Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

# 4th Meeting SACEPO Working Party on e-Patent Process

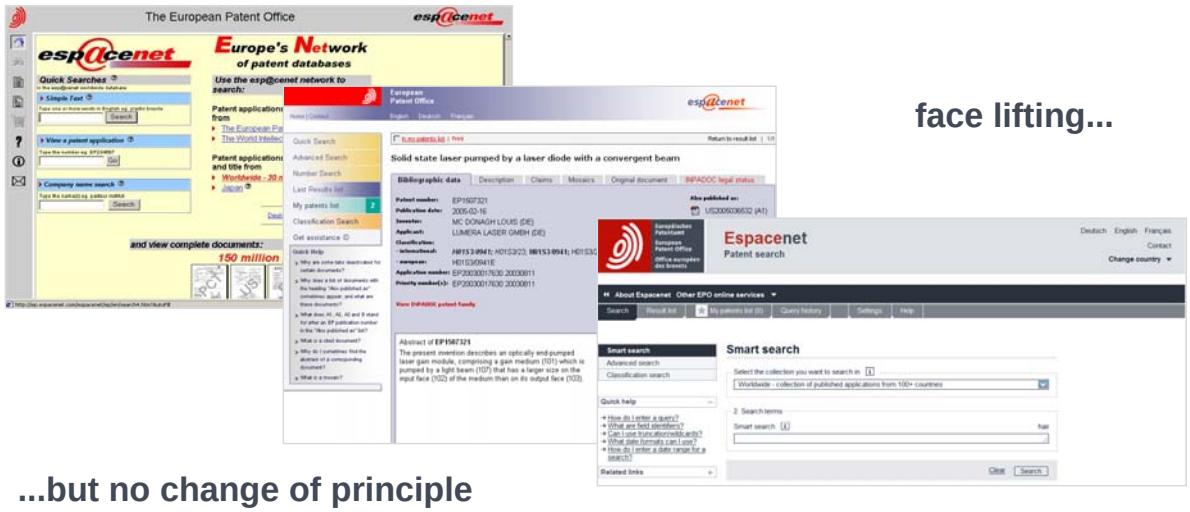
**The Hague 30th January 2019**

**AP 4 - E-business – Patent Information**
**Patent data made valuable for business & society**

## Update on products & services

- Espacenet
- Federated register
- Linked open data
- Legal status categories
- ECLI
- User support

## Espacenet 1998 – 2018: A successful product
(~800,000 users per month)




face lifting...

...but no change of principle



## Why a new Espacenet?

- Everyone has (some) Internet searching experience
- Everyone has expectations, e.g. search in full text, no static entry masks

  ➡ Is legacy Espacenet still adequate?

- High-level requirements for a new Espacenet:
  - become more similar to popular search engines
  - deliver best possible patent search also for less experienced users
  - offer clear presentation of results
  - do not necessarily aim for more “professional“ functionality

## Improving the Espacenet user experience

**Input from member state offices**

**User consultations**

**User surveys**



## User consultations

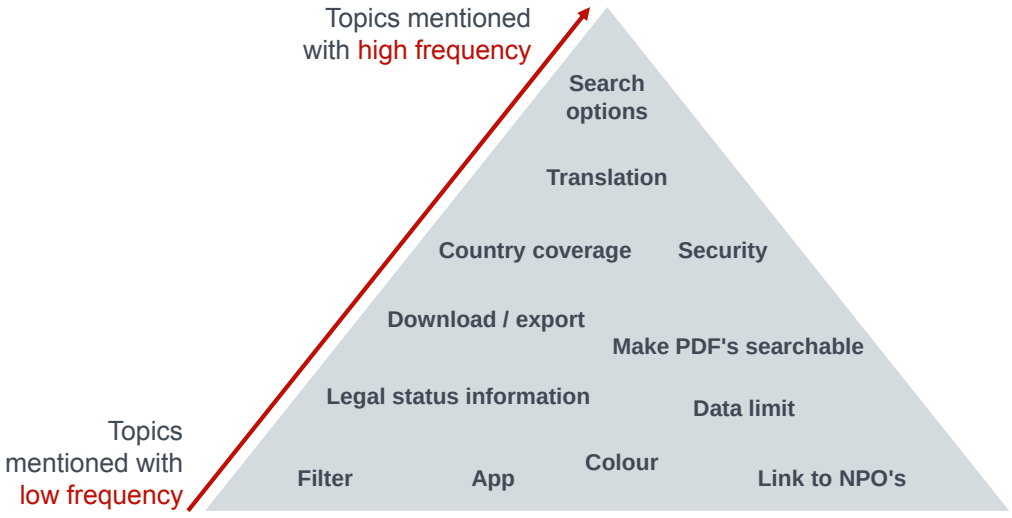
### Participants

- IP offices (including examiners)
- Industry
- Patent searchers/information specialists
- Key stakeholder groups (SACEPO/PDI)
- Consultants
- Technology Transfer Officers
- Academia
- Patent attorneys
- Students

- From all-over Europe, USA, Canada, India

## User Survey

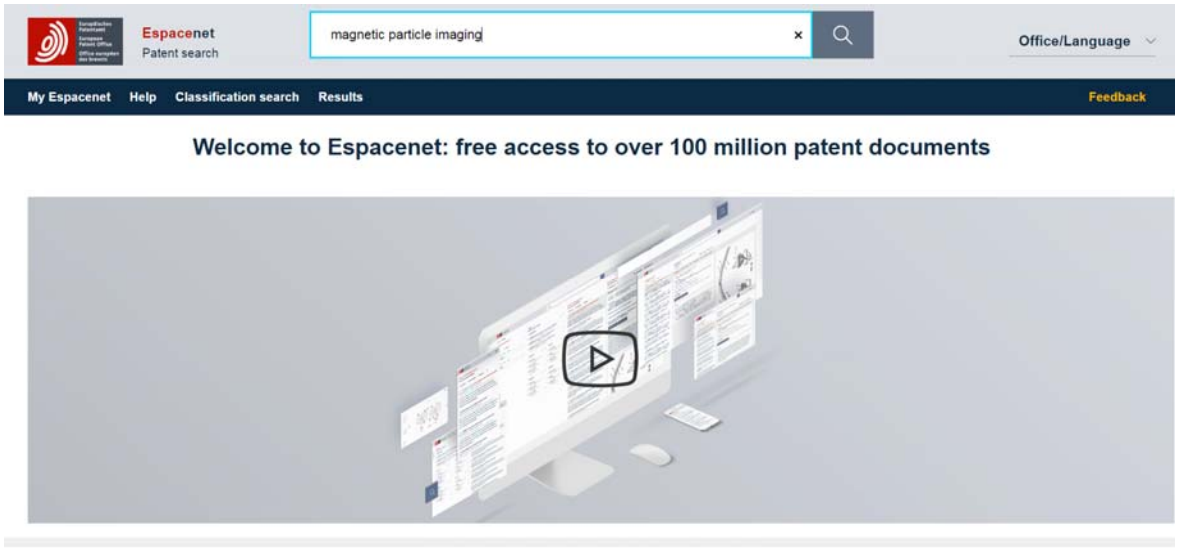
### Topics mentioned as potential improvements





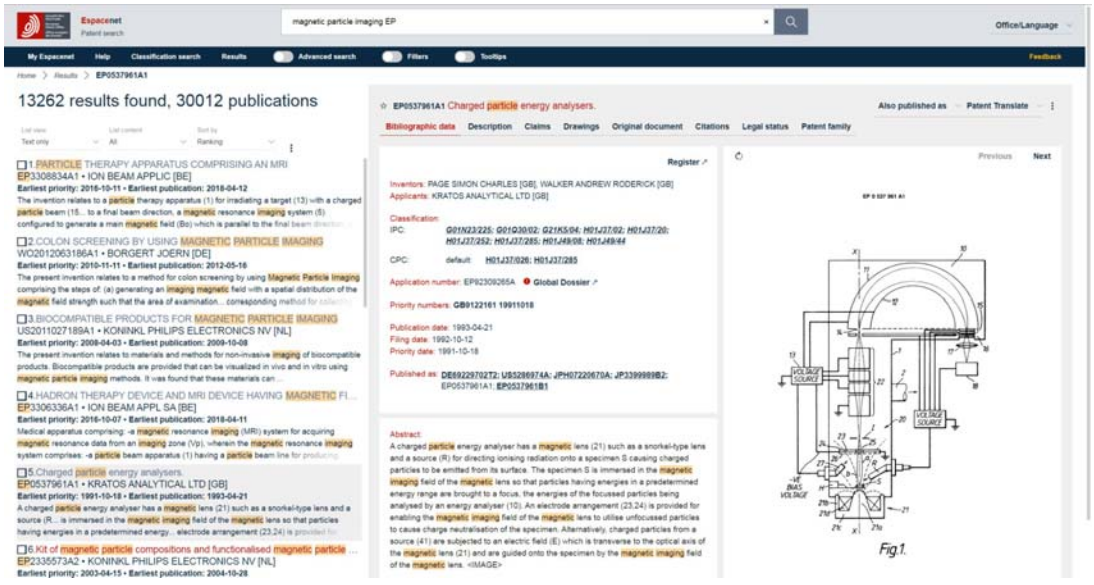

## Searching patents has never been easier

# User experience

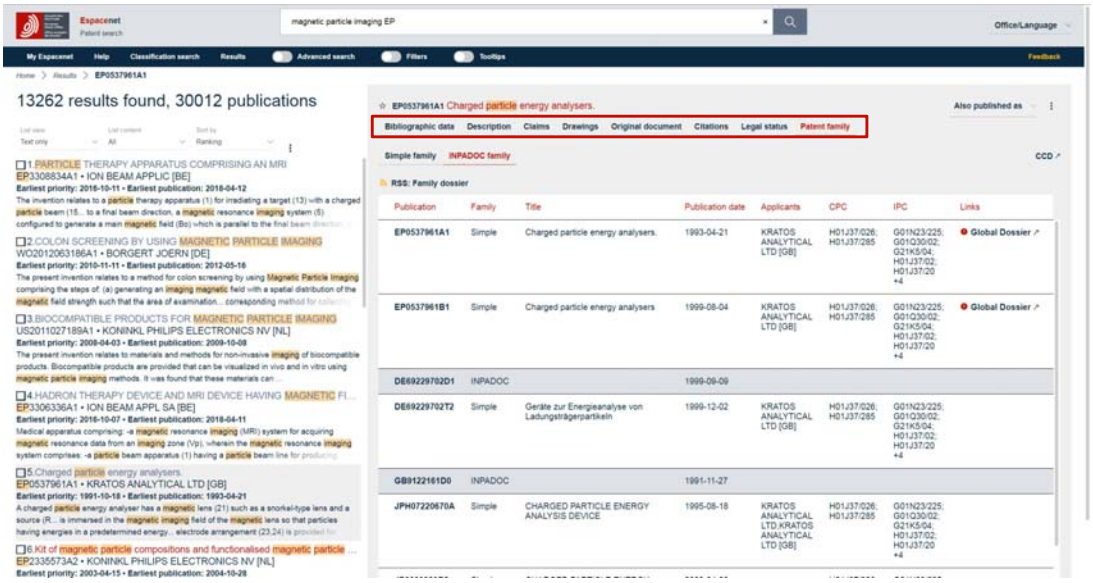





# Results list

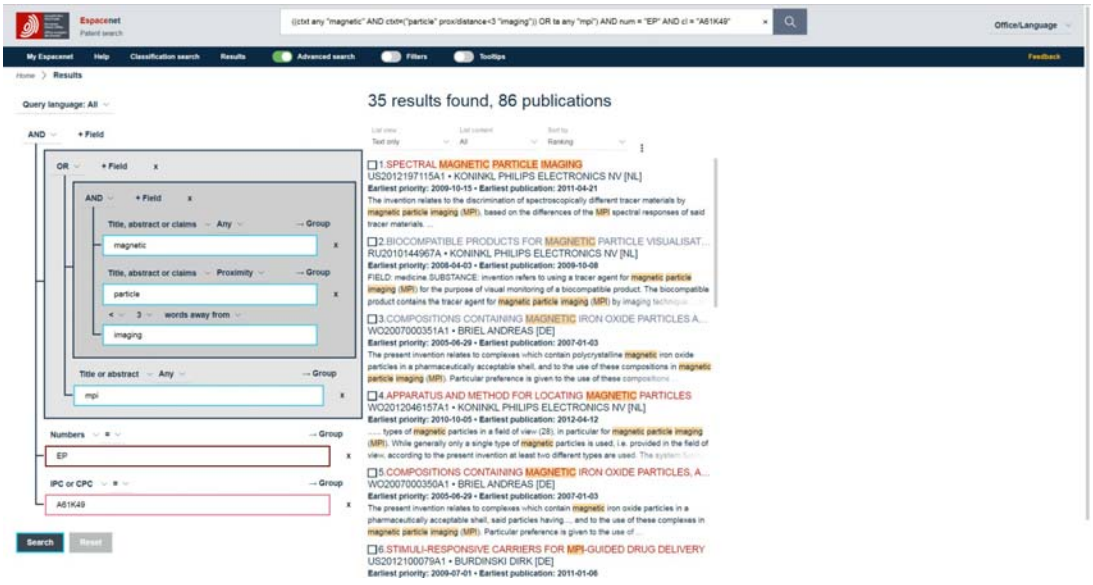


# Viewing the details

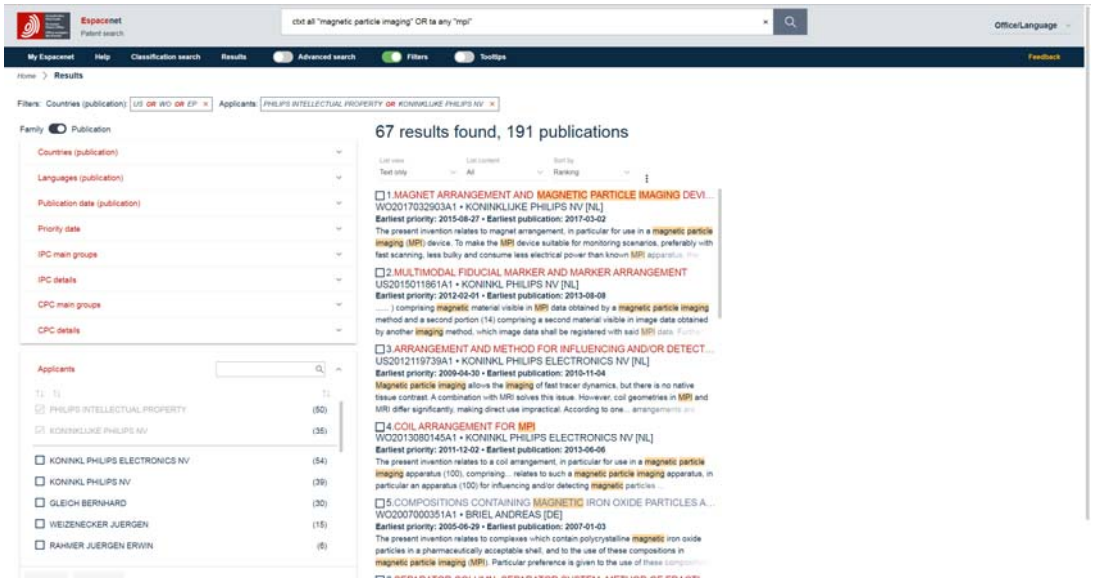





# Advanced search

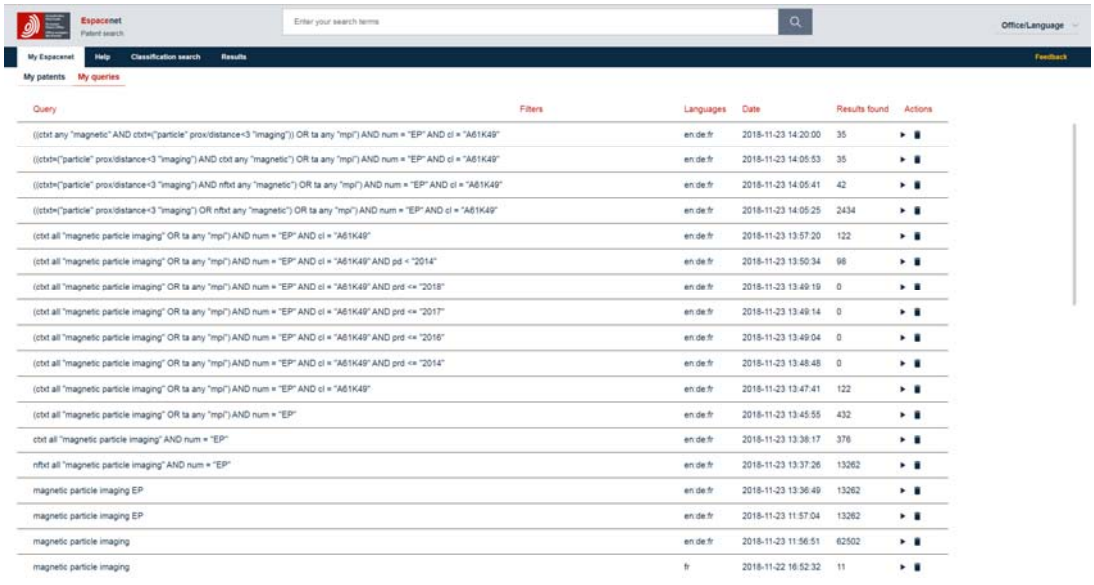


# Filter function

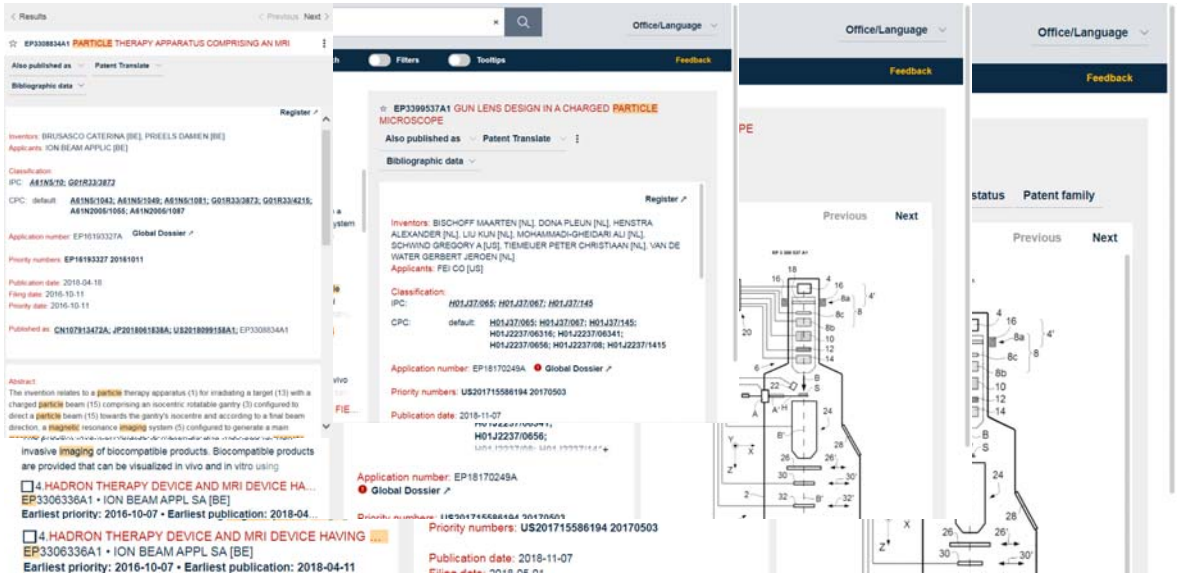





# My Espacenet



## Multiple platforms (responsive design)






## Test the Espacenet of the future

## Why *β* ?

- Opportunity for a last check of functionality and operational robustness
  - in a real production environment
  - with real users

- Last chance to spot errors, collect **Feedback** and iron out bugs before released into full production

## How to work with a *β version*

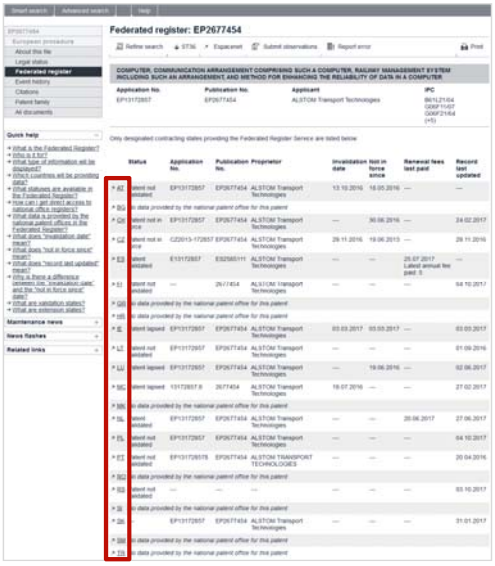
- there could be deficiencies in the functionality, data handling or coverage, or bugs, errors or other problems.

- You should not take any business-critical decisions based on searches conducted with it.

## Federated Register

The number of participating member states has grown to 30

latest additions: DE, EE





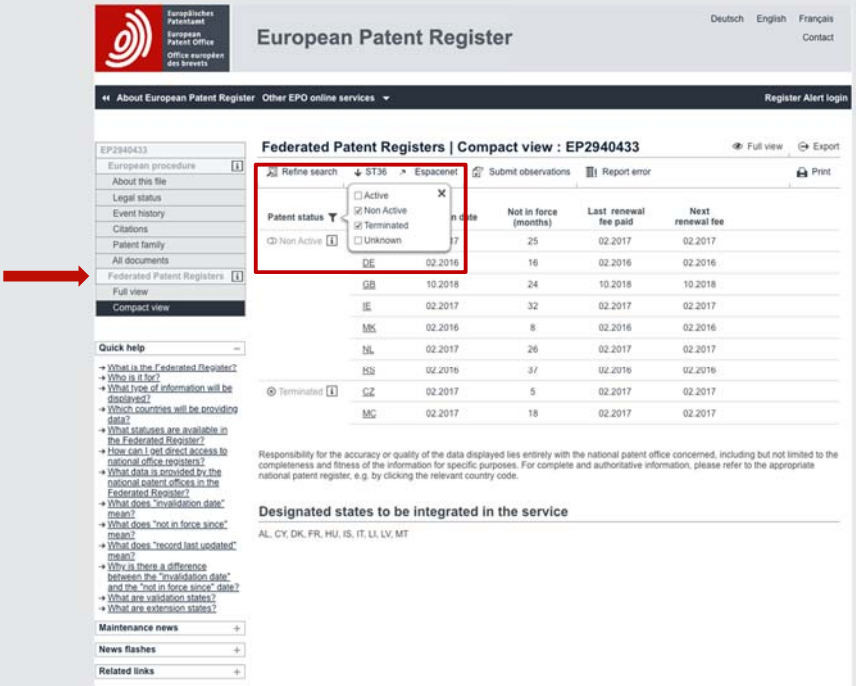

## Deep links in the European Patent Register

The number of participating member states has grown to 35

### National patent registers

| | |
|---|---|
| **Designated contracting states** | AL ↗ AT ↗ BE ↗ BG ↗ CH CY ↗ CZ ↗ DE ↗ DK ↗ EE ↗ ES ↗ FI ↗ FR ↗ GB ↗ GR ↗ HR ↗ HU ↗ IE ↗ IS ↗ IT ↗ LI ↗ LT ↗ LU LV ↗ MC ↗ MK ↗ MT ↗ NL ↗ NO ↗ PL ↗ PT ↗ RO ↗ RS ↗ SE ↗ SI ↗ SK ↗ SM ↗ TR |
| **Extension states** | ↗ BA ME |
| **Validation states** | MA ↗ MD |

## Coming in 2019: Compact view

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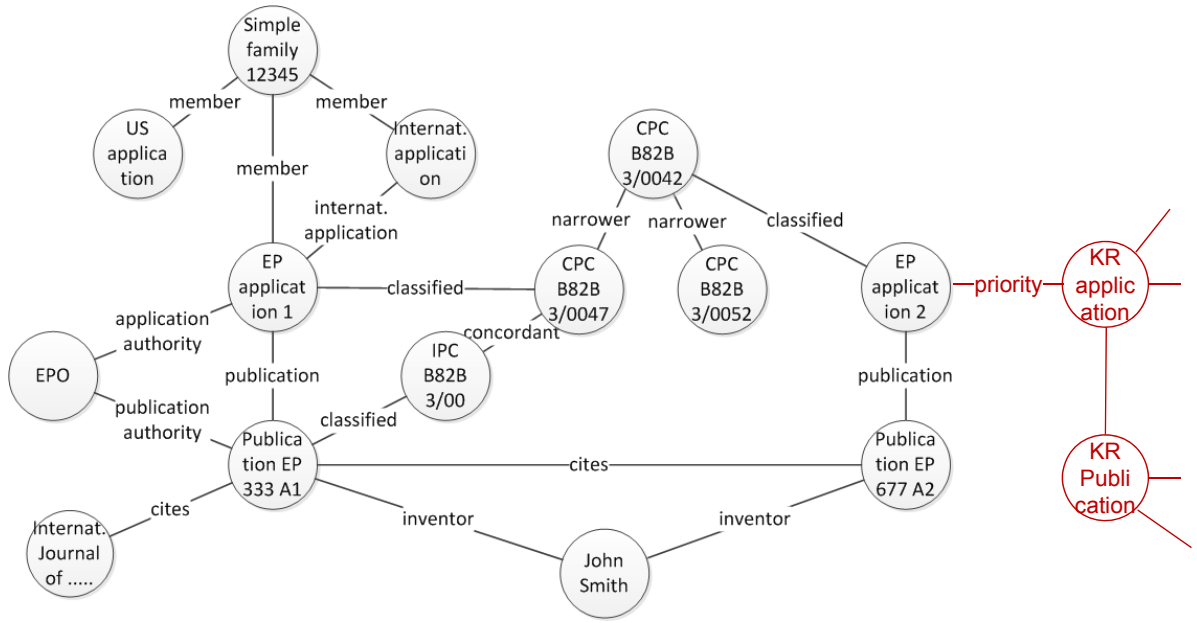
## Linked open EP data

- Data product containing **EP bibliographic data** and **CPC scheme**
- New format: Linked data (aka Semantic Web) (RDF)
- Free-of-charge, updated weekly
- Target user group:
  Patent-non-experts, web developers, data scientists
- Launched: April 2018:
  epo.org/linked-data

## *Linked data* can be seen as a huge network (“graph”)





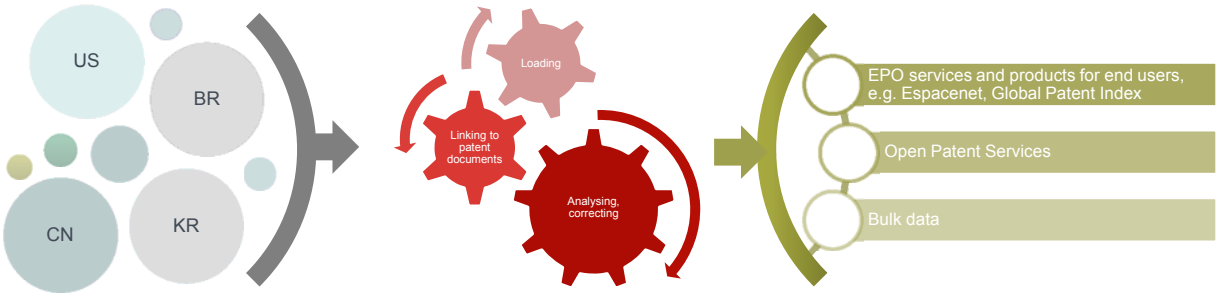

## Open data license CC BY 4.0

- **Standard** license, not handcrafted

- No costs, no registration
- May be shared, copied, redistributed in any medium or format
- May be adapted, remixed, transformed
- For any purpose, even commercially
- Attribution required

# The EPO's wordwide legal status database (INPADOC database)

- The workflow:




1. More than 50 patent offices provide data on granting procedures to the EPO

2. EPO processes raw data according to its quality standards and loads data into INPADOC database

3. EPO makes INPADOC legal event data available to patent information users worldwide



# The INPADOC database: Motivation for further development

- Large diversity of different INPADOC legal event codes
- Need to harmonise diversity of similar codes for different patent authorities
- Ever-growing user needs and expectations, e.g.
  - increase coverage, accuracy and timeliness
  - quickly understand the nature of legal events
  - search and analyse patent data using legal events in an efficient way

Source: Pixabay

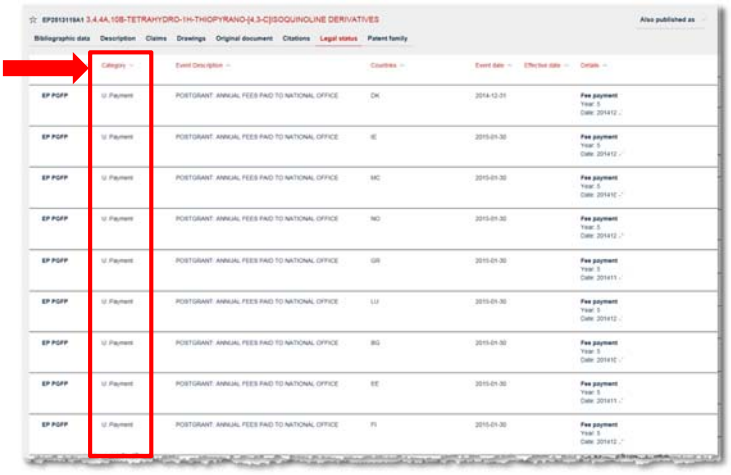
# INPADOC classification scheme: Category level: 21 categories

| Category | Title | Category | Title |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | Application filing | P | Re-publication of document after modification |
| B | Application discontinuation | Q | Document publication |
| C | Application revival | R | Party data change |
| D | Search and examination | S | Information on licensing and similar transactions |
| E | Pre-grant review request | T | Administrative procedure adjustment |
| F | IP right grant | U | Payment |
| G | Protection beyond IP right term | V | Appeal |
| H | IP right cessation | W | Other |
| K | IP right revival | Y | Correction and deletion of event information |
| L | IP right review request | Z | Classification pending |
| M | IP right maintenance | | |

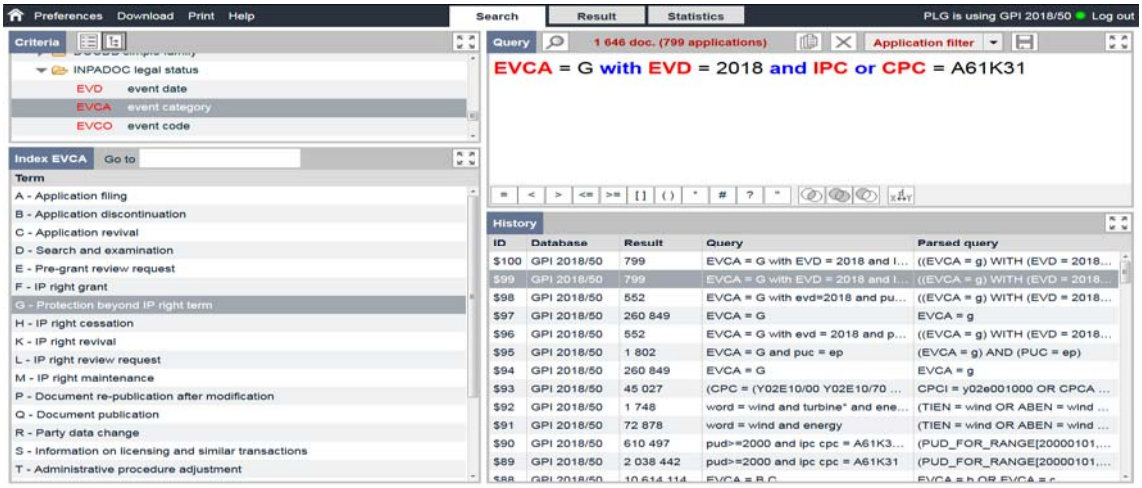


# INPADOC classification scheme: Example

- EP2513119: about 200 INPADOC legal events



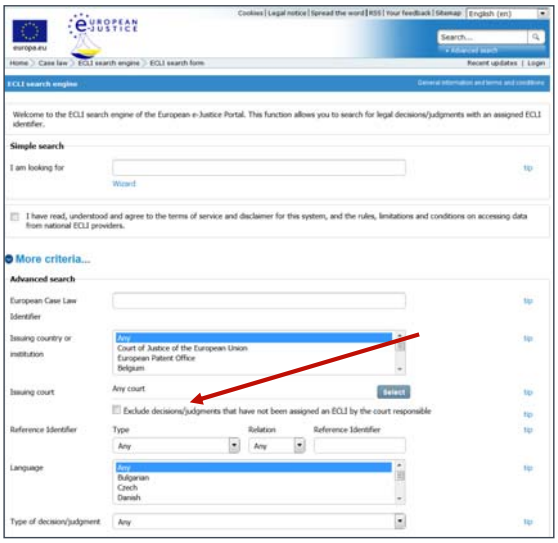
## Search using event codes (GPI)




Simple query EVCA = G (event category G = “Protection beyond IP right term”)
avoids complex queries (with hundreds of national/regional event codes)



## European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)




justice.europa.eu/content_european_case_law_identifier_ecli-175-ii-en.do?member=1

# European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)

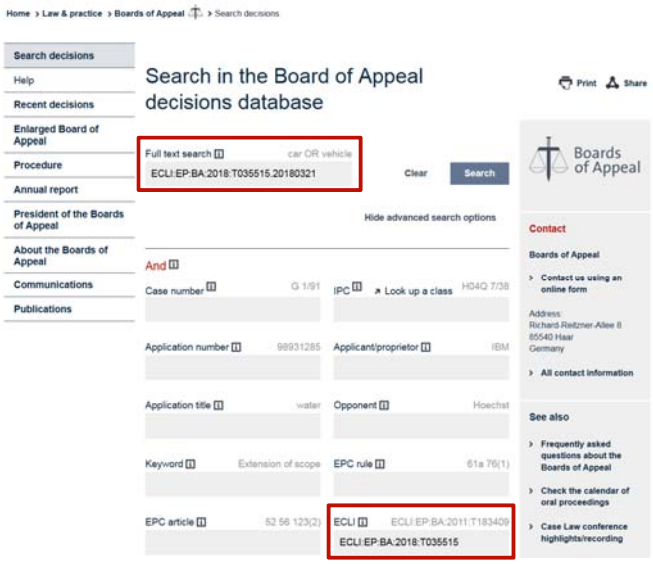
- Identify decisions of the EPO Boards of Appeal
- Format: ECLI:EP:[court code]:[year of the decision]:[serial number]

ECLI:EP:BA:2018:T110413.20180111

- Ordinal number : Decision case number + date of the decision
- Year when the decision was rendered (format YYYY)
- Court code
- Country code
- Label for the European Case Law Identifier



# European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)



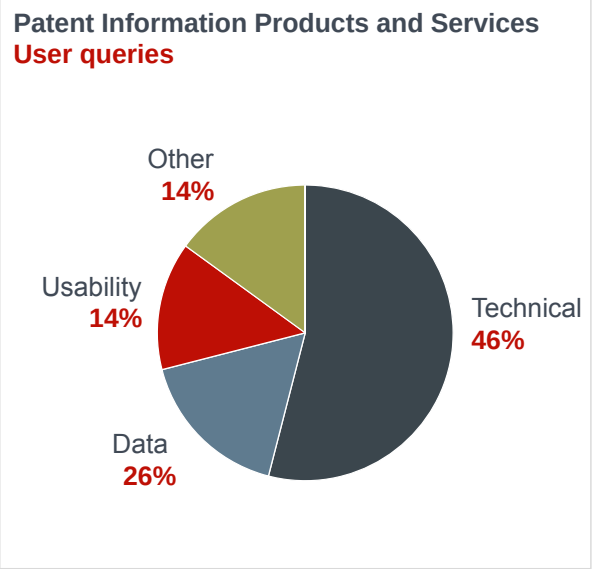
# User support

## User queries

> 5000 direct query related contacts with patent information users in 2018

- patent information in general
- Espacenet in particular

More on the forum at epo.org/forums






# User support

| | Video | Manual | Pocket guide | E-learning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **European Patent Register** | | available online | available online | available online converted from Flash to HTML early 2019 |
| **Register Alert** | available online | available online | | available online converted to HTML early 2019 |
| **Federated Register** | available online New | | | |
| **Espacenet** | | available online | available online | available online converted to HTML with new Espacenet |
| **Common Citation Document** | available online | available online New | | |
| **PATSTAT Online** | expected mid-2019 | available online | | |
| **Patent information general** | | | | available online converted to HTML in 2018 New |

## User support

**Webinars** (free of charge)

Presentations available on the forum immediately after the event

Recordings available on the e-learning platform for at least one month after webinar

Patent information users

Upcoming patent information events

18.1.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**Patent families**

22.1.2019 | Vienna, Austria
**Introduction to patent statistics and the PATSTAT product line**

30.1.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**INPADOC basic**

5.2.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**PATSTAT Online**

12.2.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**Patent information from EPO validation states: Moldova**

15.2.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**EP patent information and CPC taxonomy as linked data**

19.2.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**Patent information from EPO validation states: Morocco & Tunisia**

20.2.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**Introduction to the European Patent Register**

26.2.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**Patent information from EPO validation states: Cambodia**

6.3.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**Introducing the new Espacenet**

27.3.2019 | Virtual classroom, online
**INPADOC advanced**

11.4.2019 | Vienna, Austria
**East meets West 2019**



## Thank you!

hwongel@epo.org

**EPO Vienna**