



ACP Science
and Technology II Programme

IPICA — Empowering knowledge transfer in the Caribbean through effective IPR & KT regimes



Innovation Summer Camp in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (July 2016).

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

January 2014 - December 2016

CONSORTIUM

- Universidad de Alicante (UA), Spain
- FH JOANNEUM Gesellschaft mbH, Austria
- University of Technology (UTech), Jamaica
- Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC), Dominican Republic
- The University of the West Indies (UWI), Trinidad and Tobago
- Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), Jamaica
- 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 (OEPM), Spain
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Switzerland
- Oficina de Propiedad Intelectual de la Unión Europea (EUIPO), Spain
- Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), Guyana

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PROJECT WEBSITE

<http://www.ipica-project.eu/>

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Areas for improvement in the intellectual project rights and knowledge transfer (IPR & KT) regimes in Caribbean countries were identified and awareness raising activities targeted at policy makers on good practices in innovation processes took place. Macro and micro level studies were conducted, their recommendations reviewed by national and regional multi-stakeholder forums, and policy recommendations made for filling gaps in national innovation systems. A policy white paper on IPR & KT good practices was produced. Innovation capacities of organisation leaders and policy makers of research organisations, energy sector technology transfer practitioners and inventors and social entrepreneurs were enhanced. Winners of the 'E(nergy)-efficiency ideas competition' were awarded with a full-scale mentoring programme providing expert input and support from experienced entrepreneurs and professionals with market knowledge, networks and intellectual project management expertise.

BACKGROUND

There is a general lack of policy actions in the Caribbean region to stimulate intellectual property rights (IPR), and even more so in the area of science, technology and innovation (STI). By using intellectual property (IP) tools more strategically (in education, research and business), Caribbean societies could benefit significantly, for example through identifying and transferring existing technologies, as well as creating value for local products through branding.

The establishment of a stakeholders' forum to evaluate whether the design of the current IP system is fit for a new innovation landscape, and how best to cope with growing demand to protect and trade ideas is needed. Good management of intellectual assets is important for the competitiveness of most organisations, private or public, and for their attractiveness to investors. Well-defined regulations on IP ownership and IP and knowledge transfer (KT) policies, as well as the participation of researchers in technology transfer to society, need to be addressed.

Generating impact on knowledge and technology transfer policies was one of the main goals of the IPICA project. IPICA focused

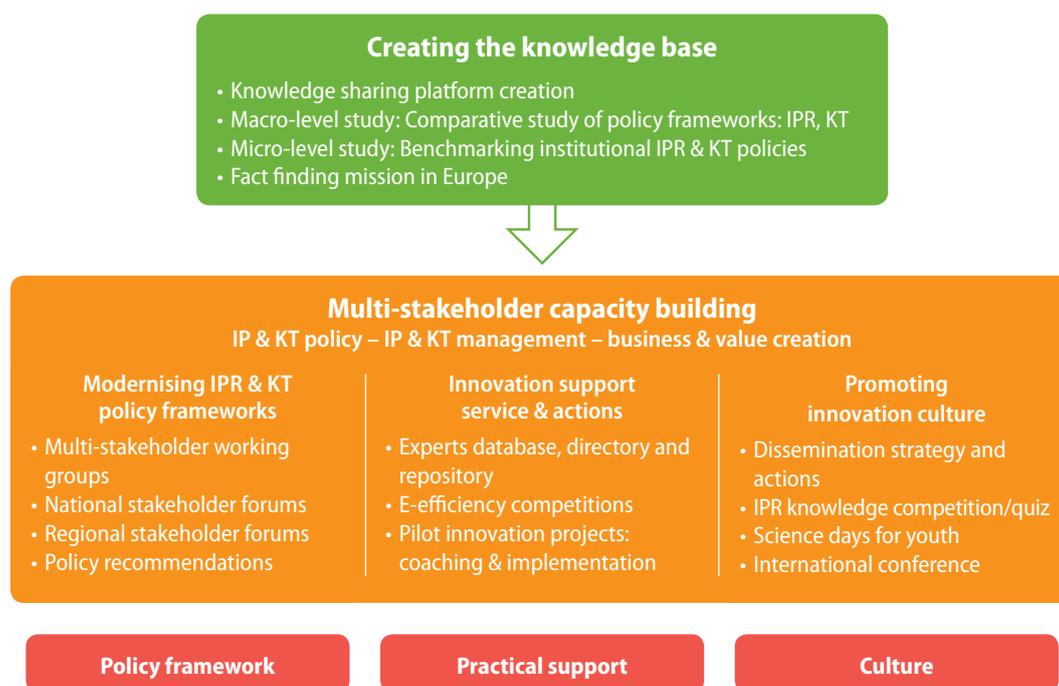
on the analysis of the IP and KT frameworks of the Caribbean region. Feedback was collected from a wide range of stakeholders.

Relevant stakeholders from policy level (IP offices, ministries), research organisations, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), individuals involved in research and enterprise (researchers, KT practitioners, entrepreneurs) and international organisations in the national innovation systems were engaged, including at the highest level of government. Awareness was increased about intellectual property and its importance in the innovation process and a set of policy recommendations was produced reflecting the stakeholder views. The national stakeholders' forums and the replication workshops in particular have secured the commitment and collaboration of stakeholders to upgrade the IPR and KT regime in Caribbean countries as a critical part of applying STI to development.

The project focused on analysing IPR & KT regimes in the Caribbean countries to identify areas for improvement and raise awareness with policy makers about good practice KT & IPR frameworks.



METHODOLOGY



Knowledge base

The micro-level study ‘Benchmarking IPR & KT regulations and practices in higher education and research organisations’ determined the knowledge base of HEIs and research organisations and IPR & KT issues in Caribbean countries. The macro and micro level studies were shared with participants at national multi-stakeholder forums which made policy recommendations for filling gaps in national IP/KT systems. Based on these recommendations and the findings and feedback gathered from regional multi-stakeholder forums, the policy white paper ‘Encouraging IPR & KT good practices in the Caribbean region’ was produced. This document includes a brief description of the innovation systems of the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago; a mapping of actors, gaps and challenges in the IPR & KT regimes, and national policy recommendations. The paper also identifies relevant good practices in local institutions, mainly related to IP policies, innovation practices, IPR management and KT methodologies and procedures.

Capacity building

IPR & KT policy frameworks: Three training workshops on how to promote innovation and knowledge transfer on strategic and practical levels involved different stakeholders: organisation leaders and policy makers of research organisations, energy sector technology transfer practitioners and inventors and social entrepreneurs. Practical know-how and opportunities to exchange with peers on international good practices in regulation, management and evaluation of STI activities was



After a successful business idea competition, the winners of the IPICA idea challenge experienced an intense 3-day entrepreneurship boot camp. Business models were improved together with experts from Europe, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and the Dominican Republic. The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus in Trinidad (January 2016).

provided. Technology transfer managers and researchers that attended the training workshop for ‘Energy sector technology transfer practitioners’ organised five replication workshops in their respective countries (two in Jamaica, two in the Dominican Republic and one in Trinidad and Tobago) to reinforce the sustainability of the learning outcomes.

Two regional multi-stakeholder forums took place (Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago). The first was combined with the 3rd international conference of the PILA Network (*Red de Propiedad Intelectual e Industrial en Latinoamérica*) ‘Generating value from knowledge transfer’, and the second with the final EDULINK CAP4INNO project conference. Country specific working groups conducted two national multi-stakeholder forums in each country.

Policy recommendations at regional level were produced on the following issues: innovation

systems policies, legal frameworks, awareness policies, capacity building, promoting research and innovation and exploitation of IPRs.

Innovation support: Six outstanding ideas were selected as winners of the ‘E(nergy)-efficiency ideas competition’. The winners were awarded with a full-scale mentoring programme on their pilot innovation projects and received expert input and support from experienced entrepreneurs and professionals with market knowledge, networks and IP management expertise. All projects reached some progress throughout the mentoring progress, although in some cases, progress meant the abandonment of the idea as the validation and market potential analysis did not deliver the expected results.

Innovation culture: To stimulate IPR awareness, an IPR knowledge competition was organised. An IP quiz held in each country reflected limited knowledge about the different types of IP and related strategies. A noticeable need was perceived for greater efforts to build capacity and increase awareness about IP and the consequences and lost opportunities that may result from not following the established procedures to protect and exploit IP. For young student communities, national science days were organised to showcase success stories and achievements in science and technology areas. A research symposium was held, as well as an international conference on STI in collaboration with the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica and the EDULINK project CAP4INNO.

→ Outputs

Capacity building

- 226 KT managers, organisation leaders and policy makers of research organisations, energy sector technology transfer practitioners and social entrepreneurs trained at 8 training workshops on: Innovation & KT promotion, Intellectual property policies and strategies, and Business modelling.
- 6 pilot innovation projects for energy efficiency implemented under a mentoring scheme have unearthed regional talent.

Toolkits

- e-learning repository:
 - Tutorial for the proper use of patent databases.
 - State of the art bulletin on renewable energy, 2012.
 - Guide for the registration of patents and utility model, 2014.
 - Guide for the registration of industrial designs, 2014.
 - State of the art bulletin on dairy industry, 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.
 - IPICA Workshop I: Training for knowledge transfer managers and practitioners.
 - IPICA Workshop II: Training for STI organisation leaders and policy makers.
 - IPICA Workshop III: Training for inventors & social entrepreneurs.

Documents

- Map of innovation systems in the Caribbean region.
- Policy recommendations for the improvement of 3 national IPR & KT regimes (Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago).
- Policy recommendations at regional level on: innovation systems policies, legal frameworks, awareness policies, capacity building, promoting research and innovation, and exploitation of IPRs.

Network

- Platform for Innovation support services and expert database.

Visibility

- Project website.
- Leaflets.
- 1 poster.
- Presentations at national and regional multi-stakeholder forums.
- ‘Research Technology & Innovation Day’ (10 March 2016; at UTech, Jamaica)
- ‘Day of Science for young people’ (19 July 2016) during the Innovation Summer Camp: 50 high school juniors from public and private schools between the ages of 15-18 performed science, technology, engineering and mathematics experiments.
- Research symposium ‘Sustainable Development’ (7-8 April 2016; at UWI, Trinidad).
- 1 international conference: The 4th Biennial National Science, Technology and Innovation Conference & Exposition under the theme ‘Science, Technology

and Innovation: Stimuli for Health Wealth and Wellness’ in Kingston, Jamaica (14-15 November 2016)

Publications

- IPICA project, 2016. Encouraging IPR & KT good practices in the Caribbean region. Policy white paper, Alicante. ACP programme.
- Radauer A. and WIPO, 2016. Integrating intellectual property into innovation policy formulation in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Radauer A. and WIPO, 2016. Integrating intellectual property into innovation policy formulation in Jamaica.
- IPICA project. 2016. IPR as a tool for knowledge transfer and value creation in Dominican Republic. Macro-level study: Dominican Republic, Alicante. ACP programme.
- IPICA project. 2016. IPR & KT Management practices in Caribbean Higher Education & Research Organisations. Micro-level study: benchmarking report, Alicante. ACP programme.
- Sporer D., Friedl C., Macek A., Vuckovic M., 2016. Barriers in the knowledge transfer chain & research to market process in the Caribbean.



Participants at the last IPICA coordination meeting held during the 4th Biennial National Science, Technology and Innovation Conference & Exposition in Kingston, Jamaica (November 2016).

RESULTS

Outcomes

- Increased awareness on the importance of STI, IPR & KT mechanisms and strategies among national innovation system stakeholders in the Caribbean region: from policy level (IP offices, ministries), research organisations, HEIs, individuals involved in research and enterprise (researchers, KT practitioners, entrepreneurs) and international organisations.
- Increased dialogue and cooperation between HEIs, IP offices and relevant stakeholders in the Caribbean region for the development of 'National science, technology and innovation policies' in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Increased regional cooperation among innovation system stakeholders in the Caribbean region.
- Enhanced capacities of policy makers, KT managers, entrepreneurs and professionals on knowledge transfer as a key driver for innovation, and how to promote innovation and knowledge transfer on strategic and practical levels.

Impacts

Usage

- The UWI (St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago) is actively pursuing the commercialisation of its research results and is developing closer working relationships with relevant national stakeholders (IP offices, ministries and legislators).

Policy implications

- The commitment and collaboration of stakeholders in Jamaica (IP offices, ministries and legislators) to upgrade the IPR and KT regime in the Caribbean region in order to apply STI for development,

recognised in the 'Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan'.

- The policy white paper, circulated to both the political and public administration sides of government, has anchored comprehensive recommendations at regional level on the following issues: innovation systems policies, legal frameworks, awareness policies, capacity building, promoting research and innovation and exploitation of IPR, for strengthening the IPR and KT regime in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The information

obtained will assist in the development of their 'National science, technology and innovation policies'.

Sustainability

- JIPO has initiated activities with stakeholders and has used the project's training materials to assist individual innovators. It has recognised the mentoring of innovators as part of its regular work plan and will continue.

TESTIMONIALS



**Dr. Georgiana Marie Gordon-Strachan,
The University of the
West Indies, Jamaica**

"The 'lean approach' to technology commercialisation which was introduced to the university in the January 2016 Workshop for Inventors and Social Entrepreneurs is now being more widely utilised in the university. Information provided by the lead partner on its spin-out company policy and experience is being used by UWI as it develops its own spin-out policy. UWI St. Augustine and the Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Office (TTIPO) of Trinidad and Tobago continue to collaborate on other projects such as the IDB-funded Regional Entrepreneurial Asset Commercialisation Hub (REACH). The two organisations are also working together on the development of an Intellectual Property Academy for Trinidad and Tobago."



**Mr. Martin Henry,
University of Technology,
Jamaica**

"The national stakeholders' forums and the replication workshops in particular have secured the commitment and collaboration of stakeholders to upgrade the IPR and KT regime in the country as a critical part of applying science, technology and innovation to development as recognised in the Vision 2030 National Development plan and in a new STI policy. The international conference allowed close collaboration with the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica, the National Commission on Science & Technology, the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office, and the Ministry of Science Energy & Technology on IPR and KT matters. The white paper, circulated to key players in the innovation system on both the political and public administration sides of government, has anchored comprehensive recommendations for strengthening the IPR and KT regime in the country."



**Mrs. Kaydian Smith,
Ministry of Science,
Technology, Energy and
Mining (MSTEM), Jamaica**

"The reports produced on Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Systems will assist in the development of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, in particular the policy positions on the protection and promotion of scientific innovations."

ACP-EU Co-Operation Programmes in the fields of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Research

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