

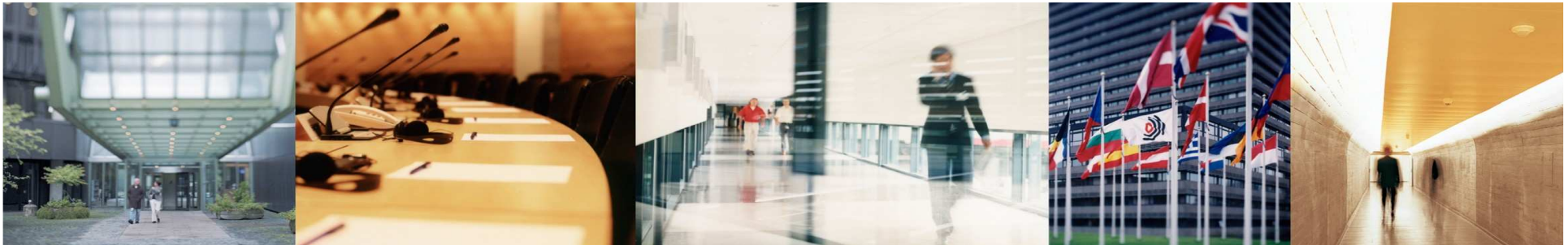


Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
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des brevets

The role of National Patent Offices in technology transfer

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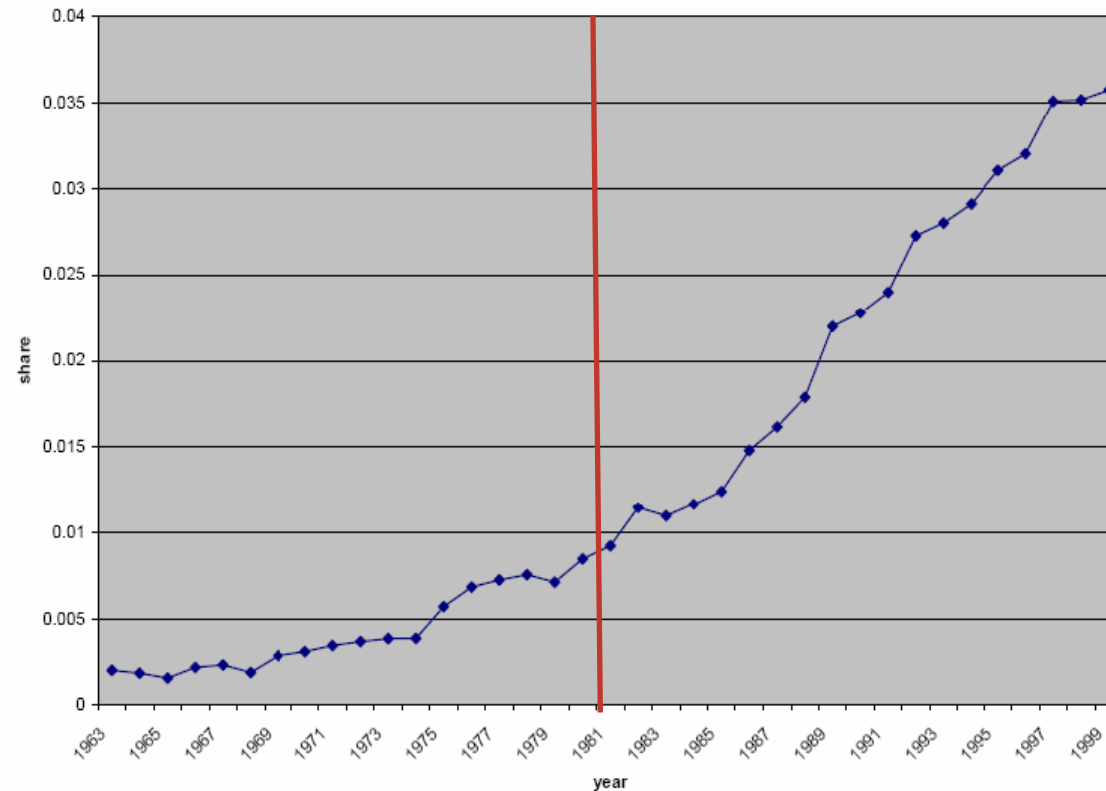
Kraków, 7 September 2007



A word about the legal context: the US example

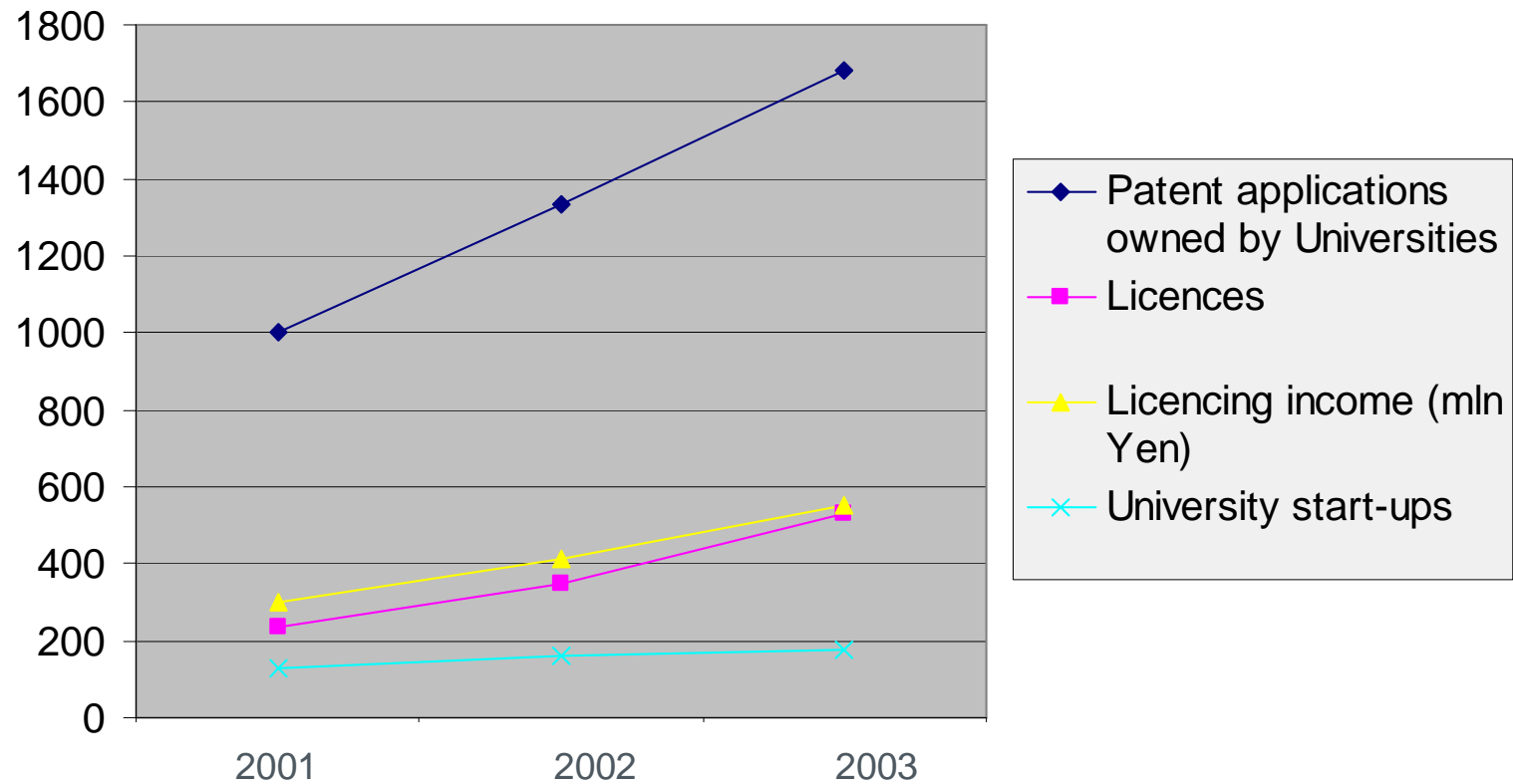
The Bayh-Dole Act in the United States:

US research university patenting before & after passage of Bayh-Dole Act in 1981



Percentage of US Patents Granted to Research Universities

A word about the legal context: the JP example



Effects of Japanese Bayh-Dole Act passed in 1999

Source: NISTEP (National Institute of Science and Technology Policy of Japan)

Summary and references to yesterday's presentation

- European situation:
 - low overall patenting compared to R&D investment;
 - even lower patenting in universities despite high public R&D investment;
 - weak link between universities/enterprises
- IP rights as a way to foster the technology transfer from universities to industry (EU Council and Commission)
- EPO and National Patent Offices to make available their IP expertise through a pilot project in selected universities

Pilot Project on Technology Transfer

A Technology Transfer Office (TTO) established in each of the participating Universities will strive to:

- raise awareness about the patent system in public research institutions
- promote the institution of IP curricula
- encourage the exploitation of IPRs in the transfer of technology from universities to industry
- develop IP management capacity in publicly funded research organisations
- promotion of commercialisation of research results
- use academic research results as information source for enterprises

The pilot project will last 5 years



Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Participating Universities

- Poland: Technical University of Lodz
- Hungary: Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- Italy: University of Turin
- Slovenia: University of Ljubljana
- Turkey: Gazi University
- Portugal: to be selected



Pilot Project on Technology Transfer

Underlying concept:

making the expertise of National Patent Offices available for fostering the technology transfer from university to industry

Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Scope

The pilot project complements but does not compete with national or supranational initiatives, authorities or service providers.

In particular the project does not:

- fund start-ups
- prepare and file patent applications



Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Expertise available in National Patent Offices

- Patenting process:
 - patentability criteria (novelty, inventive step, etc.)
 - formalities constraints (time limits, etc.)
 - overview of technical field
- Searching in worldwide patent databases:
 - prior art information to:
 - provide technical information during the research phase
 - avoid infringement
 - support applications for new research funds (e.g. for EC funded research projects)
 - bibliographic data for the identification of possible business partners (funding & licensing) or competitors

Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Services offered

- Assist faculty and researchers in identifying research results which have commercial value
- Support inventors in the disclosure process (file before publishing)
- Provide a user-friendly publication channel via a standard non-patent-literature (NPL) template
- Evaluate commercial potential of disclosed innovations
- Inform on IPR possibilities/routes
- Support in identifying patent attorneys
- Advice in selecting potential industrial partners
- Facilitate contact with industry (discussion luncheons, open days, etc.)



Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Implementation steps

Set-up phase (estimated time 6 months)

- checking available resources (location, equipment, etc.)
- setting up a business plan
- common training of TTO staff to complement skills
- establishing internal and external contacts

Testing phase (estimated time 18 months)

- first search and advice services
- building network among the relevant TTOs
- internal and external advertising
- first patent applications

Consolidation phase (self-support after 5 years)

- full range of services based on the experience from the testing phase

Pilot Project on Technology Transfer: Expected results (=> evaluation criteria)

- increased use of the patenting process (number of patent applications filed by the participating universities)
- increased awareness of researchers on technical information available in patent databases (number of searches)
- increased use of IP rights in commercialisation of research results (license contracts)
- improved access to research results for patent examiners (entries into NPL databases)

Outlook

- Beginning of the Pilot: End 2007/Beginning 2008
- Estimated finish time: 2013
- Next Step: Common Proposal
 - Based on the experience with the pilot project, a common proposal for patent related knowledge transfer activities will be presented to the European Commission



Thank you very much for your attention

