

## Guidance for obtaining IP Protection Co-financing, for a unique European patent application process through the IP4SME programme.

The EUIPO SME Fund IP (intellectual property) pre-diagnostic service should provide a broad assessment of the IP needs of SMEs and micro enterprises. It should involve an individual interview between an IP knowledgeable expert and the relevant management and/or staff of the SME. The ensuing report should cover most intellectual property protection methods (patents, trade marks, designs etc. as well as confidentiality aspects, trade secrets and licensing.

The pre-diagnostic report recommendations may also take into account the innovativeness of the intangible assets developed by an SME and may recommend that R&I (research and innovation) results should be developed into an application for a European patent. Such a recommendation could allow the SME to apply for and potentially receive reimbursement of costs associated with obtaining a European patent under the IPA4SME programme

The [IP4SME programme](#) launched under H2020 can provide financial and expert support for intellectual property (IP) patent costs and services to SMEs as follows:

- Receive 50% of the Patent Attorney fees related to a European Patent application, up to €2,000 per application process.
- Receive 75% of the cost of a European Patent Application, up to €2,500 per patent application.

To be considered eligible to apply for such reimbursement, an SME should obtain a certificate from their IP pre-diagnostic service provider that their innovation(s) may potentially be protected by a patent. SMEs eligible for this certificate should have received the report of the IP pre-diagnostic service not earlier than three years before the relevant cut-off date of the IPA4SME project.

### What costs are eligible for reimbursement?

#### Partial reimbursement of EPO fees

1. To receive reimbursement, SMEs will need to submit the EPO Patent registration payment receipt for an eligible patent application. The invoice and proof of payment must be issued **after** the service was awarded.
2. The submission must be performed within 4 months of date **after** the service was awarded.
3. Once the receipt has been verified by the Coordination Centre the SME will receive the corresponding reimbursement.
4. Beneficiaries will be reimbursed for 75% of the EPO fee stated on the payment receipt, up to a maximum amount of 2.500 EUR per IPA4SME application awarded.

#### Partial reimbursement of IP attorney fees

To receive reimbursement, SMEs will need to submit an invoice from an IP Patent Attorney entitled to act before the EPO. A list of professionals qualified to represent beneficiaries before the EPO can be found [here](#). The invoice and proof of payment must be issued **after** the service was awarded.

1. The submission must be performed within 4 months of date **after** the service was awarded.
2. Once the receipt has been verified by the Coordination Centre the SME will receive the corresponding reimbursement.
3. Beneficiaries will be reimbursed for 50% of the amount of the invoice from the IP Patent Attorney, up to a maximum amount of 2.000 EUR per IPA4SME application awarded.

#### How to apply:

Details of how to apply for financial reimbursement of IP protection services and the expert support covered by the IPA4SME programme are available at the following link [How to Apply | IPA4SME](#).