

C. PCT 1658

November 21, 2023

Madam,  
Sir,

*Survey for coordination of patent examiner training for small and medium Offices*

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as an International Searching Authority (ISA), International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) and/or designated/elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It invites your Office to provide information concerning coordination of patent examiner training for small and medium Offices.

**BACKGROUND**

At its fourteenth session in 2021, the PCT Working Group discussed various aspects of assistance for developing training frameworks for small and medium Offices (see paragraphs 16 to 20 of document PCT/WG/14/13) and invited the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to conduct a survey among these Offices (see paragraph 56 of the Summary by the Chair, document PCT/WG/14/18, and paragraphs 177 to 186 of the Report of the session, document PCT/WG/14/19. The documents can be found at [https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=62348](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=62348)).

The terms small Office and medium Office may be understood as referring to the size of an Office in terms of the number of patent examiners. In the context of managing the training of those examiners, document PCT/WG/14/13 explained that small Offices would normally not have the resources to maintain their own training infrastructure, and which might not have a frequent recurrent training need for new recruits as medium Offices may have. Such Offices would therefore continue to depend on external training support by different providers. By contrast, medium Offices will have a recurrent training demand that justifies developing and maintaining an in-house training infrastructure. Such Offices may therefore have embarked on training initiatives for their entry-level patent examiners. However, medium Offices may need less frequent external training support for experienced examiners, such as technology-specific training.

/...

At the fifteenth session of the Working Group in October 2022, the International Bureau acknowledged further training needs beyond the training of entry-level examiners, for example, training on emerging technologies and for functioning as a PCT ISA and IPEA. The Working Group therefore agreed to widen the focus of the previously envisaged survey and to conduct a modified survey in particular with respect to training policies (see paragraphs 11 to 16 of PCT/WG/15/7 and paragraph 17 of the Summary by the Chair, document PCT/WG/15/19. The documents can be found at [https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=72089](https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=72089)).

## **SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE**

All Offices are invited to fill in the questionnaire.

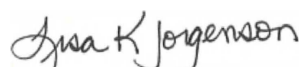
Even though the questionnaire aims at identifying needs of small and medium Offices with a view to future planning of assistance by the International Bureau, the questionnaire also seeks possibilities of assistance networks among Offices and to learn from what Offices have in place for patent examiner training. Therefore, the Questionnaire is also addressed to larger Offices as well as small and medium Offices.

## **RESPONSES TO CIRCULAR**

You are kindly invited to complete the online questionnaire, which is available in all six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) at <https://surveys.wipo.int/s3/Questionnaire-for-Coordination-of-Patent-Examiner-Training-for-Small-and-Medium-Offices>.

The questionnaire shall be completed online before December 22, 2023. For clarifications, please contact Mr. Taegeun Kim ([taegeun.kim@wipo.int](mailto:taegeun.kim@wipo.int)) and Ms. Carolina Hanssen Perez ([carolina.hanssenperez@wipo.int](mailto:carolina.hanssenperez@wipo.int)) at the Cooperation on Examination and Training Section of the PCT International Cooperation Division.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Jorgenson  
Deputy Director General  
Patents and Technology Sector