



Students' Assessment of Copyright and Related Rights Courses Components in Musical Studies Curricula

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Abstract. The content of the copyright and related rights courses in the curricula of musical studies in North Macedonia is analyzed, for the purpose of determination of the presence of key contents relevant for the career of future graduates such as: valuation of copyright and related rights, collective management of copyright and the role of collecting society, the importance of material and moral rights of authors and performers, particularly in the context of the EU accession progress report on the country. A survey on a sample of 262 musical academies' students was conducted, regarding the students' views on their needs and awareness on the importance of various components of copyright and related rights issues. Methods applied: basic descriptive statistical parameters, correlation. The results indicate a higher degree of perception and recognition of the significance of valuation of copyright and related rights and the role of collecting management organisations as course components. Several conclusions are derived, relevant for the upgrading and implementation of copyright content courses at the musical studies' curricula.

Research Contribution. The results will be used in improving the quality of syllabi of copyright and related rights courses for studies of music and arts students in North Macedonia, especially in the context of alignment of the national legislation with the EU *acquis* regarding chapter 7- Intellectual Property Law.

Keywords: musical studies · copyright · related rights

1 Introduction

Copyright and related rights have an extraordinary contribution to the advancement of music and creative industry in contemporary society, both in economical and artistic sense. The creative industries sector is additionally exposed to the forefront of the changes caused by the influence of digital technology, which asks for adequate response by policy makers, legislation improvements, and raising of the public awareness in the authors' and performers' community [1]. The quality of education offered to music and art students is one of the crucial challenges.

In this context, the subject of the research are the components of the content of syllabi of copyright and related rights courses of musical studies curricula.

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The aim of the research is to determine the degree of perception of the significance of various components of copyright and related rights courses among students of music faculties, for the purpose of raising the quality of the courses and their value in the future profession.

From the aspect of EU perspectives of North Macedonia, given the fact that the country has initiated the accession negotiations in July 2022, the research aim is also in line with EU efforts for coherence in IP inclusion in education, manifested in the European Commission Communication for the European Education Area [2], the Digital Education Action plan 2021–2027 [3], as well as the activities of the Intellectual Property in Education Network of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) [4].

2 Method

2.1 Hypothesis of the Research

The following hypothesis can be derived from the stated subject and purpose of the research.

H1: The students of undergraduate studies at music faculties in North Macedonia have a high degree of recognition and perception of the importance of the elements of copyright and related rights courses.

H2: There are various degrees of recognition and perception of the importance of syllabus content in the subject of copyright and related rights between male and female undergraduate students of music faculties in North Macedonia.

2.2 Variables

Variables (that are included in the research: the components of the copyright and related rights course and gender of the respondents).

Dependent variables are the components of the copyright and related rights, defined as a highly positive effect on the importance of copyright and related rights in North Macedonia. This dependent variable is obtained with a questionnaire and a response scale, a scale of one to five (Likert), which provides understanding of the attitudes, thoughts, and beliefs of respondents about the importance of copyright and related rights components.

The questionnaire had 5 items related to the assessment of usefulness of syllabus content in the subject of copyright and related rights for undergraduate students of music faculties in North Macedonia listed in the following order:

- (1) Valuation of Copyright and Related Rights
- (2) Material rights
- (3) Moral rights
- (4) The role of collective management organizations (CMOs)
- (5) Copyright and related rights in the digital environment.
- (6) Gender is the independent variable (81 male respondents, 181 female respondents).

We compare these categories with the achievements of the questionnaire and the scale of answers for the dependent variable, regarding the perception of the importance and usefulness of syllabus content in the subject of copyright and related rights for undergraduate students of music faculties in North Macedonia.

2.3 Measuring Instruments

In determining the perception of the importance and usefulness of syllabus content in the subject of copyright and related rights for undergraduate students of music faculties, a questionnaire was used by students of both genders. The questionnaire was constructed based on typical syllabi content of components in the subject of copyright and related rights for students of music faculties [5] [6]. The questionnaire consisted of 5 items, which relate to the percentage of usefulness of listed in the following order: 1) Valuation of Copyright and Related Rights; 2) Material Rights; 3) Moral Rights; 4) The Role of Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) and 5) Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Environment.

The questionnaire is answered by selecting one of the five permanent categories, on a scale from one to five, with higher scores on the part of the respondents giving a higher positive perception of the importance and usefulness of syllabus content. Theoretical average score is almost three, so above this score is considered higher damage, and below this score is considered lower damage to the importance and usefulness of syllabus content.

2.4 Assignment

The research was conducted in groups of two days. Before the start of the survey, the respondents were informed about the duration of the session, the need, purpose, and procedure of the survey and were guaranteed the anonymity of the identity and answers. The respondents showed interest and leadership in participating in the research. Then a task was set to fill the questionnaire, which was clear in the relevant fields. The respondents answered directly to the questionnaire itself without a separate answer sheet. The flow of the procedure was without problems or resistance. Only those respondents who responded to each item are assessed.

2.5 Procedure

To test the research hypotheses, a t-test (t) was used to determine the significance of differences between arithmetic means for M1 (male respondents) and M2 (female respondents). First, the scores (X), arithmetic means (M), deviation of each subject from the arithmetic mean (x), squares of deviation of each subject from the arithmetic mean $(x)^2$, standard error of the arithmetic mean for each group were calculated and entered. Furthermore values for σ (relative to σ_1 for the first group and σ_2 for the second group), as well as common standard error of the arithmetic mean for the two groups ($\sigma_1, 2$), difference between arithmetic means (D), as well as standard error of difference between arithmetic means (σD), which is needed to make a t-test which determines its significance (p) through the degrees of freedom (df) were obtained.

3 Findings and Discussion

3.1 Results in Relation to the First Hypothesis

The students at music faculties in North Macedonia have a high degree of recognition and perception of the importance of the components of copyright and related rights (Table 1).

From the obtained results one can make a rank of recognition and perception of the importance of the elements/categories of contents of copyright and related rights courses. The table shows that all five categories (1-Valuation of Copyright and Related Rights; 2-Material Rights; 3- Moral Rights; 4- The Role of Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) and 5-Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Environment) surpass it in theoretical terms, which is three, and the level ranges from 3.20 to 4.53.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics on the degree of recognition and perception of the importance of copyright and related rights

Category	N	Min.	Max.	M	Theoretical average score
<i>Valuation of copyright and related rights</i>	262	1	5	3.90	3
<i>Material rights</i>	262	1	5	3.20	3
<i>Moral rights</i>	262	1	5	4.00	3
<i>The role of CMOs</i>	262	1	5	4.11	3
<i>Copyright & related rights in the digital environment.</i>	262	1	5	4.53	3

N-number of subjects (81 male respondents, 181 female respondents)

Table 2. Descriptive statistics and t-test for each of the brands between males and female subjects

	M1	M2	σ_1	σ_2	$\sigma_{1,2}$	D	σ_D	df	t	p
<i>I</i>	3,55	3,98	2,13	1,07	1,49	-0,43	0,19	260	2,21	< 0.05*
<i>II</i>	4,02	4,13	2,27	1,16	1,60	-0,11	0,21	260	0,52	> 0.05
<i>III</i>	3,33	3,10	1,96	1,21	1,49	0,23	0,19	260	1,19	> 0.05
<i>IV</i>	3,71	4,10	2,14	1,10	1,51	-0,39	0,20	260	1,99	< 0.05*
<i>V</i>	4,38	4,57	2,30	0,87	1,47	-0,19	0,19	260	1,01	> 0.05

Legend: M1-male respondents M2-female respondents.

** Significant at level 0.05 (1.97); ** significant at level 0.01 (2.60).*

I-Valuation of copyright and related rights. II-Material rights. III-Moral rights.

IV- The role of CMOs. V- Copyright and related rights in the digital environment.

3.2 Results in Relation to the Second Hypothesis

There are various degrees of recognition and perception of the importance of syllabus content in the subject of copyright and related rights between male and female undergraduate students of music faculties in North Macedonia (Table 2).

4 Conclusion

The aim of the research was achieved by determining the degree of recognition and perception of the importance of copyright and related rights course components for each of the five variables. The first hypothesis was descriptive, and the second referred to determining the statistically significant differences between the arithmetic means.

Both male and female respondents have affiliation, recognition, and perception of the importance of copyright and related rights course components, i.e., for the following two of the five variables: I- Valuation of copyright and related rights and IV- The role of CMOs.

Differences were observed between male and female respondents. Female respondents have a statistically higher degree of recognition of the importance variables (3, 98 for I and 4, 10 for IV). This does not mean that male respondents have a low degree of recognition of the importance of the variables I and IV, since the values for male respondents for both variables are also above the theoretical score of three (3.71 for IV; 3.55 for I). Further research with statistical methods such as factor analysis, would contribute towards explanation of the differences noted.

As an advantage of this research, we can mention the volume and the large number of categories of copyright and related rights included in the research, as well as the population of 262 respondents.

The results indicated that collective management is emphasized as a category of greatest interest for undergraduate students of music faculties in North Macedonia, particularly in the context of EU accession and the alignment of the national legislation with the *acquis* regarding chapter 7- Intellectual Property Law and having also in mind the challenges that CMOs face in the digital environment. More specifically, the research results contribute to the realization of the recommendation of the 2021 North Macedonia EU accession report, namely to “further improve the legal framework on intellectual property, notably the collective rights management system, by aligning with the Collective Rights Management Directive [7].

The research reiterates the significance of the digital management of the rights providing for the right holders individual supervision, monitoring and measurement of the issued copyright works and objects of related rights through the media and thus enabling greater transparency.

Furthermore, the research is a direct input for the methods of implementation of the measures prescribed with the National Strategy on Intellectual Property of the Republic of North Macedonia, supported by the EU [8], i.e., introduction of special copyright and related rights course designed for music and arts students, taking into account the findings of this and subsequent related study.

All of the above indicates that collective management is a crucial beneficial component of copyright and related right courses for students of musical academies. In-depth

knowledge of musical and arts students (current and future authors, artists-performers etc.) regarding the CMOs and their tasks is a prerequisite for intellectual property rights enforcement and for stimulation of production and economic development, which was confirmed by the research results, expressed by the students' awareness. Incorporation of the above findings in the syllabi of a compulsory copyright and related rights course for musical and art studies would improve the quality of the courses, especially in terms of incorporating international intellectual property standards.

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