

Candidate Support Programme impact

Building a more inclusive, skilled and sustainable patent profession

Broader reach across Europe

30 Member States participated in 2025 – **9 for the first time** (AT, CH, ES, FI, FR, DK, IT, IE, NL)

National Patent Offices of Member States promote and select candidates

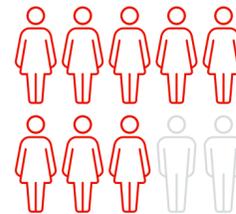


32 candidates selected **3x** the average intake of previous years

Closing the capacity gap in the patent profession

Fewer than 50% of practitioners are **EQE-qualified in 22 member states** – showing a capacity gap

Empowering women in IP



82%

of applicants are women
unlocking opportunities for underrepresented talent

Addressing gender imbalance:



Women make up less than 50% of patent attorneys in 31 member states

Structured support for EQE success

Comprehensive training, tailored coaching and financial support at every stage



3-year programme aligned with modular EQE format

(Module F ▶ M1/M2 ▶ M3/M4)

Fully online delivery ensures accessibility and work-life balance



Sustainable, self-supporting community

“Giving back” principle: alumni mentor the next generation of candidates



Candidate Support Programme fosters a resilient, skilled and diverse IP community

Strategic impact

Contributing directly to EPO Strategic Plan 2028

Quality at source



Diversity and inclusion

Digital and geographic accessibility



Expanding to EPAC in 2026 – further broadening impact