

Working Groups

ProTon Europe established 7 Working Groups, each one composed of 6 recognised experts, for exchanging good practice, doing benchmarking, extracting the lessons learned and for diffusing this information through various outlets (training workshops, reports, electronic library).

1. TRANSFER OFFICE STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

This group is focusing on identifying the qualitative and quantitative factors which define transfer offices in the context of the overall framework for those engaged in the transfer and exploitation of technology within universities and public research across Europe.

Outputs expected:

- establish technology transfer office functions and task descriptions
- identify a framework of critical resources and process benchmarks
- provide guidance for assessment and implementation of a technology transfer office from the point of view of two principal users: those setting up a new office and those restructuring an existing one

2. PATENTING-INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

This group is targeting the following issues:

- describe the range of different “agreements” which deal with the clarification of IPR ownership, e.g. non disclosure, material transfer, joint ownership, consultancy, research & collaboration agreements,..)
- give a full definition of the Intellectual Property Rights and tools (patents, copyrights, trade marks, confidential information)
- drawn up performance indicators (related to awareness, to IPR activity or to the end-users of IPR)

3. LICENSING PRACTICE IN ACADEMIA

This group is considering how to enhance the commercial uptake of the existing scientific output throughout European regions and to provide for a commercialisation boost by detecting actual needs of current licensing practices and by offering appropriate and effective methods of resolution to the TTO’s in PRO’s. This includes:

- providing a full description of the steps of the licensing process with an analysis of the strengths, the weaknesses and the critical success factors related to the field of licensing
- defining the success factors which may structure an approach to address the detected needs and deficiencies
- designing and making available useful tools and working models for a continuous programme of awareness and training

4. INTERACTION WITH INDUSTRY

This group is in charge of reviewing the different forms of collaboration between academia and industry and aims to focus, as a priority, on the “marketing and sales of knowledge and technology”. In particular, the:

- collection of tools and good practice fact sheets
- elaboration of marketing concepts
- elaboration of training and dissemination materials

5. SPIN-OFFS AND CAMPUS COMPANIES

This working group is surveying the experiences of leading universities and public research organisations in Europe in creating spin off companies. Based on the AUTM survey carried out in the USA, the group will conduct a similar survey in Europe to estimate the number of spin-off companies created in each EU country. This includes:

- a review of critical success factors, organisation and external factors
- statistics on performance indicators (number of spin-offs created, investment raised, employment created, financial impact of income generated (GDP), etc.) with national and international comparisons, including North America and Pacific rim countries
- policy recommendations for facilitating the formation of spin-off companies in Europe

6. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The overall objective is to provide a well-informed contribution to overall policy as it relates to the protection and exploitation of intellectual property through practitioner-based experiences. The group will extrapolate on the data collected by the ProTon Europe Survey and produce recommendations

Outputs expected:

- synthesis reports on annual observatory survey to measure technology transfer and exploitation activity
- evaluation of the effectiveness of EU support measures and providing qualitative data on good practice
- annual workshops of national policy makers contributing to sharpening the identity and image of the TO profession in Europe

7. CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The group is identifying a set of standards particular to the knowledge transfer profession, against which dedicated officers may be measured and formally judged to be awarded the status of knowledge transfer practitioner.

A training framework has also been developed to facilitate the acquisition of essential skills and knowledge.

Outputs expected:

- a framework for analysing continuous professional development needs
- the elaboration of a training programme with training materials designed for knowledge transfer practitioners
- recommendations for setting up an accreditation of the profession

Collaboration between the working groups and within Gate2Growth initiative

The last two groups take a more transversal approach to the profession and aim to make knowledge transfer a recognised profession with the ultimate objective of boosting the commercial uptake of publicly funded R&D throughout Europe. A key feature is the interaction and collaboration between the groups to enable the most productive policies and recommendations to emerge and to design and develop content/training materials, such as toolkits, reports, workshop materials, success stories, data collections.



How to join ProTon Europe ?

Refer to the web-site: www.protoneurope.org and click on Application for Membership, or phone, fax or e-mail the office below

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