

**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: El Salvador.....  
Office: National Registration Center (CNR), Department of Industrial Property  
Registration.....

Person to be contacted:

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Q1. How does your office understand the term “quality of patents”?

**“Quality of patents” is understood to be when an invention meets the patentability requirements set forth in national legislation. These requirements depend on an effective substantive examination, specifically with respect to the international search to establish the prior art. It is also understood that the quality of patents also depends on the response times of the Registry, that is, the time it takes to grant a patent. On this point, the CNR has a Quality Management System in accordance with the international standard ISO 9001:2008 and the Letter of Services to the User, which establishes that the time to conduct examinations of inventions should not exceed six months. Likewise, one of the points included in user satisfaction surveys is the “quality of decisions” which includes user evaluations of the Registrar’s statements, resolutions or decisions. The decision of the registry official to grant or refuse a patent depends on the technical report of the substantive examination, which includes details of the examination of novelty, inventive step, industrial application, clarity and sufficiency of the description and unity of the invention, as well as the conclusions, observations and recommendations of the examiner, together with the documents relating to the prior art. Each technical report is subject to evaluation by the Registrar, in order to comply with the Quality Management System requirements. In terms of legal support, there is an established obligation on the part of the applicant to expressly request in writing the substantive examination at any stage of the process, but no later than six months from the date of publication of the application in the Official Gazette.**

Q2. What experiences does your office have with respect to cooperation with other patent offices in the area of search and examination?

**We have an agreement with the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI); we can access the Support System for the Management of Patent Applications for Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic (CADOPAT).**

Q3. When performing on-line prior art search, patent examiners prepare a set of search queries to find relevant prior art. Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search queries with other offices?

**No.**

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

**Use of the of the Support System for the Management of Patent Applications for Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic (CADOPAT).**

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

**The processing of the patent application is expedited and based on the reports issued by the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property, for the production of our own technical report in accordance with national legislation.**

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

**Exchange of technical tools and experience among personnel specialized in patent search and examination; access to specialized databases and continuous training programs to develop skills and update knowledge; access to portals specialized in information exchange, for example PROSUR or WIPO CASE; and the development of a secure information exchange tool concerning patent searches and examinations for the offices of the region.**

[End of Questionnaire]