

WIPO PROJECT EVALUATION:

Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System

Inception Report

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1. Introduction

This document is an inception report for the evaluation of the WIPO project Increasing the Role of Women in Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Encouraging Women in Developing Countries to Use the Intellectual Property System. This document outlines the purpose, objectives, strategy, methodology and work plan of the evaluation. The final report will be based on this inception report, pending approval from WIPO.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The main purpose of this evaluation is to assess implementation of the project and its overall performance. This will feed into the decision-making process of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP).

The main objective of this evaluation is two-fold:

1. Learning from experience during project implementation: what worked well and what did not work well for the benefit of continued activities in the field. This includes assessing the project design framework, project management, including monitoring and reporting tools, as well as measuring and reporting on results achieved to date and assessing the likelihood of sustainability of results achieved.
2. Providing evidence-based evaluation information to support CDIP's decision-making process.

In particular, the evaluation will assess the extent to which the project has been instrumental in

- (a) Gaining a better understanding of the problems faced by women inventors and innovators in using the IP system for creating IP based businesses and identifying possible solutions.
- (b) Identifying mechanisms for providing more targeted support to women inventors and innovators to enable them to make more effective use of the IP system.
- (c) Creating Women Innovator Resource Centers ("WIRCs") that would provide relevant IP and related support services to women inventors and innovators in an "all women" environment. Such services could include patent search, locating partners, allocating mentors, preliminary legal advice, conducting outreach to universities and research centers as well as schools to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and the relevance of IP to these fields.
- (d) Establishing or expanding a network of women inventors and entrepreneurs that will provide continuous support to inventors and innovators in the country or region. Organizing regular national and/or regional networking events for women inventors and innovators.

- (e) Establishing or expanding Women’s IP mentorship programs that would provide mentoring to new inventors and innovators in the country or region, as well as outreach to schools and universities.
- (f) Establishing or expanding a legal support program for women inventors in order to assist them with protecting their IP in the country or region.
- (g) Creating a toolkit and/or a compilation of best practices/lessons learned in order to assist other countries to establish or expand women innovator support programs.

3. Evaluation Strategy

- The evaluation will take a participatory approach and involve all relevant stakeholders in the different steps of the evaluation, as far as feasible.
- The information and data will be gathered from multiple sources using different research methods in order to be able to triangulate and cross-reference the results drawn.
- The evaluation will address questions of project design and management (“what worked?”) and effectiveness (“what was achieved?”). Moreover, it will include questions on the likelihood of sustainability of the results achieved, as well as the project’s contribution to the implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations 1, 10, 12, 19 and 31. This will directly support meeting the above-mentioned objectives.

4. Evaluation Framework

Theme and questions	Proposed indicators	Data collection tools	Sources of information
Project design and management			
1. Appropriateness of the initial project document as a guide for project implementation and assessment of results achieved.	Modifications required during the implementation of the project	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
2. The project monitoring, self-evaluation and reporting tools and analysis of whether they were useful and adequate to provide the project team and key stakeholders with relevant information for decision-making purposes.	Level of usefulness of monitoring and reporting tools	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
3. The extent to which other entities within the Secretariat have contributed and enabled an	Number of WIPO units involved in the project and their contribution	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders

Theme and questions	Proposed indicators	Data collection tools	Sources of information
effective and efficient project implementation.			
4. The extent to which the risks identified in the initial project document have materialized or been mitigated.	Type of risks encountered during project implementation and how they were addressed	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
5. The project's ability to respond to emerging trends, technologies and other external forces.	Level of ability of the project to respond to emerging trends, technologies and external factors	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
Effectiveness			
1. The effectiveness of the project in gaining a better understanding of the extent and scope of problems faced by women inventors and innovators and possible solutions gained.	Level of effectiveness in gaining a better understanding of the extent and scope of problems faced by women inventors and innovators and possible solutions	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
2. The effectiveness of the project in identifying mechanisms for providing more targeted support to women inventors and innovators to enable them to make more effective use of the IP system.	Level of effectiveness in identifying mechanisms for targeted support to women inventors	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
3. The effectiveness of the project in creating Women Innovator Resource Centers ("WIRCs"), aiming to provide relevant IP and related support services to women inventors and innovators in an "all-women" environment.	Level of effectiveness in creating Women Innovator Resource Centers	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
4. The effectiveness of the project in establishing or expanding a network of women inventors and entrepreneurs that will provide continuous support to inventors and innovators in the country or region, including through organization of regular national and/or regional networking events	Level of effectiveness in establishing/ expanding a network of women inventors and entrepreneurs for continuous support	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders

Theme and questions	Proposed indicators	Data collection tools	Sources of information
for women inventors and innovators.			
5. The effectiveness of the project in establishing or expanding Women's IP mentorship programs, aiming to provide mentoring to new inventors and innovators in the country or region, as well as outreach to schools and universities	Level of effectiveness in establishing/ expanding Women's IP mentorship programs	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
6. The effectiveness of the project in establishing or expanding a legal support program for women inventors in order to assist them with protecting their IP in the country or region.	Level of effectiveness in establishing/ expanding a legal support program for women inventors	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
7. The effectiveness and usefulness of the outputs developed in the context of the project, including the review of the existing literature on the situation of women inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs, catalog of best practices and collection of a set of individual stories of women inventors and innovators, national situation reports for each of the pilot countries, training materials, as well as a toolkit to be used for conducting a similar project in other countries.	Level of effectiveness and usefulness of the project's outputs developed	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
Sustainability			
1. The likelihood of continuation of work on the use of the IP system as an effective tool to promote participation of women inventors and innovators in the national innovation system, by supporting them to protect and commercialize their inventions.	Likelihood of continuation of use of the IP system to promote participation of women inventors and innovators	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders
Implementation of Development Agenda (DA) Recommendations			
1. The extent to which the DA Recommendations 1, 10, 12, 19, and 31 have been implemented through this project.	Extent to which the DA Recommendations	Document review Interviews	WIPO staff External stakeholders

Theme and questions	Proposed indicators	Data collection tools	Sources of information
	have been implemented		

4.1 Evaluation Tools

The research tools will be used across the different themes and questions. The following table provides further information on these tools and how they will be deployed.

Tool	Description	Information source
<i>Interviews – internal</i>	Some 8 semi-structured interviews or small group discussions	<i>By videocall:</i> WIPO Secretariat staff, including: - DA Coordination Division - IP for Business Division - Office of the Deputy Director General, Patents and Technology Sector - Human Resources Management Department - External Relations Division
<i>Interviews – external</i>	Some 15-20 semi-structured interviews or small group discussions	<i>By videocall:</i> - National focal points in the 4 beneficiary countries: Mexico, Uganda, Oman and Pakistan - mentors and mentees - Permanent Missions and IP Offices
<i>Document review</i>	Review of main documentation	WIPO project documentation, including project framework, progress reports, monitoring information, other relevant reports and documents

The list of persons to be interviewed will be agreed upon jointly with WIPO.

The interview questions (see the Annex for a list of topics to be covered) will be slightly adapted according to the interview partner and his/her involvement in the project. The advantages of semi-structured interviews are to prepare questions beforehand that help guide the conversation and keep the respondents on topic. Moreover, they allow for open-ended responses from participants for more in-depth information.

Data analysis methods: The data collected will be analyzed and compiled using comparative methods. The data will be correlated and organized to respond to the evaluation questions. These findings will then be used to inform the conclusions and recommendations proposed.

5. Work Plan and Timetable

The proposed milestones and timelines are as shown here below:

Milestones/Deliverables	Key dates
Work starts	5 December, 2022
Submission of inception report to WIPO	9 December, 2022
Feedback from WIPO on inception report	14 December, 2022
Submission of final inception report to WIPO	4 January, 2023
Submission of draft report to WIPO	22 February, 2023
Factual corrections from WIPO on draft report	24 February, 2023
Submission of final report to WIPO	28 February, 2023
Presentation of evaluation report at the CDIP	Week of 24 April, 2023

6. Key Assumptions and Risks

It is assumed that the project team and the Development Agenda Coordination Division (DACD) will assist the consultant in identifying and accessing all key documents; informing key stakeholders about the evaluation, making necessary introductions, providing contact information and facilitating interviews as required; and providing consolidated timely feedback on deliverables. It is also assumed that the interviews to be undertaken will be successful and language and technical issues (e.g. poor connection) will not be a barrier. It is also assumed that the people to be interviewed will be available and willing to provide the required information.

7. Annex

Topics to be covered during semi-structured interviews:

Project design, management, coordination:

- appropriateness of monitoring, self-evaluation and reporting tools
- risk occurrence and management
- coordination within WIPO and with external stakeholders

Effectiveness:

- what worked well/less well, enabling factors, challenges during implementation most significant results/changes achieved

Sustainability:

- factors that contribute to the sustainability of the action, plans for re-using/expanding on created tools, training materials, support mechanisms, etc.

Contribution of the project to the implementation of the DA Recommendations

Learnings and Best practices:

- key lessons learned
- suggestions for improvements for similar projects

As mentioned above, according to the interview partner's involvement in the project, the topics covered will slightly vary.

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