

SWEDEN

Writers Guild of Sweden

We represent:

670 professional playwrights, scriptwriters and translators who work in film, television, theatre, radio and new media.

Our membership accounts for at least 95% of the professional scriptwriters in Sweden.

Our work in 2009:

We renegotiated our agreements with SVT (public service TV) and TV 4 (the largest commercial TV channel). In the agreement with SVT, we secured improved pay levels and better crediting terms. We have not yet licensed the broadcast of programmes solely on the internet or mobile phones – however we have agreed terms for separate negotiation in this area. Online viewing is steadily increasing and we are now also seeing the rapid development of applications for mobiles.

Together with other copyright organisations, we secured an agreement on the catch-up system for SVT's channels on the cable network.

We have been working towards a new national film policy in Sweden – with stronger funding and a clear focus on cultural policy. We also want the film policy to be opened up to new media, not just cinemas.

We pushed for a continued broad remit for public service broadcasting and the continuation of licence-fee funding – and Sweden's Riksdag (parliament) has now voted for a new licence period of four years. The current state of drama in public service broadcasting is worrying, despite the Riksdag emphasising that this is an important element of the public service brief.

We provided an expert for the national copyright commission. The commission will be proposing legislation regarding the contractual position of the copyright holder and adopting a position on possible new collective licensing. The commission will be looking in particular at the general collective licensing introduced in Denmark.

We have continued to expand our drama library www.dramadirectory.com – where people can access Swedish drama, including in foreign translation.

In addition to the FSE, our partners include:

Nationally we are actively involved in KLYS – the Swedish Joint Committee for Artistic and Literary Professionals, whose work includes monitoring copyright law and coordinating our organisations' actions. There is plenty of good information in English at www.klys.se.

Work with the Nordic Writers Guild (NDU) continued at full pace during 2009. The Nordic Writers Guild consists of all the associations of playwrights and translators of drama in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. See www.NordicWritersGuild.com

We are also part of a Nordic network involving a large number of artists' organisations aimed at consolidating our work on copyright issues.

One key objective is:

To secure a new agreement with our independent production companies regarding TV production. Then to also negotiate an agreement for film. We have already come a long way in these negotiations.

Currently all these contracts are negotiated individually by the guild's lawyers.