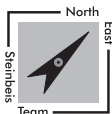


The ScanBalt Intellectual Property Knowledge Network (IPKN)

Intellectual Property and Bioscience

Compendium of Working Papers
from the ScanBalt IPKN Project



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IKPN Project

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Foreword

The following publication is a collection of the key messages and thoughts emanating from the first two years of the Scanbalt IPKN project. The messages are present as working papers covering diverse thoughts with intellectual property, innovation, and bioscience as the common thread. The main objective is to give the reader sufficient input to facilitate discussions on how intellectual property and intellectual property management are core to the utilization of bioscience for the creation of wealth and welfare.

Bioscience is an industry built on the creation and utilization of knowledge, and therefore it is important to understand the basic concepts and strategies required to manage this knowledge as intellectual assets and properties in order to derive value. These working papers attempt to increase the curiosity of the reader and provide a basic understanding of the complex process of generating value from the bioscience industry through intellectual property and knowledge-based business development perspective.

1 Introduction to the ScanBalt Intellectual Property Knowledge Network (IPKN)

The ScanBalt IPKN has been established as a project within the ScanBalt BioRegion¹ in order to coordinate and enhance regional access to knowledge, skills and best practice in the field of IP (Intellectual Property). The purpose of the network is to encourage commercialisation of bioscience innovations and stimulate economic growth in the region.

ScanBalt is a “Network of Networks”, established to promote and coordinate internal cooperation and development within the bioscience area of the Nordic-Baltic sea region. ScanBalt provides a framework with great potential to develop capabilities and competencies among the region’s key actors through joint strategies and sharing of knowledge and resources.

The first phase of the EU project “ScanBalt IPKN” project started in May 2005 and will conclude in May 2007. During this time period, four partners have carried out the project’s work.

The partners are:

1. CIP – Center for Intellectual Property Studies, located in Sweden
2. CITTRU – Centre for Innovation, Technology Transfer and Development, located in Poland
3. ILUT – Institute of Law, University of Tartu, located in Estonia
4. STC – Steinbeis Technology Transfer, located in Germany

1.1 Objectives

The main goal of the ScanBalt Intellectual Property Knowledge Network (IPKN) is to increase the global competitiveness of the bioscience industry in the Nordic and ScanBalt countries.

¹ The ScanBalt BioRegion includes the Nordic countries, the Baltic countries, North Germany, Poland, the St. Petersburg area and Kaliningrad – a meta-region with a great pool of knowledge, capital and resources in the life sciences area. There are more than 800 bioscience and biotechnology companies and 60 universities and research institutions in the Nordic-Baltic Sea region.

This general objective can be expressed in five more specific objectives. These are listed below:

1. **To assess the supply of and demand for training in IP management and facilitate the coordination of such activities.** The IPKN has conducted a comprehensive mapping of supply and demand for IP training; findings have been analysed and disseminated to relevant parties to increase the visibility of and demand for existing activities supplied locally. The IPKN has established and supported networking among IP practitioners, researchers and training suppliers, by means of active involvement in its network structure or in the contact building activities offered through the IPKN.
2. **To initiate and support region-wide research collaboration in IP by interlinking regional IP practitioners and academics and organise regional expert forums to promote discussion and knowledge sharing.** Research projects have included analysis of best practice and development of practical tools in strategic IP management, IP valuation and technology transfer in bioscience, and exploration of ethical and social implications of the current IP infrastructure in relation to biotechnology.
3. **To build competencies in IPR construction from a holistic perspective among IP practitioners, with a special focus on enhancing skills and knowledge in the Baltic new member countries in the Baltic Sea Region.** The IPKN has organised sub-regional events to strengthen general networking by bringing people together. Sharing of knowledge and good practices e. g. between IP practitioners, business clusters, incubators and technology transfer offices has been promoted. Among practitioners, the IPKN has aimed at facilitating the emergence of a more holistic view on IPR construction – linked to the development of a regional IP infrastructure as well as to strategic management decisions in bioscience.

4. **To create awareness of the importance of strategic use of IP in bioscience through its network structure of competency providers from academia, industry and consulting firms.** The objective is to build on existing suppliers in the Nordic-Baltic Sea Region; enhance the current supply and raise the economic sustainability level as well as the quality of individual courses and programmes. Courses in IP and innovation management aimed at bioscience researchers – in both public and private institutions – entrepreneurs and SME managers have been promoted. Courses will cover topics such as biotech IP contracts and licensing, technology transfer processes, technology and market collaboration (e.g. JVs, standards, open research), IP valuation/due diligence and financing and bioscience business construction. In particular, the IPKN has targeted young bioscience researchers to promote fundamental awareness in innovation management and value creation by means of IP to foster entrepreneurial initiatives. The IPKN has also supported the integration of IP and IPR into standard curricula of judicial, economic and technical education by facilitating a joint effort, directed towards universities and higher education institutions, advocating the necessity of IP management skills to successfully manage resources in the knowledge-based economy.
5. **To disseminate information about societal and economic effects of legal protection of IP to relevant actors and promote public debate on ethical aspects on IPR.** Public acceptance and understanding of IPR is a cornerstone in the knowledge economy that might influence the building of the IP institution, even at a global scale. The IPKN is engaged in activities related to the dissemination of information regarding the role of IP in management of research and development for society. The IPKN has also conveyed the ethical debate to practitioners to facilitate increased awareness among them of to what extent and in what way bioscience innovations shall be legally protected. The project has supported political decision-making concerning IPR issues, through dialogue with actors both within and outside of the ScanBalt BioRegion. The IPKN has promoted the construction of an efficient and balanced framework of IP protection, which is integral to the enhancement of the knowledge-based economy, in particular in the biotechnology field.