Issue **1** | **2014**

Patent Information *News*

欧州特許登録データベースの
新機能を称賛する

強化されたダウンロードオプションとRSSフィードにより、12月に開始した欧州特許登録データベースの最新版が多くの称賛を集めています。
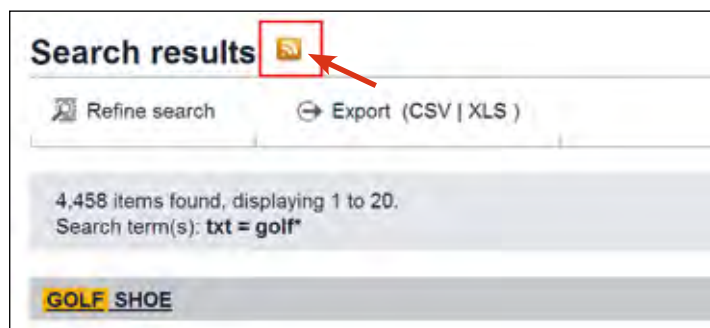
Search resultの横のRSSのシンボルをクリックし、検索のためのRSSフィードを設定します（例ではtxt=golf）。*）

新しいRSSフィード
新機能のなかでも、2つのRSSフィードを導入したことに対してユーザは特に感心しているようです。1つは検索用で、ユーザはシステムに特定の検索を実行させ続け、結果に変化があった場合はその時にRSS経由で通知させることができるようになった、ということを意味します。All documents用であるもう１つは、ユーザが興味を持っている欧州特許出願に文献が追加された場合でも、ユーザは通知を受けるということを意味します。

「これら2つのRSS機能は、新しい欧州特許文献について又は特定の特許文献に関する新しい展開について、リアルタイムで最新情報を必要とする人々にとって常に課題であったことに取り組んだものです」と、Ms. Kristin WhitmanはIntellogistブログ1で書き、「そして、そのような人々はたくさんいます。」「すばらしいニュースです！」と続けています。
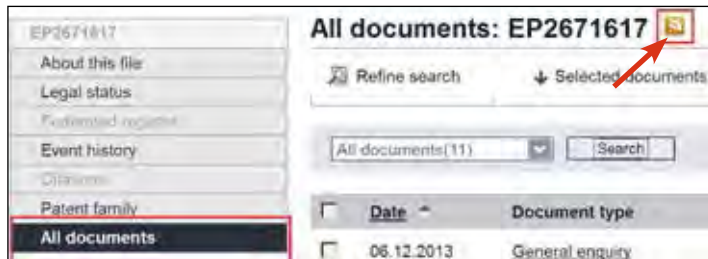
ダウンロードの新オプション
All documentsは、Zip Archiveという新しいダウンロードオプションのある2つのエリアのうちの１つです。

１つの特許出願に対して入手可能な全ての文献を１つのZIPファイルにダウンロードします。ZIPファイル中の各文献は、個別のPDFファイルとして入手できます。

Search resultsエリアの新しいダウンロードオプションは、結果一覧をCSV（カンマ区切り変数）又はマイクロソフトのExcelファイルとしてエクスポート可能にします。各ファイルは、結果一覧の最初の20件に限られます。

All documentsメニューのRSSのシンボルをクリックして、欧州特許出願ファイル中の文献に対するRSSフィードを設定します。

その他の新機能

2013年12月リリースの登録データベースは、以下のようなたくさんの新機能を含んでいます:
− EPの出願番号の数字チェック検索

− EPOの公報サーバ上の特許文献のPDFへのリンク

− 統一手続き後のステータス情報

− 登録データベースに表示される法的イベントの情報

これらの全てに関する詳細はリリースノート2をご覧ください。

欧州特許登録データベース

欧州特許登録データベースのRSSフィード　−　RSSとは？

RSSフィードが流行しています。その特有のオレンジ色のロゴと共に、RSSフィードはインターネットのいたるところにあります。

そして、欧州特許登録データベースも、2013年7月のMaintenance Newsセクション及びNews flashesセクションのRSSフィードから始め、2013年12月のSearch results一覧及びAll documentsセクションのRSSフィード実装と続け、この機能を導入しました。

RSSフィードはこの上なく便利ですが、欧州特許登録データベース調査では、回答者の約14%がそれを使用したことがない又はそれが何か知らないということが示されました。

Really Simple Syndication（RSS）は、お気に入りのウェブサイト上の最新記事を無料で読むための簡単な方法を提供します。

RSSフィードに登録すると、パソコンにインストールされたRSSクライアントへのフィードとしてURLを追加します。ブラウザは、そのウェブサイトを自動的にチェックし新しいコンテンツをダウンロードします。マイクロソフトのInternet Explorerでフィードを見るには、お気に入りボタンをクリックした後フィードをクリックします。

他のブラウザには他のやり方がありますが、全てのブラウザが行っていることは、そのフィードを最後に訪れたとき以降に起こったことを見られるようにすることです。

欧州特許登録データベースのRSSフィードは、ユーザに多くの利点を提供します。Maintenance NewsセクションまたはNews flashesセクションに新しい情報（機能停止、新リリース等）が追加されたかどうかを知るために、ユーザはもはやこれらのセクションを訪れなくてもよいのです。

関心のある出願のAll documentsセクションに新しい文献が追加された場合も、同様のことが起こります。RSSフィードに登録することで、欧州特許登録データベースで特定の出願を自分でチェックする必要がなくなります。

Search results一覧のRSSフィードを用いて、検索基準を満たす特許文献が欧州特許登録データベースに追加されたかどうかを、ブラウザが代わりにチェックします。その後、これらの特許文献をモニターし、手続き中EPOより前にeメールによる通知を受け取るためにRegister Alertを使用することができます。

38か国に近づく

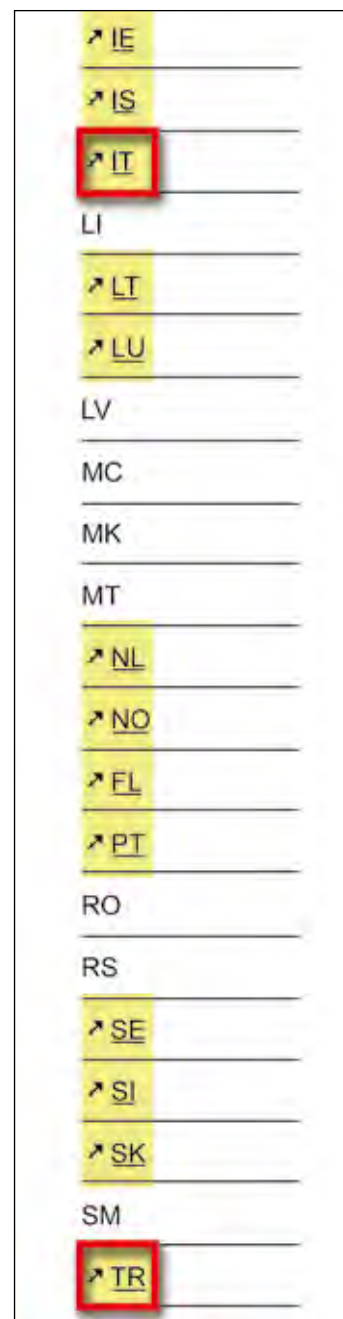**欧州特許登録データベースから各国登録データベースへのダイレクトリンク**

欧州特許登録データベースからディープリンク経由でナショナル登録データベースにアクセスできる国のリストにトルコとイタリアが加わった、という嬉しいニュースで2014は始まりました。

欧州特許登録データベースで記録を見ている場合は単にLegal statusタブに行き、27のナショナル登録データベースのどれにある関連記録でも1クリックで直接たどり着けます。その国の国内段階のリーガルステータスに関する信頼できる情報をそこで得ることができます。

Patent Translate – ビジョンあるプロジェクトが予定より1年早く完成

特許文献に特に適応させた機械翻訳システムの計画に関する2010年のBattistelli長官の発表は、多くの人々から先駆的なステップであると見なされました。加盟国の全言語及び世界の主要言語に対する機械翻訳システムを2014年末までに構築するという彼の目標は、非常に野心的でした。

プロジェクトの複雑さを考えると、現実が野心に勝るとは誰も予想しませんでした。しかし現実が勝りました。2013年末、予定よりも1年早くPatent Translateは完全に作動しました。

Patent TranslateによりEPOは、言語の多様性を考慮し、話す言語に関係なく加盟国の全市民へ特許情報を提供するツールを人々にもた

らしました。

最初からPatent Translateのプロジェクトチームの一員となり、我々の技術パートナーであるGoogleとのディスカッションの陣頭指揮をとれたことを私は光栄に思います。

我々の目標をこれほど早く達成できたことに非常に満足しています。最近Googleとのディスカッションで、

Googleが機械翻訳を成熟したプロダクトと見ており、Googleのポートフォリオにおける重要なパートになっているということを確認した時に、この満足感は高まりました。このことは、Patent Translateが将来にわたって成長し、さらに良くなる必要があるというしっかりとした根拠をPatent Translateに与えています。

Richard Flammer
特許情報及びヨーロッパ特許アカデミー主席部長

特許情報セミナー及びウェビナーのスケジュール

EPOの特許情報トレーニングのスケジュールが出ています。それには、通常ウィーンのEPOで開催される従来の教室型のセミナー及び無料のオンラインウェビナーが含まれています。.

教室でのトレーニング

教室でのトレーニングは、幅広いユーザの要求に応え、"Patent Searching for Beginners（初心者のための特許検索）"や"Patent Searching for Advanced Users（上級者のための特許検索）"という人気の高い4日間のセミナーを含んでいます。また、"Searching the EPO's worldwide data with Global Patent Index (GPI)（Global Patent Index (GPI)を用いたEPOの世界データの検索）"や"Patent portfolio management with IPscore（IPscoreを用いた特許ポートフォリオマネジメント）"等の専門セミナーもあります（表を参照）。詳細及び登録施設はwww.epo.org/learning-eventsをご覧ください。

EPOウィーンでのトレーニングセミナー			
参照番号	セミナータイトル	期間（日）	開始日
PI02-2014	初心者のための特許検索	4	2014/3/31
PI03-2014	Global Patent Index (GPI)を用いたEPOの世界データの検索	2	2014/5/21
PI04-2014		4	2014/9/8
PI05-2014	IPscore	3	2014/9/24
PI06-2014		4	2014/10/13
VC18-2014	Patent information services for experts (PISE)		2014/3/19
VC14-2014	Patent information services for experts (PISE) Global Patent Index (GPI)		2014/3/20
VC15-2014			2014/3/26
VC03-2014	3		2014/3/27
VC15-2014	Espacenet		2014/4/7
VC15-2014			2014/4/8
VC04-2014 to VC10-2014	2014/4/24, 2014/5/22, 2014/6/26, 2014/7/31, 2014/9/25, 2014/10/30, 2014/11/27		

ウェビナー

（8月と12月を除く）月の最終木曜日毎の"Monthly patent information newsflashes"に加えて今年の無料ウェビナーは、一連の特別モジュールを提供します。

それらは"Searching the Bulletin using Patent information services for experts (PISE)（Patent information services for experts (PISE)を用いた公報の検索）"から"Espacenet"までの範囲におよび、EPOの特許情報プロダクト及びサービスの多くの側面を扱います（表を参照）。表にあげたウェビナーはすでに登録可能で、今年中にさらに多くのウェビナーが行われます。

詳細は、www.epo.org/pi-trainingをご覧頂くか、pitraining@epo.orgまでご連絡ください。

Beyond patent families – an updated perspective

Many moons ago Patent Information News included a series of articles on patent families.
They turned out to be so popular that readers were still ordering back copies some ten years later.
The following text is an abridged version of those articles, including details of how today's
patent information products allow us to retrieve the data we need on patent families.

What are patent families?

Patent families are a fortuitous by-product of the concept of priorities for patent applications, introduced by the Paris Convention on the Protection of Industrial Property in 1883. The Paris Convention gives inventors a year's time after filing their initial patent application in one country to file for the same invention in other countries. Provided they claim the "priority" of their original application, no invention filed by anyone else in the intervening year can be taken into account as prior art for the purpose of assessing patentability.

Databases can identify groups of patents that have the same priority or priorities, and bundle these together into a "patent family" of publications for an individual invention. In a 2009 paper[1] on patent families, Edlyn Simmons wrote, "Patent families are defined by databases, not by national or international laws, and family members for a particular invention can vary from database to database." These differences, which depend on the definition applied in the database, only become obvious when the structure of a patent application is complex, i.e. when applications are filed in several countries and claim multiple priorities.

Definition 1: The simple patent family

All documents having exactly the same priority or combination of priorities belong to one patent family.
In this case, document D1 is the only document in family P1, D2 and D3 belong to family P1-P2, D4 belongs to family P2-P3, and D5 to family P3.

Document				Family
Document D1	Priority P1			Family P1
Document D2	Priority P1	Priority P2		FamilyP1-P2
Document D3	Priority P1	Priority P2		Family P1-P2
Document D4		Priority P2	Priority P3	Family P2- P3
Document D5			Priority P3	Family P3

If all the priorities of two documents are the same, they are referred to as "equivalents". This is the definition used in Espacenet under **Also published as** in the bibliographic data view and designated by the term **Equivalent** in the European Patent Register.

You should note that even this rather strict rule provides no guarantee that any two documents will be the same. Indeed it is more than likely that the various documents constituting such a family will have been published in different languages. If your search turns up a publication in a language you don't understand, then there may be a family member in a language you can follow. Don't forget, if you find a document you don't understand, and there are no family members you understand either, there is always Patent Translate.

Definition 2: All the documents having at least one common priority belong to the same patent family.

In this case, documents D1, D2 and D3 belong to family P1, documents D2, D3 and D4 to family P2, and documents D4 and D5 to family P3.

	Family P1	Family P2	Family P3
Document D1	Priority P1		
Document D2	Priority P1	Priority P2	
Document D3	Priority P1	Priority P2	
Document D4		Priority P2	Priority P3
Document D5			Priority P3

Definition 3: All the documents directly or indirectly linked via a priority document belong to one patent family.

In this case, documents D1 to D5 belong to the same patent family, P1.

Family P1

Document D1	Priority P1		
Document D2	Priority P1	Priority P2	
Document D3	Priority P1	Priority P2	
Document D4		Priority P2	Priority P3
Document D5			Priority P3

Definition 3 is a much broader definition of a patent family and can be described as an "extended" or INPADOC patent family.

If your aim is to retrieve a family of related patent documents (linked by priorities) throughout the world, for example to establish the geographical coverage of a particular patent, then this is the definition to use. Fenny Versloot of the EPO's Patent Data and Services unit once said "You can think of the simple family as describing or defining an invention, and the INPADOC family as describing a technology".

How to retrieve an extended patent family using Espacenet

Simply click on **INPADOC patent family** to retrieve the full extended family.

Example:

US5402857 Oil and gas well cuttings disposal system

Publication number:	US5402857
Publication date:	1995-04-04
Application number:	US19940197727 19940217
Priority number(s):	US19940197727 19940217
Also published as:	US5564509 (A1), NL9500301 (A), GB2286615 (A), NL194733C (C), CA2142536 (C)

A search for US5402857 retrieved the document itself plus five equivalents (from Canada, the UK, The Netherlands and a domestic equivalent). Meanwhile, the "extended" (INPADOC) family system will retrieve 81 documents for the same priority, because a much broader family definition is used. This higher recall reflects the different philosophies of the two systems.

The INPADOC families are "calculated" in the background. As a first step in the algorithm, all priority numbers are used to retrieve additional documents. For every document found in this step, the process is repeated. This iteration ends only when no more new documents can be found.

There are also some additional sophisticated rules for certain countries, for example if publication numbers are used instead of priority numbers in the original documents. This happened quite frequently in the past when priority numbers were not treated as carefully as they are now.

The inclusion of legal status information in the patent search sometimes retrieves additional links, e.g. for divisional applications, continuations, continuations in part or national publications of first filings of PCT (international) applications, where the priority links are sometimes missing.

The extended family takes the domestic application numbers as additional connecting elements and can even include documents without a common priority (e.g. if the country concerned has not ratified the Paris Convention, or if the application was filed too late to claim the priority) that have the same scope. These artificial or "intellectual" links are built in systematically way for the complete PCT minimum documentation. The same is done for older documents (pre-1968) for which the priority information is not complete.

Common citation document

Having retrieved the INPADOC family as a list in Espacenet, you can find out how the different patent offices that have members in the family have treated the individual applications. By clicking on the **Show citations** box, your screen is updated with the search report citations of each INPADOC family member (overwriting the IPC column). For a richer, interactive view, click on the **CCD** link which will take you to the **Simple** family citations view in the CCD database. From definition 3 you'll see that the INPADOC family is composed of a number of overlapping simple families. You can view these sequentially in CCD by clicking on the **Get next family** button.

Watch out for gaps in the data

You can check where there are gaps or delays in certain areas using the statistics on the EPO website[2]. These statistics are updated weekly and indicate cases where a document series is missing or delayed.

Edlyn Simmons' paper analyses various factors that can lead to incomplete patent families, or rogue members appearing in families where they do not belong. A simple typing error in a priority number can, for example, lead to major problems for the patent searcher.

In the case of European patents which have entered into the national phase, information about validation, lapse, etc., for the majority of the member states is available via the legal status information in the European Patent Register. Deep links from the **Legal status** view allow you to interrogate national patent registers direct. Similar deep links also exist from Espacenet to national patent registers.

1) E S Simmons. "Black Sheep" in the patent family. World Patent Information 31 (2009) 11–18.
2) http://www.epo.org/searching/data/data/tables.html

EVENTS

An event for patent information professionals

EPO Patent Information Conference, 4 to 6 November, Warsaw, Poland

"The further development of an efficient and reliable patent information system requires the participation of many actors, especially among user groups and patent offices. The EPO will continue to play a leading role in these efforts: for us, patent information remains a top priority."
EPO President Benoît Battistelli on his blog[1], 28 October 2013

Save the date! The EPO Patent Information Conference 2014 will take place in Warsaw, Poland from 4 to 6 November 2014. It will be the meeting place this autumn for anyone who deals with patent data in their work.

The programme will include a broad range of break-out sessions, training courses and discussion groups. The exhibition is the leading one of its kind, where all the major patent information providers will be showcasing their latest products and services.

Registration for delegates and exhibitors will open in June.

The EPO Patent Information Conference 2014 will be organised in co-operation with the Polish Patent Office.

www.epo.org/pi-conference

1) http://blog.epo.org/

To be or not to be … in the EPO patent family

Have you ever wondered why you can't find, for example, confirmation of the entry of a European patent into the national phase in a simple or extended patent family, although you know for a fact that it exists?

One feature of a patent family is, of course, to determine the geographical coverage of a patented invention; but it gets a bit more complicated in the case of the post-grant phase of European patents, also called "national entries".

A new table on the EPO website helps you understand when you can expect national entries to be in a patent family and where else you can find this information. This article explains the theory behind the table[1].

Translations of European patents

Some of the 38 contracting states to the European Patent Convention require a translation of the complete European patent specification, while others have ratified the London Agreement and thus dispensed entirely or partly with the translation requirements under the EPC.

But what does that mean in practice, and which database will give you an overview of national phase entries relating to a specific European patent? Do you need to look at the simple or extended family?

National entries and patent families

Although patent families at the EPO let you see where the same invention has been filed and give you a geographical overview of a patented invention, they would be the wrong place to start looking for a complete overview of entry into national phase of any EP patent. The reason is that the EPO bases its patent families, regardless of whether they are the simple patent family or INPADOC extended family, on "real" patent publications. And if a patent office dispenses with

Which national entries are available in any patent family, INPADOC legal stat…

	Code	Member state	Since	New number for translation - entry to national phase	Official publica… of translatio… EPO's kind co…
1	AL	Albania	01 May 2010	no	no
2	AT	Austria	01 May 1979	yes	E
3	BE	Belgium	07 October 1977	no	T1,T2
4	BG	Bulgaria	01 July 2002	no	no
5	CH	Switzerland	07 October 1977	no	H1-H5
6	CY	Cyprus	01 April 1998	yes	T1 T2
7	CZ	Czech Republic	01 July 2002	no	no
8	DE	Germany	07 October 1977	yes	T1-T9

the need to translate, there will be no "real" publication to add to the database.

Another reason for not having re-publication or translation in the national phase is that some national laws allow immediate effect as a national patent after mention of European grant in the European Patent Bulletin. This is the case for France, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland/Liechtenstein and the United Kingdom. There are, however, exceptions: you would not expect to find a translation filed in the national phase for Austria and Germany for European patents written in German. Nevertheless, Austria and Germany re-publish granted European

patents as "AT-T" and "DE-T" publications with a different number to the original European patent. So, the database will include Austrian and German national entries in the patent family.

Other exceptions you will spot aside from Austria and Germany are cases where countries actually change the patent number, either by exchanging the "EP" country code for their own, or by replacing the entire number and country code. These could then find their way into the patent family.

You can see in the bibliographic database whether translations are available for the following countries:
– Belgium
– Croatia
– Cyprus
– Denmark
– France
– Greece
– Ireland
– Poland
– Portugal
– San Marino
– Slovenia
– Spain
– Switzerland/Liechtenstein

Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia and Sweden are missing from the patent families because they do not supply translated publications to the EPO. For Greece, recent documents are missing.

It is of course possible that you will see national applications in a patent family. These will generally be first filings used as priorities or national applications filed in parallel to the European one.

The important thing to remember is that not everything can be found in patent families because they are based on real publications and because they depend on the information given to the EPO by different offices. This is where the European Patent Register or any other EPO legal status source can fill the gap, notably via the deep links in the **Legal status** area (see page 2).

INPADOC legal status – irrespective of whether you retrieve it via Espacenet, the Register, OPS or a commercial source – can also help you fill some gaps in the data. For detailed coverage information, take a look at www.epo.org/searching/data/data/tables/weekly.html.

One last thing: if you stumble across examples that seem to be contrary to the information in this article, please write to the EPO at patentdata@epo.org. Your input can help us improve the quality even further.
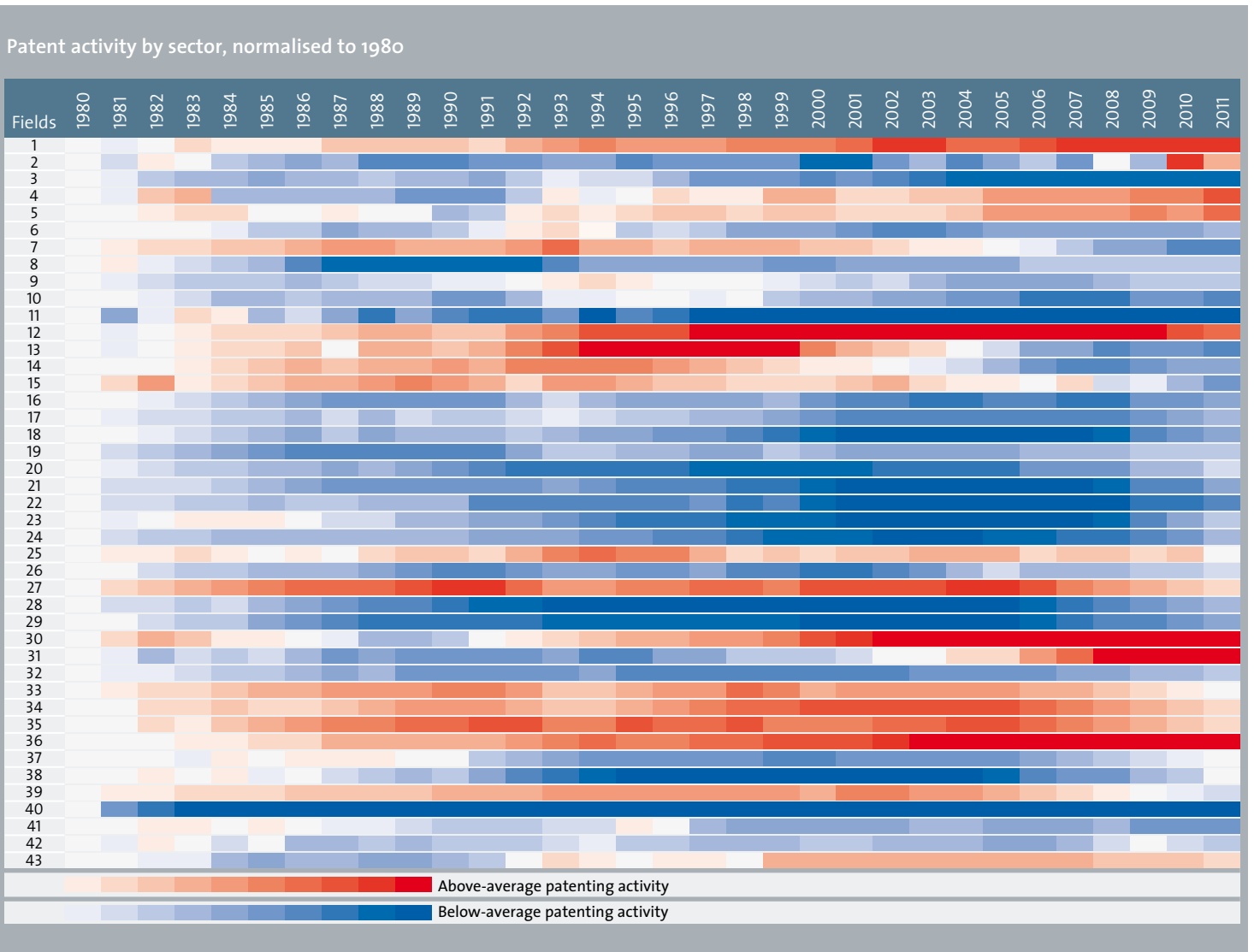
Revealing the dynamics of industries

Patent analysis can tell us a lot, ranging from detailed trends in specific technologies or industrial sectors to what our competitors are up to. We can use patent analysis to study regional strengths and weaknesses, or zoom out to get a global view.

The chart on this page takes all the data in the PATSTAT database from 1980 onwards and divides it up into the 43 sectors widely used in macroeconomics. Starting with normalised data for 1980, the red areas show above-average patenting activity in a given year,

and the blue areas show below-average patenting activity; the deeper the colour, the greater the deviation is from the average.

It takes a few minutes to understand the chart, but it is a good illustration of the power of patent

data. It confirms in many instances what you might expect, for example that patents for medical equipment are a growing area. You might also find that it reveals some surprising trends, but we will leave these for you to discover!

Patent activity by sector, normalised to 1980

Above-average patenting activity

Below-average patenting activity

1	Food, beverages
2	Tobacco products
3	Textiles
4	Wearing apparel
5	Leather articles
6	Wood products
7	Paper
8	Petroleum products, nuclear fuel
9	Basic chemicals
10	Pesticides, agrochemical products
11	Paints, varnishes
12	Pharmaceuticals
13	Soaps, detergents, toilet preparations
14	Other chemicals
15	Man-made fibres
16	Rubber and plastic products
17	Non-metallic mineral products
18	Basic metals
19	Fabricated metal products
20	Energy machinery
21	Non-special-purpose machinery
22	Agricultural and forestry machinery
23	Machine tools
24	Special-purpose machinery
25	Weapons and ammunition
26	Domestic appliances
27	Office machinery and computers
28	Electric motors, generators, transformers
29	Electric distribution, control, wire, cable
30	Accumulators, batteries
31	Lighting equipment
32	Other electrical equipment
33	Electronic components
34	Signal transmission, telecommunications
35	Television and radio receivers, audiovisual electronics
36	Medical equipment
37	Measuring instruments
38	Industrial process control equipment
39	Optical instruments
40	Watches, clocks
41	Motor vehicles
42	Other transport equipment
43	Furniture, consumer goods

Changes to the IPC from 1. 1. 2014

Towards the end of last year, WIPO announced a revision of the International Patent Classification (IPC) scheme that entered into force on 1 January 2014.

For full details about the changes to the classification symbols, go to www.wipo.int/ipcpub/. You should set the **Version** in the left-hand column to 2014.01 and then click on the **Compilation** tag. A French version is available in the **Language** menu in the left-hand column.

The changes are shown in a table, using the following codes:
D – deletion
C – modification with a change of scope or involving reclassification
M – modification without a change of scope and not involving reclassification

N – new
U – unchanged in this language version, but changed in the other language version of the IPC

Many of the changes fall into the "M" category and involve a clarification of the title of the symbols.

The IPC subclasses/main groups listed in the table below contain more substantive modifications.

The EPO has loaded all available reclassification data for the 2014 IPC revision into its databases. Together with the USPTO, it will also endeavour to bring the CPC scheme into line with the new IPC.

IPC subclasses/main groups with substantive modifications

Symbol	Subject matter concerned by the changes
A63F 13/00	Video games
B23K 26/00	Working by laser beam, e.g. welding, cutting
B42D 25/00	Information-bearing cards or sheet-like structures characterised by identification or security features; Manufacture thereof
C09D 11/00	Inks
E05B 77/00 to E05B 85/00	Locks for vehicles other than bicycles
G01N 21/00	Investigating or analysing materials by the use of optical means, i.e. using infra-red, visible, or ultra-violet light
G03B 7/00	Control of exposure [in photographic equipment] by setting shutters, diaphragms or filters, separately or conjointly
G03B 21/00	Projectors
H01L 31/00	Photovoltaic modules
H01M 10/00	Secondary cells; Manufacture thereof
H02S	Generation of electric power by conversion of infra-red radiation, visible light or ultraviolet light, e.g. using photovoltaic modules
H04N 19/00	Methods or arrangements for coding, decoding, compressing or decompressing digital video signals

CPC revisions – keeping up to date with the changes

Following the launch of the new Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) on 1 January 2013, users have been asking about how the CPC scheme and definitions will be kept up to date and how revisions will be done.

Growing and emerging technologies give rise to the need for periodic revisions to the CPC, as they did to the ECLA and USPC before it. This is in addition to a constant effort to improve and clarify things.

CPC revisions are categorised depending on the nature of the changes involved and their objective, using specific terminology borrowed from the IPC.

Maintenance projects
"Maintenance project" describes cases where the changes are of an editorial nature only, and do not involve any reclassification. Typical examples are the correction of typographical mistakes or improved wording in some text.

Revision projects
"Revision project" is the term used to describe when changes in the scheme result in new entries, deletions or "changes in the scope" for the current entries. Reclassification of documents is required in order to complete the project, i.e. the alignment of the documentation to the new scheme.

Definition projects
Finally a "definition project" involves the creation or amendment of definitions only, without any need to reclassify. A typical example is the addition of new subgroup definitions.

It is worth recalling that the initial release of the CPC definitions covers all subclasses (excluding "indexing only") and main groups. In many cases definitions are also available at subgroup level.

Procedure
The most complex procedure is for revision projects and requires a decision of what is known as the Joint Board – the EPO-USPTO bilateral CPC governance board. The other procedures are somewhat simpler.

An initial "request" outlines the scope of the revision and kicks off an initial assessment of the reclassification work involved. Following this, the Joint Board launches a CPC revision project and experts from the two offices work out details of the new scheme.

Once the new scheme is agreed, it is tested to ensure that documents are classified consistently by both Offices. After testing, the scheme (and definitions, if applicable) are updated, and the new scheme takes effect.

Documentation on the changes is published in "notices of changes" (NoCs) on the CPC website[1].

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1) www.cooperativepatentclassification.org/ CPCRevisions/NoticeOfChanges.html

Document reclassification takes place either prior to the scheme publication (US style of revision) or afterwards (EPO style of revision), in which case "warnings" appear to inform the user of the ongoing reclassification process.

Each project comes with a number of specific deliverables:
– scheme changes
– (if applicable) new or modified definitions
– revision concordance list (RCL), showing the relationship between the old and new classification symbols

– CPC-to-IPC concordance list (CICL)
– cross-reference list (CRL), updating scheme references located elsewhere in the CPC

For an overview of ongoing CPC revision projects see www.cooperativepatentclassification.org/CPCRevisions/Projects.html

CPC coverage

A new document on the CPC website[1] gives an overview of the documents throughout the world that have been classified using CPC symbols.

"Systematically classified" means that all the documents referred to have been classifed by EPO classifiers. Since 1 January 2013 the USPTO has also been classifying all US documents, all A-publications (PG-Pubs) and some B publications according to the CPC.

By virtue of the patent family system, other patent documents automatically receive CPC symbols if they are related to a classified patent. Therefore some Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Brazilian and Russian patent documents are also classified, albeit not systematically.

The CPC collection also includes "unique" documents classified by national patent offices. All in all, almost 40 million documents from around the world carry CPC symbols.

CPC coverage

Country	CC	Code	Systematically classified**	Non-systematically classified***
ARIPO	AP		complete from 1 (3. 7. 1985)	
Austria	AT*	A,B	from 288 286 (15. 1. 1971)	from 100 025 (1925)
Australia	AU*	B,D	from 18.1.1973 (first filing 1971)	from 1 019 332 (1933)
Belgium	BE		from 100 486 (1892)	years 1959-1962
Canada	CA*		from 848 159 (4. 8. 1970) for first filing residents from 939 101 (1. 1. 1974)	from 114 746 (1908)
Switzerland	CH	A,B	from 208 320 (31. 1. 1939)	from 1 (1888)
		D	from 1968	
Germany	DE	A,B,C	from 1 (1877)	
		U	from 6 609 798 (4. 1. 1973)	from 1 037 492 (1928)
EPO	EP	A	complete from 1 (20. 12. 1978)	
France	FR	A,B	from 292 (1844)	
		E	from 92 701 (20. 12. 1968)	
United Kingdom	GB	A,B	from 1909 02 488 (27. 1. 1910)	from 1817 04 136 (1817)
Luxembourg	LU		from 555 (<1920)	
The Netherlands	NL		from 28 (1913)	
OAPI	OA		from 1 (15. 1. 1966)	
United States	US	A,B	complete from 1 (13. 7. 1836)	
		E	complete from 8 (23. 9. 1839)	
		I (defensive)	complete from 120 (4. 10. 1855)	
		I (trial, project)		
		H	complete from 1 (3. 12. 1985)	
World(PCT)	WO		complete from 7800001 (19. 10. 1978)	

CPC coverage of other patent documents (applying the family system)

Country	Docs present in EPO's database	Docs classified under CPC	Percentage of docs classified
Japan	16 420 277	3 906 848	23.8
China	6 540 437	1 312 404	20.1
Korea	2 405 373	689 397	28.7
Brazil	497 297	293 591	59.0
Russian Federation	783 870	146 964	18.7
India	54 363	23 682	43.6

* for first filings only, i.e. without foreign priorities
** if it does not say "complete", it means that some documents in the collection may not be classified according to the CPC
*** this means that some documents in the specified range of the collection are classified according to the CPC

1) www.cpcinfo.org

Espacenet FAQs

In this section, we ask the experts from the EPO's Espacenet helpdesk to present the questions they currently face most frequently.

Why do I get a message in Espacenet saying that my query has been rejected?

To make access to Espacenet fair[1] for all users, the EPO has recently implemented some technical measures to curb excessive use of the system. These measures limit the number of requests, and the amount of data that can be downloaded. You may experience some performance issues and see error messages as the Office adjusts the usage limits.

If you receive a message saying that Espacenet has rejected your query, kindly send the following information to the Espacenet helpdesk (espacenet@epo.org)
– your IP address (e.g. open Google and type "what is my IP address")
– the organisation/company name
– the number of users working currently with your IP address and the sort of hours they work

– information on any automated tools you are running to extract data from Espacenet

The Espacenet helpdesk team will then be able to adjust your usage limits accordingly.

Classification search – what does the /low operator mean?

The /low operator is used if you want to search within all entries hierarchically below a certain classification symbol.

For example, if you enter H01L21/027/low in the CPC search field of the **Advanced search** form, you will retrieve all hierarchically dependent entries such as H01L21/033, etc. If, however, you enter H01L21/027 only or H01L21/027/exact, you will get far fewer hits and they will be confined to that particular subgroup.

How do I enable the query history in Espacenet?

In the grey bar at the top of your Espacenet screen, you will find a tab called **Settings**.
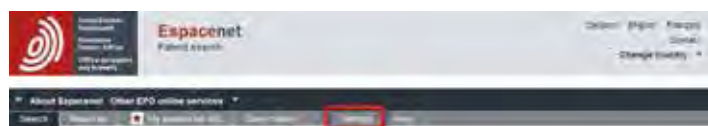
This is where you can enable:
– your query history
– the classification pop ups
– highlighting

Why are the hits in my results list only approximate?

The number of documents in your initial result list is almost always indicated as "approximate".

While scrolling through your results list page by page, the number of documents changes and, at the end of the list, you get a definitive number of results.

The reason for this is that the system is removing all duplicate documents from your list as you are scrolling through it (i.e. those with identical priority numbers).

A quick way of getting to the final number of hits is to use the sort function (e.g. priority date in ascending order), which is available when the result list displays fewer

than 500 hits. The final number will then appear immediately without you having to navigate to the end of the list.

Why can't I download original documents using Firefox?

It is currently not possible to download original documents using Firefox. This is a bug that will be fixed in the next maintenance release.

At the moment, if you select **Save file** nothing happens. A workaround for this temporary problem is the following:

Select **Open with** and then **File**, and then click on **Save as** or use an alternative browser.

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1) www.epo.org/searching/free/fair-use.html

EP and WIPO databases in Espacenet

If you open Espacenet and go to the **Advanced search** screen, you will find a drop down menu offering alternatives to the default Worldwide database.
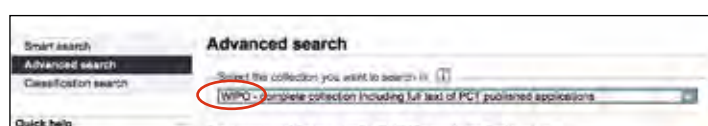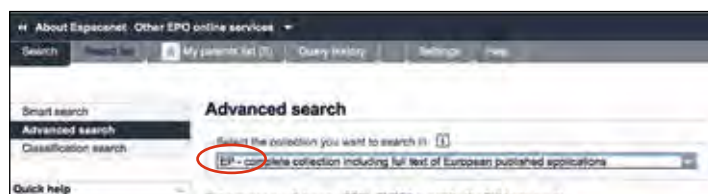
EP database

The EP database contains the entire collection of European patent applications published by the European Patent Office. New EP applications are added to the database every Wednesday (after 14.00 hrs). They are available in the Worldwide database shortly afterwards.

WIPO database

The WIPO database contains the whole collection of PCT patent applications published by WIPO. Under normal circumstances new patent applications are added to the database on a weekly basis (every Wednesday), around two weeks after publication. They are available in the worldwide database shortly afterwards.

Uses, features and news

One of the major advantages over the Worldwide database is that you can search in the full text of all the patents applications in the EP and WIPO databases.

In the EP database, titles are available in the three official languages (English, French and German). To display the title in another language, change the interface by clicking the appropriate language in the banner.

Some technical problems experienced in the past have been resolved. The EP and WIPO servers are now fully operational again and their respective data collections are once more up to date.

News from Asia

Changes to Singapore's patent law in force

According to the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), legislative amendments to the Singapore patent system became effective on 14 February 2014. The former "self-assessment regime" has been replaced by a "positive grant system". Under the new system, IPOS will only grant patents when the examination report on an application is positive in every respect. Furthermore, a review procedure will be available for applicants who have received a negative examination report.

You can find more information on the IPOS website at www.ipos. gov.sg.

Free Korean-to-English machine translation tool in KIPRIS

In early January 2014, the Korean Patent Office (KIPO) launched a free Korean-to-English machine translation service which is available via the KIPRIS search system. The new service offers translations for all Korean patent publications from the early 1980s until today. The English translation and the original Korean text are displayed side by side.

For a guide on how to retrieve the English-language translations in KIPRIS, please refer to the **Searching in databases** section on the EPO's website on Asian patent information at www.epo.org/asia.

KIPRIS is available at http://eng. kipris.or.kr/enghome/main.jsp

TIPO has introduced accelerated examination for green technologies

From 1 January 2014 onwards, the Taiwan Patent Office (TIPO) has included green technology patent applications in its Accelerated Examination Program (AEP). The AEP was originally launched in January 2009 for a one-year trial period and then amended in 2010 and 2013.

TIPO says that it has adopted a broad definition of green technologies in order to encourage patent applicants to make use of the AEP. An application for an invention patent will qualify for the AEP if the technology relates to energy savings, new energies, vehicles powered by new energies, or carbon reduction. Further information on the conditions to be met for accelerated examination can be found in the **Patents** section on TIPO's English website at www.tipo. gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=2

SIPO has amended its examination guidelines for utility models and designs

The recent amendments to examination guidelines in place at the State Intellectual Property Office of the P.R. China (SIPO) introduce a search element in the formalities examination of utility models and designs. SIPO has explained that the aim is to further raise the quality of these two types of right.

The revised sections of the examination guidelines stipulate that the examiner will determine during the preliminary examination whether a utility model application lacks novelty, based on information relating to prior art or conflicting applications (Examination Guidelines, Part I, Chapter 2, Section 11). With respect to a design application, the examiner will determine during the preliminary examination whether it meets the requirements of Article 23 of the Chinese Patent Law, namely that no prior design exists (Part I, Chapter 3, Section 8).

Furthermore, in the case of utility model and design applications, the examiner will determine during the preliminary examination whether the applications meet the requirements of Article 9 of the Chinese Patent Law, namely that only one right can be granted per invention and that the right will be granted to the applicant who files first. (Part I, Chapter 2, Section 13 and Part I, Chapter 3, Section 11).

These changes entered into force on 15 October 2013.

You can find details in an official notice (in Chinese only) at www.sipo.gov.cn/zwgg/jl/201311/t20131106_876947.html

For more news from Asia, see the **Updates** section on the EPO website at www.epo.org/asia.

PUBLICATIONS CORNER

"Publications corner" presents the latest statistics on EPO publications.
- EP-A1: European patent applications published with search report
- EP-A2: European patent applications published without search report
- EP-A3: European search reports
- EP-B1: European patent specifications
- EP-B2: revised European patent specifications

Note: The table does not include statistics on European patent applications filed via the PCT route (Euro-PCT applications). These are published by WIPO and are not made available by the EPO unless they are in a language other than English, French or German. Currently about 60% of all European patent applications are Euro-PCT filings.

European patent publications January – March 2014	Weekly average 2014	Total Jan–March 2014	Change vs. 2013
EP-A documents			
EP-A1	1 008	13 099	−0.5%
EP-A2	330	4 289	−9.6%
Total EP-A1 + A2	1 338	17 388	−2.9%
Percentage EP-A1 of total A1+A2		75.3%	
EP-A3	349	4 540	3.9%
EP-B documents			
EP-B1+B2	1 098	14 279	−15.6%

Contact us!

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08.00-18.00 hrs CET)
e-mail: info@epo.org

*or +49 89 2399-4500 from countries where the freephone number is not available

How to get a European patent – Guide for applicants, Part 1

The updated 14th (October 2013) edition of the "Guide for applicants, Part 1" provides an outline of the procedure involved in applying for a European patent, offering practical advice on the various stages.

See www.epo.org/applying/european/Guide-for-applicants.html

# New feature in the table of legal event codes

The EPO provides a useful table on its website called "Classification of recently used legal status codes". It shows you which event codes are available in the legal status database for each country. Click on the + symbol next to a country to open up the list of codes for that country.

Click with your mouse on a particular code, then press <CTRL> <Shift>C. A detailed explanation of the code will then appear.

www.epo.org/searching/data/data/tables/regular.html

Legal status: Japanese backfile nearly complete

In late 2012, the number of records in the EPO's worldwide legal status database reached 100 million. Less than 18 months later, in January 2014, it passed the 150 million mark. One reason for the rapid growth is the work that has been going on to add Japanese legal status backfile data to the database. This massive undertaking is now nearly complete.
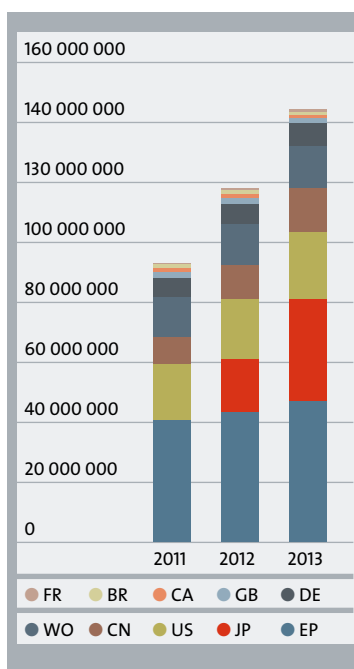
No. of legal status events in the EPO's worldwide legal status database by country of origin (top ten countries only)

Legend: FR, BR, CA, GB, DE, WO, CN, US, JP, EP

Guidelines for Examination in the EPO

Revised in September 2013, the Guidelines for Examination set out the practice and procedure to be followed when examining European applications and patents. They complement the European Patent Convention and its Implementing Regulations.

www.epo.org/law-practice/legal-texts/guidelines.html