

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

## INTRODUCTION

During the upcoming 42<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:copyright.mail@wipo.int) with the subject: “Information Session”.

## INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.  
Ministry of Economic Development and Technology - Slovenian Intellectual Property Office
2. Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.  
Contact person: Darja Kariž, email address: [sipo@uil-sipo.si](mailto:sipo@uil-sipo.si), telephone number: +386 16203100
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.)*

In the Republic of Slovenia, the COVID-19 epidemic was declared on 12 March 2020, which marked the beginning of the first wave of the disease. Measures have come into force that have significantly changed life in the country. They have proven to be effective, as on 31 May 2020 the government lifted the epidemic as well as most of the restrictions on public life. In the fall of 2020, the second wave of the COVID-19 epidemic began. On 21 September 2020, new measures to curb the coronavirus came into force, such as a ban on all events.

One of the measures to curb the virus was the closure of educational institutions and the introduction of distance learning and education, as has been done in most other countries. However, distance education has not been designed in such a way as to replace traditional live instruction in the long run. Regarding distance education, the issue of access to materials, security and copyright was raised.

Among other measures, which were carried out, there was the closure of libraries, archives, galleries and museums. Theatrical and cinematographic performances and other cultural events were also banned. Due to the closure of the venues, live events could not be performed and attended. In view of this, the organizers canceled the events or presented them online, stopped the activity and suffered huge losses. In the meantime, when the institutions were open, however, people avoided enclosed spaces and there were far fewer visitors. Employees and users in general had to be vaccinated, recovered or tested to perform their work or to get goods and services. The only exception was the emergency supply of food, medicine and medical supplies.

In the Republic of Slovenia, measures to mitigate the consequences of the epidemic also for the cultural and creative sectors were adopted by the Act on Intervention Measures to Contain the COVID-19 Epidemic and Mitigate its Consequences for Citizens and the Economy (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 49/20, 61/20, 152/20 – ZZUOOP, 175/20 – ZIUOPDVE, 15/21 – ZDUOP in 206/21 – ZDUPŠOP). Intervention legislation generally provided for tax, social and economic measures to help organizations and individuals affected by the epidemic.

A set of some measures taken, which also concerned organizations and individuals in the cultural and creative sectors and provided them with a basis for overcoming the crisis period, are the following:

- assistance in the form of basic monthly income for the self-employed in culture and freelance journalists: a payment of € 350 for March and € 700 each for April and May, and an exemption from social security contributions in April and May in 2020;
- exemption from the payment of health and pension insurance contributions for the self-employed in culture (covered by the state) and advance payments of personal income tax;
- the temporary preservation of the right of the self-employed in culture to have their social security contributions covered from the state budget, and the temporary right to this right for the self-employed in culture exceeding the income threshold;
- state coverage of compensations for (any) sick leave of an employee from the first day of sick leave and not only from the 30th day onwards, as is otherwise the case;
- exemption from compulsory contributions for pension, health and disability insurance of employees for workers who continue to work during the epidemic and receive a salary for their work (contributions are covered by the state);
- reimbursement of wages to workers who are temporarily unable to provide work (waiting workers), reimbursement of wages to employees who are unable to work due to force majeure, and exemption from compulsory health insurance and social security contributions for such workers. The state reimburses the full salary compensation for the waiting worker paid by the

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NGO to the worker, unless this amount is higher than the average monthly salary in the country for 2019.

- an employer whose employees are financed from the public budget on the basis of a project or program is entitled to a difference that is not covered by another subsidy;
- the adopted measures provide salaries for employees in public institutions in the field of culture. Although the programs have been stopped and public institutions closed, the measures taken protect both individuals and the operation of the institutions, and the programs are mostly postponed until the disease is over. Contract-bound artists will be paid financial compensation;
- temporary financial compensation for loss of employment;
- regional and other television stations that perform the task of informing the citizens of the Republic of Slovenia are exempt from payment of TV signal distribution services and royalties for the period from publication to the cancellation of the epidemic,
- a collective organization may pay to its right holders with permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia or with a registered office in the Republic of Slovenia extraordinary assistance of up to 25 percent of the amount of collected royalties in 2020.

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

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

7.1 Additional observation or sector not listed above:  
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8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.  
Measures made restriction and limitation, which had indirect impact on copyright and related rights. Most business activities had less revenue.

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

[Measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 infections | GOV.SI](https://www.rtvsllo.si/20-v-2020/kultura-to-je-leto-katastrofe-zaprti-knjigarne-gledalisca-kinodvorane-umetniki-v-stiskah/546294)

<https://www.rtvsllo.si/20-v-2020/kultura-to-je-leto-katastrofe-zaprti-knjigarne-gledalisca-kinodvorane-umetniki-v-stiskah/546294>

<https://motovila.si/kako-slovenija-resuje-svoj-kulturni-in-ustvarjalni-sektor-covid-19/>

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO8190>

10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.  
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