



# Global Program for Intellectual Property Rights (GPIPR)

Improved Intellectual Property regime 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 in building up an efficient and effective protection of intellectual property rights to support economic development and facilitate the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

## Rationale

Having a strong Intellectual Property (IP) system is fundamental to creating sound framework conditions for sustainable trade. IP regimes are central to 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, it is part of a sound foundation for a prosperous private sector, helpful for attracting international investors, but also 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 regarding IP, namely the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (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, committed to provide technical and financial cooperation in favour of developing and least developed countries. This program 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 emerging economies. While IP offices may be the main direct beneficiaries of the program in most cases, other actors also benefit from the interventions under GPIPR, such as 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:

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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 million

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SECO contribution

CHF 10 million

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geographical indications, trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs and traditional knowledge. It offers demand- and need-based support among others 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 representatives of the partner country, SECO and IPI governs the overall program. Specific country-level steering arrangements may be established on a case-by-case basis.

#### Results so far

GPIPR has been operational since June 2018. 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 registered.
- Indonesia: capacity built in the area of IP policy-making, international negotiations, and on counterfeiting and piracy; 4 products registered as a geographical indication and a national GI-association created.
- 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 level.
- Colombia: capacity built in trademarks, patents, geographical indications, technology searches and training academy at the industrial property office; national policy on knowledge and technology transfer developed and creation of regional innovation clusters supported, leading to improved innovation capacity of the country.

#### How to get involved

IPI can be best contacted through the IPI website. Where available, the Swiss cooperation offices (being part of the Swiss Embassy) can also follow up on requests regarding the GPIPR.

#### Further information and contact details

IPI 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)