

**Gerard (Ged) Owens**, Coordinator for Public Policy Issues at the European Patent Office (EPO)

Ged Owens is responsible for coordinating initiatives relating to Public Policy Issues at the EPO. The major area of interest concerns the interactions between the global patent system and climate change discussions, including Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Technologies. Other areas include the interactions between the patent system and international standards development, culminating in modern “smart phones”. Patents and Life Sciences is also a key area, including public health, genetic resources, and traditional knowledge. Ged liaises with many IGOs and NGOs in these areas, with WIPO, and with the European Commission.

Ged has been working at the European Patent Office (EPO) in Munich for approximately 25 years. Initially engaged as a patent examiner, he worked for many years on managing business and user-related aspects of computer projects. More recently, Ged was engaged in International Cooperation at the EPO, including the “IP5 Cooperation” with the patent offices of China, Japan, Korea and the US, and WIPO in Geneva.