

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

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

Country: Republic of Moldova

Office: STATE AGENCY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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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"?

There is not found such a concept as "quality of patents" at the moment in our country's legislation. Under the concept of quality of patents we understand the quality of filed patent applications, quality of patent procedures including search and examination in accordance with the procedures certified by ISO 9001.

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.

The cooperation with other patent office includes the access to databases which are free of charge such as WIPO (PATENTOSCOPE), European Patent Office (EPO), Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), Rospatent, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), etc. and the use of search and examination work products offered by EPO and under the PCT.

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?

When performing the search report, patent examiners indicate the used queries in Romanian, English and Russian. The search report can be freely accessed from the national database via the official website: <http://www.db.agepi.md/inventions/Databases.aspx> or www.agepi.gov.md.

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

- (i) At the moment our office offers the platform and tools on search for the Database of Inventions of the Republic of Moldova. Our office makes an exchange of data on patent documents with the EPO (European Patent Office), EAPO (Eurasian Patent Office) and CISPATENT (regional product of patent document collections of the Commonwealth of Independent States).
- (ii) Regarding the exchange of data between IP Offices on centralized access to search and examination (WIPO CASE) our office does not participate in such exchange of data, but is willing to participate in such exchange of data.

As regards the platform and tools used by our office, it should be noted that we use the free available databases and a commercial database with effective analytical tools and non-patent literature Ambercite. The full list of all databases available to our office can be found at: <http://www.db.agepi.md/inventions/Databases.aspx>

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.

As a result of cooperation on the use of databases of other states and of commercial databases our office enhances the quality of prior art search; the obtained data can subsequently be used to determine the compliance with the conditions of patentability.

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.

To increase the potential for cooperation between IP offices from different countries it would be appropriate to organize trainings on search and examination of patent applications in terms of clarity of invention, novelty, inventive step under the auspices of WIPO and to have the possibility to send the young specialists to in-depth trainings in order to increase the level of examination and quality of patents.