Facts

Rights holders rely on royalties as these are often the only compensation creators receive for their works. Creators and other rights holders are free to join the authors' society of their choice and are free to leave as well. 88% of royalties were distributed to live authors. That means only 1 in 10 recipient is an heir. Our members have up to 85 representation agreements each with societies outside of Europe, enabling them to license almost the entire world's repertoire. This allows not only users to pay for the usage of a multinational repertoire, but also rights holders to collect remuneration, from a single point. Many commercial online direct licensing services charge over 50% of collected royalties without offering the benefits that authors' societies provide. Billions of lines of data for online use need processing and this data is expected to tenfold in the next 2 years. Authors' societies invest in innovative software to diminish administrative costs and improve online services.

What We represent

1 027 644 creators and other rights holders
43 334 new members joined in 2013

Who

Results of our survey for 2013

15% average in rights management costs incurred
15% 2 776 545 licenses granted
85% 4 295 890 041 € (4.3 bn) in royalties distributed

Our members are from 178 countries worldwide (covering 96% of the world)

5 138 241 527 € (5.1 bn) collected worldwide

Our work consists of

Enhancing individual authors' negotiating position through collective representation and action
Providing a means for users to quickly and effectively establish equitable terms for the use of copyrights
Monitoring usage of creative works and payment of royalties for these
Analysing large amounts of data in order to ensure accuracy of royalty collection and distribution
Collecting royalties based on agreements on rules for distribution to rights holders
Distributing collected royalties to rights holders in proportion with the use of their work
Ensuring the rights of authors and other rights holders are respected
Developing cultural actions to promote creation, culture and cultural diversity
Facilitating and promoting wider access to cultural and creative works

Need-based
Non-profit
Democratic

Providing licenses that benefit authors and consumers alike while reducing transactional costs, encouraging market entry for businesses and enabling a wide access to creative repertoires.
Independent and non-profit bodies, that represent creators, provide equal access to works without bias or exclusives, and attribute no preference among its members or users.
Owned by and established for rights holders.
True to democratic principles, rights holders attend general meetings, elect the board and decide on matters that affect them.

These funds encourage the emergence of authors through financial support for productions, self-productions, export and career development.
Consumers, or fans, also benefit: music festivals and means to get music and other works to an audience are some of the funding initiatives.

As of 2014, GESAC will be publishing key figures of European authors' societies on a yearly basis.

34 European authors' societies operating in 24 countries at a glance

207 243 256 € (207 mn) in funding for social and cultural activities provided
That comes down to more than 3.5 times the yearly EU culture budget

We are

A sustainable model that benefits rights holders, users and consumers

Study by PMP – www.pmpconseil.com