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ISWC International Agency - Annual report - ISO Plenary (Beijing, June 2015)

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Introduction

The ISWC International Agency has continued its development and normal operations since the last Plenary of ISO TC46/SC9 in May 2014.

Registration Agencies

Today, 51 Registration Agencies worldwide continue to allocate ISWC numbers to musical works. Processes have been highly automated and ISWC-IA maintenance costs are stable. The International Agency continues to receive requests from new entities that want to become Registration Agencies.

Current Registration Agencies cover all world regions. More than 100 Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) worldwide use and exchange musical works information by means of ISWC numbers in a seamless and accurate way.

A comprehensive list of current Registration Agencies can be found in:
<http://www.iswc.org/en/agencies.html>.

Management of the ISWC-IA

CISAC continues to manage the International Agency. This includes all administrative tasks as well as the coordination for the operations and evolutions of the ISWC Database.

The ISWC Database is outsourced to FastTrack DCN¹, a French company fully owned by CMOs that is specialised in network developments for copyright management. The ISWC International Agency continuously monitors the performance and activity of the systems and is generally satisfied with the current levels.

ISWC Database and Register status

The automated ISWC (meta-data) verification network serving the Registration Agencies has processed over 820 Million updates since implementation (2008). Agencies' business processes are enhanced by validation center which is used as an authoritative index of ISWCs.

A publicly available online database may be accessed from www.iswc.org. It is localized in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

¹ <http://www.fasttrackdcn.net/>

In the central ISWC database there are 35 Million ISWCs (as of Q4/2014) registered (with 18,7 Million ISWCs added since the inception of the central verification center in 2008) as distinct compositions. This represents 67 Million discrete sets of meta-data submitted by the 51 Agencies (51 Million processed since inception in 2008) for de-duplication.

Industry Partners

The ISWC International Agency is continuing its work with industry partners for the expansion of use of the ISWC to identify and track musical works meta-data across some of the key industry data exchange processes and workflows, thereby increasing the interoperability of the ISWC.

Several projects have started since the last report. The International Agency is working with several key players in the music industry, from DSPs to aggregators and monitoring companies, to disseminate the usage of the ISWC and improve the overall identification of musical works.

Systematic Review of the ISWC Standard

Following the Washington meetings it was confirmed the need to revise the standard to reflect current needs and changes on processes. With the appointment of the new convener the TC46 SC9 is respectfully requested to take the appropriate steps to ensure that the Working Group can start executing its work after the Beijing meetings.