



## DSR Screenwriters, Slovenia

### 2021 Annual report

#### **Board**

In December 2020, DSR elected a new board; actual president of the DSR Screenwriters for the next 2 years is Miha Hočevar. Former President of the DSR Screenwriters Matevž Luzar has been elected President of the Directors' Guild of Slovenia.

#### **Membership**

DSR Screenwriters Slovenia was established in December 2015.

The majority of its 76 members are screenwriters who predominantly create for the film.

#### **Covid-19 situation**

Both Covid and the new right-wing government (est. from March 2020) had devastating impact on the Slovenian AV sector. In October, filmmakers openly and publicly sought help from the European AV- and other legal entities as the government delayed payment for the film production for more than 6 months by then, due to yet still undisclosed and never specified reasons.

“Since March 2020, the Government has been blocking the majority of financial state budget transfers to the Slovenian Film Centre. Film projects that have already been selected at different public calls during the years 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, did not get any financing in spite of their contracts being signed and in order. In total, over 30 feature films, including both minority and major international co-productions, were waiting for their financial support, based on valid and signed support agreements with the Slovenian Film Centre.” (part of the letter to EU entities).

Film-funding problems for 2020-2022 were temporarily resolved via Covid-19 funds, yet there are still some issues due to government's (executed via Ministry of Culture) partly successful attempts at reducing of competences of the Slovenian film agency.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, shooting practically stopped, and by the end of 2020, only daily series were being shot. The situation improved by mid-2021.

During that period, both the guild and the alliance really worked even harder, in order to inform, help and unite the filmmakers.

Yet in spite of everything, this year's national film festival (in mid-October at the Slovenian seaside resort Portorož) premièred more than an average share of high-quality feature- and short films. Aren't we resilient!

### **Activites in 2021**

For the sixth year in a row, DSR Screenwriters (in collaboration with the Directors' Guild of Slovenia and Slovenian Film Centre) organized *Scenarnica 2021*, a workshop with international mentors – screenwriters and pedagogues from Europe.

*Scenarnica* is aiming at participants' ability to develop their stories from idea to first draft in six months' time. For years we've been aware that developing of screenplays is our major issue, and other international workshops are more focused on development from the first draft on. The workshop is not intended exclusively for the membership, it's also open for students or novice screenwriters. Attendees of the *Scenarnica* have been very successful at other international workshops and project-realization calls for application.

At this year's national film festival, the first two films developed at *Scenarnica* were nationally premièred, both receiving total 13 awards (best screenplay, best directing, best film, and audience award, among others).

As far as gender equality is concerned, since 2018 the ratio has changed, so 50-66% of selected attendees are female screenwriters.

By May 2021, four workshops of the complementary programme, *Scenarnica ABC*, have been realized, and two more to come by the end of November. It is intended for broader audience in order to teach them the basics of what is what and how to do it technical-wise when writing, pitching or shooting the screenplay.

On the grounds of promising results of the *Scenarnica* workshop, we managed to receive funds for a documentary lab, so in September 2021, *Dokumentarnica* was launched. The process is similar, yet adapted accordingly to specifics of the documentary film. It is mentored by three Slovenian film directors-screenwriters and there will be 3-4 weekend sessions each year.

DSR Screenwriters has been sponsoring the main national student screenwriting award, "Grossmann Award" for yet unproduced short screenplays for five years, and intends to do so in future. Young national talents need to be supported financially, too.

In September 2021, a long-term national strategy (draft of the Resolution of the National Culture Programme 2021-2028) was made available for public comments, and the DSR & DSR Screenwriters have been actively involved in commenting on it, particularly because its goals were rather unspecific and hardly involving any substantial AV- sector improvement strategies. Yet it is rather unlikely the Ministry of Culture will reopen the discussion.

As far as collecting bargaining is concerned, we have been working on the implementation of both directives (AVMS and Copyright Directive), together with our CMO AIPA.

AVMS Directive – so far, there have been three attempts of implementation, all unsuccessful as none was harmonized with the EU legislature. There is a fourth proposal to be discussed; it is not appropriate and it is unlikely to pass as there will be no majority in the Parliament.

Copyright Directive – we have had several meetings with various parliamentary parties; however, there is still no proposal and we're late with the implementation.

In 2021, AIPA finally succeeded in obtaining legal grounds from the SIPO to distribute special Covid-19 funds to its members (authors - screenwriters, directors, DOPs -, actors and producers).

Unfortunately, our guild's international collaboration within the past two years has been almost solely reduced to self-preserving activities.

We sincerely hope the situation will improve in 2022, so that we'll be able to make some plans and realize them, too.

With best regards,

Valerija Cokan, Secretary General of the DSR Screenwriters Slovenia on behalf of  
Miha Hočevár, President of the DSR Screenwriters Slovenia

Ljubljana, 15. 11. 2021