



Screenwriters' Guild of Latvia, report 2023

The Guild

Screenwriters' Guild of Latvia (SGL) was founded in 2020. At present we have 19 members. In 2023, we have gained one member, but also lost two (one member left because he left the cultural sector, the other because of a sudden death). Not all of the members participate actively in the activities of the SGL, many of them have parallel careers. Observations show that those who are more involved in the SGL are those who work on actual scripts and who deal with contracts, workshop attendance, etc. There is still a lot of mistrust of grassroots organisations in Latvia (probably a legacy from the Soviet Union, where everyone was forced to belong to an organisation from childhood), low volunteerism (the situation has slowly improved in recent years), and the fact that most screenwriters are writer-directors, who mostly choose to join the Latvian Film Directors' Guild and do not yet see the benefits of also joining the SGL. Attempts at collaboration with both the Directors' Guild and the Latvian Film Producers' Association, the largest, most active and influential of the three, are sporadic, mostly due to busy schedules and lack of interest (on the part of the Producers' Association) in issues that are relevant to the SGL.

In order to improve the SGL's capacity, at the end of 2022 we applied to the State Culture Capital Foundation's funding call "Support for non-governmental cultural organisations in the film arts sector for the years 2023-2025", but our application was not funded, which meant that we also had to spend 2023 in full voluntary mode (all the SGL's activities rest mainly on the shoulders of the SGL's chair, including participation in FSE activities).

The SGL has organised regular meetings for its members, where we continue to discuss how to improve the working conditions of screenwriters, how to negotiate contracts with producers (screenwriters still lack knowledge about their rights and how to discuss contracts; they also lack knowledge about how to read contracts) and, more recently, the influence of AI on the creative process. Members receive regular updates on FSE activities, opportunities to apply for script development workshops and the latest news on legislative developments in the audiovisual sector in Latvia. The SGL's annual general meeting and re-election of the board is scheduled for December this year.

FSE Membership

In 2023 the SGL became a candidate member of the FSE and we hope that the FSE General Assembly will vote for the SGL to become a full member of the FSE..



Copyright Directive

Although without the active participation of the SGL, on 23 March 2023 the Latvian Parliament adopted amendments to the Copyright Law, as well as related amendments to the Copyright Collective Management Law, clarifying issues related to copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market, as well as the application of these rights to certain online transmissions and retransmissions of television and radio programmes by broadcasters, thus adopting Directive (EU) 2019/790 on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market.