

EUROPEAN PATENT ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATION (EPAC)

DIRECTORATE CERTIFICATIONS | APRIL 2026

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OVERVIEW

- What is EPAC about
- Who is EPAC relevant for
- Why - benefits
- Why - performance drivers
- EPAC uptake since 2022
- How it works:
 - Exam modules
 - Register and enrol
 - Learn and prepare
- Links

WHAT IS EPAC ABOUT

- European **Patent Administration** Certification:
 - Core principles of European and international patent laws
 - Patent filing routes, deadlines, and fee structures
 - Managing patent applications from filing to grant and beyond
- Less focus on:
 - Search tools (Espacenet, Google Patents....)
 - Substantive examination (Novelty, Inventive Step, Clarity, Unity....)
 - Infringement and litigation
 - Legal and technology platforms

WHO IS EPAC RELEVANT FOR

- Early-career professionals looking to build a foundation in patent administration.
- Experienced **patent administrators** and **paralegals** aiming to formalise and expand their expertise
- Staff in patent offices and intellectual property departments
- IP specialists and innovation stakeholders in industry, start-ups, private practice and academia

Open to all; no restrictions to education, residence, or professional experience

WHY - BENEFITS

- **Official recognition:** Successful EPAC candidates published on EPO website, certifying highest standard of professional competence
- **Career:** Strengthens professional profile and employability
- **Skilled workforce:** Staff with proven knowledge of European and international patent administration reflect high standards and enhance trust
- **Operations, efficiency and quality** benefit from employees who can manage complex patent-related queries and processes
- **Talent development:** Attract and retain talent by supporting staff professional growth

WHY - PERFORMANCE DRIVERS

- **Knowledge:**
 - understanding entire patent ecosystem and impact of actions
 - deepens procedural knowledge
- **Skills:**
 - strengthens critical thinking
 - broadens expertise beyond daily tasks
- **Motivation:**
 - builds confidence of growing competence
 - fosters collaboration through shared experience
 - stay professionally “fit” in an evolving environment
 - recognition of pan-European expertise

EPAC UPTAKE SINCE 2022

Participation figures



- > 60 nationalities
- > 1800 registered
- > 140 candidates from NL

Successful candidates



477

passed EPAC



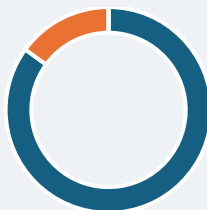
English
382

German
58

French
37

Gender

17%
male



83%
female

Workplace

Industry or
patent attorney

80%



Patent
offices
7%



other settings
(academia...)
13%

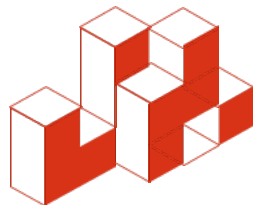


HOW IT WORKS: EXAM MODULES

- Flexible and modular certification path with four online exams that each earn an official EPO diploma when passed



Module 1



Modules 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = EPAC



Module 2



Module 3



Module 4

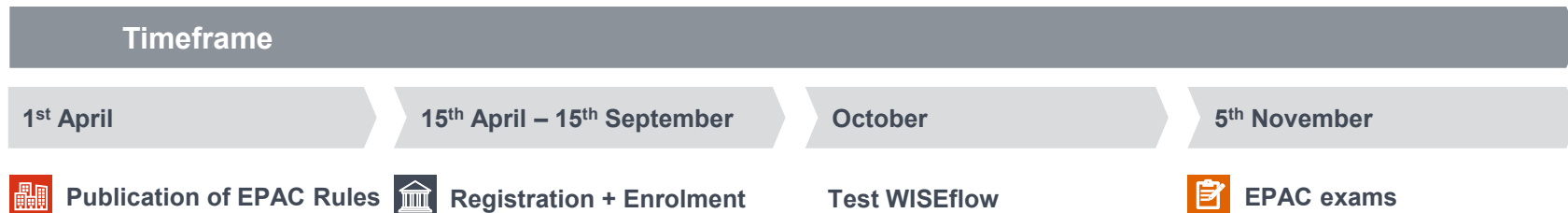
HOW IT WORKS: EXAM MODULES

Module 1	Diploma: Basics of patent law	European and world intellectual property rights
Module 2	Diploma: EPO procedures	Filing, search, examination, grant
Module 3	Diploma: Post-grant procedures	Appeal, opposition, Unitary Patent and national/regional validation
Module 4	Diploma: PCT procedures	PCT / World Intellectual Property Office route

Passing all modules = EPAC Certificate and entry on list of successful candidates

HOW IT WORKS: REGISTER AND ENROL

- Registration (free)
- Enrolment (EUR 50 per module)
- Download and practice in the online exam tool software “WISEflow”
- Practical tests before the exams
- All four separate exam modules on 5th November



HOW IT WORKS: LEARN AND PREPARE

- European Patent Academy offers four independent courses in line with the modular structure, including:
 - Online learning modules
 - Discussion communities
 - Mock exams
 - Registration and participation free of charge
- Past exam papers with solutions available online
- Alternative learning offers from multiple training providers

USEFUL LINKS ON EPO.ORG

- EPAC section
 - <https://www.epo.org/en/learning/eqe-epac/epac-european-patent-administration-certification>

- Modular EPAC announcement
 - <https://www.epo.org/en/news-events/news/epo-launches-modular-european-patent-administration-certification-epac-enhance>

- Learning
 - <https://www.epo.org/en/learning/events/epac-2026>