

EPC States 2018 At-A-Glance

Maucher Jenkins

Patents

Trade Marks

Designs

Since 1st October 2010, there are 38 EPC Contracting States.

For European patent applications filed after that date (and EP designations of PCT applications filed after that date), all these states can be designated by payment of a single designation fee.

To assist clients in choosing which states to pursue, Maucher Jenkins has prepared the following rank-ordered table showing the approximate GDPs and populations of the EPC states. We also show countries that are signatories to the London Agreement (meaning reduced translation requirements).

Country	GDP (\$bn)	Population (millions)	English	London Agreement
Germany	3685	83		*
UK	2625	66	*	*
France	2584	67		*
Italy	1938	61		
Spain	1314	47		
Turkey	850	80		
Netherlands	826	17		*
Switzerland & Lichtenstein	679	8		*
Sweden	539	10		*
Poland	525	38		
Norway	396	5		*
Belgium	495	11	No translation	
Austria	417	9		
Ireland	334	4	*	*
Denmark	324	6		*
Finland	253	6		*
Portugal	218	10		
Czech Republic	213	11		
Romania	211	20		
Greece	201	11		
Hungary	152	10		*
Slovakia	96	5		
Luxembourg	62	0.5	No translation	*
Bulgaria	57	8		
Croatia	55	4		*
Slovenia	49	2		*
Lithuania	47	3		*

Serbia	41	7		
Latvia	30	2		*
Estonia	26	1.3		
Iceland	24	0.3		*
Cyprus	21	0.8		
Albania	13	3		*
Malta	13	0.4	*	
Macedonia	11	2		*
Monaco	6	0.03	No validation requirements	
San Marino	2	0.03		
Totals	19,332	619		

Whether a given state can be included in an EP application at the time of entering the European phase depends on the date of filing of the PCT application (not the date of EP entry). Here we list, in date order, the Member States and Extension States that can be included in a European Patent Application (or International Patent Application) filed within the last eight years.

Filing Date (on or after)	Member States	Extension States
1 November 2000	Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom	Albania*, Latvia*, Lithuania*, Macedonia*, Romania*, Slovenia*
1 July 2002	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia	
1 December 2002	Slovenia*	
1 January 2003	Hungary	
1 March 2003	Romania*	
1 March 2004	Poland	
1 April 2004		Croatia*
1 November 2004	Iceland	Serbia and Montenegro+
1 December 2004	Lithuania, Latvia*	Bosnia and Herzegovina
1 March 2007	Malta	
1 January 2008	Croatia*, Norway	
1 January 2009	Macedonia	
1 March 2010		Montenegro
1 May 2010	Albania*	
1 July 2010	San Marino	
1 October 2010	Serbia*	

*No longer an Extension State after becoming a Member State

+Montenegro proclaimed independence from Serbia with effect from 3 June 2006. Montenegro is not an 'Extension State' and for applications filed on or after 4 June 2006 Montenegro is not covered, but it is possible to extend to Montenegro for applications filed after 1 March 2010. Kosovo is currently not a member of the EPO; [please enquire for more details](#).