



Global Program for Intellectual Property Rights (GPIPR)

The GPIPR supports developing countries to establish efficient and effective protection of intellectual property rights in order to contribute to economic development and facilitate the implementation of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement).

Rationale

Having a strong intellectual property (IP) system is fundamental to creating sound framework conditions for sustainable trade. IP regimes are central in promoting innovation and the development of new goods, services and production methods. IP provides the incentive necessary to pursue further research and development, and creative works. Insofar, as an IP-friendly environment constitutes one element for a sound foundation for a prosperous private sector, it is also helpful for attracting international investors, and protecting local knowledge.

IP is also a central element of today's world-trade system. Under the World Trade Organization, the TRIPS Agreement is the dedicated agreement on IP. IP is an important topic in trade negotiations to create a level playing field for all actors involved, and to ensure that pirated goods do not use legitimate trading channels. In order to facilitate the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, developed countries, including Switzerland, commit to provide technical and financial cooperation on request and on mutually agreed terms and conditions. The GPIPR is SECO's response to this commitment.

Objectives and activities

The GPIPR overall goal is to contribute to an improved IP regime in developing and least developed countries, as well as in emerging economies. While IP offices may be the GPIPR main direct beneficiaries in most cases, other stakeholders also benefit from its interventions. These stakeholders include inter alia ministries of agriculture, customs and/or police agencies, judiciary institutions, universities, IP-related organisations and associations, SMEs and wider producer groups of agricultural and non-agricultural goods. The GPIPR can offer support related to the following IP rights: geographical

Country/region

Global and selected SECO partner countries

Executing agency

Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI)

Duration

2018-2025

Total budget

CHF 10,000,000

SECO contribution

CHF 10,000,000



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indications, trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. It offers demand- and need-based support, for example, to:

- advise on IP policy, strategy and legislation for all IP rights;
- improve IP administration and good governance;
- enable owners in the use of IP rights;
- improve enforcement of IP rights; and
- facilitate knowledge and technology transfer.

Governance structure

The Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property's (IPI) Sustainable Development and International Cooperation team in Berne plans, implements and monitors the GPIPR's projects and activities. Depending on the interventions foreseen in the partner country, a local project associate ensures implementation and monitoring on the ground. The GPIPR Steering Committee consists of SECO and IPI and governs the overall program. Specific country-level steering arrangements may be established on a case-by-case basis.

Results so far

Since the GPIPR started in June 2018, it has been supporting the following countries: Albania, Colombia, Georgia, Morocco, Myanmar, Peru, the occupied Palestinian territory, Serbia, South Africa and Tunisia. Additional activities and projects are being planned with El Salvador, Moldova and Vietnam.

SECO and IPI have a well-established collaboration since 2001. Examples of past results include:


- Indonesia: capacity built in the area of IP policy-making, patent examination and on counterfeiting and piracy; a postgraduate course on GI developed; 4 products registered as a GI and supported by obtaining market access; copyright organisations strengthened, IP capacity of polytechnic institutes built.
- Ghana: IP policy formulated and promoted; national IP legislation modernised; and enforcement of IP rights strengthened through capacity building at the police, customs and judicial levels.
- Colombia: capacity built in the area of trademarks, patents, GI, industrial designs, technology searches and a training academy at the industrial property office; national copyright system supported; national policy on knowledge and technology transfer developed; national intellectual property strategy supported and creation of regional innovation clusters supported, leading to an improved innovation capacity of the country.

How to get involved

The IPI can be contacted through their website. Where available, the Swiss cooperation offices (as part of the Swiss Embassies abroad) can also follow up on requests regarding the GPIPR.

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Rules-based trade system



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