

EWC-Statement – WIPO SCCR 48, **Agenda item 7: AOB. On the Proposal for a Study on the Impact of the Creative Industries on the Economic Growth of Member States (SCCR 47/11)**

Written input, 1002 characters.

In principle the EWC welcome the proposal for a new “Creative Industries and Economic Growth Compilation Study”, as it would clarify the meaning of authors and their works for economy, society, culture or democratic processes. And indeed, the last similar assessments by WIPO are from an era before smartphones, tablets and AI.

Regarding the proposal on the set of data to be acquired from Member States, the EWC sees however a well-known problem when it comes to data gaps: the definitions of authors are not harmonised; the income reports are not consistently existing or lack the deep understanding of the profession of authors as part of an atypical working sector; or the private financial investment of book authors never show up as part of the economic matrix. Nevertheless, we support the idea in its approach, as authors are the source of entire value chains and employment. Such a study could therefore help to shape future discussions and bring back the term “authors” in its origin meaning.

About the European Writers' Council (EWC)

The EWC is the world's largest federation of writers in the book sector and of all genres (fiction, non-fiction, academic, children's books, poetry, etc.). With 52 organisations and professional guilds from 34 countries of the EU, the EEA and of non-EU areas, the EWC represents 250.000 writers and translators, writing and publishing altogether in 37 languages. The EWC is the world's leading federation for the defence of book authors' rights since 1977.

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