

The Danish Writers Guild

The Danish Writers Guild represents 300 professional screenwriters, playwrights and translators.

Our elected board consists of 12 members and the office employs 4 persons at the moment. We hope to hire one more legal adviser this year, if we can find the finance for it. We are very busy and to maintain the level of legal advises that we offer at the moment we will need another resource.

The Danish Writers Guild administrates the payment from the Danish right-holders collecting agency in Denmark called Copy-Dan.

When Copy-Dan receives the money from cablenet- and satellite suppliers for retransmission and public screening they share out the money to the members of Copy-Dan. When we receive the money for the screenwriters from the collecting agency, we distribute the money to the individual right-holders on the productions that has been broadcasted. A minor part of the money is obtained by special agreements concerning streaming of public TV-archives and reduced prices for reuse on minor channels.

The shares we receive from Copy-Dan are pre-allocated by agreements from earlier conflicts between the different right-holders. The pre-allocations can be changed but it will, concerning the retransmission, be very difficult.

The guild negotiates the terms of the contracts for each of our members regarding film, television, radio and theatres.

We have one general agreement from 1996 with the Danish Producer Association for feature films. We do not have general agreements with the TV-Stations, however we have some standard conditions that we try to maintain. We try to negotiate as much as we can in general terms, but the TV-stations try to hold on to the right for them to negotiate on individually terms, which can be a problem for us.

The TV-stations are very productive regarding Danish TV-series. Some productions are outsourced to independent producers and others are produced by the TV-stations.

The TV-stations are still trying to push the terms for the broadcast-rights and the Video on Demand-rights (VOD). It is very difficult for us to hold on to these rights when we negotiate individually.

We find it very useful to work with other organisations such as the Film directors, Actors, musicians etc. on these terms.

We also work with the Nordic Writers Guild (NDU) who also counts Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. www.NordicWritersGuild.com.

2010

In 2010 we have negotiated many collective agreements with these other organisations. The two largest ones are with the National TV-station, where we have agreed on the terms for the archive material on niche channels and for the material on the web-side.

One of the biggest challenges was to divide the money between the organisations. The negotiations have not been as easy as we had hoped, but now we have succeeded with an agreement on the division of the money. That means that this year we get to share out the money to the right-holders on the productions that have been broadcasted on TV or is available on the internet for streaming.

We have been working on the new policy for the state support system for TV and feature films and in November 2010 the terms for the period 2011-2014 were issued. The agreements are very similar to the previous ones and the state has not granted the Institute or the TV-stations any more money than last period. They have changed the pre-allocations a little, by moving some of the TV subsidies to the Danish Film Institute. They are continuing with the Public Service Scheme, which is the support system for TV-series that are not produced by the national TV-station.

Future negotiations

We will continue to work on the possibility to get a general agreement with the TV-stations or secondary to uphold the standard terms in the contracts.

A Danish antipiracy group has been established and is working on implementing a letter model for the piracy on the internet. The intention is that the letters will be send on behalf of the right-holders, telling the receiver that the activity is illegal and they have to stop the activity immediately. However it is not stated what will happen if they don't stop. The group is still working on the terms and they also need to find a way to finance the project.