

**For more than two years, the
European Commission has used
CC BY and CC0 to share**



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HeartHands Solutions

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REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Author	Description	Action	Pages
1.0	29/09/2021	HESO	Creation	C	2

(*) Action: C = Creation, I = Insert, U = Update, R = Replace, D = Delete

REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

ID	Reference	Title
1	2020-1-UK01-KA201-078934	IPinSTEAM Proposal
2	IO1/A1	Rationalisation phase reports

APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

ID	Reference	Title
1		
2		

Back in 2019, before the pandemic crisis, the European Commission announced that they will be using CC BY 4.0 and CC0 to share published documents, including photos, videos, reports, peer-reviewed studies, and data. The Commission joined other public institutions around the world that use standard, legally compatible tools like Creative Commons licenses and public domain tools to share a wide range of content they produce. The decision to use CC aims to increase the legal interoperability and ease of reuse of its own materials.

The European Commission joined governments such as New Zealand and the Netherlands in using CC licenses and CC0 to share digital resources it creates. Intergovernmental organisations, philanthropic charities, and funding policies already require CC licenses to be applied to the digital outputs of grant funds — to promote reuse of materials in the public good with minimal restrictions.

A review of available reuse implementation instruments and licensing concerns was conducted in conjunction with the decision to require reuse of Commission documents under CC BY and CC0 licenses. Previously, the Commission relied on "reuse notices" (a simple copyright notice with a link to the reuse decision) to accompany covered goods, but this practice resulted in "unnecessary administrative costs for re-users and Commission services alike."

In 2014, the Commission issued a proposal for Member States to use Creative Commons licenses such as CC BY and CC0 Public Domain Dedication when sharing public sector material.

The research examines a variety of possibilities for the Commission to explore for its own papers, including the "reuse notice," Creative Commons licenses, Open Data Commons licenses, and a possible customized Commission license.

The authors concluded that CC BY 4.0 is the license that best aligns with the Commission's reuse guidelines.

CC BY 4.0 is defined as follows, according to the report:

- Universal: it is intended to apply to all materials (at the licensor's discretion);
- Unrestricted: the sole stipulation is that it be attributed.
- Simple: there's no need for a program, and it's simple to use.
- Free: the CC-BY wording does not involve payment of any fees.
- Non-discriminatory: the CC-BY license is available to all possible market participants; [and]
- Transparent: the license text is published in various languages, together with supporting documentation, guidelines, and other information.

According to the study, not all the CC licenses and CC0 have been translated into the two dozen official EU languages; there are 10 CC 4.0 (some in progress) and 12 CC0 translations left. To finalize the remaining translations, they will be collaborating with the Commission and the CC EU network.

It's encouraging to see the Commission making headway on enabling reuse of the digital content it generates and provides, especially considering the Parliament's rejection of the copyright Directive, which tends toward a more limited, less open web.

We also anticipate the impending vote on the recast of the Public Sector Information Directive (PSI).

This decision might expand PSI's availability by bringing additional forms of publicly financed data within the directive's scope, as well as give more advice on open licensing, acceptable formats, and pricing regulations.

References

Creative Commons, tags about European Commission <https://creativecommons.org/tag/european-commission/>

Volmer, T., (2019, 2 April) European Commission adopts CC BY and CC0 for sharing information. <https://creativecommons.org/2019/04/02/european-commission-adopts-cc-by-and-cc0-for-sharing-information/>

EU Science Hub, the European Commission's science and knowledge service, "Commission makes it even easier for citizens to reuse all information it publishes online"(2019, 28 March) <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/commission-makes-it-even-easier-citizens-reuse-all-information-it-publishes-online>