The European Patent Office

An introduction to the EPO and the PES Programme
The EPO at a glance

Our mission
We provide patent protection for inventions in up to 40 European countries on the basis of one single application.

Our locations:
Munich (headquarters), The Hague, Berlin, Vienna and Brussels.

2nd largest intergovernmental institution in Europe

Self-financing:
Budget of EUR 2.4bn without any public funding.

7 000 employees, of which around 4 300 highly qualified patent examiners working in all fields of technology.
Our mission

As the patent office for Europe, we support innovation, competitiveness and economic growth across Europe through a commitment to high quality and efficient services delivered under the European Patent Convention.
Our status

- Second-largest intergovernmental institution in Europe
- Not an EU institution
- Self-financing, i.e. revenue from fees covers operating and capital expenditure
We provide patent protection to an area of 700m inhabitants

38 European member states
Belgium • Germany • France • Luxembourg • Netherlands
Switzerland • United Kingdom • Sweden • Italy • Austria
Liechtenstein • Greece • Spain • Denmark • Monaco
Portugal • Ireland • Finland • Cyprus • Turkey
Bulgaria • Czech Rep. • Estonia • Slovakia
Slovenia • Hungary • Romania • Poland • Iceland
Lithuania • Latvia • Malta • Croatia • Norway
North Macedonia • San Marino • Albania • Serbia

Two European extension states
Bosnia and Herzegovina • Montenegro

Four validation states
Republic of Moldova • Morocco • Tunisia
Cambodia
Our five locations in Europe

- Munich
- The Hague
- Berlin
- Brussels
- Vienna

Liaison office with the EU
# Our staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>3,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hague</td>
<td>2,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,696</strong></td>
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64% are patent examiners

Our role in the European grant procedure

- provide **patent protection** in up to 44 countries in Europe and beyond, based on a single application, and we **are responsible** for:
  - limitation and revocation by patentees,
  - opposition by third parties,
  - appeal proceedings before the Boards of Appeal.
Pan European Seal Programme

PES Programme provides high-achieving young university graduates with valuable on-the-job professional work experience in the multicultural environments of EPO and EUIPO.

- Runs in partnership with EUIPO since 2015 – 2016 starting with 35 trainees,
- Traineeship agreements with more than 75 partner universities from 35 European countries,
- For the year 2020-2021, the EPO will offer more than 90 traineeships throughout all the units of the Office.
Benefits of the PES Programme

- working in an international organization which will enrich the student’s perspective and contribute to their professional growth
- guidance on different career pathways in the IP business,
- a chance to gain real work experience, while keeping the work-life balance in order,
- on-the-job coaching from an EPO mentor,
- language courses (French, German),
- online trainings & classroom trainings (covering patents, trademarks, designs and enforcement),
- personal development and growth.
Pan European Seal Programme - Application

- PES Candidates at the EPO are to be shortlisted by:
  - partner Universities
  - EUIPO (exchange programme)

- Shortlisted students are to submit their application online in order to be considered for the traineeship.

- Only online applications of the shortlisted candidates will be considered.

- Traineeship vacancies are foreseen in the following areas:
  - Science & Engineering
  - Human Resources & Business Administration
  - International Relations & Communication
Pan European Seal Programme – Documents

Application documents

− motivation letter including the preferred business area,
− curriculum vitae,
− degree/Master diploma (it can be replaced by a provisional declaration, until the final diploma is issued),

Upon start of traineeship

− certificate(s) of completion of the e-learning course(s) as indicated below, depending on the graduate’s profile (e-courses are free of charge):
  − Introduction to the European patent system (mandatory for all)
  − Using CPC (mandatory for science and engineering only)
  − The EPO as PCT authority (mandatory for all other academic areas)
Pan European Seal Programme – Selection process

- Shortlisted candidates are to submit their applications through the e-recruitment tool available [here](#) by 18 May 2020,

- Suitable candidates will be invited to a phone/Skype [interview](#) (May - June 2020),

- Communication of results to the candidates will be completed by 30 June 2020,

- The traineeship will start on 14 September 2020 at the EPO premises in Munich, Germany.

- More information is provided in the [PES webpage](#).
Any questions regarding the Pan-European Seal Programme at the EPO can be addressed to paneuropeanseal@epo.org