



# Global Program for Intellectual Property Rights (GPIPR)

## Improving intellectual property regimes to promote innovation and the development of new goods, services and production methods.

The GPIPR supports developing and least developed countries as well as emerging economies to build efficient and effective protection of intellectual property rights 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 create 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, an IP-friendly environment constitutes a sound foundation for a prosperous private sector, is helpful for attracting international investors, and for protecting local knowledge.

IP is also a central element of today's world-trade system. Under the World Trade Organization, there is a dedicated agreement on IP, the TRIPS Agreement. 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, in favour of developing and least developed countries. The GPIPR is SECO's response to this commitment.

### Objectives and activities

The overall goal of the GPIPR 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 main direct beneficiaries of the program in most cases, other stakeholders also benefit from the interventions under the GPIPR. These stakeholders include inter alia ministries of agriculture, customs or police agencies, judiciary institutions, universities, IP-related organisations and associations, SMEs and wider producer groups. The program can offer support related to the following IP rights: geographical

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SECO country/region

Global and selected  
SECO partner  
countries

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Main funding partners

Switzerland (SECO)

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Implementing partner

Swiss Federal Institute  
of Intellectual Property  
(IPI)

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Duration

2018-2024

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Total budget

CHF 10,000,000

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SECO contribution

CHF 10,000,000

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

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

### **Governance Structure**

The Project Management Team of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) in Berne plans and monitors the activities under the GPIPR. Depending on the interventions foreseen in the beneficiary country, a local project associate ensures on the ground implementation and monitoring. A Steering Committee, including SECO and IPI, governs the overall program. Specific country-level steering arrangements may be established on a case-by-case basis.

### **Results so far**

Since the start of its operation in June 2018, the GPIPR has supported the following countries: Albania, Colombia, Myanmar, Peru, Serbia and South Africa. Additional activities and projects are being planned in Benin, Georgia, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

SECO has had a well-established collaboration with IPI since 2001. Examples of past results:

- Vietnam: IP administration modernised, IP Office established, increased public awareness on IP, data on over 2'000 medical plants accessible through a database on traditional knowledge, and over 12 Geographical Indications (GI) registered.
- 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 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) can also follow up on requests regarding the GPIPR.

### **Further information and contact details**

IPI's website: <https://www.ige.ch/en/law-and-policy/development-cooperation.html>  
GPIPR at SECO: [info.wehu.cooperation@seco.admin.ch](mailto:info.wehu.cooperation@seco.admin.ch)

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