# Questionnaire for Coordination of Patent Examiner Training for Small and Medium Offices

### Information collected from the questionnaire will be used only by the International Bureau and will not be disclosed to the public without consent of the relevant Offices, except for reports on general or statistical analysis of the information without any association to a specific Office.   This survey will take around 10 minutes to complete. You can save the survey and return later to the survey by clicking at the button "Save and continue later" located in the upper right side of the page. The survey is also available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese. You can select the langue in the upper right side of the page.

## Basic information

#### Do you have patent examiners in your Office? ⓘ“Patent examiners” for the purpose of this survey are those in the Office who search for prior art and/or decide on patentability criteria such as novelty, inventive step/non-obviousness and being capable of industrial application/useful.  \*

Yes

No

### How many patent examiners do you have? Please use a numeric value.\*



#### Do you plan to increase the number of examiners in the near future?\*

Yes

No

#### Do you know how many further examiners you would like to recruit?\*

Yes (please provide an approximate number): \*

No

#### Does your Office plan to recruit patent examiners in the near future?\*

Yes

No

#### Do you know how many your Office plan to recruit?”\*

Yes (please provide an estimate): \*

No

#### Does your Office currently outsource prior art search or patent examination to other institutions or individuals in your country? Multiple selection possible.\*

University professors

External prior art search agency

Independent experts

Other (please specify): \*

Our office does not outsource prior art search or patent examination

#### Does your Office currently have an agreement with any other IP Office to outsource searches and/or substantive patent examination? This does not include use of already available work products from other IP Offices, Patent Prosecution Highway, or the WIPO ICE service ⓘThe International Cooperation for Examination (ICE) service of WIPO provides search and examination reports for patent applications filed with industrial property offices in developing countries which have limited substantive examination capacities for the preparation of such reports. The reports are prepared by various donor Offices on a pro bono basis.\*

Yes (please specify): \*

No

### What kind of search tools do your examiners use for prior art searches? (e.g. PATENTSCOPE, Espacenet or your own internal tool)



#### Does your Office offer any services related to prior art search or patent examination, which are not for the patent applications received by your Office? Please choose all that apply.\*

Pre-patentability searches (searches to identify whether a particular invention is novel and involves an inventive step before filing of the patent application)

Freedom to operate (FTO) searches (search to determine possibility of infringing existing patents)

Patent landscape services or state-of-the-art search (services to provide information on patent or non-patent literature to help businesses find competitors and existing products in the relevant field)

Other (please specify): \*

None of the above

#### If available, please specify the ratio between PCT national phase entries and national patent filings at your Office (e.g. 30% national phase entries and 70% national patent filings). The total must amount to a 100.

PCT national phase entries

National patent filings

## Training policies

### Please choose from the list below the training(s) available at your Office:\*

#### For your ****newly recruited patent examiners**** to prepare them for the job:

Lectures

On-job trainings

Other (please specify): \*

None of the above

#### For your ****experienced examiners****:

New technologies

Advanced courses on patentability

Other (please specify): \*

None of the above

#### Other trainings:

Training of trainers (TOT) programs (For those who will provide in-house trainings to other examiners).  Please specify what kind of trainings are provided:: \*

Internal guidelines or manuals

E-learning platform (in house or external), please specify which: \*

Other (please specify): \*

None of the above

### If any of the aforementioned items under Training Policies is not in place in your Office, what are the reasons? (e.g. lack of need for examiners, lack of expertise to deliver training content, insufficient resources in finance or staff, etc.)



#### Does your Office have a training policy for substantive patent examiners? ⓘ Training policy for the purpose of this questionnaire refers to an internal policy on what kind of trainings should be provided for examiners and how. One example could be an established policy on what courses newly recruited examiners should take.\*

Yes

No

### Please briefly describe the policy or include a reference if this policy is publicly available:\*



## Training needs

#### In what areas do you need assistance by the International Bureau or other IP offices? Please choose all items relevant to your office.\*

Training of trainers

Assessment of patentability (e.g. novelty or inventive step/non-obviousness)

Legislative support (e.g. establishment of regulations or forms issued by patent examiners)

Establishment of training policy (e.g. a set of programs according to the career development of an examiner)

Establishment of guidelines, manuals or training materials for search and examination

Prior art searches

Access to and utilization of work products (search and/or examination results) of other IP offices

Search and examination of patent applications in specific technical fields (e.g. pharmaceutical or artificial intelligence). Please specify the field(s):: \*

Communications to the applicant (e.g. drafting office actions on patentability)

Establishment of an e-learning platform

Other (please specify): \*

None

#### Is your Office a PCT International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority?\*

Yes

No

#### Does your Office have specific training needs in relation to its role as ISA/IPEA?\*

Yes (please specify): \*

No

## Assistance network for small and medium offices

#### Is your Office currently providing any support to other Offices? Multiple selection possible.\*

Workshops (online or in-person)

Provision of training materials

WIPO ICE Service

Other, please specify: \*

None

#### Is your Office interested in providing support for other Offices in addition to any support specified in your response to the previous question?\*

Workshops (online or in-person)

Provision of training materials

WIPO ICE Service

Other, please specify: \*

None

#### Which do you think are the areas the International Bureau should put more efforts to facilitate the cooperation in the organization of technical assistance for training of examiners? Please select all that apply.

Establishment of a framework to connect donors with small and medium Offices

Provision of actual training programs in cooperation with donor Offices

Provision of search and examination outcomes on individual applications through the WIPO ICE service

Establishment of a network among small and medium Offices so that they can exchange their views and experience

Development of an e-learning platform

Other (please specify): \*

### Since your Office is a PCT International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority, please comment on the idea of central management of training between ISA/IPEAs to match training needs and assure common standards by sharing best practices.



## Others

### Please state anything else you would like the International Bureau to take into consideration for coordination of trainings for patent examiners of small and medium Offices.



### Responding Office:\*



### Name of contact person:\*



### Position:\*



### Email address:\*



## Thank You!

### Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us.