

# Building Innovation Support Networks & Monitoring and Evaluating TISCs Services

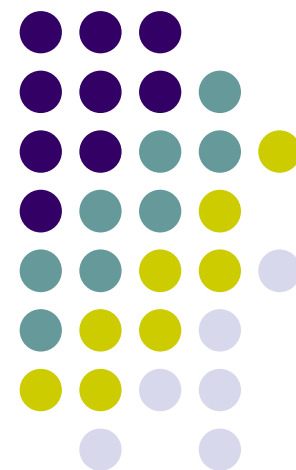
INTER-REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

**“Access to Patent Information and Its Strategic Use for Promotion of Innovation”**

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# Building Innovation Support Infrastructure in Lithuania



- 1996 - Lithuanian Innovation Centre was founded, subsequently - five representative offices in main cities
- Science and technology parks
- Business incubators
- Business associations
- University technology transfer centres
- Development and expanding the infrastructure of 9 science and technology parks and 5 science valleys
- Within the next 4-5 years the valleys will put in place infrastructure fully equipped for research and technological development



# Innovation Strategy

- Innovation Strategy for the year 2010-2020 and Plan of implementation means for the year 2010-2014 approved in 2010
- Objective point - up to 2020 summary innovation index should reach the European average
- Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology in 2010 to implement and coordinate innovation strategy
- Since 2009, notably increased support for patenting inventions abroad (covering 95 per cent of eligible costs) and channeled it not only for compensation of expenses incurred but also as prepayments and for payments of invoices

# Patent Information Centre (PIC) of the Lithuanian Technical Library (Library) in the role of TISC



- To date in Lithuania there is no one TISC established
- PIC is a part of the Library which has 3 branches in other cities. The PIC and these branches are members of the European PATLIB network
- The Library works under supervision of the Lithuanian Patent Office
- PIC offer services which are similar to basic services available from TISC:
- Traditional library based services in reading room
- Assisting in searching and retrieving patent information in online and CD/DVD-ROM databases

# Patent Information Centre (PIC) of the Library in the role of TISC (continuation)



- Helpdesk
- Document and copies delivery
- Basic paid search services for: patents (subject-matter, legal status monitoring, patent family, etc.), trademarks and designs, monitoring of trademarks
- Patent Clinic free services
- Some paid advisory services such as commercialization of patents
- Raising public awareness and understanding how patent system works by issuing (every three months) information publication “Industrial Property protection”

# Participation of the Library in innovation support project “Industrial property (IP) pre-diagnosis”



- Since 2010 the Library together with the Lithuanian Patent Office participates within the framework of the EPO cooperation policy with national patent offices in the member states in the “IP pre-diagnosis” pilot project
- Pre-diagnosis is a free service for SMEs (size 1-250 employees) who are innovating but not protecting their innovations owing to a lack of information or poor strategy
- Target SMEs must have no prior patent filings and no patents in the last 5 years

## Participation of the Library in innovation support project “IP pre-diagnosis” (continuation)



- Pre-diagnosis consists of 4 stages: preparation for visit of a company; the visit of the company; drafting a report; presentation of the report within the company
- The pre-diagnosis evaluates what IP and other means of acquiring rights to innovations, such as secrets, licenses, contracts and managing information flow can bring to the company in realizing its objectives while taking overall context of its activities
- The pre-diagnosis report must enable avenues of action to be outlined, but it must never be: drafting and filing a patent application, making a patent search and so on.

# EPO's re-orientation program for Patent Information Centres (PATLIB Centres)



- This program aims at enabling existing PATLIB centres to offer the public a wider range of innovation support services to support their business activities
- Under the proposal, the services provided by PATLIBs will be extended to cover:
  - Assistance in the early phases of technology development, when decisions on investments are being taken
  - Commercialization advise
  - Monitoring of technologies and competitors, and
  - Filtering of potential patent applications.



# Implementation plan for the EPO's re-orientation program



- A concept of the plan will be tested in a pilot project (initially for 3 years)
- Minimum requirements to participate in the project:
  - staff complement - at least 3 (preferably five) with a university-level qualification in science, engineering, economics or law, or with equivalent professional experience
  - adequate space and technical equipment
  - willingness of the financial body to guarantee the funding both during and after the pilot project.
- Should the pilot project be completed successfully, it will be proposed to the European Commission that the program be implemented on a larger scale.

# The Library's stand to extend innovation support services



- Current status: lack of staff with appropriate qualifications prevented participation in the re-orientation pilot project
- Possible ways to expand range of innovation support services:
  - To tackle a staff complement problem
  - Capacity building of the staff by training (distance learning, WIPO Academy and European Patent Academy, workshops, etc.)
  - Establish an innovation support division in the structure of the PIC
- **Conclusion:** Appropriate solutions have to be found by the parties concerned (the Library and Patent Office)

# Thank you!



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