

Attention: news desks/science and education correspondents

For immediate release

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EU Copyright Reform: Leading research groups call for more change

EUA is one of five key European research organisations calling on legislators to modify current EU copyright reform proposals, giving Europe the opportunity to become a global leader in data-driven innovation and research.

In a [statement](#) released today, CESAER, EUA, LERU, LIBER and Science Europe — which together represent hundreds of universities, libraries, funders and research performing organisations — say amendments in five main areas are critical if Europe wants to be at the forefront of a prosperous and growing digital society, the vision set out by the European Commission in its strategy for a Digital Single Market.

“Combined, we are the voice of thousands of researchers, educators, innovators, libraries and scholarly institutions. These are the people who create knowledge, look after it, keep it safe, build upon it, and help others take it forward. Our proposals are therefore with full appreciation of the need to safeguard those who create input as well as those who further its worth – indeed we represent both,” says Susan Reilly, Executive Director of LIBER Europe.

The areas singled out for change are those that directly affect the research and education sector. Key among the request modifications are those related to Text and Data Mining (TDM).

The proposed Directive only gives a mandatory TDM exception to research organisations doing scientific research. This must be redrafted so that any individual or organisation with legal access to content can also legally use digital technologies to mine that content. Furthermore, the Directive must clarify that technical measures may not be used to prevent beneficiaries from exercising their rights under an exception, or to impose unreasonable limitations on how TDM is performed.

“Providing innovators, educators, students and researchers with more legal certainty on the rights and duties linked to the use of materials is a seminal step forward for universities,” explains David Drewry, EUA Vice-President and Chair of the Research Policy Working Group (RPWG). “However, we need to foster collaboration among citizens, researchers outside academia and fledgling commercial organisations, like spin-offs and start-ups, thus the exception for TDM has to be broadened.”

Modifications are also needed in relation to proposed legislation governing the supply of documents and use of materials for cross-border teaching and research, ancillary copyright, and transparency obligation. Without these modifications, cross-border research activities and the deployment of new technologies for research and innovation will be impeded by legal uncertainty.

“We urge European legislators to remove the remaining barriers in the current proposal for copyright in the Digital Single Market,” emphasises Jean-Pierre Finance, Chair of EUA Science 2.0/Open Science Expert Group and former EUA Council member. “These barriers risk putting Europe’s most advanced research and innovation practices at a disadvantage in the global competition for new knowledge.”

By removing these remaining barriers in the current proposal for copyright in the Digital Single Market, Europe’s research and innovation communities will have the framework they need to ensure that the most advanced research and innovation practices can be applied for the benefit of society, now and for the future.



To view the joint press statement, [please click here](#).

Further information:

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The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 33 national rectors' conferences (NRCs). The EUA Council is made up of the president, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe's NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.