Europäisches
Patentamt

European
Patent Office

Office européen
des brevets

Training catalogue

European Patent Academy

2022

Contents

Foreword

In this fast-changing world, we must all learn constantly if we are to evolve and adapt successfully. That is especially true for those of us working with patents, which are at the cutting-edge of business and technology. As businesses around the world seek to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic with innovative products and services, delivering high-quality patents has never been more important – and education is essential to that goal.

This catalogue provides a guide to the extensive range of activities that the European Patent Academy will offer in 2022. The Academy plays a key role in ensuring that users of the European patent system have the knowledge and skills that are required in today's complex world. Delivering these activities helps to promote understanding, ensure the sustainability of the patent system and drive Europe's innovation capacity.

The catalogue presents all the Academy's activities during 2022 in three areas: (1) Patent granting; (2) Technology transfer and dissemination; and (3) Patent enforcement and litigation. These areas cover the life of a patent from inception to market. The target audience such as patent examiners, attorneys, IP managers, students, lawyers and judges will be ultimately benefiting from this wide range of training and education activities.

In this offer, we aim to build on the achievements of the Academy as we pursue continual improvement and deliver on our commitment to excellence. Over the past two years, we have been able to reach far more people than before thanks to innovative online activities. In 2020, the Academy set up and enabled a total of 1 800 hours of patent training, with nearly 20 000 participants enrolled – a record number. The number of new registered users more than doubled compared to 2019, while online visits increased over 40% to nearly 230 000. This extensive online reach helps to make the patent system more accessible and transparent.

I would like to thank all of those colleagues at the European Patent Office who take part in the Academy training, as well as representatives of national offices, epi and other stakeholders, for the technical and legal expertise they bring. Working together, in 2022 we aim to expand the learning portfolio, increase its attractiveness and enhance quality. The Academy will introduce new products including learning itineraries, an automated course builder, co-labelled programmes and modules ready for implementation in university programmes. We will also develop materials and learning activities to support the launch of the planned Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court, the PATLIB 2.0 project and the new European patent administration certificate (EPAC) which will be rolled out in 2022.

In these exciting but challenging times, the Academy's 2022 programme will be pivotal in helping reinforce quality throughout the patent system, giving confidence to inventors and investors, and helping us to make sure that patents continue to have a truly positive impact on our society.

António Campinos

Training areas

The European Patent Academy 2022 catalogue reflects the structuring of the Academy's activity in three areas, i.e. patent granting, technology transfer and dissemination, and patent enforcement and litigation. These areas correspond to the life of a patent from the inception of a patentable invention to its exploitation and protection in the market. Structuring the training in three main areas facilitates communication between target groups and enables an integrated approach to training and the development of training itineraries that attract a variety of audiences. The overview tables per training area suggest the potential audiences for each training activity. While many activities are open to anyone, some have limited capacity and are tailored to the needs of a particular audience. By clicking the links, anyone interested in a given activity can check the enrolment requirements.

Training areas	Audiences:	
	Professionals	Institutional
Patent granting	patent examiners formalities officers/paralegals	national patent offices
	patent attorneys formalities officers/paralegals	patent attorneys' firms professional associations of patent attorneys and formalities officers
Technology transfer and dissemination	scholars IP managers students and PhDs researchers	universities research centres technology transfer associations PATLIBs
	IP managers CEOs and managers	technology transfer associations SMEs business associations
Patent enforcement and litigation	judges lawyers prosecutors patent attorneys	courts IP associations professional associations

Activity types and formats

The Academy provides seven types of educational activities: conferences, seminars, courses, workshops, lectures, internships and study visits. The decision on what type of activity to offer is based on its size, format, learning objectives, frequency and duration and the nature of the information taught and the level of the participants.

The public health situation will determine to what extent training can take place on site in 2022, although the catalogue expresses a strong preference for online education. Online Academy courses are delivered in three formats. These formats aim to respond to the needs and availability of participants, and thus range from a purely asynchronous and automated format to a semi-synchronous and interactive format.

— The asynchronous and automated format (Ax) consists of self-paced courses that allow participants to enrol at any point in time.

— The roll-out format (Rx) combines asynchronous, automated learning with synchronous virtual sessions delivered by experts. A limit on the number of participants in synchronous sessions guarantees interactivity.

— The high-impact tutored format (HIT) combines asynchronous learning, synchronous seminars and interactive learning sessions with coaches, such as mock proceedings, scenarios, case analysis, quizzes and exercises. Participants are assigned to coaches, who engage in in-depth dialogue and assessment.

Patent granting

The "Patent granting" training area offers learning activities on substantive, legal and procedural aspects of the life of a patent at the EPO, from application filing until patent grant. It also covers the post-grant procedure under the EPC.

The area addresses, primarily but not exclusively, the training needs of patent examiners at national patent offices, patent professionals and paralegal staff.

The training programme is structured into general curricula that cover the life of a patent from filing to grant, opposition and appeal. It also includes shorter curricula on granting, such as substantive aspects specific to a given technical field or procedural aspects, for example linked to a recent revision of the legal framework.

Interaction with tutors generally takes place online after a self-learning phase during which participants actively prepare their learning journey. On site activities are mostly meant to round off online learning itineraries.

A certificate is given after participation in a course or a complete curriculum and might be contingent on successful completion of tests.
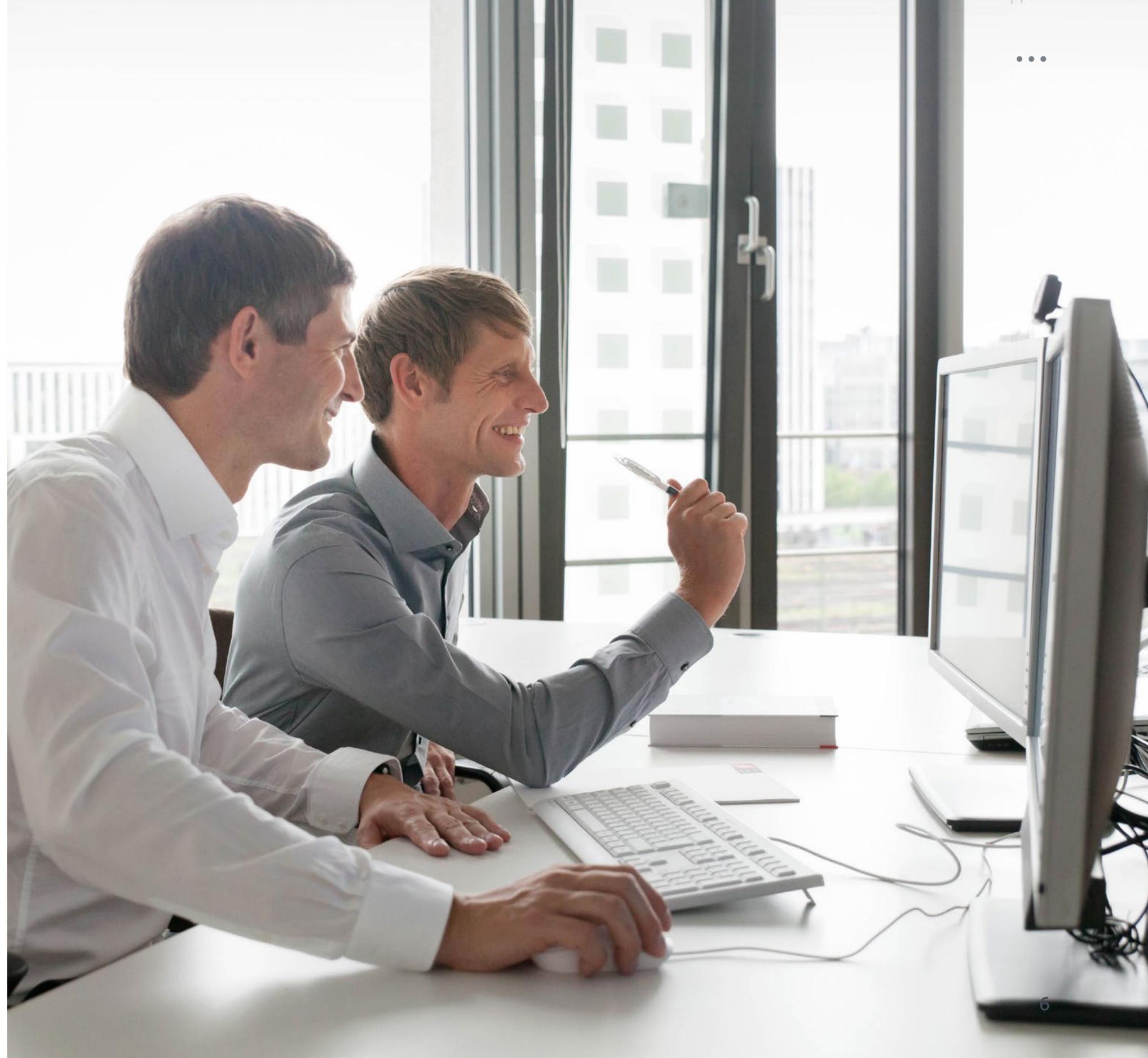
Training overview

Audiences						Type	Title	Date
■						Seminar	Update on recent decisions of the Boards of Appeal	Q1
■	■					Seminar	Patenting in the medical field	Q1-Q2
■						Seminar	Assessing clarity and non-unity	Q1-Q2
■						Seminar	EPOQUE Net: The art of efficient searching, advanced	Q1-Q4
■						Seminar	Assessing novelty and inventive step	Q2
■						Workshop	Best practices in the field of e-learning	Q2
■						Workshop	Quantum computing	Q2
■						Workshop	Patentability exceptions and exclusions	Q2
■						Seminar	Tutored programme on search	Q2
■	■	■	■	■		Conference	Space technologies	Q2
■						Seminar	CPC collective training, spring session	Q2
■	■					Seminar	Aspects of inventive step	Q2-Q3
■						Conference	IP Executive Week	Q3
■						Conference	UP/UPC information package for national patent offices	Q3
■	■					Seminar	Searching Asian patent documentation	Q3
■						Workshop	Green mobility technologies	Q3

Audiences	Type	Title	Date
🟦	Seminar	EPOQUE Net: The art of efficient searching, intermediate	Q3-Q4
🟦 🟦(cyan)	Seminar	Advanced aspects of computer-implemented inventions	Q4
🟦	Seminar	CPC collective training, autumn session	Q4
🟦	Workshop	The present and the future of batteries	Q4
🟦	Conference	Examiners' conference	Q4
🟦(cyan)	Course	Taking of evidence	Q3
🟦(cyan) 🟩(lime) 🟩(dark green)	Lecture	EPO-CNIPA pilot on services for Chinese applicants	Q2
🟦(cyan) 🟦	Lecture	Guidelines2day	Q1-Q2
🟦(cyan)	Lecture	Oral proceedings via videoconference	Q1-Q3
🟦(cyan) 🟥 🟦 🟩(lime) 🟩(dark green)	Conference	Inventorship in patent law	Q2
🟦(cyan) 🟦	Course	Patenting computer-implemented inventions, entry level	Q2
🟦(cyan)	Lecture	PCT for US paralegals and patent agents	Q2
🟦(cyan)	Lecture	The Unitary Patent: practical aspects for paralegals	Q2
🟦(cyan) 🟦	Seminar	Adaptation of the description: harmonisation of practice	Q2
🟦(cyan) 🟥 🟩(dark green)	Lecture	The Unified Patent Court: practical aspects for patent attorneys	Q2
🟦(cyan)	Course	Oral proceedings at the EPO	Q2
🟦(cyan)	Course	Advocating online at the EPO	Q2-Q3
🟦(cyan) 🟦	Lecture	Patenting in disruptive CII technologies	Q2-Q4
🟦(cyan) 🟩(lime) 🟩(dark green)	Course	PCT at the EPO: Update	Q3-Q4

Audiences	Type	Title	Date
■ ■ ■ ■	Conference	Examination Matters	Q4
■ ■ ■ ■	Conference	Opposition Matters	Q4
■ ■	Course	Patenting computer-implemented inventions, intermediate level	Q4
■	Course	Behind the scenes	Q4
■ ■ ■	Course	PCT at the EPO	Q4
■	Meeting	The e-EQE 2022	Q1
■	Course	EQE pre-examination online training course	Q3
■	Conference	EQE tutors' meeting	Q4

National patent offices

Conferences

Further conferences may be proposed during the year.

Space technologies

Advanced level

Reference OC02-2022
Online conference I June 2022, 6 hrs

Global patenting activity in space technologies will be depicted from a macro-economic point of view. Examining practices and challenges in the field will be presented from the substantive, procedural and legal points of view. The conference will end with an interactive workshop on the themes addressed during the conference.

Further information

IP Executive Week

Advanced level

Reference OC41-2022
Conference, format tbc I July 2022, 5 days

This strategic IP conference, aimed at top management from EPO member and non-member state offices, focuses on the role of IP offices in developing the global economy.

The conference will bring together high-level experts from the EPO, EUIPO and leading IP offices and distinguished speakers from international businesses and organisations.

The IP Executive Week will give participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and acquire knowledge about the IP system, learn from developments in other IP offices, network with peers and increase co-operation.

Further information

UP/UPC information package for national patent offices

Intermediate level

Reference OC03-2022
Online conference I September 2022, 3 hrs

The Unitary Patent (UP) and the Unified Patent Court (UPC) are the building blocks of the Unitary Patent package, which will supplement and strengthen the existing European patent granting system. They will offer users of the patent system a cost-effective option for patent protection and dispute settlement across Europe.

This conference looks in detail at how the Unitary Patent package works, its advantages for applicants in Europe and how it relates to the national patent offices.

Further information

Examiners' conference

Intermediate level

Reference OC01-2022
Conference, format tbc I December 2022, 10 hrs

This conference offers a discussion forum for sharing the recent trends in examiners' work at the EPO with examiners from the national patent offices of member and non-member states.

It focuses on challenges in selected areas, highlighting their relevance for the work of patent examiners. The details of the technical topics will be announced nearer the date of the conference.

The conference will conclude with the presentation of the 2023 training programme of the European Patent Academy for patent examiners of national patent offices.

If the conference is partly on site, criteria for on site participation will be communicated in due time.

Further information
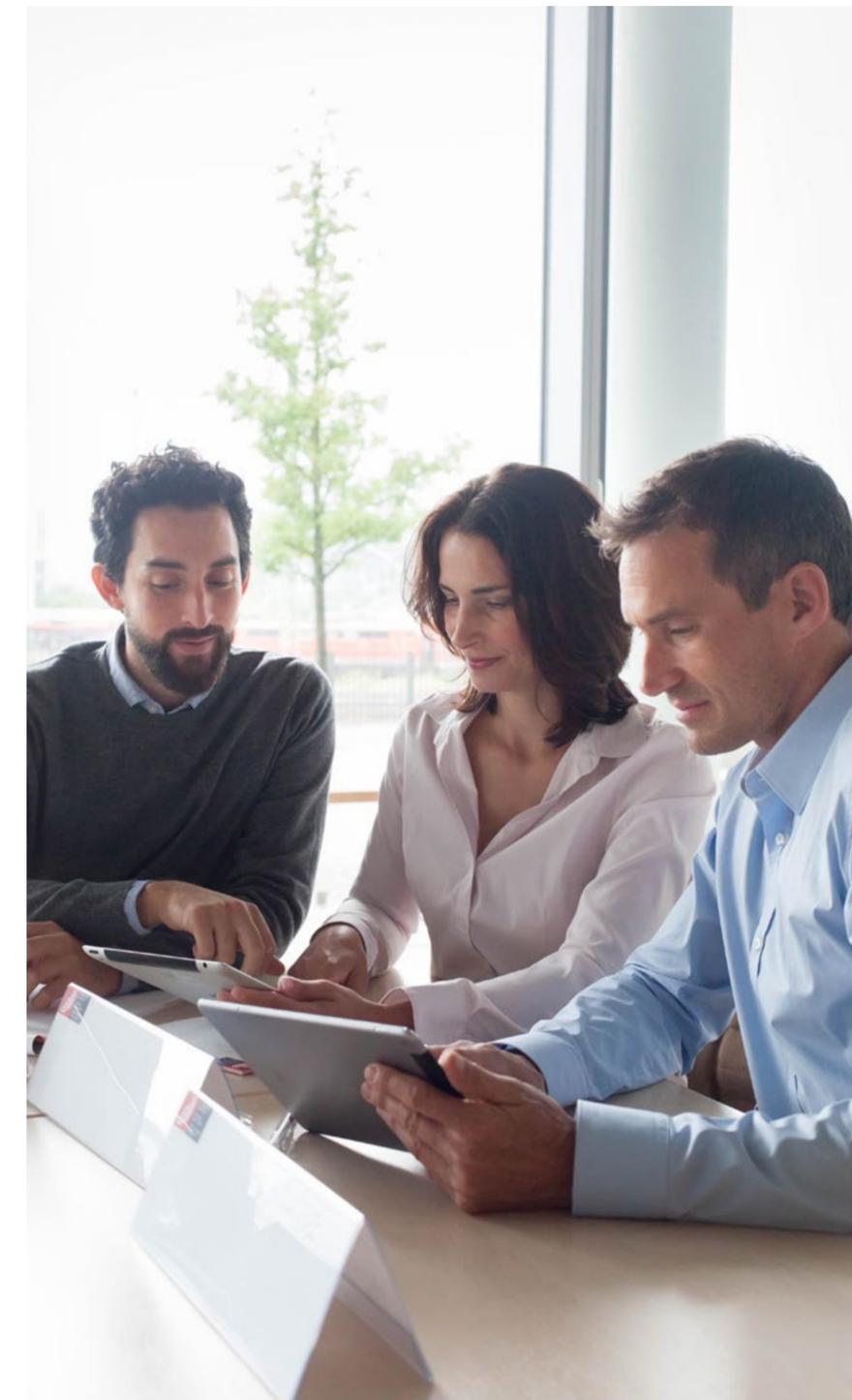
Patenting seminar series

"Patenting seminar series" are technical, online curricula on an aspect of substantive examination or search. Each series includes up to three complementary seminars, with each seminar comprising two online sessions: a theoretical session followed by a practical session. The two sessions are usually separated by about one week, during which participants and experts can interact via a dedicated forum. Participants are invited to register for the complete series. However, they may also select one or more seminars from each series.

Patenting in the medical field

Advanced level

Reference OS01-2022
Online seminar I February-April 2022, 24 hrs

Patenting seminar series 1 comprises three seminars on the medical field:

February: The first seminar looks at diagnostics and surgical endoscopic imaging methods in the context of Article 53(c) EPC and decision G 1/04 of the Enlarged Board of Appeal.

March: The second seminar addresses typical clarity issues, such as relative terms, parameters, dosages, functional features and reach-through claims.

April: The third seminar reviews aspects of the assessment of novelty in pharmacy, such as Markush formulae and polymorphic, stereoisomeric and isotopic forms.

Further information

Aspects of inventive step

Intermediate level

Reference OS02-2022
Online seminar I May-July 2022, 24 hrs

Patenting seminar series 2 focuses on aspects of inventive step:

May: The first seminar introduces the person skilled in the art, the central figure in the assessment of obviousness of an invention. Who is the person skilled in the art? Does this person exist? Are they a unique individual?

June: The second seminar analyses the "hurdle 2" concept for computer-implemented inventions, its general principles and the specificities of its application to fields such as artificial intelligence, games, the presentation of information and graphical user interfaces.

July: The third seminar investigates the typical use of indicators for inventive step and addresses other technical fields where pointers to inventive step may be useful.

Further information

Advanced aspects of computer-implemented inventions

Advanced level

Reference OS11-2022
Online seminar I October-December 2022, 24 hrs

Patenting seminar series 4 focuses on aspects of substantive examination for computer-implemented inventions (CII):

October: The first seminar reviews under which conditions claim formulations can be accepted for CII, addressing issues such as CII versus computer programs, CII requiring generic data processing means, special-purpose hardware and computing environments.

November: The second seminar more deeply explores the hurdle 2 concept for mathematics and its applications, defining these fields and presenting the two relevant dimensions of hurdle 2.

December: The third seminar details the main challenges in the examination of games applications: what games are, how hurdle 1 and hurdle 2 apply to such applications, and the specificities of presenting information and graphical user interfaces for games.

Further information

Searching Asian patent documentation

Intermediate level

Reference OS05-2022
Online seminar I September 2022, 8 hrs

Patenting seminar series 3 comprises one stand-alone seminar that tackles the challenges examiners face when searching in Asian patent documentation.

The first session of the seminar reviews these challenges and standard ways of approaching them, classification issues that need to be considered for certain technical fields, available translation tools, and how to efficiently use the patent family system and related databases. The second session covers practical examples and participant questions.

Further information

Tutored online seminars

"Tutored online seminars" address a theme over several online sessions that increase in level of knowledge. Participants are invited to complete tests and assignments under the supervision of EPO tutors.

Tutored programme on search

Entry level

Reference OS12-2022
Online seminar I April-May 2022, 84 hrs

This high-impact tutored programme comprises three modules that build on each other to take participants from entry to intermediate level. At the end of the programme, they should be able to process files autonomously under the supervision of an experienced colleague.

Each module lasts two weeks and involves a self-learning phase, two online sessions and a final knowledge and competency test. Each module also has a forum for discussion between participants and the EPO tutors. The complete programme extends over six consecutive weeks. The topics covered are:

– module 1: what is a structured search, defining the scope of a search and conducting a preliminary search
– module 2: designing a search strategy, performing a search and selecting the best documents
– module 3: the final steps and drafting a search report and a written opinion

Example searches will be conducted in Espacenet.

Further information

Assessing clarity and non-unity

Intermediate level

Reference OS03-2022
Online seminar I March-April 2022, 22 hrs

This tutored e-learning seminar covers clarity and unity of invention, with emphasis on practical examples and exercises. It includes general tests and tests specific for:

(a) organic chemistry and
(b) pharmaceutical claims,

and optional assignments.

Further information

Assessing novelty and inventive step

Intermediate level

Reference OS04-2022
Online seminar I May-June 2022, 22 hrs

This tutored e-learning course deals with the evaluation of novelty and inventive step from a substantive perspective and with an emphasis on practical examples. The course includes a large number of examples, exercises, tests and optional assignments.

Further information

EPOQUE Net: The art of efficient searching

Intermediate level

Reference OS06-2022
Online seminar I September-December 2022, 16 hrs

This tutored e-learning course is relevant to patent examiners at national offices who are already familiar with the basic commands of EPOQUE Net.

This is a hands-on course with assignments, exercises and examples. The content will help EPOQUE Net users to efficiently perform searches using EPOQUE Net.

Further information

EPOQUE Net:
The art of efficient searching

Advanced level

Reference OS07-2022
Online seminar I February-December 2022, 20 hrs

This tutored e-learning course comprises a series of ten live virtual classroom sessions on the use of EPOQUE Net. These will help broaden the skills of EPOQUE Net users at national offices. Practical cases will be provided as short assignments prior to each virtual classroom. Solutions proposed by participants and tutors will be discussed. Participants will learn tips and tricks on efficient use of the EPO's professional patent search tool.

Further information

CPC collective training, spring session

Intermediate level

Reference OS09-2022
Online seminar I April-June 2022, 8 hrs

The tutored CPC field-specific course is intended for patent examiners with some experience classifying with the CPC scheme who wish to improve their practice in selected fields. The fields will be announced close to the date of the seminar.

Further information

CPC collective training, autumn session

Intermediate level

Reference OS08-2022
Online seminar I October-December 2022, 8 hrs

The tutored CPC field-specific training is intended for patent examiners with some experience classifying with the CPC scheme who wish to improve their practice in selected fields. The fields will be announced close to the date of the seminar.

Further information

Stand-alone seminars

"Stand-alone seminars" focus on one topic.
Further such seminars may be added during the year.

Update on recent decisions of the Boards of Appeal

Intermediate level

Reference OS10-2022
Online seminar I March 2022, 8 hrs

For the first time, national patent office staff are offered this seminar on what's new in the case law of the Boards of Appeal. This seminar offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage with members of the Boards and each other on important topics relating to Boards of Appeal decisions.

The conference focuses on selected case law highlights, case law under the new Rules of Procedure, computer-implemented simulations and the possible consequences of G 1/19.

Further information

Workshops

Expert workshops are a unique platform for experts from the national offices of member states to interact with their peers at the EPO. Participants discuss selected cases in a technical field and compare the practices at the different national patent offices and the EPO. If applicable, the main decisions of the Boards of Appeal and the most relevant national case law are discussed from the point of view of patent examiners.

Quantum computing

Advanced level

Reference OW01-2022
Online Workshop I May 2022, 14 hrs

This workshop addresses substantive examination issues and challenges in the field of quantum computing, optical computing and molecular computing when patent applications are directed to algorithms or dedicated physical implementations.

Further information

Green mobility technologies

Advanced level

Reference OW03-2022
Online workshop I September 2022, 14 hrs

This workshop addresses the examination challenges posed by applications where convergent technologies impact the general area of mobility in its various industrial applications, with a special focus on green solutions, which are becoming ever more numerous in these fields.

Further information

The present and the future of batteries

Advanced level

Reference OW05-2022
Online workshop I November 2022, 14 hrs

This workshop addresses the area of battery technologies. Using selected European and national applications, participants will analyse which technologies are currently protected and identify the possible future of the field.

Further information

Patentability exceptions and exclusions

Advanced level

Reference OW02-2022
Online workshop I June 2022, 14 hrs

This workshop addresses patentability exceptions and exclusions, mostly in the fields of biotechnology and computer-implemented inventions. Participants will discuss how they handle the related challenges at their respective patent offices.

Further information

Best practices in the field of e-learning

Intermediate level

Reference OW04-2022
Online workshop I April 2022, 8 hrs

This workshop is a continuation of the e-learning best practices exchange that took place in 2021. Did 2021 confirm the trends that began during the pandemic? Did training providers consolidate their online offering, or did they go back to the norm prevailing before 2020? How did the users of online training behave? How did they react to a new learning environment?

Further information

Discussion platforms for exchange on patenting procedures

The discussion platforms are reserved for the national patent offices (NPOs) of member states. They aim to facilitate the exchange of information and the dissemination of knowledge on the latest developments in patenting practices and procedures. The exchanges focus on a specific technical field agreed in consultation between the Academy and the interested NPOs.

The format of a discussion platform is generally as follows:
– Day 1: exchange between the NPO examiners and their peers at the EPO on patenting practices in a specific technical field
– Day 2: public event aimed at raising user awareness about the European and national patent practices and procedures in the specific technical field

Five such discussion platforms took place in 2021.

Patent attorneys

Examination Matters

Advanced level

Reference PC01-2022
Conference, format tbc I October 2022, 17 hrs

Examination Matters has become the meeting place for patent attorneys dealing with the EPO in the patent granting procedure. Examiners and practitioners provide insight into the mind of the examiner and the day-to-day work performed.

The conference consists mainly of workshops, which offer you the opportunity to conduct detailed discussions with your peers on relevant aspects of examination, share day-to-day experiences and get immediate answers to your practical questions from EPO examiners, lawyers, and epi experts.

This conference is organised in co-operation with the epi.

Further information
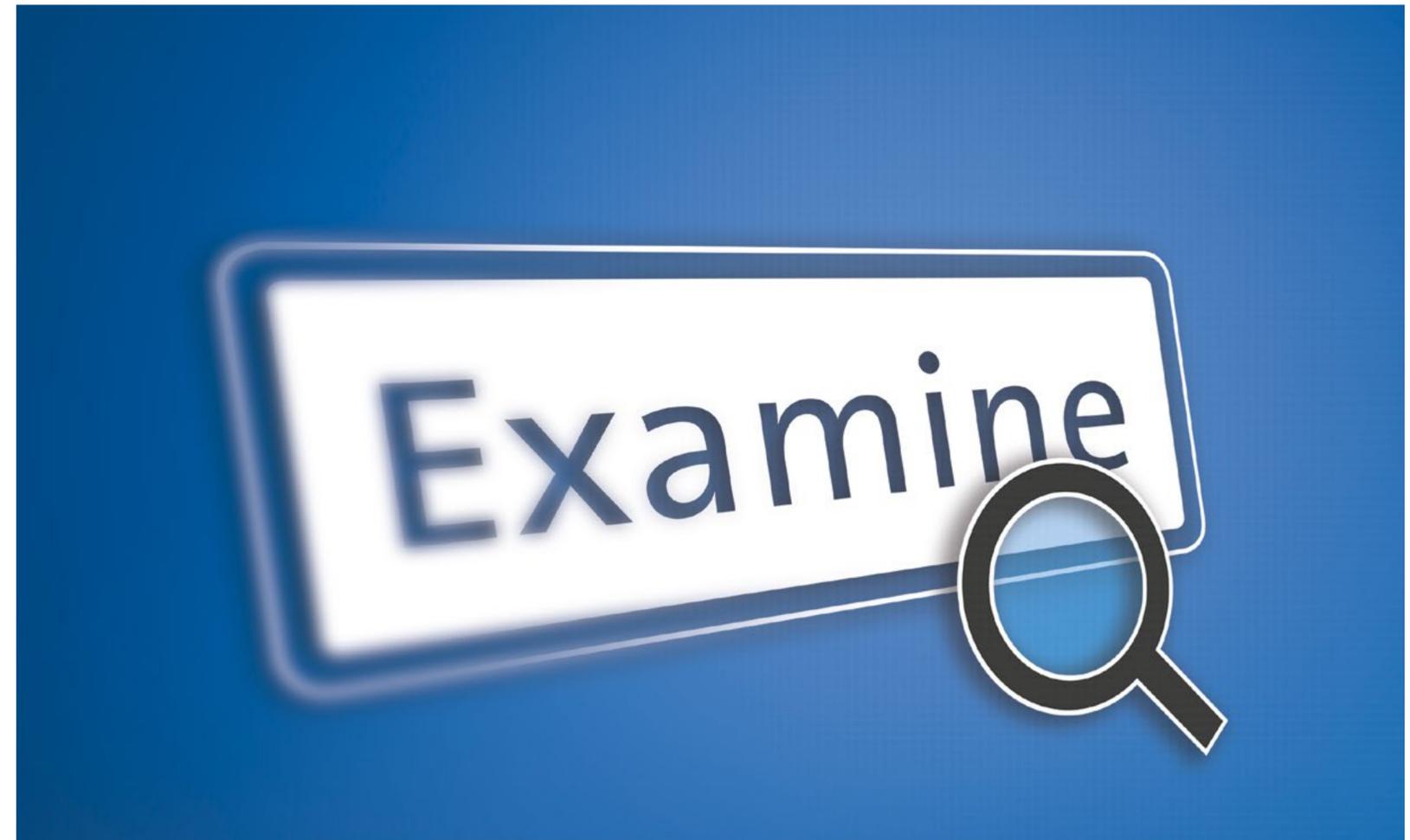
Opposition Matters

Advanced level

Reference PC02-2022
Online conference I November 2022, 7 hrs

Opposition Matters is an opportunity to find out directly from EPO examiners what their day-to-day work in opposition involves. With EPO examiners and lawyers co-presenting alongside senior European patent attorneys, participants will get to hear about the best practices they have derived from years of opposition experience.

The format includes panel discussions.

This conference is organised in co-operation with the epi.

Further information

Computer-implemented inventions

Computers and computer-implemented inventions (CII) have been appearing in patent applications across all fields of technology. Such inventions relate to items potentially excluded from patentability (Article 52(2) and (3) EPC) and therefore yield specific challenges for patent professionals.

Patenting in disruptive CII technologies

Intermediate level

Reference PL05-2022
Online lectures I April-November 2022, 1.5 hrs each;
6 hrs in total

This series of lectures - one every two months - focuses on disruptive CII technologies which are ever more common in industry and hence also in patent applications. The lectures address the specifics of patenting these technologies using examples. A team of EPO experts in the particular field, a patent attorney and a representative of industry will explore topics such as patenting artificial intelligence, quantum-based technologies, Internet of Things, etc.

Further information

Inventorship in patent law

Intermediate level

Reference PC03-2022
Online conference I Q2, 2 hrs

This conference will provide information about inventorship in patent law. The filing of applications showing an artificial intelligence (AI) system "DABUS" as inventor in 2018, led to discussion on an international scale, regarding the concept of inventorship under patent law. Since then, a number of patent offices and courts have issued decisions on the matter.

This conference will provide information about the understanding of the concept of inventorship in patent law reflecting the findings of major jurisdictions, on an international level.

Keynote presentations of the decisions issued in different jurisdictions and panel discussions will be offered as part of this conference.

Further information

Patenting computer-implemented inventions

Entry level

Reference PU40-2022
Online course I May 2022, 25 hrs

In this course, participants will learn the principles underlying patenting CII by exploring the following topics via hands-on exercises and interaction with tutors:
− patentable subject-matter and the consequences for CII applications
− exclusions from patentability under Article 52(2) and (3) EPC
− definition of computer-implemented inventions
− the EPO's two-hurdle approach for CII
− types of claim for CII applications

This course includes self-paced readings, exercises, and interaction with tutors. It is for those not yet familiar with the principles underlying patenting CII and who have no practical experience dealing with patenting CII.

Further information

Patenting computer-implemented inventions

Intermediate level

Reference PU50-2022
Online course I October 2022, 25 hrs

In this intermediate course, participants will deepen their knowledge of patenting CII by exploring the following topics via hands-on exercises and interaction with tutors:
− CII and business methods
− CII and game rules
− CII and mathematics (including artificial intelligence)
− CII and the presentation of information/graphical user interfaces

This course includes self-paced readings, exercises, and interaction with tutors. It is for those already familiar with the concepts underlying patenting CII as described in the entry-level course.

Further information

Oral proceedings

Oral proceedings at the EPO

Advanced level

Reference PU30-2022
Online course I May 2022, 20 hrs

This course gives participants an overview of oral proceedings before the EPO and is run in parallel groups, each with a limited number of participants. Its focus is on procedural matters, including reactions to situations occurring during oral proceedings, such as the hearing of witnesses and the handling of requests for apportionment of costs.

Participants take part in mock oral proceedings designed to let them experience a variety of events in real time in a variety of roles. Participants are given their roles (i.e. opposition division, patent proprietor or opponent) and provided with preparatory documentation in advance.

The course is for professional representatives seeking to improve their practical expertise. Basic experience in oral proceedings is recommended. It is opened to qualified European patent attorneys.

Further information

Advocating online at the EPO

Intermediate level

Reference PU60-2022 and PU61-2022
Online course I April and September 2022, 4 hrs

Conducting oral proceedings online not only means adapting to a new technological set-up, with a camera and microphone, but also learning how to present a case in the most effective way in this new set-up.

This course is for patent attorneys fully conversant with traditional, in-person oral proceedings who need to adapt their rhetorical skills to the online environment. A trainer with a background in acting and a senior examiner with many years of experience in oral proceedings will guide participants through this journey from on site to online hearings.

Further information PU60-2022
Further information PU61-2022

Oral proceedings via videoconference

Intermediate level

Reference PL31-2022 and PL32-2022
Online lecture I February and September 2022, 1 hr each

Since May 2020, the EPO has been conducting a pilot project on holding oral proceedings before opposition divisions by videoconference. Since September 2020, it has also been able to provide interpretation, where requested, for these oral proceedings and to conduct them with interpretation even when a greater number of participants is involved.

This lecture prepares attendees to participate effectively in oral proceedings by videoconference. They can learn directly from patent examiners and attorneys, who will share their experiences, provide practical tips and take part in discussions.

Further information PL31-2022
Further information PL32-2022

Advanced courses

Behind the scenes

Advanced level

Reference PU10-2022
Online course I November 2022, 25 hrs

Experienced patent attorneys are conversant with the patent granting process laid down in the EPC and described in the EPO Guidelines for Examination. But what about how these texts are implemented by EPO examiners on a day-to-day basis? How does a division reach consensus on proposing a patent grant or, conversely, refusing a patent application? What do patent examiners discuss during the breaks in oral proceedings in opposition? How do members of the Boards of Appeal review decisions of the first-instance departments?

This course uses examples to illustrate the practical application of the legal texts by EPO staff in their daily work. Participants will have the opportunity to experience what the work of an examiner or a member of the Boards of Appeal is like based on exercises, such as drafting a written opinion in search, evaluating amendments in examination, drafting a summons in opposition, and drafting a communication in appeal.

Further information

Taking of evidence

Advanced level

Reference PU20-2022
Online course I September 2022, 20 hrs

Although relatively rare, taking evidence (Article 117 EPC) can be fundamental for proceedings before the EPO. It can take different forms, ranging from hearing witnesses to inspecting products. EPO lawyers with many years' experience in this procedural aspect will guide participants through the steps needed to take evidence properly.

The course starts with an overview of the necessary legal background and related case law before delving into some practical examples. Mock oral proceedings round off the course.

Content:
– hearing witnesses
– evaluation of evidence and assessing its probative value
– taking of evidence by sample inspections
– mock hearing of a witness during oral proceedings

Further information

PCT

PCT at the EPO

Advanced level

Reference PU80-2022
Online course I October-December 2022, 1 hr each,
4 hrs in total

This course is made of four one-hour online lectures and is dedicated to PCT topics of relevance for the user community. Each lecture will provide an opportunity to find out more about the services provided by the EPO, the latest developments in the PCT system and practical aspects of the PCT procedure at the EPO.

Further information

PCT at the EPO: Update

Intermediate level

Reference I PL81-2022, PS82-2022 and PS83-2022
Online lecture I July 2022 (in French), November 2022
(in German / English), 2 hrs

This two-hour online lecture updates and complements last year's series of lectures on the PCT procedure at the EPO as receiving Office, International Searching Authority, International Preliminary Examining Authority and designated Office.

An EPO team of PCT experts will provide information relevant for PCT users, including the latest PCT developments.

The lecture in French (July) is organised in co-operation with the CNCPI (https://www.cncpi.fr/agenda).
The lectures in German and in English (November) are organised in co-operation with the epi.

Further information PL82-2022
Further information PL83-2022

EPO-CNIPA pilot on services for Chinese applicants

Intermediate level

Reference PL84-2022
Online lecture I Q4, 2.5 hrs

On 1 December 2020, the EPO and the CNIPA launched a two-year pilot project to enable nationals and residents of the People's Republic of China to select the EPO as their International Searching Authority (ISA) for applications filed in English under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). PCT applicants whose international search was performed by the EPO as ISA under this project can also file a request for international preliminary examination with the EPO.

This online seminar features experts from both the EPO and the CNIPA who will introduce the framework of the project and illustrate its benefits when seeking patent protection in Europe. They will cover all procedural and administrative requirements, leaving time for questions and answers.

Further information

PCT for US paralegals and patent agents

Intermediate level

Reference PL85-2022
Online lecture I Q2, 1.5 hrs

A large number of PCT applicants at the EPO are based in the USA. In recent years, the EPO has regularly attended live events throughout the USA to explain the benefits of using the EPO not just as International Searching Authority, but also for Chapter II. This often results in faster processing in the European regional phase.

This online lecture is for patent agents and paralegals with a role in administering the procedure.

Further information

Unitary patent/ Unified patent court

The Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court are the building blocks of the Unitary Patent package, which will supplement and strengthen the existing European patent granting system. They will offer users of the patent system a cost-effective option for patent protection and dispute settlement across Europe. Implementation of activities will depend on the developments regarding the UP/UPC.

The Unitary Patent: practical aspects for paralegals

Entry level

Reference PL61-2022
Online lecture I Q2, 1 hr

This lecture focuses on practical aspects of Unitary Patents, which will make it possible to obtain uniform patent protection in up to 25 EU member states by submitting a single request to the EPO, making the procedure simpler and more cost-effective for applicants.

Further information

The Unified Patent Court: practical aspects for patent attorneys

Entry level

Reference PL62-2022
Online lecture I Q2, 1 hr

This lecture focuses on practical aspects for patent attorneys of the Unified Patent Court, which will be an international court with jurisdiction for patents granted by the EPO. This specialised court will make the Europe-wide enforcement of patents a reality, offer greater legal certainty and reduce litigation costs.

Further information

Stand-alone training activities

Guidelines2day

Intermediate level

Reference PL90-2022 to PL95-2022
Online lectures I March-April 2022, 1 hr each, 6 hrs in total

This series of six online lectures gives an overview of the new Guidelines for Examination (in force as of March 2022) and the updates relevant for examiner procedures. The speakers are lawyers and administrators from the EPO's Directorate Patent Law. The lectures look in detail at the main changes in the Guidelines.

Further information

Adaptation of the description: harmonisation of practice

Intermediate level

Reference PS02-2022
Online seminar I Q2, 3 hrs

Following the fact-finding workshop on the adaptation of the description and the harmonisation of this practice in 2021, this seminar will give participants an understanding of the challenges underlying the adaptation of the description to amended claims.

Experienced EPO examiners and lawyers and members of the Boards of Appeal, together with national judges and user representatives, will present the application of the Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office, their experience, and practical considerations on adapting the description.

In addition, a case study will be presented.

Further information

European Qualifying Examination

EQE tutors' meeting

Advanced level

Reference PC04-2022
Online conference I October 2022, 8 hrs

The annual meeting between tutors and EQE committees allows them to exchange information about the most recent examination. Tutors benefit from the direct contact with those responsible in EQE committees for preparing the examination papers and marking candidates' answers. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity for tutors to learn more about where and how to put particular emphasis when training candidates for the EQE. This event is organised in co-operation with the epi and is open to tutors currently preparing candidates for the EQE.

Further information

EQE pre-examination online training course

Intermediate level

Reference PU01-2022
Online course I September 2022-February 2023, 180 hrs

This is a six-month, online course for the EQE pre-examination paper that offers a blended e-learning experience, including introductory videos, in-depth articles, mock questions based on the real examination and in-depth case studies. There are around 800 pages of training materials altogether, plus quizzes and virtual classroom sessions on a number of different topic areas.
Course participants will have access to experienced epi tutors, who will be available via a discussion forum to answer exam-related queries. Interaction with tutors takes place during regular virtual classrooms. Virtual classrooms are recorded and uploaded to the course virtual space, so that participants can watch them at any time.

Further information

The e-EQE 2022

Entry level

Reference PM01-2022
Online lecture I Q1, 1 hr
The EQE 2022 will be conducted online, following in the footsteps of the 2021 edition. The EPO, together with the epi, will present the major changes to be expected for both candidates sitting the exam in March 2022 and their tutors and coaches, helping them prepare in the best possible way.

Open to all, this lecture is intended to present the new set-up and to address general questions relating to the e-EQE, particularly those relevant to candidates.

Further information

Activities organised by the epi with the support of the EPO

Each year, the epi organises training activities for its members and IP professionals. The EPO contributes to these activities by providing expertise.

The joint 2022 programme will foreseeably include a course on the life of a patent, a seminar on appeal proceedings, a seminar on case law and seminars on the UP/UPC.

For the details, please visit the epi's website: https://patentepi.org/en/education-and-training/

Selected self-paced courses

Self-paced courses are available 24/7 on the EPO e-learning platform: e-courses.epo.org

Title	Level	Duration
Introduction to the European patent system	Entry	8 hrs
Patentability requirements at the EPO	Entry	15 hrs
Assessing patentability requirements at the EPO	Entry	10 hrs
Search reports and written opinions	Entry	6 hrs
Searching prior art based on patent applications	Entry	15 hrs
Patentability in specific fields	Advanced	6 hrs
Patentability in information and communications technology	Advanced	16 hrs
Patentability in healthcare, biotechnology, and chemistry	Advanced	9 hrs
Using CPC in classification	Entry	16 hrs
CPC field-specific training: recorded lectures	Intermediate	13 hrs
The EPO as a PCT authority	Entry	6 hrs
The European patent system from filing to grant	Entry	7 hrs
Lectures on PCT	Advanced	11 hrs
Guidelines 2021	Advanced	8 hrs
Examination Matters: recorded lectures	Advanced	14 hrs
Guide to EQE papers A, B, C and D	Advanced	20 hrs
Practising for the EQE pre-examination paper	Advanced	20 hrs
Opposition procedure at the EPO	Advanced	4 hrs
Oral proceedings by videoconference before opposition divisions	Advanced	4 hrs

Technology transfer and dissemination

The "Technology transfer and dissemination" training area aims to put education to work to deliver innovation benefits resulting from the granting of patents. It primarily focuses on universities, research centres and technology transfer associations, SMEs, start-ups and businesses more generally.

The goal is to foster education and research on patents and innovation promotion, nurturing the next generation of engineers, researchers, managers and entrepreneurs. The training area also endeavours to provide economic actors and policymakers with the learning tools that will enable them to make the best use of the patent system.

As part of the technology transfer and dissemination area, the Academy supports dissemination activities of third parties and stakeholders and organises conferences and educational activities including advanced lecture series, inventors' talks, university modules and business clinics.

Training overview

Audiences	Type	Title	Date
🟩🟦🟦🟩	Study visit	Focus on UP/UPC	Q1
🟩🟩	Lecture	Patent protection for EU funding beneficiaries	Q1
🟩🟦🟦🟩	Lecture	Inventor's talks	Q1-Q4
🟩🟦🟦🟩	Study visit	Focus on Boards of Appeal	Q2
🟩🟦🟦🟩	Seminar	Smart agriculture	Q2
🟩🟦🟦🟩	Study visit	Focus on DG Patent Granting Process and DG International / Legal Affairs of the EPO	Q4
🟩🟦🟦🟩	Study visit	Specific technical fields	Q4
🟩🟦🟦🟩	Seminar	Med tech	Q4
🟩🟩🟦	Seminar	From idea to commercialisation	Q1
🟩🟩🟦	Conference	HTB Forum 2022: Build-to-sell	Q1
🟩🟩🟦	Conference	HTB Forum 2022: Growth-financing	Q1
🟩🟩🟦	Workshop	From lab to market – technology transfer case studies	Q1-Q4
🟩🟩🟦	Conference	HTB Forum 2022: Licensing	Q2

Audiences	Type	Title	Date
■ ■ ■	Conference	Computer-implemented inventions in med tech: Value of patents for SMEs	Q2
■ ■ ■	Conference	HTB Forum 2022: Open innovation	Q2
■ ■ ■	Seminar	Business use of patent information	Q2
■ ■ ■	Seminar	Using EPO search tools to improve business decisions	Q2
■ ■ ■ ■	Conference	Search Matters	Q3
■ ■ ■	Conference	HTB Conference 2022: Financing and protecting data-based innovations	Q4

Academia

Study visits to the EPO

Study visits are live online sessions including short thematic presentations followed by Q&A

Focus on UP/UPC

Intermediate level

Reference AV01-2022
Online study visit I 9 February 2021, 3 hrs

This study visit gives participants from European universities a hands-on experience of the EPO and an insight into its work, focusing on the future Unitary Patent system, more particularly on the jurisdictional framework of the European patent system and how the Unified Patent Court (UPC) will play a critical role in it. The main features of the UPC, including its Rules of Procedure, will be outlined. Its creation, entry into force and impact on universities will also be discussed.

Further information

Focus on Boards of Appeal

Intermediate level

Reference AV02-2022
Online study visit I 1 June 2022, 3 hrs

This study visit gives participants a hands-on experience of the Boards of Appeal and an insight into their role, providing participants with a deeper understanding of the case law and practice of the Boards. Participants will also find out more about the work of members of the Boards of Appeal and, in a live online session, will have the opportunity to put questions to them and engage with key topics relating to Boards of Appeal decisions.

Further information

Focus on DG Patent Granting Process and DG Legal / International Affairs of the EPO

Entry level

Reference AV03-2022
Online study visit I 12 October 2022, 3 hrs

This study visit gives participants a hands-on experience of the EPO and an insight into its work. They will be provided with a deeper understanding of the role and work of Directorates general "Patent Granting Process" and "Legal/ International Affairs".

Participants will also find out more about the work of EPO experts in the respective departments and will have the opportunity to put questions to these experts.

Further information

Specific technical fields

Entry level

Reference AV04-2022
Online study visit I 7 December 2022, 3 hrs

This study visit gives participants a hands-on experience of the EPO and an insight into the work of EPO experts from different technical fields: such as digital communication, life sciences, med tech, smart agriculture and green tech, providing participants with an understanding of the European patent system and some of its particularities when it comes to patenting in these selected areas of technology.

Participants will also find out more about the work of EPO examiners working in these technical fields and will have the opportunity to put questions to them and to other EPO experts.

Further information

Lectures

Patent protection for EU funding beneficiaries

Intermediate level

Reference AU60-2022 to AU64-2022
Online lectures I January-November 2022, 1.5 hrs each
7.5 in total

This lecture series, organised in co-operation with the European IP Helpdesk, addresses the IP-related aspects of EU-funded projects in five areas:

Title	Code	Date
Medical technologies	AU60-2022	January 2022
Artificial intelligence	AU61-2022	March 2022
Green technologies	AU62-2022	June 2022
Digital communication	AU63-2022	October 2022
Biotechnology	AU64-2022	November 2022

It introduces the main aspects of IP management: notably IP ownership, protection and exploitation.

Each lecture explores the interface between patents and the respective technical field. The lectures may be of interest to a variety of audiences, from researchers to technology transfer officers.

The online sessions include Q&A and are complemented with optional self-paced courses.

Further information

Inventor's talks

Intermediate level

Reference AL91-, AL92-, AL93-, AL95-2022
Online lectures I February-December, 1 hr each

Inventor's talks is a new series from the European Patent Academy. It features distinguished inventors who were nominated as finalists or winners of the European Inventor Award and their inventions.
The series provides a unique opportunity to interact with the inventors and learn how to successfully bring an invention to market and contribute to innovation.
The lectures will be divided into a 30-minute inventor's talk followed by a 30-minute Q&A session.

Further information

Title	Code	Date
Inventor's talk with Jan van der Tempel (NL): Safe transfer to and from offshore platforms	AL91-2022	February 2022
Inventor's talk with Pete and Ben Kibel (UK): Fishing hook cover to save seabirds	AL92-2022	April 2022
Inventor's talk with Carmen Hijosa (ES): Turning pineapple leaves into a sustainable alternative to leather	AL93-2022	September 2022
Inventor's talk with Marco Donolato and team (IT/DK): Magnetic nanoparticles to diagnose disease	AL95-2022	December 2022

Advanced seminars series

Patents play an important role in many technical fields. Some are old and mature; others are booming or in their infancy. This advanced level seminars series provides participants with insights into the innovations happening in selected technologies and the interface with IP rights. The seminars require self-paced preparation, including online courses, videos and podcasts and comprise live online sessions with Q&A. The four online sessions are an opportunity for participants to interact with EPO experts, IP experts and inventors specialising in the selected technical fields.

Smart agriculture

Advanced level
Reference AS03-2022
Online seminars I June 2022, 1 hr each, 4 hrs in total

Participants will learn how patents can be used to protect smart agriculture inventions and will find out about challenges in the patent granting process specific to smart agriculture. Participants will see how patents can protect a range of subject matter, find or attract investors, follow trends, protect market share, cement technology partnerships, and increase profits.

The series comprises four online sessions:
1. Patenting in smart agriculture – challenges from an examiner/patent office perspective
2. Developing an IP strategy: practical and post-grant aspects of smart agriculture patents
3. IP-related challenges for an in-house IP team in a smart agriculture environment
4. Meet an inventor from the smart agriculture industry.

Further information

Med tech

Advanced level
Reference AS04-2022
Online seminars I October 2022, 1 hr each, 4 hrs in total

Participants will learn how patents can be used to protect med tech inventions and will find out about some of the challenges in the patent granting process specific to med tech. Participants will see how patents can be used to protect a range of subject matter, find or attract investors, follow trends, protect market share, cement technology partnerships and increase profits.

The series comprises four online sessions:
1. Patenting in medical technologies – challenges from an examiner/patent office perspective
2. Developing an IP strategy: practical and post-grant aspects of med tech patents
3. IP-related challenges for an in-house IP team in a medical technology environment
4. Meet an inventor from the medical technology industry.

Further information

Business support
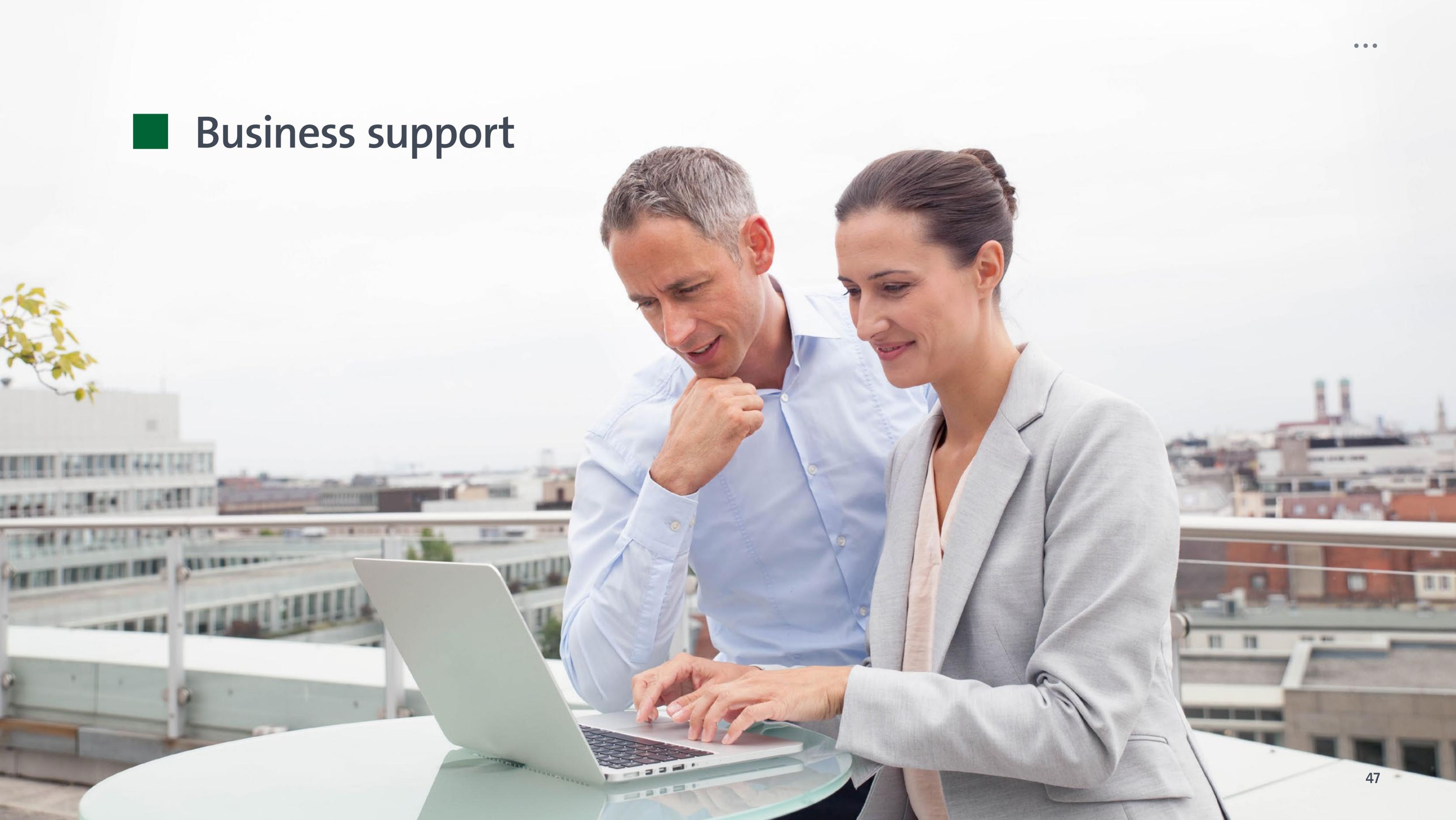
High-growth Technology Business

The High-growth Technology Business (HTB) initiative's mission is to support decision-makers in technology-driven enterprises by sharing how IP can support their business. It focuses on IP strategy, operational excellence, financing and the management of strategic transactions, all underpinned by intellectual assets and the best practice in IP management.

HTB Conference 2022: Financing and protecting data-based innovations

Intermediate level

Reference BC02-2022
Conference, format tbc I Q4, 30 hrs

Following the High-growth technology business conference (HTBC) 2019 in Dublin, the EPO and the Licensing Executives Society (LESI) are organising the HTBC 2022 conference in autumn 2022. The one-day conference will be complemented by a half-day with pre-conference sessions and a post-conference training day.

The conference will provide an EPO-led platform for high-growth technology businesses and their partners in the innovation ecosystem to learn about business strategy and IP management. An international team of experienced practitioners will share best practices on deep tech, IP protection for data-based business models, growth financing and, in essence, how to leverage patents for business success and develop useful networks regionally and internationally.

Further information

HTB Forum 2022: Build-to-sell

Intermediate level

Reference BC04-2022
Online conference I March 2022, 4 hrs

The "Build-to-sell" forum is specifically for business decision-makers who either want to or are required by their investors to eventually sell their business. Building a company to obtain ultimate value through an exit requires a long-term view with a clear goal in mind. The "Build-to-sell" forum explores case studies from companies that have been successful in building a company that has been sold. It focuses on three intellectual assets: technology, brand and operational excellence.

Further information

HTB Forum 2022: Growth-financing

Intermediate level

Reference BC05-2022
Online conference I March 2022, 4 hrs

Most technology start-ups and scale-ups need venture capital to finance their high-growth needs. Founders and investors must focus on creating value in the company, to be realised through an exit, i.e. selling the company or launching an IPO. This conference highlights the role played by IPR (intellectual property rights) portfolios and strategy in attracting investments and increasing company value. The featured case study will be discussed from the perspective of both founders and investors.

Further information

HTB Forum 2022: Licensing

Intermediate level

Reference: BC03-2022
Online conference I June 2022, 4 hrs

Most technology companies need to use third-party technologies, copyright or brands in their products and services and ensure that they are entitled to do so. Many technology companies license their technologies to customers. Licensing-in and licensing-out may involve acquiring or granting rights to patents, designs, technology, software or trade marks. The "Licensing" forum is a workshop that explores various interesting case studies of companies whose business is, or is impacted by, licensing. It focuses on the numerous business aspects and opportunities of licensing relevant to high-growth technology companies.

Further information

HTB Forum 2022: Open innovation

Intermediate level

Reference BC06-2022
Online conference, June 2022, 4 hrs

Growing technology convergence and speed to market are driving the need for a broader set of accessible technologies and IP. To remain competitive, technology-driven firms must move from a closed approach to innovation to an open one if they are to succeed in maximising the value of high-growth technology. Open innovation is a strategic IP management approach that allows firms to have a sophisticated understanding of their future innovation needs based on an integrated approach that combines business, technology and IP strategy.

Further information

Search Matters

Advanced level

Reference BC01-2022
Online conference I Q3 (three half-days in Q2), 18 hrs

Search Matters is an annual event that showcases the
EPO's patent search strategies and techniques as well
as the various publicly accessible databases and search
programs.

The event is a blend of online lectures and workshops.
Find out about the best search strategies in dedicated
technological areas in interactive workshops, Espacenet
sessions and lively panel discussions.

Further information

Business use of patent information

Entry level

Reference BS18-2022
Online seminar I Q2, 8 hrs

This online seminar provides an overview of the
competitive environment faced by potential patent
information users. It looks at why patents and patent
information matter and contrasts patent intelligence with
traditional patent searches, providing case studies.

Further information

Using EPO search tools to improve business decisions

Entry level

Reference BS19-2022
Online seminar I Q2, 3.5 hrs

This seminar will show business decision-makers what can
be done with the EPO's free search tools and what more
advanced tools offer on top.

Content:
− using Espacenet to filter and analyse search results
− how to fully harness Global Patent Index
− using PATSTAT for more advanced statistics

Further information

From lab to market – technology transfer case studies

Intermediate level

Reference BS09-2022 to BS16-2022
Online seminars I Q1-Q4, 3 hrs each, 21 hrs in total

The kick-off event (BS09-2022) introduces a series of technology transfer case studies that illustrate how patents facilitate technology transfer from R&D-conducting organisations and promote market success.
The subsequent virtual workshops (BS10-2022 – BS16-2022) introduce the EPO's new case study series that illustrates how patents facilitate technology transfer from R&D-conducting organisations and promote market success.
The examples cover a range of economic sectors, countries and types of technology transfer. Each case study provides key takeaways for stakeholders in universities, other public research organisations and businesses. Overall, they demonstrate the importance of patents for technology transfer to start-ups, spin-offs and established companies.

Title	Code
Material technology – Sweden, Oxeon	BS10-2022
Medical technology – Ireland, Atlantic Therapeutics	BS11-2022
Biotechnology – Turkey, Dermis Pharma	BS12-2022
Mechatronic systems – Italy, Blu Brake	BS13-2022
Medical technology – Portugal, Perceive 3D	BS14-2022
Sensor technology – Germany, FOS4X	BS15-2022
Additive manufacturing – Austria, Cubicure	BS16-2022

This series of workshops is organised in co-operation with the European IP Helpdesk.

Further information

Computer-implemented inventions in med tech: value of patents for SMEs

Intermediate level

Reference BC08-2022
Online conference I April 2022, 12 hrs

Medical technology was the field with the highest number of European patent applications in 2021. The impact of computer-implemented inventions is being strongly felt in this area. This conference aims to increase the understanding among businesses of the value of patents and IP strategies and highlights how IP management can help unleash the hidden potential of software-driven solutions.

Further information

From idea to commercialisation

Entry level

Reference BS01-2022
Online seminar I Q1, 5 hrs

The EPO has produced a series of case studies on European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have benefitted from the use of patents and other IP rights. The studies provide recommendations on topics including creating a proactive IP strategy adapted to real business needs, taking a holistic approach to IP management, knowing where to involve IP specialists and how to use patent information. They also highlight the expected benefits for SMEs of the future Unitary Patent, including time and cost savings and increased legal certainty across the EU's single market.

Further information

Selected self-paced courses

Self-paced courses are available 24/7 on the EPO e-learning platform: e-courses.epo.org

Title	Level	Duration
From idea to patent	Entry	8 hrs
The art of reading patent documentation	Entry	6 hrs
Introduction to the European patent system	Entry	8 hrs
The European patent system from filing to grant	Entry	7 hrs
Think patents: the value of patent documentation for innovation and research	Entry	4 hrs
EPO patent information tools	Entry	5 hrs
Use patents: cases from research results	Entry	12 hrs
Patent information tour	Entry	4 hrs
IP Management: recorded lectures	Intermediate	30 hrs

Patent knowledge online seminars

For more information:
www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/
helpful-resources/events-training-publications.html

Title	Quarter	Duration
Introduction to PATSTAT	Q1	60 min
How and where to access EP publications in different tools & formats for different cases	Q1	60 min
EPO search tools to support decision making	Q2	60 min
Patent insight reports – The making of	Q2	60 min
Patent Knowledge products and data news	Q2	75 min
Europe and beyond – patent information from the EPO's validation states (part I: Moldova, Georgia, Cambodia)	Q2	75 min
Europe and beyond – patent information from the EPO's validation states (part II: Morocco and Tunisia)	Q2	60 min
Introduction to the Global Patent Index (GPI)	Q1	60 min
INPADOC legal event data for beginners	Q2	60 min
INPADOC legal events: EP legal events, their sources	Q1	60 min
INPADOC classification: concept and examples	Q2	60 min
Patent search basics	Q2	60 min
Introduction to the European Patent Register	Q2	50-60 min
Patent Knowledge products and data news	Q3	75 min
Introduction to PATSTAT	Q3	60 min
INPADOC: deep dive and case studies	Q3	60 min
INPADOC legal events in EPO's bulk data products and Open Patent Services	Q4	60 min

Title	Quarter	Duration
Introduction to the Global Patent Index (GPI)	Q4	60 min
Patent families in Open Patent Services and DOCDB XML: Concept and examples	Q4	60 min
INPADOC classification: concept and examples	Q4	45 min
Exploring patent systems and search tools from Latin America – Part I: Brazil	Q4	60 min
Exploring patent systems and search tools from Latin America – Part II: Mexico	Q4	60 min
Exploring patent systems and search tools from Latin America – Part III: Colombia, Chile, and Argentina	Q4	75 min
Patent Knowledge products and data news	Q4	75 min
Live customer support (OPS/PATSTAT/GPI)	Q2-Q4	90 min
The unitary patent in the various PI products – an overview	tbc	60 min
The unitary patent in EP Bulletin Search	tbc	50-60 min
The Unitary Patent Register	tbc	50-60 min
The Unitary Patent in INPADOC legal events	tbc	50-60 min
Electrolysers for hydrogen production	tbc	60 min
Offshore wind energy generation	tbc	60 min
Quantum computing	tbc	60 min
Quantum communication	tbc	60 min
Smart materials/4D printing	tbc	60 min
Light materials/launchers	tbc	60 min

Patent litigation and enforcement

The "Enforcement" training area develops and provides training and exchange activities aimed at promoting harmonised approaches to patent law in member states by creating a sound knowledge of patent litigation.

The area is aimed mainly at the judiciary, in particular judges sitting in courts competent to hear patent cases in their countries. However, our training activities may be of benefit to other practitioners, such as IP lawyers and patent attorneys wishing to further their knowledge in enforcement and post-grant issues.

The European Patent Academy focuses on promoting legal expertise on patents throughout Europe. To this end, a number of training activities are offered at different levels which enable judges to progressively build their knowledge in patent law, ranging from capacity-building training to expert-level exchanges.

A certificate of participation indicating the number of training hours is issued after successful completion of a course.

Training overview

Audiences	Type	Title	Date
■	Seminar	UPC Rules of Procedure	Q2
■	Conference	European Judges' Forum	Q2
■	Course	EPO patentability and procedures for national judges	Q2
■	Internships	Judicial internships at the Boards of Appeal	Q2
■	Workshop	Patentability issues for national judges and the Boards of Appeal	Q3
■ ■ ■	Conference	Boards of Appeal and key decisions 2021	Q4
■	Course	Patent infringement and infringement proceedings	Q4

EPO patentability and procedures for national judges

Entry level

Reference JU07-2022
Online course I Q2, 20 hrs

The seminars on EPO procedures serve as an introduction to patentability for judges who have limited experience of hearing patent cases but who nevertheless work in courts which are competent to deal with them. They serve as a "fundamentals" course that should be completed before attending other events relating to patent enforcement and litigation.

The seminars series extends over five weeks, with once-weekly virtual sessions.

Further information

Judicial internships at the Boards of Appeal

Entry level/intermediate level

Reference JI02-2022
Internship, format tbc I June 2022, 120 hrs internship

The internships are organised jointly by the Boards of Appeal and the European Patent Academy, whose objectives include the promotion of equal access to training opportunities in the field of European and international patent law and practice across all current and future EPC contracting states. The internships last three weeks.

Prior to their stay in Munich, judicial interns must complete an online course on patentability requirements and Boards of Appeal procedures, run online, reference JU07-2022, duration 20 hrs.

Further information

Patent infringement and infringement proceedings

Entry level

Reference JU06-2022
Online course I Q4, 24 hrs

Combining self-study with virtual live sessions, this course provides participants with a comprehensive overview and understanding of aspects arising in patent infringement cases and proceedings. The self-study material is accessible from within a private online course room allowing for flexibility and time management. The self-study material is complemented by weekly, interactive and hands-on virtual sessions on specific topics with European judicial patent experts and practitioners. The final session takes the form of mock proceedings dealing with a case that brings together everything learned in the course.

Content:
– Refresher on fundamentals
– Construction, equivalence and file wrapper
– Types of infringement and defences
– Special cases
– Measures available for the enforcement of patents
– Jurisdictional framework in Europe
– Alternative dispute resolution
– Mock proceedings

Detailed information on this training activity will be available in April 2022.

Further information

Patentability issues for national judges and the Boards of Appeal

Expert level

Reference JW03-2022
Workshop, format tbc I July 2022, 6 hrs

This expert workshop will bring together an equal number of expert national patent judges and members or chairpersons of the Boards of Appeal to discuss and exchange views on issues and practices relating to patentability.

This workshop is by invitation only.

European Judges' Forum

Expert level

JC04-2022
Conference, format tbc I May 2022 (tbc), 12 hrs, 2 days

The annual European Judges' Forum is organised in partnership with the European Patent Lawyers' Association (EPLAW) and the IP Judges' Association (IPJA). The conference is a high-level platform for the most experienced judges and litigators in Europe to discuss issues arising in patent litigation, for example equivalence, measures for enforcement of IP rights, discovery and treatment of confidential information in patent cases.

This conference is by invitation only.

Boards of Appeal and key decisions

Intermediate level/advanced level

Reference JC08-2022
Conference, format tbc I November 2022, 12 hrs, 2 days

The annual "Boards of Appeal and key decisions" conference provides a unique opportunity for patent practitioners to gain an insight into the case law and practice of the Boards. Since its inception in 2012, the event has attracted more than 2 000 participants, providing a forum for them to engage with members of the Boards on important topics relating to Boards of Appeal decisions. The conference is designed for patent practitioners (patent attorneys, attorneys-at-law, in-house counsel), judges and national patent office staff with a minimum of four years' experience in the field of patents.

Further information

UPC Rules of Procedure

Advanced level

Reference JS10-2022, JS11-2022, JS12-2022, JS13-2022
Seminars, format tbc, UPC Training Centre Budapest I Q2 (tentative), 24 hrs, 4 days

This training programme has been developed by the Academy for the appointed judges of the Unified Patent Court (UPC) under the MoU with the UPC Preparatory Committee.

During the Provisional Application Phase (PAP), the UPC-appointed judges will participate in this course on the practical application of the UPC Rules of Procedure. Jurisdictional aspects and judgecraft are also covered. This is an intensive, highly-interactive four-day course that will allow judges to meet and begin working together in a collaborative environment. The main exercise will be two-day-long mock proceedings with group work and deliberations at every juncture.

These seminars are specifically designed for UPC appointed judges and therefore by invitation only.

Selected self-paced courses

Self-paced courses are available 24/7 on the EPO e-learning platform: e-courses.epo.org

Title	Level	Duration
Patent litigation A to Z in 37 modules	Entry/Intermediate	40 hrs

This online training provides judges with a comprehensive overview of the elements and issues arising in patent litigation and infringement procedures. It provides a unique overview of all substantive and procedural aspects arising in patent litigation disputes and will be of interest to judges, lawyers, academics, legal staff of IP institutions and patent attorneys prosecuting in English or before national courts.

The course comprises three blocks of modules:
— Procedures to obtain a patent and legal framework (15 modules)
— Patent disputes (15 modules)
— Outcomes to patent disputes (7 modules)

Projects and products

Towards professional certifications

With the launch of the new European patent administration certification (EPAC) in 2022, the Academy is developing a preparatory training for formalities officers, with the support of the EPO internal Talent Academy. The project is supported by the epi, the EPIPA and by national patent offices. Details will be published in Q1 2022.

Learning paths

Courses and modules in the e-learning centre can be combined to provide a meaningful insight in a particular area. The learning paths are itineraries of existing material woven in a sequence to cover a topic from different angles. The learning paths are displayed on the website and guide the user from one course to another with suggestions on what to learn next. There are currently three learning paths available: "Getting to know patents", "The value of patent documentation" and "Finding your way through searches". We are developing one entitled "Patentability of new technological developments". Learning paths are also used to group content for a given target audience.

Find out more on the learning paths

Course builder

The course builder is a database designed for facilitating the design of courses. It captures hundreds of knowledge units that are organised according to a hierarchy of vertical topics and horizontal concepts. Each knowledge unit is attributed a unique level: entry, intermediate or advanced level and is based on a well-defined set of legal references. The possibility to select and combine knowledge units to design a course significantly improves the match between training needs and course content. It will further raise the quality and the impact of the training. The course builder will be tested by the Academy in 2022 with the view to create an online version for free use.

E-book series

The Academy is finalising a series of e-books addressing the main challenges of substantive patent examination: how to understand and assess the patentability criteria, but also the requirements of clarity, unity, sufficiency of disclosure, including in specific technical fields such as computer invented inventions, chemistry, or biotechnology. Each topic is presented at the three levels: entry, intermediate and advanced. The explanations are based on the EPC and illustrated with numerous examples mainly taken from the Guidelines or with decisions of the Boards of Appeals. The complete collection will also encompass further aspects of the work of an examiner, focusing on search and on re-use of EPO work products.

The first volumes will be made available starting Q2.

E-learning centre

The e-learning centre has a range of informational and training modules on patenting. In 2022, the Academy will offer new modules, such as:
– computer-implemented inventions
– a mock infringement case
– case studies on patent infringement issues
– learning pathway "Patentability course for judges"
– the new online filing tools
– certification for decision-makers and IP professionals

Existing modules on the Guide for applicants and conference recordings covering new technologies and EPO practice (e.g. the recent switch to oral proceedings via videoconference) will also be updated.

Find out more on the EPO e-learning centre

Training for the PATLIB centres

An integral part of the PATLIB 2.0 project is the training offered to the centres. Courses are designed for the levels and skills recommended in the Porto paper. The Academy provides the training content in a dedicated space for the potential participants (350+). In 2021, we focused on patent granting and patent information tools. In 2022, we will offer courses on PATLIB centre services for levels I to III and on soft skills.

Find out more one the training for PATLIB centres

"Talk innovation" podcast

The Academy's first "Talk innovation" podcasts were the "Patents in progress" series in which patent examiners spoke with an EPO colleague about their technical field. Since then, the Academy has supported podcasts on case studies, selected technologies and results of research projects funded by the EPO. New themes are in the pipeline, with a six-episode series on IP commercialisation planned for 2022. More to come!

Find out more on the training podcasts

EPO Academic Research Programme

The EPO recognises the importance of high-quality research on patent-related IP matters to inform policymakers and facilitate sound business decisions in a context where intangible assets, innovation and IP rights as well as digital technologies for IP have become pivotal in the economy and education. The programme provides financial support for rigorous collaborative research schemes.

Find out more on the EPO Academic Research Programme

Modular IP education framework

As part of our enhanced training portfolio, the Academy has set up a new modular IP education framework. By supporting the acquisition of both theoretical and practical IP knowledge, alongside an understanding of its practical importance and relevance, it aims to equip participants to use IP rights in their future careers.

It will be made available starting Q1 and will contain:

Part I – coming Q1		Level	Duration
Module 1	Introduction to IP	Entry level	15 hrs
Module 2	Patent essentials	Entry level	20 hrs
Module 3	Patent information introduction	Entry level	10 hrs
Module 4	Patent information practice	Entry level	15 hrs
Module 5	Developing an IP strategy	Entry level	15 hrs

Part II – coming Q3		Level	Duration
Module 1	Grant of patents	Advanced level	20 hrs
Module 2	Enforcement of patents	Advanced level	15 hrs
Module 3	Scouting and assessment of technology	Advanced level	10 hrs
Module 4	IP commercialisation	Advanced level	20 hrs
Module 5	Use of IPRs	Advanced level	10 hrs

Publications

IP Teaching Kit

The IP Teaching Kit (IPTK) is a follow-up to the successful Patent Teaching Kit launched in 2010 by the European Patent Academy of the European Patent Office (EPO). With the IPTK you have at your disposal free of charge an extensive set of professional teaching materials which represents one of the most comprehensive IP teaching resources in the world.

Find out more on the IPTK

Case studies on IP strategy and IP management (IPTK)

These case studies are reprints from the California Management Review special issue on IP management, produced in collaboration with the EPO and the University of California Berkeley. This special issue provides an in-depth look at the benefits, methods and potential pitfalls of IP management. It features authors such as Henry Chesbrough, David Teece, Abdulrahman Al-Aali and Eric L. Chen.

Find out more on the case studies for the IPTK

Intellectual property course design manual

The European Patent Academy's intellectual property course design manual makes it easier for university lecturers to introduce intellectual property into various courses of study and educational programmes.

Find out more: https://www.epo.org/learning/materials/course-design-manual.html

Find out more

Intellectual Property Teaching Kit

Case studies for use with Intellectual Property Teaching Kit

Reprint from the California Management Review special issue on intellectual property management, produced in collaboration with the EPO

Contributors
André Clerix, William W. Fisher III, Johan Van Helleputte, Bart Leten, Felix Oberholzer-Gee, Nadine Roijakkers and Wim Vanhaverbeke

Intellectual property course design manual

European Patent Academy

EPO innovation case studies

This series of innovation case studies reveals how innovators can make better use of the IP system to create value. The SME case studies and technology transfer case studies that make up the series showcase companies from different countries representing the main regions in Europe. They operate in a wide range of industries, from medical technology to ICT and the environment, and apply different business models.

Find out more on the EPO innovation case studies
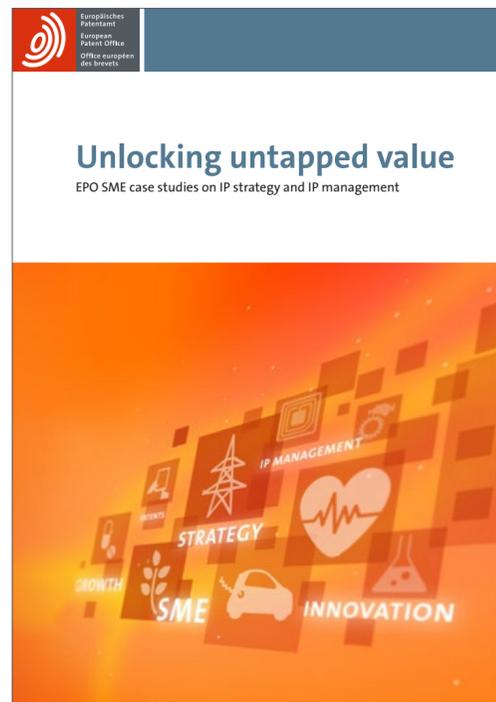
Inventors' handbook

The Inventors' handbook provides basic guidance on the key stages of turning an invention into a commercial product. The topics covered include patent searching, IP and business aspects. The guide is intended to help inventors obtain a 360° view on invention commercialisation so that they may avoid common mistakes associated with innovation projects. The handbook can be used for self-paced training or as further reading for other training events.

Find out more on the Inventors' handbook
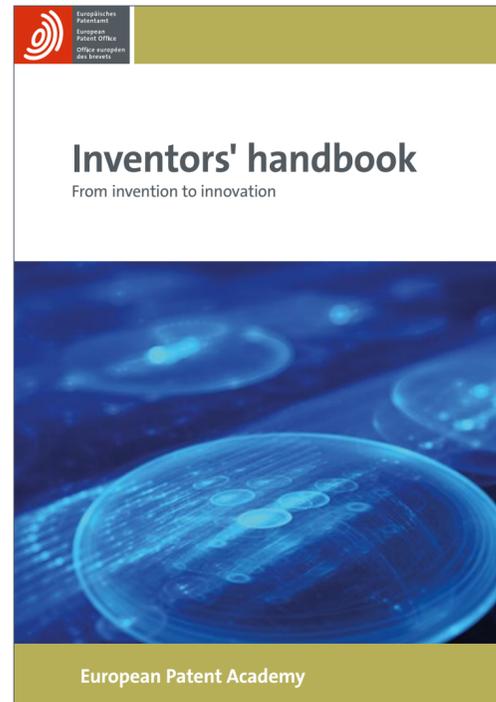
Best of Search Matters

These web pages bring the content developed for the annual Search Matters conference to the attention of the wider network of patent system users, and SMEs in particular. A collection of selected recordings of presentations, presentation slides and articles published in the Elsevier journal "World Patent Information" is accessible for self-paced study.

Find out more on Best of Search Matters

European qualifying examination – Guide for preparation

This guide is a collection of explanations, information and advice that gives candidates to the European qualifying examination (EQE) a head start in organising their exam preparation time. It will allow them to channel their efforts to maximise their chances of passing the examination. The guide has been drawn from official information sources and the experiences of previous candidates and their tutors and supervisors. Please note that this guide does not replace official publications on EQE regulations.

Find out more on the guide for preparation to the EQE

Patent litigation in Europe

Publication and online map access

The fifth edition of this publication provides an overview of the national patent litigation systems across the European Patent Organisation's member states, giving readers an at-a-glance description of the different national revocation, nullity and infringement procedures currently in place, as well as information about the competent courts dealing with these matters at first instance and appeal. It also contains information on the Unified Patent Court.

Find out more on patent litigation in Europe
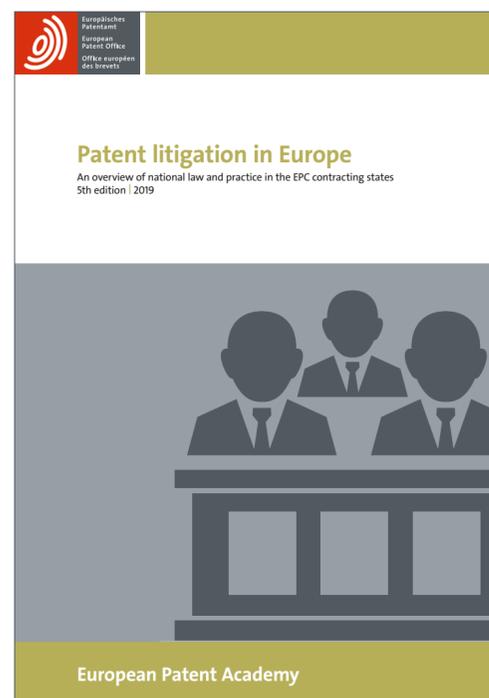
Patent enforcement in Europe

Publication and online comparative tool

This publication provides a detailed overview of the different national enforcement practices and procedures in each EPC contracting state. This compilation of country profiles provides a comprehensive insight into the enforcement practices and procedures available in the EPC contracting states. An interactive searchable and comparative tool enables users to compare specific measures and procedures between countries.

Find out more on patent enforcement in Europe.

European qualifying examination
Guide for preparation | 9th edition

Patent litigation in Europe
An overview of national law and practice in the EPC contracting states
5th edition | 2019

European Patent Academy

Patent enforcement in Europe
A country-by-country overview

European Patent Academy

Compulsory licensing in Europe

Publication and online map access

In some cases, national authorities may license companies or individuals other than the patent owner to use the rights of the patent without the consent of the patent owner. "Compulsory licensing in Europe" provides a country-by-country guide to how compulsory licensing is regulated at national level in the EPC contracting states.

Find out more on compulsory licensing in Europe

Compulsory licensing in Europe
A country-by-country overview

European Patent Academy
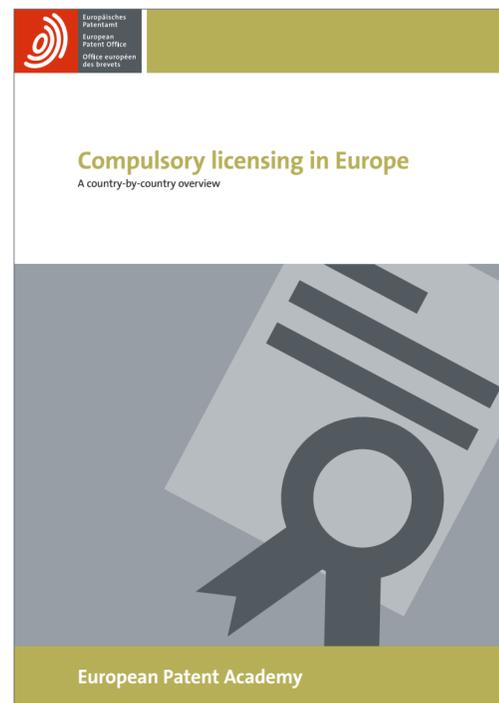
Jurisdiction of European courts in patent disputes

The adjudication of cross-border patent infringement and revocation disputes in Europe is regulated by the rules of jurisdiction provided for in different legislative instruments, i.e. the Brussels I Regulation (recast), the Lugano Convention, and international and national law. Once the Unified Patent Court Agreement has entered into force, the Unified Patent Court will also have jurisdiction to adjudicate on disputes relating to European and national patents.

This manual provides an overview and guide, including scenarios, to the jurisdiction of European courts concerning patent infringement and revocation disputes. The manual will be updated in Q1 to reflect Brexit and its effect on jurisdictional issues.

Find out more on the jurisdiction of European courts in patent disputes

The jurisdiction of European courts in patent disputes

European Patent Academy

Patent Litigation Manual and Terminology

Publication

This printed compilation of modules from the self-paced e-learning course "Patent litigation A to Z" is available from the EPO Shop. It is complemented by a glossary of key patent litigation terminology in English, French and German in electronic format.

EPO shop

Patent litigation
Manual and terminology

European Patent Academy