



INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON INNOVATION
TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2012

International Workshop on “Innovation, Intellectual Property and the Informal Economy”

**Implementing Recommendation 34 of the WIPO Committee on
Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)**

organized by
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva

in cooperation with
the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI), Tshwane University of Technology,
South Africa

Pretoria, South Africa, November 19 to 21, 2012

PROGRAM

prepared by the International Bureau of WIPO

BACKGROUND

The General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) adopted a set of [45 recommendations](#) in October 2007 as part of the WIPO Development Agenda to enhance the development dimension of the Organization's activities.

WIPO Development Agenda Recommendation 34 relating to "Intellectual Property and the Informal Economy" reads as follows:

"With a view to assisting Member States in creating substantial national programs, to request WIPO to conduct a study on constraints to intellectual property protection in the informal economy, including the tangible costs and benefits of intellectual property protection in particular in relation to generation of employment."

To implement the Recommendation 34, Member States have agreed on a project and a corresponding project implementation plan available at:

http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/mdocs/en/cdip_8/cdip_8_3_rev.pdf

http://www-dev.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/mdocs/en/cdip_8/cdip_8_3_rev_study_inf_1.pdf.

The objective of the project is to lead to a better understanding of how innovation occurs in the informal economy (IE) and to explain the role of IP in this context. The plan is to offer policy guidance – both in assessing how IP policy instruments influence innovation in the IE and what IP-related policy measures could help expand output and employment.

The project will produce four studies – one conceptual study and three country case studies - that will provide guidance and case study evidence on how innovation occurs in the informal economy and what role IP rights play in this process.

The objective of the **conceptual study** is to set out what characterizes informal economic activity, what type of intangible assets individuals and firms operating in the informal economy generate, and through what mechanisms – including IP rights – those individuals and firms do and do not appropriate innovative efforts. The conceptual study will provide a common conceptual framework and outline for the country case studies.

Three case studies will be conducted in three different African countries. They shall document examples of innovation in the informal economy and provide an assessment of how innovation outcomes have been influenced by IP, and the potential lack of access to it. It was decided to give a regional focus to the project and to choose three different subsectors in the three African countries, namely herbal medicine in Ghana, metal manufacturing in Kenya and the chemical sector in South Africa. Where possible experiences from other countries, in particular from India, will be brought in.

Informal Expert Group: An informal expert group with the following members has been set up.

- Mr. Mark Dutz, Leader, Work Program on Innovation and Growth, Economic Policy & Debt Department, Poverty Reduction & Economic Management Network, World Bank
- Mr. Fred Gault, Professorial Fellow, UNU-MERIT, Professor Extraordinaire, TUT/IERI, and former Chair of OECD's NESTI
- Mr. Anil Gupta, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Founder, Honey Bee Network
- Ms. Adriana Mata Greenwood, Department of Statistics, International Labor Organization
- Mr. Johannes Jütting, Principal Economist, OECD
- Mr. Dick Kawooya, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina, and contributor to the OPENAIR project, Uganda
- Mr. Almamy Konte, African Observatory for Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa
- Mr. Sisule F. Musungu, Senior Partner, Sisule Munyi Kilonzo & Associates and President, IQsensato, Kenya
- Mr. Emmanuel Sackey, Chief Examiner, Industrial Property Directorate, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Zimbabwe

OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP

The purpose of the workshop is to formally launch the WIPO project while uniting all designated experts and key external stakeholders at IERI.

The first day of the workshop will be used to obtain guidance from external experts, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and government delegates. The second and third day of the workshop will be used by the project team and key advisors to fine-tune the substantive approach taken, to agree on common methodologies and to settle details as they relate to an efficient and productive project implementation.

At the end of the workshop, substantial progress will have been made on the following items:

- Obtaining feedback and implementing revisions to the conceptual study;
- Deciding on common framework and outline for the three country case studies;
- Reaching agreement on methodological template (e.g. model questionnaire for the informal economy) and common research approaches; and
- Planning on how to present the combined final study in the form of a book.

LOGISTICAL DETAILS

Transfer from Airport to hotel and local transportation to venue: OR Tambo International Airport is about one hour transfer to Pretoria. IERI will facilitate shuttle transfers from the airport to the hotel for participants arriving at similar times (IERI will contact you on an individual basis). Local transportation will be facilitated during the workshop.

Venue: IERI Seminar Room, Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI), 159 Nana Sita Street, Pretoria CBD

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Express Pretoria Sunnypark, Address: Crn Jeppe Str & Trevenna Str, Sunnyside, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa
Contact Hotel Front Desk: +27-12-4441000
Hotel Fax: +27-12-4441020

Lunches and coffee breaks: All lunches and coffee breaks on November 19, 20 and 21 are provided at the conference venue.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

November 19, 2012	Day 1: Workshop with key experts, external participants and government stakeholders
9.00 – 9.30	Arrival and registration
9.30 – 9.45	Opening and Welcome <i>Rasigan Maharajh, Chief Director, IERI, South Africa</i> <i>Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, Senior Economist, WIPO</i>
9.45– 10.15	Setting the context – Productive systems and innovation in contemporary Africa: implications for evidence-based policy <i>Rasigan Maharajh (IERI) / Mario Scerri (Research Fellow, IERI)</i>
10.15 – 10:50	Introduction to the “IP and the Informal Economy”-project <i>By Sacha Wunsch-Vincent (WIPO)</i> Brief introduction to the three case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana (<i>George Owusu Essegbey, Director, Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR, Ghana</i>) • Kenya (<i>Christopher Bull, Senior Research Engineer and Senior Lecturer in School of Engineering, Brown University, United States of America</i>) • South Africa (<i>Erika Kraemer-Mbula, Senior Lecturer, IERI, South Africa</i>)
10:50 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12:45	THEME 1: Government and NGO perspectives on role of innovation in the informal economy Chair: <i>Jacques Charmes, Research Director, Centre Population et Développement, Université Paris Descartes, Paris</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Speaker 1: Department of Science and Technology – Technology for Sustainable Livelihoods – Elmary Buis</i> • <i>Speaker 2: CSIR Enterprise Creation for Development (ECD) – Ebrahim Wadiwala</i> • <i>Speaker 3: SA National Traders’ Retail Alliance (SANTRA)- - Edmund Elias</i> <p><i>Theme 1 will address how innovation takes place in the informal economy against the backdrop of innovation in the formal sector or in more industrialized economies. Informal economy innovation actors, inputs, processes, linkages, outputs and related obstacles in the IE will be discussed. Importantly, the question will be asked if our traditional national innovation system concepts can be applied to the informal economy or whether new concepts are required.</i></p>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch

14:00 – 15:30	<p>THEME 2: Government and NGO perspectives on knowledge creation, appropriation and transfer in the IE</p> <p>Chair: <i>Dick Kawooya, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina, and OPENAIR project, Uganda</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Speaker 1: Mr. Lungile Dukwana, Acting COO, the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) South Africa</i> • <i>Speaker 2: Mr. Trod Lehong, IP Manager, The Technology Innovation Agency</i> • <i>Speaker 3: Mrs. Rosemary Wolson, Senior IP Manager, CSIR</i> <p><i>Theme 2 will address how innovation is appropriated in the context of the informal economy. Mechanisms of knowledge creation, transfer and protection will be discussed while assessing the tangible costs and benefits of a potential application of traditional IP or other appropriation schemes with a view to generate further employment and growth.</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 17:00	<p>THEME 3: Government and NGO perspectives on innovation policies for the informal economy</p> <p><i>“Past and new IE policies: from suppression to innovation strategies?”</i></p> <p>Chair: <i>Fred Gault, UNU-MERIT and IERI</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Speaker 1: Tsholo Mogotsi, City of Johannesburg</i> • <i>Speaker 2: Shamnad Basheer, Ministry of Human Resource Development, India</i> <p><i>Theme 3 will address how innovation policy frameworks need to be (re)-designed for the informal economy. Existing and potential policies in the context of the informal economy will be discussed, notably with a view to determine if traditional innovation policy approaches are relevant to the informal context or whether a new innovation policy arsenal needs to be devised. Another question will be how to ensure policy coherence between potential innovation policies aimed at the informal sector, other policies targeting the informal sector and the set of innovation policies aimed at the formal sector.</i></p>
17:00 – 17:20	<p>Conclusion of Day 1</p> <p><i>Rapporteur: Jeremy de Beer, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa and leader of the Open African Innovation Research (AIR) project on innovation and IP in Africa</i></p> <p><i>Farewell and Concluding remarks:</i> <i>Rasigan Maharajh, Chief Director, IERI</i> <i>Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, WIPO</i></p>

November 20, 2012	Day 2: Project core team + invited experts
9:00 -9:15	Arrivals
9.15 – 11:00	<p>Review of existing analytical work on the Informal Economy Chair : <i>George Essegbey, CSIR, Ghana</i></p> <p>Presentations by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Jacques Charmes, Directeur de recherche émérite, Centre Population et Développement, Université Paris Descartes, Paris</i> - <i>Erika Kraemer-Mbula, IERI</i> <p><i>This session will review existing definitional, measurement and analytical work on the informal economy. For a number of decades academic and policy work with the informal economy at its core has been ongoing. This work was mainly concerned with issues relating to employment, household incomes, poverty, gender and other social economic development issues. While some work has focused on “technological capabilities” in the informal economy, the analysis of innovation in the informal context is a more recent phenomenon. The session is to explore the lessons to be learnt from this past work, to better assess available resources and to better apprehend the topic from an historical perspective. Moreover, increasingly the work on the informal economy has led to surveys and case studies producing large-scale data sets. While these surveys and data have not been performed with innovation processes and outputs mind, it is important to assess if and how these should be used in the context of our work.</i></p>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 -13:00	<p>Conceptualization of informal innovation: What can we learn from current methodologies and surveys? Chair: <i>Rasigan Maharajh, IERI</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Fred Gault, UNU-MERIT and IERI</i> - <i>Mario Scerri, Research Fellow, IERI</i> - <i>Lindile Ndabeni, Senior Lecturer, IERI</i> <p><i>Statisticians and innovation economists have developed concepts, surveys and metrics to assess national innovation systems over the last two decades. The majority of this work is aimed at high-income economies, and has been produced in the OECD context. It has developed a clear understanding on how are the innovation actors, linkages between them, and related innovation inputs and outputs. More recently, innovation in developing countries has gained significant attention. Work is ongoing to make the existing innovation concepts and metrics work more applicable to developing countries. The session will ask the question to which extent existing and newer innovation surveys and metrics work is relevant to the informal sector. Fundamentally the question is if innovation systems and according surveys and metrics need to be reconceptualised to do justice to this different informal context. One of the outputs of the workshop has to be the development of a core innovation survey that will be administered in the context of the three different sector studies.</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session on the conceptual paper <i>Chair: Christopher Bull, Brown University, USA</i> Presentation of the conceptual paper – <i>Jeremy de Beer, Kun Fu (Research Associate, Imperial College), Sacha Wunsch-Vincent</i></p> <p><i>A conceptual study is at the heart of this project. It defines the scope of the overall project, and is to set out what characterizes informal economic activity, what type of intangible assets individuals and firms operating in the informal economy generate, and through what mechanisms those individuals and firms do and do not appropriate innovative efforts. The conceptual study will also provide a common conceptual framework and outline for the country case studies. This session will be focused on presenting the existing draft of the conceptual study and to gather relevant feedback as to its main strengths, weaknesses and omissions. It will also help to decide on how to appropriately frame the scope of the project (in particular with respect to topics such as traditional communities, traditional knowledge and non-economic impacts) and to agree on a joint outline for the country case studies.</i></p>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16.00 – 18.00	<p>Session on country case studies <i>Chair: Kun Fu, Imperial College</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation of case study outline and discussion</i> • <i>In-depth presentation and discussion of cases: Ghana (George Essegbey) , Kenya (Christopher Bull), South Africa (Erika Kraemer-Mbula)</i> <p><i>This session will allow case study authors to present the details of their country case study to fellow experts and authors. The choice of the case studies and their substantive orientation will be discussed against the background of the discussion in the previous session and the case study outline. The key question is how applicable the conceptual framework and outline is to the cases. While the choice of case studies is cast in stone at this point, the expert group will also discuss how representative these cases are for other sectors and countries that are not treated explicitly through a case study.</i></p>
18:00-18:20	<p>Conclusion of Day 2 Rapporteur Day 2: <i>Erika Kraemer-Mbula, IERI</i></p>

November 21, 2012	Day 3: Project core team
9:00 – 9:15	Arrival
9:15 – 10:45	<p>Session to fine-tune the case study outline and to design the methodology and survey tools <i>Facilitators: Erika Kraemer-Mbula and Jeremy de Beer</i></p> <p><i>Following up on the previous day, questions are how existing surveys and data concerning the informal economy can be used, and what other new qualitative and/or quantitative research methods to apply. One output of this session is a survey instrument for innovation and appropriation in the informal economy that can be administered orally, a so-called Informal Sector Innovation Survey. Experts will also discuss sampling strategies and related practicalities.</i></p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session to fine-tune the case study outline and to design the methodology and survey tools (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i> Erika Kraemer-Mbula and Shamnad Basheer</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Project planning, budgeting and organisational matters</p> <p><i>This session will help plan the project implementation, the agreement on deadlines and the sharing of responsibilities. It will also serve to decide on how to combine and present the various studies that result from the project. Finally, the core group will have a chance to discuss how to transform the project into a book publication.</i></p>
15:30 – 16:00	Wrapping up and Closing Session

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