

GUILD ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

ALMA (Autores Literarios de Medios Audiovisuales) is one of the Spanish Writer's Guilds, based in Madrid but with writers from all the country. We have right now 403 members, almost the double of what we had 3 years ago.

These are the main areas of work during last year:

Legal and fair practice issues:

- A recent sentence of **the European Court of Justice ruled that the Spanish system of remuneration by private copying is not observing European law**. The judgement finishes with a system in which the private copy of a work made by individuals (and not by companies) was taxed. We are waiting for the resolution of our Supreme Court on the way authors are going to be indemnified for the decrease of their private copy income since the law was changed.
- Some authors were fined by the administration for keep receiving remuneration rights while they received a **retirement pension from the Government**. ALMA is part of the platform "Seguir Creando" ("Keep Creating") that tries to promote a change on the current legislation to make compatible both revenues.
- Many writers approached us complaining about the increasing intrusion of head writers and executive producers in television writing credits, with the consequent decrease of their remuneration rights revenue. We are in the process of elaborating a fair practice code to share with our CMOs to protect the writers and their inalienable remuneration rights.
- **Remuneration coming from broadcasting TV series and shows online/on demand are recognised in our Intellectual Property law**, but they are not arriving proportionally to the writers. We are meeting with CMOs to elaborate a plan for fair remuneration, joining audiovisual musicians and directors.
- We have set a commission around non-fiction writing remuneration rights since their evaluation by the CMOs and broadcasters was being irregular and unfair. We have elaborated a seemingly more fair practice code and we have been heard in the CMOs that right now are preparing the strategy to face the broadcasters.
- We have also set a commission around spec scripts and buy outs in cinema to prepare a strategy on lobbying.
- We are in the middle of the negotiation of our new **collective bargaining agreement** for non freelance writers (we were included for the first time in the general audiovisual collective agreement in 2015). During 2016, minimum wages are being increased and we are negotiating two more extraordinary payments a year with FAPAE, the Spanish Producers Association.

The guild organised three legal workshops in different cities of Spain, some of them along with FAGA, the other Guild, to strengthen the acknowledgement of the law by the authors in contract negotiations and create awareness of the collective bargaining agreement.

Political Issues

During this year we had two general elections and still no Government, so it hasn't been a good time for lobbying.

Despite this situation, ALMA have had several meetings with the representatives of national parties and members of the Ministry of Culture in order to start working on the following aspects:

- Cultural exception in Competition law in order to our Competition Court allow collective bargaining for freelancers (we were fined four years ago for recommending minimum rates). The Guild plans to create a joint communication campaign with artists, photographers and other cultural professionals to fight it.
- VAT reduction in cinema.

Main activities of 2016

“No se escriben solas” project

“They are not written by themselves” is a media campaign initiated years ago by ALMA to encourage the media to get the writers authorship and their names recognized in the press releases and media. Our members keep us informed about the omission of writers and the guild force the producer to include it. We had a big issue this year with our Cinema Academy because they didn't let the nominee writers walk along the red carpet. The promised this wouldn't happen again.

Other activities promoting visibility of the writers

The guild developed a film series projections followed by talks with the writers. Besides, we organised the second edition of the press junket with all the writers nominees to Goya Awards (Spain's main national annual film awards). Also for the first time ALMA arranged a press conference with the most representative Spanish screenwriters of the non fiction-TV shows. It got a huge media coverage.

Awards in Festivals

ALMA started new collaborations with **Sundance Channel Shorts 2016, Leon TV and Cinema Festival** and **Comic Con Spain**. The

	guild keeps taking part in Barcelona MECAL Festival, Vitoria Cinema and Television Festival (FesTVaI) and Alcalá de Henares Cinema Festival (ALCINE).
National Cinema Award	ALMA was again part of de jury of the National Cinema Award.
Microfusión	ALMA and Microteatro (micro-theater) keeps collaborating in Microfusión, an initiative that brings together novice writers with directors and actors so they can create and produce five micro-theater plays. Micro-theater consists of short 15 minute performances with audiences of no more than 15 people in the audience.
Partnership with The Black List, Filmarket Hub platform, Final Draft	Right now ALMA members enjoy discounts on Final Draft, benefit of the advantages of the Spanish script database Filmarket Hub and all the members of the Guild keep enjoying special conditions in the international platform “The Black List”.
Workshops and Master Classes	Thanks to a new collaboration with Comedy Central we developed a workshop about script analysis. ALMA was also one of the partners of the master class organised by SundanceTV with the prestigious writer and director Alejandro Amenábar.
Partnership with MadridCreaLab	ALMA started this year a new partnership with the Madrid Region’s annual meeting of writers, producers and directors.
Masters Degree in Screenwriting for Film and Television with the Carlos III University of Madrid-ALMA	A new edition of this Master started this year, again covering all the seats. It’s the 10 th edition of the Master.