



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

Learning catalogue for academia

European Patent Academy

2021

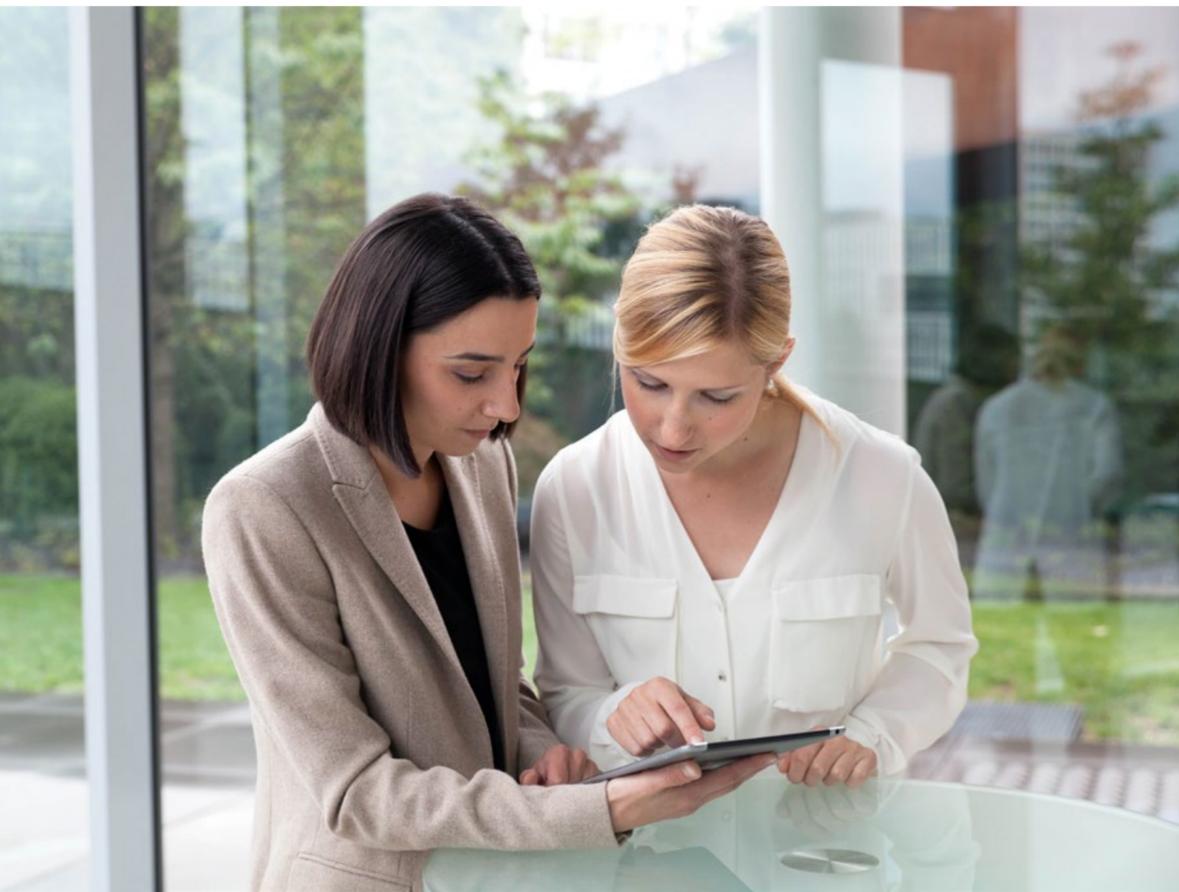


Preface

Since its creation, the European Patent Academy has sought to improve intellectual property (IP) education in Europe through a portfolio of high-quality courses and educational activities that support the efforts of universities. Our training portfolio for academia is driven by a desire to build a sustainable future through IP awareness and education, to complement existing activities with a practical practitioners' perspective and to ensure that all students know what IP is and how to use the patent system to support innovation.

We are delighted to present the Academy's 2021 training catalogue for academia. We have adapted our educational activities and resources to ensure that universities can continue to benefit from our extensive portfolio. Throughout 2021, the Academy intends to continue to expand our portfolio even further in line with the EPO's Strategic Plan 2023. In the meantime, we invite you to browse our new catalogue, which we've adapted to suit the current times.

[Further information](#)



Online courses

The Academy offers an extensive range of asynchronous and synchronous courses through our e-learning centre, all of which can be easily used to supplement in-person teaching. Our aim is to make IP knowledge accessible on a global scale, regardless of geographic location or socio-economic background.

The online courses are also available within learning paths that offer pre-selected combinations of courses grouped together according to relevant patent-related topics, specific technical fields or legal aspects. Participants can access the information at their own pace in an order that corresponds to their level of interest and knowledge, and decide how advanced or specific their learning experience should be.



76 courses and
180 videos



Wide variety of
asynchronous courses



Topics reflect
popular interest



From idea to patent

Basic level

Duration
8 hours

Description

How does an idea give rise to an IP right? This self-paced course provides an overview of the benefits of the IP system, with a particular focus on patents. Participants will discover the importance of patents from two perspectives: as a valuable source of information when it comes to researching whether an idea or a product has already been patented, and as a means of protecting inventions.

[Further information and course link](#)

The art of reading patent documentation

Basic level

Duration
6 hours

Description

In order to understand, locate and evaluate patent information it is necessary to know about patent documents. In this self-paced course participants will learn about patents and patent documentation.

This course is a prerequisite for universities participating in tutored online sessions on patent documentation.

[Further information and course link](#)

Introduction to the European patent system

Basic level

Duration
8 hours

Description

As a basic introduction to the most important legal and procedural aspects of patents and the European patent system, this self-paced course is designed to provide participants with the context they need to support their further learning. The foundational knowledge provided will help them to access the more complex content in subsequent modules and courses more easily.

The course consists of three theory sections and a consolidation part where participants can test their knowledge and understanding of the patent system.

[Further information and course link](#)

New learning path: The value of patent documentation

The world is full of new technical inventions that successfully transform our everyday life. But what is the role of patents in this landscape? What conditions does an invention have to meet to become a patent? Moreover, what is patent information and how does it benefit society?

Participants will get the answers to all of these questions in this learning path.

Think patents: The value of patent documentation for innovation and research

Basic level

Duration
4 hours

Description

What role do patents play in innovation and research? Through this self-paced course, participants can learn about the value of patents in this area, the conditions an invention has to meet in order to be patentable and how to use patent documentation in a research project.

[Further information and course link](#)

EPO patent information tools

Basic level

Duration
5 hours

Description

A range of patent information products and services is made available to the public.

One of these services is the publication of information related to patent applications and granted patents, in accordance with the EPC.

This self-paced course is designed to help students find their way around the variety of tools the EPO provides to search and analyse this information.

Tools include Espacenet, European Patent Register and Global Patent Index.

[Further information and course link](#)

Use patents: Cases from research results

Basic level

Duration
12 hours

Description

The best way to learn about how patents can be used is through real-world case studies. In this self-paced course, participants will study three exciting examples of patents in practice and three different commercialisation journeys, including their starting points:

- the case of fast low angle shot (FLASH) MRI
- how an inventor revolutionised antenna design with the introduction of fractal-based antennae
- the story of Baseclick, a company set up in 2008 with a thriving business in the field of biomedicine

[Further information and course link](#)

Patent information tour

Basic level

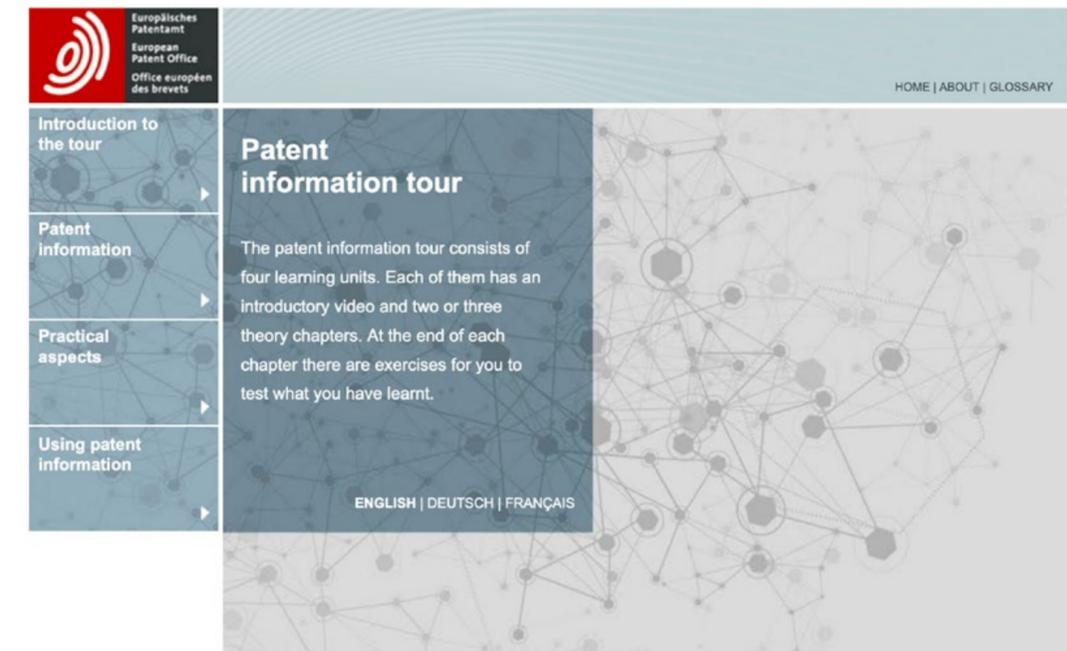
Duration
4 hours

Description

Patent information is the name given to the technical information found in patent documents as well as any additional legal and business-relevant information about them. This self-paced course is designed to help students learn more about patent information, its uses and the important function it plays in both corporate decision-making and R&D.

The course consists of four learning units, each beginning with an introductory video followed by two or three theory chapters. Students can test what they have learnt using the exercises at the end of each chapter.

[Further information and course link](#)



Study visits

Basic and intermediate level

Duration

3 hours

Date and level

AV01-2021: 13 October 2021 – Basic level

AV02-2021: 14 December 2021 – Intermediate level

Description

Experience one of Europe's leading IP authorities first-hand with a study visit from the EPO and hear EPO experts from a variety of technical fields give insight into their work. These visits focus on European patenting procedure and patent law, while showcasing a specific technical field or topic such as COVID, biotechnology, med tech, food or green tech.

Students from European universities will have the chance to meet EPO experts and gain a practical insight into the procedural aspects of the European patent system and patent law.

Study visits are offered in an asynchronous format combined with synchronous sessions featuring EPO experts. They include a short presentation, which serves to introduce a brief overview of the topic, and focus on practical examples and exercises.





Advanced lecture series with focus on food technology

Advanced level

Date and duration

AS07-2021: 1-hour weekly online lecture with focus on food at 11.00 hrs on 7, 14, 21 and 28 October 2021

Description

Patents play an important role in many technical fields, and food technology is no exception. Some of the foundation stones of biochemistry were laid by bakers and brewers. Today, research into more sustainable production and processing, meat substitutes, foods with lower sugar and salt, and foods with better nutritional value or greater longevity, is booming. This advanced lecture series will provide participants with insights into the innovations shaping the food industry of the future, and reveal how IP strategy can lead to success.

Participants will learn how patents can be used to protect inventions related to food technology, and will find out about some of the challenges in the patent granting process which are specific to the food industry.

Participants will come to understand how patents can protect a range of subject-matter (such as a product, process, device or non-medical/medical use) by preventing unauthorised commercial exploitation by third parties.

They will also learn how patents can be used to attract investors, protect market share, cement technology partnerships and increase profits.

The lecture series is divided into four online sessions:

Lecture 1:

Patenting in the food industry – challenges from an examiner perspective

Lecture 2:

Developing an IP strategy: practical and post-grant aspects of food patents

Lecture 3:

IP commercialisation

Lecture 4:

Meet an inventor from the food technology industry (Oatly AB and Aventure AB)

Coming soon: Advanced lecture series with focus on green technology

AS09-2021: 1-hour weekly online sessions with focus on green technology at 14.00 hrs on 9, 16, 23 and 30 November 2021

Modular IP education framework



As part of our enhanced training portfolio, the Academy has set up a new modular IP education framework. By supporting the acquisition of both theoretical and practical IP knowledge, alongside an understanding of its practical importance and relevance, it aims to equip participants to use IP rights in their future careers.

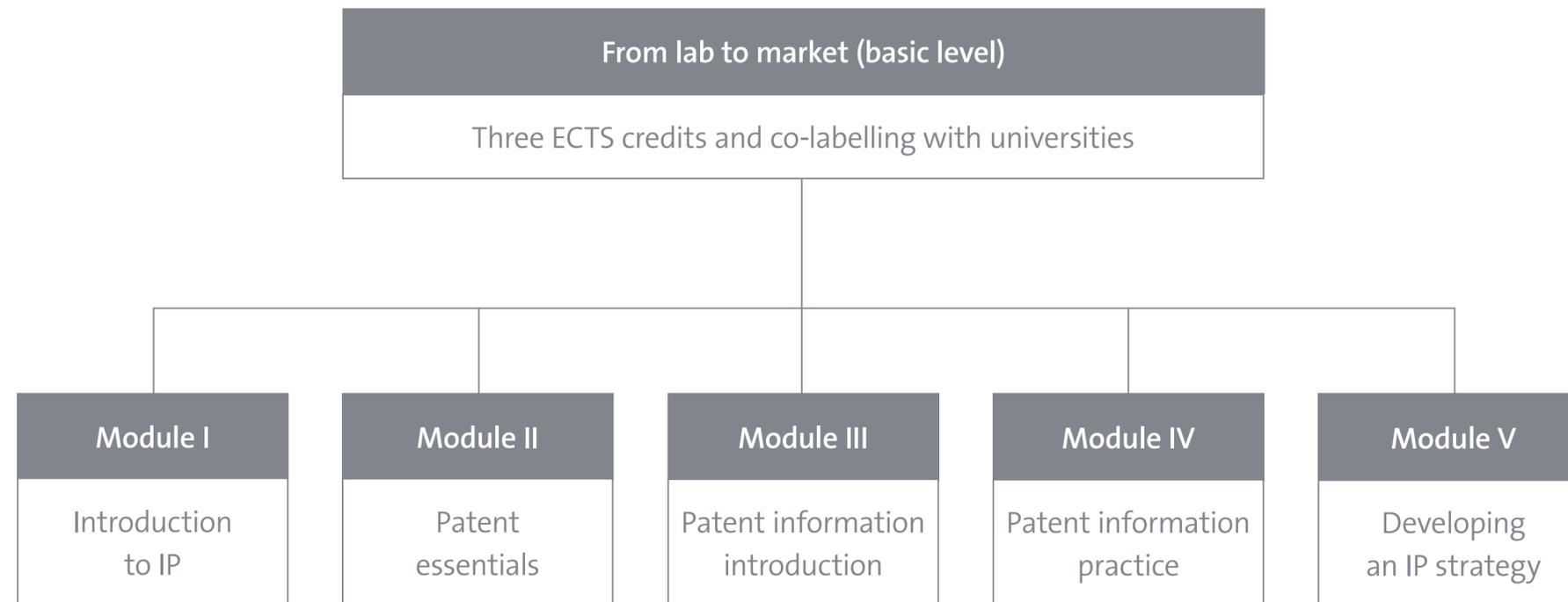
The framework is divided into two parts, for beginners and advanced students. Each part consists of five self-paced learning modules, which can be taken as a single course or individually according to the university curriculum requirements or students' needs. This approach affords a high degree of flexibility, enabling individual elements to be used discretely or as individual assignments integrated within university curricula, for which a corresponding EPO certificate can be obtained. Alternatively, elements can be delivered together as a complete, ready-made, course. Through this modular structure, students can familiarise themselves with the key concepts within each level, enabling them to gain a clear understanding of what they have learnt before moving on to the next level. This lays the foundation for exploring further aspects of IP and more specialised areas in greater detail.

This framework of modules is primarily targeted at university students who want to broaden their knowledge of IP, but is also an excellent resource for researchers, interested faculty and staff involved in IP matters. It offers a blended curriculum, covering both theory and practice across a range of topics. These include how to file a patent application, the anatomy of a patent, how a patent is granted and the central aspects of an IP strategy.

The courses offered within the modular IP education framework can be delivered in a variety of formats, including self-paced general courses, advanced tutored courses and courses that combine both online education and in-person tutoring.

In order to make these courses as enjoyable and relevant to learners as possible, each module is based on practical examples and case studies. Learners can therefore not only learn about IP, but also witness first-hand its importance and real-world applications.

Part I – Coming Q4/2021



Five modules that can be taken either as a complete course or separately, maximising flexibility and allowing for easy integration in university curricula as individual assignments

This is a beginner-level three-credit course designed for students and researchers in science and engineering.

Learners will understand the main categories of IP rights, their primary features and the situations in which they are applicable and can be useful. They will gain an understanding of the basics of patents and the what, when and how of protecting inventions. They will learn about the wealth of patent knowledge and how to search for patents. They will be taught basic legal aspects such as enforcement and infringement. In the process of learning how to make use of patents, students will also gain an appreciation of the advantages of patenting.

Introduction to IP

Basic level

Duration
15 hours

Description

This module provides an overview of what IP rights are and how they are used to protect intangible assets. Students will gain an insight into the role of such protection using examples of common products and how their characteristics are protected by IP.

Patent essentials

Basic level

Duration
20 hours

Description

Focusing on the fundamentals of patents, this module provides students with the essentials of what they are, how they work and the role they play in incentivising innovation. It also introduces the substantive requirements that are examined in the patent granting process.

Patent information introduction

Basic level

Duration
10 hours

Description

This module provides an overview of patent information and the situations in which it can be used to solve specific problems in the workplace.

Participants will learn about the characteristics of patent documents, prior art and information on legal developments. They will also be introduced to the basics of patent searching, relevant patent databases and search interfaces.

Patent information practice

Basic level

Duration

15 hours

Description

To use patent information, it is first necessary to know how to access it. This module provides an overview of Espacenet and the European Patent Register as examples of search interfaces for prior art.

Students will learn in detail how to design search strategies in Espacenet using realistic situations so that they can then apply what they have learnt in practice.

Developing an IP strategy

Basic level

Duration

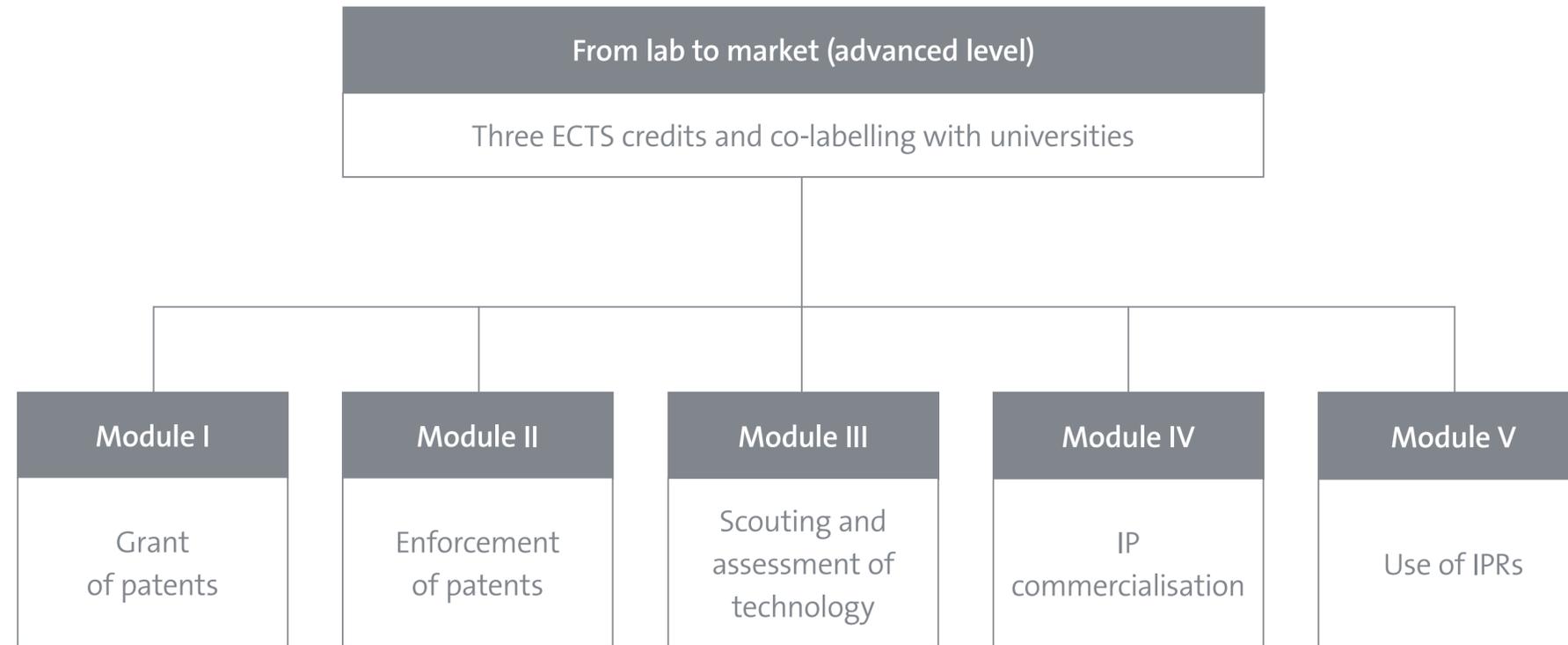
15 hours

Description

IP can benefit a business by increasing its competitiveness. In this module, students will gain an understanding of the benefits of having an informed IP strategy, learn how to develop their own strategy and get insight into how companies exploit their IP.



Part II – Coming Q1/Q2 2022



**Modules are delivered in an online format,
with the possibility of including additional live sessions.**

This is an advanced-level three-credit course specially designed for students and researchers in science and engineering. It provides a more in-depth overview of the fundamentals of patent law from a business perspective, raising awareness of the complex issues involved in protecting and managing IP. It exposes students to a variety of technical fields, with insights into what the patents granted in those different fields are based on and how they can be used for commercialisation purposes.

Learners will understand how to protect a technical invention, how to exploit it and how to reach the market.

They will also learn how to avoid duplication of research by searching patent information and how to develop sound IP strategies for business and commercialisation. Knowing the basics of technology transfer and commercialisation of research results will help them to implement IP management strategies in their future careers.

Grant of patents

Advanced level

Duration
20 hours

Description

This module provides an in-depth explanation of novelty and inventive step.

Participants will learn how to assess prior art, take into account the date and means of publication and determine whether an invention is novel. They will also gain an understanding of how to assess whether an invention is obvious by learning to apply the “problem-solution” approach, which is used in assessing whether the inventive step requirement has been satisfied.

Enforcement of patents

Advanced level

Duration
15 hours

Description

A key aspect of patent protection is the understanding that it will be enforced in the event of infringement or threat of infringement. This module provides an overview of how patent rights can be enforced, educating participants about how patented inventions are protected and illustrates the possible alternatives that can be pursued if a less costly and time consuming solution is sought.

Scouting and assessment of technology

Advanced level

Duration
10 hours

Description

Technology scouting is a key activity within innovation management strategy, as innovation and competitiveness require full knowledge of the surrounding landscape. It involves monitoring and predicting emerging technologies and those likely to be disruptive in the future using current and past patent trends. It plays a vital role in technology forecasting and competitive intelligence.

This module provides participants with the knowledge to understand new and competing technologies that could affect their inventions and business case, information on how to monitor the work of inventors and researchers that could potentially threaten those projects, and guidance on how to be aware of IP developments that could affect their work.

IP commercialisation

Advanced level

Duration
20 hours

Description

As an intangible asset, IP can be sold, leased, licensed, assigned or offered as security for a loan. These acts are all examples of IP commercialisation, the process of bringing IP assets to the marketplace to be exploited for profit and business growth.

This module explores mechanisms through which value can be extracted from IP, and the considerations that should be taken into account when choosing how to commercialise IP. Students will also learn the basic IP value-extraction mechanisms and how they can be implemented through licensing and enforcement.

Use of IPRs

Advanced level

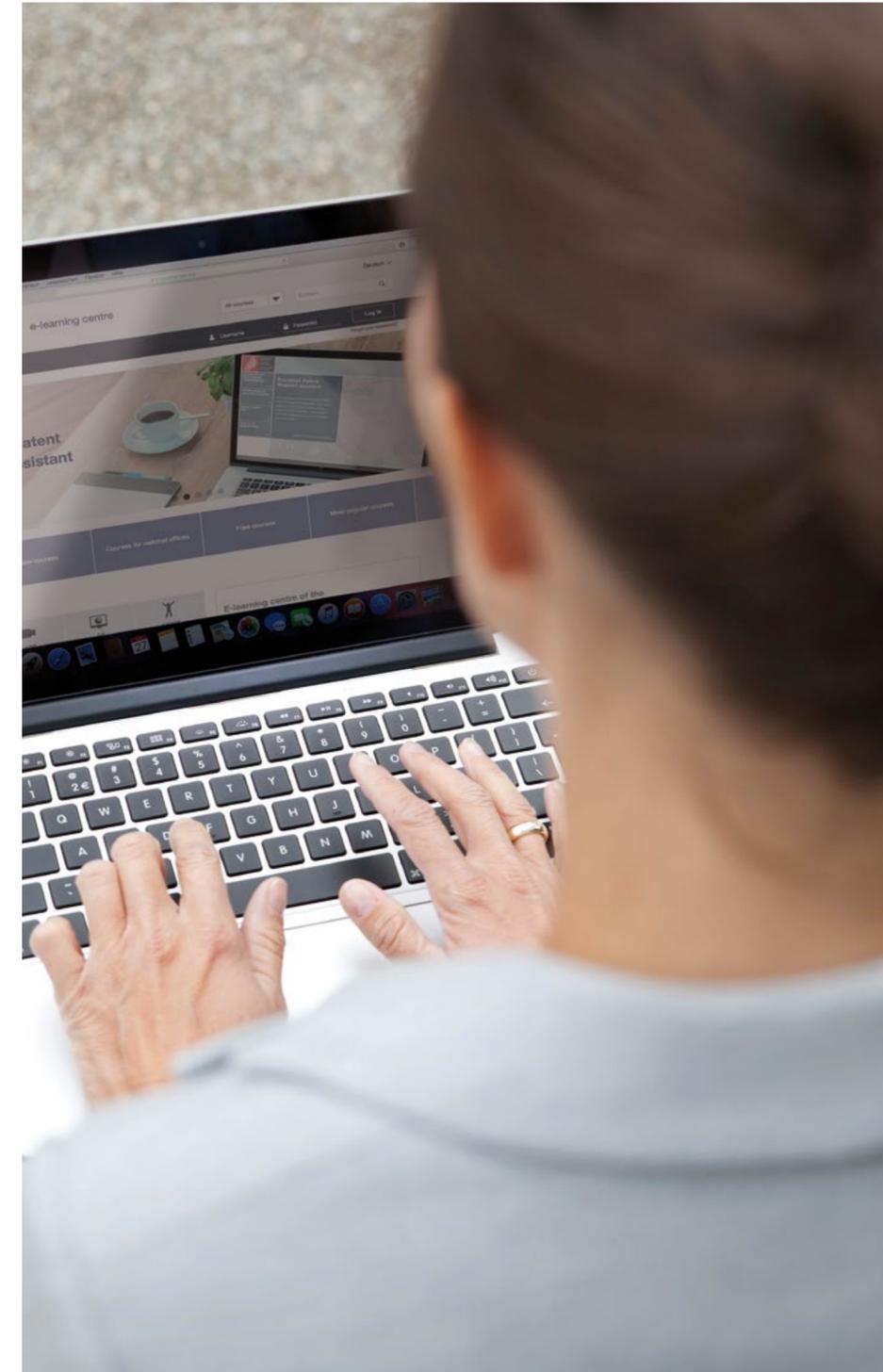
Duration
10 hours

Description

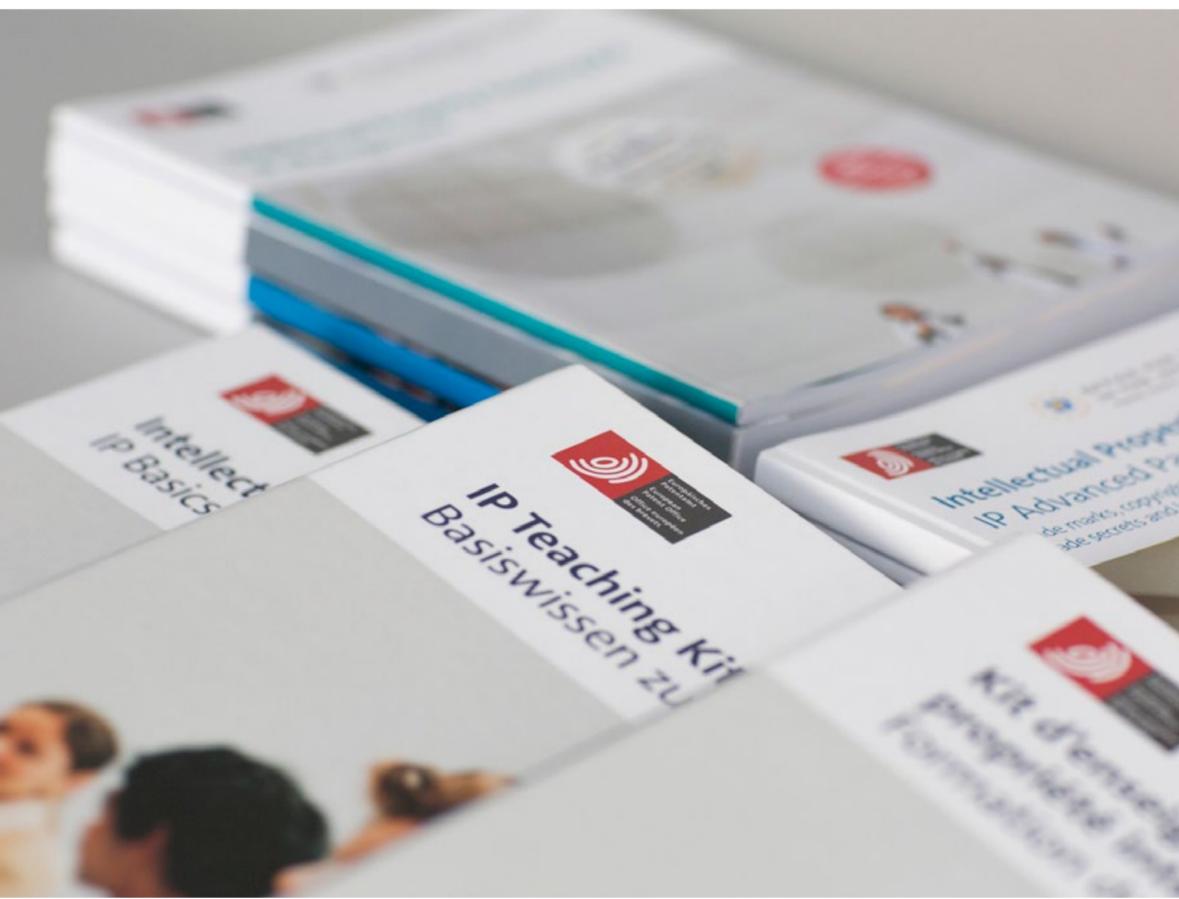
IP covers a range of different technical fields, each with their own peculiarities. This module provides students with a deeper understanding of IP knowledge and IP commercialisation based on a variety of case studies in a particular technical field.

Possible technical fields include:

- biotech
- AI (big data, machine learning, robotics)
- manufacturing
- advanced materials
- green tech, including batteries, renewable energy, smart construction and agriculture
- med tech
- food
- nanotechnology (nanoelectronics)
- genomic medicine
- additive manufacturing/3D printing (interaction between patent, design and copyright protection)
- energy



IP teaching and learning materials and tools



IP Teaching Kit for download

A collection of resources designed to support IP teaching. The IP Teaching Kit (IPTK), a follow-up to the successful Patent Teaching Kit launched in 2010 by the European Patent Academy, is a comprehensive collection of teaching resources for lectures on IP-related topics.

Produced by the EPO in co-operation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the IPTK contains a wide range of materials that will enable you to put together lectures and presentations on all kinds of IP, including patents, utility models, trademarks, copyright, designs and trade secrets. Available free of charge, the IPTK represents one of the most comprehensive IP teaching resources in the world.

Who is it for?

The material in the teaching kit can be used to introduce IP to students across a range of disciplines, in particular business/economics, innovation management and law, and for a range of levels, from undergraduate to postgraduate and beyond.

The materials can be tailored to your students' background, their knowledge of the topic, their learning goals and the time available.

What does it contain?

The IPTK includes ready-made PowerPoint slides with speaking notes and additional background information. The speaking notes can be read out as they stand. The background information provides additional details which will help you prepare for the more advanced questions that students might have. It is not intended for this information to be included in the lecture.

The IPTK is made up of the following modules: IP Basics, IP Advanced I and II, IP Search Tools and IP Management. It also includes two case studies that were part of a special issue on IP management of the California Management Review produced in collaboration with the EPO and the University of California Berkeley.

[Download modules](#)

Watch our tutorial for teachers and lecturers on how to plan a lecture with the IPTK.

[IPTK tutorial](#)

Intellectual property course design manual

A handbook for setting up new teaching content

The intellectual property course design manual is a useful resource for university lecturers wishing to introduce or offer more in-depth IP programmes.

You will find a wide range of modules designed to cover all aspects of IP. The manual does not deliver teaching material itself but provides an overview of the main topics along with comments, references and links.

Who is it for?

The modules in this manual can be used individually or in combination to introduce IP to students across a range of disciplines, in particular business/economics, innovation management and law, and for a range of levels, from undergraduate to postgraduate and beyond.

What does it contain?

Each module in this manual provides a full list of suggested topics, as well as the learning objectives, target audience, prior knowledge required, related modules, teacher profile and suggested duration.

The manual consists of twenty-two modules grouped into five core areas:

- introduction to IP
- IP management and commercialisation (advanced): modules for postgraduate students who plan to work in innovation management or business management, including marketing and commercialisation of technology, or public or private R&D
- IP law (advanced)
- IP for specific disciplines (computer science, biotechnology, music and the fine arts, industrial design)
- research projects: modules for postgraduate students who want to apply what they have learnt to a practical research project



“These case studies provide a fundamental support to the instructor. The way they are written and documented helps in class discussion about very recent applications of theories and IP Management practices.”

*Alberto Di Minin, Professor of Management
at Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna*

Case studies: IP strategy and IP management

These case studies are reprints from the California Management Review special issue on IP management, produced in collaboration with the EPO and the University of California Berkeley. This special issue provides an in-depth look at the benefits, methods and potential pitfalls of IP management.

Two contributions are particularly noteworthy, focusing especially on the relationships between innovation actors and strategic IP management by enterprises.

Professor David Teece and his co-author Abdulrahman Al-Aali argue that companies must integrate IP management strategy within their business models. Thanks to the challenges introduced by globalisation and the internet’s acceleration of the spread of innovations, IP management is no longer the exclusive concern of patent attorneys. Now, IP management concerns a company’s managers as well.

They illustrate this point using the Pilkington Group Ltd. case, with Teece and Al-Aali discussing how the company globally diffused its innovative float glass manufacturing process. The company adopted a combined strategy by protecting the process through patents and trade secrets and licensing them out to traditional companies.

Meanwhile, Professor Henry Chesbrough, creator of the “open innovation” theory, examines the abandoned patents in the pharmaceutical sector. With his co-author Eric L. Chen, senior manager of corporate development and strategy at Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Professor Chesbrough highlights that the molecular complexes abandoned before reaching the market account for about 90% of R&D expenditures in pharmaceutical drug development. Discussing the case of the antibiotic Cubicin licensed out by Eli Lilly, from which the company gained USD 333 million in royalties, Chesbrough and Chen argue that companies, in general, may benefit from a more creative IP management approach.

[Download here](#)

“Talk innovation” podcasts – Research into Patents series

Our “Talk innovation” podcast provides perspectives on innovation today through interviews with experts, be they the EPO’s own patent examiners, inventors or specialists in the commercialisation of innovation.

With insight from industry insiders delivered in an entertaining and informative medium, Talk innovation provides a convenient and accessible way for students to learn more about the EPO, the patent system and innovation on the go, and is an excellent resource which can be used to support their IP studies.

This year, for example, we produced a series of podcasts on the EPO’s Academic Research Programme featuring interviews with applicants who have been successful in obtaining financial support.

Highlights include:

Research into patents:

Automotive patents reveal 4IR impact

Moderator: Rainer Osterwalder, Director, EPO

Guest: Alessandra Perri, Associate Professor, Ca’ Foscari University

While the accelerating ubiquity of digital technologies can be experienced almost universally, the automotive sector is particularly strongly affected by the fourth industrial revolution. Alessandra Perri presents a patent landscaping study that invites us to take a deeper look at this source of industrial turbulence, as she terms it, to better understand where the digital changes in cars come from, and who is driving them.

Research into patents:

Following trajectories of green technology patents

Moderator: Rainer Osterwalder, Director, EPO

Guest: Dr Önder Nomaler, researcher at UNU-MERIT

Tracing the development of a technology in patents can hold quite a number surprises, Önder Nomaler tells us in his podcast. His method: don’t just consider individual patents, try to establish a technology’s trajectory by considering related references such as citations from other patents. You’ll find that many green technologies have a non-green – or brown – origin, as he calls it. Seeing both sides offers a wider view on these technologies, too.



Research into patents:**Building bridges with IP Linked Open Data**

Moderator: Rainer Osterwalder, Director, EPO

Guest: Dolores Modic, postdoc researcher, Nord University Business School

Innovation and IP data are prototypical “big data” troves used by organisations for informed decision-making and evidence-based policy development, Dolores Modic explains in her podcast. To facilitate this usage providers such as the EPO need to openly publish their data in a standardised machine-readable form on the internet to enable the sets to be interlinked. The IP linked open data map builds bridges by connecting the EPO’s EP linked open data with Springer SCI Grass data and is available to the public.

Research into patents:**Drilling deeper on the standard-essentiality of SEPs**

Moderator: Rainer Osterwalder, Director, EPO

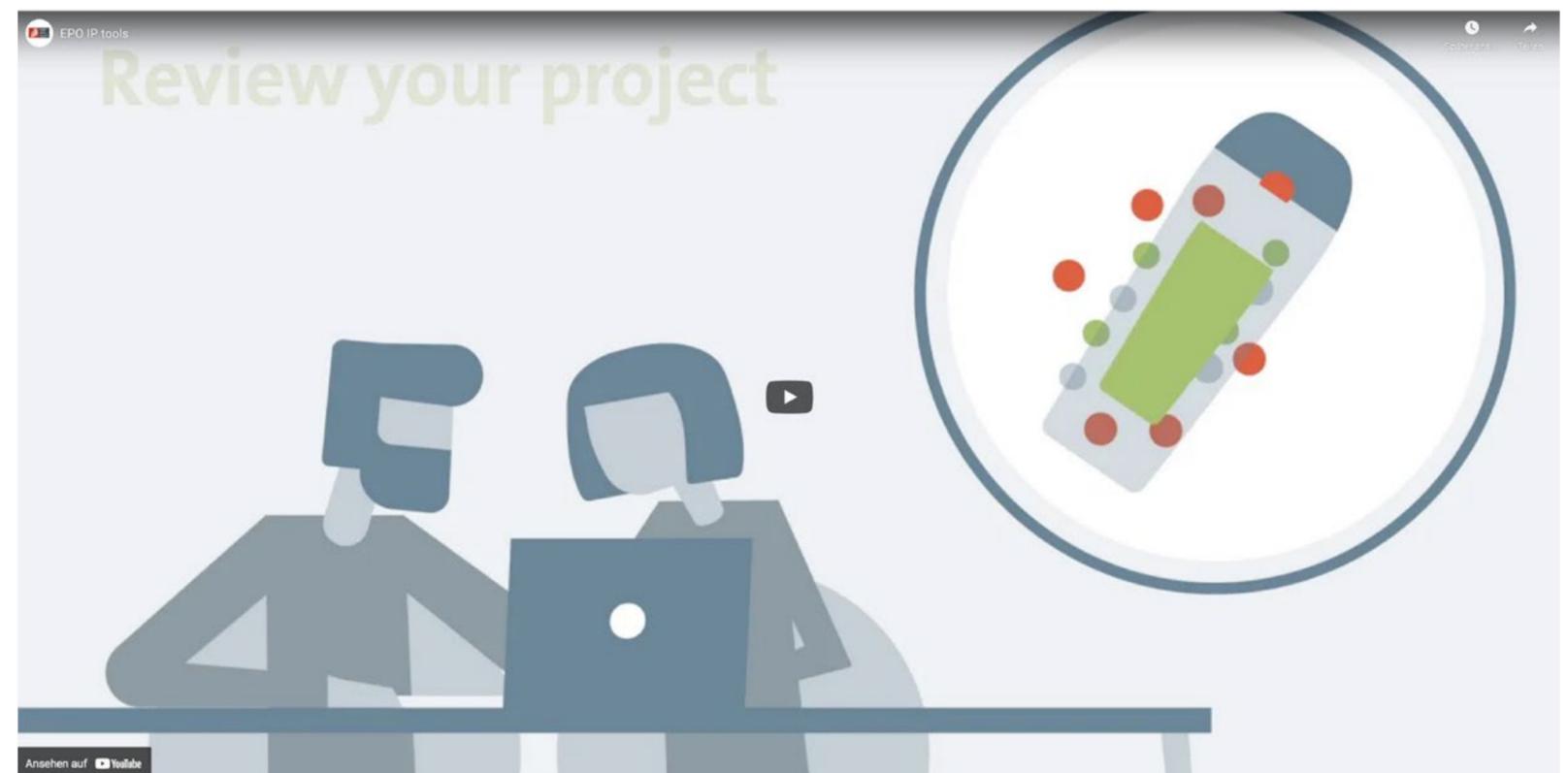
Guest: Professor Dietmar Harhoff, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition

Technical standards are key to securing the interoperability of devices such as smartphones and computers, and are often claimed in standard-essential patents (SEPs). But how can we verify whether a patent really pertains to a technical standard as claimed? In his podcast Dietmar Harhoff proposes a method based on semantic analysis to shed some light on the standard-essentiality of patent portfolios.

[Further information and access to our podcasts](#)

Video tutorials**IP tools – Put your business idea in context**

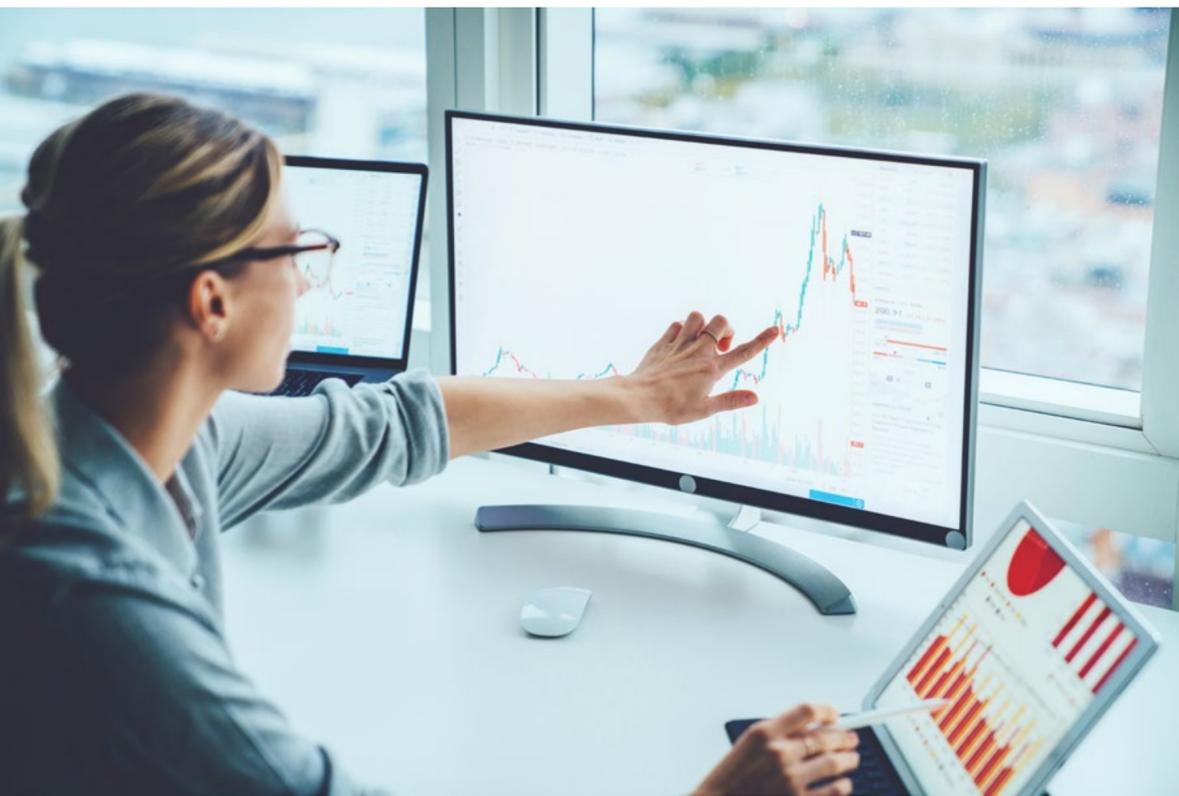
Ideas alone are not always enough to make a successful breakthrough into the business world. Using intellectual property tools, users can find relevant legal, technical and commercial information to help them put their business idea in context.



EPO Academic Research Programme

The EPO recognises the importance of high-quality research on patent-related IP matters to inform policymakers and facilitate sound business decisions in a context where intangible assets, innovation and IP rights have become pivotal in the economy. Through our Academic Research Programme (EPO ARP), which launched in 2017, we seek in particular to encourage more academic IP research and to promote the dissemination of research results.

In the last four years the EPO ARP has attracted more than 200 research project proposals. Of these proposals, 19 have been selected for EPO support. Currently, eight research projects from 2019 and 2020 are still ongoing.



In order to support effective research collaboration within universities in Europe, the EPO has launched a new ARP. It is structured into two large streams of research:

- stream A: The new frontiers of innovation
- stream B: Digital technologies for IP

With the new ARP, the EPO thus supports collaborative research schemes rather than simple research projects. Such schemes will have a larger scope, higher budget and longer duration, and will involve several EPO departments. The EPO wants to offer more opportunities for co-operation with universities in Europe.

Stream A “The new frontiers of innovation”

Research area 1:

From university research to innovation ecosystems

Creative industries increasingly rely on collaboration and technology transfer with research institutes to expand their knowledge base, seize innovation opportunities and develop competitive advantages to sustain long-term growth. However, the innovation potential of university-industry ecosystems is rarely exploited to its full extent. Increasing the impact of university research on the economy remains a key policy objective in Europe. Further evidence is needed in particular to understand how technology transfer works between universities and industry and to identify levers to maximise the impact of this transfer.

This stream calls for projects focusing on the impact of academic research on industrial innovation and the economy. Universities and public research organisations are key actors in today’s innovation ecosystems and a major source of scientific breakthroughs with disruptive potential for the economy.

We therefore welcome proposals for research schemes addressing the following thematic areas:

- measuring the impact of scientific research on global technological change
- value creation through university-industry technology transfer in Europe
- enhanced use of patents for university-industry technology transfer

Stream B “Digital technologies for IP”

Research area 2:

Artificial intelligence (AI) for IP training and education

With the aim of increasing access to patent knowledge by bringing innovation and learning together, funding is available under the EPO ARP for research on the application of AI and digital technologies to IP education. Three interrelated lines of research touching upon methodologies, communication channels and formats will feed knowledge on IP education for the future. They will guide the design of EPO educational programmes while also contributing to IP education worldwide and, more broadly, to contemporary education.

We invite proposals for research schemes addressing the following thematic areas:

- impact and use of augmented reality and gamification
- impact and use of various channels: image, video and audio
- relevance of intelligent tutoring systems to IP education

Research area 3:

AI in the domain of patents

Patents present intriguing challenges in relation to natural language processing and computer vision, particularly with regard to the diagrams therein. The EPO is therefore interested in (i) raising awareness of the usefulness of patents as a data source for AI and machine learning; and (ii) supporting research that can add value to the EPO's own projects and tools related to AI and patent processing.

We invite proposals for research schemes concentrating on the following thematic areas:

- AI-based patent summaries for model training and inference
- synthetic data generation for low resource problems
- multi-modal information exploitation

Our offer

The new EPO ARP provides financial support for rigorous collaborative research schemes. A total budget of EUR 300 000 per stream is available to support research schemes running for a minimum of two and a maximum

of three years. Selected schemes will be granted up to EUR 150 000. Priority will be given to ambitious projects targeting policy-relevant results with methodologies that can be operationalised by the EPO for further studies.

During the research, the EPO departments involved will share their expertise with the research teams.

The final research reports will be published in high-level peer-reviewed academic publications. They will also be used for further EPO studies and publications.

Selection process

All proposals will be peer-reviewed by external experts specialising in the relevant research area. The grants will be awarded by the programme's Scientific Committee, which is chaired by the Director Patent Academy and EQE and includes experts from the EPO departments concerned.

Research proposals will be rated according to the following criteria:

- collaborative research aspects
- originality and innovativeness of the research question
- potential policy/business/social implications
- transformative impact (potential application of the research outputs)
- multidisciplinary (especially for stream B)
- clarity and quality of the proposed research scheme and methodology
- ability of the applicant to successfully complete the

research scheme

- relevance of the proposed budget

Further information

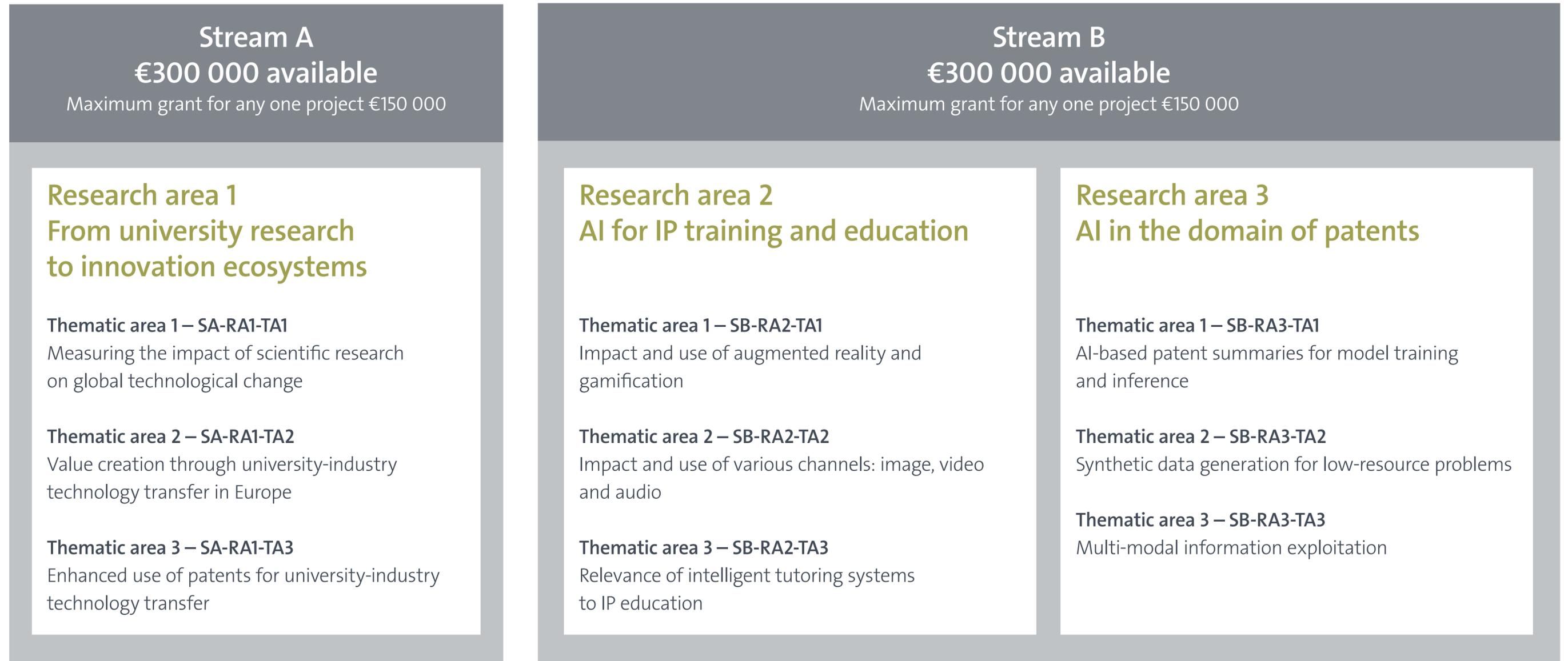
Selection criteria

The call for research schemes is open only to research institutes based in a member state of the European Patent Organisation, i.e. the proposal must be submitted and the project led by a research institute based in an EPO member state. In the case of cross-organisational co-operation, the partner institution may be based in a state that is not a member of the EPO but still within the geographic region of Europe. Collaborative research scheme proposals involving several academic partners will be considered favourably.

The proposed topic's relevance in terms of the thematic areas will be evaluated by renowned external experts specialising in the relevant research area and rated according to the following criteria:

- collaborative research aspects/collaboration with EPO departments
- originality and innovativeness of the research question
- EPO benefit, potential policy/business/societal implications
- clarity and quality of the proposed methodology
- ability of the applicant to successfully complete the research scheme
- relevance of the proposed budget.

Budget distribution across research areas



Young Inventors Award

Younger generations play an essential role in shaping our shared future, and recognising their potential is necessary. To encourage the next generation of inventors, the European Patent Office has created the Young Inventors Award. Aimed at innovators aged 30 and under, it will recognise problem-solving initiatives in all technical fields and offer a cash prize to the winner and the first and second runners-up.

This award focuses on sustainability and honours young innovators who use technology to develop solutions that help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations and have a positive impact on our lives for a better future.

Prizes

The winner will be announced at the European Inventor Award ceremony in June 2022. A cash prize of EUR 20 000 will be awarded to the winner, with the first and second runners-up receiving EUR 10 000 and EUR 5 000 respectively.

Who can make a proposal?

Any member of the public can nominate candidates or themselves for the Young Inventors Award.

What are the requirements?

The Young Inventors Award is open to individuals or groups of individuals anywhere in the world who are aged 30 or under at the time of the award. Any idea, project or product in any field of technology may be proposed. Each proposal must be accompanied by supporting information that is already in the public domain, e.g. granted IP rights, published scientific articles, case studies or audiovisual material. The initiative must aim to use a technical solution to solve a problem within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



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