# Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)
# Progress report

Mark Powell (USPTO) and Niclas Morey (EPO)          Tokyo, 13 April 2012

# Overview

- CPC Recent developments

- CPC Definitions

- CPC Quality Assurance (QA)

- Training

- CPC Implementation Timeline

# CPC: Recent developments

- Business Methods (USPC 705 & ECLA G06Q): was dealt with separately and is now almost complete
  - new G06Q includes former USPC 705 subdivisions
    - about 375 subdivisions vs. 50 currently available in ECLA/IPC

- Make use of a Collaborative Environment for Communication

# CPC Definitions

- The CPC scheme will be supported by a set of instructions on how to search and classify in each specific technical area

- They have been designed along the lines of the IPC Definitions

- Completed CPC Definitions will (progressively) be published and finally they will cover
  - all subclasses
  - all main groups, and
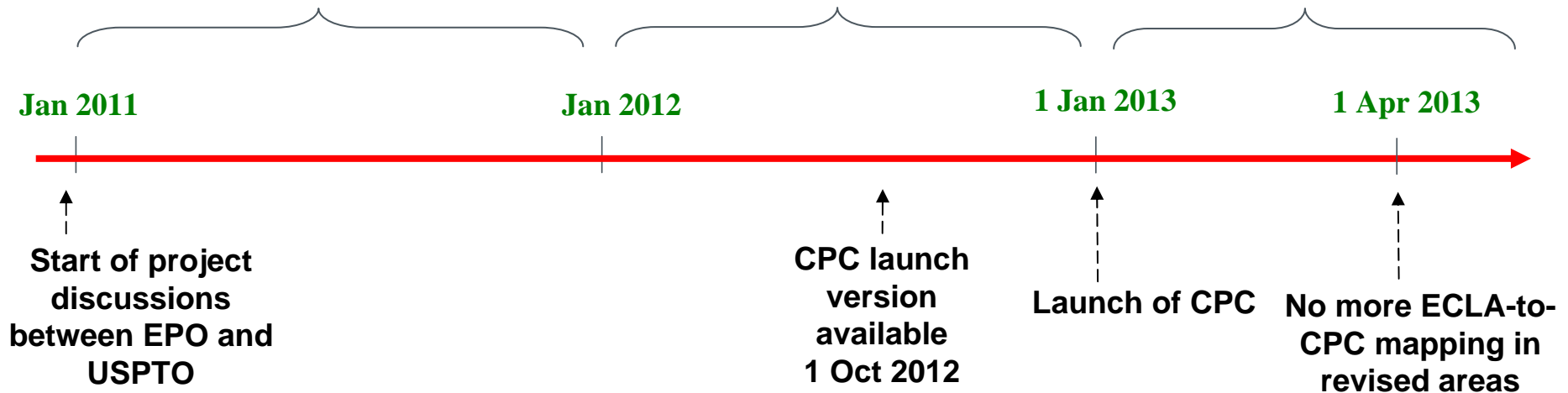  - some subgroups

# Quality Assurance (QA)

- Establish Points of Contact (PoC) per technical area between EPO-USPTO

- Check, find non-compliances, correct them, send feedback to PoC and record findings

- Monitor and analyse data

- Take corrective actions

- Make use of the Collaborative Environment for communication

# Training on CPC

- **At the EPO, CPC will have a direct impact on:**
  - EPOQUE (EPO and SIPO)
  - EPOQUE Net (some 45 national IP offices)
  - Espacenet (public users)
  - Other systems

- **At the USPTO, CPC will have a direct impact on:**
  - EAST
  - WEST
  - File management systems

- **Training is imperative. Online modules will be made available in last quarter of 2012**

# Next crucial CPC transition activities

- Develop training
- Document classification practices (CPC Definitions)
- ECLA housekeeping
- Design IT
- Design collaborative environment

- Conduct training
- IT implementation at USPTO and EPO
- Collaborative environment
- **CPC Scheme launch version publicly available on 1 Oct 2012**
- **DOC-DB back-file converted to CPC on 15 Nov 2012**
- Prepare for launch of CPC

- Quality Assurance process in place
- CPC used by EPO and USPTO
- Harmonized classification practices
- Joint CPC revisions
- CPC available for use by other IP offices

**Jan 2011**        **Jan 2012**        **1 Jan 2013**        **1 Apr 2013**

**Start of project discussions between EPO and USPTO**

**CPC launch version available 1 Oct 2012**

**Launch of CPC**

**No more ECLA-to-CPC mapping in revised areas**

# Impact of CPC on EPO and stakeholders

| User | Today | 01-Jan-2013 | Transition point | 01-Jan-2015 |
|------|-------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| *EPO examiners* | ECLA | ECLA or CPC | CPC | CPC |
| *EPO non-examining staff* | ECLA | CPC | CPC | CPC |
| *EpoqueNet user* | ECLA | ECLA or CPC | CPC | CPC |
| *Espacenet user* | ECLA | CPC | CPC | CPC |
| *Public vendors* | ECLA | CPC | CPC | CPC |
| *Other external users* | ECLA | CPC | CPC | CPC |
| | | | | |
| *USPTO contractor* | USPC | USPC and CPC | USPC and/or CPC | CPC |
| *USPTO examiners* | USPC | USPC and/or CPC | USPC and/or CPC | CPC |
| *Plants & Designs USPC* | USPC | USPC | USPC | USPC |

**From 01 Apr 2013: Revisions in CPC only → ECLA not reliable in revised areas**

**EPO and USPTO regularly inform the external world on CPC developments.**

**CPC Day held at the EPO on 23 March: All presentations and a film available on**

**http://www.cpcinfo.org**

# Thank you !!

# Questions?