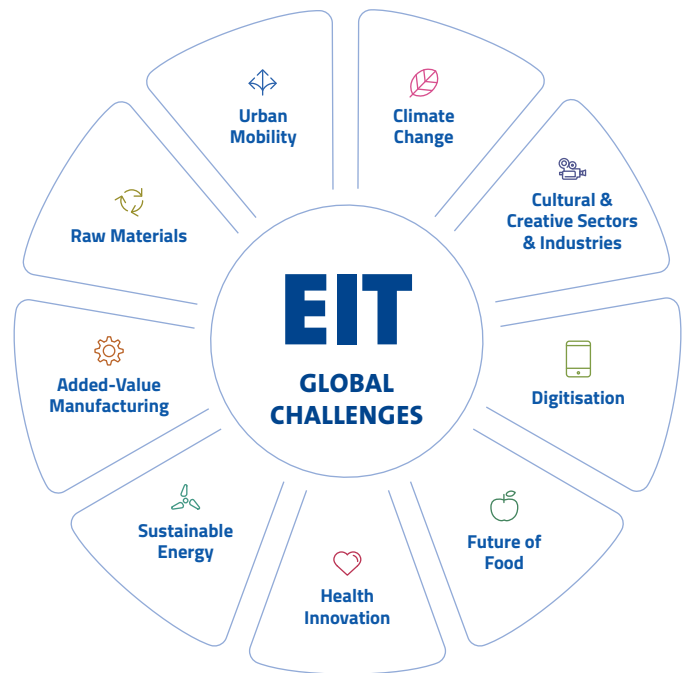


# EPO-EIT joint activities 2024

A story of convergence



The EPO structured around eight expert technology communities, and the EIT, with its nine Knowledge Innovation Communities (KICs), partner to support technological innovation that addresses societal challenges and fosters Europe's competitiveness.

The European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) established a framework for strengthening their existing collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2022. Within this framework, the EPO and the EIT develop and implement specific activities and projects to support innovators and entrepreneurs across Europe in turning their ideas into products and services; promote a modern intellectual property (IP) culture in Europe; and better protect European businesses’ interests.

# EPO-EIT collaboration 2024



Education & training (32)	Business support (7)	Technology trends (14)	Awareness raising (36)
3 trainings and IP lunchtime sessions	2 meetings PATLIBs / RIS teams	1 EIT Innovation Capacity / EPO Observatory meeting	11 events and initiatives promoted
21 webinars and lectures: HTB, lab to market, patent protection and tech series	2 meetings with EIT Manufacturing on IP support	2 presentations of EPO Observatory and DTF	
4 self-paced-courses and multi-diffusion of EPO training catalogue	1 readiness assessment in view of piloting a local RIS hub / PATLIB collaboration	9 DTF, DTTI radar demos, + economic studies & patent insight reports shared	
2 meetings with EIT Digital on IP trainings		1 EIT HEI representative speaking at EPO event on universities.	25 webinars, workshop, courses and awareness material
2 MIPEF achievements: 52 EIT Manufacturing students involved and 1st exchange with HEI initiative	2 invitations to PATLIB conference and 10 years of EIT RIS.	1 participation to EIT Manufacturing conference	
Management & Co-ordination: 9 meetings			



## Education and training

Among the main highlights of this year, was a two-day joint IP training, co-organised with the EUIPO and the EU IP Helpdesk. Aiming to raise awareness of the importance of IP in businesses, the training covered topics such as patent basics, the Unitary Patent, IP strategy and IP valorisation. It was conceived to encourage interaction and provide practical tips, which was highly appreciated by the 86 participants joining from all KICs.

The EIT invited the EPO to take part in one of its IP lunchtime sessions, serving as an opportunity to meet with around 30 EIT staff and introduce them to patents, the EPO and its recent initiatives.

The EPO MIPEF programme continued to welcome students from the EIT KICs. Additionally, the teams responsible for the MIPEF programme and the EIT HEI initiative held a first exchange to explore potential collaborations.

These activities were complemented by regular invitations to EPO online seminars, which were addressed to EIT beneficiaries.



## Business support activities

In 2024, co-ordinators of the EIT Community Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) hubs and the EPO's patent information centres (PATLIB) have been exploring potential mature countries to be targeted in view of piloting a local collaboration between the RIS hubs and the PATLIBs.

RIS hub members were invited to the PATLIB conference and PATLIB experts to the 10 years of EIT RIS conference The next decade of innovations for the future of Europe.



## Technology trends and economic studies

Following the creation of the EPO Observatory on Patents and Technology, the year started with the first bilateral meeting with the EIT Innovation Capacity section. The EPO took part in the EIT Innovation and Business Creation panels to present the EPO Observatory and the Deep Tech Finder (DTF), for which the KICs directors expressed much interest.

The EPO Observatory invited a representative of the EIT HEI initiative to speak at its event Patents and innovation in universities and received an invitation to attend the EIT European Manufacturing conference.

Demonstrations of the EPO DTF and EIT Deep Tech Talent radar were made, and nine EPO economic studies and patent insight reports (e.g., Space, Water) were shared with the EIT and its KICs over the course of 2024.



## Awareness raising and promotion

The EIT and EPO have shared content throughout the year with audiences composed of researchers, universities, innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups, KICs managers, etc. 36 initiatives, among which the new fee reductions for micro-entities scheme, were promoted this year.

These also included events such as the European Inventor Award as well as educational activities like webinars and workshops.