

WRITERS GUILD ITALIA

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## **Writers Guild of Italy FSE Annual Report 2023**

### **1. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

WGI actively engaged with the Government and all its institutional counterparts to implement legislation to effectively regulate the use of Artificial Intelligence software in audiovisual production activities and in particular with regard to subjects and scripts. Discussions are still ongoing.

Together with the Garante, a copyright/droit d'auteur lawyer, WGI drew up a decalogue delimiting the boundaries within which the use of artificial intelligence algorithms can be tolerated and considered acceptable.

Over the last six months, WGI has organized meetings and conferences on this topic in the most representative venues for the audiovisual industry (Venice Film Festival, Università Cattolica, Festival Visioni di Milano, France Odéon etc.), involving the most important institutional partners, starting with SIAE, with which an in-depth study is currently underway to regulate the use of copyright-protected works in AI training.

Through the Garante and again with SIAE, a remuneration system is being discussed for authors whose works are - or have been - exploited for the training of AI algorithms.

The WGI initiatives resulted in a podcast produced by the leading Italian news agency.

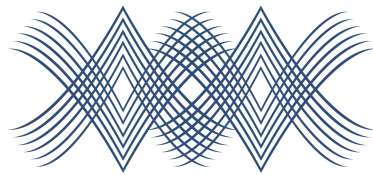
### **2. NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

Negotiations have also begun in Italy between producers and authors to succeed in drawing up an official agreement. The strike called by the American colleagues of the Writersguild of America has been of great help.

During the strike period, the Italian Writersguild has been very close to the Wga by participating in the event called by FSE throughout Europe but also supporting it by giving it visibility through its communication channels and directly contacting Wga colleagues, involving them in Panels organized specifically to discuss the American situation with their Italian counterparts. Currently, the three Italian authors' associations (Wgi, 100Autori and Anac) are proceeding unitedly to achieve the common goal: the national contract.

### **3. ENTERTAINMENT CODE**

The Ministry of Culture convened WGI together with the most representative associations of the entertainment industry to gather their demands and draft the Entertainment Code in which, for the first time, a section dedicated to authors will be included, to regulate their figure at the institutional level as well.



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#### **4. DEALING WITH PRODUCTION SOCIETIES**

To make the processes of conceiving, writing and making films and TV series more fruitful, WGI is organizing a series of meetings between its members and the editorial managers of production companies. The meetings provide a unique opportunity to bring together the questions of professionals and the needs of production houses, in a sharing process that aims to bring professionalism closer together and soften the edges that different needs may bring out.

#### **5. WGA STRIKE - PICKETING IN ROME**

Like all its European sister unions, WGI also participated in the 14 June initiative in support of the WGA's American scriptwriters' strike.

The initiative was also attended by three colleagues from the US who were present in Rome.

The picket was held at the Casa del Cinema in Rome, the symbolic location of the audiovisual industry in the Italian Capital.

The initiative was well attended and was reported in newspapers, magazines (industry and non-industry) and relaunched by the main press agency.

Thanks also to this initiative, during the recent Roma Film Fest WGI organized a panel on the reasons and outcomes of the strike with the presence of Tony Gerber (writer/director, WGA East) and Laura Blum-Smith (WGA West).

#### **6. WGI'S NETPITCH**

Like every year, WGI organizes a pitching day called Netpitch at the end of 2023, in collaboration with APA - the Italian association of film and TV producers.

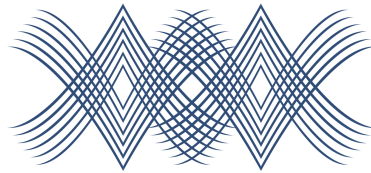
On average, over 500 authors and more than 700 projects between TV series and feature films take part in the initiative, which are selected in a step-by-step process that brings about 100 projects and 200 authors to the one-to-one pitch tables with representatives of the most important Italian production companies.

In addition to offering the opportunity to meet producers to a wide range of screenwriters, often newcomers, Netpitch's main objective is to introduce more transparent rules in contracts between production companies and screenwriters/creators, regulating timing, remuneration, rights and any other sensitive topics in the agreements signed.

In order to take part in the initiative organized by WGI, in fact, production companies must sign a stringent regulation obliging them to respect the contractual parameters discussed and shared.

#### **7. TAX CREDIT**

Wgi took part in the technical table for drafting the new tax credit law. The undersecretary incorporated the notes submitted by Writersguild and made them his own, also communicating them in the press. Writersguild also put up a united front with independent film producers to



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ensure that the changes to the law did not allow rules that would have prevented 40 percent of them from competing for funding.

#### **8. COPYRIGHT DIRECTIVE**

Writersguild took part in the table related to the transposition of the Copyright Directive, wanted by the Guarantor. There it requested that consideration be given not only to the proper transposition of the Directive but also to its protective intent towards Copyright and the authors themselves.

#### **9. WIFT- WOMEN IN FILM AND TV ITALY**

In 2023 Writersguild together with WIFT carried out a series of meetings, the first during the Rome Film Festival 22, entitled "As you want me".

Dealing with female directors, screenwriters and writers, of how the character of the woman is described according to production needs following clichés and prototypes but not reflecting her complexity. The meetings were well received by the public and the press.

On November 25th, Women's Violence Day, WGI together with WIFT and other industry associations will organize a meeting that will have as its theme the male character, and how authors can describe the positive evolution of men in their relationships with women. The title is "Let's change the script".