

# Creative Commons International

## The International License Porting Project

### – Origins, Experiences, and Challenges

by **Catharina Maracke**, Berlin / Tokyo

Dr. iur., Associate Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Shonan Fujisawa Campus, Keio University;  
Director, Creative Commons International, 2006 – 2009

**Abstract:** When Creative Commons (CC) was founded in 2001, the core Creative Commons licenses were drafted according to United States Copyright Law. Since their first introduction in December 2002, Creative Commons licenses have been enthusiastically adopted by many creators, authors, and other content producers – not only in the United States, but in many other jurisdictions as well.

Global interest in the CC licenses prompted a discussion about the need for national versions of the CC licenses. To best address this need, the international license porting project (“Creative Commons International” – formerly known as “International Commons”) was launched in 2003. Creative Commons International works to port the core Creative Commons licenses to different copyright legislations around the world. The porting process includes both linguistically translating the licenses and legally adapting the licenses to a particular jurisdiction such that they are comprehensible in the local jurisdiction and legally enforceable but concurrently retain the same key elements.

Since its inception, Creative Commons International has found many supporters all over the world. With Finland, Brazil, and Japan as the first completed jurisdiction projects, experts around the globe have followed their lead and joined the international collaboration with Creative Commons to adapt the licenses to their local copyright. This article aims to present an overview of the international porting process, explain and clarify the international license architecture, its legal and promotional aspects, as well as its most recent challenges.

**Keywords:** Creative Commons, Creative Commons licenses, Creative Commons International, Moral Rights, Private International Law, Case Studies, Interoperability

© 2010 Catharina Maracke.

Everybody may disseminate this article by electronic means and make it available for download under the terms and conditions of the Digital Peer Publishing Licence (DPPL). A copy of the license text may be obtained at <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0009-dppl-v3-en8>.

As an alternative, the articles may also be used under the Creative Commons License Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 Germany. A copy of the license text may be obtained at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/de/legalcode>.

**Recommended citation:** Maracke, Catharina, Creative Commons International: The International License Porting Project – Origins, Experiences, and Challenges, 1 (2010) JIPITEC 4, para. 1