



# IP and SMEs: EUIPO initiatives to support SMEs

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# Free personalised consultations on intellectual property for SMEs

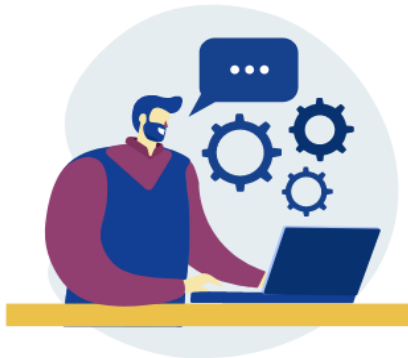
More information at: [www.euiipo.europa.eu](http://www.euiipo.europa.eu) 



Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union



# 1. Pro Bono



## Free Personalised Intellectual Property Support

### Do you need advice from an expert?

- Is your trade mark or design application likely to be accepted?
- Is someone using your trade mark, design or patent without your permission?
- Are you being accused of infringing somebody else's IP rights?
- Maybe you have an opposition or want to appeal a decision on your application but need some guidance?

Whatever your question is, you can apply here for free advice in your language.

Ready to apply? [Fill out the form.](#)

Want more details? [See how it works.](#)

[Apply now](#)

Overall figures:

05/07/2022

PROVIDERS:

Totals

Valid providers

261

CONSUMERS:

Signed-up SMEs

1976

# 1. Pro Bono

## FREE IP ADVICE, BUT... HOW DOES IT WORK?

SIMPLE PROCESS

### 4 STEPS

FOR A PRO  
BONO SERVICE

1



You have requested  
a pro bono service online.

2



You have received our email  
with a list of providers and  
their contact details.  
You now have to **SELECT JUST  
ONE** provider.

3



You have **10 days** ⌚  
from receiving our email  
to **INFORM US** of your chosen  
provider by replying to our email.  
Now **YOU CAN CONTACT**  
the chosen provider to start the  
service.

4



Please **INFORM** us by email when  
the service has finished and  
**REPLY** to our satisfaction survey  
to conclude the pro bono service.



## 1. Pro bono: SME Testimonials



**Mr. Popper,  
Croatia**  
*“Great initiative  
for start-ups and  
new companies.”*



**Salty Pelican SL,  
Portugal**  
*“The service was very  
informative and supportive  
throughout the whole  
process, making an  
overwhelming situation more  
comfortable and easier to  
resolve. I am really happy  
with this EUIPO service.”*

**VENDING2BE  
Austria**  
*“Excellent service.  
You rarely such  
active help for small  
companies During  
these time, we are  
very grateful for any  
free help.”*



**RDC, Spain**  
*“Very interesting  
initiative of the EUIPO to  
help SMEs to solve their  
doubts about intellectual  
property and above all,  
at zero cost!”*



## 2. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Services

- ➔ **Main features:** voluntary, confidential, flexible, efficient
- ➔ **Services provided on-line**
- ➔ **No additional charges in proceedings before the Office**
- ➔ **Proceedings must involve 2 parties (*inter partes*) – not including the Office**
- ➔ **Second instance: Appeal proceedings before the Boards of Appeal: all users**
- ➔ **First instance proceedings: SMEs – special service**

# SME FUND 2022





### 3. SME FUND 2022 – KEY ELEMENTS

- Eligible beneficiaries: SMEs based in the EU
- Term to apply for a grant: from 10/1/2022 to 16/12/2022
- IP activities included: IP Scan, trade marks, designs, and patents
- Grant amounts:
  - Voucher 1 (IP Scan, trade marks, and designs): €1,500
  - Voucher 2 (patents): €750
- How it works:
  - Apply for the grant (response in up to 15 working days)
  - 4 months (extendable to 6) to initiate activities and request your first reimbursement to activate your voucher
  - Implementation period (6 months for voucher 1 and 12 months for voucher 2) to initiate more activities and request reimbursements (payment in 30 days)



## IP ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

|           | IP ACTIVITY           | COVERAGE                          | INCLUDED FEES   | REIMBURSEMENT % |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Voucher 1 | IP Scans              | National level                    | Ceiling per EU country (maximum fee of €1,500)  | 90%             |
|           | Trade marks & designs | National, regional, and EU levels | Application, class, examination, registration, publication, and deferment of publication fees | 75%             |
|           |                       | Outside of the EU                 | Basic, designation, and subsequent designation fees (*)                                       | 50%             |
| Voucher 2 | Patents               | National level in the EU          | Pre-grant (filing, search, and examination), grant, and publication fees                      | 50%             |

(\*) Excluded fees: designation fees of EU countries and handling fees charged by the office of origin.

## VOUCHERS

| TYPE      | IP ACTIVITIES                      | VALUE  | DURATION                          |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Voucher 1 | IP Scans, trade marks, and designs | €1,500 | 4 months (extendable to 6 months) |
| Voucher 2 | Patents                            | €750   |                                   |



**Voucher 1** Company name





**Services** ID: 1234576324

- IP Scan
- Trademark & design fees outside of the EU
- Trademark & design fees at the national level
- Trademark & design fees at EU level

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Issuance Date | 03/01/2022 |
| Expiry Date   | 03/05/2022 |

Maximum reimbursement amount
**1.500€**

This voucher expires 120 calendar days after the start date. The voucher's validity may be extended to 180 days in your **Account** area on the website, but that extension request can only be carried out within 30 days of the original expiration date. See [Terms and Conditions](#) for details.

**Voucher 2** Company name





**Services** ID: 1234576324

Patent fees at the national level

|               |            |             |            |
|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Issuance Date | 03/01/2022 | Expiry Date | 03/05/2022 |
|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|

Reimbursement amount
**750€**

This voucher expires 120 calendar days after the start date. The voucher's validity may be extended to 180 days in your **Account** area on the website, but that extension request can only be carried out within 30 days of the original expiration date. See [Terms and Conditions](#) for details.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?



### 1. Apply for the Grant

Visit the SME Fund website and fill out the application form



### 2. Receive your Grant

Grant decision delivered in up to 15 working days



### 3. Initiate your IP Activities

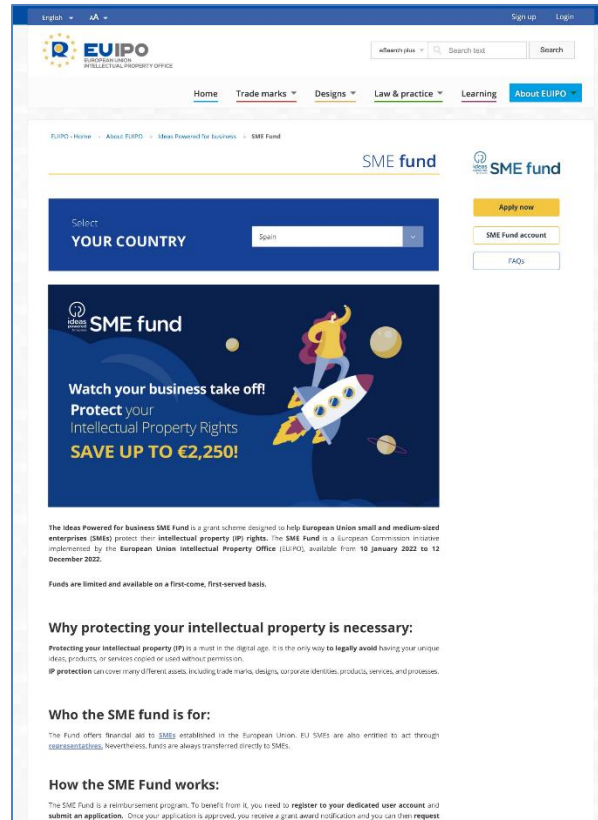
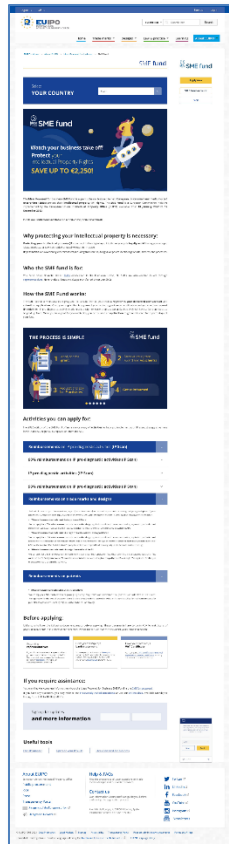
Run an IP Scan, apply for your trade mark, design, and/or patent



### 4. Get Reimbursed

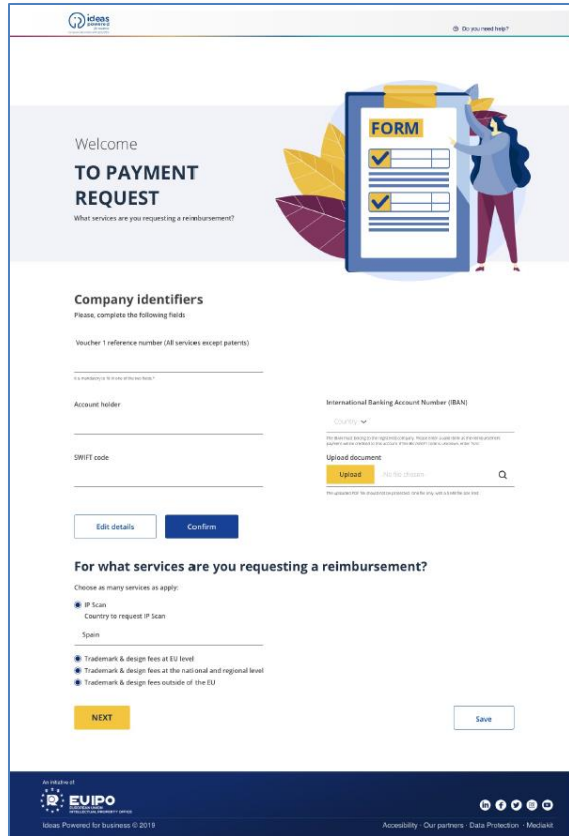
Pay up-front for activities, fill out the reimbursement form in your SME Fund account area, and receive your reimbursements

## WHERE TO APPLY? SME FUND LANDING PAGE IN EUIPO WEBSITE



- Clear information about the SME Fund, IP activities included and how it works
- FAQs section and online chat
- To apply you need to login with your EUIPO account or register
- SME Fund account with the online form to apply and relevant info

## 4. GET REIMBURSED: PAYMENT REQUEST FORM



**Welcome TO PAYMENT REQUEST**  
What services are you requesting a reimbursement?

**Company identifiers**  
Please, complete the following fields:

Voucher 1 reference number (All services except patents)

Account holder

SWIFT code

International Banking Account Number (IBAN)

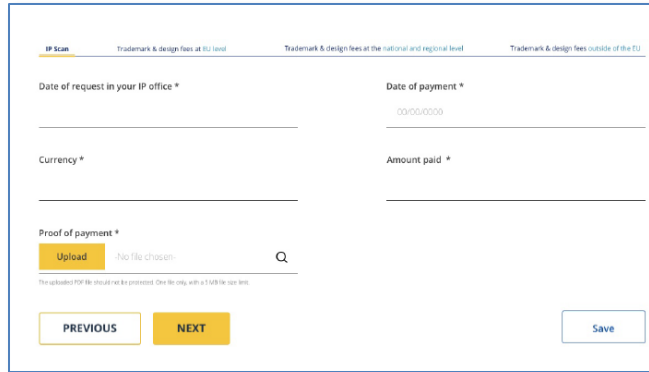
Upload document

**For what services are you requesting a reimbursement?**  
Choose as many services as apply:

- IP Scan
- Trademark & design fees at EU level
- Trademark & design fees at the national and regional level
- Trademark & design fees outside of the EU

**NEXT** **Save**

### IP Scan



**IP Scan** Trademark & design fees at EU level Trademark & design fees at the national and regional level Trademark & design fees outside of the EU

Date of request in your IP office \*

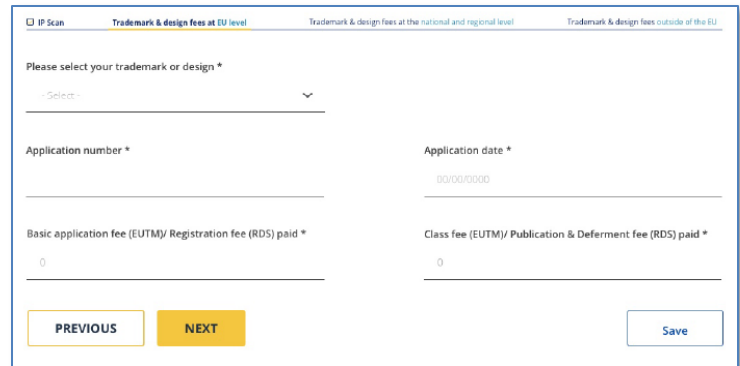
Currency \*

Proof of payment \*

**Upload** No file chosen

**PREVIOUS** **NEXT** **Save**

### Trade marks and designs at EU level



**IP Scan** Trademark & design fees at EU level Trademark & design fees at the national and regional level Trademark & design fees outside of the EU

Please select your trademark or design \*

Application number \*

Application date \*

Basic application fee (EUTM)/ Registration fee (RDS) paid \*

Class fee (EUTM)/ Publication & Deferment fee (RDS) paid \*

**PREVIOUS** **NEXT** **Save**

# SMEs REQUESTING VOUCHERS: updated on 27/06



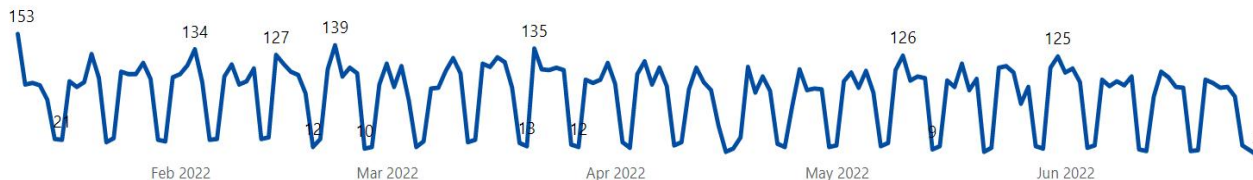
SME Fund 2022  
Phase I – SMEs requesting vouchers

Data updated: 27/06/2022

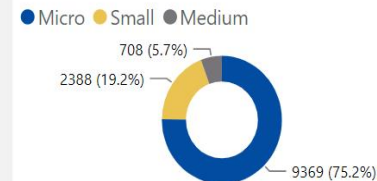
Date: 1/10/2022 6/27/2022 Voucher: All Type of SME: All SME Country: All Rep or SME: All Batch: All Month: All

| General indicators  | Total applications received | IP-Scan (voucher 1) requests | TM & DS (voucher 1) requests | Patents (voucher 2) requests | Total SMEs | SMEs requesting only Voucher 1 | SMEs requesting only Voucher 2 | SMEs requesting Voucher 1 + 2 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | 12,649                      | 813                          | 12,130                       | 1,280                        | 12,448     | 11,173                         | 328                            | 947                           |

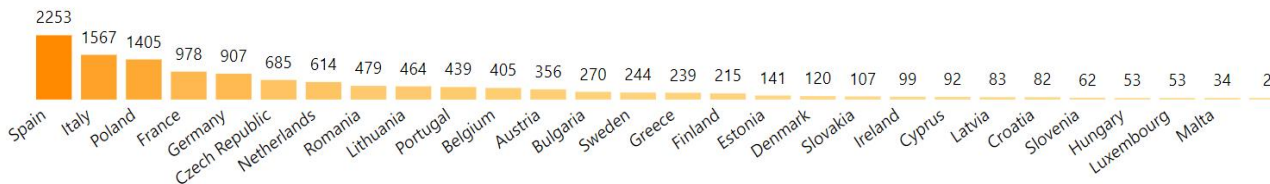
SMEs requesting vouchers over time



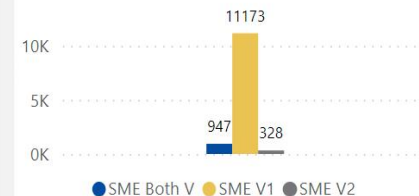
Type of SME



Country of origin of SMEs



SMEs requesting vouchers



## PERFORMANCE: updated on 27/06

### Application period – Eform 1



Evaluation time compliance

99%

| BATCH Number | Average (working days) | Evaluation time compliance |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1            | 10.0                   | 94%                        |
| 2            | 7.9                    | 100%                       |
| 3            | 8.1                    | 99%                        |
| 4            | 7.1                    | 99%                        |
| 5            | 9.1                    | 95%                        |
| 6            | 6.1                    | 98%                        |
| 7            | 7.2                    | 99%                        |
| 8            | 8.2                    | 99%                        |
| 9            | 7.1                    | 100%                       |
| 10           | 8.1                    | 100%                       |
| 11           | 7.2                    | 99%                        |
| 12           | 7.0                    | 100%                       |
| 13           | 7.0                    | 100%                       |
| 14           | 7.1                    | 99%                        |
| 15           | 8.0                    | 100%                       |
| 16           | 7.0                    | 100%                       |
| 17           | 6.3                    | 100%                       |
| 18           | 7.1                    | 100%                       |
| 19           | 7.3                    | 100%                       |
| 20           | 8.0                    | 100%                       |
| 21           | 6.2                    | 100%                       |
| 22           | 6.3                    | 100%                       |

### Payment period – Eform 2



Evaluation time compliance

87%

| BATCH - Number | Average days | Evaluation time compliance | BATCH - Number | % paid vs all (Eform2) |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1              | 25.48        | 72%                        | 1              | 83%                    |
| 2              | 25.43        | 75%                        | 2              | 80%                    |
| 3              | 24.24        | 78%                        | 3              | 76%                    |
| 4              | 23.19        | 78%                        | 4              | 75%                    |
| 5              | 21.25        | 82%                        | 5              | 86%                    |
| 6              | 18.74        | 83%                        | 6              | 80%                    |
| 7              | 18.97        | 84%                        | 7              | 76%                    |
| 8              | 17.13        | 88%                        | 8              | 78%                    |
| 9              | 16.02        | 89%                        | 9              | 76%                    |
| 10             | 14.94        | 92%                        | 10             | 82%                    |
| 11             | 13.34        | 95%                        | 11             | 81%                    |
| 12             | 14.01        | 93%                        | 12             | 80%                    |
| 13             | 13.16        | 94%                        | 13             | 75%                    |
| 14             | 13.59        | 93%                        | 14             | 76%                    |
| 15             | 13.54        | 95%                        | 15             | 73%                    |
| 16             | 13.26        | 98%                        | 16             | 68%                    |
| 17             | 13.47        | 100%                       | 17             | 72%                    |
| 18             | 12.57        | 100%                       | 18             | 62%                    |
| 19             | 12.08        | 100%                       | 19             | 50%                    |
| 20             | 9.64         | 100%                       | 20             | 35%                    |
| 21             | 7.95         | 100%                       | 21             | 17%                    |




## DISCOVER Intellectual Property



### Not sure where to start?

You have an idea or a brand name and are not sure how to go forward? Not sure what kind of intellectual property (trade marks, designs, patents) you should be considering? Check out our 'Discover Guides' and get a personalised report depending on what you need to know. 10 minutes is all it takes.

[Discover guides](#) 



### Stand out from the crowd

**So you have a name for your product. What next?**

- Discover the benefits of registering your trade mark. Your brand, properly protected, may become your most valuable asset.
- Consider the importance of registering your design, the appearance of your product. This will allow you to protect it against counterfeiting.

[Trade marks](#)

[Designs](#)



**Hold on!**  
You can save over €2,250  
before proceeding with your application

 **SME fund**  
Apply here

Easy Filing form

## Filing a trade mark application does not mean that it will be registered. If your application is refused no reimbursement is given.

Most applications are refused either because someone else got there first with an identical or similar mark, or because the mark was not distinctive. To increase the probability of your application proceeding smoothly, we recommend you watch this video:



[Start application](#)



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**THANK YOU**

**We are here to help!**

If you need any help, contact us at  
[INFORMATION@EUIPO.EUROPA.EU](mailto:INFORMATION@EUIPO.EUROPA.EU)