




**INTELLECTUAL**  
PROPERTY OFFICE

# Patent Protection Strategies: National, Regional and International Systems

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Intellectual Property Office is an operating name of the Patent Office

# Patent Protection

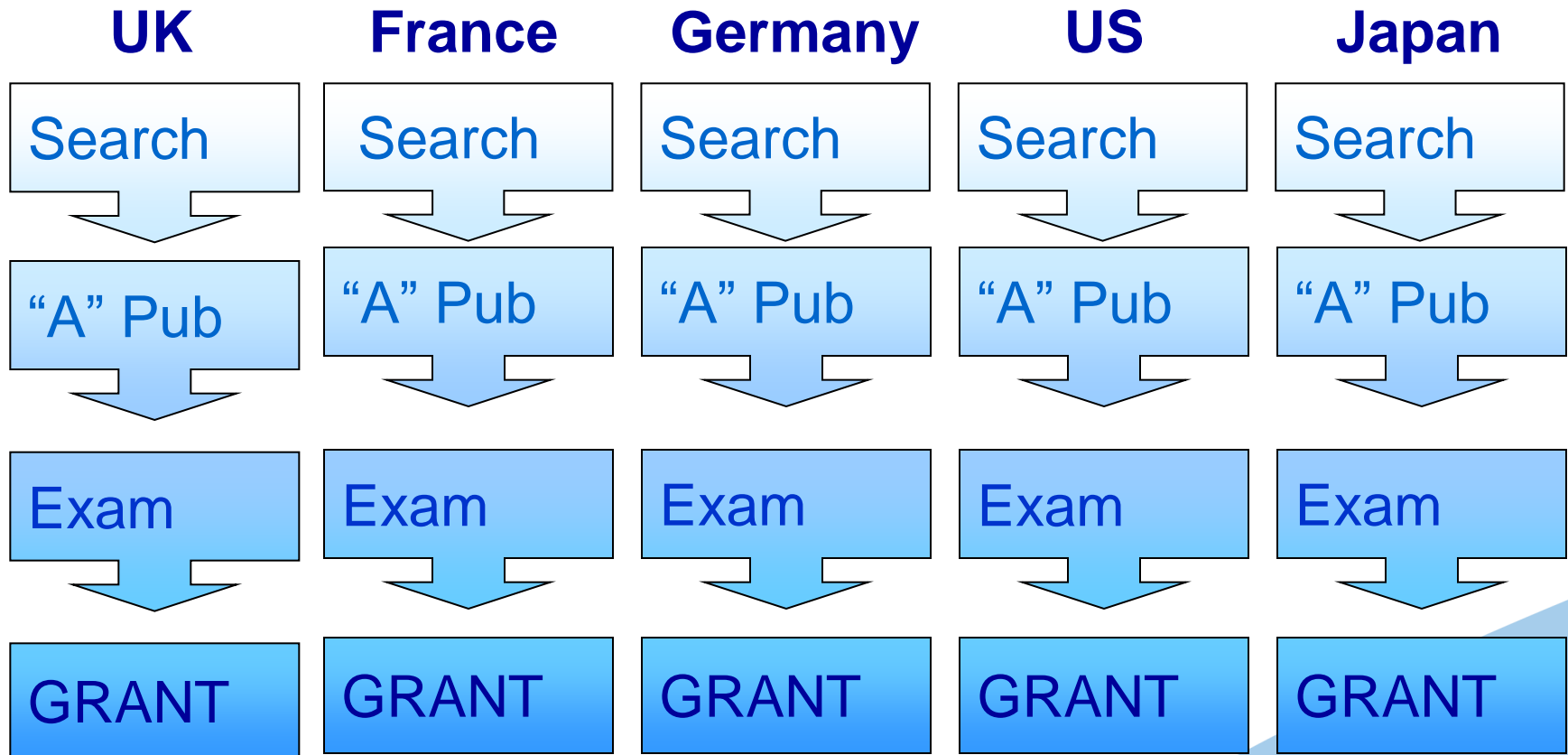
- Protects the novel and unique features of an invention.
  - Invention must be something which can be made or used, new and inventive.
  - Lasts for up to 20 years
  - Can sue third parties for making, using, selling or importing your patented product or process
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# Strategies for obtaining Patent Protection Abroad

1. National: Separate national filings
  2. Regional: European Patent Convention (EPC)
  3. International: Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT)
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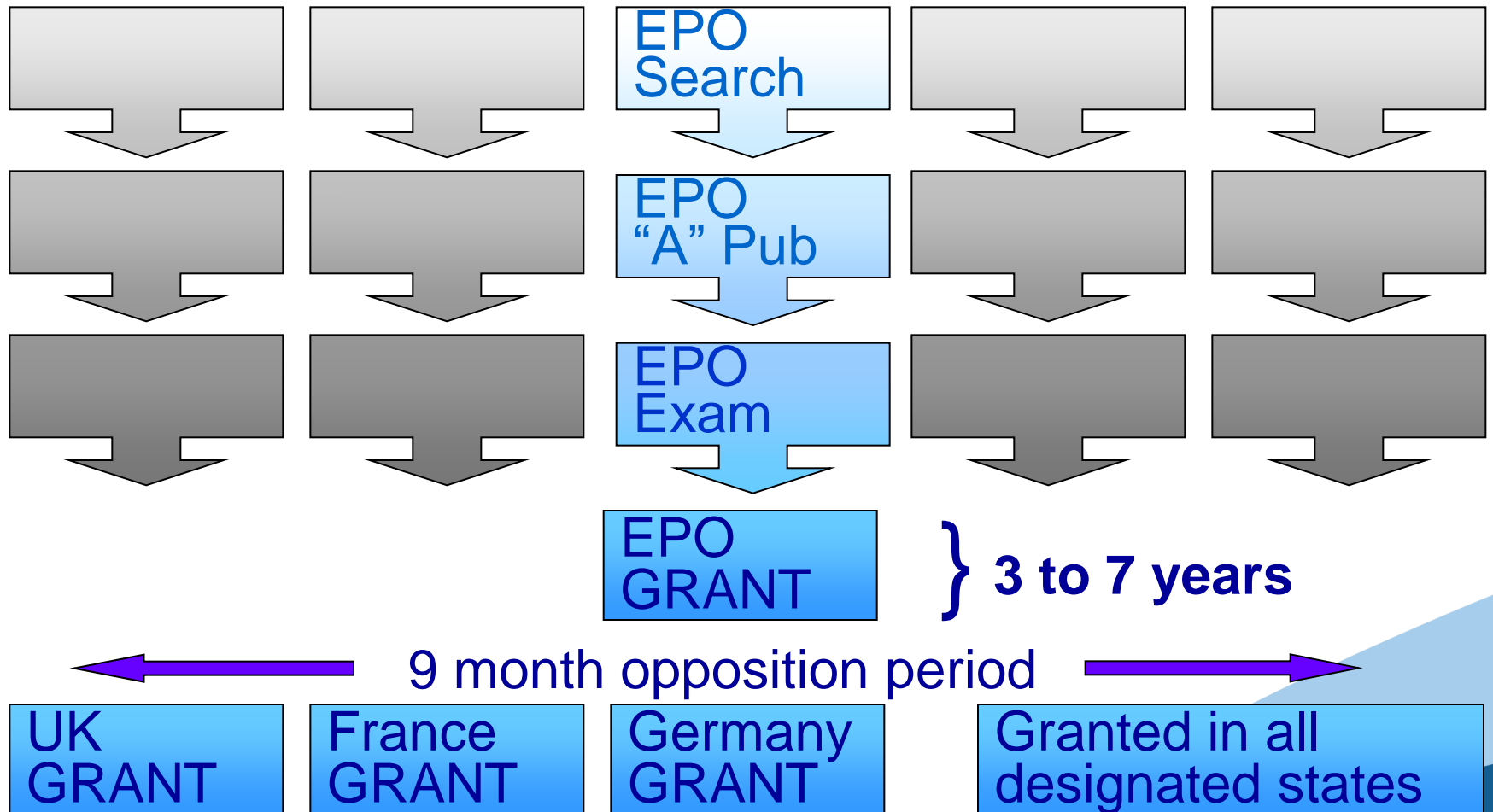
# National Patent Protection

## Separate National Filings

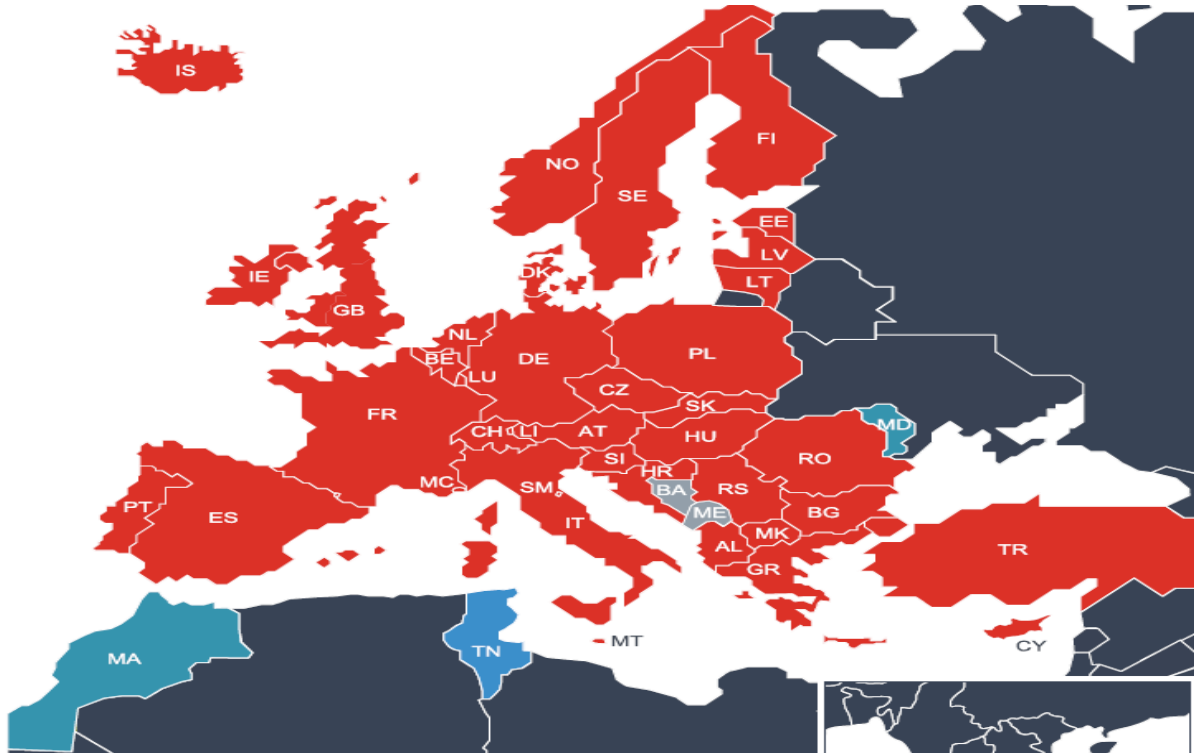


# Regional Patent Protection

## European Patent Convention



# Regional protection - EPO Contracting States



**Member states of the European Patent Organisation**  
AL Albania, AT Austria, BE Belgium, BG Bulgaria, CH Switzerland, CY Cyprus, CZ Czech Republic, DE Germany, DK Denmark, EE Estonia, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, HR Croatia, HU Hungary, IE Ireland, IS Iceland, IT Italy, LI Liechtenstein, LT Lithuania, LU Luxembourg, LV Latvia, MC Monaco, MK Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, MT Malta, NL Netherlands, NO Norway, PL Poland, PT Portugal, RO Romania, RS Serbia, SE Sweden, SI Slovenia, SK Slovakia, SM San Marino, TR Turkey

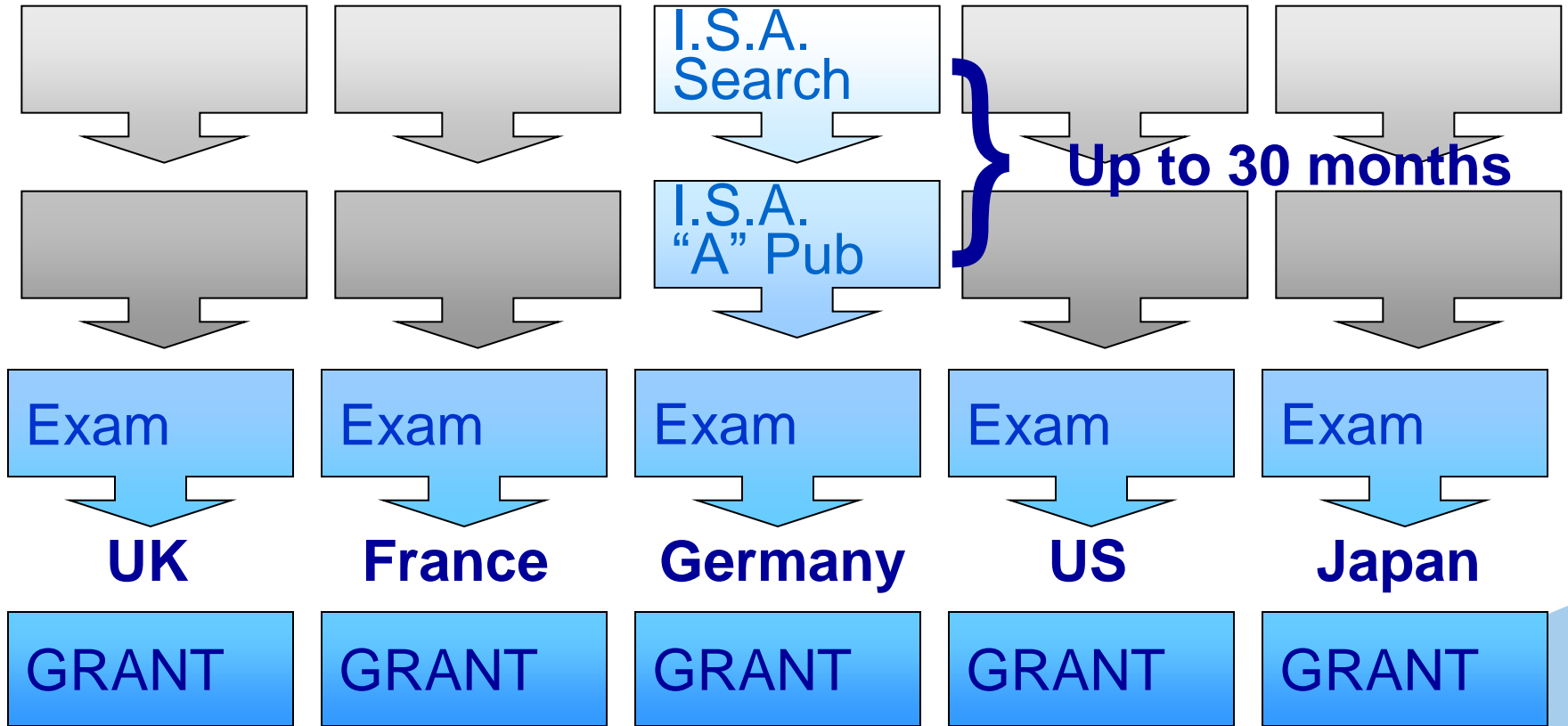
**Extension states**  
BA Bosnia and Herzegovina, ME Montenegro

**Validation states**  
MA Morocco, MD Republic of Moldova

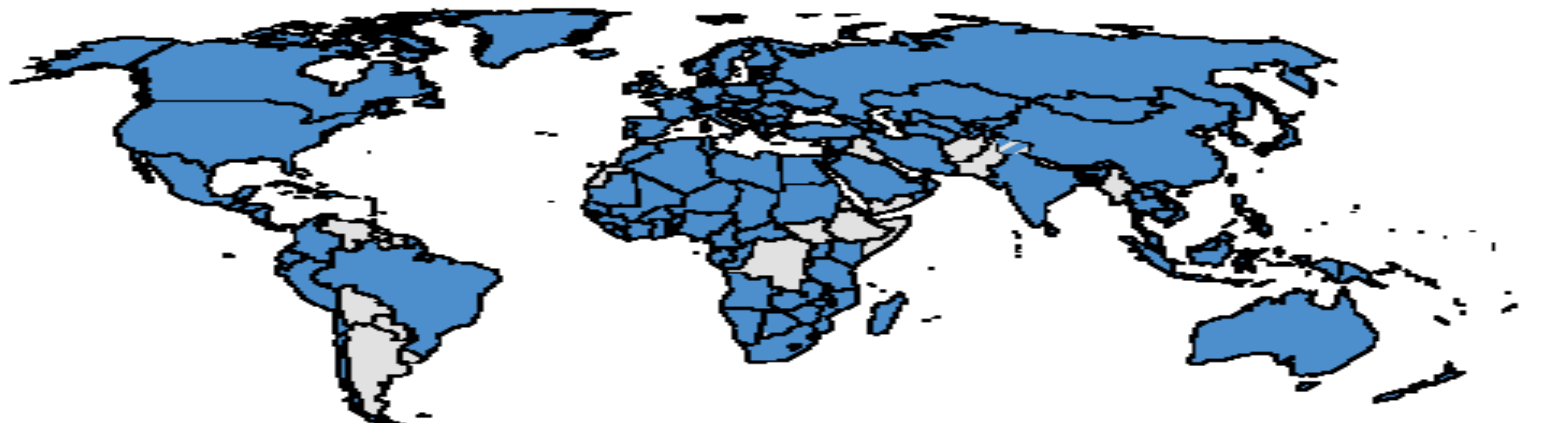
**Future validation states**  
KH Cambodia, TN Tunisia

# International Patent Protection

## Patent Co-operation Treaty



## PCT Contracting States and Two-letter Codes (152 on 1 March 2018)



AE United Arab Emirates	CU Cuba	IR Iran (Islamic Republic of)	MG Madagascar	SD Sudan (AP)
AG Antigua and Barbuda	CY Cyprus (EP) <sup>1</sup>	IS Iceland (EP)	MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (EP)	SE Sweden (EP)
AL Albania (EP)	CZ Czechia (EP)	IT Italy (EP) <sup>2</sup>	ML Mali (OA) <sup>2</sup>	SG Singapore
AM Armenia (EA)	DE Germany (EP)	JO Jordan	MN Mongolia	SI Slovenia (EP) <sup>2</sup>
AO Angola	DJ Djibouti	JP Japan	MR Mauritania (OA) <sup>2</sup>	SK Slovakia (EP)
AT Austria (EP)	DK Denmark (EP)	KE Kenya (AP)	MT Malta (EP) <sup>2</sup>	SL Sierra Leone (AP)
AU Australia	DM Dominica	KH Cambodia <sup>2</sup>	MW Malawi (AP)	SM San Marino (EP)
AZ Azerbaijan (EA)	DO Dominican Republic	KM Comoros (OA) <sup>2</sup>	MX Mexico	SN Senegal (OA) <sup>2</sup>
BA Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>1</sup>	EZ Ecuador	KN Saint Kitts and Nevis	MY Malaysia	ST Sao Tomé and Príncipe (AP)
BB Barbados	EE Estonia (EP)	KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea	MZ Mozambique (AP)	SV El Salvador
BE Belgium (EP) <sup>2</sup>	EG Egypt	KR Republic of Korea	NA Namibia (AP)	SY Syrian Arab Republic
BF Burkina Faso (OA) <sup>2</sup>	ES Spain (EP)	KW Kuwait	NE Niger (OA) <sup>2</sup>	SZ Swaziland (AP) <sup>2</sup>
BG Bulgaria (EP)	FI Finland (EP)	KZ Kazakhstan (EA)	NG Nigeria	TD Chad (OA) <sup>2</sup>
BH Bahrain	FR France (EP) <sup>2</sup>	LA Lao People's Democratic Republic	NI Nicaragua	TG Togo (OA) <sup>2</sup>
BJ Benin (OA) <sup>2</sup>	GA Gabon (OA) <sup>2</sup>	LC Saint Lucia	NL Netherlands (EP) <sup>2</sup>	TH Thailand
BN Brunei Darussalam	GB United Kingdom (EP)	LI Liechtenstein (EP)	NO Norway (EP)	TJ Tajikistan (EA)
BR Brazil	GD Grenada	LK Sri Lanka	NZ New Zealand	TM Turkmenistan (EA)
BW Botswana (AP)	GE Georgia	LR Liberia (AP)	OM Oman	TN Tunisia
BY Belarus (EA)	GH Ghana (AP)	LS Lesotho (AP) <sup>2</sup>	PA Panama	TR Turkey (EP)
BZ Belize	GM Gambia (AP)	LT Lithuania (EP) <sup>2</sup>	PG Papua New Guinea	TT Trinidad and Tobago
CA Canada	GN Guinea (OA) <sup>2</sup>	LU Luxembourg (EP)	PH Philippines	TZ United Republic of Tanzania (AP)
CF Central African Republic (OA) <sup>2</sup>	GT Guatemala	LV Latvia (EP) <sup>2</sup>	PL Poland (EP)	UA Ukraine
CG Congo (OA) <sup>2</sup>	GW Guinea-Bissau (OA) <sup>2</sup>	LY Libya	PT Portugal (EP)	US United States of America
CH Switzerland (EP)	HN Honduras	MA Morocco <sup>1</sup>	QA Qatar	UZ Uzbekistan
CI Côte d'Ivoire (OA) <sup>2</sup>	HR Croatia (EP)	MC Monaco (EP) <sup>2</sup>	RO Romania (EP)	VC Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
CL Chile	HU Hungary (EP)	MD Republic of Moldova <sup>2</sup>	RS Serbia (EP)	VN Viet Nam
CM Cameroon (OA) <sup>2</sup>	ID Indonesia	ME Montenegro <sup>1</sup>	RU Russian Federation (EA)	ZA South Africa
CN China	IE Ireland (EP) <sup>2</sup>		RW Rwanda (AP)	ZM Zambia (AP)
CO Colombia	IL Israel		SA Saudi Arabia	ZW Zimbabwe (AP)
CR Costa Rica	IN India		SC Seychelles	

<sup>1</sup> Extension of European patent possible.

<sup>2</sup> May only be designated for a regional patent (the "national route" via the PCT has been closed).

<sup>3</sup> Validation of European patent possible for international applications filed on or after 1 March 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Validation of European patent possible.

<sup>5</sup> Validation of European patent possible for international applications filed on or after 1 November 2015.

<sup>6</sup> Validation of European patent possible for international applications filed on or after 1 December 2017.

Where a State can be designated for a regional patent, the two-letter code for the regional patent concerned is indicated in parentheses (AP – ARIPO patent, EA – Eurasian patent, EP – European patent, OA – OAPI patent).

**Important:** This list includes all States that have adhered to the PCT by the date shown in the heading. Any State indicated in **bold italics** has adhered to the PCT but will only become bound by the PCT on the date shown in parentheses; it will not be considered to have been designated in international applications filed before that date.

Note that even though the filing of a request constitutes under PCT Rule 4.9(a) the designation of all Contracting States bound by the PCT on the international filing date, for the grant of every kind of protection available and, where applicable, for the grant of both regional and national patents, applicants should always use the latest version of the e-filing software used to generate the request form, or the latest versions of the request form (PCT/RO/101) and demand form (PCT/IPEA/401) (the latest versions are dated 1 July 2017 and 1 July 2016, respectively). The request and demand forms can be printed from the website, in editable PDF format, at: <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/forms/>, or obtained from receiving Offices or the International Bureau, or, in the case of the demand form, also from International Preliminary Examining Authorities. Where possible, applicants are encouraged to use ePCT-Filing in order to benefit from the most up-to-date PCT data.




# Costs associated with each route

	UK	EPO	PCT
Application/filing fee	£90	£210	£1029
Designation fee	N/A	£585	N/A
Search fee	£180	£1300	£1552
Examination fee	£130	£1635	€1830*

\* Optional as examination will take place in each national phase.

# Common filing strategy – Paris convention

- File a UK application requesting search
  - Search results issued around 6 months
  - Search may help influence decision whether to file abroad
  - File EPC/PCT application within 12 months of initial UK application, claiming priority from the UK application.
  - Protected from date of filing of the UK application.
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# Thanks for listening

- Any Questions?
- Contact me:

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