Ten principles of SRL

1. Academic institutions strive to ensure that research contributes to societal and/or economic development.

2. Academic institutions retain the right to continue using their own results and to let them be used for research and education.

3. Academic institutions make licensing agreements exclusively with parties that can reasonably be expected to continue developing the knowledge and are committed to doing so.

4. Academic institutions verify that partners with whom they have arranged a licensing agreement do not have societal objectives that are in conflict with their own.

5. Academic institutions ensure that no traditional or indigenous knowledge or inventions based on it are included under intellectual property rights without appropriate agreements being made with the rights holders.

6. Academic institutions, when applying these principles, take those parties that are directly concerned into account and ensure that they are adequately informed of the wishes and interests of those interested parties.

7. Protection and licences must not conflict with the legal task and societal mandate of academic institutions.

8. Licences stimulate the development and use of technology and knowledge and bestow rights that are clearly defined and limited. Consideration must be given to both the commercial interests of the current partner and any other future applications. Plus unintentionally including future results or the results of others must be avoided.

9. In certain countries, licences provide space to encourage or ensure marketing access or development, where possible. They can also offer possibilities to encourage or ensure application in certain sectors.

10. Licences ensure that the price-setting of the final products and/or services does not endanger accessibility.

Socially Responsible Licensing

Toolkit for knowledge institutions
for a smooth and rapid conversion of academic knowledge into valuable products and services
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10 Ten principles

- The development and sharing of knowledge and making that knowledge useful for society are the core tasks of the knowledge institutions. Sometimes they can do this themselves, sometimes they collaborate to achieve this.
- For collaboration with, for example, startups or other companies, knowledge institutions prepare contracts (licences).
- The development of the 10 principles was initiated to inform the Minister of Public Health, Welfare and Sport regarding the possibilities for socially responsible licensing.

Goal: sound definitions

Next phase is defining 10 principles.
- Developing a collection of contract specifications that knowledge institutions can use for agreements with companies.
- Agreements about the use of patented knowledge for different sectors.
- Stipulations that knowledge institutions use for negotiation about the licence contract.
- Parties negotiate about articles. The parties are free to deviate or supplement as the situation requires.
- ‘A toolkit’ offers possibilities that take the situation into account.

Development of SRL-toolkit

The workgroup members are primarily responsible for preparing the contents of the SRL-toolkit. They are involved with this in the daily practice and will work with the SRL-toolkit in the future.

- Representation from KTO-group, consisting of Knowledge Transfer Officers/KTO-directors
- Investors
- Entrepreneurs

The sounding board group members gave their view and opinion of the process and the SRL-toolkit. They often have an indirect interest.

Who was represented?
- Public and charitable research financers
- Political and societal organisations
- Umbrella organisations from the business community

Implementation & Evaluation

Implementation:
- Reporting application of the 10 principles and the use of the SRL-toolkit (or similar stipulations) through the annual reports of the knowledge institutions.

Evaluation:
- The SRL-toolkit is actively managed by the knowledge institutions.
- Experience in use and development of societal debate as basis for improvement and possible expansion.

For the 10 principles, the SRL-toolkit and more information, also consult www.nfu.nl/en

SRL-toolkit

For knowledge institutions, startups and other companies.
- Basic template
- List with stipulations and clarification (building blocks)

Impact analysis

During the development of the SRL-toolkit, an impact analysis was done. What is the potential impact of the use of the SRL-toolkit by Dutch knowledge institutions? Opportunities for streamlining negotiations and threats to the innovation climate were mentioned, among others. All the specified considerations concern expectations - there are not yet any concrete experiences with the SRL-toolkit. These experiences will start accumulating now.