

European Patent Validation

The European Patent system provides companies with an important structure for protecting and exploiting their inventions in Europe. In order to help them to maximise the benefits of the system, while minimising cost and administrative hurdles, Novagraaf offers a number of tailored European Patent validation and portfolio management services. As a leader in intellectual property (IP) acquisition, management and enforcement in Europe, we can help you to effectively acquire and optimise your patent assets in the region.

What is European Patent validation?

Unlike the European Union Trade Mark (EUTM), which protects trademarks across the European Union on registration, a European Patent (EP) does not automatically deliver Europe-wide protection on grant. Instead, a EP will be filed first in one or more of the 38 member states of the European Patent Convention (see map), and then extended to other signatory countries via the EP validation process.

Core requirements: language translation

The process is subject to a number of important requirements and deadlines. In particular, companies seeking to validate their EP rights need to do so within three months of first grant and, depending on the country in question, adhere to certain translation requirements.

Group 1 – no translation requirements

Signatory countries that share an official language with the European Patent Office (English, French or German) no longer require the EP to be translated into their national language. This applies to: France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland/Liechtenstein and the UK.

Group 2 – claim translation only

All other signatory countries require the claims to be translated into their national languages as part of the validation process. Some of these countries also require a description in English.

Group 3 – full translation required

Non-signatory countries continue to require a full translation of the patent into their national language.



How we can help

Novagraaf's Europe-wide presence enables us to provide dedicated support to customers seeking to protect and enforce their IP rights in the region. We offer a complete EP validation process in all 38 signatory countries, and also help our customers to manage the administrative tasks involved in meeting validation deadline and translation requirements. Our services include:

Formalities management

Our experts take care of the validation requirements in every country you choose to designate. This includes liaising directly with the relevant national patent office on your behalf (via our network of local agents, where necessary). In addition, we offer a bulk processing service for the full EP validation process, so that you receive one detailed report for each patent asset and a single invoice.

Translation management

Companies seeking to validate their patents in countries requiring claim or full translation need access to specialised translators with the deep industry and scientific knowledge necessary to provide patent translations in their technical field. Our translation service will match you to the right translator for your industry sector and specific needs. To make certain that it is translated to the highest quality, our team of in-house patent experts will provide a second check, ensuring that it is faithful to the original text, and requirements of the designated countries.

Benefit from our economies of scale

Our heritage in the IP sector, as well as our Europe-wide reach, enables us to provide EP validation services at highly competitive prices and to obtain the best available rates for our customers.

We offer our customers a transparent billing model that sets out:

- The fees for our services (including local agents' fees, if applicable);
- The official validation fees to be paid to the national patent offices (if applicable); and
- Translation costs (if applicable).

This enables you to budget accurately for your EP validations.

Simple and easy to use

All you need to do is contact us at validations@novagraaf.com, providing the EP number and specifying the countries in which you wish to validate the patent. Our administrative team will contact you with a cost estimate and forward all the necessary documentation requiring your signature, in accordance with each country's national requirements, so that we can proceed with the matter on your behalf.

The cost estimate will be valid for 30 days, and we will proceed with the validations once payment has been received.

Why work with us?

Based on our extensive experience offering EP validations, we have developed a tried-and-tested service that minimises cost and administrative hurdles.

We can offer you:

- A centralised validation management service with a single point of contact;
- A fast and reliable procedure;
- Competitive and predictable costs; and
- An efficient EP portfolio management process that can be combined with our renewals service.

Get in touch

To find out more about Novagraaf's services and our pricing structure, or if you have any other questions about the EP validation process, please contact our experts by email at validations@novagraaf.com.