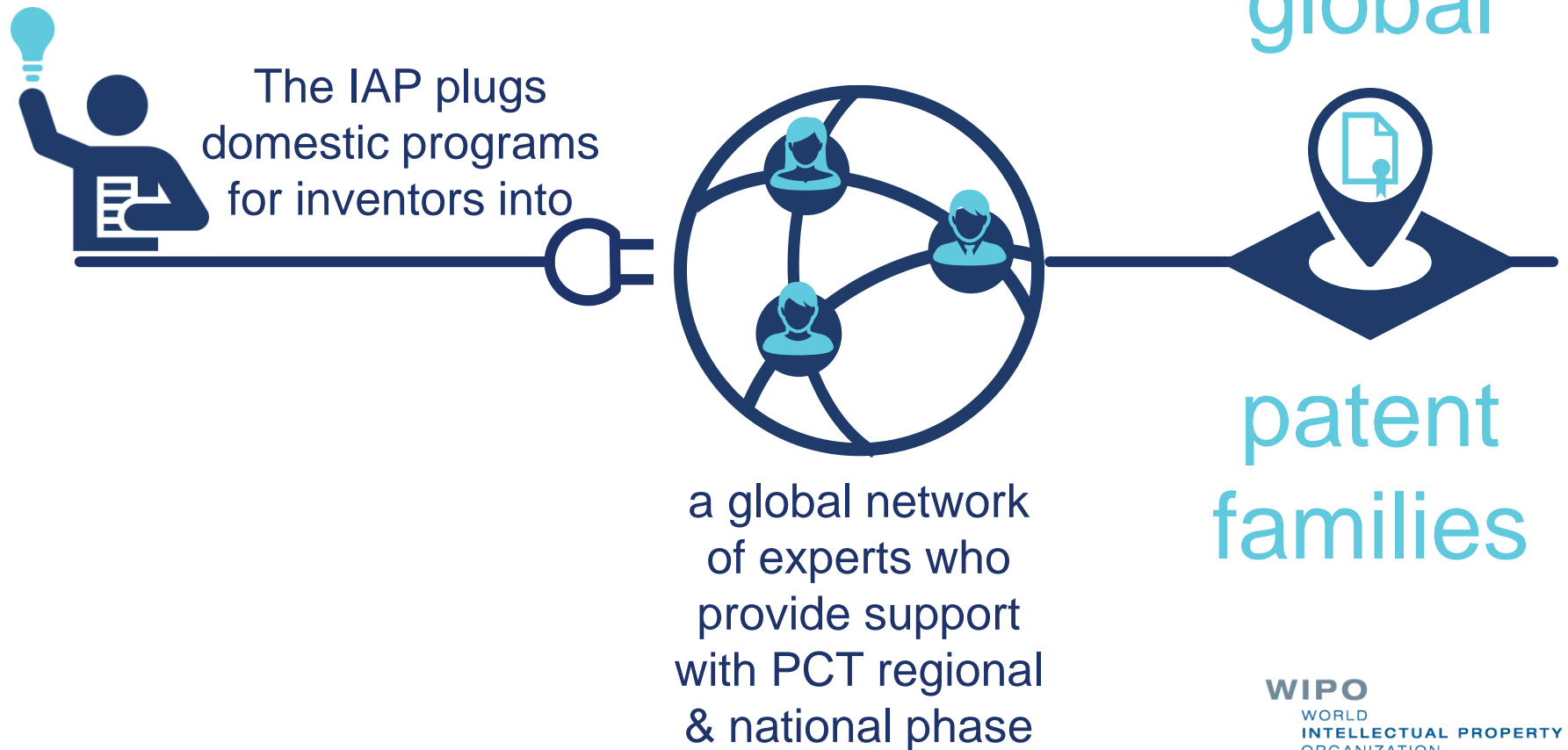
- adopts major decisions for the IAP
- provides strategic directions
- admission of new countries

WIPO

- supports IAP countries in the program's implementation
- promotes the IAP globally
- maintains roster of volunteers
- matchmakes inventors-attorneys
- manages IAP webpage and online course for inventors



Leveraging the PCT to support under-resourced inventors



WHAT'S NEEDED TO GROW THE IAP

Potential
Beneficiaries



NEED TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE PATENT SYSTEM AND WHEN TO USE IT

Current
Beneficiaries



INTERNATIONAL PATENT PROTECTION OF THEIR INVENTIONS

Patent Profession



ENHANCE PATENT DRAFTING SKILLS

How Member States can join the IAP

Send a letter of intent agreeing to abide with the Guiding Principles to WIPO with the following:



statistics that illustrate potential for success

- *# of local applicants who file without representation*
- *% of these applicants whose applications are rejected on procedural grounds (e.g. formalities, abandonments, failure to request exam)*



identify who will support the IAP within your country

- *a national focal point, responsible for day-to-day management*
- *composition of a national screening board to evaluate applications*
- *supporting groups for patent searching and volunteers*



who will use the program and how will they find out about it

- *eligibility criteria to access the program*
- *a commitment and plan for promoting the IAP nationally*