

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, BIOTECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIVE MEDICINES

Summary

Intellectual property rights (IPR) are the main requirement of the implementation of inventions. The IPR system in Central Europe (CE) has some specificity in comparison to the “old EU 15”. The key contribution of the research-based pharmaceutical industry to medical progress is to turn fundamental research findings into innovative and commonly accessible treatments. The creation of an innovative medicine

requires a strong research organization and accumulation of enormous financial resources. Counterparts of innovative medicines the protection of which has expired are generic medicines. All of the CE states now offer product patents, but the IPR regulations were introduced in the early 1990s. One of the most important issues for pharmaceuticals in the EU expansion concerns intellectual property protection.