



ANNUAL REPORT

October 2019 - October 2020

It's the second year of activities for the Estonian Screenwriters Guild, established 2018.

Screenwriters contracts

In autumn 2019 we started working on the sample screenwriters' contract in collaboration with a lawyer. We went through numerous drafts and meetings until January when the discussion around the EU copyright directive took priority in the schedule. Work on the contract will be continued. We also planned to organise workshops for members in order to promote better understanding of what contracts entail.

EU directive

There was a preliminary meeting at the Ministry of Justice in November 2019, and the discussions continued in 2020. We had a meeting between all (most) authors (directors, art directors, cinematographers etc) to discuss mutual interests regarding the directive. Another meeting was held with producers and the Ministry representatives.

Film funding in Estonia

Estonian Film Institute, the main Estonian film funding body, has initiated a discussion about the future of film industry and film funding principles with a number of film sector organisations, Estonian Screenwriters' Guild among them. The discussions will lead to creating a document describing the current needs and future outlook for the Estonian film industry.

Good practice guide

This contains guidelines for screenwriters about work flow, rights and responsibilities.

We are also preparing to meet with the producers organisation to discuss rights and some general issues regarding contracts. This was also put on hold while other duties took priority. We have a draft ready to be shared with members.

Conference 2020 and training

We started planning our second **screenwriting conference** in November. The topic for this year's conference was collaboration (between writers and producers, writers and directors, and between writers themselves), we received funding and had confirmed the list of guests and speakers when the COVID-19 pandemic started. The conference was to be held on April 10th and we cancelled when quarantine started on March 13th. We've held on to some of the funding we received to see if we can postpone the event.

ESG continued organising international **masterclasses** for screenwriters, although our schedule was disrupted by the pandemic here as well. In January 2020, Karol Griffiths held a masterclass on script editing; Chris Soth's masterclass on story structure was postponed from March to September 2020 and eventually held via Zoom. The other masterclasses planned for this year have been

postponed to 2021, although their format is yet to be determined.

We started organising **mini-workshops** in late 2019 (two hours in one evening every week) that also helped generate a bit of income; the workshops stopped in early 2020 as we started organising the conference and working on the directive.

General information

ESG has no staff, most of the work is volunteer-based. We have received funding for projects from the Estonian Film Institute, the Estonian Cultural Endowment, Tallinn City, as well as donations.

We created merchandise to generate some income (notebooks, pens etc).

As of October 2020, ESG has 25 members.

Current board members: Margit Keerdo-Dawson (Chair), Andris Feldmanis, Leana Jalukse, Lauri Lippmaa, Laura Raud. There will be an annual general meeting on October 15th where new board members will be elected.

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