

FABIRAMA NIANG

Fabirama Niang (French) is the Director of Industrial Relations, University Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg 1) and President, Réseau CURIE (network of French universities technology transfer offices).

Fabirama studied in Mathematics (Masters) in Rouen, France and received his PhD in Fluid Mechanics at University Pierre and Marie Curie in Paris, France, in which he computed dynamic flows, while teaching Mathematics and Mechanics at University Paris 11 and an Engineer School near Paris.

Fabirama worked for ten years in private companies, four years as Project Manager in computing and the remaining years as Sales Manager and Business Engineer in France and Europe.

Fabirama is since 1977, the Head of the Department of Technology Transfer of University Louis Pasteur (ULP-Industrie), a French reference in Research and Tech Transfer since 1988. The department deals with collaborative agreements with industrial partners (more than 150 a year, for about 7 million euros), patenting and licencing (about 20 priority patents in the year 2000) and helping creating projects of research based start-ups, in collaboration with the Alsatian incubator.

He has been a Member of the board of the Réseau CURIE since 1998, was elected as Vice-President for International Relations of the network in 1999 and then as President in February 2001. The main objective of CURIE is to help French universities to implement IP policies and to improve professionalism of all actors in technology transfer offices.

PRO STRATEGIES FOR EXPLOITATION AND ACCESS: RESEARCH TOOLS, NATURE IDENTICAL MATERIALS, MTAs, RESEARCH EXEMPTIONS, GRACE PERIODS

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Pushed by their institutions, quite all French universities are settling, for two years now, intellectual property policies, for genetic inventions as well as for other areas. Expectations of universities are, for the essential, tracability, recognition and financial returns.

Nevertheless, scientific and cultural considerations stand as a constraint the remaining of, more or less, a public access to results. We present why and how French universities deal with this concern, through practises in management of patenting and negociations of collaborative agreements.

This implies new, or more, intellectual property and technology transfer management professionnals, that is the biggest challenge for years to come in French universities. Through networks (especially the “Réseau CURIE”), a particular issue is addressed among others, the setting of standards in negociations, helping in that new technology transfer professionnals to reach efficiency more rapidly.