

Flemish Screenwriters Guild - Activities Report 2022

1. General info

The Flemish Screenwriters Guild (*Vlaamse Scenaristengilde vzw*) was founded in 2003. We currently have 113 full members, and 87 aspiring members.

Our board meets once a month. The board consists of voluntary professional screenwriters with different backgrounds in film and/or TV. Since 2013 this board is supported by a part-time staff-member responsible for daily management and representation, and who is the central contact of our guild. Since May 2020 the board is also supported with a part-time legal counsel.

Through our weekly newsletter, our website and social media we communicate about Flemish industry events. The staff member serves as the first point of contact: he answers questions and provides information. Our website not only delivers news items, it enlists all members and serves as a knowledge center that provides online content. Some of the content is public, some is for members only.

We have representatives to maintain a friendly dialogue with different organizations including two collecting societies (SABAM and deAuteurs), the Flemish Film Fund (VAF), the Director's Guild, the Producer's Guild, the coordinating Flemish Authors Society, our Belgian film festivals (Ghent, Ostend, the Short Film Festival in Leuven, Anima, Docville), politicians, educational partners and of course the FSE.

2. Current affairs

2.1 Lobbying

The main lobbying activity we had in 2022 concerned the transposition of the **Copyright directive and collective bargaining**. The directive was transposed into Belgian law on June 19 2022. It is an almost literal translation of the directive itself.

The law introduces the principle of collective agreements. Since the adoption of the law, we have been trying to reach agreements with the Union of Directors and the Flemish Producer's Organization regarding the various points in the new law, such as the transparency obligation and the right of withdrawal. The intention is that these agreements will then be ratified by the king and will apply to the entire sector. All parties are convinced that this is a much-needed step in the further professionalization of the sector.

However, no agreements have yet been concluded.

Also: on January 31, 2023, several petitions for annulment were filed with the Constitutional Court regarding the non-transferable compensation right. This case may take several years to be handled. The guild has, together with the other professional and collective management organizations, interfered in the process and is waiting for a decision.

In addition, the new **tax treaty** of copyright and the **investment obligation** were also negotiated.

2.2 Working in the Arts

We have been participating in numerous meetings on the reform of the social status of the artist in Belgium. A **new artwork certificate** will be enrolled in 2024. This gives artists many social benefits and will be awarded by a newly composed Artwork Committee. More information about Working in the Arts can be found [here](#).

2.3 Working group on cross-border behavior + gender and cultural inclusion

The Guild is part of the **Working Group on Deontological Code and Cross-Border Behavior**. Two of our board members participated in the GOG Consultation Platform.

In 2021, these meetings resulted in an action plan to address, prevent and combat cross-border behavior within the sector. In 2022, the Social Charter Consultation Platform for the Media Sector met again for further follow-up.

In addition, the Guild is represented in the **Steering Committee**, which will meet twice a year and focuses on the baseline measurement that took place in 2022 regarding the composition, accessibility and potential discrimination within the media sector and the respective courses. This Steering Group will meet for the first time in 2023.

2.4 Events

While we had to move to a virtual world for almost all events in 2021, the world opened its doors again in 2022. The **Away Day**, the annual get-together of our board members to evaluate and discuss our strategy, approach and objectives, still took place online. But our other evenings - our **General Meeting** at Cartoon's cinema, the **Script2Screen** evening at the RITCS, our **Serial Day at Film Fest Gent** and our **pitch events at the Brussels Short Film Festival and the Short Film Festival Leuven** – took place live again, as they should. We bring colleagues together, introduce the public to them and link them to producers during speed dates and pitching sessions.

We also organized, together with Film Festival Ostend, deAuteurs and the Union of Directors, a **Screenwriter in Focus day at Film Festival Ostend**, where we held three panel discussions entirely dedicated to the screenwriter. All conversations were recorded and offered as a podcast to our member on our website.

And **at the Animation Festival AniMA**, we organized a **Belgian Animation Rendez-Vous**, where we try to pair screenwriters and directors/animators to work on a project together and pitch that project to an audience of producers and professionals a year later.