

European Patent Application timeline

Time (months)	1 1 1 1 1
0	File one of a German, French, and UK "priority founding" patent application
12	File European application
18	Application published (usually without search report)
18-24	Search report issued and published
24-30	File request for substantive examination (due 6m after publication of search)
36	First renewal fee due (whilst the application is pending)
36-48	The application enters substantive examination, First examination report issued, Response filed within (typically) 4 month period
48	Examiner issues OR Second examination report issued. Examination continues until refusal or grant.
	Grant fees and claims translations into FR & DE due
60+	Grant date starts the 9 month opposition period
	National validation due within 3 months of grant in any of the following territories or elect for a Unitary Patent covering the countries with an asterisk (*) in a single patent:
Albania Austria* Belgium* Bulgaria* Switzerland Cyprus Czech Rep.	Germany* Greece Lithuania* Norway Slovakia Denmark* Croatia Luxembourg* Poland Turkey Estonia* Hungary Latvia* Portugal* Spain Ireland Monaco Romania* "Extension" Finland* Iceland Malta* Serbia states: France* Italy* Netherlands* Sweden* Bosnia UK Liechtenstein North Macedonia Slovenia* and Hz.

It is also possible to obtain a patent covering Hong Kong, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, Cambodia and Georgia (and soon Costa Rica and Laos) via the European Patent system. If you are interested in patent protection in any of these territories, or protection in any European state, please contact us for more information.

This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

© Withers & Rogers LLP 2025 Version 1.2