

***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:

Country:**the Republic of Tajikistan**.....

Office:.....**the National Center for Patents and Information under the Ministry of economic
development and trade of the Republic of Tajikistan**.....

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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 no legal term "patent quality" in the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan. Nevertheless, by patent quality we understand the capacity of a granted patent to meet the statutory standards of patentability - most importantly, to be novel, nonobvious, and clearly and sufficiently described.

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.

Due to a lack of information funds, our office does not perform prior art search. Our patent office concluded an agreement with the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property (ROSPATENT). According to that agreement, we send a copy of the application to ROSPATENT and receive a search report, which we use in examination for novelty.

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 perform prior art search (see the answer to Q2).

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

We use the Eurasian Patent Information System (EAPATIS), which supports over 40 constantly updated patent information databases including world, regional and national patent documentation collections, as well as PCT minimum documentation states.

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 with ROSPATENT allows us to conduct examination for novelty at the highest level taking into account the fact that ROSPATENT is the International Searching Authority under the PCT.

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.

All the workflow in our office is on paper. In order to cooperate with other offices and exchange information by electronic means we need to launch a paperless office and accordingly to train our examiners to work in an electronic workflow environment.

[End of Questionnaire]