



FEDERATION OF  
SCREENWRITERS  
IN EUROPE

## FSE NEWSLETTER

### COVID-19 CRISIS #8

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

NB. Most translations in English are online translations.

### 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Screenwriters (WCOS) postponed



FSE member guild Danske Dramatikere, host and organiser of the event in Copenhagen, the Federation of Screenwriters in Europe and the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds have decided to postpone the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the conference due to the Covid-19 crisis.

We will meet in Copenhagen on **October 6 and 7, 2021**. Save the date!

### What Future for Culture in Europe ?

#### FSE letter to EU Culture ministers



(14/05) **FSE President Carolin Otto calls on EU Culture Ministers to put arts, culture & creativity at the centre of our recovery.**

“As screenwriters we know the essential role which culture and the arts play, and will continue to play, in each of the member states as we construct and reconstruct our identity as citizens and as Europeans.”

<https://federationscreenwriters.eu/fse-president-carolin-otto-call-on-eu-culture-ministers-to-put-arts-culture-creativity-at-the-centre-of-our-recovery/>

## European Parliament

### (28/05) Culture and Education Committees deeply disappointed with budget proposals

Press release. Figures are far below the Commission's original proposal. "Cuts to Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps are "bad news for young people and send a terrible message to the cultural and creative and media sectors. ... The European Parliament has called on the Commission time and time again to put in place an ambitious plan to help the sectors recover, but the Commission is missing this opportunity and sending a terrible message."

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200527IPR79953/rethink-deeply-disappointing-budget-proposals-says-cult-committee>

## Culture Action Europe

### (25/05) Culture is not a luxury but a necessity, an analysis by Culture Action Europe

"Given the dire circumstances, failing to support culture in this time of crisis will result in potentially irreversible loss to creators, artists and cultural professionals, as well as it will damage many cultural practices, resources and organisations. Without specific support, there will be a considerable deterioration in the richness and diversity in all manifestations of culture."

<https://cultureactioneurope.org/news/culture-is-not-a-luxury-but-a-necessity/>

## BELGIUM

### No Culture No Future

In Belgium there are more than 200,000 workers in the cultural sector. They contribute 5% to the GDP of their country. It's time to listen to them and take action! Here are their proposals for emergency and recovery measures for the cultural sector. Watch their video and website:

[https://youtu.be/cl3mk\\_zcf88](https://youtu.be/cl3mk_zcf88)

<http://www.noculturenofuture.be/>

## NETHERLANDS

### (26/05) Open letter from Netwerk Scenariowriters chairman Pieter Bart Korthuis to Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

" Culture is for the right-wing politicians what vegetables are for toddlers. We can keep yelling that it's good for them, but they don't eat it."

<https://plotmagazine.nl/short-note/groente-voor-kleuters>

### Art and culture define who we are. Online petition.

Sign the petition! Art and culture are invaluable to society. Culture defines who we are. Culture is also a huge economic sector with a lot of employment. But because of the corona crisis threatens to take place a disaster.

<https://www.pvda.nl/nieuws-acties/red-de-cultuur/>

## Capacity Building for Authors

### Being part of the social dialogue / Stronger together

#### BELGIUM

(25/05) FSE member guild **de Scenaristengilde** is part of the new **Artists Coalition** that met, together with French-speaking colleagues and experts, with Premier Sophie Wilmès, federal ministers and regional culture ministers. The effort was to get clarity on urgent support measures, on the reliance of the arts in the (medium) long term and on the necessary breakthroughs in, among other things, the social protection of artists.

[https://www.facebook.com/artiestencoalitie/posts/113832737010234?\\_tn\\_ =K-R](https://www.facebook.com/artiestencoalitie/posts/113832737010234?_tn_ =K-R)

<http://www.artiestencoalitie.be/>

#### FRANCE

##### (March) **Capacity building for book and audiovisual authors**

The French guild of screenwriters was part of the project HACKATHON workshop “Reinventing the laws ruling the collective relations of artist-authors”. Publication of the results here: <https://urlz.fr/a5VF>

“Even today, the question of a professional status specific to artist-authors divides and many artist-authors alert the public authorities to a major problem: they are not represented.”

#collectivebargaining #socialdialogue #representativeness #unions

##### (28/05) **Innovative dialogue needed to reform the status of artist-author**

The federation of scenario trade associations (Fédération des associations des métiers du scénario) calls for more consultations between associations representing authors and the Ministry of Culture to help build a more courageous and fairer reform of author status. “To date, artist-authors and scriptwriters/screenwriters are precarious actors in cultural production, while they are the founders of the stories and narratives that become your films, series, books or comics. We call on the Minister of Culture and the government to resume dialogue with all professional organizations, to listen to their demands and their ideas in order to reform our precarious statutes”.

##### (28/05) **Defamation charges against French author Joann Sfar**

The French guild of screenwriters has issued a press release to support Joann Sfar, a famous French comics artist, novelist, director and screenwriter, regarding the libel charges brought against him by the SGDL ([Société des Gens de Lettre](#): promotion of author’s rights and defense of the interests of authors).

Joann Sfar was interviewed on French radio France Inter as honorary president of the league of professional authors about the difficult situation of artists and authors in France, in particular in the book sector : the lack of representativity of authors in the decision process, the paternalist management of the sector and the highly disappointing ignorance of the “Rapport Racine”, despite its analysis and recommendations being unanimously welcomed by the authors.

Press release: <https://urlz.fr/a5VF>

#### GERMANY

##### (20/05) **FSE member guild VDD is growing.**

"Over 500 members - of them approx. 100 junior members - have been standing shoulder to shoulder since the beginning of this year and support our professional association... Every single member strengthens their colleagues and the association's back and increases the influence of the screenwriters.

<https://www.drehbuchautoren.de/vdd/mitglied-werden>

## NORWAY

### (25/05) Hope for action also for those who create the arts and culture!

Federal leaders in the Artist Network (including Monica Boracco) met with the Minister of Culture and Gender Equality Abid Q. Raja and proposed him a number of measures. They talked about gaps and shortcomings in the existing schemes and some of what the needs would be in the various fields in the future. "We hope that the Minister of Culture will be able to make a breakthrough in the government in order for the cultural field to be given high priority".

<https://www.dagsavisen.no/kultur/raja-jobber-med-krisehjelp-til-kunstnerne-1.1720156>

## SWEDEN

(26/05) **Several unions representing creators** ( Teaterförbundet för scen och film, Journalistförbundet, TCO) held a meeting with Minister of Industry Ibrahim Baylan, Minister of Labor Eva Evamark and Minister of Culture Amanda Lind to note that **support is needed for the cultural creators who run an individual company**. « Rapid action is needed to prevent large parts of the creative sector from being knocked out, which happens if you do not give support to individual companies and give them an opportunity to get out of the crisis.”

<https://teaterforbundet.se/ministermote-om-egenforetagarna/>

## 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>

## European Commission

### (30/04) Coronavirus and the European film industry

A briefing written by the EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service:

- How coronavirus infected the global box office
- Keeping the film industry alive
- Film festivals moving online
- Home video and streaming services: A solution or a threat?

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\\_BRI\(2020\)649406](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2020)649406)

## BELGIUM

### (25/05) Recovery plan in favor of the film and audiovisual sector

€6 millions afforded to the cinema and audiovisual sector in Brussels and Wallonia. The Culture and Media Minister has just revealed details of a plan for the relaunch of the sector, aimed at auteurs, cinemas and producers.

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/388654/>

<https://www.lalibre.be/culture/politique/victoire-provisoire-pour-les-artistes-a-la-chambre-5ecd40437b50a60f8bdab675>

FSE member guild ASA (Belgian association of screenwriters) welcomes these new measures, some of them expected by ASA for long. ASA is still hoping progress on an "artist status" and access to unemployment benefits.

[http://r.fwb.sgam.be/mk/mr/bPQnJkPBELIrL4KWJN9K-epR2PH\\_6qRNYcrCshE2lctkUHHCQU-78ykXC95pItIaEsdPIBK38EcNOcx1uo7aRXBq3g\\_2-Js?](http://r.fwb.sgam.be/mk/mr/bPQnJkPBELIrL4KWJN9K-epR2PH_6qRNYcrCshE2lctkUHHCQU-78ykXC95pItIaEsdPIBK38EcNOcx1uo7aRXBq3g_2-Js?fbclid=IwAR3FaADNriZMrlCzXVtM3RtH96LPQmrOsE9foeKS1eLzz8suyPPbeV31nns)

[fbclid=IwAR3FaADNriZMrlCzXVtM3RtH96LPQmrOsE9foeKS1eLzz8suyPPbeV31nns](http://r.fwb.sgam.be/mk/mr/bPQnJkPBELIrL4KWJN9K-epR2PH_6qRNYcrCshE2lctkUHHCQU-78ykXC95pItIaEsdPIBK38EcNOcx1uo7aRXBq3g_2-Js?fbclid=IwAR3FaADNriZMrlCzXVtM3RtH96LPQmrOsE9foeKS1eLzz8suyPPbeV31nns)

## FRANCE

### The long awaited check box!

The DGFIP (Directorate General of Public Finances) has just put online a specific form, allowing screenwriters declaring their income in "wages and salaries", and not as a private company, to formulate a request for assistance under the solidarity fund. A long fight for many artists and authors and their representative organisations. Congratulations!

### No pension, sorry!

For 40 years, authors' social security forgot to deduct pension contributions. Some authors risk receiving a very small retirement pension: an organization (AGESSA) has forgotten to collect their retirement contributions for years.

<https://urlz.fr/ckE3>

## ITALY

### (22/05) FSE member guild WGI says that the working conditions are getting even more difficult for screenwriters in this time of crisis, according to the information collected among its members.

- More than 40% of the authors consulted stopped negotiations for new contracts and lost job opportunities in a time of crisis.
- Delivery times and deadlines have expanded or even been interrupted in an important number of cases. (payments have consequently been delayed).
- Payments under existing contracts have been interrupted or postponed for over four out of ten authors. Writers Guild Italia reiterates that this failure to comply with contractual agreements denies screenwriters the opportunity to carry out their work profitably and constitutes a serious element of personal as well as professional instability.

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/writers-guild-italia/wgi-condizioni-di-lavoro-sempre-pi%C3%B9-difficili-per-gli-sceneggiatori/2008656829266686/>

## NETHERLANDS

(28/05) Good news! Creators in the cultural and creative industry affected by the Corona crisis will soon be able to appeal to the Support Fund Rights sector.

<https://auteursbond.nl/steunfonds-voor-makers-in-culture-en-creatieve-sector/>

## SPAIN

**Spanish CMO DAMA expands its aid to members due to the consequences of COVID-19**

<https://www.damautor.es/ayuda-socios-ante-estado-de-alarma>

## UNITED-KINGDOM

(20/05) **No Award this year**

FSE member guild WGGB has taken the difficult decision to cancel their 2021 Writers' Guild Awards as a result of Covid-19. WGGB Chair Lisa Holdsworth : "This year, [our sponsors and members] are working tirelessly to protect writers' rights in industries which are facing an unprecedented, existential threat. We need to concentrate on this vital work, so that we can look forward to coming back with a bang, and much to celebrate, in 2022." Read the full announcement on their website:

<https://writersguild.org.uk/writers-guild-awards-2021-cancelled/>

## Transposition of the Copyright Directive

### CROATIA

(23/05) **Still time to revise the draft bill on copyright in agreement with all interested professions**

FSE member guild SPID participated to the public debate on the draft bill on copyright and related rights which, according to the proponents, should modernize the national copyright protection system and harmonize it with the needs of modern digital society and the European Union legal framework. As cameramen were expelled from the category of co-authors, there was an intense debate on the definition of the co-authorship of an audiovisual work, which revealed full of omissions.

<https://www.kulturpunkt.hr/content/neupuceno-zastarjelo-stetno>

### FRANCE

(25/05) The Culture Commission of the French **Senat calls for a transposition of the Copyright Directive and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) before the summer.**

"The cultural industries are among the sectors most affected by the coronavirus crisis. At the same time, major video-on-demand platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney + are experiencing unprecedented expansion. There is therefore a disturbing imbalance, to the detriment of French creators and our cultural diversity... The Culture Committee therefore calls on the government to propose before the summer a transposition of these two directives, by closely associating the actors of the sector and the Parliament".

<https://www.senat.fr/presse/cp20200525a.html>

## ITALY

(20/05) **Huge concerns from the writers guild (WGI) about the implementation of the Copyright Directive.**

Read more on the facebook page of WGI

[https://www.facebook.com/WritersGuildItalia/?\\_tn\\_\\_=kC-R&eid=ARDceYE1KpHkWpB0z6qY-zJEYpxQdoEjdGIXHowFoNPncQvZMxzvRmHI5ACtyT5x1wm4cObCDOcWWgDi&hc\\_ref=ARRi2umcF9iYp2rcfzq4JRbCQ7Oqdgo-fP7H-1OyZHJOtMAc7SYJHm23cm3DVte1cJ8&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/WritersGuildItalia/?_tn__=kC-R&eid=ARDceYE1KpHkWpB0z6qY-zJEYpxQdoEjdGIXHowFoNPncQvZMxzvRmHI5ACtyT5x1wm4cObCDOcWWgDi&hc_ref=ARRi2umcF9iYp2rcfzq4JRbCQ7Oqdgo-fP7H-1OyZHJOtMAc7SYJHm23cm3DVte1cJ8&fref=nf)

(20/05) **FSE member guild WGI** tweeted: "Government and Parliament are hasting transposing the EU directive on copyright. Let's stop the overwhelming power of the giants of the web who make huge profit, let's give resources to artists and authors; Authors' right is primarily a labor law. #Ue #directive #copyright"

(21/05) **The Italian CMO SIAE has launched the campaign #404copyright**

"Culture makes us free, but it can only be free thanks to the author's rights. Without the Copyright Directive, Italian creativity may no longer exist. Sign and share the petition on <https://404copyright.it>.

## What future for the film industry ?

### Start production again / safety measures

(26/05) **UNIC cinemas**

In March 2020, the overwhelming majority of cinemas in Europe closed as part of measures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus outbreak. Here's a reminder of what makes the Big Screen experience so special and the support the sector needs going forward.

<https://www.unic-cinemas.org/en/news/news-blog/detail/support-european-cinemas/>

(18/05) **Best practices for workers in the entertainment industry to safely return to work**

"We want everyone to get back to work as soon as possible, but we need to do it right. Creative jobs will require creative measures to come back safely", stresses IATSE International President and UNI MEI chair Matthew D. Loeb. IATSE has hired a team of three epidemiologists to consult the union on best practices for workers in the entertainment industry to safely return to work

<https://iatsecares.org/2020/05/18/iatse-hires-epidemiologists-to-consult-on-reopening-procedures/>

(26/05) **Post-COVID film production to favour digital location scouting and studio shoots.**

Cinema & Video questioned location managers, line producers and film commissioners over the trends most likely to change the location and production industry landscape over the coming years

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/388734/>

(21/05) **Love in the time of Corona: Developing Health and Safety Guidelines on Set, A Director's Perspective**

The Federation of European Film and TV Directors (FERA) has published a statement to support professionals forced to adapt to new shooting measures and points out what post-coronavirus shoots will mean for film crews.

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/388634/>

<https://www.filmneweurope.com/press-releases/item/120002-fera-statement-love-in-the-time-of-corona-developing-health-and-safety-guidelines-on-set-a-director-s-perspective>

[https://www.screendaily.com/news/every-scene-will-be-a-stunt-scene-directors-body-fera-on-covid-era-shoots/5149912.article#.XsK11Gok\\_W0.twitter](https://www.screendaily.com/news/every-scene-will-be-a-stunt-scene-directors-body-fera-on-covid-era-shoots/5149912.article#.XsK11Gok_W0.twitter)

## SPAIN

### (26/05) Relaunch the audiovisual sector and protect its professionals

FAGA, AAA and the Interterritorial Group Equality in Audiovisual 50/50 in 2025 present to the Administration a battery of proposals to relaunch the audiovisual sector and protect its professionals.

<https://www.facebook.com/fagaguionistas/photos/pcb.1383215718532793/1383214631866235/?type=3&theater>

## UNITED-KINGDOM

### (18/05) Guidance for UK TV productions

Overall wellbeing of crew must be considered as TV productions return to work, says Bectu.

Guidance for UK TV productions and how they can return to work have been published.

<https://bectu.org.uk/news/overall-wellbeing-of-crew-must-be-considered-as-tv-productions-return-to-work-says-bectu/>

## GERMANY

" At the moment, many are thinking about **changing the scripts in such a way that you keep your distance.**

Of course, this is not possible with love scenes or fighting scenes." The impact on the film industry is enormous at the moment. Here's an interview with Carl Woebcken, the managing director of Studio Babelsberg.

<https://www.augsburger-allgemeine.de/kultur/Corona-schreibt-Abstandsregeln-ins-Drehbuch-id57436866.html>

## ITALY

(27/05) **The audiovisual sector agreed on a sanitary protocol** to start productions again by the end of June.

<https://www.ansa.it/sito/notizie/cultura/2020/05/27/cinema-e-tv-ok-a-protocollo-per-ripresa-produzioni-22ef6f46-3d8a-408a-8f4e-070f80f81958.html>

<https://cinema.fanpage.it/protocollo-cinema-e-tv-per-ripartenza-set-tamponi-e-sierologici-app-immuni-e-distanze/>

## Stay tuned!



### FSE on twitter

<https://twitter.com/ScreenwritersEU>

### FSE on facebook

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

Take care, keep safe!