eCl@ss users in Germany: highly innovative, technology-oriented and optimally networked

Results of the IW Consult study "eCl@ss Influencer Net – the network of eCl@ss users"
eCl@ss users are highly innovative

**eCl@ss users shape the German innovation landscape**

In 2016, eCl@ss users were involved in more than 40 percent of all patents filed by legal entities at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt DPMA).

**eCl@ss users are indispensable for German innovation regions**

In the federal states considered to be particularly innovative, such as Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria, eCl@ss users applied for the majority of all patents in 2016.

**eCl@ss users are among the absolute top innovators**

In 2016, the three eCl@ss users with the highest number of patent applications in Baden-Württemberg together accounted for more than 50 percent of all patent applications in the state.

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For details, see Koppel/Pohl/Röben/Schade, 2019, Standards und Innovationen. Eine Patent-Analyse am Beispiel des eCl@ss-Standards, IW-Trends Nr. 4/2019, Cologne.
**eCl@ss users are technology-oriented**

**eCl@ss users are intensively dealing with technology topics**

eCl@ss users talk about Industry 4.0, Big Data, IOT and other technologies on their websites – a clear sign that eCl@ss and technology affinity belong together.

**eCl@ss users: Standards and technologies go hand in hand**

Around half of the users who deal with eCl@ss on their website are dedicated to the topic of Industry 4.0. If eCl@ss is not mentioned, the proportion is significantly lower (18 percent).

**eCl@ss users innovate in digital technology fields**

In 2016, eCl@ss users registered around 40 percent of the patents related to digitization – including 3D printing, autonomous driving and computer-aided surgery.

*Source:* IW Consult (2019): eCl@ss Influencer Net – the network of eCl@ss users
eCl@ss users are optimally networked

Cooperative patent applications

eCl@ss users: 85.7%

eCl@ss users prefer to research and innovate as part of a team

In 2016, eCl@ss users were responsible for around 86 percent of all patents registered at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) in which more than one legal entity was involved.

eCl@ss users are at home above all in the boom regions

In 84 percent of all administrative districts there is at least one eCl@ss user. The concentration is particularly high in the economic centers – which favors networking among eCl@ss users.

eCl@ss users are also internationally networked

19.8 percent of eCl@ss users do not only provide their business partners with information in English on their website, but also in other languages.

Source: IW Consult (2019): eCl@ss Influencer Net – the network of eCl@ss users