



## Introducing regulations on Intellectual Property Protection and Management within the Jagiellonian University (Poland)

### Summary

The Jagiellonian University in Kraków has developed and implemented a project to protect and manage intellectual property. Two instruments have been created: one for intellectual property protection and another for the creation of spin-off companies. Through the implementation of this project, the University intends to facilitate the involvement of scientists in research and development projects and promote technology transfer. As a result of the project an increase in the number of scientists and students interested in patents has been observed: one application for protection of invention was put forward by the University in 2006 while there have been five patent applications filed in 2007 and eighteen in 2008. Overall, there was an increase in the awareness of the importance of intellectual property within the scientific environment.

### The project

The Jagiellonian University in Kraków aimed to address the following problems:

- The lack of clear procedures related to the protection of intellectual property rights within the University and related to the technology transfer to businesses; and
- The unclear legal status of new technologies invented within the University;

These two factors constituted a barrier for scientists and students applying for patents.

The practice intended to facilitate the involvement of scientists in research projects as well as enabling technology transfer from the University to business through the establishment of a proper legal status.

#### Sector(s) covered

##### Main sector

Science, Research and ICT:  
Industrial Property Rights,  
Technology Transfer, Turning  
inventions/research into business,  
Spin-off

##### Other Sectors

Business and Entrepreneurship;  
Public Administration  
Industrial Property Rights,  
Technology Transfer, Turning  
inventions/research into business,  
Spin-off

### Approach

The practice created positive conditions for the development of innovative research projects through the establishment of a uniform policy of protection and management of intellectual property. The Centre for Innovation, Technology Transfer and University Development (CITTRU) working within the Jagiellonian University, following an in depth analysis of good practices of other European and US universities, designed two documents:

- The first one concerning the intellectual property and the legal protection of intellectual goods within the University; and



- The second one concerning the creation of spin-off companies within the University.

Both regulations set the rules concerning intellectual property created by scientists working within the University. Moreover, they regulate the following aspects: cooperation with business, the search for potential business partners, the mainstreaming of inventions, the stimulation of academic entrepreneurship, the support of inventors as well as their protection and remuneration in the commercialisation process. The rules were adopted by the Senate of the Jagiellonian University in February 2007.

In addition to the development of the regulations, CITTRU regularly provides training sessions, workshops, consultations and other activities for encouraging scientists and students to develop innovative research projects. CITTRU also organises meetings between scientists and companies which want to cooperate with academia.

### Element of innovation – the process

The practice promoted the creation of spin-off companies within the University. It created positive conditions for the development of innovative research projects and for the improvement of entrepreneurship within the university. It also helped the academic world cooperate effectively with business through technology transfer.

### Key successes

#### (outcomes. results. impacts)

The regulations introduced affected all the scientists working within the University (total number of 3,700), the students (46,000) as well as the students undertaking a Ph.D. (2,100).

The feedback from the scientists and students was very positive. The regulations do not only deal with intellectual property but also increase the commitment of the University towards scientists and students. Professional and active support during each step is provided to all patent applicants– from the identification of the innovation to the mainstreaming of the invention within the market.

An increase in the number of scientists and students interested in applying for patents has been observed: no applications for protection of inventions were put forward by the University in 2006 while there have been 5 patent applications filed in 2007 and 18 in 2008. Overall, there was an increase in awareness of the importance of intellectual property within the scientific environment.

In 2008 the Jagiellonian University in Krakow has been awarded "The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Award for Innovative Enterprises" for innovation and creativity in its teaching and scientific research activities. The WIPO Awards have gained worldwide recognition as being among the most prestigious prizes offered to inventors and creators.

### Transferability and sustainability

The regulations can be applied in other Universities. The rector of the Jagiellonian University sent to the authorities of other Polish universities an invitation to freely use regulations developed by CITTRU. Currently CITTRU cooperates with the Lublin University of Technology to transfer the good practice and expertise.



## Special Highlights

The Jagiellonian University has been the first academic institution in Poland to decide to adopt innovative regulations in the field of Intellectual Property protection that are fully adjusted to requirements of the knowledge-based economy. These regulations have created positive conditions for the development of innovation in the academic environment. The positive impact of the action is the increased number of patents granted.

## Key characteristics

<b>General purpose of the practice</b>	Stimulate innovative/creative behaviour in people and promoting creative and innovative solutions to society problems
<b>Target group</b>	Scientists, Students and entrepreneurs from 19 to >50 year old
<b>Type of learning</b>	N.A.
<b>Level of implementation</b>	Local
<b>Funding</b>	Public
<b>Time frame</b>	The regulations were accepted by the Senate of the Jagiellonian University in February 2007. CITTRU worked on the regulations since 2006.
<b>Leading organisations</b>	Centre for Innovation, Technology Transfer and University Development (CITTRU), Jagiellonian University in Kraków

## Further information

### Website of the project

[www.cittru.uj.edu.pl](http://www.cittru.uj.edu.pl)

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