1. Organisational Overview

1.1. Board Representation

In the period under review the Board of Directors was comprised of:

**Presidency**
Yngve Slettholm (Kopinor), President; Dora Makwinja (COSOMA), First Vice President; Tracey Armstrong (CCC), Second Vice President and Treasurer.

**Directors**
Sandra Chastanet, (CFC); Samantha Holman, (ICLA); Robert Staats, (VG Wort); Morten Visby, (EWC/IAF); Sarah Faulder (IPA).

**Substitute Directors**
Javier Díaz de Olarte, (CEDRO); Anders Kristian Rasch, (COPYDAN Writing); Anke Schierholz, (EVA); Eefke Smit (STM).

Caroline Morgan served as CEO and Secretary General.

The Board held three meetings in the period under review: 3 November 2020, 23 February 2021, and 26 and 27 May 2021. A special session to discuss IFRRO’s strategic plan was also held on 15 June, 2021. All meetings were virtual.

1.2. Membership

As at 30 June 2021 IFRRO has 158 members in more than 85 countries. There are 107 RRO Members, of which 29 are Associate RROs and 16 Provisional RRO members. There are 51 Creator or Publisher Association Members. Collected fees by RROs remained steady, at around €1 billion.

In the period under review, two organisations became members of IFRRO, in the following member categories:

**Provisional RRO:** COSOZA (Zanzibar),
**Creator or Publisher Association:** FEMU (Netherlands).

In June 2020, IFRRO suspended the memberships of KOSA (South Korea), Repro BG (Bulgaria), ReproMold (Moldova) and ZimCopy (Zimbabwe). The suspensions were made as a result of the failure of the organisations concerned to meet the obligations of IFRRO membership. In May 2021 the Board agreed to terminate the membership of each organisation, to take effect from the 31 December 2021.

In May 2021, the Board also suspended the memberships of KOUPIS (Kazakhstan) and DHK (Croatia). Suspected members remain IFRRO members, are able to attend the AGM and vote, however they are not eligible for other benefits of membership. Two Creator or Publisher Association members also resigned, ALIS (Sweden) and SAJ-JAM (Belgium). Their resignations will take effect from 31 December 2021.
2. Policy and Strategic Developments

The Strategic Plan guided IFRRO's activities and operations during the period under review. The Strategic Plan has two objectives, to **Advocate for Copyright and the Creative Sector** and to **Build a Strong and Resilient RRO network**. The Strategic Plan is available on the **Members Only** part of IFRRO's website. This section of the report reviews activity in key priority areas.

2.1. Covid – 19

The Covid – 19 pandemic, which continued throughout the year, has been devastating for societies and economies around the world, and has strongly impacted the creative sector, including collective management organisations and RROs.

Many RROs supported their licensees by enabling remote access or increasing the copying limits in their licences. Many also developed new licences to support online research, teaching and learning. A significant cross section of members also adopted measures such as bringing scheduled distributions forward or establishing special funds in addition to or as part of their cultural allocations.

IFRRO, together with its partners EVA, EWC and FEP, launched two “Re:start conversations” events in 2021, in order to create better awareness about the actions authors, publishers and RROs have taken to make content available and accessible during the Covid – 19 crisis, and to also provide a forum to discuss the sectors’ needs going forward. The first event, entitled “**Beyond the crisis: Recovery, resilience and sustainability of the book sector**”, took place on 17 March 2021 (see details [here](#)), with a second event, “**Investing in a high-quality digital education ecosystem is investing in democracy**”, on the 16 June (see details [here](#)).

IFRRO was also one of several organisations in the cultural and creative sector that supported an [EY study](#), **Rebuilding Europe - The cultural and creative economy before and after the COVID-19 crisis**, commissioned by GESAC, launched on 26 January 2021. The study showed that in 2020 the cultural and creative economy lost approximately 31% of its revenues, with a net drop of €199 billion from 2019, making it one of the most affected in Europe, more than the tourism and automotive industries. The report also predicted that the crisis will have a massive and lasting impact on the entire CCI value chain. For further details, see [here](#).

2.2. Exceptions and Limitations

Anti-copyright lobby groups took advantage of the pandemic to intensify their campaign at an international, regional and national level to expand unremunerated exceptions to copyright.

In responding to this campaign IFRRO has worked closely with its member associations representing authors, publishers and visual artists. The activities of our RRO members, demonstrate that collective licensing solutions guarantee affordable access to works and at the same time reward the creativity of authors and publishers.

There are several countries in which the current or proposed exceptions frameworks have either severely impacted copyright and collective management or have the potential to do so. As a result, we work closely with our members in those countries to respond to the challenges raised.

In **Canada**, the litigation between Access Copyright and York University reached the Supreme Court of Canada, when on 15th October 2020, the Court announced it had agreed to hear each of the appeals in the case. In early 2021, IFRRO, IAF and the IPA were granted leave to intervene in the case to present the international perspective, specifically the extent to which educational fair dealing, as interpreted by York University complies with Canada’s international obligations, in particular the three-step test in the Berne Convention.

The Supreme Court heard the appeals on 21st May 2021, and issued its decision on 30 July 2021. The Court determined that tariffs set by the Copyright Board in Canada are not mandatory and also declined to declare that the uses taking place under York University’s copyright policies qualified as fair dealings. This means that the long-standing question of the scope of educational
fair dealing in Canada is still unanswered. Each of IFRRO’s Canadian members has called on the Canadian government to act to remedy the current situation.

In South Africa, on 16 June 2020, the President sent the Copyright Bill back to parliament, due to concerns about its constitutionality and its compliance with South Africa’s international obligations.

The referral back to Parliament was the outcome of intensive lobbying by South African rightsholders with support from the international community against the damaging provisions of the Bill. IFRRO is part of a group of international rightsholder organisations, including IPA, CISAC and IFPI supporting our local affiliates, working together in the Coalition for Effective Copyright. At the time of writing, parliamentary hearings on the Bill are in progress.

2.3. Public Lending Right

The Steering Committee managing the activities of PLR International continued its work throughout the year. Its members are Barbara Hayes (Chair), Carola Streul, and Myriam Diocaretz representing authors, José Borghino and Anne Bergman-Tahon representing publishers and Kurt Van Damme and Geoffroy Pelletier representing RROs.

The administration of PLR International’s activities is managed jointly by IFRRO’s Pierre-Olivier Lesburguères and Stichting Leenrecht’s Arjen Polman.

*PLR International* has two main objectives:

- Supporting the establishment of PLR systems in EU Member States which have not yet met their obligations under the EU Lending Right Directive *(2006/115/EC)*, and provide support to improve the operation of existing systems in the EU,
- Outside the EU, provide support for campaigns for PLR that are already underway and publicise the benefits of PLR more widely.

PLR International continued its focus on communications, developing an infographic and other resource materials, all of which are available on the *PLR International* website. A promotional video, highlighting the key benefits of PLR and featuring testimonials from authors, publishers, visual artists and library representatives is under development, and will be launched in late 2021.

In November 2020, IFRRO supported and participated in an online webinar organised by IAF and PLR International on “Creating a Living: How Public Lending Right (PLR) Helps” and in April 2021, we raised awareness about PLR at an event in South Africa.

To mark 2021 World Book and Copyright Day, PLR International ran a Twitter campaign, consisting of 15 quotes from famous authors and from PLR administrators. The campaign generated significant interest with positive feedback and many retweets.

Participation in WIPO meetings is a way for PLR International to develop awareness of the benefits of PLR amongst national government representatives. An exciting development took place at the 40th meeting of the WIPO SCCR in November 2020, when Malawi, Panama and Sierra Leone presented a proposal for a study on PLR. The proposal for the study has been discussed at subsequent SCCR meetings, and was supported by a number of Member States, regional groups and stakeholder organisations. The proposal will be discussed at the next SCCR meeting, which is due to be held in the first half of 2022.

2.4. Visually Impaired

The Marrakesh Treaty entered into force on 30 September 2016. There were 80 Contracting Parties at the time of writing (see [here](#)).

IFRRO is an active participant in the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), which plays a practical role in implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. Caroline Morgan represents IFRRO on the Advisory Board of ABC, which also includes representatives from IPA, IAF, publishers,
organisations representing people with print disabilities, including the World Blind Union, and libraries serving the print disabled.

ABC has three main activities:

(i) Inclusive publishing, to increase the number of works published in accessible formats through encouraging enhanced use of the latest version of EPUB3.
(ii) Sharing of technical skills and know-how through a technical assistance and capacity building programme, primarily directed towards countries under development.
(iii) Further development of the international database and book exchange (the Global Book Service) hosted by WIPO.

At the time of writing, 70 Authorised Entities had joined the ABC Global Books Service, contributing over 635,000 titles to the database.

A significant development during the year, was the initiation of a project to enable direct user download of titles from the Global Book Service, rather than the copies being supplied by an intermediary library assisting the visually impaired. The project provides additional safeguards for copyright owners as WIPO will be responsible for managing the accessible format content, rather than relying on individual organisations that may have varying degrees of security for the content they host.

2.5. Digitisation of Out of Commerce Works

The pandemic has also increased the focus on the digitisation of library collections. During the year IFRRO worked closely with members on the implementation of a new system for the licensing of out of commerce works (OOCW) introduced by the Copyright in the Digital Single Market Directive (Articles 8-11). The new provisions aim to make it easier for Cultural Heritage Institutions (CHIs) to obtain licences from CMOs for certain uses of out-of-commerce works (OOCW) that are permanently in the collections of CHIs.

A new OOCW Portal – established and managed by the European Union’s Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) since 7 June 2021 - provides access to information about OOCW that could be used under the new mechanisms introduced by the Directive (i.e., a licence or a ‘fall-back’ exception where no “sufficiently representative” CMO exists). The Portal also makes it easier for rightholders to opt-out of the new mechanisms (although it is not in itself an opt-out instrument).

IFRRO’s activities included co-ordinating with members to provide input on the EUIPO’s high level specifications for the Portal and in the focus groups organised as part of the testing phase for the Portal, in advance of its launch.

To raise awareness about the new system, IFRRO held a webinar on 16 December 2020, attended by over 60 participants, including representatives from the European Commission, WIPO and the EUIPO, as well as IFRRO members, at which some interesting OOCW projects were presented and at which Gyta Berasnevičiūtė-Singh from the EUIPO also gave a presentation on the key functionalities of the EUIPO’s OOCW Portal.

At the same webinar, the IFRRO Guide on licensing of the digitisation and making available of OOCW by RROs, was also launched. It aims to provide practical assistance in respect of licensing and other issues related to the new rules under the Directive. The IFRRO Secretariat thanks IFRRO’s former CEO Olav Stokkmo, who assisted us in the preparation of the Guide.

On 7 June 2021 - the deadline for EU Member States to implement the EU’s Copyright in the Digital Single Market (“DSM”) Directive - IFRRO, Europeana, EVA and FEP together organised an event to mark the launch of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) out-of-commerce works (OOCW) Portal (see here).

IFRRO has also established a task force of RRO/CMO members in order to explore how best to support effective national OOCW digitisation schemes, to be discussed with a broader group of interested members at future meetings.
2.6. Levies

Compensation for the private copying and reprographic reproduction of copyright protected works (also called levies) is of increasing interest to policy makers around the world.

IFRRO’s priorities in this area are to promote and defend reprography levies, support the expansion of existing systems for private copying compensation to include text and image rightsholders and to support our members in their lobbying for the implementation of private copying remuneration that includes text and image rightsholders.

In West Africa, CISAC, IFRRO and WIPO are supporting a study and a directive being developed by UEMOA (the West African Economic and Monetary Union) to introduce private copying remuneration in all their 8 Member States. The study and the directive were finalised at the end of 2020 and have been discussed with the CMOs of all 8 Member States. IFRRO supported the inclusion of text and image works, which was agreed. The draft directive is now being reviewed by the UEMOA Commission and is expected to be adopted before the end of this calendar year.

Other countries around the world have also been taking steps towards the full implementation of private copying and reprography levies, upon realising that levies have been a lifeline for authors and artists in particular during the pandemic. At the request of the governments of Botswana, Georgia, Nigeria, Namibia and Paraguay, IFRRO made recommendations to facilitate the introduction of levies in their respective legislation. In Tunisia, the existing private copying decree was revised in June 2020 in order to include text and image devices and since then amounts have been collected and will be distributed to authors and publishers.

In Georgia, the Georgian Copyright Association (GCA), a member of IFRRO, obtained a positive ruling from the Constitutional Court which confirmed the constitutionality of the private copying remuneration scheme. GCA is now able to enter into negotiations with importers and start collecting the private copying levy.

In the UK, a coalition of creative sector organisations, including some IFRRO members, launched a campaign in June 2021 to introduce a one-off levy on mobiles, laptops, PCs and devices that are built to allow people to store and download content. The campaign generated positive media coverage.

However, levies are not universally supported, and the IT industry is running an active campaign to try and disrupt their implementation. In Ukraine, a new copyright bill introduced in December 2020 would have, if approved, significantly reduce the scope of the levy system. We worked with our Ukrainian member to oppose the bill. In Mexico, a private copying bill that enjoyed the support of the entire creative sector was unfortunately defeated in parliament. And in the four Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia), the IT industry put pressure on the European Commission in September 2020 to “reform” copyright levy systems. IFRRO is following these developments closely and has worked with our members and strategic partners to counter these anti-levy campaigns.

3. Member Relations, Stakeholders and Communication

The Board recognises that IFRRO’s communication activities must enable IFRRO and its members to defend the principles of copyright and authors’ rights, embrace the digital environment, and communicate the importance of collective management.
3.1. Communication and Engagement

In the period under review, IFRRO organised or spoke at awareness raising activities and events with national and international audiences including in Bolivia, Denmark, Georgia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Turkey, Uganda and Zambia as well as at events organised by international or regional institutions, including WIPO and the European Parliament.

3.2. Member Relations

IFRRO supports members in responding to national issues of concern, including proposals to amend the copyright law in different countries, or other proposals that would impact negatively on our sector.

During the year, at the request of members, IFRRO made submissions in Benin, Botswana, China, Croatia, Hungary, India, Kenya, Namibia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and Ukraine.

3.3. Website and Brand Refresh

During the year IFRRO commissioned BDS Digital to develop a new website, to be launched in late 2021. As part of the website project, a minimal brand refresh was undertaken, to give a more modern feel to IFRRO’s communications and website.

3.4. Newsletters

As we have been unable to hold face to face meetings, which provide an opportunity for exchanges of information on other matters, IFRRO has issued a number of email updates on PLR, and on WIPO, in addition to the regular updates on EU affairs.

Monthly issues of the Information Alert have been produced so members can be reminded of important deadlines and information that has been disseminated by IFRRO, and to share links to articles and events. The IFRRO website is updated on a regular basis as are social media channels such as Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

3.5. Meetings

Due to the Covid – 19 pandemic, all IFRRO meetings in the period under review were organised as virtual meetings, including all Board meetings. We hope to resume face to face and hybrid meetings in 2022.

The virtual meetings included:

- European Group seminar and Content for Education website launch (7 July 2020)
- African Committee (9 and 23 July 2020)
- Asia Pacific Committee (16 July 2020)
- PLR Forum (2 September 2020)
- European Group (22 September 2020, 2 February and 13 July 2021)
- Newspaper and Periodicals Working Group (22 October 2020, 13 April and 3 June 2021)
- Out of commerce works seminar and launch of IFRRO Guide (16 December 2020)
- A Conversation with Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO (9 March)
- Asia Pacific Committee (18 and 25 March 2021)
- IAF-IFRRO Webinar on Exceptions and Limitations (21 June 2021)
- Equipment Levy Forum (8 July 2021)

The 2021 Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on 3 November 2021.
4. **Business Models and Approaches**

4.1. **Business Models**

The IFRRO International Conference programmed by Tracey Armstrong (CCC) enables the exchange of best practices and discussion to stimulate development of RRO business models, and for the communication and exchange of views on the future. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we were unable to hold the International Conference in 2020. However, in late 2021 we will hold three online seminars designed as an online alternative for the International Conference. The seminars will speculate on the shape of the copyright system at the decade's end, consider the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the publishing sector and explore the impact of new systems of copyright creation, use and reuse on the copyright ecosystem.

4.2. **Standards and Identifiers in the Publishing Industry**

In February, 2021 IFRRO, together with IPA, commissioned Mark Bide, the former chair of PLS, to write a report on the use and adoption of identifiers and standards in the publishing industry. The report reviews the standards and identifiers in common use and considers the use of standards and identifiers in different sectors of the publishing industry, including the collective management sector. The report also makes some recommendations for action. The report will be published in second half of 2021.

4.3. **WIPO Connect**

In April 2021, WIPO announced its collaboration with IFRRO to develop a software solution for collective management organisations managing text and image-based works. The software will be a new module of WIPO Connect, an IT solution developed by WIPO to support collective management organisations in developing countries.

IFRRO’s contribution to the project will be to draw on its members' expertise to enable WIPO to develop business specifications that meet the needs of the IFRRO community. This is an important development that will strengthen the collective management of rights in the text and image sector and also increase the confidence of authors and publishers that their rights are being managed efficiently and effectively by IFRRO members.

4.4. **Technical Standards**

**EDItEUR** - IFRRO is a member of EDItEUR, which is responsible for several standards of interest to IFRRO members, including ONIX for RROs, and administers the ISTC and ISNI International Agencies. Caroline Morgan represents IFRRO on the Board of EDItEUR.

**ISNI (International Standard Name Identifier)** - Michael Healy (CCC) chairs ISNI-IA (ISNI-International Association) on behalf of IFRRO. Caroline Morgan is actively involved in the ISNI work for IFRRO, also sitting on the Board. The ISO certified global standard number (ISNI) aims to identify the millions of contributors to creative works and those active in their distribution. The ISNI database is contributed to by 73 major national and research libraries, institutions and databases. CEDRO, COPYRUS, ICLA and PLS are ISNI members. There are now over 14 million ISNIs, including 12.7 million individuals and 1.57 million organisations.
5. Strategic Relationships

5.1. WIPO

IFRRO's strong cooperation with WIPO continued in the year under review. A highlight for members was a webinar with Daren Tang, the newly appointed Director General of WIPO, on 9 March 2021. Around 100 members joined the event.

In his speech, Mr Tang commented that the intellectual property system, and copyright in particular are under pressure. The pandemic has had a severe impact on the creative sector, including significant income losses for authors, publishers and CMOs. He noted that the role played by CMOs in bringing users, authors and publishers together was an important part of the solution to the pandemic. He encouraged IFRRO members to share information about the work they are doing to support creators and to enable access to content in these times.

He also commented on the role of the 21st century CMO. He expressed the view that CMOs are positioned to lead the development of global solutions for access to content, and in doing so they must continually improve their governance and efficiency to deliver better services to users and rightsholders. He noted that the ongoing joint IFRRO-WIPO projects in the area of licensing, private copying levies, and infrastructure, contribute to the sound development of collective management around the world.

During the year under review, and together with other international rightsholders' federations, we collaborated with WIPO on the revision of the WIPO CMO Toolkit to make sure that the specificities of the text and image sector are accurately and well presented.

In 2020-2021, we renewed two joint development projects with WIPO, in North and West Africa and in Malaysia.

The North and West Africa project (involving CMOs in Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia) has led to a number of successful outcomes in the countries involved, such as the development of CMO distribution rules, the adoption of governmental decrees on reprography, and first payments being made to the rightsholders. The group has met monthly since the start of the pandemic, with a number of other IFRRO members attending the meetings and sharing their experience. In 2021, other countries in the region expressed their interest in joining the project, and were subsequently admitted as observers.

In the Malaysian project we worked closely with representatives of local rightsholder groups and the Malaysian IP office to establish a CMO in Malaysia. MARC, the Malaysian Reprographic Rights Centre obtained government approval to operate as a CMO in August 2021.

In August and in October 2020, at the request of the government of Kazakhstan and of WIPO, IFRRO spoke at a series of virtual events on the topic of private copying levies. Kazakhstan has a private copying levy system which is not yet operational, in part due to the resistance of local importers of IT equipment.

In September 2020, IFRRO’s President participated in the virtual WIPO General Assemblies of Member States and welcomed Daren Tang in his new position as Director General of WIPO.

In November 2020, IFRRO participated in the 40th meeting of WIPO’s Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights. We made several interventions on the topics of exceptions and limitations, the resale right, and public lending right. Before the meeting we met with a number of countries and groups in particular with the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC).

In February 2021, IFRRO’s President and the Secretariat met with the Director General of WIPO, Daren Tang, and his team. We shared our concerns regarding the exceptions and limitations debate, and heard from him about the importance of a good technical infrastructure for CMOs, as well as the need to work on positive messages on the value of Intellectual Property.
In June 2021, IFRRO raised awareness on private copying levies at an event jointly organised by WIPO and the government of Kyrgyzstan. The same month, we participated in the 41st session of WIPO’s Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, where we addressed the need to protect creators and copyright at a time where they are particularly in danger. To share our position with the WIPO Member States, we co-organised an event on exceptions and limitations which was attended by over 100 participants with IAF.

In July 2021, IFRRO joined the “WIPO for Creators” initiative, a WIPO initiative to support creators all around the world. WIPO for Creators will undertake activities to raise awareness around creators’ individual rights, in particular targeting those creators who are not familiar with copyright and therefore are missing out on potential revenues. A rights awareness platform, with the aim of supporting creators worldwide across the many different creative fields, will be developed. As explained by WIPO, the platform will be “a creator-driven service in the form of high-quality interactive ‘Microlearning’ videos, featuring high-profile creators from every creative industry”.

5.2. European Union

The IFRRO Secretariat has remained in close contact with key decision-makers in the EU Institutions over the last year, in particular to raise awareness about concerns relating to the implementation of the DSM Directive, the need for support for the cultural and creative sector in light of the Covid – 19 crisis, and other policy issues.

IFRRO continues to work closely with the European Commission, and in particular DG CNCT’s Copyright Unit, that is working on a variety of relevant issues, such as reviews of the Collective Rights Management and Orphan Works Directives, digital cultural heritage, the copyright data infrastructure and artificial intelligence. Colleagues from the unit also spoke at IFRRO’s webinar on out-of-commerce works in December 2020.

IFRRO continues to work closely with the Commission’s DG Trade, as copyright/IPR is an important element of the EU’s bilateral trade discussions. DG Trade regularly consults IFRRO on the state of IPR protection in different countries. During the year, we worked with DG Trade on the copyright and collective management situation in Canada, India, Moldova and Ukraine. We contributed to the European Commission’s IP technical cooperation programmes, known as “IP Key”, in China, Southeast Asia and Latin America. In November 2020, we made a submission to the Commission’s Consultation on protection and enforcement of IPR in third countries.

IFRRO has also worked closely with DG Education and Culture over the past year, with Barbara Gessler, Head of Unit for “Creative Europe” and Georgi Dimitrov, Head of Unit for “Digital Education” speaking at our two “Re:start conversations” events, referred to above.

In addition, IFRRO has continued its good co-operation with the European Union’s Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO, a decentralised agency of the EU, with Gyta Berasnevičiūtė-Singh participating in various IFRRO events to discuss the EUIPO’s OOCW Portal (see 2.5 for further details).

As regards the European Parliament, IFRRO continues to engage with, in particular, those MEPs involved in copyright and cultural issues. We welcomed the Chair of the EP’s Committee for Culture and Education, Sabine Verheyen, and Vice-Chair, Victor Negrescu as speakers at our “Re:start Conversations” events. IFRRO has also been in contact with MEPs involved in discussions on the proposed ‘Digital Services Act’ (DSA), which IFRRO and its members hope will help address the spread of illegal content online and enable a sustainable future for authors and publishers in the text and image sector.

IFRRO continues to stay in contact with representatives of all 27 EU Member States, which are represented in the Council of the EU, to highlight our key concerns, including as regards the proposed DSA. We also welcomed as speakers to our “Re:start Conversations” events Rita Brasil de Brito from the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU (which ran from January - June 2021) and Dr. Igor Pesek, Head of Unit for “Digital education” in the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Republic of Slovenia (ahead of the Slovenian Presidency, July - December 2021).
5.3. ARIPO

ARIPO is the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation, representing 20 English and Portuguese speaking countries in Africa.

During the year, we worked closely with ARIPO on several topics, including the introduction of private copying levies in some of their Member States, and recent ARIPO publications on copyright and collective management.

5.4. OAPI

OAPI (Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle) is the regional IP organisation for seventeen Member States in West and Central Africa.

During the year, we worked with OAPI on a training programme for the CMOs employees in OAPI's Member States. In December 2020, IFRRO participated in the 60th session of the OAPI Administrative Council.

5.5. Other Intergovernmental Organisations

During the year under review, IFRRO also provided speakers for events organised by or further developed our relationship with other intergovernmental organisations.

IFRRO has observer status with UNESCO and is a member of the UNESCO NGOs network. In November 2020, IFRRO met with representatives from UNESCO’s Culture Sector and Communication and Information Sector to better understand their development activities and also their involvement in copyright-related initiatives.

In Africa, IFRRO is working with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), an organisation of eight mainly francophone West African States, which is becoming increasingly active in cultural and copyright policy development in its Member States. We continued to discuss formalising our cooperation, in particular in view of the joint project on private copying that started in 2020 and a possible new project on reprography.

We have started working with the German Development Agency (GIZ) and their local branch in Dakar on development projects.

We also continued to work closely with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and participated in a three-day meeting in Georgia designed to support the local CMO and IFRRO member.

5.6. IFLA

In August 2021, the IFRRO CEO and President attended the IFLA General Assembly and Congress, which was held virtually.

5.7. Author Representative Organisations

In the past year IFRRO worked with the international and regional authors association in membership of IFRRO to ensure authors are fully engaged in the work of RROs. We have continued to work closely with IAF, EWC, EVA, IFJ and EFJ during the year under review, by way of joint submissions and sharing of information. IFRRO participated in the AGM of IAF in May 2021.

EWC and EVA also partnered with IFRRO on the “Re:start conversations” events organised in 2021 and coordinated with IFRRO in order to ensure good implementation of the out-of-commerce works provisions of the DSM Directive. Together with EFJ, EWC and EVA have also actively promoted www.contentforeducation.org, to raise awareness about the need for remuneration under
the ‘illustration for teaching’ exception in the DSM Directive, Article 5.

5.8. Publisher Representative Organisations

IFRRO also engages with the publisher representative organisations in membership of IFRRO to identify common concerns and to share information. It is important for IFRRO and its members to understand publishers’ concerns and priorities, including their new and developing business models and also important for publishers to better understand the role of collective management in countering demands by users for access to copyright works through exceptions.

IFRRO and IPA partnered in commissioning a report by Mark Bide on Identifier and Metadata Standards in the Publishing Industry. The report reviews the standards in use in the publishing industry, and also considers standards adoption in several key areas, including collective management in depth.

IFRRO has also worked closely with FEP in relation to key issues arising in the context of the Copyright in the DSM Directive, such as educational licensing and licensing of out of commerce works. FEP also partnered with IFRRO, EWA and EVA on the “Re:start conversations” events organised in 2021.

5.9. Kopinor

Kopinor actively supports the text and image sector across the world, developing the publishing industry and also in working directly with RROs in developing countries to build their collective management capacity. As part of this support program, they hold an annual meeting of RROs to exchange experiences and build their skills. IFRRO participates in this program and works closely with Kopinor on capacity building activities across the continent.

In the first half of 2021, IFRRO and Kopinor agreed on a three-year cooperation on development work. The agreement will enable IFRRO to secure and expand its development work and support newly established Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) all around the world.

This marks the first time that a national CMO has entrusted a part of its development fund to IFRRO. Kopinor hopes this will inspire other CMOs to do the same, establishing a consolidated and coordinated approach to CMO development in the text and image sphere.

5.10. Other International Federations

IFRRO continues to engage with other rightsholder representative organisations through discussion and information exchange. Issues of common interest, such as the implementation of private copying levies, regulation of the collective management sector and the international discussion on exceptions and limitations are the focus of this cooperation.

In the year under review, we continued to work with CISAC’s head office in Paris and Regional Directors for Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Europe. An important part of that work is on private copying levies, through our landmark joint project in West Africa and also through targeted interventions, such as in Ukraine (more information above).

5.11. NORCODE

NORCODE, the Norwegian Copyright Development Association, is an initiative of several Norwegian CMOs which undertakes training projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America to develop collective management infrastructure. IFRRO participates, along with the other international federations, in NORCODE’s training programs for government and CMO staff, including RROs.

The training programs of NORCODE were put on hold during the pandemic, and recommenced in September 2021.
6. **Regional Activities and Development**

During the year, working closely with the Chairs of the different regional groups, IFRRO continued to actively engage in establishing RROs, and to develop the emerging RROs in membership of IFRRO around the world. In this work, we coordinate closely with our national and international members, national author and publisher groups, other creative sector organisations such as SCAPR, IFPI and CISAC, and with our strategic partners, such as WIPO. More detailed information about these regional activities is contained in the Regional Committee Reports, available [here](#).

6.1. Asia Pacific

There are 13 RROs in membership of IFRRO in the Asia Pacific region. There is also one Music RRO, MCSC (China), one Publisher Association, the JBPA (Japan) and one Creator Association KOSA (Korea). During the year KOSA merged with KORRA into a new organisation, KOLAA. IFRRO’s Asia Pacific Committee (APC) is chaired by Sarah Tran, Copyright Agency.

The APC met on 16 July, 2020, with 24 attendees. At that meeting, the secretariat gave an update on recent activities, planning for the AGM and a report on the impact of the pandemic on RROs. National reports focused very much on the impact of the pandemic in member countries.

The APC also met on 18 and 25 March 2021, with 27 attendees. An IFRRO update was presented along with national reports. The meeting also included a session on insights for development, at which Candra Darusman, a former Deputy Director at WIPO spoke about the insights he had gained from working as a consultant with PRCI, the IFRRO member in Indonesia. Jim Alexander also spoke about the project he is consulting on with IFRRO, WIPO, the Malaysian IP office and local rightsholders to establish MARC, a new RRO in Malaysia.

6.2. Africa

There are 18 RRO members of IFRRO in the African region and one Creator and Publisher Association member, PASA, the Publishers’ Association of South Africa. During the year, IFRRO welcomed a new RRO member: the Copyright Society of Zanzibar (COSOZA). The African Development Committee (ADC) is chaired by Dora Makwinja from COSOMA.

The ADC met on 9 and 23 July 2020, with around 60 attendees at those virtual meetings, including our partner organisations ARIPO, CISAC, OAPI and WIPO.

Matters discussed included the challenges posed by the pandemic, and other national developments. The ADC also held two further virtual meetings on 27 and 28 September 2021.

At these meetings, tribute was paid to the late Rosario Kamanga of COSOMA and Carole Croella of WIPO, who passed away during the period. Each of them worked tirelessly to support creators’ rights and was a friend of IFRRO.

6.3. Europe

The European Group (EG) met three times in the year under review: on 22 September 2020, February 2021, and 13 July 2021. The European Group is chaired by Samantha Holman (ICLA) with two Vice Chairs, Robert Staats (VG Wort) and Valtteri Niiranen (Kopiosto).

A key focus of the work of the EG in the period under review was discussing members’ concerns relating to the implementation of the Copyright in the Digital Single Market (“DSM”) Directive. The EU’s 27 Member States had a deadline of 7 June 2021 to implement the Directive, but most have not done so. The implementation of Article 17, concerning upload platforms, was the focus of the EG meeting in July 2021, at which Professor Eleonora Rosati gave her expert view, along with IFRRO members.
The EG meetings also included discussion about topics the EC has consulted on (and on which IFRRO has provided input) over the last year, including: the EC’s IP Action Plan Roadmap and Digital Education Action Plan, the proposed Digital Services Act, Digital for Cultural Heritage, and the EC Guidance on Article 17 of the DSM Directive.

Several members also provided national updates, with Brexit and the implications of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) for RROs among the developments discussed. There was also a presentation about the implications of the CJEU’s “Schrems II” judgment from an external expert from the law firm Osborne Clarke. The impact of the Covid – 19 pandemic and initiatives by members to further facilitate access to content was also discussed.

6.4. Latin America and the Caribbean

There are 11 RRO members of IFRRO in the region. As ECCLA is a sub-regional RRO for six Eastern Caribbean States, the 11 RROs in Latin America and the Caribbean cover 16 countries. Ana María Cabanellas (CADRA) chairs the IFRRO Latin American Committee.

The Committee met twice in June 2021 and will also meet in late 2021. The impact of the pandemic and national updates were the main items discussed at the meetings.

7. Technical Working Groups and Fora

7.1. Equipment Levy Forum (ELF)

The ELF is an informal forum open to all IFRRO members for the exchange of information amongst RROs administering Text and Image (TI) levies. It met in June 2020 and in July 2021 and is chaired by George Zannos from OSDEL. Several practical issues, such as the level of compensation, the sharing of the levy among groups of rightholders, the application of VAT, or the re-export of devices that have been levied, are discussed at ELF meetings. At the request of members, the last ELF meeting focused on private copying levies and the importance of these revenues for the text and image sector. Among other initiatives discussed at the meeting, DACS presented their campaign to introduce a levy in the UK (see 2.6.).

7.2. Legal Issues Forum (LIF)

The LIF, chaired by Martin Kyst (Copydan Writing), is a forum open to all IFRRO members for the exchange of information on legal issues. In the period under review, members of LIF met, firstly, at a special webinar on 29 September 2020, to discuss the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)’s “Schrems II” judgment (C-311/18) and its implications and, secondly, at a LIF meeting on 9 September 2021.

The latter meeting opened with the sad news that Henry Olsson, the copyright expert and husband of IFRRO’s former Honorary President and Chair, Tarja Koskinen-Olsson, had recently passed away. Topics of discussion included: data privacy developments (following the Schrems II judgment), the proposal by India and South Africa to temporarily waive WTO rules on intellectual property, recent court judgments of relevance from around the world and national updates from several members.
7.3. Newspaper and Periodicals Working Group (NPWG)

The NPWG, chaired by Sandra Chastanet (CFC), focuses in particular on the development of business models regarding the licensing of newspapers and periodicals in the business sector, media monitoring as well as education. A strong emphasis is given to licensing for digital uses and the sustainability of digital media business models.

The NPWG met three times during the period covered: 22 October 2020, 13 April 2021 and 3 June 2021. A recent focus of discussion has been as regards the monetisation of press content and in particular, the implementation of the press publishers’ neighbouring right under Article 15 of the Copyright in the Digital Single Market Directive (on which Professor Eleonora Rosati gave her expert view to members) and Australia’s news media bargaining code.

7.4. Public Lending Right Forum (IPF)

The IPF is an informal forum open to all IFRRO members, and links IFRRO with the work of PLR International. The Forum is Chaired by Kurt Van Damme from Reprobel.

Important issues affecting PLR schemes, such as the lending of e-books, changes in user behaviour, and the distribution of PLR revenues, are discussed at IPF meetings. The IPF also monitors the implementation of the EU Rental and Lending Rights Directive. A database with key information relevant to the administration of PLR is available on the Members Only section of the IFRRO website. A number of PLR documents are also available on the PLR International website.

During the period, the Forum met once, in September 2020. Due to the pandemic, the biennial PLR International Conference could not be held, however, plans are being made to hold it in 2022.

7.5. Visual Working Group (VWG)

The VWG, chaired by Vincent van den Eijnde (Stichting Pictoright), did not meet during the year under review. Its objective is to study and review issues involved in the reproduction of still images contained within books, journals and newspapers and to determine strategies and suggest solutions for co-operation and closer involvement of the visual creators in the field of RRO licensing.

8. The Secretariat

The Secretariat offices are located at Rue du Prince Royal 85-87, 1050 Brussels, however the staff continued remote working throughout the period under review.

Caroline Morgan served as CEO and Secretary General in the year under review.

Catherine Starkie is the Head of Legal Affairs, and takes responsibility for managing legal and EU affairs impacting IFRRO and its members, including the DSM Directive. She also provides secretariat engagement in the work of the Legal Issues Forum and the European Group, together with the Newspaper and Periodicals Working Group. Pierre-Olivier Lesburguères is the Manager for Policy and Regional Development and takes responsibility for IFRRO’s relationship with WIPO and other strategic partners. Pierre provides secretariat engagement in the work of the Equipment Levy Forum, the PLR Forum and the African Committee.

Nadège Grad is the Office and Accounts Manager. Veraliah Bueno Álvarez maintains the IFRRO website, attends to selected communication and information activities, and manages events, including the Congress and AGM. Munkhdulam Naranbayasakh was the IFRRO accountant throughout the year, employed on a consultancy basis. IT services are provided by TWIDO.

Yngve Slettholm
President