

Thinking about Industrial Property, Sustainability and the Future of the Planet



29th and 30th of May 2023

Lisbon

CONFERENCE
CONCEPT NOTE

THINKING ABOUT INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY, SUSTAINABILITY AND THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET

Following a Study WIPO has recently published on “Intellectual property offices and Sustainable Innovation. Implementing the SDGs in national intellectual property systems”, the Conference marks an important milestone in further engaging IP Offices in promoting SDGs in their respective areas of work. The Conference will be hosted by the Portuguese Government, through their National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) - Ministry for Justice with the support of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

When:

29 and 30 May, 2023

Where:

Lisbon, Portugal.

Venue:

LNEC – LABORATÓRIO NACIONAL DE ENGENHARIA CIVIL
Avenida do Brasil, 101. Lisbon. Portugal

Participants:

The event will bring together key actors from National Industrial Property Offices from the CPLP, IBEP and the European Union, in addition to participants from other regions which are Member States of the Organization.

Over 100 delegates comprising of national authorities, in particular those in charge of Industrial Property National Offices, and those from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, relevant national agencies and regional organizations such as the European Patent Office, as well as social partners.

Background:

Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) Agenda is a challenge on a global scale. The future of our planet will be seriously compromised unless there is a definite commitment to innovation and setting new sustainability standards.

Innovation/Industrial Property (IP) constitutes a key element in the path established by SDG 9. It fosters innovation and enables innovators to protect their creativity, their inventions and investments. This will lead to more innovative solutions for the benefit of our planet.

IP provides agents of change with the necessary strength to act with legal certainty, based on a solid legal framework. The much needed actions to fight climate change and the development of new green and beneficial technologies is of utmost urgency. The IP system thus forms the basis of this journey towards a healthier and more sustainable planet.

That is why this event is timely and of critical importance, as it will help participants – from Government, private sector, academia and others - to share, debate and commit to the crucial role that IP holds in bringing the SDGs to life and making them a reality.

Objectives:

The main goal of this Conference is to provide space for dialogue on the importance of the Industrial Property System (IP) as a vehicle for achieving the SDGs of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. The debate will be divided into six thematic panels detailed below.

Conference Panels:**Panel 1:****Thinking about gender equality in science and innovation**

This Panel will address the importance of gender equality and the role played by women in innovation and IP. It will include first-hand accounts of women who have been distinguished in the area of environmental sustainability or those who occupy prominent positions in companies. Furthermore, a project focused on reducing the gap in gender inequality in IP will be discussed.

Presentations:

- Reducing gender inequalities in IP – WIPO's effort in promoting gender equality and diversity in the innovative sector.
- How women's roles in innovation may help build our future.
- A female perspective: Harnessing innovation to achieve sustainability.

Panel 2:**Thinking about green technologies and new ways of living for a better future**

This Panel will focus on green technologies and renewable energies and the role they play in building a more sustainable future. It will also focus on smart cities: cities that combine technology, efficiency, and sustainability. Additionally, the WIPO GREEN project will be addressed. This project brings together buyers and sellers of patentable green technologies, thus fostering partnerships and businesses in this area.

Presentations:

- Innovative technologies based on natural energy sources – Success Stories.
- Hydrogen innovation for the energy transition.
- WIPO GREEN and the United Nations water agenda.
- IP's mission as a generator of better living conditions in Smart Cities.

Panel 3:**Thinking about better ways of working in long-established and traditional industries**

This panel will explore how some of the most long-established and traditional industries (e.g., footwear, chemical, food, etc.) have adapted to today's world, and how they continue to innovate towards a greener and more digital future.

Presentations:

- Innovation and sustainability in the footwear industry: the Portuguese experience.
- Chemistry as a science to solve global problems.
- Round Table: IP promoting new ways for sustainable production.

Panel 4:**Thinking about our natural and cultural heritage**

This Panel will celebrate the importance that natural and cultural heritage - such as forests or regional/national products - holds in the local and international economy, reflecting on the need to protect such heritage. The panel will reflect on the key role that IP can play in preventing and fighting wild and rural fires. It will also address how rural industries - such as the wine industry - use emerging technologies to achieve more sustainable production. The relevance of Appellations of Origin (AO) or Geographical Indications (GI) as a way of protecting this heritage will be addressed as well.

Presentations:

- Iberian Study: Patents and forest fire control.
- Forest fires: how innovation can be used to fight this scourge.
- Making use of our natural heritage for innovation: the case of cork insulation used in the aerospace industry.
- Sustainability challenges in the wine sector.

Panel 5:**Thinking about the IP System to anticipate solutions**

This Panel will debate governments' roles in promoting the IP System as a solution to some of our current problems, particularly regarding the digital transition of public services. It will include a round table that will bring together the representatives of the IP5 offices to discuss the main SDGs IP-related projects - implemented or ongoing - and their potential impact on society.

Presentations:

- Ensuring sustainability, fairness and effectiveness within the IP dispute resolution system.
- Round Table: IP5 offices' vision on how IP will change the Planet.
- The 'SME Fund' as a way to achieve sustainability in Europe's economy.

Panel 6:**Thinking about synergies between innovation and IP**

This Panel will be dedicated to the impact that studies and reports on the use of IP have on the economy and society. It will discuss how their results can promote more well informed public policies, which are better adapted to making our constantly changing world greener and more sustainable. The Panel will also address the importance that financing has on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to enable their recovery and achieve economic growth.

Presentations:

- INPI's role supporting innovation in Portugal.
- A study on the impact of IP in Portugal.
- The new Patent Observatory.
- Round Table: Business challenges in the era of innovation and sustainability.

A Summing up' session will bring participants together to summarize the outcomes of the panels; the chair will briefly summarize the conference discussions and highlight recommendations and potential future actions. This session will also document reflections on the key messages emerging from the conference and a final report will be adopted.