

# Topic 3: Examination Status and Databases for Researching Status

Lutz Mailänder
Head, International Cooperation on Examination and Training Section

Cybercity November 23, 2021

# Agenda

- Examination status
  - Types of status
  - Why do we need to know?
- Overview of options and sources for retrieval
  - Patent registers (primary sources)
  - Secondary sources (Inpadoc)
  - Prosecution history reflected in dossiers

# Work-Sharing in the PCT national phase

Utilizing examination work products from other national phases for improving **efficiency** and **quality** requires

- Databases/platforms providing
  - Patent family information (family table) [>Topic 2]
  - Examination status of family members [>Topic 3]
  - Access to examination work products (dossiers, file wrappers) of family members [>Topic 4]
- Ideally, platforms which integrate this information in a user-friendly manner, e.g. within family table; and with additional tools, for example, for comparing work products (Common Citation Document CCD) [>Topic 6]
- Information on differing national practices (naming and content of work products; important case law; exclusions; ..)



### Status and life cycle stages of patents

- Pre-grant phase (before decision to grant or refuse/reject)
  - Pending
    - With request for examination
    - Awaiting request for examination (some jurisdictions with 'deferred' examination)
  - Withdrawn by applicant
  - Deemed to be withdrawn, abandoned (lack of action by applicant)
  - Rejected, refused by examiner
- Grant phase (between publication of decision to grant and the entry into force of grant)
  - Intend to grant (notice of acceptance)
  - Publication of grant
  - Opposition, reexamination; appeal
- Post-grant phase (after the entry into force of grant)
  - Lapsed
  - Reexamination, nullification, revocation, invalidation



### Why do we need to investigate status?

- Whether patents have been granted:
  - > full set of examination work products available (intermediary and final)
  - Whether opposition/invalidation was requested
    - > additional very relevant prior art
- If patents have <u>not</u> (yet) been granted, whether
  - Note of 'intention to grant' or 'acceptance'
    - > full set of examination work products available
  - Still pending examination
    - estimate by when next action (intermediary work product) can be expected
  - Rejected; indicator for
    - > very relevant prior art, and/or
    - > other important deficiencies (clarity, sufficient disclosure)
  - Many abandonments indicate
    - > relevant prior art
    - lack of interest
      - relevant for backlog processing (saving examination resources)

### Legal status

Status is related to legal **events or actions** as defined by the respective patent law and regulations of a particular **jurisdiction** 

events > status changes over the lifetime of patents

jurisdiction > different definitions limit comparability; differing terminology

- Be aware:
  - Same terminology does not imply same conditions for and implications of status
  - Different terminology may be used despite similar conditions and implications of status
- For more see WIPO Standard ST. 27
- Status may change from one day to another which poses challenges for maintaining respective databases up-to-date
- National registers as primary (authoritative), up-to-date sources



#### Status Information and Dossier Access

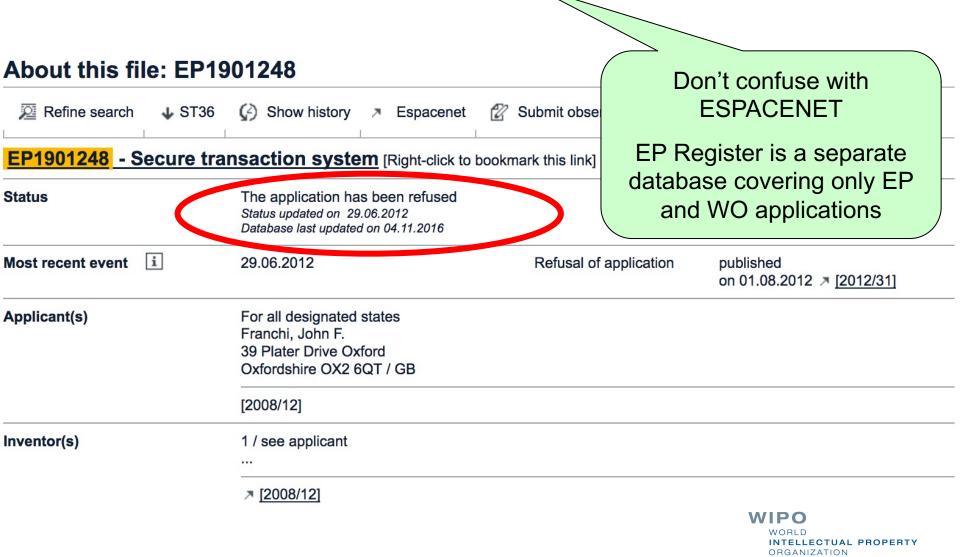
- Primary sources: each jurisdiction defines how authoritative (official) patent information is published and the respective authority in charge
- National Patent Registers are authoritative sources for
  - national legal status: all do (many online)
  - national family relations (divisions, continuations)
  - national publications
  - online access to national dossiers (public file inspection): some do
- Secondary sources: aggregate data from various primary sources; one-stop shops to access information from several primary sources through a unified user interface (building on a table of the patent family); access with English user interface:
  - Inpadoc database (public; status only)
  - **IP5 Global Dossier** (public; status derived from dossier, prosecution history)
  - WIPO CASE (non-public; status derived from dossier, prosecution history)
  - WIPO PATENTSCOPE (public; status derived from dossier, prosecution history)



WIPO PUBLIC



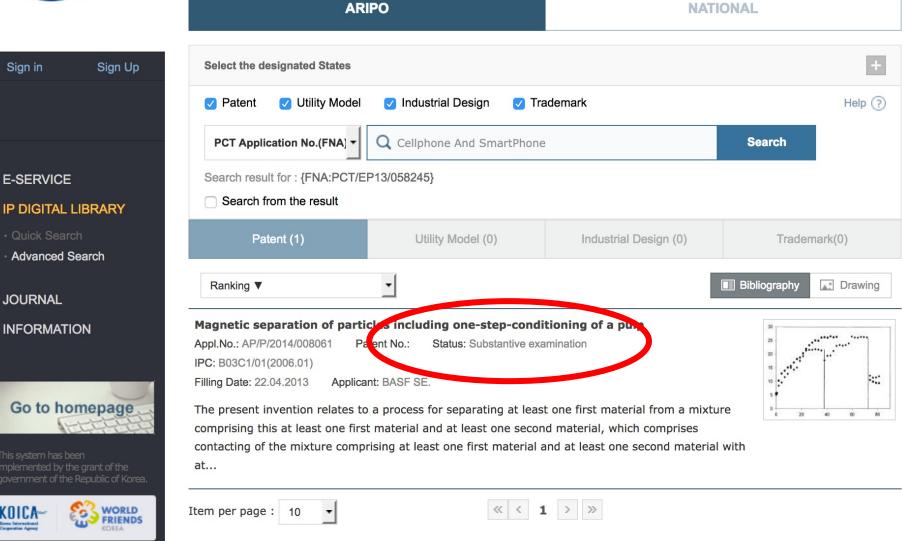
#### **European Patent Register**



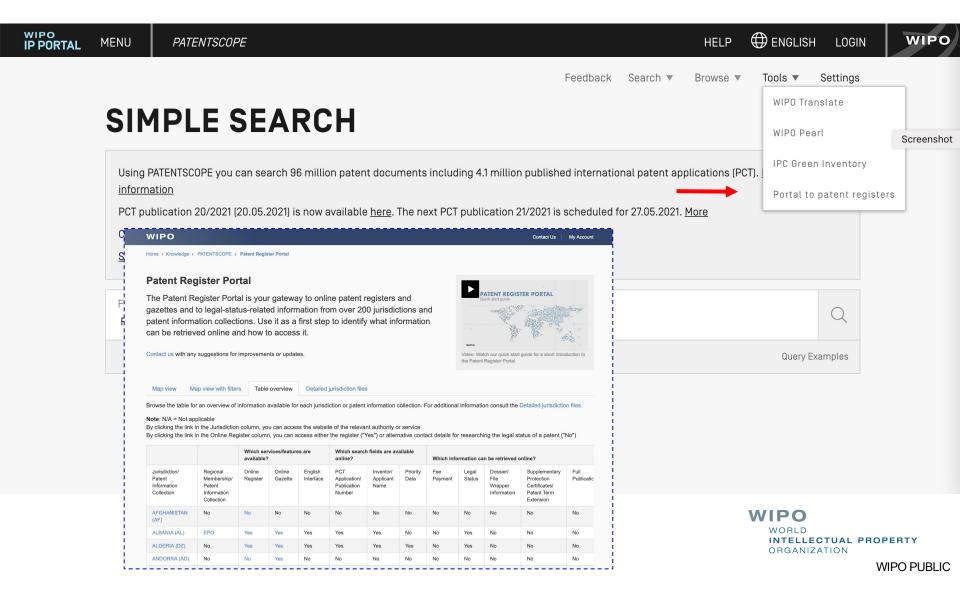


#### **SEARCH RESULT**

♠ Home > IPDL > Search Result



# WIPO patent register portal



# INPADOC: Secondary legal status source

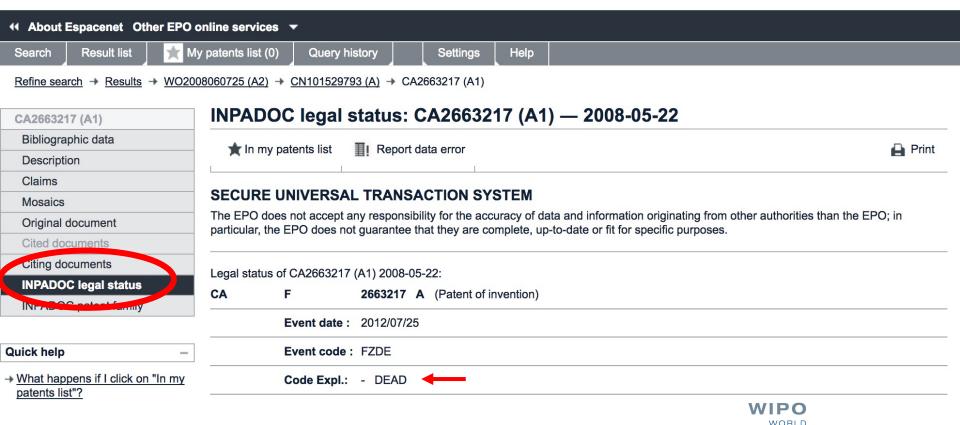




Deutsch English Français

Contact

Change country ▼



WIPO PUBLIC

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ORGANIZATION

### INPADOC legal status

- INPADOC data produced by EPO based on information received from primary sources (registers)
- Accessible through Espacenet as a secondary source of legal status data
- Not necessarily up-to-date because it is not retrieved on the fly, but in batches, for example, once a week
- Only certain jurisdictions sharing data with EPO are covered



# Status derived from prosecution history

- **Prosecution history** is the sequence of office and applicant actions (events)
- **Examination status** usually derives from the last office or applicant action (event), or the lack of such action after expiry of time limit
- Some registers provide prosecution (event) history (EP-Register)
- Communications (documents exchanged) in dossiers reflect prosecution history



#### WO2010098129

#### Status EP family member from 'Event history'

Pateintamt

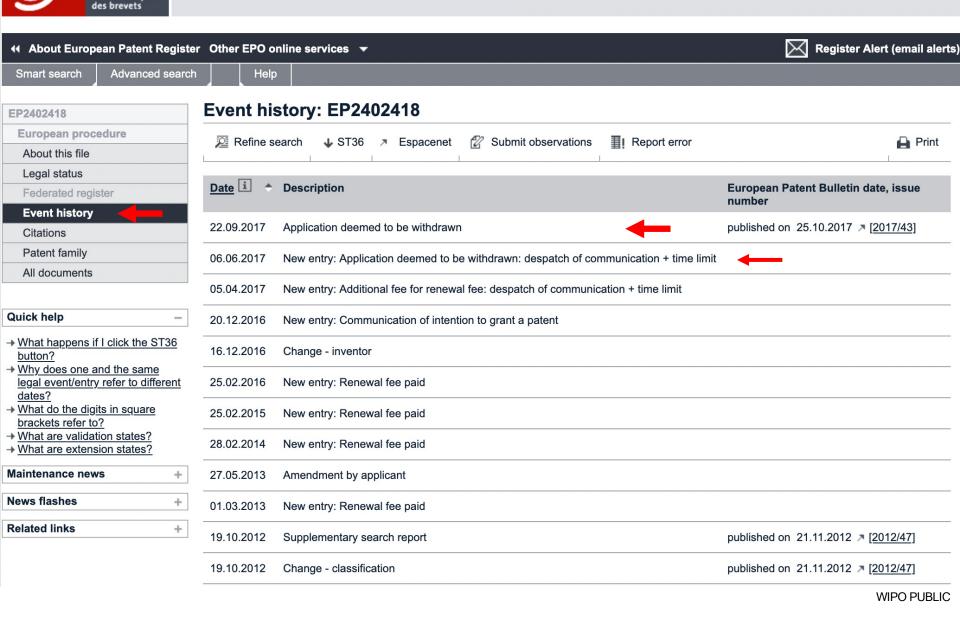
European

Patent Office Office européen European Patent Register

Deutsch En

nglish l

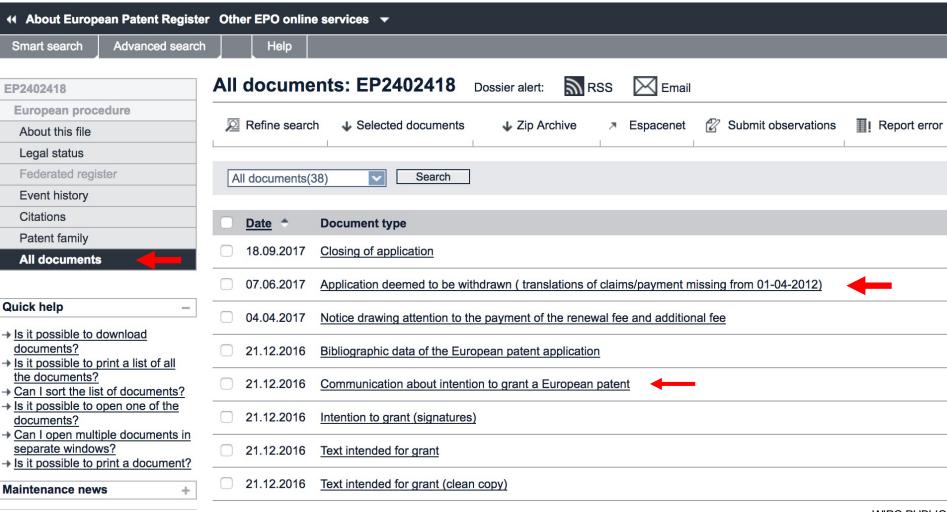
Contact



#### Status EP family member from **Dossier**



#### **European Patent Register**



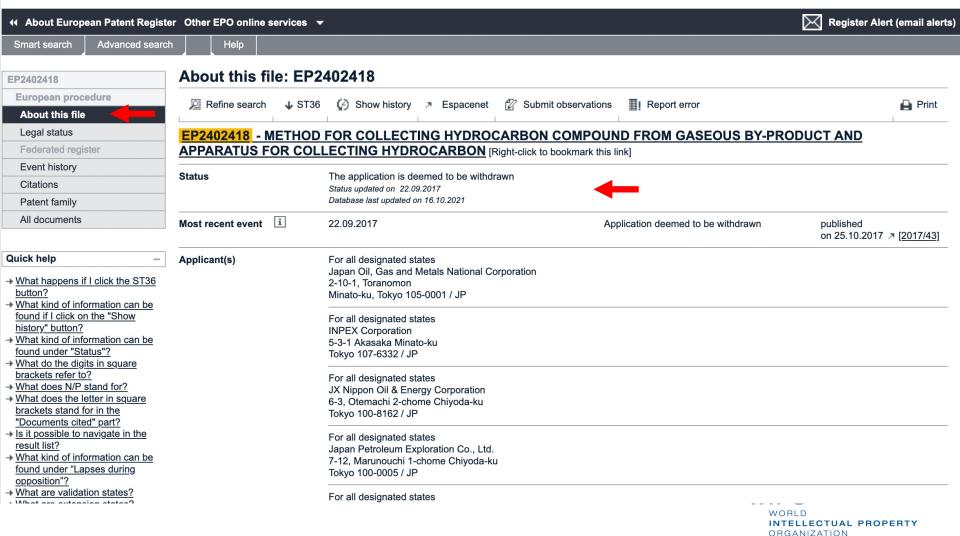
#### WO2010098129

#### Effective status on default landing page



#### **European Patent Register**

Deutsch English Français
Contact



# Thank you

lutz.mailander@wipo.int