



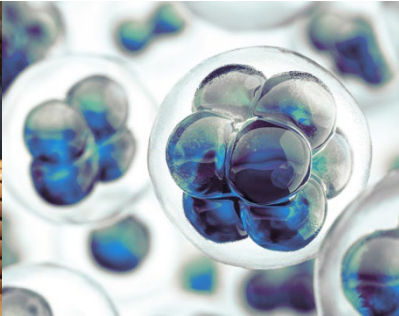
Europäisches  
Patentamt

European  
Patent Office

Office européen  
des brevets

# The European Patent Office and the Pan-European Seal Programme

Join us for an extraordinary professional traineeship opportunity



# 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

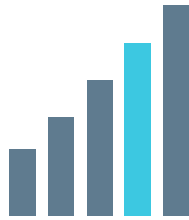


## Our locations:

Munich (headquarters),  
The Hague, Berlin,  
Vienna and  
Brussels



**2<sup>nd</sup>** largest  
intergovernmental  
institution in Europe



## Self-financing:

Budget of **EUR 2.4bn**  
without any public funding



**6 400**  employees, of which around

**4 100**  highly

qualified patent examiners working in all fields of technology

# Our history

- 
- 1973** ● **Diplomatic Conference in Munich**
  - 5 October 1973** ● **Signature** of the European Patent Convention (EPC) by 16 countries
  - 1977** ● **Entry into force** of the EPC in seven countries  
**Founding** of the European Patent Organisation  
**Founding** of the European Patent Office
  - 2013** ● **Celebration of 40 years of the EPC**

# A sustainable office committed to excellence

## EPO Strategic Plan 2023

### MISSION

As the Patent Office for Europe, we are proud to deliver high-quality patents and efficient services that foster innovation, competitiveness and economic growth.

TRUST  
FAIRNESS  
RESPECT  
ADAPTABILITY  
COLLABORATION  
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED  
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

MASTER QUALITY

PARTNER FOR POSITIVE IMPACT

SECURE SUSTAINABILITY

### VISION

We will empower and motivate our staff to set worldwide standards in intellectual property. Our Office will be effective and transparent, respond to the needs of our users and be agile in managing the changing demands and conditions of a dynamic global patent system. Our work will contribute to a safer, smarter and more sustainable world.

# A multicultural working environment

- 35 different nationalities
- Three languages for working in and for communicating with applicants:
  - English (EN)
  - French (FR)
  - German (DE)



# Today ... an area with some 700m inhabitants

## 38 European member states

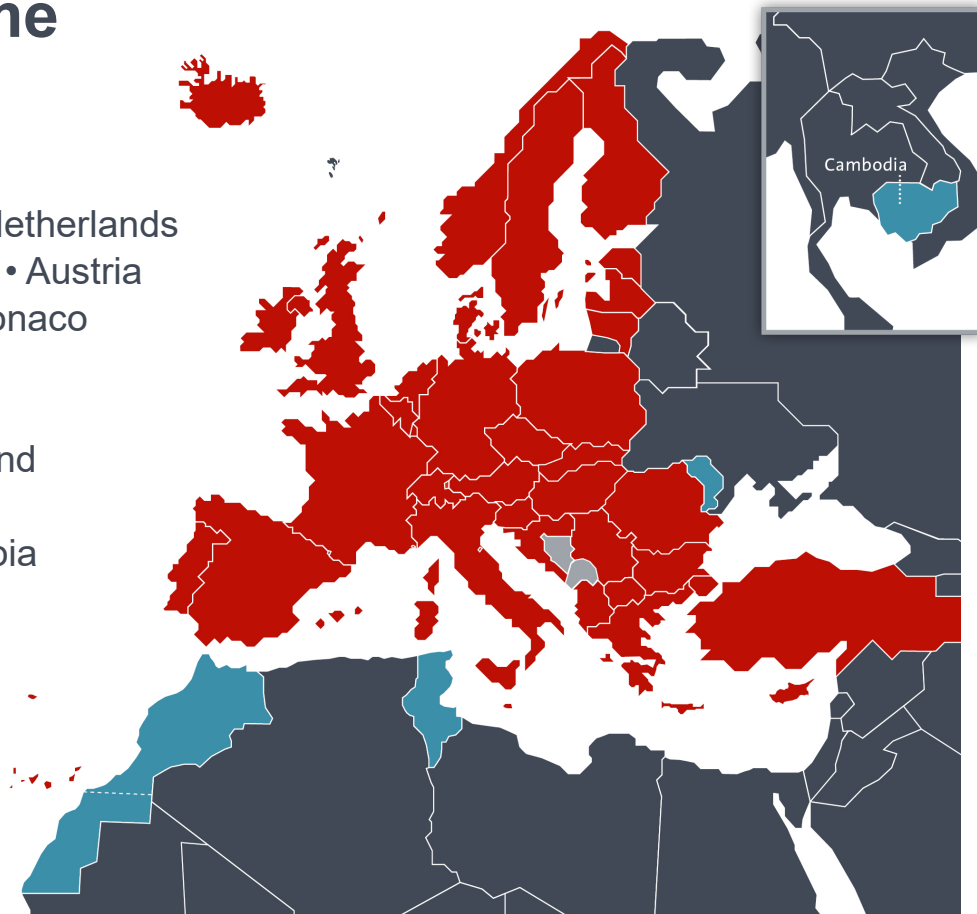
Belgium • Germany • France • Luxembourg • Netherlands  
Switzerland • United Kingdom • Sweden • Italy • Austria  
Liechtenstein • Greece • Spain • Denmark • Monaco  
Portugal • Ireland • Finland • Cyprus • Turkey  
Bulgaria • Czech Rep. • Estonia • Slovakia  
Slovenia • Hungary • Romania • Poland • Iceland  
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



# The role of the EPO in the European grant procedure

**We provide patent protection:**

- in up to 38 EPO member states, two extension and four validation states based on a single application
- in one of the three official languages (English, French, German)

**We make all patent documents available to the public.**



# Pan-European Seal Programme



The Pan-European Seal programme is a framework for strategic co-operation between Europe's leading IP offices – EPO and EUIPO in **partnership** with over 95 European member universities.

It offers university graduates the **opportunity to kick-start their professional careers** through a unique one-year traineeship at the EPO and to boost their **professional and personal growth**.



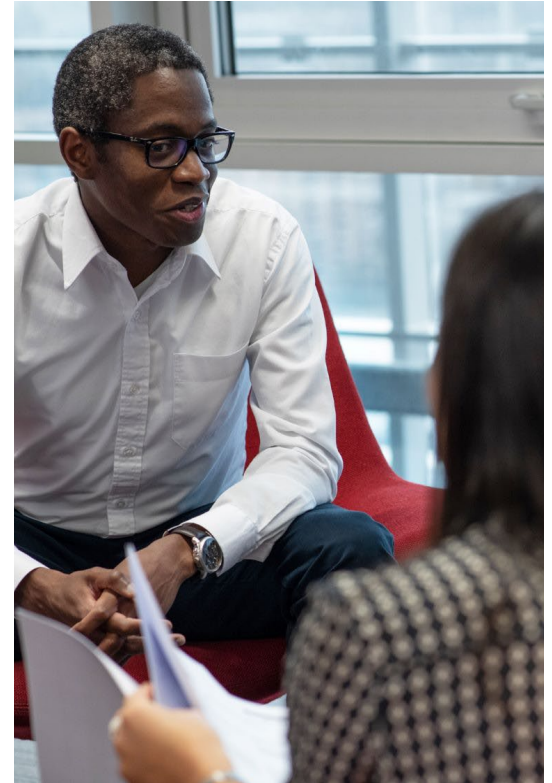
# Programme highlights at the EPO

- A 12-months paid professional traineeship
- An extensive trainee development programme guided by a tutor
- A collaborative multicultural environment
- An integrated member of a strong community of experts.



# Benefits for students

- An extraordinary opportunity to kickstart a career in an IP-related field
- The experience of living and working abroad full-time
- The chance to refine and practice business and language skills
- Professional development alongside supportive tutors and colleagues
- Building a professional network
- New friendships



# Personal development plan

- Acquire new IP and field-specific knowledge
- Attain and practice business and professional soft skills in an international environment
- Improve language proficiency
- Build a professional network
- Benefit from an experienced EPO tutor



# Eligibility criteria for trainees

Eligible candidates must, by the start of their traineeship, possess:



Nationality of an EPO member or extension state

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A completed undergraduate degree or equivalent as a minimum

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Knowledge of one of EPO's working languages  
(English, French or German) at a minimum level of B1

The selection process consists of an interview by the tutors and a merit-based assessment.

# Interested? Then apply if

- ✓ You are a graduate of one of the PES universities and are shortlisted by your university;
- ✓ You are a national of one of the EPO member states or one of the EPO extension states;
- ✓ You are looking for an international experience.

Stay tuned in February '22 about the 2022/23 edition of the EPO's Pan-European Seal professional traineeship programme



Science &  
Engineering



Human Resources &  
Business Administration



International Relations  
& Communication



Economics &  
Finance



Law



# Our trainees



# Need more information?

Visit [The Pan-European Seal Professional Traineeship Programme](#)

Contact us [paneuropeanseal@epo.org](mailto:paneuropeanseal@epo.org)

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