Copyright and Education in Europe:

15 everyday cases in 15 countries

Infographics
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Author: Teresa Nobre

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Written by Teresa Nobre
Designed by André Rocha
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COMMUNIA is a network of activists, researchers and practitioners from universities, NGOs, and SME established in 10 Member States. COMMUNIA advocates for policies that expand the public domain and increase access to and reuse of culture and knowledge. We seek to limit the scope of exclusive copyright to sensible proportions that do not place unnecessary restrictions on access and use.
I. Materials Available For Use in Education
Images

Student wants to quote entire artwork in a digital presentation

Is this legal?

In most countries it is possible to quote an entire work, since quotations can have whatever extent that is needed for the educational purpose. In others, however, one can only quote parts of works, which means that a student cannot present an entire image.

Copyright should allow quotations of works to the extent justified by the educational purpose!
Textbooks

Teacher wants to scan pages from a textbook to show in class

Is this legal?

In general, copyright laws do not restrict uses of textual works for educational purposes, except if those works are textbooks. In some countries teachers need to ask permission and pay just to scan a few pages of a textbook or an academic book.

Copyright should allow uses of educational publications!
Audiovisuals

Teacher wants to record a TV programme to show in class

Is this legal?

Copying a TV programme for private use would not be a problem in most countries, but to show it in class would. Video works are one of the least used types of works in education in the EU, largely because of copyright concerns.

Copyright should allow uses of all types of works!
II. Traditional Educational Practices
Playing
Teacher wants students to play a music piece in class

Is this legal?

Some laws only allow educational use of parts of works, thus preventing students from playing an entire music piece in class. Other laws do not permit the very act of performing a work in class. And, yet, others prohibit the use of printed musical scores in education.

Copyright should allow traditional educational practices!
Performing

Students want to perform a theatrical play in a school event

Is this legal?

In some countries, educators and learners have the freedom to play, recite or perform a work in school. In others, however, copyright laws would prohibit any public performance, even if it is done in a school event, for parents, with no commercial purposes.

Copyright should allow traditional school practices!
Screening

Teacher wants to screen and discuss a movie from a DVD in class

Is this legal?

Several countries consider that screening a film to an entire classroom is legal, because a group of students and teachers is different from a cinema audience. Other laws do not contain such distinction. In the Nordic countries, cinematographic works cannot be shown in the context of education.

Copyright should allow traditional viewing practices!
III. Modern Educational Practices
Showing a publicly available online video to an entire classroom is prohibited under several copyright laws. Viewing materials in class is one of the most relevant practices in today’s education, yet, under those laws students can only view online materials in private.

Copyright should allow modern educational practices!
Teacher wants to email reading materials to students

Is this legal?

Sending excerpts of works via email and other private tools is possible in several countries, but some laws would require the teacher to email one student at a time. In other countries, the situation is uncertain.

Copyright should allow modern educational practices!
Posting

Teacher wants to share an article via the school’s closed network

Is this legal?

In some countries posting a work on an institution’s platform, accessible only by its students and teachers, is permitted. In others, the use may be permitted but not for free. Finally, some laws only permit uses of parts of works, thus preventing the use of an entire short work, such as an individual article from a newsletter.

Copyright should allow the use of modern communication tools in education!
IV. Creation of Educational Materials
Quoting

Teacher wants to quote an entire poem in an educational resource?

Is this legal?

In most countries it is possible to quote an entire poem, since quotations can have whatever extent that is needed for the educational purpose. In others, however, one can only quote parts of works, which means that a teacher cannot insert an entire poem or an entire short work in a resource.

Copyright should allow quotations of works to the extent justified by the educational purpose!
Compiling

Teacher wants to compile chapters from novels for use in class

Is this legal?

Compiling materials is permitted in some countries and prohibited in others. Many laws do not differentiate between a set of materials created by a teacher and a publication intended for commercial use, and require payment of compensation in both cases.

Copyright should allow the creation of new educational works by compiling existing ones!
Translating

Teacher wants to translate parts of a book for use in class

Is this legal?

Several countries exempt educational translations, as well as other adaptations of existing works to the local needs of educators and learners. Others, however, do not foresee such uses, blocking creative reuses by educators.

Copyright should allow the creation of new educational works by translating existing ones!
V. Non-Formal Education
Museums

Museum wants to scan pages from an artbook to show to pupils

Is this legal?

While some copyright laws allow uses of protected works for any educational purposes, others only allow such uses if they are made by schools and other formal educational establishments. This means that museums and other providers of non-commercial education need to ask permission before using protected materials in their educational programmes.

Copyright should allow educational uses by museums!
### Libraries

Library wants to compile poems to use in a free Poetry class

#### Is this legal?

Compiling materials is permitted in several countries, but some of those countries only exempt compilations made in the context of formal education. A library would, thus, be prevented from creating sets of copyrighted materials to use in its educational programmes.

**Copyright should allow educational uses by libraries!**

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Free</th>
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## Is this legal?

Several countries consider that showing a film to an entire classroom is legal, because a group of students and teachers is different from a cinema audience. However, some of those countries only protect formal educational contexts, thus prohibiting similar educational uses by NGOs.

**Copyright should allow educational uses by nonprofit organizations!**

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<tr>
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<th>total</th>
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</table>

**40%** yes, free  **40%** yes, paid  **7%** no  **?**
VI. Summary
How 15 copyright laws treat education?

Educational Materials
what can be used?

Entire Images
- yes: 11
- no: 4

Textbooks
- yes: 11
- no: 4

Entire Poem
- yes: 11
- no: 4

Educational Practices
what can be done?

Compiling Materials
- yes: 8
- yes, paid: 5
- no: 1
- ?: 1

Performing Music Piece
- yes: 11
- no: 4

Showing Online Video
- yes: 7
- no: 8

Non-Formal Education
6 countries do not allow uses of protected materials in the context of non-formal education provided by museums, libraries and NGOs, without commercial purposes.