



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/bs16-2026>



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: 25 June 2026, 14.00-17.00 hrs CEST

IP management day: 26 June 2026, 09.00-12.00 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

Thursday, 25 June 2026

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**

Friday, 26 June 2026

IP management day: 09.00-12.00 hrs CEST

09.00 **Key takeaways of IP strategy day**

Stephanie Weber, European IP Helpdesk

09.05 **IP management**

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

Thomas Bereuter, EPO

09.20 **IP assessment**

How to identify the winning technologies in your portfolio:

Johannes Schaaf, EPO

09.40 **IP protection**

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

Rainer Kaysan, EPO

10.20 **Q&A**

10.35 **Break**

10.45 **Freedom-to-operate assessment**

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

Christian Soltmann, EPO

11.30 **Q&A**

11.45 **Connecting the dots**

How IP strategy triggers IP management initiating a feedback loop:

Adéla Dvořáková, EIC

Thomas Bereuter, EPO

12.00 **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

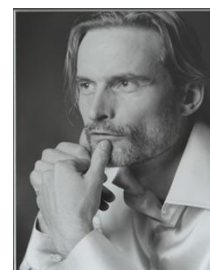


Heading the communications team at the European Research and Project Office GmbH (EURICE), Stephanie Weber is a communication all-rounder with more than 15 years of experience in the strategic planning and implementation of communication measures for multiple international R&I projects. She has also 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

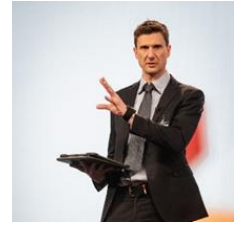


Johannes Schaaf holds an MBA and a master's degree in physics. He worked as an engineer and innovation consultant in the corporate technology unit at Siemens and led the community of practice innovation management. He was an examiner in the area of laser technology at the German Patent and Trademark 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.