



FEDERATION OF
SCREENWRITERS
IN EUROPE

FSE NEWSLETTER

COVID-19 CRISIS #6

to FSE member guilds (and their members)
as of 28 April 2020 (previous update 17 April)

NB. Most translations in English are online translations.

FSE board meeting

The seven members of the executive committee of the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe, as well as FSE team, met online on 27 and 28 April for two short working sessions, to exchange views on the impact of the current crisis on the audiovisual sector and culture in general, and more particularly on the screenwriter profession.

Who's who? Read more here:

<https://federationscreenwriters.eu/board-staff/>



Tracking COVID-19 audiovisual sector support measures in Europe

News about support schemes / freelancers often left behind

COVID-19: The self-employed are hardest hit and least supported

Self-employed workers are hardest-hit by COVID-19 lockdowns. Yet they often receive less government support than salaried employees. Is the disparity justified?

An article by Bruegel, a European think tank that specialises in economics.

<https://www.bruegel.org/2020/04/covid-19-the-self-employed-are-hardest-hit-and-least-supported/>

DATABASES REGULARLY UPDATED

Measures taken by European film funds, by EFADs:

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

Measures to support the audiovisual sector, by EAO (European Audiovisual Observatory)

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

An overview of the cancelled and postponed film events, the measures announced by the countries' institutions and the new VOD initiatives launched during the COVID-19 pandemic by Cineuropa:

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

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

(21/04) Press release : EU funds must reach media and creative sector, say MEPs.

"We call on the Commission and the member states to ensure that support schemes reach all those who need them. But we also need to do more at EU level to provide tailored support to the sectors as well as to provide credit and access to finance the cultural and creative sector", EP Culture Committee chair Sabine Verheyen (EPP, DE).

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200420IPR77419/eu-funds-must-reach-media-and-creative-sector-say-meps>

(27/04) Supporting the EU's cultural sector through Covid-19, a resolution adopted by the European Parliament

The culture sector is suffering because of lockdown measures introduced across the EU to tackle the spread of coronavirus. MEPs underlined the special nature of the creative sector and the difficulties faced by artists and called on the EU to provide support in a resolution adopted on 17 April.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200423STO77704/supporting-the-eu-s-cultural-sector-through-covid-19>

European Parliament resolution of 17 April 2020 on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences (2020/2616(RSP))

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0054_EN.html

EUROPEAN NETWORKS

(23/04) Authors deserve fairness, not charity

On the blog of SAA, the Society of Audiovisual Authors

<https://www.saa-authors.eu/en/blog/639-authors-deserve-fairness-not-charity>

(23/04) 112 audiovisual organisations signed the Joint Film and Audiovisual Sector COVID-19 Statement.

Updated version online:

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

BELGIUM

(28/04) **Belgian cinema calls for help**

<https://ecran-total.fr/le-cinema-belge-appelle-au-secours/>

CROATIA

(24/04) **DHFR (Society of Croatian Film Directors) will use non-distributable amounts to support Croatian authors**, whose artistic activity in the audiovisual sector is the main source of income, but has been totally or substantially affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

<https://dhfr.hr/2020/covid-19-korona-virus/>

(27/04) About **grants for freelance artists performing professionally self-employed activities** and receiving contributions from the budget of the Republic of Croatia. Results of the evaluation.

<https://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=24427>

(27/04) President of the Republic receives a delegation from the Croatian Community of Independent Artists : **"Most independent artists have not been included in support measures to date**. We expect unity and solidarity with freelance artists to help them survive this crisis, because if it does not invest in the survival of an independent culture now, Croatia will be emptied of freelance artists" says **SPID, the screenwriters' guild**.

<https://www.predsjednik.hr/vijesti/predsjednik-republike-primio-izaslanstvo-hrvatske-zajednice-samostalnih-umjetnika/>

GERMANY

(23/04) **VDD, the screenwriters' guild, keeps a close eye on the measures to support the cultural sector.**

"We are not superfluous - we are the ones who reflect our social faults. We are the ones who bring the population through the crisis. Imagine the lockdown without movies, series and books".

<https://www.bundestag.de/mediathek?videoid=7440396&url=L21lZGlhdGhla292ZXJsYXk%3D&mod=mediathek#url=L21lZGlhdGhla292ZXJsYXk/dmlkZW9pZD03NDQwMzk2JnVybD1MMjF5WkdSaGRHaGxhMjkyWlhKc1Yaz0mbW9kPW1lZGlhdGhlaW==&mod=mediathek>

ICELAND

(24/04) The **Icelandic Film Center advertises for funding applications**, following a parliamentary resolution on a special temporary investment effort to counteract a recession in the economy : development grants, production grants and promotional grants.

<http://www.kvikmyndamidstod.is/frettir/kvikmyndamidstod-islands-auglysir-eftir-styrkumsoknum>

ITALY

(22/04) **WGI confirms its recommendations regarding financial support to audiovisual authors.**

<https://agcult.it/a/17589/2020-04-22/spettacolo-writers-guild-italia-mai-fatto-riferimento-ne-ai-registi-ne-ai-redditi-dell-anno-precedente>

(27/04) **In Italy, many screenwriters cannot benefit from the financial measures of the Cura Italia decree.** Unlike what an article assumes, media & entertainment workers are not “smart” and do not try to take advantage of emergency financial support. “We are not smart, says the **Writers Guild of Italy**, but victims, unfairly excluded - in a large part of cases - from the bonus planned in the Cura Italia decree. Screenwriters, directors, actors are among the most penalized of the current emergency and the most invisible, despite being the engine of one of the country's first industries, a source of work for thousands of individuals”.

LITHUANIA

(22/04) **Lithuanian Film Centre Allocates Largest Funding for New Content**

The Lithuanian Government has allocated additional resources of 2 m EUR to the Lithuanian film sector to support cinemas, new productions, distribution, individual filmmakers, TV and audiovisual content. The measure is implemented by the Lithuanian Film Centre, which is analysing the current situation in the film industry.

<https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/lithuania-news/item/119872-lithuanian-film-centre-allocates-largest-funding-for-new-content#.XqBrelMfSeA.twitter>

NORWAY

(20/04) **Monica Boracco, chair of Dramatikerforbundet, the writers' guild of Norway, has co-signed a rather critical message addressed to Minister of Culture** Abid Q. Raja by the artist network (which represents 19 art organizations and 29,000 artists): “Artists superheroes? The cultural life is bleeding!... Artists are superheroes who can't pay rent and who can't sleep at night because the freelance compensation scheme is not operational and no money is due until June”.

<https://www.aftenposten.no/meninger/debatt/i/xPkon8/superhelter-hva-snakker-du-om-kulturminister-kulturlivet-bloer-boracco-kleven-oeverland-hovind-alfsen>

(27/04) **Norwegian film is in danger. Minister of Culture, the time for crisis packages is now!**

<https://www.dagbladet.no/kultur/norsk-film-star-i-fare/72395503>

POLAND

(22/04) **Polish Film Institute Issues First Batch of Support for Filmmakers**

<https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/poland-news/item/119870-polish-film-institute-issues-first-batch-of-support-for-filmmakers>

SPAIN

Spanish audiovisual CMO DAMA is conducting an online survey to assess the impact of the “State of Alarm” on the audiovisual sector.

<https://online2.tesintegra.net/online.php?pid=200089>

SWEDEN

(17/04) **Copyswede pays out an extra 84 million to the cultural creators!**

Cultural creators copyright society Copyswede has paid out over SEK 84 million extra to thousands, essentially Swedish but also foreign, cultural creators.

<https://www.copyswede.se/2020/04/84-miljoner-extra-till-kulturskaparna/>

(22/04) **State aid: the EU Commission approves €38 million Swedish scheme to compensate damages caused by cancelled or postponed cultural events due to coronavirus outbreak.**

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_723

(24/04) News from FSE member guilds. **In Sweden, the screenwriters' guild welcomes the added funds to support culture but still worries about the situation of freelance authors.**

SEK 10 million will be allocated to the Author Fund. These millions will then be distributed to, among other things, individual playwrights, screenwriters and translators affected by the Corona crisis. The guild welcomes the funds that are now being added to culture, but is still working for those with individual firm to be covered by more crisis support. The Guild also sees that there may be a need for some time to add more emergency support to culture as the storm is not yet over.

<https://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=478&artikel=7459064>

(27/04) **The Swedish guild confirms its position: support schemes are difficult to reach for self-employed writers.**

“Unfortunately, there are obstacles to the necessary help to reach. Our members with individual firm, which is the most common form for conducting companies among the members of the association, cannot take part in many of the support presented by the government and parliament. We encourage the members of the guild to sign the call for individual firms available here:

<http://www.ritasaxmark.se/Rita/Valkommen.html>

UNITED-KINGDOM

WGGB launches survey to assess financial impact of Covid-19 on freelances

WGGB is actively lobbying Government to ensure that there is sufficient financial support available to help writers through the Covid-19 crisis. Today we, and other creative unions, have sent a letter to the Chancellor highlighting the plight of freelances who are not currently covered by Government schemes. To help with that lobbying, we would like to know the impact that the lockdown has had on writers' incomes. Please help us by completing our brief six-question survey.

(20/04) **WGGB joins call for UK Creators Council**

Alongside sister organisations in the creative industries, the WGGB has written a letter to Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden calling for the establishment of a UK Creators Council to assist the Government in its Covid-19 response to support the creative industries. WGGB chair Lisa Holdsworth said of the initiative: "If the lockdown has taught us anything, it is the value of our cultural life in the UK, including television, cinema, theatre, literature and video games. The livelihoods of those that create and produce that vital content have been dealt a damaging blow by the pandemic. We must act quickly and decisively to make sure that the businesses and millions of jobs that the industry supports are not lost."

(letter attached)

(20/04) **#NoCreativeLeftBehind campaign by the Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU)**

Solidarity of the creative industries for those who are not eligible for financial support and to continue to put pressure on the government to find solutions.

<https://www.equity.org.uk/news/2020/april/support-the-federation-of-entertainment-unions-campaign-nocreativeleftbehind/>

To complete:

(22/04) The creative sector is going to need a Marshall Plan to recover from Covid-19

<https://reaction.life/the-creative-sector-is-going-to-need-a-marshall-plan-to-recover-from-covid-19/>

(27/04) U.K.'s COVID-19 Film, TV Relief Fund Closes After Applications Top \$6M

With applications exceeding the fund's coffers, The Film and TV Charity has made an urgent appeal for more financial support, saying it can only "prioritize those most in need" at present.

https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/uks-covid-19-film-tv-relief-fund-closes-1291484?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=THR+International+2020-04-23+09%3A00%3A00_gszalai&utm_term=hollywoodreporter_international

(27/04) Coronavirus: U.K. Will Become "Cultural Wasteland" Without Support

Stephen Fry and Nick Cave are among the signatories of a letter that says the U.K. government must "act, and act fast."

https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/coronavirus-uk-become-cultural-wasteland-support-stars-1291965?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social

(27/04) BAFTA Throws Weight Behind U.K.'s Overstretched COVID-19 Film and TV Relief Fund

The U.K.'s COVID-19 Film and TV Emergency Relief Fund, which recently saw its coffers run dry after just two weeks of applications, has received a major boost from the British Academy.

https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/bafta-throws-weight-behind-uk-covid-19-film-tv-relief-fund-1291987?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook

Start making movies again

NORWAY

>>> (27/04) Norwegian guidelines for safe production under covid 19.

The Film Industry Council (which consists of the Virke Norwegian Producers' Association, the Norwegian Filmmakers' Association, the Directors Guild of Norway, the Writers Guild of Norway, and the Norwegian Actors' Equity Association) has drafted the following general guidelines for safeguarding those involved in audiovisual productions against Covid-19.

(document attached)

UNITED-STATES

Post-Pandemic Hollywood: Inside Plans to Make Movie and TV Sets Safe Again

<https://variety.com/2020/biz/features/hollywood-production-post-pandemic-coronavirus-1234586579/>

(27/04) As Hollywood Maps Out Its Return, New On-Set Protocols Take Center Stage

Studios and guilds are debating a phased approach that includes pretesting for antibodies, quarantining sets and airline-style packaged meals: "The days of doing an eight-episode show and traveling to five countries are done."

https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/as-hollywood-maps-return-new-set-protocols-take-center-stage-1292071?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social

The role and future of culture and the screenwriters' contribution

(23/04) **UNESCO Culture Ministers unite on global strategy to help culture in Covid-19 crisis.**

More than 140 culture ministers convened by UNESCO on April 22nd have backed a global strategy to help culture and the creative sector survive and recover from the impact of the Covid-19 crisis. CISAC has worked in partnership with UNESCO, highlighting the vital part played by authors and authors rights in managing the crisis.

<https://www.cisac.org/Cisac-Home/Newsroom/Articles/UNESCO-Culture-Ministers-unite-on-global-strategy-to-help-culture-in-Covid-19-crisis>

(17/04) **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS: WHAT PLACE FOR CULTURE?**

By the French Coalition for Cultural Diversity

<http://www.coalitionfrancaise.org/en/the-european-parliaments-response-to-the-covid-19-crisis/>

AUSTRIA

(24/04) **The president of the screenwriters' guild Eva Spreitzhofer took part in a podcast on how culture is going to survive the corona crisis.**

Writers Guild of Austria president [Eva Spreitzhofer](#) took part in a podcast on "Does culture survive the corona crisis". They talk about what will be necessary in the coming months to support cultural workers.

https://kurier.at/podcasts/daily/podcast-uebersteht-die-kultur-die-corona-krise/400820756?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&tpcc=facebookpost#Echobox=1587568157

DENMARK

(23/04) **The director of the Film Institute Claus Ladegaard shares his thoughts on the Danish film and film culture during and after the COVID-19.** "It has become very clear how important art and culture are to us when we have to reflect on and process the time we live in. Here, Danish film has a special significance. We need narratives that put pictures, words and sound on all our worries, dreams and hopes. So it is crucial that we, as the Film Institute, ensure that in the future it will be possible to develop those stories and that they reach their audience."

<https://www.dfi.dk/nyheder/vi-faar-brug-film-mere-end-nogensinde-foer>

IRELAND

Scriptorium, a series of interviews of screenwriters, continues on the website of the Writers Guild of Ireland.

<http://script.ie/2020/04/scriptorium-michael-west/>

ITALY

(17/04) **Cinema, audiovisual and theater: let's save the pillars of the Italian cultural industry.**

"It is in these moments that we understand how important art is. If we couldn't see a good movie, our quarantines would be even grayer and sadder. Artists are fundamental to our daily life, and for this reason we must pay close attention to the world of culture. "

https://www.ilriformista.it/blog/cinema-audiovisivo-e-teatro-salviamo-i-pilastridellindustria-culturale-italiana/?refresh_ce

NETHERLANDS

Online Campaign “I work for Culture”

The cultural sector not only increases the happiness of 17 million Dutch people, but represents a great economic value. The state aid currently committed is not proportionate to this contribution to the Dutch economy. The entire cultural sector is very concerned about the consequences of the measures around Covid-19. A lot of the 300.000 people who work in the cultural sector want to do something. Let's unite and show who we are. Watch the video and join!

#IkWerkVoorCultuur

SWEDEN

A tribute to the playwright and author PO Enquist by Susin Lindblom, director of the Writers' guild of Sweden.

“The central and hidden role of screenwriters in particular has been emphasized. There is a great consensus that the quality of the screenplay is crucial to the success of a film. However, very little is being done to get this insight into the practical reality of the film”.

<https://www.dramatiker.se/2020/04/27/till-minne-av-po-enquist/>

What future for the industry?

Film festivals

(27/04) How Will Film Festivals React to the Covid-19 Crisis?

<https://variety.com/2020/film/festivals/festivals-amid-covid-19-five-reflections-1234590440/>

(27/04) We are One: YouTube to Host Free Virtual Film Festival With 20 Partners Including Cannes, Tribeca, Sundance

More than twenty film festivals from all over the world are working together on a free ten-day film festival. The event is called We Are One: A Global Film Festival and will take place on YouTube from May 29th.

<https://variety.com/2020/digital/news/youtube-free-film-festival-cannes-tribeca-sundance-1234590501/>

The festival will be here: <https://www.youtube.com/weareone>

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/387983/>

VOD boost

(21/04) Netflix Packs on Record 16 Million Subscribers in Q1, Getting Huge Lift From Coronavirus Lockdowns

<https://variety.com/2020/digital/news/netflix-record-16-million-subscribers-q1-2020-coronavirus-1234586125/>

Animation continues production

(27/04) Estonian Animated Feature Danger Island Continues Production

Some animation filmmakers are finding it relatively easy to continue with their work, although other productions have largely halted.

<https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/estonia-news/item/119885-production-estonian-animated-feature-danger-island-continues-production>

The Future of EU policies?

(23/04) **Lobbyists ask EU to pause new laws**

Delaying regulations is the new battleground for crisis-hit

industries. <https://www.politico.eu/article/lobbyists-ask-eu-to-pause-law/>

Audiovisual is global : news from the World

CANADA

(28/04) **Writers Guild of Canada presented its annual award online.**

In a virtual awards presentation held Monday night, the Writers Guild of Canada announced the winners of the 24 th annual WGC Screenwriting Awards.

Watch here: <https://youtu.be/JXvL5XTjcHo>

<https://www.thetvjunkies.com/wgc-screenwriting-awards-2020-winners-announced/>

ISRAEL

(24/04) **Israel's Entertainment Industry Stages Protest Demanding Government Aid**

<https://variety.com/2020/film/global/coronavirus-israel-industry-protest-benjamin-netanyahu-1234588967/>

NEW ZEALAND

(24/04) **Internet Archive breaching CopyrightAGAIN!** says New Zealand Writers Guild, calling authors to Sign Open Letter to Internet Archive to Shut Down the So-Called "National Emergency Library" Internet

<https://www.authorsguild.org/industry-advocacy/sign-our-open-letter-to-internet-archive-to-shut-down-the-so-called-national-emergency-library/>



FSE on twitter

<https://twitter.com/ScreenwritersEU>

FSE on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/screenwriterseurope/>

Take care, keep safe!