

SCENARIO – SWITZERLAND

Report for the FSE Annual General Assembly, November 8-9, 2013 in Brussels

In 2013, SCENARIO is composed of 50 screenwriters. SCENARIO is an interest group of the ARF/FDS Switzerland, the directors' guild, and has decided to continue to be part of ARF/FDS as long as our goals are the same. Three members of SCENARIO are on ARF/FDS' board. SCENARIO stays independent in its decision-making.

SCENARIO is working mainly as a lobby group to defend the interests of screenwriters. So our activities are not very regular but mainly dictated by political events. The SCENARIO members don't pay any fee.

Treatment funding

We fought for stronger subsidies for project development, especially for the beginning stages. The national Swiss funding institution (OFC) has introduced a subsidy for treatments. We monitored the funding of treatments and found out that in reality very few treatments were supported. Even more worrisome, in 2012 the funding for script development distributed CHF 500'000 when they have a budget of CHF 2 Million. It means that the money goes into production and not into development. This is SCENARIO's present battlefield.

Fee for writing for the television

A delegation of SCENARIO and ARF/FDS have met the head of the Schweizer Fernsehen (Swiss German TV). For over 10 years, the writing fees for a television movie have not increased. What is also alarming is that the fees for writing series have been greatly reduced. SCENARIO had also asked that the payment of the fee would no longer be on acceptance of the texts, but on delivery, so that scriptwriters don't write an infinite number of versions without consequently being paid. The negotiation was a failure on every point. The only positive aspect was that in the future the SF has decided to hire Swiss writers instead of cheaper writers from other countries.

In July 2013, SF entered a contest for treatments where the fees were way lower than our guidelines. After some negotiation, SF readjusted the contest rules.

Festivals

SCENARIO had contacted the International Film Festival of Locarno in order to discuss the invitation and visibility of screenwriters at the Festival. After some half promises, the Festival argued that the financial situation didn't allow more invitations. As the director of the festival has changed, SCENARIO is going to give it another try.

As the profession of screenwriters was not even listed on the accreditation schedule, SCENARIO asked the Locarno Film Festival and also Les Journées de Soleure to add screenwriters to the listing, which has been done.

Piracy

Members of SCENARIO have participated in meetings about Rightsholders in the digital area. Solutions with the Pirate Party are quite far off.

SCENARIO
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