Czech Republic

Decision tree for the Czech Republic to answer the question whether a certain work or other subject matter vested with copyright or neighbouring rights has fallen into the public domain.

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Introduction
In order to use works of authorship and other media on the Internet you need permission from rightsholders, to use them according to an exception established in copyright law or the work needs to be in the public domain. The copyright status of books, photographs and images of cultural heritage objects can be difficult to determine. This is especially true if you are attempting to determine their status in multiple jurisdictions.

The public domain calculators available on outofcopyright.eu answer the question whether a certain work or other subject matter vested with copyright or neighbouring rights (related rights) has fallen into the public domain. The Public Domain Calculators are a tool that can help with the effort of identifying public domain material in order to make it available online (or elsewhere). This document contains the flowchart and additional information relevant to answering this question for the Czech Republic.

The Public Domain Calculator is a research product of EuropeanaConnect and has been executed by Knowledgeland and the Institute for Information Law.
Information Boxes

(1) Please note that a single item might be protected by multiple layers of rights. For example, a CD will often comprise four layers of rights: if it contains music, that may be covered by copyright; any lyrics accompanying the music may also qualify for copyright protection, while the performers (musicians and singers or any other performer) as well as the phonogram producer may be protected by related rights. Similarly, a book may consist of text and illustrations, both of which may be protected by copyright. If an illustration is a photograph of a painting, a third layer of protection may be added. The term of protection of all relevant rights should be examined in order to determine whether the item as a whole is in the Public Domain or not. Please make sure you correctly identify and apply the Public Domain Helper Tool to all subject matter that qualifies for protection.

To this end, please also keep in mind that in accordance with Czech law and for the purposes of this Public Domain Helper Tool:

A volume, part, instalment, issue or episode of a work should be treated as if it is a whole independent work. The Public Domain Helper Tool should accordingly be applied to each of these individually.

If more than one authors have produced through their creative activity a work and their individual contributions are (regardless of whether or not they can be distinguished from each other) not capable of being used independently, the work should be considered to be a work of joint authorship. The Public Domain Helper Tool should accordingly be applied to the work as a whole, but not to the individual contributions. In this case, the individual contributions of the joint authors cannot take the form of mere assistance or advice of a technical, administrative or expert nature or the provision of documentation or technical material or of the impulse to generate the work.

A collection like a journal, encyclopaedia, anthology, exhibition or other database, which is a collection of independent works or other elements that by reason of their selection and of the arrangement of the content constitute a unique outcome of the creative activity of the author should be treated as an independent work. The Public Domain Helper Tool should be applied both to the work of collection and the independent components of that work.

Where a work is created with the participation of more than one authors at the initiative and under the management of a natural person or of a legal entity and made available to the public under that person’s or entity’s name and where the individual contributions involved in the work are not capable of independent use the work is a collective work. Audiovisual works and works used audiovisually are not collective works. The Public Domain Helper Tool should be applied to the work as a whole, but not to the individual contributions.
Individual items included in an (original or unoriginal) database may be independently protected. In this case, the Public Domain Helper Tool should be applied to each of these individually.

(2) In order to determine whether a work is a work of copyright or not, please consult the following table. Please keep in mind that this list is only intended to be indicative and should not be understood as being either exhaustive or binding. Subject matter which does not seem to comfortably fall into any of these categories may nonetheless be protected by copyright and subject matter which does fall into these categories may not qualify for protection, subject to the provisions of Czech law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF MATERIAL</th>
<th>GUIDELINES/EXAMPLES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LITERARY WORKS</td>
<td>Texts of books, pamphlets, lectures, addresses, sermons, poems, computer programmes, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTISTIC WORKS</td>
<td>Works of drawing, painting, sculpture, engraving and lithography, sketches, sculptures, works of applied art, illustrations, original photographs, works expressed by a process analogous to photography, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSICAL WORKS</td>
<td>This includes any musical composition with or without words, whether fixed in musical notation or other writing or not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAMATIC OR DRAMATICO-MUSICAL WORKS</td>
<td>Plays, choreographic works, entertainments in dumb show, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINEMATOGRAPHIC OR AUDIOVISUAL WORKS</td>
<td>Feature films of all categories, music and dance films, music videos (music clips), advertisement films (ads), documentaries, video art, etc. Works expressed by a process analogous to cinematography are also included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORKS RELATIVE TO SCIENCE</td>
<td>Maps, plans, three-dimensional works relative to geography, topography, architecture, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(3) DISCLAIMER: In relation to neighbouring or related rights (i.e. rights over performances, phonograms, the first fixation of a film and broadcast) the Public Domain Helper Tool only applies when at least one of the right-holders is a national of an EEA state. The European Economic Area (EEA) includes all member states of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom), as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

(4) Unoriginal databases are databases which show that there has been qualitatively and/or quantitatively a substantial investment in either the obtaining, verification or presentation of their contents. By contrast, original databases should be considered to be databases which, by reason of the selection or arrangement of their contents, constitute a unique outcome of the creative activity of the author. For the purposes of this Tool, original databases should be considered to be literary or artistic works.

(5) Examples of official works would include the following: a legal regulation; decision; public charter; publicly accessible register and the collection of its records or an official draft of an official work and other preparatory official documentation including the official translation of such work; Chamber of Deputies and Senate publications, a memorial chronicle of a municipality (municipal chronicle); a state symbol and symbol of a regional self-governing unit; or another such work where there is public interest in their exclusion from copyright protection.

(6) For the purposes of this Tool,

The natural person whose real name is indicated in the habitual manner on the work or is indicated next to the work in the register maintained by the relevant collective administrator, unless proven otherwise, should be considered to be the author of that work.

The natural person who has selected the components of a collection or arranged them in a creative manner should be considered to be the author of the collection.
The natural person or legal entity at the initiative and under the management of whom a collective work was created should be considered to be the author of the work.
Where more than one persons have produced through their creative activity a work and their individual contributions are (regardless of whether or not they can be distinguished from each other) not capable of being used independently (joint authorship) and where these individual contributions do not take the form of mere assistance or advice of a technical, administrative or expert nature or the provision of documentation or technical material or of the impulse to generated the work, all contributors should be considered to be joint co-authors.

(7) For the purposes of this Tool, an author shall not be considered to be anonymous or pseudonymous where there is no doubt as to his/her identity.

(8) The European Economic Area (EEA) includes all member states of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom), as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

(9) For the purposes of this Tool, the term “country of origin” should be understood according to the definition of Article 5(4) of the Berne Convention. According to Article 5(4) Berne Convention, the country of origin of a work should be considered to be:

(a) in the case of works first published in a country of the Union, that country;
in the case of works published simultaneously in several countries of the Union which grant different terms of protection, the country whose legislation grants the shortest term of protection.

(b) in the case of works published simultaneously in a country outside the Union and in a country of the Union, the latter country.

(c) in the case of unpublished works or of works first published in a country outside the Union, without simultaneous publication in a country of the Union, the country of the Union of which the author is a national, provided that:

(i) when these are cinematographic works the maker of which has his headquarters or his habitual residence in a country of the Union, the country of origin shall be that country, and
(ii) when these are works of architecture erected in a country of the Union or other artistic works incorporated in a building or other structure located in a country of the Union, the country of origin shall be that country.

(10)
The signatory states to the Berne Convention can be found at:
http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ShowResults.jsp?lang=en&treaty_id=15
The signatory states to the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) can be found at:
http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ShowResults.jsp?lang=en&treaty_id=16
The signatory states to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) coincide with the members of the World Trade Organization and can be found at:
http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/org6_e.htm

(11) For the purpose of the calculation of the term of protection, the author of a cinematographic or audiovisual work should be considered to include all of the following persons: the principal director (whose is the author of the cinematographic or audiovisual work), the author of the screenplay, the author of the dialogue and the composer of music specifically created for use in the cinematographic or audiovisual work (who are the authors of the works used audiovisually).

(12) It should be noted that in the Czech Republic certain elements of moral rights remain even after the expiry of copyright.
Contact

The Public Domain Calculator is a research product of EuropeanaConnect and executed by Knowledgeland and the Institute for Information Law.

Questions regarding the Research and Flowcharts
If you have any questions or comments on the legal research for the flowcharts used in the Public Domain Calculators, please contact Christina Angelopoulos at IViR.

Questions regarding Software, Development and Implementation
If you want to use, contribute or comment on the calculator software, found on outofcopyright.eu, please contact Maarten Zeinstra at Knowledgeland.

Disclaimer

The Public Domain Calculator is not intended to replace the case-by-case assessment by a legal expert of the public domain status of a copyrighted work or other protected subject matter. For legal certainty as to whether the term of protection of copyright or related rights has expired please contact a legal professional.

The Public Domain Calculator is intended to provide the public domain status of examined material exclusively in the selected jurisdiction. Please note that the public domain status of subject matter may differ between jurisdictions. In relation to neighbouring or related rights (i.e. rights over performances, phonograms, the first fixation of a film and broadcast), the Public Domain Calculator only applies when at least one of the right-holders is a national of an EEA state, with the exception of Switzerland, where the Public Domain Calculator only applies when at least one of the right-holders is a Swiss national.

The Public Domain Calculator does not cover questions of authors’ or performers’ moral rights.

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