



Report on Participation in the EPIP Annual Conference 2026

With support from the IET Travel Award, I attended the **21st Annual Conference of the European Policy for Intellectual Property Association (EPIP)**, held at **Politecnico di Torino, Turin, Italy, from 9–11 September 2026**. The theme of the conference was *“Intellectual Property and Innovation Policy in the New Global Economy.”*

EPIP is an interdisciplinary community bringing together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders interested in intellectual property (IP), innovation, and technology. The conference provided a particularly valuable environment for my PhD research, which sits at the intersection of innovation management, intellectual property strategy, and digital platform governance.

The conference covered a broad range of contemporary issues relating to intellectual property and innovation. Sessions addressed topics including patent systems and patent quality, IP commercialisation and licensing, artificial intelligence and copyright, technology transfer, green innovation, standards, competition, research commercialisation, and the implications of changing technological and regulatory environments for IP policy.

I found the combination of academic and practitioner perspectives particularly useful. Alongside empirical and theoretical research presentations, the programme included keynote lectures and roundtable discussions involving academics, IP professionals, policymakers and industry representatives. This helped connect academic questions about intellectual property with the practical challenges facing organisations and policymakers. Of particular relevance to my own research were discussions concerning patent information and analytics, AI-enabled approaches to IP research, platform-related issues, and the broader relationship between technological change, innovation and governance.

I participated throughout the main conference programme, attending parallel sessions, keynote lectures and roundtable discussions. My supervisor, Prof. Frank Tietze, also participated in the conference and contributed to a roundtable on access to intellectual property information, which provided further opportunities to discuss how patent information, digital technologies and emerging analytical methods are changing IP research and practice.

I presented my ongoing PhD research entitled “**Governance Technology in Transaction Platforms: Patent-Based Verification with Machine Learning & LLMs.**” The project examines how digital platform companies develop technologies that perform governance functions and how these technologies can be identified and analysed through firms’ patent portfolios. The study develops the concept of **Governance Technology**, referring to technologies through which platforms can operationalise governance functions such as coordinating interactions, safeguarding platform transactions and participants, and allocating value. Empirically, I am developing a large-scale patent analytics approach to examine how such technologies are distributed across different transaction-platform firms and over time.



Presenting this work at EPIP was particularly valuable because the audience brought expertise in patent analysis, IP strategy, innovation studies, and technology policy. The questions and feedback I received helped me think more carefully about the positioning of the research within the wider IP and innovation literature, the interpretation of patent portfolios as indicators of firms' strategic technological capabilities, and how to further develop the theoretical contribution.

EPIP provided excellent opportunities to develop both existing and new academic connections. Three members of our research group presented our respective research at the conference, making it a useful opportunity to exchange ideas within the group while engaging with a broader international research community. I also had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with researchers and practitioners working on intellectual property, innovation and related topics, including new contacts such as Bohdan Widla and Dino Gliha. Informal discussions between sessions were particularly useful for learning about related research projects, methodological approaches and potential directions for future research.

The IET Travel Award made an important contribution to my ability to participate in EPIP 2026 in person, helping to offset the costs associated with international travel and conference participation. The value of the award extends beyond attendance itself. Presenting my research to an international and interdisciplinary audience allowed me to receive feedback at an important stage in the development of my PhD project. The discussions have helped me identify ways to strengthen both the theoretical positioning and empirical design of the study, particularly the relationship between platform governance, technological capabilities, and corporate patent portfolios.

The conference also expanded my professional network and exposed me to research and practitioner perspectives that I would not have encountered through my immediate research environment alone. I expect these insights to inform the next stages of my research, including further development of the Governance Technology framework, large-scale patent analysis, and the eventual preparation of the work for academic publication.