

**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:

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Office: Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office .....

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

The quality of patents comes into play in several phases, in particular the following:

- Quality in search and examination: To ensure this quality, search and examination guidelines have been established and examiners are required to apply them when processing each patent application. Also, access to the EPOQUE Net platform and subscription to databases such as Elsevier and Thomson WPI are necessary to help examiners perform a good-quality search.

After examination of each patent application, quality control is conducted to ensure that search reports and opinions on patentability have been prepared in accordance with Law No. 17-97 on industrial and commercial property and research and examination guidelines.

To this end, a validation committee holds a validation meeting with the examiner to elucidate the approach followed, and thereafter the search and patentability opinion report is validated or the application is re-examined.

- Quality of the patent application once examined: a quality scale is established according to well-defined criteria: whether the application meets patentability criteria (novelty, inventive step and industrial application) and the quality of the drafting of the specification and claims (sufficiency of disclosure, based on description, clarity, etc.). This quality scale is used for semi-annual and annual statistics provided by the Office.

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

- To allow applicants to obtain patents more quickly and more efficiently, a PPH was signed with the Spanish office in June 2016. It also offers each office the opportunity to exploit the work already done by the other.

To this end, there was an exchange of examiners with the Spanish office in order to share experience and practices in patent search and examination.

- A validation system was agreed with the European Patent Office on December 17, 2010 and entered into force on March 1, 2015.
- There is an exchange of experiences and sharing of patent examination practices among the countries of the Agadir Agreement (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia).

**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.**

The office publishes the search and examination results through the publication server, which is publicly accessible through [www.patent.ompic.ma](http://www.patent.ompic.ma), the ARABPAT platform, Espacenet and Patentscope.

Membership in WIPOCASE is under consideration.

**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.**

This cooperation helps to reduce processing times for patent applications, especially for the preparation of the first deliverable, the preliminary search report and the patentability opinion. It also improves the quality of the search and examination.

**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.**

The training required for cooperation between patent offices in the area of search and examination is as follows:

- training on examination approaches used by offices;
- guidelines for examining patent applications;
- patent classification;
- exceptions and exclusions; and
- training on existing platforms for sharing search information (WIPOCASE, cloud, etc.).

[End of Questionnaire]