

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Intellectual Property Commercialization

*Policy Options and
Practical Instruments*



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PRACTICAL INSTRUMENTS*



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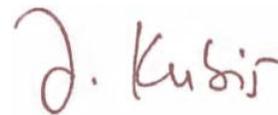
FOREWORD

Innovation is the key driver of economic growth and development in the medium to long term. It can be defined as the process of introducing new products, services and production processes into the market place and to create new profitable enterprises and higher-paying jobs on this basis. A well-balanced, affordable and reliable system of intellectual property rights has an important role to play in this process. Intellectual property rights serve to protect the - often large and highly risky - investments of innovative and creative companies against potential imitators and thereby provide key incentives to undertake such investments in the first place.

The present publication is not intended to provide a cross-country analysis of intellectual property laws and their economic impact. Instead it focuses on practical problems of using intellectual property rights in the innovation process, i.e. on the commercialization of intellectual property, and on the question of what economic policy can do to support the various innovation stakeholders in this process. Specifically, it discusses the role of intellectual property in the transfer of technology from public research organizations to the business sector, the management of intellectual property in small and medium-sized enterprises, and the auditing, valuation of and accounting for intellectual property.

The publication has been prepared on the basis of policy documents and other materials submitted to the UNECE by members of its Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property, as well as other publicly available documents and materials. It also draws on the outcomes of international conferences held by the Team in Geneva in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

I hope that this publication will be helpful for practitioners and policymakers, particularly from countries with economies in transition, and that it will contribute to a general process of transnational learning on good practices and policies for promoting the commercialization and protection of intellectual property and the enforcement of intellectual property rights across the UNECE region.



Ján Kubiš
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe

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CONTENTS

Abbreviations	ix
I. Introduction.....	1
II. Intellectual Property and Economic Performance	5
A. Introduction	5
B. The role of intellectual property in the innovation process.....	7
C. Evidence on the role of intellectual property rights in economic performance	9
III. Commercialization of Intellectual Assets	17
A. Introduction	17
B. Capacity to commercialize the invention	17
C. Legal vehicles for the commercialization of IP.....	19
D. IPR enforcement as a pre-condition for successful commercialization	27
IV. Creating an Enabling Environment for the Transfer of Technology from Research Institutions to the Business Sector.....	29
A. Introduction	29
B. Benefits of university technology transfer and the importance of strategic IP management	32
C. Financial expectations and budget management.....	37
D. Assignment of rights to IP resulting from research.....	39
E. Empirical evidence across countries on how effective they are at transferring technology from research institutions to the business sector	40
F. Programs to support public research organizations in IPR management and technology transfer	46
G. Management of intellectual property in international research cooperation.....	49
H. Conclusions and recommendations	53
V. IP Commercialization Strategies for Entrepreneurs and SMEs.....	59
A. Introduction	59
B. SMEs and the IP system: why do SMEs underutilize the formal IP system?.....	66
C. A selection of government programs promoting the use of the IP system by SMEs in the UNECE region.....	70
D. Programs aimed at raising awareness.....	72
E. Policy options and recommendations.....	75

CONTENTS *(continued)*

VI. Intellectual Property Audits, Accounting and Valuation..... 79

 A. Introduction..... 79

 B. Intellectual property audits..... 79

 C. Accounting..... 83

 D. Valuation..... 85

 E. Conclusions and recommendations..... 95

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY 99

LIST OF BOXES AND FIGURES

BOXES

Box 1.	Relationship between IPRs and other tools to promote innovation	9
Box 2.	Dimensions of patent regimes	12
Box 3.	Metrics measuring the effectiveness of technology transfer	42
Box 4.	Raising intellectual property awareness: the EU IPR-Helpdesk	48
Box 5.	EU-level associations and organizations active in knowledge transfer	51
Box 6.	Country experiences – Relevance of IPR in cross-border open innovation – IT in India	52
Box 7.	Country experiences – relevance of IPR in cross-border open innovation – The Belarus High Technologies Park.....	52
Box 8.	Indicative costs of patent litigation (for a sum in dispute of €250,000).....	67
Box 9.	Patent litigation insurance	68
Box 10.	Alternative means available to innovative SMEs to protect their competitive advantage.....	69
Box 11.	A Selection of subsidy programmes for SMEs in Europe.....	71
Box 12.	Roadshows in the United Kingdom - The “What is the Key?” (WITK) awareness programme	73
Box 13.	Linking innovation and industrial property – The National Intellectual Property Assistance Platform	74
Box 14.	A selection of advanced IP services for SMEs.....	75
Box 15.	Tools on auditing and accounting	84
Box 16.	International accounting standards and practices	85
Box 17.	Training and certification by professional valuation associations	91
Box 18.	Commercial valuation services	91
Box 19.	The UNCITRAL Guidelines on Security Rights in Intellectual Property.....	93
Box 20.	Policy support for IP auditing, accounting and valuation	94

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