The role of socially responsible licensing in a complex European landscape

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From Knowledge Transfer to Knowledge Valorisation

Traditionally: Knowledge Protection

- Protecting and transferring intellectual property
- Patents
- Licensing and spin-offs
- Focus on transactions and revenue

Broader: Knowledge Valorisation

- Value creation
- Data, software and know-how
- Collaboration throughout the entire innovation ecosystem
- Economic and societal impact

Draghi: Europe has an innovation and scale-up problem

Report published September 2024 — figures are historical observations and do not reflect the situation in 2026.



€ 270 billion
less private R&D investment in the EU than in the US (2021)



Approximately 30%
of European unicorns relocated to the US between 2008 and 2021



The Core Challenge
many ideas and strong ambitions, but bottlenecks in commercialisation, regulation, access to capital and scaling up

The European Dilemma

How do we reconcile competitiveness and societal responsibility?

Enabling Innovation

- Development capital and return on investment
- Speed, scalability and market access
- Predictable conditions

Safeguarding Societal Impact

- Availability and implementation
- Public interests and trust
- Considering the needs of patients and society

Conditions that are too rigid can block development — having no conditions is not a strategy either.

The Dutch SRL framework: a possible blueprint

2018 - 2023: ten principles, toolkit, guideline



Tailor-Made Solutions

The appropriate arrangements differ depending on the technology, the parties involved and the stage of development.



Investability

Societal arrangements must remain compatible with further development.



Responsibility

When licensing, consider application and accessibility - without guaranteeing a price.

Ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing

1. Research for Societal Benefit

2. Continued Use and Openness

3. Responsible Licensing Partners

4. Alignment of Societal Objectives

5. Respect for Traditional or Indigenous Knowledge

6. Inclusion of Stakeholder Interests

7. No Conflict with Societal Mandate

8. Well-Defined Licenses

9. Flexibility for Market Access

10. Accessible Pricing

SRL is one part — not the entire process

A license agreement does not in itself bring a therapy to the patient.



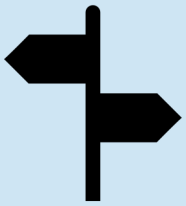
Responsibility shifts and is shared among different parties.

From fragmented links to a functioning chain



Connect Stakeholders

Researchers, KTOs, healthcare providers, patients, industry, investors and government.



Make Decisions Earlier

Discuss societal impact and the continuing development from the start.



Ensure Continuity

Structural collaboration alongside project funding.

Recommendations

1. Adopt a principle-based approach
2. Ensure flexibility and proportionality.
3. Provide practical implementation tools.
4. Invest in professional knowledge transfer capacity.
5. Monitor and evaluate implementation.



Thank you for your attention