Classification

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Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)
Next steps

• CPC will enter into force on 1 January 2013

• Quality assurance will be put in place

• CPC will be used by EPO and USPTO

• EPO and USPTO classification practices will be harmonised

• Joint CPC revisions will take place as of 1 April 2013

• CPC will be available for use by other IP offices and the public (EPOQUE, Espacenet, EAST, WEST)
Anticipated CPC benefits

• More comprehensive patent document search using single classification system
  – Improves access to more prior art document collections
  – Permits search of multiple language document collection
  – Increases harmonisation

• Collaborative maintenance of CPC
  – EPO and USPTO will undertake revision projects jointly
  – Frequent updates and revisions, normally on a monthly basis
Support to users

• A CPC information website was launched on 25 October 2011 under the following URL: www.cpcinfo.org, comprising:
  – Presentations about CPC
  – CPC launch scheme (available October 2012)
  – CPC definitions (available from October 2012)
  – FAQ section
  – Calendar of events

• E-learning modules will be created and made available in Q4 2012

• Seminars and Workshops will be organised in 2012
  – Users' workshop held on 23 March 2012, Vienna, Austria
  – USPTO Users' day to be held on 10 July 2012, Alexandria, USA
  – EPOPIC 6-8 November, Hamburg, Germany
At IP5 level: Common Hybrid Classification

• 6 pilot projects completed until end of 2011 and 11 in progress since

• Revised mandate currently in discussion
  – ECLA/USPC references replaced by CPC
  – Prioritise areas in certain fast moving technical fields originating from countries not classifying in a refined scheme (China, Korea)
Launch CHC projects in prioritised areas for improving IPC
Thank you for your attention!