

DSR Screenwriters, Slovenia 2022 Annual report

Board

In December 2022, DSR elected a new board; actual president of the DSR Screenwriters for the next 2 years is Miha Hočevar (his 2nd run). Former President of the DSR Screenwriters Matevž Luzar has been re-elected President of the Directors' Guild of Slovenia.

Membership

DSR Screenwriters Slovenia was established in December 2015.

The majority of its 86 members are screenwriters who predominantly create for the film.

Covid-19 situation and future prospects for the AV sector

Both Covid and the former right-wing government (March 2020-April 2022) had a devastating impact on the Slovenian AV sector. In October 2020, filmmakers had to seek help from the European AV- and other legal entities as the government had been delaying payment for the film production ever since March until 31 (sic!) December 2020.

Film-funding problems during the period between 2020-2022 were temporarily and partially resolved via Covid-19 funds.

In 2022, our CMO AIPA was allowed for the second year to distribute special Covid-19 funds to its members (authors (screenwriters, directors, DOPs), actors and producers).

Since April 2022 (the new government), the situation has been improving rapidly for the AV-sector – a bit more funds, successful implementation of EU directives, discussions about more ambitious strategies for the AV-sector being in full progress. The current *Copyright and Related Rights Act* has thus become one of the most progressive acts in Europe.

However, the *Audiovisual Media Services Directive* has not yet been implemented (3 attempts so far), but it's due within next 12 months.

For the past six months, we've been working on the *Slovenian Film Centre's* new *Rule book of financing film and AV projects*, aiming for the best possible rule book for this very specific environment.

The situation regarding the national television (RTV Slovenia) has not improved, unfortunately. Its management systematically breaks agreements with the sector and even violates the law; due to bending of the rules the transition from previous board (appointed by the right-wing government) to new board couldn't have been executed yet.

Activities in 2022

During the past two years, more than an average share of high-quality feature- and short films were premiered, and in 2023, 11 feature films are being or will be shot, which is also highly above the average annual production.

Between spring and autumn 2022, DSR Screenwriters (in collaboration with the Directors' Guild of Slovenia and Slovenian Film Centre) organized *Scenarnica 2022* for the seventh year in a row. It is a workshop with international mentors – screenwriters and pedagogues from Europe (leading mentor being a Serbian screenwriter and director Srđan Koljević).

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.

In 2021 and 2022, the first films developed at *Scenarnica* were nationally premièred at the national film festival in Portorož, and all of them had been awarded major awards (best screenplay, best directing, best film, and audience award, among others).

As far as gender equality is concerned, the ratio of *Scenarnica* attendants has been constantly and gradually changing since 2018 in favour of female screenwriters (ratio in 2022 was 7:1!).

Scenarnica's complementary programme, *Scenarnica ABC*, had 6 issues in 2022 with various topics regarding screenwriting e. g. *Are we trapped? Writing for TV and cinema in small countries* (guest Icelandic screenwriter Margret Ornlófsdóttir); *Future of the film story, Writing screenplays for kids; Screenwriting for animation films; ...*). Screenwriters from Slovenia and abroad have been participating. It's programme 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 2022, the second edition of *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 with a guest visit of one foreign mentor. 3 weekend sessions annually and a follow-up are attended by 4-6 participants.

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

With best regards,

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

Ljubljana, 7. 3. 2023