

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE COPYRIGHT ECOSYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

During the upcoming 42nd Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), an Information Session on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Copyright Ecosystem will take place. In order to provide a clear overview of the “impact on the cultural, creative and educational ecosystem, including copyright, related rights, and limitations and exceptions”, the Secretariat kindly invites Member States and Observers to share existing examples of situations that arose and actions that were taken and/or interventions that were made during the Covid-19 pandemic with respect to the industries or institutions that are being considered in the Information Session. We ask you to describe these situations or actions by providing the information requested below. If you are able to give us some elements of your response before March 15, it could help our researchers who are preparing the overview. In addition, all contributions received by the eve of the Information Session will be uploaded (with your permission) onto the WIPO web site.

Please send this form by email to the following address: copyright.mail@wipo.int with the subject: “Information Session”.

INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.
Copyright Department, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
2. Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.
Jakub Slovák, jakub.slovak@culture.gov.sk
3. Would you accept having your response made public (e.g. posted on the WIPO website)?
 Yes
 No
4. Do you accept having the information contained in your responses mentioned in studies and presentations for the Information Session?
 Yes
 No
5. **Brief** description of example, measures or interventions that took place (up to 200 words).
(Explanation: Please briefly explain the situation and why it is of interest for the Information Session. Examples could include policies put in place or other measures aimed at increasing the resilience of an industry or institution, or to assist the people they serve.)
The cultural sector has undoubtedly faced a number of issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic. To mitigate the impact on the creative sector, especially on the people working in this sector, the

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as „Ministry“) has implemented a number of measures, mainly consisting of financial grants and subsidies. The financial support was provided to employers in the cultural and creative industries, who had to close their establishments (such as theatres, concert clubs, libraries, museums, cinemas) due to pandemic measures, which resulted in a decrease in sales of at least 20%. Subsidy was also provided to professionals in the field of theatre, dance, music, literature and visual arts, but also to those who partially participated in activities related to creation of works (e.g. sound engineers in relation to sound design or light engineers in relation to light design) or were involved in the implementation of various professional activities in the field of art and culture, e.g. cultural assistants. Financial support was provided to non-profit organizations in culture or foundations that have been active in culture for a long time. These are, for example, theatre ensembles or organizers of various festivals, to which the Ministry has reimbursed 80% of the year-on-year gap in income (caused by Covid-19 pandemic) from cultural activities. Subsidies were also provided to SMEs in culture, but also to organizations such as theatres, museums, libraries and public media. In the field of cultural education, a project was implemented to support the employment in public or even private primary art schools.

6. Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).
Slovak Republic

7. Relevant sector or sectors.
Audiovisual including cinema, Music, Visual Arts
Performing Arts
Publishing
Museum
Libraries
Archives
Educational and Research

7.1 Additional observation or sector not listed above:
Support also for a culture of minorities in Slovakia.

8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.
The urgent need to support the cultural and creative sector during the Covid-19 pandemic has shown the differences in legal basis of functioning of various sectors. As the majority of creators are self-employed persons or employees of some institutions, therefore the first package of support was targeted on them. But due to the strictly specified conditions of support schemes still some sectors or groups of creators didn't fall within this scope. That's why the support schemes have to be adapted to specific cases and professions in creative industry, such as those operating as one-person limited company or self-employed persons working according to their trade acts (sole traders) and also e.g. cultural event agencies or sound system companies. Moreover, some of the creators and other people work in parallel as ordinary employees (in companies/institutions not related to cultural sector) and are at the same time self-employed persons within the cultural sector (e.g. person working on the daily basis at IT company, but being part-time DJ), what excluded them from support schemes. This problem also led to the adjustment of support schemes. The need to solve these problems brings the first deep analysis on the diverse legal basis of functioning of creative and cultural sector on which we can build also in the future.

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9. Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example.

<https://www.pomahamekulture.sk/>

10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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