How to patent within Trento University: regulations and evaluation
Lino Giusti, April, 18 2017
Taking you and your research out of the building
Research support and knowledge transfer division

• Help in research funding: horizon 2020, national and local calls

• Help in research valorization: start up creation, intellectual property management, communication and IP/entrepreneurial culture
Research community @unitn: who we serve

- Bachelor/master students
- Phd students
- Postdocs
- Professors
- Technicians
- Grantees
Research results come from:

• Funded research
• Theses
• Research contracts with enterprises
• Non funded research
Innovation pipeline

Project proposal
(foreseen impact must be stated)

Project execution
(Deliverables produced by workpackage)

Project results

Society
Research results

• Raw data: numbers coming from experiments
• Database: organized numbers
• Know how: broad knowledge on a topic
• Method: specific knowledge
• Invention: technical solution to technical problem
• Software: program that run a computer to perform functions
IP legal tools

- Industrial secret
- Copyright
- Patenting
- Enterprise/start up creation
- Contracts
- Design
- Trademark
Why acquire Intellectual property rights?

- Business opportunities: rights can be licensed, rights can be sold, improved negotiation position
- Financing: attract investors, valuable safety
- Hinder competitors
- Value adding: higher sales price on a product
Patenting

- Technical solution to a technical problem
- Application needed
- Three criteria: **novelty**, **inventive step**, **industriability**
- Every contributor must be listed as inventor in a patent application
- National right
- 20 years
Novelty means

- No publishing before the application is filed
- No lectures/presentations about the invention before the application is filed
Technology readiness level and patenting

- Patent applications should be filed while a technology has a low TRL
- Patent applications filed too early may not be patentable
- Experimental data may be needed to prepare a patent application
Invention examples

• A **product** (a door lock)

• A **composition** (chemical composition used in lubricants for door locks)

• An **apparatus** (a machine for making door locks)

• A **process** (a method for making door locks)

• A **use** of a method, product, process

• An **improvement** of any of these
What is not patentable

- A discovery, scientific theory, or mathematical method
- An aesthetic creation
- A scheme, rule or method for performing mental acts, for playing games or for doing business, or a program for computers
- A presentation of information
What is not worth patenting

• Technologies with a short life span
• Technologies subject to work around
• Technologies that can be used confidentially
Patenting @unitn

• University regulations
• Unitn pays the expenses
• 70% royalties go to inventors (case by case analysis)
• Exploitation plan
• National filing as starting point to check robustness
Procedure

• Invention disclosure

• Prior art search

• Invention Evaluation

• Exploitation plan

• Italian patent filing

• Search report

• Pct extension

One year
Invention disclosure

• Inventors

• Technical description

• General purpose

• Advantages and improvements over existing methods, devices or materials

• Commercial potential

• Publication plan
Unitn patent portfolio

- Biology and medicine: 50%
- Bioinformatics: 7%
- Wireless sensor networks: 7%
- Protonics and data transmission: 50%
- New materials: 7%
- Greentech: 7%
- Linguistics: 7%

46 patent applications with Unitn professors as inventors between 2011 and 2014
"Il n'y a pas d'innovation sans désobéissance"
De Michel Millot

Thank you

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