

## IP-RELATED KNOWLEDGE CIRCLES

	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>FREQUENCY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly/bi-weekly IP KC meetings</li> <li>Regular revision of the Guidelines</li> <li>Yearly revision of the KCs composition</li> </ul>	<p>The <u>IP-related</u> Knowledge Circles (KCs) are teams composed of members of various departments. Under the coordination of the Legal Department (LD), they develop the EUIPO's practice on trade marks and designs as reflected in the Guidelines. The <u>IP-related</u> KCs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KC Absolute Grounds for Refusal and <i>Ex parte</i> Proceedings;</li> <li>KC Classification and G&amp;S Issues;</li> <li>KC Designs;</li> <li>KC Geographical Indications and Collective Rights;</li> <li>KC Register and General Issues;</li> <li>KC Relative Grounds for Refusal and <i>Inter partes</i> Proceedings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/LINKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Decision No ADM-21-24 on establishing an Integral Quality Framework at the EUIPO</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>METHODOLOGY</b></p> <p>The <u>IP-related</u> KCs were conceived to enable a fruitful exchange of views across the EUIPO, thus avoiding 'silos'. They are organised according to different subject matter and each of them deals with a particular area of the EUIPO's practice.</p> <p>The <u>areas of activity</u> include developing and disseminating the EUIPO's practice as reflected in the Guidelines, contribution to convergence projects, participation in office wide projects, case-law analysis (Boards of Appeal, Courts), drafting of decisions/communications of the Executive Director, coordination of and participation in quality matters, preparation of training materials, participation as speakers in training activities and other events organised by the Academy as well as for international and European cooperation, legal analysis and the preparation of legal texts. All these activities are taken into account when defining the annual work plan.</p>
	<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Harmonisation of IP-related practice across the EUIPO.</li> <li>❖ Knowledge sharing between departments.</li> <li>❖ Fostering cooperative working methods.</li> </ul>