

Introduction to the series

EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INSTITUTES NETWORK (EIPIN): OUR COMMON HISTORY

1. Once consolidated, projects recreate their lives. Dreams and legends mix with reality to define their own existence. This is the case of EIPIN. In 1994 while walking up and down the beach of San Juan, Alicante, Professor Dieter Stauder, at that time Director of the international section of the CEIPI (University of Strasbourg) shared his vision of ‘bringing our students together’ with Manuel Desantes, Professor at the University of Alicante. This vision was to become a shared obsession.
2. The idea, simply stated, was that there will be no truly unified Europe unless people from different cultures know one another, understand one another and work with one another. Consequently, it was imperative for intellectual property institutions to create a network offering students the possibility to do precisely that – to meet, to understand and to work together. They posited that common enrichment would radiate from these ‘physical contacts’, and correctly so, as EIPIN collaboration has been enhancing the academic experience of countless students and professors for more than a decade.
3. It took almost six years, however, to realise this vision for the first time. Years during which the relations between the four founding institutions gradually moved from competitive to cooperative. Years in which bilateral contacts and visits among the partners multiplied. Years in which the partners grew to know each other. Years in which the concept was fine-tuned. Years during which the partners all realised that EIPIN could be a win-win for all if the EIPIN dream could be kept alive.
4. And, thankfully, it was!
5. From 11 to 13 May 2000, almost one hundred students and professors, representing four European intellectual property institutions – Centre d’Etudes Internationales de la Propriété Intellectuelle (CEIPI,

Strasbourg, France); Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH, Zurich, Switzerland); Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute (University of London, UK); and Magister Lvcentinvs (University of Alicante, Spain) – met together on the Campus of the University of Alicante for the I EIPIN Congress (1999-2000). The press published that:

The University of Alicante held the I Inter European Conference of Postgraduate Programs on Intellectual Property, the aim of which was to create the basis for strengthening the co-operation between the European academic programs specialized in this matter. For three days, students, professors and renowned specialists from the OHIM discussed the Community Trademark.

Needless to say, when we recall this first EIPIN Congress what first comes to mind is great fun, many nice surprises, – we can do it!!! – three completely sleepless days and the firm resolve to repeat the experience the following year.

6. And repeat it we did! In January 2001 the II EIPIN Congress took place at the University of Alicante, and for the first time we staged a mock trial with teams comprised of students belonging to the different EIPIN Partners and participation of specialized judges.
7. The III EIPIN Congress (2001–2002) was organized by the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute in the historic Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, and took place in April 2002.
8. CEIPI assumed the lead of the IV EIPIN Congress (2002–2003) and for the first time EIPIN travelled to Strasbourg in April 2003. This was a milestone event as it signified both the further consolidation of the EIPIN network and continued development of the EIPIN Congress methodology. It was at the IV EIPIN Congress that the students were first organized into international teams (advised by Ph.D. students of the participating institutions) and required to meticulously prepare for the Congress. The teams were given a variety of assignments such as delivering presentations, participating in mock court competitions, and writing reports on the topics addressed at the Congress. The students' preparation prior to the Congress was done mainly by means of a 'virtual classroom' website on which the works-in-progress were posted. This methodological innovation has stood the test of time and continues to provide a successful structure for our common endeavor.

9. The V EIPIN Congress (2003–2004) also brought further innovation and change. For the first time, the Congress was divided into several conferences hosted by the respective EIPIN partner institutes. Each institute hosted a meeting: ETH in Zurich, 4–6 December 2003 (Patent Litigation); Second, Magister Lvcentinvs in Alicante, 5–7 February 2004 (Design and Trademark Litigation); Third, CEIPI in Strasbourg, 1–3 April 2004 (Technology Transfer); finally, Queen Mary in London, 6–8 May 2004 (Patenting and the Life Sciences).
10. The academic year 2004–2005 was particularly important for the history of the network. First of all, the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center (MIPLC) became a member of EIPIN. MIPLC sent students to the meetings which took place in Zurich, 2–4 December 2004 (Patent litigation), in Alicante, 17–19 February 2005 (Trademark and Design Litigation), and in London, 29 April–1 May 2005 (Technology Transfer). Second, ETH hosted the I EIPIN Doctoral Meeting in Zurich, 28–29 September 2005. Since then, every year around twenty Ph.D. candidates whose research focuses on IP matters come together to meet colleagues, to learn from the experience of the commentators, – all of them Ph.D. – to exchange their ideas and viewpoints, and, above all, to share research methodologies, rationales for structuring the written presentation of the Thesis in a given way, and experiences on how to properly identify a suitable topic for research purposes.
11. The VII EIPIN Congress (2005–2006) was comprised of three conferences which were organized under the common theme of ‘IP in the Digital Age’ (Zurich/Gerzensee, 2–4 December 2005, IP in the Digital Age; London, 17–19 February 2006, The Legal Response to New information Flows; and, for the first time, Munich, 28–30 April 2006, IP Aspects of Digital Technology). This year, ETH hosted the II EIPIN Doctoral meeting in Zurich, 31 March–1 April 2006. It was also in this year that Queen Mary offered the organization of a new remarkable event, the I EIPIN Job Fair, which took place in London, 13 May 2006. The EIPIN Job Fair was designed to facilitate the meeting between EIPIN students and potential future employers, both private enterprises and public institutions.
12. Three EIPIN meetings, devoted to the same overall theme were organized in the academic year 2006–2007 (VIII EIPIN Congress). The first one, in Munich, 1–3 December 2006 (Information Flows, Software Protection and Standardization); the second, in Zurich/Gerzensee, 16–18 February 2007 (New Business Models: DRM’s Collective

- Societies and Open Source); and the third, in Alicante, 4–6 May 2007 (Domain Names, Trademarks and Licensing). The III EIPIN Doctoral Meeting took place in Zurich on 13–14 April 2007, and the II EIPIN Job Fair was again organized in London on 12 May 2007 with the participation of Novartis, Bovard, Jones Day, Wuesthoff, Covington & Burling and Procter & Gamble.
13. It is also worth mentioning that a regional conference on IP Education and Networking was co-organised by the EC-ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Co-operation Programme (ECAPII) and the ASEAN Universities Network (AUN) on 28–30 May 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the co-operation of the Chulalongkorn University. Over 50 academics from AUN member universities and EIPIN representatives combined their efforts to identify needs on IP education in the ASEAN region, and to customize national IP curricula and to further develop the ECAP II Regional Handbook on IP teaching prepared under the cooperation framework of EIPIN and AUN.
 14. The IX EIPIN Congress (2007–2008) was divided into five events. Three EIPIN student meetings, which addressed the topic of IP enforcement: Zurich/Genève, 30 November–2 December 2007 (Enforcement Framework and Civil Enforcement); Strasbourg, 14–16 March 2008 (Enforcing Industrial Property in Europe); and London, 18–20 April 2008: (Criminal Enforcement)). The IV EIPIN Doctoral Meeting was hosted, once again, by ETH in Zurich, 23–25 May 2008. The III EIPIN Job Fair, which took place in Munich under the auspices of the MIPLC on 10 May 2008.
 15. During the academic year 2008–2009 the number of EIPIN meetings was limited to two, as experience had shown that the organization of three big events during the same year was a disproportionate effort. This X EIPIN Congress was again devoted to issues of IP enforcement and was organized by ETH (Zurich/Genève, 23–25 January 2009: Enforcement Framework and Civil Enforcement) and CEIPI (Strasbourg, 27 February–1 March 2009: Criminal Enforcement of Intellectual Property). MIPLC organized the IV EIPIN Job Fair.
 16. The organization of the XI EIPIN Congress (2009–2010) was led by QMIPRI (London, 26–28 February 2010: Intellectual Property, Privacy and Publicity) and by MIPLC (Munich, 9–11 April 2010: Intellectual Property and Unfair Competition). The V EIPIN Doctoral Meeting took place in London on 26 February 2010.

17. Sadly, this was the last year for the participation of our colleagues from ETH, as the Program so successfully run in Zurich came to a close this year. Needless to say, we are all deeply indebted to the outstanding commitment of both professors and students from the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, and most particularly to EIPIN co-founder, Professor Gerard Hertig.
18. The XII EIPIN Congress (2010–2011) also consisted of two conferences. The first one was organized by CEIPI and took place at the premises of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 24–25 February under the title ‘Constructing European Intellectual Property: Achievements and New Perspectives’. The second conference was held in Alicante, 8–10 April 2011. In Alicante, the students and professors presented and debated on the subject of ‘New Trends in Intellectual Property Protection’. Part of the meeting was generously hosted by the Office for Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM). The VI EIPIN Doctoral Meeting also took place in Alicante on 7 April 2011.
19. The academic contributions of the conference which took place in Strasbourg will be the basis for the first volume of the ‘European Intellectual Property Institutes Network (EIPIN) Series’, a new publication series which provides a platform for dissemination of results of the forefront thinking on matters related to intellectual property law discussed during the EIPIN Congresses and which will come to life during the year 2012.
20. Finally, the XIII EIPIN Congress rounds the 2011–2012 academic year around the topic ‘Imitation as Innovation’. The first session took place in Munich in the premises of the European Patent Office on 3–5 February 2012 with MIPLC also hosting the VII EIPIN Doctoral Meeting on 2 February 2012. The second session brought all the participating institutions to London from 20 to 22 April, where the network was enlarged by its fifth member, the Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management (IPKM) at Maastricht University (Netherlands).
21. The next XIV EIPIN Congress of the academic year 2012–2013 will be hosted by the IPKM, in Maastricht, and the CEIPI, in Strasbourg.
22. EIPIN is a very healthy institution which has shown during last thirteen years how powerful networking between postgraduate students and between doctorates coming from different institutions and cultures can

be. More than six hundreds 'eipiners' testify year after year that having had the opportunity to participate in an EIPIN Congress or an EIPIN Doctoral Meeting was one of the most outstanding landmarks of their professional and academic training and brought them a new perspective of international relations. Above all, bringing people together is a must and largely justifies the efforts of so many scholars from so many places of Europe. Long live EIPIN!!!

From Alicante, London, Maastricht, Munich and Strasbourg, 22nd April 2012.
The EIPIN series editors