

# At Astria, a leading software-enabled service, by Wellspring, we offer unmatched oversight of your patent renewal deadlines, ensuring precision in cost management and data accuracy.

This series of Spotlight Articles developed by the Astria team, provide organizations with insights on the nuanced rules of IP renewals at Patent Offices worldwide. This article highlights Europe, a key market for many of Wellspring's clients.



## Europe

At the EPO, the first renewal payment is due on the 3rd year of filing and annually after this payment. The renewals are then due on the last day of the month upon the anniversary of when the filing date falls.

Once granted, European patents require annuity payments in each respective country where the validation process has been completed. It is important that clients notify Astria by adding individual cases to the Astria system for each of the validated countries, for all granted European patents. Failure to do so can result in the annuities being missed and the European patent may lapse in the validated countries.

Once this process has been completed, Astria checks these data points to accurately calculate and display the renewal year and deadline date.

### European Patent Office

Here is a useful link to access the EPO website:

**NOTE:** this guide explains the 'EP validation process' after the Europe application grants. There is a separate Unitary Patent (UP) guide also available.

### Renewal process

Application **FILED**



Patent Granted: **VALIDATION**

3 years: **RENEWALS DUE**



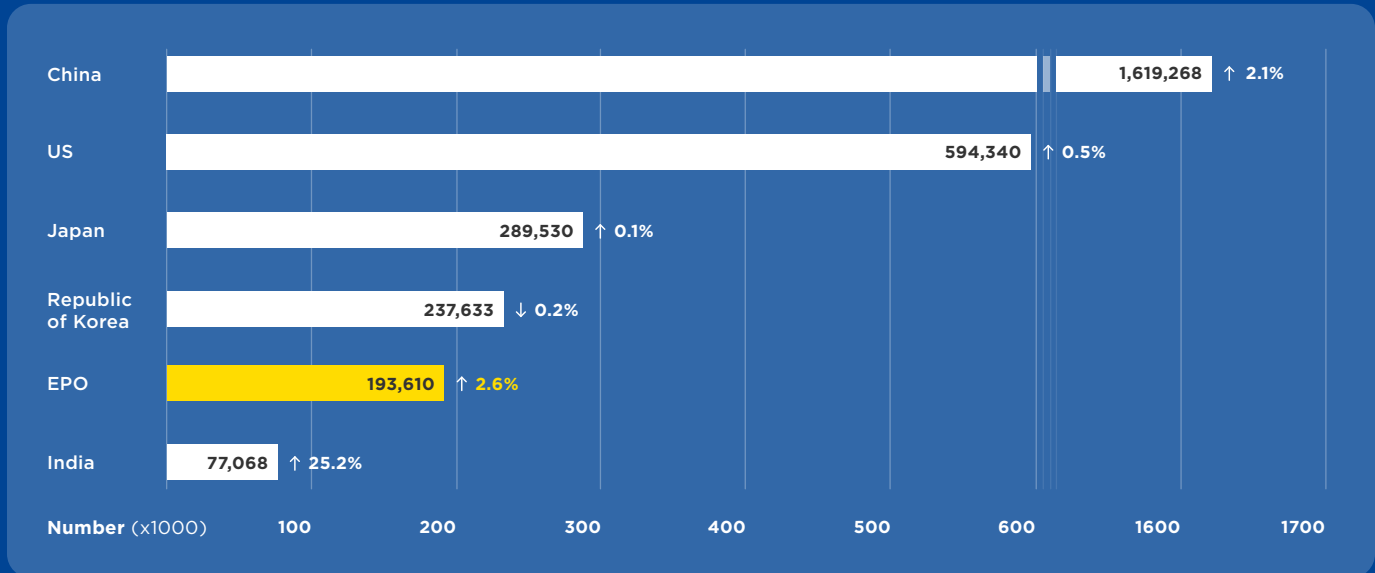
Renewals due throughout patents lifespan

Patent **EXPIRES**



## Patent Applications for the top 6 offices

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2023



The EPO had 193,610 Patent applications in 2022 – an increase of 2.6%. Further, in 2019 the EPO had a total of 1,376 PPH (patent prosecution highway) requests by Patent & Trademark Office (PTO) of first filing and offices of later examination in 2019. The highest office was the U.S with 650 PPH requests being made to the EPO.

Benefits of PPH is to fast-track the examination process by examiners utilising work done by other offices.

## Understanding patent renewal rules in Europe

As mentioned, the first renewals in Europe are payable from the 3rd year of filing and annually afterwards, the renewals are then due on the last day of the month upon the anniversary of the filing date. Therefore, if an application has the filing date of 07/08/2024, the 3rd renewal fee would be due on 31/08/2026.

Astria displays the routine renewal payment deadline for European renewals. Organizations do have the option through Astria to pause payment, as it is still possible to pay the European renewal during the grace period. The grace period at the EPO lasts for up to 6 months with late fees applied by the PTO in Europe (referred to as the EPO).

The flat-rate, official late fee increases are displayed to Astria clients in the portal to aid the decision on when to pay a European renewal.

Effortless IP Renewals with Astria is One Step Away, [get in touch](#) with our expert team today at:

[wellspring.com/astria](https://wellspring.com/astria)