

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: Cote d’Ivoire
Office: Ivorian Intellectual Property Office.....

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

The quality of patents is linked to the type of search conducted as regards novelty, inventive step and industrial application.

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

The Ivorian Intellectual Property Office (OIPI), a national organization in liaison with the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), does not issue patents. Under the Bangui Agreement of March 2, 1977, the OAPI is responsible for issuing intellectual property titles. Thus, there is a cooperation project between the OAPI and the European Patent Office (EPO), not only for the recognition of patents granted by the EPO, but also for sharing the EPO’s search results.

There are other types of cooperation between the OAPI and the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC). There is cooperation in terms of training between the OIPI and OMPIC.

As concerns databases for documentary search on patents, Côte d'Ivoire, through the OIPI, has an agreement with WIPO for the creation of a Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC).

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?

The examination and issuance of patents are the exclusive preserve of the OAPI.

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

None.

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

PATENSCOPE.

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 OIPI does not conduct prior art searches or patent examinations.

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.

- capacity building on patent searches and various databases
- capacity building on the drafting of patent specifications
- capacity building on substantive patent examination.

[End of Questionnaire]