



Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe

UK 25

General presentation of the measure/scheme/action/regulation

Country

United Kingdom

Geographical coverage, national or regional (state region)

(National)

Title of the measure

Abolition of patent fees

Information Source/Reference

<http://www.patent.gov.uk/snews/notices/redfee.html>

Overview (nature, main goals)

This is part of package of measures designed to improve the competitiveness of British industry, especially small firms. There are three main measures: abolition of the patent application fee; 20% reduction in costs of Patent Office services; posting the patent application form on the Internet

Action Plan objective addressed by measure

II.2. Protection of IPR

Administering agency

Patent Office

Concept House, Cardiff Road, United Kingdom

Phone: 0645 50 05 05

Fax: 01 633 81 44 44

Web Site: www.patent.gov.uk

Name of the manager(s) responsible for the implementation of this measure with address, fax, phone

Brian Caswell

Patent Office

Concept House, Cardiff Road, United Kingdom

Phone: 01633 814729

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Description of Scheme

General Information

Reference to legal basis (e.g. act, public document, ...)

The Trade Marks (Fees) Rules 1998 (SI 1998 No 1776)The Registered Designs (Fees) Rules 1998 (SI 1998 No 1777)The Patents (Fees) Rules 1998 (SI 1998 No 1778)

Does the measure receive central funding or regional funding?

Central

Start date

10/01/1998

Expected date of completion

indefinite

Previous measure (name, date, links with the current measure)

none

Reasons for launching/modifying the new measure

Recognition of the underpinning role of the system of intellectual property rights in the U government's commitment to innovation and creativity as a source of new wealth in society. This will assist businesses to secure their assets by identifying and asserting their copyright and registering patents, designs and trade marks.

Have any of the main features of the measure/scheme/action/regulation changed during its implementation

not relevant

What is the predominant role of the government?

Promote patenting activity and generally improve climate for innovation.

Target Group

Search

Publications

Who is Who

News

Links

Search

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Who are the target groups of the measure?

Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies
SMEs/Industrial SMEs

Organisation and Implementation**Organisation and Structure**

Applications received and processed by the patent office, with assistance provided where appropriate.

What are the criteria for eligibility?

To have a patentable idea

What is the mode of delivery of the measure?

Traditional and Internet patent application to the Patent office.

Financing : Overall budget allocated to the measure

No direct funding – (from Patent Office operating costs and incomes) – but savings to industry are estimated at £12 million, or 20 per cent of the Patent Office's fee income. There will also be a cut in the trade mark application fee from £225 to £200, a cut in trade mark registration renewal from £250 to £200 and cuts in patent renewal fees by an average of 18 per cent.

Financing : expenditure per year

no direct funding

Financing : other budgetary sources (additional financing)

no direct funding

Results**Result Measurement****What are the main indicators for the measurement of the results ?**

Numbers of patent applications received Turnover of Patent office

Where an evaluation has taken place, what were the main results achieved?

no evaluation

If no official evaluation has been undertaken, have there been any indicators of success?

not known

Observations**Which mechanisms seem to function well in the measure?**

Ease of access to patent system Abolition of fees.

Which mechanisms seem to be less successful in the measure?

unknown

Are there any other measures planned or in operation as a follow up to this measure? Direction of the planned measures? Objectives? Target groups?

no

