

	<h2>Intellectual Property Panel at University Hasselt</h2>
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Vision and Aims	<p>Every academic researcher in Flanders/Belgium is obliged to report his/her research results to their Tech Transfer Office (TTO) before any form of publication. If the TTO is of the opinion that the research result qualifies for valorisation, this research result will be further described in an Invention Disclosure Form (IDF).</p> <p>In mutual consultation with the researcher, the TTO determines the further valorisation track for the research result: either a form of exploitation or another form of valorisation. The protection of a research result is often crucial in this valorisation track, yet the protection procedure is expensive and should be monitored closely. Consequently, regarding the protection of exploitable research results, an Intellectual Property panel is set up for each case.</p>
Target Audience	<p>Academia/researchers, academic business developers, tech transfer officers, university management</p>
Key Features	<p>The IP panel decides by consensus on the protection of the research result to acquire a strong negotiating position in the subsequent valorisation process. This takes into account both the legal options for the protection of the research result and the relevant market opportunities (valorisation track). The aim is to generate income within a maximum period of two years. The main form of protection is through a patent application, for which well-founded advice from an external expert is obtained. A standard template (Roadmap IP panel) is in place to monitor the integral process.</p> <p>The IP panel consists of permanent and variable members involved in the relevant Research Result:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The permanent members are: (i) the director of the TTO, and (ii) the Vice Rector for Valorisation if the protection procedure concerns a patent application. 2) The variable members are: (i) the researcher(s) involved, (ii) the domain-specific business developer and/or the relevant TTO staff member, and (iii) the director or the respective institute or dean if the protection procedure concerns a patent application. <p>If the protection procedure concerns a patent application, the IP panel follows</p>

	<p>the following procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The TTO calls on an external expert in the subject matter who provides objective and substantiated advice on the patent application and the valorisation track, which the IP panel always takes into consideration 2. The IP panel decides on the filing of the patent application and financing from the Patent Fund. 3. If the IP panel decides to start the patent application, the necessary budget will be reserved. Taking into account the progress of a patent application, a patent plan is drawn up and a patent attorney is engaged. The TTO is responsible for the effective submission of the patent application. 4. In the absence of a consensus within the IP panel on whether or not to initiate the patent application, there is an escalation procedure in place appointing the right to initiate the patent application to the research group or the researcher. The TTO is responsible for formalizing the agreements that the university on the one hand and the research group or researcher on the other hand make about this research outcome. Where appropriate, these regulations will be supplemented and/or amended with the agreements made for this purpose. 5. In accordance with the patent plan, the researchers involved, the business developer and the TTO will further monitor and execute the patent application and the valorisation track. 6. The IP panel decides throughout the further course of the patent application on whether to continue or terminate the process based on legal (patent application) and market information (valorisation track). 7. In the absence of a consensus within the IP panel on whether or not to continue or terminate a patent application that has already been submitted, the escalation procedure from point 4 also applies. The expert will be involved in this insofar as this is deemed necessary. <p>If the protection procedure does not concern a patent application, but for example - but is not limited to - a registration of a trademark, an i-Depot or a breeder's right, the TTO takes the lead regarding the operation and functioning of the IP panel.</p> <p>This practice has been put in place to monitor and accelerate a cost-efficient valorisation of intellectual property of the university.</p>
<p>Achievements & Learnings</p>	<p>This practice has led to an efficient follow up of the UHasselt IP portfolio and the respective UHasselt patent budget. The parallel legal track and market track give the IP panel the right information in time to maintain or abandon at any phase of a patent application before a next deadline with corresponding patent costs. In the past 5 years, this has led to strong maintained patents with direct interest and/or cooperation of an industrial partner, or to timely abandoned patent applications, which has saved the university a considerable patent budget.</p>
<p>Launch Date</p>	<p>2018</p>

Partners/Sponsors	Patent Fund UHasselt Patent Fund IOF (Industrial Research Fund)
Further Information	https://www.uhasselt.be/nl/info-voor/bedrijven-en-organisaties/tech-transfer-office https://www.uhasselt.be/nl/info-voor/bedrijven-en-organisaties/technology-offers
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