

Intellectual Property Training Program for Diplomats and Trade Officials



The Intellectual Property Training Program for Diplomats and Trade Officials (IPDTO) equips those tasked with shaping the global intellectual property (IP) system and serving at the forefront of discussions and deliberations at international organizations with the knowledge and skills required to navigate the IP landscape.

The IPDTO offers member states customized IP training for diplomats and trade officials, as well as institutional support to enable regular and sustained IP training.

The program is delivered by the WIPO Academy in cooperation with national diplomatic training institutions, experienced national diplomats, and IP experts.

The content of the training is tailored for diplomats and trade officials to explore the utility of IP as a development tool at the national level while relating IP to contemporary global issues. Capacity-building activities focusing on training the trainers will enable national diplomatic training institutions to integrate comprehensive and replicable IP training into the curricula of diplomats and trade officials. Through IPDTO, networks for diplomats and trade officials are facilitated to support knowledge exchange about IP.

Program Framework

The IPDTP is a sustainable training program focused on meeting national IP training needs and priorities through the training of diplomats, trade officials, as well as national experts and trainers within the national diplomatic training institutions. The program has four key elements:

Planning & National Dialogue

The IPDTP starts with discussions between WIPO Academy and the national diplomatic institutions, culminating in a National IP Forum. In particular, a seminar is held with the national diplomatic training institute and senior diplomats from beneficiary member states to:

- identify national priorities through a needs assessment;
- select national IP experts, diplomats and trade officials for trainings;
- customize the training content for national contexts; and
- survey the prospective participants.

IP Training

The program adopts a blended learning format over two successive phases of training, combining an online course on the WIPO eLearning Center with an in-person IP masterclass.

Phase 1: An online Specialized Course on IP for Diplomats and Trade Officials – on the fundamentals of IP including international IP treaties and emerging IP issues. The course features expert-led discussion forums, live lectures by IP experts and self-assessment exercises.

Phase 2: An in-person IP masterclass – held at the national diplomatic training institutions addressing the linkages between IP, development and national challenges. The interactive masterclass is delivered by WIPO-trained IP experts, diplomats and trade officials and includes group discussions and activities. The content of the IP masterclass features national laws and policies relevant to IP.

Training of Trainers

Training to develop and enhance the capacity of national experts and experienced diplomats equipped to conduct regular and specialized IP training for diplomats and trade officials in beneficiary member states.

Networking and Follow-up Training

A dedicated virtual networking space for national diplomatic training institutions is established comprising access to WIPO Academy's advanced online courses, ad-hoc IP seminars and workshops, the latest updates and events from WIPO, and curated resources on IP.

The IPDTO is open to all WIPO member states. Interested member states should address formal requests to the WIPO Academy at IPDTO.academy@wipo.int. Requests are carefully examined, taking into account the availability of resources and regional balance.

A work plan and timelines for delivery of training will be established based on discussions and outcomes of the National IP Forum. A designated focal point and national consultant will be appointed by the beneficiary member states to facilitate the implementation of the training program. Participating diplomatic institutions will also benefit from WIPO Academy's Virtual IP Network for Diplomatic Institutes.

For further information, please visit the IPDTO webpage:

