AUDIT

Follow-up audit on the implementation of recommendations: risk management

Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property

KEY FACTS

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) conducted a follow-up audit at the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) regarding the implementation of the recommendations on risk management made in SFAO audit report 23264[4]. Two recommendations were reviewed as part of this follow-up audit. They have been implemented.

Organisation and process have been introduced

Following the SFAO audit, the IPI made considerable efforts to introduce risk management as required by the Federal Council's strategic objectives for the period from 2022 to 2026. In particular, it commissioned the drafting of a directive on risk management, which was adopted by the Executive Board and the Institute Council in autumn 2024. This document contains the risk policy and strategy, and defines both the organisation and the process. This process was implemented for the first time in 2025, and led to the preparation of a risk report for the attention of the Executive Board and the Institute Council.

Improvements are still needed

The SFAO identified some improvements that need to be made following this first implementation. The IPI has already acknowledged these too. These include, for example, working with clear descriptions of the credible worst case scenario and making the impact of risk mitigation measures visible. It is still too soon to make any statements about the effectiveness of the IPI's risk management.

The IPI decided to assign the function of risk manager to an external service provider. While the reasons for this unusual choice are understandable for the initial phase, the IPI should consider bringing this function in-house in the medium term, taking into consideration the criteria of effectiveness, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The SFAO considers the two recommendations it made to be implemented and encourages the IPI to continue its efforts to improve the maturity of its risk management.

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