

AmCham Estonia
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There is no knowledge-based economy without an intellectual property strategy

Estonia needs a long-term strategy that supports the creation, protection and commercialization of intellectual property, agreed experts at the Annual World IP Day Speaker Breakfast organized by AmCham in cooperation with PwC Legal.

“Strong IPR protection and enforcement are essential to creating jobs and encouraging investment in innovation,” said U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Elizabeth Horst. “This is true in the United States, where IP-intensive industries account for over one-third of our GDP, and it is equally important for Estonia as it develops a knowledge-based economy. More fundamentally, it is the right thing to compensate innovators for their creative and intellectual work.”

Anne Sulling, Member of Parliament, said what differentiates Estonia from its Nordic neighbours is the share of businesses that bring new innovative products and services to the market. “We therefore need to increase our spending in on research and development and make sure that necessary support structures are in place for companies to develop new products and services using the intellectual property that has been either developed in Estonia or acquired from abroad,” said Sulling.

"After todays World IP Day Speaker Breakfast we can attest again that Estonia needs a comprehensive intellectual property strategy that includes reviewing startup support measures and promotes enhancing intellectual property commercialization skills," said Pirjo Jha, a lawyer at PwC Legal.

"Intellectual property is not a thing-in-itself. Its aim is the creation of social welfare. This is achieved through the enhancement of innovation," said Aleksei Kelli, Professor in Intellectual Property at Tartu University.

Siim Timpson, Intellectual Property and Patent Specialist at Cleveron, said that the development process of Estonian companies is often faster than the patent system. "We need a modern and innovative intellectual property strategy that supports businesses. We should learn to think outside the boundaries of conventional thought! We work with different specialists, universities and state institutions, but we need to exchange practical knowledge and information in addition to theory. We therefore hope for more practical training from educational institutions that sets an example for this new way of thinking," said Timpson.

At the Annual World IP Day Speaker Breakfast, the question whether academics in universities should publish or patent their work was raised. “The role of universities is to create and spread knowledge through the publication of research. However, universities need to earn money as funding is often not sufficient. Patents can be used to earn money. For that, we need a supporting ecosystem that supports intellectual property protection,” said Dutt.