

SPECIAL 301 REVIEW 2022 - DOCKET NO. USTR-2021-0021

COMMENTS BY:

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC COPYRIGHT ORGANIZATION (OPI)

I. COMBATING DIGITAL PIRACY.

In Greece, the Committee for the Notification of Copyright and Related Rights Infringement on the Internet (EDPPI) is an administrative body with specific competences on infringements of copyright and related rights on the Internet, as provided by Article 66E (2) of the Copyright Law (2121/1993) and established back in 2017.

The latest amendment of Article 66E of the Copyright Law by Article 48 of Law 4821/2021, introduces a procedure of live blocking injunction into Greek legislation.

The EDPPI may issue a live blocking order against the infringer (domain names or IP addresses) by a decision that must be issued no later than 24 hours before the transmission of the event and may impose a fine to the ISPs for each day of non-compliance. The procedure is initiated upon the request of the rightsholder, who must pay the fee required for the examination of the case.

This procedure regulated in par. 10A of Article 66E Law 2121/1993 (<https://opi.gr/en/library/law-2121-1993#a66e>) applies to events of national or global viewing and it targets mainly sports piracy.

As a result of this latest amendment of Article 66E Law 2121/1992, EDDPI has issued 21 decisions within 2021 and till now ordering the ISPs **to block at least 362 domain names and 185 IP addresses according to the live blocking** procedure of par. 10A of Article 66E Law 2121/1993. According to the procedure of 'normal' blocking orders and dynamic injunctions of par. 4 of Article 66E Law 2121/1993 **485 domain names have been blocked so far.**

Users who attempt to visit blocked domains are being redirected to a landing blocking page that informs them about the illegal nature of the service that they attempted to access and prompts them to use legal sources instead, providing a link to enjoylegal.gr web site that has been launched by the Hellenic Copyright Organization (HCO) for this purpose (see below).

On December 13, 2021, this blocking page was included in the analytics of the opi.gr web site. Since then, and until February 11, 2022, it has been displayed more than 330.000 times, reaching nearly 100.000 users. It is notable that the actual numbers of blockings are far greater, since the blocking page is not displayed in all instances, e.g., when attempting to reach blocked IP addresses instead of domains.

Since the end of October, when the first decisions for the blocking of live sports events were implemented, there has also been a dramatic improvement of the analytics of the enjoylegal.gr web site.

II. ENJOYLEGAL.

The HCO created the web site enjoylegal.gr. The objective of this new web portal is to inform the public about online platforms that offer content that is protected under copyright law lawfully. The HCO collects and provides users with online platforms where they can lawfully watch or download movies, series, and sports events, listen to or download music, read online or download books and gain access to images and videogames.



The "enjoy legal"'s main aim is to collect legal platforms of content and direct users towards them.

"Enjoy legal" is a member of the [Agorateka](#) network that has been launched by the [European Office of Intellectual Property \(EUIPO\)](#). Agorateka is a European portal that collects national portals, such as "enjoy legal", of participating European countries, most notably the Member States of the European Union.

III. RESPECT - EU funded programme 2021.

Implementation of EU funded programme “Awareness raising campaign on the benefits of protecting Intellectual Property Rights by encouraging the use of legal sources” (acronym RESPECT)

The general objective of the project is to raise awareness on the benefits of protecting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) (copyright protection) and the damage caused by the infringement of these rights, engaging mainly young people, between 15-24 years old and the public and encouraging behavioural change by reducing the access to digital content from illegal sources.

The programme is transnational (Greece, Cyprus and Spain) and the implementation period is from September 2021 to September 2022.

The actions of the programme include the creation of videos, articles, social media accounts and posts, infographics, their promotion through awareness campaigns on social media and online media, organization of a student debate with the topic of online piracy and promotion of the material produced on traditional media (TV, cinemas).

For the RESPECT accounts on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/respectproject2021>

https://www.instagram.com/respectproject_gr/

IV. Seminars and webinars for the educational community – 2021.

The HCO continued to organize seminars and webinars to raise awareness among pupils, students and primary and secondary education teachers about copyright protection and use of legal sources online.

All the events were organized after invitations from school authorities, students' associations and in cooperation with some of the Regional Educational Planning Centers (PEKES) and/or Directorates of Primary Education of Greece.

V. World Intellectual Property Day (IP Day) 2021.

On the occasion of the celebration of the World Intellectual Property Day 2021 the HCO organized an online student visit to the offices of the HCO. In particular, the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) of Thessaloniki paid an online visit to the offices of the HCO where the students were briefed on the aims and activities of the HCO, issues of piracy and the work of the Committee for the Notification of Copyright and Related Rights Infringement on the Internet (EDPPI).