

## National report 2015 – Writers Guild of Sweden

### **We represent:**

- 670 professional playwrights, scriptwriters and translator working in the areas of film, television, theatre, radio and new media.
- Our membership accounts for at least 95 % of the professional scriptwriters in Sweden.

### **Our work in 2014/2015:**

- We have renegotiated our agreement with the Swedish public service television broadcaster ("SVT"). The new agreement covers two years, includes annual adjustment of the remuneration levels and retains essentially the same structure as the previous agreement. SVT has pushed for a mechanism allowing separate compensation for web specific exploitation, and the parties have agreed on a model of how such use could be compensated in the future. However, the new model is not yet included in the agreement.
- The previous agreement between Copyswede and SVT, regarding the SVT archive, has been terminated by SVT and the parties are currently renegotiating the terms for future use of the archive material.
- The Swedish national radio ("SR") has terminated the framework agreement that the guild has had with SR regarding radio drama. The agreement was terminated on January 31 and despite intense negotiations, the parties have failed to agree on a new contract. On the contrary, the situation has escalated to a conflict as, according to the guild, SR is making radio drama available unlawfully (on the internet and abroad). The guilds intention is to once again enter into an agreement regarding radio drama with SR and negotiations are therefore expected to continue during late 2015.
- The guild has signed a one-year frame work agreement with the Swedish association for Film and TV producers. This after long negotiations that included e.g. the producers' demands for greater interchangeability of writers. The agreement, which is structurally the same as previous agreements is well functioning with wide acceptance in the industry. However, the guild sees a need in future negotiations (the contract is for one year) to practically and strategically address issues relating to the CRM-directive as well as a modernized approach to the possibility to charge for VOD services.
- The new Swedish government presented a proposal for a new national film policy just before the summer of 2015. According to the proposal, the previous film agreement between the government and the film industry will be replaced by a national film policy financed by the government. The proposal is financed by an increase in VAT on cinema tickets from 6 to 25% and will also mean that the fees paid by cinema distributors under the previous contract will disappear.

- The guild has closely followed the work of the inquiry set up by the Swedish government to develop a proposal on the implementation of the CRM-directive in Swedish law. Susin Lindblom has been a member of the expert group that has assisted the inquiry with industry knowledge and practical experience. The draft legislation developed is, according to the guild and as noted in the guild's consultation response, extensive and will among other things potentially lead to an increase of administrative costs for organizations that meets the requirements.

**Our partners:**

**KLYS**

- We are actively involved in KLYS – the Swedish Joint Committee for Artistic and Literary Professionals, whose work includes monitoring copyright law and coordinating our organizations actions.

**NDU**

- The Nordic Writers Guild (“NDU”) has had its general assembly in Stockholm on September 4-6 with participating members from all the associations of playwrights, scriptwriters and translators of drama in the Nordic countries.