

## **National Report 2017 – Writers Guild of Sweden**

The Writers Guild of Sweden organizes screenwriters, playwrights and translators working in the areas of film, television, theatre, radio and games. The Guild has over 680 members who represent 95 % of the professional screenwriters in Sweden.

### **Our work in 2016/2017**

#### **SVT**

During 2017 we have been negotiating with the Swedish public service television broadcaster (SVT) and the result has been a prolonged agreement with just a few minor adjustments. One of the key issues of the negotiation has been a request from SVT regarding more flexible conditions under which SVT shall have the right to replace a writer in a project. The Guild has opposed this request but has agreed to discuss the issue in a working group together with SVT. The result of the discussion in the working group is expected to be included in the next major revision of the agreement.

#### **SR**

Swedish national radio (SR) has proposed a modernization of the current agreement in order to make it work better together with new ways of producing radio drama. Discussions are ongoing and we do not expect changes in this matter to be included in this year's agreement.

#### **Film & Television Producers**

The framework agreement with the Swedish Association for Film and Television Producers has been prolonged for one year. The agreement, which is structurally the same as previous agreements, is well functioning with wide acceptance in the industry. However, production of tv-drama intended for distribution in new media is increasing, and since the current agreement is based on linear broadcast being the first window of distribution, the Guild will need work together with the producers to find a sustainable solution applicable to licensing of content in SVOD services.

#### **SVOD**

The twelve month-project focused on SVOD services and the challenges that these new platforms present for our members' possibility to receive adequate compensation for their work has been carried out to the satisfaction of the Guild as well as the projects other stakeholders, including the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and The Swedish Union for Performing Arts. The project consisted of numerous internal and external activities, all with the purpose of creating a raised awareness and a fruitful discussion regarding the issue of rights and compensation for writers and other artists working within productions that are produced directly for SVOD exploitation. Such activities have included discussions and workshops within the Guild, meetings and seminars with representation from other creator organisations, Nordic CMO:s and production companies as well as the writing and compilation of a pamphlet summarising the key findings of the project. Those findings can in short be described as pointing strongly in favour of a collective licensing model regarding rights and compensation, rather than individual licensing or a total buy-out. It is the Guilds view that an organisation designated to collectively license SVOD rights on behalf of

writers have the best possibilities to gain and maintain the know-how regarding terms and conditions for such licensing as well as holding the bargaining power to successfully negotiate licensing agreements. With the project having come to its conclusion, it is the Guilds hope and ambition that a collective licensing model can be created and established within the foreseeable future.

### **Film Policy**

The new national film policy was introduced in January 1, 2017. Among other things it includes the establishment of four advisory industry councils (production, education, distribution and film heritage). The Guild has been entitled to appoint a member in three of the councils and Susin Lindblom has been elected chairperson of the council for film heritage.

### **CRM Directive**

The CRM Directive was implemented in Swedish law on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. The Swedish Patent and registration Office (PRV) has been appointed as supervisory authority. PRV has begun its work by opening a dialogue with organizations in the relevant area, including with us. Our initial assessment is that the national law implementing the CRM directive is not applicable on our organisation as of today. However, this may change, much depending on our status as a future part to an extended collective license agreement.

### **Our partners**

#### **KLYS**

We are actively involved in the Swedish Joint Committee for Artistic and Literary Professionals (KLYS), whose work includes monitoring copyright law and coordinating our organizations actions.

#### **NDU**

The Nordic Writers S (NDU) organising members from all the associations of playwrights, screenwriters and translators of dramatic text in the Nordic countries.