

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

August 31, 2017

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

Country: **Slovak Republic**

Office: **Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic**

Person to be contacted:

Name: *Ms Alena Petkova*

Title: *expert, International Affairs*

E-mail: alena.petkova@indprop.gov.sk

Telephone: *+421 48 43 00 120*

Facsimile: *+421 48 41 32 563*

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”?

In view of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic there are two main indicators of the quality of patents:

- *compliance of invention protected by patent with statutory requirements for patentability and*
- *timeliness and cost-efficiency of the process of patent granting.*

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.

None.

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?

The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic keeps records concerning the search strategies, including records of search queries used when performing on-line prior art searches, only for internal purposes (mainly for the purposes of assessment of the quality of the performed searches). It neither shares nor exchanges these records 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

None

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

None

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 stated in answer to question 1, for the time being the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic does not cooperate with other patent offices in the area of search and examination.

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.

No proposals.

[End of Questionnaire]