SACEPO/PDI: the official voice of the user community

The SACEPO/PDI sub-committee meeting is an annual occasion for some of Europe’s leading patent information users to put their views to the EPO. SACEPO stands for Standing Advisory Committee before the EPO and PDI denotes a special sub-committee mandated to study patent documentation and information issues. The 2017 took place in Vienna on 23 March.

Two thirds of the 24 SACEPO/PDI sub-committee members are nominated by various organisations around Europe, with the remaining third nominated by the President of the EPO. The table on the next page shows the current list of members, whose mandate expires at the end of 2017.

SACEPO/PDI is a small body, but an important one. This stems from the fact that it is a specialised body, created to advise the EPO on matters relating to patent information. The EPO therefore encourages the members of SACEPO/PDI to canvass the organisations they represent, and to use the meeting to focus on their organisation’s position on strategic questions. Of course, the Office also always welcomes comments from its users, be it at the events it organises or in writing.

So, if you have a view about patent information that you would like to express, don’t hesitate to contact the person in SACEPO/PDI who represents an organisation to which you belong.
As the SACEPO/PDI meeting is strictly for the European patent information user community, companies that offer patent information on a commercial basis are not present. Instead, the EPO invites their representative body, PatCom – an independent organisation without links to the EPO – to two separate meetings each year, one of which is held in Vienna in the same week as SACEPO/PDI. The idea is to ensure that commercial intellectual property information providers are informed well in advance of forthcoming changes to EPO data and products, so that they can respond with modifications to their products and services in a timely manner for the benefit of end users.

Links:
PatCom: www.patcom.org

The year 2016 ended on a positive note with the news that Spain had joined the Federated Register service, allowing easy access to information on the status of European patents validated in Spain (see Patent Information News 4/2016).

That good news has continued into 2017 with Poland and Turkey joining the service.

Since its launch almost two years ago, the Federated Register service has grown to 17 participating states: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey.

The ultimate aim of the Federated Register is to be able to offer users access to the status of a granted European patent across all the designated states, as well as extension and validation states. Patent Information News will keep you posted as more countries join.

Available within the European Patent Register (www.epo.org/register), the Federated Register allows users to retrieve reliable and up-to-date bibliographic and legal status information on a granted European patent once it has entered the "national phase" in these 17 countries and view the data all together in one table.

Information on the content provided by each national patent office currently integrated into the Federated Register is available on the EPO website.¹

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Working with our stakeholders

The primary benefit of patent information is that it is seen and used well by the people who need it, irrespective of the provider.

It is not our goal to service each and every patent information user individually. Rather, we rely on intermediaries to ensure that patent information is used as widely and effectively as possible. These intermediaries fall into three main categories: commercial providers of patent information, patent information user groups and Europe’s patent information centres, together with their national patent offices.

Every year in March, we meet the PatCom organisation, which represents the commercial patent information providers, for an open exchange of views on the latest developments. We also hold our SACEPO/PDI meeting in March, giving our user groups an official voice before the EPO (see page 1). And then in May, we have the annual PATLIB conference, which is an occasion for staff from patent information centres to meet and network with patent information experts from the various national patent offices in Europe.

By putting our data onto the market at low cost, we want to foster the conditions necessary for a flourishing competitive commercial market in patent information based on EPO data, with clear and universal terms and conditions. By supporting the PATLIB network, we aim to ensure that there is patent information expertise available at local level, wherever you are. And our regular contact with user representatives allows us to react to needs as they arise.

This spring is set to be a busy time for meetings between the EPO and its patent information stakeholders. They are important meetings for us and I look forward to some lively discussions.

EUROPEAN PATENT REGISTER

Advanced searching in the European Patent Register

Did you know that you can search the European Patent Register for patents affected by a specific board of appeal decision? You can also search on the basis of a grant date, the name of an opponent, the name of the representative, or any combination of the above.

As in Espacenet, you can use search field identifiers in Smart search to narrow down your search.

Example: To search for the patent dealt with in appeal T0500/11, go to www.epo.org/register and enter apl = “T0500 11” (N.B. you must replace the “/” with a space for the search to work).

The table shows the full list of search field identifiers available in the European Patent Register.

For tips on how to use field identifiers in your search, take a look at the European Patent Register’s help page on Smart search operators at https://register.epo.org/help?topic=booleanoperators&lng=en.

List of search field identifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field identifier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<td>title</td>
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<td>inventor and applicant</td>
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<tr>
<td>nm</td>
<td>inventor, applicant, opponent, representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>txt</td>
<td>title, inventor, applicant, opponent and representative</td>
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<tr>
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The end of an era

Although optical storage in the form of laser discs had been around for some time, it was the introduction in 1982 of the compact disc or CD through a collaboration of two technology giants, Philips and Sony, that heralded the arrival of digital audio to displace analogue in the home.

Originally conceived for replacing vinyl, the agreed format was compact (120 mm diameter), robust and not prone to wear since the playback mechanism was the optical reading of an embedded spiral track by a low-power laser. But beyond these physical virtues, with the introduction of digital recording and reproduction, the format was inherently an exact reproduction of the sound track whose quality levels could be ramped up by improving technology.

Of course, it didn’t take long to realise that the CD could be used to store data, and the CD-ROM became commercially available in 1985. With an initial capacity of 650 MB (at a time when the average PC had a 40 MB hard disk), the advances for data distribution were obvious. Not only did a single CD-ROM replace a metre or so of documents on a shelf, its reproducibility meant that people were no longer obliged to travel to the documentation library, everyone and anyone could have his own copy.

So in 1987, the EPO took the plunge and started replacing the physical and expensive distribution of patent documents on paper with a CD-ROM: the first ESPACE disc containing EP patent applications was produced that year. Another incentive to use the new product was that the documentation, even if only stored as facsimile images, could be indexed and with the appropriate reader and software, you could search and retrieve specific data from the portable “database”.

The heyday of the CD-ROM and its derivatives (CD-R and DVD) was the 1990s, and although capacity has increased through technological advancement, its basic physical format has remained the same (to ensure backward compatibility) despite the name changes (DVD, Blu-ray, etc.). During this period, the EPO had over 30 different ESPACE products, and beyond general publication, the medium became established as an efficient document exchange format between patent offices.

But just as the horse was replaced by the motor car, the optical disc has been largely replaced by online distribution. The advent of fast and cheap broadband connections means people can either access or copy digital data direct rather than via an intermediary such as the optical disc. The last ESPACE disc (which happened to contain Danish patent data) was produced by the EPO early this year, after which the pressing plant was shut down.

The use of optical media to distribute information, in particular documentation, is in deep decline. Indeed, in many ways the optical disc is going back to its roots and you are now most likely to encounter it for playing music or watching a DVD at home. And even that is under threat since the advent of streaming services ...

As the last ESPACE CD-ROM runs off the production line, it marks the end of an era – an important era that epitomises the leading role the EPO has played in patent information for decades, a role it continues to play today with its worldwide patent data and tools such as Espacenet.
New display features in Global Patent Index

The EPO’s Global Patent Index (GPI) has a new feature that presents references in drawings and claims side by side allowing users to assess the relevance of the claims faster and more efficiently.

This improvement has been made possible through the availability of full documents (scanned pages of original publications and full text where available) in the GPI user interface. It is also now possible to display mosaics (i.e. miniatures of several drawings), rather than one individual drawing, together with the claims.

The EPO’s Global Patent Index (GPI) has a new feature that presents references in drawings and claims side by side allowing users to assess the relevance of the claims faster and more efficiently.

To ensure that the transition from the old numbering system to the new one runs smoothly, the EPO has introduced a cut-over date:
– Date of filing before 1 July 2016 – only the old format is used (e.g. 201600094526)
– Date of filing as from 1 July 2016 onwards – only the new format is used (e.g. 10201600094526)

Utility models
– The “20” representing the kind of application is dropped – it is represented in EPO databases by the kind code “U”
– One (DOCDB format) or two (Espacenet/EPODOC format) leading zeros in the sequence number are suppressed

The table left provides an example of how leading zeros in the sequence number are suppressed in the two EPO formats.

Italian application and priority numbers

The Italian Patent and Trademark Office has recently introduced a new numbering system for its patent applications. For now, both systems exist in parallel, and all active and newly filed patent applications are numbered according to both the old and new format.


To ensure that the transition from the old numbering system to the new one runs smoothly, the EPO has introduced a cut-over date:
– Date of filing before 1 July 2016 – only the old format is used (e.g. U201600094526)
– Date of filing as from 1 July 2016 onwards – only the new format is used (e.g. 10201600094526)

Patent applications
– The “10” representing the kind of application is dropped – it is represented in EPO databases by application kind code “A”
– One (DOCDB format) or two (Espacenet/EPODOC format) leading zeros in the sequence number are suppressed

As a result of the above, Italian application and priority numbers are currently listed in two different formats in Espacenet and the EPO’s worldwide databases.

For technical reasons, the EPO has put an algorithm in place to compress the new number from 15 digits into 11 or 12 digits, depending on the EPO format used (Espacenet/EPODOC or DOCDB):

Utility models
– The “20” representing the kind of application is dropped – it is represented in EPO databases by the kind code “U”
– One (DOCDB format) or two (Espacenet/EPODOC format) leading zeros in the sequence number are suppressed

The screenshot shows an example of a result view with the claims in selectable full text (which can be translated into other languages using Patent Translate) and the corresponding drawing.

The changes also allow users to access the search report direct when browsing search result lists.

For detailed information, see the new GPI user manual at www.epo.org/gpi.
Searching full text: the pleasures and the pitfalls

For some patent searches, full-text searches are the quickest and most efficient way of getting straight to the most relevant documents. In the past, the only way a searcher could perform a full-text search was using the proprietary tools of certain commercial companies. Now, however, since the launch of full-text searching in Espacenet it is available to every patent searcher.

At the EPO Patent Information Conference in Madrid last November, Maddy Marley of GSK presented her views on full-text searches, highlighting the advantages they offer and pointing out some pitfalls that searchers should consider.

“A huge proportion of our search reports present results derived from and/or linking to full text,” said Ms Marley. She stressed that full-text searching was good not only for prior art but also for freedom-to-operate searches. It was particularly useful for freedom-to-operate work if the user could restrict the search to only the claims in granted or pending patents. As reported in previous issues of Patent Information News, you can use the CLAIMS search operator in Espacenet to restrict the search to the claims only. Espacenet generally contains patent applications, but the full text of granted patents is available for a number of countries. You can find more information on this on the EPO’s website at www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/technical/full-text-additions.html.

One additional advantage of full-text searching, according to Ms Marley, is that the relevant parts of the full text are automatically highlighted, making it easy to share the results with the client.

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Ms Marley did, however, offer a word of warning for would-be full-text searchers. It was important, she noted, to check the coverage of the database used, as the full text available could differ from one database to the next. She also stressed that, for chemistry searches, a full-text search was no replacement for a chemical structure search. Furthermore, the search strategy was critical for good results. It was important to search for all the synonyms of a keyword and to use truncation and proximity operators to the maximum in order to retrieve as many relevant documents as possible. Well-considered combinations of search commands used in conjunction with the Boolean “AND” would then help to reduce the quantity of non-relevant hits in the result list.

Ms Marley also discussed full-text searching in non-Latin texts in the light of the growing number of patent documents from Asian patent offices. She remarked that machine translation tools were making the searcher’s life much easier, and that Chinese documents, in particular, were becoming more accessible to non-Chinese speakers. There were some risks with Korean, however, as, in her experience, machine translation still needed some improvement for that language.

In closing, Ms Marley described the improvements to full-text searching she hoped to see in the future. She would like, she said, to be able to zoom in on particular sections of patent documents, such as the examples, when searching. She would also like easier navigation of the documents retrieved and the ability to export relevant sections. Finally, she hoped that machine translation engines would continue to improve.

To see Ms Marley’s presentation slides, visit the EPO Patent Information Conference webpage on the EPO’s website:

www.epo.org/pi-conference.
COOPERATIVE PATENT CLASSIFICATION

CPC – using classifications to find what you need in Espacenet

An efficient search is best carried out with classification symbols. They encompass the scope of a technology more precisely, and help you to avoid looking in areas not relevant to your search.

Internationally, the most widely used scheme is the International Patent Classification (IPC) scheme, and it is the IPC classification that generally appears on printed patent documents. The EPO and several other patent offices complement the IPC classification with the more detailed Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) scheme. If you use Classification search in Espacenet, you are searching in the CPC.

One way to find a good classification symbol for a patent search in Espacenet is to go through your result list and see which classifications most commonly appear in connection with the patent documents that you think are most relevant to the technology you are seeking. To check what a particular classification symbol means, enter it in the Classification search and read through the definitions in the different hierarchical levels of the scheme.

The classification schemes (both IPC and CPC) are divided up into four levels. Example
Main class – Co8
Sub-class – Co8F
Main group – Co8F2/00
Sub-group – Co8F2/001

Alternatively you can go straight to the Classification search mask and enter keywords in the search field. The system will then suggest classification symbols, and you can select the most promising ones. Adding classification symbols to Advanced search and combining with keywords, applicant names, etc., is a good way to optimise your search in Espacenet.

Finding revisions of classifications
The CPC’s classification symbols are subject to continuous revision by a team of experts. If you notice that a classification has changed or is no longer visible you can find information on these revisions on the official website of the Cooperative Patent Classification scheme (www.cpcinfo.org). A list on the website shows the classifications that have been revised.

In Espacenet’s Classification search you can activate the dates of the revisions with the date range toggle button (see screenshot).

The revision data is then displayed and highlighted in the scheme as a guide so you can go to the right section of the scheme to view the changes.

www.cpcinfo.org

Identifying CPC classifications in Espacenet
In the Classification section of the Bibliographic data view in Espacenet, the classification symbols are presented in the following different formats:
- IPC symbols: italics
- CPC symbols: non-italics
- Invention information symbols: bold
- Additional information symbols: non-bold
Modernisation of the INPADOC database

For the past 15 years, if you ordered the raw data version of the EPO’s INPADOC legal status database, then you would receive it in a hybrid version of SGML called “T12”. Now, after a long period of development, the EPO is pleased to announce that it has switched the INPADOC database to a much more modern and flexible format: XML.

These changes also affect the back-file of historical data, so the complete collection is now all in XML. In parallel to the migration, the EPO has also updated the information on its website about worldwide legal status data. There are now two pages, one giving information on the countries and time spans that the data covers, the other listing the codes for the various legal status events:

- Contents and coverage of the INPADOC legal status file – complete collection
- Legal codes and their description – covering every legal code that is in use
- Showing: – date created – date last updated – description – both in the language of the event description as it is delivered, and the English translation

Data news

At the end of 2016, the INPADOC database included 220 million legal event records, an increase from 200 million events at the end of 2015.

Outlook

There are plans to enhance the INPADOC worldwide legal status database in a number of ways.

Firstly, in 2017, the first steps will be taken to make the exchange of information related to ownership and supplementary protection certificates available in as rich and structured a format as possible.

Secondly, the EPO is currently reviewing new and amended data from several patent authorities, as shown in the table.

Thirdly, the EPO is working on a genuine classification for INPADOC legal status events, which will tap into the benefits of hierarchical classification schemes such as patent classifications.

For historical reasons, INPADOC legal event codes have been limited to four characters; this practice is increasingly creating obstacles when defining useful event codes, and exacerbates the risk of inconsistencies between legal event codes for the various patent authorities. The EPO is thus working on a new format for INPADOC legal event codes. Options include integrating a genuine INPADOC legal event code and the original event code, as provided by the competent patent authority, into a single composite code.

Patent Information News will keep readers abreast of developments in this matter as they happen.

Forthcoming changes to the INPADOC worldwide legal status database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent authority</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Review of Brazilian data and comprehensive extraction of Brazilian gazette data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Review and integration of Chinese data in new XML format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPO/WIPO</td>
<td>PCT applications: integration of date of entry into the European phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Consolidation of data on fee payments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) [https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/helpful-resources/data/tables/weekly.html](https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/helpful-resources/data/tables/weekly.html)
Open Patent Services: make sure to migrate to version 3.2

The EPO is pleased to announce that Open Patent Services (OPS) version 3.2 is now the officially supported production environment. The old version 3.1 will still be available for a transitional period, but please bear in mind that it will progressively be taken off line, and will be unavailable as from mid-2017.

Some features are only available in the new version 3.2. They include:
- CQL query syntax harmonised with Espacenet Smart search query syntax
- a new searchable field (“classification combination (cppc)” added to allow search for CPC combination sets
- CPC combination set retrieval
- citations in rich format where available¹
- EP-B full-text documents in character-coded format (XML), including claims in three languages
- searchable fields “date of grant (grd)” and “appeal case number (apl)”
- the latest CPC classification scheme (released 1 November 2016) (version 3.1 will continue to provide only the previous version of the CPC classification scheme)

To access OPS version 3.2 documentation visit www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/technical/espacenet/ops.html#tab3 and go to the forum (http://forums.epo.org/open-patent-services-and-publication-server-web-service/topic5378.html) for more details on how to migrate to the new version.

Planning
As was the case for previous releases, the old and new versions of OPS will remain in production in parallel for some time to ensure the users experience a smooth migration to the latest version.

The planned schedule is as follows:
- January 2017: version 3.2 in full production – version 3.1 still available
- June 2017: discontinuation of version 3.1

Encryption protocols
The Office has recently added the TLS 1.1 and TLS 1.2 encryption protocols to OPS version 3.1. As TLS 1.2 is now fully supported, OPS users should ensure that their client code establishes a TLS1.2 connection with the server.

¹) Please note that although rich format is already supported, its availability depends on the nature of the citation data in the new format. For further details see Patent Information News issue 3/2016, page 6.

PATENT INFORMATION FROM ASIA

East meets West forum on Asian patent information – 6 and 7 April 2017

On 6 and 7 April 2017, the world’s leading players in Asian patent information will meet again in Vienna, Austria. The EPO’s East meets West forum serves as a regular platform for patent information users around the world to discuss their Asian patent information needs. If you use Asian patent information regularly in your work, then this could be the event for you.

East meets West will give you the opportunity to:
- meet experts from Asian patent offices – discuss and network in an informal setting
- get an update on developments in Asian patent information – covering Japan, China, Korea, India and beyond
- learn about new products and services, and chat with data providers during a poster session

This year’s hot topics will include an introduction to new technologies in the patent information field, quality evaluation of machine translations and dealing with the growing volume of Asian applications. Experts from the patent offices of Japan, China, Korea and India will inform users about recent developments, such as data protection issues, legal reforms and new tools for accessing information. Delegates will have the chance to interact with experts and to engage in in-depth discussions over the entire course of the forum.

A poster session with selected providers of Asian patent information products and services will enable participants to get a first-hand update on the data offerings available. And of course there will be an evening event providing an excellent opportunity for networking with Asian experts and patent information users from all over the world.

A number of optional training sessions will take place in the run-up to the forum, on Wednesday, 5 April 2017. This year, the training sessions will focus on patent information from the BRICS countries and searching Asian non-patent literature.

For an idea of what the East meets West forum is like, there is a review of East meets West 2016 in Patent Information News Issue 2/2016. For an archive of last year’s presentations, visit: www.epo.org/emw2016.

The full programme of this year’s event can be found at www.epo.org/emw2017.

If you are interested in attending this event, write to asiainfo@epo.org.
News from Asia

New feature to display family information in KIPRIS database
The Korean Patent Office (KIPO) has implemented a new feature in its KIPRIS database providing a graphical overview of all patent family members. After clicking the Family Patent tab in the Details screen, users can toggle between the existing View Table option, which shows the family members as a list, and the new View Graph option, which displays them in a graph, sorted according to their application date. This new display option allows users to see all corresponding applications at a glance and to find out easily which document was filed when.

For further information on how to use the KIPRIS database, please visit the search guide section on the EPO website (www.epo.org/asia) or send an email to asiainfo@epo.org.

Amendments to Indonesian patent law
Indonesia recently enacted a new patent law (Law No. 13 of 2016) which entered into force on 26 August 2016. Some major provisions are as follows:
– Introduction of online filing.
– Extension of the scope of "simple patents" (utility models). These were previously only granted for visible improvements to existing product patents. Under the new law, simple patents may also be granted for new inventions or improvements related to processes.
– Stronger protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.
– Changes regarding protection of pharmaceuticals to facilitate public access to affordable medicine.

Based on these law changes, an online search and filing system was implemented in late 2016. However, this system is currently only available in Indonesian, and access is limited to registered local IP consultants (www.dgip.go.id/).

The full text of the new law is available on the WIPO website.

Draft version of SIPO’s revised Examination Guidelines
According to an official notice, the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) published proposed amendments to its Examination Guidelines (2010) for public comment on 27 October 2016. The public was invited to comment on the draft by 27 November 2016 and various stakeholders have already submitted their input.

The revised paragraphs concern rules and methods for mental activities, computer programs, invalidation and time limits. Concerning file inspection, a paragraph has been added which stipulates that also for pending patent applications, the public may inspect office actions, search reports and decisions issued by the examiner during substantive examination.

Further information, including a chart comparing the planned changes with the current provisions is available in a dedicated section on SIPO’s website (Chinese only).

For more news from Asia, see the Updates section on the EPO website at www.epo.org/asia.
The Asian tango? The EPO’s Asian Information Services hosts the first ever Latin America Day in Vienna

How do you go about viewing the electronic file in Mexico? What is an “A6” document in Argentina? Can you search for the legal status data of applications in Chile? And what is the difference between a patent and a “certificate of addition” in Brazil?

To answer these questions and more, Jutta Haußer and Jürgen Mühl from Asian Information Services organised the EPO’s first ever Latin America Day, held at the Vienna sub office on 31 January 2017. Searchers, data experts and national office representatives took up the invitation to the event to find out more about patent systems, data coverage and search options, with a focus on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia and Mexico.

Particularly important: freedom-to-operate (FTO) and legal status searches

After a brief round of introductions, the EPO speakers gave a summary of the history of patents and current application trends in those countries. In all five, patents had been introduced over a hundred years previously, but had played a relatively unimportant role until certain changes towards the end of the twentieth century – mainly as a result of the countries’ accession to the World Trade Organization, at which point it had become necessary to amend national IP laws based on the TRIPS Agreement. Today, all five were party to the major international agreements on patent protection, including the TRIPS Agreement, the Paris Convention and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), with one key exception: Argentina was not party to the PCT, meaning applicants from outside the country could obtain patent protection there only by applying for it direct.

The countries with the most applications were Brazil and Mexico, with some 30 000 and 18 000 a year respectively; applications in the other three countries numbered around 2 000 to 4 000. More than 80% of applications were submitted by non nationals, making the number of first filings with novel technical content relatively small. Unsurprisingly, then, almost all the seminar attendees were primarily interested in conducting legal status and FTO searches.

Something that was important to them in this respect was up to date and reliable data coverage, and the EPO was catering for their request by incorporating legal status data from Brazil and Mexico in INPADOC.

This is not the end of the road for Asian Information Services’ work on Latin America, so if you have any questions or input, please email asiainfo@epo.org, and you too may soon be able to raise the topics of interest to you at a second Latin America Day.

Latin America – patent applications by office

Source: World Intellectual Property Indicators 2016, WIPO

European patent publications
January – March 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weekly average 2017</th>
<th>Total Jan–March 2017</th>
<th>Change vs. 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EP-A documents</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>EP-A1</td>
<td>1 406</td>
<td>18 278</td>
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<td>EP-A2</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>EP-A3</td>
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<td>1 853</td>
<td>24 087</td>
<td>–0.7%</td>
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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.
Other News

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Save the date – EPO Patent Information Conference 2017

The EPO Patent Information Conference will be the meeting place this autumn for anyone dealing with patent data in their work. It will take place at the Sofia Balkan Hotel, in Sofia from 7 to 9 November 2017 (with training courses on 6 November).

The conference will be organised in co-operation with the Bulgarian Patent Office.

A full conference programme and information on how to register will be available in June 2017.

Free patent information webinars in 2017

Joining one of the EPO’s free online webinars is a good way of keeping up to date with the latest on EPO patent information. The programme for 2017 is shown below. Block your calendar now for the topics that interest you. For more information, see www.epo.org/pi-training.

Missed an EPO webinar?
Starting soon, the EPO will make some of its live webinars available for a limited time as recordings on its website. So, if you miss a webinar you’re interested in, take a look at www.epo.org/pi-videos.

Free patent information webinars in 2017

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td>Patent Information Newsflash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
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<td>Business use of patent information</td>
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<td>10 April</td>
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