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The Author's Rights in the Estonian Journalism – Understanding, Interpretation and Practices

Abstract: The Author's Rights Act is one of the first legal principles officially accepted in the Estonian Republic after re-gaining independence 1992 that regulates the journalistic field. It is also one of the longest serving and from journalists' point of view bipartite act – journalists are both users of material and authors themselves. This article focuses firstly on the ongoing modification process of the act and secondly on the practice of the media organisations forcing or negotiating journalists to sign off their author's rights material and even personal parts. As the author the journalist is a weaker part of this dispute, which the new version of the law will defend even less.

Key words: *author's rights, legal regulation of journalism, Estonia*

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