

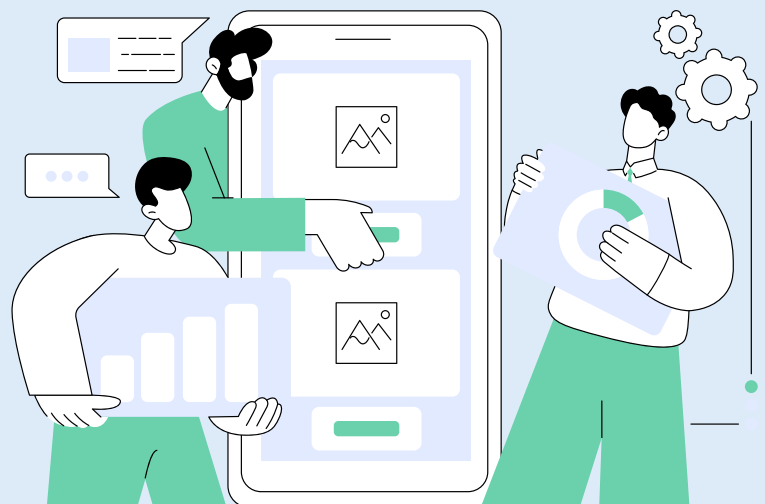


P4ELECS
Platform for
Electrification Skills
& Competences

Quicksheet

How to respect intellectual property?

Ellen Müller, Andy Veltjen, Karine Hindrix - 03/06/2025





About

Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions, designs, videos, images, software and brand elements, that are protected by law. As a content creator working on a building block, you often create and reuse materials. This brings you into direct contact with IP issues.

Understanding IP is crucial for:

- Avoiding unintended copyright violations
- Sharing your work in a legally safe and open way
- Making agreements when collaborating with colleagues or students
- Building a reusable, open library of high-quality educational content

When working on a building block, ask yourself:

- Who owns the material I am using?
- Am I allowed to reuse, modify or distribute it?
- What license should I apply to my own material?
- Who owns co-created content and how do we agree on usage rights?

IP is divided into two main categories:

Category	It covers...	Example
Industrial property	Patents, trademarks, industrial designs, origin labels	• Logos or product design (! rarely relevant in educational settings!).
Copyright	Text, videos, slides, audio, graphics, software code	• Lecture videos, diagrams, PowerPoints, educational tools.

There are four primary types of intellectual property protection:

Type	What it protects	Example
Copyright	Original work (not ideas)	• A lesson video or worksheet
Creative commons	A way to license your copyright for open use	• Publishing slides under CC BY-NC-SA
Trademark	Brand names, logos, slogans	• Your institution's name and logo
Trade secret	Confidential business or technical info	• Internal rubrics or unpublished software tools

Benefits



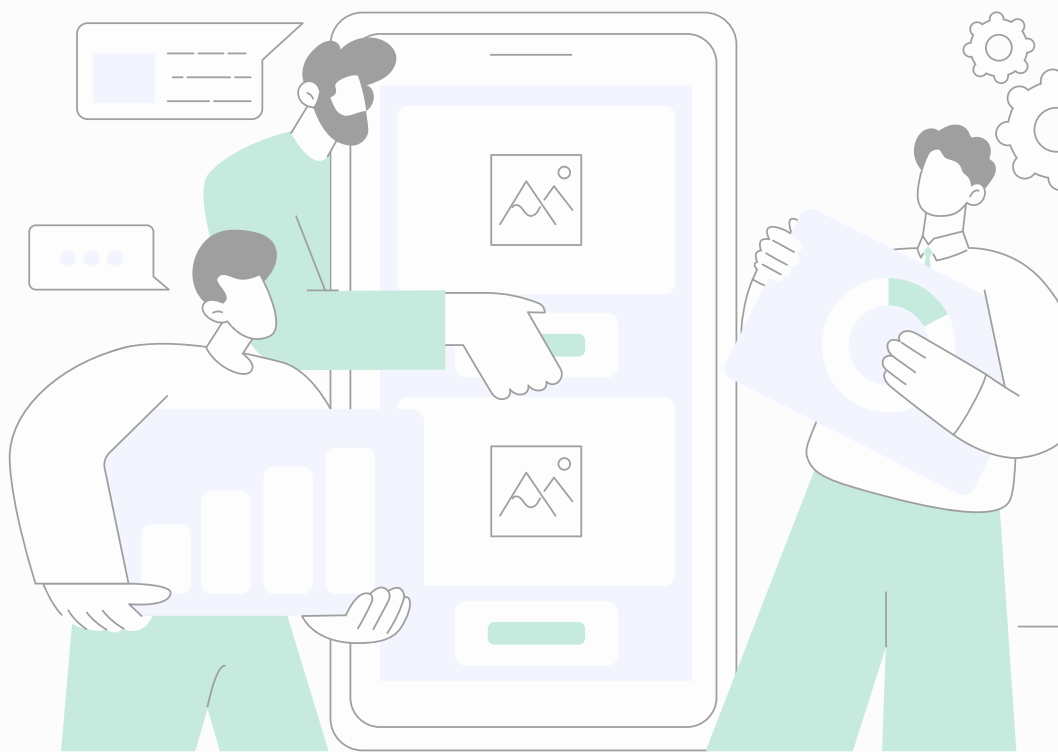
For content creators:

- Legal protection of your work
- Clear rules for sharing and reusing
- Credit and visibility through attribution
- Encouragement for collaboration
- Ability to license your work in alignment with your goals



For the educational community:

- Stimulates open innovation and sharing
- Builds reusable resources and reduces duplication
- Promotes ethical content use and respect for creators
- Enables quality assurance and transparency



IP in practice: What you can (and can't) do



Can I use an image I found online in my building block?

- No, not unless it's clearly reusable. Most images are protected by copyright. Only use images with a Creative Commons license, in the public domain or created by yourself. Always provide proper attribution.
- Tip: Use Pixabay, Wikimedia Commons or CC Search.

Can I use a YouTube video?

- Yes, but don't download or edit it. You can embed or link to a video directly. If you want to show a short clip, only do so for educational or critical purposes (fair use) and add commentary. Attribution alone isn't enough.
- Tip: Search for CC-licensed YouTube videos via the filter option or embed original content legally.

Can I reuse slides, articles or textbooks?

- Only small parts. Quoting short excerpts for educational use is usually allowed under fair use. Never copy full pages, visuals or structures unless the source is openly licensed or you have permission.
- Tip: Look for OER or CC-licensed versions via OER Commons.

Can I use a diagram or table from a journal or report?

- Usually not. Even academic visuals are copyrighted. Redraw the diagram yourself or request permission. If the source is CC-licensed, you can reuse it with proper attribution.

Can I use open source code or tools?

- Yes, if the license allows it. Check if the code has a permissive license (like MIT or Apache). Always respect the terms (e.g. attribution or share-alike rules).
- Tip: Use choosealicense.com to understand open source licenses.



What if I'm co-creating with others?

- Agree in advance. Co-created content is shared IP. Discuss who owns what, how the final product will be licensed (e.g. CC BY-NC) and how contributors will be credited.

How do I license my own work for reuse?

- Use a Creative Commons license. Go to creativecommons.org/choose, pick a license and add it to your work.
- Example: © 2025 Your Name. Licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

Tips

- Prefer CC-licensed or public domain resources
- Add a clear license © notice to your work
- Always attribute: title, author, source, license
- Use embeds (e.g., YouTube) instead of downloads
- Ask for written permission when using student work
- Document your sources and keep links/screenshots
- Make co-creation agreements on authorship and usage
- Choose your license based on how openly you want to share



Source	Website	What?
Creative Commons	creativecommons.org	Information on open licensing options and tools
OER commons	oercommons.org	Open educational resources with creative commons licenses
Stanford University Libraries Copyright & Fair Use Center	fairuse.stanford.edu	Excellent academic resource on fair use
Creative Commons Wiki	wiki.creativecommons.org	Detailed information about CC licenses and best practices
YouTube CretiveCommons	youtube.com/howyoutubeworks/policies/copyright	Information on using CC content on YouTube
SPARC	sparcopen.org	Promoting open sharing of educational materials
Attribution Builder	openwa.org/attrib-builder	Tool for creating proper CC attributions
Copyright Crash Course	guides.lib.utexas.edu/copyright	University of Texas copyright guide for educators
Creative Commons search	search.creativecommons.org	Search tool for CC-licensed works
Digital Media Law Protect	dmlp.org	Legal resources for digital content creators



Good luck!