

WIPO GREEN Research Project: Interviews with IP Offices

Presentation of findings and concept notes
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IPO GREEN Interviews

IPO GREEN was developed in response to IP offices' requests for green policymaking information. To inform this new initiative we:

- Interviewed representatives of 18 IP offices from around the world.
- Identified over a dozen types of green policies and programs enacted by IP offices (see «concept notes» on the website)
- Confirmed interest among IP offices for engagement with peers on a new platform hosted by WIPO GREEN.

Accelerated Patent Prosecution

Description: This initiative provides for accelerated processing of patents for green technology solutions within a given IP Office. Essentially, it involves moving green technology patent applications to the front of the line for faster prosecution.

Impact: Encourage green innovation by supporting green technology innovators to secure patents more quickly, in line with their IP management strategies. Expedited delivery of IPRs is intended to enable green innovators to more rapidly use their portfolios for partnerships, investments, tax incentives.

Beneficiaries: Green technology innovators applying for a patent and, in some cases other IPRs, and with interest in their IP rights issuing more quickly. Not all businesses have a strategy that aligns with faster prosecution.

Provision of Green Data and Analysis by the IP Office

Description: IP Offices can support green innovators by providing them with data and studies to inform their R&D and commercialization strategies. IP Offices may publish patent landscapes, research reports, analyses regarding trends, and data sets. Some IP Offices are working with WIPO to conduct national and regional surveys.

Intended impact: These programs aim to provide information, data, and analysis that can be used by innovators, researchers, and policymakers to better target their efforts in relation to green technology innovation. The programs leverage the data and analytic tools held by IP Offices.

Intended beneficiaries: The beneficiaries differ depending on the project and may range from the public to SMEs, from public sector researchers to partner IP Offices.

Matchmaking and business rounds

Description: Matchmaking programs involve bringing together providers and users of green technology solutions. This can be done at a national or regional level. WIPO experts also collaborate with the IP Office staff to, first, identify priority sectors and specific needs for action, second, identify possible technology solutions that could improve the green transition in that sector, then, third, identify ways to connect users and providers including through uploading relevant technology solutions to the WIPO GREEN platform.

Intended impact: Support the uptake of green technologies by facilitating interactions between different stakeholders, typically but not necessarily green technology users and technology providers.

Intended beneficiaries: Potential green technology users and technology providers, along with green technology innovators who may get the opportunity to partner so as to enhance their R&D and commercialization activities.

Regional Cooperation on Green IP Matter

Description: Regional and international cooperation among IP Offices can contribute to addressing global sustainability issues. Regional cooperation to promote green innovation is already prevalent. International cooperation on green IP matters often involves WIPO GREEN as a partner, with WIPO's role differing according to the specific regional project. In addition, some international projects involve collaboration between IP Offices in industrialized and developing countries, without WIPO involvement; one such initiative between Denmark and India focuses on advancing the commercialization of green technologies.

Intended impact: Multiply green initiatives, in order to boost green innovation and investments, and the uptake of new solutions, by sharing expertise and experiences and working together to enhance reach and impact.

Intended beneficiaries: While this depends on the particular initiative, the beneficiaries range from the public to partner IP Offices, and from innovators to IP Offices' staff.

Joint Initiatives with WIPO GREEN

Description: WIPO GREEN plans to deepen engagement and partnership with IP Offices globally. This will build on existing collaboration with those IP Offices that are already co-hosting events with WIPO GREEN and otherwise supporting the network. Some IP Offices have become formal partners of WIPO GREEN, integrating into the membership network.

Intended impact: Support the mission of WIPO GREEN and undertake joint projects to advance the development and deployment of green technologies as a response to global challenges in relation to climate change and food security.

Intended beneficiaries: Depending on the specific program and place, the beneficiaries may include technology users, the public, partner IP Offices, and green innovators.

Classification Systems for Green Technology Solutions

Description: Some IP Offices have developed specialized classification systems to better identify green technology solutions, in order to help with prior art searches, analysis of trends in environmental technology innovation, and other analysis.

Intended impact: Facilitate prior art searches and identification of trends in environmental technology patenting, by creating more detailed classification schemes than the IPC Green Inventory for environmental technologies.

Intended beneficiaries: IP Offices, green technology innovators, and researchers using patent information can benefit from more detailed systems for classifying green technology solutions.

Training Government Officials about Green Innovations

Description: Some IP Offices are offering training about green technology solutions and about green innovation overall to patent examiners and other government officials.

Intended impact: Encourage green innovation, by sensitizing IP Office staff and other government officials, and possibly also other stakeholders, to developments in green technology, and by raising awareness about enabling policies and IP frameworks for green tech advancement.

Intended beneficiaries: Government officials and possibly other domestic stakeholders.

Green Patent Prosecution Highways

Description: Some IP Offices have put in place green Patent Prosecution Highways, known as “PPH”. These arrangements involve offices working together to share the results of their search and examination. A green PPH involves collaboration in relation to green patent applications that have been filed in both countries. A PPH can speed up the prosecution process, since one office can build on the work already done by the partner office. Within a PPH, search and examination results are shared among the participating offices. However, the decision as to whether to grant the patent rests firmly with each office, in line with national legislation.

Intended impact: Encourage green innovation, by supporting green technology innovators who have filed the same application in two countries to secure quality patents more quickly, in line with their IP management strategies. Expedited delivery of patents is intended to enable green innovators to more rapidly use their portfolios for partnerships, investments, and tax incentives.

Intended beneficiaries: Green technology innovators applying for patents across multiple jurisdictions are the beneficiaries, due to enhanced search and examination and possibly faster grant. IP Offices also benefit from participation in a green PPH arrangement, which can improve patent quality and enhance efficiency.

Upcycling Programs for Counterfeit Goods

Description: The detection and confiscation of counterfeit goods is becoming increasingly efficient, creating new logistical and environmental challenges for national authorities. Generally, counterfeit goods are disposed of by open-air incineration, grinding, crushing, or burial in a landfill, with the precise method varying according to the nature of the goods to be destroyed. To minimize the environmental impact of the disposals, specialized facilities, expertise, and high levels of stakeholder collaboration have been required. From an IP perspective, the first step in addressing seized counterfeits is to remove the possibility of such goods reentering the market. Now, for some IP Offices, the subsequent step has become identification of ways to recycle the goods, for a better environmental footprint as well as job creation and other benefits.

Intended impact: Create an environmentally friendly system to recycle or upcycle seized counterfeit goods. Generate jobs and create additional income for the IP Office. Favor the work of local artists and emphasize the recruitment of women to participate.

Intended beneficiaries: The public benefits from reduced negative environmental and health impacts from destruction. Other beneficiaries include those employed by the program, consumers of the upcycled goods, and the IP Office which may receive extra revenue. It benefits the rights holders whose seized counterfeit goods are eliminated from the market without the negative impacts from destruction.

IP Awareness-Raising Activities

Description: Most IP Offices have programs in place to raise awareness about the various types of intellectual property rights and how they can be managed in different contexts, and to encourage innovators to make use of these important tools. Generally, such programs are technology-agnostic. Recently, IP Offices have been creating components of their IP awareness-raising activities that focus on green innovation. Such initiatives draw linkages between IPRs, green innovation, and the achievement of sustainability objectives. A range of tools, whether produced by the IP Office or by several government agencies in concert, can be used to raise awareness about the important role that IP can play in stimulating investments, partnerships, R&D, and the marketing of novel green solutions.

Intended impact: Encourage green innovation and investments in same, by supporting green technology innovators to more effectively build an IP portfolio and manage their IPRs to attract investment and partnerships and to commercialize new green solutions.

Intended beneficiaries: Green innovators, whether in the private or public sectors, are the beneficiaries. They gain a better understanding of how IPRs can support their goals and may be encouraged to use such tools. The IP Office can benefit from this type of initiative, if it improves the public perception of the IP system as an important contributor to the achievement of green goals. The public can benefit from a better understanding of innovation in green technology and the enabling policies that make it possible.

Financial Support for Green Patent Applications

Description: One way that IP Offices can contribute to green innovation is by reducing fees for patent prosecution for companies with green technology solutions. This can apply to green innovative SMEs, or it can apply on a sectoral basis to cover any green innovator. Another approach is the provision of an IP “voucher” that covers part of the costs of preparing the patent application, without reduction of the fees for the application.

Intended impact: Encourage green innovation, by making it more affordable for green technology innovators to secure patents, especially for SMEs.

Intended beneficiaries: Companies seeking patents on green technology solutions.

IP Services for Entrepreneurs

Description: IP Offices, on their own or in partnership with other parts of the government, are often involved in the provision of services and support for domestic inventors and entrepreneurs. In some countries, such support is now being tailored to include a specific green component.

Intended impact: Encourage green innovation, by supporting green technology innovators to gain support and practical skills and knowledge related to IP management and the commercialization of green solutions.

Intended beneficiaries: Green innovators in the private and public sectors benefit, by gaining support for their green innovation-related activities.

Awards for Green Technology Innovation

Description: Many IP Offices have award programs for domestic innovators, and some offices are targeting green innovators in particular (whether by design or coincidence, when the awards are granted).

Intended impact: Encourage green innovation, by supporting green technology innovators to secure crucial visibility and guidance from IP and business experts.

Intended beneficiaries: Green innovators, especially SMEs, can benefit from the visibility and services from green award programs.



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a robust IPO GREEN community**

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Subtitle

