Contribution ID: ce4e6526-502b-4385-b343-c963461b91ba
Date: 27/10/2026 00:21:41

Targeted consultation on a potential initiative for a better copyright environment for European creativity and innovation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The Commission is considering targeted changes to the EU's copyright framework to enhance the resilience and competitiveness of Europe's cultural and creative sectors and to facilitate research and innovation, as announced in the Call for evidence published in May 2026.

Building on the feedback received in the context of the Call for evidence, this targeted consultation aims at gathering stakeholders' views on specific issues and challenges related to the use of copyright-protected content* in the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI), research, the fight against online piracy, and the use in the EU of the sound recordings of third country nationals. The consultation will gather stakeholder input on assessing whether there is a need for potential future measures on the different issues, and possible policy options.** The outcome of this consultation will feed into the preparation of a targeted initiative for a better copyright environment for European creativity and innovation.

The questionnaire is structured in different sections, addressing different topics relevant for copyright. You may choose to reply to questions in certain sections only and therefore limit your contribution to the areas of relevance to you. Even when selecting specific sections, you are free to skip any individual questions that you cannot or do not wish to answer.

The questionnaire is structured as follows:

1. Identification (mandatory)
2. Copyright and generative AI
3. Online piracy of time-sensitive copyright-protected content, including live events
4. Use in the EU of the sound recordings of nationals of non-EU countries

5. Copyright and research

You will also have the opportunity to upload a document to support your answers to this questionnaire. These documents may include, for example, additional data or evidence on the impact of the options presented in this questionnaire, or more detailed technical explanations of mechanisms or approaches you suggest in your contribution to this questionnaire. In case these additional documents should be considered as confidential, please mark these documents as such.

The consultation will remain open until **10 November 2026** (end of day), following an extension of the original deadline of 3 November 2026.

** For ease of reading, this questionnaire refers to "copyright-protected content". This term should be understood as covering both works protected by copyright, and other subject matter protected by related rights, unless the context or wording of a question indicates otherwise.*

***Disclaimer: The options referred to in this questionnaire are included for the purpose of structuring the consultation and facilitating stakeholder's feedback on a range of possible approaches that have been mentioned in the public debate, as well as in the European Parliament report on Copyright and generative artificial intelligence (2025/2058(INI)) and in the discussions with Member States. Their inclusion should not be understood as indicating that the European Commission has taken a position in favour of a particular option, nor that the options listed constitute an exhaustive or final set of measures under consideration.*

Identification

* Language of my contribution

- (●) English
- ( ) French
- ( ) German

* First name

Yuanxiao

* Surname

Xu

* Email (this won't be published)

xu@authorsalliance.org

* I am giving my contribution as

- (○) Individual user
- (○) Individual author
- (○) Performer / performer representative organisation
- (○) Other rightholder (e.g., publisher/producer, broadcaster)
- (○) Collective management organisation or independent management entity
- (●) Other organisation representing the interests of the cultural and creative sectors
- (○) Sports rights owner/ event organiser / league / federation
- (○) AI provider (e.g. general purpose AI model provider, AI system provider)
- (○) Intermediary service provider (e.g. online platform, hosting service provider, internet access provider, cloud service provider, etc.)
- (○) Other commercial entity (e.g. data aggregator, anti-piracy solutions provider, etc.)
- (○) Public authority
- (○) Public research performing or funding organisation
- (○) Private research performing or funding organisation
- (○) Researcher/academic
- (○) Consumer organisation
- (○) Non-governmental organisation
- (○) Other

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

Enter 'not applicable', if not applicable

Authors Alliance

* Size of organisation, if applicable

- (●) Small and medium (1 – 250 employees)
- (○) Large (251 – 1000 employees)
- (○) EU-headquartered organisation (>1000 employees)
- (○) non-EU headquartered organisation (>1000 employees)
- (○) Not applicable (not an organisation)

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

- (○) Afghanistan
- (○) Djibouti
- (○) Libya
- (○) Saint Martin

- Åland Islands
- Albania
- Algeria
- American Samoa
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antarctica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bermuda
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Bouvet Island
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Falkland Islands
- Faroe Islands
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- French Guiana
- French Polynesia
- French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Guatemala
- Guernsey
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- Honduras
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macau
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Martinique
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar/Burma
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norfolk Island
- Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Sint Maarten
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Svalbard and Jan Mayen
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Gambia
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau

- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Christmas Island
- Clipperton
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Curaçao
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jersey
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Northern Mariana Islands
- North Korea
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Pitcairn Islands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saint Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- (●) United States
- United States Minor Outlying Islands
- Uruguay
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Wallis and Futuna
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Transparency register number, if applicable

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

* My contribution covers the following types of copyright-protected content:

- [ ] Audiovisual works
- [x] Books and publications
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Video games
- [x] Software

- [x] Visual art works
- [x] Other

Other:

For reasons of transparency and openness, your views may, in principle, be published on the European Commission's digital strategy website, in the form of a summary report.

The Commission only publishes your identity if you consent to the publication.

* **Contribution publication privacy settings**

The Commission may publish a summary of the responses to this consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

- ( ) **Anonymous**
  Only organisation details may be published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.
- (•) **Public**
  Organisation details and respondent details may be published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name may also be published.

- [x] I have read the privacy statement for this targeted consultation

Privacy_statement_targeted_consultation_copyright.pdf

* I would like to reply to the questions in the following sections
(please select all that apply)

- [x] Copyright and generative AI
- [ ] Online piracy of time-sensitive copyright-protected content, including live events
- [ ] Use in the EU of the sound recordings of nationals of non-EU countries
- [x] Copyright and research

Copyright and generative AI

The rapid advancement of generative AI presents the cultural and creative sectors and industries with promising opportunities for enhanced creativity and new business models, while also posing a number of challenges.

The 2019 Directive on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market (DSM Directive) lays down exceptions for text-and data mining (TDM). The exception included in Article 3 covers TDM that is carried out for the purpose of scientific research while the TDM exception included in Article 4 has a broader scope, but applies only to the use of works and other subject matter protected by copyright and related rights (referred to as “protected content”) where the rights have not been expressly reserved by rightholders. The challenges related to the implementation of the TDM exception including the opt-out mechanisms are being assessed in the context of the ongoing DSM Directive review process.

Creators and other rightholders that have reserved their rights under Article 4(3) DSM Directive are facing difficulties in enforcing their rights, licensing their protected content and in being remunerated for the use of such protected content. On the other hand, providers of generative AI systems and models need legal certainty with regard to the applicable legal framework and access to large amounts of high-quality data, including protected content, to develop, provide or deploy quality and innovative AI products and services in the EU.

Copyright-protected content may be used at different stages of the AI lifecycle and for a wide range of copyright-relevant purposes. This can include the use of protected works in the training of generative AI models, during inference such as retrieval-augmented generation and other forms of grounded generation, and in AI-generated outputs.

In addition to the DSM Directive, the AI Act provides a complementary framework to facilitate the exercise of rights in cases where AI models are trained on copyright-protected content. The AI Act requires providers of general-purpose AI models to put in place a policy to comply with EU copyright law and to publish a summary of the data used in the training of their models (Article 53 (1) c and d of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689). These obligations apply regardless of whether the models have been trained inside or outside the EU, thus ensuring a level playing field. To support the effective implementation of these obligations, a Code of Practice for General Purpose AI Models, including a dedicated chapter on copyright, and a Commission template for the training data summary have been adopted. The effective implementation of these aforementioned obligations is an important priority for the Commission, which is responsible for supervising compliance and which has already deployed its investigatory powers in this respect. In case of non-compliance, the Commission can impose administrative fines of up to 3% of the provider's worldwide annual turnover.

At the same time, challenges still remain to ensure the effective implementation of the existing provisions and to create a competitive and vibrant EU market for licensing copyright-protected content. Rightholders encounter difficulties to conclude licensing agreements and to get remunerated for their investments in creative content. AI providers also face difficulties to access high-quality data stemming from the EU's rich creative ecosystem, which is essential to unlock the full potential of AI innovation in Europe. Particular challenges are faced by SMEs and start-ups that lack resources to navigate the complexities around the use of copyright-protected content for AI. It is essential that these challenges are addressed to make Europe an attractive place for AI innovation and development and deliver the EU's ambition to make Europe an AI Continent with frontier and sovereign AI capabilities, while ensuring that the EU copyright legal framework is balanced, innovation-friendly, and provides legal certainty for both rightholders and AI model and system

providers.

As explained in the Commission's call for evidence published in May 2026, the Commission is therefore exploring ways to facilitate the licensing and enforcement of copyright and related rights in the AI context and improve the conditions for creators' remuneration, while enabling AI model and system providers, including start-ups, to lawfully access copyright-protected content and use it for AI innovation.

The questions below aim at gathering stakeholders' views on the challenges related to the use of copyright-protected content in the context of generative AI, both for rightholders and AI providers, and the possible ways to address them.

A complementary workstream is the parallel development of an AI Strategy for the Cultural and Creative Sectors, for which a call for evidence was published in July 2026. The strategy will set out an overarching strategic vision for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the cultural and creative sectors and industries.

Copyright and generative AI: licensing and enforcement of copyright and related rights

1. What are in your view the three most pressing issues regarding the use of copyright-protected content in the context of AI that need to be addressed?
*(please select up to three options and **rank them** in order of priority, with 1 being the highest priority)*
at most 3 answered row(s)

	1	2	3
Legal uncertainty on the applicable copyright rules, including with regard to the application of the text-and data mining exception	○	○	○
Practical challenges in expressing, identifying, and respecting rights reservations, including lack of standardised opt-out technical protocols that can be operationalised at scale	○	○	○
Differences in the applicable copyright rules that lead to competitive disadvantages an an uneven playing field between AI providers in the EU and providers operating in other jurisdictions	○	○	○
Difficulties in enforcing exclusive rights provided under EU copyright law due to limited transparency on the use of copyright-protected content by AI model or system providers	○	○	○
Limited licensing and remuneration opportunities for creators and creative industries	○	○	○
Limited access to quality copyright-protected data for AI training and development, including access to large-scale datasets necessary for building advanced AI	○	○	○
SMEs' and start-ups' lack of resources and limited bargaining power to conclude licenses	○	○	○

Use of protected content without authorisation, where no exception or limitation apply	○	○	○
Other - please explain	◉	○	○

Other: please explain

200 character(s) maximum

Most researchers are pressured into assigning their copyrights to publishers/aggregators, who then dictate the terms under which the research is licensed to AI companies, obstructing open research.

2a. As a rightholder, have you faced difficulties in enforcing and/or licensing your rights for AI uses (e.g. for training, or other types of uses)?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ Partly
- ○ No
- ○ Not applicable

2b. As an AI provider/data aggregator/research organisation/other user, have you faced difficulties related to the application of the existing EU copyright rules, for example in relying on relevant exceptions for AI training or obtaining authorisation or licenses for the use of copyright-protected content (e.g. for training your models, or other types of uses)?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ Partly
- ○ No
- ○ Not applicable

3a. As a rightholder, what are the main barriers or obstacles you have encountered in enforcing and /or licensing your rights? (please select maximum 5 options and rank them in order of priority, with 1 being the highest priority)

at most 5 answered row(s)

	1	2	3	4	5
Legal uncertainty on the applicable copyright rules, including with regard to the application of the text-and data mining exception	○	○	○	○	○
Fragmentation linked to national rules or jurisprudence across the EU	○	○	○	○	○
Difficulty in obtaining detailed information about the use of copyright-protected content as evidence to support licensing negotiations or infringement claims, including in courts	○	○	○	○	○
Limited bargaining position in licensing negotiations	○	○	○	○	○
Counterparties are unwilling to engage in licensing	○	○	○	○	○

Difficulties in establishing or agreeing on the economic value of works or other subject matter for AI uses	○	○	○	○	○
Unclear responsibility regarding the clearance of rights across the AI value chain (dataset vendor vs. model/system provider vs. deployer)	○	○	○	○	○
Difficulties to express reservation of rights (opt-out) under the TDM exception	○	○	○	○	○
Difficulty to verify the respect of the reservation of rights (opt-out) under the TDM exception	○	○	○	○	○
Insufficient transparency on the activities on web crawlers with regard to copyright-protected content	○	○	○	○	○
Litigation or dispute-resolution costs	○	○	○	○	○
Transaction costs related to licensing	○	○	○	○	○
Other	◉	○	○	○	○

Other: please specify

200 character(s) maximum

Intermediaries are the barrier. Platforms or publishers shouldn't be paid for AI training for their authors' works. Copyright law cannot be manipulated into protecting their business models.

3b. As an AI provider/data aggregator/research organisation/other user, what are the main barriers or obstacles you have encountered in relation to copyright, including for the application of the EU copyright legal framework for any AI uses? (please select maximum 5 options and rank them in order of priority, with 1 being the highest priority)

at most 5 answered row(s)

	1	2	3	4	5
Legal uncertainty on the applicable copyright rules, including with regard to the application of the text-and data mining exception	○	○	○	○	○
Fragmentation linked to national rules or jurisprudence across the EU	○	○	○	○	○
Uneven level playing field between non-EU providers and EU-based providers	○	○	○	○	○
Lack of a marketplace with relevant copyright protected content that can be used in the context of AI or lack of technical solutions for automated licensing at scale	○	○	○	○	○
Counterparties are unwilling to engage in licensing	○	○	○	○	○
Limited bargaining position in licensing negotiations, in particular for SMEs and start-ups	○	○	○	○	○

Difficulties in establishing or agreeing on the economic value of works or other subject matter for AI uses	○	○	○	○	○
Unclear responsibility regarding the clearance of rights across the AI value chain (dataset vendor vs. model/system provider vs. deployer)	○	○	○	○	○
Difficulty to determine whether a work is copyright-protected, which rights need to be cleared/licensed and/or to identify the relevant rightholders	○	○	○	○	○
Difficulty to identify and comply with reservation of rights (opt-out) under the TDM exception, including lack of standardised opt-out technical protocols that can be operationalised at scale	○	○	○	○	○
Risk of exposure of trade secrets due to existing transparency requirements	○	○	○	○	○
Transaction costs related to licensing, including the need to clear rights with multiple rightholders	○	○	○	○	○
Litigation or dispute-resolution costs	○	○	○	○	○
Other	◉	○	○	○	○

Other: please specify

200 character(s) maximum

Academic researchers and small startups forgoing socially beneficial research because of restrictive TPMs and contract terms.

4a. As a rightholder, how do you assess the impacts of the barriers identified under question 3a? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Loss of revenues or licensing opportunities
- ☐ Market substitution and erosion of primary markets for copyright-protected content
- ☐ Reduced incentive to create, produce, or invest within the EU
- ☐ Reduced competitiveness of affected businesses or sectors
- ☐ Negative impact on the quality/performance of AI models or systems (e.g. lack of access to high-quality diverse or specific content, leading to low quality, output and worse model performance)
- ☐ No significant effects
- ☑ Other: please specify

Other: please specify

200 character(s) maximum

Impact is measured by valuable research forgone due to TPMs and contractual restrictions. Such research causes no harm to publishers' traditional markets.

Please explain your answer to question 4 (impact of barriers)

1000 character(s) maximum

4b. As an AI provider/data aggregator/research organisation/other user, how have these difficulties or uncertainties in relation to copyright identified under question 3b affected your organisation? (select all that apply)

- [ ] Increased compliance and litigation costs
- [ ] Limited ability to scale-up
- [ ] Reduced investment into AI development in the EU including possible relocation of certain AI development activities outside of the EU
- [ ] Limited access to high-quality and diverse data for AI training and development
- [ ] High costs for SMEs and start-ups to access copyright-protected content
- [ ] Reduced competitiveness of AI providers and affected businesses or sectors
- [ ] Negative impact on the quality/performance of AI models or systems (e.g. lack of access to high-quality diverse or specific content leading to low quality output)
- [ ] No significant effect
- [x] Other: please specify

Other: please specify

200 character(s) maximum

Academic researchers forgo socially beneficial research because of restrictive TPMs and contract terms.

Please explain your answer to question 4 (impact of barriers)

1000 character(s) maximum

5. In your view, what would be the most appropriate approach at EU level to tackle the challenges linked to the use of copyright-protected content for generative AI?

- ( ) Maintain the status quo: continue enforcing the existing rules, with no changes to the regulatory framework
- ( ) Enhance voluntary cooperation among market players, through soft law instruments (at national or EU level)
- ( ) Introduce non-legislative measures to support access and use of copyright-protected content for AI
- ( ) Introduce new binding measures under EU copyright law
- ( ) Other: please specify

6. In your view, which mechanism(s) would be the most appropriate to support enforcement of copyright and related rights related to AI uses?

(please **rank** the options in order of appropriateness, with 1 being the most appropriate)

Note that you should only rank the options you deem appropriate - you may remove a selection by clicking the selected button

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Operationalising the existing opt-out mechanism under the TDM exception via a common vocabulary, EU standards for opt out protocols, and an EU-level registry for opt-out	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Clarify the application of EU copyright rules (including territorial application) for use of copyright-protected content for AI training and other AI uses	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Imposing an obligation on web crawlers and AI agents used to crawl content online to disclose identity and purpose	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Introducing an obligation on AI providers / dataset providers / data collectors of record-keeping and retention of information about use of copyright-protected content (e.g. clearance/licensing, verification of opt-out, etc.) for a defined period	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Imposing an obligation on AI providers / dataset providers / data collectors of independent audit /certification on use of protected content	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Imposing an obligation on AI providers to provide information under NDA about use of protected content upon a substantiated request from CMOs/rightholders and under certain conditions, as an alternative to the public disclosure of the top 10% of the top domain names of the websites crawled as required in the Commission template for the public summary of training content under the AI Act	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Providing for the possibility for courts / administrative authorities to impose disclosure obligations under certain conditions in the context of legal proceedings or mediation/arbitration	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Introducing a rebuttable presumption of use of copyright-protected content by AI providers, subject to specific conditions, e.g. where AI providers do not fulfill the existing transparency obligations provided for in the AI Act	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
No need for additional mechanisms	◉	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other: please specify	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Please explain your answer and share your views on the mechanisms listed above, including on possible considerations and conditions of application:

1500 character(s) maximum

7. In your view, how would these different options impact your business/activity?

Note that you may choose not to answer any option on which you have no opinion by leaving the relevant boxes unticked.

	Strong negative impact	Moderate negative impact	Neutral	Moderate positive impact	Strong positive impact
Operationalising the existing opt-out mechanism under the TDM exception via a common vocabulary, EU standards for opt-out protocols, and EU-level registry for opt-out	◉	○	○	○	○
Clarify the application of EU copyright rules (including territorial application) for use of copyright-protected content for AI training and other AI uses	◉	○	○	○	○

Imposing an obligation on web crawlers and AI agents used to crawl content online to disclose identity and purpose	◉	○	○	○	○
Obligation on AI providers/dataset providers/ data collectors of record-keeping and retention of information about use of copyright-protected content (e.g. clearance/licensing, verification of opt-out, etc.) for a defined period	◉	○	○	○	○
Imposing an obligation on AI providers / dataset providers / data collectors of independent audit/certification on use of protected content	◉	○	○	○	○
Imposing an obligation on AI providers to provide information under NDA about use of protected content upon a substantiated request from CMOs/rightholders and under certain conditions, as an alternative to the public disclosure of the top 10% of the top domain names of the websites crawled as required in the Commission template for the public summary of training content under the AI Act	◉	○	○	○	○
Providing for the possibility for courts / administrative authorities to impose disclosure obligations under certain conditions in the context of legal proceedings or mediation/arbitration	◉	○	○	○	○
Introducing a rebuttable presumption of use of copyright protected content by AI providers, subject to specific conditions e. g. where AI providers do not fulfill the existing transparency obligations provided for in the AI Act	◉	○	○	○	○

Please explain your answers to the question above

1000 character(s) maximum

8. In your view, which mechanisms would be the most appropriate to facilitate licensing and access to and use of copyright-protected content in the different phases of the AI lifecycle? (fill

out a maximum of 3 rows)

In order to take into account the different types of uses of copyright-protected content, the table below makes a distinction between

- (i) uses related to the training of generative AI models (where rightholders have opted out from the TDM exception),
- (ii) uses taking place at inference time (use of content by an AI system after training, including for the purpose of responding to user inputs, retrieving copyright-protected content, providing context, grounding outputs, augmenting generation, or otherwise supporting the operation of the system during deployment), and
- (iii) other uses related to AI-generated output (such as production, creation, adaptation, or summarisation of content by an AI system based on content or prompts).

at most 3 answered row(s)

	For training of generative AI	For inference-time use	For output
Supporting the development of a marketplace for licensing copyright protected content for AI uses, for example through technical solutions for automated licensing at scale	☐	☐	☐
Develop model contractual clauses for licenses covering AI uses	☐	☐	☐
Imposing an obligation on rightholders and AI providers to conduct negotiations in good faith	☐	☐	☐
Introducing a structured mediation or arbitration mechanism involving an independent body which could, under certain conditions, require the parties to share information, negotiate and assist in the determination of the remuneration	☐	☐	☐
Promoting collective licensing, in particular through the use of extended collective licensing (ECL), if and where appropriate	☐	☐	☐
Introducing a fair compensation obligation for the uses falling under the exception in Article 4 DSM which have not been reserved by the rightholders	☐	☐	☐
Introducing a remuneration right for certain uses of copyright-protected content by generative AI models/systems providers or other relevant actors	☐	☐	☐
No need for additional measures	☐	☐	☐
Other - please explain	☐	☐	☐

Please explain your answer and share your views on the mechanisms listed above, including on the conditions of application:

1500 character(s) maximum

9. In your view, how would these different options impact your business/activity?

Note that you may choose not to answer any option on which you have no opinion by leaving the relevant boxes unticked.

	Strong negative impact	Moderate negative impact	Neutral	Moderate positive impact	Strong positive impact
Supporting the development of a marketplace for licensing copyright protected content for AI uses, for example through technical solutions for automated licensing at scale	○	○	○	○	○
Develop model contractual clauses for licenses covering AI uses	○	○	○	○	○
Imposing an obligation on rightholders and AI providers to conduct negotiations in good faith	○	○	○	○	○
Introducing a structured mediation or arbitration mechanism involving an independent body which could, under certain conditions, require the parties to share information, negotiate and assist in the determination of the remuneration	○	○	○	○	○
Promoting collective licensing, in particular through the use of extended collective licensing (ECL), if and where appropriate	○	○	○	○	○
Introducing a fair compensation obligation for the uses falling under the exception in Article 4 DSM which have not been reserved by the rightholders	○	○	○	○	○
Introducing a remuneration right for certain uses of copyright-protected content by generative AI models/systems providers or other relevant actors	○	○	○	○	○

Please explain your answer:

1000 character(s) maximum

Copyright and generative AI: AI-generated imitations of performers

Technologies such as generative AI allow for the creation of content which makes use of people's personal characteristics ('impersonifications'), including image, voice, and likeness. The dissemination of impersonifications can affect the person's privacy rights, generate disinformation, and impact the trust in the media. Addressing these issues can respond therefore to a series of different public interest considerations which are the object of legislation in areas other than copyright.
At the same time, in the creative sectors the use of digitally generated imitations of persons engaged as performers (e.g. actors, singers, musicians, dancers, etc.) has given rise to complex questions, concerning their ability to control the commercial exploitation of their digital likeness, which can have consequences on their image, remuneration, and employment opportunities. Some of these issues extend beyond copyright protection.

For an AI model or system to digitally generate an imitation of the likeness of a performer, these need to have been trained on fixation of performances and/or fed biometric data, or motion-capture scans pertaining to the individual performer. At EU level, copyright law grants performers the right to authorise and prevent the reproduction and making available of a fixation of their performance. Usually, performers' rights are transferred to producers, with a view to exploit the works more efficiently. Rightholders can opt to exclude from AI training their works and subject matter, including fixations of performances, under Article 4(3) of the Directive 2019/790 on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market. The questions in section 2A above concerning enforcement and licensing in relation to generative AI uses are relevant in this regard. Rightholders can also exercise their exclusive rights to prevent AI-generated content that makes available (parts of) fixed performance.

In addition to the economic rights harmonised under the EU legal framework, performers have the moral rights to object to any distortion, mutilation or other modification of performances that would be prejudicial to their reputation (Article 5 of WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty).

However, copyright law does not provide protection specifically against the AI generation of imitations of the performers' likeness. This is because copyright protects expression, therefore its object are the works of creativity (such as books and other written works, cinematographic works, musical compositions, etc) and the subject matter that is related to them, such as performances of actors and musicians, sound recordings, broadcasts.

Certain legislation may be applicable to protect performers, and persons in general, against the use of their impersonifications: At EU level, the use of performers' personal characteristics, such as their voice or likeness, are harmonised under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679), where such characteristics can be attached to and identify an individual. The controller needs a valid legal basis to process the personal data such as informed consent (in which case the individual must have the ability to withdraw their consent at any time) or legitimate interest (in which case the individual has the right to object to the processing). Furthermore, the AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689) introduces transparency requirements that may apply to AI-generated imitations of performers. Providers of AI systems generating synthetic content including audio, image, video, or text content are required to ensure that the outputs are marked in a machine-readable format and detectable as artificially generated or manipulated. In addition, where AI-generated or manipulated image, audio, or video content constitutes a 'deep fake' (i.e. it resembles an existing person and would falsely appear to a person to be authentic or truthful), deployers are required to disclose that the content has been artificially generated or manipulated. These obligations may therefore apply to certain AI-generated imitations of performers, including imitations of their image or voice. At national level, the use of digital likeness may be further addressed by e.g. legislation on personality rights, image rights, unfair competition, criminal law sanctions.

In this context, the questions below aim to identify challenges posed by the use of AI impersonifications of performers and also seek to explore whether possible solutions should be considered in copyright legislation, having regards to its purposes, scope, and potential implications.

---

1. In your view, how can AI be used to support creative processes, including through the use of digitally generated imitations of performers, in a balanced and fair manner?

1000 character(s) maximum

3. Do you have any experience with regard to AI-generated impersonification and/or how the relevant rights and interests of performers impersonated have been taken into account?

1000 character(s) maximum

4. Do you consider that there is a need for specific rules at EU level, to address the use of performers' likeness in AI-generated content?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No, the existing protection is sufficient
- ◯ No opinion

5. Taking into account the rationale, nature and scope of copyright protection, do you think that EU copyright legislation would be appropriate to address these issues or that this issue should be addressed through other legal means?

1000 character(s) maximum

Copyright and research

Directive 2001/29/EC (Infosoc Directive) allows Member States to introduce an exception or limitation to the reproduction and communication to the public rights for uses of copyright-protected content "for the sole purpose of illustration for teaching or scientific research, as long as the source, including the author's name, is indicated, unless this turns out to be impossible and to the extent justified by the non-commercial purpose to be achieved".

The varying extent to which this exception is implemented in Member States creates challenges for cross-border research collaboration. While the exception aims to facilitate research, differences in national approaches can create uncertainties for researchers who must navigate diverse legal frameworks. Uncertainty also remains about the scope of permissible uses under that exception.
Furthermore, academics experience difficulties in widely sharing, accessing and reusing the works resulting from publicly funded research as they often need to transfer their rights to publishers to have their works published in scientific journals. Since 2014, seven Member States have introduced a Secondary Publication Right (SPR) for scientific contributions and writings, with some differences regarding their scope and conditions of application. The SPR in these Member States allows authors, if they choose, to publish the works created in the context of publicly funded research independently and separately from the version published by scientific publishers. It therefore constitutes an additional avenue for authors to exercise their exclusive rights. Questions related to SPR also need to be considered in the context of the EU Open Science Policy which aims to promote an approach to the scientific process based on early and open sharing of research outputs, transparent and reproducible practices, inclusive collaboration across disciplines and sectors, and active engagement of society.

These barriers and possible ways forward are thoroughly analysed in a study prepared for the Commission and published in 2024, as well as the complementary economic study published in 2026.
This consultation seeks to gather information on these challenges and on the possible avenues forward and their impacts.

---

1. Have you experienced specific challenges or barriers related to the use of copyright-protected content for scientific research activities, including across borders?

- (●) Yes

- ○ No
- ○ Not applicable

Please describe the challenges or barriers you have encountered:

1000 character(s) maximum

2. Do you think that the existing copyright exception for scientific research provided for in Article 5 (3)(a) of Directive 2001/29/EC is fit-for-purpose to support research in the digital and cross-border environment?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No
- ○ I don't know

Please explain your answer:

1000 character(s) maximum

The existing framework does not adequately support digital, cross-border research. The definition of research must be broad enough to encompass all public-interest research and the external collaborations on which research depends. Critically, no technical protection measures should be allowed to abrogate the right to engage in text and data mining research, as FRLA, IFLA, and the European University Association recommend. By comparison, the United States provides a clear TDM exemption to its anti-circumvention law. European researchers should also have the right to remove TPMs. As the main proponent of the US TDM exemption, Authors Alliance understands how crucial it is for researchers to circumvent technical protections without fear of legal ramifications. If no similar exemption exists in the EU, TDM researchers will have an advantage when they relocate to the US.

3. In your view, what would be the most appropriate approach at EU level to tackle the challenges and barriers related to the use of copyright-protected content for scientific research, including cross-border research collaboration?

- ○ Maintain the status quo: no changes to the copyright regulatory framework
- ○ Work on increasing awareness on allowed uses and developing guidelines
- ◉ Changes to the regulatory framework at the EU level
- ○ Other: please explain

3a. In your view, what are the changes related to the research exception under the Infosoc Directive which could be considered at EU level? *(select all that apply)*

- ☑ Making the exception mandatory for all Member States
- ☐ Clarifying the beneficiaries of the exception
- ☐ Clarifying the purpose of the exception, scope of permitted use and conditions of applicability
- ☑ Removing the non-commercial condition attached to the existing exception
- ☑ Allowing cross border uses of protected content under the exception

- [x] Ensuring that technological protection measures do not prevent beneficiaries from uses under the exception
- [x] Ensuring that the exception cannot be overriden by contracts
- [ ] Other: please specify

4. Considering possible changes to the EU copyright regulatory framework (research exception under the Infosoc Directive), what would be in your view the impacts of the following options on your business, innovation, research and/or other activities?

Note that you may choose not to answer any option on which you have no opinion by leaving the relevant boxes unticked.

	Strong negative impact	Moderate negative impact	Neutral	Moderate positive impact	Strong positive impact
Making the exception mandatory for all Member States	○	○	○	○	◉
Clarifying the beneficiaries of the exception	○	○	◉	○	○
Clarifying the purpose of the exception, scope of permitted use and conditions of applicability	○	○	◉	○	○
Removing the non-commercial condition attached to the existing exception	○	○	○	◉	○
Allowing cross border uses of protected content under the exception	○	○	○	○	◉
Ensuring that technological protection measures do not prevent beneficiaries from uses under the exception	○	○	○	○	◉
Ensuring that the exception cannot be overridden by contracts	○	○	○	○	◉

Please elaborate your answer:

1000 character(s) maximum

A clarified, harmonised research exception would benefit research and innovation across the EU. A broad definition of research covering public-interest research and necessary external collaborations — together with a rule that technical protection measures cannot override text and data mining and any otherwise lawful research activities — would give researchers legal certainty they now lack. Cross-border research would also benefit from harmonised interlibrary document supply: as FRLA notes, many countries lack an exception for cross-border transmission of materials between libraries, whether analogue or digital, yet this infrastructure must operate across borders to support research. EU institutions and researchers would benefit greatly from highly integrated interlibrary loan systems like those in US universities. Continued fragmentation disadvantages EU research relative to jurisdictions with clearer exemptions.

5. Have you faced issues in sharing your own work or accessing others' works produced in the context of publicly funded research (e.g. scientific publications, such as articles, books, conference papers)?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not applicable

Please specify what problems you faced

1000 character(s) maximum

6. In your view, what would be the most appropriate approach to tackle the challenges related to the sharing and accessing of scientific publications / works produced in the context of publicly funded research?

- ( ) Maintain the status quo: no changes to the copyright regulatory framework
- ( ) Issuing recommendation and/or guidance to Member States to encourage and support open access to publicly funded research results
- (●) Introducing a harmonised secondary publication right in EU copyright legislation
- ( ) Other: please explain

7. In your view, which of the following statements best describe the added value and/or risks related to the possible introduction of an EU-wide secondary publication right? (select all that apply)

- [x] It will be easier for researchers to share their research publications more widely.
- [x] It will be easier for researchers to access publicly funded research publications and use them for the benefit of further research
- [x] It will strengthen the position of scientific authors when transferring rights to publishers
- [x] It will facilitate the commercial exploitation of research publications (e.g. accelerating their route to market, supporting the faster adoption of research results into products and services)
- [ ] It will disrupt existing publishing models, potentially affecting journal operations and quality of scientific publications overall, and reducing the incentives for investment in publishing
- [ ] It will make it more difficult for researchers to publish their works in journals
- [ ] It will have no additional effects as currently available open access routes are sufficient to share and access scientific publications
- [ ] It is not possible to estimate the effect of its introduction
- [x] Other: please explain

Other: please explain

1000 character(s) maximum

We disagree with STM's statement that "[SPR] removes the author's control on how to allocate their rights and thus acts like a limitation." Authors do not have a meaningful choice in today's academic publishing. The "freedom to allocate rights" STM invokes in opposition is, in practice, the freedom to surrender all rights to a publisher on the publisher's standard terms. A harmonised secondary publication right addresses this problem.

8. Considering possible changes to the EU copyright regulatory framework (introduction of an EU-wide secondary publication right), what would be in your view the impacts of the following options on your business, innovation, research and/or other activities?

Please note that in the options below the EU-wide secondary publication right (SPR) would apply only to the making available of publications or works resulting from publicly funded research (receiving at least 50% public funding).

Note that you may choose not to answer any option on which you have no opinion by leaving the relevant boxes unticked.

SPR Scenario	Strong negative impact	Moderate negative impact	Neutral	Moderate positive impact	Strong positive impact
The SPR would apply only to scientific journal articles and would allow authors to make publicly accessible the author accepted manuscript after an embargo period	○	○	○	◉	○
The SPR would apply only to scientific journal articles and would allow authors to make publicly accessible the author accepted manuscript without embargo period	○	○	○	◉	○
The SPR would apply to scientific journal articles and all forms of scholarly output that enjoy copyright protection and would allow authors to make publicly accessible the author accepted manuscript without embargo period	○	○	○	○	◉
The SPR would apply to scientific journal articles and would allow authors to make publicly accessible the author accepted manuscript without embargo, and the version of record (VoR) after an embargo period	○	○	○	○	◉

The SPR would apply to scientific journal articles and all forms of scholarly output that enjoy copyright protection and would allow authors to make publicly accessible the author accepted manuscript without embargo, and the version of record (VoR), after an embargo period	○	○	○	○	◉

Please elaborate your answer:

1000 character(s) maximum

Today most authors have no meaningful choice: they are generally required to assign or exclusively license copyright to publishers, who then restrict access. Any impactful SPR should guarantee immediate availability for publicly funded research with no embargo with a mandatory open license such as CC BY on every deposited version. STM argues "self-deposit has stagnated" while "Gold OA is responsible for the growth in OA uptake." Gold OA entrenches a pay-to-publish model that burdens authors and institutions. STM also warns self-deposit risks "misinformation" and "erroneous drug dosages," yet the research community has run green-OA repositories (PubMed Central, arXiv) for decades without such harms.

9. Would your responses to the previous question change if any amount of public funding would allow for the SPR provision to come into effect?

If so, please elaborate how and what percentage of public funding you would find adequate.

1000 character(s) maximum

Any-amount-of-public-funding as a trigger strengthens the case. Where public money contributes to research, the public has a legitimate interest in accessing the resulting work, and publishers should not be able to hide publicly funded scholarship behind paywalls. An any-amount funding threshold would better guarantee that publicly funded research is immediately available to the public. We would caution only that the trigger be defined clearly to avoid uncertainty, and that partial public funding suffice rather than requiring exclusive or majority public funding, which would needlessly narrow the right's benefit.

Additional documents

You may upload a document on the subject of this consultation, as additional background reading to better understand your position and/or to provide concrete evidence (e.g. quantification of impact, technical explanations of options suggested). Confidential documents and information should be marked as such.

Only files of the type pdf,doc,docx,odt,txt,rtf are allowed

Background Documents

Privacy statement

Contact

Contact Form