



Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights: Thirty-Fifth Session

November 13 to November 17, 2017 (Geneva)

FUIS Statement on Limitations and Exceptions for Educational and Research Institutions

Federazione Unitaria Italiana Scrittori (FUIS) is an association representing over 25,000 Italian authors, working to protect their rights.

This is the first time that FUIS has attended a meeting of this Committee. We are honoured to be here and to bring the voice of Italian authors to the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

FUIS is one of the 60 members of the International Authors Forum (IAF), which represents authors globally, including here at WIPO. FUIS shares many initiatives with IAF and supports its work.

The importance of educational and research institutions, and of the value of authors' work to these institutions, cannot be overstated; today's students are tomorrow's authors.

Italy is home to some of the oldest universities in the world, and its education has always had a focus on the literary arts. Educational and research institutions are part of the fabric of Italian society. In Italy, there is utmost respect for their work. These institutions have produced some of the most eminent authors. It is therefore in our interests to uphold the values of these institutions and ensure they continue to thrive.

It is just as crucial to recognise the necessity of remunerating authors whenever their works are used within educational and research institutions, as it is to ensure their works can be used to meet the needs of these institutions.

In Italy, certain limitations are already implemented in national law, within the current international copyright framework, which strike the balance between the interests of authors and other rightholders, and users. This framework contains within it the possibility to find solutions, such as licensing and collective management of authors' rights, which continue to support authors whilst meeting the needs of educational and research institutions to make authors' work widely and easily available.

FUIS believes that the best way to find such solutions and meet local needs in all countries is to use the WIPO forum to enable Member States and stakeholders to share their experiences, information and individual circumstances, and work towards the desired improvements together, using the ample provisions in the current international copyright framework.

Without fair remuneration, authors will not be able to produce the works to supply educational and research institutions and produce the information that furthers the growth of knowledge and benefits society.