Dear readers,

We’re pleased to present the Academy’s preliminary 2020 training catalogue. As things stand, we'll be offering our usual range of seminars, webinars, distance-learning courses and training modules for national offices, patent professionals and other interested parties.

In addition, in 2020 we’ll begin extending our offering in line with the Office's Strategic Plan 2023. On page 15, we’ve outlined some ideas for new topics that we could explore with national offices.

We look forward to discussing these and other thoughts with you soon. We'll be taking a structured approach that fully considers your wishes and expectations. We're already aware of quite a few of them as a result of the consultations for the Strategic Plan.

Our future capacity-building programme will aim at increasing both patent knowledge and quality. By working closely with you, we’ll be able to define training needs and the appropriate level of resources well in advance and to offer a more comprehensive and integrated training portfolio.

The result will be a revamped catalogue in the medium term. In the meantime, do browse the current one; you’re sure to find something that meets your needs for the coming months.

European Patent Academy
A very good command of spoken and written English is required for all courses.

### Documentation and classification

**E-learning 24/7**

Using the CPC in classification

This course offers an overview of the CPC classification system, from the basics to the CPC definition documents.

- [e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=90](e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=90)

**Practical and strategic aspects of the CPC**

Building on the content of the previous course, this second course gives an overview of the differences from the IPC and looks at useful strategies with practical examples.

- [e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=84](e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=84)

**Recorded e-learning course**

CPC field-specific training

This course consists of 24 recorded lectures in which expert examiners present their CPC technical fields. The presentations contain examples from most CPC classification sections.

- [e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=156](e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=156)

### Requirements

The courses are free of charge, and you can register individually without any access code. All you need is a valid email account.

For updates, please check epo.org/learning or nationaloffices.epo.org

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### CPC field-specific training

**Reference OS01-2020**

**16-18 June**

The Hague

**Content**

- Scheme and definitions in detail in specific CPC technical fields
- Progressive approach from the overall view to the deepest level
- How to classify in the specific technical fields
- Analysis of deltas in classification between patent offices and how to avoid them

**Format**

- Presentations
- Practical exercises
- Discussion of participants’ allocated symbols
- Several technical tracks in parallel

**Learning objectives**

On completion of the training participants will be able to

- classify documents in specific technical fields, according to the invention and the technical problem solved
- create a network of classifiers within national offices in co-operation with the EPO

**Requirements**

Participants must already have some experience of CPC classification. Ideally, they will have completed the self-paced distance learning courses on CPC.

For updates, please check epo.org/learning or nationaloffices.epo.org
For reminders about training events and registration deadlines, sign up to epo.org/academy-alert

### Introduction to patent statistics and PATSTAT

**Reference** PI01-2020

**24-26 June 2020**

**Vienna**

**Content**
- Introduction to PATSTAT
- PATSTAT Online versus PATSTAT bulk data
- Installing and querying PATSTAT
- Overview of tables, elements and patent indicators
- Predefined patent indicators in PATSTAT Online
- Potential pitfalls
- Linking other data sets to PATSTAT

**Format**
- Presentations
- Hands-on exercises

**Learning objectives**
On completion of the training participants will learn:
- An introduction to PATSTAT
- PATSTAT Online versus PATSTAT bulk data
- Install and query PATSTAT
- Overview of tables, elements and patent indicators
- Predefined patent indicators in PATSTAT Online
- Potential pitfalls
- Linking other data sets to PATSTAT

**Requirements**
Participants should:
- have a good knowledge of the patent system
- be familiar with bibliographical patent data
- have a very good understanding of Boolean operators
- have a strong interest in hands-on patent searches and statistics
- have some knowledge of Structured Quer Language (SQL)

*This course is also suitable for PATLIB centre staff.*

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### Searching with new Espacenet "Train-the-trainer" course

**Reference** PI08-2020

**Date tbd**

**Vienna**

**Content**
- Searching in new Espacenet, basic and advanced
- Developing training strategies, materials and programmes

**Format**
- Presentations
- Case studies
- Group exercises

**Learning objectives**
On completion of the training participants will be able to:
- understand new Espacenet as a patent information resource and its role for the national offices
- carry out searches in new Espacenet using basic and advanced features
- develop and implement teaching strategies and materials for new Espacenet
- train end users effectively

**Requirements**
Participants must have:
- a basic knowledge of the patent system and patent searching
- a minimum of three years’ experience in using Espacenet

*This course is also suitable for PATLIB centre staff.*

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### Advanced searches and informative search reports

**Reference** PI09-2020

**17-18 September 2020**

**Vienna**

**Content**
- Clients requirements and corresponding search types
- Establishing a search and innovation concept based on the steps Function – Object – Innovation – Layout (Invention FOIL)
- Comparison of searches with commercial and freely available tools
- Establishing efficient search strategies and limiting search results, including interactions with the client during the search process
- Reading and analysing patent documents, extracting essential information
- Concepts and structures for an informative search report
- Subsequent search services: analysis and market observation

**Format**
- Presentations
- Case studies
- Hands-on exercises

**Learning objectives**
On completion of the training participants will:
- be able to prepare an informative search report
- be able to conduct patent information searches efficiently
- be able to make patent information searches tailored to the clients needs

**Requirements**
Participants should:
- be actively involved in providing patent information services to users
- have a sound knowledge of the patent system
- have a basic knowledge of patent databases and patent searching techniques

*This course is primarily suitable for PATLIB centre staff.*

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### Understanding Asian patent documentation

**Reference** PI14-2020

**3 March 2020**

**Vienna**

**Content**
- Overview of the national IP infrastructure in China, Japan, Korea and other jurisdictions, including India and Russia
- The granting procedure in these countries: different stages in the life of a patent file from filing to grant, and beyond
- Patent documentation: document types, kind codes and number formats
- Search tools provided by the national offices of these countries

**Format**
- Presentations
- Case studies
- Hands-on exercises

**Learning objectives**
On completion of the training participants will:
- understand the most important features of Asian patent systems and the national granting procedures
- have gained knowledge of patent documentation (document types, number formats) and know how to apply this knowledge to searching Asian patent data
- be able to perform searches in tools provided by the national offices, including in original language interfaces

**Requirements**
Participants should:
- have a basic knowledge of the patent system in general
- be familiar with basic concepts such as bibliographical information and legal status data

*This course is also suitable for PATLIB centre staff.*

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A very good command of spoken and written English is required for all courses.

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For reminders about training events and registration deadlines, sign up to epo.org/academy-alert
**Legal event data and INPADOC**

**Entry level**

Reference PI10-2020

1 April 2020

Vienna

**Content**

– Introduction to legal event data
– The patent application and prosecution procedure as the main source of legal event data
– Resources for legal event data
– INPADOC: coverage, completeness and availability
– Using WIPO Standard ST.27 and the INPADOC classification to identify relevant legal event data
– Using EPO products and services to retrieve legal event data
– Potential pitfalls

**Requirements**

Participants should

– have a basic knowledge of the patent system
– be familiar with bibliographical patent data
– have a general understanding of patent searching techniques

**Learning objectives**

On completion of the training participants will

– have a general understanding of what legal event data is and which types of legal event data are available
– have gained insight into the nature, coverage and availability of INPADOC
– be able to use selected EPO products and services to retrieve legal event data
– be able to use legal event data during patent searches and patent analyses in their everyday work

**Introduction to the new Espacenet**

Webinar

22 January 2020

10.00-11.30 hrs

**Content**

This webinar provides an introduction to the new Espacenet. The Espacenet interface offers a completely new user experience. We will take you on a journey, from entering your first keywords to inspecting the details of specific documents.

**Format**

– Presentations
– Case studies
– Hands-on exercises

**Learning objectives**

On completion of the training participants will

– better understand why patent information users need high-quality legal event data and which pieces of information are of particular relevance
– understand how legal event data is used in monitoring searches
– have gained insight into the further development of the INPADOC database and the operating processes behind it
– understand how legal event data can be exchanged in an efficient way between national patent offices and with service providers
– have gained insight into the principles of WIPO ST.27 for legal event data and of the INPADOC classification scheme

**Requirements**

Participants should

– have a good understanding of the patent system
– be familiar with bibliographical and legal event data
– have a good understanding of patent search techniques

**LEGAL EVENT DATA AND INPADOC – ADVANCED LEVEL**

Reference PI13-2020

2 April 2020

Vienna

**Content**

– Brief summary of general concepts, major sources of legal event data and potential fields of use
– Using legal event data in monitoring searches
– The further development of the INPADOC database and other relevant EPO products and services
– Exchanging legal event data between national patent offices and with commercial service providers
– Making legal event data more useful: WIPO ST.27 and the INPADOC classification scheme

**Format**

– Presentations
– Case studies
– Hands-on exercises

**Learning objectives**

On completion of the training participants will

– better understand why patent information users need high-quality legal event data and which pieces of information are of particular relevance
– understand how legal event data is used in monitoring searches
– have gained insight into the further development of the INPADOC database and the operating processes behind it
– understand how legal event data can be exchanged in an efficient way between national patent offices and with service providers
– have gained insight into the principles of WIPO ST.27 for legal event data and of the INPADOC classification scheme

**Requirements**

Participants should

– have a good understanding of the patent system
– be familiar with bibliographical and legal event data
– have a good understanding of patent search techniques

This course can be combined with the entry-level (PI10-2020) course on legal event data.

It is also suitable for PATLIB centre staff.

**Patent families**

**Webinar**

21 January 2020

10.00-11.00 hrs

**Content**

This webinar explains the concept of patent families and their key features, including priorities. Starting with an overview of how patent data is processed, grouped and stored in the EPO’s databases, the webinar will introduce the general concept of patent families and the way they are used at the EPO for Espacenet, Open Patent Services (OPS) and other products. Examples and case studies will illustrate how patent families are created and how they can be interpreted by patent information users.

**Introduction to the European Patent Register**

**Webinar**

4 March 2020

10.30-11.30 hrs

**Content**

This webinar explains what the European Patent Register is, how it works, how to search it and what to do with your result lists. It also takes an in-depth look at the different services offered by the Register. We will explore the Federated Register together with its deep links to the national registers, have a closer look at the Global Dossier service and show you how to use the Register Alert service.

**NEW ESPACENET: ADVANCED FEATURES**

**Webinar**

29 January 2020

10.30-11.30 hrs

This webinar provides an insight into the advanced features of the Espacenet interface, including the query builder, filtering, and much more.

**EP PATENT INFORMATION AND CPC TAXONOMY AS LINKED DATA**

**Webinar**

11 March 2020

10.30-11.30 hrs

Linked data - also known as the Semantic Web - is a data format which makes it easier to combine data sources from different domains and sources. This webinar gives a short introduction to linked data, presents the EPO Linked Open EP data and concludes with a live demo.
For latest updates on Patent Information webinars, please check epo.org/vc

**SPC term extensions and adjustments: protection beyond 20 years in Europe, the US and Asia 1: EU and USA**

**Webinar**
9 June 2020
15.00-16.15 hrs

**SPC term extensions and adjustments: protection beyond 20 years in Europe, the US and Asia 2: China, Singapore and others**

**Webinar**
16 June 2020
15.00-16.15 hrs

**SPC term extensions and adjustments: protection beyond 20 years in Europe, the US and Asia 3: Korea and Japan**

**Webinar**
23 June 2020
15.00-16.15 hrs

Since the introduction of the Hatch-Waxman Act in the US in 1984, many countries and regions have adopted laws for extending patent protection on medicinal products as a compensation for the expensive research and development phase in the pharmaceutical industry. These laws also facilitate the production of generic drugs after the protection has expired.

This series of webinars aims at a better understanding of patent term extensions for medicinal products in Europe, the US and Asia. We will also highlight the most recent developments like the EU manufacturing waiver and upcoming law revision in China.

In the first session, you will get an overview of patent term extensions in Europe (“SPCs”) and the United States. We will present the legal framework and combine it with the information in the EPO’s databases, including INPADOC or Espacenet. We will also have a look at the future plans for SPC information in INPADOC.

In the subsequent two sessions, we will focus on patent term extension information from Asian jurisdictions. We will give an overview of related provisions in the Chinese, Japanese and Korean patent laws and regulations. Furthermore, we will also look at the provisions in Singapore and other jurisdictions.

In addition, we will show you how to retrieve data on term extensions from the official sources provided by the Asian patent offices. We will also give tips on how the EPO’s Asian Patent Information Services can help you go further with this topic.

**Accessing court decisions on patents across Europe with ECLI**

**Webinar**
16 September 2020
10.30-11.30 hrs

This webinar will introduce you to the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) and show you how to access patent-related court decisions across Europe, using a single access point, the ECLI search engine.

**PATSTAT Online**

**Webinar**
16 September 2020
14.30-16.00 hrs

This webinar introduces PATSTAT Online, the EPO’s database for statistical analysis of patent data, and its new beginners’ interface.

**INPADOC worldwide legal status database – basic**

**Webinar**
29 September 2020
14.30-15.30 hrs

The EPO gathers legal status information from over 40 countries around the world in its INPADOC worldwide legal status database. You can access INPADOC via Espacenet. In this webinar we will explore the background and coverage of INPADOC. We will look at examples of patent applications and their legal status history, and find out about the latest additions to the database. Last but not least, we will identify some of the pitfalls when using legal status data and how to avoid them.

**Introduction to the European Patent Register**

**Webinar**
7 October 2020
10.30-11.30 hrs

This webinar explains what the European Patent Register is, how it works, how to search it and what to do with your result lists. It also takes an in-depth look at the different services offered by the European Patent Register. We will explore the Federated Register together with its deep links to the national registers, have a closer look at the Global Dossier service and show you how to use the Register Alert service.

**Patent families**

**Webinar**
13 October 2020
14.30-15.30 hrs

This webinar explains the concept of patent families and their key features, including priorities. Starting with an overview of how patent data is processed, grouped and stored in the EPO’s databases, the webinar will introduce the general concept of patent families and the way they are used at the EPO for Espacenet, Open Patent Services (OPS) and other products. Examples and case studies will illustrate how patent families are created and how they can be interpreted by patent information users.

**Patent information from the ASEAN region – patent systems, search and documentation 1: Singapore and Malaysia**

**Webinar**
24 November 2020
15.00-16.15 hrs

How can I search for prior art filed in Singapore? What sources are available for finding out if I have freedom to operate in Indonesia? How can I find out the current status of my competitor’s application in Malaysia?

The ASEAN region has developed into one of the fastest-growing markets in the world and is attracting increasing attention from patent applicants and searchers.

What are the most important features of the different patent systems? What sources are available for prior art searches, patent monitoring and legal status retrieval?

This series of webinars will explore various aspects of patent information from six countries in the ASEAN region: Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition, we will have a look at the IP infrastructure of Myanmar, which implemented its first patent law in 2019.

**INPADOC worldwide legal status database – advanced**

**Webinar**
25 November 2020
10.00-11.00 hrs

This webinar for advanced users of INPADOC, the EPO’s worldwide legal status database, provides insights into the latest developments in the INPADOC legal status database. There will be an in-depth overview of the latest additions to the database and tools for using the database, along with a case study on how to use the events.

The webinar includes the latest news on coverage and updates to the INPADOC legal event database in 2020.
How can I search for prior art filed in Singapore? What sources are available for finding out if I have freedom to operate in Indonesia? How can I find out the current status of my competitor’s application in Malaysia?

The ASEAN region has developed into one of the fastest-growing markets in the world and is attracting increasing attention from patent applicants and searchers.

What are the most important features of the different patent systems? What sources are available for prior art searches, patent monitoring and legal status retrieval?

This series of webinars will explore various aspects of patent information from six countries in the ASEAN region: Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition, we will have a look at the IP infrastructure of Myanmar, which implemented its first patent law in 2019.

**E-learning 24/7**

**Recorded event**

Search matters 2019


**Stand-alone modules**

**Patent information tour**

This e-learning tool has been created to help users learn about patent information and its uses.

[www.e-courses.epo.org/wbts/PI_Tour/](http://www.e-courses.epo.org/wbts/PI_Tour/)

**European Patent Register Assistant**

This e-learning tool has been created to guide users through the European Patent Register and help them learn how to retrieve legal and procedural data.


**Requirements**

The modules are all free of charge, and you can use them individually without any registration.

**Some ideas for new topics**

Within the framework of the Strategic Plan 2023, we have started working on a new capacity-building programme. We will roll out the first offerings towards the end of 2020, and the remainder will bolster the Academy’s programme in the years to follow. Here are some ideas for new topics:

- **IP audit**
  Part of the programme includes developing a seminar on IP audits, due diligence and IP valuation, and it could feed into training delivered subsequently by national offices. This intermediate-level training would ideally cater for participants who have already attended an IP pre-diagnosis course.

- **Fostering technology transfer**
  At entry level, we are designing a seminar on sound outreach practices for technology transfer. National offices play a part in creating the most appropriate environment for technology transfer in their country.

- **The entrepreneur and decisions on IP**
  An e-learning tool on taking decisions on IP and the impact these decisions can have is also under consideration. When delivered, national offices can make this tool available to their users.

- **Technology watch, competition watch**
  An entry-level seminar on landscape searches and patent cartography is at the planning stage, and these again are new services that national offices could well offer or facilitate.

- **Specialised searches**
  This course design aims at introducing and explaining the various types of search a national office can offer, for example legal status, and at giving an overview of relevant databases and database providers.

- **Patents and the circular economy**
  Patents are a key driver for innovation in areas of business where national offices and the EPO as public institutions have a duty towards society to support the emergence of new technologies. A two-day conference will be prepared that would deal with one of these areas: the circular economy.

- **Innovation meets finance**
  The idea is to devise two roundtable events to investigate the interplay between IP and finance in space technologies and green technologies respectively. The goal is to achieve better mutual understanding and co-operation in these fields between the patent community, in particular national offices, and the finance community. This initiative follows on from the conferences on these fields of technology held in Luxembourg and Oslo in 2018.
EPOQUE Net: the art of efficient searching
Intermediate level

Reference OD07-2020
September-December 2020
Distance learning

Content
– Use of databases: selection, combination
– Syntax: Boolean operators, truncations, data exchanges, memories
– Syntax: combination of result sets, search statements and ranks
– Syntax: advanced: distance, proximity, exclusions
– Relevant bibliographic information: from family members to +Class
– Classification symbols – use of relevant fields
– Viewer, basics: working list and navigation
– Viewer: spotting the relevant passages, highlighting, Figure, link
– X-Full, general approach: selecting databases, entering search strings
– X-Full: sorting results
– X-Full: facets

Format
– Recordings on EPOQUE Net functionalities available
– Short examples made available before the virtual classrooms and discussed live with EPO tutors
– Forum for further interaction between participants and with tutors

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will
– have a good understanding of EPOQUE Net
– be able to use EPOQUE Net to perform efficient basic searches

Requirements
Participants must have
– entry-level knowledge of searching with EPOQUE Net
– regular access to EPOQUE Net

EPOQUE Net: the art of efficient searching
including non-patent literature
Advanced level

Reference OS28-2020
21-25 September
The Hague

Content
– Detailed review of EPOQUE Net features
– Using EPOQUE Net in complex searches and specific decision-making processes
– Strategies for structuring and fine-tuning searches: limits of such strategies
– Searching in non-patent literature

Format
– Presentations
– Hands-on exercises

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will be able to
– use the full-text search efficiently
– know how and where to retrieve non-patent literature (in and outside EPOQUE Net)
– transfer and display documents for an efficient analysis of their content
– personalise the tools
– use public preparations and develop their own preparations
– develop an incremental search strategy to retrieve documents (patent and non-patent literature)
– monitor the search cost

Requirements
Participants must have
– intermediate-level knowledge of searching with EPOQUE Net
– regular access to EPOQUE Net

Search and examination

For updates, please check epo.org/learning or nationaloffices.epo.org

A very good command of spoken and written English is required for all courses.

EPOQUE Net: the art of efficient searching
Advanced level

Reference OD08-2020
February 2020 until end of year
Distance learning

Content
– Use of EPOQUE Net to search actual complex cases
– Review of tool functionalities, in particular operators, transfer of results, Viewer and X-Full
– Combination of tools for different search strategies
– Comparison of results

Format
– Short assignments on practical cases set ahead of virtual classrooms
– Tutors and participants discuss solutions in virtual classrooms

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will
– have a very good understanding of EPOQUE Net and how to best search with it
– be able to consider different strategies when using EPOQUE Net for their searches

Requirements
Participants must have
– intermediate-level knowledge of searching with EPOQUE Net
– regular access to EPOQUE Net

How to understand and draft search reports and written opinions
Advanced level

Reference OC09-2020
24-27 March 2020
Ljubljana

Content
– Day 1 is held as an intermediate-level public event
– Patent procedures under the EPC and PCT
– The different stages of an application and the expected timeline
– Search reports and written opinions: layout of a standard report; deviations, their reasons and (legal) consequences

Days 2-4 are reserved for national office staff
– Variations in search reports and written opinions
– Interpreting an application and its claims in view of the available prior art
– Selecting and completing the right type of search report
– Drafting a thorough opinion, including all objections which should be addressed in view of novelty, inventive step, clarity, unity and disclosure
– EESR: ISR and WO-ISA in the PCT phase; IPER

Format
– Presentations
– Workshops with hands-on exercises
– Discussions

Learning objectives
On completion of the seminar participants will
– be familiar with the structure of EPO search reports and written opinions
– have a clear understanding of the underlying concepts
– know how to make efficient use of the information in search reports and written opinions

Requirements
Participants must have at least six years’ practice in understanding the structure and content of search reports and written opinions.

Day 1 is also suitable for PATLIB centre staff.
Disclosure, clarity and unity
Entry level

Reference OS08-2020
10-12 February
Belgrade

Content
– Overview of the European patent grant procedure
– Basic concepts of clarity: claim categories, dependent/independent claims, language ambiguities, etc.
– Sufficiency of disclosure requirements, including basic legal provisions, and difference from clarity, in the context of broad claims
– Basic concepts of unity and non-unity, and the legal basis

Format
– Presentations
– Group work on practical examples
– Discussion of participants’ own cases

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will have gained insight into analysing and assessing patent applications in simple cases with respect to clarity, unity and disclosure issues. Participants will have looked at strategies for efficiently dealing with and communicating such issues in non-complex cases.

Requirements
Participants must have at least six months’ experience of search and examination.

We recommend combining this course with the intermediate (OD39-2020) course on novelty and inventive step (immediately following this course), which complement the subject-matter.

Novelty and inventive step
Entry level

Reference OS09-2020
12-14 February
Belgrade

Content
– Essential aspects of novelty: analysis of simple sets of claims and prior art
– Different types of prior art and of electronic documents, e.g. internet disclosures
– Inventive step: the problem/solution approach, the skilled person
– Other indications of the existence of inventive step

Format
– Presentations
– Group work on practical examples
– Discussion of participants’ own cases

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will be able to perform feature analyses on simple sets of claims and compare the claimed subject-matter with the prior art; evaluate the different types of electronic document, including the use of documents retrieved from the internet; apply the principles of inventive step assessment using the problem/solution approach for simple combinations of documents.

Requirements
Participants must have at least six months’ experience of search and examination.

We recommend combining this course with the entry level (OS08-2020) course on disclosure, clarity and unity (immediately preceding this course), and/or the intermediate (OD39-2020) course on novelty and inventive step (p. 27), which complement the subject-matter.

Novelty and inventive step: analysis of patent applications
Intermediate level

Reference OS11-2020
16-18 March
Munich

Content
– Refresher on basic concepts of clarity, and expansion to further issues, e.g. parameters, desiderata, product-by-process claims, etc.
– Review of EPC legal provisions on sufficiency of disclosure and detailed understanding of difference between clarity and disclosure issues
– Deepening of knowledge of legal basis for unity and procedural aspects thereof

Format
– Presentations
– Group work on practical examples
– Discussion of participants’ own cases

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will have consolidated their knowledge of how to deal with clarity, unity and sufficiency issues, including complex and difficult cases, with a sound understanding of the legal grounds to support their argumentation; acquired and practised efficient strategies, enabling them to handle highly complicated cases and train newcomers.

Requirements
Participants must have at least two years’ experience of search and examination, and preferably attended an entry-level course on disclosure, clarity and unity.

We recommend combining this course with the intermediate (OS14-2020) or advanced (OS15-2020) course on novelty and inventive step (immediately following this course).

Disclosure, clarity and unity: analysis of patent applications
Advanced level

Reference OS12-2020
16-18 March
Munich

Content
– Strategies and legal background for dealing with advanced and complex aspects of clarity, unity and sufficiency at the search and examination stage
– Systematic review and overview of EPO case law
– Case studies on selecting suitable strategies for handling highly complicated cases

Format
– Presentations
– Group work on practical examples
– Discussion of participants’ own cases

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will have consolidated their knowledge of how to deal with clarity, unity and sufficiency issues, including complex and difficult cases, with a sound understanding of the legal grounds to support their argumentation; acquired and practised efficient strategies, enabling them to handle highly complicated cases and train newcomers.

Requirements
Participants must have at least six years’ experience of search and examination, and preferably attended an intermediate-level course on disclosure, clarity and unity.

We recommend combining this course with the intermediate (OS14-2020) or advanced (OS15-2020) course on novelty and inventive step (immediately following this course).

A very good command of spoken and written English is required for all courses.

For reminders about training events and registration deadlines, sign up to epo.org/academy-alert
Novelty and inventive step
 Intermediate level

Reference O514-2020
18-20 March
Munich

Content
– Review of novelty and inventive step assessment criteria and introduction to further concepts
– Review of types and uses of prior art
– Special cases, e.g. partial problems, alternative solutions, implicit features, selection inventions and feature juxtaposition/aggregation, with increased complexity
– Review of the problem/solution approach and other indications of inventive step, and application to more detailed cases

Format
– Presentations
– Group work on practical examples
– Discussion of participants’ own cases

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will
– have improved their knowledge and skills with regard to novelty and inventive step, and be able to perform feature analyses for various sets of claims and prior art
– be able to deal with special cases of novelty and inventive step, for example mixed-type inventions
– be able to confidently apply the problem/solution approach for assessing inventive step

Requirements
Participants must have
– at least two years’ experience of search and examination, and
– preferably attended an entry-level course on novelty and inventive step

We recommend combining this course with the intermediate (OS11-2020) or advanced (OS12-2020) course on disclosure, clarity and unity (immediately preceding this course).

Novelty and inventive step
 Advanced level

Reference O515-2020
18-20 March
Munich

Content
– Review of novelty and inventive step assessment criteria and introduction to advanced aspects
– Review of special cases, e.g. partial problems, alternative solutions, implicit features, selection inventions and feature juxtaposition/aggregation, with increased complexity
– Related EPO case law
– Assessment of novelty and inventive step in complex scenarios

Format
– Presentations
– Group work on practical examples
– Discussion of participants’ own cases

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will
– have an advanced command of the theory and practice of novelty and inventive step assessment, and be able to make efficient use of the criteria
– be able to confidently apply the problem/solution approach for assessing inventive step in complex cases
– be aware of related EPO case law and know how to make use of it in relation to national practice
– be able to deal with special cases
– be in a position to advise and support less experienced colleagues on these topics

Requirements
Participants must have
– at least six years’ experience of searching/examining patent applications.

We recommend combining this course with the entry-level online course on patentability criteria (p. 23).

Assessing clarity and unity
 in patent applications
 Intermediate level

Reference O938-2020
May-June 2020
Distance learning

Content
– Clarity under Article 84 EPC
– Clarity and sufficiency of disclosure (Article 83 EPC)
– Unity of invention under Article 82 EPC
– Methods for assessing unity of invention

Format
– E-learning content
– Video recordings
– Practical exercises
– Interactive discussion via virtual classroom sessions and an online forum
– Assignments

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will be able to apply the criteria for clarity and unity of invention in line with EPO practice.

Requirements
Participants must have at least two years experience of searching/examining patent applications.

We recommend combining this course with the entry-level online course on patentability criteria (p. 23).

Assessing novelty and inventive step
 in patent applications
 Intermediate level

Reference O939-2020
October-November 2020
Distance learning

Content
– Novelty under Article 54 EPC
– Inventive step under Article 56 EPC
– Assessing prior art
– Methods for determining inventive step: the problem/solution approach

Format
– E-learning content
– Video recordings
– Practical exercises
– Interactive discussion via virtual classroom sessions and an online forum
– Assignments

Learning objectives
On completion of the course participants will be able to assess novelty and inventive step in line with EPO practice.

Requirements
Participants must have at least two years’ experience of searching/examining patent applications.

We recommend combining this course with the entry-level online course on patentability criteria (p. 23).
Disclosure and implicit features at the EPO and in national jurisdictions

Advanced level
25-26 November | Berlin
Reference OS26-2020

Content

− Article 83 EPC and the skilled person at the EPO
− Equivalent legal provisions nationally and their application
− Implicit features, notion of directly and unambiguously derivable content and application to Article 83 EPC
− “Speculative” inventions and disclosure
− In-silico generated products and processes, in-silico screening
− Generalisation of the claims, disclosure and support
− Disclosure to the public and plausibility of technical effect, application to chemistry and other fields, enabling disclosure and pharmaceuticals
− EPO case law, national case law and practice

Format

− Presentations
− Group work on case studies
− Discussion of participants’ own cases

Learning objectives

On completion of the course participants will have

− better defined the notions of disclosure and its assessment in practice
− discussed national practices with other national offices
− co-drafted a synthesis document, summarising the main issues faced in practice and how to overcome them

Requirements

Participants must have at least six years’ experience of patent examination.

Examination practice in three fields:

presentation of information (human interfaces and mind control), clinical studies and virtual reality inventions

Expert level
Reference OS16-2020
6-8 October
Helsinki

Content

− Patenting procedures and new developments in the three fields
− Main objections faced by applicants
− Relevant EPO case law in the three fields when applicable
− Issues encountered when examining applications in the three fields
− Practical cases and participants’ own cases

Format

Group work in three parallel tracks

Learning objectives

On completion of the course participants will have

− acquired knowledge of and discussed the challenges in one of the three fields, including the practices at the EPO and other national offices and relevant case law
− be able to develop examining practices derived from cases and group discussions during the seminar
− be able to explore possible outcomes in patent practice
− be able to contribute to drafting instructions at national level for examination in the technical fields or topics of the seminar
− have co-drafted a synthesis document in their particular field, summarising the main issues faced in practice and how to overcome them

Requirements

Participants must be senior examiners in their field, with at least eight years’ professional experience:

Participants will have to select one of the three parallel tracks to take part in.

Discussion platform for exchange on patenting procedures

References OT01-2020 to OT05-2020
Dates tbd (two days)
Venues tbd

Content

Day 1 (for EPO examiners and examiners of the hosting national office, and, subject to conditions, of other offices):

− Classification, search and examination practice in a specific technical field
− EPO and national case law in this field

Day 2 (for industry, academia, judiciary and patent attorneys):

− Patenting trends in a specific technical field
− Examination practice in this field, including EPO and national case law
− Patenting experiences of industrial business, research institutes and universities

Format

− Presentations
− Case studies
− Discussion of files

Learning objectives

On completion of the training participants on Day 1 will have

− exchanged information on the latest developments in patenting practices and procedures in a specific technical field
− be able to harmonise their working procedures, where appropriate, through a better use of the tools and patent information available

Participants on Day 2 will have a better understanding of patenting practices and procedures of the EPO and the national office in a specific field, and the interplay of these procedures and the use of patents in business/academia.

Requirements

Day 1: Participants must have at least two years’ professional experience.

Day 2: Participants must have a sufficient knowledge of patents/a sufficient level of patent practice.

For reminders about training events and registration deadlines, sign up to epo.org/academy-alert
E-learning 24/7

Self-paced e-learning courses

Searching prior art based on patent applications
This course offers a practical guide to systematic patent search, from the process of analysing the patent application to carrying out a sufficiently complete and efficient search and deciding when to stop searching.

Patenting artificial intelligence
The EPO addressed the challenges and opportunities of patenting AI at a conference in May 2018. In a series of presentations and panel discussions, participants discussed various solutions for how the patent system can provide applicants with a solid framework for patenting AI inventions.

Patenting blockchain
In December 2018 the EPO hosted a conference designed to open a discussion around the impact of Blockchain on the patent system. In a series of presentations and panel discussions, participants exchanged views about challenges and opportunities and discussed various solutions for how the patent system can provide applicants with a solid framework for patenting blockchain inventions.

Requirements
The courses and modules are all free of charge, and you can register individually without any access code. All you need is a valid email account.

Technology-specific e-learning courses

Patenting in information and communications technology
- New technologies and the patent system
- Patentability of computer-implemented inventions (CII)
- Problem/solution approach
- CII in biotech and healthcare

Patenting in healthcare, biotechnology and chemistry
- Patentability of biotechnological inventions
- CII in biotech and healthcare
- Specific topics

For reminders about training events and registration deadlines, sign up to epo.org/academy-alert
The European patent system from filing to grant

Intermediate level

**Reference OS20-2020**

**12-15 May**

**Tallinn**

**Content**
- Overview of the grant procedure at the EPO
- Formal requirements for filing a European patent application
- How divisional applications and priority rights are dealt with at the EPO
- The search and examination procedure at the EPO, including related formalities
- The opposition procedure at the EPO, including formalities
- Quality management and control at the EPO
- The structure, role and procedures of the EPO Boards of Appeal and key decisions
- Timeliness and the Early Certainty scheme

**Format**
- Presentations
- Discussions
- Group work on practical examples

**Learning objectives**
On completion of the seminar participants will be able to:
- explain EPO procedures (formal, substantive) to national audiences
- adapt actions corresponding to the EPO steps at national level, for national applications
- construe European search reports and opinions and explain their structure and content to national audiences
- define/perform national quality checks derived from EPO standards
- start using/improve their use of EPO board of appeal decisions

**Requirements**
Participants must have sufficient knowledge of the patent system (ideally at least two years).

**E-learning 24/7**

**Self-paced e-learning course**

The opposition procedure at the EPO

This course offers a comprehensive overview of the opposition procedure at the EPO, complemented with examples and practical cases.

e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=77

**Recorded event**

Past editions of the Boards of Appeal conference

e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=55

**Stand-alone module**

A selection of case law decisions, for national patent office examiners

e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=104

**Requirements**
The courses and modules are free of charge, and you can register individually without any access code. All you need is a valid email account.

Supporting SMEs to effectively use IP

**Entry level**

**Reference OS21-2020**

**Date tbd**

**Venue tbd**

**Content**
- In the mind of an entrepreneur
- Reaching out and convincing: how to better understand the needs of SMEs, how to engage with SMEs by communicating effectively
- IP as a tool for business development: how IP can help maximising profitability, sustainability and economic growth of SMEs
- Individual support services to innovative SMEs: overview of existing tools and methods to support a strategic use of IP (including IP pre-diagnosis)
- Potential co-operation partners to deliver efficient services
- Testimonial of stakeholders delivering support services aimed at providing guidance on IP strategy (including IP pre-diagnosis)
- Sharing of experience and good national practices
- Useful recommendations for a successful implementation of support services targeted at SMEs

**Format**
- Presentations
- Hands-on exercises
- Role-playing exercises
- Exchange of experience

**Learning objectives**
On completion of the seminar participants will be able to:
- communicate with applicants/attorneys in such a way that proceedings are conducted effectively
- decide on the most appropriate action at the right time while respecting procedural requirements
- draft a comprehensive and effective first communication and reply
- better analyse the replies of applicants/attorneys and decide on next steps
- adapt their behaviour to the specific situation and communicate orally in a professional manner

**Requirements**
Participants must have at least:
- experience of written and preferably oral dialogue with applicants/attorneys

More effective dialogue between patent examiners and applicants/attorneys

**Intermediate to advanced level**

**Reference OS23-2020**

**10-12 November**

**Madrid**

**Content**
- The concept of effectiveness in communication with applicants/attorneys
- Procedural requirements for interactions with applicants/attorneys, including personal interactions
- Structure and formats for interactions with applicants/attorneys
- The importance of the right to be heard
- Potential strategies by applicants/attorneys, and which office actions are suitable and appropriate in specific situations

**Format**
- Presentations
- Hands-on exercises
- Role-playing exercises
- Exchange of experience

**Learning objectives**
On completion of the seminar participants will be able to:
- communicate with applicants/attorneys in such a way that proceedings are conducted effectively
- decide on the most appropriate action at the right time while respecting procedural requirements
- draft a comprehensive and effective first communication and reply
- better analyse the replies of applicants/attorneys and decide on next steps
- adapt their behaviour to the specific situation and communicate orally in a professional manner

**Requirements**
Participants must have at least:
- two years’ experience of patent examination
Boards of Appeal and key decisions 2020

November 2020
Munich

This two-day conference, now in its ninth year, provides a unique opportunity for patent practitioners to gain an insight into the case law practice of the Boards of Appeal.

It will focus on the Boards procedures and the impact of their decisions on patent practice. The programme will also deal with recent developments in EPO case law, focusing on topics in specific fields of interest.

The event is also suitable for staff of national offices with at least four years experience in the field of patents.

Audience:
professional representatives, judiciary, academia and business
Examination Matters
Conference
23-24 June 2020
The Hague
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. Workshops offer the opportunity to engage in detailed discussions with peers on relevant aspects of examination, share day-to-day experiences and get immediate answers to practical questions from EPO examiners and epi experts.

EQE pre-examination
E-learning course
Content and format
– In-depth articles on major EQE topics, with self-evaluation questions
– Further sets of multiple-choice questions
– Video tutorials
– In-depth case studies
– Virtual classroom sessions with tutors
– Access to a dedicated support forum
epo.org/pre-exam

EPO-CEIPI
Strasbourg and over 30 other cities in Europe
Content and format
– Basic training course on European patent law
– CEIPI seminar for the EQE pre-examination paper
– Intensive “mock examination” courses for all EQE papers
– Pre-prep courses
– Preparatory seminars for the EQE
– Booster course: how to pass Paper C

Annual meeting of EQE tutors and EQE Committee members
October 2020
Munich
Content and format
– Presentation of the papers for the latest EQE
– Discussion of answering strategies
– Feedback on marking scheme
– Presentation of upcoming changes

Patent administrators seminars
Dates tbd
Several cities in Europe
Content and format
– Fee payment: deadlines, amounts, accounts management and legal remedies
– Communicating with the EPO
– Corrections
– Opposition

Opposition Matters
Conference
Date tbd
Venue tbd
Complementing the existing Examination Matters and Search Matters events, this new conference is suitable for professionals who are already involved in filing or replying to oppositions and who wish to get an inside view of how the EPO tackles complex procedural situation. Through examples and exchanges with presenters, participants will learn how to improve their strategies in opposition proceedings.

Oral proceedings
Workshop
4-5 February 2020
Munich
Workshop
23-24 September 2020
The Hague
Content and format
– Oral proceedings at the EPO – preparation, etiquette and execution
– Important procedural aspects and case law relating to oral proceedings
– How to handle EPO opposition proceedings as a patent attorney
– Differences in oral proceedings before the department of first instance and before the boards of appeal
– Coached case studies as mock oral proceedings (two)
– Debriefing on case studies
epo.org/oral-proceedings

Life of a patent roadshow
Content and format
Courses covering European patent practice, starting with pre-drafting and ending with prosecution, including a distance learning module
Case law roadshow
Content and format
Seminars providing an overview of the latest key decisions and developments in the case law of the EPO’s Boards of Appeal. This collection of lectures offers a range of subjects, including procedural and substantive topics, and a mixture of general-interest and more field-specific topics.

Opposition and appeals roadshow
Content and format
Seminars for senior professionals wishing to update their knowledge of the final phases of EPO procedures (includes relevant case law)

These events are organised by the Institute of Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office (epi) with the support of the European Patent Academy
patentepi.org/en/education-and-training
While the EPO serves as the granting authority for European patents, there is no common jurisdiction to enforce them. This results in parallel litigation on the same patent in different countries, and in differing decisions being handed down by national judges. The European Patent Academy aims to promote harmonised approaches to patent law in the member states by working to create a sound knowledge of patent litigation amongst the judiciary.

In early 2013, the Agreement establishing the Unified Patent Court was signed. This will ensure that one court will be a single point of jurisdiction competent to deal with litigation on the unitary patent and, in future, the classical European patent. Once ratified, the current system of litigation at national level will, however, remain in place for the foreseeable future.

The Academy supports the judiciary in training on patent matters through varied offerings, ranging from classroom training to publications. It also supports judges attending conferences of interest.

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**EPO patenting procedures for national judges**

**Introductory level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates tbd</th>
<th>Munich</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content and format</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>– The life of a file</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Patentability requirements</td>
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<td>– Case studies</td>
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<td>– The appeals procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Scope of protection and workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Observing oral proceedings</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Patent litigation and procedures**

**Introductory level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Q2 2020</th>
<th>Munich</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content and format</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Validity issues, e.g. obviousness and sufficiency, including case law comparisons</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>– Interpretation of claims according to Art. 69 EPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Procedural issues in patent infringement proceedings</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Remedies and injunctive relief</td>
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</table>

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**Patentability of pharmaceutical inventions**

**Introductory level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15-16 January 2020</th>
<th>Brussels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content and format</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Overview of patentability issues in pharmaceutical inventions plus practical exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Successfully prosecuting different types of pharmaceutical inventions/claims</td>
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<tr>
<td>– EU legislative developments</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Overview of infringement issues</td>
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**Judicial internships at the Boards of Appeal**

**Introductory level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 2020</th>
<th>Munich</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content and format</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Studying case files and participating in oral proceedings</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Visits to the Munich District Court and the German Federal Patent Court</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Exchange sessions with the boards of appeal</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Mock proceedings: interns preside over a case argued by patent attorneys</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Intensive one-week course on patentability followed by three weeks shadowing a Technical Board of Appeal.

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**UPC Rules of Procedure**

**Advanced level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates tbd (depending on the status of ratifications)</th>
<th>Budapest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content and format</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>– Theoretical training on the UPC Rules of Procedure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>– Discussions on judgecraft issues arising from the Rules and for the Court</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Complex mock trial demonstrating the use of specific rules of procedure, dominated by group work and debate on the application of the rules</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Once the Unified Patent Court Agreement is ratified, this event will be organised for UPC-appointed judges by the UPC Training Centre in Budapest, with the support of the European Patent Academy.

NB: The Academy may, if required, support further training initiatives relevant to the start of operations of the Court.

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**Patent litigation from A to Z**

**Introductory to intermediate level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E-learning course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates tbd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content and format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Procedures for establishing a patent and legal framework (15 modules)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Patent disputes (15 modules)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Outcomes of patent disputes (7 modules)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This free online training provides judges with a comprehensive overview of the elements and issues arising in patent litigation and infringement procedures.

epo.org/patent-litigation
Academia

Academic and research organisations invest heavily in creating scientific knowledge, much of which could be protected and commercialised. A clear IP policy and a proper IP management infrastructure are vital to ensure that full benefit is derived from this investment.

Today’s students - tomorrow’s engineers, lawyers, researchers, designers, managers and entrepreneurs - need at least a basic understanding of the nature of IP and its importance to society. This will enable them to use the patent system to support innovation in their future careers. Europe’s educational institutions are in the best position to impart this knowledge, by incorporating it into their curricula.

The European Patent Academy supports universities and technology transfer offices (TTOs) as well as public research institutes in introducing patent-related subject-matter into faculties, in particular science and engineering. It aims to reach students and researchers across all faculties, training lecturers, teachers, students and TTO staff, and promoting the value of IP at the level of policymakers working in education.

The Academy supports well-established IP masters, chairs, workshops and summer schools by providing training concepts, programmes, advice and experts as well as material, in particular to add a European dimension to their activities.

All activities in the Academia area are aimed at:
– promoting IP awareness, IP education and IP exploitation
– training teaching staff and TTOs to serve as multipliers
– supporting academic networks and associations
– encouraging patent-related IP research activities

Annual European progress conference on exploiting IP at universities
March 2020
Madrid

This conference will be organised in co-operation with a technical university and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office. It will offer a large-scale exchange of best practice within the member states in the fields of IP awareness, IP education and IP exploitation. The event is aimed at stakeholders from universities, TTOs and national offices as well as PATLIB centres and ministry representatives keen to discuss the latest approaches and initiatives in this sector.

Study visits for student groups

Basic level - focus on patent information
21 January 2020
Munich

Basic level - focus on patent information
24 March 2020
The Hague

Basic level - focus on artificial intelligence and computer-implemented inventions
27 May 2020
Munich

Intermediate level - focus on European patenting procedure and patent law
13 October 2020
Munich

Sample content
– EPO patent information products and services
– Patent granting procedure at the EPO
– Patentability requirements in different technical fields
– Recent developments in the European patent system and the outlook for the future
– Career opportunities at the EPO

From research to business
E-learning course
Upon request

Content
– The importance and use of patent information/documentation in the context of research projects
– The protection of inventions by means of patents
– Think patents: the value of patent documentation for innovation and research
– Use patents: cases from research results
– Other IPRs

One- or two-day workshop
Upon request

Content
– Introduction to IPR
– Patent application strategy
– Searching for patents (exercises)
– How to protect my IPR
– Commercialising research results
– A research success story

EPO Academic Research Programme

The EPO Academic Research Programme provides financial support for rigorous research projects that set out to produce empirical evidence with relevant implications for policymakers and business in Europe.

The grants will be awarded to a limited number of well-defined projects addressing a specific question within six thematic areas, spanning various disciplinary fields including economics, IP management, IP law and data sciences. Interdisciplinary projects will also be considered.

epo.org/learning-events/materials/academic-research-programme.html

From research to patent/business

Today’s students - tomorrow’s engineers, lawyers, researchers, designers, managers and entrepreneurs - need at least a basic understanding of the nature of IP and its importance to society. This will enable them to use the patent system to support innovation in their future careers. Europe’s educational institutions are in the best position to impart this knowledge, by incorporating it into their curricula.
The European Patent Academy provides training at a variety of levels for industry and emerging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular.

For many companies, obtaining and maintaining sound protection for their intellectual assets is an essential element of their business model. They also need to ensure that they have freedom to operate for their products and services, so that they are not infringing any third-party IP rights which might otherwise hinder them. IP facilitates the transfer of knowledge, to avoid gaps in the exploitation of valuable research results, and patent databases are a valuable source of technical and commercial information.

The Innovation Support area mainly reaches the target audience through intermediaries, including all the potential sources of advice to which a business might turn: Licensing Executives Society (LES), BusinessEurope, European IP Helpdesk, Enterprise Europe Network, chambers of commerce, patent information centres, IP brokers, and so forth.
The e-learning centre of the European Patent Academy is the entry point to a wide range of online training. Over the years its offerings have developed to form a comprehensive range of materials, with different access types and media. This development is ongoing, and we endeavour to keep the material up to date, generating new content and deactivating old materials as they become obsolete.

**Access**

**Stand-alone modules**
These modules are topic-based and can be accessed at any time without registration.

**Courses**
To follow one of our courses, users must register with us in the e-learning centre.

The self-paced courses are available 24/7 and merely require an account with us in the e-learning centre.

The tutored courses are synchronous courses in which experts answer questions in forums, deliver webinars or correct assignments. Registration for these courses is subject to a deadline.

The courses for IP offices and related institutions, including the EPO’s co-operation training activities, are accessible by invitation only.

**Topics**
Our online training covers most of the patent procedure, from search to opposition, and including search tools, classification in CPC and the PCT procedure.

Other topics include preparation for the EQE, innovation protection for businesses and academics, patents in research, legal changes and oral proceedings. We also make available recordings of major events such as the “Blockchain” and “Search Matters” conferences.

**Technology**
Committed to simplifying accessibility and transportability, the Academy uses common tools which produce content playable on any device. The platform is largely based on Moodle, our e-learning modules are in HTML format tailored to fit small computer screens or mobile devices, and videos are played from a streaming server. A mobile version of the system is also available for iOS and Android devices.

To find out more about the Academy’s e-learning offer, go to e-courses.epo.org
Materials for national IP office staff

Personalised medicine, standard-essential patents and product-by-process claims
Nanotechnology, 3D printing and use claims
Medical devices, green inventions and non-technical features
Pharmacy, biotechnology and industrial chemistry
CII, disclaimers and added subject-matter

As part of a seminar for experienced examination practitioners in 2018, EPO and national office examiners had an exchange of views and discussed their practices in the fields of personalised medicine, standard-essential patents and product-by-process claims. Earlier seminars had dealt with practices in the fields of computer-implemented inventions, disclaimers and added subject-matter, pharmacy, biotechnology and industrial chemistry, medical devices, green inventions and non-technical features, and nanotechnology. 3D printing and use claims.

The brochures contain a summary of the outcome of each of the three days of discussions.

The 2020 seminar will focus on three fields: presentation of information (human interfaces and mind control), clinical studies and Virtual Reality inventions. It will be held in Helsinki on 6-8 October (see page 22).

Non-technical features in the assessment of patentability – with special focus on CII as applied in different fields

This publication reports on the proceedings of a two-day seminar on non-technical features in the assessment of patentability. Experienced examiners from national offices and the EPO discussed the fields of IT, medical devices, pharma and biotech.

Getting the message across

This brochure is based on a three-day seminar on efficient communication for examiners from national IP offices. A series of presentations as well as interactive role-plays and practice sessions showed participants how to effectively communicate when writing and speaking to attorneys and applicants.

In 2020 this seminar will be held in Madrid on 10-12 November (see page 27).

All these brochures can be downloaded from: nationaloffices.epo.org

The European Patent Academy has developed a bespoke patent terminology training programme in English, French and German in collaboration with the British Council, the Institut français and the Goethe-Institut.

The programme includes a training manual on terminology related to the European patent examination procedure.

Designed for both group training and individual self-study, the manual will help patent examiners develop their language awareness and accuracy. Each chapter includes training material, solutions, grammar, a glossary and audio transcripts.

Listening and speaking activities focus on telephone consultations and oral proceedings, while reading and writing activities focus on the various text-based documents used in the examination procedure.

The aim of this book is to further develop the language awareness and accuracy of delegates to the EPO bodies. The texts used are largely based on original EPO texts. Most of them have been taken from documents that underpin the work of the various bodies and committees of the European Patent Organisation.

The manuals can be downloaded from: nationaloffices.epo.org

Materials for national IP office staff
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 can be downloaded from: epo.org/brussels-scenarios

Patent litigation in Europe

The fifth edition of this publication was updated in 2019. It 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.

The overview can be downloaded from: epo.org/litigation-MS

Patent enforcement in Europe

To complement the “Patent litigation in Europe” book, a new publication is available providing a detailed overview of the different national enforcement practices and procedures in each EPC contracting state. In the EU, although the Enforcement Directive sets out measures available to claimants to enforce their IP rights as well as remedies the courts may order in IP cases, the manner in which enforcement is carried out differs from country to country. This compilation of country profiles provides a comprehensive insight into the enforcement practices and procedures available in the EPC contracting states.

Compulsory licensing in Europe

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 of how compulsory licensing is regulated at national level for the EPC contracting states.

The guide can be downloaded from: epo.org/compulsory-licensing

Terminology training manual for professional representatives

The purpose of this manual is to help professional representatives and EQE candidates further develop their language awareness and accuracy. It is divided into four chapters: filing a patent application, replying to communications, notices of opposition, and legal matters. The texts used in the training material are largely based on original EQE papers, examiner reports and other official EPO documents.

The manual can be downloaded from: epo.org/terminology-training

Patent litigation

Manual and terminology

The “Patent litigation — Manual and terminology” book is available in both print and online formats. It provides a unique overview of all substantive and procedural aspects arising in patent litigation disputes, and will be of interest for judges, patent attorneys prosecuting in English or before national courts, lawyers, academics and legal staff of IP institutions. A glossary containing key patent litigation terminology in English, French and German is annexed to the book.
Materials for academia and business

IP Teaching Kit
Produced by the EPO in co-operation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the Intellectual Property Teaching Kit (IPTK) enables teachers to put together lectures and presentations on all kinds of IP, including patents, utility models, trade marks, copyright, designs and trade secrets. It is made up of the following modules: IP Basics, IP Advanced I and II, IP Search Tools and IP Management.

The IPTK includes ready-made PowerPoint slides with speaking notes and additional background information. The speaking notes can be read out as they stand. The background information provides additional details which will help lecturers prepare for the more advanced questions that students might have. It is not intended for this information to be included in the lecture.

The materials can be tailored to the students’ background (science or engineering, business or law), their knowledge of the topic, their learning goals and the time available.

The IPTK also includes two case studies that are part of a special issue of the California Management Review on IP management, produced in collaboration with the EPO.

The various modules of the IPTK can be downloaded from: epo.org/teaching-kit

Research? Think patents
This booklet looks at how IP culture is evolving at universities and public research organisations. It illustrates how researchers are making greater use of patents, which are increasingly being regarded as an important measure of performance. It also gives some advice on the disclosure of research and points researchers towards sources of further information.

The booklet can be downloaded from: epo.org/publications

SME case studies
The EPO has produced a series of case studies on European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which benefit from the use of patents and other IP rights.

The studies provide recommendations on creating a proactive IP strategy which is adapted to real business needs, taking a holistic approach to IP management, knowing where to involve IP specialists and how to use patent information, and so forth.

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.

The studies can be used for self-paced training or in classroom training sessions. For the latter, additional training material has been created to help trainers present the case studies and discuss them with trainees.

Selected case studies are also available in German and French. All material including a glossary with links to further reading can be downloaded from: epo.org/sme

INDUSTRY | COUNTRY | COMPANY
--- | --- | ---
Biotechnology | Austria | Marinomed
Digital communication | France | Webdyn
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy | Germany | Ocara Energy
 | Estonia | Skeleton
 | Netherlands | Voltea
Medical technology | Ireland | Aerogen
 | Italy | Cosmed
 | Greece | Micrel
Optics | Lithuania | Ekspla
Other special machines | Austria | Lithoz
 | Finland | Picoe
Telecommunications | Spain | Fractus
Inventors’ handbook

The purpose of the inventors’ handbook is to provide basic guidance on all the key stages of turning an invention into a commercial product. In addition to patent search and IP topics, the handbook also covers business aspects. It is intended to help inventors obtain a 360° view of invention commercialisation and thereby avoid many of the common mistakes associated with innovation projects.

The completely revised publication will be made available in print as well as in electronic format, and also as an e-book, and will replace the current online version.

Best of Search Matters

This website brings the content developed for the annual Search Matters conference to the wider attention of patent system users, SMEs in particular.

The wealth of information is offered in four sections:
– tools and databases
– search strategies
– EPO procedures and initiatives
– challenges and specific topics

In each section, a collection of selected recordings of presentations, presentation slides and articles published in the Elsevier journal “World Patent Information” are accessible for self-paced study.

To find out more about “Best of Search Matters”, go to: [epo.org/best-of-search-matters](http://epo.org/best-of-search-matters)

Technology commercialisation training kit

Considering the needs of the community of trainers, business advisers and organisations supporting businesses, the Academy – in co-operation with the Licensing Executives Society International (LESI) – has developed an advanced technology commercialisation training scheme covering IP strategy and management and including an IP negotiation masterclass.

The training kit includes a course curriculum, presentation material and a train-the-trainer manual including recommendations for practical implementation.
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### EPO events for national offices – Q3

**July**
- 6-10 July  
  IP Executive Week  
  Munich  
  (see page 54)

**September**
- 16 September  
  Accessing court decisions on patents across Europe with ECLI Webinar  
  (see page 12)
- 16 September  
  PATSTAT online Webinar  
  (see page 12)
- 17-18 September  
  Advanced searches and informative search reports Classroom training  
  (see page 9)
- 21-25 September  
  Searching with EPOQUE Net, including non-patent literature – advanced level Classroom training  
  (see page 16)
- 29 September  
  INPADOC worldwide legal status database – basic Webinar  
  (see page 12)
- September-December  
  EPOQUE Net: the art of efficient searching – intermediate level Distance learning  
  (see page 16)

**October**
- 6-8 October  
  Examination practice in three fields of presentation of information: human interfaces and mind control, clinical studies and patentability, and virtual reality inventions – expert level Classroom training  
  (see page 23)
- 7 October  
  Introduction to the European Patent Register Webinar  
  (see page 13)
- 13 October  
  Patent families Webinar  
  (see page 13)
- October-November  
  Assessing novelty and inventive step in patent applications – intermediate level Distance learning  
  (see page 21)
- November  
  Boards of Appeal and key decisions 2020 Munich  
  (see page 28)
- 3-5 November  
  EPO Patent Information Conference 2020 Tallinn
- 10-12 November  
  More effective dialogue between patent examiners and applicants/attorneys Classroom training  
  (see page 27)
- 24 November  
  Patent information from the ASEAN region – patent systems, search and documentation 1: Singapore and Malaysia Webinar  
  (see page 13)

**November**
- November (tbd)  
  Boards of Appeal and key decisions 2020 Munich  
  (see page 28)
- 3-5 November  
  EPO Patent Information Conference 2020 Tallinn
- 10-12 November  
  More effective dialogue between patent examiners and applicants/attorneys Classroom training  
  (see page 27)
- 24 November  
  Patent information from the ASEAN region – patent systems, search and documentation 1: Singapore and Malaysia Webinar  
  (see page 13)

**December**
- 1 December  
  Patent information from the ASEAN region – patent systems, search and documentation 2: Thailand and Indonesia Webinar  
  (see page 14)
- 9 December  
  Patent information from the ASEAN region – patent systems, search and documentation 3: Vietnam, the Philippines and Myanmar Webinar  
  (see page 14)
Save the date

EUIPO - EPO
IP Executive Week

6-10 July 2020
Munich

➔ Exchange ideas and acquire knowledge about the IP system
➔ Learn from developments in IP office projects and strategies
➔ Network with peers in other IP offices
➔ Increase your co-operation efficiency

Topics covered include:
- IP policies of the EPO, EUIPO and national offices
- IP offices exchange on policies, transformation and tools for users
- IP law and practice
- Enforcement
- User views
- Utilisation of IP information tools and learning materials
- Tools for co-operation and exchange

Are you a manager in an IP office? Then this is the event for you!

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