

EUIPO & the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Purpose of this Public Consultation

Consulting the public and other groups is an essential part of policy preparation and review. Your input, views, ideas and experience help shape and implement effective European Union (EU) policies.

The European Union Intellectual Property Office ('EUIPO') was created in 1994 with the main task of administering the European Union trade mark system [1].

In 2012 the EUIPO was entrusted with an additional set of tasks - Regulation (EU) No 386/2012. Such tasks relate to the fight against infringements of intellectual property rights (such as patents, trademarks and copyright).

In broad terms, under the above mentioned Regulation 386/2012, the EUIPO was asked to:

- facilitate and support the activities of national authorities, the private sector and the EU institutions in the fight against infringements of the intellectual property rights through studies, surveys, events, development of tools, etc.;
- host, organise and chair a network of experts, authorities and stakeholders concerned by or most experienced in the fight against infringements of intellectual property rights. This network is called the 'European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights' (the Observatory). The EUIPO organises regular meetings of the Observatory to draw on the members' expertise.

Six years have passed since Regulation No 386/2012 entered into force and it is now time to assess to what extent it contributed to enhance effective enforcement of intellectual property rights. To support that assessment the European Commission has published a study on the evaluation of Regulation No 386/2012 (available [here](#)). The study was conducted by an external contractor.

The purpose of this consultation is to collect your views on the relevance of the EUIPO's mission, tasks and activities under Regulation No386/2012 and on how it has been performing them.

On the basis of all the data gathered, including your views, the European Commission will adopt a report evaluating Regulation No 386/2012 and transmit it to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee. The report will also be made available to the public.

[1] The EUIPO was named the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) until 23 March 2016.

About you

1 You are welcome to answer the questionnaire in any of the 24 official languages of the EU. Please let us know in which language you are replying.

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovene
- Spanish
- Swedish

*** 2 First name**

30 character(s) maximum

Hélène

*** 3 Last name**

50 character(s) maximum

Nicora

*** 4 Email address**

50 character(s) maximum

If you do not have an email address, please write "Not available".

hnicora@inta.org

*** 5 You are replying**

- as an individual in your personal capacity
- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation

*** 8 Name of the organisation**

50 character(s) maximum

International Trademark Association - INTA

*** 9 Postal address of the organisation**

150 character(s) maximum

655 Third Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10017-5646, USA

*** 10 Type of organisation**

Please select the answer option that fits best.

- Private enterprise or company
- Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
- Trade union, business organisation or professional association
- Consumer or other non-governmental organisation, platform or network
- Research, academia or think tank
- Church or religious community
- National, regional or local public authority
- European Union Institution, body or agency
- International public authority, Intergovernmental organisation
- Other

*** 13 Please specify the type of organisation.**

- Trade Union
- Chamber of commerce
- Organisation of holders of intellectual property rights
- Business organisation
- Organisation of professionals in the field of intellectual property
- Organisation representing other professions or crafts
- Other

17 Is your organisation a member of the Observatory?

- Yes
- No, but it participates in some of the Observatory's events
- No, my organisation is not a member of the Observatory and has little or no involvement in the Observatory's work.

*** 18 Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?**

If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register [here](#), although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation. [Why a transparency register?](#)

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

*** 19 If so, please indicate your Register ID number.**

20 character(s) maximum

10141574843-32

*** 20 Where is your organisation's headquarters?**

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

*** 21 If "other", please specify:**

30 character(s) maximum

United States of America - USA

***23 The Commission can publish your contribution:**

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under [Regulation \(EC\) N° 1049/2001](#)

- with your organisation's information** (I consent to the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including the name of my organisation, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- provided that your organisation remains anonymous** (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

Relevance of the tasks given to the EUIPO

As indicated, the EUIPO [1] :

- facilitates and supports the activities of national authorities, the private sector and the EU institutions in the fight against infringements of the intellectual property rights such as trademarks, design rights, patents or copyrights, and
- hosts and manages the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights [2], which is composed of representatives from public authorities and from the private sector.

[1] *The Regulation establishing the EUIPO is available [here](#).*

[2] *By the [Regulation \(EU\) No 386/2012](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 April 2012 on entrusting the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs).*

***24 Have you ever heard about the European Union Intellectual Property Office ('EUIPO')?**

- Yes, and I am well aware of what it does.
- Yes, and I more or less know what it does.
- Yes, but I am not quite sure what it does.
- No, I have never heard about the EUIPO.

***25 Would you consider the EUIPO's mission important and relevant?**

- Yes, it is important.
- Not anymore, the EUIPO's mission has become irrelevant and no longer important.
- No, the EUIPO's mission was never relevant or important and therefore the Regulation should be scrapped.
- No opinion.

26 Please, explain:

1000 character(s) maximum

See pdf file (Question 125) with our extended response

29 How important are the following tasks given to the EUIPO?

at least 6 answered row(s)

	Very Important	Important	Not important	No opinion
* Research on the economic and cultural value of intellectual property for citizens, businesses and society at large.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Research on the volume and consequences of counterfeiting, piracy and other breaches of intellectual property rights.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Dissemination of best practices to protect intellectual property rights.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Helping raise citizens' awareness of the impact of counterfeiting, piracy and other breaches of intellectual property rights.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Training and improving the expertise of people involved in the enforcement of intellectual property rights.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Research on technical tools to prevent and tackle infringements of intellectual property rights, including tracking and tracing systems which help to distinguish genuine products from counterfeit ones.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Providing tools for cooperation between national authorities involved in protecting intellectual property rights.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* In consultation with Member States, helping authorities from countries outside the EU to develop techniques, skills and tools for enforcing intellectual property rights.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Organising regular meetings of representatives from public administrations, bodies and organisations in the Member States dealing with intellectual property rights and representatives from the private sector (the Observatory).	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30 Are there any tasks missing? Should the EUIPO receive additional tasks in order to do more to help national authorities, the private sector and the EU institutions curb infringements of intellectual property rights?

- No.
- Yes.
- No opinion.

31 Please, explain:

2000 character(s) maximum

See pdf file (Question 125) with our extended response

32 Would you see any contradictions among the tasks listed in question 29?

- Yes.
- No.
- No opinion.

How would you rate the following activities undertaken by the EUIPO to fulfil the tasks mentioned above?

*34 EUIPO activity: establish a transparent methodology for the collection, analysis and reporting of independent, objective, comparable and reliable data on infringements of intellectual property rights. This is:

For example, how to calculate whether the selling of counterfeits is augmenting or diminishing, and how much economic damage does it cause)

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

*35 The EUIPO does it:

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.
- No opinion.

36 Would you want to add any remarks?

1000 character(s) maximum

INTA supports that initiative

*37 EUIPO activity: publish evidence-based, reports, studies and surveys on the economic value and societal contribution of intellectual property, as well as on infringements of intellectual property rights and their impact. This is:

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

*38 The EUIPO does it:

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.

- No opinion.

39 Would you want to add any remarks?

1000 character(s) maximum

INTA believes this is a core task of the European Observatory and the very first stage of fighting IPR infringements, i.e. collecting data that show, with numbers and figures, the depth (and extension) of the phenomenon. INTA's membership appreciates the extensive studies of the Observatory and we would therefore like to reiterate its previous comment on better communicating/promoting/disseminating these data /studies/reports (see our comment above at question 30).

*** 40 EUIPO activity: publish evidence-based, reports, studies and surveys on the economic value and societal contribution of intellectual property, as well as on infringements of intellectual property rights and their impact. This is:**

- Very important.
 Important.
 Not important.
 Totally irrelevant.
 No opinion.

*** 41 The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.
 Satisfactorily.
 Poorly.
 Very badly.
 No opinion.

42 Which publication(s) would you consider especially important? How do/did you use it/them?

1000 character(s) maximum

INTA supports the trademark-related and anticounterfeiting projects. INTA is using this data in its advocacy and awareness raising campaign targeting private and public stakeholders as well as citizens and the public at large.

43 On which topics should the EUIPO's publications focus on in the next years?

1000 character(s) maximum

See pdf file (Question 125) with our extended response

44 Would you want to add any remarks?

1000 character(s) maximum

No

*** 45 EUIPO activity: collect, analyse and disseminate information regarding best practices. This is:**

- Very important.
 Important.

- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

***46 The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.
- No opinion.

47 Would you want to add any remarks?

1000 character(s) maximum

As stressed above, although the Observatory relies on its network to circulate the information, INTA believes that the Observatory should allocate sufficient resources of its own to the promotion and post-publication advocacy of its thought-leadership pieces. This should include the development and implementation of a broader strategy for disseminating this information to a wider audience.

***48 EUIPO activity: create publications and organise events to raise public awareness of the impact of counterfeiting and piracy and assist national and EU-wide initiatives. This is:**

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

***49 The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.
- No opinion.

50 Would you want to add any remarks? Is there a campaign you would like to mention?

1000 character(s) maximum

We would like the Observatory to expand its public awareness efforts on counterfeiting. There is a lot to be done in this space in order to protect European consumers from harmful counterfeits.

INTA would like to commend the Observatory for the organization of the EU Blockathon on June 22-25, 2018, which allowed to connect counterfeiting and blockchain technology. The event helped raising awareness on both anticounterfeiting and blockchain technology while exploring ways to make blockchain an anticounterfeiting tool. The event was well-organized and well-received and communication around it was overall positive. It is essential for the Observatory to maximize the benefits of such event and to justify its creation by ensuring a concrete follow-up on the solutions proposed by the competing teams.

51 **Has the EUIPO supported you in an awareness-raising initiative? If so, were you happy with the experience?**

1500 character(s) maximum

No

*52 **EUIPO activity: monitor the development of new competitive business models which increase the amount of legally available cultural and creative content, encourage the exchange of information and raise consumer awareness of this. This is:**

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

*53 **The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.
- No opinion.

54 **Would you want to add any remarks?**

1000 character(s) maximum

INTA believes that the focus of the European Observatory work should be first and foremost on designs and trademarks infringements as well as anti-counterfeiting projects since the activities of the Observatory are funded by trademark and design registration fees.

*55 **EUIPO activity: deliver specialised enforcement training and seminars for national officials involved in the protection of intellectual property rights and organise ad hoc meetings of experts, including academic experts and relevant representatives of civil society. This is:**

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

*56 **The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.
- No opinion.

57 **Have you or has your organisation attended a training course or seminar that you remember in particular? How many? Are they useful?**

1000 character(s) maximum

Not relevant

58 Would you want to add any remarks?

1000 character(s) maximum

See pdf file (Question 125) with our extended response

***59 EUIPO activity: identify and promote technical tools for professionals and benchmark techniques, including tracking and tracing systems which help to distinguish genuine products from counterfeit ones. This is:**

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

***60 The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.
- No opinion.

61 Would you want to add any remarks? Would you want to mention a particular EUIPO initiative in this field?

1000 character(s) maximum

INTA representatives attended the meeting of the Expert Group on anticounterfeiting technology on April 20, 2018 in Brussels. We believe that, though it is the very early stages of the programme, the discussions and experts invited were very relevant. We encourage the Observatory to pursue this programme and are looking forward to assessing the concrete results and output of those meetings.

***62 EUIPO activity: develop online tools to exchange information on infringements of intellectual property rights between public administrations, bodies and organisations in the Member States dealing with the protection and enforcement of those rights. This is:**

e.g. the Enforcement Database ('EDB'), Anti-Counterfeiting Intelligence Support Tool ('ACIST'), or the Anti-Counterfeiting Rapid Intelligence System ('ACRIS').

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

***63 The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.

- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.
- No opinion.

64 How useful would you think the following tools are?

	Very useful	Useful	Of little usefulness	Should be discontinued	No opinion
Enforcement Database (EDB)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Anti-Counterfeiting Intelligence Support Tool (ACIST)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Anti-Counterfeiting Rapid Intelligence System (ACRIS)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

65 Have you or your organisation used any of the databases or other online tools? Which ones? Please give concrete examples highlighting positive or negative points of these tools.

2000 character(s) maximum

INTA has promoted EDB several times – to New York-based members in 2015, at our Annual Meetings in 2015, 2016, and 2017, and in a webcast in 2016. Moreover, we invited the Observatory to present on various topics related to the databases to our members at our programming (including our Anticounterfeiting Workshops).

66 Would you want to add any remarks?

1000 character(s) maximum

See pdf file (Question 125) with our extended response

***67 EUIPO activity: cooperate with Member States to develop and promote techniques, skills and tools for enforcing intellectual property rights, including training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns. This is:**

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

***68 The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very bad.
- No opinion.

70 Would you want to add any remarks?

1000 character(s) maximum

See pdf file (Question 125) with our extended response

*** 71 EUIPO activity: work with intellectual property offices in third countries to develop and provide technical assistance and training programmes. This is:**

- Very important.
- Important.
- Not important.
- Totally irrelevant.
- No opinion.

*** 72 The EUIPO does it:**

- Very well.
- Satisfactorily.
- Poorly.
- Very badly.
- No opinion.

73 Would you want to add any remarks? Are any cooperation projects particularly useful, or simply irrelevant?

1500 character(s) maximum

See pdf file (Question 125) with our extended response

*** 74 Overall, to what extent have the EUIPO's activities helped improve the protection of intellectual property rights in the EU?**

- To a great extent. The EUIPO has achieved very good results.
- To a considerable extent. The EUIPO has achieved good results.
- To a lesser extent. The EUIPO has achieved poor results.
- The EUIPO has not achieved any meaningful results.
- No opinion.

75 Would you want to add any remarks?

2000 character(s) maximum

INTA would like to recognize the achievements and success, to a considerable extent, of the European Observatory in that regard. INTA would like to support the Observatory to continue its work since the problem of IPR infringement is still growing, and more still can and need to be done to tackle it. We want the Observatory to focus on excelling at its core tasks – develop studies, providing tools and knowledge as well as raising awareness – in line with its mission. Finally, INTA would reiterate its earlier comments that such success and achievements should be better communicated/promoted/disseminated among public and private stakeholders (at EU and national level) but also among citizens and the public at large

76 Are there tasks or activities not listed above that should be assigned to the EUIPO?

- Yes. Please, explain:
- No.

No opinion.

78 Are there circumstances that make the EUIPO less effective in carrying out its tasks and activities?

- No, nothing in particular.
 Yes. Please explain:

79 One or more of the following circumstances reduce the EUIPO's ability to carry out its tasks and activities:

- The network of representatives is too large.
 The EUIPO works on too many projects and activities and not all them are sufficiently relevant or useful.
 It is too difficult to get data from Member States
 The EUIPO's location: it is difficult or time consuming for participants to attend the Observatory's meetings and events that take place in Alicante.
 Other. Please, specify:

81 Would you want to add any remarks?

2000 character(s) maximum

INTA believes that the focus of the Observatory work should be first and foremost on delivering qualitative and excellence on fighting designs and trademarks infringements.

We understand that the Observatory is reconsidering its working group structure to increase its efficiency, and have provided comments on this specific matter when commenting on the Observatory's draft 2019 Work Programme and the draft Extension of Multiannual Plan. We have attached a copy of our comments to this submission for ease of reference.

If the question relates to the EUIPO itself, INTA would like to reiterate its long standing comment that the Office should first and foremost focuses on improving the quality of its core tasks and services on trademarks and designs before considering any other tasks, especially in light of his limited resources. Should the Office decides to take new tasks, we urge the Office to do so in the framework of Regulation (EU) 2017/1001 and with a fair funding system for these extra tasks by other IPR holders, so that trademark and design rights holders do not end up subsidizing non-related tasks

The Observatory

The Observatory assembles representatives from public administrations, bodies and organisations in the Member States dealing with intellectual property rights, and representatives from the private sector. Its purpose is to participate in the EUIPO's activities in accordance with Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) No 386/2012:

"Private-sector representatives invited to meetings of the Observatory shall include a broad, representative and balanced range of Union and national bodies representing the different economic sectors, including the creative industries, most concerned by or most experienced in the fight against infringements of intellectual property rights.

Consumer organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, authors and other creators shall be properly represented".

82 Would you think any interest groups are under-represented or missing in the Observatory?

See who are the stakeholders of the Observatory [here](#).

- Yes
- No

84 The EUIPO organises the Observatory's meetings:

- Very well.
- Well but the EUIPO can still improve. Please, explain:
- Not very well. Please, explain:
- Very badly. Please, explain:

88 Has the EUIPO created fruitful cooperation with the representatives of public and private sectors?

- Yes.
- Yes, but improvements are necessary. Please, explain:
- No. Please, explain:

91 Does the EUIPO adequately inform these representatives of its activities?

- Yes.
- Yes, but improvements are necessary. Please, explain:
- No. Please, explain:

92 Please, explain:

800 character(s) maximum

See pdf file (Question 125) with our extended response

94 Does the EUIPO adequately consult the representatives on its activities?

- Yes.
- Yes, but improvements are necessary. Please, explain:
- No. Please, explain:

95 Please, explain:

800 character(s) maximum

Some activities and projects are planned and structured independently by the Observatory, without the active contribution of experts of the WGs and/or representatives at the very beginning of the projects. This aspect could be improved in order to profit from useful insights of experts at the early stage of projects. See previous comment on the restructuring of the WGs at Question 91

97 Does the EUIPO adequately take representatives' views into account?

- Yes.
- Yes, but improvements are necessary. Please, explain:

No. Please, explain:

100 Does the EUIPO do enough to help representatives actively participate in its activities?

- Yes.
- Yes, but improvements are necessary. Please, explain:
- No. Please, explain:

101 Please, explain:

800 character(s) maximum

INTA is of the opinion that the work and budget of the Observatory dedicated to Trademark and designs, including infringements and anti-counterfeiting issues pertaining to these, should be at the very least maintained if not reinforced.

As mentioned above, the website used by the Observatory to upload materials and documents could be improved. Moreover, updates of documents uploaded in the website could be assured more promptly after the meetings in order to provide with a timely output.

Also, see previous comment on the restructuring of the WGs at Question 91.

Finally, regular conference and video calls could be organized periodically in order to facilitate the exchange of information and the active participation of stakeholders to the Observatory's projects.

103 Is the process leading to the adoption of the Observatory's work annual programme transparent?

- Yes.
- Yes, mostly, but there is still room for improvement. Please, explain:
- Not at all, the EUIPO should make substantial improvements. Please, explain:

In 2016 and 2017, the EUIPO spent EUR 7 million and EUR 7.2 million, respectively, on activities related to its work with the Observatory and the fight against infringements of intellectual property rights (excluding salaries of statutory staff and other staff-related expenditure).

106 Are the costs justified and proportionate, given the results achieved by the EUIPO?

- Yes.
- No, the EUIPO is not investing enough and therefore its budget should be expanded. Please, explain:
- No, the EUIPO is overspending and the same or better results could be achieved with a much lower budget. Please, explain:
- No (other reasons). Please, explain:
- No opinion.

107 Please, explain:

800 character(s) maximum

INTA believes that the Observatory carries important tasks and should have the necessary financial resources to carry them on properly. This should however be linked to a specific annual work plan of the Observatory and subject to a specific budget, with concrete and measurable objectives for the various activities. This should become a standard practice when presenting stakeholders with annual or multi-annual strategic and work plans.

The activities of the Observatory are funded by trademark and design registration fees, the expenditure of which is of great interest to INTA members

110 Would you think the EUIPO is well equipped to carry out its tasks and activities, in terms of independency, funding, staff, expertise, IT and meeting capacities?

- Yes.
- In general yes, but improvements can be made. Please, explain:
- No. Please explain:
- No opinion.

111 Please explain by ticking one or more options below:

- The EUIPO is too sensitive to vested interests or political pressure and does not have the independence needed to perform its tasks properly. Please, explain:
- The EUIPO has insufficient financial resources to perform its tasks properly. Please, explain:
- The EUIPO has not allocated sufficient staff to its tasks and activities.
- The EUIPO does not have the necessary expertise. Please, explain:
- The EUIPO does not have the necessary infrastructure to organise its meetings and events properly.
- The tasks and activities related to the Observatory and the fight against infringements of intellectual property rights should be given to another organisation. Please, explain:
- Other. Please, explain:

113 Please, explain:

800 character(s) maximum

The Observatory is well equipped to carry out its tasks and activities, in terms and meeting capacities. We would nonetheless stress the blurred line between the EUIPO and the Observatory in terms of role, responsibilities and tasks which creates confusion for our members and all stakeholders. Some aspects related to the IT capacities (website and platform of shared documents) could be improved. Specifically, the needed technology and resources that are generally not present in long-term care settings, in a manner able to improve organizational capacity, and the effectiveness of the guidelines and quality management initiatives in long-term care. The same has to be stressed with regards to the need of organizing more regular video meetings among experts working on a project.

118 If "other, please specify:

1500 character(s) maximum

- a) We consider that the Observatory has not allocated sufficient staff to follow promptly all its tasks and activities. Considering that some documents related to meetings and projects do not follow promptly the planned activities, increasing the number of IP experts involved in the Observatory would be advisable.
- b) The Observatory is well equipped to carry out its tasks and activities, in terms of expertise.
- c) The Observatory is well equipped to carry out its tasks and activities, in terms of IT capacities. Yet, the website, database and electronical tool could be improved, according to the most innovative technologies used on the market.

119 Would you see gaps or contradictions between the EU's overall objectives and activities, including in the field of intellectual property, and the EUIPO's tasks and activities in the context of its work with the Observatory and the fight against infringements of intellectual property rights?

- Yes. Please, explain:
- Some of EUIPO's tasks and activities are not totally aligned with the EU's overall objectives and activities. Please, explain:
- The EUIPO's tasks and activities are not consistent with the EU's overall objectives and activities. Please, explain:
- No opinion.

122 Would you think infringements of intellectual property rights could be tackled just as well or even better at national level without involving the EUIPO?

- No.
- Yes.
- No opinion.

123 Please, explain:

2000 character(s) maximum

Q119: INTA does not foresee any contradictions but would like to reiterate that it is important that the Commission, EUIPO and Observatory clearly and consistently communicate about their respective responsibilities and projects, so as to alleviate any risk of confusion.

Q122: INTA strongly believes that the value of the Observatory is its network and capacity to obtain coordination on certain projects, beyond the mere national level, which individual Member-States would have difficulties reaching alone.

Moreover, INTA supports and welcomes the exchange of best practices and coordinated/pan-European tools by the Observatory.

Document upload and final comments

125 Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximal file size is 1MB.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire as additional background reading to help clarify your position.

3d2c0398-ecc9-4286-b003-04ea3cc4f798/INTA_-_additional_comments_-_Public_consultation_on_European_Observatory_s_evaluation_-_October_2018.pdf

126 If you wish to add further information - within the scope of this questionnaire - please feel free to do so here.

2000 character(s) maximum

INTA would like to respectfully thank the European Commission for the opportunity to provide such comments.

INTA would like to recognize the overall work of the EUIPO and the Observatory since 2012.

We would refer you to the attached pdf file in question 125 for our additional comments

Contact

GROW-F5@ec.europa.eu
