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# EPO Proposal for GD next step initiatives



Niclas MOREY

Director D524 Multilateral Cooperation

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# Background

- In the spring of 2014 the EPO carried out a market research study with European industry
- The Results of this study where presented at the May IP5 WG2 meeting in Korea.
- The EPO has considered legal and technical constraints which limit in the short term the possibility for implementation

# Standardisation of Applicant Names

Disparate applicant naming a problem for patent offices and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties:

Patent publication databases are **harder to search** by applicant name which impacts both examiners and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties

**Filing and assignment procedures negatively impacted** by multiple names for single legal entities

**Transliteration** identified as particular source of error in publication databases.

All IP5 offices would **mutually benefit** from each others correction procedures during filing and database entry.

# Legal Status Data

European Industry, especially those involved in **patent information** argue that legal status data needs to be:

**Consistent**

**Comprehensive**

**Timely**

For **freedom to operate** searches both **bulk** database and from **on-demand** data is necessary.

→ This data flow can also **enrich GD services**

The EPO proposes that the IP5 agree:

- Standard for legal status events
- OPD like standardised on demand legal status
- Further promotion consistent timely legal status data provision **beyond IP5**

# Alerting

Several offices already provide services for alerting applicants or the public of changes to application status. However these services are:

Use disparate channels

Non standard

Target different user groups

The EPO proposes that the IP5 federate these services by agreeing and implementing standardised alerting systems.

Standardised alerting enables the **further enrichment of GD services** by allowing offices to provide bundled status updates for IP5 family members

# Conclusion

EPO proposes that:

Applicant naming standardisation  
Legal status federation  
Alerting

could be initiatives to focus on in the next phase of GD.

The EPO believes that progress on these issues:

Delivers direct benefit to users  
Allows for the development of enhanced GD services  
Is not hindered by significant legal or technical hurdles.

Thank you