

Country report, february 2023 – Norway

In march 2022, Monica Boracco stepped down as Chair after 10 years, and it was decided to split the leadership between Ellisiv Lindkvist (chair, main responsibility for the theatre field) and Øyvind Rune Stålen (co-chair, main responsibility for film and TV series), both working part time. Astrid Storrusten is now General Secretary.

The guild is currently working on several large projects; a new strategy, upgrading our digital platform and implementation of the CRM directive.

2022 has been characterized as a golden age for new Norwegian drama and several members have had great success on Norwegian stages. Norwegian films have also had great success, especially with an Oscar nomination for best screenplay (The Worst Person in the World). We notice that the level of production, particularly within TV drama, is high.

Collective bargaining

- We are currently negotiating a framework agreement with the independent producers concerning the rights payment for TV series. We have asked for a dialogue with the producer organization to discuss a union agreement regulating wages.
- We finally signed a new framework agreement with the state-funded theatres in 2022. The agreement includes an initial fee of 405 000 NOK for a new dramatic work (70 minutes or longer) and 13 % royalty (when the initial fee is earned). The agreement also covers live streaming and TVOD (with 16 % royalty from gross income), and specified fees if two or more theatres collaborate. 8 of 19 state financed theatres have committed to the agreement.

Compensation for royalty – pandemic

In 2021, the guild lobbied for a special compensation scheme from the Ministry of Culture to our members for loss of royalties during the pandemic. Compensation was given for periods where cinemas and theatres were shut down. In total, our guild received 11 800 000 NOK in 2021 and 2022. By the end of 2022 we have distributed approx. 8,6 MNOK to individual writers.

Implementation process, the Copyright Directive

There are no news. As an EEA member, Norway does not have the same deadlines as the EU countries. We hope for a proposal in 2023, or early 2024.