

Welcome to a workshop on
Intellectual Property and Circular Economy
and
Swedish-Baltic Intellectual Property Network Meeting
Department of Law, Södertörn University, Sweden
12-13 June 2025

Organized by the Department of Law with support from the internationalizing initiative by the Södertörn University

The premature disposal of consumer goods produces 261 million tons of CO₂-equivalent emissions, consumes 30 million tonnes of resources, and generates 35 million tonnes of waste in the EU each year.¹ Consumers also lose about €12 billion yearly by replacing goods rather than repairing them.² That is why a circular economy approach to allow repair, resale, recycle could make a major contribution towards green economy in Europe. The EU has made a commitment to the circular economy (CE) since it approved a first Action Plan in 2015 (Closing the loop, COM 614 final)³, followed by another in 2020 (A new circular economy Action Plan, COM 98 final)⁴ to make a green transition from a linear economy to a circular economy. The two action plans are accompanied by annexes detailing a set of measures while the European Green Deal (EGD) is one of the building blocks of the circular economy, which among others expected to facilitate the transition of the EU to become climate-neutral by 2050. Although EU has adopted a Repair Directive that has some implications with the intellectual property (IP) issues, the role of IP yet to be precisely defined in terms of addressing the issues of resale, reuse and re-cycle, which might promote circular economy in different sectors and might change consumption practices This workshop intended to establish a collaboration between Swedish/Nordic and Baltic researchers in the field of intellectual property and CE. This workshop will among other address following key question:

Are there appropriate intellectual property strategies and business models to respond adequately to increasing demands that our industry (such as textile, automobile, furniture etc.) must operate and act in a circular and sustainable way?

Workshop Plan

Day 1- 12 June Room-MA 517

10.30-Welcome by Jur. dr Monirul Azam, Associate Professor of Law, Department of Law, Södertörn University, Sweden

10:45- Professor Ranjula Bali, Circular Economy, Sustainable Consumption and Production: Challenges and Development, Södertörn University, Sweden (via zoom).

11:15-Dr. Heidi Härkönen, IP and Circular Economy-The Case of Finland, Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Turku, Finland (via zoom).

¹ See, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT- IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT, Brussels, 22.3.2023, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023SC0059>, accessed on 22 August 2024.

² Id.

³ COM (2015) Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy, (614) final. https://eurlex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:8a8ef5e8-99a0-11e5-b3b7-01aa75ed71a1.0012.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

⁴ COM (2020) A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe, (98) final. https://eurlex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9903b325-6388-11ea-b735-01aa75ed71a1.0017.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

11:45-Jur dr Peter Gottschalk, Trademarks in the Circular Economy: Leveraging Intellectual Property for Sustainable Business Models, Senior Lecturer in Law, Lund University Centre for Business Law, Sweden (via zoom).

12:30 Lunch Break

14:00-Professor Ramunas Birstonas, Lithuanian Perspectives on IP and Circular Economy, Vilnius University, Lithuania.

14:30-Professor Ingrida Veiksa, Latvian Perspectives on IP and Circular Economy, Turība University, Latvia.

15:00-Professor Alleksei Kelli, Estonian Perspectives on IP and Circular Economy, University of Tartu, Estonia.

15:30-Fika

16:00-Dr. Pawan Dutt, Sustainable Development Goals in RDI - Theories and Ethics, Senior Lecturer in Law, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia.

16:30-Anna Koiva, Empowering a Circular Economy: Navigating Right to Repair & IP Challenges, PhD student, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia.

Day 2- 13 June Room ME 014

10.00-Dr. Monirul Azam, IP and Circular Economy in the Fashion Industry, Associate Professor of Law, Södertörn University, Sweden

10.30-Playing a part in circular economy-What role for Swedish-Nordic-Baltic IP Researchers

Joint Course/Edited Book

Joint Research and Special Issue of a Journal

Funding Application

Guest Participants

Dr. Patricia Jonason, Associate Professor of Public Law, Södertörn University, Sweden

Richard Sannerholm, Associate Professor and Programme Coordinator, Bachelor of Laws, Södertörn University

Jur. dr Anna Hämmaren, Senior Lecturer in Intellectual Property, Södertörn University

Anders Wainikka, Lecturer in Law, Södertörn University, Sweden

Olga Glukhovska Schaefer, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Law, Stockholm University

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