

Promoting Good Practice in Knowledge Transfer in Europe

Bill Lindsay

UNECE, Geneva

July 2007

Introduction

- Promoting Innovation and Economic Growth through KT
- Introduction to **Proton Europe**
- Aims and Achievements of the Association

Fostering innovation

- **In the USA, 70% of all patents are based on inventions made by public research organizations**
- **Patent applications filed by universities represent less than 3% of the total**
- **Of the 36 most successful European patents filed between 1990 and 2000, 50% came from public research institutions**

Most Common Problems

- **Poor management of IP by PRO**
- **Diverging interests and culture**
- **Ownership of results, exclusivity**
- **Project management and performance of PROs**
- **Compensation of indirect PRO costs**
- **“Fair” share of returns in case of success**
- **Lack of professionalism on both sides**

The vision for ProTon Europe

- **Aims:**
 - **To establish a European professional association of KTOs**
 - **To contribute to high standards of conduct for KTOs**
 - **To represent the members at European level & influence knowledge transfer & innovation policies**

Membership

- **Organisational membership**
 - 250 full members at present
- **Associate membership**
 - 38 associate members at present
- **Europe wide**
 - Full EU representation in membership
- **National associations**
 - UK, Spain, France, Poland, Germany, Italy

The Goals of ProTon Europe

- **To boost knowledge transfer through:**
 - Professional Development
 - Dissemination of Good Practices & Tools
 - Staff Exchanges
 - Networking
- **Represent the members at European level by influencing knowledge transfer & innovation policies**

Professional Development

- **Training Schools “Making a success of Knowledge Transfer”**
- **Eight Training Schools reaching more than 100 KTO personnel**
- **Access for KTO staff to ProTon network**

Dissemination of Good Practices & Tools

- **Sharing of Tools and expertise from ProTon Membership**
- **More than 60 “Good Practice” Tools and examples available through the ProTon website Good Practice Catalogue**
- **Annual KT business plan competition**

Staff Exchanges

- **Exchange of staff to learn first-hand about knowledge transfer**
- **More than 80 staff have utilised the programme**
- **Reports and comments used to inform good practice**

Networking

- **Annual conference**
- **Networking through ProTon Website**

Representation

- **Influencing IP policy to promote policies supportive of knowledge transfer**
- **Running Expert Workshops to inform policy**
- **Influencing national policies through national associations**

Responsible partnering initiative

- Voluntary code of conduct for companies and PROs to align their interests and foster more effective collaborative research
- Should facilitate partnering amongst adherents and identification of good partners

A “handbook” has been approved by the members of ProTon Europe, EIRMA, EUA and EARTO and is now available

“Wish List”

- **Importance of Uniformity**
 - **EPLA, London Agreement**
- **KT/IP Charter**
 - **Voluntary codes – Lambert,**
 - ***Responsible partnering* “common code of conduct”.**
- **“KT-Friendly” IP provisions**
 - **Grace Period**
 - **Research exemption**

-
- **Thanks!**