

Study visit to the European Patent Office

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Entry level

Date	27 October 2023
Code	AV02-2023
Level	Entry
Format	- self-paced preparation (including online courses, videos and podcasts) - live online session with Q&A

This digital study visit to the European Patent Office gives participants a hands-on experience of the EPO, and an insight into the work of EPO examiners. This session will focus on the very actual topic of plastic recycling, following a recent study of the Chief Economist Office of the EPO.

Mechanical waste sorting may be considered as the initial step for providing a higher value to (plastic) waste gained from household or industry. Patenting innovations in packaging to ease subsequent waste treatment (e.g., labels implicitly disclosing a particular material composition, the collection/sorting, and the separation of waste) appear of paramount importance. This may equally include vision systems complemented by AI-assisted systems to foster waste classification at automatic waste processing stations, and increase the general quality waste flows even before considering further mechanical or chemical treatment to enable reuse. Improving the quality of waste flows is a long ongoing process which in turn helps improving the level of plastic recycling itself. Such solutions allow plastic recyclers to increase the quality of secondary raw materials and convert the otherwise poor-quality streams into enhanced quality second-use plastics.

After a brief introduction to the Organisation, participants will learn more about the study, and the role that Europe and the US are playing as leaders in the plastics field. Two EPO examiners will then provide insights on peculiar aspects of plastics-related patents, when it comes to both searching and granting. Participants will have the chance to interact with the speakers live during the event, thanks to the new platform SpatialChat.

Self-paced preparation

Prior to the live online session, participants are invited to **study the preparatory material provided** in the European Patent Academy's e-learning centre:

- [The EPO annual review 2022](#) (video)
- [Patents for tomorrow's plastics](#) (key findings and full study)
- [The European patent system from filing to grant](#) (online course)
- [From application to patent: patentability requirements at the EPO](#) (online course)
- [Work of a patent examiner – a closer look](#) (video)
- [Patents in progress](#) (podcasts)
- [Patent Index 2022](#) (video)

Live online session

TBC 2023

Moderator: Giuseppe Bongiovanni, European Patent Academy

14.00 Welcoming address

Giuseppe Bongiovanni

Presentations

Sharing insights in the world of the EPO

14.10 The EPO: Europe's leading international organisation for innovation and technology
Giuseppe Bongiovanni

14.30 Europe and the US: meet the leaders in plastic recycling and alternative plastics
Ilja Rudyk, Chief Economist Office

14.50 Q&A

15.00 Advanced Mechanical Treatment of waste in general, progresses: an examiner's view
Jean-Luc Dupuis, examiner
Francesca Tassinari, examiner

15.30 Q&A

15.50 Final remarks
Giuseppe Bongiovanni