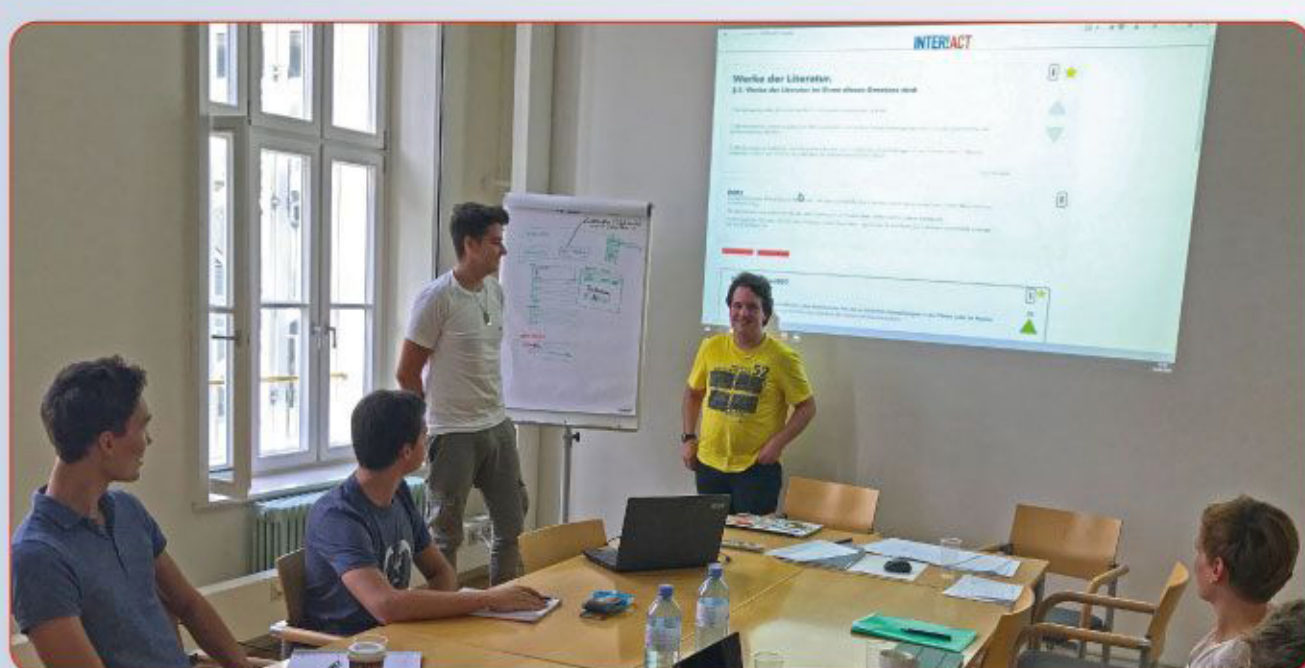**INTER!ACT**

CITIZEN SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECT
INTER-ACT –
INTERACTIVE CONSENSUS-BASED DEVELOPMENT OF A COPYRIGHT MODEL ACT

Project Term: 07/2017 - 07/2019
Research Team: Prof. Dr. Clemens Appl, LL.M. (Principal Investigator)
                  Prof. Dr. Elfriede Penz (Co-Investigator)
                  MMag. Philipp Homar (Co-Investigator)
                  Citizen Scientists (esp. Digital Natives from High School Partners)

Background: The Role of Copyright in the Digital Economy / Knowledge Society

During the last decade, the ways of distributing und consuming copyright protected creations have radically changed. In the light of an emerging 'digital economy', which is especially fostered by a wide availability of broadband-technologies, cloud-computing services and the interactive collaboration of users, the traditional concept of copyright is subject to a broad public debate. From a legal, economic and social perspective, this paradigm-shift rigorously challenges the classical copyright doctrine, which follows an "analogue-world"-approach. Against this background, a well-balanced, modern copyright must acknowledge technical developments and strike a balance between the interests of the stakeholders (authors, rightholders, users).

The Project at a Glance

The research project INTER-ACT builds upon the citizen science project „FROM USER GENERATED CONTENT TO A USER-GENERAT-ED-COPYRIGHT" (www.u-g-c.at), in which legal scholars, social scientists and digital natives defined a profile of requirements for addressing educational uses in copyright. Against this background, the aim of INTER-ACT is to **develop an experimental demonstrator for an electronic interaction and discussion platform**, which enables **citizens of all stakeholder groups** (users, authors, publishers etc) to participate in **drafting and discussing model proposals for copyright regulations**.

Methodology: Citizen Science

"Authors and Users should not be part of the problem, but become part of the solution"

By involving citizens in the process of discussing and drafting model proposals for copyright regulations, INTER-ACT follows a "citizen science approach" combining legal and social sciences methodology. **Citizens will be actively involved at all stages of the research process and contribute in a variety of ways:**

❯ The INTER-ACT platform will be **developed by high school students** of the Higher Department of Information Technology at HTL Krems as part of their diploma exam.

❯ By sharing their experiences, citizens **participate in the process of identifying the deficiencies of the current copyright law**.

❯ By **drafting and discussing model proposals for legal reform**, citizens of different stakeholder groups (e.g. users, authors, publishers) interact with each other and with legal experts. Thereby, they help to strike a balance of interests.

❯ By participating in the discussion and drafting process, their participation also **increases copyright awareness**.

Added Value to existing Copyright Reform Initiatives

By following a citizen science approach, the project aims at extending previous legal research initiatives that proposed model laws on Intellectual Property (e.g. the WITTEM-Code). Involving citizens in the research process will enhance scientific research for the following reasons:

❯ The participation of citizens will enable researchers to **empirically investigate users' perceptions of, and expectations on, copyright law**.

❯ Furthermore, as citizens of all stakeholder groups participate in the drafting and discussion process, the model regulatory proposals will be **drafted in an open, transparent, evidence- and consensus based process** and will **not merely be the static end result of a one-time process**, but will be dynamically adapted according to the citizens' participation.

❯ Therefore, they will provide the legislator with **a dynamic reference framework for creating modern copyright regulations on a broad social consensus**. By involving citizen scientists, further key objectives are to strengthen the citizens' influence in the legal discourse and, ultimately, to increase copyright awareness.

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top citizen science