

THE NETHERLANDS PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL COPYRIGHT INNOVATION

The Institute for Information Law in Amsterdam will lead the translation of new copyright licenses developed by Creative Commons, expanding global access to Dutch culture.

Palo Alto, USA and Amsterdam, The NETHERLANDS – May 5, 2003 – Creative Commons, a nonprofit dedicated to building a body of creative works free for copying and re-use, announced today that the Netherlands would join its efforts to develop a global intellectual commons. The Institute for Information Law (IViR) at the University of Amsterdam will spearhead the International Commons (iCommons) project in the Netherlands.

First announced in March 2003, iCommons is Creative Commons' project to disseminate its machine-readable copyright licenses worldwide and make them usable in a variety of legal systems. IViR will coordinate the public effort to translate the Creative Commons licenses literally and legally for use in the Netherlands.

“We are very glad to be collaborating with the excellent Institute at the University of Amsterdam,” said Lawrence Lessig, Chairman of Creative Commons and professor of law at Stanford University. “iCommons Netherlands is yet another important milestone in our effort to build a global free culture movement.”

“We are tremendously excited to be involved in establishing Creative Commons in the Netherlands,” explained professor Bernt Hugenholtz, co-director of the Institute for Information Law, and staff intern Nynke Hendriks, the Dutch iCommons leads.

“There is already strong demand within the Dutch community for a legal means for facilitating the distribution of Open Content as an innovative alternative to traditional forms of distribution based on payment of royalties. Creative Commons will be a great platform on which to build these protocols and agreements.”

The licenses were drafted in collaboration with DISC (www.disc.nl), a public domain initiative by Dutch think tank Kennisland (english.kennisland.nl), and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Culture. The Netherlands joins Australia, Brazil, China, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Spain, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom in the iCommons effort.



Press Release

The Institute for Information Law will field comments on an archived e-mail discussion at <http://www.creativecommons.org/discuss#netherlands>.

More about Creative Commons

A nonprofit corporation, Creative Commons promotes the creative re-use of intellectual works, whether owned or in the public domain. It is sustained by the generous support of the Center for the Public Domain, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the Hewlett Foundation. Creative Commons is based at Stanford Law School, where it shares staff, space, and inspiration with the school's Center for Internet and Society.

For general information, visit www.creativecommons.org.

For more information about iCommons, see www.creativecommons.org/projects/international.

For the Creative Commons press kit, please see www.creativecommons.org/presskit.

More about the Institute for Information Law

The Institute for Information Law (IViR) (www.ivir.nl) is part of the Faculty of Law at the University of Amsterdam. IViR was founded in 1987 and is currently one of the largest research centers in the field of information law in the world. The Institute employs over 25 researchers who are active in a wide spectrum of legal areas related to information society. Each July, IViR offers a one-week, intensive postgraduate summer course on international copyright law (www.ivir.nl/courses/icl/icl.html), which is taught in English. IViR has undertaken research projects and studies commissioned by the European Commission, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and various national governments and agencies. Most publications by IViR staff are available online at www.ivir.nl.

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<http://creativecommons.org>

Press Release

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Press Kit:

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