

EPC States 2023 At-a-Glance



Maucher Jenkins Patents Trade Marks Designs

There are 40 states that are parties to the European Patent Convention, of which 17 can be covered in a single unitary patent enforceable by the new Unitary Patent Court.

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.

	GDP 2022 (\$bn)	Population (millions)	Unitary Patent January 2022	London Agreement	English
Germany	\$4,557	83.1	•	•	
UK	\$3,442	67		•	•
France	\$3,140	67.4	•	•	
Italy	\$2,272	59.2	•		
Spain	\$1,571	47.4			
Netherlands	\$1,071	17.5	•	•	
Switzerland & Lichtenstein	\$863	8.7		•	
Turkey	\$845	83.6			
Poland	\$720	37.8			
Sweden	\$661	10.4	•	•	
Belgium	\$619	11.6	•	•	No translation
Ireland	\$551	5		•	•
Austria	\$520	8.9	•		
Norway	\$458	54		•	
Denmark	\$415	5.8	•	•	
Romania	\$315	19.2			
Czech Republic	\$302	10.7			
Portugal	\$271	10.3	•		
Finland	\$257	5.5	•	•	
Greece	\$225	10.7			
Hungary	\$199	9.7		•	
<i>Morocco</i>	\$133	36.9		¹	
Slovakia	\$127	5.5			
Luxembourg	\$90	0.6	•	•	No translation
Bulgaria	\$84	6.9	•		
Croatia	\$69	4		•	
Lithuania	\$68	3	•	•	
Serbia	\$66	6.9			
Slovenia	\$65	2.1	•	•	
<i>Bosnia</i>	\$56	3.8			
<i>Tunisia</i>	\$45	11.8			
Latvia	\$41	1.9	•	•	
Estonia	\$40	1.3	•		
Cyprus	\$28	0.9			
<i>Cambodia</i>	\$28	16.7			
Iceland	\$27	0.4		•	
Malta	\$18	0.5	•		•
Albania	\$18	2.8		•	
North Macedonia	\$15	2.1		•	
<i>Moldova</i>	\$13	2.6			
Monaco	\$7	0.04		•	No translation
Montenegro	\$6	0.62			
San Marino	\$2	0.03			
Total GDP	\$24,320		\$14,189	\$16,631	\$4,726

¹ Morocco requires only that claims are filed in French

Population and GDP Source: <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/themes.html>

The extension states and validation states are indicated in italics.

Unitary Patent and UPC to start in June 2023

Our table shows the situation for a UPC start date of 1 June 2023. From that time, 17 of the EU member states can be included in a single registration of a Unitary Patent. If the application is in English, a translation of the entire application must be filed in any official language of the EU (e.g. Spanish, which is generally cheap and can be re-used for Spain).

We also show countries that are signatories to the London Agreement. These states generally have reduced translation requirements when validated through the traditional (non-unitary) route.

In addition, we include 1 extension state and 4 validation states. To extend protection to these states, a fee must be paid up-front at the time of filing or of EP phase entry. The extension states and validation states are indicated in italics.

Older applications (and their divisionals) may not cover all the states

There are some states for which protection through a European patent may not be available depending on the age of the application. In the case of an application derived from a PCT application, what matters is the filing date of the PCT application (not the date it entered the European phase). The following states joined on the dates shown and can only be validated for applications older than the stated date:

Hungary (1 Jan 2003); Romania (1 March 2003); Poland (1 March 2004);

Iceland (1 November 2004); Lithuania & Latvia (1 December 2004);

Malta (1 March 2007); Croatia & Norway (1 January 2008);

Macedonia (1 January 2009);

Albania (1 May 2010); San Marino (1 July 2010); Serbia (1 October 2010) and Montenegro (1 October 2022).

Kosovo is currently not a member of the EPC. Please enquire for more details.

London | Munich | Farnham | Cambridge | Edinburgh | Freiburg | Kulmbach | Basel | Beijing | Shenzhen

European Patent, Trade Mark & Design Attorneys | UK Chartered Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys | Solicitors (England & Wales, Ireland) | UK IP Litigators | German Patent Attorneys & Attorneys at Law

Maucher Jenkins® is the joint trading name of RGC Jenkins & Co in the UK (regulated by IPReg) and Maucher Jenkins Patentanwälte & Rechtsanwälte in Germany.

Maucher Jenkins Patentanwälte & Rechtsanwälte is a German civil law partnership (Gesellschaft bürgerlichen Rechts). Our offices in the UK and China are independent legal entities.

Partners of RGC Jenkins & Co: James Cross, Hugh Dunlop, Reuben Jacob, Felix Rummler, Holly Whitlock, Philip Treeby, Angela Fox, Katie Cameron,

Dr. Cornelius Mertzluft-Paufler, Dr. Michael Nielen, Handong Ran, Dr. Fiona Kellas, Tanya Buckley, Stuart Rowlands.

Partners of Maucher Jenkins Patentanwälte & Rechtsanwälte: Felix Rummler (Munich), Dr. Cornelius Mertzluft-Paufler (Freiburg), Dr. Michael Nielen (Freiburg),

Johannes Lange (Freiburg), Dr. Gerrit Schultz (Freiburg).