EQE Extended Support Programme (ESP)
Overview

What is Extended Support Programme?
The Candidate Support Programme (CSP) is an EPO cooperation programme designed to help EPO member states to develop an infrastructure of European qualified patent representatives by offering dedicated courses, coaching and financial support to students preparing for the European Qualifying Examination (EQE). Any participating country has a total of 20 CSP places.

When a country has filled its CSP quota of 20 students, then it may benefit from the Extended Support Programme (ESP), which is meant as a continuation, on reduced extent, of the CSP and aims at providing further on support to candidates wishing to sit the EQE.

Each country can nominate 10 candidates per year. The Programme starts formally on 1 September of each year and ends with the EQE examination in the subsequent year. Candidates may apply for Extended Support at any stage of their EQE studies, that is, even if they have passed some EQE papers already. They may apply again each year, even if they received Extended Support in previous years.

What support is provided?
Extended Support is the provision of up-to-date learning material (in digital form) useful for preparing for the EQE. The learning material provided is the same as the one provided to CSP students. In addition, students preparing for the EQE pre-examination will also receive free access to the EPO's pre-examination online training programme.

Who is eligible for Extended Support?
In order to receive the support, candidates must

- be permanently resident and working in one of the states that qualify for Extended Support, which are at present: The Czech Republic, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Portugal and Turkey; and
- have successfully enrolled to sit the EQE pre-examination or one or more EQE main examination papers.

Extended Support is not available to students sitting any examination for the fifth (or more) time.

How to apply for Extended Support?
Candidates should use the dedicated application form, completed with a document proving the place of permanent residence and submit it by email to the National Patent Office of the state in which they reside and work.

The National Office will review the applications received and forward to the EPO a ranked list of eligible candidates.

Upon receipt the EPO will review the proposed list of candidates and inform the National Office and the candidates of the final decision.

Contact details

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ANNEX

List of relevant dates for 2022-23 Extended Support

<table>
<tr><th>Action</th><th colspan="2">Deadline</th></tr>
<tr><td>Applications to be received by National Patent Office</td><td colspan="2">14 August 2022</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ranked list of candidates to be sent by NPO to the EPO</td><td colspan="2">31 August 2022</td></tr>
<tr><td>National Offices and candidates are informed of the results of the applications for extended support</td><td colspan="2">Beginning of September 2022</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">EQE pre- and main examinations
See “Examination dates” on http://www.eqe.org</td><td>Paper</td><td>Date</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>07 March 2023</td></tr>
<tr><td>A</td><td>09 March 2023</td></tr>
<tr><td>B</td><td>14 March 2023</td></tr>
<tr><td>C</td><td>16 March 2023</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Pre-exam</td><td>17 March 2023</td></tr>
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