

Evaluation of the WIPO Division for Arab Countries

Internal Oversight Reports



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Evaluation Section

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARDI	Access to Research for Development and Innovation
ASPAC	Asia and the Pacific
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DAC	Division for Arab Countries
OECD DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
ESCWA	Economic Commission for West Asia
ER	Expected Result
GCC	Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
GCC IPTC	Intellectual Property Training Center of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
GCCPO	Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
GII	Global Innovation Index
IOD	Internal Oversight Division
IP	Intellectual Property
IPAS	Industrial Property Administration System
IPO	Intellectual Property Office
LAS	League of Arab States
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIPS	National IP Strategies
PCT	The Patent Cooperation Treaty
PI	Performance Indicator
PM	Permanent Mission
R&D	Research and Development
RNDS	Regional and National Development Sector
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SG	Strategic Goal
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TA	Technical Assistance
TCE	Traditional Cultural Expressions
TISC	Technology and Innovation Support Center
TK	Traditional Knowledge
ToC	Theory of Change
TTO	Technology Transfer Offices
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Division for Arab Countries (DAC) contributes towards WIPO's Strategic Goal (SG) III - Facilitating the Use of Intellectual Property (IP) for Development in collaboration with other Sectors. It serves 21 countries plus Palestine in the Arab Region.

2. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the Division's processes, performance, effectiveness, and efficiency to improve the quality of implementation modalities. The evaluation strived to measure the Division's contributions towards WIPO's strategic objectives.

3. The major findings of the evaluation are as follows:

(a) The Division's support to the Member States in the Arab countries was fully relevant to the national priorities and was aligned with country needs. The Technical assistance provided consisted mostly of activities identified according to the Member State's priorities with some but not sufficient integration of the long-term vision outcomes for each country;

(b) The various consultations held with the Division staff and other WIPO Divisions clearly pointed out toward an organizational culture that emphasizes accountability in mandate and results delivery. However, the Division's performance reports do not reflect enough its contribution to many of the Tier 2 performance indicators (PIs) and focuses mainly on Tier 1 PIs;

(c) Overall, the Division was found to be responsive to emerging needs, challenges and opportunities that arose at the regional and country levels. More importantly, the majority of stakeholders consider the Division as their main reference for any IP related issues. The Division leverages its diplomatic capacity and tends to underscore the diplomatic aspects of its functions. While this is a key to DAC operations there should be a balance by further increasing the project management and technical side;

(d) The evaluation findings emphasized that the Division has contributed to achieving the intended results cumulatively over the three biennia. The evaluation confirmed the effective role of the Division in capacity building and raising awareness about IP related services as well as for being the main interlocutor with the national counterparts in the region;

(e) Both national IP stakeholders and WIPO collaborators confirmed that the Division efficiently coordinated with internal stakeholders when addressing the countries' demands in a timely manner, in order to fulfill its mandate; and

(f) The evaluation confirmed that the Division has contributed over the years to strengthen the Arab countries' capacities in the IP and their role in economic and sustainable development. Intellectual property awareness has been amplified over the years, and the IP maturity curve has been pushed forward in different Arab countries thanks to the Division's awareness raising and capacity building interventions.

4. Based on the above findings the evaluation recommended to:

(a) The division should develop a joint DAC-Country specific outcome-driven medium to longer-term program/plan (three to five years plans) in line with the biennium plans (in addition to the existing annual work plans) that ensures coherence of interventions, minimizes time for approving activity-by-activity request and remains flexible to emerging needs;

- (b) Re-emphasize the role of the Division as the interface of WIPO, when dealing with countries/organizations and other stakeholders in the Arab region;
- (c) The Division's internal capacity and human resources should be revisited to further develop the program/ project management capacity to ensure a mixed and balanced skill set to add to the technical and diplomatic expertise; and
- (d) The Division should continue and further foster close cooperation with other sub-regional, regional and international organizations to pull in resources, maximize the impact and ensure sustainability in (i) formulation and implementation of needed IP policies and strategies; (ii) influencing IP and Innovation ecosystems; and (iii) complementing support to address emerging needs in the region.