

## **Questionnaire on the Term “Quality of Patents” and Cooperation between Patent Offices in Search and Examination**

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The answers to this questionnaire have been provided on behalf of:

Country: **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Office: **Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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**Q1** Various aspects may be relevant to the concept of “quality of patents”. It may relate to, for example, quality of patent procedures and management in the office, quality of search and examination, quality of granted patents or quality of a patent system. In addition, the expression “quality of patents” may be understood differently depending on the perspectives of various stakeholders, for example, the perspectives of a patent office, an applicant etc.

How does your office understand the term “quality of patents”?

- A. Term “Quality of patent” understands when formal and substantive patent examination is correct with as less as possible error in procedure.

**Q2** What types of cooperation with other patent offices does your office have with respect to search and examination?

Those types of cooperation may include, for example, access to documents/databases of other offices, use of search and examination work products, expertise and resources available in other offices, collaborative search and examination, outsourcing search and examination etc.

- A. In search and examination area Institute’s patent examiners cooperate with AT, HR, RS, RO, SI Offices and use free of charge database, which is available on website.

**Q3** When performing prior art search, patent examiners prepare search strategies and queries (for example, indications of databases and publications, classification codes, search terms and key words used) to find relevant prior art.

Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search strategies and queries with other collaborating offices?

A. Institute does not share or exchange search queries and search and examination with other offices.

**Q4.** In order to facilitate the cooperation, what kinds of platforms and tools to share information on search and examination are available in your office? Such platforms and tools include, for example, WIPO CASE, databases allowing other offices to retrieve information and external databases used to retrieve information.

- (i) Platforms and tools provided by your office
- (ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

A. Institute does not provide platforms and tools (such as WIPO CASE and databases) in order to share information on search and examination.

**Q5.** What are the impacts of such cooperation in the area of search and examination to your office? If your office has different types of cooperation and each type of cooperation has different impacts, please indicate them separately.

A. Institute bilateral cooperate with other offices and exchange experience and best practice, but we do not have platforms and tools to share information.

**Q6.** What kinds of capacity building are required for different types of cooperation between patent offices in search and examination? Please indicate any specific capacity building needs to conduct such cooperation successfully.

In this context, the capacity building is understood to refer to various activities and trainings that support development of knowledge and skills of office employees for effective cooperation between offices in search and examination.

A. –Institute needs software for the sharing information, technical support and appropriate training on this point, such as:

- Training in field of search and substantive examination
- Training in SPC
- News in PCT and PCT/EPO rote

[End of Questionnaire]