Copyright Infrastructure Task Force

The Copyright Infrastructure Task Force aims at defining, promoting, and governing an open rights data framework.

It will:
- define an innovative architecture of identifiers and schemas to integrate rights and content data of any kind or complexity, and
- develop current and interactive user references to technologies supporting interoperability, searchability, and trustworthiness of rights management information.

Background

Following the DSM directive 2019/790, the Council's document 15016/19 on the Copyright Infrastructure, and the IP Action Plan 2020, the Commission published a study on Copyright and New Technologies in February 2022.

The study recommended:
- **raising copyright awareness** at the edges of the creation ecosystem, i.e., on the side of creators and rightsholders, and on the side of users,
- **mastering metadata**: training metadata professionals and encapsulating metadata knowledge in intelligent system interfaces,
- **defining data governance**: raising trust in rights management information in alignment with European initiatives towards open data, data governance, and data spaces, and
- **opening the rights data framework**: making it incorruptible, trustworthy and neutral by defining a limited sets of standards with which the industry could update existing or build new metadata solutions.

In summer 2022, the Governments of Estonia and Finland launched the Copyright Infrastructure Task Force to implement, together with other EU Member states, the study's recommendations. In January 2024, the Commission urged all Member States to join this work.

Status on 15 April 2024

With the support of the European Commission and the Governments of Latvia and Lithuania, the Task Force drafted implementation strategy, technical description of the multi-country project, and statutes for its work. The Task Force has also liaised with Europeum, the European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) aiming at deploying the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI), to define a joint AI and Copyright use case.

So far, 12 Member States has joined the Task Force: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania as members and Belgium, Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Spain and Greece as observers. The Task Force reports regularly to the Council working party on Copyright.

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