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## Flemish Screenwriters Guild

### General info

The Flemish Screenwriters Guild ('Vlaamse Scenaristengilde vzw') was founded in 2003. And in 2014 we have celebrated our 10th anniversary! Currently we have 170 paying members, roughly 90% of all Flemish speaking professional fiction Screenwriters in Belgium!

Members with a track record in screenwriting pay 125 € / year, Junior members pay 60 € / year.

Our board of directors (14 persons) meets once a month. The board consists of voluntary professional screenwriters with different backgrounds in film and/or TV. Since two years we have a part-time staff-member responsible for the daily management and representation. She is the central contact person of our Guild.

We have representatives to maintain a friendly dialogue with different organizations including two Collective Management Organizations (SABAM and DeAuteurs/SACD); the Flemish Film Fund, the coordinating Flemish Authors Society, our Belgian Film Festivals (Ghent, Brussels, Ostend and the Short Film Festival in Leuven), politicians, educational partners and of course the F.S.E.

We are very active in the field of author rights. It is in our own interest to keep a good relationship with all of the Collective Management Organizations.

We have an active members policy, and members can contact us directly for advice. Besides several interesting advantages and reductions, our members receive invitations for public events we organize on a regular basis. We invite international guest speakers and organize Master Classes in cooperation with the Flemish Film Fund. Our Guild also organizes public interviews with screenwriters of new Flemish feature films or television series. We always podcast these interviews and put them on our website.

Every year we present a Best Flemish Screenplay Award for film and since last year for television as well, voted for by our members. We also cooperate with the Dutch Screenwriters Guild to organize a yearly award for Dutch speaking screenwriters, called the Visser-Neerlandia award. We aim to cooperate as much as possible with our Dutch and Walloon colleagues in order to exchange knowledge and experience, to extend the network for our members, and to create new opportunities.

Our website [www.scenaristengilde.be](http://www.scenaristengilde.be) is kept up to date thoroughly. We spread around a newsletter on a regular basis to our members and to an ever growing database of industry professionals.

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## Some highlights of 2014-2015

We are very pleased to witness the Flemish audiovisual field becoming more and more organized and were very pleased with the rise of two extra professional unions last year. Last year has been a key year for our Guild, and thanks to the funding of the Flemish Audiovisual Fund we have been able to develop an even more professional approach and policy.

### Advisory board

To increase our political power, work on image building and have a network of advisors in different professional fields, we have constituted an advisory board in 2014. Members of this board are professionally active in different fields, from communication over politics to broadcasting and producing. We will continue to work with this board in order to get feedback from different professional angles and to have representatives on different levels.

### Structural meetings with guilds

The funding of Guilds and the advice we received from our Advisory Board, have resulted in a more organized industry in Flanders. We now have collective meetings with Producers, Directors and Actors about 3 times a year. During these meetings we discuss our differences or issues to be solved, and if necessary we approach politicians collectively. Recently we have started developing a list of "Best Practices", which aims to increase the transparency during contract negotiations.

### Filmfestivals

Over the past years the Flemish Screenwriters Guild has developed good contacts with the three major Film Festivals In Flanders. The past year we have even improved these contacts, resulting in annual cooperation with the festivals of Ghent, Ostend an Leuven.

### Arbitrage

Recently we have been approached by the Collective Management Organizations to start up a procedure of arbitration. The main cause was a disagreement between a scriptwriter and director concerning screen credits. We have developed a procedure to be able to offer an objective opinion in such cases.

### Content - website

Besides supporting screenwriters in Flanders, one of the aims of the Screenwriters Guild is to inform our members. Over the years we have published a large amount of articles and information on our website, shared screenplays of Flemish movies and sent out many newsletters. We have started working on a new website recently, and an update of our "knowledge centre" which is part of our website. In parallel we are working on a communication strategy which will even improve our external communication.

### Organization Chart

We are currently reorganizing the internal structure of our Guild so as to professionalize our operations and guarantee the future of the Guild. The executive committee consists of the

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president, a part-time staff-member, a treasurer and a communication officer. Furthermore, as the work we do is very diverse, different taskforces with different responsibilities have been created. These taskforces include events, consultation, information and services and ad hoc projects. We hope to consolidate this structure in the months to come.