

Mr. Andre Lucas

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The following is a draft summary of the presentation prepared by the Secretariate of WIPO.

Professor Lucas teaches at the University of Nantes, where there are in total 40,000 students, 3,000 of which are law students. His university takes a cross sectorial approach to IP education, and has institutional links with the University of Ottawa and Segresse University.

He was of the opinion that there was not enough coordination between French universities, in that they offer different degrees, there are different levels of teaching, they use different teaching modules, etc. There could also be much more collaboration in terms of developing curricula and materials, but in his opinion, the collaboration which exists is based more on personal relationships than on institutional or other mechanisms.

Professor Lucas is personally involved in an official capacity in several noteworthy organizations and groups, notably the National Scientific Research Center, which conducts operations in all fields of science, and in the Experts Group on IP of the European Union.

He has undertaken several missions to Africa for the purpose of teaching IP, and he underscored two prominent problems there relative to IP education and IP research: (i) there is a documentation and educational materials shortage; and (ii) young researchers have no avenues to get published in Africa, and very little access outside of Africa.

He recounted a situation which could illustrate a possible role for WIPO. One of the books he has written was going into a second edition. There were 300 copies of the first edition, which were headed for the pulp process. WIPO was given possession of all the first editions, and had them shipped to African and other recipients, and they created value—if they had been pulped, they would have been completely wasted.