Horizon Results Platform & European IP Helpdesk

IP and Artificial Intelligence

22 April 2026

European Commission

Horizon Results Platform (HRP)

European Commission's official gateway to EU-funded innovations, promoting the most promising results coming out of EU R&I-funded projects, and directly connecting innovators with market opportunities.

Over 3600 results published

Different EU funding programmes covered

FP7, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, EIT, Research Fund for Coal&Steel…

Search Filters

Thematic, geography, need, technology readiness, innovation radar, investor readiness…

PARTNERS

BAE BUSINESS ANGELS EUROPE

eban

enterprise europe network

European IP Helpdesk

SOLARIMPULSE FOUNDATION

eit European Institute of Innovation & Technology

A body of the European Union

BOOSTER

European Commission

HRP: Creating Impact for your Results

Over 50 thematic matchmaking and brokerage events

Over 100 startups pitched to investors and corporates

1.000s of innovators have had **go-to-market support services**

Over 1.500 beneficiaries have attended **dedicated investor readiness webinars** to enhance their go-to-market journey.

Success Stories

Licensed technology, financing, grants, accelerators, post-event negotiations, extended networking, …

European Commission

HRP TV: The Experts Say & Get Inspired!

Navigating Investor Negotiations

Video

Founders, startups and SMEs: gain insights on the investment process. In collaboration with Business Angels Europe (BAE), the Horizon Results Platform (HRP) brings you practical insights into investor…

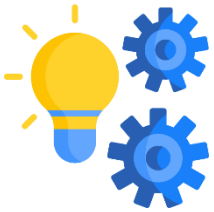
2025 Sustainable Mobility e-Pitch with 6 Innovative Startups from Horizon Results and EIT Urban Mobility

Video

Watch 6 innovative Sustainable Mobility startups pitch at this event co-organized by the EC Horizon Results Platform an…

European Commission

Key Links

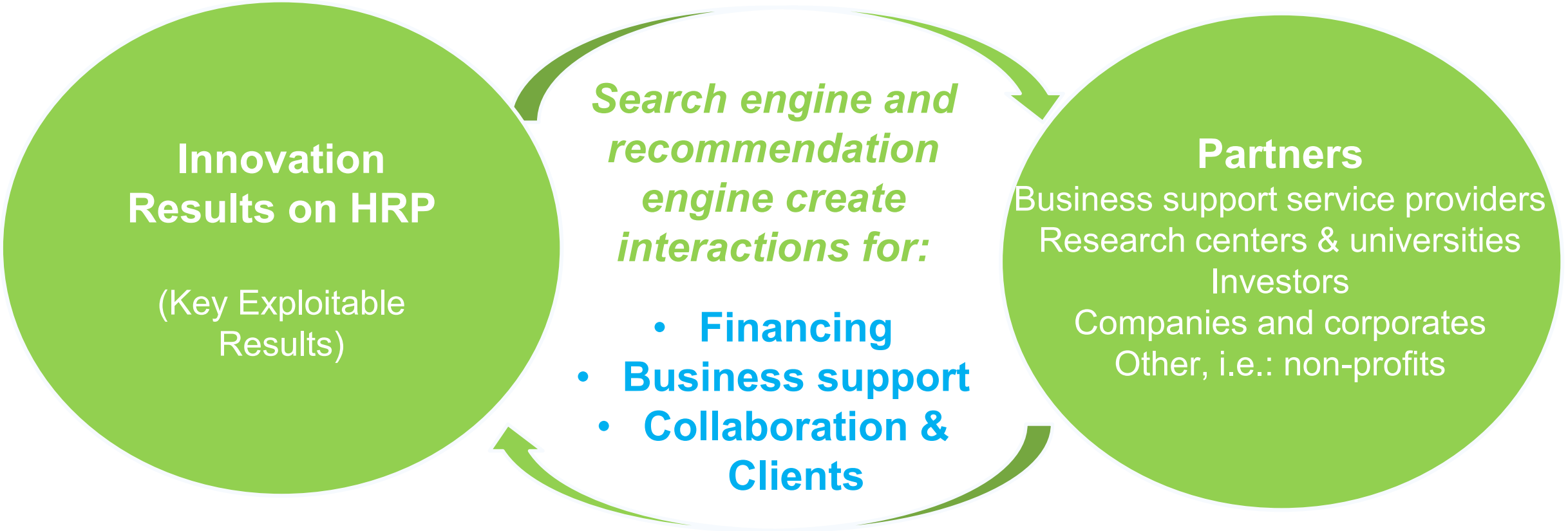


Horizon Results Platform

HRP TV

How to publish on the Horizon Results Platform

HRP: Towards an Innovation Platform and Gateway to Services for EU-funded R&I Results



European Commission

Horizon Results Platform Team

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Thank you – we look forward to hearing from you!

European IP Helpdesk

- Service initiative of the European Commission
- Addressing **current and potential beneficiaries of EU-funded projects, researchers and EU SMEs**
- Free-of-charge first-line support on intellectual property (IP)
- Hands-on IP and innovation management support
- International pool of IP experts from various thematic fields
- Unique cooperation scheme with the Enterprise Europe Network: 43 ambassadors from 26 EU countries

Training
free online and on-site sessions

Website
frequent updates from the world of IP and innovation

Helpline
confidential treatment of individual IP questions

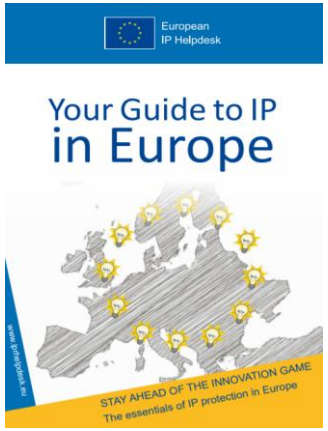
Publications
practical IP knowledge through high-level publications

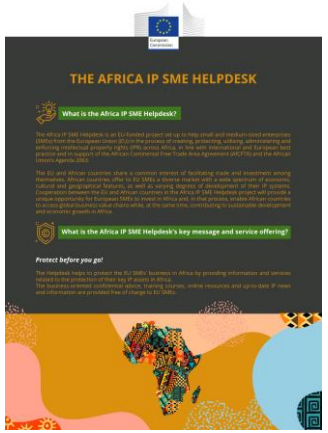
Ambassadors
local IP support throughout Europe

Events
info point at key networking events and conferences

The EC IP Helpdesks

EC IP (SME) Helpdesk Hub – Gateway to Information





- E-learning modules & more
- Guides / Topic, country, sector-specific factsheets / Infographics
- Case studies

Intellectual Property & Quantum: Interview Series with Robert Harrison

Link

Ambassador Scheme

- **Cooperation scheme** with the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN): 43 ambassadors – 26 countries
- **Building IP capacities** among European SMEs
- **Overcoming language barriers**
- Making the topic **more accessible**
- Exchange and feedback from ambassadors on **needs of SMEs**
- Local **awareness** and **training events**

Upcoming events

22 APR 2026
Training and workshops
EU - Webinar & Horizon Results Platform: Artificial Intelligence
Live streaming available

22 APR 2026
Training and workshops
Sports Industry & IPR - From Performance to Commercial Value

22 APR 2026
Training and workshops
EPO Training Coop: From Lab to Market - Scaling Platform Technologies
Online only
Live streaming available

30 APR 2026
Training and workshops
EU - Webinar: Freedom to Operate
Live streaming available

12 MAY 2026
Training and workshops
EU - Webinar: IP and Artificial Intelligence - Advanced
Live streaming available

19 MAY 2026
Training and workshops
EU - Webinar: Finding Patents
Live streaming available

25 MAY 2026
Training and workshops
EU - Webinar : Unitary Patent
Live streaming available

28 MAY 2026
Training and workshops
EU - Webinar: Patents and Trade Secrets
Live streaming available

Thank you!

- www.ec.europa.eu/ip-helpdesk

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European IP Helpdesk

Stay ahead of the innovation game.

IP and Artifical Intelligence

Robert Harrison

Robert Harrison

Patent and Trade Mark Attorney
Munich/Paris/Vienna/Zürich/London

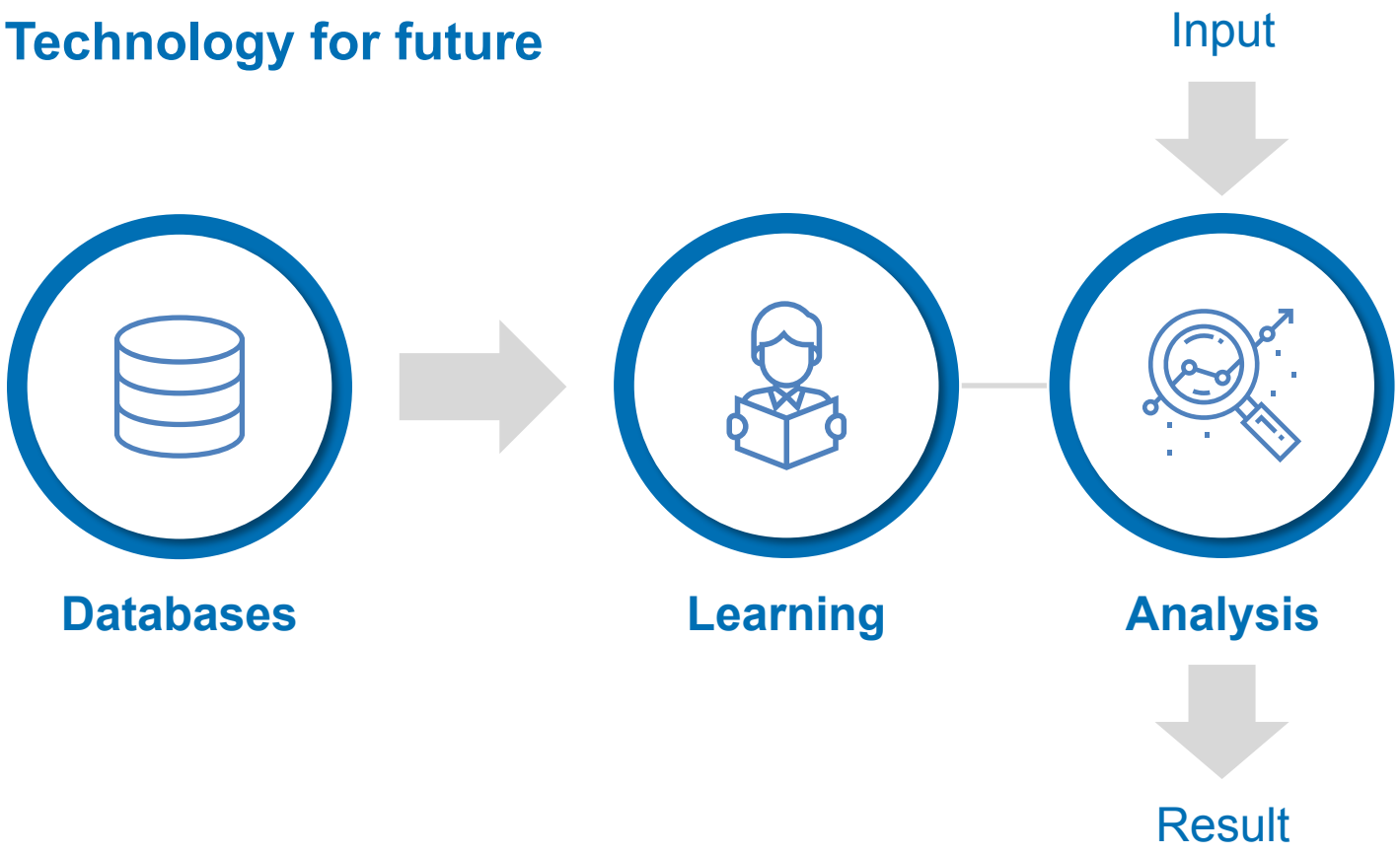
About me

- BA Physics, Oxford University
- MSc Physics, Sheffield University
- PhD Semiconductors Sheffield University
- EPO Examiner – the Hague
- IBM Germany – Patent Engineer
- W.L.Gore & Associates – European IP Counsel
- Founding Partner, Sonnenberg Harrison
- Advisory Board Member
- IP Strategy

Artificial Intelligence

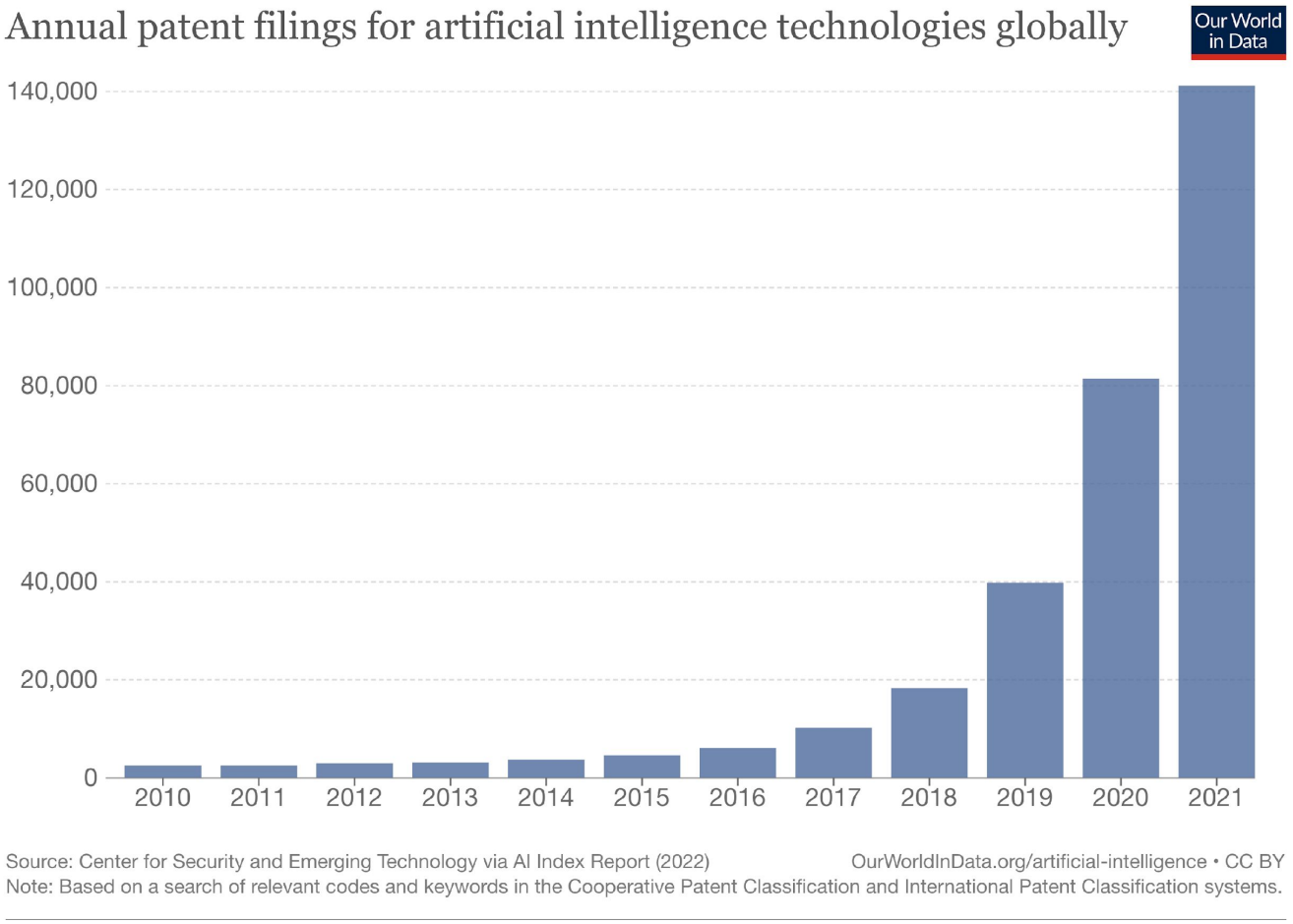
What do we mean?

Technology for future



Picture source: Istock.com

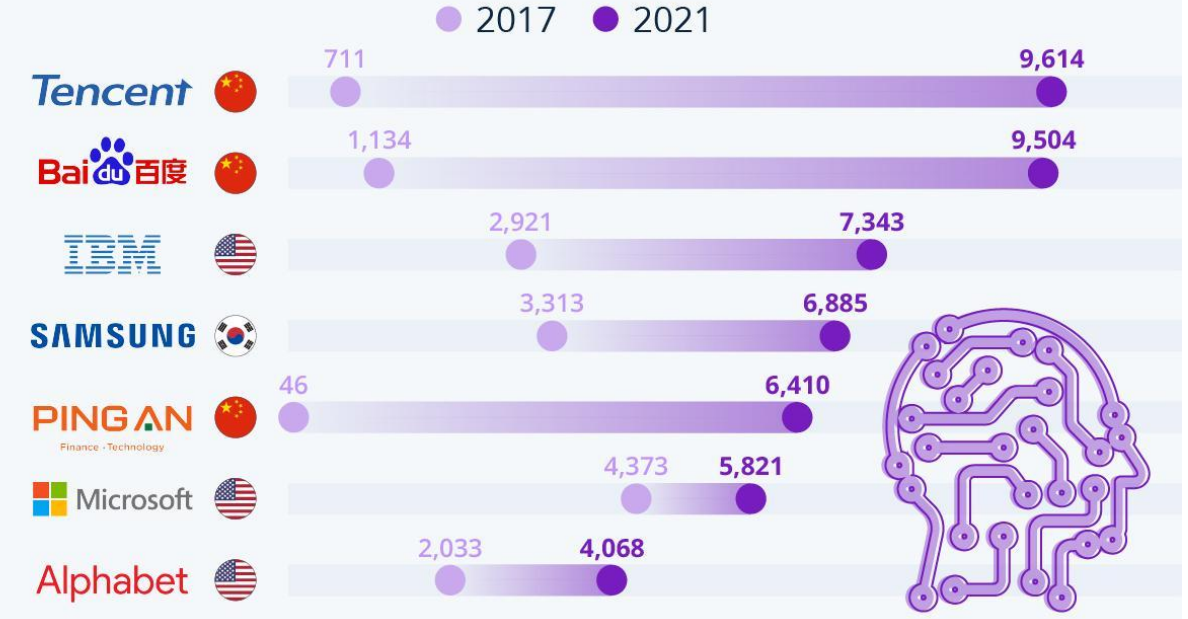
Increase in Patent Applications



Picture source: Freepik.com

The Companies Holding the Most AI Patents

Number of active AI and machine learning patent families held by company*



* Largest owners in 2021

Source: LexisNexis PatentSight

statista

European AI Act

- Common regulatory and legal framework
- Agreed by Parliament and Council
- Parliament amendment on IP
- Entered into Force 2024

Picture source: Freepik.com

IP and Artificial Intelligence

Data ownership

Database Rights

Contractual Rights

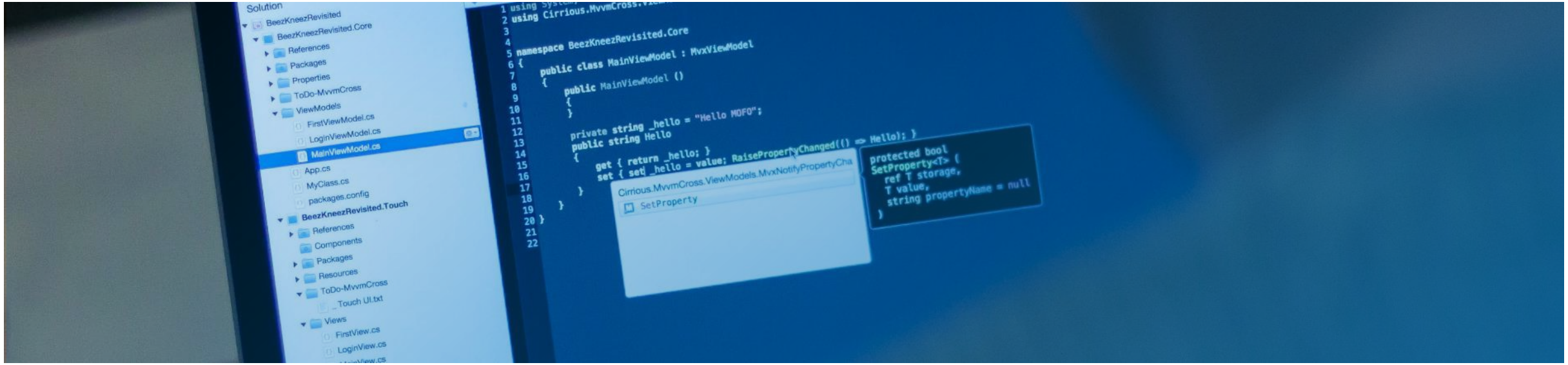
Patents

Picture source: Pixabay.com

Data Rights and Ownership

Picture source: Freepik.com

Who owns data?



Can we really talk about “ownership”?

Different countries have different legal concepts

European Commission has proposals for several data related acts, including a Data Governance Act (applicable from September 2023)

Picture source: Freepik.com

Copyright

Picture source: Freepik.com

Copyright Ownership

Level of Creativity Required for Copyright Protection

Data per se will not have this level

Software is protected – under Berne Convention

Picture source: Freepik.com

Database Rights (Europe)

Picture source: Freepik.com

Protects collection of data

Excludes machine generated data

Not individual data items

Picture source: Freepik.com

Contracts

Picture source: Freepik.com

Contractual Arrangements

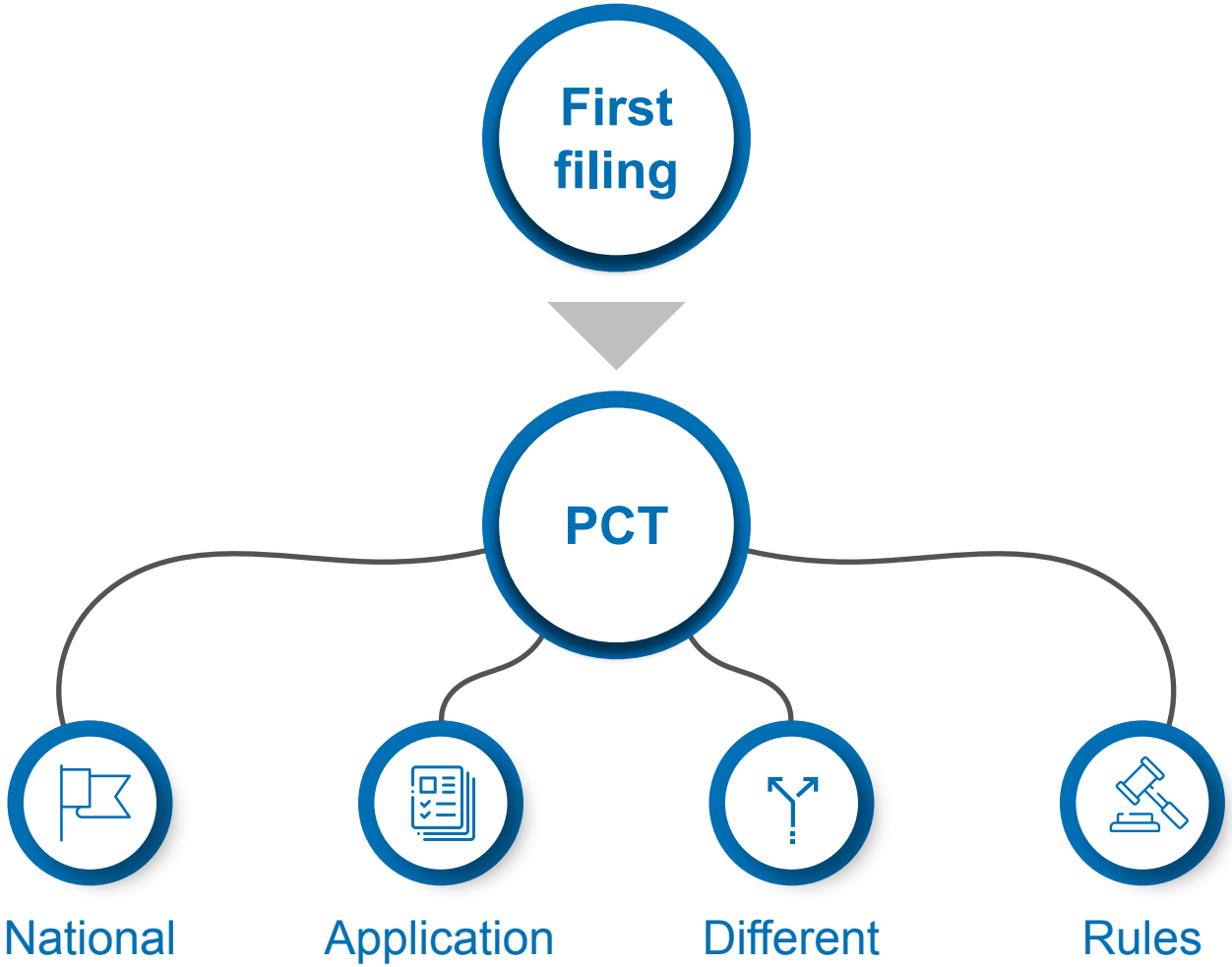
- Use of input data
- Curation of data
- Exploitation of data
- Exploitation of results

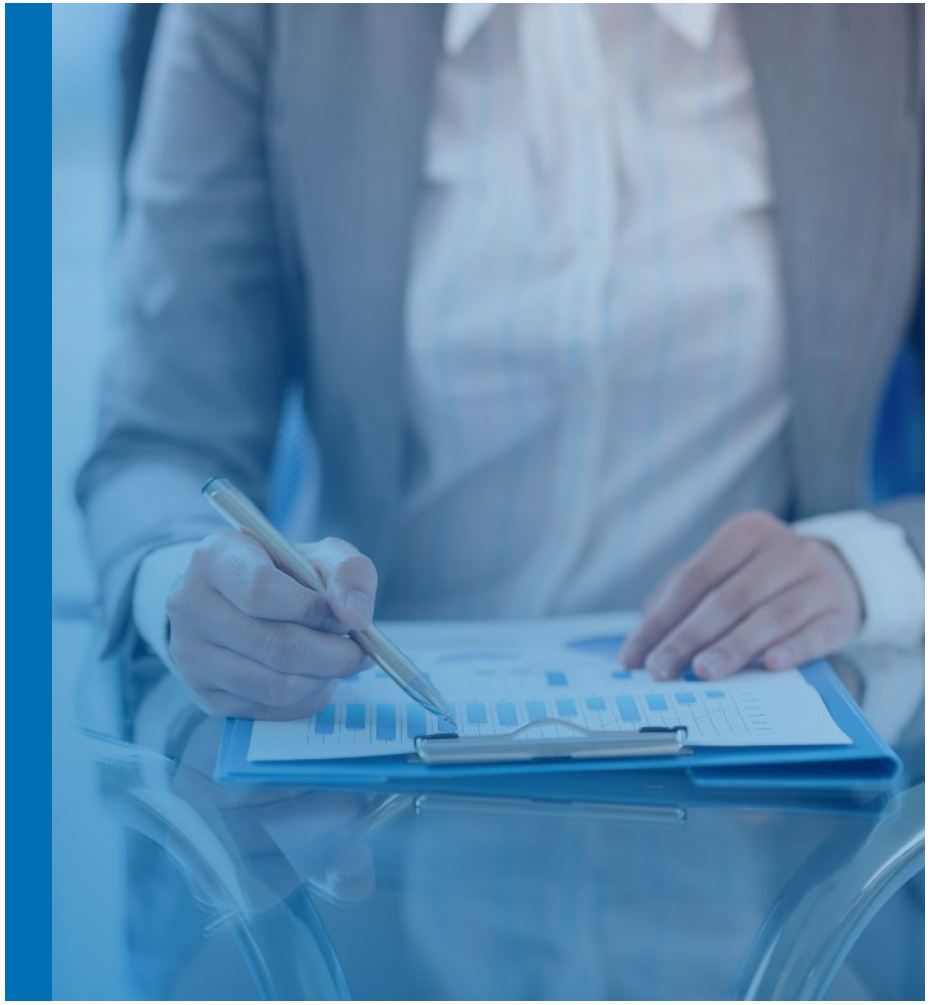
Picture source: Freepik.com

Patent Rights

Picture source: Freepik.com

Filing a Patent Application





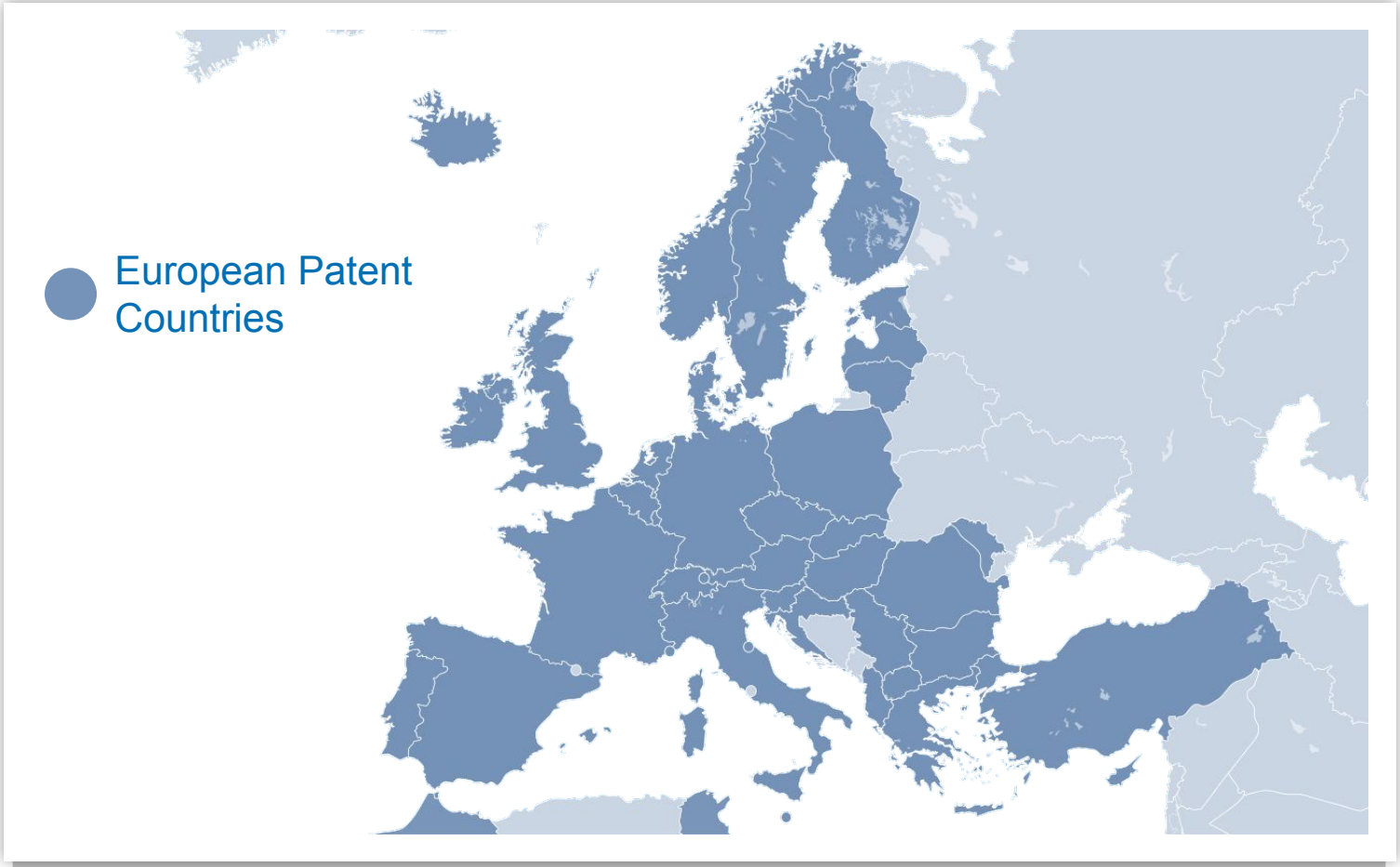
Picture source: Freepik.com

National Rights

- Different countries treat AI differently - convergence in Europe
- AI treated as computer-implemented invention
- US – rejects “abstract idea” §101 rejections
- EU – “software excluded form patents per se”

Picture source: Freepik.com

Focus on Europe

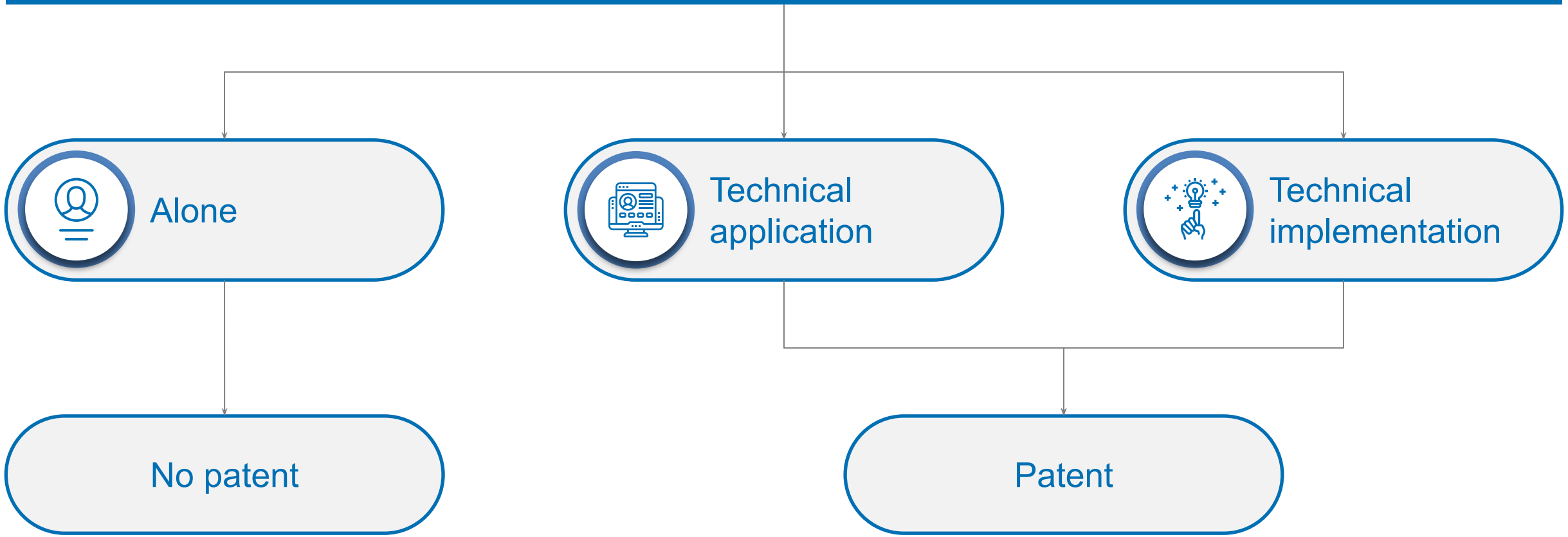


Picture source: European Patent Office

Picture source: google.com/maps

II. Guidelines for Examination of AI in the EPO (latest April 2026)

Examined as inventions involving **mathematical methods**



Technical Application

First Case – Technical Application of a mathematical model

Use in monitoring equipment, such as a heart monitoring device for identifying irregular heartbeats;

Controlling a specific technical system or process, e.g. an X-ray apparatus or a steel cooling process;

Digital audio, image or video enhancement or analysis, e.g. classifying, de-noising, detecting persons in a digital image, estimating the quality of a transmitted digital audio signal;

Separation of sources in speech signals; speech recognition, e.g. mapping a speech input to a text output; or

Providing a medical diagnosis by an automated system processing physiological measurement.

This technical purpose must be specific

Technical Implementation

Second Case - Technical Implementation of a mathematical model

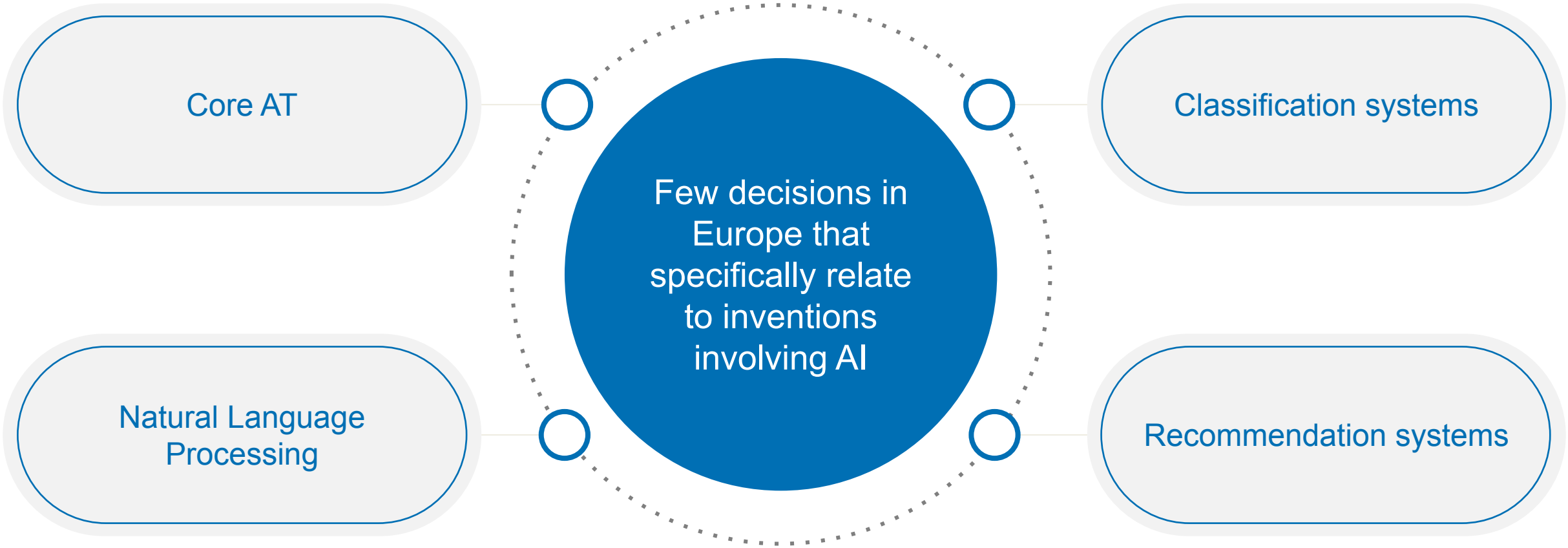
Mathematical method is **particularly adapted** for that implementation.

Data collection

Interaction between hardware elements to collect the data

Picture source: Istock.com

Patentability of Some AI Technologies



Core AI

Fundamental building blocks of AI and machine learning, as opposed to the applications of AI

Difficult to file patent applications on innovations in this “Core AI”. EPO considers it not to be “technical”.

Overcome by specifying in detail

- Implementation of the system
- Application of algorithm

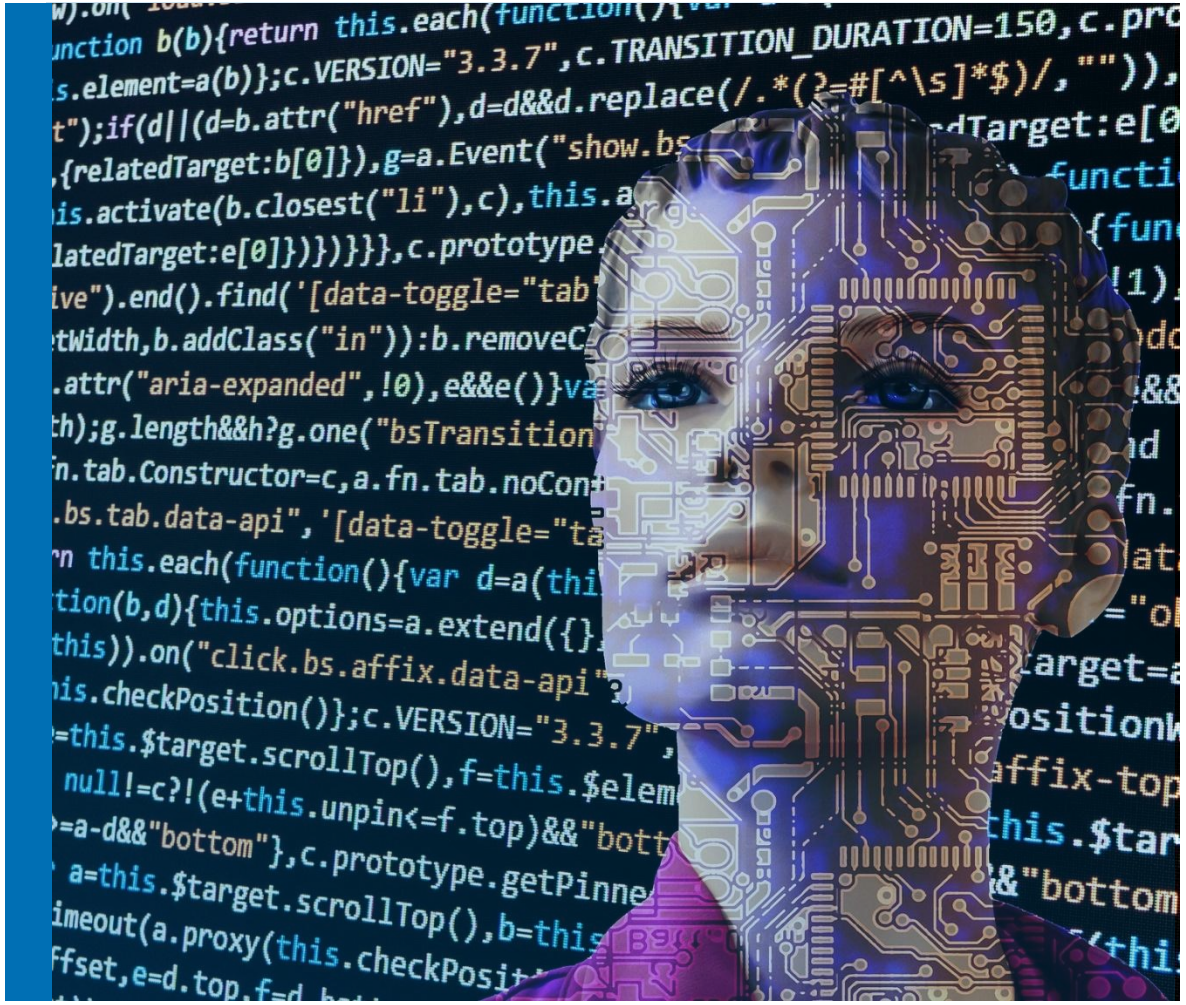
Picture source: Pixabay.com

Natural Language Processing

Allows a computer to interpret inputs, and to generate outputs, in languages such as English, German or Japanese.
Example – Amazon's Alexa System

These virtual assistants use a range of NLP techniques, such as

- Speech recognition to transcribe a user's speech into text
- Natural language understanding;
- Natural language generation to produce a response.



Picture source: Pixabay.com

EPO considers some NLP techniques to be more patentable than others

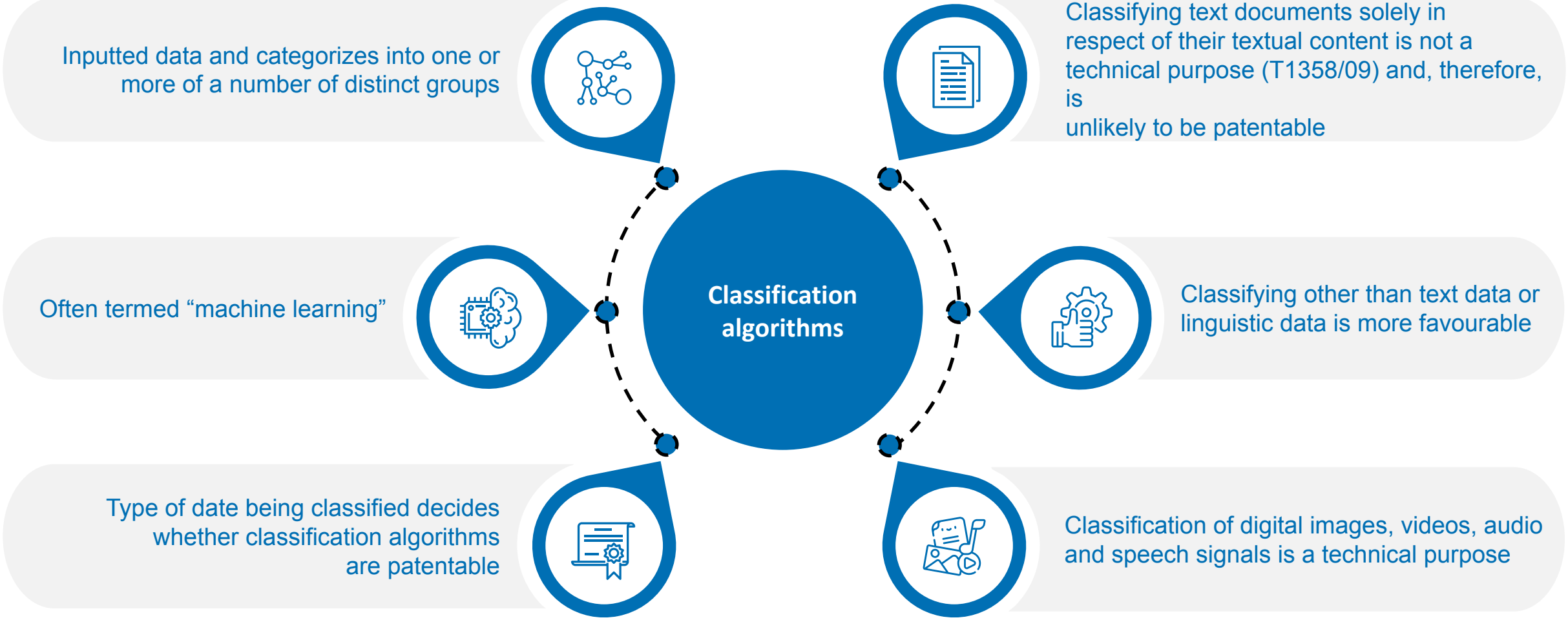
Speech recognition, which the Guidelines expressly recognize as a “technical purpose” is readily patentable

Natural language understanding or comprehension, is considered more difficult to patent

NLP is not a recent technology and the difficulties in patenting NLP, and other technologies involving linguistics, are longstanding

Picture source: Istock.com

Classification Algorithms



Recommendation Systems

Recommendation systems provide suggestions for content that is likely to be of interest to a particular user

Book selling websites often employ a recommendation system to suggest new books that a reader might enjoy

amazon.com

Great commercial significance but extremely difficult to patent

Picture source: Freepik.com

Claiming AI-Related Inventions

AI-related inventions may have three potentially patentable aspects

Generating training data for use in training a model, such as an artificial neural network;

Training the model using the training data (machine learning); and

Using the trained model to analyze new data

Each of these aspects should have separate independent claims

Picture source: Istock.com

Trained model may be difficult to define in concrete technical terms

"Product-by-Process" claim e.g., Emotional Perception

Even if a product-by-process claim is not allowable, a well-drafted claim to a method of training a model will confer protection on the model itself under Article 64(2) EPC

Picture source: Freepik.com

Inventive Step

Not “could” the skilled person arrive at the invention but “would” they do so?

- Large number of parameters
- No obvious relationship
- Human selection of training parameters

Problem-Solution approach is required
Solution must be in the technical sphere

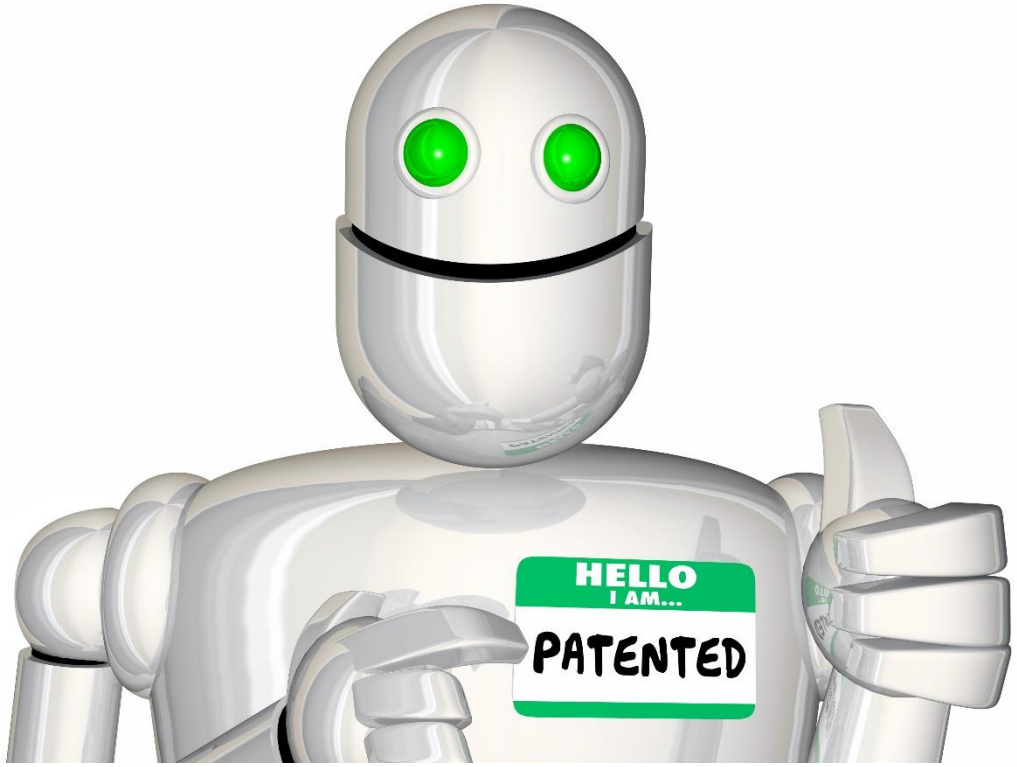
Picture source: Freepik.com

AI as Inventor or Creator

EPO US UK : No (EPO - J0008/20)
South Africa: Yes
Germany: No – but include in description

US Copyright Office: Creator must be a human being

"…the inventor designated in a European patent must be a natural person … the understanding of the term inventor as referring to a natural person appears to be an internationally applicable standard, and that various national courts have issued decisions to this effect."



Picture source: Adobe

Large Language Models

IP and other legal issues from large language models

Uses copyrighted information + non-copyrighted data

Produces useful and useless information

Liability?

Many unanswered questions

Picture source: Istock.com

Conclusions – Protection of AI Innovations

Data can be protected

Copyright for programs

Patenting possible if you can describe problem-solution approach

Picture source: Istock.com

Contact

Thanks!

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