



NTNU

Open and accessible knowledge

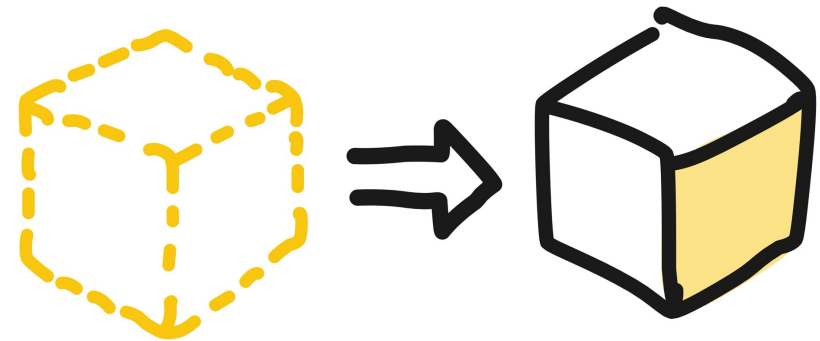
Things to think about before you
publish

Managing knowledge for a better world

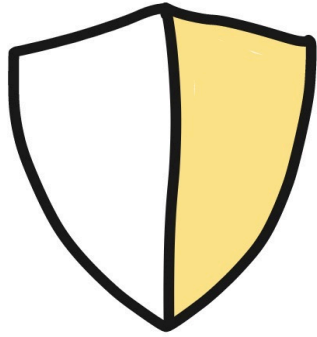
As a university, we have a responsibility to ensure that the knowledge we produce benefits society.

This is one of several modules describing how effective knowledge management supports NTNU's mission "Knowledge for a Better World".

[NTNU's IPR policy](#) is one of the tools we can use.

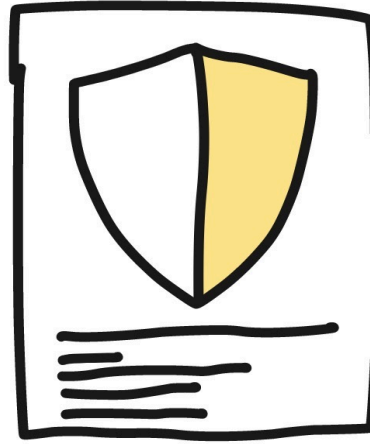


From knowledge to solutions



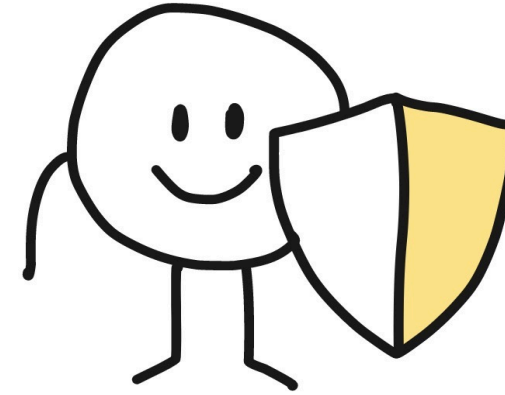
IPR

Intellectual property rights (IPR) are the formal rights related to the research, dissemination and innovation we produce at the university.



IPR policy

NTNU's rules and guidelines for safeguarding employees' rights in issues related to sharing, distribution and commercialization of the knowledge we produce.



Knowledge management

Use of IPR and other means to protect knowledge and share knowledge.

Open and accessible

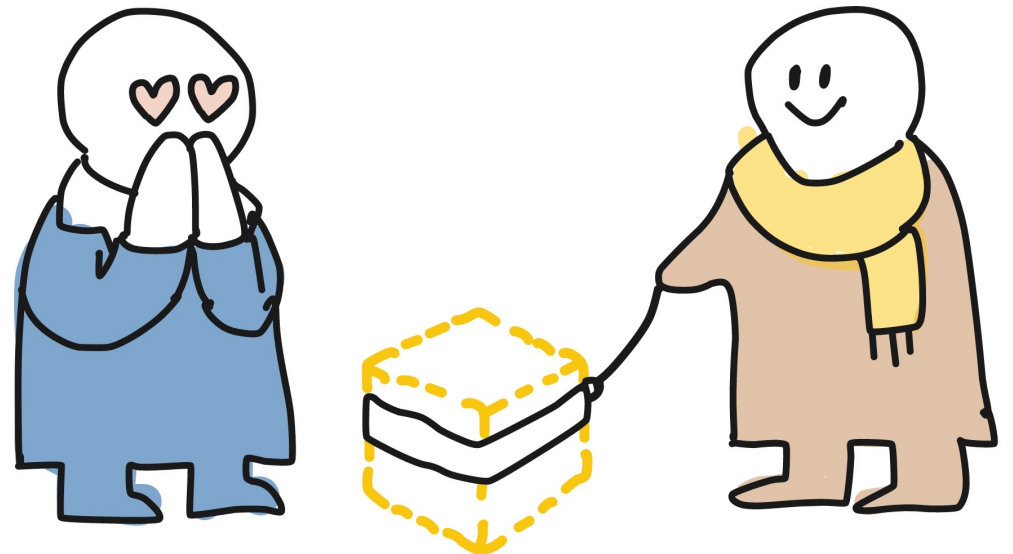
So that society can benefit from the knowledge that NTNU produces, as a university we have an extra focus on making knowledge open and available.



With control

Open and accessible information can be controlled.

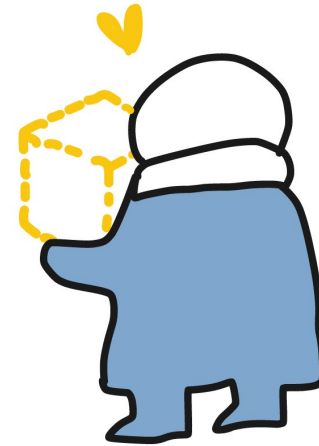
Giving access to “everyone” does not mean the knowledge is available for free use: with skillful knowledge management, you can ensure that knowledge is used well.



Lack of control

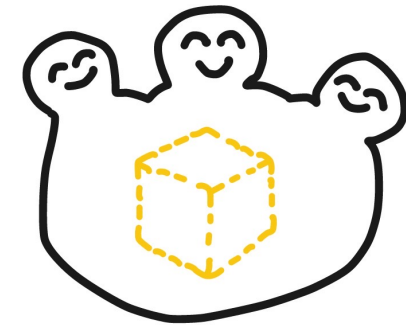
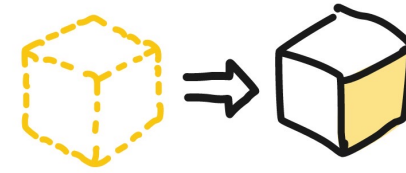
If you publish research material without first taking control of it, you can no longer decide who can use the knowledge, how, and for what purpose.

Then you cannot take back control either.



Control helps to

1. Make it easier to realize benefits in other contexts from ideas based on your research
2. Enable NTNU to promote ethical distribution of technology and knowledge
3. Make it possible for your knowledge to contribute to even more and better research and teaching in the future



A toolbox for control

There are several ways to protect ideas:

[Patenting](#)

[Licensing agreement](#)

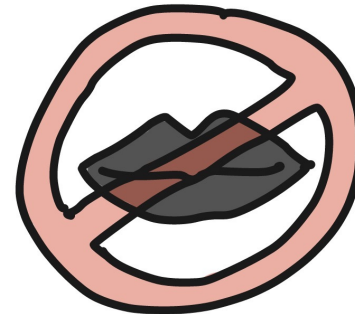
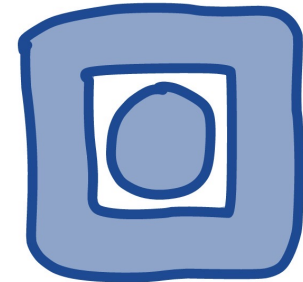
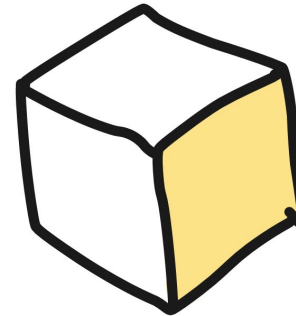
[CC-licence](#)

[Non-disclosure agreement](#)

[Standards](#)

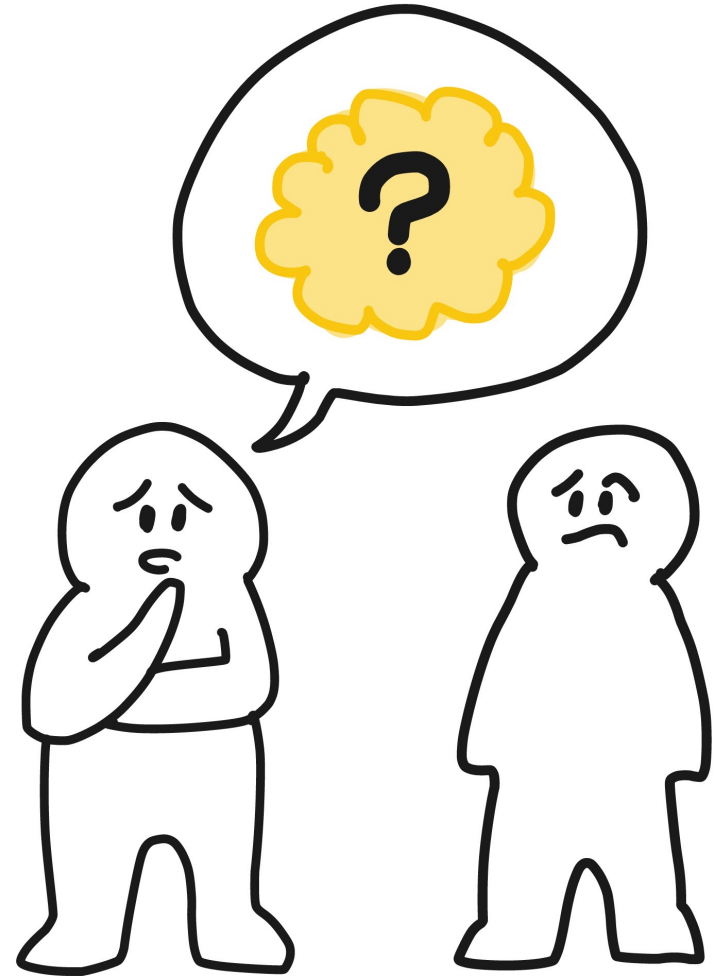
[Design protection](#)

[Trademark](#)



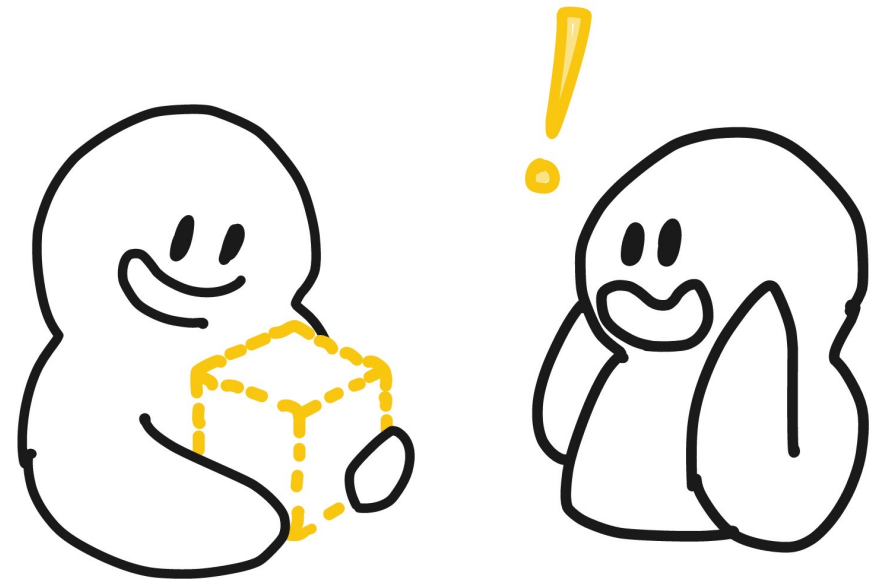
Collaboration

When you are looking for collaboration partners, it will be an advantage to be able to be open about what you are going to make, but perhaps you don't want your idea to fall into the wrong hands?



Protection

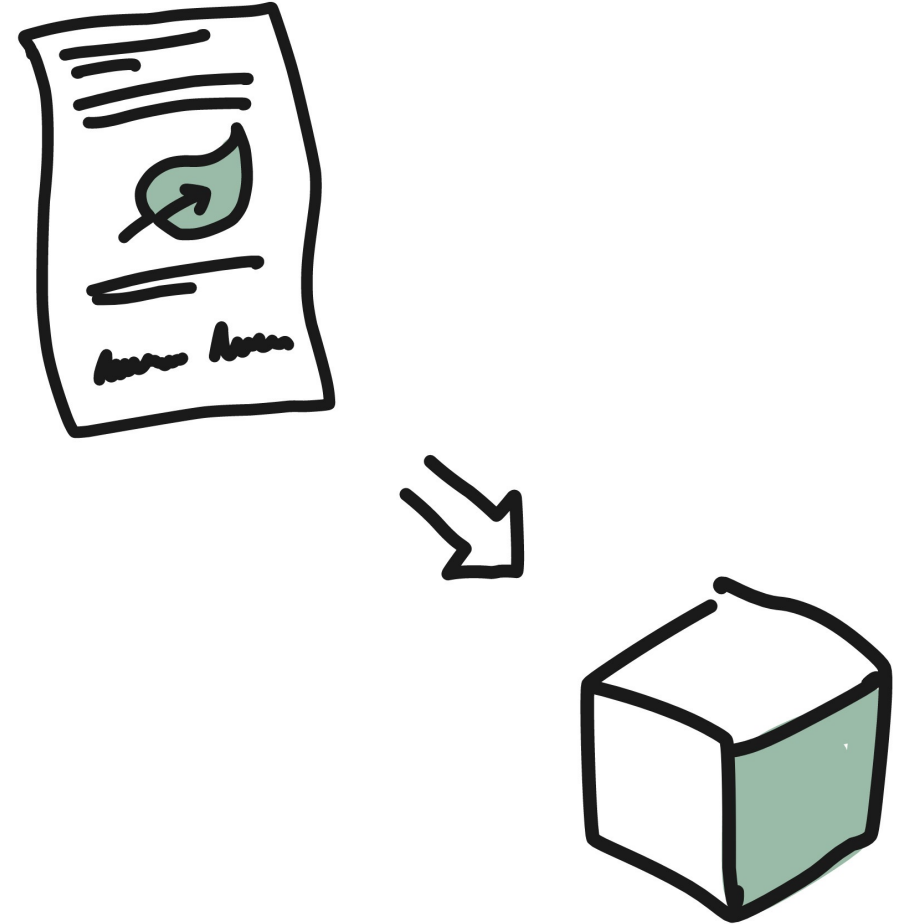
It is easier to be open about your idea if, for example, you write a confidentiality agreement, hold the copyright, or file a patent application.



Example 1

If you have a licensing agreement, it will be possible to decide who can use the result for what – even if it is open and free.

For example, you can license your research results in such a way that they can only be used in a circular economy or in other green or sustainable projects.



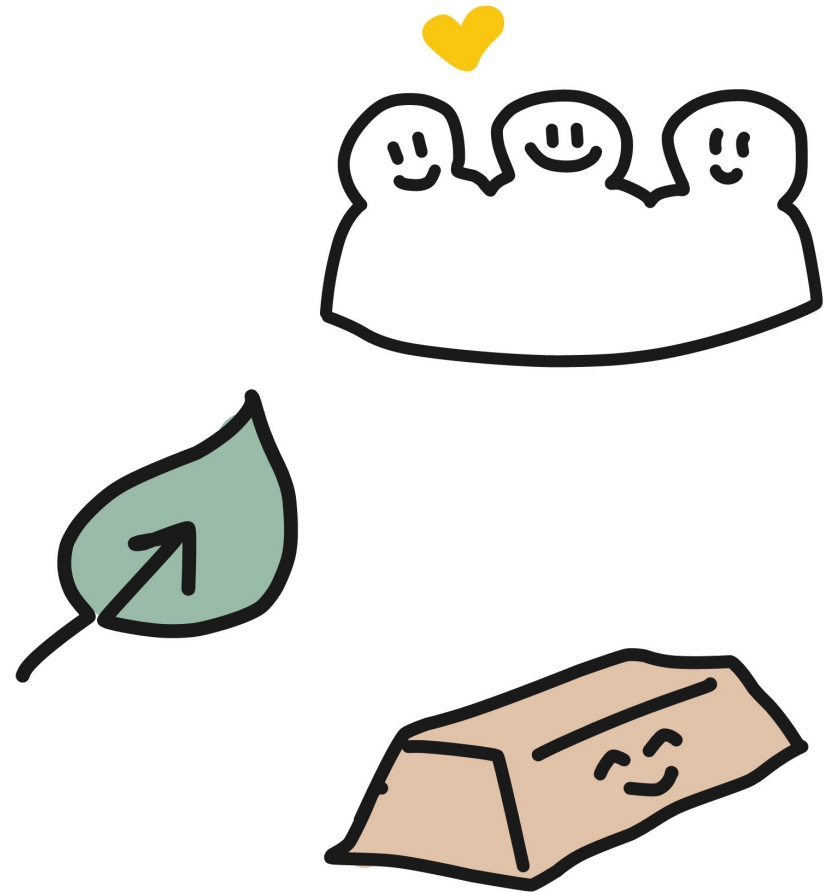
Example 2

When you publish source code, you can link it to an open source licence. This enables you to control the use and distribution of the software created on the basis of what you publish.



Example 3

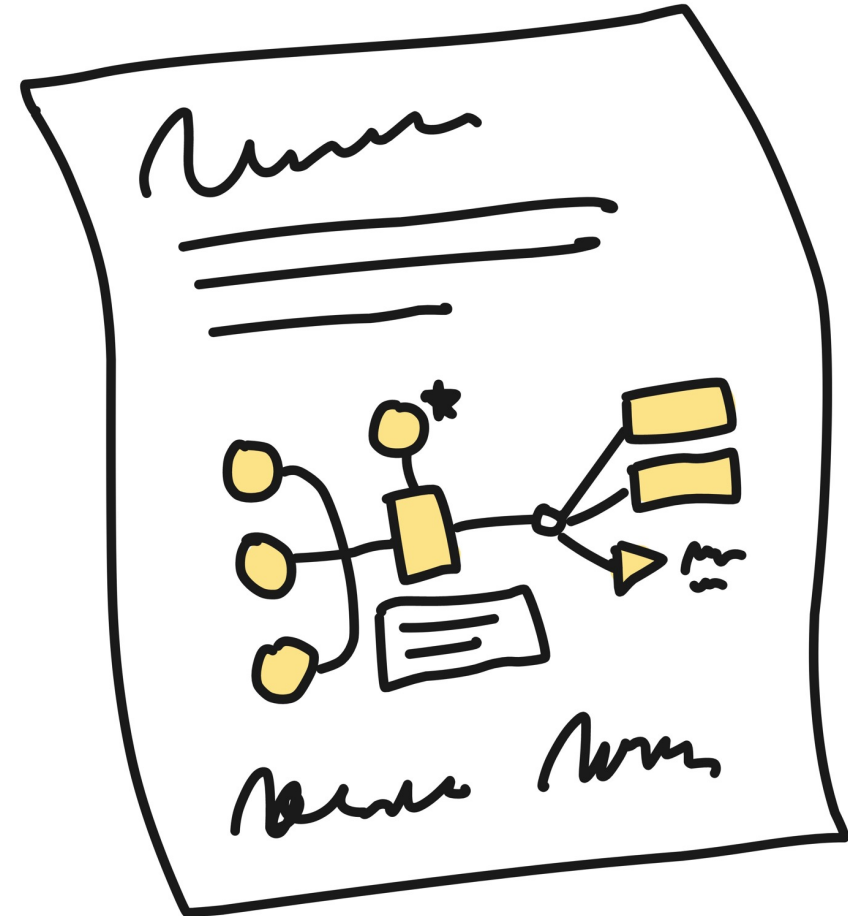
With patents linked with standards you can also specify principles for the use of your idea – for example, to prevent the use of child labour or endangered resources in development or production.



Example 4

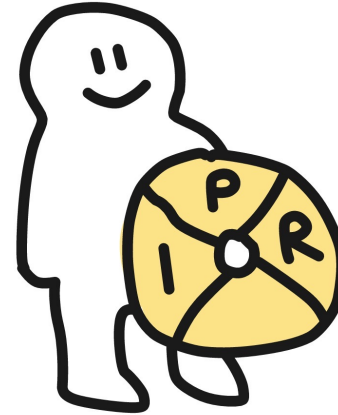
If you have created a concept or a method, such as a teaching package, you have invested time, effort and research funding to achieve this.

If you make it available under a Creative Commons license, e.g. CC BY-SA, you can ensure that no one else can use and develop the material without crediting you – and perhaps even compensating you for its use.



Things to think about before you publish

1. What protection you should secure to control the use of your research
2. Potential use and misuse of what you publish
3. How to make your research accessible so that the knowledge is used in the right way



Our social responsibility

As researchers, disseminators and innovators, we have a responsibility to ensure that knowledge benefits society.

This means that you need to get to know the tools and resources we have available.

Read more at ntnu.no/ipr

