

Training in Milano, Italy, 6-7 February 2013

European Patent Information and Procedures

Proposed programme

DAY 1

Introduction - EPO Patent Information

After some considerations about patent systems in general, the role of the EPO as a regional office, its position compared to national patent offices and to other regional offices will be explained and discussed. The future of the European patent system, in particular the plans for a Unitary Patent, will be also presented.

From filing to grant - an overview of patent grant systems,

This session will include a detailed overview of the European patent grant procedure including some facts on the patent system, links to the PCT system and important steps in the grant process.

Opposition and appeal procedures at the EPO and post grant-procedures for European patents.

Lunch break

Patent terminology - an introduction to "patentese"

Newcomers to intellectual property are often surprised at the way words or phrases familiar in everyday language are used very differently in the world of patents. This presentation will help newcomers to understand "patentese" and to search for patent documents in a more efficient way.

Search basics

During this session some basic 'need-to-knows' for searching in patent databases will be addressed, including Boolean operators and truncations, search expressions as search terms, basic rules for searching, content and terminology of patent documents.

Patent classification systems, including Cooperative Patent Classification

After introducing the principles of patent classification, a closer look at the newly introduced Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) will be given.

DAY 2

Worldwide patent family and legal status information on Espacenet and the OPS

This session will illustrate the key features of the extended patent family and the worldwide legal status data (INPADOC) available on the Espacenet and OPS systems. Starting with an historic overview it will introduce the concept of patent family and its application in the EPO databases. A detailed illustration of the worldwide legal status data will follow, with dedicated attention to the issues of the nationalization of regional and international patent

applications ("national phase"). Practical exercises for the participants will complete the session.

Lunch break

Electronic Publications from the EPO

This presentation will provide an introduction to the information published at the EPO and give an overview of the various Patent information services e.g Publication server, Patent information services for Experts, GPI.

European Patent Register and Register Alert Service

You will learn how to retrieve data and view files and moreover, how to set alerts for your specific requirements. The workshop will also concentrate on how to interpret the information delivered via these products

Exercises & wrap up