



European  
Commission

# A Single Market for Patents: the Unitary Patent system

June 2023

The Unitary Patent system will help companies, especially small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), make the most of their inventions through a single, simplified procedure for obtaining and enforcing patent protection across the participating countries. The Unitary Patent system fosters innovation and competitiveness in key strategic fields, supporting the EU's green and digital transition and resilience.

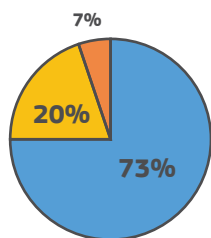
## Facts and figures



Initially, the Unitary Patent will be applicable in **17 Member States**, covering around **80% of the EU's GDP**



In 2022, the EPO granted 81 754 patents. The top 5 fields for patent applications were: **digital communication** (16 705); **medical technology** (15 683); **computer technology** (15 193); **electrical machinery, apparatus, energy** (13 951) and **pharmaceuticals** (9 310)

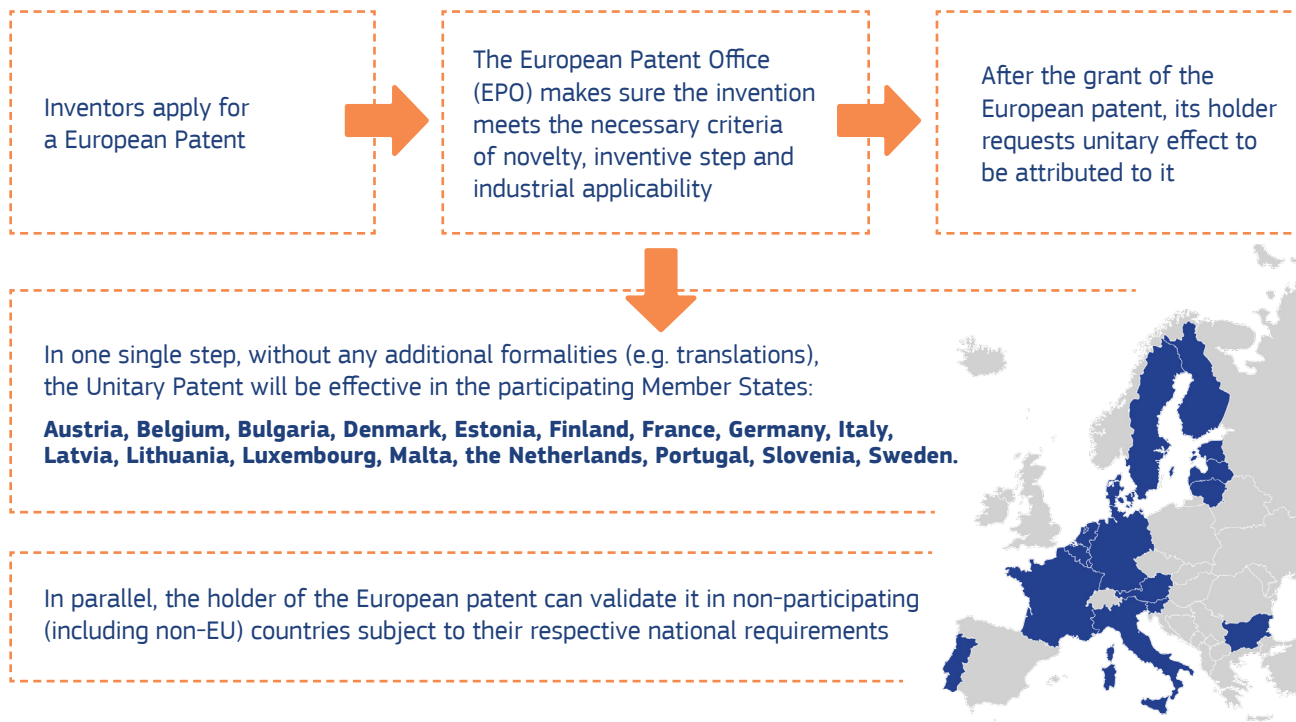


**73%** of patent applications were filed by large companies, **20%** by individual inventors and SMEs, and **7%** by universities and public research organisations



A **Unitary Patent will cost less than €5,000** in renewal fees over 10 years compared to around €29,000 currently for renewal in the participating Member States

## How will it work?



## Benefits of the Unitary Patent



**Reduced protection and enforcement costs in the EU**



**Simplified procedure**



**Higher legal certainty**



**Reduced gap between the costs of patent protection in the EU and in major trade partners, i.e. USA or Japan**



**Enhanced innovation and economic growth**

## The Unified Patent Court

The Unified Patent Court (UPC) offers a single, specialised patent jurisdiction.

It consists of a Court of First Instance, a Court of Appeal and a Registry. The Court of First Instance is composed of a central division (with its seat in Paris and a section in Munich) and several local and regional divisions. The Court of Appeal is located in Luxembourg.

The UPC will handle litigation relating not only to the new Unitary Patents but also to non-unitary European patents. During an initial transitional period of at least 7 years, the holder of a non-unitary European patent may opt out of the competence of the UPC. If this is done litigation may only be initiated before national courts.



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PDF ISBN 978-92-68-04170-3 doi:10.2873/788502 ET-09-23-261-EN-N