

2025–2026
WIPO Training,
Mentoring and
Matchmaking Program
on Intellectual
Property for Women
Entrepreneurs from
Indigenous Peoples and
Local Communities from
Pacific Island Countries
Call for applications



Application
deadline
**September 30,
2024**



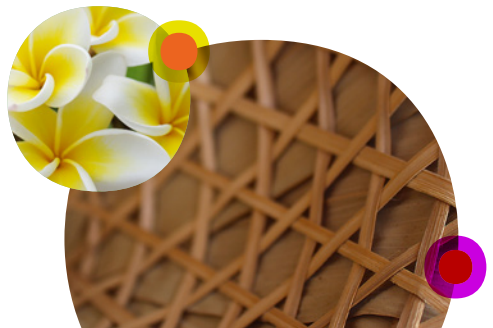
Why this program?

Entrepreneurship based on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions celebrates the rich and diverse cultures and traditions of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, around the world, strengthening their sense of identity and belonging, as well as creating jobs and generating income.

However, community entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, often face difficulties due to a lack of awareness of, and expertise on intellectual property.

Women from Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, many of whom play a key role as holders and custodians of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, represent a significant number of these entrepreneurs, often facing additional difficulties due to inequalities in access to education, funding, and support services.

The *WIPO Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* aims to strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, to make strategic and effective use of intellectual property tools in support of their businesses.



Since its launch in 2019, the program has completed five cycles, supporting over 100 women entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, from 63 countries worldwide.

WIPO is now pleased to call for applications for a new cycle of the program for Pacific Island Countries to take place from March 2025 to March 2026.

Program structure

The program has a practical approach and consists of a training phase, and a mentoring and matchmaking phase.

The **training phase** will take place in person in Sydney, Australia, from March 24 to 28, 2025. It will consist of a practical workshop that will include a mixture of short presentations, case studies and group work.

During the practical workshop, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Build capacity in intellectual property and acquire the skills necessary for an effective use of intellectual property rights, including in the digital economy;
- Acquire basic knowledge of related fields useful in an entrepreneurial context, such as business modeling, marketing and digital storytelling.

The practical workshop will also provide the opportunity for participants to network and share experiences with other women entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, from the region, and to further develop their projects and businesses.

The **mentoring and matchmaking phase** will start after the practical workshop and last until March 2026. During that phase, mentors will be assigned to individual participants to provide guidance and support in the implementation of the intellectual property components of the participants' projects and businesses.

Mentoring will be provided through video chat, emailing and telephone communication by WIPO and/or its program collaborators.

In delivering the objectives of the program, WIPO will work with program collaborators and experts who bring deep and valuable experiences to the table.

Who can apply?

Women entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in particular those who work jointly with other members of their communities, as part of a community-based business or project based on traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions, are encouraged to apply.

WIPO will select up to 24 participants. Provided that an adequate number of applications are received, every effort will be made to select at least one participant from the following countries:

- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Nauru
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Language requirements

Participants should be able to effectively communicate in English.



Required prior knowledge

It is recommended that participants have or acquire a basic understanding of intellectual property prior to the practical workshop.

Participants are encouraged to take the WIPO Primer on Intellectual Property (DL-001), which is a three-hour distance learning course offered free of charge by the WIPO Academy.

Participants can also benefit from the WIPO General Course on Intellectual Property (DL-101), which is also free of charge, building on the concepts presented in the Primer.

For more information or to access the WIPO Primer on Intellectual Property (DL-001) and the WIPO General Course on Intellectual Property (DL-101), visit the WIPO eLearning Center at <https://welc.wipo.int>.



Participants should have the necessary IT skills to be able to effectively participate in the program, as well as access to IT equipment and reliable internet connectivity for the duration of the program.

Costs

WIPO will cover the costs of travel, accommodation and subsistence associated with the participants' attendance to the practical workshop.



Application deadline

Candidates should submit a duly filled application form through the following link:

<https://surveys.wipo.int/s3/Application-Form-for-the-WIPO-Training-Mentoring-and-Matchmaking-Program-on-Intellectual-Property-for-Women-Entrepreneurs-from-Indigenous-Peoples-and-Local-Communities-2024>.



The application deadline is **September 30, 2024**.

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

Successful candidates will be notified by email. If selected, candidates must confirm their participation and their commitment to participate in all phases of the program.

Enquiries may be addressed to wep@wipo.int.



The *WIPO Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* is offered in collaboration with:

