

## How to improve the quality of patents

Vittoria PRIMICERI, PRAXI SPA

Guidelines:

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- Constantly make searches in patent databases, keeping you updated on the evolution of the technology of your interest (as you are used to do with scientific articles) and keep in mind that a patent is filed before the corresponding scientific article is published (the most careful way is to file the patent at least one year before publishing the article)

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- Starting from scientific articles search the patent databases with the name of the author of the article

- Look for the documents (patents rather than publications) that are most relevant to your research

- Never say “I have not found anything similar to my research in the patent databases”

- Remember that patent are filed before the corresponding scientific article

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- When faced with a patent document, never say: “my invention is different”. It could be true, but the requirements for a patentable are: novelty and non obviousness.

- When you find that your invention is different, try to build the technical contribution given by your invention on that diversity

- Ask yourself the question: “what problem does my invention solve?”

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- Keep in mind that the scientific article provides the reasons for a phenomenon (which are not protectable with a patent) while the patent consists in the practical application of that phenomenon and it is better not to give too detailed scientific explanations of it (because it would give the side to consider the invention as obvious)

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- Finally, the incipit of a scientific article indicates the foundations of your research and all the bases must be mentioned, while, conversely, the patent should indicate which is the technical problem that is solved by your invention. It is enough to mention even a single document (the closest to your invention) which forms the basis for indicating that such document presents a technical problem that your invention solves (in a novel and non obvious manner)