

Speech text! I'm Onur Yolay, a biologist. I have been working on patent-oriented academic spin-off companies in the Turkish entrepreneurship ecosystem for 12 years.

I am a technology transfer manager at Bezmialem Vakif University.

In 1845, Bezmialem Sultan, wife of the Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II established the first hospital in Ottoman history. The most advanced medical care of the time was provided to those in need, free of charge. The principles of Bezmialem Sultan continue under the roof of Bezmialem Vakif University (BVU) which was founded in 2010. We transformed the first hospital of our history into a science and health center that gives education to 3.500 students each year and provides service to 8,000 patients Daily with its 2 main hospitals in the each side of Istanbul and 2 policlinics.

BVU is the first thematic research university in Health and Life Sciences fields in Turkey and also a non-profit foundation university which aims to make progress in education and health care.

Today I will talk about technology transfer methods in valuation of inventions based on scientific research and licensing processes to industry in Turkey.

There are 3 and 4 types of interface organizations in Turkey. First of all, it is the office that is administratively affiliated to the University Rectorate. Secondly, the center working academically under the University Rectorate. Thirdly, the capital company established by the University. Fourth, the office affiliated to the University Technopark (Technoparks can be considered in the same category as the 3rd, since they are a capital company.)

Our TTO works as an office affiliated to the Rectorate. It consists of 5 units: Project Development and Management Unit, Scientific Research Projects Unit, Ethics Committees Unit, University-Industry Cooperation Unit, Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights Unit, and Incubation Center.

We designed technology transfer as a circle within the university. Our office supports the projects designed by our academicians and students as simple and basic R&D. With these basic R&D results, we are developing projects for national and international grant programs. If necessary, we support their cooperation by including industry partners in these projects.

We carry out the processes related to the patenting of the outputs of the projects and collaborations and protect the intellectual property rights.

As a result of all these processes, we carry out commercialization activities through licensing or sales of intellectual rights. Or we support the establishment of a patent-oriented academic spin-off.

We provide scientific research support within the university. We also pay official fees and other costs for patenting printouts.

Our only condition in this regard is that we want our university to be addressed in publications or patents.

There is a grant program in our country that supports offices like ours. (TÜBİTAK - Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye)

All mechanisms exist in our country for the commercialization of research results. (Institutions, interfaces, regulations and laws etc.) Despite this, we are not at an effective level in commercialization.

Culture is one of the main challenges. The culture of commercialization in the academic world is still not established. The academics' habit of publishing and prioritizing publishing creates difficulties in both intellectual property protection and commercialization.

On the other hand, the fact that the industry does not understand the academic language is another challenge.

The inclusion of interfaces (TTOs) like us in these processes, of course, facilitates the process. However, the lack of sufficient number and competence of TTOs is another challenge.

Our university prioritizes the establishment of a patent-oriented academic spin-off. We also have an incubation center for this. We provide basic entrepreneurship training and mentoring services. We provide office support and secretarial services to established companies.

In the last year, 373 Scientific Research Projects were carried out at our university.

There are 5 projects supported by Turkish Health Institutes, 23 supported by TUBİTAK, 2 supported by EU and 2 supported by other international organizations.

As a result of these researches, a total of 17 patent applications were made. (6 of them are PCT applications.)

3 spin off companies were established.