



IPICA - Empowering Knowledge Transfer in the Caribbean through Effective Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) & Knowledge Transfer (KT) Regimes

Consortium

Implementing partners:

- Universidad de Alicante (UA), *Spain (Project Coordinator)*
- FH Joanneum Gesellschaft mbH, *Austria*
- University of Technology (Utech), *Jamaica*
- Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC), *Dominican Republic*
- The University of West Indies (UW), *Trinidad and Tobago*
- Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO)
- Oficina Nacional de la Propiedad Industrial (ONAPI), *Dominican Republic*
- Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining (MSTEM), *Jamaica*

Associated partners:

- Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs (IPO), *Trinidad and Tobago*
- Oficina Española de Patentes y Marcas (OPEM)
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), *Switzerland*
- European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), *Spain*
- Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)

Budget

Total budget: €813,975.75

EU contribution: €691,879.39



Development challenge

The basis of the IPICA project had lain on the existing lack of stimulation on the intellectual property rights (IPR) and limited Knowledge Transfer (KT) regimes in the area of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the

Duration

January 2014-December 2016



Countries of intervention

- Dominican Republic
- Jamaica
- Trinidad and Tobago



Caribbean. The existing need to analyse if the current IP system was fit for a new innovation landscape, and the growing demand to protect and trade ideas, together with enhancing competitiveness of private and public organisations reflects the IPR and KT regime in Caribbean countries as critical part of applying STI to development.

In spite of the significant benefit that could bring transferring existing technologies and to create value for local products through branding, the Caribbean region needs to raise awareness not only with policy makers but with all layers of the decision makers to incorporate good practices KT and IPR frameworks.



Project approach

The IPICA project focused on a multi-disciplinary approach involving local universities, research organisations, intellectual offices and governments, as well as international organisations for raising awareness on the important role that science, technology and innovation has for intellectual property (IP) and knowledge transfer (KT), and in mapping the existing Caribbean region's IP and KT frameworks to identify areas of improvement and increase policymakers' awareness of good practise KT and IPR frameworks in Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.



Project results



Improved Capacity Building of the target multistakeholder group and beneficiaries.



8

Training workshops on topics such as innovation and KT promotion, intellectual property policies and strategies, and business modelling.



226

KT managers, organisational leaders, and policymakers from research organisations, energy sector technology transfer practitioners, and social entrepreneurs were trained.



6

Pilot energy efficiency innovation projects implemented as part of a mentoring programme have unearthed regional talent.



The winners of the 'E(nergy)-efficiency ideas competition' received a full-fledged mentoring programme that included expert input and support from experienced entrepreneurs and professionals with market knowledge, networks, and intellectual project management expertise.



Supported National and Regional update on IPR and KT regimes and policies across the target countries.



National Policy recommendations for the improvement of IPR & KT regimes in Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago.



Regional Policy recommendations at regional level on: innovation systems policies, legal frameworks, awareness policies, capacity building, promoting research and innovation, and exploitation of IPRs.



A policy white paper on IPR and KT best practises was created. The innovation capacities of research organisation leaders and policymakers, energy sector technology transfer practitioners and inventors, and social entrepreneurs were enhanced.



Project results (2)



Improved access to knowledge transfer and intellectual property documentation to national intellectual property offices, entrepreneurs, inventors, managers, practitioners and policy makers.



Platform for Innovation support services and expert database.



E-learning repository:

- Tutorial for the proper use of patent databases;
- Guide for the registration of patents and utility model, 2014;
- Guide for the registration of industrial designs, 2014;
- The secret lies in the brand: Guide for trademarks;
- Attraction through form: Guide for industrial design;
- Inventing the future: Guide for patents;
- Collective marks: An intangible value that increases revenues;
- Training material for knowledge transfer managers and practitioners;
- Training material for STI organisation leaders and policy makers;
- Training material for inventors & social entrepreneurs.



Map of innovation systems in the Caribbean region.



6 Research Papers published in 2016.



Impact

The IPICA project has triggered a change on the approach that intellectual property and industrial property offices deal with science, technology and innovation, and increased the cooperation between the working actors and mechanisms. At university level the universities have reviewed their relation to the universities spin-off and are now actively pursuing commercialisation and established a good solid relationship with key national stakeholders. At government level the project generated commitment and collaboration between the government and the universities to foster and promote the use of IP and KT.



Sustained Impact

“Oficina Nacional de la Propiedad Industrial” (ONAPI) in Dominican Republic, initiated the upgrading process of their IP strategy and together with the support of INTEC participated to the creation of a national Innovation System generating results at the policy framework level such as the Resolution no. 003-2017/DIR-ONAPI concerning the conversion from a patent application to a utility model application.

Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) has begun activities with stakeholders and is utilising the project's training materials to assist individual innovators. It has recognised and will continue to recognise innovator mentoring as part of its regular work plan.

In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) signed on April 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to continue the cooperation between the two institutions in the field of intellectual property, and the national development of IP via training programmes and public outreach. This MoU foster to establish an Intellectual Property Academy within the IPO with the assistance of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).



Key lessons learned and best practices

Monitor the implementation of the IPR & KT policy and provide legal and commercial advice.

The Importance of commercialisation of IP technology transfer by universities, business, industries, SMEs and individuals.

Enforcement of IP rights, IP and public policy.



The importance to use measured indicators to assess the effectiveness of the national IP strategies (NIPS) such as intellectual property (IP) administration and management.

Increase capacity for RIM and IP protection.

The complexity of Copyright and copyright industries.