

EPC States 2019 At-A-Glance



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Patents

Trade Marks

Designs

Since 1st October 2010, there are 38 EPC Contracting States.

For European patent applications filed after that date (and EP designations of PCT applications filed after that date), all these states can be designated by payment of a single designation fee. In addition, there are 2 extension states and 4 validation states. To extend protection to these states, a fee must be paid up-front.

To assist clients in choosing which states to pursue, Maucher Jenkins has prepared the following rank-ordered table showing the approximate GDPs and populations of the EPC states. We also show countries that are signatories to the London Agreement (meaning reduced translation requirements).

| Country | GDP (\$bn) | Population (millions) | English | London Agreement |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Germany | 3685 | 83 | | * |
| UK | 2625 | 66 | * | * |
| France | 2584 | 67 | | * |
| Italy | 1938 | 61 | | |
| Spain | 1314 | 47 | | |
| Turkey | 850 | 80 | | |
| Netherlands | 826 | 17 | | * |
| Switzerland & Lichtenstein | 679 | 8 | | * |
| Sweden | 539 | 10 | | * |
| Poland | 525 | 38 | | |
| Norway | 396 | 5 | | * |
| Belgium | 495 | 11 | No translation | |
| Austria | 417 | 9 | | |
| Ireland | 334 | 4 | * | * |
| Denmark | 324 | 6 | | * |
| Finland | 253 | 6 | | * |
| Portugal | 218 | 10 | | |
| Czech Republic | 213 | 11 | | |
| Romania | 211 | 20 | | |
| Greece | 201 | 11 | | |
| Hungary | 152 | 10 | | * |
| Morocco~ | 109 | 35 | | 1 |
| Slovakia | 96 | 5 | | |
| Luxembourg | 62 | 0.5 | No translation | * |
| Bulgaria | 57 | 8 | | |
| Croatia | 55 | 4 | | * |
| Slovenia | 49 | 2 | | * |
| Lithuania | 47 | 3 | | * |
| Serbia | 41 | 7 | | |

¹ Morocco requires only that claims are filed in French.

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|---|
| Tunisia~ | 40 | 11 | | |
| Latvia | 30 | 2 | | * |
| Estonia | 26 | 1.3 | | |
| Iceland | 24 | 0.3 | | * |
| Cambodia~ | 22 | 16 | | |
| Cyprus | 21 | 0.8 | | |
| Albania | 13 | 3 | | * |
| Malta | 13 | 0.4 | * | |
| Macedonia | 11 | 2 | | * |
| Moldova~ | 9 | 3.5 | | |
| Monaco | 6 | 0.03 | No validation requirements | |
| San Marino | 2 | 0.03 | | |
| Totals | 19,512 | 684 | | |

Whether a given state can be included in an EP application at the time of entering the European phase depends on the date of filing of the PCT application (not the date of EP entry). Here we list, in date order, the Member States and Extension States that can be included in a European Patent Application (or International Patent Application).

| Filing Date (on or after) | Member States | Extension States |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1 November 2000 | Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom | Albania*, Latvia*, Lithuania*, Macedonia*, Romania*, Slovenia* |
| 1 July 2002 | Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia | |
| 1 December 2002 | Slovenia* | |
| 1 January 2003 | Hungary | |
| 1 March 2003 | Romania* | |
| 1 March 2004 | Poland | |
| 1 April 2004 | | Croatia* |
| 1 November 2004 | Iceland | Serbia* |
| 1 December 2004 | Lithuania, Latvia* | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 1 March 2007 | Malta | |
| 1 January 2008 | Croatia*, Norway | |
| 1 January 2009 | Macedonia | |
| 1 March 2010 | | Montenegro+ |
| 1 May 2010 | Albania* | |
| 1 July 2010 | San Marino | |
| 1 October 2010 | Serbia* | |

* No longer an Extension State after becoming a Member State.

+ Kosovo is currently not a member of the EPO; please enquire for more details.

~ These are 'Validation States'. Validation in these states is only possible if the necessary fee was paid at the time of filing or of the EP phase entry.