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01. Costa Rica signs historic validation agreement

**EPO AND COSTA RICA
SIGN LANDMARK
VALIDATION
AGREEMENT TO BOOST
INNOVATION AND
TRADE**

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Pivotal agreement strengthens collaboration and streamlines market access for European patent holders, promoting innovation and investment in Costa Rica. Today, European Patent Office President António Campinos welcomed a delegation from Costa Rica, led by the Minister of Justice and Peace Gerald Campos Valverde, for the signing of a landmark validation agreement. This milestone marks the culmination of extensive technical collaboration and over a year of discussions.

During the signing ceremony President Campinos said, "This agreement symbolises a bridge between continents and constitutes a significant milestone that not only reflects the commitment of both parties to strengthen innovation and intellectual property protection, but also opens new doors for trade... [Read more](#)

02. Updates to the Patents Examination Manual

**IPONZ UPDATES
PATENTS
EXAMINATION
MANUAL WITH
GUIDANCE ON SWISS-
TYPE CLAIMS**

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IPONZ has updated its Patents Examination Manual to include new guidance on Swiss-type claims. We have added a new section to our Patents Examination Manual to clarify our practice for the examination of Swiss-type claims. Swiss-type claims are a type of patent claim used to protect the intended medical use of a medicament without interfering with a medical practitioner's ability to treat or diagnose a patient.

The guidance in this new section provides detail on how Swiss-type claims are examined at IPONZ, and encourages greater consistency between examiners, patent attorneys, and patent applicants. We have also updated our existing guidance on Section 16 of the Patents Act 2013 to include a reference to the new section... [Read more](#)

03. EPO and INPI Brazil PPH pilot extended for another five years

EPO EXPANDS PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY WITH NEW ZEALAND AND EXTENDS BRAZIL PARTNERSHIP

Starting 1 December 2024, applicants with successful outcomes from the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) can benefit from expedited processing at the European Patent Office (EPO) through a newly launched Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot. Additionally, the highly effective PPH pilot with the Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI Brazil) will be extended for another five years from the same date.

The programme's scope will also be expanded, with participation conditions for accelerated patent application processing at the EPO now including the latest international search report (ISR)... [Read more](#)

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04. IPONZ and EPO launch Patent Prosecution Highway programme

IPONZ AND EPO COLLABORATE ON NEW PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY PILOT PROGRAMME

IPONZ has partnered with the European Patent Office (EPO) on a new Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot programme as of 1 December 2024. The IPONZ-EPO PPH programme is an arrangement between IPONZ and the European Patent Office. This programme allows patent applicants to request accelerated examination in either office, provided that one or more claims of their patent application have been found to be allowable by the other office.

In combination with the IPONZ-CNIPA PPH and Global Patent Prosecution Highway programme, this PPH arrangement between IPONZ and the EPO means that New Zealand applicants now have options to fast track examination in all of the most... [Read more](#)

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05. WIPO Digital Access Service for Priority Documents

GERMAN PATENT AND TRADE MARK OFFICE JOINS WIPO DAS AS A DEPOSITING OFFICE

It is recalled that, by using the WIPO Digital Access Service for Priority Documents (DAS), a PCT applicant can request the International Bureau (IB) to retrieve a copy of an earlier application from DAS for use as a priority document, instead of providing or arranging for the provision of a certified copy. Note that, in order to be able to make use of the DAS service, it is the Office with which the earlier application was filed which needs to be a DAS depositing Office, and not necessarily the receiving Office with which the international application is filed

German Patent and Trade Mark Office:

The German Patent and Trade Mark Office has notified the IB that, with effect from 25 November 2024, it commenced operation as a depositing Office... [Read more](#)

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06. Updated Guidelines for 2025

EPO TO PRE-PUBLISH REVISED AND NEW GUIDELINES FOR PATENT PROCEDURES ON 3 FEBRUARY 2025

The Guidelines updated and published each year are staple reference works for all professional representatives, patent applicants and owners when following the search, examination, granting and post-granting processes at the EPO. Their continuous re-evaluation is the product of year-round feedback, extensive consultation and close collaboration between the EPO and professional representatives.

Publication on 3 February, two months before entry into force

The two existing Guidelines (Guidelines for Examination in the EPO; and Guidelines for search and examination at the EPO as PCT Authority) are revised annually, with the next editions to be pre-published on 3 February 2025... [Read more](#)

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07. Uzbekistan Joins The Hague System

**UZBEKISTAN JOINS
THE HAGUE SYSTEM,
STRENGTHENING
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY
PROTECTION AND
REGIONAL ECONOMIC
GROWTH**

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Uzbekistan has joined the Hague System, expanding the geographical coverage of WIPO's international design system to 98 countries. This accession marks a significant milestone for Central Asia, enhancing Uzbekistan's position in international trade and intellectual property protection. By becoming a member of the Hague System, Uzbekistan offers its citizens and businesses access to a streamlined process for securing industrial design protection internationally, further integrating the country into the global economy and fostering regional economic growth

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan deposited its instrument of accession to the 1999 Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement on October 10, 2024...[Read more](#)

08. EPO concludes working agreement on search co-operation with the Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property (INPI)

**EPO AND PORTUGAL'S
INPI SIGN AGREEMENT
TO ENHANCE PATENT
SEARCH COOPERATION
AND SUPPORT
INNOVATION**

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On 10 December, European Patent Office (EPO) President António Campinos and Ana Bandeira, President of the Directive Council of the Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), concluded a working agreement on search co-operation between the European Patent Organisation (EPOrg) and INPI. Once the agreement enters into force on 1 March 2025, INPI can request the EPO to carry out searches on its national applications with a written opinion on the patentability of the invention. Portugal is the 18th contracting state with which the EPOrg has signed a working agreement on search co-operation...[Read more](#)

09. NASA, USPTO agreement champions tech transfer and commercialization

**USPTO AND NASA
ANNOUNCE
COLLABORATION TO
ADVANCE
INNOVATION
THROUGH
TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER AND
COMMERCIALIZATION**

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The Department of Commerce's U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) today announced a collaboration via a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to promote and advance innovation through technology transfer and commercialization opportunities. Under the agreement, the USPTO and STMD will issue a joint study focusing on intellectual property (IP) management alongside technology transfer best practices and lessons learned. Their research will also identify barriers to participating in tech transfer and how federal agencies and academic institutions can overcome them... [Read more](#)

10. Renewed agreement on search and examination of Icelandic patent applications

**ICELAND AND
DENMARK
STRENGTHEN PATENT
COOPERATION WITH
NEW AGREEMENT**

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Yesterday, Borghildur Erlingsdóttir, Director General of the Icelandic Intellectual Property Office, and Sune Stampe Sørensen, Director General of the Danish Patent and Trademark Office, signed an agreement on search and examination of Icelandic patent applications, further strengthening and boosting the cooperation between the two Nordic IP offices. The close cooperation has been ongoing and mutually valuable for decades and its renewal is intended to support the continued growth in the number of Icelandic patent applications.

The Nordic region is a significant innovation hub, delivering global solutions and technologies across various industries.... [Read more](#)

11. The national patent collection of Hungary is now available in PATENTSCOPE

**HUNGARY ADDS
NATIONAL PATENT
COLLECTION TO WIPO
PATENTSCOPE
DATABASE**

The national patent collection of Hungary is now available in WIPO's global patent search system PATENTSCOPE. It includes over 160,000 documents. Users can search this collection in Hungarian. With the inclusion of the national collection of Hungary, PATENTSCOPE now provides access to a total of 82 national and regional collections, in addition to the collection of all published PCT applications... [Read more](#)

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