



FEDERATION OF  
SCREENWRITERS  
IN EUROPE

## FSE NEWSLETTER

### COVID-19 CRISIS #9

to FSE member guilds (and their members)  
as of 12 June 2020 (previous update 28 May)

### JOIN A GUILD!

#### UNITED-KINGDOM

**WGGB Chair Lisa Holdsworth in WGGB recently published annual report.**

“And the other cultural change I am hoping for is an understanding of the value of writers in our industry. Because never before have your skills been more essential. It will be your inventiveness and creativity that will rescue film, television and radio from the doldrums. You will adapt to the new reality and reflect it brilliantly in your work. If the pandemic proved anything it is how reliant society is on its stories. Never before has comedy felt so necessary. Or the escapism of a book. The welcome distraction of a box-set binge watch. The comfort of a radio drama. The collective joy of a great play. Or being transported to extraordinary worlds by a videogame. Please, keep writing. And your union will make sure you are valued, protected and, most importantly, fairly paid as you do.

<https://writersguild.org.uk/.../WGGB-Annual-review-20-LR-1.pdf>

#### ITALY

**"Screenwriters become aware of their rights". Franca De Angelis, president of Writers Guild Italia, speaks and talks about the union's commitment to reach a model contract that protects screenwriters.**

"A significant number of Italian screenwriters is not part of any of [the trade] associations, because there is still no idea in the DNA of those who do this job of having to engage in political-union activity. Probably the principle of belonging to a professional category that can claim rights is not yet widespread, so the writer feels weak, he feels alone". Read more in this very interesting interview about contracts, collective bargaining and transposition of the EU Copyright Directive.

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/writers-guild-italia/gli-sceneggiatori-prendano-coscienza-dei-loro-diritti/2028243997307969/>

### CAMPAIGNING FOR CULTURE

#### STILL ONLINE ON FSE WEBSITE

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

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

## **SIGN PETITION!**

(3 June) **Culture Action Europe : A call for a central place for culture in the EU long-term recovery budget**

“Culture is the driving force holding the Union together: a European recovery strategy based on solidarity and fairness cannot treat culture as an auxiliary tool but needs to make it pivotal in all its actions.

Read the statement and endorse the call :

<https://cultureactioneurope.org/news/uphold-culture-in-the-eu-budget/>

(2 June) **Europe needs the overall political commitment to Culture, says the European Writers Council.**

“Only the cooperation among copyright policy, cultural policy, economic policy and regional development can contribute to the protection and innovative capacity of the cultural landscape of Europe”.

Results of the EWC Survey “The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Writers and Translators in the European Book Sector” and 37 recommendations for a sustainable future on EU and national level:

<http://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/ewc-survey-covid19/>

## **OPINIONS**

(27 May) **Time for the European Union to Integrate Culture in its Social Policy**

Art and culture, cultural workers and institutions are playing a key role in the effort to achieve social cohesion outcomes. By Tsjalling Wierdsma & Philippe Kern, KEA

<https://keanet.eu/european-union-to-integrate-culture-in-social-policy/>

## **ADJUSTMENTS TO SUPPORT THE CULTURAL SECTOR & SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS**

### **Creative Europe**

(11/06) **Cultural professional affected by #Covid19?**

Take part in this survey & help shape recommendations to boost cultural and creative sectors after the crisis! This initiative is part of the 'Makers' Mobility' Pilot project, supported by CreativeEurope.

<https://www.1ka.si/a/271744>

### **BELGIUM**

(11/06) **Screen Flanders invests 1,475,000 euros in 10 new audiovisual productions.**

<https://mailchi.mp/vaf/press-release-screen-flanders-invests-1-475-000-euros?e=f3383aa2d5>

(01/06) **ArtiestenCoalitie press release**

The Artist Coalition in Flanders demands guarantees for artists on how the announced Emergency Fund will be implemented, to make sure the most in need, the artists, will receive support.

<https://www.artiestencoalitie.be/post/persbericht-artiestencoalitie-vraagt-garanties-voor-kunstenaars-bij-uitrol-noodfonds>

(29/05) **Exceptional hearing of the cultural sectors by a commission of social affairs at the parliament.**

A summary of the hearing in this article in French:

[https://www.lalibre.be/culture/politique/le-secteur-culturel-a-ete-ecoute-et-entendu-resume-d-une-seance-historique-a-la-chambre-5ed115537b50a60f8bdd7186#.XtEuId5\\_sNQ.facebook](https://www.lalibre.be/culture/politique/le-secteur-culturel-a-ete-ecoute-et-entendu-resume-d-une-seance-historique-a-la-chambre-5ed115537b50a60f8bdd7186#.XtEuId5_sNQ.facebook)

## DENMARK

(11/06) **DKK 20 million for the film and TV productions.** "There is still an extra hand needed for some particularly vulnerable industries - and therefore, we are now investing in a special pool of DKK 20 million, which targets the film and TV productions that have been hit by severe financial losses because the productions had to be paused during the shutdown", said Culture Minister Joy Mogensen.

<https://kum.dk/nyheder-og-presse/pressemeddelelser/nyheder/ekstraordinaer-haandsraekning-paa-20-mio-kr-klar-til-film-og-tv-branchen/1/1/>

## FRANCE

(9/06) **Extension of solidarity fund for artists-authors**

Artists-Authors in France - including many screenwriters - have access to the solidarity fund for the months of March to May 2020. This system will be extended until the end of 2020. In accordance with the commitments taken by the President of the Republic, they will also benefit from an exemption from social security contributions for 4 months (March to June 2020). La Guilde Française des Scénaristes welcomes these measures announced by Minister of Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire and Minister of Culture Franck Riester but remains vigilant.

<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Presse/Communiques-de-presse/L-Etat-renouvelle-son-soutien-a-la-filiere-du-livre>

(10/06) On 1 June, 15 organisations representing authors had sent an open letter to the president of IRCEC (national pension fund for Artist-authors), **asking for exceptional measures to support artists/authors' pensions**, as it happened for other groups of professionals. <https://urlz.fr/cPqj>

The announced **Pandemic Financial Aid (AFP) aims to support the members of IRCEC whose artistic income, copyrights and similar, make up the main source of income.** Its amount is calculated in proportion to the loss of artistic income, noted by the artist-author since March 2020.

<http://www.ircec.fr/actualite/aide-financiere-pandemie/>

La Guilde, French guild of screenwriters, like other organisations representing professional authors, **requests the disappearance of the Agessa and the creation of a new and unique social security organization whose representatives would be elected.** A report lists the failure of AGESSA during 40 years.

<https://www.guidedesscenaristes.org/rapport-racine/>

Article: <https://www.actualitte.com/article/monde-edition/agessa-40-ans-de-defaillances-la-goutte-d-eau/101028>

La Guilde is not very happy with the nomination of Arnaud Roland as technical advisor in charge of the "artist/author plan" at the Ministry of Culture.

<https://www.actualitte.com/article/monde-edition/arnaud-roland-nomme-conseiller-technique-en-charge-du-plan-artistes-auteurs/100916>

## GERMANY

(4/06) **New Start for Culture.** German government earmarks €1bn for arts in €130bn pandemic stimulus package that aims to counter "severest economic crisis in the history of the federal republic". "The largest chunk of the funding, €450m, is also primarily directed at private projects, initiatives and enterprises, especially in the fields of live music, theatre and film. It aims to get furloughed workers back to work and generate new commissions for self-employed workers". <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/german-government-earmarks-eur1bn-for-arts-in-eur130bn-pandemic-stimulus-package>

In German: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/bundesregierung/staatsministerin-fuer-kultur-und-medien/eine-milliarde-euro-fuer-neustart-kultur-1757174>

## ITALY

### (4/06) Support scheme for authors

In the frame of the new law “Cura Italia”, the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism (Mibact) has published a decree (Article 90) that sets the rules of application to financial support of authors (self-employed workers who perform the collection of author's rights), affected by the serious crisis in the cultural and entertainment sector due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This scheme is exceptionally financed by the 10% share of the private copy.

<https://www.siae.it/it/iniziativa-e-news/emergenza-coronavirus-al-le-domande-il-sostegno-del-mibact-agli-autori-agli#.XtpwtZB8C7o.facebook>

## NETHERLANDS

### (4/06) The Dutch government steps in to rescue the local film sector

The measures are part of a wider €300 million support package that will help to revive the country's cultural and creative industries.

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/388965/>

## NORWAY

(29/05) Good news in Norway. Monica Boracco chair of Dramatikerforbundet welcomes the **positive response from Minister of Culture Abid Raja after meetings with several creators organisations gathered in the Artists Network**: the Government is proposing a new grant scheme of NOK 100 million. The Ministry of Culture expects to grant scholarships to over 300 artists. Each one can receive up to NOK 200,000. The purpose is to help those artists who are struggling financially and have fallen outside the other schemes.

<https://dramatiker.no/fullt-gjennomslag-for-kompensajonskrav/>

## SPAIN

### (5/06) Spanish cultural sector sends an open letter to the Minister of Labor and Social Economy

FSE member guild ALMA has co-signed with fifty unions and professional organisations an open letter addressed to the Minister of Labor and Social Economy, Yolanda Díaz. The letter asks for support measures for companies and people who work in the cultural sector: the extension of ERTE (temporary unemployment scheme) to the field of culture, as it has already been done in the sectors of tourism or automotive industry ; the extension of aid for cessation or significant reduction of activity to companies and self-employed workers, aid to artists, workers and professionals, aid to corporate self-employed workers and the matching of aid and work in intermittent contracts”.

<https://www.sindicatoalma.es/carta-abierta-a-la-ministra-de-trabajo-y-economia-social/>

## SWEDEN

### (2/06) A proposal for a municipal crisis package for culture

The umbrella organization KLYS – the writers guild of Sweden is part of it – has made a proposal for a municipal crisis package for culture, where the most important measure is about quickly compensating professionals for the large loss of income that they suffer due to cancelled jobs. “It is important that crisis measures are implemented at all levels, by the government, regions and municipalities, to support and safeguard the culture and the current situation and future of the cultural creators”.

Press release : [www.klys.se/forslag-till-kommunala-krisatgarder/](http://www.klys.se/forslag-till-kommunala-krisatgarder/)

**(11/06) Unemployment compensation for self-employed workers**

Self-employed workers who have lost their jobs and thus are in need of unemployment compensation can be granted unemployment benefit if they close their business or put it to rest. The five-year rule (it usually takes at least five years from the resumption of a business from a break to the reimbursement of unemployment benefits for an entrepreneur) does not apply to discontinuation of activities conducted during 2020.

<https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2020/06/tillatet-med-vissa-atgarder-for-arbetslosa-foretagare/>

But also...

**AUSTRALIA**

**(11/06) Netflix, Apple and Stan could be required to boost Australian content**

[https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/11/netflix-apple-and-stan-could-be-required-to-boost-australian-content?CMP=share\\_btn\\_tw](https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/11/netflix-apple-and-stan-could-be-required-to-boost-australian-content?CMP=share_btn_tw)

**INDIA**

**(6/06) The Indian Film Industry and its Trade Unions come forward to fight COVID-19**

[https://www.swaindia.org/article\\_dyn.php?q=T1RVPO%3D%3D](https://www.swaindia.org/article_dyn.php?q=T1RVPO%3D%3D)

**NEW-ZEALAND**

**(29/05) The government has announced a \$175 million package to boost the arts and creative sector in the wake of Covid-19.**

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/arts/121666923/prime-minister-jacinda-ardern-announces-175m-package-for-arts-and-music-covid19-recovery>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/417843/government-launches-175m-arts-and-music-recovery-package>

**North Macedonia**

**North Macedonia Supports Independent Film Workers**

<https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/macedonia-news/item/120078-north-macedonia-provides-support-for-independent-film-workers>

**CMOs**

**(29/05) Collective management organisations support authors during the COVID-19 crisis, says SAA press release:**

<https://www.saa-authors.eu/en/news/656-press-release-collective-management-organisations-support-authors-during-the-covid-19-crisis#.XtDhjC-w3rJ>

## TRACKING MEASURES / LATEST UPDATES

### >> 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>

### >> KEA unveils interactive visualization on national measures to mitigate the COVID-19 impact on CCS

<https://keanet.eu/kea-unveils-visualization-on-national-measures-to-mitigate-covid-19-impact-on-ccs/>

## Copyright Directive

(7 June) **Copyright Directive campaign by the European Composers and songwriters Association (ECSA).**

EU Member states now have one year left – that is until 7th June 2021 – to transpose the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market into their national laws. With the [#ECSA4CopyrightDirective](#) campaign, we call for an ambitious and faithful implementation of the Copyright Directive for all creators.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4VHZ1M6SmE&feature=youtu.be>

## DIVERSITY, GENDER EQUALITY

### BELGIUM

(10/06) Culture Minister Bénédicte Linard said in parliament : "Cinema remains a world of men. Today, I appeal to women directors, producers, screenwriters, writers ... Submit projects! We need you, your works, your films, your projects, the way you look at the world."

### DENMARK

Danske Dramatikere (writers guild of Denmark) has joined the Film Industry Mentor Program, which works to **increase diversity in the film industry** by offering mentors to young film people with a different cultural or ethnic background than Danish.

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

### GERMANY

**Documentary Kino Kanak, Why German Film Needs Migrants.** For actors with a migration background, film and television often only have clichés - why? "When looking at current German films and series, in 2020 one gets the impression that the migrant neighborhood of filmmakers is teeming with drug dealers and greengrocers". "There has to be an urgent structural change, at all decision-making levels. Be it directors, producers, editors".

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/kultur/fernsehen-schauspieler-migrationshintergrund-1.4802057>

## **Filmfrauen 2020**

"Sometimes humorous, sometimes thoughtful, sometimes provocative - always authentic: In "FilmFrauen. Die Interviews" women talk about their experiences in the film business.

<https://www.zdf.de/kultur/filmfrauen-die-interviews/trailer2020-filmfrauen-100.html>

## **INDIA**

(12/06) Intent, impact and consent: understanding sexual harassment at workplace.

A public workshop organised by the Screenwriters Association India

<https://www.facebook.com/events/263649994977177>

## **UNI MEI**

Just released! **Achieving gender equality and promoting diversity in the European audiovisual sector: A Good Practice Handbook**

Available in English, French, German and Spanish.

<https://www.uniglobalunion.org/news/achieving-gender-equality-and-promoting-diversity-european-audiovisual-sector>

To present the Good Practice Handbook in more details and hear from professionals on the ground, the European social partners are organising a webinar on Tuesday 23 June 2020 in the afternoon.

<https://www.eventleaf.com/Attendee/Attendee/EventPage?eId=DLvsEF68nf5CK32cYNIchQ%3D%3D>

## **UNITED-KINGDOM**

(10/06) **Black Lives Matter – tell us your stories**

The Writers Guild of Great-Britain WGGB has launched a survey designed to capture writers' experiences within the creative industries in order to build a picture of current practice and raise headline issues in anonymised and collated form with broadcasters, producers or other relevant bodies.

<https://writersguild.org.uk/black-lives-matter-tell-us-your-stories/>

## **UNITED-STATES**

**Statement from WGAW President David A. Goodman in Response to the Murder of George Floyd and Protests**

<https://www.wga.org/news-events/news/press/statement-from-wgaw-president-david-goodman-in-response-to-the-murder-of-george-floyd-and-protests>

(3/06) **Writers Guild of America, East and FilmNation Entertainment Announce Inaugural Writers for the Inclusive 'New York Screenwriters Workshop'**

Lowell Peterson, Executive Director of the Writers Guild of America, East, said, "Even during this pandemic, screenplays are still being written and projects are being developed. The Guild is thrilled to partner with FilmNation on a project that will open doors to under-represented screenwriters.

<https://www.wgaeast.org/writers-guild-of-america-east-and-filmnation-entertainment-announce-inaugural-writers-for-the-inclusive-new-york-screenwriters-workshop/>

## What future for the film industry ?

### EAO Cannes Conference

**European Audiovisual Observatory announces COVID-19 documentary and live expert chat at this year's Cannes Marché du Film online**

EAO will show its new documentary short on the effects of COVID-19 on the film, TV and VOD industries in Europe and will propose a live expert chat session afterwards. When: Tuesday 23 June from 17.00 – 18.00 (CET). [Press release](#).

Free registration:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfl3xfFMXw3EcNPSXREZqfJ0PVR5f14Q\\_9l1J9jwHPKbc1NZQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfl3xfFMXw3EcNPSXREZqfJ0PVR5f14Q_9l1J9jwHPKbc1NZQ/viewform)

### EAO SVOD Analysis

The **European Audiovisual Observatory's** analysis of 79 subscription video on demand (SVOD) catalogues in 21 countries outside the EU showed:

- Amazon was the biggest buyer of EU film titles, with 3 281 unique EU film titles in its 14 country catalogues;
- Netflix came next with 1 816 unique titles in its 20 country catalogues.

Find more industry insights in our Yearbook 2019/20:

[yearbook.obs.coe.int](http://yearbook.obs.coe.int)

### #Back To Cinema

**CICAE Launches International Campaign #Back To Cinema**

The International Confederation of Arthouse Cinemas (CICAE), in collaboration with Germany's #ZurückInsKino, has launched a social media campaign #BackToCinema to bring film exhibitors together during the COVID-19 crisis.

<https://www.filmneweurope.com/news/region/item/120103-cicae-launches-international-campaign-back-to-cinema>

### BELGIUM

(08/06) Back to work! In Flanders, **unprecedented cooperation between film and TV producers, film fund, broadcasters and professional organisations** (including FSE member guild de Scenaristengilde) **sets safety rules to be able to shoot again.**

The sector specific Covid-19 safety protocols (PC 227 AV Sector and PC 303.01 Film Production) for resuming audiovisual recordings are now available on the Screen Flanders website. These will soon also be published on the website in French and English.

<https://screenflanders.be/nl/covid-19-nl/covid-19-protocols-nl/>

### IRELAND

(29/05) **Screen Ireland's key priority is to support a safe return to production for Irish production.** The agency has been working with a range of industry stakeholders and Government to facilitate the return of live action film and television production.

<https://www.screenireland.ie/news/return-to-live-action-film-television-production-planning-update>

## Artificial Intelligence and Copyright

(10/06) SAA blog AI and copyright

What does Artificial Intelligence have to do with films?

<https://www.saa-authors.eu/en/blog/655-what-does-artificial-intelligence-have-to-do-with-films>

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST

### EASTERN and CENTRAL EUROPE

**Screenwriting and Screenwriters in Eastern European Cinema**, a call for papers issued by the journal Studies in Eastern European Cinema. Guest Editor: Jan Černík (Palacký University, Olomouc, Czechia).

Principal Editor: Ewa Mazierska (University of Central Lancashire, UK)

[https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/eastern-european-cinema-screenwriting-screenwriters/?utm\\_source=TFO&utm\\_medium=cms&utm\\_campaign=JPA12754](https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/eastern-european-cinema-screenwriting-screenwriters/?utm_source=TFO&utm_medium=cms&utm_campaign=JPA12754)

### NORWAY

#### A new lawyer at Dramatikerforbundet

Astrid Hamran Storrusten has recently started in a position as a lawyer in the Dramatikerforbundet. Among other things, she is passionate about solving legal issues arising from digitization.

<https://dramatiker.no/hils-pa-var-nye-jurist/>

## Stay tuned!

#### All the FSE newsletters #COVID-19

<https://federationscreenwriters.eu/covid-19-fse-newsletters/>

#### FSE on twitter

<https://twitter.com/ScreenwritersEU>

#### FSE on facebook

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

Take care, keep safe!



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