EPO begins publishing linked open data

The EPO now provides linked open data on European patent publications and the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) scheme, enabling anyone – for example data scientists, web developers, academics and companies – to combine patent data with other information more easily.

What is linked open data?
Linked data is data published in a standard format defined by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The format is simple, formalised, and machine-readable. Elements in the data are identified using Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs; similar to URLs). This allows data in one data set to be linked to data in another.

The fact that the data can be linked makes it easier to connect data from different sources, resulting in new and innovative applications. Given its URI, data about a resource can be retrieved in a variety of formats over the web.

The word “open” refers to the fact that the data is freely available to the public for them to use and republish as they wish.

So what does the EPO now offer exactly?
The EPO’s new product is called “Linked open EP data”. The “EP” refers to European patents.

The data covers the complete collection of patent documents published by the EPO since 1978 (patent applications and granted patents). It is updated weekly and contains the most relevant elements of these publications, including:

- inventors’ and applicants’ names
- dates and numbers
- abstracts, and titles in English, French and German
- technical classifications (International Patent Classification and CPC)
continued from page 1

– citations of patents and non-patent literature
– relations with other applications: PCT applications, priority documents, family members

It also includes references to the full-text publications stored on the European Publication Server in HTML, PDF and XML, and elements of the CPC. Some information (data on publications including applicants and inventors) is as published. Other information (IPC, CPC, citations, families) is continuously updated.

What can I use the data for?
Linked open EP data offers new ways of combining patent and non-patent data.

You can:
– use it to retrieve up-to-date information on European patents and, for example, incorporate it into web pages
– link it to data from other patent data publishers
– download it to create your own database
– combine it with business or other non-patent information
– freely reuse it on the basis of an open data licence

Where can I access the data?
It, and support documentation, are accessible from the new linked open EP data web page at epo.org/linked-data.

For occasional use, the EPO’s linked data service includes a simple data browser, an application programming interface (API; see Figure 3) and a query interface. For heavier use, bulk data is available for download.

EPO Annual Report 2017 – a wealth of statistical information

The EPO’s annual report for 2017 is now available on the EPO website. It contains an overview of all major business areas, including data on European patent filings, grants and oppositions.

There is a comparison of 2017 with the four preceding years and a presentation of some of the main quality indicators for European patents.

There is also a download centre offering large amounts of data in PDF and Excel format.

Example
You can query, retrieve and view linked open EP data using standard web technologies like HTTP, URIs and SPARQL. SPARQL is the standard query language for the Resource Description Framework (RDF).

Figure 1 shows a SPARQL query to retrieve all applicants and their countries as published in EP 1430076 A2.

The query returns a list of three companies/organisations (see Figure 2).

The above example was based solely on the EPO’s linked open EP data.

Examples of how this data could be combined with external sources include the following:

– Technical terms in patent abstracts could be linked to their definitions in DBpedia, the linked data version of Wikipedia.

– Countries and regions in the applicant and inventor information could be linked to the corresponding geographical entities in the GeoNames database, enabling retrieval of the geographical entities in several languages, the x- and y-co-ordinates of the polygon of their borders, etc.

epo.org/linked-data
There's so much happening

There’s so much happening in European patent information – can you afford to miss this year’s EPO Patent Information Conference?

Pages 4 and 5 of this issue look back at some of the main achievements in European patent information over the past eight years. A tremendous amount has changed in our field, and change is set to continue, and probably even accelerate.

Artificial intelligence is the omnipresent theme of the day, and it is an emotional one. It strikes fear into some and wild enthusiasm into others. And it will have an impact on patents and patent searching, of that we can be sure.

At a more specialised level, we anticipate that Espacenet will be re-launched later this year. It will be the most far-reaching update since Espacenet’s launch 20 years ago. We are also seeing the first results of the EPO’s efforts to make it easier to use legal status data thanks to the introduction of categories for the many different legal status events. This sounds like a relatively mundane development, but it could change the way we work with legal status data for ever.

All of these topics and more will be on the agenda at this year’s Patent Information Conference, which is taking place in Brussels from 12 to 14 November. The programme has just been published (see page 12), and registration is now open.

With so much happening, can you afford to miss it?

Richard Flammer
Principal Director Patent Information and European Patent Academy

EPO Raw Data Day 2018

On 21 March users met in Vienna to discuss current developments in the EPO’s bulk data products and new features in existing patent information products. It was an opportunity to speak to the Office’s data experts and to network.

This event, dedicated to patent data at a more technical level, is an important complement to a series of meetings with patent information stakeholders and users such as the PatCom, SACEPO/PDI and PDG/IMPACT meetings, the EPO Patent Information Conference and the East meets West forum. The event is important to the EPO as an opportunity to hear direct from those who build databases what their expectations and needs are.

As usual, the EPO team presented the latest developments in the EPO worldwide bibliographic database (DOCDB) and the EPO worldwide legal status database (INPADOC), which are unique and the foundation of most patent databases available on the market. INPADOC was particularly in the spotlight this year. The Raw Data Day 2018 was also an occasion for the EPO to report on its categorisation project, with the first-level categories according to WIPO ST.27 about to be introduced into INPADOC.

Further presentations were on:
- a project for adding EP-A4 publication data (supplementary search reports for PCT applications entering the European phase) to regular XML-based deliveries
- information regarding authority files for patent publications in line with the future WIPO ST.37 standard
- developments in the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) database
- linked open data from the EPO, a new service which has been available since April this year (see page 1).

A WIPO representative provided an update on their products and services. To round off the day, a speaker from the Fraunhofer Institute gave an interesting insight from the perspective of the data-scientist community. The speech described a study conducted on behalf of the EPO on the place of patent data in the big-data context.

The Office traditionally invites its suppliers, convinced that, if the Office meets the people who work with its patent data products, it will be in a better position to understand their needs and the suppliers will better understand the Office’s high quality requirements.
Eight years of achievements

Since Benoît Battistelli became President of the European Patent Office in July 2010, greater importance has been placed on patent information projects that have brought major benefit to users. As his eight years in office draw to a close at the end of June, the time is right to reflect on the impressive progress made by initiatives such as Patent Translate, the Cooperative Patent Classification, the Federated Register and Global Dossier.

Patent Translate
When Patent Translate went live on 29 February 2012, it marked a big technical step forward in the automated translation of patent documents. Today it offers translation from English, French and German into the 28 official languages of the member states of the European Patent Organisation, and vice versa. Users can also translate between English and Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian.

The concept was simple: based on the assumption that two patent family members in different languages were equivalents, feed them into a translation engine that was able to learn and wait for the quality to improve. The EPO quickly found a partner for this work – Google – and agreed to deliver "corpora" (large collections of equivalent patent texts in language pairs) to train their automated translation service.

In 2017 Patent Translate improved even further, thanks to a new technology called neural machine translation that put the EPO’s co-operation with Google at the forefront of machine-translation technologies.

Machine translation is not just replacing human translation, but is also providing access to masses of data previously inaccessible to patent searchers. Back in 2013, for example, the EPO estimated that it would take 16 000 man-years to translate the Chinese patent documentation available at the time into English. Patent Translate provides all of that documentation, and the additional documents published since then, instantly in English, and to a level of quality that is perfectly adequate for readers to understand the nature of the inventions. It would have been impossible to translate this information using human translators.

Patent Translate is making it possible for people to read patents that they previously could not, and is supporting the spread of technical knowledge. For the first time in history, the content of almost every patent document worldwide is available to anyone who wants to read it.

Cooperative Patent Classification
On 25 October 2010, EPO President Benoît Battistelli and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), David Kappos, agreed on a joint statement that paved the way for the creation of the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC), launched on 1 January 2013.

The CPC was initiated as a way of harmonising the USPTO’s and EPO’s classification schemes (USPC and ECLA, respectively) and moving towards a common one. The CPC is based to a large extent on ECLA.

Today, the CPC is used not only by the EPO and USPTO, but also by many other patent offices around the world. It has become an essential tool for any patent searcher, enabling more precise classification-based searching for patent documents classified by expert patent searchers.

Global Dossier
As reported in Patent Information News 2/2015, Global Dossier is a product of the IP5 programme, a collaboration between the EPO, Japan Patent Office, Korean Intellectual Property Office, State Intellectual Property Office of the People’s Republic of China and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The aim is to allow each office to access information produced by the other offices for a family of patent applications (applications for the same invention filed at multiple offices), and make that information available to the public. It currently allows you to look at the file wrappers for Canadian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, US and PCT (international) patent applications. Global Dossier is embedded within the European Patent Register and also accessible via Espacenet. It provides an automatic machine translation when Chinese, Japanese or Korean documents are requested in English.

Global Dossier has received considerable praise from users for providing one-stop access to the full file from multiple offices for each patent application. Its ease of use and freely available machine translations into English mean that usage levels are consistently high.

Federated Register
Upon grant, a European patent becomes a bundle of national patents, each the responsibility of the respective country. There is therefore a need to consolidate information from many sources, a need that led to the initiation of the Federated Register project.

The first phase of the project, called deep linking, enables users of the European Patent Register to click on links taking them direct to the national patent register entries corresponding to a European patent. The number of states providing access to the online registers of their national patent offices in this way has already reached 34.

The second phase provides a tabular overview of the most important legal status data from all the participating countries – currently 27 (see article on page 5) – on a single screen. The system automatically retrieves the data “live” from the registers of the various patent offices, collates it, and presents it in summary form, instantly showing users where the European patent is in force and where it has lapsed.
United Kingdom joins the Federated Register

Continuing the very good news and adding to the 26 countries already participating in the Federated Register (see Patent Information News 1/2018), another country joined at the end of April, namely the United Kingdom. The Federated Register therefore now offers bibliographic and legal status information for European patents validated in the United Kingdom too.

Launched in April 2015, the Federated Register thus now has 27 participating states: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Available within the European Patent Register (epo.org/register), the Federated Register allows you to retrieve reliable and up-to-date bibliographic and legal status information for granted European patents once they have entered the national phase in these 27 countries, and view it all together in one table.

UNITARY PATENT

United Kingdom ratifies Unified Patent Court Agreement

The United Kingdom announced on 26 April 2018 that it had deposited its instrument of ratification of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (UPCA). That now brings the total number of ratifications to 16.

Welcoming the news, EPO President Benoît Battistelli said: "Today's ratification by the UK brings us a decisive step closer to achieving the entry into force of the unitary patent. We are now within touching distance of a new patent for Europe that will support our innovation sector with simplified administration, reduced costs and greater legal certainty."

For the unitary patent to enter into force, the UPCA needs to be ratified by 13 of the 26 participating EU member states, including France, Germany and the UK, the countries with the largest numbers of European patents in force. While the necessary number of ratifications was achieved in 2017, those of Germany and the UK were still outstanding; France ratified in 2014. The Unified Patent Court will be a dedicated court for patents, hearing cases on the validity and infringement of unitary patents – and later also European patents – granted by the EPO. It forms part of the unitary patent package and is based on an international treaty which needs to be ratified by the EU member states' parliaments, while the patent itself is the result of two EU regulations adopted in 2012.

epo.org/unitary-patent
Validation agreements
Validation agreements offer patent applicants a way to obtain patent protection in countries outside Europe which have concluded a validation agreement with the European Patent Organisation. Under a validation agreement, a European patent application and a European patent have the same effect as national patent applications and national patents in the respective country. They will be subject to national law and will enjoy essentially the same protection as patents that the Organisation grants for its member states. Applicants must request the protection in a validation state when filing a European patent application, and the protection is subject to the payment of a validation fee to the EPO (the amount of the validation fee for each country is based on the amount of the designation fee for EPC contracting states).

Currently, validation agreements are in force with:
- Morocco
- Republic of Moldova
- Tunisia
- Cambodia

Protection in overseas territories through the national law of a contracting state to the EPC
Another reason why a European patent might be in force outside Europe is because one of the contracting states to the European Patent Convention (EPC) allows it under its national law (e.g. for overseas territories or dependencies).

Thus, for the United Kingdom, a European patent also covers the Isle of Man. France and the Netherlands include overseas parts of their territories in their patents’ coverage (e.g. French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Curaçao and Sint Maarten). For the Netherlands, however, the island of Aruba is not included. Denmark does not include Greenland or the Faroe Islands (see the links in the table).

Re-registration of European patents
"Re-registration" is a legal system under some national laws that recognises a patent granted in another, specific state. Patent proprietors have to file a request for re-registration if they want the effects of the patent to extend to the territory in question. The majority of these countries set a specific time limit for filing such requests. A few countries, however, do not, and consequently accept the proprietor’s request at any time during the lifetime of the foreign patent. Many former British colonies have adopted such a system (more information available via the links in the table).

Hong Kong
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is a special case. It has its own, independent patent system but also accepts the extension of European patents designating the UK. For more information, see the Official Journal 4/2016 (see the link in the table).

Conclusion
If you need to establish the complete territorial coverage of a European patent, bear in mind that there might be some non-European regions you should consider. This article has not attempted to provide an exhaustive list of the possible regions where a European patent might be in force, but rather to illustrate the complexities involved.
Networking for the benefit of patent information users ...

... at the PATLIB2018 conference in Ljubljana on 3 and 4 May

How can we improve the services we provide for our various client groups?
How can we adapt to our changing environment?
How can we promote what we do and increase our visibility?

These were questions raised, discussed and answered at this year’s PATLIB conference in the Slovenian capital, where some 200 experts from across Europe’s PATLIB network gathered.

A preparatory committee, composed of representatives from different European regions, had put together a programme of plenary and break-out sessions based on proposals received from members of the network.

The keynote talk was on blockchain technology and how it might have an impact on IP. Other plenary talks looked at the EPO’s recent SME case studies (see epo.org/sme), services from the EUIPO and the EU’s Value Intellectual Property for SMEs (VIP4SME) project. Another was on “IP pre-diagnosis lite”, a slimmed-down IP audit offered to SMEs in Germany.

Speakers from the PATLIB network reported on successful projects they had initiated and implemented in their centres. Topics ranged from a structured way to offer SMEs strategy advice on IP rights to developing awareness of IP for gaming products. One session was dedicated to supporting clients with IP in international markets.

There can be no doubt that one of the highlights at PATLIB2018 was the presentation by a team of four speakers who had all just completed the one-year PATLIB reorientation project (see Patent Information News 3/2017, page 5). After a year of intensive study, organised by the EPO, they all had significant successes to report, ranging from their centres’ increased visibility to the launch of a new patent intelligence service. For the EPO, the impressive presentation was testimony to the value that the project had brought to its participants.

“As usual,” wrote one participant, “the event met the highest expectations. Many congratulations!”

The most important aspect of PATLIB2018 was, however, networking for the benefit of patent information users.

The full programme and all the presentations from the conference are publicly accessible at epo.org/patlib.

Patent Olympiad – not your usual patent search contest

The first-ever Patent Olympiad will take place at the Politecnico di Milano on 9 September 2018, immediately before the CEPIUG (Confederacy of European Patent Information User Groups) 10th anniversary conference in the same location.

Other patent search competitions have been for career development, comparing search engines, crowdsourcing, academic assignments and bidding for research funding.

The idea for a somewhat different patent search competition was born when a group of four enthusiasts got together late one night after a busy patent information conference day, somewhere in the USA.

The idea is to hold a patent search event that is competitive but friendly, focused but fun. One that showcases search skills and a passion for patents.

Patent Olympiad is not a test of different search products. It is simply about pitting your skills against someone else’s. It is a serious event, but it is also one that will be driven by a love of patent searching.

Patent Olympiad is not for profit, and volunteer-led.

For more information: patentolympiad.org
In his opening address, EPO Vice-President Raimund Lutz focused on the conference’s central theme of “getting connected”. This was as much about becoming familiar with the latest trends and hot topics in Asian patent information as it was about cultivating personal contacts and interaction between users and experts from all over the world.

**Three takes on artificial intelligence**
These days everyone is talking about artificial intelligence (AI) and buzzwords like robotics, data mining, natural-language processing and blockchain technology come up as often in the world of patent information as elsewhere. So it’s little wonder that AI featured large at East meets West.

But what role do these new technologies play in patent search? This was what representatives of the three largest patent offices in Asia considered in their presentations at the first panel-of-experts session.

Haijing Liu, representing the China Patent Office (SIPO), looked at the new technologies of patent mining and patent evaluation based on big data. Jung Hoon Ha from the Korea Industrial Property Rights Information Service (KIPO) focused on a new method of carrying out semantic analysis on patent documents, and Yoshiuki Osabe, on behalf of the Japan Patent Office (JPO), presented the JPO’s action plan to implement AI technologies in various areas of its activity. It intends to use AI technologies in the future e.g. for patent classification, prior-art searches and even to answer customer queries.

Yet for all these developments and moves towards automation, the important role humans still play was underscored in the talks given by Jim Stoopman of the EU’s IPR Helpdesk and Christine Kämmer of the EPO’s Asian patent information service. Both services offer customers a range of tailored, specialist support based primarily on human experience and expertise.

When the discussion was opened up to the floor, the general opinion seemed to be that automated tools and human experience complement each other and that both algorithms and personal expertise will have their place in searching for Asian data.

For the first time at East meets West, the Russian Patent Office (ROSPATENT) gave a talk. Ilya Kononenko gave an overview of recent developments like ROSPATENT’s new publication.
system and its plans to use blockchain technology for various procedures, e.g. to transfer patent rights and for licensing

Wrapping up the country focus, attention turned to patent information from Iran. Seyed Kamran Bagheri, Professor for IP management at the University of Teheran, gave an introduction to Iran’s patent system in the context of the development of science and technology in his country. Iran, with a young population, a high proportion of university graduates and a strikingly high number of start-ups, has a lot of potential and is one of the global leaders in some fields like nanotechnology. By contrast, the patent system there is still in its infancy and the scope for patent searching is limited.

**Personal contacts and lively discussions**

The variety of topics and geographical regions featured at the conference gave participants plenty to discuss. There was a prime opportunity to network at the poster sessions, at which around 20 commercial providers presented their services, as well as the roundtables at which participants came together to discuss their topics of choice. The subjects ranged from FTO searches in Asia to patents and standards and crowd searching, to a focus on particular regions, especially patent information from South Africa and Russia. There was also a roundtable where users could talk to experts from four Arab states about the ARABPAT project.

Mohammed Tahiri from the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC), a familiar face at East meets West, gave the closing address in which he stressed the importance of close contact with users in developing a project like ARABPAT. This tied in with the forum’s central theme this year of “getting connected”, which Principal Director Richard Flammer referred to in his closing remarks. He talked about the bonds that are forged or strengthened at a forum like East meets West: between users and experts, regular attendees and newcomers and just generally between attendees from different parts of the globe.

The presentations given at East meets West 2018 are available at epo.org/emw2018.

**Save the date:**

**East meets West 2019, 11 and 12 April 2019.**
News from Asia

Structural reform of SIPO
On 13 March 2018, China’s National People’s Congress approved a restructuring plan for various institutions, placing the State Intellectual Property Office of the People’s Republic of China (SIPO) under a newly established State Administration of Market Supervision and Administration (SAMS). SIPO will now handle trade marks (formerly administered by the State Administration of Industry and Commerce, SAIC) and geographical indications (formerly handled by the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, AQSIQ). This is in addition to patents, utility models and designs. According to official statements, the aim is to strengthen and harmonise the management and enforcement of patents and trade marks.

New search functions on JPO’s J-PlatPat
On 12 March 2018, the Japan Patent Office (JPO) launched some new search functions on J-PlatPat. The patent and utility model database has been combined with the computer and software database and with other non-patent literature databases, making it possible to search all of them in one go (in Japanese only). A feature for proximity searching has also been implemented. Older patent documentation is now available in machine-readable format, so it can be searched with keywords and machine-translated.

More details, including the exact data coverage, are available at inpit.go.jp/j-platpat_info/othersinfo/201803-release.html (Japanese only).

Korea – accelerated examination for Industry 4.0-related inventions
The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) has introduced an accelerated examination option for applications relating to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, available for inventions in seven core technological fields: artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, 3D printing, autonomous vehicles, cognitive robotics, big data and cloud computing. Expedited examination will reduce the pendency period to only six months, calculated from the examination request to the first office action. This new regulation entered into force on 24 April 2018.

Recent changes to patent procedures in Vietnam
On 15 January 2018, an amendment to the implementing regulations of Vietnam’s Law on Intellectual Property entered into force. Some of the most notable new features include:

– Removal of the six-month grace period for late PCT national phase entries; national phase entries after the 31-month deadline no longer permitted
– Extension of the time limits to respond to office actions, e.g. from two to three months for responses to a preliminary rejection and from one to three months for the fee payment after the grant decision
– Extension of the time limits in cases of force majeure, e.g. an additional six months for filing the examination request after expiry of the original 42-month deadline

Kuwait accepts applications under the PCT
On 27 March 2018 the Kuwait Patent Office started accepting Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications that enter the national phase in Kuwait, having been a member of the PCT system since September 2016.

IPO releases its 2016/17 annual report
The Indian Patent Office (IPO) has recently published its annual report for the fiscal year 2016/17. It contains statistics on all major IP rights. The number of granted patents increased by 55.3% from 6 326 in 2015/16 to 9 847 in 2016/17. On the other hand, the number of patent applications decreased slightly from 46 904 in 2015/16 to 45 444 in 2016/17. The most popular IP right in India in terms of filings per year is trade marks. In 2016/17, the IPO received 278 170 trade mark applications, again a slight decrease – from 283 060 in 2015/16. The annual report is available online at: ipindia.nic.in/writereaddata/Portal/IPOAnnualReport/1_94_1_1_79_1_ Annual_Report-2016-17_English.pdf

For more news from Asia, see the Updates section at epo.org/asia.
Using Asian characters to improve your search results with GPI

If you’re a Global Patent Index (GPI) user, you can now enhance the completeness of your search by including applicant names written using Asian characters in your queries.

Let us imagine, for example, that in the context of your monthly monitoring you would like to retrieve documents where the applicant is the University of Kyoto. “UNIV KYOTO” and “国立大学法人京都大学” are frequent names for this university in the EPO worldwide bibliographic database (DOCDB).

- Query No. 1: DFE = 201711 and APP = “univ kyoto”
  Returns 56 publications, some of them also having the applicant name in the original language (i.e. in Japanese characters)

- Query No. 2: DFE = 201711 and APP = “国立大学法人京都大学”
  Returns 35 publications, some of them not having the applicant name written using the Latin alphabet (for countries such as Japan and China, after receiving publications with applicant names in the original language, it usually takes several months before the EPO gets the same publications with applicant names written using the Latin alphabet)

- Query No. 3 (recommended query): DFE = 201711 and APP = “univ kyoto” or “国立大学法人京都大学”
  Returns 83 publications, some with “univ kyoto” only, some with “国立大学法人京都大学” only, and others with “univ kyoto” and “国立大学法人京都大学”

In other words, query No. 3 gives you a more complete search at an early stage thanks to the combination of names written using the Latin alphabet and Japanese characters. Such combinations are particularly relevant for retrieving publications that do not belong to a simple patent family. If a document is part of a patent family, it is often possible to retrieve it via another family member bearing the applicant’s name written using the Latin alphabet.

The table above shows the percentages of Chinese, Japanese and Korean applications added to GPI for the first time in January this year that are only retrievable using names written in the original language, and the ones retrievable using names written using the Latin alphabet.

Note: The percentages represent searches carried out in April 2018; values may changes over time as the completeness of names in the Latin alphabet may increase progressively, except for some Asian utility models where the names may be available in the original language only.

Publications corner

"Publications corner" presents the latest statistics on EPO publications.

- EP-A2: European patent applications published without search report
- EP-A3: European search reports
- EP-B1: European patent specifications
- EP-B2: revised European patent specifications

Note: The table does not include statistics on European patent applications filed via the PCT route (Euro-PCT applications). These are published by WIPO and are not made available by the EPO unless they are in a language other than English, French or German. Currently about 60% of all European patent applications are Euro-PCT filings.
EPO Patent Information Conference 2018

Programme available, registration open
Taking place at the Crowne Plaza Brussels – Le Palace from 12 to 14 November, this year’s EPO Patent Information Conference is again likely to be the biggest gathering of patent information specialists in Europe.

The programme includes:
– a focus on the latest developments in European patent information, including the new Espacenet, which is set for launch later this year
– sessions on artificial intelligence and semantic searching, legal status searching and non-patent literature
– smaller group discussions for in-depth dialogue on specific issues
– training on 11 and 14 November, on topics such as classification-based searching, patent-term extensions, patent analytics and legal status searching
– the usual presentations with practical tips from experienced searchers

Above all, the EPO Patent Information Conference is a meeting place, an event where patent searchers, patent office staff and commercial patent information providers get together to exchange views and experiences.

To find out more, and to register for the event: epo.org/pi-conference

Leaving us
After more than 20 years as an editor of Patent Information News, Katharina Maes is leaving the EPO on 30 June. The entire editorial team would like to say a big thank you to Katharina, whose eye for detail and tone, and friendly manner, have made a unique contribution to Patent Information News.