

Knowledge Rights 21

21st Century Access to Education,
Research and Culture



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On the agenda...

Why the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme?

What is the Programme?

Opportunities for Engagement

Over to you...



Goals of this session

Build understanding of what the KR21 Programme is about

Maximise uptake of the opportunities it offers for libraries in Europe and beyond

Give ourselves the best chance of success!



Why Knowledge Rights 21?



Libraries have always had a key role to play in enabling the delivery of the rights to research, education and culture. This is no different in a digital world as in an analogue

Laws have not always kept up however, leading to disconnect between what is technologically and legally possible. Recent reforms leave a lot to be desired

We cannot assume that these interests and experiences are known by policy-makers or that they understand how important they are. Our interests risk being an after-thought, despite being central to equity and sustainability in Europe.

Advocacy for reform should be a team effort in order to be sustainable.



Background

Thanks to the generosity of the Arcadia Fund

Running provisionally until July 2024

Covers Council of Europe Member States

Policy Committee, Management Committee and Secretariat

www.knowledgerights21.org

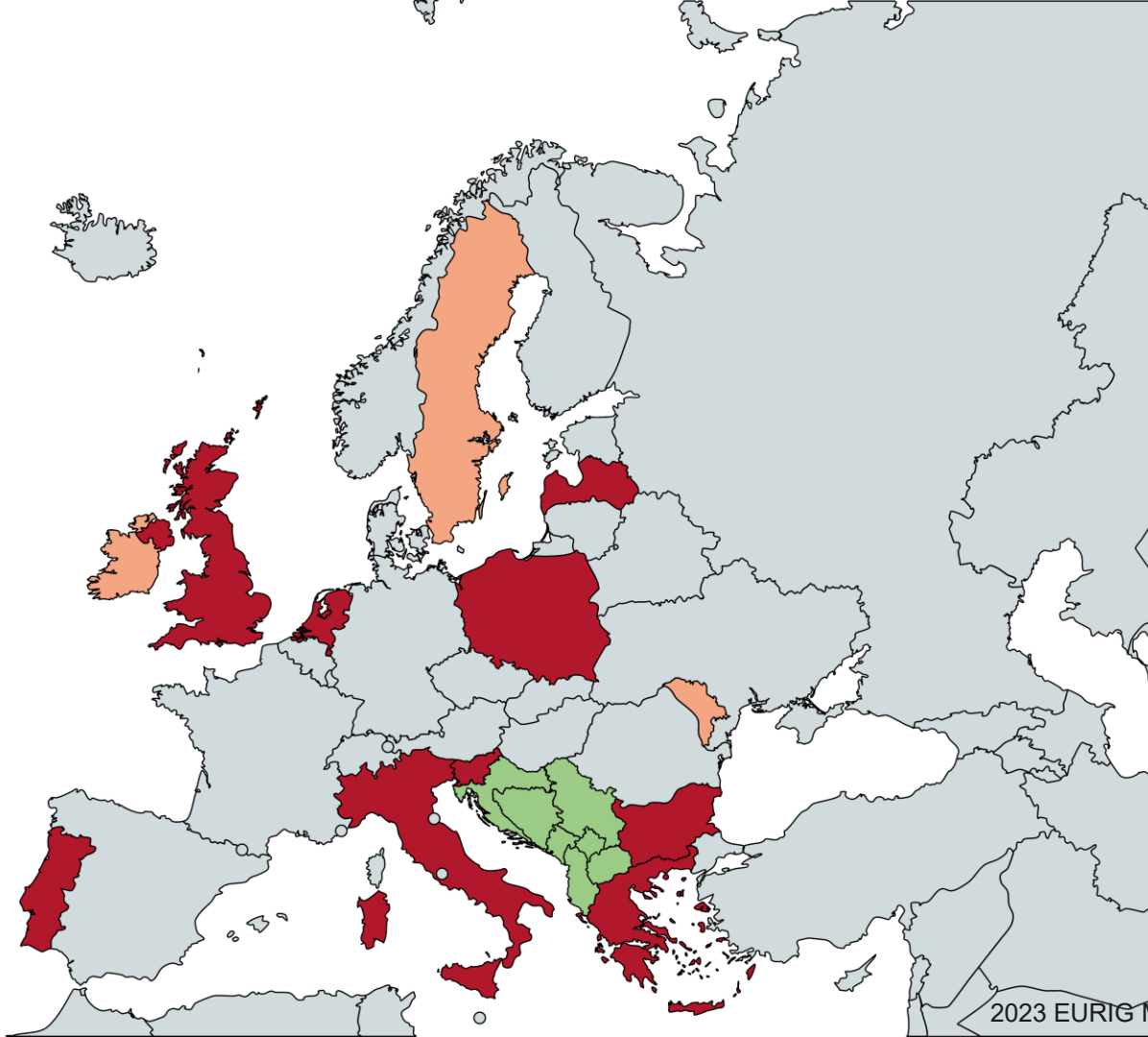
Sustainable National Advocacy Capacity on Copyright

Identify, support and connect the work of national networks of libraries and library-allied groups

Regional coordinators and national grant-giving

Provide evidence in support of advocacy

- National Coordinator
- In progress
- Covered by a regional coordinator





Delivering Concrete Policy Reform

A better deal for library eLending

Contract override and technological protection measures

Flexible exceptions

Legislated secondary publishing rights

Rights retention

A Better Deal for Library eLending



Libraries currently have no guarantee of their ability to acquire and lend eBooks, putting them in a position of weakness when negotiating with publishers

High prices, restrictive terms, or a simple refusal to sell is undermining libraries' ability to fulfil their missions

We need: a backstop in law, potentially on the basis of market investigations (plus other elements!)

Studies: *what is the current status of the law around eLending, and how feasible is secure digital lending (April)? What evidence is there of market dysfunction in the eBook market (September)?*

Contract Override



Long-standing, and hard-won rights under copyright law are all too easily undermined by effectively non-negotiable contract terms

As digital content takes on an ever more central role in libraries' work, libraries' ability to do their work is more and more controlled by private, for-profit interests

We need: to protect library rights in law

Studies: study of 100 contracts offered to libraries to assess their impact on core library activities (May). Study of the impact of technological protection measures on research, and the effectiveness of tools for getting around these (December).

Flexible exceptions

Any effort to predict precisely how libraries and their users are going to be using work into the future is doomed to failure.

COVID in particular has demonstrated the need for flexibilities that deliver on public health priorities

We need to build understanding and appreciation of principles-based, flexible exceptions as part of future copyright reforms

Studies: *assessment of uptake of flexible norms elsewhere in the world and the experience of libraries and others (April). Assessment of researcher experience of relevant exceptions, and impacts of variation (December)*

Secondary Publishing Rights

Taxpayers continue to pay for academic research which ends up behind paywalls, both denying the public access, and reducing impact and reach

Publishers still request exclusive rights which limit what researchers can do with their own work.

We need other countries to follow the example of six European countries, and introduce legislated secondary publishing rights

Studies: exploration of the experience of countries with such Rights, as guidance to others taking up this work

Rights Retention

Despite doing the work, and being funded by their institutions, researchers still themselves required to sacrifice rights over their work in order to get published

There is no need for the handover of rights for academic works – it is authors who can licence works to publishers, not the other way around

We want to spread uptake of rights retention policies among funders, publishers, institutions and authors

Study: uptake of rights reversion among institutions and authors, and understanding of the issues encountered, in order to promote wider uptake

Achieving Change in Brussels



Influencing current EU legislation in relevant areas

- Impact assessment
- Right to repair
- Assessment of copyright for research
- 'Pilot project' on digital access, including eBooks

Shaping future policy agendas

Influencing national policy discussions and supporting advocacy

Opportunities

Training on copyright and advocacy (coming up!)

National coordinators (plenty of countries left!)

National grants (deadline shortly)

Brussels-national connections

Materials to draw on in advocacy

- Research reports and briefings
- Short videos
- Other materials to come, based on how valuable they would be

... and what we need from you!

Data, information and contacts, including responses to our survey on library association engagement in copyright advocacy

Ideas for national coordinators, network members

Applications for national grants (together with national coordinators where possible!)

Feedback: where are the opportunities where we can help!

Sharing and discussing information

- 3 days event 30 May – 1 June, Brussels
 - Sharing knowledge about the outputs of the work packages and consolidating shared positions
 - Progressing on developing policy priorities
 - Building advocacy skills by sharing experience

KR21 and Greece

- Participation in the project since November 2022
- Meetings – sharing information
 - National Library of Greece
 - Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists
- Dissemination of information
 - Use of social networks
 - Use of lists (e.g., Acadelib)
 - Articles in newspapers
 - Webinars and presentation in Conferences.

KR21 and Greece

- Next steps:
 - Involve policymakers and politicians
 - Discussions with publishers and Collective Societies
 - Support efforts from other stakeholders

News article: For democracy, libraries and the right to knowledge*

[news item](#) • [right to knowledge](#)

With the enclosure of knowledge and information in line with the economic priorities of corporations, we are moving towards a society of ignorance. Historically, the great revolutions and social developments in Europe and worldwide have been made based on participation in the production of knowledge. In this context, European libraries have a long tradition of defending people's rights to information, education, research, and culture, which are constituent elements of democratic societies.



Thank you for your attention

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