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Bridging the Gap between Research and Policy

Abstract

The history of the European directive on software patents illuminates but does little to address the abyss between research on patents and patent policy -- despite the demonstrated importance of innovation and information technology to economic growth. Much needs to be done to deepen understanding of how the patent system works in practice among both researchers and policymakers. While noting positive developments, this presentation will survey conceptual, methodological, and institutional obstacles to deeper understanding of the patent system, particularly as they pertain to software and the ICT sector. It will suggest strategies for monitoring use and abuse of the patent system and advancing a common framework for informing patent policy.

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