

Requirements for Validation of European Patents and Unitary Patents

Once a European patent application has been granted by the EPO, it splits into national rights in each of the designated countries. At this point, the applicant needs to decide where they want the European patent to take effect and comply with any post-grant formalities in each of their chosen countries. This process is known as 'validating' the European patent. There is no need to validate in every country – in fact, it is common for applicants to pick just a few countries that they are most interested in, based on their commercial requirements, as well as the costs involved to validate and subsequently renew each national right.

Applicants also have the option of applying for a Unitary Patent (UP). This is a special multinational right that currently covers 18 countries with a single request. Applicants can combine a Unitary Patent with national validations in countries not covered by the Unitary Patent. For more information, please see our [Unitary Patent](#) guidance.

UP Validation – Full Translation

To request a UP, the EPO requires a full translation of the European patent specification: (i) into English if the language of the proceedings before the EPO was French or German or (ii) into any other official language of an EU member state if the language of the proceedings was English. Applicants can expect to pay around £1500 to £2500 to obtain a Unitary Patent based on a twenty page patent specification. Unitary Patents must be requested within one month of the date of grant of the European patent.

EP Validation – Full Translation

The following countries require a full translation of the specification to be provided in their local language within three months of grant. Also, certain formalities such as the appointment of a local address for service may be required.

The requirement for a translation means that the costs involved vary significantly depending on the length of the patent. Applicants can expect to pay £1500-£3500 to validate in each of following countries where the patent contains a twenty page specification, whilst the costs can potentially exceed £10,000 per country if the specification exceeds 100 pages. Some countries, like Austria and Spain, impose additional charges based on the number of pages in the specification.

Austria (German)	Bulgaria	Cyprus	Czech Republic
Estonia	Greece	Italy	Poland
Portugal	Romania	San Marino	Serbia
Slovakia	Spain	Turkey	

EP Validation – Claims Translation

The following countries only require the claims of the patent to be translated into their language, provided the remainder of the specification is available in English. These claims translations must be filed within three months of grant of the European patent.

Since only the claims are translated, the total cost to validate in each country is likely to be in the region of £500 to £2000 for a patent containing less than 20 claims.

Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Denmark
Finland	Hungary	Iceland	Latvia
Lithuania	North Macedonia	Montenegro	the Netherlands
Norway	Slovenia	Sweden	

EP Validation – No Translation

In the following countries, if the European patent is in English, no translation at all is now needed, and therefore the patent becomes effective in the relevant country from grant without further action being absolutely necessary.

Belgium	France	Germany
Ireland	Luxembourg	Malta
Monaco	Switzerland/Liechtenstein	United Kingdom

Nevertheless, for these countries, HGF still needs instructions in respect of the appointment of a local address for service. This is desirable in the event that communications from the local patent office are issued, and essential for non-EU applicants in the case of Malta. The costs involved in each of these countries are likely to be in the region of £300 to £800, depending again on the country concerned.