

Why Europe needs stronger knowledge valorisation and transfer capacity

Brussels, June 2026 - As negotiations begin on the future of European research and innovation funding, attention is again turning to the familiar challenge of how to translate excellent research into societal and economic impact.

Much of the discussion around Europe's innovation performance focuses on funding, investors, regulation, or the uptake of new technologies by industry. **Less visible but just as critical is the role played by Knowledge Transfer Offices (KTOs), Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs), and the knowledge valorisation professionals** who support researchers in navigating the path from research output to real-world application. **Their role increasingly extends now beyond technology-based innovation and includes the valorisation of research outputs from the social sciences, humanities and arts**, as well as intellectual assets developed by Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM).

These questions will be at the centre of the IMPAC3T-IP Conference, *Licensing for use and impact: Connecting policy with practice*, taking place on **7 October 2026 in Brussels**. The event will bring together policymakers, knowledge transfer professionals, researchers and innovation ecosystem stakeholders to discuss how licensing frameworks, support mechanisms and capacity-building efforts can better support the generation of societal and economic impact from research.

As expectations placed on researchers continue to grow, particularly in terms of adopting a more entrepreneurial mindset and contributing to the generation of societal and economic benefits, so too do the expectations for the professionals supporting them. Knowledge valorisation and transfer professionals, help research teams identify appropriate pathways to impact, assess and manage intellectual property, structure licensing agreements, engage external stakeholders, and make informed decisions about how research outputs can be used and shared. **Their role which was traditionally built around patents and commercial licensing is also changing** and the level of knowledge that they possess, the tools they have at hand, and the support they receive differs vastly across institutions and across Europe.

"Many knowledge transfer professionals were trained in an environment where patents and spin-outs were the dominant routes to impact. Those routes remain important, but they are no longer the whole picture. The profession itself is evolving, and that means new skills, new tools and new ways of thinking about licensing," said Lisa Cowey, IMPAC3T-IP project coordinator.

Many of these challenges fall outside the traditional licensing scenarios covered by existing guidance and training programmes. Questions around co-creation, equitable access, copyright-based assets, data, software and societal impact often require different approaches from those used in conventional patent licensing.

Supporting knowledge transfer professionals respond to these changes is one of the goals of the IMPAC3T-IP initiative, which has developed a **toolbox and training programme** focused on three licensing scenarios that are becoming increasingly relevant across Europe's research landscape. These include the licensing of non-traditional intellectual assets such as educational resources,

cultural content, databases and other copyright-based outputs; licensing in crisis situations where rapid or equitable access to technologies may be required; and licensing within complex co-creation environments involving multiple stakeholders with different objectives.

More than 480 users have already accessed the IMPAC3T-IP [Toolbox](#), while [Academy](#) sessions have brought together over 250 researchers, KTOs, TTOs and other innovation professionals from across Europe to explore practical approaches to licensing, intellectual property management, co-creation, equitable access and the sustainable use of research results.

The experience gained through these activities has also highlighted broader questions that extend beyond individual institutions. How can licensing approaches that generate societal impact be better recognised and supported? What tools and practices are needed to enable more effective knowledge transfer across Europe? How can policymakers help equip knowledge transfer professionals with the skills and capacity needed to manage increasingly complex licensing scenarios?

These are among the issues that will be explored during the IMPAC3T-IP Final Conference in Brussels. Discussions will focus on the future of licensing and knowledge valorisation in Europe, including how policy frameworks can better support impact-oriented licensing, strengthen professional capacity, encourage the uptake of practical tools and approaches, and help bridge the gap between policy ambitions and on-the-ground implementation.

As Europe looks ahead to its next research and innovation programme, there is a growing need to ensure that the professionals responsible for translating research into useable knowledge, products, services and societal benefits have access to the appropriate skills, tools and support needed to do so.

Join the conversation

IMPAC3T-IP will host its conference, *Licensing for use and impact: Connecting policy with practice*, on 7 October 2026 in Brussels.

Further information on the conference programme and registration will be announced in the coming months.

The event is of particular interest to policymakers, researchers, KTOs, TTOs and other professionals involved in intellectual property management, licensing and knowledge valorisation.

More information and registration: www.IMPAC3TIP.eu/academy

About IMPAC3T-IP

IMPAC3T-IP is an EU-funded project that addresses scenario-based licensing for stakeholders in the IP value chain. The project is developing a toolbox and an associated training programme to support licensing in three key scenarios (Classical Plus, Crisis, Co-Creation).

The IMPAC3T IP project is a 3-year action funded by the European Commission which began in December 2023.

IMPAC3T-IP Partners:



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Website: www.impact3tip.eu

Contact

Alex Schiphorst
Press Officer, META Group
a.schiphorst@meta-group