



## Translation Requirements for Validation of European Patents

A patent that has been granted by the European Patent Office may subsequently be made effective in any of the countries for which a designation, extension or validation fee has been paid. This process is commonly known as “validation” of the European patent. Some countries impose translation requirements as part of the validation procedure. In general, any required translations must be submitted within three months of the grant date of the patent.

The translation requirements imposed vary significantly between the different countries. The majority of European patents are in English, and for such patents, the following requirements apply:

1. Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United Kingdom have no post-grant translation requirements.
2. Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Slovenia require translations of the claims of the patent (but not the entire specification) in the appointed language to be filed.
3. Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey require a translation of the entire specification in the appointed language to be filed. This includes a translation of the sequence listing, if one is present.

The attached annex sets out the requirements for each country, including the appointed language where relevant. As is evident from the annex, in some countries it is possible to re-use a translation prepared for another country with the same appointed language. For example, a Greek translation can be used in both Greece and Cyprus, an Italian translation can be used in both Italy and San Marino, a Croatian translation can be used in both Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, a Serbian translation can be used in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina, and a Romanian translation can be used in both Romania and Moldova.

### Annex - translation requirements for European patents in English

Country Code	Country	Translation Requirement
AL	Albania	Claims only into Albanian
AT	Austria	Full text into German
BA	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Claims only into Bosnian, Croatian or Serbian
BE	Belgium	No translation needed
BG	Bulgaria	Full text into Bulgarian

CH/LI	Switzerland/Liechtenstein	No translation needed
CY	Cyprus	Full text into Greek
CZ	Czech Republic	Full text into Czech
DE	Germany	No translation needed
DK	Denmark	Claims only into Danish
EE	Estonia	Full text into Estonian
ES	Spain	Full text into Spanish
FI	Finland	Claims only into Finnish
FR	France	No translation needed
GB	United Kingdom	No translation needed
GR	Greece	Full text into Greek
HR	Croatia	Claims only into Croatian
HU	Hungary	Claims only into Hungarian
IE	Ireland	No translation needed
IS	Iceland	Claims only into Icelandic
IT	Italy	Full text into Italian
KH	Cambodia	Claims only into Khmer
LT	Lithuania	Claims only into Lithuanian
LU	Luxembourg	No translation needed
LV	Latvia	Claims only into Latvian
MA	Morocco	No translation needed
MC	Monaco	No translation needed
MD	Moldova	Full text into Romanian
ME	Montenegro	Claims only into Montenegrin <sup>[i]</sup>
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Claims only into Macedonian
MT	Malta	No translation needed
NL	Netherlands	Claims only into Dutch
NO	Norway	Claims only into Norwegian
PL	Poland	Full text into Polish
PT	Portugal	Full text into Portuguese
RO	Romania	Full text into Romanian
RS	Serbia	Full text into Serbian
SE	Sweden	Claims only into Swedish
SI	Slovenia	Claims only into Slovene
SK	Slovakia	Full text into Slovak
SM	San Marino	Full text into Italian
TN	Tunisia	No translation needed
TR	Turkey	Full text into Turkish

[i] Although Montenegrin and Serbian are officially different languages, there has not yet been any significant divergence since Montenegro gained independence from Serbia. A Serbian translation of the claims can therefore be used in Montenegro (as well as in Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina).

**For more information, please contact:**

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