



European  
Innovation  
Council



# Intellectual property for deep-tech businesses

Co-organised by the EIC and the EPO  
Supported by European IP Helpdesk

<https://www.epo.org/en/learning/events/bs16-2025>



Intellectual property (IP) plays a crucial role in turning innovative ideas into successful technology companies. This online training provides small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), such as deep tech startups and university spin-offs, with practical knowledge on how to leverage IP for business growth and informed decisions. Participants will learn how to identify and manage IP assets effectively to ensure they support their business objectives as part of an IP strategy.

## Live online sessions

IP strategy day: 11 June 2025, 14.00-17.00 hrs CEST

IP management day: 18 June 2025, 14.00-17.00 hrs CEST

## Objectives

Through expert led sessions and real-world case studies, the training covers key topics such as when to file a patent, how to combine patents with trade secrets and other IP rights, and what strategies can be leveraged for using IP to gain revenue, attract investment or secure partnerships. The training also draws attention to useful tools and resources.

## Training prerequisites

While members of the target audience are beneficiaries of EIC funding, technology transfer offices, business decision-makers, and IP professionals in SMEs, the event is open to a wider audience with a keen interest in how to leverage IP for business growth.

## Speakers

Viorel Peca	Head of Unit, EIC Transition, European Innovation Council (EISMEA)
Raquel Xalabarder	Director, European Patent Academy, EPO
Ilja Rudyk	Senior Economist, Chief Economist Unit, EPO
Christian Soltmann	Patent Analyst, Chief Economist Unit, EPO
Bente Fjeldberg	PATLIB, European Patent Academy, EPO
Thomas Bereuter	Innovation Networks Manager, PATLIB, European Patent Academy, EPO
Johannes Schaaf	Patent Analyst, Chief Economist Unit, EPO
Rainer Kaysan	Head of Department, PATLIB, European Patent Academy, EPO
Adéla Dvořáková	Project Adviser, EIC Transition, European Innovation Council (EISMEA)

Moderator: Stephanie Weber, European IP Helpdesk

## Wednesday, 11 June 2025

IP strategy day: 14.00-17.00 hrs CEST

### 14.00            **Welcome**

*Viorel Peca, EIC*  
*Raquel Xalabarder, EPO*

### 14.10            **Importance of IP for deep tech businesses**

Understanding and communicating the value creation for your business:  
*Ilja Rudyk, EPO*

### 14.20            **Commercialisation opportunities**

The pros and cons of main commercialisation routes:  
*Christian Soltmann, EPO*

### 14.30            **Know your IP**

Which IP rights to combine to protect your business:  
*Bente Fjeldberg, EPO*

### 14.50            **Break**

### 15.00            **IP strategy practice and case studies**

How IP supports your business, illustrated by case studies:  
*Thomas Bereuter, EPO*  
*Adéla Dvořáková, EIC*  
*Ilja Rudyk, EPO*

### 16.50            **Q&A**

### 17.00            **End of first day**

## Wednesday, 18 June 2025

IP management day: 14.00-17.00 hrs CEST

**14.00                    Key takeaways of IP strategy day**

*Stephanie Weber, European IP Helpdesk*

**14.05                    IP management**

The main pillars of IP management and how to improve the IP creation pipeline:

*Thomas Bereuter, EPO*

**14.20                    IP assessment**

How to identify the winning technologies in your portfolio:

*Johannes Schaaf, EPO*

**14.40                    IP protection**

How to protect the obvious and the less obvious (digital inventions):

*Rainer Kaysan, EPO*

**15.20                    Q&A**

**15.35                    Break**

**15.45                    Freedom-to-operate assessment**

How to approach freedom-to-operate and how EPO tools like Espacenet can support you:

*Christian Soltmann, EPO*

**16.30                    Q&A**

**16.45                    Connecting the dots**

How IP strategy triggers IP management initiating a feedback loop:

*Adéla Dvořáková, EIC*

*Thomas Bereuter, EPO*

**17.00                    End of final session**

## Speaker biographies

### **Viorel Peca**

**Head of Unit, EIC Transition, EISMEA**

Brussels, Belgium



Viorel Peca is Head of Unit at EIC Transition (EISMEA). After joining the European Commission in 2008, he has held several leadership positions at the intersection of deep tech innovation, digital transformation and strategic R&D policy. Previously, he worked on the development of advanced communication products at Alcatel in Romania and Belgium. Viorel holds advanced degrees from Politehnica University of Timișoara, KU Leuven, VUB, and the Hertie School of Governance.

### **Raquel Xalabarder**

**Director, European Patent Academy, EPO**

Vienna, Austria



Raquel Xalabarder holds an LLM from Columbia University Law School and a PhD in Law from the University of Barcelona. Before joining the EPO in 2023, Raquel was Dean of the School of Law and Political Science at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. She has taught and written in the fields of copyright and intellectual property, private international law and internet law. Raquel has previously been a tutor at the WIPO Academy.

### **Ilja Rudyk**

**Senior Economist, Chief Economist Unit, EPO**

Munich, Germany



Ilja Rudyk is senior economist at the European Patent Office. He provides expert economic insights into issues relating to innovation and technology commercialisation and has co-authored several studies on the role of patents and technology for the European economy.

## **Christian Soltmann**

**Patent Analyst, Chief Economist Unit, EPO**

Munich, Germany



Christian Soltmann is a member of the Chief Economist Unit at the European Patent Office. He holds a PhD in materials science and a MAS in intellectual property. He joined the EPO in 2013 and is currently involved in patent analytics activities, such as the creation of EPO patent insight reports as well as EPO technology platforms.

## **Bente Fjeldberg**

**Training and Network Administrator, PATLIB,  
European Patent Academy, EPO**

Vienna, Austria



Bente Fjeldberg is a seconded national expert from the Norwegian IP Office, currently working in the PATLIB department of the European Patent Academy at the European Patent Office. She has extensive experience in the field of IPR from both the private and public sectors, and over the last 15 years has been involved in the organisation and development of IPR training for SMEs.

## **Thomas Bereuter**

**Innovation Networks Manager, PATLIB,  
European Patent Academy, EPO**

Munich, Germany



Thomas Bereuter is a certified licensing professional (CLP) with over 25 years of experience in the international commercialisation of early-stage technologies. He has founded and supported several high-tech startups and university spin-offs and was one of the driving forces behind the business incubation and technology transfer wave in Austria in the early 2000s.

## **Adéla Dvořáková**

### **Project Adviser, EIC Transition, EISMEA**

Brussels, Belgium



Adéla Dvořáková is a tech-to-market adviser at EIC Transition, working closely with researchers and innovators to help turn scientific breakthroughs into market-ready products and businesses. Before joining EISMEA, she held various roles at the Research Executive Agency (REA), EUIPO and the EPO, gaining strong expertise in intellectual property and EU-funded R&D projects.

## **Stephanie Weber**

### **Communications Manager, European Intellectual Property (IP) Helpdesk**

St. Ingbert, Germany

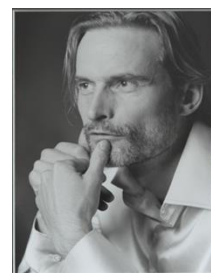


Heading the communications team at the European Research and Project Office GmbH (EURICE), Stephanie Weber is a communication all-rounder with more than 15 years of experience in the strategic planning and implementation of communication measures for multiple international R&I projects. She has also been engaged in a number of European intellectual property (IP) support initiatives, which include managing the European IP Helpdesk's outreach activities since 2011. Stephanie collaborates with the EPO, EIC, European Commission and other stakeholders from Europe's research, IP and innovation landscape across various media formats, workshops and events on a regular basis.

## **Johannes Schaaf**

### **Patent Analyst, Chief Economist Unit, EPO**

Vienna, Austria



Johannes Schaaf holds an MBA and a master's degree in physics. He worked as an engineer and innovation consultant in the corporate technology unit at Siemens and led the community of practice innovation management. He was an examiner in the area of laser technology at the German Patent and Trademark Office. In 2005, he joined the European Patent Office in Vienna and worked on the new Espacenet and patent analytics, PATSTAT, IPscore and technology insight reports in the Chief Economist Unit.

**Rainer Kaysan**

**Head of the PATLIB Department, European Patent Academy, EPO**

The Hague, Netherlands



Rainer Kaysan holds master's degrees in aerospace engineering and business economics. He joined the EPO in 2006 as a patent examiner, carrying out prior art searches and chairing opposition proceedings in that role. The PATLIB department promotes technology commercialisation, the network of innovation support centres (PATLIBs), the high-growth technology business initiative and future knowledge transfer initiatives.