The European Patent Office
An introduction to the EPO and the PES Programme
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.

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

2nd largest intergovernmental institution in Europe.

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

- **Headquarters**
- **Liaison office with the EU**
- **Berlin**
- **Munich**
- **The Hague**
- **Brussels**
- **Vienna**
## Our staff

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

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 70 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
  - Business Administration
  - Law (including patent law)
  - Economics & Finance
  - 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 mid-March 2020,
- Suitable candidates will be invited to a phone/Skype interview (April 2020),
- Communication of results to the candidates will be completed by mid – May 2020,
- The traineeship will start of 14/15 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