



FSE NEWSLETTER / COVID-19 CRISIS #4

to FSE member guilds
as of 13 April 2020 (previous update 03 April)
NB. Most translations in English are online translations.

Solidarity at European level among authors' organisations and within the cultural and audiovisual sector

>>> FSE endorsed several statements recently. In case you missed them, here is a recap.

(08/04)

Joint Film and Audiovisual Sector COVID-19 Statement

The audiovisual sector could play a major role in the healing and recovery process after the COVID-19 worldwide crisis – but only if its basic infrastructure can be saved. Urgent financial support now and in the months to come is needed.

<https://federationscreenwriters.eu/joint-film-and-audiovisual-sector-covid-19-statement/>

#saveEUculture

FSE endorsed the Open Letter to European Commission & Member States (Council of the European Union), demanding support for the Cultural & Creative Sectors affected by the #COVID_19 crisis.

You can sign and share the public petition supporting the Open Letter, which FSE president Carolin Otto signed as well.

<https://www.openpetition.eu/petition/online/open-letter-to-the-eu-demanding-support-for-the-cultural-and-creative-sectors-in-the-covid-19-crisis>

(02/04)

Fighting the global COVID-19 crisis in the film and TV production sector

FSE signed joint call for urgent action to sustain TV and film industry in face of Covid-19. With Animation in Europe, CEPI, EUROCINEMA, FIA, FIAPF, FERA and UNI MEI.

<https://federationscreenwriters.eu/fighting-the-global-covid-19-crisis-in-the-film-and-tv-production-sector/>

European film and TV associations call for extraordinary measures to help the industry

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/387542/>

(26/03)

Authors' Organisations Joint Statement on COVID-19 Crisis

As the COVID-19 pandemic ravages our societies, including the cultural and creative sectors, authors' organizations stand in solidarity with all those affected by the virus and we support measures taken to contain it.

<https://federationscreenwriters.eu/authors-organisations-joint-statement-on-covid-19-crisis/>

Other statements from the Audiovisual organisations in Europe

W&DW - Writers and Directors Worldwide (GESAC)

Reactions to COVID-19 from local governments and CMOs

<http://www.writersanddirectorsworldwide.org/reactions-to-covid-19-from-local-governments-and-cmos/>

European institutions

(08/04)

>>> "A series of strong and concrete measures" to support the Europe's cultural and creative sectors in these hard times was presented by Maryia Gabriel, Commissioner responsible for Culture on 7 April during the video conference with the Ministers of Culture of the EU.

Main sector specific actions which will be taken under Creative Europe to support cultural and creative sectors in the face of the COVID-19 crisis:

Main measures:

- Culture is 1 of 5 sectors qualifying for special state aid scheme
- Artists & creators out of work can benefit from temporary unemployment scheme SURE
- Maximum flexibility for ongoing Creative Europe activities
- €2m support scheme for cross-border dimension of performing arts, focusing on digital & virtual exchanges
- €5m in support to hard-hit cinemas
- Additional funding to book translations
- Extended deadlines for some of our calls and speeded up selection procedures

Watch Press conference:

<https://video.consilium.europa.eu/en/webcast/f8d36201-be4b-46df-9163-4992b6f10ceb>

(11/04)

UNESCO launches a global movement "ResiliArt: Artists and Creativity beyond Crisis"

"Now, more than ever, we need culture. Culture makes us resilient and gives us hope. It reminds us that we are not alone. We need a concerted and global effort to support artists and ensure access to culture for all."

<https://en.unesco.org/creativity/news/resiliart-artists-creativity-beyond-crisis>

Tracking COVID-19 audiovisual sector support measures

(07/04)

>>> European Audiovisual Observatory is tracking COVID-19 audiovisual sector support measures.

The COVID-19 crisis is producing major challenges for the film, TV and on demand industries in Europe. In response to this, governments and industry bodies are bringing in measures to support the various industries and their professionals through this period.

Download our EXCEL data tracker from this page

<https://www.obs.coe.int/en/web/observatoire/covid-19-audiovisual-sector-measures>

>>> **EFADs, the European Film Agency, is listing measures taken by EFAD members** (film funds, films institutes) to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak. A detailed list country by country, with regular updates.

<https://europeanfilmagencies.eu/news-publications/our-press-releases/241-measures-by-efad-members-to-mitigate-the-consequences-of-the-covid-19-outbreak>

SURVEY / Covid-19 Survey for Documentary Professionals

(06/04)

EDN (European Documentary Network) is interested in learning more about how the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is affecting the work of documentary professionals.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedBudEWwn94iP17cnKglibRNdXEQqEqrPggpxelyNzLreSxg/viewform>

FSE also spotted the following news:

BELGIUM

(04/04) **The Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds (Film fund of Flanders) keeps a direct line open with the sector around corona** - including with the screenwriters guild - and briefs and asks them about the consultation with policy makers and about the measures they take or consider. They made an overview of their measures to provide the Flemish audiovisual sector more flexibility and time during this uncertain period. The scheme applies until the end of 2020.

<https://www.vaf.be/corona>

(08/04) In Belgium, the **collective management organisation Sabam frees 18 million euros for its authors.**

<https://www.sabam.be/fr/news/la-sabam-libere-18-millions-deuros-pour-ses-auteurs>

Belgian freelancers in the media sector receive compensation. In Belgium, freelancers working in the media sector can also make use of the compensation scheme, the Flemish government has announced.

<https://www.villamedia.nl/artikel/belgische-freelancers-in-de-mediasector-krijgen-compensatie>

FRANCE

(08/04) **Netflix Joins Forces With Audiens to Set Up Relief Fund For French Crews, Artists**

Netflix has joined forces with Audiens, the social protection group of the French cultural sector, to set up an emergency fund for local freelance artists and crew members. Netflix is set to inject €1 million (\$1.09 million) into the fund that's being set up with Audiens, in collaboration with France's National Film Board (CNC).

<https://variety.com/2020/film/global/netflix-joins-forces-with-audiens-to-set-up-relief-fund-for-french-crews-artists-1234574441/>

(06/06)

French Audiovisual collective management organisation SACD: Operational launch of the Emergency Fund, with the financial participation of the CNC - National Center of Cinema and Animated Image.

The purpose of this system is to allocate to authors of cinematographic and audiovisual works, receiving neither aid from the National Solidarity Fund, nor a partial unemployment measure greater than or equal to € 1,500, aid intended for enable them to cope with the economic consequences of the health crisis linked to the epidemic of the covid-19 virus.

<https://www.sacd.fr/le-fonds-durgence-audiovisuel-cinema-animation-web>

GERMANY

(06/04) Apart from the immediate financial aid packages provided to film professionals by the Germany government, **the country's film institutions have together decided on a set of measures of support to implement.**

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/387512/>

ITALY

(04/04) **Coronavirus: Netflix and IFC in support of those who work in cinema and TV**

https://www.lastampa.it/tecnologia/news/2020/04/02/news/coronavirus-netflix-e-ifc-a-sostegno-di-chi-lavora-in-cinema-e-tv-1.38670310?refresh_ce=

(08/04) **European Solidarity with Italy. Films for Italy.** Watch any film from our special program and we'll donate 40% of the proceeds from every purchase to support Lombardy hospitals. As with all films from our library, the remaining 60% is paid to the film's copyright holders, which means you'll also be supporting Italian filmmakers during these difficult times.

<https://dafilms.com/program/759-films-for-italy>

NORWAY

(08/04) Guild's chair Monica Boracco unveils the results of the survey on the impact of the current crisis on guild's members and details some measures.

<https://dramatiker.no/leder/>

ROMANIA

(08/04) Ada Solomon, one of Romania's leading producers, who recently released *Ivana the Terrible* in her home country, shares her hopes and concerns regarding the future of the national film industry

<https://www.cineuropa.org/en/interview/387587>

SLOVENIA

(08/04) DSR calls on the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to include specific measures in order to encourage the national AV creative industry.

<http://www.dsr.si/>

SWITZERLAND

The ARF/FDS (which includes the group of screenwriters SCENARIO), in collaboration with the associations of film producers, sent a press communique to national media.

<https://www.arf-fds.ch/les-effets-de-la-crise-de-la-corona-sur-le-cinema-suisse/?lang=fr>

Online film festivals and markets, does it work?

>>> Cineuropa is proposing an overview of the cancelled and postponed film events in Europe, as well as initiatives from VOD platforms and measures from film institutes.

A list country by country

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/386891/>

(09/10) **The Series Mania Digital Forum reports positive results**

The first big professional event to have unspooled online after being forced to cancel has published figures which could serve as benchmarks in the new context of the Coronavirus health crisis

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/387623/>

(10/04) **Meeting Point – Vilnius explores the challenges of realising a digital festival during the coronavirus** pandemic. The recent experiences of the Vilnius IFF and CPH:DOX were analysed during a webinar organised with the support of Creative Europe Desk Lithuania

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/387660/>

Visibility of screenwriters during the COVID-19 crisis and new opportunities

Several guilds regularly give visibility to screenwriters on social networks, by announcing the possibility to watch films or series written by members of the guild. We spotted a few initiatives:

GERMANY

" What VDD writers write " and " What do we watch when we stay home "

https://www.facebook.com/vdd.drehbuch/?_tn_ =kC-R&eid=ARCF5arZyh5C1XJZ5R6hPI3p72F_qbOJaxrd8ZFxN5wDU1ENz16cDzSq8ZV0yzckE9AzNXoWiEfVE_t&hc_ref=ARRJVhauOt5tXaxrQQxmRT4acA44tYRd-YCciAfsYXWJoULoijMnuIDBItJZqoDCfUM&fref=nf

DENMARK

(06/04) Danske Dramatikere shared: A scholarship especially intended for writers whose future/current work is influenced by the corona crisis.

<https://www.dramatiker.dk/forcemajeurepuljen/>

SPAIN

(31/03) ALMA proposes a focus on women screenwriters. Publication of a series of interviews:

<https://www.sindicatoalma.es/ellas-tambien-escriben-entrevistas-a-mujeres-guionistas/>

SWEDEN

(06/04) Screenwriters Pia Gradvall and Alex Haridi share their concerns about the Corona crisis. The guild's editor wants more concerns from the guilds' members.

Audiovisual is global : news from the World

BANGLADESH

News from the television industry in Bangladesh, facing massive losses amidst coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/news/television-industry-faces-massive-losses-amidst-coronavirus-pandemic-1889812>

CHINA

(03/04) Signs of life are re-emerging in China's film and TV industry, as studios across the country reopen and suspended film shoots are restarted, it has been reported.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/apr/03/film-and-tv-shoots-resume-in-china-as-corona-restrictions-ease>

INDIA

(06/04) In India screenwriters are also hit by the crisis.

<https://www.amarujala.com/entertainment/bollywood/coronavirus-screenwriters-association-has-decided-to-help-film-industry-workers-in-lock-down>

NEW-ZEALAND

The latest news from NZ Film Commission, including the extension of business support funding:

<https://tinyurl.com/uy2czuy>

<http://newzealandfilmcommission.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/j/B60884548FA51DF82540EF23F30FEDED/E9E144653D54EAB3B3138EAD4DECE712>

UNITED-STATES

(07/04) In partnership with Writers Guild of America West and Writers Guild of America, East, Hollywood, Health & Society presents a series of virtual panel discussions, hosted via Zoom, exploring topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a goal to provide information and access to experts in the public health field for your personal lives and projects you may be working on.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/anxiety-in-the-age-of-covid-19-tickets-101677805052>

(11/04) The **Writers Guild of America West** created a page to answer questions about healthcare benefits under the Writers Guild Industry Health Fund. What benefits writers may be eligible for? Or what financial assistance is available to WGAW members during the COVID-19 outbreak? Visit their COVID-19 Resources Page: <https://www.wga.org/members/employment-resources/covid-19-resources>

(13/04) An analysis of the impact of the economic crisis on the American industry of entertainment in an Italian newspaper.

<https://www.internazionale.it/notizie/2020/04/11/industria-intrattenimento-bancarotta-coronavirus>

Beyond Covid 19, how is the implementation of Chapter III going on?

(06/04) **In Finland**, the guild has endorsed a statement from the Authors Forum, representing the creative industry, to emphasize the importance of the DSM Directive. "In discussions led by the Ministry of Education and Culture, it has become clear that creative authors and copyright users have differing views on how the articles in Chapter 3 should be implemented in national law." and call for political will.

<https://www.sunklo.fi/toiminta/ajankohtaista/tekij%C3%A4foorumin-kannanotto-dsm-direktiivist%C3%A4>

FSE on twitter

<https://twitter.com/ScreenwritersEU>

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Take care, keep safe!

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