

COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY ON THE USE OF E-LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THE TRAINING OF SUBSTANTIVE PATENT EXAMINERS

This document has been updated from an earlier version posted on May 31, 2021 to correct the numbers in questions 1 and 2 of the survey.

This paper presents a summary of the responses to the surveys sent to IP Offices in PCT Circular C. PCT 1588, dated February 27, 2020, and C. PCT 1620, dated April 6, 2021. A copy of the survey questions for the latter Circular is reproduced at the end of this paper. It includes a statistical analysis of those questions that could be answered by choosing Yes or No as answer; and a compilation of quotations in the original language of the replies to the other questions that were not to be answered by Yes or No.

In total, **43 responses** from following countries have been evaluated:

31 responses to Circular C. PCT 1620: AT, AU, AZ, BG, BH, CA, CH, CL, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EP, HR, HU, IL, IT, KR, MX, NO, NZ, PH, PL, RS, RU, SG, SK, TH, TT, US, WS

12 responses to Circular C. PCT 1588: AM*, BA*, BN*, CO*, EE*, JP*, MA*, MD*, ME*, UK*, VN*, ZA*

The 12 responses to Circular C. PCT 1588 are responses from countries that did not respond to Circular C. PCT 1620. For countries that responded to both Circulars, those to Circular C. PCT 1620 were taken into account. An asterisk is used in order to distinguish responses to Circular C. PCT 1588 from those to Circular C. PCT 1620.

The following sequence and wording of the questions as well as the headings of subsections are fully equivalent to the Questionnaire of the survey.

Obligatory or recommended (voluntary) use of e-learning for the training of substantive patent examiners

1. Has your Office established a policy on the obligatory and/or voluntary use of e-learning resources for the training of substantive patent examiners of your Office?

- Yes: **27 responses** (AU, AZ, CA, CL, CN, CO*, CZ, DK, EE*, EP, HR, IL, IT, JP*, KR, MA*, MD*, MX, NO, NZ, PH, PL, SG, TH, TT, UK*, WS)
- No, there is no policy yet on the use of e-learning resources: **16 responses** (AM*, AT, BA*, BG, BH, BN*, DE, CH, HU, ME*, RS, RU, SK, US, VN*, ZA*)

2. If your answer to Question 1 was Yes: Is the use of e-learning resources an **obligatory** part of the training of substantive patent examiners of your Office (e-learning resources developed by your Office or by other institutions or a combination of both)?

- Yes, use of certain e-learning resources is an obligatory part of the initial training of newly recruited examiners¹: **17 responses** (AU, AZ, CA, CL, EP, HR, IT, KR, MD*, MA*, MX, NO, NZ, PH, PL, SG, UK*)

¹ Use of further e-learning resources may be voluntary.

- Yes, use of certain e-learning resources is an obligatory part of the further vocational training of examiners after the initial training¹: **8 responses** (CA, CN, CZ, HR, NO, NZ, TH, TT)
- No: **6 responses** (CO*, DK, EE*, IL, JP*, WS)

3. If your answer to Question 1 was Yes: Does your Office expressly recommend to the examiners of your Office **voluntary** use of particular e-learning resources (e-learning resources developed by your Office, by other institutions, or a combination of both)?

- Yes, our Office recommends use of particular e-learning resources endorsed by our Office (please go to Question 4): **20 responses** (AU, AZ, CA, CL, CN, CZ, DK, EP, IL, IT, MA*, MD*, MX, NO, NZ, PH, PL, TH, UK*)
- Yes, our Office recommends the voluntary use of e-learning resources in general without endorsing particular e-learning resources (please skip Question 4 and go to Question 5): **8 responses** (CO*, EE, HR, JP*, KR, SG, TT, WS)
- No: **0 responses**

4. If your Office has endorsed the obligatory or voluntary use of certain e-learning resources developed by other institutions, please indicate them below (please include URL if possible):

Most Offices have endorsed the e-learning centers of the EPO and WIPO. Some Offices have further endorsed the e-learning centers of EUIPO and STN. One office has also endorsed non IP related e-learning centers like coursera.org

5. Please indicate below your views regarding the utility of e-learning resources for the training of the patent examiners of your Office and your plans for developing policies on the use of e-learning resources²:

In the past we were convinced of personal training - Covid19 changed the situation and therefore we are planning to use also e-learning possibilities.

Online learning supports IP structured programs for patent examiners through the delivery of the IP Rights Examiner Program (IPREP). IPREP provides trainees with the required knowledge, skills and behaviors to perform their examination roles to a quality standard. E-learning resources are used heavily throughout IPREP as an interactive and 'just in time' method for training staff. E-learning is also used as a means to continuously train examination staff beyond their initial traineeship on topics such as updates to legislation, new examination practices and software navigation. E-learning allows staff to train at a pace that suits their needs and provides both a visual and written medium to help with retention of knowledge. It provides a platform to assess staff capability through questionnaires, quizzes and other assessment methods.

IP Australia has e-learning development standard in place to help guide content subject matter experts and developers in designing e-learning products. These standards ensure consistency across all teams involved in digital learning solutions from a design and content point of view.

The online courses give possibility to the examiners of the Office to get more information in learning about search, classification, opposition and other patent-related topics. It is very suitable for the practice the pre-selected combinations of available courses in accordance with

² Observations on access to and development e-learning resources are covered by Question 10.

the relevant patent-related topics, specific technical fields or legal aspects. It is comfortable to have an access the information in the suitable order for examiners' interests and level of knowledge, this comes to possibility to rise advanced or specific learning experience .

Regardless of the fact that our Office does not have established a policy on the obligatory and/or voluntary use of e-learning resources, our patent examiners use resources developed by the EPO and WIPO. We find it very useful to use e-learning resources to train our patent examiners. In the future, we will consider developing policies on the use of e-learning resources.

E-learning resources are valuable and important source of knowledge to patent examiners. It will help a lot in developing the patent search techniques, using variety of patent information databases for different fields, and assistances the quality in writing patent examinations reports. There is no obligatory to use e-learning resources for training substantive patent examiners. However, it will be an important aspect to consider.

We have not used any e-learning resources because we do not do any substantive examination and thus have no patent examiners. Nevertheless, we are looking to develop policies since we intend to do substantive examination and recruit patent examiners within 5 years' time.

Examiners currently have mandatory and voluntary e-learning courses offered through other governmental agencies, as well as at an organizational level. These courses are not for the technical training of examiners, but focus on organizational needs and competencies. CIPO is looking at different ways that e-learning resources could be utilized for certain aspects of the initial training of new examiners. However, for the time being, it is our view that the core of the examination training should remain classic, with an instructor who can answer questions and respond to learner feedback at the front of the class.

Comme pour tous les autres outils, elle mérite d'être évaluée pour évaluer l'efficacité en matière d'enseignement, surtout dans le contexte actuel d'intensification du télétravail. Nous n'avons actuellement aucun projet en cours pour élaborer un tel outil.

Estos recursos de enseñanza de la OMPI nos han servido para la formación básica, permitiéndonos complementar la formación del examinador dentro de la Oficina de Patentes.

Providing e-learning resources is an effective supplement to examiner training. We will recommend and/or provide more high-quality resources to our examiners.

Consideramos que los recursos ofrecidos son pertinentes, de alta calidad y de inmediata aplicación en las labores que deben adelantar los examinadores de patentes. Los examinadores pueden inscribirse en los cursos generales. A la fecha nos encontramos en etapa de diagnóstico y prueba de los recursos específicos como primer contacto de los nuevos examinadores con el estudio de las solicitudes de patentes.

E-learning trainings contribute to the harmonization of examiners' procedures in the Offices. The training in drafting and writing search reports/opinions, in using search tools, deepening knowledge of search tools and strategies, classification, becoming familiar with EPO practice/procedures are very important tools for a patent examiner. Today, e-learning has the advantage that patent examiners can participate without any restrictions due to the pandemic situation, time and financial costs.

Office monitors the offer of e-learning courses and webinars, and welcomes courses on current topics (AI, biotechnology ..).

The training of patent examiners at our Office is usually done via video conferences. In our views this is more suitable than using e-learning, because it facilitates the dialog between the

trainer and the patent examiners.

We are actually planning to enlarge our training program by a few e-learning resources for our patent examiners.

Generally, we use internal courses, setup by our specialist examiners. This provides the possibility to interact with colleagues and the speaker during the course. Until now – we have not used e-learning courses as a planned part of our examiner training – but we will further discuss this and look into the list of e-learning material.

E-learning resources is an essential tool for the training of the patent examiners and we inform all the examiners about such opportunities. We support and encourage examiners to use e-learning resources and we expect that it would be part of the general training but we have not plans to turn e-learning obligatory.

eLearning modules have become a very important pillar in talent development activities. This is particularly important for examiners and formalities officers, but applies in fact to the whole EPO population. While instructor-led activities continue to be important whenever specific learning goals are to be achieved, in many other situations eLearning modules prove to be the right approach.

We consider e-learning a very useful tool in patent examiner training.

Working almost 100% from home during the Corona epidemic the ILPO was compelled to use video media for training. However, those trainings consisted solely of live PPT lectures sessions.

The ILPO is of the opinion that E-Learning cannot replace live or frontal lectures since the interaction with lecturer and fellow examiners is unreplaceable.

The ILPO encourages the examiners to participate with external E-Learning programs for expanding knowledge. At this point in time the ILPO does not have plans to use e-learning resources.

E-Learning is an effective and feasible method to carry out patent examiners training improving their digital competence, and lifelong learning skills in each specific field of interest.

It presents also other kind of advantages such as saving time and money.

e-learning initiatives organized by international institutions enhance professional competences and skills of patent examiners, improve the quality of their work and favour the exchange of information with colleagues from many other countries, thus contributing to the harmonization of patent examination practices.

The JPO believes that e-learning is beneficial to patent examiners since it can be used by examiners freely, when necessary. The JPO will continue to utilize e-learning resources.

E-learning resources are useful for educations of substantive examiners and planning for education policies.

Elle est très utile, et fait d'ailleurs partie de la formation obligatoire annuelle des examinateurs pour les formations programmées par les académies annuellement. Les modules qui sont déjà enregistrées dans les liens de la réponse 4 rentrent notamment dans le programme de la formation initiale des examinateurs nouvellement recrutées

Every year our examiners very actively use the e-learning courses.

We find that possibility of adopting new knowledge via WIPO e-learning resources helps a lot in everyday work despite we have no substantial patent examination in our legal regulation but only formal. We strongly recommend and encourage our staff to take necessary steps in order to participate on webinars and deserve e-learning certificates which will be proof of self-building our office as well.

NIPO's existing policy regarding the use of external e-learning resources is that the use may constitute a great potential to supplement our in-house training of examiners on advanced and expert levels. We are aware of the Compilation of E-Learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau and inform the examiners that e-learning resources are available for them to use. Norway is an EPO member state and our legislation on substantial patent examination is harmonized with the EPC, hence we have endorsed the use of EPO's e-learning resources. During the Covid pandemic NIPO's in-house training of examiners on all levels has been moved to e-learning. All examiner training is in the form of webinars, many of them recorded for the purpose of reuse. They are all in Norwegian and only available for in-house users.

NIPO has not yet developed politics on how to proceed with e-learning after Covid, but the assumption is that e-learning will be used to a greater extent than before Covid.

We developed a learning management system which is used extensively to train our patent examiners. Have/Using e-learning resources is the major focus of our patent examining training. We have a policy of using e-learning resources from other offices including WIPO where they fit into our learning curriculum.

E-learning resources are timely and reliable source of capacity building materials as face-to-face learning opportunities are not possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. In relation to this, our office is exploring Moodle, as our Learning Management System (LMS), which will be used as the platform for online courses catered to specific group of learners once the software is developed in our server. We intend to include selected list of e-learning resources in our Moodle site as we create courses as part of our tutorial sessions.

Patent examiners in the Republic of Serbia actively participate in trainings primarily organized by the European Patent Office, as well as WIPO trainings. Some areas of online training are very useful and more accessible to a larger number of examiners, so this is main advantage of online courses. But, on the other hand workshops where particular cases are in question and training relating search the state of art, requires direct communication between examiners and lecturers, so this type of training certainly has better quality when held live.

The distance learning courses are particularly important for our Office's substantive patent examiners taking into account the measures imposed to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, examiners' training is one of the key aspects within the internal education program that covers, inter alia, the following topics:

- Practical questions of examination of applications for inventions, utility models and trademarks;*
- Studying current normative documents;*
- Particularities of examination of applications for identical inventions and/or utility models filed by the same applicant with the same priority date;*
- Verifying compliance with content requirements for formulas of inventions and utility models;*
- Analyzing results of the Patent Disputes Chamber decisions on objections submitted against registered patents and utility models;*
- Conducting substantive examination of the applications filed under the procedure for the international registration of industrial designs, etc.*

The distance learning courses play an important role in both initial and further on-work training of our examiners. The e-learning resources also assist the examiners in deepening their knowledge and skills in particular topics, especially those who just joined the IP Office within the one-year Trainee-Examiner Program. During this program, all the trainees receive the professional assistance and advice of qualified examiners.

The use of e-learning resources as a means for blended learning allows more efficient use of trainer time. At present, e-learning resources are administered during the initial training phase for new hires.

IPO SR considers e-learning resources as a beneficial education tool.

Such courses are considered additions to primary training conducted by senior examiners and legal personnel. External e-learning resources are not necessarily keyed to national law and the resources available to the examiners but they are instructive. This training is supplemented by study visits and on-site training by trainers brought in to conduct case-work training.

We would be interested in the long-term plan for this compilation of eLearning resources, and the future of any reporting requirements for member states.

e-Learning resources has completely transformed the way in which learning is imparted to learners. Unlike traditional method of teaching, e-Learning makes learning simpler, easier, more effective and convenient. Examiners can actually make use of e-Learning to enhance their knowledge via interesting topics/classes anytime and anywhere they want. Another benefit of e-Learning resources is that, the sources is well-orientated and well-structured, allowing examiners to adopt self-paced method to design their own learning experience, not only at their own pace, but according to their own interests and learning preferences. As the above-mentioned benefits, developing policies on the use of e-learning resources is necessary. Examiners might be required to accomplish certain e-learning classes to obtain basic foundation concepts. Subsequently, they are able to be encouraged to attend advanced e-learning classes for some work related essential skills and knowledge.

We use certain e-learning courses provided by the European Patent Office (EPO). These are accessed on a case by case basis. We would however like to develop our own e-learning materials which align to our law and practice.

We are exploring the conversion of our training materials to electronic content, so that they can be accessed in a more coordinated and efficient manner. We have been in discussion with WIPO on the use of the Moodle tool, to develop a competency based system for training of examiners.

E-learning is very useful and helpful to develop skill in patent examination for both newly recruited and experienced examiners. Also, e-learning enables the patent examiners to set their own learning pace and there's the added flexibility of setting a schedule that fits everyone's agenda. Moreover, online learning course is also flexible for each trainee's individual requirements and ability level.

Development of and access to e-learning resources for training of substantive patent examiners

6. Has your Office developed e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at your Office?

- Yes, our Office developed all of the e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at our Office: **5 responses** (AU, EP, NZ, UK*, US)
- Yes, our Office developed some but not all of the e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at our Office: **11 responses** (AZ, CA, CN, JP*, KR, MD*, NO, PH, RU, SG, VN*)
- No: **27 responses** (AM*, AT, BA*, BG, BH, BN*, CA, CL, CO*, CZ, DE, DK, EE*, HR, HU, IL, IT, MA*, ME*, MX, PL, RS, SK, TH, TT, WS, ZA*)

7. If your answer to Question 6 was Yes, are the e-learning resources developed by your Office accessible through the internet for external users (for example examiners of other Offices)?

- Yes, the e-learning resources are accessible for anybody without prior registration: **1 response** (US)
- Yes, the e-Learning resources are accessible for anybody after prior registration (only for identification of the user): **3 responses** (AZ, JP*, MD*)
- Yes, access to the e-learning resources is however controlled (not accessible for anybody; access is only possible after individual selection/nomination of learners and/or after payment of a fee): **2 responses** (EP, KR)
- No: **10 responses** (AU, CA, CN, NO, NZ, PH, RU, SG, UK*, VN)

8. If your answer to Question 6 was Yes, please indicate below those e-learning resources developed by your Office that are accessible for external users and that are not yet listed in the Compilation of e-Learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau:

The present period the Agency is carrying out the development of e-learning resources where the important topics related to the substantive examination are taken into account.

<https://www.inapi.cl/aprende-de-propiedad-industrial/cursos-y-talleres-en-linea>

Un projet d'une formation en ligne sur la rédaction de demande de brevet d'invention destinée aux examinateurs est en cours d'élaboration.

*Our Office has developed an e-learning course „How are intellectual property rights protected in the Republic of Moldova?“ This course is only in Romanian, free of charge, tutored and a certificate is granted after the final exam. It is available at:
<http://elearning.agepi.gov.md/login/index.php>*

For training new patent examiners, we are currently making use of our online resource, namely GLASSHOUSE, which is resulted from IP AUSTRALIA - IP VIETNAM cooperation. Such an resource is however for purpose of internal training, external users therefore are not allowed to access the resource.

9. Do you have any observations on the Compilation of e-learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau (https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=469361), for example, items missing, editorial aspects, etc.?

It is a useful resource. However, it is noted that most of the topics observed required very little engagement from the participant (rather just watch, read or listen). Of those accessible, very few adopted a blended learning approach to appease most learning styles. There was also very little interactivity to reinforce learning through quizzes, gamification etc.

The Compilation of e-Learning Resources covers almost all aspects but because the substantive examiners have different level of experience we suggest here introduction of information for the expected level of knowledge for the respective training course.

One of our worries is the accessibility of these resources. Because CIPO does not have control over the availability and content, it is difficult to predict when these resources will be updated and possibly considerably changed, or when they will be taken offline by the publishing office.

Therefore, recommending the use of these resources, especially if they are mandatory for examiners, is difficult without knowing the lifespan of the original material.

We do not have much of an overview of e-learning materials, as we have not been using it much. However – the list may be very useful to us in order to start up the use of such learning material as a supplement to standard courses.

Se ha revisado la compilación de recursos de enseñanza a distancia y se observa como un buen recurso para implementar cursos de los que no se tenía conocimiento y que se adicionarán a los que ya se utilizaban en la capacitación de los examinadores de patentes del IMPI.

Placing in one place a list of on-line learning conducted by various institutions is very useful for patent examiners who would like to deepen their knowledge and skills.

The Compilation is comprehensive.

We are familiar with some of the resources listed. We will gladly explore the other offerings listed.

The Compilation looks great. Please keep up the great work.

Thank you to WIPO Academy and Patent and Technology Sector for all these available resources for patent examiners.

It is a useful start for any office that has the intention of developing its own e-learning platform for training of its examiners. It is noted that national patent laws differ in some respects, but the majority of practices, especially where they are informed by treaty. In this regard, the e-learning materials compiled by the International Bureau can be used as a platform for developing our own materials.

10. Do you have any observations or suggestions regarding availability, access and development of e-learning resources, for example, topics missing among currently available e-learning resources, support needed for developing, deploying or accessing such resources, options for cooperation and sharing,?

The opportunity to access other IP office e-learning examination products would be highly beneficial to ensure we are aligning to best practice online training techniques, ensuring quality in IP training internationally and leveraging content, design approaches and assessment methods. It would also be beneficial to see how other offices are breaking away from traditional e-learning 'module' thinking to encompass more holistic online learning practices such as podcasts, videos, webinars etc.

It would be very informative to develop the special programs aimed to familiarize examiners conducting substantive examination with the solution of controversial issues related to determination of the patentability of an object and the objective difficulties examiners are faced in the examination process.

In current very complicated situation with the COVID 19 our Office as a central budgeted organization need 100 % financial support for developing, deploying or accessing such resources.

La balance entre les « coûts » et « le retour sur l'investissement » doit être pris en considération. L'équilibre n'est pas la même selon la taille de l'office concerné.

Vemos con interés las actividades de formación que la OMPI ha generado con algunas Oficinas en línea este último tiempo y que han ayudado a la formación y/o reactualización de conocimientos de los examinadores, y en donde hemos participado. Estas actividades sin embargo requieren interacción entre los participantes y un sistema de tutorías con reuniones en línea en forma periódica de acuerdo al programa, y por ende no obedecen meramente a un curso en línea alojado en una plataforma.

No tenemos comentarios al respecto. Consideramos que los temas establecidos cubren las expectativas de enseñanza básica para examinadores y tienen buen alcance en los temas que están siendo tendencia en el sector de las patentes.

We welcome other topics, such as specific cases of pharmaceutical inventions: in vivo vs in vitro methods connected with collecting body fluids/samples (diagnostic methods), methods for determine a risk of a specific disease.

Extension of free access for all National Offices.

Enhanced use of interactive resources.

Focus required also on relevant technical fields other than AI and healthcare, such as automotive, building, agriculture, food.

We find it useful to keep up-to-date, perhaps once a month, with new e-learning resources in order to consider and plan our activities if we estimate it valuable.

There has been an increase in number and themes of available e-learning training for examiners at the advanced and expert level and this is highly appreciated.

One aspect of training that might be interesting as e-learning is workshops for discussions between examiners on specific topics. E.g. the EPO collaborates with its member states on physical meetings for this purpose, the P07 projects. It would be interesting if informal discussions between examiners on specific topics could be arranged as e-learning.

For e-learning opportunities that have controlled access, we will appreciate any information on how we could contact the agency for a possible collaboration.

Areas where information is presented in an easily accessible form for examiners – e.g. traditional knowledge, folklore etc.

E-learning is definitely a great tool to enhance knowledge. It is therefore important to encourage learners, including patent examiners, to make use of that properly and effectively. This can be made by cooperation or agreement.

Internet connection in Samoa is fairly good so there should be no issues with access. But we do note that there is no mention of face to face training specifically for IP Offices and Patent examiners. The current list is practical for those offices with some understanding or experience with IP but for countries that are new to patent like Samoa, would really need face to face training to boost their understanding and grow their patent registry in right direction. Samoa has benefitted greatly from a current arrangement organized by the PCT International Cooperation Division and we now have some sense of direction on where Samoa should take her patent registry triggering a number of other collaborations with WIPO i.e. Resource and Management Diagnostics by the regional division for ASPAC.

1. Interesting subjects related to patent systems, such as patent applications, patent searches, and patent drafting should be categorized. 2. Format of instructional media, such as video clips on filing patent applications, should be interesting to attract learners' attention. In addition, handout used for teaching should summarize the interesting points.

Incentives for using e-learning resources

11. Are your examiners permitted to use part of their working time for voluntary e-learning?

- Yes: **36 responses** (AM*, AT, AU, AZ, BA*, BG, CA, CH, CL, CN, CZ, DK, EE*, EP, HR, HU, IL, IT, KR, MA*, MD*, ME*, MX, NO, NZ, PH, PL, RS, SG, SK, TH, TT, UK*, US, WS, ZA*)
- No: **7 responses** (DE, BH, BN*, CO*, JP*, RU, VN*)

12. Has your Office put in place any other incentives for the voluntary use e-learning resources?

- Yes: **8 responses** (AU, AZ, BG, EP, MA*, IL, PH, RU)
- No: **35 responses** (AM*, AT, BA*, BH, BN*, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO*, CZ, DE, DK, EE*, HR, HU, IT, JP*, KR, MD*, ME*, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RS, SG, SK, TH, TT, UK*, US, VN*, WS, ZA*)

13. If your answer to the Question 12 was Yes, please indicate below which incentives have been put in place?

Trainees participating in IPREP at IP Australia progress through 3 stages of competency based training over a 2 year period. Each stage includes a suite of learning (face to face, e-learning, on the job) that must be completed and assessed as competent before progressing to the next stage of the program and being advanced to a higher pay point.

Other than our structured trainee programs, no incentivisation has been put in place for other e-learning products across the agency.

Examiners who successfully complete the relevant training courses are given the opportunity to improve their qualifications and practical level of knowledge, with the provision of an opportunity to participate in departmental competitions for taking the next position in rank, meanwhile is taken into account the practical work of the examiner himself in the performance of his specific official duties.

Under our cooperation agreement with EPO our patent examiners have opportunities to participate in trainings organized by EPO Academy.

Learning is a very important task for all employees and part of the performance goals.

The ILPO recognizes the time spend on learning as part of the paid working hours and participation also is considered a contributing factor to the amount of the incentive pay.

Prise en compte de l'autoformation des examinateurs dans le ur évaluation annuelle.

For courses which are very challenging and require much time to meet the requirements, our office grants reasonable reduction on monthly targets.

The active participation of the examiners in learning programs, including e-learning, is taken into account when considering the promotion of an employee, including high-level and leadership positions.

Other

14. Do you have any other observations or suggestions regarding the use of e-learning resources, for example, assessing success of learning, certification of successful participation, WIPO's role in facilitating the use of or access to e-learning resources,?

IP Australia conducts regular surveys and feedback sessions with IPREP trainees, trainers and developers to gauge eLearning effectiveness. We also use a quality management system to log any e-learning errors (system and content) and regular program reviews are undertaken to ensure our online learning products align with current practice and adopt the latest in adult learning and design principles.

Generally the e-learning system for the patent examiners in the learning process is considered very convenient and productive. The used system of self-assessments and assessments of learning success provides high effectiveness where learners have opportunity to demonstrate certain knowledge and skills.

We really think that assessing of the level of knowledge is a very important element for inclusion in the training course as well as in the end of the course for the lesson learnt. Additionally we think that every course should also include evaluation form for recommendations and suggestions for the content, materials, presentations etc.

Valoramos el esfuerzo de OMPI respecto de la generación de recursos de enseñanza a distancia tanto para nuestros examinadores y funcionarios como usuarios, y apoyamos cualquier iniciativa al respecto, así como la generación de talleres o actividades para las Oficinas que se hagan en forma remota.

Certification of successful participation is a good motivation.

Certification of successful participation would be a useful feedback for the participants and also for our office.

The ILPO, as part of the annual feedback encouraged its patent examiners to participate in E-Learning courses for personal development.

E-learning resources would be more useful if they are prepared in various languages.

We find that rewarding it would be a good move and that it would somehow encourage more participants.

Rospatent's examiners are actively participating in WIPO distance learning programs. We have no further comments or suggestions.

WIPO e-learning center provides a wide-ranging portfolio of IP courses which have been useful in the continuous learning of Patent Examiners and having access to these resources is greatly appreciated.

Certification of successful participation would certainly be useful for our Human Resource department and is already available on some platforms.

We would be interested in the long-term plan for this compilation of eLearning resources, and the future of any reporting requirements for member states.

Certification of successful participation of certain e-Learnings might be minimum requirement to attend trainings and/or workshops provided by WIPO in order to drive patent examiners to take use of online resources.

The IP Registry Office of Samoa has benefitted greatly from face to face weekly training by PCT International Cooperation Division. We feel that these interactive sessions have helped us greatly in term of expediting our knowledge and understanding of the Patent framework. This is important for small offices like Samoa with no patent expertise. We fully support and encourage such arrangements with member countries. We feel therefore that such arrangements should be part of this list of resources and contact options to benefit comparable patent registry offices.

E-learning courses are a useful tool to enable structured learning. Particularly for offices such as South Africa that will in due course embark on Substantive Search and Examination for the first time. Having structured learning and predetermined learning outcomes will enable us to have a more organized, outcomes based training.

ANNEX TO CIRCULAR C. PCT 1620

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE USE OF E-LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THE TRAINING OF SUBSTANTIVE PATENT EXAMINERS

The availability of e-learning resources has steadily increased over recent years and particular resources have become more sophisticated. Various Offices have engaged in the development of e-learning resources as part of their efforts to develop a training infrastructure for new recruits and experienced examiners. While resources developed by IP institutions usually cover core competencies of patent examiners, other (non-IP) institutions have developed other e-learning facilities catering not exclusively to patent examiners but addressing skills useful for examiners as well, for example, technology specific skills such as searching dedicated databases for bio-sequences.

Examples of e-learning resources, which can be accessed through the internet, can be found in a Compilation of e-Learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau at https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=469361. The section of the sheet, 'Specific e-Learning resources' of the Compilation, illustrates a variety of topics currently covered; within this section, column D indicates different types of e-learning resources (media), and column F, the variety of access options.

When answering the questions, please note:

This questionnaire covers only e-learning resources that are suitable for the training of technical competencies of patent examiners and not for the training of behavioral or organizational competencies.

For the purpose of this Questionnaire, reading materials for self-study, which are downloadable from intranet or internet sites, are not considered as e-learning resources, even though some have been included in the Compilation.

An electronic Word copy of the Annex, which facilitates the filling in through some automated features, is available from the WIPO website at <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/circulars>.

Responding Office:

Name of contact person:

Position:

Email address:

Questions

Obligatory or recommended (voluntary) use of e-learning for the training of substantive patent examiners

1. Has your Office established a policy on the obligatory and/or voluntary use of e-learning resources for the training of substantive patent examiners of your Office?

- Yes
- No, there is no policy yet on the use of e-learning resources (please skip Questions 2, 3, and 4, and go to Question 5)

2. If your answer to Question 1 was Yes: Is the use of e-learning resources an **obligatory** part of the training of substantive patent examiners of your Office (e-learning resources developed by your Office or by other institutions or a combination of both)?

- Yes, use of certain e-learning resources is an obligatory part of the initial training of newly recruited examiners³
- Yes, use of certain e-learning resources is an obligatory part of the further vocational training of examiners after the initial training¹
- No

3. If your answer to Question 1 was Yes: Does your Office expressly recommend to the examiners of your Office **voluntary** use of particular e-learning resources (e-learning resources developed by your Office, by other institutions, or a combination of both)?

- Yes, our Office recommends use of particular e-learning resources endorsed by our Office (please go to Question 4)
- Yes, our Office recommends the voluntary use of e-learning resources in general without endorsing particular e-learning resources (please skip Question 4 and go to Question 5)
- No (please skip Question 4 and go to Question 5)

³ Use of further e-learning resources may be voluntary.

4. If your Office has endorsed the obligatory or voluntary use of certain e-learning resources developed by other institutions, please indicate them below (please include URL if possible):

[Click here to enter text.](#)

5. Please indicate below your views regarding the utility of e-learning resources for the training of the patent examiners of your Office and your plans for developing policies on the use of e-learning resources⁴:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Development of and access to e-learning resources for training of substantive patent examiners

6. Has your Office developed e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at your Office?

- Yes, our Office developed all of the e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at our Office
- Yes, our Office developed some but not all of the e-learning resources used for the training of patent examiners at our Office
- No

6. If your answer to Question 6 was Yes, are the e-learning resources developed by your Office accessible through the internet for external users (for example examiners of other Offices)?

- Yes, the e-learning resources are accessible for anybody without prior registration
- Yes, the e-learning resources are accessible for anybody after prior registration (only for identification of the user)
- Yes, access to the e-learning resources is however controlled (not accessible for anybody; access is only possible after individual selection/nomination of learners and/or after payment of a fee)
- No

⁴ Observations on access to and development e-learning resources are covered by Question 10.

8. If your answer to Question 6 was Yes, please indicate below those e-learning resources developed by your Office that are accessible for external users and that are not yet listed in the Compilation of e-Learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

7. Do you have any observations on the Compilation of e-Learning Resources prepared by the International Bureau (https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=469361), for example, items missing, editorial aspects, etc.?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

8. Do you have any observations or suggestions regarding availability, access and development of e-learning resources, for example, topics missing among currently available e-learning resources, support needed for developing, deploying or accessing such resources, options for cooperation and sharing,?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Incentives for using e-learning resources

9. Are your examiners permitted to use part of their working time for voluntary e-learning?

Yes

No

10. Has your Office put in place any other incentives for the voluntary use e-learning resources?

Yes

No

13. If your answer to the Question 12 was Yes, please indicate below which incentives have been put in place?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Other

11. Do you have any other observations or suggestions regarding the use of e-learning resources, for example, assessing success of learning, certification of successful participation, WIPO's role in facilitating the use of or access to e-learning resources,?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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