

Esteemed Colleagues and Students,

At the University of Ljubljana we recognise the transfer of knowledge into the economy as our strategic mission. The innovations and motivation of our staff and students are key in this process, which is why we try to encourage you and offer you the necessary support and knowledge through our Knowledge transfer office (KTO).

Within the context of research, you create various products that can be of practical value on the market (invention, appearance of a product, sign). The KTO helps you recognise and protect your creations with intellectual property rights (patent, industrial design, trademark). These rights protect the owner from unauthorised commercial exploitation of their work by third parties. In addition, with these rights the University of Ljubljana can ensure its competitive advantage on the market, which enables it to further develop and market industrial property.

In regards to marketing the KTO plays an important part in finding partners and negotiating sales and licensing contracts; it can also help you set up new companies (e.g. spin-outs) in collaboration with the Ljubljana University Incubator. New companies are a direct result of the University's role in generating new jobs and creating economic prosperity.

This leaflet offers basic information on intellectual property management at the University of Ljubljana and focuses on procedures of taking over, protecting and marketing company inventions.

We wish you great innovative success!

Dr. Marijan Leban, Head of the Department for Protection of Intellectual Property
Urša Jerše, Head of KTO



Knowledge Transfer Office services:

- Identification of potential innovations
- Advising on patentability
- Conducting procedures for taking over service inventions
- Advising on strategy of legal protection of intellectual property
- Managing procedures for acquiring a patent or other industrial property right
- Marketing and identification of industrial partners
- Managing negotiations of the conclusion of licence or assignment contracts
- Promoting creation of spin-out companies
- Providing legal assistance in drafting R&D contracts
- Conducting training in the fields of legal protection and commercialization of intellectual property
- Raising awareness about the significance of intellectual property within the University of Ljubljana.

from IDEA to PRODUCT

A brief overview of industrial property rights management at the University of Ljubljana

Univerza v Ljubljani



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Contact

email: ipr@uni-lj.si
telephone: +386 (0)1 241 86 93
Knowledge Transfer Office
University of Ljubljana
Kongresni trg 12
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

More information

https://www.uni-lj.si/raziskoval-no_in_razvojno_delo/intelektu-alna_lastnina/

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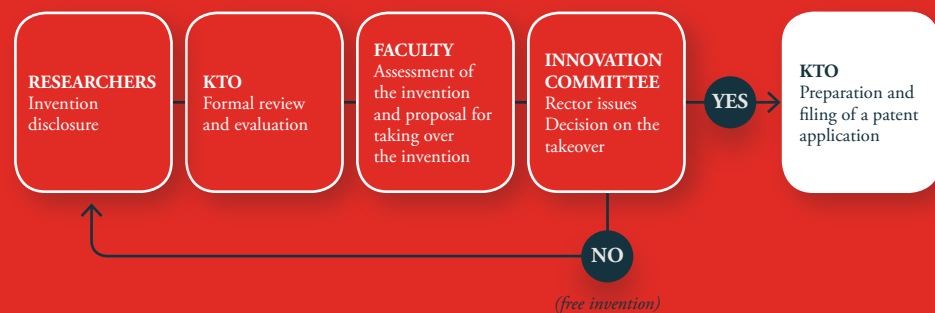
Knowledge
Transfer Office

We add value to your knowledge





THE PROCESS OF TAKING OVER A SERVICE INVENTION



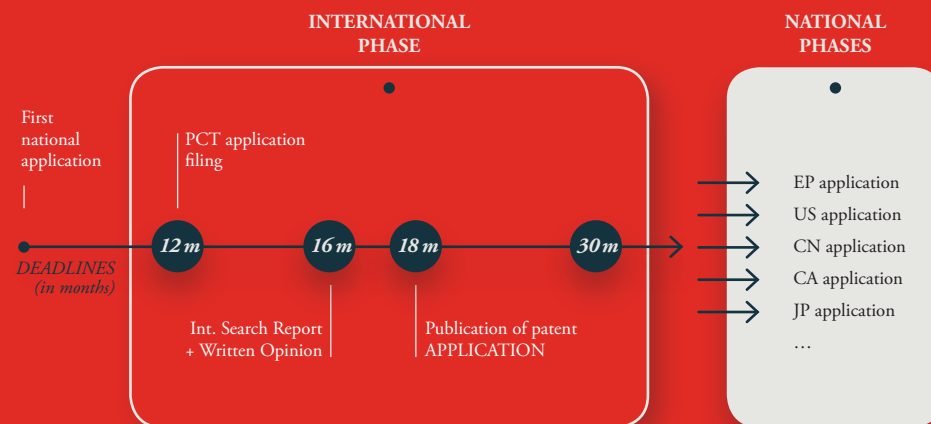
The process of taking over a service invention at the University of Ljubljana.

In accordance with the Regulation on managing industrial property rights at the University of Ljubljana, every invention that was created in cooperation with someone who is employed at the University of Ljubljana or is in a different contractual relationship with the University (visiting teacher, collaborators...) or a student, if it is a result of his work during a study course at the University of Ljubljana or if University of Ljubljana funds were used, must be reported to the KTO using the Invention disclosure form. *In this case the inventor may not protect or market the invention or potential innovation by himself because it is the property of the University of Ljubljana. It is also important that the results are not disclosed to the public or unauthorised persons before they are protected.*

In research projects with several partners, issues concerning industrial property must be settled in a contract regarding the research subject that is to be concluded by collaborating partners (co-contractors) before the beginning of the project. It is recommended that this contract be examined by the KTO. In case of a joint invention, the partners conclude a joint invention contract before the protection is implemented, in which they precisely regulate reciprocal rights and obligations concerning the joint invention.



THE PROCESS OF PROTECTING THE INVENTION



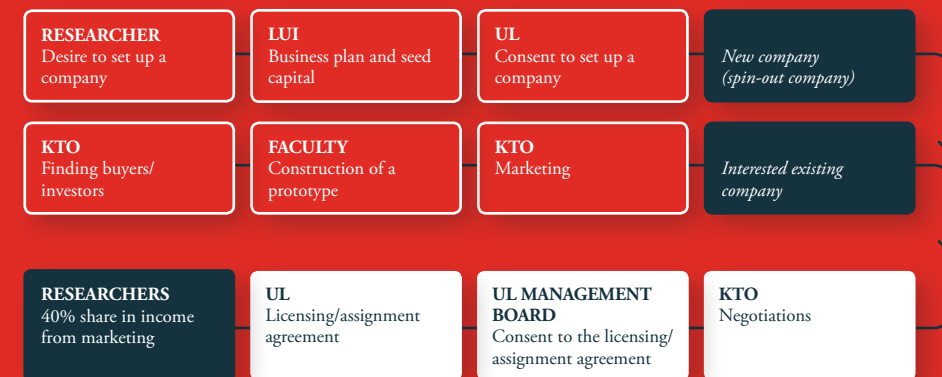
The most common path of protecting inventions at the University of Ljubljana.

Patent applications and maintenance of patents are managed by the KTO. It identifies an appropriate patent attorney who prepares the patent application in collaboration with the inventor and files it to the selected patent office. The patent is only valid in countries in which the patent has been granted. The decision on patent protection in individual countries is made based on the invention's market potential and the available funds, as the protection entails significant costs. Normally, the patent is granted after 3 to 5 years, but the patent right is granted as of the day of filing of the patent application.

Usually the patent application is first filed to the national patent office (Slovenian Intellectual Property Office). Within 12 months a decision on the extension of patent protection must be adopted. In most cases an international PCT application (PCT – Patent Cooperation Treaty) is submitted, and after that a decision on protection in individual countries must be taken within 18 months after the submission of the PCT application. PCT application does not lead to a patent; it is only an international application and an enquiry that makes it easier to assess whether a patent will be granted in individual countries. In the event we are ready and wish to gain an opinion regarding the patentability in the first year, we first submit a PCT, an EPO (EPO – European Patent Office) application or an application to another foreign office where they conduct a substantive examination of the application.



COMMERCIALISATION OF SERVICE INVENTIONS



The marketing process at the University of Ljubljana.

Commercialisation of the invention or know-how is a complex process, in which good collaboration between the inventor and the KTO is of key importance. In the marketing process the KTO primarily helps with the following activities:

- Preparing promotional material and a presentation for investors
- Identifying potential partners/investors
- Protecting confidential data (NDA – Non-disclosure Agreement, MTA – Material Transfer Agreement)
- Promoting the invention to companies and investors
- Coordinating meetings and negotiations with potential partners
- Preparing licensing/assignment agreements
- Monitoring and oversight over the implementation of licensing contracts
- Helping with setting up spin-outs