

Flemish Screenwriters Guild, Belgium

The Flemish Screenwriters Guild (*'Vlaamse Scenaristengilde vzw'*) was founded in 2004, 5 years ago. On this moment, we have 124 members, which covers about 90 % of all Flemish speaking professional Screenwriters in Belgium. (Members with a track record in screenwriting pay 100 € / year but Junior members pay 50 € / year.)

Our board of directors assembles once a month, and every individual member on the board has more or less his or her portfolio. The entire board consists of professional screenwriters with different backgrounds in film and/or t.v. and are all volunteers. We have representatives to create and maintain a friendly dialogue in different organisations including our 2 Collecting Societies (SABAM and SACD); the Flemish Film Fund, the coordinating Flemish Authors Society and of course the F.S.E.

We are very active in the field of author rights. To keep a good relationship with both Collecting Societies is in our own interest. Not only to indicate the differences between them to our members and compare their rates, but also to cooperate on legal topics (such as private copy, new media, pay-per-view,...).

In 2008, together we accomplished the approval of a new and transparant law this on the tax system concerning author rights. From now on only 15 %* has to be paid on author rights (*when author rights not exceed 50.000 €).

A couple of years ago, the Flemish Film Fund has set up an 'Consultation Board'. This board (which consists of a representative of each Guild) comes together 3-4 times a year to discuss a broad range of topics concerning the industry.

By setting up a new system for funding, the screenwriters' grant can be doubled. (2 x 12.500€). This subsidy has been made tax-free as well.

We try to set up minimum rates and try to follow these up, but we find it extremely hard to get cooperation from our members when we organize a survey.

We arrange meetings with colleague's, and bring together screenwriters with producers and directors. We also invite international guest speakers and organize Master Classes, which we started to podcast last year and put on our website.

In the beginning of 2009 we organized a Screenwriters Award for the first time.

We keep up our website and distribute a newsletter very regularly.