

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

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WIPO UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE

UNIVERSITY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COORDINATOR

I. BACKGROUND

Today many universities and research and development (R&D) organizations in developing countries and countries in transition are discovering the intellectual property system and are searching for ways and means to use it in support of their R&D and educational activities. There is still a considerable lack of awareness about the IP system and, for that reason, universities and countries often cannot enjoy the full benefits of their investments in R&D. There is a lack of knowledge and experience on how to use the IP system, how to use technological information contained in patent documents and how to protect and prepare the research results for use by, and transfer to, industry, etc. These are only some of the issues on which awareness development must focus.

WIPO has access to expertise and know-how concerning several issues that are of direct benefit to universities and R&D organizations, such as managing intellectual property rights generated or created by academic and R&D staff; know-how on the use of technological, legal and business information contained in patent documents; know-how on the commercialization of inventions and research results; teaching intellectual property to students in various faculties (business, engineering, science, media and art, administration) and establishing IP policy and its practical application.

In order to develop a greater awareness of IP matters at the university level, WIPO has launched a program entitled the "WIPO University Initiative," aimed at encouraging universities in developing countries and countries in transition to establish "University IP Coordinators," the contact person or unit, where management, researchers, academic staff and students can inquire and receive information and advice on IP matters and have access to technological information contained in IP documents, in support of their R&D or teaching activities.

II. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

It is foreseen that this project will lead to greater use of the IP system and contribute to the transfer of technology and innovation to industry from universities and R&D organizations and, eventually, help to:

- improve access to the wealth of technological information contained in patent documents; improve the capacity of the users (researchers and inventors at R&D organizations, universities, etc.) to analyze and use such information;
- encourage the establishment of IP policies by universities;
- develop the capacity of extracting, analyzing and summarizing technological, legal and business information from IP documentation;
- assist universities/organizations in identifying their IP assets with a view to generating more benefits and income;
- improve the IP protection of research results and inventions generated by universities and R&D organizations, as a first step towards successful commercialization;
- establish contacts with other specialists working in the field of IP both, national and international, from universities, national IP offices or private sector professionals with a view to exchanging experience, information and related IP material.

III. INITIAL PHASE

In the initial phase the main function of the IP Coordinator will be to provide reference services and information on IP-related matters to university management, R&D staff and students. Furthermore, the IP Coordinator will establish contacts and links with the national IP office and copyright administrations and IP professionals.

The IP Coordinator should acquire basic knowledge of the IP system (in his/her country and some information on the international IP system) but, more importantly, know where to find the necessary information. To begin with, it is desirable, but not obligatory, that the IP Coordinator be knowledgeable in the field of IP; however, as the project develops, he/she will acquire the necessary knowledge to ensure a fully informative service.

IV. COORDINATOR TASKS AND OBJECTIVES

Each Coordinator should maintain a set of national IP-related documents, such as national IP laws (i.e. patents, trademarks, geographical indications, copyright and related rights, etc.) that can be obtained from the national IP office. A close link should be maintained with the national IP office.

WIPO will organize training, in due course, for the IP Coordinator. However, as a first step, the Coordinator should follow the WIPO Academy Distance Learning Program (web site: <http://academy.wipo.int>). WIPO will provide the necessary information for registration.

Initially, the Coordinator should publicize the service, among staff and students and organize at least two information sessions (1/2-day seminar, workshop) per semester. These information sessions should comprise a general presentation of the IP system, a presentation of the national IP system and services of the IP office, and either a presentation on IP information and its benefits for universities and R&D organizations or a presentation on copyright and neighboring rights. This should be undertaken in close cooperation with the national IP office and IP specialists or professionals from the private sector who should also be invited to give presentations.

Set out below is a summary of the Objectives, Activities and Expected Results of the IP Coordinator functions.

	Objectives	Activities	Expected Results
	Main objective is to be the reference center where researchers, academic staff and students can receive information/advice on various IP matters, essentially creating awareness on IP among university staff, researchers and students.	Maintain close contact with national IP offices and IP professionals and, with the information collected, develop the ability to give presentations, reply to questions and provide information on new developments.	University management, staff researchers and student bodies have a better understanding of the functions of the IP system and know where to obtain the relevant information (from the IP Coordinator).
	Acquire knowledge on the use of the IP system and know-how and where to find further requested information.	Undergo training on IP matters.	Better knowledge of the IP system and easy access to the required information.
	Develop and conduct IP-awareness promotion programs for university staff and students.	Organize regularly, 2-3 times per year, workshops/lectures to explain the basics of the IP system.	Increased awareness of the IP system among university staff and students.
	Provide access to technical information contained in patent documents to support research and development projects.	Search for requested information using CD-ROMs or online; Request search reports and information from national IP offices or through WIPO (WPIS) Request information from commercial providers.	Improved information support to (R&D) activities.
	Active use of the Internet for communication and promotion purposes.	The IP Coordinator should design and maintain an IP Coordinator' homepage.	Improved connectivity and possibilities for online exchange of information and communication.

Promote cooperation with other IP Coordinators.	Maintain regular contacts with other IP Coordinators.	Increased awareness about the activities of other IP Coordinators. Exchange of information. Through resulting synergy, establishment of regional networks aimed at maximizing the valuation of IP assets.
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V. WIPO SUPPORT, TRAINING AND DOCUMENTATION

Each IP Coordinator will be provided with:

- a WIPO Documentation Kit, which will include selected WIPO publications and CD-ROM products, as well as CD-ROM search tools from other organizations;
- the IP Coordinator Operational Guidelines;
- the Terms of Reference for the IP Coordinator function;
- a Schedule of Recommended Activities for an initial period of six to 12 months.

WIPO has also created a special web page: <http://www.wipo.int/uipc/en/index.html> in order to facilitate communication with, and among, the IP Coordinators.

The reference material/documentation to be supplied by WIPO in the IP Coordinator Documentation Kit includes:

(a) Leaflets/brochures:

- Catalogue of WIPO Publications
- WIPO: General Information
- What is Intellectual Property?
- Comic books series on Copyrights – Patents – Trademarks
- Overview - Intellectual Property: A Power Tool for Economic Growth
- Summaries of Treaties Administered by WIPO
- Basic Facts about the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
- Introduction to Patent Searching with CD-ROMs
- WIPO Patent Information Services for Developing Countries
- The WIPO Internet Treaties
- Principles of Copyright Law - Common Law and Civil Law - Cases and Materials

(b) Subscriptions to:

- the WIPO Magazine
- the PCT Newsletter

(c) Guides/Handbooks and Directories including:

- WIPO Guide to Intellectual Property Worldwide
- WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook: Policy, Law and Use

- Guidelines on Developing Intellectual Property Policy for Universities and R&D Institutions in African Countries
- A Brochure on Intellectual Property Rights for Universities and R&D Institutions in African Countries

Note: The following directories are constantly updated and are available electronically on the Internet:

- Directory of National and Regional Intellectual Property Offices
- Directory of Innovation Centers
- Directory of Associations of Inventors and Inventors' Support Organizations
- Directory of National Copyright Administrations
- Directory of Collective Management Societies

(d) Agreements/Treaties: all relevant treaties administered by WIPO plus the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and its implications on Treaties Administered by WIPO

(e) WIPO CD-ROM Products:

- Essential Elements of IP CD-ROM: contains a comprehensive range of reading materials on the essential elements of intellectual property, which covers both industrial property and copyright and is intended as a practical reference tool for all those interested in acquiring an introductory knowledge of the international legislative framework of the intellectual property system (1 CD-ROM)

- WIPO IP Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation CD-ROM: provides information on various matters concerning patents, trademarks and industrial designs and, in particular, is an authoritative source for WIPO Standards, Recommendations and Guidelines in the field of industrial property information and documentation (1 CD-ROM)

- IPLEX CD-ROM: a full-text database containing texts in English and French (as well as German and Spanish in some cases) of national and regional laws and multilateral and bilateral treaties in the field of intellectual property (1 CD-ROM)

- WIPO Industrial Property Statistics CD-ROM: provides statistical information on the number of applications/grants and registrations relating to patents, trademarks, industrial designs, as well as related information concerning plant varieties and microorganisms by country, region or organization (1 CD-ROM)

- IPC:CLASS CD-ROM: contains the International Patent Classification (IPC) and a search system for identifying the place or places (i.e. the IPC groups) which cover a given technical subject (1 CD-ROM)
 - NIVILO:CLASS CD-ROM: contains the authentic versions of current editions of the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of Registration of Marks (Nice Classification), the International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Classification) and the International Classification of Industrial Designs (Locarno Classification) (1 CD-ROM)
 - Globalpat (WIPO-EPO) CD-ROM: contains bibliographic data (first page data base) of the majority of English-language patent applications published worldwide since 1971. The information is classified according to the IPC which makes it very useful for accessing specific fields of technology (a classified collection of more than 70 CD-ROMs)
- (f) Subscriptions to Search Tools on CD-ROMs published by other organizations:
- ESPACE ACCESS (EPO) CD-ROM: a search tool that offers complete bibliographic information and English-language abstracts on all European patent applications and international applications (PCT applications) filed since the creation of the European Patent Office in 1978 (1 CD-ROM per month)
 - BREF (French INPI) CD-ROM: this publication contains the bibliographic data of French applications (with abstracts and drawings) (1 CD-ROM per month)
 - CASSIS-BIB (USPTO) CD-ROM: contains basic bibliographic and classification data of US patents (1 CD-ROM every 2 months)

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