

Rights Clearance for Online Music

Legal and Practical Problems from the Perspective
of a Content Provider and
Alternative Models

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Preface

The internet has taken the world by storm. It changed the habits of consumers in many areas fundamentally. However, the development of the legal framework can hardly keep pace, hence thwarting the roll-out of new, innovative and customer-oriented business models. This is particularly true for the field of copyright regulation.

In order to highlight the extent of the challenges the companies are facing – both in terms of time as well as money – and to identify possible solutions, ISPA in 2012 assigned this study to a group of legal experts from different European countries. Its goal is to analyze the legal environment as well as the obstacles a content provider is confronted with when offering an on-demand streaming service for music in several EU countries simultaneously. The very diverse legal provisions in each member state together with a lack of transparency make it even more difficult to comply with the complex system of copyright regulations for those who want to provide online services.

ISPA would like to thank the experts who have elaborated the reports on the economic and legal environments in selected European countries, as well as Prof. Dr. Wiebe, who put the national reports together and combined them with the analysis of current EU regulatory developments. Special thanks go to the publishing house “Medien und Recht” for making this study available to a broader audience.

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