



Europäisches  
Patentamt  
European  
Patent Office  
Office européen  
des brevets

**40** EUROPEAN  
PATENT  
CONVENTION  
YEARS 1973–2013  
Innovation matters

# EPO 40 years EPC

Art Contest for Primary School children



## European Patent Office 40 Years EPC - Art contest for primary schools Teacher's Notes

### Who are we?

We are the [European Patent Office](#). Our job is to grant high quality patents for high quality inventions in support of innovation, competitiveness and economic growth across Europe. In addition, we ensure that all the information concerning these published inventions is made available the world over so that everyone has an equal chance to be up-to-date on the state of the art in any technical field in which they are interested. The EPO has been providing a central, one-stop service to individual inventors, industry and researchers from Europe and around the world since 1977. The legal basis for the European patent system is the European Patent Convention (EPC), which was signed in Munich on 5 October 1973 and entered into force on 7 October 1977. It was aimed at improving co-operation on the protection of inventions in Europe.

Read all about us in our [Facts and Figures 2012](#) and find out even more on our [website](#) where you will find the [EPO Portrait Film](#) to watch with your class and see our Office come alive.

### What are we celebrating?

This year, 2013, the European Patent Office (EPO) is celebrating a special 40th anniversary. October 1973 saw the signature of the European Patent Convention on the grant of European patents. This was, and continues to be a landmark in European co-operation.

On the basis of the European Patent Convention, the EPO has, since 1977, been offering inventors a uniform application procedure which enables them to seek patent protection in up to 40 European countries.

### We invite your school to celebrate with us

One of the elements of the celebrations we are most excited about is our art contest entitled "Inventions and Europe" for children in two age categories (6-8 and 9-11) from primary schools in the 40 European countries which acknowledge our convention. And this is where you come in. We would be delighted to receive as many drawings and paintings reflecting "Inventions in Europe" from children in the appropriate classes in your school.

The aim is to get children interested in the idea of inventions and patenting and to make them aware of their own European context, to get them thinking beyond their country borders. We would like their drawings and paintings to reflect "inventions" and "Europe" in any way that inspires them.

## How does it work?

The enclosed rules of entry give the complete picture. In short, this is how the contest works:

1. 1 entry per child; one child per entry, which should be all that child's work.
2. As many children may enter as would like to. Each should use a pre-numbered entry form which will be sent to your school upon registration via the email address below. A sticker with the same number will be provided for placement on the back of the corresponding artwork.
3. Work should be on minimum A4 and maximum A3 paper, drawn or painted. No glue or staples, no laminating. A3 work should be rolled and dispatched in a tube. Other sized entries should be appropriately packaged for safe dispatch to our branch office in the Netherlands from where the competition is being organised.  
Please mail to:  
**European Patent Office**  
**Attn: Anna Juhasova, room 02.137**  
**Postbus 5818**  
**2280 HV Rijswijk (Z-H)**  
**The Netherlands**
4. Deadline for registrations: Tuesday 16 April  
Deadline for receipt of artwork by the EPO: Friday 17 May 2013.
5. All classes from which children have participated will receive a gift from the EPO.
6. There will be first, second and third prize winners in each of the two age categories
7. Winners will be informed at the end of June.
8. The first prize includes an all-expenses paid trip to our head office in Munich for the exhibition opening on 16 October. Special permission for absence from school may need to be arranged for a winning child from your school. Second and third prize winners will receive a comprehensive kit to continue their drawing and painting activities. and each class from which entries are submitted will receive a package of goodies.
9. Names and photographs of the winners and their artwork will be used by the EPO for both internal and external publicity purposes including a catalogue of all winning work.
10. The artwork becomes the property of the EPO and cannot be returned. Responsibility for loss or damage of any kind remains the responsibility of the participant.

## Convinced already?

Contact us at [artcontest@epo.org](mailto:artcontest@epo.org) indicating the number of entry forms you would like to receive. Pre-numbered forms, each with a sticker bearing the same number to place on the back of the completed artwork will be sent to you by return. Kindly complete these forms, one per entry and return these immediately (i.e. separately from the artwork) by way of registration.

We look forward very much to receiving as many entries as possible from children at your school. The main message to the children is : "use your imagination and your creativity when you hear the words "inventions" and "Europe". Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to [contact](#) us.

# Rules of Participation

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The European Patent Office (thereinafter referred as the "EPO") is the executive body of the European Patent Organisation<sup>1</sup> and was set up on 7 October 1977 on the basis of the European Patent Convention (EPC) signed in Munich in 1973. Its main tasks are to examine European patent applications and to disseminate patent information. It supports innovation, competitiveness and economic growth across Europe through a commitment to high quality and efficient services delivered.

In the context of the EPC 40 year anniversary celebrations, the EPO Art Contest aims at offering school children aged between 6 and 11 years in the Organisations' Member States and two Extension States the possibility to submit artwork (in the form of a drawing or painting) reflecting "Inventions and Europe".

## 2. WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THE PARTICIPANTS?

Participants to the contest are asked to submit artwork comprising the following elements:

- a 2.D drawing or painting, minimum A4 and maximum A3 in size
- theme: "Inventions and Europe", both elements of which should be reflected in the artwork
- each participant may submit one entry, which should be the work of that participant only
- all artwork must be the participant's original creation. Duplications cannot be accepted
- no frame, glue, staples or laminating should be used
- photos and text should not be used
- chalk, charcoal, pastel or similar entries should be sealed with a fixative spray
- A3 work should be rolled and dispatched in a tube. Other sized entries should be appropriately packaged for safe dispatch

## 3. PARTICIPATION / AGE CATEGORIES

The contest is open to children who are at least 6 years old as of 1 January 2013 and no older than 11 years old on 17 October 2013 and who attend school in one of the EPO Member States. No participation fee is required. The participants commit to respect the terms and conditions detailed in the Annex.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete list of the 38 EPO Member States is online at: [www.epo.org/about-us/organisation/member-states.html](http://www.epo.org/about-us/organisation/member-states.html)

#### **4. TIME SCHEDULE AND ENROLMENT**

The EPO art contest is divided into the following phases:

- 1. Registration**
- 2. Submission of artwork**
- 3. Review by Jury**
- 4. Award ceremony**

The registration period commences upon the potential participant's receipt of the Entry Form and must be completed by **Tuesday 15 April 2013**. The language of the registration shall be one of the official languages of the EPO (English, French, or German). The submission deadline for the artwork is **Friday 17 May 2013**.

##### **4.1. REGISTRATION**

Upon receipt from the EPO of a uniquely numbered registration sheet per child intending to participate, please complete and submit to the EPO (preferably by email with scanned attachment)

#### **5. DELIVERABLES**

Participants should submit their artwork by mail to the following EPO address:

**European Patent Office  
Attn: Anna Juhasova, room 02.137  
Postbus 5818  
2280 HV Rijswijk (Z-H)  
The Netherlands**

**Deadline for submission is Friday 17 May 2013.**

#### **6. JURY AND AWARD CRITERIA**

An EPO jury of five members will pre-select 80 pieces of artwork. These will be displayed in a virtual gallery and the winning pieces chosen by the 7000 staff of the EPO.

##### **Pre-selection Jury Members:**

**Mr Z. Topić, Vice-President DG4 (chair) - or delegate**  
**Mr G. Minnoye, Vice-President DG1 - or delegate**  
**Chairman of the Amicale (Staff Social Events Organisers) in The Hague,**  
**Mr P. Lavéant**  
**Director Internal Communication, Mr C. Lintz**  
**Communications Expert, Ms L. Parker**

Jury members declare that they will treat equally and impartially all artwork submitted in accordance with the evaluation criteria specified for this contest. Applying the principle of fair treatment, members of the jury have the obligation to disclose any reason that would prevent them from exercising their task free from any bias or prejudice. In which case, they will inform the jury's chairperson that they abstain from the respective voting.

For each category, the Jury will apply the following evaluation criteria:

- 1) **Reflection of the terms "inventions" and "Europe"**the jury will assess the extent to which these two terms are clearly reflected in the artwork
- 2) **Creativity:** the jury will assess the level of artistic creativity in expressing these terms
- 3) **Originality:** the jury will assess the originality of the ideas behind the artwork

## 7. PRIZES AND AWARD CEREMONY

There will be first, second and third prize winners in each of two age categories: 6-8 years and 9-11 years. The Jury will decide on the winning artwork in June 2013. The EPO will invite the first prize winners (and a chaperone) to attend the exhibition opening on 16 October 2013 in Munich and to visit the Technical Museum in Munich. The cost of their travel and sojourn will be borne by the EPO. Should one of the first prize winners be resident in Munich, an alternative first prize trip of equal value will be offered. The second and third prize winners will be informed by email and their prize in the form of artists' equipment dispatched to them by post.

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## Annex

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

#### **1/ REGISTRATION AND STORAGE OF PERSONAL DATA**

During the registration process, the contestants will be asked to accept these rules of participation. In case of non-acceptance the completion of the registration process will not be possible.

By registering, the contestants agree to grant to EPO the right to use and publish his or her name, portrait, picture free of charge for advertising and promotional purposes without additional consideration and permission, on the world-wide media, print or online, without limitation of time. At any time, EPO may also publish in any media any results of this competition for a reasonable duration.

By registering, contestants agree to EPO's storage of the personal data necessary to complete the registration, for the duration of the contest. Contestants are free to revoke their approval with regard to the storage of personal data and thus terminate their participation in the ongoing contest. In case of revocation of the approval relating to the data storage, the contestants may send an e-mail to [artcontest@epo.org](mailto:artcontest@epo.org). Upon receipt of this revocation, EPO will delete all stored personal data immediately.

To participate in the EPO art contest it is absolutely essential that all personal information be truthful and accurate. Contestants may participate only in their own name. Only individual entries will be eligible.

EPO reserves the right to check the validity of the registration information submitted at any stage of the contest. Submissions by means other than those prescribed will not be accepted. Participation in the EPO art contest cannot in any way be deemed to give rise to any employment relationship with the EPO.

#### **2/ LIMITED WARRANTY**

EPO reserves the right to cancel or terminate the contest at any time without prior notice. EPO will make use of this option if the competition cannot be properly carried out for any unforeseen or technical reasons.

#### **3/ LIABILITY**

The EPO shall, in principle, only be liable for damage caused to a contestant by an intentional or grossly negligent breach of duty by its employees, statutory representatives or auxiliary persons employed to perform duties relating to this contest. Where a claim for compensation for damage against the EPO is based on simple negligence on the part of the EPO (including the persons listed above), the EPO shall be liable only

(a) for death, bodily injury or damage to health,

or

(b) where the duty breached is an essential obligation on compliance with which the contestant is entitled to rely as a precondition for due performance during this contest.

#### **4/ OWNERSHIP, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

The materials (pieces of art) submitted by the contestants will become property of the EPO upon receipt.

Contestants shall guarantee that all materials supplied by them for the purposes of this contest are unencumbered by any third party's proprietary rights. Where appropriate, the contestant shall arrange the necessary assignment or obtain the appropriate licences and authorisations, and pay any related royalties, fees and indemnities. The contestants shall assume full liability vis-à-vis the EPO for any claim made against the EPO for infringement of copyright or other intellectual property rights as a result of, or otherwise related to, the execution or application of this competition.

In the event that any claim by a third party based on alleged violation of its proprietary rights results in the EPO's suffering damage or loss, the EPO shall be entitled to full compensation from the contestant for such damage or loss. The contestants shall acknowledge their awareness that any appropriate steps to protect their intellectual property rights remain their responsibility.

The award of prizes in connection with this contest cannot be construed as being an opinion or a decision of the EPO on the work of art being eligible for intellectual property protection.

#### **5/ LEGAL REPRESENTATION, IDENTITY CARDS, PERMITS**

Should the contestant, at the time of registration and/or submitting the entry, be under-age, the registration and subsequent entry will be assumed, if so required by national law, to have been made with the consent of the contestant's parent or legal guardian. If so required by law or prompted by circumstances, additional proof of consent given shall be provided to the EPO.

Contestants shall bear full responsibility for acquiring and holding, at their own expense, all personal identity documents (eg valid passport), entry permit, visa, etc. as may be required for travelling to and from and also staying at the EPO in Munich, Germany or alternatively in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Contestants acknowledge that they must initiate the procedures necessary to acquire such documents in due time. The only assistance the EPO can provide in this respect is the sending of a letter to the appropriate authorities and/or to the contestant confirming that they have been invited to Munich or Amsterdam for the period indicated. The contestant shall also be responsible for customs clearance (if any) of his/her luggage.

#### **6/ INSURANCE**

The contestant shall be solely responsible for arranging appropriate and adequate insurance cover at his/her own expense, for personal liability, medical costs and travel insurance prior to the commencement of his/her travel and for the entire duration of his/her stay and return travel.

#### **7/ DISQUALIFICATION**

Where a contestant (a) in the opinion of the EPO has submitted incorrect or misleading information for the purposes of registration, e.g. as to the eligibility to participate and the entry requirements; (b) is considered to have departed from the requirements for the artwork;

(c) is considered to have received undue assistance; (d) in the opinion of the EPO has clearly plagiarised ideas from others; (e) has submitted his/her application after the deadline for registration; (f) has submitted his/her final artwork after the specified deadline; or in the event of any other breach by the contestant of any of his/her obligations arising out of or in connection with these rules of participation, the EPO shall be entitled to disqualify that contestant from the contest forthwith without prior notice and, if applicable, cancel the award of any prize to the contestant. The contestant shall then be obliged to refund to the EPO any costs it has incurred in disqualifying the contestant, such as, but not limited to, fees for cancelling or rearranging travel.

#### **8/ JURY DECISION**

The discretionary decision of the Jury shall be binding. It shall not be open to review.

#### **9/ AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PARTICIPATION**

These Rules of Participation may be amended by the EPO at any time without prior notice.

#### **10/ APPLICABLE LAW AND DISPUTES**

Participation in the contest and these rules shall be governed by German law. Where the EPO does not waive its immunity from national jurisdiction under Article 3(1) of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities (German Federal Law Gazette 1976, Part II, page 985 ff.), any dispute arising out of or in connection with participation shall be settled by binding arbitration with one single arbitrator in accordance with the provisions of the German Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO). The place of arbitration shall be Munich.

Where the EPO waives its immunity from national jurisdiction under Article 3(1) of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities, the courts having jurisdiction for any dispute arising out of or in connection with the participation shall be exclusively those of Munich.



## **40 Years EPC - Art contest for primary schools Pupils' Notes**

**Pencils at the ready and thinking caps on!  
Draw us a the most useful invention helping everyone in Europe**

Do you, like Jan in the Netherlands, wake up every morning delighted that you don't have to milk the cow yourself before breakfast? I'm sure Mr Legrand is equally delighted with that clever gadget for re-corking wine bottles. And what about Mr Smith hopping off the bus in busy London to find it is raining and blowing- AGAIN? Thank goodness he has his storm-proof umbrella with him. Oh, and then there's Professor Schnell who is late again and so glad that someone came up with such fast internet access as all his restless students in Munich are waiting impatiently for him to begin. And of course, the list would not be complete without Giovanni in his fast car, packed full of patented technology gliding over the autostrada.

All over Europe, people are constantly looking for ways to make their daily lives a little bit easier, more fun, more comfortable. Human beings are never satisfied with what they have. This is what we call progress. And thank goodness we have it, because without it, we would still be drawing our water from a well instead of turning on a tap. And a quick text message to big sister back-packing round Europe for the summer would be totally unthinkable!

And that's where inventions come in. Inventions are born in the minds of people who want to find solutions to those "little things", to help themselves and to help others like them. They see the problem. But they don't stop there. They keep on racking their brains and looking at the problem from every possible angle until they find the solution they're looking for.

Once they've come up with that invention, of course they want to help others with it...but they also want to help themselves, by earning some money. And how do they earn that money? By getting a patent on their invention, which stops other people making and selling their invention...unless they pay the inventor!

And that's where we at the European Patent Office (EPO) come in. No fewer than 40 years ago, the EPO came up with a set of rules called the European Patent Convention giving an inventor an easy way to protect his invention in many countries in Europe with a patent. The deal is that in return the inventor must explain to others (using a drawing amongst other things) how to make his invention. Think about that, next time you switch on your electric toothbrush.

### **40 years. That's worth a celebration and you can join in.**

Did you know that your country is one of no fewer than 40 in Europe which accept the rules the EPO makes, and so can benefit from the inventions all these clever people come up with?

We think it's great that people have such inventive minds, don't you? We'd like you to draw or paint for us what you think is one of the best inventions for people in Europe and send it to us at the EPO. Make sure your picture includes the two things: inventions and Europe.

Our clever colleagues at EPO (7000 of them) will look at your drawings and paintings and will select the winners. The first prize is not a patent, because your work will show what someone else has invented. It's an invitation to the opening of an exhibition including the winner's work at the big EPO office in Munich, Germany as well as a trip to the Technical Museum there. Second and third prize winners will receive a comprehensive kit to continue their drawing and painting activities. And if you enter the competition, then your whole class will receive a package of goodies. How about that?

So, get creative and we look forward to receiving lots of entries.