

# **LAUNCH OF REPORT OF STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF COPYRIGHT INDUSTRIES IN GHANA**

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

Copyright is the part of intellectual property (IP) law which gives legal protection to authors or creators of literary and artistic works such as books, music, films, paintings, sculpture, computer software, etc.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Guide on Surveying the Economic Contribution of Copyright Industries (2015 Revised Edition) defines 'Copyright Industries' as "industries which function under the protection of copyright and related rights".

Research into copyright, in the past, had concentrated mainly on the legal aspects of copyright such as the nature of copyright, the scope of its protection, enforcement and infringement.

The rapid technological developments – the digital revolution coupled with the critical role copyright plays in the growth and productivity of industries, employment and investments based on creativity and information – have made it imperative for nations to conduct research into the economic contribution of copyright.

The scope of the subject matter for copyright protection has expanded as a result of the digital technology. The returns on software multimedia and different technology-based products have been very significant. Copyright protected materials now constitute one of the main components in electronic commerce and digital transactions.

The developments in the global economy have propelled many countries to undertake studies on the economic contribution of the copyright industries to their respective national economies. Studies conducted in over 40 countries in recent decades have shown that the copyright industries are among the fastest growing industries; they contribute between 3 to 6 percent of GDP and also employ a large number of people.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for intellectual property (IP), in 2003 published a Guide on Surveying the Economic Contribution of the Copyright Industries to assist its member states with appropriate methodology in assessing the economic contribution of a nation's copyright sector. The guide was revised in 2015.

Copyright industries abound in Ghana but their contribution to the national economy hitherto had only been speculated. The Copyright Office with support from the Swiss Ghana Intellectual Property Project (Phase II) in 2018 commissioned a study on the economic contribution of these industries in Ghana. The study was completed in 2019 and published in 2020. It is hoped that the findings of the study will provide policymakers with substantial evidence of the significant contribution of the copyright industries to Ghana's economy.