

*ESSID 2002*

*Workshop on research tools*

## **MODELLING PATENTS - BASIC FEATURES AND ISSUES FOR IP POLICY**

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### **Abstract**

Intellectual Property Rights are a key institution as far as industrial dynamics are concerned.

The design of IPR, an issue for public policy, can have a major impact on a nation's innovative capacity and on the overall pace of technological progress. This workshop seeks to illustrate the usefulness of patent-race modelling for theoretical research along these lines, and to give students the basic tools that will enable them to develop their own research using patent-race models.

A first part will be dedicated to the presentation of the basic modelling features that are shared by the class of patent-race models:

- How do innovations appear in the economy?
- How is the innovator protected / rewarded?
- What is the nature of the competition at stake?

A second part, based on set of selected articles, will aim at examining into details how patent-race modelling can grasp various normative IP policy issues such as:

- Should the object of the protection be the innovative product itself or the underlying scientific and technical principles?
- For how long should a patent protect its owner?
- Should the protection be narrowly focused against straightforward imitation or should it encompass innovations that are more loosely related to the patented one?