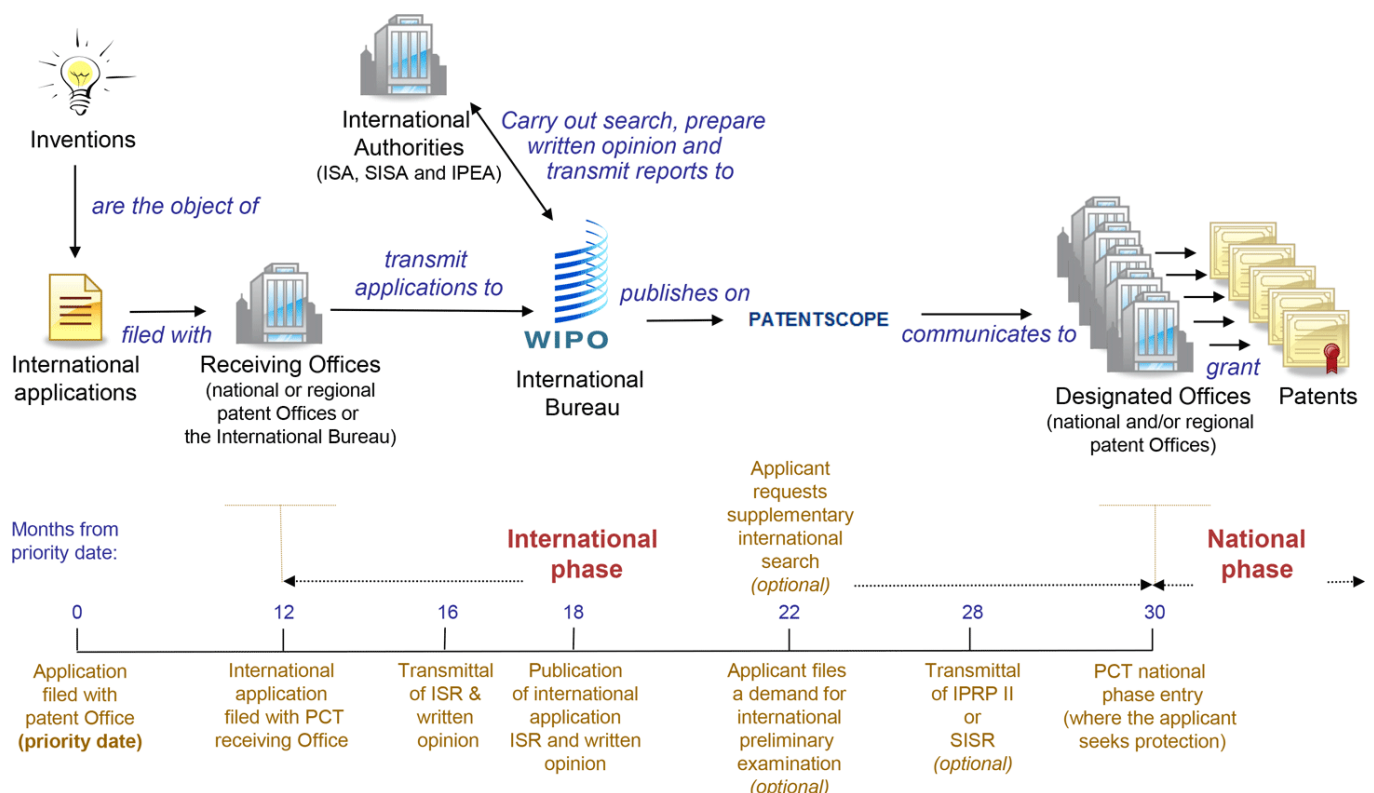




Guide: International Patent Application (PCT)¹

This guide provides an overview of the process for an international patent application from submission to grant. The **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)** allows for simultaneous patent protection in multiple countries through a single international application. The final grant takes place in the national phase through the respective national or regional patent offices.



1. Prepare Your Patent Application

- A patent application is a detailed description of your invention that allows others to understand it.
- Components of the patent application:
 - **Application (Form PC/RO/101)**
 - Description of technical features
 - Patent claims defining the scope of protection
 - Drawings (if required)
 - Abstract

¹ Source: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
<https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/en/docs/guide/gdvol1.pdf>



2. Submitting the International Application

- Submission options:
 - Electronically: Via the WIPO ePCT system (recommended as it offers reduced fees)
 - In paper form to the respective patent office

3. International Search by ISA:

- Review of published patent documents and technical literature
- Conducting the international search
- Creation of the international search report
- Issuance of a written opinion on patentability

4. Supplementary International Search (optional)

- Upon request, a second ISA can identify relevant documents not found by the first ISA.
- Option for additional patentability examination based on a modified application.

5. National Phase

- After 30 months, you can apply for the grant of your patent at the desired national or regional patent offices.
- You must pay fees, possibly submit translations, and follow additional requirements such as appointing local patent attorneys.

6. Publication

- WIPO publishes the international application 18 months after the priority date.
- Documents such as the written opinion from ISA and any informal comments are published on PATENTSCOPE.

7. Examination

- The international preliminary examination report is sent to you, WIPO, and national/regional patent offices.



- The report provides an opinion on the patentability of the claims and helps assess chances of success, offering a better starting point.
- A positive report may ease the process before national patent offices.
- The decision on patent grant remains with the national/regional patent offices.
- The report is considered, but not binding.

Additional Notes:

- **Duration:**
 - **International Phase:** up to 30 months from priority date.
 - **National Phase:** starts no later than 30 months, examination takes 1-5 years or longer, early entry possible.
- **Costs:**
 - Filing fee: 90 EUR²
 - Transmittal fee: 1,417 EUR²
 - Fee per sheet over 30: 16 EUR²
 - Search fee: 1,845 EUR²

No costs in the international phase as with separate national applications.

- Costs upon entry into the national phase: translation fees, national application fees, and fees for local patent attorneys.
- In some countries, national application fees are lower than for national applications due to the work already done in the international phase.

² The amount applicable on January 1, 2025.