To enter, or not to enter: that is the question

Has an international patent application entered into the European regional phase or not?
A. General overview

Introduction to the Euro-PCT Guide

This publication is a guide for applicants interested in pursuing the procedure under the PCT. It focuses on the elements specific to the PCT procedure before the EPO.

This is the eleventh edition of the publication, which is further referred to as the “Euro-PCT Guide”.

The Euro-PCT Guide gives an overview of the procedures under the PCT before the EPO, including entry into the European phase before the EPO as designated/elected Office. The information it provides is not to be considered complete, nor is it intended to replace relevant WIPO publications and EPO decisions and notices concerning specific issues.

5 Although the information in this Guide is not exhaustive, it aims to cover all the points to note when the EPO acts in its capacity as:
- a receiving Office (RO),
- an International Searching Authority (ISA),
- a Supplementary International Searching Authority (SISA),
- an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), and/or
- a designated or elected Office.

Annex II shows the different phases of the PCT procedure (see also Annex III).
In principle, the international publication of an international application takes the place of the publication of a European patent application.
OTHER TOOLS:
WIPO PATENTSCOPE

https://patentscope.wipo.int

EP PUBLICATION
WO: (DE/EN/FR)
EPO REGISTER: NO ENTRY

EPO REGISTER: LATE ENTRY!
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Robrecht.Dumarey@iphills.com