EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Annual Review 2023

Goal 1
Build an engaged, knowledgeable and collaborative organisation

Goal 2
Simplify and modernise IT systems

Goal 3
Deliver high-quality products and services efficiently

Goal 4
Build a European patent system and network with a global impact

Goal 5
Secure long-term sustainability

#epoannualreview
Read the full report
Goal 1: Build an engaged, knowledgeable and collaborative organisation

**Attracting Talent**
- 100 new examiners recruited
  - 38% women
  - 17 nationalities

**PAN-EUROPEAN SEAL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME**
- 79 new talented graduates
  - 70% women
  - 22 nationalities

**EPO Staff More Diverse Than Ever**
- 35 nationalities
- 35% women
- 28% women managers
- 45% women (up from 30% in 2019)

**Professional Development**
- 91% of EPO staff covered by a tailored development programme by the end of 2023
- 24 hours instructor-led learning per employee
- 8 iLearn days with 10,575 participants

**Key Benefits of New Ways of Working**
- Flexibility to balance family and work commitments
- Work more effectively
- Improve health and well-being

All new recruits (core business and corporate areas) with 27 nationalities.

Read the full report.
**Goal 2: Simplify and Modernise IT Systems**

**Digital Transformation**
- **99.5%** of patent grant actions digitalised by the end of 2023.
- **75%** reduction in manual re-routing of files thanks to AI-powered Digital File Allocation.
- **93%** of EPO patent examiners who use the EPO search engine.
- Modernised human resources management system.
- New financial systems allowing activity-based budgeting.

**Use of MyEPO Services**
- **90%** of users communicating with us electronically now use MyEPO.
- **1,611** active Mailboxes (+288% over 2019).
- **7,584** patent attorneys (up from 2,332 in 2019).

**Continuously Strengthening Information Security**
- More secure and convenient online authentication for our users.
- Cybersecurity education programmes and campaigns for staff.
- Successful ISO 27001 surveillance audit.

#epoannualreview

---

**New Website**
Optimised for all devices.

Read the full report.
Goal 3: DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES EFFICIENTLY

**KEY QUALITY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **Search reports and written opinions now reviewed by the three division members**
- **New Harmonisation Dashboard now helps further align examination practices**
- **20% reduction in opposition backlog compared to pre-pandemic levels**
- **86.4% of search, examination and opposition standard files produced on time**

**SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF QUALITY**

- **SACEPO Working Party on Quality, now with 74 members from 42 countries**
- **>50 meetings with top applicants and user associations**

**WORLD’S MOST EXTENSIVE PRIOR ART COLLECTION**

- **153 million patent publications** (up from 146 million in 2022)

**STAKEHOLDER QUALITY ASSURANCE PANELS (SQAPS)**

- **Provided valuable input into the EPO’s Quality Action Plan 2024**
- **24 European patent attorneys from 11 countries**
- **New topics in 2023: Search and written opinions, Intermediate communications**

---

#epoannualreview
Goal 4 BUILD A EUROPEAN PATENT SYSTEM AND NETWORK WITH A GLOBAL IMPACT

WORKING AGREEMENTS ON SEARCH CO-OPERATION

Now with 17 member states
Up to 400 SMEs, universities, research centres and individual inventors in each state can benefit from an 80% reduction in the search fee

IT CO-OPERATION WITH OUR MEMBER STATES

Front Office now used in 5 states
1,000+ examiners in 27 countries use ANSERA-based SEARCH

VISITS TO ONLINE PATENT INFORMATION SERVICES

11.9 million per month

GLOBAL IMPACT, 2019-2023

Market for European patents now covers ¼ of world’s population (+150% / +1.3 billion people)

By January 2024, patent protection in up to 45 countries on basis of single European patent application

13 reinforced partnerships (up from 2 in 2019)

UNITARY PATENT SYSTEM LAUNCHED

Removes last barrier to a single European technology market

17,000 requests for unitary effect by year-end

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

EUROPEAN PATENT ACADEMY
26,480 participants (+20% on 2022)
53% women

EUROPEAN QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (EQE)
2,149 candidates (+20% on 2022)
61 nationalities

EUROPEAN PATENT ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATION (EPAC) (2022 & 2023)
850 candidates from 38 countries around the world

#epoannualreview
Goal 5: Secure Long-term Sustainability

Launch of Observatory on Patents and Technology

- Globally accessible digital platform
- Provides valuable insights into technology trends for informed decision-making
- Facilitates transparent and open discussions on innovation
- Deep Tech Finder connects Europe’s investment-ready deep tech startups with investors
- Technology platforms running on Espacenet covering areas such as firefighting and clean energy

European Inventor Award and Young Inventors Prize

Award ceremony, Valencia, Spain

25 000+ viewers, 28 million+ social media users reached

European Inventor Award

24 activities granted

European Inventor Network

11 countries

Estimated 3 500 children and young adults reached

Environmental Sustainability 2019-2023

-56% carbon footprint (amount of CO₂ is reduced by > 250 000 trees in a year)
-32% overall energy consumption in our buildings
-89% reduction in sheets of paper procured

ISO Certification Maintained

Quality management
Occupational health and safety management
Information security management

The report highlights efforts to secure long-term sustainability, including the launch of an observatory on patents and technology, a European Inventor Award, and various sustainability metrics.