Questions for Sjoerd Bruin on social issues no.2 of Chapter 5

* In the question, it is said what right do you have for compensation if the final form of a product that you have started with your idea, developed it with a year of hard work and your own money for like $50,000, and then most people can be used it without buying it?

My question for this is, say, if you are a public servant and you funded the above-stated amount of money from your own pocket because of some disagreements with the board for budgetary on some issues, what would you do next? Do you think you deserve most benefits from the product you started, but at the same time you definitely used public facilities, for example: well-funded, state-of-the-start laboratories?

* Another question is “if it is ethical to pirate computer software”?

Of course, pirating software is definitely theft. At the same time if you take a look at those Third-World countries, most people could not effort to buy expensive software but still can get pirated version of these software which are accessible almost the same or even the same as official/legal one. Some pirated software might have help them prevent from having more troubles or saved some families in these countries. Just a simple or maybe a little story-like example, a software called “AUTOCAD” could have helped build a family’s home better, say in a countryside of a Third-World country, from safety point of view because the software have those tools to calculate for those construction structures. Result of this is that when a strong earthquake hits the town where this house is located, that particular house is one of the very few which survives the disaster. If it was not for this pirated software, that family house would definitely have collapsed and probably children might have become orphans aftermath. From there, they would go wild around on the streets without proper education and might have become future terrorists. However, a pirated software prevented the world from terrorism of some kinds.

So the question is what your opinion on this example? Is it ethical? Or what is your ideas for reaching out software to all corners of the world?

* Another question is about music and motion pictures?

The similar thing here as the above question. Say some artistes are well-known around the world because their songs/movies can be watched via pirate. If it was not for pirated copies, most people would not know who these stars were. People singing, say Spanish/English songs, without knowing the meaning of the lyrics as they are in different languages. Those artistes definitely get benefitted from these.

What is your opinion? The stars should sue those who make the pirated versions?