

FAGA

ACTIVITY REPORT

2023



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INTRODUCTION

The Forum of Audiovisual Screenwriters' Associations (FAGA) is a state-wide federation that brings together five of the six professional organisations. Since its creation in 2007, FAGA has been the instrument that its members have used to guarantee an effective defence of their common interests on their own behalf before their public and private interlocutors at national and European level, a single voice. In total, FAGA represents more than 650 scriptwriting professionals and, due to its structure and structure, it is the only organisation capable of understanding and representing the reality and needs derived from the cultural and linguistic diversity of the different audiovisual industries in Spain.

The members of FAGA are:

GAC (Guionistes Associats de Catalunya), EDAV (Escriptors Valencians de l'Audiovisual), AGAG (Asociación Sindical Galega de Guionistas), EHGEPE (Euskal Herriko Gidoigileen Elkarte Profesionala), PREMISA - Guionistas cinematográficos de Canarias and CINA (Cineastas de Andalucía).

By its very nature and because of the function that its member associations attribute to it, FAGA basically performs a representative, negotiating and connecting function, in which each of the lines of work is conceived as a project in itself, beyond the training, dissemination and assistance activities that it may carry out. In any case, these types of initiatives are always carried out in a complementary manner and without overlapping with those carried out by the member associations, in which the main weight of direct contact with the members.

In 2023, FAGA's activity has been conditioned by the electoral cycle in Spain, which started with the regional elections in May and continued during the second half of the year with the general elections and the investiture



process of the new president of the Government. Until the elections, FAGA has developed an intense political work focused on the development of the Statute of the Artist, the negotiation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the concretion of the direct aids to Scriptwriting with the Ministry of Culture.

The electoral process has brought legislative activity in Spain to a standstill, and FAGA has therefore focused during the second half of 2023 on activities related to its own functioning and on attending to its members.



STATUTE OF THE ARTIST

In the social field, work has focused on the compatibility of the development of cultural activity with the receipt of the different social benefits. Work is also being done to guarantee the representativeness of professional associations before the courts in the event of conflict.

In the area of employment, work has focused on the proposals for contributions for self-employed workers.

From the fiscal point of view, work has been done on the reduction of tax rates, both VAT and personal income tax, for employees and the self-employed in the cultural sector, as well as on a taxation system that is adjusted to the conditions of their intermittency.

In the field of education, the work has focused on the Law on Higher Artistic Education. FAGA, together with other associations in the sector, presented a proposal to the Statute working group for the creation of public Higher Schools of Audiovisual Arts, which was taken up by the Government in the Preliminary Draft of the Law on Superior Artistic Education, whose processing was suspended due to the elections.



COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

FAGA advises the social part of the negotiating table of the III Collective Agreement of the Audiovisual sector, which includes a section on the conditions of hired scriptwriters.

Negotiations were resumed during the first quarter of 2023. FAGA will continue to defend the proposal to update salaries and the 14 annual payments reflected in the proposal presented together with Alma. However, with the elections approaching, the employers unilaterally withdrew in May the proposal for an agreement that ellamimas had presented without the negotiations being able to resume in the second half of the year.



DRAFT BILL ON FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL CULTURE

Last December, the draft bill of the Cinema and Audiovisual Culture Law was approved by the Council of Ministers and sent to the Congress of Deputies for its parliamentary processing. In the first quarter of 2023, the period for the presentation of amendments, both to the totality and partial amendments, is expected to open.

FAGA has collaborated with other organisations in the audiovisual sector to identify areas for improvement in the articles of the law. These observations have been passed on to the spokespersons for Culture of the different parliamentary groups. On the basis of this work, FAGA will focus on providing alternative wording for the articles that it considers can be improved so that they really meet the needs of creators and especially those of the screenwriters' collective. The amendments being worked on focus mainly on issues related to the protection of intellectual property, the defence and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity, and the recovery of aid for scriptwriting.

In this regard, the ICAA has stated its intention to recover them in 2023, after a 12-year absence, bringing them into line with the current film law. To this end, it seems that it will opt to channel them through the autonomous communities. FAGA has already been actively collaborating with the ICAA to advance in this direction and will continue to do so, given that, by its very nature, it is an informative interlocutor.



JUNE 14: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY DAY WITH WGA STRIKE

FAGA has maintained intense activity in support of our WGA colleagues since the first moments of the strike called last March. We made on-line Meetings with de WGA members Xavier Grillo Marxuach and Julia Fontana. Until the October agreement was reached, FAGA has disseminated all the information generated by the WGA, has kept its members informed of the status of the strike and has participated in all support actions.

In this sense, FAGA, as a member of the FSE, was actively involved in the global solidarity day called on June 14. It was the only Spanish organization that called public rallies, responding to the demand of our North American colleagues. A hundred FAGA members demonstrated that day, along with representatives of actors' associations, in Barcelona, Valencia and Santiago de Compostela.



ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

Since the beginning of 2023, FAGA has participated in the different online workshops that FSE has organised together with FERA, the European federation of headmasters and headmistresses and the European trade union UNI-MEI, on collective bargaining tools. This cycle of workshops concluded with a face-to-face one, which took place on 11-12 May in Brussels. FAGA is also taking part in the FSE General Assembly on 9 and 10 November in Brussels.

Moreover, at the last FSE General Assembly, FAGA raised the need to create a working group on the promotion of the cultural and linguistic richness of European audiovisual and the place of small industries with singularities in this field. From this idea came the proposal to organise a working group within the federation. FAGA wants to promote this ESF initiative.

At the same time, and following the interest shown by the FSE in learning about the functioning of FAGA, we believe it would be appropriate to hold a meeting with its management team, which would also serve to bring the federation closer to our associations and their members.



IMPROVING FAGA'S COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Throughout 2023, FAGA has completely revamped its website to adapt it to the current information needs of its members and the screenwriters' collective in general. It has also contracted the services of a Community management company with the aim of improving the presence and flow of information in the conventional media and in the main social networks.



TRAINING, DISSEMINATION AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2023, FAGA promoted the following activities:

- “Cosas de guionistas de andar por casa”: at the end of 2022, FAGA launched a series of online talks on topics of interest to scriptwriters, from specific aspects of the creative process to advice on legal issues, always from a close perspective and with the participation of peers and colleagues from its different associations. The first of these talks dealt with work on daily series and four more are planned for 2023. These talks are streamed for FAGA members and then made available to the general public on the organisation's YouTube channel.
- Mental health campaign for screenwriters: this is a project to which FAGA attaches particular importance after realising the need for the screenwriters' collective to share experiences and address the disorders associated with the creative process. To this end, FAGA has organised five face-to-face talks in Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao, Santiago and Seville in November, in which a scriptwriter will talk to a specialist about the different risks that the profession entails for mental health and an active dialogue will be established with the public.
- Survey on the situation of screenwriting in Spain: FAGA considers it essential to give continuity to the studies carried out in 2004 and 2012, given that since the last edition the audiovisual panorama has changed radically due to the irruption of platforms. Since 2017, FAGA has been working on this new edition of the study, for which it considers it essential to count on the collaboration of all the organisations linked to the screenwriting profession. To this end, it has contacted the Alma union and SGAE, which already participated in the previous edition, and has sought



the involvement of DAMA. The intention is to carry out the study throughout the year in order to present its conclusions at the VIII Encuentro de Guionistas, to be held in Seville in March 2024.

- 70 Teclas: FAGA is part of the 70 Teclas (70 keys) collective, of which it has four participations, which promotes the annual publication of the most interesting scripts of the national scene, both film and series. As it has been doing since its foundation, FAGA will participate this year in the voting to choose the scripts to be published. In this selection, FAGA contributes its knowledge of audiovisual production in the co-official languages of Spain.
- 8-M. and 25-N campaigns: As every year, in 2023 FAGA is actively involved in the commemoration of 8 March, Women's Day, and 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. To this end, it will launch awareness-raising campaigns on social networks.
- VIII ENCUENTRO DE GUIONISTAS: Biennial meeting of the Spanish screenwriters, three days of masterclasses, talks and workshops that gathers more than 300 professionals. We are working in progress for the next Edition which is going to take place next April 11, 12 and 13 in Sevilla.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

EHGEP (Basque Country)

- Audiovisual Literacy Through the Workshops “Being a Scriptwriter”: workshops on the work of a scriptwriter for students from the Salesian School in Donostia and the Solokoetxe Institute in Bilbao.
- Meeting of Basque Women scriptwriters “We are here!”: Under the slogan "We are here!" we organised a meeting with the professionals Julene Aranburu and Alice Waddington moderated by Itxaso Del Castillo. The meeting took place on 9 March in the Auditorium of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics of the UPV Leioa.
- Collaboration with cineclub FAS: Cine Club Fas programmes a film every Tuesday at the same time and once a year EHGEP selects the film to be screened and invites its scriptwriter to participate in a discussion after the screening. On 6 June we screened "Suro" directed by the Basque filmmaker Mikel Gurrea and co-written with Francisco Kosterlitz. After the screening, there was a discussion with Mikel Gurrea.
- Zinemaldia Award for the best Basque Screenplay: For the eighth consecutive year, EHGEP will present the award for the best feature film script produced in the Basque Country at the San Sebastian International Film Festival - Zinemaldia, which took place in September. For the second year also, the award was presented at the Basque Film Gala, which was held at the Victoria Eugenia Theatre by EITB on 26 September.
- Pitch Workshop for Screenwriters: dedicated to professionals who have finished their script and plan to present it to project grants, script competitions, a production company, a market or a television station. So that when they get that meeting they can make a good presentation, as



this can be key to getting the interlocutor to open the door to their story. Taught by Guillermo García-Ramos, teacher and instructor of pitching as well as scriptwriter, director and producer.

GAC (Catalonia)

- Collaboration with the Catalan Film Academy's Screenplay Residence
- Pitching Fòrum de Llargmetratges GAC (GAC Long Film Forum)
- Working on the writing of audiovisual grants
- Collaboration Serielizados Kick
- Reteena Festival Workshop
- Talks:
 - Talk with the winners of the Gaudí Award to best original script and adapted script. Talk at the Americana with Todd Solondz
- PAC talk with Carlota Planas
- Xerrada at Festival de Sitges
- Xerrada with Marina Porras
- Xerrada with the Catalan Corporation of Audiovisual Media

CINA (Andalusia)

- First meeting CINA of andalusian filmmakers and Writers. Sevilla International Film Festival. November 22
- Meeting with the Andalusian Agency of Cultural Institutions to request direct aid for writing (without going through production companies) as a result of the 14.5 million that the ICAA will offer to the autonomous communities for development.
- Lunch in Seville sponsored by SGAE to talk about the association and the need for associationism in Andalusia. A meeting with a positive balance of new colleagues interested in joining the association.

AGAG (Galicia)

- Tutorials for Women Scriptwriters: Duration October 2023- March 2024. On line. aimed at women with an original project in Galician, with a free theme, for a feature film, series or television shows. AGAG selected, in this second edition, a total of 6 projects, 3 for long films (by Sara Casasnovas, Anita Pico and Natalia Porca), 2 for series (by Bea Saiáns and Lucía Estévez) and 1 for a TV programme (Carmen García). The titorías are to be developed in line, with a duration of 6 months, from October 2023 to March 2024. They consist of a monthly meeting (up to a total of 6) to accompany the writing process of the selected projects and to advise their authors from a professional point of view. The tutors were chosen in line with the projects presented and according to their professional profile and experience in the sector: Daniel D. García, Purificación Seixido, Paula Cons, Jacobo Díaz, Sonia Méndez and Inés Colmeiro.
- V Daniel Dominguez Award for Scripts in Galician Language: 13th December. Venue: SGAE Foundation. Santiago de Compostela.
- Course "From. Script to Film" with Fernando Tato: in February we carried out an acting course for scriptwriters, directors and actors and actresses given by Fernando Tato. This initiative seeks to break the bubble that separates the different professions, which despite being the legs of the same table, sometimes speak very different languages. Through "From script to film", scriptwriters learn to build characters with more background, and will refine their dialogue writing, as they will be able to work in contact with actors and directors.
- Workshop 'TV Series' with Lidia Fraga: during the month of August, on Saturdays, many members had an appointment with Lidia Fraga through the online workshop "Script of series" given by the latter. This was aimed at scriptwriters with or without experience, in order to continue expanding the training offer that we develop throughout the year. The course was an



introduction to topics such as the creation of characters, narrative structures, the importance of dialogue and the omission of dialogue.

- Meetings CONECTA - CREA, Galician Association of Directing and Filmmaking Professionals: Conecta+ is a tool to put in contact Galician creators -with projects in the development phase-, with producers (both Galician and from the rest of Spain) who may be interested in developing these projects; through a one-to-one meeting. We have been collaborating for more than ten years and, edition after edition, we appreciate the value of this commitment and how beneficial it is for both associations. I+P IDEAS TO PRODUCE - Galician Audiovisual Cluster. Format similar to Conecta, more aimed at creators and producers, but which includes a pitching session prior to the meetings with the production companies. In the 17th edition, corresponding to this 2023, we collaborate as always applying a discount to the members who want to participate.
- EWC Activities: AGAG collaborated with AGADIC in two activities of the European Writer Club that had a stop in Ourense. A day with some of AGAG's members of renowned experience in fiction, such as Araceli Gonda, Pepe Coira, Alba Araújo, Manuel Darriba and Raquel Arias to talk with international creators about the 'glocal' concept, very present in Galician series of international relevance. The masterclass, open to the public, *Máis aló do obvio: un novo enfoque para a concepción de la historia*, addressed the process of writing and developing the script through the method designed by the prestigious training centre Le Groupe Ouest, with its director, Antoine le Bos at the front.
- MEDIA Programme talk: Within the framework of #GaliciaProFilme, we organised a talk, together with AGADIC, on the European MEDIA sub-programme as a tool for working on screenwriting and directing. The session was given by Peter Andermatt, who explained how to optimise our dossiers when applying for funding. Crea and Agapi also collaborated in the event.



- Straight grants for screenwriting: From AGAG we are fighting so that we have direct aid for screenplays in our community. Something that is also supported thanks to our joint work with FAGA. We want to have aids comparable to other communities and that these costs do not end up in other existing aids that are not so favourable for screenwriters.

EDAV (Valencia)

- ANNUAL SURVEY OF EDAV'S MEMBERS: Survey to detect the working and gender situation and conditions of our members. The survey is carried out annually and is completely anonymous, and approximately 60% of members have responded to it since we started to carry it out in 2019.
- COLLABORATION WITH THE "SERIES NOSTRUM" FESTIVAL IN ALTEA (14-23 April 2023): Participation in the professional activities for scriptwriters of this edition within the section "Created by" coordinated by Borja González Santaolalla. A conversation on the figure of the scriptwriter and creator, the current situation of the profession, the main challenges it faces. Luis Eduardo Pérez Cuevas, Secretary of the Board of Directors of EDAV, represented the association in this activity.
- COLLABORATION WITH LAB DE SERIES (25 - 30 April 2023): Since its creation in 2019, EDAV has been collaborating with the LAB DE SERIES Festival, a festival that brings together screenwriters, directors, specialised critics, industry professionals and fans in Valencia to analyse the role and impact of series on issues such as diversity, pandemics, robotics and the future. The central theme is the analysis of the series that have triumphed in the last year.
- EDAV AWARD FOR BEST VALENCIAN SHORT FILM SCRIPT IN COLLABORATION WITH HUMANS FEST, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL (1 - 9 June 2023)

- **IX ONE TO ONE EVENT OF EDAV AND THE SGAE FOUNDATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF PROMERCAT:** Pitch & one-to-one meetings event for audiovisual projects that brings together authors with producers, channels or platforms, with the aim of giving visibility and facilitating the launch of their projects. Includes pitch workshop for participating scriptwriters. EDAV and the SGAE Foundation, through its Territorial Council of the Valencian Community, are organising the One to One conference for the ninth consecutive year, for the second time within the framework of ProMercat. Twelve film and television projects have been selected from among forty-nine submitted in this call for proposals.
- **A SCREENWRITER'S WORD: Palabra de Guionista** is an event that aims to give a voice to screenwriters so that they can talk about their experience of the whole process of writing a project, from the initial idea to the premiere, including the development phase, rewrites, shooting, etc. This year the event has the collaboration of DAMA. We hold two sessions: one during the first half of the year and a second one in December with the winner of the Premi Berlanga for the best screenplay.
- **LA TRACA** (awards ceremony: 5 October 2023): National competition for comedy feature film scripts, the only one of its kind in Spain, organised in collaboration with the Town Council of L'Elia, the Institut Valencià de Cultura and Filmmarket Hub. This year it celebrates its fifth edition.
- **HOW MUCH IS YOUR JOB WORTH?** A talk to inform informally about economic aspects of the profession. Although it is obviously important and generates a lot of interest, in general there is a lot of ignorance about what authors' work is worth.
- **INFORMATIVE TALKS WITH SGAE SPECIALIST LAWYERS:** At the Sala SGAE Centre Cultural de València, a series of talks on intellectual property and the changes brought about by the Artist's Statute. These talks will



address issues of interest to EDAV members, such as the intellectual property rights of screenwriters, ownership of ideas, co-authorship, exploitation rights, moral rights, remuneration rights, limits, assignments, pre-existing works and other basic aspects to be taken into account when contracting. Aspects of the Artist's Statute that directly concern the screenwriters' collective will also be addressed.