

# Regional Cooperation on Green IP Matters



Regional and international cooperation among IP Offices can contribute to addressing global sustainability issues. Regional cooperation to promote green innovation is already prevalent, with some examples cited below. International cooperation on green IP matters often involves WIPO GREEN as a partner, with WIPO's role differing according to the specific regional project. In addition, some international projects involve collaboration between IP Offices in industrialized and developing countries, aimed at accelerating the commercialization of green technologies.

Regional green roadmaps contain targets shared by neighboring countries for the green transition in the coming years. While all such plans do not expressly contain action on IP, they do generally include R&D funding and coordination, which includes IP considerations.

Asian countries have come together to form a regional green patent acceleration program. This program expedites the granting of patents that can contribute to the development of industry infrastructure 4.0. The participating IP Offices commit to a first office action in just 6 months. The regional initiative includes but is not limited to climate change technology, also including things like solutions to enhance sustainability in manufacturing.

In Latin America, Brazil is in dialogue with other countries about its domestic green prioritization program, to share insights from the Brazilian experience and help to formulate other IP Offices' programs. This program accelerates patent prosecution for environmentally friendly technologies.

WIPO GREEN is partnering with Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, and Chile on green projects such as studies and matchmaking initiatives. WIPO GREEN is a partner for this activity.

Also in Latin America, one IP Office worked with counterparts from European countries on green innovation projects including the launch of a regional office for the Alliance for Climate Change, which is a global movement established after COP26.

In Asia, one IP Office works with partners to organize international symposia on IP and green issues, for the purpose of informing the public. One such meeting was held online in 2021, co-hosted by the IP Office and the national IP owners association and broadcast in four languages including English, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese.

## Intended impact

Multiply green initiatives, in order to boost green innovation and investments, and the uptake of new solutions, by sharing expertise and experiences and working together to enhance reach and impact.

## Beneficiaries

While this depends on the particular initiative, the beneficiaries range from the public to partner IP Offices, and from innovators to IP Offices' staff.

## Considerations for implementation

- These initiatives can vary substantially in terms of cost and resources required. The variety of possible programs means there is likely some type or degree of engagement, whether with other IP Offices or other partners, that is feasible for any IP Office.
- Human resources need to be allocated to building relationships and establishing and running collaborative programs.
- Every IP Office and government faces issues of common concern – especially in relation to the green transition, which is rapidly becoming a political priority in every part of the world. As a general rule, more can be accomplished by pooling resources and expertise with others. Thus, some type of collaborative work on green innovation and IP issues likely makes sense for most if not all IP Offices.