

SACT REPORT, YEAR 2012/13

In November 2011 a new board was elected.

The aim of this new board was to make a real change in the italian scriptwriters relations with producers and broadcaster.

In the last 5 years, despite all the efforts that SACT made no answers arrived from the counterparts. From it's beginning, the new board tried to force a meeting with producers to discuss about contracts and job conditions, which got worse dramatically and continuously. Again, the answer was a harsh "no way!".

Then the strategy has changed. In January the board met public television President (Anna Maria Tarantola) and CEO (Luigi Gubitosi). The last agreed to help (and eventually force) the meeting with the producers. Right after a post on SACT site informed all the scriptwriters about this good news.

The immediate answer was a letter from the producers organization (APT) sent to mr. Gubitosi in which they just reply they won't partecipate to any meeting with the writers. This reaction suggested the board that producers considers SACT and any other traditional screenwriters association too weak to be considered. It was a defeat, but also the spark which start everybody thinking in a different way.

Next months were used to organize a new begin for italian scriptwriters.

That's why in July 2012, Writers Guild Italy born.

That's why the "old way" to ask something instead of taking it by forcing clauses on the contracts died, with SACT, in October 2013.

Writers Guild Italia

The new italian scriptwriter organization born in July 2013.

Rules and transparency are the words which leads WGI actions.

Right now more than 120 scriptwriters join it. They're increasing day by day.

SACT - as other organizations - experiences suggested to WGI board to change completely the approach to the counterparts as to the members.

First of all, to be part of this new organization all members decide - and are obliged - to share their contracts. Which means that in any moment WGI knows exactly the deals between producers and scriptwriters.

This information sharing allowed WGI lawyer to report to the assembly, that all contracts we sign in the last three years or so were nothing but a mess. None of the rights we supposed to have signed for were clearly written on the contracts. Neither to be payed, as with current deals scriptwriters sell their work as soon as they sign the contract.

That's why the first, strong action - never done before in Italy - starting those days was to write ourselves, with our "author rights expert" lawyer help, two new clauses to be inserted in any WGI member contract since now on.

All WGI members agents were informed to insert those clauses in the contracts and fight for them. Next four months will be the first challenge, in March WGI will check the results of this first battle and, eventually, will decide how to react to the producers. The first option will be to refuse all contracts without those clauses.

Meanwhile, it will start a huge online questionnaire for all WGI members, to have a day-by-day snapshot of payments delay (and not only).

The collected data will be published every three months, and will be used to face producers and broadcaster.