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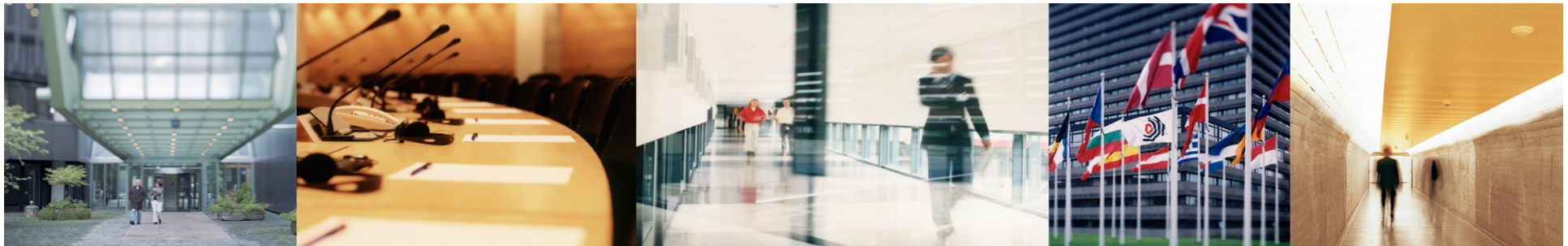
EPO initiatives to support IP Services for MSMEs

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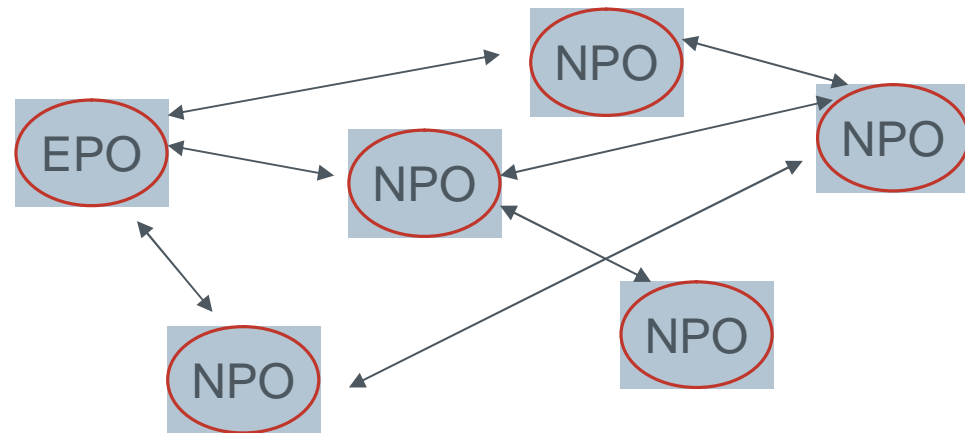
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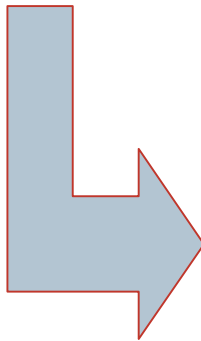
The European Patent Network (1)

- European Patent Network (EPN) = Network having as partners the European Patent Office and the National Patent Offices of the 36 Member States
- Close links to EU and other international institutions
- A new way of interacting among the partners based on:
 - complementarity
 - exchange
 - partnership



The European Patent Network (2)

- Aim: make optimum use of the resources and competences available among the partners to ensure strong development of the patent system favourable to innovation



through spreading of:

- » best practices
- » NPO's know-how
- » existing tools

Examples of EPO initiatives to support IP Services

- IP Pre-diagnosis (*based on a best practice by INPI FR*)
- Role of National Patent Offices in Technology Transfer from University to industry (*based on best practices by INPI PT and OCN NL*)
- Reorienting of PATLIB centres (*will include best practice tools and services by several NPOs*)



IP Pre-diagnosis: Concept

- Provide MSMEs with a service which:
 - presents how IP can aid business development
 - analyses IP in the context of the company's development
 - underlines the value of an IP policy to the company
 - estimates the potential benefits of IP in the company's prospect
- Draft a dedicated report which includes:
 - a diagnosis of the MSME's IP status
 - a forecast of the competitive advantages generated by IP
 - recommendations and avenues for actions
 - identification of partners required to implement the recommendations

IP Pre-diagnosis: Implementation stages

- Contact with potentially interested companies
- Visit and discussion with a MSME representative
- Preparation of an IP Pre-diagnosis report
- Provision and oral presentation of the report to the MSME

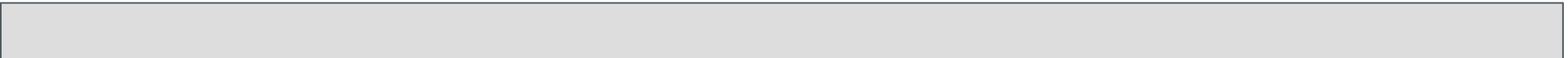


IP Pre-diagnosis: Pilot project methodology

- Set up of a project plan with participating NPOs
- Training of NPOs staff (Feb 2008, May 2009)
- INPI's methodology guide translated into participants' languages
- Evaluation questionnaire to MSMEs (IP actions before and one year after the provision of the service)
- Pilot duration of 3 years
- Possibility of continuation of pilot with EU support

IP Pre-diagnosis: Results

- 13 participating countries: AT, BE, BG, CZ, FI, HU, IT, LT, MT, RO, SI, SK, TR
- Visits carried out in 2008: 53 by 7 NPOs
- Visits 1st quarter 2009: 40 by 7 NPOs
- Total visits 2009: 339 planned (feedback questionnaire expected)



IP Pre-diagnosis: Challenges

- Project challenges:
 - identification and selection of innovative MSMEs
 - communication with the business world
 - drafting of IPP report

- Political challenges
 - support by Governments to new services by NPOs
 - availability of human resources at NPOs
 - coordination/interaction with other international activities

IP Pre-diagnosis: Next steps

- Follow-up training / workshop in 2010
- Project end 2011
- Project evaluation in 2012
- Possible synergies with other funding organisations



Pilot Project on Technology Transfer

Underlying concept:

making the expertise of National Patent Offices (NPOs) available for fostering the technology transfer from university to industry

Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Methodology

- identification by the NPO of a partner University with TT potential
- signature of a tripartite Working Plan between NPO, University and the EPO indicating objectives, activities, budget and evaluation indicators
- drafting of a list of services provided by the NPO to the University
- training of NPO and University representatives in TT themes
- implementation in 3 phases: set-up, testing and consolidation
- duration of 3 years
- possibility of continuation of pilot with EU support

Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Example of services offered by NPOs

- Assist in identifying research results which have commercial value
- Inform on IPR possibilities/routes
- Support inventors in the disclosure process (file before publishing)
- Search services (avoid infringement etc)
- Evaluate commercial potential of disclosed innovations
- Support in identifying patent attorneys
- Advice in selecting potential industrial partners / competitors watch
- Support application for new research funds

Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Participating Universities selected by NPOs

- Poland: Technical University of Lodz
- Hungary: Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- Slovenia: University of Ljubljana
- Portugal: Lisbon University
- Czech Republic: Czech Technical University in Prague
- Romania: Polytechnic University Bucharest

Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Implementation status

Training (involving NPOs and Universities representatives):

- First session in April 2008
- Follow-up session in November 2009

Working Plans:

- 5 Working Plans signed (CZ, PL, PT, RO, SI)
- 1 Working Plan in advanced preparation (HU)

Challenges:

- new area of activity for NPOs acting as technology transfer service provider
- lack of human resources in NPOs and Universities
- long term sustainability



Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Next steps

- Network among participating member states
 - establish communication channel
 - exchange of best practices
 - multiply the experience with further Universities
- Monitoring and evaluation of pilot project
 - collection and monitoring of indicators
 - annual reporting
 - final evaluation
- Project enhancement at EU level
 - locally through EU structural funds
 - interest by European Commission: project innovation potential

Reorienting of PATLIB centres

- Patent information centres are an essential part of Europe's IP infrastructure
- PATLIBs need to adapt to a changing environment and user demands
- Member states identified the reorientation of PATLIB centres to patent-related innovation support centres as an area of co-operation between EPO and Member States



What we are not aiming at

- Establish "micro patent offices" from PATLIB centres
- Create competition with other innovation support institutions
- Create new centres providing basic services

What we are aiming at

- Identify centres which have a development potential
- Enable these centres to enhance and extend patent related innovation support services
- To complement services of national offices in the pre-filing and commercialisation phase of inventions



Contribution to a more efficient use of the patent system



Reorienting of PATLIB centres: Content

- Tools for
 - enhanced user support for searches (e.g. shared browsing)
 - patent analyses and visualisation of search results
 - development of patent strategies and patent portfolio management
 - evaluation of the economic potential of inventions
- Modular training programme and e-learning tools
- Coaching by staff from well developed centres already offering sophisticated innovation support services

Reorienting of PATLIB centres: Methodology

- Implementation in form of a pilot project
 - Selection of potential candidates in collaboration with the respective national office
 - Individual work plan for the pilot participants
 - Regular monitoring and evaluation of agreed implementation activities
- After successful completion of the pilot project proposal for broad implementation to the EC

Thank you

