



Writers Guild of Sweden

We represent 660 professional playwrights, scriptwriters and translators working in the areas of film, television, theatre, radio and new media. At least 95 % of the professional scriptwriters in Sweden are members of the Guild.

Our work in 2013/2014

The Guild has general agreements within every area, except feature film. Our negotiations with the television area in Sweden have been rather complicated during this period. The development of new services and distributors such as Netflix and HBO, has had a great impact on the audience in Sweden. The payments from these new distributors are low, and the opinion of the television companies in Sweden is that our agreements should be altered in order to meet this new competition. This means, in other words, less payment for our writers.

In 2014 we still managed to renegotiate our agreement with the Swedish public service television (SVT). After a rather tough negotiation it ended without any impairment, and resulted in increased tariffs (2 % for 2013). Currently, we are renegotiating the agreement with the Film- and TV-producers and we expect to end the negotiations next week, with a reasonable result.

The Guild also provides individual contract counseling for its members and negotiate directly with producers on behalf of individual members. In addition, we also provide financial advice regarding taxes, accounting and insurance.

We have continued developing our drama library, where people can access Swedish drama, including drama in foreign language (DramaDirekt). For further information, see www.dramadirectory.com

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 organization's actions. For further information regarding KLYS, see www.klys.se

The Swedish Center for Dramatic Writing, (www.centrumfordramatik.se) assemble 250 members, all professional playwrights and/or screenwriters writing for stage, television, radio, film and new media platforms. The organization was founded by the Writers Guild of Sweden in 2005, and started its operations in 2008.

Example of projects and activities

- Nineteen screenwriters pitched for German TV and/or film producers at the Swedish Embassy in Berlin. This was a project developed together with the Swedish EURES office.
- Intense work with further training for playwrights and screenwriters, which involves courses, exchange of experiences, and networking.

- Contact forum, also building a directory for presentation of screenwriters/playwrights/dramatic translators.

Nordic perspective

- Work with the Nordic Writers Guild (NDU) continued at full pace during 2013/2014. The Nordic Writers Guild consists of all the associations of playwrights and translators of drama in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.
- The Swedish Guild is also part of a Nordic network involving a large number of artists' organizations, whose aim is to consolidate our work on copyright issues.

Film policy

We continue to work towards a new national film policy in Sweden with stronger funding and a clear focus on cultural policy. We want the film policy to be opened up to new media, not just to cinemas. The new movie agreement is in place and already heavily criticized and debated. For instance, an automatic aid that goes to the movies that already achieved some funding and is likely to have many visitors, was introduced. The support is costly and means that only half as many movies get advance support after application.

Our mentor project, which was carried out with the support of the Film Institute (SFI), is completed and we are now in a dialogue to get targeted assistance for screenwriting.

The Guild's board has also written to the so-called Guldbaggekommittén and proposed new rules regarding the selection process of prize winners.

Swedish Guild's key objectives

- To secure a new agreement with our independent production companies regarding feature film. Currently all contracts regarding feature film are negotiated individually by the Guild's lawyers.
- To continue working for a functional and fair general collective licensing, and for legislation regarding the contractual position of the copyright holder. At the moment we are participating with an expert in a state committee for the implementation of the directive for collective licensing.
- The Nordic Councils of Artist (the Swedish Guild included) have raised a big concern regarding the free trade negotiations currently taking place between the EU and the US, in the so-called Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). We want the negotiators in the EU Commission to consider the obligations of the UNESCO Convention that the EU has ratified and to ensure that the aims of the Convention are fully respected in the TTIP negotiations. Otherwise it is an obvious risk that the cultural diversity of Europe is at stake and if the concerns are not taken seriously it could affect national and regional cultural subsidies and schemes, harm local and regional employment in the cultural sector and be detrimental to the European copyright systems.
- The EU Commission has earlier this year launched a public consultation regarding the review of the EU copyright rules. The Guild filed an opinion regarding this consultation on how the digital environment affects copyright rules.

