

ALMA (Autores Literarios de Medios Audiovisuales)- Spain
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

Membership

ALMA currently has a total of 245 members.

Festivals

ALMA tries to enhance its presence and its member's visibility attending several film festivals, either contributing with members at the panels or at the round tables.

Amongst others, ALMA has participated this year in Málaga Cinema Festival, MECAL Barcelona Festival, Vitoria TV Festival, the Julio Alejandro SGAE Screenplay Award and the Spanish Cinematography National Award

Master's degree and other courses

Together with the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, one of the most prestigious public universities in Spain, ALMA organizes the Master of Scriptwriting. This year marks the Sixth Edition.

It also performs other monographic courses for professionals and students, as the Web series Course, the Sitcom's Workshop or a Sketches Workshop celebrated during last year.

International Area

Thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, ALMA has been able to perform several activities with the WRITERS GUILD WEST (WGA) USA.

A four-day meeting was celebrated in Los Angeles with WGA, and we will shortly start the project "Double Links Writing Heads".

Yet another year ALMA is associated to the Federation of European Writers (FSE), and therefore has promoted and aimed its members to attend the Second World Conference of Screenwriters in Barcelona.

Fine of the National Competition Commission

The Spain's National Competition Commission imposed a fine to ALMA of more than 29,000 euros for having published on its website a list of professional fees recommended by ALMA for services of scriptwriting for film and television.

It is implied that these recommended fees were for the free-lances writers. In Spain coexists a double mode of recruitment of the screenwriters, the already cited as a free-lance, and as employee.

The screenwriter is not protected in any of these two modes. The fine, by the mere fact of posting to our recommended fees website, shows the inability to mark a honourable minimum.

The writers in staff are not much better because they don't have a collective agreement.

The fine is a mortal blow to our weak budget, so we asked for the help of Spanish collecting societies SGAE and DAMA.

If the Commission would have demonstrated that ALMA had attempted to or achieved to impose these approximate prices, distorting competition on the market, the fine could have been much higher, up to a maximum of 1,000,000 euros.

We wish to emphasize that ALMA disagrees with the letter and spirit of the Act. Again and again, our affiliates have asked this basic question: "How much should I charge for my script?" ALMA established a rate of approximate fees by consulting members about the actual market prices.

We believe that it is our right and our duty as Union to inform our members of the real conditions of the market.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of the Spanish writers, fail to collect even the fees that our recommendations suggest. The actual crisis of our country has infringed special damages to the media and for this reason, when you find a job, prices fall down much more even.

We want to express our thanks for the expressions of solidarity already received by other members of FSE and we continue encouraging to make aware to the authorities, society and the Spanish industry for the plight of the Spanish writer.