

# Visegrad Patent Institute

The Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI) is an intergovernmental organization that facilitates the access of applicants from the Central and Eastern European region to the international patent system established by the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) that offers a favourable and efficient route to obtain patent protection abroad.

The VPI acts as International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) for the nationals and residents of the contracting states: the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic as well as for international applications filed by nationals and residents of Lithuania and Serbia.

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## Quick facts

- 155 experienced examiners
- 4 national patent offices
- 5 working languages
- No.1 ISR timeliness worldwide in 2023



## Services of the Visegrad Patent Institute

*PCT services for applicants from the V4 countries, Serbia and Lithuania*

### **International Search**

Find the most relevant prior art documents regarding the claimed subject matter of your international application.

### **International Preliminary Examination**

Obtain a preliminary and non-binding opinion as to whether your invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step and to be industrially applicable in the international phase after the International Search.

### **Supplementary International Search**

Gain a more complete overview of the prior art in the international phase.

### **International-type Search\***

Find relevant prior art regarding the subject matter of your application at an early stage of the national patenting process, and even before or without filing an international application.

*Global Patent Search Services for any interested party worldwide*

### **Novelty Search Service**

Find prior art relevant for the subject matter of your invention to assess the novelty and inventive step for a potential patent/utility model application for a flat fee within only 4 weeks.

### **Novelty Search with Preliminary Patentability Report**

Get all the benefits of the Novelty Search and a detailed reasoned opinion whether your invention meets the three criteria of patentability for a flat fee in only 4 weeks.

*\*Available only for applicants in national patent procedures at the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office, and in national patent and utility model procedures at the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland and the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic.*

## Benefits of using the services of the VPI

### ➤ PCT ISA/IPEA right next door

File your international application with your respective national patent office as receiving office. The VPI is seated in Budapest with Branch Offices in the V4 countries. You can also choose the International Bureau of WIPO as Receiving Office, if you wish.

### ➤ Use your national language

Save time and money with filing your international application in your respective national language and talk to the patent examiner in a language you both feel comfortable using. Translation to English can follow at a later stage.

### ➤ Enjoy significant fee refunds and reductions

Get 40% of the international search fee refunded if an earlier search was carried out by any of the national IP offices of the V4 countries, Lithuania and Serbia, or 50% of the international search fee refunded if an earlier international-type search was carried out by the VPI for HU, PL or SK national applications. Save another 1300 EUR of the supplementary European search fee, and 220 EUR on the examination fee in the European regional phase.

### ➤ Highly skilled patent examiners

Trust your application to the experience of highly skilled patent examiners in four national patent offices who are experts in all technical fields and participate in continuous learning and development.

### ➤ In harmony with the EPO practice

Receive the same quality search as from the EPO. The examiners of the VPI use the same databases as the staff of the EPO and participate in the trainings provided by the EPO. The VPI follows a harmonised practice with the EPO, and actively participates in the harmonisation efforts led by the EPO.

## We are here to help

Contact the VPI Secretariat or the national Branch Offices with any question. We are here to help you.

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