Quality indicators – Historical data

Up until 2019, the EPO used median averages to indicate the timeliness of search, substantive examination and opposition procedures. From 2020 on, the EPO will use mean averages to indicate the timeliness of these procedures. This gives a more precise measurement of timeliness as it takes outliers into account.

The historical data on the development of median and mean averages provided below illustrate how excessive procedural delays are being progressively eliminated.

Search timeliness

![Graph showing search timeliness with median and mean values]

1 Median value for all searches calculated from date of receipt at the EPO to dispatch of search report.
2 Mean value for all searches calculated from date of receipt at the EPO to dispatch of search report.

Examination timeliness

![Graph showing examination timeliness with median and mean values]

1 Median value calculated from valid examination request to dispatch of examiner’s intention to grant.
2 Mean value calculated from valid examination request to dispatch of examiner’s intention to grant.

Source: EPO
Status date: 31.12.2019
Opposition timeliness

1 Median value calculated from expiry of opposition filing period to date of opposition decision.

2 Mean value calculated from expiry of opposition filing period to date of opposition decision.

Source: EPO
Status date: 31.12.2019