

THE EUROPEAN TREND CHART ON INNOVATION

Thematic Report: Innovation and IPR

Covering period:
May 2001 – September 2001

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ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
INNOVATION/SMEs PROGRAMME**

The European Trend Chart on Innovation

Innovation is a priority for all Member States and also for the European Commission. Throughout Europe, hundreds of policy measures and support schemes aimed at innovation have been implemented or are under preparation. The diversity of these measures and schemes reflects the diversity of the framework conditions, cultural preferences and political priorities in the Member States. The 'First Action Plan for Innovation in Europe', launched by the European Commission in 1996, provided for the first time a common analytical and political framework for innovation policy in Europe.

Building upon the Action Plan, the *Trend Chart on Innovation in Europe* is a practical tool for innovation policy-makers and scheme managers in Europe. Run by the Innovation Directorate of DG Enterprise, it pursues the collection, regular updating and analysis of information on innovation policies at national and Community level, with a focus on innovation finance; setting up and developing innovative businesses; the protection of intellectual property rights; and the transfer of technology between research and industry.

The Trend Chart serves the "open policy co-ordination approach" laid down by the Lisbon Council in March 2000. It supports policy-makers and scheme managers in Europe with summarized and concise information and statistics on innovation policies, performances and trends in the European Union. It is also a European forum for benchmarking and the exchange of good practices in the area of innovation policy.

The Trend Chart products

The Trend Chart on Innovation has been running since January 2000. It tracks innovation policy developments in all EU Member States, plus Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. The Trend Chart website (www.cordis.lu/trendchart) will provide access to the following services and publications, as they become available:

- a database of policy measures across Europe;
- a 'who's who?' of agencies and government departments involved in innovation;
- a series of country reports for all countries covered;
- a series of six-monthly trend reports on each of the four main themes;
- a number of benchmarking reports;
- the European Innovation Scoreboard and other statistical reports;
- a news service and thematic papers; and
- annual reports of the Trend Chart.

The present report was prepared by **Isabelle PIERRINI from INBIS Ltd.** The information contained in this report has not been validated in detail by the Member States or by the European Commission.

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¹ Information extracted from “2001 Innovation Scoreboard” – October 2001 – Commission staff working paper.

Executive Summary

During the 20th century, the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) field followed a rapid movement from the backstage to the forefront of attention and strategic importance². With the rapid emergence and deployment of new technologies Intellectual Property Rights became essential to protect innovation.

The purpose of this report is to identify a set of general trends in the field of IPR activities and innovation, in which context the information contained in the 'Trend Chart' database can be viewed. The present paper specifically covers information reported by correspondents over the period May 2001 to September 2001. It should, however, be noted that trends over such a short timescale will often be difficult to discern as changes in this field are neither rapid nor even over time. As a consequence, this report will be focused on one of the most relevant and important matters of the intellectual property rights field – the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR – located at the crossroads of innovation and competition.

The need to protect IPR will probably continue to grow in the coming years, following the trend set in the EU Member States and the EU institutions a couple of years ago. Therefore, it will be interesting to analyse both at national and Community levels in which way the European institutions and all the EU Member States and the accession countries currently deal with this issue.

In this way, our analysis will take into particular consideration the increasing awareness that protection of IPR is essential in an innovative and competitive economy. The European Commission, supported by the Council and the Parliament, has decided to encourage changes in favour of stronger involvement by one of the major actors in the IPR protection field: the National Industrial Property Offices. Undoubtedly, they are now playing a more pro-active role in the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR.

Moreover, it will also be interesting to analyse which methods and instruments are defined or implemented in order to promote and disseminate information on IPR by all the actors of the IPR field – i.e. the National Patent Offices of the EU Member States and the accession countries. It appears that recently a large number of these methods and instruments have contributed to a stronger awareness of the need to protect IPR for researchers, universities, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) or large companies. At the same time, the promotion and the dissemination of information permit the strengthening of the legal protection of IPR and, as a consequence, encourage innovation and protect its fruits in terms of EU countries' economic growth.

² 'IPR Aspects of Internet Collaborations', Workshop Report prepared by the Rapporteur Ove Granstrand in conjunction with workshop co-chairmen Dominique Foray and Paul David and a group of independent experts attending the workshop for the European Commission – Research Directorate General Directorate B – European Research Area: Structural Aspects, March 2001.

1. Introduction

At the moment, a major debate is taking place in Europe regarding the importance of protection of IPR for innovation, employment, competition and thus economic growth. The Action Plan for the Single Market, which was adopted by the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997, identified intellectual property rights as a sphere in which action needs to be taken in order to render it more effective and user-friendly, thereby making the most of the Single Market's potential in the field of innovative goods and services.

Strong IPR are now associated with innovation policies, although this assumption is not without controversy, and there are increasing signs that IPR, as a result of their increasing prominence in policy debates, are also becoming the focus of more critical attention, from a variety of sources. Various means are being used to strengthen intellectual property protection and thus encourage innovation. One of these major means is the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR to individuals and research institutions as well as companies or others via different instruments.

Currently, the importance of implementing and reinforcing IPR alongside European innovation continues to grow, thereby continuing the trend which was set at the end of the nineties. In this context, it appears that some of the IPR play a central role among the different instruments available for protecting innovation. In other words, we face an increasing awareness that IPR are essential in an innovative and competitive economy. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the multitude of legal protection established for IPR has made them complex and difficult to understand and apply in Europe.

As a consequence, all EU countries have become more aware of the need to promote and to disseminate information on IPR. In this way, at national level, an additional trend has recently been identified. This trend comes mainly from the European institutions, which have decided to encourage changes in the roles and functions of the National Industrial Property Offices³ and National Patent Offices.

This means that the National Industrial Property Offices are now playing a more proactive role in order to reinforce the protection and the use of IPR developing new strategies or implementing new programmes. The involvement of the National Patent Offices in the dissemination and the promotion of information on IPR through different information channels is increasing and it will probably continue to grow in the coming years.

Moreover, it is important to underline that the methods and the instruments used in order to promote and disseminate information on IPR have been diversified. As one example, IPR actors are implementing networks between different organisations involved in the promotion of innovation. They have also developed events dedicated to IPR such as conferences, training activities, science parks, etc. They are also increasing further education in the field of IPR using the internet more.

³ Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, "Promoting innovation through patents: the follow-up to the Green Paper on the Community Patent and the Patent System in Europe".

It is interesting to analyse the increasing use of the internet as it reinforces the trend from the previous period where the internet was a strong emerging instrument used by the EU countries⁴ in order to promote and to disseminate information on IPR. It is also significant because most EU Member States are participating in its emergence.

⁴ I. PIERRINI (INBIS Ltd.), Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Innovation and IPR, covering period: December 2000 –April 2001.

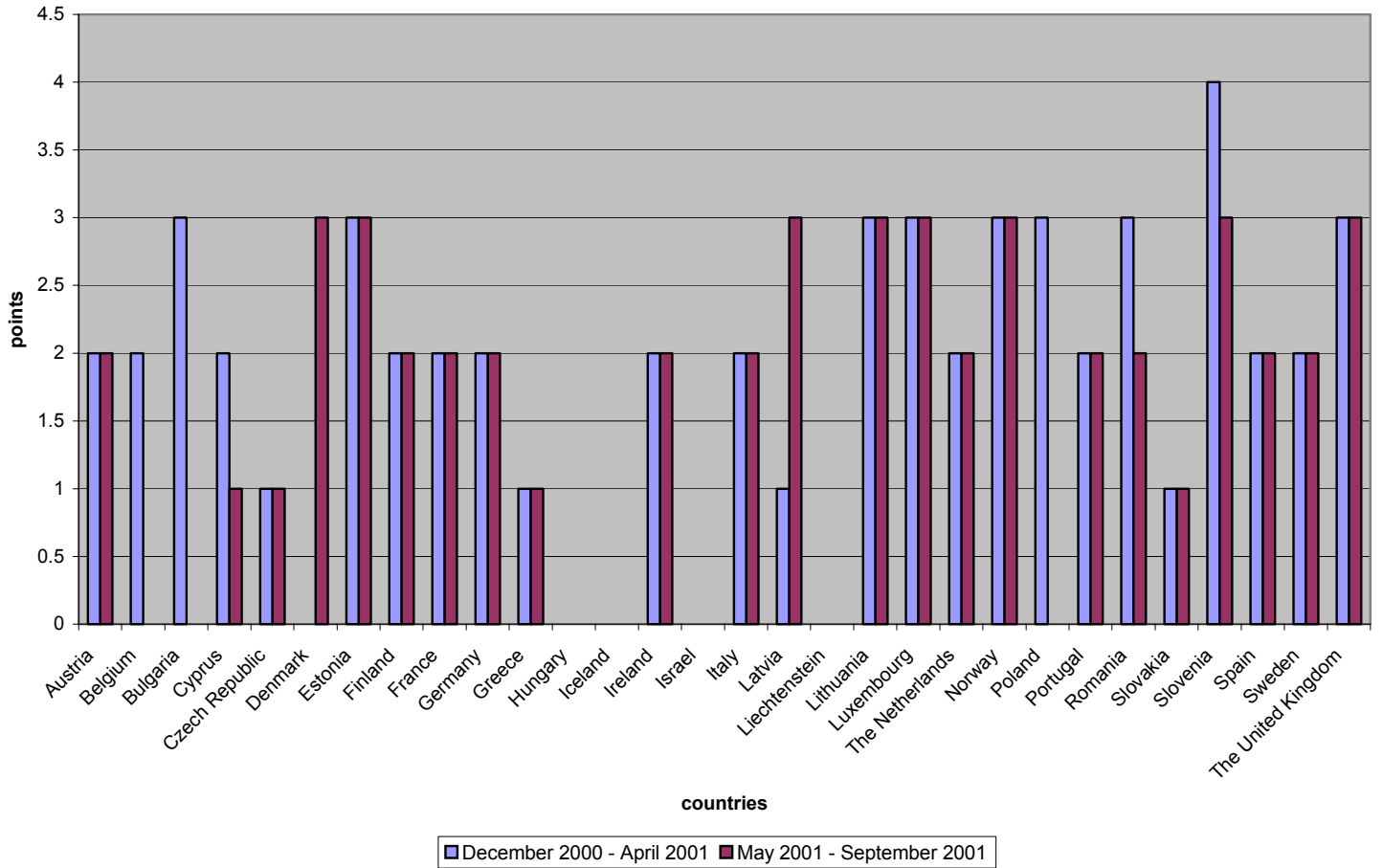
2. General policy attitudes: Comparison of Intellectual Property Rights Policy Priorities around Europe

The Trend Chart project requests that countries provide an innovation policy priorities table in their country report. In their tables, countries give a mark from 0 (low interest) to 5 (high interest) reflecting the importance of IPR in their innovation policies. The table below presents all the points given by the countries and allows a comparison of the Intellectual Property Rights Policy Priorities around Europe for two periods.

Globally speaking, it appears that the EU Member States and the accession countries still express a great interest in IPR by maintaining the level of their IPR policy priority between the current (May 2001 to September 2001) and previous (December 2000 to April 2001) periods.

Countries	Points <i>December 2000 to April 2001</i>	Points <i>May 2001 – September 2001</i>
Austria	2	2
Belgium	2	1
Bulgaria	3	
Cyprus	2	1
Czech Republic	1	1
Denmark	0	3
Estonia	3	3
Finland	2	2
France	2	2
Germany	2	2
Greece	1	1
Hungary	-	-
Iceland		
Ireland	2	2
Israel		
Italy	2	2
Latvia	1	3
Liechtenstein	-	-
Lithuania	3	3
Luxembourg	3	3
The Netherlands	2	2
Norway	3	3
Poland	3	
Portugal	2	2
Romania	3	2
Slovakia	1	1
Slovenia	4	3
Spain	2	2
Sweden	2	2
The United Kingdom	3	3

Comparison of Intellectual Property Rights Policy Priorities around Europe



3. Framework for analysis

The general trends identified are:

First, the increasing importance of promoting and disseminating information on IPR. It will be interesting to point out the need to promote and disseminate information on IPR. It will also be interesting to analyse the increasing involvement of the National Industrial Property Offices in the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR.

Second, the diversification of methods and instruments to promote and to disseminate information on IPR. In order to analyse this second trend, we will focus our analysis on the evolution of the major tools and instruments used to promote and to disseminate information on IPR such as: an increasing use of the internet; the implementation of networking between different organisations involved in the promotion of innovation; the development of events dedicated to IPR; and the increasing education of potential audiences in the IPR field.

3.1 The increasing importance of promoting and disseminating information on IPR

Overall, as previously noted, strong IPR are now associated with innovation policies. This is due to the fact that both European institutions and several national policies aim at making IPR better known as an instrument to help stimulate innovation. At present, the dominant assumption of policy-makers is that strengthening the legal protection through, for instance, patents, will lead to greater innovative activity and consequent benefits.

This rationale is partially based upon the Action Plan for the Single Market, adopted by the Amsterdam Treaty of June 1997, that identified industrial property as a sector where action was needed to make it more effective and accessible to the user and thereby realize the full potential benefit of the internal market in the field of innovative products and services. Community action in the field of industrial property is designed to demonstrate its full awareness of the link between innovation, growth and employment.

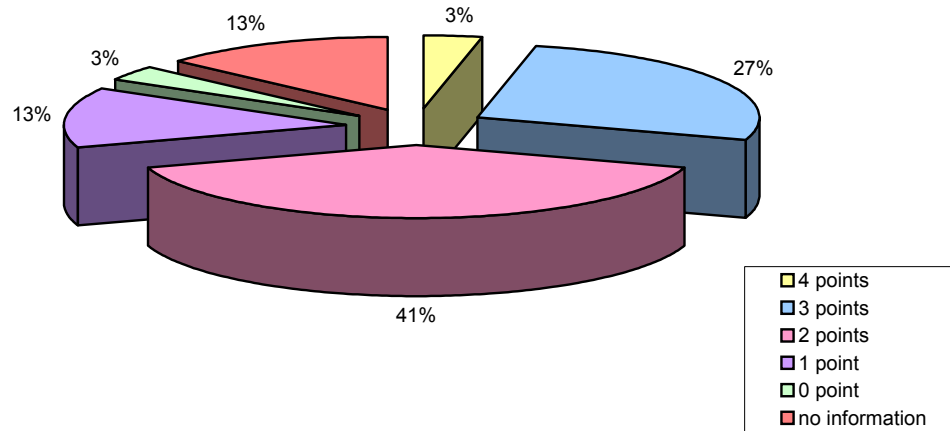
3.1.1 Awareness raising of the need to promote and to disseminate information on IPR

At national level, the analysis found support from public institutions, researchers, and companies that have begun to be strongly aware of the value of IPR.

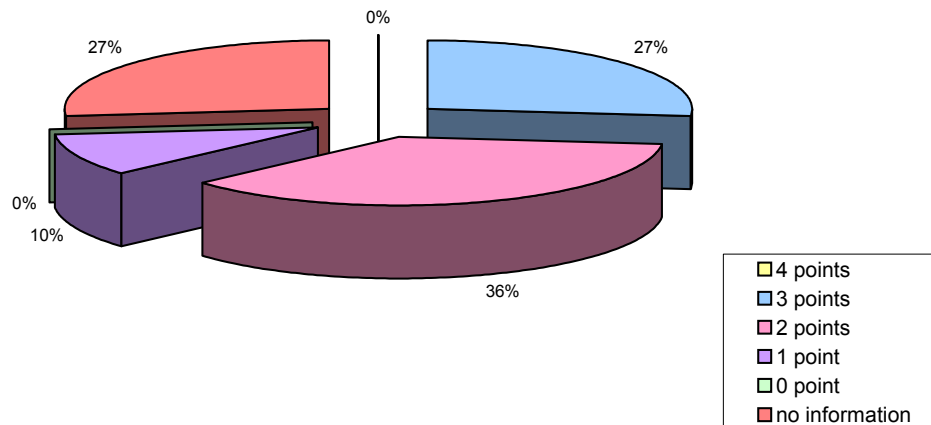
Related to this, the actors who stated that competitive advantages were once based primarily on low labour cost, access to raw materials, and abundant capital, now cite access to IPR. IPR are perceived as defining the core competencies of the company and, in particular, a company's ability to innovate rapidly and successfully. In order to maintain market power and, hence, added value, industrial and commercial enterprises

are moving from manufacturing to knowledge-based products. Companies that once defined themselves as manufacturing now defined themselves as design (or research and design). As a consequence of this, many companies no longer have the bulk of their assets locked-up in plant and machinery, but increasingly in their IPR⁵.

IPR Policy Priorities given by EU countries (December 2000 - April 2001)



IPR Policy Priorities given by EU countries (May 2001 - September 2001)



⁵ D. BOSWORTH, The economic value of Patents, Manchester School of Management, UMIST: <http://www.cordis.lu/patinnova/src/bosworth.htm>

These graphs⁶ underline the trend of increasing awareness that IPR are essential for an innovative and competitive economy. Indeed, the comparison between the 2 periods (December 2000 to April 2001 and May 2001 to September 2001) shows us that:

- the number of EU countries that gave 0 points and 1 point to IPR policy priorities has decreased respectively from 3% for the last period to 0% for this period, and from 13% for the last period to 10% for this period;
- but also that, a large number of EU countries continue to give 2 points (36% for this period instead of 41% for the previous one). The number of EU countries that give 3 points has remained the same: 36%.

It is important to note that not all the countries share the same concerns about this trend of increasing awareness that IPR are essential in an innovative and competitive economy.

In the EU Member States, in the United Kingdom for instance, the importance of patent data as a knowledge resource and the role of IPR in innovation have been recognised as key factors in the development of the knowledge economy. It is recognised that there is therefore a strong need to improve awareness both of the application and implications of IPR for innovation within the United Kingdom – particularly as much effort has been and is being expended on the transfer of knowledge from science to industry (Cunningham P.N and Boden M., *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: United Kingdom, covering period December 2000 to April 2001, June 2001*).

Nevertheless, it is necessary to mention that the accession countries have various specific characteristics that justify their IPR standards being sometimes different to those of the EU Member States.

But, accession countries take this gap seriously. Indeed, some of them are implementing reforms that are likely to outline new laws on IPR – through the adoption of laws on competitiveness and public support for enterprises according to EU standards – and finally to outline the economic strategy in the run up to EU accession.

Nevertheless, as innovation remains vital for the viability and success of a modern economy – even though we are now witnessing the globalization of our economies – it is crucial to protect the fruits of innovation. We need to get over the gap between the awareness raising and the practical solutions necessary to promote and disseminate information on IPRs.

In this field, despite its strengths, the European Union trails behind Japan and the United States. EU countries are still facing increasing competition from Japan and the United States. Until now, Europe is far behind these countries in terms of protection of innovation through IPR and especially patents.

⁶ These graphs are based on the table: 'Comparison of Intellectual Property Rights Policy Priorities around Europe' (section 2 of this report: p.7).

This trend is corroborated by the figures in the European Innovation Scoreboard 2001⁷, which indicate that:

- The EU average of the number of EPO patent applications in high tech categories per million population is 17.9 whereas this number is respectively 64.8% and 53% higher for the United States (29.5) and Japan (27.4);
- The EU mean of the number of USPTO patent applications in high tech categories per million population is 11.1 whereas this number is more than 7 times higher for the United States (84.3) and Japan (80.2).

As a consequence, due to the fact that innovation, legal protection of IPR and competition are strongly linked, all EU countries are now aware of the need for the promotion and dissemination of information on IPR as a means to maintain their innovative and competitive economy.

3.1.2 The increasing involvement by National Industrial Property Offices in the promotion and dissemination of information on IPR

The trend of the increasing involvement by the National Industrial Property Offices in the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR started after the nineties. Indeed, the adoption of the Green Paper on the Community Patent and the Patent system in Europe in 1997 has led to the continued consultation of the interested parties⁸. At this time, the consultation showed clearly that the National Patent Offices should be retained and should continue to play an important role.

The European Parliament believes that the National Offices will continue to play the same role and enjoy the same powers in relation to the national and European patents as at present. It also considers that these offices should play a fundamental role in disseminating and promoting the system of Community patents, in particular with regard to SME access to this instrument⁹.

The European Commission considers it useful to combine its proposals on the Community patent with specific action aimed at those National Patent Offices wishing to gear their activities more towards promoting industrial property in the wide sense. As part of the fifth R&D Framework Programme, the European Commission¹⁰ has

⁷ The '2001 Innovation Scoreboard' – October 2001 – Commission staff working paper is reproduced in the Annex of this report.

⁸ This trend was partially analysed in the previous thematic report written by I. PIERRINI (INBIS Ltd.), Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Innovation and IPR, covering period: December 2000 to April 2001.

⁹ "Promoting innovation through patents: The follow-up to the Green Paper on the Community Patent and the Patent System in Europe", Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

¹⁰ 'Promoting innovation through patents, the follow-up to the Green Paper on the Community Patent and the Patent System in Europe', Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

launched a pilot action aimed at supporting the activities of the National Patent Offices which aim to promote industrial property in the wide sense.¹¹

This assistance is supposed to cover the entire field of industrial property: patents, but also trademarks, designs and utility models and thus provide real innovation protection. This new role, fulfilled by those National Patent Offices participating in the initiative, can involve setting up a small specialised team at a national or multidisciplinary level, which could be sensitive to enterprise need with regard to innovation protection and provide an adequate response to those needs.

Possible initiatives for these teams might include the publication of brochures covering the entire field of innovation protection, the preparation of websites with the same content, the organisation of exhibitions on innovation and conferences on the chambers of commerce and industry, in regional organisations, in universities and technical institutes, etc.

More concretely for instance, in Spain, the Spanish Office for Patents and Trademark (OEPM) (dependent agency of MCYT) has increased its dissemination activities and tried to spread the industrial property culture in all sectors of Spanish industry¹².

In Belgium, an effort is also being made by the Federal Office for intellectual property rights to go beyond its traditional role of administering patent applications, by developing a pro-active awareness raising campaign about the importance of patents (Reid A., *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Belgium*, covering period: December 2000 to April 2001, June 2001). Similarly, in Spain, the GSRT has announced special support for the Organisation of Industrial Property to promote awareness raising in IPR related topics¹³.

Moreover, most European countries have developed a tendency to simplify the administrative procedures related to acquiring IPR, especially patents. Some National Patent Offices have made an effort to go beyond their traditional role of administering patent applications, to develop a pro-active awareness raising campaign about the importance of patents.

¹¹ This means strengthening the current role of patent information (ordinary searches or searches on request), providing an initial evaluation of the invention to be protected and defining a protection strategy (whether to file at national, European or international level) – this may involve consulting a patent advisor – providing information on the procedures and deadlines required to succeed with this protection strategy), providing basic economic information regarding industrial property, etc.

¹² Lázaro P., De Borja Dominguez F., and Camarero M., *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Spain*, covering period: December 2000 to April 2001, June 2001.

¹³ Tsipouri L., *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Greece*, covering period: December 2000 to April 2001, June 2001.

3.2 The diversification of methods and instruments used to promote and disseminate information on IPR

Above all, IPR regulation and access to IPR information should not hinder innovation. For these reasons, some EU countries, mainly EU Member States, have decided to diversify the methods and instruments used in order to promote and to disseminate information on IPR. By doing this, they are participating in the emergence of a new trend. The analysis of this new tendency began in the previous Innovation and IPR thematic report covering the period from December 2000 to April 2001¹⁴. However, it can be stated that the first EU countries contributing to the emergence of this trend continue to act in the same way. Furthermore, at national level, it can be stressed that new EU Member States are now involved in the diversification of the methods and instruments that they used for the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR.

3.2.1 The increasing use of the internet

It has been mentioned previously that National Industrial Property Offices are changing their role, from being repositories of information to active marketing. For this reason, we are now witnessing this new trend consisting of the dissemination and the promotion of information on IPR by the National Industrial Property Offices through different methods and especially through the internet. The benefits of using the internet to manage IP better also seem to have been recognised. Perhaps this trend is the most interesting of all to analyse due to the fact that most of the EU Member States are participating in its emergence.

It is important to point out that the internet – as the main tool dedicated to the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR – is used in different ways, either through the traditional National Industrial Property Offices' websites or independently via other Government websites.

For instance, the UK government introduced a new IP portal in November 2000¹⁵ (UK_45), designed to provide visitors with clear basic information on the full range of IPR – especially patents – and the part these play in protecting creativity and inventiveness. More accurately, this Portal provides access to specific detailed queries, frequently asked questions, and the latest news relating to IP issues. It has been designed to evolve and be responsive to users by allowing them to nominate relevant sites they have found useful – thus contributing to the growth of the knowledge base¹⁶.

The German government made a similar effort in April 2001, offering a new public, Internet-based access to a patent database. This new on-line patent database was

¹⁴ I. PIERRINI (INBIS Ltd.), *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Innovation and IPR*, covering period: December 2000 to April 2001.

¹⁵ www.intellectual-property.gov.uk

¹⁶ Cunningham P.N and Boden M., *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: United Kingdom*, covering period: December 2000 to April 2001, June 2001.

introduced by the German Patent and Trademarks Office (DPMA), available at www.depatistnet.de. This internet-based information service offers free access to about 25 million patent files, including German patents since 1977 and full texts of all German patents since 1987 (Rammer C. and Licht G. *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Germany*, covering period: December 2000 to April 2001, June 2001).

Germany is continuing to foster the use of IPR through the German innovation policy both in the field of legislation (IP regulation) and via promotion programmes. For instance, within the INSTI-Network, several sub-programmes attempt to increase the use of IPR. AKPat (DE_62) provides an Internet-based platform for higher education institutions and researchers, that gives an overview of patenting-related competence at higher education institutions, including supportive infrastructure. AKPat especially attempts to bring together the divergent intermediary commercialisation infrastructure at higher education institutions¹⁷.

Denmark also provides us with an interesting example of the increasing use of the internet as an instrument for the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR. Indeed, Denmark was one of the EU Member States that started this new trend¹⁸.

In Denmark, to further the Government's business strategy, a project aiming at improving companies' and researchers' access to patents and utility models databases has been launched. The intention is to facilitate single site access to all Danish patents and utility models, and to assemble all information related to patents on a CD-ROM/DVD (DK_10). An internet database will also be developed. The project will run to the end of 2003 (Jensen, S (2001), op. cit.).

It appears that the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark can be considered as the countries that have directly participated in the emergence of this trend of the increasing use of internet. It is interesting to notice that some other countries are now consolidating the trend.

For instance, in Luxembourg, a web site enables access to the legal and regulatory documents and provides information on lodging procedures. Soon, the intellectual property department will be able to register the lodging of trademarks and patents online¹⁹.

Recently, the Academy of Finland published, on its web pages, a guide for researchers on IPR (<http://www.aka.fi/>), another example of this trend.

¹⁷ Rammer C. and Licht G. *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Germany*, covering period: May 2001 – September 2001, October 2001.

¹⁸ Jensen S. *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Denmark*, covering period: December 2000 to April 2001, June 2001.

¹⁹ De Haeck B. *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Luxembourg*, covering period: May 2001 to September 2001, October 2001.

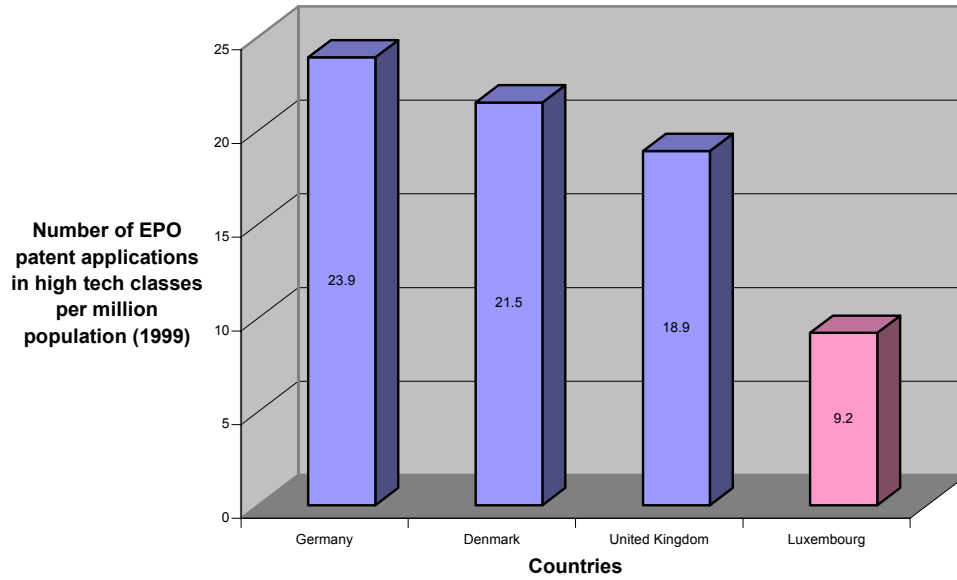
Finally, the difference between the countries that have already implemented means dedicated to the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR – the ‘pioneers’ of the new trend (e.g.: The United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark) – and the ‘follower’ (e.g.: Luxembourg) starting later with less well developed methods, has a consequence. That is the probable correlation between an increasing promotion and dissemination of information on IPR – especially patents – and the legal protection awarded to intellectual property in the country.

Some figures extracted from the 2001 European Scoreboard²⁰ corroborate this trend:

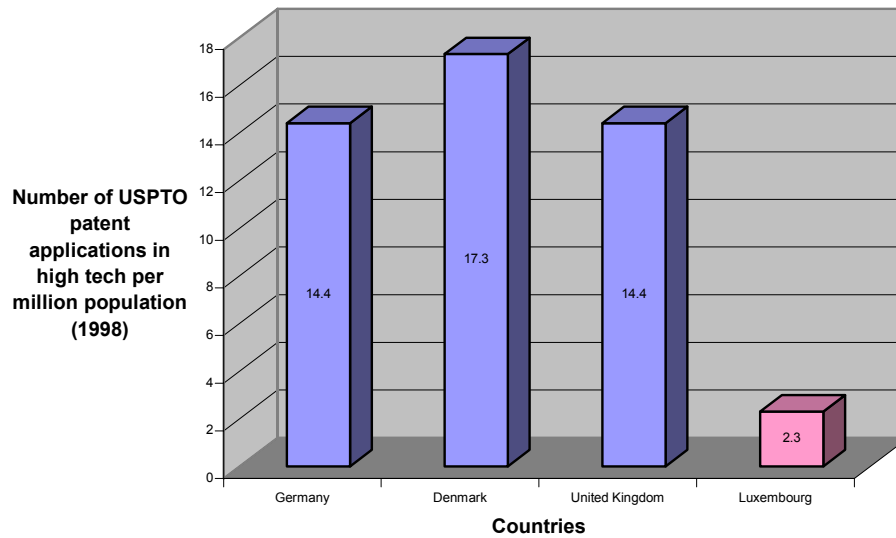
- during the year 1999 – respectively for Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom as the ‘pioneers’ and Luxembourg as the ‘follower’, the EPO registered 23.9, 21.5 and 18.9 millions; and 9.2 millions EPO patent applications in high tech categories per million population; and
- during the year 1998, the UPSTO respectively registered 14.4, 17.3 and 14.4 millions; and 2.3 millions UPSTO patent applications in high tech categories per million population (see graphs below).

²⁰ Figures extracted from the ‘2001 Innovation Scoreboard’ – October 2001 – Commission staff working paper is reproduced in the Annex of this report.

Comparison of number of EPO patents registered in different EU countries



Comparison of number of USPTO patents registered in different EU countries



3.2.2 The implementation of networking between different organisations involved in the promotion of innovation

Another interesting method dedicated to the promotion and the dissemination of information on IPR is the implementation of networking between different organisations involved in the promotion of innovation. Recently, some EU countries have shown more interest in the need to organize a better cooperation between all these organisations.

For instance, in Finland during recent years, a lot of committee work has been done on IPR issues in the university sector. The most recent report prepared by a committee of university rectors during 1999-2001 proposed that a network of IPR support services should be formed covering every university. Some concrete measures from the proposed model have already been implemented during the committee work. It is hoped that these actions will be a solid basis for structuring a coherent IPR issue policy in each university.

In 1998, an international survey was conducted on the promotion of independent inventions and their commercialisation (Zegweld et al. 1998). Among other things, it was recommended that there should be more coherence and networking between the organisations involved in the promotion of inventiveness/innovation – Tekes, Sitra and the Academy of Finland – and that inventors and research organisations (including universities) should be given full responsibility for their inventive activities, including the commercialisation of research results²¹.

In Germany, there is a huge network of Patent Information Centres (DE_07). They give SMEs access to scientific and technological information essential for innovation management in companies. Therefore, it can be said that a nation-wide network of patent information centres has been set up. The patent information centres offer various types of support such as access to original documents and support of the companies' own information search, copies of patent documents and other papers, free consultation of patent agents, and lectures on the services provided by the patent-information-centres.

More specifically, a new programme was introduced to help public research organisations improve their intellectual property commercialisation. One of the methods recommended by the Federal Government in order to complete this programme was to build-up a network of commercialisation units in public science (Rammer C. and Licht G., (2001) op. cit.).

3.2.3 The development of events dedicated to IPR (conferences, seminars, training activities, science parks, etc)

In Germany, the INSTI Innovation Action (DE_63) gives support to innovative enterprises and start-ups in order to optimise their innovation activities and to establish a permanent culture of innovation. Several individual measures are offered,

²¹ Niskanen P. and Neuvonen A., *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Finland*, covering period: May 2001 to September 2001, October 2001.

including innovation workshops, innovation checks, technology evaluations, innovation coaching, patent searches, and consulting services in the fields of IP, exploiting new business fields, commercialisation strategies and market monitoring. (Rammer C. and Licht G., (2001) op. cit.).

In Norway, The Norwegian Patent Office (NPO) offers ‘classical protection’ for inventions, trademarks and designs but also offers information services, guidance and training in the area of industrial property rights.

The Norwegian government also introduced Science Parks²² that actively help university and college researchers in patenting, developing and marketing their inventions vis-à-vis industry²³.

Sweden provides another interesting example. The Swedish Patents & Licensing Offices supply consulting and training activities in IPR matters, evaluating technology proposals from higher education institution staff for their commercial potential, and applying for patents and licensing them to industry where possible²⁴.

3.2.4 The increasing further education in the IPR’s field

Finally, one interesting method that could be used to promote and to disseminate information on IPR is to increase further education in the IPR’s field. However, this seems to be new and although perhaps elaborated by several EU countries, is currently implemented only by Germany and the United Kingdom.

In Germany - in October 2001 - a new INSTI measure was started concerning the integration of IPR related issues in higher education in the fields of science and engineering (InWert – DE_73). This measure provides financial support to higher education institutions to introduce new courses on the commercialisation of inventions, including IPR. It aims at strengthening the integration of commercialisation related know-how in the curricula of science, engineering and business administration studies. Both lectures on commercialising invention and practical studies either at HEIs²⁵ or at firms may receive support (Rammer C. and

²² The term “Science Park” is used to describe a property-based initiative: which has operational links with universities, research centres and/or other institutions of higher education, which is designed to encourage the formation and growth of knowledge-based industries and other organizations, normally resident on site, and which has a management team actively engaged in fostering the transfer of technology and business skills to tenant organizations.

The traditional role of the science parks has been to be service organizations and real estate managers. Now, however, the role as incubators and assistants for innovation is becoming increasingly important. Many parks have their own commercialization units or companies, and they are often local representatives for the FORNY-programme (NO_11). The FORNY-programme is part of the Research Council of Norway’s BRO-programme, a programme aimed at fostering networking, technology transfer and innovation.

²³ Koch P. *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Norway*, covering period: May 2001 to September 2001, October 2001.

²⁴ (Dreborg G., Olofsson C., Norgren L., Granat J. and Nekham A. *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Sweden*, covering period: May 2001 to September 2001, October 2001

²⁵ Higher Education Institutions

Licht G. *Monitoring, updating and disseminating developments in innovation and technology diffusion in the Member States – The TREND CHART: Germany, covering period: May 2001 to September 2001, October 2001).*

In the United Kingdom, the Intellectual Property Group (IPG) of the Government's Creative Industries Task Force, supported by the UK Patent Office Steering Board, produced a report²⁶ into ways of improving awareness of and education about intellectual property. It had five major recommendations. Amongst other things, the IPG recommended: “A single web site containing basic information about intellectual property should signpost users and creators appropriately, so that they can obtain licences for particular use and information to enable them to protect their rights, and should be signposted from other sites where those seeking information might be looking.” (Cunningham P.N and Boden M. (2001), op. cit.).

²⁶ <http://www.patent.gov.uk/copy/notices/pdf/ipgroup.pdf>

4. Conclusions

More and more, modern economies are moving towards the production of intangibles. At the root of this major trend is the movement towards knowledge as the foundation of the wealth of society, companies and the nation. The management of knowledge, and technological knowledge in particular, has become extremely important. In this context, the management of intellectual property is a strategic tool for any company or organisation to appropriate the results of their research or their know-how accumulated over the course of time.

Even though few new measures were introduced in the period from May 2001 to September 2001, it should be borne in mind that trends are difficult to discern over such a short timescale, as changes in this field are slow.

However, in the field of IPR, our analysis shows that some trends have been recently established by most European countries:

- the increasing importance of promoting and disseminating information on IPR;
- the diversification of methods and instruments used to promote and to disseminate information on IPR.

If most of the EU member States are playing a role in the dissemination and the promotion of information on IPR, it appears that they do not exactly act in the same way or at the same speed. For this reason, we can split them into two groups according to which step of the process they have achieved. We can distinguish some EU Member States that have already implemented the tools necessary for the dissemination and promotion of information on IPR both internally and externally (e.g. Germany, the United Kingdom and Denmark) with other EU countries that are still defining or implementing these tools (e.g.: Luxembourg, Spain and Greece).

It will be very interesting to follow if the EU countries will manage to consolidate this trend over the long term.

5. Annexes

Table 1: Extracts from the 2001 Innovation Scoreboard²⁷ (indicators, sources and years)

2.	Knowledge creation		
2.3	Number of EPO patent applications in high tech categories per million population	EUROSTAT, EPO	1999
2.3a	Number of USPTO patent applications in high tech categories per million population	EUROSTAT, USPTO	1998

No	Indicator	Yr. ²⁸	So. ²⁹	EU	S	FIN	UK	DK	NL	D	IRL	F	A	B	L	E	I	GR	P	US	JP
2.3	EPO h-tech pats /pop	99	1,3	17.9	22.9	80.4	18.9	21.5	35.8	29.3	<i>13.3</i>	20.2	<i>9.8</i>	17.6	<i>9.2</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>	29.5	27.4
2.3b	USPTO h-tech pat/pop	98	1,4	11.1	29.5	35.9	14.4	17.3	19.6	14.4	<i>3.8</i>	13.3	<i>5.6</i>	12.8	<i>2.3</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.1</i>	84.3	80.2

²⁷ Figures extracted from the "2001 Innovation Scoreboard" – October 2001 – Commission staff working paper is reproduced in the Annex of this report.

²⁸ Most recent data available.

²⁹ Data sources: 1= Eurostat, 2 = OECD *Education at a Glance*, 3 = EPO, 4 = USPTO, 5 = EVCA, 6 = FIBV, 7 = Eurobarometer, 8 = US National Telecoms and Information Administration, 9 = EITO, 10 = Community Innovation

Notes: Survey Indicators (except for the summary index) that are more than 20% above or below the EU average are highlighted in **bold** or *italics* respectively. For indicator 4.6, countries are marked in bold if their share increased.

EU OVERALL PERFORMANCE: STATUS AND TRENDS³⁰

No	Indicator	EU Mean	EU leaders			US	JA	EU overall trend ³¹	Within EU variation ³²	Trend ³³
			FIN	NL	D					
2.3	High-tech EPO patents / population	17.9	FIN:80.4	NL:35.8	D:29.3	29.5	27.4	Improving	High (104.1)	Decreasing convergence (53%)
2.3a	High-tech USPTO patents / pop.	11.1	FIN:35.9	S:29.5	NL:19.6	84.3	80.2	Improving	High (92.7)	Decreasing convergence (156%)

³⁰ Information extracted from the Preliminary Draft document used as an input for the “European Innovation Scoreboard 2001” – April 2001 – prepared under the “European Trend Chart on Innovation”.

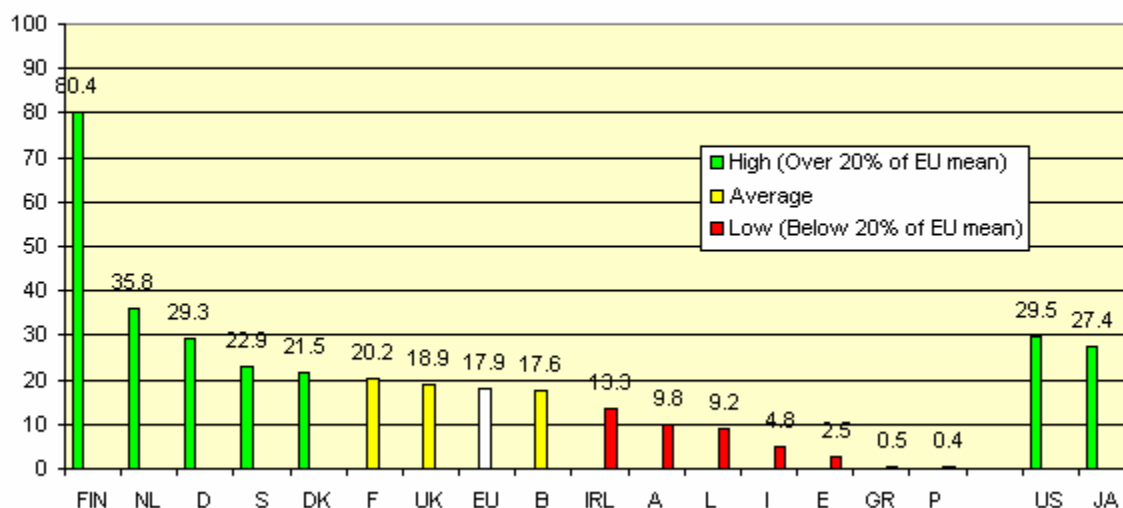
³¹ Based on the change in the EU mean over time.

³² Based on the Coefficient of Variation for the most recent year (standard deviation(SD) /mean*100).

³³ Based on the change in the SD over time. The percentages refer to the change in the SD: an increase means that the SD is increasing, which decreases convergence.

EPO patent applications in high-tech categories per million population: 1999

2.3 EPO Patent applications in high tech classes per million population



Provisional data for all countries for 1999 from Eurostat and EPO

Definition

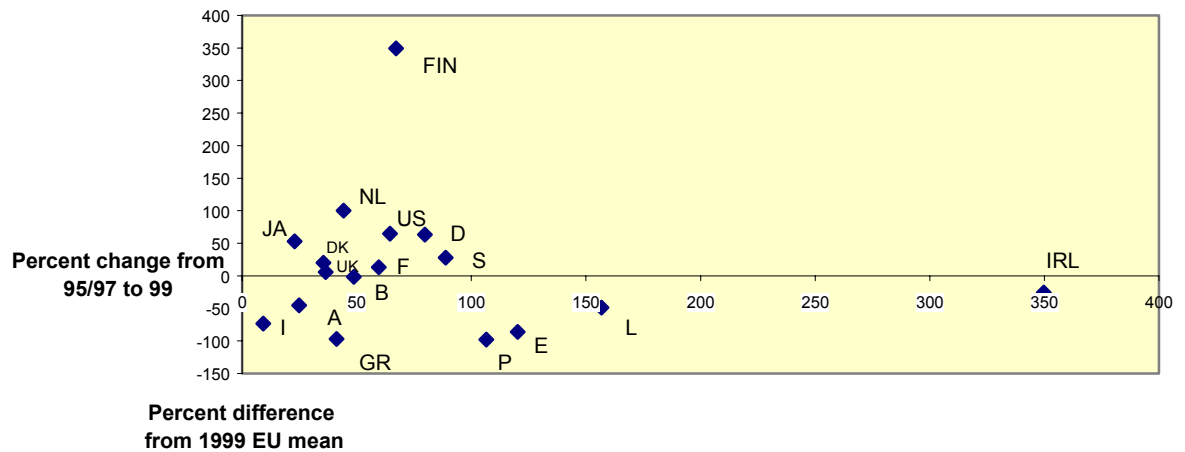
The indicator is the number of 1999 patent applications at the EPO in high-technology patent categories, per million population. The high-technology patent categories include pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, information technology, and aerospace.

Interpretation

This indicator complements indicator 2.2 on business R&D. Patenting captures new knowledge created anywhere within a firm and not just within a formal R&D laboratory. The indicator also measures specialisation of knowledge creation in fast-growing technologies.

Of the four largest EU economies, only Germany is over 20% above the average. Most of the smaller economies divide into two groups: either notably above or below the average, depending on their industrial specialisations.

2.3 Trend in EPO high-tech patents per million population



Trend from the average for 1995 - 1997 compared to 1999.

Trend

The most notable aspect of the EPO patent trends is that high-tech patenting has increased in all countries, with the fastest rate of increase in Ireland at 350%. In most EU countries the rate of increase lies between 25% and 100%. The lowest rate is in Italy, at 9.2%. At this rate, Italy will fall further behind, given much more rapid increases in other EU countries. The results for Greece and Portugal, although included in the graph, are not reliable, since they are based on a very small number of patents.

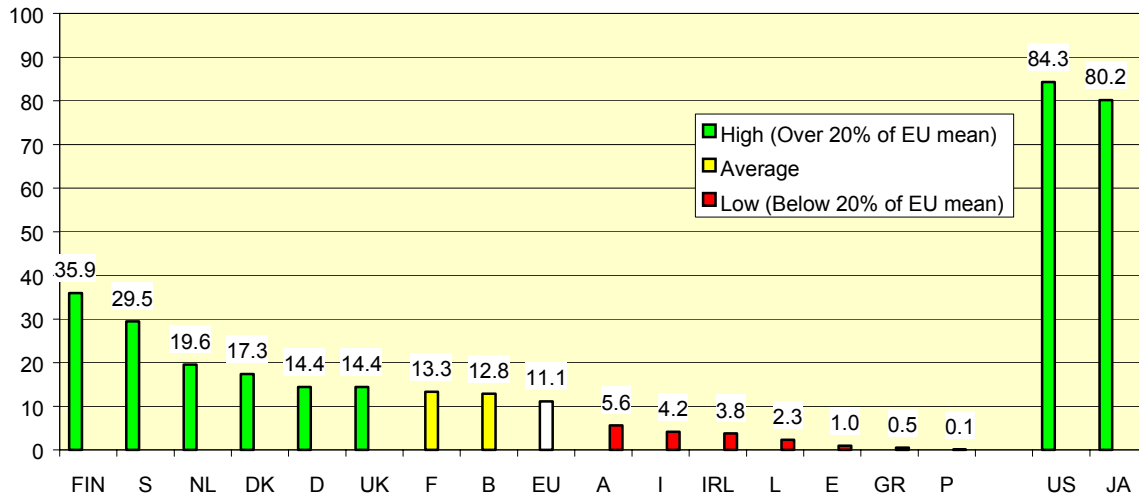
Advantages and disadvantages

The indicator is limited to rapidly growing patent categories where innovation is science-driven and where a high percentage of all innovations are probably patented. This limitation acts to both measure inventive activity in the most promising new fields and prevents possible distortions due to low patent propensity rates. When only a relatively small percentage of inventions are patented, patents can reflect differences in the appropriation strategies of firms rather than differences in the underlying inventive activity.

The main disadvantage of this indicator is that the propensity to patent at the EPO will be higher among inventors within the EU countries than for those from outside the EU. This depresses the results for the United States and Japan, which means that comparing the results for the US and Japan with the results for the EU countries is problematic. Using the US patent data would give much higher rates for the US than for European countries.

2.3a USPTO high-tech patent applications per million population: 1998

2.3a USPTO patent applications in high-tech classes per million pop



Provisional data for all countries for 1998 from Eurostat and USPTO.

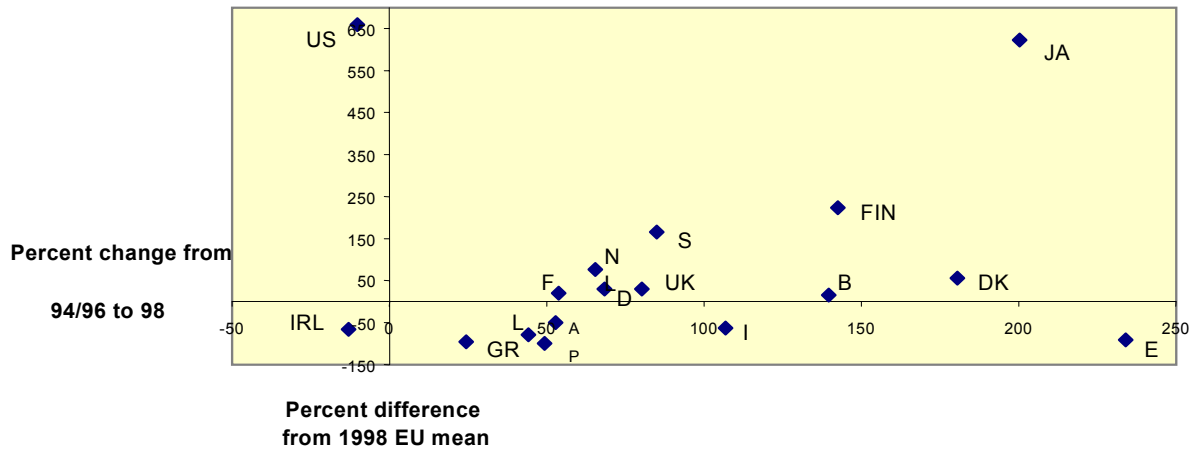
Definition

The indicator is the number of 1998 patent applications at the USPTO in high-technology patent categories, per million population. The high technology patent categories include pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, information technology, and aerospace.

Interpretation

Indicator 2.3 above on EPO patent applications favours European against American and Japanese firms. The equivalent data for applications at the USPTO both provides the equivalent for American firms and measures international patenting activity by European firms. Both Finland and Sweden do as well or better in US patenting as the US does in European patenting, as shown by the ratio of US to Finnish patents in Europe (2.7) and the reverse in the US (2.3). Generally, the rank order of European countries is very similar between EPO and USPTO patenting.

2.3a Trend in USPTO high-tech patents per million population



Trend

With the exception of the US and Ireland, patent rates at the USPTO have increased in all countries. The decline in Ireland contrasts sharply with the increase in Irish patents at the EPO. This raises possible problems with the source of the invention - is the EPO increase due to foreign firms applying for EPO patents through their Irish subsidiaries? The high rate of increase for Denmark and Finland is probably due to IT patents, while the strong increase for Belgium, otherwise an anomaly given Belgium's mediocre standing according to many other indicators, could be due to biotechnology patents. Due to low numbers, the trend results for Spain, Greece and Portugal are not reliable.

List of Datasheets related to IPR

Country	Instruments	Date	Description (from overview of template/datasheet)	Modality of operation	Targets
Austria	AT_16 Technologiemarketing Austria (TecMa)	1998	TecMa was established to promote commercial applications for intellectual property developed by Austrian scientists. TecMa locates industrial partners, provides financial assistance during the patenting phase and offers consulting services with regard to the exploration of R&D results.		Scientists at universities and research institutions; private inventors
Austria	AT_19 FWF Impulse Projects (1997-2000)	1997	Impulse projects are designed to improve the transfer of knowledge between Austrian universities and industry as well as to stimulate R&D in the business sector. The Federal Ministry of Science and Transport (BMWV) bears the cost of employing a Post-Doc scientist for at least a year. An additional goal is to help young scientists to get in touch with corporate R&D.		Young scientists SMEs.
Belgium	BE_5 PIIE – Office for Industrial Property	N/K	PIIE delivers various services around the information on patents, trademarks and models. PIIE has the following mission: Favour industrial property protection; Promote the interest of enterprises active in Belgium in the field of IPR; Administer demands for national, EU and international patents; Deliver Belgian patents; Disseminate the information related to IPR and notably the technical information contained in patents Represent Belgium' position in international bodies dealing with IPR. In the context of innovation support, and beyond the traditional role of administering IPR, important roles of this service are, first, to open access to the sources of technical and strategic information contained in patents, to the large public of economic actors, and second, to conduct awareness-raising activities in the field of IPR.		Large Companies/ Large Industrial Companies Research Institutes SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Belgium	BE_10 Support for intangible investment	N/K	The economic expansion laws, modified by regional legislation, allow regional governments to grant subsidies to enterprises that carry out investments in the region. Besides material investments for the running of the actual activity of the company, of particular interest to innovating enterprises is the possibility to obtain subsidies for intangible investments in relation to future company activities. The types of intangible investment covered are: Market studies, studies for the commercialisation of new products; R&D for new products, processes, and the development of prototypes; Acquisition of patents, trademarks, property rights; Investment in quality management; and Investment for training and education. The rules for the subsidies differ according to the sector of activity, the type of financing, and the nature of the enterprise (starter, existing enterprise, enterprise created by a young entrepreneur). Eligible enterprises should have maximum 40 employees (for commercial enterprises), 50 employees (for other enterprises), and 70 employees in some specific cases. The amount of the subsidy is expressed as a percentage of the investment programme costs. An increase in the subsidy is granted if the investment is considered as having important economic regional impacts. The rate of support varies between 9% (basic rate) and 24% (rate for the starters) of the investment programme. There are some sectoral restrictions for the support, and the intervention can only be granted for investments of a certain size.		???
Belgium	BE_18 (VI) University Interfaces (1998-2001)	1998	The Flemish government supports university interface activities, in the following areas: Stimulation of co-operation between university and industry; Promotion of the creation of spin-off companies; Valorisation of research results in industry; Dealing with IPR in		Universities

			universities. The Flemish government has allocated an annual budget of 50 million BEF (€ 1.2 million) for this support.	
Belgium	BE_45 IPR to universities	1998	Since 1998, Walloon Universities and HEI have received the property or R&D programmes financed by the Walloon government. In addition, since 1999, the Walloon government reimburses the costs of patenting for universities, for research projects financed by the Region.	Research Institutes Universities
Belgium	BE_47 University Interfaces	1998	Since 1998, the Walloon government has supported the reinforcement of the university-industry interfaces with specialised personnel in charge of fostering the valorisation of research results in industry. This measure has been taken in order to stimulate the exploitation of research results by universities.	Large Companies/ Large Industrial Companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs Universities
Belgium	BE_50 Support for intangible investment	1971	The economic expansion laws, modified by regional legislation, allow regional government to grant subsidies to investing enterprises. Besides investments in buildings and equipment, of particular interest to innovating enterprises is the possibility of obtaining subsidies for intangible investments (acquisition of patents and licences).	Individuals Large Companies/ Large Industrial Companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Cyprus	CY_4 Law 16(I)/98, No. 3234 Patent Law and amendment under No. 21(1) of 1999	1998	The Law 16(I)/98 has been in force since 1/4/98 and the amendment under No. 21(1) of 1999 has been in force since 19/3/99. The objective of this law is the protection of intellectual property. This law harmonises Cypriot and European Union legislation.	All the Research Community
Denmark	DK_10 IPscore®	2000	IPscore is a management tool that can be used by companies to manage and evaluate their patents and trademarks.	Large Companies/ Large Industrial Companies Public Authorities/ Organisations SMEs/ Industrial SMEs
Finland	FI_10 Technology transfer from universities and research organisations (1999-2001)	1999	Enhance transfer of technologies from universities and research institutions to the market place; build best practices to all Finnish universities and to the university-industry interface; concentrates on the identification, evaluation, commercialisation and licensing of new and unique innovations.	Public Authorities/ Organisations Universities
France	FR_32 INPI's Innovation Awards	1991	Every two years, the National Institute for Intellectual Property (INPI) organises the INPI's innovation awards to promote SME's and research institutes which have successfully used patents for business or innovation development	Research Institutes SMEs/ Industrial SMEs
Germany	DE_6 Erfinderförderung at the Patentstelle Deutsche Forschung/Inventors aid at the	N/K	The Fraunhofer Patent Office of German Research offers state loans for innovative inventors in order to support them receiving a patent for an invention. The main aim of this measure is to support the commercialisation of patents with a high market potential.	Individuals Researchers SMEs/

	Patent Office German Research		The Patent Office also helps to market and sell the new product. Prerequisites are a technical production ability and a high degree of economic value. Support may also be provided for prototypes and models.		Industrial SMEs
Germany	DE_7 Patentinformationszentren / Patent Information Centres	N/K	The program allows SMEs to have access to scientific and technological information that are essential for innovation management in companies. Therefore a nationwide network of patent-information-centres has been set up, offering various types of support/subsidies: Access to original documents and support of the companies' own information search; Copies of patent documents and other papers; Free consultation of patent agents; Lectures on the services of the patent-information-centres (for a fee); and in some cases the examination of patent applications		N/K
Germany	DE_8 INSTI KMU Patentaktion / INSTI SME patent initiative	1996	The measure has four major goals: Reducing barriers in SME with respect to the use of patents as information source and an instrument to protect property rights, and to improve the innovation capability of SME; Increasing the number of qualified patent applications by SME; Improving the use of patent information by SME; and Improving the conditions in SME for the commercialisation of patents		SMEs/ Industrial SMEs
Germany	DE_24	1994 extended until 2002	The programme aims to stimulate innovation in Germany by contributing to an innovation-friendly environment as a base for increased innovation activities. The nation-wide network consists of mainly private INSTI-partners from the field of innovation and patent consulting.		Individuals Research Institutes Researchers SMEs/ Industrial SMEs Universities
Germany	DE_49	1996	Increased integration of patent knowledge in engineering and natural sciences university education (INPAT) is a special support measure which aims to improve student's knowledge on patent system issues and the use of patent databases. It gives financial support to higher education institutions for introducing compulsory courses on patent legislation as well as for training junior academic staff as "information agents" and in using patent databases. The measure ended on December 31, 2000.		Other Universities
Germany	DE_62 AKPat	2001	The aim of the INSTI sub-programme AKPat is to establish an internet platform which contains all the competences in the field of patenting available at higher education institutions in Germany. These include institutes and researchers with experience in patenting, study courses on patenting; patent-related training; and the various services provided by intermediaries (consulting, commercialisation, information, support). The platform should provide researchers with easy access to the relevant patent know-how and thus increase patent-based activities at HEIs.		Universities
Germany	DE_63 INSTI Innovation Action	2001	The INSTI Innovation Action aims at enabling enterprises and start-ups to establish internal innovation processes on a permanent base, i.e. as a continuous part of their entrepreneurial and business activities. Higher education institutions and public research organisations will be supported in planning and implementing patent and commercialisation management. Enterprises and science institutions may receive direct financial support for using innovation and patent related consulting services offered by members of the INSTI Innovation e.V. (Association) which was established at the end of 2000.		Research Institutes SMEs/ Industrial SMEs Universities

Germany	DE_73 INSTI – InWert³⁴	2001	This measure is part of the INSTI initiative (see DE_24) and provides financial support to higher education institutions for introducing new courses on the commercialisation of inventions (including IPR). It aims at strengthening the integration of commercialisation related know-how in the curricula of science, engineering and business administration studies. Both lectures on commercialising invention and practical studies either at HEIs or at firms may receive support.		Universities
Greece	GR_34 Law 2697 "Certify of Locarno's settlement for the International classification of the Industrial Design and Models"- Athens, March 31, 1999.	1999	Under this Law the international classification for the industrial plans and patterns has been adapted. The international classification includes: a catalogue of the categories and sub-categories; an alphabetic catalogue of the products in which plans and patterns are embodied; Clarifications. Countries that adopt the above law make up a specific union.		Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Greece	GR_1 Investment Law - Promotion	1990	The main goals of the new general development law are the attraction of investment activities in industry and tourism, the efficient networking of new incentives for investment in order to create employment, the promotion of a healthy environment for competition and to support convergence of the Greek economy with that of the other EU States. In particular for the case of IPR, the law will support expenses for the creation of a prototype of an invention that has been registered in the Greek patent office, expenses for the international registration of the invention, expenses for the renewal of the international registration for five years (if industrial investment takes place which is more than ten times the level of expenses for the registration).		Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Greece	GR_42 Awards and Financial Support for Inventors	2000	Awards will be granted to Greek citizens' outstanding inventions, in order to reward inventors for their contribution to technological development and to disseminate information about their inventions to a wider public audience. Financial support will be given to inventors, to cover registration costs for industrial property rights or to cover costs for participation in international conferences or exhibitions.		Researchers
Iceland	IS_2 Committee on Intellectual Property Rights	1998	A temporary committee on intellectual property rights, and more particularly patent protection activity has been set up for the Icelandic technological society. The main goals of the committee are twofold: to investigate what the reasons are for very poor results by Iceland with regards to innovation measured by number of patents issued per capita; and to put forward suggestions for how the patent activity/awareness of individuals, industry and educational and research institutions can be raised. The background for this work is very poor results of Icelandic citizens, industry and institutions with regard to number of patents issued per capita. The average number of issued patents have been little less than two per year total per 280,000 inhabitants. This appears to be 10 – 20 times less than the score of comparable nations. As the OECD and many others use this measurement (number of patents issued to national inhabitants) as one measurement of R&D activity, the Ministry of Industry and Trade is concerned. The first preliminary report of the committee is expected to be released in October/November 1998.		Export industry, especially the high-tech sector. R&D institutions and higher educational institutions

³⁴ The new measures concerning the period from May 2001 to September 2001 are in bold.

Ireland	IE_6 Protection of Copyright - Copyright Bill	1999	To regulate the protection and licensing of IPR in software and other copyright material on the internet and other media.		Internet-based companies and individual authors
Italy	IT_28 Decree 3 December 1999 concerning the definition of both the conditions of admission and the general rules for the administration of the Guarantee Fund for SMEs ex art. 2, comma 100, letter a), of Law 23 December 1996, no. 662 (purchasing of patents, licences and technical know how)	1999	The Decree specifies both the conditions of admission and the general rules envisaged by Article 13, Comma 2 of the Decree issued by the Ministry of Industry together with the Ministry of Treasury no. 248 31 May 1999 for the administration of the Guarantee Fund for SMEs ex art. 2, comma 100, letter a), of Law 23 December 1996, no. 662. The Fund can cover expenditure linked to technology transfer activities through the purchasing of patents, licences and technical know how.		SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Lithuania	LT_09 Law on Protection of Intellectual Property in import and exports of goods	2000	-		-
Luxembourg	LU_3 Technology Watch Centre	1994	The CVT started its activities in 1994 as a pilot project under the initiative of the Intellectual Property Division of the Ministry of Economy and in close collaboration with the European Patent Office. In 1996, the public research centre Henri-Tudor established the CVT as one of its departments. The CVT's main objectives are increasing awareness of national and regional companies to the growing importance of industrial information and assistance in setting up their information management process. The CVT assist national and regional companies in searching, gathering, treating, analysing and managing scientific, technical and technological-economical information.		Large Companies /Large Industrial Companies SMEs/ Industrial SMEs
Norway	NO_17 Assistance – Applications for Patents in Norway and Abroad – In Development/Prototype	N/K	The objective of the measure is to facilitate and encourage independent inventors and SMEs in applying for patent in Norway and/or abroad (as well as assistance with development/prototypes).		Individuals Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Portugal	PT_16 Company Modernisation Incentive System (SIME)	2000	Promotion of company development, by supporting modern and competitive company strategies, and stimulating strategic competitiveness factors, namely in the areas of internationalisation, innovation, quality, environment, energy and upgrading of human resources skills.		Large Companies/ Large Industrial Companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Portugal	PT_18 Industrial Property Use Incentive System (SIUPI)	2000	Promoting invention, creativity and innovative activities by companies as well as by entrepreneurs, independent inventors and designers, and research institutions.		Individuals Large Companies/ Large Industrial Companies Other Research Institutes

Slovenia	SL_1 Young Researchers Program	1985	Rejuvenate the human capital in S&T, foster innovation and research		Graduates
Spain	ES_1 CDTI Financial Support	1978	<p>The ‘Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial’ (CDTI) (Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology) is a Public Business Institution dependent on the Spanish Ministry of Industry and Energy. It promotes innovation and technological development achieved by Spanish companies. Since 1978 CDTI has as its purpose to encourage industry competition in Spain by developing the following activities: Technical-economical assessing and funding of R&D projects developed by companies; Providing support for Spanish involvement in international R&D programmes; and Promoting international technology transfer and providing support to technology innovation. Due to its legal status, CDTI is governed by private law in its relationships with third parties. This puts CDTI in a position to offer fast responses and flexibility in its support services for the development of business R&D projects, exploiting technologies developed by the company at the international level, and offering technological-industrial supplies to national and international scientific and technological organisations. Consequently, CDTI grants companies its own financial aid –and eases access to third parties– for research and development projects both at the national and international level. CDTI also gives support to companies for exploiting, at an international level, technologies developed by them. For this, CDTI Technology Promotion Projects, uses its outside network of offices and representatives, and the Iberoeka projects. Finally, CDTI manages and supports Spanish companies fulfilment of industrial contracts with a high technological content generated by different national and European organisations such as the European Space Agency (ESA), European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN), European Synchrotron (ESRF), Hispasat and Eumetsat. CDTI assesses and finances R&D projects developed by companies – regardless of their activity field and size. The budget for projects financed by CDTI usually ranges from 40 to 250 million pesetas (€240,000 to €1.5 million) approximately. This amount includes fixed assets (laboratory, pilot plant, etc.) staff working in the project, equipment, and other costs involved. Any Company having the technical capability to develop a Technology Research Project, Technology Development Project or Technology Innovation Project and the financing capability to cover 30% of the total budget for that project with its own resources, can obtain financial aid granted by CDTI as credits. Financing offered by CDTI consists of interest-free credits, which cover up to 60% of the total budget for the project. CDTI only supports projects that are technically and economically feasible, but it does not require real guarantees for granting these credits. This financing comes from the Centre’s own resources, resources of the R&D National Fund and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). From 1978 to 1995 CDTI financed projects for a total amount of 450,000 million pesetas (€2,7 billion), with a CDTI contribution of 170,000 million pesetas (€1billion). 57,000 million pesetas (€340 million) had been paid back by the end of 1995. The CDTI contribution for the technology development of companies is 9,495 million pesetas (€57 million) for the period 1994-1999.</p>		Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies SMEs/Industrial SMEs
Spain	ES_19 INFO XXI: The Information Society for all (2000)	2000	<p>INFO XXI is a strategic initiative of the Spanish Government aimed at implementing Information Society in Spain, in order that its citizens and enterprises can take part in its development and take advantage of its potential to improve social cohesion, quality of life and work and economic growth.</p>		Individuals Public Authorities/ Organisations Researchers Students in upper

					secondary schools
UK	UK_12 In-house presentations to larger companies to raise awareness amongst businesses		Part of UK Patent Office's marketing strategy Visits delivered by Patent Office marketing executives to companies identified by in-house marketing database and support team. Addresses lack of knowledge of IP in UK companies; in particular loss of competitiveness of UK companies in international markets because of ineffective use of IPR and lack of coherent IP policy.	Awareness and training	larger companies
UK	UK_13 Intermediaries' Workshops		Part of UK Patent Office's marketing strategy Ultimately a development of 1/2-day and one-day training courses for industrial liaison officers in universities, company staff and Business Link personnel and of the public Roadshows which were aimed directly at decision makers in SMEs. The present approach involves training business advisers who act as multipliers in giving advice to companies.	Awareness and training	general business advisers, in particular Business Link staff, solicitors, accountants and bankers but not professional IP consultants such as patent and trade mark agents.
UK	UK_14 Project with Bournemouth University		Part of UK Patent Office's marketing strategy. Distance learning/awareness package for students	Awareness and training	UK undergraduates across many disciplines : science, technology, engineering, law, business, etc.
UK	UK_15 Projects with Association for University Research and Industrial Links (AURIL)		Part of UK Patent Office's marketing strategy. Carries forward previous work with industrial liaison officers (ILOs) in universities (lectures, training courses) at a more strategic level. Three levels: creation of materials to educate/assist ILOs; creation of section for use by AURIL members on Patent Office Website; assessment of IP policies in UK universities leading to the establishment of guidelines	Awareness and training	Industrial liaison officers and others involved in the commercial exploitation of IPR in UK universities
UK	UK_16 Work with PR Company		Part of the UK Patent Office's marketing strategy as set out in its Corporate Plan. The use of a specialised PR company to develop media material and to ensure its effective dissemination	improving the legal and regulatory environment in the UK.	Large Companies & SMEs
UK	UK_17 Central Enquiry Unit (CEU), Internet Website, Publicity Literature		Part of UK Patent Office's marketing strategy. Creation of a centralised service in the Patent Office to give general advice and information on all aspects of IP. Literature was originally unattractive but has been developed to be readable, informative and up to date	Awareness and training	Any enquirer but particularly lone inventors, companies and (for specialised information) IP professionals
UK	UK_25 Abolition of patent fees		Three main measures: Abolition of the patent application fee; Reduction of the costs of Patent Office services overall by 20 per cent; and Posting the patent application form on	Cost reduction	SMEs

			the internet		
UK	UK_33 Reform of the taxation of intellectual property		A Technical Note by the Inland Revenue. To consider the ways in which current tax rules relating to intellectual property may be reformed, to make them simpler, to embrace all forms of IP and to simplify the arrangements for the taxation of royalty payments	Change in Taxation rules	
UK	UK_37 The Biotechnology Exploitation Platform Challenge (BEP Challenge)		Aims to anchor the benefits of publicly funded bioscience research in the UK. Encourages syndicates of universities, academic institutions and intermediaries with complementary bioscience research to work together and build portfolios of intellectual property. In particular, it aims at securing the necessary skills to: audit existing intellectual property in bioscience departments in academic institutions and identify commercial opportunities by matching portfolios of intellectual property with potential industrial markets	pump priming for organisations providing information and advice in biotech exploitation.	Biotech sector
UK	UK_45 V Intellectual Property (IP) Portal	2000	The IP Portal is a gateway site on IP. Its intention is to generate an interest and awareness of IP. It provides users with basic facts and more detailed information. It is suitable for both novices and professionals alike. There are frequently asked questions, latest IP-related News and over 1000 links to Government and IP-related web sites. The Portal has been designed to evolve and be responsive to users by allowing them to nominate relevant sites they have found useful – thus contributing to the growth of the knowledge base.		Individuals Large Companies/Large Industrial Companies Managers Other Public Authorities/Organisations Research Institutes Researchers SMEs/Industrial SMEs Universities
UK	UK_48 Database of Technology Offers	2001	The project, due to be set up in Autumn 2000, but not yet realised, is intended to provide a clearing-house offering technology available for licensing across the university sector.		Graduates Large Companies/ Large Industrial Companies Managers Public Authorities/ Organisations Research Institutes Researchers SMEs/ Industrial SMEs Universities
UK	UK_52 Fund for commercialisation of IP in	2001	-	-	-

	PSREs			
Slovenia	SL_1 Young Researchers Program		rejuvenate the human capital in S&T, foster innovation and research	Graduates

IPR questionnaire

As previously identified, the information provided in the country reports is generally insufficient to provide a detailed picture of policy developments at this level of analysis. Rather than increasing the level of detail of the country reports, we have chosen to base our analysis on a more targeted set of questions.

This set of questions takes the form of an IPR questionnaire addressed to all the Trend Chart correspondents. In this IPR thematic report which covers the period from May 2001 to September 2001, figures, new measures and assertions set out for each country are based on the replies provided by the Trend Chart correspondents to the IPR questionnaire, established to complement their country report.

Please see below the standardised IPR questionnaire used in the writing of this IPR thematic report.

COUNTRY:

With regard to **Topic 3 “Dissemination and Promotion of information on Intellectual Property Rights”**, please provide information on the following questions:

1. Does this topic form an area of *innovation policy concern* in your country? For example, is it the subject of policy debate, or have measures been introduced to address it? (If “YES”, please give brief details but see 3 below for the specific details of any relevant measures).
2. Have there been any specific *studies or reports/documents* produced on this topic. Please give brief reference and description of main objectives/findings.
3. Are there any *existing policy measures* which directly or indirectly address this topic? (Please give reference numbers and names of relevant datasheets, or a brief description)

For each measure described please provide the following details:

Name of scheme and reference number:	
Brief description of scheme (or refer to country report/datasheet)	
a) Personnel targeted by the measure: (e.g. students, researchers, university staff, civil servants, industrial researchers, managers, others - specify)	
b) Level of operation of measure: (e.g. individual researchers, universities, government laboratories, SMEs, large companies, Sectors, Regions, International)	
c) What is the primary objective (e.g. to disseminate general information, to deliver personalised advice, to promote awareness on IPR issues, etc)	
d) Does the measure aim i) to develop cooperation or ii) to improve the effectiveness of existing cooperative arrangements?	
e) What activities does the measure involve? (E.g. networking between different organisations involved in the promotion of innovation, organisations of workshops, seminars or conferences to disseminate information on IPR, implementation of web sites by the Industrial Property National Offices, telephone help-line, Government officials, literature-based information, etc).	
f) Does the scheme have any particularly novel or interesting aspects?	

4. Have any of these measures a) formed the *subject of evaluations* or b) *been transferred* (with or without modification) to/from another country? Please give details, particularly of possible “good practice” examples.
5. Are there plans to introduce *new policy measures*, which directly or indirectly address this topic? What is the likely timescale for their introduction?