



Committee Name	<p>INNOVATION TRENDS COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Innovation Trends Committee is a horizontal and transversal organization within the structure of LESI Committees. It is responsible for monitoring the factors of change brought by innovation that significantly impact the current intellectual property framework, identifying any shortcomings, and proposing corresponding solutions.</p>
Chairs and Vice Chairs	<p>Chair: Tanja Sovic (LES Austria) Vice Chairs: Arved Waltemathe (LES Germany) Antonio di Bernardo (LES Italy)</p>
LESI Board Liaison	<p>Madelein Kleyn (LES South Africa)</p>

Action Plan



- **WORKING GROUPS** (see above, in red) focusing on different topics
- **COMMUNICATION** with other **COMMITTEES**
- **LESI INNOVATION AWARD 23-24** – promotion / sponsoring – reviewing and selection of the submitted applicants
- **WEBINARS**
- **PUBLICATIONS**
- **LESI Annual Conference in Madrid**

Actions and person in charge of each

o **WORKING GROUPS**

DATA ECONOMY

(A. Waltemathe, A. Nicoletto):

- ✓ webinar on Data Economy in November 2023

BUSINESS SECRETS

(P. Ollivier, A. Di Bernardo, F. Haq, J. Williamson, A. Kapacinskaite, K. Račková, M. Dalla Costa, S. Roy, V. Chapuis-Thuault, V. Basilio De Leon, G. Bell):

- ✓ **Trade Secrets Book:**
 - All sections of the book have been written and reviewed at least once by an external reviewer
 - The book structure has been reviewed with critical feedback from three external people. Among them was a WIPO executive and a former editor
 - The book structure and its global flow of the content were improved accordingly

Next steps:

discussion with publishers, which will then bring the book to a next level of maturity and have the authors contribute again before publishing. The current draft has about 140 pages / 60 000 words / 350 000 characters / 40 illustrations. Attached is the updated teaser that will be sent to the editors.

The working group has started the process of contacting publishing houses. This is ongoing. **If anybody has useful contacts in publishing, please contact us.**

Note: identifying a publisher may take another few months, and then finalizing the book with them may take another few months.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

(G. Verhoef, B. Loste, ...)

- ✓ Webinar together with **LES South Africa**
- ✓ Working group launched a transdisciplinary series on Indigenous knowledge systems: Genetic Resources (GR), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) in AFRICA. The series comprises of public lectures on various topics. These contributions will then be compiled into a peered review publication at the end of the series.

o **COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER COMMITTEES** (1. step A. Waltemathe, 2. step: Innovation Trends Team)

Monitoring activities of other committees and contacting their leaders and members.

Following committees have been joined by A. Waltemathe:
High Tech, Copyright Licensing, Trademarks Designs & Merchandising, Dispute Resolution, Technology Transfer, Patent & Technology Licensing, Copyright Licensing

Results:

- ✓ **Copyright Licensing:** Discussions on EU Data Act; the Innovation Trends Committee (in particular the Data Economy working group) could cover the legal issues on the data input side of AI - like potential copyright infringements as well as for copyrights concerning AI systems as such. Copyright licensing Committee could contribute practical use cases. Both committees could bring together the regulatory side (e.g., the upcoming EU AI Act) with practical licensing drafting.

Already discussed:

- ✓ **Technology Transfer:** common project with Innovation Trends (brainstorming phase)
- ✓ **High Technology:** discussion on how to foster IT/software sector (incl. AI systems)
- ✓ **Patent & Technology:** liaising re. overlaps, in particular IoT data and trade secrets
- ✓ **Trademark, Designs and Merchandising:** thinking about trending topics within sports branding

Next steps:

- ✓ **Further meetings with other committees**
- ✓ **Further information sharing between the committees** about ideas, potential initiatives and shortcomings.

○ **LESI INNOVATION AWARD 23-24**

(1. step T. Sovic, 2. step: A. Gorius, A. di Bernardo, A. Waltemathe & Innovation Trends Team)

The goal is to award the most innovative deals from bench to market, for practices in innovations and licensing

Our specific criteria are:

1. The value created by the innovation
2. The Market Value of the Innovation
3. Conduct of Contractual Arrangements
4. Alignment with Trends / Focus Areas Identified by LESI

Already reported:

- ✓ *August, September 23: Prep phase*
- ✓ *November, December 23: Promotion of the Award / Searching for Sponsors*

The steps, that have been completed since the last report:

- ✓ January, February 24: **Evaluation of all applications & discussions**
- ✓ March 24: **Board approval**
- ✓ April 24: **Planning phase** for the LESI conference in Madrid & **promotion on social media**
- ✓ May 24: **PRESENTING THE WINNERS** at the Annual Conference in Montreal

○ **WEBINARS**

(A. Di Bernardo)

- ✓ November 2023 – **The EU Data Act – IoT Data Licensing** (A. Waltemathe, A. Nicoletto)
- ✓ December 2023 – **Innovation Award Winners** (T. Sovic, BASF, Circ)
- ✓ March 2024 – **Challenges to take indigenous medicine to the market. An African perspective.** **LES South Africa and the LESI Innovation Trends Committee** embarked on a mission to develop a transdisciplinary series of IKS related topics. The main objective with this series is first and foremost to stimulate the IKS discourse in Africa, secondly, to broaden the body of knowledge in the field and thirdly, to contribute to the international discourse on IKS by means of a peer reviewed publication.

○ **PUBLICATIONS**

- ✓ **Business Secrets Book** is in its very final version

○ **LESI International Conference in Madrid**

- ✓ The proposed topic “**EU Data Act - how to deal with issues related to access to data**” was accepted by the organizing committee in Madrid. There will be a combined workshop on the EU Data Act together with Christian Czychowski's proposal “Raw Data (non-personal data) – The EU approach to licensing of such data in the Draft EU Data Act”.

Conference Calls Conducted and Topics Discussed

- ✓ **Several meetings** between the chair, vice-chairs and committee members on different topics
- ✓ **Several meetings** between the Working Group members.
- ✓ **Meetings regarding** the organisation of the webinars
- ✓ **Presentation of the Committee at the LESI Board of Directors Meeting** on 21 November 2023

(we are not counting the number of the meetings anymore – the quality of the work is important and has to meet our expectations)

Specific Topics / Reporting items

See above

Prompting Questions:

- Are there issues or projects for approval that you would like to bring to the attention of the LESI Board? If you have not already presented to the board, when could you do so? *(The LESI Board meets monthly. Please provide a short description of your issue and when it would be timely to add to an upcoming board agenda)*
- Have you conducted any webinars this year? Did you submit any proposals for LESI2024? If so, please list the titles in your report.
- Have you reached out to other LESI committee leaders to discuss areas of common interest / collaboration?
- Have you accessed your committee page and/or posted any notes, committee news or initiated discussions on <http://connect.lesi.org>?
- What have you done to increase members of your committee this year? Have you involved committee leaders from other societies to join your committee an/or helped those societies conduct programs on your issue area?
- Would you like to host an in-person meeting of your committee at LESI2024 in Madrid, Spain (April 28-30, 2024)?