

THE NETHERLANDS
Dutch Writers Guild
Netwerk Scenarioschrijvers

The Dutch Writers Guild currently has 378 members: 220 professional writers and 158 aspiring writers. Our board consists of 7 members and we employ 2 office staff members. The Guild celebrated its 15th anniversary in November 2009. For this occasion, all of the members were given a free copy of WEGWIJZER VOOR SCENARIOSCHRIJVERS - a guide for screenwriters on how to become a cultural entrepreneur, written by Wim Blaauboer.

We had a collective agreement with the Public Broadcasters for minimum fees. In 2006 this agreement expired and together with the Dutch collecting society LIRA we started negotiations to renew it. The Public Broadcasters delayed the negotiations and also problems arose from the NMA, a Dutch anti cartel organization. These negotiations are still going on.

In collaboration with LIRA, the Dutch collecting society, the Guild started the Contractenbureau in 2002. Members can join for free, and two part time lawyers will negotiate contracts for the writers. About 100 guild members have joined. This year, the NPO, a Public Broadcaster on television, demanded that writers assign their digital rights to them (which they had already assigned to LIRA), and would boycott writers who had joined the Contractenbureau. This matter was taken to court and won by the Contractenbureau.

In 2009, the public broadcasting companies together with the producers and the cable companies launched their plan for a new collecting society. In December 2009, together with the Directors and Actors -Guild and their collecting societies, we created our own association PAM (Portal Audiovisual Makers) with the intention of securing our rights.

In cooperation with producers, directors, LIRA and the Dutch Filmmuseum we are building a website on the internet for downloading films. According to a distribution formula money paid for the download will be distributed between the parties entitled.

At the Dutch Filmfund we realised a special fund where a writers who have written at least two produced feature film screenplays can ask for a grant to write a screenplay without a director or a producer being attached to the project.

A broad number of guilds of creators - writers, designers, photographers, journalists, translators, directors, actors, composers and musicians – together formed Platform Makers, to create a single body to discuss the laws of copyright with policymakers and politicians.

In 2009 we started with an update of our website www.netwerkscenrio.nl, to be launched in 2010.