TRIPS Capacity Building

TRIPS Agreement Article 67:
Providing a Global Overview of Technical Assistance
Why does the TRIPS Agreement include a provision on technical assistance?

The big picture perspective...
Preamble to the Agreement Establishing the WTO

Recital II: Recognizing further that there is need for positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development;
In order to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement, developed country Members shall provide, on request and on mutually agreed terms and conditions, technical and financial cooperation in favour of developing and least-developed country Members. Such cooperation shall include assistance in the preparation of laws and regulations on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights as well as on the prevention of their abuse, and shall include support regarding the establishment or reinforcement of domestic offices and agencies relevant to these matters, including the training of personnel.
An opportunity for interaction between technical assistance providers and technical assistance beneficiaries
TRIPS Capacity Building

Reporting Mechanism

An opportunity to communicate technical assistance programmes and projects
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A unique view of IP capacity building around the world

Reporting Mechanism

An opportunity to communicate technical assistance programmes and projects
Technical cooperation reports: Global overview of facts and figures in 2020

Programmes benefiting over 148 WTO Members and Observers

Covering all regions

Over 190 programmes

2020
Technical cooperation reports: Global overview of facts and figures in 2020

A range of participants, including:

- Policymakers
- Parliamentarians
- IP examiners
- Judiciary
- Police
- Customs officials
- Research community
Evolution of TRIPS technical assistance

As evidenced by the evolving needs of beneficiary Members, and the corresponding assistance, IP systems are dynamic systems…

Like living things, IP systems require attention so they can both help shape, and adapt to, their rapidly changing environments.
Evolution of TRIPS technical assistance

Putting down roots

The early days of TRIPS TA focused more on institution building and bringing IP laws into compliance with international obligations.
Evolution of TRIPS technical assistance

Branching out to policy questions

Increasingly, TRIPS TA focused on cross-cutting IP-related policy issues.
Evolution of TRIPS technical assistance

Assisting with the evolution of IP systems and enhancement of institutions throughout the years.
TRIPS Capacity Building

WTO Secretariat IP-related technical assistance

Increasingly tailored, technical, holistic – and always demand driven.
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Thank you

WTO Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division

IPD@wto.org