



## REPORT 2015-2016

ASA is the Belgian Scriptwriters association for the French speaking part of Belgium.

We represent some 80 scriptwriters working in the Federation Wallonia-Brussels.

Beside our traditional activities for our members (masterclasses, script analyses, script contest,...), our board members took part on behalf of the organization to various movie festivals and movie-related events (Brussels Short Film festival, Brussel Film Festival, European Screenwriters Award,...) in order to promote the profession and to insist on the need of script-based films beside the traditional director-author culture.

In 2015, we started to work with Screenbrussels, a public organization which aims to support and grow the Brussels-Capital Region audiovisual industries. We set up meetings between scriptwriters, producers, directors and distributors focused on the sector's qualities, flaws and future. Informal meetings between participants to those events led to collaborations. These events proved to be a necessity in French-speaking Belgium, as despite the small amount of professionals, many producers simply didn't know the (new) local scriptwriters, and vice-versa. We plan to work even more closely with Screenbrussels in the future.

Regarding our political actions, we serve as a member of Prospere, an organization which represents the scriptwriters, the directors, the actors and the authors societies. Through Prospere, scriptwriters are represented at the Concertation Committee of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels which is in charge of the cultural policy for the French-speaking part of Belgium, and also at the Support Committee of various TV channels, which checks that the TV's comply with their legal duties regarding financial investments in the audiovisual production. Prospere managed to get development aid for long feature films, a part of it being dedicated to scriptwriting.

For years, we have been asking for a substantial effort regarding the local TV production. The creation of the joint fund between the Federation Wallonia-Brussels and the French-speaking public television RTBF is partly due to this long-term lobbying. And it has proved that investing in scriptwriting offers a quick reward in terms of quality : the 2 first series which have been aired scored high by the Belgian audience, and they were sold in Flanders, France and Spain. This opened the path for a raise in the budgets by 40%. All together, the series which were created now grant some 30 scriptwriters a sustainable job for months, which is completely new in the Belgian French-speaking audiovisual landscape.