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

Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.
Portuguese Society of Authors

Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.
drida@spautores.pt

Would you accept having your response made public (e.g. posted on the WIPO web site)?
☒ Yes
☐ No

Do you accept having the information contained in your responses mentioned in studies and presentations for the Information Session?
☒ Yes
☐ No

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.)

Government measures:
- creation of a line of credit for individual entrepreneurs,
- specific fund to support cultural creation
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Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

- creation of support lines for the Cultural sector, within the scope of the Economic and Social Stabilization Program
  - support for artists, authors, technicians, and cultural professionals
  - support to professional artistic entities
  - support for adapting spaces to COVID measures
- financing of production projects and festivals supported by the ICA (and which had been suspended/cancelled/postponed because of the pandemic)
- supplementary support from Social Security for self-employed workers in Culture
- payment of 50% of shows scheduled and later postponed/cancelled

SPA’s measures:
- provided a human resources team to help authors apply to support measures
  - SPA Emergency Fund reinforced by €100,000.
  - SPA asked the municipalities for an advance of 40% of the value of the contracts for postponed shows.
- doubling of the percentage of advance payment of royalties to music authors and publishers
- Joint Letter (2020-04-07)
SPA (Sociedade Portuguesa de Autores), GDA (Management of Artists’ Rights), AUDIOGEST (Association for managing the rights of phonographic producers), sent an open letter of appeal to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Culture and all deputies of the assembly
- allocation of almost €2 million for assistance funds and for the Cultural Fund

Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).
Portugal

Relevant sector or sectors.
Production companies/ entrepreneurs/ artists/ technicians/authors/ independent culture workers

Additional observation or sector not listed above:
Also, non-professional structures could apply to government funds (e.g. associations)

Please provide the key lessons from this example.
The pandemic situation was proof of the vulnerability of the CCI’s, and of the extraordinary importance of its activities for the society in terms of emotional sustainability, as well as the creative sectors’ interrelation with other complementary activities. This sector is constituted mostly by workers in precarious conditions, and it must be duly assessed by the political decisors. Furthermore, we highlight the necessity to create a Statute for the Authors.

Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example
SPAUSORES Website
Apoios à Cultura - Covid 19 estamos ON
Estatuto dos Profissionais da Cultura - XXII Governo - República Portuguesa (portugal.gov.pt)
OPAC: Estudo Sector Artístico e Cultural em Portugal

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Please provide any additional comment you might have.