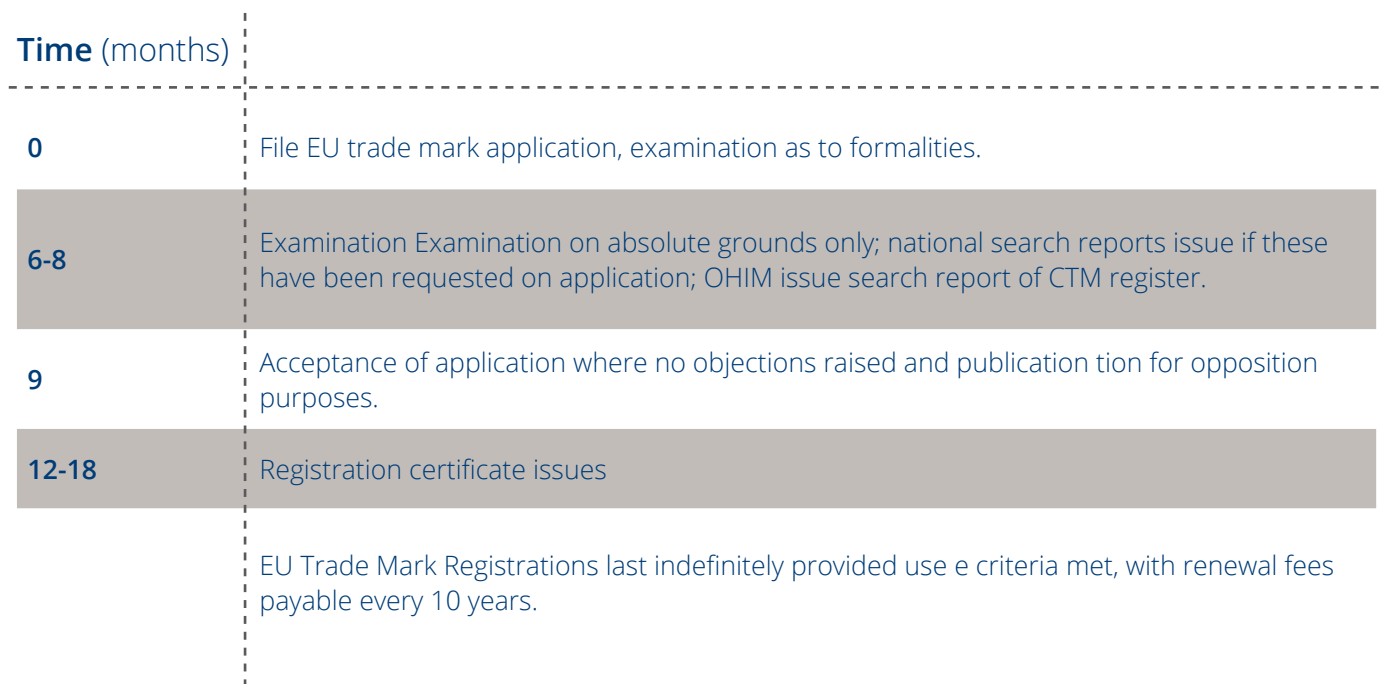


EU Trade Mark Application Timeline

EU Trade Marks, which cover the entire EU, are administered by the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM).

The timeline below gives approximate timescale to achieve registration in a straightforward case, in the absence of objections or oppositions.

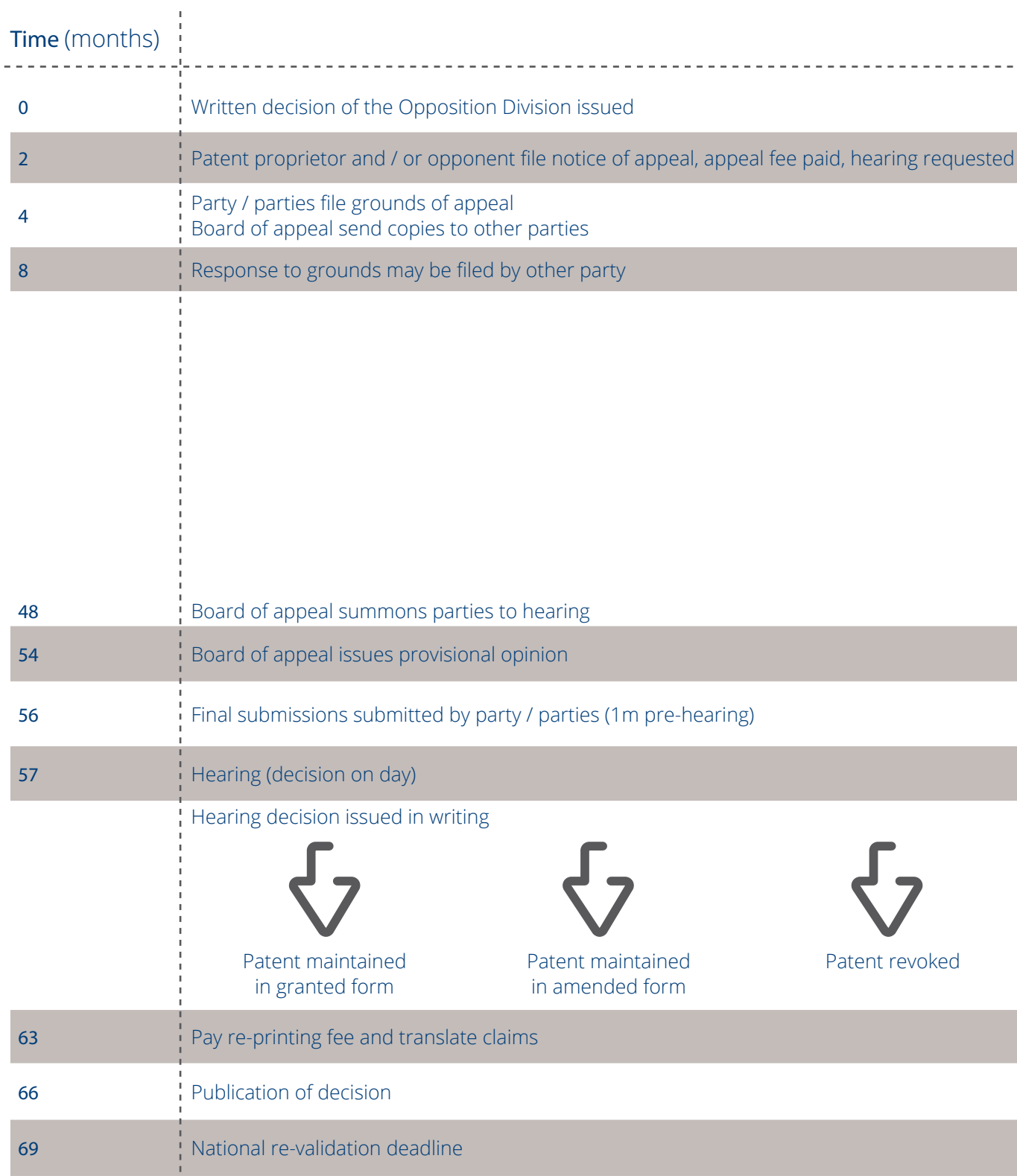


An EU trade mark registration will cover the following EU Member States, and extends to cover new Member States as and when they join:

Austria	Finland	Latvia	Romania	Candidate countries:
Belgium	France	Lithuania	Slovakia	
Bulgaria	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovenia	
Cyprus	Greece	Malta	Spain	
Czech Rep.	Hungary	Netherlands	Sweden	
Denmark	Ireland	Poland	UK	
Estonia	Italy	Portugal		

This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

European Patent (opposition) appeal process



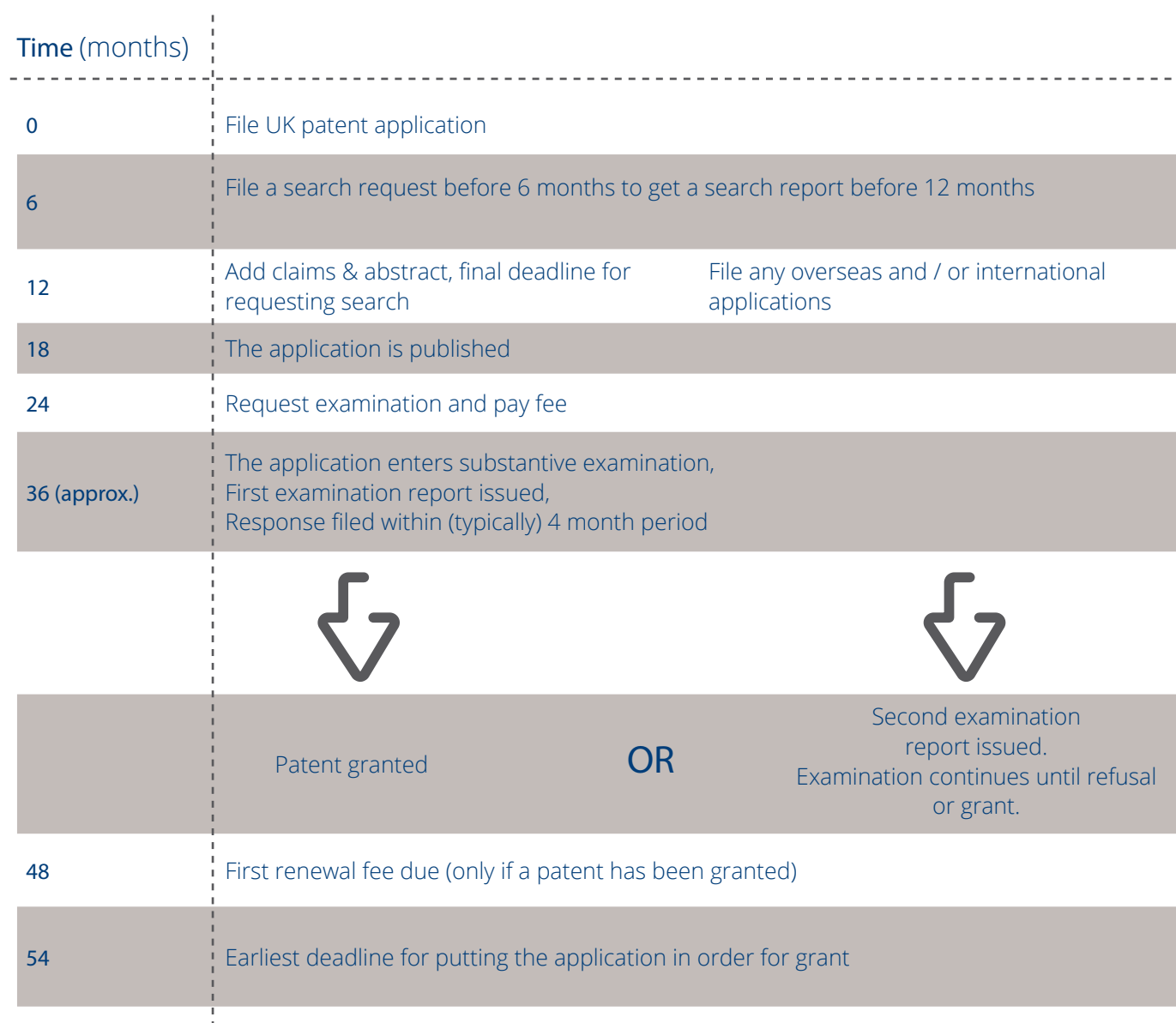
This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

UK Patent Application timeline

The following timeline charts the events throughout the life of a patent application until the patent is granted.

Patent applications in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

The process can take a number of years, although it is possible to accelerate the application's progress.



This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

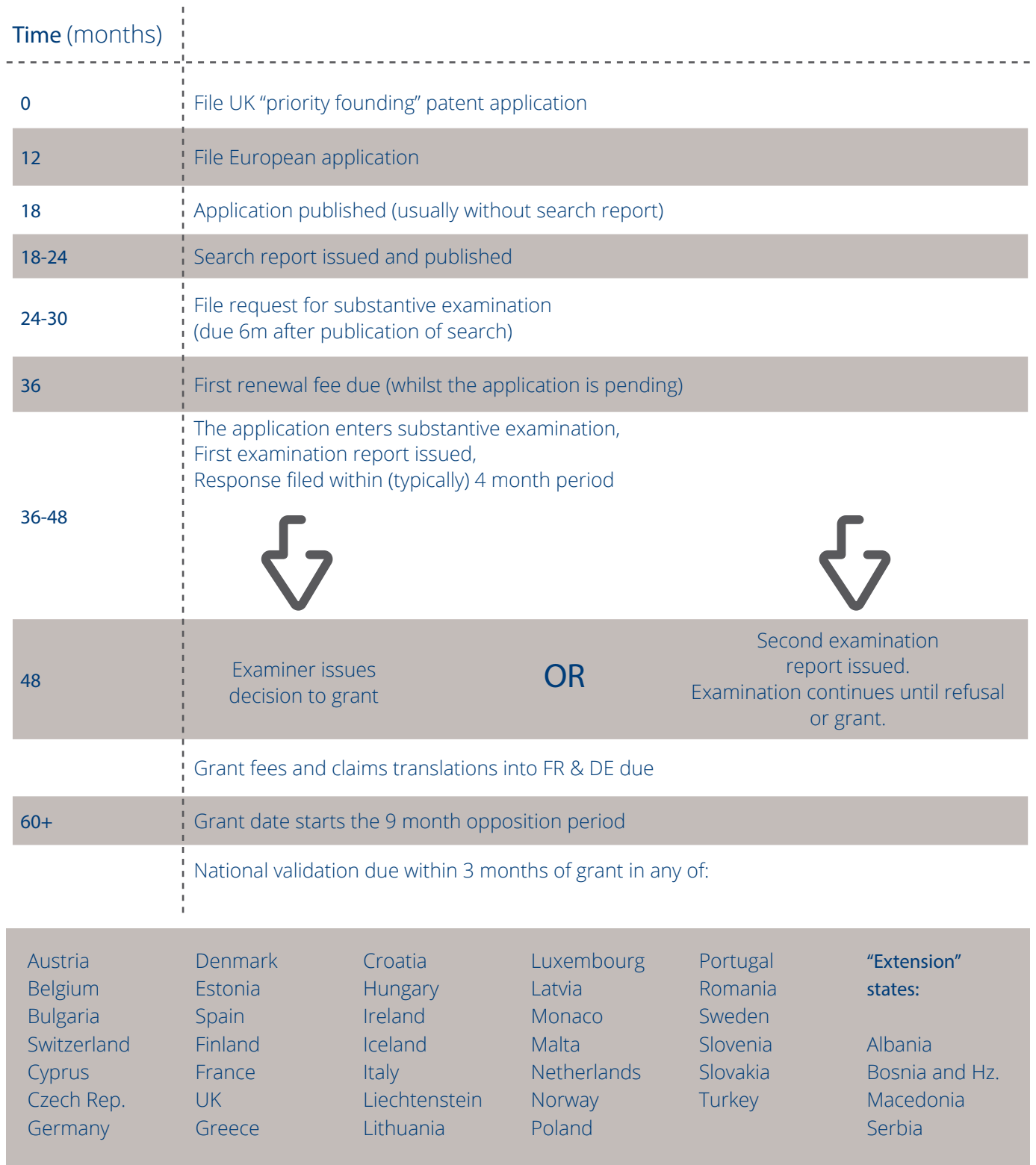
International Trade Mark Application timeline

- An International Registration uses a national application/registration as the base and can be used to designate a number of countries worldwide. The below time line is based on an International application with a UK application/registration used as the base.
- This time line is based on the procedure for filing an International Registration under the Madrid Protocol. Please contact a trade mark attorney for an updated list of countries which may be designated under the Madrid Protocol.

Time (months)	
0	File UK national trade mark application which will act as the basis for the International Registration. Alternatively, use an existing UK national trade mark registration as the basis.
1-2	File International application at the UK Registry who will check the application as to formalities. If everything is in order, the application will be sent to WIPO.
3	If acceptable, WIPO will issue the Registration Certificate and publish the International Registration.
5	International Registration is then sent to each designated country for examination. The designation will be treated in each case as though it were a national application and will be subject to each country's particular rules and procedures as to examination and publication.
15-21	Each national office has 12 - 18 months from the date of registration to examine and provisionally refuse the designation. If the holder has received no communications from the national offices by this stage, the designation can be presumed to be registered. Subsequent designations can be made at any point during the lifetime time of the International Registration.
	International Registrations under the Madrid Protocol last indefinitely provided use criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years.

This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

European Patent Application timeline



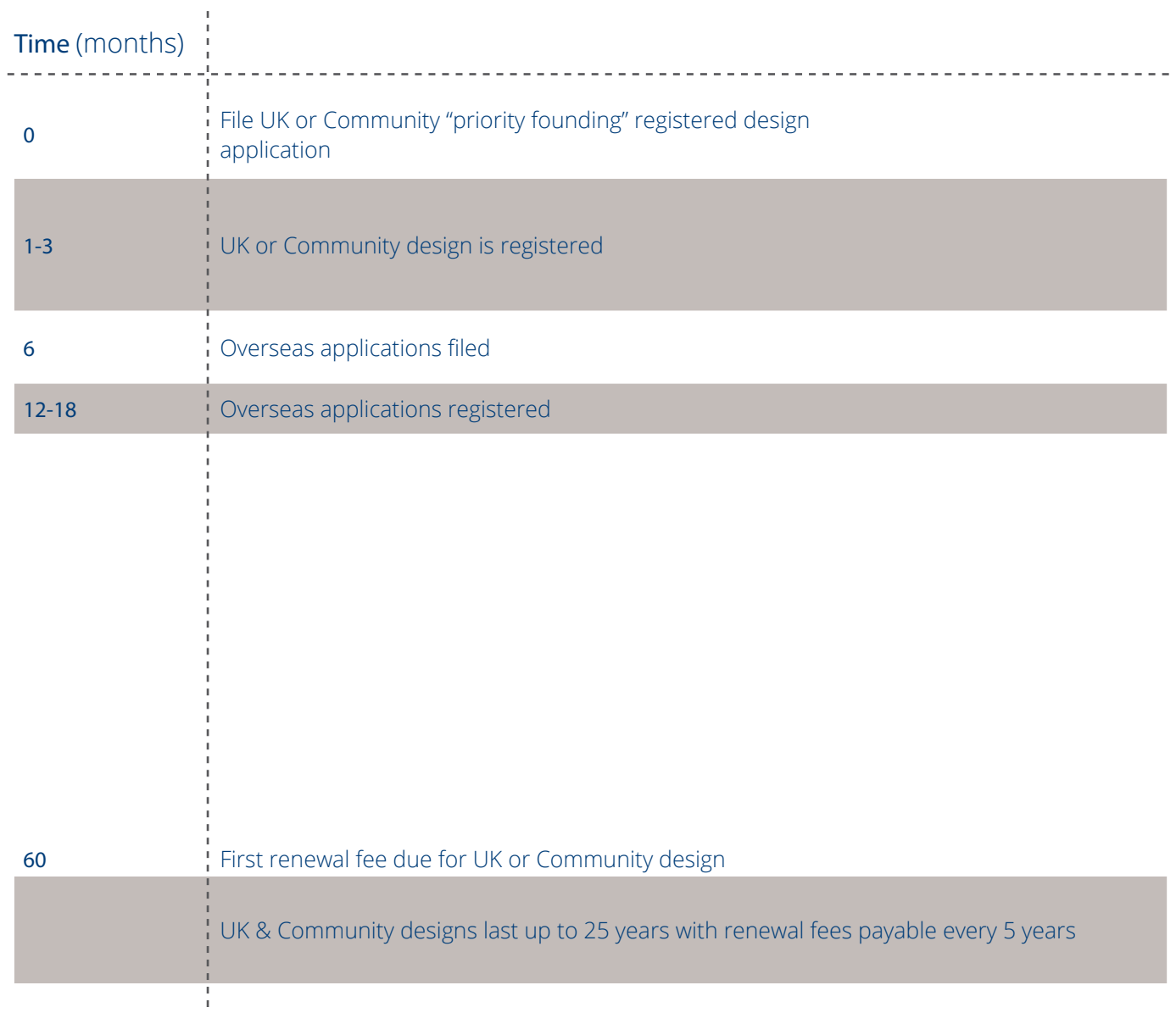
This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

International design protection filing strategy

Registered Designs are rarely examined, rather granted in a short space of time with their validity only being put in issue when enforced.

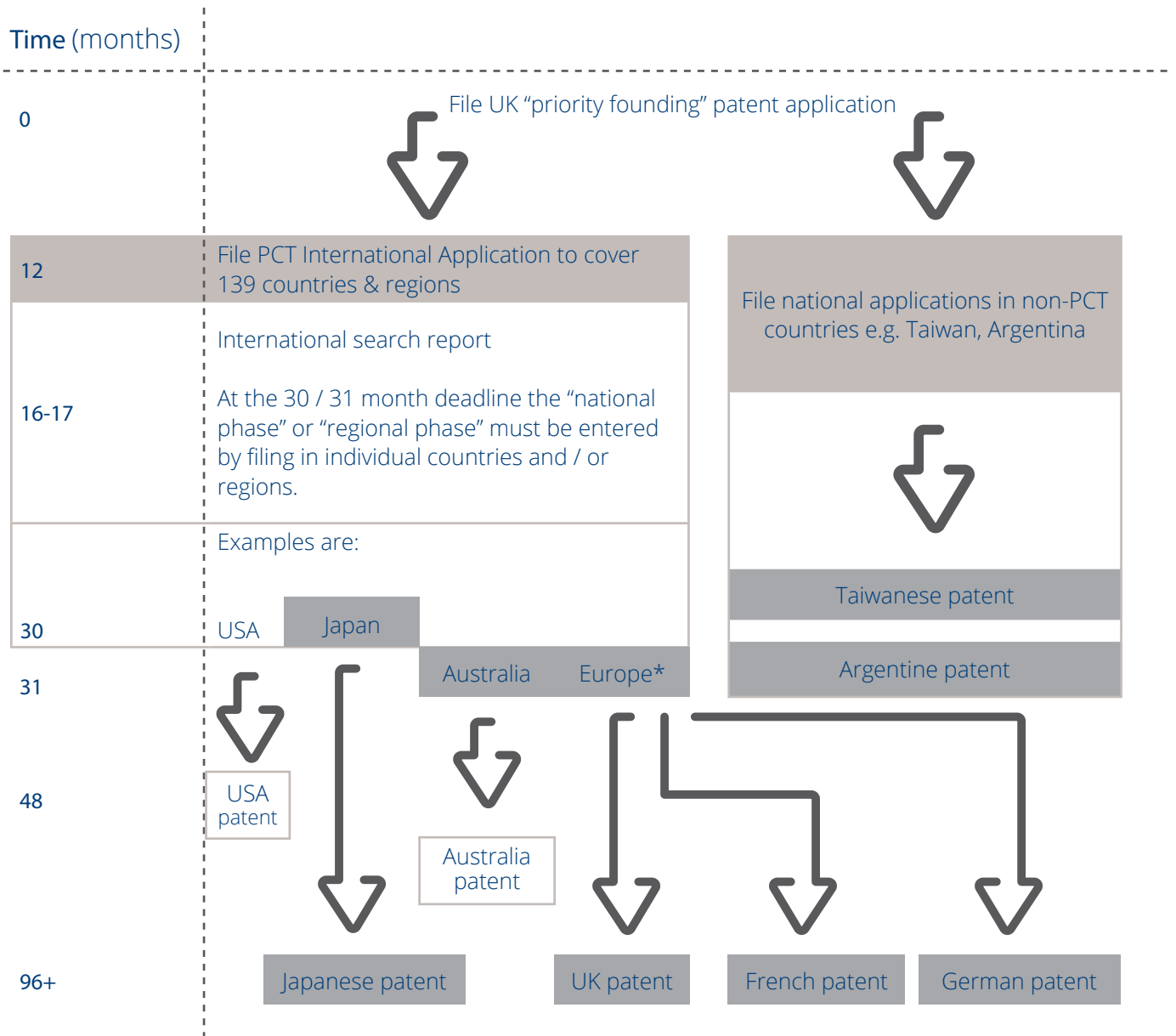
Registered Designs in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

Community Registered Designs, which cover the entire EU, are administered by the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM).



This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

International Patent Protection Filing Strategy



*A European patent application can become a national patent in up to 38 countries.

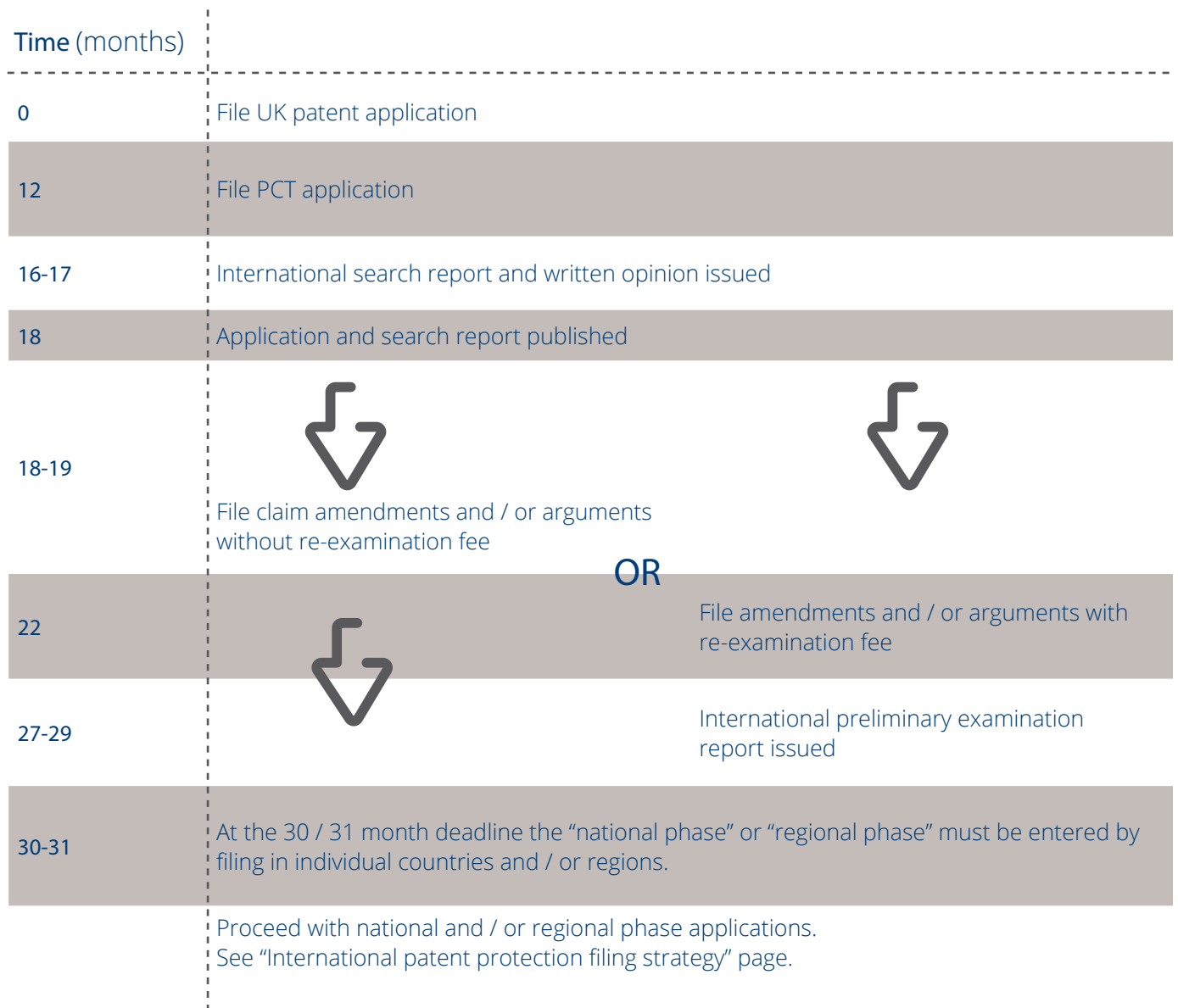
This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application timeline

The following timeline charts the events throughout the life of a PCT or “international” application.

PCT applications are administered by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), although can be filed at the IPO.

The main benefit of the PCT application is to defer the costs of national patent protection until 30-31 months from the priority date (rather than 12 months).



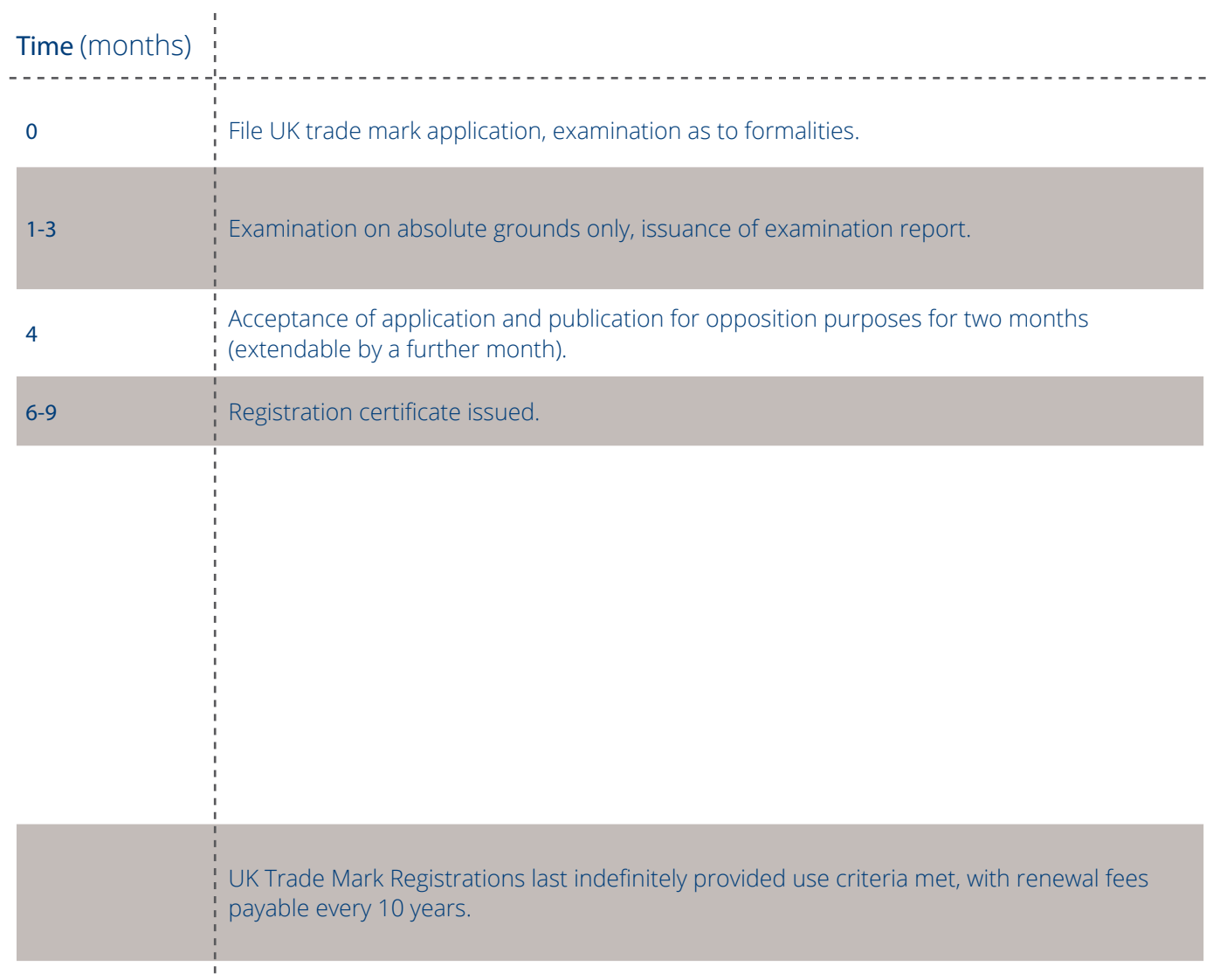
This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

UK Trade Mark Application timeline



Trade Mark registrations in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

The timeline below gives approximate timescale to achieve registration in a straightforward case, in the absence of objections or oppositions.



This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

Timeline for Opposition Procedure



Entire procedure approximately 2 to 4.5 years