



CROATIAN SCREENWRITERS AND PLAYWRIGHTS GUILD

ANNUAL REPORT

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Founded in 2015, SPID (Croatian Screenwriters and Playwrights Guild) is the first such guild in Croatia, representing screenwriters, playwrights, dramaturges, or, in short, all writers of performed works across all media (film, TV, theatre, online, radio, comic books, videogames and new media). The number of members at the time of writing is 75 — 57 full members and 18 associate members.

The guild is financed through membership fees and public funding from HAVC (Croatian Audiovisual Centre). From its founding, SPID functions exclusively on a volunteer basis by the committee members as well as the guild members. One of the goals for 2019 is to secure funding to employ at least one professional (guild secretary).

In terms of SPID's activities of note during the past year, we would single out Hollywood expert **Spencer Hunt's Masterclass** — *AR/VR: In search of Stories for the Future*, which was organised for the Industry program of the Zagreb Film Festival in November 2017. Our members Jasmina Kallay and Srđan Laterza conceived and realised this project, which was the first in a series of events to take place under the banner of **SPID Story+Tech**, a platform devoted to connecting storytelling with the latest technological trends and advancements. The goal for this platform is to inspire collaborations between screenwriters and leading local as well as foreign new media experts, as well as to educate writers (and the general public) on the creative potential of new media.

The second program to run on the Story+Tech platform is **SPID's The Future of Storytelling podcast**, which received funding from the Ministry of Culture's call for programs that develop the audience. The podcast is informative of new tech developments



that impact storytelling, and it gives visibility to the new audiovisual formats that have come about as a result of tech advancements, from AR (Augmented Reality) and VR (Virtual Reality), to various interactive forms such as videogames and formats generated by AI (Artificial Intelligence) algorithms. The podcast is in Croatian, and can be listened to on the following link: <http://buducnost.spid.com.hr/>

As part of our guild activities, we would also mention the taking part in the public debate regarding the new **Law about Audiovisual Activities**. The law was passed in July 2018, and as a result of this, a representative of SPID has been included in the Audiovisual Committee of HAVC, which means that we now take direct part in the decision making process regarding funds and other important matters relating to the development of the audiovisual community in Croatia.

We also became actively involved in the lobbying for the **Copyright Directive**. Apart from several announcements via our official Facebook page, we also sent a mail to all Croatian members of the European Parliament, asking them to support the Copyright Directive.

Future activities of SPID will be directed at a multilateral collaboration and the involvement of Croatia in European and international cultural networks. We wish to open up the possibility for concrete collaboration at the levels of future education, networking and international visibility of Croatian authors, as well as a better exchange of information regarding copyright and the status of artists in European creative industries.

Zinka Kiseljak
President of SPID