here are some key figures on the activities of authors' societies in Europe in 2018:

In 2018, authors' societies licensed for a repertoire that includes millions of works:

- Nearly 3.43 million new works were registered in 2018,
- Nearly 3.60 million works were registered in 2017,
- In total, nearly 3.6 million users over 500,000 were exploited.

In 2017, authors' societies collected €5.3 billion in royalties and were distributed, which is 82% of the collected amounts in 2017. The distribution is as follows:

- 21% background music
- 16% live performance
- 36% broadcast
- 13% private copy
- 4% physical media
- 10% Internet

*Amounts not distributed mainly cover the management fee and royalties still in the pipeline to be distributed.

Overall, collected royalties were distributed in 2017. That means over half of GESAC member societies' members had their works used, and more than the EU's yearly culture budget of €216 million was invested in the future of European culture through social and cultural funds.

What does it take to provide all these services? GESAC members have about €140 million on IT costs alone. Overall, in 2017, authors' societies had €844 million in costs, which is more than 16% of total costs. Authors' societies are the vital link between creators and the users of their works. They are run by their members, are non-profit, and provide a crucial service in the creative sector that enables authors to create, but also gives wider access to content for consumers, and facilitates licensing for users.

They manage the rights of their members and represent them in negotiations to secure fair remunerations. GESAC (the European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers) comprises authors' societies from across the European Union, Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland. As such, we represent more than 1 million creators and rights holders in the areas of musical, audiovisual, visual, and literary and dramatic works.

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