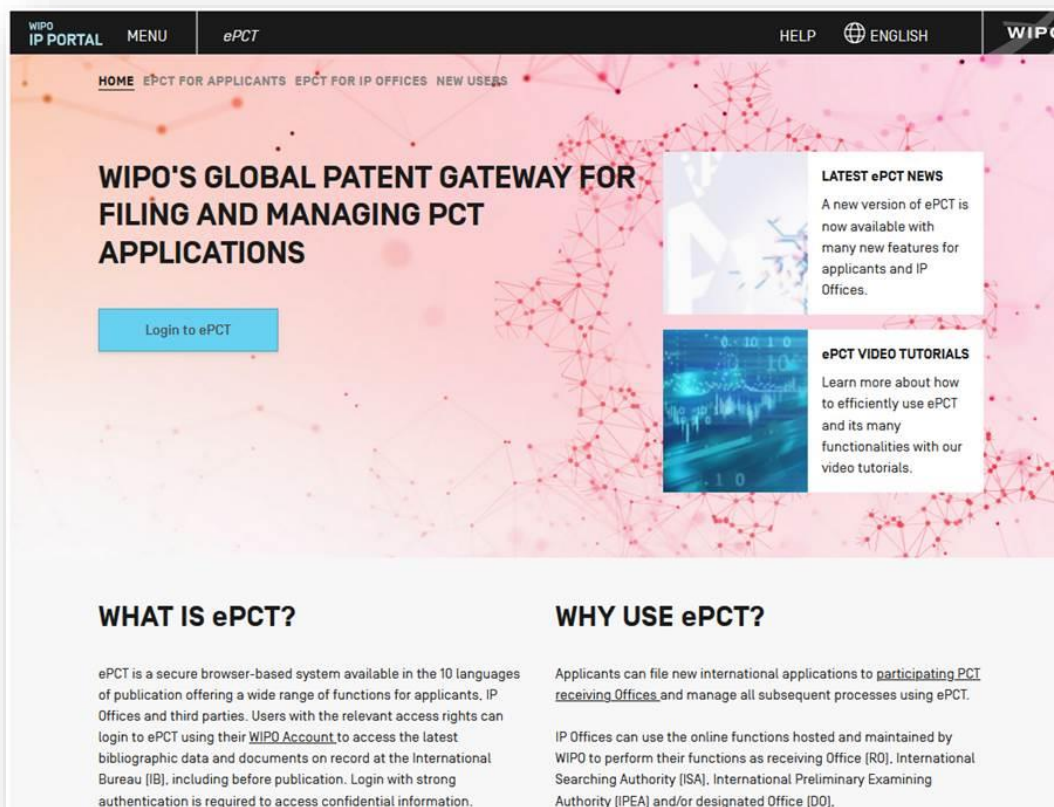


# ePCT for receiving Offices, Designated Offices and International Authorities

## What's New for Offices?

## ePCT v4.9 - Release Note



The screenshot displays the WIPO ePCT v4.9 user interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes 'WIPO IP PORTAL', 'MENU', 'ePCT', 'HELP', 'ENGLISH', and the WIPO logo. Below the navigation bar, a header section features the text 'HOME EPCT FOR APPLICANTS EPCT FOR IP OFFICES NEW USES'. The main content area is titled 'WIPO'S GLOBAL PATENT GATEWAY FOR FILING AND MANAGING PCT APPLICATIONS' and includes a 'Login to ePCT' button. To the right, there are two sections: 'LATEST ePCT NEWS' and 'ePCT VIDEO TUTORIALS'. The 'LATEST ePCT NEWS' section states: 'A new version of ePCT is now available with many new features for applicants and IP Offices.' The 'ePCT VIDEO TUTORIALS' section states: 'Learn more about how to efficiently use ePCT and its many functionalities with our video tutorials.' Below these sections, there are two columns: 'WHAT IS ePCT?' and 'WHY USE ePCT?'. The 'WHAT IS ePCT?' section describes ePCT as a secure browser-based system available in 10 languages, offering a wide range of functions for applicants, IP Offices, and third parties. The 'WHY USE ePCT?' section lists the benefits for applicants and IP Offices, including the ability to file new international applications, manage subsequent processes, and use online functions hosted by WIPO.

**WIPO'S GLOBAL PATENT GATEWAY FOR FILING AND MANAGING PCT APPLICATIONS**

Login to ePCT

**LATEST ePCT NEWS**

A new version of ePCT is now available with many new features for applicants and IP Offices.

**ePCT VIDEO TUTORIALS**

Learn more about how to efficiently use ePCT and its many functionalities with our video tutorials.

**WHAT IS ePCT?**

ePCT is a secure browser-based system available in the 10 languages of publication offering a wide range of functions for applicants, IP Offices and third parties. Users with the relevant access rights can login to ePCT using their [WIPO Account](#) to access the latest bibliographic data and documents on record at the International Bureau (IB), including before publication. Login with strong authentication is required to access confidential information.

**WHY USE ePCT?**

Applicants can file new international applications to [participating PCT receiving Offices](#) and manage all subsequent processes using ePCT.

IP Offices can use the online functions hosted and maintained by WIPO to perform their functions as receiving Office (RO), International Searching Authority (ISA), International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) and/or designated Office (DO).

## Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| What's new in ePCT 4.9 .....   | 3 |
| New ePCT landing page with integrated access to information and user guides .....              | 3 |
| Office comments regarding an international application viewable by Office role .....           | 3 |
| Improved behavior when saving draft ePCT Actions .....   | 4 |
| Improved search for international applications in ePCT .....                                   | 4 |
| Additional form translations available .....   | 4 |
| RO - updates to the user interface for form RO/106 .....                                       | 4 |
| ISA - improvement of the Standardized Clauses function in Written Opinions .....               | 4 |
| ISA - lookup of patent family members .....  | 4 |
| ISA - upload of rectified sequence listing enabled .....                                       | 5 |
| ISA - improved listing of history of saved drafts for ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 .....             | 5 |
| IPEA - routing of IPEA documents for processing in ePCT has been enabled .....                 | 5 |
| IPEA - new ePCT Actions to create the IPEA forms IPEA/402, IPEA/404 and IPEA/416 .....         | 5 |
| IPEA – new ePCT Actions to draft and establish the IPEA/408 and IPEA/409 .....                 | 5 |
| IPEA – additional reports for the timeliness of the IPRP and the translation of the IPRP ..... | 6 |
| ePCT Web Services improvements .....   | 6 |
| Help and F.A.Q .....   | 6 |

## What's new in ePCT 4.9

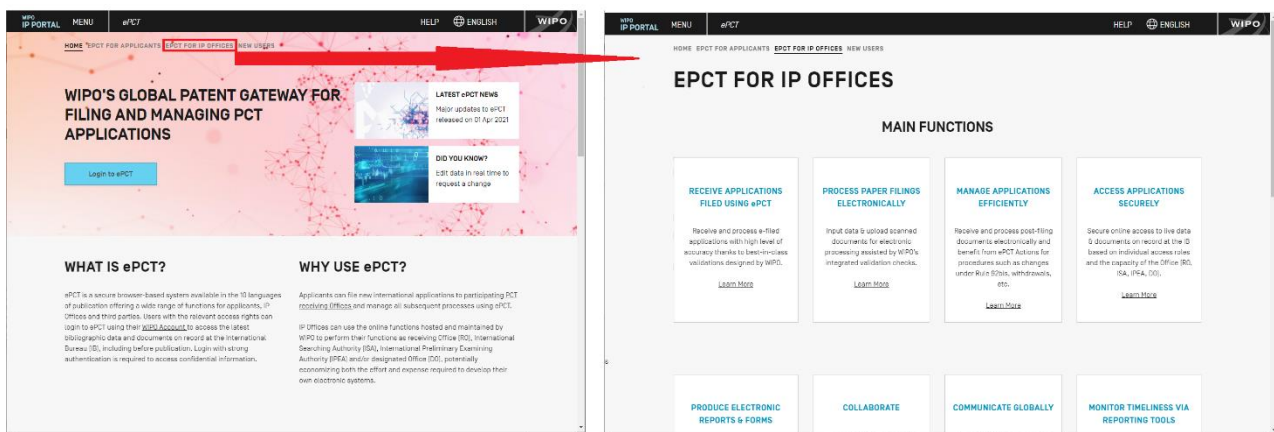
In this version, improvements have been implemented in the ePCT Office features including:

- a new ePCT landing page with integrated access to information and user guides;
- Office comments regarding an international application viewable by Office role;
- improved behavior when saving draft ePCT Actions;
- improved search for international applications in ePCT;
- additional form translations available;
- RO - updates to the user interface for form RO/106;
- RO - new forms available in ePCT - RO/131;
- ISA - improvement of the Standardized Clauses function in Written Opinions
- ISA - lookup of patent family members;
- ISA - upload of rectified sequence listing enabled;
- ISA - improved listing of history of saved drafts for ISA/210 and/or ISA/237;
- IPEA - routing of IPEA documents for processing ePCT Actions has been enabled
- IPEA - new ePCT Actions to create the IPEA forms IPEA/402, IPEA/404 and IPEA/416;
- IPEA - new ePCT Actions to draft and establish the reports IPEA/408 and IPEA/409;
- IPEA - task list entries for "Draft IPEA/408" and "Draft IPEA/409";
- IPEA - additional reports for the timeliness of the IPRP and the translation of the IPRP; and,
- ePCT Web Services improvements.

Offices are encouraged to provide their feedback and to discuss their needs with the PCT International Cooperation Division [PCTICD@wipo.int](mailto:PCTICD@wipo.int). Questions about the current ePCT system can be sent to the PCT eServices Support Team via the 'Contact Us' link.

## New ePCT landing page with integrated access to information and user guides

The ePCT home page within the WIPO IP Portal has been improved to provide general information about ePCT and provide a guided access to the facilities in ePCT for Offices. Select the ePCT for Offices tab (just below the main menu bar and find easy access points to the ePCT Office user documentation and functions.



## Office comments regarding an international application viewable by Office role

Office comments that can be added to an IA, that are displayed at the top of the page when an IA is opened, have been identified by Office role and can be expanded/closed as needed to make them easier for Office users to read.

## Improved behavior when saving draft ePCT Actions

When an ePCT Action is saved as a draft and then closed, the focus remains on the ePCT Actions section that is expanded by default with the saved Draft ePCT Action(s) visible.

## Improved search for international applications in ePCT

Searching for international applications in ePCT has been improved:

- Processed documents not transmitted to the IB; a new filter has been implemented to allow Offices, where ePCT processing is enabled, to validate across all relevant applications that there are no unsent documents in status "Processed";
- Published applications; it is now possible to search by publication number; and,
- International applications with draft IPEA reports; an additional search option has been added to search for international applications with a draft IPEA/408 and/or a draft IPEA/409. A column that displays the selected IPEA has also been added to the search results and task listings of international applications.

## Additional form translations available

The following additional translations for forms are available, or will be shortly available, in ePCT:

- In Arabic, RO/106, RO/110, RO/111, RO/123, RO/126, RO/136, RO/141, RO/152, ISA/217, ISA/224;
- In German, RO/124, RO/125, RO/132, RO/136, RO/146, RO/151;
- In Portuguese, RO/103, RO/104, RO/108, RO/109, RO/110, RO/111, RO/123, , RO/151, ISA/217, ISA/224;
- In Russian, RO/110, RO/111, RO/136, RO/146, RO/151, ISA/202, ISA/220, ISA/206.

## RO - updates to the user interface for form RO/106

The ePCT Action to generate the RO form RO/106, the invitation to correct defects in the international application, has been updated to add certain types of defects that have been requested by receiving Offices and remove the possibility to select defects that can be easily corrected by the IB when preparing the application for publication.

## ISA - improvement of the Standardized Clauses function in Written Opinions

The function to use standardized clauses in boxes V and VIII of the written opinion (ISA/237), or in the Chapter II reports IPEA/408, IPEA/409, has been improved to enable the use of standardized clauses in different languages. A new dropdown menu has been added in the SC (Standardized Clauses) window enabling the selection of different languages by examiners (EN, FR, ES, PT, RU, CN, AR). By default, the pre-selected language appearing upon opening the SC window is the language of the written opinion (Chapter I) or the language of the report (Chapter II) indicated in Box I. Where a translation into the the language of the written opinion (Chapter I) or the language of the report (Chapter II) is not available, English will be displayed by default.

## ISA - lookup of patent family members

A look-up function already exists for importing citations, retrieved from INPADOC, into the citation panel of the ISA/206 and the ISA/210. In order to avoid the strenuous task of manually entering the list of patent family members via the currently available button "Add patent family members", a "look-up" button has also been added to retrieve the available patent family members from ESPACENET.

**ISA - upload of rectified sequence listing enabled**

The upload of a rectified sequence listing has been added to the document types that can be selected in the dropdown list when uploading documents.

**ISA - improved listing of history of saved drafts for ISA/210 and/or ISA/237**

The listing of the save draft history has been improved through the addition of an expand/collapse arrow.

**IPEA - routing of IPEA documents for processing in ePCT has been enabled**

The routing of IPEA documents has been enabled for processing in ePCT by IPEAs that have opted to use ePCT processing in its capacity as IPEA. This means that new Demands created in ePCT, rather than being sent to the IPEA via EDI, will appear in the task list in ePCT for the IPEA.

**IPEA - new ePCT Actions to create the IPEA forms IPEA/402, IPEA/404 and IPEA/416**

In addition to the existing IPEA/424 ePCT Action, ePCT Actions have been added to the dropdown menu for IPEA users to select and create the forms IPEA/402, IPEA/404 and IPEA/416:

- IPEA/402, the notification of receipt of Demand by competent International Preliminary Examining Authority under PCT Rules 59.3(e), 61.1(b) first sentence and Administrative Instructions, Section 601(a);
- IPEA/404, invitation to correct defects in the Demand under PCT Rule 60.1
- IPEA/416, Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Report on Patentability under PCT Rule 71.1
- IPEA/424, communication in cases for which no other form is applicable

ePCT offers the possibility to send these forms to the applicant by email through ePCT. These straightforward forms have been implemented as ePCT Actions that do not offer the possibility to save draft versions.

Furthermore, the forms have been implemented in the following languages:

- the IPEA/402 has been made available in Chinese, English and Japanese;
- the IPEA/404 and the RO/105 have been made available in Chinese and English;
- the IPEA/416, been made available in Chinese, English, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian;
- and the IPEA/424 has been made available in Chinese, English, German, Portuguese and Russian.

**IPEA – new ePCT Actions to draft and establish the IPEA/408 and IPEA/409**

ePCT Actions have been added, to the dropdown menu for IPEA users to select, draft and establish the IPEA/408 and IPEA/409:

- IPEA/408, the written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority under PCT Rule 66.
- IPEA/409, the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty) under PCT Article 36 and PCT Rule 70

The IPEA/408 and IPEA/409 have been implemented as ePCT Actions for which the examiner can save a draft, send and subsequently draft and transmit further versions of the document. The IPEA/408 and IPEA/409 ePCT Actions benefit from functions to reuse “Standard Clauses” and the ability to send the form to the agent or applicant directly from ePCT by email. Furthermore, to assist with drafting, a sticky bar

## ePCT 4.9 for Offices – What's New?

with shortcuts has been added to enable easy movement between sections of the document and provide good visibility of the validations. To facilitate returning to complete an IPEA/408 or IPEA/409, drafts are reported in the ePCT task list for the Office.

Furthermore, the IPEA/408 and IPEA/409 have been implemented in the following languages:

- the IPEA/408 has been made available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian;
- the IPEA/409 and the RO/105 have been made available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian.

## IPEA – additional reports for the timeliness of the IPRP and the translation of the IPRP

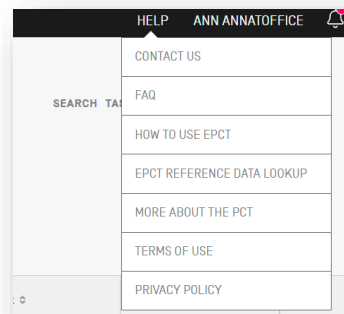
In addition to the existing report listing unsent IPEAs, reports have been added to make information available to IPEAs regarding the timeliness of the establishment of the IPRP and its translation. In addition to making these reports available in ePCT, IPEAs will receive quarterly notifications advising, at the end of each quarter that the report should be run to display the latest performance data.

## ePCT Web Services improvements

In this release, a number improvements have been implemented in ePCT Web Services that provide Offices with configured secure connections the ability to automate PCT workflows. For information regarding the possible use of these services, please contact [PCTICD@wipo.int](mailto:PCTICD@wipo.int).

## Help and F.A.Q

The ePCT landing page provides access to the ePCT Office documentation, and once you are logged in ePCT, you can either open directly the web page containing 'ePCT Documentation' and 'FAQ' or click the link 'Contact us' to access the ePCT support contact page:



The [ePCT documentation](#) page offers links to bookmarks in the [ePCT for Offices User Guide](#) and to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) for Offices.

**[END OF DOCUMENT]**