

VG WORT

About us

VG WORT, founded in 1958, is the German collecting society representing the copyright interests of hundreds of thousands of authors and publishers. It distributes more than 100 million euro a year.

In 2012 VG WORT represented a total of 517.220 authors and 12.273 publishers, a total of 529.493 rightsholders. (These numbers do not include representation through bilateral agreements with sister societies). VG WORT is therefore a significant society both within Germany and in the world context.

Indeed, VG WORT is very present on the international scene of copyright. It actually works in collaboration with many other collecting societies in Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

The global sum of royalties received by VG WORT in 2012 was 115.35 million euro for all rights. The global sum of royalties distributed to authors and publishers in the same year, mainly attributable to collections in 2011, was 109.14 million euro.

VG WORT administers many different kinds of rights, in particular for reproduction of textual works, public lending, audio and audiovisual rights.

Rightsholder representation is spread over several categories of professions: the authors and translators of fiction, journalists, screenwriters, authors and translators of scientific works, publishers of fiction, publishers of dramatic works and last but not least, the publishers of scientific books. The Council of Administration consists of 31 persons, 20 of which are authors and 11 publishers, all elected by the General Assembly of Members.

VG WORT, its Directors, Mr. Rainer Just and Mr. Robert Staats, and its Members are proud of fighting for the respect of intellectual property rights and defending with conviction and commitment the joint interests of authors and publishers.

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