

**Work plan 2022-2023 on Bilateral Co-operation  
between  
the European Patent Office  
and the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the  
Republic of Moldova**

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The Agreement on Validation of European Patents in the Republic of Moldova entered into force on 01.11.2015. The present 2022-2023 work plan for the bilateral co-operation between the European Patent Office (EPO) and the State Agency on Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) aims at supporting the functioning of the Validation Agreement and at further strengthening the patent system in the Republic of Moldova.

One of the aims of the Validation agreement is closer and stronger overall co-operation with the EPO, whereby the EPO supports AGEPI in promoting IP in the Republic of Moldova in general, and both offices encourage and foster the effective use of validated patents. This is reflected in the current workplan. Training and coaching activities are continued, co-operation on e-learning is developed, awareness and outreach activities expanded, new initiatives are undertaken for developing IP best practices and the promotion of collaboration between industry and research in the Republic of Moldova. Outreach and awareness actions pursue the use of the validation system.

The co-operation under this 2022-2023 work plan has the following objectives:

1. To consolidate AGEPI capacities to examine applications that are directly filed in the Republic of Moldova. This objective will be achieved by ensuring that the examiners at AGEPI work with standards and procedures that are comparable with the standards and procedures in place at the EPO.

The activities that contribute to this objective under this work plan are: MD/2022/1.1 and MD/2022/1.2.

2. To further develop a patent culture and awareness in the Republic of Moldova. This objective will be achieved through the further development of services supporting the needs of the stakeholders of the national patent system.

The activities that contribute to this objective under this work plan are: MD/2022/2.1, MD/2022/3.1, MD/2022/3.2, MD/2022/3.3, MD/2022/3.4, MD/2022/3.5, MD/2022/3.7

3. To develop awareness of applicants about the validation agreement and raise awareness about the Republic of Moldova as a Validation state.

The activity that contributes to this objective under this work plan is MD/2022/3.6

4. To maintain and develop long term relations between the EPO and the AGEPI.

The activities that contribute to this objective under this work plan are: MD/2022/3.1, MD/2022/4.1

5. To strengthen the technical infrastructure of AGEPI that is necessary to its mission.

The activities that contribute to this objective under this work plan are: MD/2022/2.1, MD/2022/2.2, MD/2022/2.3

The activities of this work plan are implemented under the following co-operation areas:

1. Patent granting procedure
2. Supporting infrastructure

3. Outreach and awareness activities
4. Review of co-operation

Each activity is numbered identifying the workplan and the co-operation area under which it is carried out.

The implementation of each activity is subject to the availability of the corresponding resources within the budget of the parties for the corresponding implementing period and to the evolution of the Covid-19 crisis. Activities described in this work plan will be carried out as described as far as possible with virtual meetings replacing onsite meetings as necessary and relevant. In case meetings or training activities would require to be carried out with “in-person” format, the EPO would cover the costs for AGEPI staff (missions costs: flight, accommodation, and lunches / dinners according to the programme of the activity) and for EPO experts or EPO mandated experts.

Depending on its implementation, the duration of the 2022-2023 work plan could be extended by one or two years by means of exchange of letters between both Offices.

# 1. Patent granting procedure

## 1.1 Coaching of AGEPI examiners on patent search and examination in specific technical fields

<b>Title</b>	<b>Coaching of AGEPI examiners on patent search and examination in specific technical fields</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/1.1
Context	Search and examination procedure at AGEPI
Objective	<p>AGEPI wishes to raise the level of competence of its examiners in search and examination.</p> <p>The applications filed in the Republic of Moldova and the applications filed at the EPO are processed with similar standards and tools.</p>
Expected result	AGEPI examiners are familiar with the way the EPO examiners examine European applications
Pre-conditions	Telecommunication facilities including VICO
Description	<p>Following the training and coaching provided in previous years, this coaching will focus on the search and examination of specific cases in specific technical fields of interest to AGEPI examiners. Building on previously offered courses, AGEPI examiners could attend targeted courses held by expert EPO examiners on topics such as Artificial Intelligence (as continuation to previous CII sessions) and bio drugs.</p> <p>AGEPI has 12 patent examiners distributed across two main technical groups. At least two (2) virtual coaching sessions (by VICO) shall be organised per group. The sessions will deal with cases selected by the experts from both offices in advance. Whenever necessary, the EPO examiner shares the theoretical background that underlines the EPO's examination practice.</p>
Implementing mode	<p>Online coaching sessions</p> <p>For the regular virtual coaching and provision of guidance, each office shall nominate a contact person from within the respective patent examination units.</p>
Number of Partner Office participants	Up to 12 AGEPI examiners
Foreseen resources	EPO and AGEPI coordinators, technical experts and patent examiners

<b>Title</b>	<b>Coaching of AGEPI examiners on patent search and examination in specific technical fields</b>
Funding	Each party bears its own costs (online activity)
Venue	Virtual/online

## 1.2 Participation of AGEPI examiners in European Patent Academy seminars

<b>Title</b>	<b>Participation of AGEPI examiners in European Patent Academy seminars</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/1.2
Context	Search and examination procedure at AGEPI
Objective	To enable AGEPI examiners to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Search and examine national patent applications in line with EPO practice, standards and tools.</li> <li>2. Provide competent training, advice and support to existing and potential users of the patent system.</li> </ol>
Expected result	AGEPI examiners are familiar with the way EPO examiners process European applications
Pre-conditions	n/a
Description	AGEPI and EPO shall jointly identify relevant training courses from the annual training catalogue of the European Patent Academy in line with the objectives mentioned above. Examples include courses on search strategy, patent prosecution/interaction with attorneys and applicants, etc.
Implementing mode	Seminars of the European Patent Academy, planned to be online
Number of Partner Office participants	In case of in-person events: two (2) participants per course
Foreseen resources	EPO trainers and AGEPI participants
Funding	Each party bears its own costs (online activity)
Venue	Virtual (or onsite in Europe), as appropriate

## 2. Supporting infrastructure

### 2.1 Developing co-operation in the field of e-learning

<b>Title</b>	<b>Developing co-operation in the field of e-learning</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/2.1
Context	AGEPI launched an e-learning platform on 1 March 2019, which could be further developed and inter-linked with the EPO's e-learning portal.
Objective	To enhance the structure and design of AGEPI's e-learning portal and to develop joint events and links between EPO and AGEPI e-learning platforms.
Expected result	Increased use of AGEPI e-learning platform by the users and improved range and quality of content.
Pre-conditions	Translation in Romanian language of EPO learning materials (fundable under the Validation package, activity 2.3, under the conditions set in the validation package and for the duration of the validation package)
Description	<p>After first exchanges that took place in 2021, an analysis of AGEPI's e-learning platform must be carried out, in order to interlink relevant content with the EPO's e-learning portal.</p> <p>Exchange of views on how to modernise and improve ergonomics and didactics of AGEPI's platform based on existing EPO online content would follow.</p>
Implementing mode	Virtual communication between contact persons from the European Patent Academy and the AGEPI.
Number of Partner Office participants	n/a
Foreseen resources	EPO and AGEPI experts and online content
Funding	Each office bears its own costs
Venue	Virtual as appropriate



## 2.2 Data exchange; obtaining quality data at source

<b>Title</b>	<b>Data exchange; obtaining quality data at source</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/2.2
Context	Existing data exchange between the EPO and AGEPI in the framework of the Validation Agreement
Objective	To ensure that Moldovan bibliographic and procedural/legal event data are as much as possible complete in the global databases
Expected result	To complement the existing data exchange using the data quality at source approach
Pre-conditions	n/a
Description	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain regular data exchange of bibliographic and procedural/legal event data (ftp, OPS, Post grant validations and exchange of emails with Front Office).</li> <li>2. Review of progress and discussion of any gaps that arise and possible correction measures.</li> <li>3. Participation of AGEPI experts in data workshops when organised by the EPO.</li> </ol>
Implementing mode	Exchange of expertise, virtually
Number of Partner Office participants	Up to two experts
Foreseen resources	EPO expertise and participation of AGEPI staff members in relevant workshops
Funding	Each Office bears its own costs regarding data exchange.
Venue	Virtual, as appropriate

## 2.3 Support under the validation package

Title	Support under the Validation package
Activity Number	MD/2022/2.3
Context	Extended Co-operation between the EPO and AGEPI within the Validation package
Objective	Facilitate the implementation of the Validation agreement and boosting national initiatives in the field of innovation
Expected result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Audit of the present status in IT and administration</li> <li>▪ Improved capacity of AGEPI to deal with validation procedures and to reach out to the national audience</li> </ul>
Pre-conditions	n/a
Description	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Following AGEPI's overall IT audit end 2020, targeted audit of the AGEPI's IT and administration infrastructure with a view to ensuring a smooth implementation of the validation system (versioning of software used, documentation, accessibility of sources and know-how, sharing of knowledge inside the Office, use of APIs compatible with EPO recent developments)</li> <li>2. Translation of IP Teaching Kit (when new version made available by the EPO and EUIPO) and other relevant EPO teaching materials from English into Romanian language in the framework of the validation package (under the conditions set in the validation package and for the duration of the validation package)</li> <li>3. Other activities to be defined and agreed between both Offices</li> </ol>
Implementing mode	Expert mission 2-3 days or online equivalent Outsourced (based on 3 offers to be provided by AGEPI).
Number of Partner Office participants	Tbd
Foreseen resources	Expert mission; translation services.
Funding	Validation Package
Venue	Virtual or (if local expert) in the Republic of Moldova, as appropriate

### 3. Outreach and awareness activities

#### 3.1 Participation of AGEPI and EPO in each other's patent-related conferences and events

<b>Title</b>	<b>Participation of AGEPI and EPO in each other's patent-related conferences</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/3.1
Context	Both EPO and AGEPI organise annual conferences to raise IP and patent awareness and to inform the user community about the latest developments at their offices and improvements in their services and systems.
Objective	Development of patent awareness and culture in the Republic of Moldova. Exchange of best practices and promotion of the bilateral co-operation programme among the user community in the respective regions.
Expected result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Exchange of latest best practices.</li><li>▪ Increased awareness of patents and the bilateral co-operation.</li></ul>
Pre-conditions	n/a
Description	<p>AGEPI staff involved in patent awareness activities will be invited to participate in each of the following EPO annual conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ PATLIB conference</li><li>▪ Patent Knowledge Week</li><li>▪ East meets West</li><li>▪ European Inventor Award</li><li>▪ IP executive week</li><li>▪ Workshops/online seminars by the EPO Worldwide IP team on the EPO's validation states, with focus on patent-information and patent knowledge related topics</li></ul> <p>AGEPI will inform the EPO about relevant conferences being organised in the Republic of Moldova in the course of 2022 and 2023 and participation by the EPO will be considered.</p>
Implementing mode	Conference
Number of Partner Office participants	To be agreed (up to two (2) in case any event is carried out in presence)

<b>Title</b>	<b>Participation of AGEPI and EPO in each other's patent-related conferences</b>
Foreseen resources	AGEPI staff members, EPO staff
Funding	n/a as (preferably) online activities, otherwise funding as indicated in the preamble of the workplan
Venue	Various (online)

### 3.2 Training AGEPI trainers on conducting IP assessment and guidance for SMEs

<b>Title</b>	<b>Training AGEPI trainers on conducting IP assessment and guidance for SMEs</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/3.2
Context	AGEPI develops IP awareness among companies in the Republic of Moldova
Objective	AGEPI is equipped with the appropriate methodology for IP assessment and guidance for SMEs
Expected result	A core team of AGEPI trainers can conduct IP assessment and guidance for SMEs
Pre-conditions	The AGEPI trainers have followed the soft skills course for trainers and 2 AGEPI staff have previously attended training on the IP pre-diagnosis scheme.
Description	<p>An EPO expert, or an expert mandated by the EPO, follows the following steps</p> <p>Step 1: explains the methodology of IP assessment and guidance for SMEs and its tools</p> <p>Steps 2 and 3: the AGEPI experts conduct IP assessment and guidance for SMEs with support of the expert mandated by the EPO.</p> <p>A part of the activity may include a demonstration on how to use Espacenet for commercial and technical research purposes by AGEPI experts.</p> <p>The EPO mandated expert could advantageously be fluent in Romanian language, to facilitate the communication.</p>
Implementing mode	Training programme and workshop (online), virtual support of visits to local companies as required
Number of Partner Office participants	5 experts
Foreseen resources	Virtual training – support, as appropriate EPO mandated experts (incl. when relevant Patlib experts)
Funding	The EPO covers the costs of the expert and the AGEPI organises the visit to the local companies
Venue	Online (Chisinau for AGEPI staff)

### 3.3 Promotion of the use of the IP teaching kit

<b>Title</b>	<b>Promotion of the use of the IP teaching kit</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/3.3
Context	Development of an IP education and culture in the Republic of Moldova
Objective	Support of IP teaching in the Republic of Moldova by AGEPI
Expected result	Bespoke IP courses are introduced by AGEPI experts in Universities by means of the IP teaching kit
Pre-conditions	The AGEPI experts have attended the train-the-trainers course on the IP Teaching kit
Description	<p>This activity will be implemented by the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An expert mandated by the EPO supports the AGEPI experts in introducing the IP teaching kit and its use in Universities (online activity). On this basis, the AGEPI experts can further advise IP teachers and professors on how to use this resource, advantageously in a ViCo.</li> <li>2. Organisation of a round table (in principle: virtual) on IP teaching within the framework of the AGEPI Reading conference in April 2022 with the participation of European experts, to exchange on best practices in IP education. Within the round table, a presentation of IP teaching kit will be performed (on screen).</li> </ol>
Implementing mode	ViCo between EPO and AGEPI experts for step 1, and for step 2. The implementation of this activity shall be linked to the translation of the IP Teaching kit into Romanian language within the validation package (translation under the conditions set in the validation package and for the duration of the validation package).
Number of Partner Office participants	5 experts
Foreseen resources	AGEPI and EPO staff
Funding	The EPO covers the costs of the expert
Venue	Virtual as appropriate

### 3.4 Developing IP best practices in the Republic of Moldova

<b>Title</b>	<b>Developing IP best practices in the Republic of Moldova</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/3.4
Context	<p>A continuous development of IP practice by national stakeholders (businesses, universities, state funded agencies) can support economic growth.</p> <p>New accompanying measures would foster such practice.</p>
Objective	Increase IP awareness in the Republic of Moldova
Expected result	Greater interest in IP in the Moldovan domestic economy
Pre-conditions	n/a
Description	<p>The following actions shall be pursued:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on local needs to be identified by AGEPI, the EPO shall provide (or facilitate, and when relevant fund, the provision of) up-to-date materials and information, that would be translated in the local language (see MD/2022/2.3 Validation package). In this regard, the EPO will share relevant training and awareness materials.</li> <li>2. Awareness-raising events shall be organised in the Republic of Moldova with EPO's contribution. Good practices such as for instance date-stamping of business or laboratory documents (laboratory notebooks) could be addressed by AGEPI. The benefits of using IP clauses in agreements between employers and employees and with business partners, etc. may be presented by AGEPI or by professional representatives. These awareness-raising events would highlight best practices for using existing patent information and patent knowledge, to optimise R&amp;D costs.</li> <li>3. A number of innovative companies file trademark applications or industrial designs, but do not think about patents. Therefore, the certificates for grant of trademarks and industrial designs issued by AGEPI may be systematically coupled with information regarding technical innovation and its protection. As a first step into the world of patents, the information provided would include relevant links to the usefulness of patent information and patent knowledge. EPO's support shall extend to provision of the relevant material (MD/2022/2.3).</li> </ol>
Implementing mode	Virtual meetings, EPO expert supporting the awareness-raising events

<b>Title</b>	<b>Developing IP best practices in the Republic of Moldova</b>
Number of Partner Office participants	2 staff members
Foreseen resources	EPO and AGEPI staff and translated EPO material
Funding	N/A
Venue	By virtual means as appropriate, travel to Chisinau or Munich when relevant



### 3.5 Promoting collaboration between industry and research entities in the Republic of Moldova

<b>Title</b>	<b>Promoting collaboration between industry and research entities in Moldova</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/3.5
Context	Development of IP based cooperation in the Republic of Moldova
Objective	Development of the national and international research collaboration between industry and Moldovan research entities, as well as increasing potential for foreign investment
Expected result	Increased visibility of the Republic of Moldova for companies making use of the validation agreement
Pre-conditions	n/a
Description	<p>AGEPI and the EPO would organize workshops bringing together the research entities of the Republic of Moldova and representatives of international companies. The workshops would consist in raising awareness about the possibilities of using the licensing system and the possibilities of creating joint ventures (involving national or validated patents).</p> <p>AGEPI would undertake to identify, when relevant, EU-funded programmes in the Republic of Moldova that may provide a supporting framework for incentivising the creation of joint ventures between the owners of patents validated in the Republic of Moldova and local businesses.</p>
Implementing mode	Online / in person events
Number of Partner Office participants	TBD
Foreseen resources	AGEPI and EPO staff, Moldovan innovation stakeholders
Funding	In case of in-person events, the EPO covers its speakers' costs and when relevant the venue
Venue	By virtual means as appropriate, travel to Chisinau or Munich when relevant

### 3.6 Develop visibility of the validation agreement for validation applicants

<b>Title</b>	<b>Develop visibility of the validation agreement for validation applicants</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/3.6
Context	Development of awareness about the validation agreement for industry users
Objective	To promote Validation, and the Republic of Moldova as a Validation state
Expected result	Visibility of the validation agreement for applicants  Visibility of the Republic of Moldova, to promote effective validation of EP patents in the country
Pre-conditions	n/a
Description	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An online video about the Validation agreement could be devised, that would be published on the AGEPI website (and when applicable other Validation states interested)</li> <li>2. Representatives of users of the Validation system would be contacted, that could share with the EPO and AGEPI (and other Validation states IP offices interested) advantages they have identified with an extensive Validation strategy and give examples of specific situations where this has proven useful. This would support the development of online material about Validation as in 1.</li> <li>3. When appropriate, EPO and AGEPI would reach out, in the form of dedicated online meetings, to representatives of companies in less represented technical fields (e.g., ICT) which may be interested in validation strategies. Potential future users would be asked for their views on the Validation system during the virtual meeting and their attention would be raised to the possibilities that validation would offer to them.</li> </ol> <p>Nota: The results of the consultation in 2. would be used by the EPO and AGEPI (plus interested Validation offices). Depending on the context and suitability, testimonials would be published externally, or be used for internal guidance only</p>
Implementing mode	Recorded online video and virtual meetings
Number of Partner Office participants	2 staff members

<b>Title</b>	<b>Develop visibility of the validation agreement for validation applicants</b>
Foreseen resources	EPO and AGEPI staff
Funding	N/A
Venue	By virtual means as appropriate, travel to Chisinau or Munich when relevant

### 3.7 Enhancing validation knowledge for specialists

<b>Title</b>	<b>Enhancing validation knowledge for specialists</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/3.7
Context	AGEPI launched an e-learning platform on 1 March 2019 The activity aims at extending the offer that is available.
Objective	To further develop the offer made available to patent specialists
Expected result	Increased use of AGEPI e-learning platform by users and improved range and quality of content
Pre-conditions	Translation into Romanian language of EPO learning materials (fundable under the Validation package, under the conditions set in the Validation package and for the duration of the validation package)
Description	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand AGEPI's e-learning content with training for specialists, including judges</li> <li>2. Training on the validation agreement and its economic potential for AGEPI specialists / examiners, encompassing advanced topics such as licensing</li> <li>3. Developing training courses targeting national patent attorneys in online format</li> </ol>
Implementing mode	Virtual communication between contact persons from the European Patent Academy and the AGEPI.
Number of Partner Office participants	n/a
Foreseen resources	EPO and AGEPI experts and online content
Funding	Each office bears its own costs
Venue	By virtual means as appropriate.

## 4. Review of co-operation

### 4.1 Annual review of co-operation

<b>Title</b>	<b>Annual review of co-operation</b>
Activity Number	MD/2022/4.1
Context	EPO - AGEPI bilateral co-operation
Objective	To maintain and develop the long-term relations between the two Offices
Expected result	Review of achievements in 2022 and development of the activities for 2023
Pre-conditions	n/a
Description	<p>EPO and AGEPI officials meet and assess the results achieved with the activities implemented in 2022 in the light of the initial objectives.</p> <p>The meeting is an occasion to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Assess the functioning of the Validation Agreement (Bilateral Commission on the Validation Agreement),</li><li>▪ Evaluate the implementation of the Work Plan 2022 and,</li><li>▪ Plan the co-operation activities for 2023.</li></ul>
Implementing mode	Technical meeting
Number of Partner Office participants	2 staff
Foreseen resources	EPO and AGEPI staff
Funding	n/a
Starting date	End 2022
Completion date	31-12-23
Venue	By virtual means as appropriate

For the European Patent Office



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António Campinos  
President of the European Patent Office

Munich, 19.10.2021

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Place, date

For the State Agency on Intellectual Property  
of the Republic of Moldova



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Eugeniu Rusu  
Director General of the State Agency on  
Intellectual Property of the Republic of  
Moldova

Chirimău, 25.11.21

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Place, date