## CERTAIN ASPECTS OF NATIONAL/REGIONAL PATENT LAWS

### (1) Prior Art

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Prior Art</th>
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| **Albania**    | 1. Everything made available to the public by means of written or oral description, use or any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of subsequently published Albanian patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| **Algeria**    | Everything made available to the public by a written or oral disclosure, use or other means before the filing date (priority date). |
| **Andorra**    | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of subsequently published Andorra patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| **Argentina**  | All technical knowledge made public by oral or written description, exploitation or other means of dissemination or communication before the filing date (priority date), in the country or abroad. |
| **Armenia**    | 1. All information available before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of subsequently published or granted Armenian applications for inventions and utility models with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| **Australia**  | 1. Information from documents made publicly available or information made publicly available through doing an act before the filing date (priority date), whether in Australia or elsewhere.  
2. For deciding whether an invention is novel, information contained in an Australian patent application (including all international applications) published on or after the priority date with an earlier filing date (priority date), if the information was contained in the application at its filing date. |
| **Austria**    | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or other means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Austrian, European and international patent applications and Austrian utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| **Azerbaijan** | 1. Any information made available to the public before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Azerbaijan patents and applications for inventions and utility models with an earlier filing date (priority date) published in official bulletin. |
| **Bahrain**    | Everything disclosed to the public in or outside the Kingdom of Bahrain by means of written or oral disclosure, use, or any other way by which the subject matter of the invention is realized prior to the filing date (priority date). |
| **Barbados**   | Everything disclosed to the public in a tangible form by oral description or other means before the filing date (priority date). |
| **Belarus**    | 1. Any information made available to the public before the filing date (priority date).  
2. While determining the novelty of invention, contents of Belarus patents and applications for inventions and utility models with an earlier filing date (priority date). |

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*Information is gathered from the primary legislation (for example, a patent law of an intellectual property code). The secondary legislation, such as Regulations under the primary legislation, has not been consulted.*
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<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Prior Art</th>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).&lt;br&gt;2. Contents of certain subsequently published Belgian, European and international patent applications and Belgian utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Anything disclosed to the public by a written or oral description, use or other means before the filing date (priority date).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivia (Plurinational State of)</td>
<td>1. Everything made available to the public by written or oral description, use, commercialization or any other means before the filing date (priority date).&lt;br&gt;2. Contents of Bolivian patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) which are subsequently published or made available for public inspection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or other means before the filing date (priority date).&lt;br&gt;2. Contents of certain Bosnia and Herzegovina, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) made available to the public on or after that date.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or by any other means before the filing date (priority date).&lt;br&gt;2. Contents of subsequently published Brazilian and certain international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date).</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).&lt;br&gt;2. Contents of subsequently published Bulgarian, European and international patent applications designating Bulgaria with an earlier filing date (priority date).</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>1. Everything available to the public before the filing date (priority date).&lt;br&gt;2. Contents of Canadian patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>1. Everything disclosed or made available to the public by publication in tangible form, sale or marketing or use, or in any other manner, before the filing date (priority date).&lt;br&gt;2. Contents of Chilean patent and utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) made available to the public on or after that date.</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Technology known to the public before the filing date (priority date) in China or abroad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hong Kong China</td>
<td>Everything made available to the public by means of a written or oral description, by use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date) of the subject application.&lt;br&gt;2. Contents of any Hong Kong standard patent application with an earlier filing date (priority date) and of which the corresponding designated patent application was published in the designated patent office on or after the filing date (priority date) of the subject application.&lt;br&gt;3. Contents of any designated patent application as filed in a designated patent office with an earlier filing date (priority date) and of which the designated patent application was published by the designated patent office on or after the filing date (priority date) of the subject application.&lt;br&gt;4. Contents of any short-term patent application with an earlier filing date (priority date) which was published on or after the filing date (priority date) of the subject application.</td>
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| Colombia      | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, marketing or other means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Colombian patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) which are subsequently published or made available for public inspection. |
| Costa Rica    | 1. Everything disclosed or made available to the public anywhere in the world and by any means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of non-published patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) but only if said contents remain included in the previous patent application upon publishing.  
3. The disclosure resulting from a publication made by an industrial property office in the process of granting a patent shall be included in the prior art, except for the case of a patent applicant, or when the application in question has been filed by a person who did not have the right to obtain the patent or when the publication has been unduly made. |
| Croatia       | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Croatian patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) made available to the public on or after that date. |
| Cyprus        | 1. Everything made available to the public in a written or other graphic form, or by oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of subsequently published Cyprus applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Czech Republic| 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Czech, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) made available to the public on or after that date. |
| Denmark       | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Danish, European and international patent applications and Danish utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Dominica      | Everything disclosed to the public by oral or written description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date). |
| Dominican Republic | 1. Everything disclosed or made accessible to the public by means of publication in tangible form, oral disclosure, marketing, use or any other means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of published ONAPI applications with an earlier filing date (priority date).  
3. Disclosure resulting from a publication by an Intellectual Property Office as part of the procedure for granting a patent except where the application was filed by a person not entitled to the patent, or that the publication had been improperly effected. |
| Ecuador       | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, marketing or other means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Ecuador patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) which are subsequently published or made available for public inspection. |
| Egypt         | 1. Anything publicly described or used before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Egyptian and foreign patents granted, and applications filed, before the filing date (priority date). |
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| El Salvador   | 1. Everything disclosed or made available to the public by publication in tangible form, oral disclosure, sale or marketing, use or any other means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of subsequently published El Salvador patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Estonia       | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Estonian patent and utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Finland       | 1. Everything made available to the public in writing, in lectures, by public use or otherwise before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Finnish, European and international patent applications, and Finnish utility model applications, with an earlier filing date (priority date) which are made available to the public. |
| France        | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of French patent applications and European and international patent applications designating France with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Georgia       | 1. Data made available to the public from a written or verbal description, public use or other source before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Georgian patent and utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published after the filing date (priority date). |
| Germany       | 1. Anything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain German, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after the filing date (priority date). |
| Ghana         | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other non-written means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Ghana patent and utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) which are made available to the public. |
| Greece        | Anything made available to the public by a written or oral disclosure or any other way before the filing date (priority date). |
| Guatemala     | 1. Anything disclosed or made available to the public anywhere in the world and by any means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of previous patent applications filed with the Registry with an earlier filing date (priority date) provided that the patent applications were published. |
| Honduras      | 1. Everything disclosed or made available to the public anywhere in the world, by means of publication in tangible form, oral disclosure, sale or commercialization, use or any other means before the patent application filing date (priority date) in Honduras.  
2. The contents of a patent application pending before the Industrial Property Registry, the filing date of which is prior to the date of the application being examined and that has been published. |
| Hungary       | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written description, oral communication, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Hungarian patent and utility model applications, and certain European and international applications, with |
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<td>Hungary (cont’d)</td>
<td>an earlier filing date (priority date), published in the course of the patent granting procedure after the filing date (priority date).</td>
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| Iceland | 1. Everything made available to the public in writing, in lectures, by public use or otherwise before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Icelandic, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) which are made available to the public. |
| India | Publication in any document or used in India or elsewhere in the world before the filing date (priority date). |
| Indonesia | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of earlier Indonesian patent applications published on or after filing date (priority date). |
| Ireland | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of earlier Irish patent applications published on or after filing date (priority date). |
| Israel | Anything made available to the public before the filing date (priority date) by a written, visual, audible or any other description, use, exploitation or exhibition. |
| Italy | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Italian, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) made available to the public on or after that date. |
| Japan | 1. Anything which, before the filing date (priority date), was publicly known or worked, published, or made available to the public through electric telecommunication lines.  
2. Contents of certain Japanese patent and utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Jordan | Everything disclosed to the public by a written or oral description, use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date). |
| Kenya | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other non-written means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Kenyan and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) made available to the public. |
| Kyrgyz Republic | 1. Any information made generally available in the world before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of non-withdrawn Kyrgyz patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Latvia | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral disclosure or use before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of published Latvian patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Liechtenstein | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral disclosure, use or any other means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Swiss patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date).  
(in accordance with the agreements with Switzerland and the European Economic Area (EEA)) |
| Lithuania | 1. Everything published or publicly used before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Lithuanian patent applications or European patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
<p>| Luxembourg | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral disclosure, use or in any other way before the filing date |</p>
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| Luxembourg (cont'd)| 1.  Everything made available to the public by a written publication, oral disclosure, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2.  Contents of subsequently published Luxembourg, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Madagascar          | 1.  Everything made available to the public anywhere by a written publication, oral disclosure, use or in any other way any time before the filing date (priority date). |
| Malaysia            | 1.  Everything made available to the public by a written publication, oral disclosure, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2.  Contents of subsequently granted Malaysian patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Malta               | 1.  Everything made available to the public in a written or other graphic form, oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2.  Contents of certain subsequently published Malta, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Mauritius           | 1.  Everything disclosed to the public by publication in tangible form, oral disclosure, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date). |
| Mexico              | 1.  The body of technical knowledge that has been made public by oral or written description, by exploitation or by any other means of dissemination or information both within the country and abroad;  
2.  In order to determine whether the invention is new, all patent applications filed in Mexico prior to the filing date (or of recognized priority where applicable) and still being processed will be included in the state of the art, even though the publication referred to in article 52 occurs at a later date. |
| Moldova (Republic of)| 1.  Everything made available to the public by means of a written or oral description, by use, or in any other way before the filing date (priority date). |
| Mongolia            | 1.  Everything made available to the public before the filing date.  
2.  The applications filed prior to the filing date of the invention and information on protected inventions and utility models in Mongolia. |
| Morocco             | Everything made accessible to the public by means of a written or oral description, use or any other means before the filing date of a patent application in Morocco or of a patent application filed abroad and with a valid priority claim. |
| Mozambique          | Everything made available to the public by verbal description, use or any other way before the filing date (priority date).                                                                                     |
| Netherlands         | 1.  Everything made available to the public by written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2.  Contents of previously filed Netherlands patent applications entered on the patent register on or after the filing date (priority date), and of certain European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| New Zealand         | 1.  Contents of granted patents published before the filing date (priority date) and dated within 50 years before the filing date.  
2.  Other documents published before the filing date (priority date), other than foreign patent applications filed more than 50 years before the filing date and abridgments and extracts of such applications.  
3.  Any use in New Zealand before the filing date (priority date). |
| Nicaragua           | 1.  Everything disclosed or made accessible to the public in any form before the filing date (priority date).  
2.  Contents of subsequently published Nicaraguan patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
<p>| Nigeria             | Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).                                                                                 |</p>
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| Norway              | 1. Everything made available to the public in writing, in lectures, by use or otherwise before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of certain Norwegian, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Oman                | Everything disclosed to the public anywhere in the world, by publication in tangible form or by oral disclosure, by use or in any other way, prior to the filing date (priority date). |
| Pakistan            | 1. Everything disclosed to the public anywhere in the world, by publication in tangible form or oral disclosure, by use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of complete specifications and priority documents filed in Pakistan published in the official Gazette, on the acceptance of patent applications.  
                       3. Traditionally developed or existing knowledge available or in possession of a local or indigenous community. |
| Panama              | 1. Everything disclosed or made accessible to the public by tangible publication, oral disclosure, sale or marketing, use or any other means before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of subsequently published Panama patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Papua New Guinea    | Everything disclosed to the public by tangible publication, oral disclosure, use or any other way before the filing date (priority date). |
| Paraguay            | 1. Everything disclosed or made available to the public anywhere in the world by publication in tangible form, oral disclosure, sale or marketing, use or any other means before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of subsequently published Paraguayan patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Peru                | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, marketing or other means before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of Peru patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) which are subsequently published or made available for public inspection. |
| Philippines         | 1. Everything made available to the public before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of Philippines patent, utility model and industrial design applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Poland              | 1. Everything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use, displaying or disclosure in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of subsequently published Polish patent and utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Portugal            | 1. Everything made available, inside or outside the country, to the public by description, use or other means before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of non published patent and utility model requests of a previous date than that of the patent application with effect in Portugal. |
| Republic of Korea   | 1. Inventions publicly known, worked, described in a publication or made available to the public through electric telecommunication lines before the filing date (priority date). |
| Romania             | 1. All knowledge that has been made available to the public by means of a written or oral description, by use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
                       2. Contents of patent applications filed with OSIM and international applications that have been entered in the national phase in Romania or certain European patent application designating Romania, as filed, with an earlier filing date (priority date) made available to the public on or after that date. |
<p>| Russian Federation  | 1. Any information made available to the public before the filing date (priority date). |</p>
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<td>Russian Federation (cont’d)</td>
<td>2. Contents of published Russian Federation patent and utility model applications and grants, international and of Eurasian applications with an earlier filing date (priority date), and published information thereon.</td>
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| Saint Lucia      | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Saudi Arabia     | Everything that is disclosed to the public anywhere by means of written or oral disclosure, by use or by any other way through which knowledge of the invention is realized, prior to the filing date of the patent application or the priority application. |
| Serbia           | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of all applications in the Republic of Serbia as filed, with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Singapore        | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Slovak Republic  | 1. Everything made available to the public by any means of disclosure before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Slovak, European and international patent applications and Slovak utility model applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Slovenia         | 1. Everything made available to the public by means of an oral or written description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Slovenian, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| South Africa     | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of South African and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) which are or become open to public inspection.  
3. Inventions used secretly on a commercial scale in South Africa before the filing date (priority date). |
| Spain            | 1. Everything made available to the public in Spain or abroad by means of a written or oral description, by use, or by any other way, before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Spanish patent or utility model applications, of European patent applications that designate Spain and PCT international patent applications that have entered the national phase in Spain, as originally filed, with an earlier filing date and that have been published in Spanish on or before that date. |
| Sri Lanka        | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written publication to the public anywhere in the world, or in Sri Lanka by oral disclosure, use or in any other way, before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of subsequently granted Sri Lankan patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Sweden           | 1. Everything made accessible to the public before the filing date (priority date) in writing, in lectures, use or otherwise.  
2. Contents of certain Swedish, European and international patent applications an earlier filing date (priority date) subsequently made available to the public. |
| Switzerland      | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or any other means before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of subsequently granted Swiss patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
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| Syrian Arab Republic | 1. Anything publicly described or used before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Syrian and foreign patents granted, and applications filed, before the filing date (priority date). |
| Syrian Arab Republic (cont’d) | 1. Any information made available to the public before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of published Syrian patent applications and grants and registered utility models, international and of Eurasian applications with an earlier filing date (priority date), and published information thereon. |
| Tajikistan | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of published Tajik patent applications and grants and registered utility models, international and of Eurasian applications with an earlier filing date (priority date), and published information thereon. |
| Thailand | 1. Inventions widely known or used in Thailand before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Printed publications and other documents publicly disclosed before the filing date (priority date).  
3. Thai and foreign patents and petty patents granted before the filing date (priority date).  
4. Contents of Thai and foreign patent and petty patent applications published before the filing date (priority date).  
5. Contents of foreign patent applications and petty patent applications filed more than 18 months before the filing date but not granted. |
| The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Macedonian, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Trinidad and Tobago | Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date). |
| Tunisia | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of Tunisian patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Turkey | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Turkish, European and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| Ukraine | 1. Everything made accessible to the public before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of certain Ukraine and international patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| United Kingdom | 1. Everything made accessible to the public by a written or oral description, use or in any other way before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of UK patent applications, including European patents (UK) and international applications designating the UK which have entered the national or regional phase, with an earlier filing date (priority date) published on or after that date. |
| United States of America | 1. An invention which was known or used by others in US, or patented or described in a printed publication in US or a foreign country, before the invention by the applicant;  
2. An invention which was patented or described in a printed publication in US or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in US, more than one year before the filing date;  
3. An invention abandoned by the applicant;  
4. An invention which was patented, or was the subject of an inventor’s certificate filed by applicant or his legal representatives or assignees in a foreign country more than 12 months prior to the filing date;  
5. An invention which was described in a published US patent application by another or in a patent filed by another before the invention by the applicant (for the PCT international applications, only if they designate US and are... |
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<td>United States of America (cont’d)</td>
<td>published in English language); 6. During the course of interference, another inventor establishes that, before the invention date, he/she invented the invention and not abandoned, suppressed or concealed the invention.</td>
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| Uruguay                                | 1. Anything made available to the public by a written or oral description, use or any other method of dissemination or information before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of subsequently published Uruguay patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Uzbekistan                             | 1. Any information generally accessible before the filing date (priority date).  
2. Contents of withdrawn Uzbekistan patent applications with an earlier filing date (priority date). |
| Zambia                                 | 1. All knowledge that exist before the relevant filing or effective date of a patent application, whether it existed by way or written or oral disclosure.  
2. For the purpose of deciding novelty, everything made available to the public and a document shall be deemed to be published if it can be inspected as of right by members of the public, whether upon payment of a fee or otherwise |

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