

Dear Colleagues and friends:

I am pleased to have you here at the Final stage of the first round of EPIP Conferences.

I am also pleased to have you here at the end of the Saint James road.

You are welcome to a town born many Centuries ago as a consequence of a very unique, singular and powerfull invention: the supposed discovery in the ninth century of the tomb of Saint James just here. Really, it was a powerfull invention, even if it hasn't been patented yet.

I wish to extend a special welcome to those colleagues who did the long camino de Santiago over the past three days.

Maybe they have discovered something during these days, even if that were mainly tacit and incommunicable experiences. We can ask them !!.

Well, the present conference closes the first round of the itinerant "haima" for reflections and debates on the most relevant topics of intellectual property in the current world economy. An economy characterized both by technical foundations on knowledge and by a deep neoliberal pro-market policy.

We know that in this context patents and intellectual property take today a broader significance than in the past. These days, intellectual property is understood not only as an instrument for encouraging innovation but is also used more and more as an instrument for creating a self-expansive and unlimmited market, an expansive field for capital accumulation.

During these two days we will enjoy debates of different topics, but some particular topics will be emphasized at this conference:

- . TRIP's and trade agreements, both multilateral and bilateral
- . the challenges and risks of market individualist vision of intellectual property from the dominant neoliberal projet.
- . the challenges and the risks of patents to the sustainability of the open science

all of them are at the very core of the deep economic and political debate for the future of our societies.

I hope that the usefulness of this long series of debates will provide us with enough energy to continue in the future.

In this way, I also hope that this conference won't be a station terminus nor a finisterrae cap but a definitive platform towards reinforcing a network of free thinkers on intellectual property and its relationship with the welfare of societies and citizens around the world.

Coming to an end, I wish to thank all our sponsors: the European Commission, the EPO, the Galician Service for Intellectual Property (SEGAPI) for his support; and I also thank the efficient collaboration of Plamena and colleagues and the Paris team in organising the conference.

If you have any problem you can ask Plamena and the organisation team, and they surely will help you.

I hope you all enjoy your stay here, both at the conference and at Santiago de Compostela.

Thank's and have good one!