

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

WRITERS' GUILD OF NORWAY

The Writers' Guild of Norway's main task since the last meeting has been re-negotiating our framework agreements.

The Producers' Association, Virke

Originally there were two framework agreements, one for film and one for TV-drama. Virke represents the commercial producers that produce for NRK and the commercial broadcasters as well as for the streaming companies. The TV-drama agreement was terminated in 2018 and re-negotiations are underway. We have announced that the remuneration for writing the manuscript and the remuneration for the display rights are to be negotiated separately. In addition, we have announced that there must be fixed rates for all other use of the manuscript. The Producers' Association does basically appreciate the dividing in three of the payments, but when it comes to the size of the payment/royalty and how it should be calculated there are great disagreements between the parties.

NRK. Re-negotiation of the temporary framework agreement

The Writers' Guild of Norway made a temporary framework agreement with the NRK in 2017. The agreement stipulates a dividing in three of the remuneration. The remuneration for the work with the manuscript is to be negotiated individually, taking in consideration the writers experience and specific knowledge, while the display rights on NRK's platforms are the same fixed rates for all, nearly NOK 2000 per minute. Further on the writer is secured a fair royalty on all other use of the manuscript. The problem with the agreement is the display rights on NRK's platforms, and on platforms where NRK has the editorial control. According to the temporary agreement the display rights are transferred to NRK during the copyright term of the work. On the other hand, the temporary agreement leads to a considerable rise of the writers' remuneration compared with what the former agreement did.

The Actors' Association, having a similar agreement, is happy with the agreement and has signalized that they are not going for a re-negotiation of their agreement for the time being. The Film Association and the Directors' Association are in conflict with the NRK when demanding a framework agreement based on a 'wave' model of from one to seven years' duration. The Writers' Guild of Norway starts re-negotiations with the NRK this September.

NRK. Archive agreement

NRK has through statutory law the right to show their own productions, including radio programs, produced through 1996. For this, NRK shall pay a fee distributed by the copyright organisation Norwaco. Negotiations to extend this agreement has started, where NRK has signalized that it will not only reduce the remuneration amount for these rights considerably but also extend the archive to include all works through 2015.

The State Budget

On presentation of the State Budget 2020 the Minister of Culture announced that she will start the work demanding a defined percentage of Norwegian content in streaming companies' program offer. What the percentage in numbers will be is not yet defined.