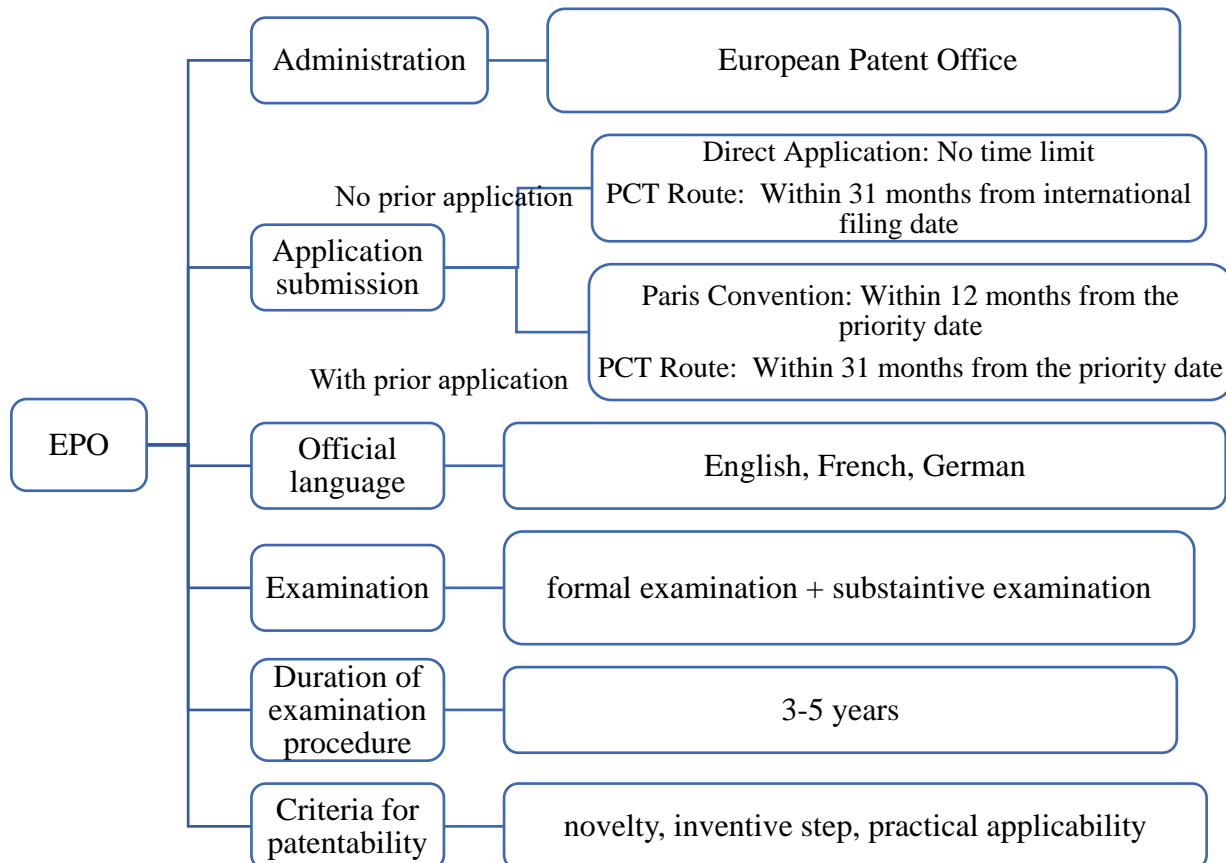


Guidance on Patent Application for Invention in EPO

I. Overview



II. Application Documents Requested

Document set on application

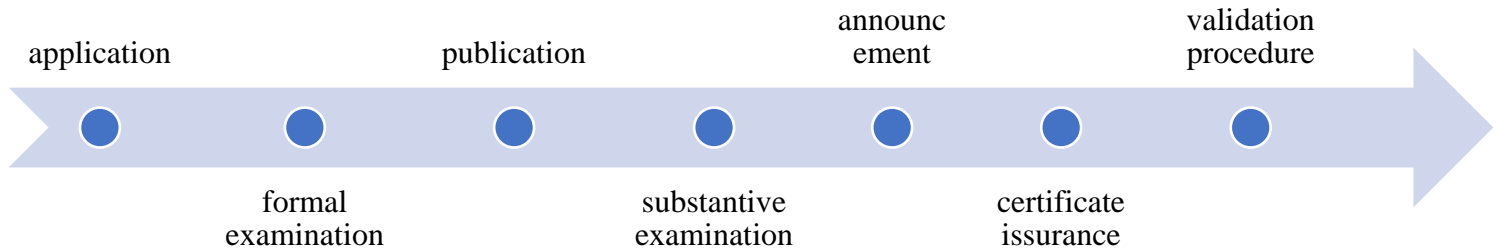
- a request to grant a patent;
- a description in any language (no claims are needed) or a reference to a previously filed application;
- information on the applicant(s);
- the translation of the application into one of the official languages must be submitted within two months from the filing date; After the decision to grant a patent is issued, the patent claims must be translated into two other official languages.

A certified copy of the **Priority Document**

If the applicant is not the inventor or not the sole inventor, a **Designation** stating inventor's name and address shall be filed in a separate document.



III. Application Process



IV. Validity Term

- The term of the European patent is 20 years from the filing date.
- Annuities apply to pending applications and are payable from the third year of the filing date. A European patent that has been granted is eligible to be treated as a regular national patent in the designated country to pay the annuities once the validation procedure is completed in that country.

V. Note

- The European patent is valid automatically on the territory of Belgium, Germany, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Ireland, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. It is necessary to conduct the procedure of validation if the applicant wishes to obtain patent protection in other European Convention member states. The procedure of validation refers to the process of making the corresponding request in the designated country, submitting the translation in that country's language and paying the maintenance fee.
- Validation of a European patent should be performed in such member states of the European Patent Convention as Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, San Marino, Turkey, as well as in Albania, Serbia. The effect of a European patent can be extended to Bosnia and Herzegovina which is not party to the EPC but has signed extension agreements with EPO.

