

# Factsheet on Copyright

The European Union wants to protect authors and performers who are at the heart of content creation, strengthen the position of rightholders in their negotiations with online platforms, and ultimately make more legal content available to citizens in Europe. This factsheet explains why a reform of EU copyright legislation is needed, what are the objectives of the reform, what the EU has done to modernise copyright and what has been achieved.



**#DSM #copyright Digital Single Market MODERN EU COPYRIGHT RULES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL EUROPEANS**

Digital technologies have transformed the way we produce, distribute and access creative content. Creators, right holders and the press benefit from these digital opportunities, but they find it difficult to negotiate with online platforms the terms and conditions for the use of their work. Europe needs to take the opportunity and take the lead in updating copyright rules to support its culture and be competitive.

**1. CLEARER DIGITAL RIGHTS AND FEWER WORRIES FOR CITIZENS**

- Online platforms will take care of licensing, so that the users do not have to worry about copyright issues.
- Thanks to mandatory exceptions related to the freedom of expression, all users in the EU will be free to upload content such as reviews, in case of fair use for reviews, criticism or quotation.
- They will have clearer rights when their content is removed and will be able to appeal successful removals of content and extend. The platforms will have to inform complainants about removals and their status.
- Creators will have online access to books, films or music, records that are no longer commercially available in Europe, to reach a wider variety of European audiences across all online on-demand platforms. They will be free to share their copies of paintings, sculptures and other works of art in the public domain with fan legal content.

**2. A BETTER DEAL FOR ALL CREATIVE SECTORS AND THE PRESS**

- Creators in the audiovisual and musical sectors will have more control over the use of their work on film, TV and TV series, games, on apps or other platforms and will be better remunerated for it.
- Newspaper print publishers will enjoy a new right to negotiate and/or receive paid for the use of their newspaper and magazine content on other digital platforms, and which will ensure an appropriate share of the content generated by the user upon request for it.

**3. FAIR REMUNERATION FOR INDIVIDUAL CREATORS AND JOURNALISTS**

- The historical and high standard of creating and writing has been steadily worsening in recent years. Nearly half of authors and writers in the EU were self-employed in 2022 and freelancers usually have low bargaining power and less stable employment.
- With new copyright rules, it will be easier for authors, musicians, journalists and writers to negotiate with their contractual partners (publishers, producers) in order to get better paid for the use of their works and performances.
- This will directly benefit 1000,000 authors - including songwriters, editors, creators of newspaper, journalism, photographers, composers, and 1000,000 performers including musicians, singers, dancers and other performing artists.

**4. MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

- Thanks to EU-wide mandatory exceptions to copyright rules.
- Research and development of artificial intelligence will get a boost through the new exceptions for text and data mining that permit the analysis of big sets of data under copyright. Students and teachers will be able to use digital materials and technologies for learning without facing copyright-related restrictions in their digital teaching activities.
- European museums, libraries, film archives and other cultural heritage institutions will be able to display more content online for future generations.

**NEXT STEPS**

After the European Parliament's positive vote on the Directive, the final text needs to be formally approved by the Council of the EU and be published in the Official Journal. Member States will therefore 24 months to transpose the new rules into their national legislation.

**THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW COPYRIGHT DIRECTIVE**

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- A BETTER DEAL FOR ALL CREATIVE SECTORS AND THE PRESS**
- MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**
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Copyright-revenue industries are a key asset for the European economy – they represent 1.185 million jobs and contribute 475.5 billion per year, 8.8% of Europe's GDP.

\* For instance, the earnings of artists in the EU have dropped by 48% since 2008 and 53% since 2012. (ICM 2022 survey 2020).  
Source: Creative Industries, 2016 edition.

#DigitalSingleMarket #copyright #WhatGoodFriday #Europe

European Commission - Copyright factsheet

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