THE ROLE OF RROs IN ETIN

This document has been prepared specifically for RROs. It is a supporting document to and should be read in conjunction with the ‘ETIN Summary for RROs’ document, which is sent out with the ‘Role of RROs in ETIN’ document.

ETIN is an EU project that is developing and implementing solutions to enable Trusted Intermediaries (TIs) to exchange electronic files for accessible versions of books with each other across national borders. It aims at having pan-European coverage.

ETIN COPYRIGHT SOLUTION
A vital component of the project is the copyright solution. TIs produce accessible versions of books under copyright exceptions or on the basis of licensing agreements for the use in their own countries. However, in most cases, these copyright exceptions or licences do not allow them to share their books with TIs in other countries. In some countries, the exceptions or licensing agreements are managed by RROs, publishers‘ associations or authors’ societies on behalf of rightholders. In other countries, TIs have direct agreements with publishers.

ETIN has agreed a model Licence/Agreement for the cross-border transmission of accessible copies of works. This Licence/Agreement is put forward as a basis for the negotiation of arrangements between a TI and rightholders or their representatives, for instance an RRO, at national level, based on mutual recognition of TIs within the ETIN network. The Licence/Agreement aims to enable TIs to exchange accessible versions between each other and to supply licensed copies made by the TIs itself to persons with a print impairment based in one of the EU Member States, the European Economic Area or Switzerland, provided that the delivering TIs ensure that works go to individuals certified as persons with a print impairment. The ETIN Licence/Agreement is available, inter alia, on the IFRRO web page and on the European Commission’s website.

THE ROLE OF RROs
RROs are encouraged to respond positively to requests from authors and publishers to assist them in making accessible format copies available to persons with print disabilities through TIs and participate actively in the ETIN project when asked. The assistance can take many forms.

In several countries, RROs, publishers’ associations or authors’ societies already work with TIs to provide collective rights management services. They could sign the ETIN Licence/Agreement, under the condition that they are mandated by the publishers, authors or other rightholders concerned to do so. Rightholders in any country may choose to use an ‘individual’ or ‘collective’ solution.

1 A „Trusted Intermediary” (TI) is any entity that facilitates interactions between two parties who both trust the third party; the TIs must have the trust of representatives of both persons with a print disability and rightholders and be formally and specifically accredited by the signatories. See: Definition contained in the EU Memorandum of Understanding on access to works by people with print disabilities, signed in September 2010 by representatives of rightholders and print impaired persons, witnessed by Commissioner Michel Barnier: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/docs/copyright-infso/2010/20100914_mou_en.pdf.
Whichever organisation signs the ETIN Licence/Agreement, it must first have a clear mandate from rightholders. The process to achieve this is dependent on national circumstances, but needs to be led by rightholders, either directly or through the publishers’ association and/or authors’ association. A working group can be formed to determine the best solution for the country.

IFRRO TOOLS TO ASSIST RROS
To help RROs in assisting authors and publishers in providing appropriate access to their works, the IFRRO Board has approved the following documents: (i) a Mandate for Alternate Format Licensing, (ii) an Accessible Copies Licence, (iii) an Annex to Agreements between RROs, and (iv) a Template for Seeking an Accessible Copies Licence. All these documents are available on the IFRRO website.

QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions, please contact the IFRRO Secretariat at secretariat@ifrro.org, Mr. Rainer Just, the IFRRO/RRO representative on the ETIN Board, at rainer.just@vgwort.de or the ETIN Board at etinboard@luisterpuntbibliotheek.be.