



**FEDERATION OF
SCREENWRITERS
IN EUROPE**

FSE NEWSLETTER COVID-19 CRISIS #7

to FSE member guilds (and their members)
as of 14 May 2020 (previous update 28 April)

NB. Most translations in English are online translations.

The Future of Culture in Europe



FSE co-signed Investing in our culture is investing in our future. Time to put words into action!

More than 80 signatories from the Europe’s cultural and creative sectors, including the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe, call for ambitious EU budgetary measures to get through the COVID-19 crisis. An initiative by UNIC (<https://www.unic-cinemas.org>).

<https://federationscreenwriters.eu/investing-in-our-culture-is-investing-in-our-future/>

(29/04) A recovery budget for Europe needs support for culture, a statement by Culture Action Europe

“We call on the European Institutions and the Member States to recognise culture as an integral part of the economic, social and environmental recovery plan for Europe within the new MFF and thus support the highly-affected CCSs with at least 7% of the Recovery Fund which is set to front-load money over the first programming years.”

<https://cultureactioneurope.org/news/a-recovery-budget-for-europe-needs-support-for-culture/>

UNESCO #ResiliArt

UNESCO is launching a global movement fostering concerted and global effort to support artists and ensure access to culture for all. #ResiliArt supports artists and creators continue to share their creativity in the face of COVID-19, while shedding light on the current state of creative industries amidst crisis through an exclusive global discussion with key industry professionals and artists.

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

European Parliament

(12/05) **Chair Verheyen calls for doubling money for Creative Europe**

The Cultural and creative sector is one of the most hit by the pandemic. Funds for “Creative Europe” in long-term budget need to be doubled. Europe risks losing its heart and soul.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200511IPR78814/culture-committee-chair-verheyen-calls-for-doubling-money-for-creative-europe>

European Commission

(27/04) **EU response to the coronavirus outbreak in support of the cultural and creative sectors.**

An overview of the measures:

https://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/coronavirus-how-eu-responds-outbreak-support-cultural-and-creative-sectors_en

#CreativesUnite, a new online platform for the cultural sector

Following a virtual meeting of EU Ministers of Culture held on 8 April 2020 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, Commissioner Gabriel proposed the launching of a platform for the cultural sector to share information and good practices between themselves. Creatives Unite is now online. You can find information, you can contribute.

<https://creativesunite.eu/>

Copyright Directive

(12/05) On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of SAA (Society of Audiovisual Authors), **Mariya GABRIEL, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth** wrote in her greetings letter: “Now, more than ever during this COVID-19 crisis, we have to be very vigilant and make sure that by June 2021, **Member States will translate the Copyright Directive in concrete measures that will generate actual remuneration to audiovisual authors for the exploitation of their works by on-demand platforms.**”

<https://www.saa-authors.eu/en/pages/654-birthday-greeting-from-commissioner-mariya-gabriel>

(28/04) In Italy, FSE member guild **WGI shared an article on facebook about the implementation of the Copyright Directive in Italy.** Comment from Stefano Sardo: “There is only one hope for the survival of copyright in the proliferating digital society - just look at Netflix numbers - even in times of lockdown. That hope is called the copyright directive.

https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/robinson/2020/04/29/news/copyright_arriva_la_legge-255136290/?ref=nl-rep-a-bgr

Free content

UN warns against overly free cultural products during the pandemic, a threat on cultural industries

With the Covid-19 pandemic, free books, movies and concerts have spread online. The World Intellectual Property Organization (Ompi) is sounding the alarm. There are also concerns about the many “exceptions” to intellectual property requested during the “copyright-free” pandemic.

<http://www.rfi.fr/en/wires/20200428-free-content-during-pandemic-threatens-cultural-industries-un>

Press Freedom in Europe

How does Europe protect freedom of expression and journalists' right to report?

EAO new IRIS Themes report looks at the freedom of expression cases brought before Strasbourg's European Court of Human Rights over the last 26 years...

[Read more here.](#)

Tracking COVID-19 audiovisual sector support measures in Europe

News about support schemes / freelancers often left behind / New opportunities

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)

Over 600 Corona related measures in the audiovisual sector.

<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>

BELGIUM

(29/04) **By adjusting the rules of the « tax shelter »** in Belgium, the ailing audiovisual sector can be helped.

<https://www.tijd.be/opinie/algemeen/pas-taxshelter-aan-om-audiovisuele-sector-te-helpen/10223892.html>

(08/05) The VAF (Flemish audiovisual fund) is looking for **storytellers to work with innovative projects in this changing world (AR – augmented reality, VR - virtual reality, interactive projects, games and web series)**. Workshop and coaching.

<https://www.vaf.be/nieuws/call-innovatieatelier>

(12/05)

Several professional associations including the Association of Screenwriters (ASA), Prospere and ARRF are launching the **“No culture No future”** site with emergency and recovery measures to save the audiovisual sector in Belgium.

www.noculturenofuture.be

BULGARIA

Bulgaria Releases More Funds for Culture and Reopens Cinemas

<https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/bulgaria-news/item/119966-bulgaria-releases-more-funds-for-culture-and-reopens-cinemas>

CROATIA

FSE member guild SPID has initiated the **Monovid-19 project**. 19 Croatian playwrights were commissioned to write monologues about the crisis (organized together with web portal drame.hr & theater magazine Kazalište).

<http://drame.hr/hr/monovid>

ESTONIA

(13/05) **Estonia Announces Support for Film Industry**

The Estonian Film Institute will distribute 1.3 m EUR as compensation measures to face the challenges in the film sector caused by the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

<https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/estonia-news/item/119974-estonia-announces-support-for-film-industry>Estonia

FRANCE

(30/04) A collective of many personalities from the art, culture and audiovisual sector, in a statement published in the national newspaper "Le Monde", calls for concrete measures by the government, in particular changes to the conditions for being "intermittant du spectacle" (**worker intermittently employed in the entertainment industry**).

https://www.lemonde.fr/culture/article/2020/04/30/monsieur-le-president-de-la-republique-cet-oubli-des-millions-de-gens-qui-portent-l-art-et-la-culture-reparez-le_6038211_3246.html

(05/05) FSE member guild la Guilde française des scénaristes has created two **tools to help screenwriters and other creators with the statute of "artist-authors"**:

A useful MEMO to better understand how to benefit from daily social security benefits in the event of sick leave or childcare, as well as a SIMULATOR in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, useful for calculating the amount of the rights, given each situation.

<https://www.guiledesscenaristes.org/>

(12/05) **Cinema press officers emerge from the shadows and create the CLAP association.**

These professionals, mostly freelancers, have received no assistance since the cinemas closed on March 14.

https://www.lemonde.fr/culture/article/2020/05/12/les-attaches-de-presse-du-cinema-sortent-de-l-ombre-et-creent-l-association-clap_6039429_3246.html

ITALY

(13/05) FSE member guild Writers Guild Italia reaffirms its recommendations for **efficient economic measures that really take into account the situation of screenwriters**.

https://www.facebook.com/WritersGuildItalia/?_tn_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARCTE8MxrF4hwbjkmIN8BbhupHWvs758VltAJuaEkOcC5SeP3dZffxLP2G_u38bHZt9HpGTy93fTOv9x

POLAND

(28/04) **Polish Film institute will receive millions of PLN from Netflix, Amazon, CDA, Ipla and Player.pl**

"One thing is certain - it's more than nothing, as it has been until now - so in response to appeals from the film environment, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and Minister Piotr Gliński have taken a step

in the right direction. 1.5% of revenue from streaming platforms will go to the Polish Film Institute. All traditional broadcasters pay a similar fee, which is equivalent to using the achievements of Polish cinema. The next step should be to royalize the content published online.” says the Polish Screenwriters' Guild on facebook.

https://www.money.pl/podatki/tarcza-antykryzysowa-30-pisf-otrzyma-miliony-zl-od-netfliksa-amazona-cda-ipli-i-playerpl-6504709830617217a.html?utm_campaign=sgf&utm_medium=mny&utm_source=fb

(1/05) **Poland approves VOD “contribution”**

The Polish parliament (Sejm) has adopted an amendment to the Act on Cinematography that will require providers of on demand services to pay 1.5% of their revenues to the Polish Film Institute (PISF).

https://www.broadbandtvnews.com/2020/05/01/poland-approves-vod-contribution/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

SPAIN

(06/05) **The Spanish government to set aside €76.4 million in support of culture**

On 5 May, the Council of Ministers approved a package of measures that include support for the audiovisual sector to help it face up to the global crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/388188/>

(12/05) FSE member guild FAGA, together with A.A.A.and TACEE **regrets that an important part of audiovisual workers are still outside of the government's measures** to support for the cultural sector in a press release.

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

(13/05) **62% of directors and screenwriters in Spain have been left without work due to the coronavirus crisis.** Results of a survey conducted by DAMA.

https://www.eldiario.es/cultura/profesionales-audiovisual-drastica-laborales-coronavirus_0_1026798402.html

SWEDEN

(13/05) Sweden is looking at France and Germany, where both Merkel and Macron emphasise the importance of culture and cultural creators and invest great funds to save culture (what do Germans and French think though?). In Sweden, the writers guild sees how **the crisis package for culture is not enough** and wish for further strength for culture in Sweden, at national but also regional levels.

<https://esvd.svd.se/1001/Svenska-Dagbladet/302079/2020-05-13/13541233/Angela-Merkel-Kulturen-ar-nodvandig-maste-overleva>

A number of cultural creators have joined together and require wider efforts to support cultural creators in the corona crisis and has called for the prime minister to show clear support for culture.

UNITED-KINGDOM

(20/04) **Unions call for establishment of UK Creators Council**

Nine creative organisations (including WGGB and ALCS) have signed a letter to the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP calling for the formation of a UK Creators' Council to assist the Government in its Covid-19 response to supporting the creative industries.

(13/05) Applications for the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme are now open: you can apply for grants worth 80% of your average monthly profits up to £2,500 (money expected by 25 May). **WGGB continues to campaign for support for those who fall through the gaps.** Updates on their website: <http://writersguild.org.uk/covid-19-advice-for-members/>

Do not forget Gender Equality

IRELAND

(11/05) WGI Board member Dr Susan Liddy has recently written an Opinion piece for RTE.ie in which she urges the Irish film industry **not to let the focus on gender equality lose its potency and urgency.** <https://www.rte.ie/culture/2020/0422/1134067-opinion-focus-on-equality-in-film-must-stay/>

By the way, 'It's a mistresspiece!': **the 14-hour film about forgotten female directors** <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/may/08/its-a-mistresspiece-the-14-hour-film-about-forgotten-female-directors>

Start making movies again

BELGIUM

(09/05) **Good filming practices in the context of Covid-19** - Resumption of small filming <https://screen.brussels/fr/film-commission-fund/actualite/bonnes-pratiques-reprise-des-petits-tournages>

PORTUGAL

Guidelines for filming in Portugal 2020

Portugal Film Commission publishes guidelines for filming in Portugal. Also available in English. <http://www.picportugal.com/en/news-3/139-covid-19-guidelines-for-filming-in-portugal-covid-19-orientacoes-para-filmar-em-portugal.html>

UNITED-KINGDOM

(30/04) **BBC Considers Quarantining Casts and Crews Together so Filming Can Continue** <https://www.indiewire.com/2020/04/bbc-quarantine-casts-continue-filming-1202228422/>

(12/05)

UK government confirms film and TV production can restart within social distancing guidelines <https://www.screendaily.com/news/uk-government-confirms-film-and-tv-production-can-restart-within-social-distancing-guidelines/5149750.article>

Audiovisual is global : news from the World

AUSTRALIA

(12/05) Another show of support for our script writing colleagues in Australia. Thanks Screen Australia for continuing to support the development of scripted content!

"The agency announced today it will share \$620,000 between 11 films, five TV series and two online projects."

<https://www.if.com.au/screen-australia-backs-18-projects-with-story-development-funding/>

UNITED-STATES

Webinars proposed by the American Writers Guild East and West. Latest item "Democracy in the Age of COVID-19 (Will our body politic survive the pandemic?)"

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/democracy-in-the-age-of-covid-19-tickets-105181719354>

The WGA platform

« A powerful tool to connect those at the creative heart of the entertainment industry », an online hub for writers, showrunners, and executives to connect on jobs and development opportunities in features and television.

<https://directories.wga.org/platform/explore>

Stay tuned!



FSE on twitter

<https://twitter.com/ScreenwritersEU>

FSE on facebook

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

Take care, keep safe!