

Bilateral Co-operation Plan

between the

Hungarian Intellectual Property Office

and the

European Patent Office

1 January 2013 – 31 December 2015



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1. NPO PROFILE

Strategy:

Office strategy
 National IP strategy

Organisation and mandate:

Legal status: Government office
 Supervisory authority: Ministry of Public Administration and Justice on behalf of the Government of Hungary

Financial status: Financial autonomy
 Fully financed by the state
 Partially financed by the state

Role in the innovation system:
 IP policy formulation
 IP policy implementation
 Co-ordinating role in strengthening IP protection
 Advisory body for innovation policy setting
 Other:

Function in the patent area:
 Prior-art searches
 Substantive examination
 Filing & registration office
 PCT authority (*ISA and IPEA agreements*)
 Other: PCT subcontractor

National searches performed by the EPO: Yes
 No

IPRs available: Patents
 Trade marks
 Industrial design
 Copyright
 Utility models
 Plant variety
 Topographies of integrated circuits
 Geographical indications
 Personal names
 Other:

Total NPO staff:	222	
Staff dedicated to patents:	92	
Patent examiners:	68	
Staff dedicated to information technology (IT):	14	
Staff proficient in ¹	- English: 89 - French: 18 - German: 34	
NPO Training department:	Yes No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Systems and tools in use

Classification system in use:		
ECLA / CPC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IPC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:		
Patent tools and services in use at the NPO (provided by the EPO):		
Epoque		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online filing		<input type="checkbox"/>
- EP		<input type="checkbox"/>
- PCT		<input type="checkbox"/>
- National		<input type="checkbox"/>
- Other:		
Espacenet (level 1)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Publication server		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):		
Patent tools and services in use at the NPO (not provided by the EPO):		
National online filing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National electronic register		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:		

¹ The numbers reflect the data of 2012, December.

2. NPO OBJECTIVES

In line with the Hungarian Government's objectives, the overall objective of the HIPO is to support and benefit the Hungarian and European industry and economy. The HIPO, as a centre of the government's policy making in all fields of intellectual property, focuses on fostering the development of knowledge-based, innovative and competitive industries by delivering quality services and assuring a seamless patent system.

Striving to achieve this goal, the HIPO relies on the cooperation with the European Patent Office; moreover, the HIPO is determined to play an active role in the implementation of EPN to serve the best interest of all the users of the European patent system.

3. PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

A. TRAINING

i. P02 EPN training

a. Justification

HIPO treats the continuous development of the knowledge base in house with special attention to maintain highly trained staff that can provide high quality patent services. For this reason, HIPO has established a priority of fields according to the seven categories of the annually renewed training offer of the European Patent Academy as follows (starting with the highest priority moving towards the lower priority):

- Search and examination
- Legal and procedural issues
- Patent information
- Documentation and classification
- General language training
- Patent Administration and formalities
- IP Management
- Patent Office tools and techniques

The number of people HIPO wishes to train in each field is a subject to change depending on the content and availability of the annual training calendar of EPA, but loosely follows the above priority. Staff from regional patent information centres (PATLIBs) in Hungary may participate in relevant training courses offered by the EPO, for example patent information seminars).

A special emphasis is put on the language training of the HIPO staff to support the ease of communication and the depth of knowledge acquired through trainings in a multi-lingual European community. It is planned that 7 members from HIPO management (1 DE, 3 FR, 3 EN) and up to a total of 12 staff members from the patent department, financial department and IT services will participate in the language courses.

b. Contact persons

Organisation	Role	Name, function	Contact details
NPO	BCP co-ordinator		
	Project co-ordinator		
EPO	MS team BCP and project co-ordinator	See MS team contacts on the EPN co-operation website	

c. Activities and budget overview of P02

Act. nr	Training (field)	Target group	Nr of trainees per year	Justification / details	Budget 2013 (€)			Budget 2014 (€)			Budget 2015 (€)			Total budget (€)		
					NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total
01	IP Management	Others														
02	Search and examination	Patent examiners														
03	Patent Administration and formalities	Formalities Officers														
04	Patent Office tools and techniques	Others														
05	Documentation and classification	Patent examiners														
06	Legal and procedural issues	Patent examiners														
07	Patent information*	Others and PATLIB staff														
08	General language training	HIPO staff														
		Management Staff														
TOTAL																

* In A07 staff from HU PATLIB centres are included. The respective national cost share will be covered by the PATLIBs

ii. P07 Discussion platform for exchange on patenting procedures

a. Justification

The exchange of information and dissemination of knowledge on the latest developments in the patenting practices and procedures between HIPO and EPO experts is most valuable. This is particularly true in the fields of pharmaceutical, chemistry, biotech and engineering sciences. The project will ensure the up-to-date knowledge base in house related to every relevant field of the HIPO's patent related tasks.

In view of external contacts, HIPO maintains an open conversation with multiple professional organisations. In this respect the discussion platform will allow for first hand information from the EPO to relevant professional circles.

b. Description

The project will include two components, one being a discussion platform event in the fields of pharmaceutical, chemistry and engineering sciences. Envisaged topics are:

- 1) Establishment and use of the CPC classification scheme with examples; infrastructure; IT tools related to the implementation and use
- 2) Topical extended Boards of Appeal decisions to define legal practice - general approach
- 3) Outlining search strategies; search by keywords and classification code; best practice; available databases

The second component will be the public event following the discussion platform. The target group for this event are patent attorneys who are members of the Hungarian Chamber of Patent Attorneys, and other potentially interested parties such as PRO researchers or TTO staff depending on the relevance of the topic.

The exact agenda is to be decided on an annual basis.

c. Roles and responsibilities

HIPO

- Proposal of relevant fields for the discussion platform
- Nomination of HIPO experts
- Co-ordination of both events at national level, including invitation of participants
- Provision of local infrastructure and logistics

EPO

- Identification and provision of suitable experts
- Co-ordination of both events EOP internally and with HIPO

d. Contact persons

Organisation	Role	Name, function	Contact details
NPO	BCP co-ordinator		
	Project co-ordinator		
EPO	MS team BCP and project co-ordinator	See MS team contacts on the EPN co-operation website	

e. Activities and budget overview of P07

Activities	Expected results	Budget 2013 (€)			Budget 2014 (€)			Budget 2015 (€)			Total budget (€)		
		NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total
A01	Discussion platform event in the sector of pharmaceutical, chemistry and engineering sciences at the HIPO premises Target group: 5-8 HIPO examiners 2-3 EPO examiners*												
A02	A public national event with the involvement of the EPO experts for a specific target group aiming to raise awareness of the European patent practices and procedures												
PROJECT TOTAL													

* the mission cost for the EPO €

iii. P15 Development of e-learning material

a. Justification

HIPO maintains a well-defined training portfolio that covers multiple target groups and levels, and includes two e-learning courses which are currently offered to higher education students, and one general e-learning course open to the public.

However, the current e-learning portfolio uses one of the multiple possible forms and/or concepts for distance learning trainings, and HIPO wishes to diversify the e-learning training portfolio with further courses and alternative forms of training, such as web casts or downloadable presentations on a certain topic. The aim of this work is to establish a diverse repository of information and training material that is available to the general public and is also suitable for more specific target groups.

This new concept also supports the awareness raising efforts of HIPO and helps getting the message through as awareness raising and IP knowledge dissemination tool.

b. Description

The EPO in cooperation with OHIM initiated a stock taking exercise. An eGroup with the participation of the EPO, member states' NPOs and OHIM has been established to facilitate the actual sharing of e-learning material developed within the EPN (EPO, member states and OHIM) and to set up an inventory of material. This exercise includes the screening of already existing materials, their assessment and categorization in order to set up a clear and comprehensive storage system of materials. The translation of the qualifying materials into national languages is also envisioned within the project framework.

HIPO wishes to contribute to the exercise with education expertise and making its e-learning material available to interested member states. HIPO also actively participates in the work of the EPN eGroup of the stock taking exercise.

Based on the results of the stock taking of e-learning material available, HIPO will select e-learning components relevant for its users, arrange for translation into Hungarian language where necessary, and publish the material.

In order to increase the usage of the new online training materials, an annual awareness initiative is also necessary aiming the various target groups relevant for the new materials. The initiative includes the necessary tools to reach target groups, such as e.g. promotion via emailings and/or advertisements in regional and national papers.

c. Roles and responsibilities

HIPO

- Contribution to the project with dedicated staff member and with the expertise available through prior experiences.
- Granting access to any new training materials developed within the cooperation activity for the EPO and any interested MS, and supporting the adaptation of the material.

- Coordination of translations
- Publication of the e-learning material, for example on HIPO's website
- Organisation of promotional activities

EPO

- Co-ordination of the project at national level, e.g. via the eGroup
- Provision of the e-learning material owned or co-owned by the EPO, where feasible
- Publication of translated material on the EPO's website when appropriate

d. Contact persons

Organisation	Role	Name, function	Contact details
NPO	BCP co-ordinator		
	Project co-ordinator		
EPO	MS team BCP and project co-ordinator	See MS team contacts on the EPN co-operation website	

e. **Activities and budget overview**

Activities	Expected results	Budget 2013 (€)			Budget 2014 (€)			Budget 2015 (€)			Total budget (€)		
		NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total
A01	Translation / adaptation of existing public e-learning materials to promote the European patent system												
A02	Promotional activities to actively foster the use of the new material												
PROJECT TOTAL													

iv. P16 Support on preparation for the EQE

a. Justification

One of the most important aspects of the cooperation activities between HIPO and EPO is to support the operation of the European patent system and the maintenance of its high quality. An element of this is developing an adequate infrastructure of Professional Representatives (PRs).

At present, the number of PRs in Hungary is 123, out of which 80 PRs are entitled to represent cases before the EPO. The majority of the representatives gained this right on the basis of Art. 134 (3) EPC (known as "Grandfathers"). In order to ensure at long-term a sufficient infrastructure of PRs in the country it is necessary to support the preparation for, and the passing of, the European Qualifying Examination (EQE).

b. Description

The project aims to support the above described goal with the following objectives:

- achieving a higher pass-rate and increasing the proportion of successful EQE candidates;
- increasing the number of EQE-qualified PRs in Hungary;
- promoting the European Patent Attorney profession

These objectives are supported by the EPO's EQE Candidate Support Project (CSP) which includes training programmes to support the preparation for sitting the EQE, by financial measures aimed at reducing the hurdles to participating in the EQE, and through the provision of Coaches who are in weekly contact with the candidates.

The training programmes include:

- a) training courses to prepare the candidates for both the EQE Pre-examination, and the main examinations,
- b) support with the necessary language skills improvement of candidates, and
- c) internship with EPO and/or other a Patent Attorney office within a member state.

The training will have two phases. The first phase will involve the preparation of the candidates for the pre-examination (first year). The second phase will prepare the candidates for the main examination (papers A and B in the second year, papers C and D in the third year).

This training will have the specific aim to ensure that the candidates attain an adequate level of knowledge to pass the EQE. Another element of the project is to provide language training, if needed.

The project aims to cover both the disciplines electro mechanics and chemistry.

The financial measures include the reduction of fees, support with travel and accommodation costs along with a certain daily allowance related to the trainings, and a monthly bursary. In case organisational costs are involved in the selection of candidates (e.g. travel costs of applicant review board members, catering for meetings) they may be covered under to project. HIPO expects that 3-4 candidates will qualify each year for participation in the programme.

To further support the preparation for candidates of the EQE, residents of Hungary may apply to pay a reduced fee (equivalent to 25% of the normal fee) for the registration and for each EQE examination paper (currently, each fee is €200). This fee subvention is open to all EQE candidates

from eligible member states, and is independent of participation in the CSP. This subvention applies to registration and enrolment for the 2012 EQE onwards, and will continue for at least the duration of the project.

c. Roles and responsibilities

HIPO

- Co-ordination of the project at national level;
- Active promotion of the project through information and encouragement of potential candidates, in collaboration with the Hungarian Chamber of Patent Attorneys (HCPA)
- Professional support to the candidates throughout the training process.
- Providing training logistics and/or premises at which the training can take place

EPO

- Co-ordination of the project at EPN level
- Providing the specific training programme
- Providing financial support according to the provisions of the project (bursary, cost of training, internship and class meetings)

d. Contact persons

Organisation	Role	Name, function	Contact details
NPO	BCP co-ordinator		
	Project co-ordinator		
EPO	MS team BCP and project co-ordinator	See MS team contacts on the EPN co-operation website	

Financial provisions:

Upon acceptance in the programme, candidates are entitled to participate in the training activities free of charge. Central costs of training, which are estimated to be around 11000€ per candidate/year will be fully covered by the EPO.

Eligible costs include (economy) travel and accommodation costs related to the participation in training seminars and meeting the tutors (also covered by the EPO).

Study material will be provided by the EPO free of charge.

For internships at patent attorney offices, every individual case will need to be discussed separately.

Selected candidates are also entitled to receive a bursary of €150 per month for the months they are participating in training programme (Usually September to February the following year, and for a maximum of 3 years participation in the project).

e. Activities and budget overview

Activities	Expected results	Budget 2013 (€)		Budget 2014 (€)		Budget 2015 (€)		Total budget (€)	
		NPO	Total	NPO	Total	NPO	Total	NPO	Total
A01	Active promotion of the project with the help of HCPA								
A02	Selection of suitable candidates								
A03	Language training for candidates*								
A04	Extensive training programme**								
A05	Regular meeting with the tutor								
A06	Internship with a patent attorney firm in another member state and/or the EPO**								
PROJECT TOTAL									

* Cost for language course estimated at -

**Calculation basis for A04 and A06:

B. PATENT-RELATED IT SERVICES AND TOOLS

i. P14 European language technology services for patents

a. Justification

The Hungarian Intellectual Property Office is participating in the project in order to facilitate access to patent information for the users of the patent system. Via the machine translation services users will be able to translate from English, French and German into Hungarian language and vice-versa.

b. Description

The Hungarian language corpora has been provided to the EPO to feed and train the translations engine with the help of English-Hungarian language pair documents. The Patent Translate service is operational and available to the public via Espacenet and the European Publication Server. The collection of additional document pairs will continue in order to further improve the quality of the machine translation service. As Hungary joined the London agreement, there is no obligation for applicants anymore to issue a translation of complete English patent specifications into Hungarian language to validate European patents in Hungary. However, it is necessary to translate the claims into Hungarian. Besides, whenever the original patent specification is in German or French, the complete specification must be translated into Hungarian. Applicants may provide a translation of validated EP patents in Hungarian language on a voluntary basis. These documents may be provided for the corpora.

The translation service will be extended to French-Hungarian and German-Hungarian, based on the corpora available.

c. Roles and responsibilities

HIPO

- Providing all available national patent documents at least dating back to 1990;
- Ensuring that the EPO is in the position to establish and handle centrally the repository on patent corpora and the language services;

EPO according to CA/29/10 Rev.1 (§ 32)

- Manage the overall coordination of the programme;
- Prepare an inventory of already available patent documents in an electronic form;
- Scan, OCR and index patent documents (at least back to 1990) according to the EPO standards as well as perform any relevant electronic processing or document clean-up;
- Establish a centralised repository of patent corpora;
- Acquire already processed and/or translated patent documents from commercial providers, where necessary;
- Integrate and maintain the translation and other selected language technology services into the EPO tools addressed to the general public.

d. Contact persons

Organisation	Role	Name, function	Contact details
NPO	BCP co-ordinator		
	Project co-ordinator		
EPO	MS team BCP and project co-ordinator	See MS team contacts on the EPN co-operation website	

e. Activities and budget overview

HIPO may engage in one of the below listed activities according to the specific details in the description (point b.) with special regards to the French and German corpora. Currently no activities are planned under this project.

Overhead costs as well as other costs borne by the EPO not attributable to a single language will not be included into the BCP project budget.

Activities	Expected results	Budget 2013 (€)			Budget 2014 (€)			Budget 2015 (€)			Total budget (€)		
		NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total
A01	Collection and processing of suitable patent corpora: OCRing of documents available at the EPO												
A02	Collection and processing of suitable patent corpora: scanning, indexing and OCRing of new documents collected externally												
A03	Collection of other suitable corpora												
PROJECT TOTAL													

C. PATENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND AWARENESS

i. P03 Awareness of the European patent system

a. Justification

HIPO has been running a programme to raise awareness about the importance and the structure of IP and the patent system for years, out of which certain programmes between 2010 and 2012 were partially financed by the EPO within the frameworks of the National Action Plan.

The programmes were organised on a regional basis with the help of local partners, which contributed to developing an extensive regional network of partners, and also to effectively getting the message through with a country-wide coverage.

Utilizing its network, HIPO aims to raise awareness of issues related to the European patent system, engaging the EPO more actively in key events on this topic.

b. Description

The activities foreseen in this project involve the organisation of events related to the European patent system. This principle goes multiple ways. It includes the involvement of the EPO in the organisation of the event along other European organisations that deal with other aspects of patenting such as, for example, European technology transfer organisations. In certain cases, events may be co-organised with OHIM in order to take advantage of the common platform and provide a diverse picture of the European IP protection possibilities.

The target group of the events is threefold: a) PROs including researchers, university staff and PhD students, b) SMEs in Budapest and in the country and c) TTOs around the country.

The content of the events may vary from year to year depending on the most topical issues with a total maximum of 6 events foreseen annually, based on a yearly event calendar. The event topics foreseen in 2013 are centred around introducing the European patent and raising awareness of the training portfolio of the EPO to the broader public in Hungary. The event topics for the following years are to be decided on by the end of January of the respective year and are subject to agreement with the EPO.

c. Roles and responsibilities

HIPO

- Co-ordination and organisation of the events at national level;
- Take care of the dissemination of the respective material;

EPO

- Co-ordinate the project at EPN level;
- Provide EPO experts where necessary.

d. **Contact persons**

Organisation	Role	Name, function	Contact details
NPO	BCP co-ordinator		
	Project co-ordinator		
EPO	MS team BCP and project co-ordinator	See MS team contacts on the EPN co-operation website	

e. **Activities and budget overview**

Activities	Expected results	Budget 2013 (€)			Budget 2014 (€)			Budget 2015 (€)			Total budget (€)				
		NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total		
A01	Participation in national fairs and exhibitions on a common stand with the EPO*														
A02	Participation in international fairs and exhibitions on a common stand with other EPN members (at least 3 offices)														
A03	Organisation of patent related awareness and training events to promote the European patent system*														
A04	Development of new information material to promote the European patent system														
A05	Translation/adaptation of existing EPN material to promote the European patent system:														
PROJECT TOTAL															

* In case of the participation of an EPC

ii. P21 Federated European patent register

a. Justification

HIPO is offering their users an electronic Register services to enable them to retrieve legal status information on Hungarian patents, including EP patents validated in Hungary (post grant phase). Previously the services was not interlinked with the European Patent Register, with the consequence that the user had to consult multiple, non-harmonised services to retrieve the legal status of a European patent. In order to facilitate access to legal status information on European patents and to increase legal certainty for the users, HIPO has joined the project on a Federated European Patent Register.

b. Description

The EPO has established a common European entry point which makes it possible for the user to access national register data in a harmonised way, HIPO's electronic register has been deep linked to the European Patent Register. The project follows the "quality at source approach", meaning that the European Patent Register does not duplicate national registers but provides a harmonised Europe wide entry point to access the national registers of the participating member states.

The first project phase, namely the "deep linking" to the Hungarian electronic register has been completed and the service is operational. The next step will be to establish a web service enabling search and display of Hungarian (and other EPN) legal status data. The respective web service is operational in HIPO and all relevant backlog data are available in electronic format.

c. Roles and responsibilities

HIPO

- Co-ordination of the project at national level;
- Ensure the quality and the completeness of the national data
- Implement the web service for their register to support the Federated Register

EPO

- Co-ordination of the project at EPN level;
- Implementation and support of the "deep linking" and the Federated European Patent Register;
- Implementation of machine translation services within the federated patent register service.

d. **Contact persons**

Organisation	Role	Name, function	Contact details
NPO	BCP co-ordinator		
	Project co-ordinator		
	Technical co-ordinator		
EPO	MS team BCP and project co-ordinator	See MS team contacts on the EPN co-operation website	

e. Activities and budget

Activities	Expected results	Budget 2013 (€)			Budget 2014 (€)			Budget 2015 (€)			Total budget (€)		
		NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total
A01	Knowledge transfer to NPO staff												
A02	Implementation of "deep linking"												
A03	Implementation of the federated patent register service												
A04	Implementation of machine translation service within the federated patent register service												
A05	Implementation of a national language interface												
A06	Implementation of a national register / web service in support of the federated patent register service												
A07	Implementation of Patent, if needed												
A08	National register data: quality at source*												
A09	National register data:媒ialless data exchange*												
A10	National register backlog electronic data capture												
PROJECT TOTAL													

* Expert missions / technical support by

D. STRENGTHENING OF THE EPN

i. P01 EPN events

Act. nr	Type of event	Nr of participants per year	Budget 2013 (€)			Budget 2014 (€)			Budget 2015 (€)			Total budget (€)		
			NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total
01	Annual meeting on co-operation with Member States													
02	Coordination meetings													
03	Workshops													
04	Conferences organised by the EPO													
PROJECT TOTAL														

4. BCP OVERALL BUDGET

No.	Project title	Budget 2013 (k€)			Budget 2014 (k€)			Budget 2015 (k€)			Total budget (k€)		
		NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total	NPO	EPO	Total
P01	EPN events												
P02	EPN training												
P03	Awareness of the European patent system												
P07	Discussion platform for exchange on patenting procedures												
P14	European language technology services for patents												
P15	Development of e-learning materials												
P16	Support for preparation of candidates for the European Qualifying Examination												
P21	Federated Patent Register Service												
TOTAL													

In the context of implementation of projects with the member states under the Co-operation Roadmap, the EPO has committed to bear the following costs in addition to direct expenditure indicated in the preceding budget tables:

- EPO staff mission costs
- Central costs for organisation of training
- Central costs for corpora collection, scanning, indexing and OCRing related to the Machine translation and Espacenet 40 projects, also including all expert and infrastructure costs for launching the member states languages within Patent Translate.
- Central costs for organisation of EPN events
- General project co-ordination and management costs, also incl. external contractors

5. GENERAL REMARKS

The implementation of co-operation activities and the corresponding support will follow the details specified in the present document, however, subject to availability of financial and human resources in both the HIPO and the EPO. Activities related to technical projects will need to be agreed by the technical units of both the HIPO and the EPO prior to their implementation.

With regard to projects involving the implementation of technical infrastructure, tools and materials, a review of the state of the art in the concerned field shall be carried out immediately before the launch of the project. This will ensure the most up-to-date solution at the time of implementation.

The HIPO shall always contact and inform the EPO prior to the start of an activity in order to assure the compliance with the relevant financial, legal and implementation procedures.

The EPO country co-ordinators will co-ordinate the activities related to EPO co-operation with the relevant MS.

The different EPO departments involved in the implementation of cooperation projects are responsible for providing the expertise in their areas of competence.

The EPO, in close co-operation with the HIPO, will regularly monitor activities and achievements to ensure the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the co-operation projects. The NPO's annual activities report will form the basis of the annual report on MS co-operation submitted to the Administrative Council.

The year 2012 is considered transitional for the implementation of the new co-operation roadmap as outlined in CA/85/11. Thus, the NAP and BCP may exist in parallel to prevent any interruption in co-operation. Procedural aspects shall follow whenever possible and feasible the provisions of the co-operation roadmap (CA/85/11).

As the training centre for Judges of the European patent court will be located in Budapest, specific co-operation activities in the framework of establishing this training centre might become necessary and will be included in the BCP at a later stage.

6. ANNEXES