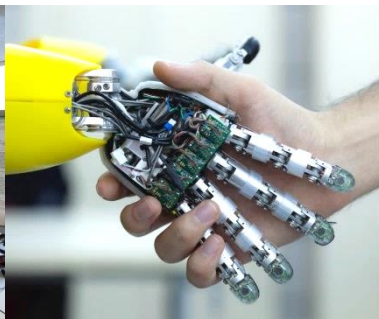


# The Role of Institutions in the Commercialisation of Research Results

How the EPO and the EPA support innovation in universities



# Contents

- The European Patent Office
- Patent information
- European Patent Academy and awareness-raising events

# Our mission

As the patent office for Europe, we support innovation, competitiveness and economic growth across Europe through a commitment to high quality and efficient services delivered under the European Patent Convention.



# Today ... an area with some 700m inhabitants

## 38 European member states

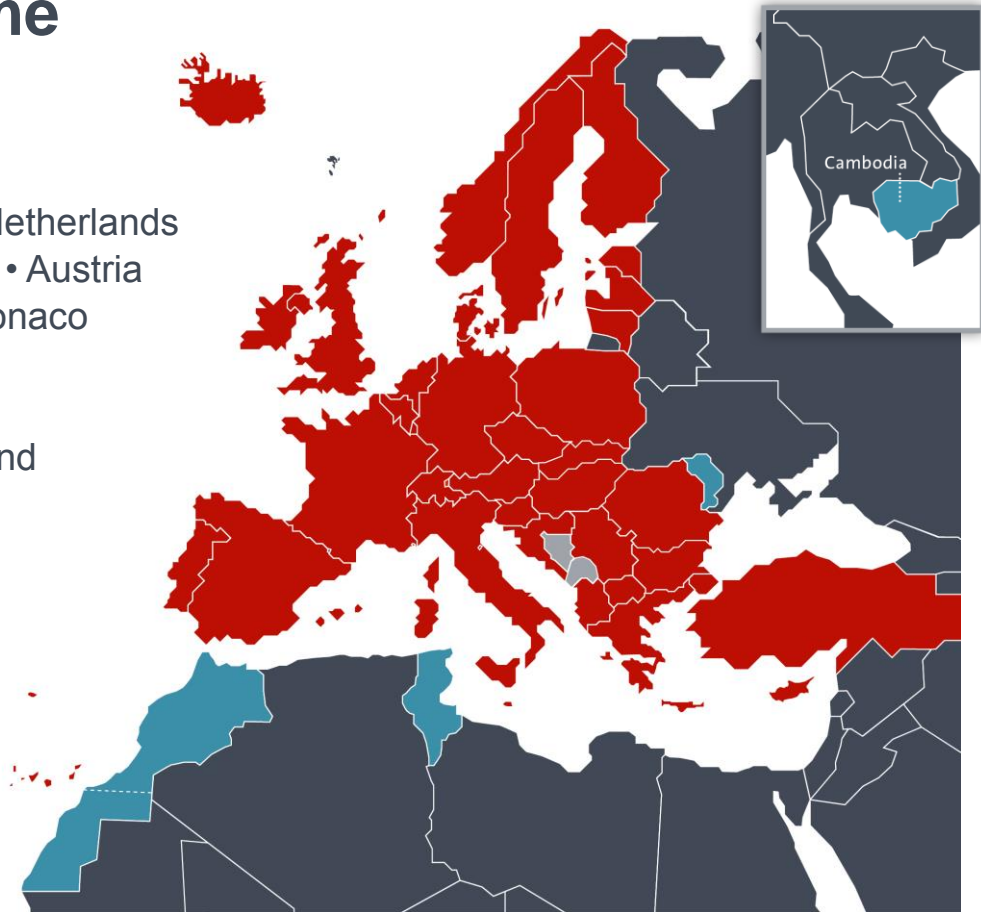
Belgium • Germany • France • Luxembourg • Netherlands  
Switzerland • United Kingdom • Sweden • Italy • Austria  
Liechtenstein • Greece • Spain • Denmark • Monaco  
Portugal • Ireland • Finland • Cyprus • Turkey  
Bulgaria • Czech Rep. • Estonia • Slovakia  
Slovenia • Hungary • Romania • Poland • Iceland  
Lithuania • Latvia • Malta • Croatia • Norway  
Former Yugoslav Rep. Macedonia  
San Marino • Albania • Serbia

## Two European extension states

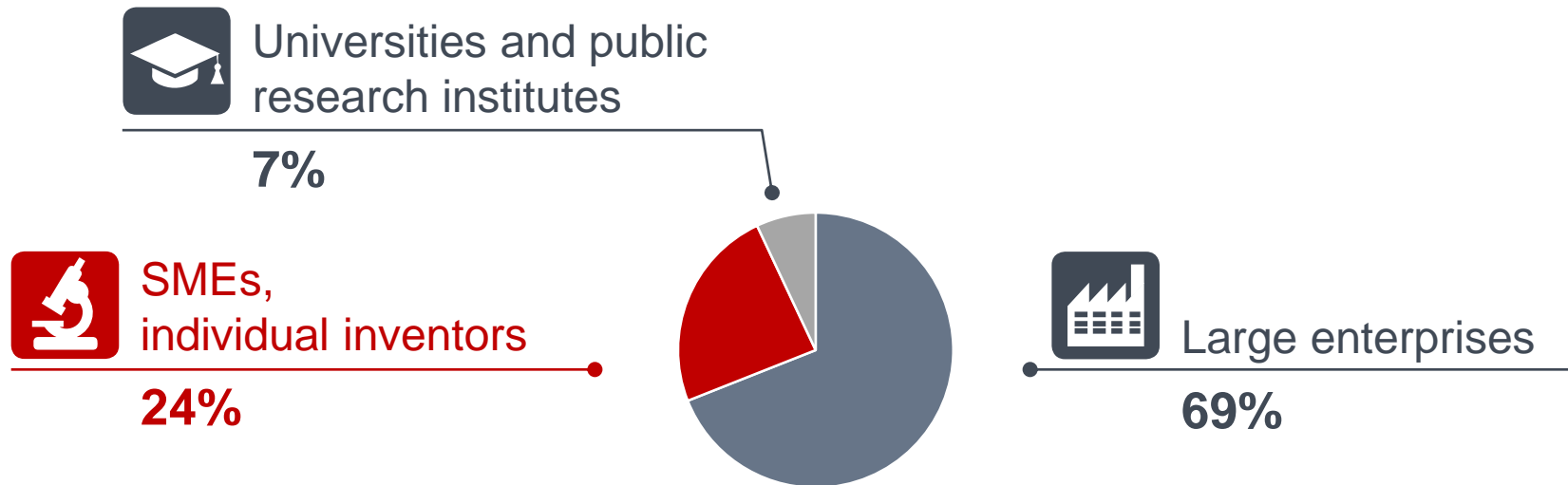
Bosnia and Herzegovina • Montenegro

## Four validation states

Republic of Moldova • Morocco • Tunisia  
Cambodia



# SMEs and universities are important actors for innovation in Europe



The evaluation is based on a representative sample of patent applications treated by the EPO in 2017.

It refers to the European Commission definition of SMEs (2003/361/EC). Data available in government and commercial databases as well as on company internet sites are analysed to allocate the applicant to one of the four categories. Depending on the company policy, the cross-ownership criteria can be difficult to evaluate. To ensure that the results remain statistically significant, no analysis per country or industrial sector is provided.

# IPR ownership and revenue per employee by firm size

**Difference in revenue per employee  
of IPR owners  
compared with non-owners of IPR**

**Large companies**

+ 4.0%

**SMEs**

**+ 31.7%**

**Total**

+ 28.0%

# High quality search and opinion as early as possible



## Deliverables

---

- **Search reports** and thorough **written opinions** assessing the patentability of the invention
- **Top-up searches** at the start of substantive examination to source documents published after the initial search



## Objectives

---

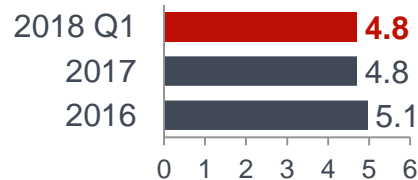
- Identify as early as possible the **documents most relevant** for subsequent prosecution
- Enable the applicant to assess **the merits** of the invention early on
- Get it right the first time!

# Timeliness, an integral part of quality

## Search reports

Delivering search reports within **6 months** of receipt

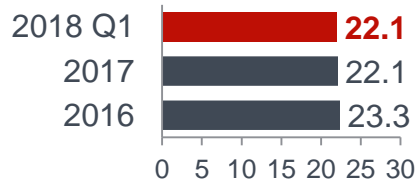
2018 Goal for Search timeliness: **6.0 months**



## Examination time

Reducing examination times to just **12 months** on average by 2020

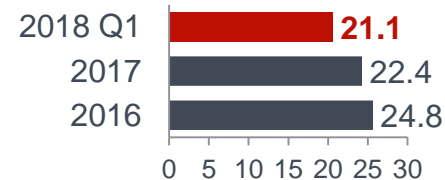
2018 Goal for Examination timeliness: **20.0 months**



## Opposition time

Completing oppositions in **15 months** on average by 2020

2018 Goal for duration of Oppositions: **20.0 months**



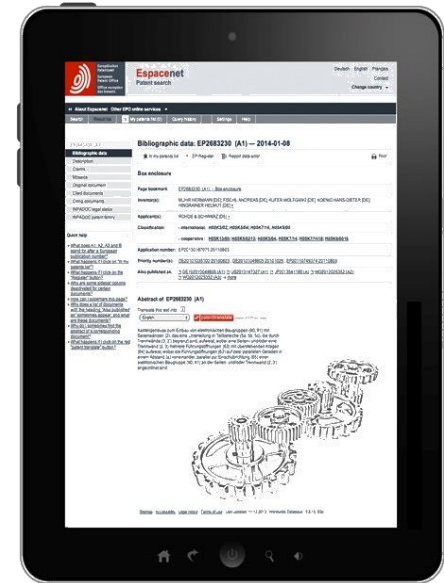


# Contents

- The European Patent Office
- Patent information
- European Patent Academy and awareness-raising events

# Publication

- Patent applications are published on Espacenet, **18 months after the date of filing** (or earliest priority date)
- The **search report** is also published
- Third parties can **submit observations** at any time prior to grant



► Over 100 million patent documents are accessible to the public on **epo.org/espacenet**

# The public can use patent documents to ...

- **Find out** what technology already exists and build on it
- **Keep track** of what other inventors and companies are doing
- **Avoid** infringing other people's patent rights
- **Check out** where an invention is patented, and where it is not



# Largest prior-art databases in the world



## World's largest collection of documents

- Over 1.3 billion technical records of patent and non-patent literature
- Over 50 million patent documents of Asian origin
- Over 3 million standards-related documents



## CPC<sup>1</sup> becoming the world standard for refined classification



## EPOQUE search tool: a benchmark used by examiners worldwide

- In 48 patent offices, including Australia, Brazil and China



## Machine translation from 31 languages into English

<sup>1</sup> Cooperative Patent Classification: classification system for patent documents jointly developed by the EPO and the US Patent and Trademark Office.

# Contents

- The European Patent Office
- Patent information
- European Patent Academy and awareness-raising events

# European Patent Academy

The European Patent Academy is an institution of the European Patent Organisation which **coordinates** the EPO's **external training activities**.

## Foundation

Set up by decision of the Administrative Council dated 17 June 2004 (former International Academy integrated). The European Patent Academy has been **operational since January 2005**.

## Mission

Promoting and supporting **education and training** in patent-related Intellectual Property (IP)

# IP Program (DG 5.4.4)

Responsible for the European Patent Academy's **programme strategy**, **planning** and **content**.

Five areas:



**Academia**



**Innovation Support**



**Institutional Strengthening**



**Professional representatives**



**Judicial training**

# Support to universities, TTOs and research centres

- IP lectures, workshops, conferences
- Training and lecturing on demand
- Individual NPO awareness and training activities
- Pan-European Seal programme
- Associations and networks
  - *providing experts*
  - *IP session or workshops*
  - *financial contribution*



# Training packages on offer

- IPR workshop for researchers: “From research to business”
- IP management workshop based on CMR case studies
- Study visit scheme
- Online IPR course for researchers

# From research to business Workshop upon request

- Format: one or two day workshop
- In cooperation with universities, TTOs, Research institutes or NPO
- The European patent system: facts and figures
- Introduction to intellectual property rights + exercises
- Steps towards a granted patent
- Idea? Think patents (respecting timeline is crucial/coverage of patent) + exercises
- **Searching for patents: introduction to espacenet + exercises**
- From inventions to successful spin-off: case studies
- Ways of IP exploitation

# Products – IP teaching material



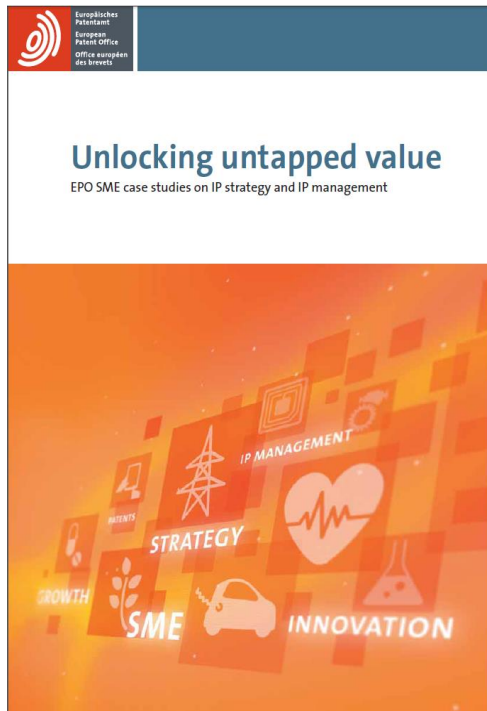
- IP Teaching kit
  - IP Basics
  - IP Advanced Part I
  - IP Advanced Part II
  - IP Search tools
  - IP Management
- Course Design Manual
- CMR case studies

# Products – CMR Case Studies

- Academic analysis of 8 very different situations of IP exploitation in industry and academia
- Produced with University of Berkeley and its California Management Review in co-operation with the EPO
- Summer 2013




# The EPO SME case studies



Demonstrate that European SMEs:

- Can create **strategic value** from patents
- Need to know **when and how to use patents** to support their business
- Will benefit from the **Unitary Patent** and Unified Patent Court
- [www.epo.org/sme](http://www.epo.org/sme) – download of case studies

# Lithoz




Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets

EPO SME CASE STUDIES | LITHOZ

## 3D printing opens up a new chapter for ceramics

A spin-off from the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien), Lithoz specialises in the 3D printing (additive manufacturing) of high-performance ceramics. Thanks to the university's far-sighted IP strategy, this Austrian company is able to offer complete systems comprising lithographic printers and materials. Staff are encouraged to develop – and are rewarded for coming up with – new and patentable ideas. For Lithoz, not every invention has to be ground-breaking to be worth patenting, and the company is now focussing on building up its own patent portfolio to strengthen its market position.

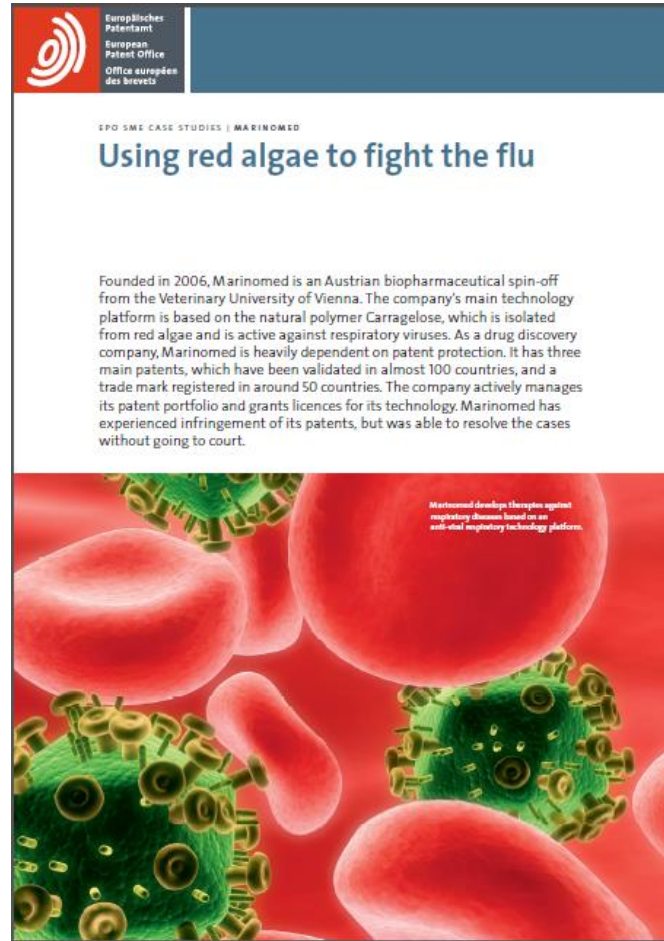
3D-printed sensor housings, impellers and gears for industrial applications



- A university spin-off success story:
  - TU Wien developed 3D printing technology in co-operation with *dental* company Ivoclar...
  - BUT secured exploitation rights for *non-dental* applications enabling the start-up formation
- International expansion facilitated by Ivoclar's broad patent portfolio
- Lithoz is now growing its own patent base through innovation and acquisitions

# Marinomed

- Flexible licensing models
- IP specialist early in R&D
- Negotiation
- Litigation as last resort
- Trademarks



# Products – Awareness material



- **Brochure: Research? Think patents**
  - a summary of why IP matters to researchers
  - targeting mainly researchers

Research? Think patents





# Products – e-learning offer for researchers

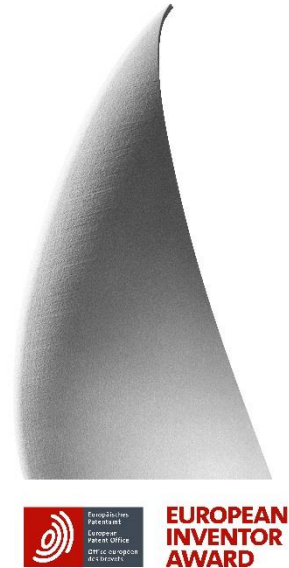
- **Online IPR course** for researchers in cooperation with EPO in three sessions “From research to business” upon request
  - **A four-hours self-paced training course:**
    - “Think patents: the value of patent documentation for innovation and research”
    - Includes three case studies from research results: use patents!
  - **e-learning centre at the EPO:** <https://e-courses.epo.org>
- ## Webinars

# EPO Research programme

- Financial support to high quality research projects (100.000€)
- Encourages more academic research on the role of patents in the European economy
- Yearly selection of new projects
- Selection process involves review process by external academic scholars
- Open to scholars from various disciplines: economics, law, management, and data sciences
- Launched: 1 March 2017

# Raising awareness – European Inventor Award

- Honours **outstanding inventors**
- **Five categories** and an **international jury** of experts
- **Popular Prize**
- Held each year in a different city in Europe
- **14<sup>th</sup> edition** in June 2019



▶ **A major event with worldwide media impact**

## Patenting Artificial Intelligence

One-day conference at the EPO

30 May 2018  
European Patent Office, Munich  
[epo.org/AI2018](http://epo.org/AI2018)



## Patenting Blockchain

One-day conference at the EPO

4 December 2018  
European Patent Office, The Hague  
[epo.org/Blockchain2018](http://epo.org/Blockchain2018)



# Need more information?

**Visit** [epo.org](http://epo.org)

## **Follow us on**



[facebook.com/europeanpatentoffice](https://facebook.com/europeanpatentoffice)



[twitter.com/EPOorg](https://twitter.com/EPOorg)



[youtube.com/EPOfilms](https://youtube.com/EPOfilms)



[linkedin.com/company/european-patent-office](https://linkedin.com/company/european-patent-office)

**Contact us via** [epo.org/contact](http://epo.org/contact)