



Lebanon Innovate advanced capacity building programme on legal requirements in IPR for lawyers.

MARCH-MAY 2024

Background

Lebanon Innovate is a 42-month program funded by the European Union, which aims to foster an enabling knowledge transfer and IP ecosystem in Lebanon and transform research and innovations emerging from universities and research centers into commercial ventures. Ultimately, the program seeks to contribute to sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth.

To achieve this overarching goal, the project aims to meet the following needs:

- **Foster an enabling environment to boost innovation and capacitate stakeholders**, especially in creating and sharing knowledge and commercializing technologies.
- **Strengthen cooperation between industry and academia** to promote innovation and knowledge transfer and support the commercialization of products.
- **Increase collaboration around research and technology between Lebanese and European stakeholders.**

According to several studies and the final recommendations of the NEXT SOCIETY programme, Lebanon outperforms regional average for skilled workers, firms with new products, firms with internationally recognized quality certification and number of patents, but lacks the tools, mechanisms, and incentives to activate innovation actions.

The Lebanon Innovate initiative aims at facilitating interactions and incentives to activate innovation actions across sectors, grow knowledge and technology transfer, and stimulate business collaborations among different stakeholders. The project will lead to systemic and sustainable changes in the ecosystem through empowerment of different innovation actors, in particular champions.

The process of transforming innovations and technological findings emerging from universities into market ready products is essential to driving Lebanon's economies forward and contributing to job creation. Therefore, **innovation transfer and commercialization are one of the strategic directions that Lebanon needs to prioritize.**

According to the WIPO, Lebanon is currently performing below expectations given its level of development with a very limited IP support and policy framework and lack of enabling environment and policies and skilled talents to develop, protect and commercialize IP innovations. According to the Global Innovation Index 2023, Lebanon produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments and it ranks lowest in Institutions (125th), Infrastructure, Creative outputs (96th) and Knowledge and technology outputs (86th).

Lebanon Innovate capacity-building initiatives will increase knowledge, skills, and capacities of the main stakeholders of the Lebanese innovation ecosystem on issues related to technology transfer, intellectual property and commercialization of research.



The advanced capacity building on legal requirements in IPR for lawyers is a key component of the wider empowerment programme Lebanon Innovate is currently deploying at national level with different actors of the RDI ecosystem, with particular attention to three leading economic sectors: ICT and Creative Industries, Agrofood and Health.

About the training

Through the **advanced capacity building on legal requirements in IPR for lawyers**, Lebanon Innovate offers 15 Lebanese lawyers the opportunity to deep dive into the legal requirements in IPR in Lebanon and acquire knowledge about international best practices, to accompany IP based innovators into protecting their IP, filing international patents, and develop legal agreements for commercialization. Through this programme, participants will have access to 40-hour online training, 1:1 online mentoring support, online group coaching sessions and access to training resources and relevant case studies. Two in person networking and coaching sessions are also foreseen for the group during the programme lifetime.

Upon completing this programme, participants will have gained practical knowledge on how to protect, commercialize, and enforce innovation through IP, with particular attention to the support services they can provide to researchers, startups, and SMEs.

Moreover, the programme aims at establishing a network of Lebanese IP lawyers that can be activated by the wider Lebanese RDI ecosystem involved in Lebanon Innovate programme through the thematic Knowledge & Innovation Communities, the LIRA programme, and the online Innovation Resource Portal.

Training costs are fully covered by the EU-funded programme Lebanon Innovate.

The programme will run between **March and May 2024** and will include:

- 40-hour training with Lebanese and European IPR experts
- Online 1:1 coaching and mentoring sessions.
- Online group coaching and training sessions (representing 5 days throughout the programme)
- Access to online training materials and toolkits.
- Participation in networking activities (2 in person sessions in Beirut, Lebanon)

The programme will address the following key learning topics through a mix of theoretical sessions and practical workshops:

IP policies and protection; patents and competition law; code of ethics; patent licensing, technology transfer, IP evaluation; trademarks, industrial design, copyright, and related rights law; business law; tax/accounting and administrative support; contractual practices – these topics will be adapted to the participants' profiles and former experiences and knowledge on the subjects.

The programme will also address the importance of IP for startups and SMEs and the role IP lawyers can play in supporting startups and SMEs in integrating IP in their business strategy. Particular attention will be dedicated to the three priority sectors Lebanon Innovate is working on: Agrofood, ICT & Creative Industries, Health.

We expect the programme to cover both the Lebanese IPR system and the European one, as we expect the lawyers to support both Lebanese innovators and entrepreneurs protecting their innovations in Lebanon and



in Europe (if they are considering internationalising), and on the other side to support European innovators and entrepreneurs protecting their innovations in Lebanon.

Capacity building timeframe

Lebanon Innovate Advanced Capacity Building Programme for IP Lawyers will take place between March and May 2024.

Attendance to the two in-person sessions is mandatory and we expect the equivalent of 15 days of commitment between March and May 2024 to attend group and individual online sessions and undertake some individual practical exercise.

Training Takeaways

As a participant your key takeaways are to:

- Broaden your professional network to work jointly with other IP experts and lawyers, increasing your skills in protecting innovation and startup ideas from client companies and entrepreneurs.
- Gain a concrete understanding of methodologies and services for researchers, entrepreneurs, startups, and SMEs helping them to scan, file, and protect innovative ideas, brands and inventions through IP.
- Access practical tools, frameworks & best practices on how to utilize the services and funding of European institutions to enhance your support in the startup growth journey of your client companies.
- Transforming your technical knowledge into practical advice by considering how to deploy your team's best values and practices to startups and SMEs of the Lebanese innovation ecosystem.

Who is this course for?

Lebanon Innovate with the financial support of the EU, offers this capacity building programme free of charge to up to 20 Lebanese Lawyers willing to contribute to the further development of the Lebanese innovation ecosystem. Lebanon Innovate is looking for mid-experienced Lawyers willing to offer their services to startups and SMEs, and whether relevant to researchers willing to exploit their research results through technology transfer and IP commercialization.

Participants will be selected based on the following selection criteria:

- Possess a law degree from a recognized university.
- 5 to 10 Years of professional experience as
 - Independent lawyer
 - Affiliated lawyer to a law firm
 - Lawyer in a business support organisation (incubator/accelerator)
 - Lawyer in an academic/research institution
- Former professional experience with startups and SMEs (participants could include any voluntary work performed to support startups and SMEs)
- Proficiency in oral and written English
- Demonstrate interest in pursuing a career or developing expertise in Intellectual Property Law.
- Motivation to enhance understanding and expertise in IP law (including the plan to capitalise on the capacity building programme)



- Commitment to the full duration of the programme, including the 40-hour training, online mentoring, group coaching sessions, and participation in networking activities.
- Interest in supporting the Lebanese Research, Development, and Innovation ecosystem through assisting researchers, startups, and SMEs and joining a community of IP lawyers supporting the Lebanese ecosystem.

***As the programme is fully funded and capacities are limited (up to 20 participants), it is expected that only serious and committed participants apply.**

Selection Process

A selection committee involving representatives of the Lebanon Innovate consortium will assess all submissions based on the following evaluation framework:

- Professional experience
- Interest and Motivation
- Commitment to the programme
- Language proficiency

In an effort to promote gender diversity, we aim for a 50% participation from all genders in our selection process.

Selected candidates will be informed by email during the week commencing on March 11th, 2024, of their selection.

The capacity building programme will start the week starting on March 18th, 2024.

Participants that will successfully complete the capacity building programme will receive a certificate of attendance issued by Lebanon Innovate.

How to register

The course is brought to you by the Lebanon Innovate programme, funded by the European Union.

To apply to the training free of cost, please fill in the application form [here](#) and send your CV to Joanna.Abiabdallah@ebn.eu by March 8, 2024

For further information please email Joanna.Abiabdallah@ebn.eu and Chiara.Davalli@ebn.eu