

**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”?

The term „quality of patents” is understood in our Office as granting patents for inventions which meet the statutory criteria for the grant of patents. Granted patents should provide legal certainty. The Patent Office attaches significance to the procedures applied in performing its tasks on different levels of administration, basic activities and supporting activities. In July 2011 the Office was granted the ISO 9001:2008 quality certificate. Established quality control units permanently monitor and report decisions taken by the Office.

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.

Close cooperation with the EPO, WIPO and under many bilateral agreements on cooperation with a number of national offices in the field of trainings for examiners and use of special tools. The establishment of the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI) in 2015 contributed to the increase of work involving standardization and harmonisation of search and examination among the offices of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic. Now our four Offices are working out on common practice in drafting international search reports and are preparing for applying for a joint ISO certificate.

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?

Search queries are stored in the file and made available during the quality control procedure. Our Office does not share this type of data with other authorities.

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

On our official website only search reports, bibliographic data and descriptions, claims and drawings are available.

- (i) Register Plus (<http://regserv.uprp.pl/register/simpleSearch?lng=en>)
- (ii) Global Dossier and links to the European Patent Register and national registers

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.

Cooperation with other offices has beneficial effects on the quality of patents granted by the PPO, broadens knowledge and experience of examiners, contributes to development of good practices in search and examination.

Our Office maintains cooperation within Bilateral Cooperation Program with the EPO. Within the framework of PPH – we cooperate with SIPO, JPO, USPTO, KIPO; since 6 January 2017 Poland has been a member of the GPPH; within the framework of the Visegrad Patent Institute we cooperate, as an ISA/IPEA with the offices of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovak Republic.

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.

The Office ensures the quality of granted patents by means of, among others, training programs for patent examiners, providing tools and access to databases enabling searches in the prior art to be conducted in an efficient manner, cooperation and exchange of information with other Office within the framework of PPH i GPPH.

[End of Questionnaire]