

A EUROPEAN NETWORK OF CLEARING HOUSES

The role of broker organisations to facilitate the transfer of sustainable technologies to societal markets



The graphic features the Impact Licensing Initiative logo (a blue circle with a white stylized 'I' and 'L') and the text 'IMPACT LICENSING INITIATIVE' and 'impactlicensing.eu'. To the right is a collage of four images: a person holding a tablet displaying a green bar chart, a drone flying over a field of sunflowers, solar panels in a field with wind turbines in the background, and three people in safety vests standing on a staircase. The background includes a grid of dots and abstract shapes in teal and orange.

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Full access to the complete toolkit is provided to members of our Clearing House community. Join our Community of Practitioners to learn more: <https://impactlicensing.eu/cop-registration-form>

1.1 Clearing Houses

Roles, and Responsibilities for Clearing Houses Relating to Impact Licensing

Article 1: Definition and Purpose of the Clearing House

1.1 A *Clearing House* shall be defined as a broker organisation operating as an independent intermediary entity, mandated to facilitate the transfer of sustainable technologies between technology holders and licensees active in *societal markets*, with the specific objective of generating measurable positive impact in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

1.2 The Clearing House shall execute its mandate by identifying, coordinating, and enabling the exchange of **intellectual property-protected know-how**, in such a manner that maximizes **societal benefit** within an **economically sustainable and scalable framework**.

Article 2: Definition of Societal Markets and Societal Unmet Needs

2.1 For the purposes, *societal markets* shall refer to those markets characterized by insufficient or non-existent access to essential goods and services, where conventional market mechanisms have failed to resolve or address systemic deficiencies.

2.2 *Societal unmet needs* shall be understood to mean significant and enduring gaps in the availability, accessibility, or affordability of resources essential for human well-being, equity, and sustainable development, including, but not limited to: healthcare, clean energy, safe drinking water, education, and food security.

2.3 Such unmet needs shall be deemed to arise from, or be perpetuated by, economic, social, geographic, or structural barriers, and shall be particularly relevant where such needs disproportionately affect marginalized or underserved populations.

Article 3: Definition of Sustainable Technology Transfer

3.1 *Sustainable Technology Transfer* shall mean the process by which technological knowledge, processes, or products protected by intellectual property rights are transferred from one party to another with the primary intention of creating positive and measurable societal impact.

3.2 Such transfer shall be carried out in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) *Economic Sustainability*, ensuring long-term viability and scalability of the transfer model;
- (b) *Social Relevance*, with clear alignment to identified societal unmet needs;
- (c) *Alignment with the impact licensing principles described in the impact Licensing quality label*

Article 4: Brokerage and Compliance Functions of the Clearing House

4.1 The Clearing House shall perform the following core functions in the facilitation and oversight of impact licensing activities:

- (i) Technology Screening
- (ii) Negotiation of Pre-Agreements
- (iii) Execution of Impact Licensing Agreements

(iv) Monitoring, Compliance, and Impact Reporting

2 Key Roles of a Clearing House in Impact Licensing

1. **Neutral Intermediary** – The clearing house operates as an impartial actor, ensuring the balance between **commercial objectives** and **societal impact**. This role is vital in mitigating potential conflicts of interest and ensuring that licensing agreements prioritize **public welfare** alongside **economic viability**.
2. **Transparency and Accountability** – By maintaining **independent oversight**, the clearing house ensures **transparency** in the negotiation and enforcement of licensing agreements, thus preventing **exploitation** and safeguarding against **-misuse of the technology**. This oversight mechanism also facilitates **accountability** among all involved parties, particularly in monitoring compliance with agreed-upon terms.
3. **Standardized Licensing Frameworks** – The clearing house develops in cocreation with the network of clearing houses **uniform licensing models** that align with **ethical standards** and **impact-driven goals**. This approach ensures that technology transfer and intellectual property sharing are conducted transparently and consistently, promoting **wider access** to innovations for social good.
4. **Alignment with the UN SDGs** – The clearing house ensures that negotiated licensing agreements align with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** particularly those related to **poverty reduction, health, education, clean energy, and innovation**. By facilitating technology access in underserved markets, it helps contribute to **inclusive, sustainable, and impactful development**.