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## [Copyright essentials](#)

Copyright is an intellectual property right (IPR) that grants authors, artists and other creators protection for their literary, artistic and scientific creations, generally referred to as “works”.

No matter if you are a copyright owner or a copyright user, the **understanding of the copyright basics** is crucial to any business. In essence, it must be borne in mind that safeguarding your own copyright and securing the permission of third parties before using copyrighted materials is not only legally required but also a good business practice.

The present fact sheet illustrates **the importance of copyright protection for businesses** and provides insight into the copyright regime, knowledge of which could prove beneficial in particular to SMEs.

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