

PRESS RELEASE
19 October 2015

The Right to Read is the Right to Mine

Today, during a breakfast briefing at the European Parliament hosted by MEP Julia Reda, the [League of European Research Universities](#) (LERU) presented what universities need from the upcoming EU copyright reform.

A timely event, after the watered-down EP report on the implementation of the “InfoSoc Directive” (Directive 2001/29/EC) that was adopted in June 2015 by the European Parliament.

In view of the upcoming EU copyright reform, LERU calls upon policymakers to adopt a serious and ambitious position that strongly supports research and education. According to Prof Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General LERU, “this position should at least include :

- a mandatory exception for research and education purposes;
- a mandatory exception that will enable users to text and data mine all content to which they have legal access : the right to read is the right to mine”.

The current fragmented and obsolete EU copyright regime is clearly not a helpful tool for the realisation of the European Research Area, according to LERU.

The recent [Implementation Assessment on the Review of the EU copyright framework](#) adds to the list of evidence supporting LERU’s claims. The study refers to “a fragmented EU copyright regime” in which the failure to implement a consistent set of copyright exceptions and limitations “create inefficiencies, in particular, in the fields of education and research”, and “potentially impinge on the creation of a truly integrated European Research Area”. The study acknowledges that European researchers may be falling behind and that is at least partly the result of Europe’s laws. It also identifies the absence of legal certainty to support the development of text and data mining as “a key gap in urgent need for addressing.”

LERU’s commitment to further advance knowledge and to strive for the adequate framework conditions to enable it, have also resulted in the recent signing of the [The Hague Declaration](#) and the launch of the LERU statement “[Moving Forwards on Open Access](#)”.

For a detailed overview of LERU's position on the EU copyright reform, please read our statement "[The right to read is the right to mine](#)".

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Related articles

LERU Press release: <http://www.leru.org/index.php/public/news/christmas-is-over-research-funding-should-go-to-research-not-to-publishers/> (12 October 2015)

LERU news item: [European Commission Thinks Again on Copyright White Paper](#) (23 July 2014)

LERU news item: [European Research Organisations Call On Elsevier To Withdraw TDM Policy](#) (1 July 2014)

LERU Press release: [LERU rejects European Publishers Council's suggestions on Text and Data Mining](#) (26 June 2014)

LERU news item: [LERU's and LIBER's position on Text and Data Mining](#) (23 June 2014)

LERU news item: [EC blocks WIPO-negotiations on Copyright and TDM](#) (6 May 2014)

Contact details

Prof Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General, LERU: +32 499 80 89 99 / kurt.deketelaere@leru.org

Ms, Alea López de San Román Policy Officer: +32 483 59 97 52 / alea.lopezdesanroman@leru.org

Mr Bart Valkenaers, Press & Communications Officer, LERU: +32 498 08 43 49 / bart.valkenaers@leru.org

About LERU

The League of European Research Universities (LERU) is an association of twenty-one leading research-intensive universities that share the values of high-quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research.

Founded in 2002, LERU advocates education through an awareness of the frontiers of human understanding; the creation of new knowledge through basic research, which is the ultimate source of innovation in society; and the promotion of research across a broad front in partnership with industry and society at large.

The purpose of the League is to advocate these values, to influence policy in Europe and to develop best practice through mutual exchange of experience. LERU regularly publishes a variety of papers and reports which make high-level policy statements, provide in-depth analyses and make concrete recommendations for policymakers, universities, researchers and other stakeholders.

The LERU universities are:

- University of Amsterdam
- Universitat de Barcelona
- University of Cambridge
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Freiburg
- Université de Genève
- Universität Heidelberg
- University of Helsinki
- Universiteit Leiden
- KU Leuven
- Imperial College London
- University College London
- Lund University
- University of Milan
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
- University of Oxford
- Pierre & Marie Curie University
- Université Paris-Sud
- University of Strasbourg
- Utrecht University
- University of Zurich

League of European Research Universities (LERU)

Minderbroedersstraat 8
 3000 Leuven, Belgium
www.leru.org
 @LERUnews
 + 32 16 32 99 71