

AI supported decisions on patent applications – ensuring fair proceedings

Final report

1. Academic Network and Grant Support

Through the grant scheme “*Aktion Österreich – Tschechische Republik: Wissenschafts- und Erziehungskooperation*” (*Aktion Austria – Czech Republic: Cooperation in Science and Education*), within the project **AI-Supported Decisions on Patent Applications – Ensuring Fair Proceedings**, Dr. Jana Janderová (Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Pardubice) and Dr. Irina Foret (FH Joanneum Graz) have established a strong and sustainable academic partnership, **enhancing cross-border academic integration and knowledge exchange**.

Their joint research commenced with a comparative study in the field of intellectual property rights and artificial intelligence, focusing specifically on **AI-driven decision-making in patent application processes to promote fairness and transparency**. In addition, joint grant applications were submitted in 2025, with further proposals planned for early 2026, **strengthening the foundation for long-term collaborative research and innovation**.

Beyond research activities, both scholars delivered lectures to bachelor’s and master’s students and explored the potential for a future double-degree program in the area of digital entrepreneurship, **contributing to the development of innovative educational pathways and fostering digital skills for the next generation of professionals**.

2. Cooperation and Coordination

As anticipated, this collaboration has generated significant synergies, extending beyond individual research efforts to institutional partnerships. A key achievement of the project is the establishment of a **small but dynamic academic network dedicated to long-term cooperation in both research and education, supporting the creation of a Czech / Austrian knowledge hub in the field of AI and intellectual property law**.

This network has been strengthened through a combination of onsite visits and online meetings, which have played a crucial role in **building trust, ensuring continuity, and promoting sustainable academic cooperation across borders**.

3. Goals and Achievements

The implementation of this project has been highly successful. Thanks to the activities already completed and the ongoing work, the project represents **the foundation for a long-term academic collaboration with strong potential for growth**.

Both members of the network have expressed their **commitment and readiness to continue this cooperation**, ensuring continuity and sustainability. Several follow-up activities are already planned for 2026, **reinforcing the network’s role in advancing research excellence**,

fostering innovation, and contributing to the European agenda on digital transformation and fair governance. A proposal for a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence under the ERASMUS+ initiative will be resubmitted in February 2026 by Dr. Irina Foret, with Dr. Jana Janderová serving as a member of the project team. In addition, an ERASMUS Blended Intensive Programme titled "*Green Business Transformation*" will be delivered at FH Joanneum in April 2026. Five students from the University of Pardubice, accompanied by one academic staff member, will participate in this course. These initiatives clearly demonstrate that the partnership is not only continuing but evolving, laying a strong foundation for sustained collaboration and impactful results in the years ahead.

As for the project sub-goals, the following have been achieved:

1. **Strengthened personal cooperation** between scholars from the Czech Republic and Austria as a direct result of project implementation.
2. **Established initial institutional links** between the cooperating partner institutions.
3. **Two guest lectures** delivered by network members for students at the University of Pardubice in October 2025.
4. **Two guest lectures** delivered by network members for students at FH Joanneum in Graz in March 2025.
5. **Submission of a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence application in February 2025**, followed by a discussion of the results and opportunities for improvement in 2026, thereby fostering further collaboration.
6. The **comparative research on AI usage in patent proceedings** is nearing completion, with the article almost ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal indexed in WoS. Network members have begun drafting research article applying a comparative approach and conducting a comprehensive analysis of relevant data from Austria and the Czech Republic, contributing to ongoing academic discourse in this field. The initial delay was caused by the need to collect data from all participating countries and the limited availability of policymakers for in-person focus group interviews. While the interview at the Austrian Patent Office in Vienna was completed on time, the interview at the Czech Patent Office was postponed due to scheduling constraints. This interview was finally conducted on 6 January, and the missing data will now be incorporated into the article. The article is expected to be finalized and submitted by the end of January, 2026 ensuring that the research output meets the original objectives and makes a meaningful contribution to the project's goals.

Taken together, these achievements and ongoing efforts clearly demonstrate that the partnership is thriving and will continue to grow, providing a solid foundation for long-term collaboration and impactful results in the future.

4. A brief description of main project activities

The project was implemented in full accordance with the approved plan. All scheduled activities were successfully carried out, contributing to the achievement of project objectives and strengthening cooperation between the Czech and Austrian partner institutions.

1. Kick-off Meeting (29th January 2025)

An online meeting was organized to launch the project. The team agreed on the detailed research plan, project milestones, and allocation of responsibilities. Collaboration on the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence grant application was initiated.

2. Literature Review and Research Framework (January–April 2025)

A comprehensive state-of-the-art review was prepared to establish a solid foundation for comparative research. The research outline and article structure were developed.

3. In-Person Meeting in Graz (16th - 19th March 2025)

The project team met at FH Joanneum to work on the first draft of the research article and explore institutional cooperation opportunities.

Two guest lectures were delivered to bachelor-level students:

Lecture 1: *The EU Single Market* — Number of students: 55

Lecture 2: *AI Act and Related EU Legislation* — Number of students: 55

Information about study opportunities at FH Joanneum was also provided.

4. Discussions with the International Office led to the signing of an inter-institutional Erasmus+ agreement. In addition, initial discussions were launched regarding the possibility of establishing a **double degree program in the area of Digital Entrepreneurship**.

5. Data Collection and Drafting of Comparative Analysis (May– December 2025)

Both partners collaborated on collecting data and drafting the comparative analysis on AI usage in patent proceedings. The research article was almost finalized and prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed journal indexed in WoS. Due to the missing data which were collected only at the beginning of January 2026 the submission to a peer reviewed journal was postponed to the end of January 2026.

6. In-Person Meeting in Pardubice (7th – 9th October 2025)

Dr. Irina Foret visited the University of Pardubice to discuss further collaboration opportunities. Two guest lectures were delivered to both master students and academics:

Lecture 1: *Intellectual Property Rights* — Number of students/academics: 15

Lecture 2: *Digital Markets Law* — Number of students/academics: 15

Information about study opportunities at FH Joanneum was also provided.

Note: The stay of Dr. Irina Foret was shortened by one day due to time constraints; however, all planned activities were successfully completed.

Impact: The project successfully strengthened personal and institutional links between Czech and Austrian partners, delivered high-quality research outputs, and fostered future collaboration through joint initiatives and Erasmus+ agreements. These activities ensure continuity and sustainability of the partnership, laying the groundwork for long-term cooperation and impactful results.

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Dr. Irina Foret

Appendix A: Lists of participants of the project lectures

Appendix B: Photos and leaflet (sent separately)

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Dr. Jana Janderová