

” Intellectual Property: How to Create and Enrich it?

We invite you to the Science and Technology Forum Rudolfovo 2025 entitled “Intellectual Property: How to Create and Enrich it?”, which will take place on Tuesday, 25th March 2025, at 9:00 am in the Makerspace Hall, at the headquarters of Rudolfovo, in the building of the Podbreznik Business Incubator, Podbreznik 15, 8000 Novo mesto.


Intellectual property is a key factor in fostering innovation, competitiveness, and economic development. This Forum will explore how researchers, companies, and public institutions can create, protect, and enhance intellectual property, and use it strategically to achieve sustainable growth. The Forum will offer valuable insights into how companies and individuals can achieve competitive advantages through patent and trademark registration and successfully bring their innovations to market.

The focus will be on:

- the importance of Intellectual property as a catalyst for the development of society as a whole,
- establishing and strengthening a strategic dialogue on Intellectual property,
- raising awareness of the importance of Intellectual property rights and a balanced system of Intellectual property protection,
- the role of Intellectual property as an indispensable part of the intangible assets of companies, increasing the value of investments and enhancing competitiveness,
- promoting innovation, creativity, and economic growth.

Intellectual property should not remain an abstract concept for experts but become a driver for development, job creation, attracting foreign investment, and growth of the Slovenian economy.

Don't miss the opportunity for an in-depth discussion and to find solutions to the key challenges of the future.



Prof. Dr. Janez Povh
Director of Rudolfovo

Please confirm your attendance at the conference by registering here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/Ri1JF6PWe8>, as the number of places in the hall is limited.

Venue: Rudolfovo – Science and Technology Centre Novo mesto, Podbreznik 15, 8000 Novo mesto

8.30 ARRIVAL AND GATHERING OF GUESTS

9.00 OPENING WELCOME

Prof. Dr. Janez Povh, Director of JRZ Rudolfovo

Dr. Tomaž Boh, Director of the Directorate for Science and Innovation, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

Tjaša Dobnik, Acting Director, Public Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia

MsC. Marjana Majerič, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Strategic Development and Internationalisation

9.20 INVITED LECTURES

Keynote speakers will talk about the protection of advanced and emerging technologies and a recent study on the role of European universities in innovation and patenting.

Prof. Dr. Yann Meniere, Chief Economist, European Patent Office

THE ROLE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES IN PATENTING AND INNOVATION

The EPO's Chief Economist will present a recent study on European patent applications which provides the first-ever comprehensive overview of the role European universities play in patenting and innovation on the European scale. The study shows the impact of European universities on the European patent system has been steadily increasing over the past two decades. However, the patent footprint of universities depends heavily on local industry ecosystems.

Dr. Nigel S. Clarke, Partner, Stanfield Clarke Associates, Visiting Researcher at the University of Cambridge

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: BEYOND AI

Intellectual property (IP) plays a crucial role in shaping the development and commercialisation of emerging technologies. Emerging technologies are those whose development, or practical applications are still largely unrealised. They are emerging from a background of nonexistence or obscurity. Emerging technologies are often perceived as capable of changing the status quo. While artificial intelligence (AI) often dominates discussions, other transformative fields—such as quantum technology, personalised medicine, and advanced materials—also raise important IP challenges and opportunities. This keynote will discuss the identification of emerging technologies, and present some observations on exemplary patent landscapes.

10.10 SESSION 1: INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY IN SLOVENIA - CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

10.15 M.Sc. Karin Žvokelj, Director of the Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Slovenia

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE RESEARCH SECTOR. WHAT ROLE DOES THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE PLAY?

Intellectual property is a driver of innovation and has become increasingly important and valuable over the years. The National Intellectual Property Strategy 2030 gives the research sector a special place with concrete actions. The Intellectual Property Office already provides several services and activities to support researchers in protecting innovation. Find out about the benefits of the international agreements concluded by the Office and the financial incentives available, and learn about the possibility of filing patent applications with minimal components.

10.30 Borut Lekše, KRKA, d.d., Deputy General Director for Legal Affairs and Head of Legal Department

INVENTION - IS IT ENOUGH TO CREATE AN INVENTION?

Intellectual property alone does not guarantee success in the marketplace. Patents in particular are primarily a cost to the holder in the beginning before they start generating revenue, and enforcing and defending granted patents is even more costly. For academic institutions, a key challenge is how to bring worthwhile inventions to market, mainly due to limited financial and human resources, as well as limited experience in commercialising their inventions.

10.45 Assist. Prof. Dr. Ana Hafner, Rudolfovo, Head of the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Office

SLOVENIA LEADS IN NUMBER OF PHDs - WHEN WILL IT ALSO IN THE NUMBER OF PATENTS? FIRST RESULTS OF THE "CRP IP SUPPORT" PROJECT

We present the first results of the project "Analysis of the support environment for effective management and exploitation of intellectual property in Slovenia". Slovenia is characterised by highly educated population, yet its innovation activity, as measured by the number of patents and other forms of industrial property, lags behind the leading economies. Important steps have already been taken to improve the situation and further steps will be proposed in the framework of the "CRP IP Support" project.

11.00 ROUND TABLE "COLLABORATION FOR INNOVATION: INTERTWINING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BETWEEN PUBLIC RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESS"

Participants: **Assist. Prof. Dr. Ana Hafner** (Rudolfovo), **Borut Lekše** (KRKA, d. d.), **Marjana Majerič** (GZS) and **Dr. Levin Pal** (ARIS).

11.30 COFFEE BREAK

12.00 SESSION 2: SPIN OUT/OFF COMPANIES - EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

12.05 M.Sc. Robert Blatnik, "Jožef Stefan" Institute, Head of the Project JR KT03

HOW TO SUPPORT SPIN-OFFS MORE EFFECTIVELY?

Spin-offs/outs play an important role in the European innovation system and are becoming an increasingly important indicator of the innovation performance of public research organisations in Slovenia. Do we have clear, transparent and effective rules, procedures and support mechanisms for spin-offs/outs? How are spin-offs/outs supported in the Slovenian context, what are the challenges faced and how are they addressed?

12.20 M.Sc. Roswita Golčer Hrastnik, Director, BioSistemika d.o.o.

BIOSISTEMIKA AS A GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE OF A SPIN-OFF COMPANY: CHALLENGES AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

BioSistemika is a spin-off company of the National Institute of Biology, which has been successfully operating and growing in a dynamic entrepreneurial environment since 2010. The presentation will highlight key challenges and success factors such as scalability, financial incentives and knowledge transfer from research institutes to the business world. The company's CEO, M.Sc. Roswita Golčer Hrastnik will explain how the combination of innovation, entrepreneurial vision and the right environment enables long-term growth and competitiveness in the market.

12.35 Dr. Tomaž Jurejevčič, Head of Development at Elaphe d.o.o.

THE INNOVATION PROCESS IN A SMALL ENTERPRISE IN DISRUPTIVE MARKET CONDITIONS

In Slovenia, we are relatively far behind the leading technically oriented nations in the field of intellectual property, so it is important to focus on this topic already in the education system, while at the same time thinking ambitiously about the fact that our engineering and research achievements can be of great importance beyond the companies we work for. At Elaphe, a world leader in electric direct drive systems for vehicles, the culture of innovation is implanted in the very genesis of the company. Good ideas and inventions are translated in a controlled way into patents, which, by their very nature, represent additional, new intangible property of the company.

12.50 ROUND TABLE »INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR SPIN-OFFS/OUTS?«

Participants: **Nina Dremelj** (Vesna Venture Capital Fund), **M.Sc. Roswita Golčer Hrastnik** (BioSistemika d.o.o.), **Tomaž Kordiš** (GZDBK) and **Dr. Nana Šumrada Slavnić** (Rudolfovo)

13.20 CLOSING OF THE EVENT AND INVITATION TO NETWORK OVER A BANQUET

The event is funded under the Public Call to support the activities of Knowledge Transfer Offices (JR KTO).