IP Office Commission on environment related matters

This initiative creates an internal structure to manage environmental policies and its related activities within a given IP Office. It involves making sustainability a strategic part of the IP office structure. This is done by formalizing all activities and policies related to environment promotion under a commission made up of employees from several departments who are operational in sustainability related matters.

The Brazilian IP Office set up its own Sustainability and Bioeconomy Commission in 2023 given the country's perceived competitive advantage on bioeconomy related sectors, as well as renewed government strategies to support technological development and trade in green technologies and innovation.

In the case of the IP Office in Brazil, identifying and mapping current and potential sustainability related activities in several departments, particularly logistics/ procurement, international cooperation, patent examination and research/ dissemination was critical to align the actions of the IP office.

However, internalizing the strategic importance of sustainable actions took more in-depth measures. Starting from rationalizing and streamlining processes in administration, such as managing electric power, water and waste help to minimize the environmental impact of the IP office and raise awareness of the office's employees of the importance of sustainability.

Another concrete action includes reviewing business development and international cooperation activities. For instance, participating in matchmaking projects (such as the ones managed by WIPO GREEN), supporting the creation of State Forums for Geographical Indications connected to bioeconomy and biodiversity, promoting business rounds for companies in the sustainability sector to access more markets and creating an accelerated examination process for greentech.

Other potential activities that can help in integrating the activities done under sustainability include: establishing an environmental policy and workplan for the work of the commission, developing a methodology to measure results of the activities carried out, as well proposing new activities in support of sustainability to expand the Commission's impact.

Intended impact

Create a governance unit to insert the principles of environmental sustainability into the Office's current and future activities, products and services. At the same time, support technological development and trade in areas related to the environment.

Beneficiaries

IP Office interested in consolidating sustainability activities and programmes.

Considerations for implementation

- It is important to identify and map current and future sustainability related activities done at the IP office. As well as identify leaders in different areas working on the subject that could be interested in joining the commission.
- Potential areas of work that may have sustainability related activities include:
  - Logistics/ procurement
  - International and national cooperation
  - Patent Examination
  - Research and dissemination
- High level management backing is required to ensure internal coherence. Some of the benefits that can be used to persuade management include: integrated efforts with better impact, enhanced understanding of portfolio of sustainability efforts of the organization, improved publicity and marketing possibilities.