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## 01. New study shows inventions to fight cancer are up by more than 70% since 2015

**INVENTIONS  
COMBATING CANCER  
SURGED BY 70% SINCE  
2015**

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*Ahead of World Cancer Day, the EPO has just released a new study, which finds that innovation in the fight against cancer has surged by 70% between 2015 and 2021.*

*According to the European Cancer Information System (ECIS), 31% of men and 25% of women are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in the European Union before reaching the age of 75. Therefore, the development of new technologies, backed by multi-million-euro public funding programs, like the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, remain essential. Over 5 million lives were saved in the EU alone thanks to inventions in oncology (Dalmartello M. et al., 2022). The latest study from the EPO finds that inventions in the fight against cancer has surged by 70% between 2015... [Read more](#)*

## 02. Your opinion matters – EPC and PCT-EPO Guidelines 2024 pre-published today

**SUBMIT YOUR  
COMMENTS UNTIL 2  
APRIL 2024**

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*The Guidelines 2024, pre-published today, enter into force on 1st March. Users are invited to comment on them by 2 April and are encouraged to take a small survey on the annual revision process included in the consultation.*

*Today the EPO publishes the English preview versions of the EPC and PCT-EPO Guidelines 2024. These Guidelines will enter into force on 1 March 2024. As every year, users also have the opportunity to provide feedback on these new editions in our consultation. You can submit your comments until 2 April 2024.*

*Your opinion matters, so we have expanded this year's user consultation with a small survey on the EPO's... [Read more](#)*

## 03. A new path of partnership: The EPO welcomes Georgia as a validation state

### **GEORGIA SIMPLIFIES PATENT PROCESS WITH EPO VALIDATION AGREEMENT**

*On 1 February – a couple of weeks following the entry into force of the validation agreement - the EPO hosted the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia (Sakpatenti) in Munich. Key discussions unfolded on the recent validation agreement which paves the way for benefits in technological innovation for both Georgia and Europe, as well as in global IP cooperation.*

*The recent validation agreement allows inventors and businesses globally to select Georgia as their destination for obtaining patent protection through the EPO patent grant procedure based on Georgia's national law, in turn effectively reducing processing time costs, and any administrative burden... [Read more](#)*

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## 04. Acceleration of opposition proceedings in cases of parallel court actions

### **EPO ACCELERATES OPPOSITION IN RESPONSE TO PARALLEL COURT ACTIONS**

*Opposition proceedings will be accelerated if the EPO is informed by the UPC or a national court or competent authority of a contracting state that an infringement or revocation action relating to the opposed patent has been instituted before it. How opposition proceedings are accelerated depends on when the EPO is informed of the parallel action.*

*Further to the notice published in the Official Journal last November (OJ EPO 2023, A99), the EPO will accelerate the processing of oppositions if it is informed of parallel infringement or revocation proceedings before the Unified Patent Court or a national court or competent authority of a contracting state.*

*The prompt conclusion of such parallel opposition... [Read more](#)*

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## 05. Service by Publication

**JPO IMPLEMENTS  
SERVICE BY  
PUBLICATION FOR  
UNDELIVERABLE  
DOCUMENTS.**

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*For cases where documents have not been serviced by delivery (undeliverable to the recipient, etc.), the JPO eventually executes Service by Publication by means of publicizing such information in the Official Gazette and the Patent Gazette, posting in the area designated for posting at the JPO office, or displaying on PCs placed at the JPO office for public perusal. (Patent Act Article 191 (where applicable mutatis mutandis to Article 55-2 of the Utility Model Act, Article 68-5 of the Design Act, and Article 77-5 of the Trademark Act.))*

*The articles regarding "Service by Publication" in the Patent Gazette have been transferred from the Gazette publication site to this site for an easier access to a broader audience (as of July 3, 2023).*

*Introduction of Service by Publication Under... [Read more](#)*

## 06. Updates to guidelines on Trade Mark and Patents Hearings

**CHANGES TO IPONZ  
PROCEEDINGS: NO  
AUTOMATIC STAY ON  
APPEALS TO HIGH  
COURT**

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*Whenever a Trade Mark or Patents hearing decision is appealed to the High Court, we will no longer automatically stay (pause) the corresponding proceeding on IPONZ's side.*

*In order to pause a proceeding, parties should also make an application to the court for a stay of proceedings at the same time as filing their notice of appeal*

*If an order for a stay of proceedings is made, the decision of the Assistant Commissioner will not be implemented unless it is upheld on appeal.*

*If the Commissioner is not notified of an application or order for stay of proceedings, the decision will be upheld... [Read more](#)*

## 07. Chinese and German offices extend Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot

**GERMAN AND  
CHINESE PATENT  
OFFICES EXTEND PPH  
PILOT PROGRAM  
UNTIL 2027**

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*Since 23 January 2012, patent applicants have been able to request accelerated examination of their applications at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) and at the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA). This option will continue to be available. The DPMA and CNIPA have extended the pilot programme's duration by a further three years until 22 January 2027.*

*The PPH allows the applicant to file a request for accelerated examination as soon as at least one patent claim has been found to be patentable by the partner office. The DPMA will then carry out an independent search on the basis of the partner office's work results. The applicant benefits from the sharing of work results between the offices. This can even further expand prior art search....[Read more](#)*

## 08. AIPPI Position Paper on New Genomic Technique (NGT) Plant Patenting Proposal of the European Parliament

**EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT  
SUPPORTS BAN ON  
NGT PLANT PATENTS**

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*On 7 February 2024, the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted, by way of plenary vote, a position supporting a proposal of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) to ban patents for all plants obtained by New Genome Techniques (NGT plants), plant material, parts thereof, genetic information and process features they contain*

*The Standing Committees on Biotechnology and Plant Varieties and on Patents have prepared the attached Position Paper in response to this development.*

*The International Association for the Protection... [Read more](#)*

## 09. New CIPO-INPI PPH pilot bilateral agreement

### **CANADA AND BRAZIL LAUNCH PPH PILOT AGREEMENT**

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*Effective February 1, 2024, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) will begin a Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) bilateral pilot agreement with the Brazil Instituto Nacional da Propriedade Industrial (INPI-Brazil).*

*The PPH enables applicants filing a patent at either CIPO or INPI-Brazil to have their application processed faster at the other office. This helps increase the efficiency and quality of the patent-granting process by enabling the offices to benefit from each other's work PPH requests made to CIPO will be based on the earlier national or international (PCT) search and examination work done by INPI, and PPH requests made before INPI-Brazil will be based on the earlier national or international (PCT) search and examination work done by CIPO... [Read more](#)*

## 10. Publication of Japan-Taiwan Concordance List of Similar Group Codes (Corresponding to Nice Classification 12th edition, version 2024 (NCL12-2024))

### **JPO CREATES JAPAN- TAIWAN CONCORDANCE LIST FOR EFFICIENT TRADEMARK RIGHTS**

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*The Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association agreed by the recognition that it would be contributed to timely obtain of a trademark right for both applicants in Japan and Taiwan, if they create and publish a concordance list of similar group codes that are used in trademark examination in Japan and Taiwan, respectively, in a way to show the corresponding relationship between the respective similar group codes (Japan-Taiwan Concordance List of Similar Group Codes) (Link to the website of The Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association (External link)).*

*Responding to this agreement, the Japan Patent Office... [Read more](#)*

## 11. New Requirements for Filing Trademark Applications in Libya

### **UPDATED REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS**

*TRIPOLI – Following the issuance of the new executive regulations No. 26 of 2024 for Chapter Ten of Law No. 23 of 2010 on Trademarks, the Libyan Trademark Office recently issued new regulations that changed the requirements for filing trademark applications in Libya, as of February 11, 2024.*

*According to the new regulations, requirements for filing trademark applications have become as follows:*

- 1. An original Power of Attorney signed and notarized by the trademark owner, and legalized by the Libyan Consulate in the applicant's home country*
- 2. An original certificate of incorporation, or original extract from the Commercial Register legalized by the Libyan Consulate.*
- 3. A certified original of the priority document legalized... [Read more](#)*

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## 12. Design rights: terminology for success

### **ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY FOR PROTECTION STRATEGIES**

*Design right terminology refers to specific language and terms used within the context of design rights. Familiarity with this terminology empowers you to navigate the complexities of design rights with confidence.*

*It's more than legal jargon, it's about protecting your unique designs effectively. Understanding these terms enables you to:*

- identify potential infringements*
- understand the parameters of protection*
- leverage your design rights for commercial success.*

*This knowledge serves as a foundation for protecting the visual appearance of your product, keeping it exclusive... [Read more](#)*

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### 13. IPOPHL enhances capacity for emerging industrial designs and Hague system

#### **ENHANCES EXPERTISE IN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN EXAMINATION**

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*The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines' (IPOPHL) Bureau of Patents (BOP) is intensifying efforts to expand its skills in examining complex and emerging industrial designs (ID).*

*In January 2024, BOP examiners participated in a two-day seminar focused on the "Substantive Examination of ID." It was conducted by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) who shared their current techniques respectively in creating designs and determining when minute differences can suffice to prove novelty.*

*Given the maturity of the design industry in Japan, the shared knowledge of our partners from JAMA and JETRO is valuable. This helps equip our examiners for local designers who have eyes set on various foreign markets,".... [Read more](#)*

### 14. U.S. Copyright Office Proposes New Group Registration Procedure for Two-Dimensional Artwork

#### **COPYRIGHT OFFICE PROPOSES GROUP REGISTRATION FOR PUBLISHED TWO- DIMENSIONAL ARTWORK**

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*The Copyright Office has published a notice of proposed rulemaking to create a group option for registering published two-dimensional artwork. To qualify for this option, each work must be a two-dimensional pictorial or graphic work, all created by the same author, and the author must be named as the copyright claimant for each one. The works must be published within a thirty-day period, and up to ten works may be included in each submission. Applicants will be required to complete an online application and upload a digital copy of each work to the electronic registration... [Read more](#)*