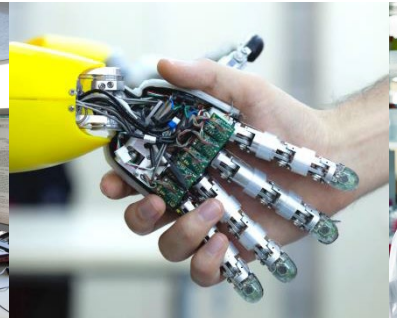
Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

Implementation of the IP5 NET/AI roadmap

IP5 ICG, 4 March 2022

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

Korean Intellectual Property Office



February/March 2022

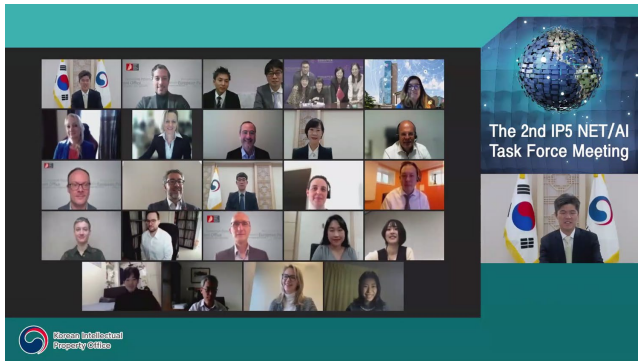
IP5 co-operation on NET and AI (I)

- June 2018: IP5 Heads of Office identified AI as a major strategic priority for IP5 co-operation
- January 2019: EPO-KIPO proposed IP5 NET/AI task force and presented detailed project brief
- June 2019: IP5 Heads of Office agreed on creation of task force

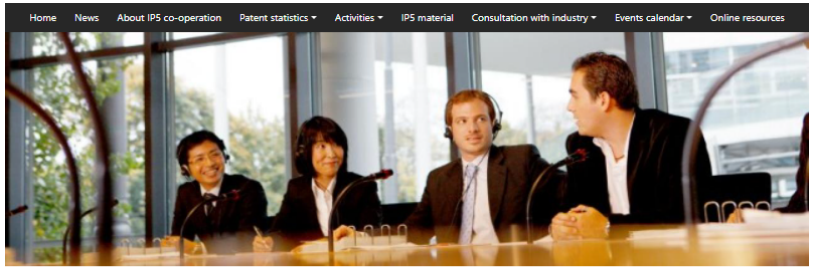
IP5 co-operation on NET and AI (II)

- January 2020: **1st IP5 NET/AI task force meeting**
- July 2020: IP5 Heads of Office agreed on the **scoping document**
- March 2021: **2nd IP5 NET/AI task force meeting**
- June 2021: IP5 Heads of Office endorsed **IP5 NET/AI roadmap**

➢ ***Work of task force completed***



NET/AI section on IP5 website



Activities › New emerging technologies and artificial intelligence (NET/AI)

New emerging technologies and artificial intelligence (NET/AI)

The IP5 Offices face new challenges and opportunities when it comes to rapidly-evolving technologies, and by co-operating they can create benefits for offices and users alike.

Following a request from IP5 Industry and an agreement by the IP5 Heads of Office in 2018 to explore the impact of AI on the patent system, an IP5 expert round table on AI was held in Munich on the legal aspects of patenting of artificial intelligence (AI). In addition, a series of meetings with users took place on these topics.

In 2019, the five offices decided to further advance their co-operation in the area of new emerging technologies (NET) and AI by setting up a special task force to co-ordinate their initiatives.

The interdisciplinary IP5 NET/AI task force, which comprises representatives from the IP5 Offices and WIPO, is exploring legal, technical and policy aspects of new technologies and AI, their impact on the patent system and on operations at the five offices. The aim is to pinpoint which areas can benefit most from joint IP5 responses and develop a comprehensive roadmap for possible endeavours.

Following their first meeting in early 2020, task force members developed a scoping document outlining candidate co-operation areas. The IP5 Heads of Office endorsed this scoping document in July 2020.

During their second meeting, the task force evaluated initial ideas and possible project proposals to formulate short-, medium- and long-term co-operation goals broad enough to accommodate future developments in the relevant areas.

In particular, the task force explored the benefits of IP5 co-operation in AI-supported office operations - including automatic classification, machine translation - and the use of new technologies such as blockchain. The task force members recognised the user need for specific guidance on examination practices at the five offices. Statistics exchanges between the IP5 Offices were considered essential for identifying and monitoring emerging trends that are expected to have a major impact.

Based on these considerations, the task force developed a comprehensive roadmap for possible projects and future work to be undertaken by the various IP5 working groups. In June 2021, the IP5 Heads of Office endorsed the IP5 NET/AI roadmap.

First IP5 NET/AI task force meeting, 15-16 January 2020

In their first meeting, hosted by the EPO in Berlin, Germany, the task force members took stock of existing NET and AI-related projects at the various IP5 working groups and at the individual offices and discussed possible areas for IP5 co-operation. Read summary report

Second IP5 NET/AI task force meeting, 3-5 March 2021

At their second meeting, hosted by KIPO and held via video conference, the task force discussed the main elements for a comprehensive IP5 NET/AI roadmap expected to guide the IP5 Offices' joint endeavours in response to the challenges and opportunities arising from the increasing use of NET/AI. Read summary report

Korean Intellectual Property Office

fiveIPoffices

IP5 NET/AI ROADMAP

In 2019, the IP5 Offices decided to further advance their co-operation in the area of new emerging technologies (NET) and artificial intelligence (AI) by instituting a taskforce, resulting in the development of a comprehensive roadmap for possible projects and initiatives in areas which benefit most from joint IP5 responses.

The IP5 NET/AI Roadmap is intended to serve as a blueprint for IP5 Offices' joint endeavours to harness NET/AI capabilities in support of their patent grant processes and provide transparency in their patent practices and predictability of patent prosecution for their users.

The IP5 NET/AI Roadmap identifies **four key areas of co-operation**:

- **Statistics**
- **Classification**
- **IT aspects/utilisation of NET/AI**
- **Legal**

Implementation Principles

For each of these areas, the Roadmap formulates short-, medium- and long-term co-operation opportunities broad enough to accommodate future developments, which will allow the design of possible projects. The exact scope, timelines and resource requirements for these potential areas of work will be developed by the various IP5 working groups in line with established IP5 project management processes, including necessary review cycles.

Certain projects may be pursued by a limited number of offices or in differing time frames, i.e. it is not ...cessary to proceed in lockstep. Consequently, experts at working group level will define the respective ...mentation model including possible pilot projects between two or more offices for proof-of-concept ...s. Offices involved in pilot projects will report the project details and status to the respective working ...ts and other offices will be able to join at any stage. Considering the interdisciplinary nature of

www.fiveipoffices.org/activities/NET_AI

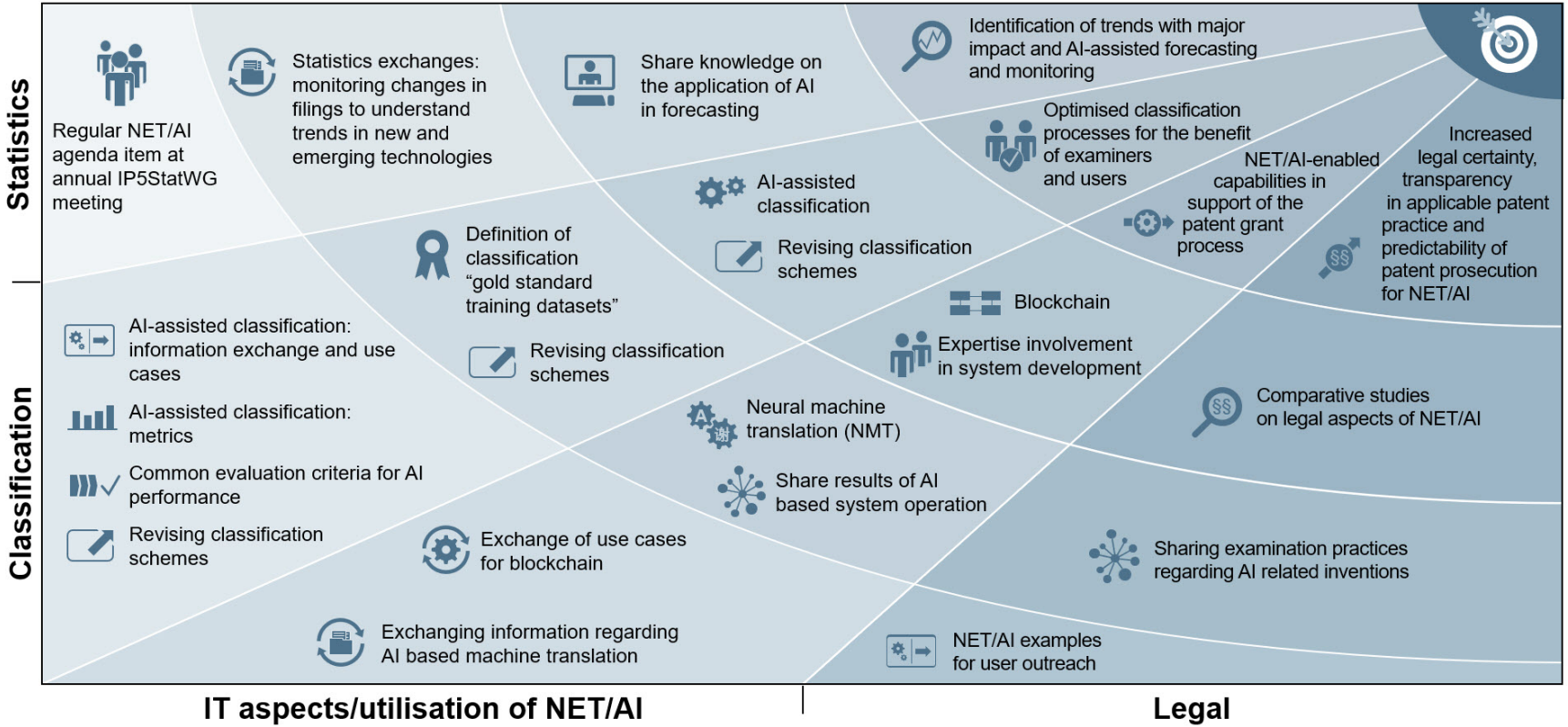
IP5 NET/AI roadmap

- Blueprint for IP5 offices' joint endeavours in NET/AI:
  - a number of co-operation opportunities in the short, medium & long term
  - broad enough to accommodate future developments

- Roadmap identifies four key areas of co-operation:
  - statistics
  - classification
  - IT aspects/utilisation of NET/AI
  - legal

IP5 NET/AI OPPORTUNITIES

fiveIPoffices
European Patent Office /// Japan Patent Office ///
Korean Intellectual Property Office ///
National Intellectual Property Administration, PRC ///
United States Patent and Trademark Office



IP5 NET/AI roadmap – implementation principles

- Experts from the working groups have started to:
  - determine topics from the list of co-operation opportunities where the IP5 offices are able to collaborate bilaterally or multilaterally
  - define the exact scopes, timelines and resource requirements for possible future projects
- Implementation models may include pilot projects between two or more offices for proof-of-concept purposes (other offices will be able to join at any stage)
- Considering the interdisciplinary nature of NET/AI endeavours, co-operation across IP5 working groups will be explored

Next steps

- All IP5 Working Groups have been invited to:
  - add the NET/AI roadmap to their respective meeting agendas
  - study relevant sections of the roadmap and discuss co-operation opportunities
  - determine topics and define possible future projects
  - identify possible lead office(s) for initiatives
- IP5 Programme Management Group (PMG) to oversee and coordinate relevant activities
- Progress report will be presented to the IP5 Heads of Office in June 2022

Discussion points

- What are IP5 Industry's views regarding the IP5 NET/AI Roadmap?
  - most promising co-operation opportunities?
  - IP5 Industry's priorities?
  - any additional co-operation opportunities identified by IP5 Industry?
- How does IP5 Industry wish to be involved in the implementation of the roadmap?
- Has IP5 Industry considered any initiatives in the area of NET/AI and if yes, how are these progressing?

Thank you for your attention!

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

Korean Intellectual Property Office