

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

January 16, 2017

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

Country: ...**Georgia**.....
Office:**National Intellectual Property Center - Sakpatenti**.....

Person to be contacted:

Name:**Merab Kutsia**

Title:**Head, Dept. of Inventions and New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds**.....

E-mail:**mkutsia@sakpatenti.org.ge**.....

Telephone: ...**+995 32 2 25 25 33**.....

Facsimile:

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”?

Sakpatenti understands the term “quality of patents” in the following way: a patent is a quality patent if the corresponding search and examination has been comprehensive and thorough enough to have a solid ground for a decision to grant a patent or refuse an application. In other words quality is related to the validity of a patent.

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.

Currently Sakpatenti is accessing and using search and examination work products generated by ISAs and other DOs within the PCT system.

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?

Currently Sakpatenti does not share search strategies. However, it is planned to make it available through the online file inspection.

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

Sakpatenti plans to join WIPO CASE and SIPO's Cloud Patent Examination System (CPES).

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.

The impact of such cooperation could be the improvement of the quality of search and examination and hence of the patents.

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.

Activities and trainings targeted at explaining and popularizing why and how such cooperations and corresponding platforms can be beneficial for the offices.

[End of Questionnaire]