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WIPO: New international survey on private copying

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the Dutch collecting society for private copying remunerations, Stichting de ThuisKopie, have published their latest joint report on the law and practice of private copying systems around the world. The 172-page report has comprehensive information about levy systems and legal developments in 34 countries. The information is provided by collective management societies in the respective countries, with the countries surveyed including 22 countries from the European Union, in addition to Norway, Switzerland, Russia and Turkey.

The report is based on the results of a number of survey questions, concerning a range of levy system issues. These include the type of remuneration system in operation, who is liable for payment, the role of collective management societies, information on rate setting, and how levies are determined. Further, the survey information also includes the collection process in individual countries, the distribution process, which rightholders are represented, and how the distribution schemes are determined.

In addition, there are extensive sections on national legal developments, and court cases are included for each country. Notably, the survey information includes the applicable national levy rates on various media devices, and revenues from levies, including audio revenues, video revenues, and device revenues. The survey contains revenue data up to 2014 and information about levy systems and tariffs up to October 2015.

Finally, the survey provides a number of conclusions. It states that “total revenues from private copying levy systems have increased from €598 million in 2007 to an all-time high of €804 million in 2014.” The report notes that “underlying this trend is a gradual modernization of levy systems in many countries by extending them to new devices such as smartphones and tablets.” Moreover, “revenues per capita range from less than €0.01 in the United States and Ukraine to €3.48 in Germany in 2014. In 2014, Germany collected the highest private copying levies per capita, closely followed by France and at some distance by Belgium and Hungary.”

- WIPO and Stichting de ThuisKopie, International Survey on Private Copying: Law & Practice 2015
<http://merlin.obs.coe.int/redirect.php?id=17871>

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