



2020

ACTIVITY REPORT



The acronym of FAGA means Forum of Associations of Audiovisual Writers.

FAGA is a state-level organization to ensure the professional and authorial interests of film and television scriptwriters in Spain and its autonomous territories.

FAGA includes four of the five Spanish state associations and professional unions of writers and has, in March 2020, over 500 individual members. These figures make FAGA a hegemonic organization in Spain and one of the most numerous in Europe.

The activity of FAGA is not limited to that carried out by the federation but also covers that of GAC, EDAV, AGAG and EHGEF, the federated guilds, which are in direct contact with the authors. Because we consider that all that work must also be known, this report includes both areas of action.



COVID-19

Both for FAGA, and in general for the whole of federated guilds, 2020 has been an exceptional year, in which the COVID-19 pandemic has altered all forecasts and has forced us to concentrate our efforts on developing initiatives aimed at defending the living conditions of the screenwriters' collective. This activity has been oriented along the following lines:

. FAGA survey on the impact of COVID-19 on screenwriters

FAGA prepared a survey with 20 questions aimed at finding out the economic and employment consequences of the pandemic on the screenwriters' collective. The survey has been sent to members through the federated associations but it has also been disseminated on social networks to facilitate the response of non-member professionals. A total of 70 screenwriters responded to the survey and it was determined that although almost 90% of them had suffered to a greater or lesser extent from the consequences of the pandemic, a similar proportion had not been able to benefit from the support measures established by the State Government and the different public administrations. The results of the survey have been very useful for specifying the other measures adopted by FAGA to assist scriptwriters.

. Ser guionistas en tiempos del COVID-19. Guide to Approved Measures I and II

As a result of the results of the survey, with the aim of making information on the first measures taken by the government to cover workers affected by the consequences of the pandemic and the state of alarm easier and more accessible, FAGA has produced a visual guide detailing these measures and how to access them: "Being a screenwriter in the time of the COVID-19. Guide to approved measures". As new measures have been approved by the Government and other administrations, and after noting the lack of protection for the group, the guide has been updated. Both guides have been sent to members by e-mail but have also been made available to the whole of the scriptwriters' collective through social networks



.Meetings with the Ministers of Culture and Finance

The conclusions of the survey have also been fundamental in specifying the proposals that FAGA has made in the meetings held with the management of the ICAA and with the Ministers of Culture, José Manuel Rodríguez Uribes and of Finance, María Jesús Montero, convened with the aim of proposing solutions to the difficulties that the cultural sector is experiencing as a result of the pandemic and to which FAGA has been invited to participate as a direct interlocutor and spokesperson for the screenwriters' collective. Following the approval of Decree 17/2020, which sets out the main government measures to support culture and in particular the audiovisual sector, FAGA has chosen to maintain its requests because it believes that the content of the decree does not fully meet the most urgent needs of audiovisual workers. In this sense, it has decided to join forces with other representative groups in the sector, including the TACE trade union and the recently created Audiovisual Associations Group.

. Demands for action from administrations and CMOs. Public promotion of their initiatives.

In parallel to its contacts with public administrations, FAGA has launched appeals to both SGAE and DAMA, to allocate part of their human and economic resources to specific support lines for creators in situations of need arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise, FAGA has disseminated among its members and associates information about the initiatives adopted by the management companies, among which the SGAE-Corona fund should be highlighted.

. Support to the European actions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic

FAGA has been sending the corresponding information on its initiatives to the FSE for their European dissemination. It has also participated in the surveys that the European organisation has carried out on the incidence of the pandemic on scriptwriters' organisations and professional groups in the different Member States. Finally, FAGA endorsed the appeals launched by the FSE, together with other European creative organisations, urging the



Community institutions to adopt effective and specifically funded support measures to safeguard the continent's culture from the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.



In parallel but also related to the actions derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, FAGA , and also de guilds, had tried to maintain the activity in the lines of work opened the previous year, focused on :

. Artist's Statute Implementation

Since its approval in 2018, the Artist's Statute has been practically undeveloped by the Spanish government and parliament. However, the measures it provides for may be very effective in protecting artists in general and screenwriters in particular from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, FAGA, in coordination with other groups with the Audiovisual Alliance (AA) and the Audiovisual Trade Union TACEE, has called on the government to implement it. A working document has emerged from these contacts which has been sent to the Directorate General of Cultural Industries of the Ministry of Culture and a working group is due to be set up shortly to make progress on the measures to be adopted.

. Dialogue with the ICAA: recovery of the State aids for cinema screenwriting

Since the Government decided to abolish direct aid for screenwriting in 2011, FAGA has been demanding its recovery from the various directors of the ICAA. In 2020, this demand has been reinforced as it considers that this aid is a fundamental support for the screenwriters' collective to be able to face the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ICAA has shown its willingness to recover the aid in 2021, and for this reason FGA has sent it a document that develops an effective aid system, which will have to be discussed in a forthcoming working session.

. Collective bargaining update negotiation

FAGA is integrated as an advisor in the social part of the negotiation table of the 3rd Collective Agreement, through its lawyer, Ramón Rey. After the employers' challenge to the agreements reached in March 2019, which recognised a 6% increase in the wage bill and the 14 annual payments, the



last quarter of the previous year and the first quarter of this year have meant a return to the negotiating table. The reorganisation of the employers' bloc has meant a hardening of its position and a refusal to recognise what has already been approved. This attitude has led to an effective blockage of the negotiations and has forced the social side to rethink its strategy.

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY ON SCRIPT

In 2018, FAGA established as a priority and transversal axis to all its activity, the vindication of the linguistic and cultural diversity of the audiovisual industries in which its associates and partners work as scriptwriters. This claim is not only within the state framework but extends to the whole of the European industry, where diversity, although not always properly recognised, is far from being the exception and provides a cultural and linguistic richness that is unique in the global audiovisual environment.

. Other Voices, Other shows

Series of online events organized in collaboration with the Serielizados Fest festival in which three prestigious scriptwriters will discuss the writing of television series in languages other than the hegemonic ones in Europe and the possibilities that VOD platforms open for the industries that produce them. The first of the events will be given by Eligio R. Montero (Bitter Daisies, Galicia), Ed Talfan (Hinterland, Wales) and Tim Van Aelst (Studio Tarara, Flanders).

VISIBILITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE SCREENWRITERS' COLLECTIVE

. XVII Julio Alejandro Script Awards:

As in previous editions, FAGA has been part of the selection committee of the XVII JULIO ALEJANDRO SCRIPT AWARDS, in order to ensure the right evaluation of all the scripts written in spanish co-official languages.



. 70 Teclas:

FAGA is partner of 70 Teclas, a collective initiative focused on in the publication of the most interesting film and television scripts produced during the year in Spain.

. Picas 2021

The Innovation and Audiovisual Content Laboratory, based in Malaga, requested FAGA's support for its Ibero-American Showrunner Training Program (Picas in Spanish) to be developed in 2021. Faga sent a letter of support and offered the talent and knowledge of its associates for teaching.



FEDERATED GUILDS' ACTIVITY



EDAV (ESCRITORS VALENCIANS DE L'AUDIOVISUAL)

Valencia Screenwriters Guild

. Autors En Curt -VIII edition

A cycle of screenings of short films by Valencian authors, with the screenwriters taking centre stage. Three sessions in the Sala SGAE Centre Cultural de Valencia.

. Ciclo de Cine Valenciano actual - VI edition

Series of feature films by Valencian authors. Fiction and documentaries. The intention is to hold three screening sessions over three weeks.

. VLC PITCH FORUM - VI One to One Event fifth edition and IX Roda de Guions

Pitch event for audiovisual projects that brings together authors with producers, channels or platforms, with the aim of giving visibility and facilitating the implementation of their projects. It consists of:

One to One: open call for Valencian authors.

Roda de Guions: for authors of scripts subsidised by the IVC in the 2019 call for entries.

The event is complemented by various training activities. This year, as it is an online edition.

. Survival guide for the freelance scriptwriter.

A tool for handling the ins and outs of an increasingly complex working world. After having detected that an increasing number of our associates were working under the self-employed regime, this guide would not only help them to manage in this new labour reality, but it would also provide the



freelance writers with a help to know and claim their rights and to move in this professional environment, which is more and more precarious and complex every day.

. Advice on the preparation and technical assistance for the IVC at the EFM, European Film Market in Berlin and MAFIZ, Malga Festival Industry Zone 2020 and tutoring and monitoring the Valencian projects participating in both events. Berlin, finished. Malaga, cancelled the face-to-face event.

In 2020 we have been commissioned by the IVC to prepare for its participation in the Berlin and Malaga markets, to coordinate the catalogue of productions to be presented at both markets, and to advise Valencian authors with projects at these events.

. Other agreements and collaborations. Discounts for partners in training and others.

In order to make it easier for members to access ongoing training, we continue to sign collaboration agreements with centres that provide specialised training. Thus, this year we have signed agreements with discounts for partners with:

BARREIRA A+D and SCRIPT MEDIA, for its masters. Filmarket Hub platform for pitching and La Traca events. Agreements with management companies and lawyers with preferential rates for members, etc

FESTIVALS

. Humans Fest - International Festival of Human Rights - EDAV award for the best script in the official section (international) and award for the best script in the Valencian Community.



. **Proyecta en Igualdad** - EDAV Jury. EDAV Award to the best script.

MASTERCLASSES

. **Conference: gender violence in current audiovisual fiction**

Talk given by the critic and professor of Art History, Àurea Ortiz, who analysed the treatment of gender violence in film and television fiction. With the collaboration of the Rector Peset College of the University of Valencia.

. **Pitch workshop**

. **Scriptwriter's word. Meetings with creators.**

November - Meeting with the screenwriters nominated for the Best Screenplay Award at the Premis de l'Audiovisual Valencià. The intention is to give a voice to the creators of the most outstanding audiovisual works in the recent Valencian audiovisual panorama.

. **Annual labour survey of partners.**

Survey to detect the situation and working conditions of our associates. The survey is carried out completely anonymously and approximately 60% of the associates have responded in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The 2020 survey closed on 28 February and therefore collects data from before the COVID-19 crisis.

. **Labour survey of working conditions in external productions for À Punt, local public broadcaster from Valencia.**

After a meeting held with Alfred Costa and César Martí, CEO and Content Manager from À Punt in June, in which we expressed to the channel's managers our concern about the low representation of Valencian audiovisuals in the fiction scene at a national level and in the various



platforms, we have a second meeting pending in which we will discuss the working conditions of screenwriters who work in external productions for À Punt and whose conditions have been worsened by the lack of budget for production, both fiction and entertainment and other types of programmes. In order to have updated data, we have prepared a survey aimed at members working in external productions for À Punt. With the results of the survey we will have meetings with the producers' associations, responsible for À Punt, and last summer with the political leaders.

. Effects of the COVID

In addition to the usual, we have been and continue to be in contact with members and other screenwriters' and technical associations in Spain to draw up reports on the effects of the cessation of productions cinematográficas and television, in permanent contact with the Administration to find ways of supporting screenwriters, providing information to members on the aid available to them, etc., etc.

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP

EDAV actively collaborates with the Valencian Institute of Culture in the selection of the analysts who form part of the assessment committees for the grants awarded by the IVC.

EDAV also forms part of the MESAV, the Valencian Audiovisual Sector Board, which brings together representatives of the various associations and entities in the sector.



AGAG (ASOCIACIÓN SINDICAL GALEGA DE GUIONISTAS) Galicia Screenwriters Guild

. AGAG Mentoring for Sceenwriting Women

Created with the objectives of promoting the presence of women screenwriters in the Galician audiovisual sector, encouraging new female talent in the field of screenwriting, advising and publicizing the projects of Galician women screenwriters, of any age, with or without professional experience. They consist of a monthly online meeting during six months, in charge of outstanding professionals in the field of cinema and television, for a total of six projects.

The tutorials began on 5 October and will run online for 6 months, after which there are plans to organise a pitching session to present projects, if the epidemiological situation allows.

. AGAG award for script in galician for feature film 2020

Created with the objectives of promoting the Galician language in the audiovisual sector, promoting authors who write in Galician and helping to disseminate the work of AGAG's members, is the second largest award in Spain. It consists of a first prize of 2,500 euros for the winning script, along with a free 6-month subscription to the Filmarket Hub platform online marketplace for both the winning text and the finalists. The complete rules can be consulted here. This second edition will take place entirely online.

On the other hand, we maintained our usual collaboration with various film festivals, by participating as members of the jury for the scriptwriting awards or by teaching training activities. This is a summary of our latest collaborations:



. Ficbueu

International Short Film Festival: tutorials on script development for short films, given by members of the Xunta Directiva. Participation of a member of the Board of Directors in the short film jury.

. Curtocircuito

International Short Film Festival: sponsorship of the AGAG Award for the best Galician short film script. Participation of AGAG members in the jury that awards this prize. Proposal and moderation of a live round table about the creative space in the new platforms.

. Festival de Cans

Collaboration in the presentation of the AGAG Award to the best Galician short film script, participation in a round table with associations from the sector.

. Festival de Cine Inclusivo de Vigo

Sponsorship of the AGAG Award to the best script. Participation of AGAG members in the jury that awards this prize. Proposal and delivery of an online round table on serial scripts with attention to diversity.

. Festival INTERSECCIÓN

of contemporary art: sponsorship of the AGAG Award for the best project treatment in the LAB of project development. Participation of AGAG partners in the jury that awards this prize. Sponsorship of masterclasses related to script contents.



We also collaborate in various initiatives of interest to the sector:

. Pitching I+P of The galician Audiovisual Cluster

Collaboration through which our partners are offered benefits in registration and selection. Participation of a member of the Board of Directors in the project selection committee.

. Conecta

Meeting between creators (scriptwriters and directors) organised by CREA (Association of Professional Directors and Directors of Galicia), with the collaboration of AGAG and the support of Fundación SGAE. Collaboration in the organisation and participation of professional scriptwriters to listen to presentations of projects.



EHGEP (EUSKAL GIDOIGILEAK)

Basque screenwriters guild

. Collaboration with the Cine Club Fas

The annual collaboration with Cine Club Fas was scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th with the screening of the feature film *La hija de un ladrón* (The Daughter of a Thief) directed by Belén Funes and co-written by Marçal Cebrian and Belén Funes. Due to the situation of uncertainty, the activity was suspended until further notice. Finally, the film will be screened in November (date yet to be determined) at the El Carmen Hall, home of the Cine Club Fas, respecting all the health security measures required by this situation. Whether Marçal Cebrián and Belén Funes will be able to attend the screening and the subsequent discussion is yet to be determined.

. Training

For this year we had scheduled a series of master classes with professionals from different disciplines that we believe can be of great help in developing the stories that our partners. We only had time to hold the first of this series, the one given by Iñaki Irusta, Head of the Operations Area of the Scientific Police of the Ertzaintza. The next two talks, to be held as soon as possible, will be with the clinical psychologist Ricardo Bravo de Medina and the lawyer Borja Vigo.

AWARDS FOR THE BEST BASQUE SCRIPT IN FESTIVALS

These are the festivals we usually collaborate with and the way we do it. This year we will collaborate with each of these festivals in the same way or in the way that the new situation allows.



. Animakom FEST Bilbao

Designation of the jury and donation of the trophy for the best script at Animakom FEST. This year the award went to María Trigo Teixeira for the script of Inside Me.

. Zinemaldia - San Sebastian Film Festival

Awarding of the Prize for the best script of a Basque production, with a trophy and 1,500 euros for the scriptwriter(s) thanks to the contribution of the SGAE's territorial council in the Basque Country. This year the award went to David Pérez sañudo and Marina Parés for the script of the feature film Ane.

. Fant - Bilbao Fantastic Film Festival

Designation of the jury to award the Prize for the best script. The Fant will be held in November.

. ZINEBI - Bilbao International Documentary Film and Short Film Festival

EHGEP appoints the jury that decides on the Best Basque Script Award, granted by the SGAE's territorial council in the Basque Country, at ZINEBI in Bilbao. Zinebi will be held from 13 to 20 November.

. Hendaia Film Festival

EHGEP will be awarding a prize for the Best Basque Screenplay at the Hendaia Short Film Festival, in the Euskadi-Akitania section. This year the Festival will be held from 26th to 29th November.



LEGAL SERVICE

The Legal Service that we set up in 2017 was a risky venture on an economic level, but we were aware that it was an indispensable service in an association like ours. In the three years that the Legal Service has been in operation, the consultations made by our partners have increased considerably. We also have to say that the implementation of this service has meant the incorporation of new associates and we know that there are scriptwriters interested in becoming associates in order to benefit from it. In this sense, our most ambitious project for this 2020 and for which we are looking for extra funding, is the extension of the time slot contracted with our lawyer, Maitane Valdecantos.

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP

As in previous years, EHGEF has appointed two representatives to form part of the Assessment Committees that decide on the aid to the Audiovisual sector of the Basque Government's Department of Culture.

For the second year, a representative appointed by EHGEF will form part of the Assessment Committee that will decide on the recent aid (this year will be the second one called) to the Audiovisual Department of the Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council.

Since 2018, the Basque Government has been calling a series of meetings under the name of "Mesa Sectorial del Audiovisual", which brings together representatives of the agents of the Basque Audiovisual, with the Basque producers' associations IBAIA and EPE/APV, Zineuskadi, EZAE-Basque Cinemas Association and EIKEN-Basque Audiovisual Cluster.



GAC (GUIONISTES ASSOCIATS DE CATALUNYA) Catalan Screenwriters guild and UnionT

. Pitching Fòrum for feature films and Series

Our pitch sessions for feature films and TV series, Pitching Fòrum GAC, are still taking place at Serielizados Fest and L'Alternativa. The one for series, which will take place in late October, is taking place virtually with the presence of TVE, TV3, Mediaset, A3Media and Movistar. The attendees list for the feature films pitch is still on the works, as the event will take place in late November. The 15 projects that have been selected among over a 100 to participate will also receive mentoring for content and pitching skills.

. Meetings with producer's associations

We have met with the two producers' associations that operate in Catalonia (PROA and PAC) to try and reach agreements about the system of direct funding for screenwriters we would like the Government of Catalonia to implement. For now, all the funding they offer for filmmaking is producer-oriented.

. VIII TRansmedia Screenwriting Contest

We're also hosting the VIIIth edition of our Transmedia Screenwriting Contest, which is awarded with 2000€ (offered by the Audiovisual Market of Catalonia).

. Masterclasses with Sally Wainwright and others

We will be offering three online sessions before the end of the year: a writing masterclass with Sally Wainwright, a talk about European fiction trends by



Concepción Cascajosa, and our yearly legal workshop taught by GAC's lawyer, Ignacio Monter.

. On line professional tutorials

We have also started a series of educational videos for a general audience, uploaded to our youtube channel, where some GAC members who have released new creations answer general questions about their work.

. Meetings with executive producers

We have been working to hold meetings between network executive producers and our associates, and some will be scheduled before the end of the year.