

## **National Report 2016 – Writers Guild of Sweden**

The Writers Guild of Sweden organizes screenwriters, playwrights and translators working in the areas of film, television, theatre, radio and games. The Guild today has over 650 members who represent 95 % of the professional screenwriters in Sweden.

### **Our work in 2015/2016**

#### **SVT**

We have reached an agreement with the Swedish public service television broadcaster (SVT) regarding web specific exploitation. The Agreement has a term of three years and allows SVT to publish content in their VOD-platform during periods of six months without previous broadcast.

#### **SR**

The previous conflict with the Swedish national radio (SR) has been settled and we have entered into a framework agreement with SR regarding radio drama on basically the same terms as the agreement we had up until 2015. The main difference is that SR is given a broader possibility to publish content online without previous broadcast.

#### **Film & Television Producers**

The frame work agreement with the Swedish Association for Film and Television Producers has been prolonged for one year. The agreement, which is structurally the same as previous agreements is well functioning with wide acceptance in the industry. However, since production of tv-drama intended for distribution in new media is increasing more and more in Sweden, the guild sees an urgent need to address issues relating to VOD services in the next year.

#### **VOD**

The Guild has received funding from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth to initiate a project focusing on VOD services, and the challenges that these new platforms implicate on our members' possibility to receive compensation for their work. The background is that we see an increasing number of productions produced directly for new media and that the producers in these projects present licensing schemes that are different from those established for tv-drama in broadcast. Parts of the project will include analysing the business models that are being established in the field of digital distribution of drama in order to assess their impact and, if possible, to present alternative models for the relevant use. The project will include seminars where creator organisations and other relevant stakeholders can exchange experiences and discuss possible ways of establishing a model for remuneration that is sustainable for all creators involved.

### **Film Policy**

The Swedish government's proposal for a new national film policy has been a matter of debate throughout the year and the guild has attended a parliamentary hearing and numerous meetings with the the Swedish Film Institute and the Ministry of Culture. The Swedish parliament has now adopted a national film policy which in short provides a stronger position for screenwriters. Among other things the proposal calls for the establishment of a number of councils with the purpose of strengthening the influence of industry stakeholders in the new national film policy.

### **CRM Directive**

The CRM Directive is expected to be adopted by the parliament shortly and implemented in Swedish law on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. Although some concerns have been raised as regards participation and the use of proxies at the annual general meeting in a CRM organisation, most stakeholders in Sweden consider the final version of the national legislation acceptable.

### **Our partners**

#### **KLYS**

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

#### **NDU**

The Nordic Writers Guild (NDU) organising members from all the associations of playwrights, screenwriters and translators of dramatic text in the Nordic countries.