

Expedited Examination Programs of IP Offices

Portugal

In Portugal, the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI PT) offers some mechanisms/programs for accelerating the examination of patent applications in any technical area, though not specific for Covid-19 related patent applications.

Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH). Portugal has bilateral agreements with China, Mexico, and Brazil and a global PPH agreement with an extensive network of partners including US, Japan, EPO, and others. This mechanism enables worksharing between the partners, which contributes to accelerate the patenting process, to increase the quality of decisions and to harmonize them for the joint territory of the partners. The participation in PPH is free of charge.

Anticipation of publication of the patent application: the Portuguese legislation (Article 69 of the Industrial Property Code) establishes that the publication may be brought forward at the applicant's express request, upon payment of a fee.