

**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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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”?

A patent has quality when it can pass all the examinations to which it may be subjected and those that examine patentability requirements, such as novelty, inventiveness and industrial application.

The key element in the granting of quality patents is a good report on the state of the art; an exhaustive search of the state of the art in both patent documents and non-patent literature, taking into account all geographical and linguistic fields and performed with the best search tools available.

For an office to perform an examination of better quality, the examiners should be specialized, whether through face-to-face seminars or through online seminars and distance learning courses.

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.

Our office can exchange information with the Support System for the Management of Searches and the Substantive Examination of Patent Applications for Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic (CADOPAT), established in January 2007 by the Mexican Industrial Property Institute in response to the meeting of experts in 2006, with the objective of contributing to international state of the art searches, as well as patentability reports concerning patent applications filed in all offices of the region.

Thus, with the implementation of CADOPAT, the beneficiary offices of the region have a tool that allows them to access information that is more useful, but always non-binding, when examining their own patent applications, thereby contributing in the quality of patenting processes in all offices.

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?

Our office does not as yet share search terms with other offices.

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

Website of DIGERPI

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

- a. ESPACENET
- b. PATENSCOPE
- c. USPTO
- d. OEPM
- e. LATIPAT

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 cooperation platform we use facilitates the technical work of our office in that it allows us to retrieve technical information on searches and examinations to determine the patentability of applications filed.

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.

- a. courses on the substantive examination of patents;
- b. exchange with experienced examiners from other offices to learn best practices and build mutual trust and a better understanding of examination practices;
- c. patent drafting courses; and
- d. patent classification courses.

[End of Questionnaire]