



Intellectual Property actors in Europe

First ever: a comprehensive, easily accessible directory of sources of information about intellectual property – throughout Europe

Some thirty contributors to the IPeuropAware project have pooled their resources to produce a searchable database of over 300 contact points, all of which are verified sources of information about intellectual property rights and their enforcement.

Designed to benefit SMEs and their advisers

With backing from the European Commission, the IPeuropAware project was set up to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) throughout Europe to get the best value out of their intellectual property. The Signposting Directory has taken almost two years to produce and is an important output from the project. It is a unique tool, designed to meet the needs of:

- **Directors of small and medium enterprises** who need information about intellectual property – anywhere in Europe
- **Business advisers** who need to make contact with IP specialists in other European countries
- **Commercial and financial specialists** who need specific information about IP organisations in other European countries
- **Researchers, academics and government** officials who need to improve their understanding of how businesses are served by IP information sources across Europe.

The IPEuropAware Signposting Directory has been compiled to be:

- Easy to obtain and to use
- Comprehensive - listing all sources of IP information throughout Europe
- Up to date and easily maintained
- Detailed in its listings, giving all the contact information likely to be needed.

User-friendly contact information

Each of the 300+ listings in the Signposting Directory gives all the information needed to make an enquiry:

- Postal address
- Telephone and fax numbers
- Website address
- Email addresses
- In many cases, names of relevant personnel
- Codes showing which types of IP right can be handled and what services are offered.

Types of IP right and services offered

Alongside each contact point in the Signposting Directory is an alphabetical code, showing the types of IP right that can be dealt with:

IP addressed	Code
Patent	a
Utility model	b
Trademark	c
Design	d
Topographies of semi-conductors	e
Geographical indications	f
New variety certificates	g
Copyright	h
Software	i
Trade secret & Know-how	j
All	k

A separate numerical code also indicates which of the 23 different service types are available from each information point listed in the directory. These are:

Kind of services	Code
General information	1
Registration of IP right	2
Research of IP title	3
IP title monitoring service (competitor, technical)	4
Status check	5
Validity searches	6
Patent Family search	7
Patentability assessment	8
State-of-the-art review / prior art search	9
Novelty search	10
Invalidity search	11
Trademark similarity search	12
Search on denomination or name	13
Search on figurative part of a trademark	14
Search on figurative part and denomination of a trademark	15
Trademark watching service	16
IP Audit/diagnosis	17
Exploitation	18
Evaluation	19
License	20
Sale	21
Franchise	22
Infringement searches	23

Many different types of information sources listed

In addition to the national Intellectual Property Offices in the 20 European states involved, the IP Signposting Directory lists many other types of organisation that can provide SMEs with information about IP, including:

- National government support services for SMEs
- Trade and Industry Associations, Chambers of Commerce
- Patent Attorneys and IP lawyers
- Technology and business funding organisations
- Universities and libraries.

IPeuropAware: an integrated European project based on sound research

As a basis for setting new standards for IP information provision and producing new materials, the national Intellectual Property Offices involved with IPEuropeAware carried out research which shows that:

- European companies lag behind enterprises in countries like Japan, China and Korea in their strategic use of intellectual property rights.

- At the basic level of providing information about IP rights, there is already a good level of information provision from Europe's national Intellectual Property Offices, but the provision of strategic-level IP information and services needs to be increased if Europe is to keep up with global trends.
- Most national Intellectual Property Offices provide a good level of response to the most common enquiries, but guidance on enforcement issues and in the area of informal IP protection still has room for improvement.

Which national Intellectual Property Offices are involved?

The IPeuropeAware project has the active involvement of the national Intellectual Property Offices of:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • Austria | • Italy |
| • Bulgaria | • Luxembourg |
| • Czech Republic | • Malta |
| • Denmark | • Poland |
| • Estonia | • Portugal |
| • Finland | • Romania |
| • France | • Spain |
| • Germany | • Sweden |
| • Greece | • Turkey |
| • Hungary | • United Kingdom |

IPeuropeAware: improving standards for IP Helpdesks

With funding and guidance from the European Commission, almost 30 national Intellectual Property Offices and institutions across Europe are collaborating in the IPeuropAware project. An important aim is to improve the IP protection, IP strategy and enforcement of Europe's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). In addition to the IP Signposting Directory, the project has also introduced a new set of minimum performance standards for IP Helpdesks, which are the first point of contact for most SMEs and their advisers when seeking information about IP rights and how best to protect and enforce those rights.

It is expected that all 20 national Intellectual Property Offices will meet most of the agreed service levels by February 2011.

How to access the IP Signposting Directory

The IPeuropAware Signposting Directory is available [here](#). For more information on the project, please visit our public website www.ipeuropaware.eu

You can also contact us by email:

ipeuropaware@ua.es