



# Flemish Screenwriters Guild - Activities Report 2023

## 1. General info

The Flemish Screenwriters Guild (*Vlaamse Scenaristengilde vzw*) was founded in 2003. In 2023 we had 105 full members, and 106 aspiring members.

Our board meets once a month. The board consists of voluntary professional screenwriters with different backgrounds in film and/or TV. The board is supported by a part-time staff-member responsible for daily management and representation and 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 members only.

We have representatives to maintain a friendly dialogue with different organizations including two collecting societies (SABAM and deAuteurs), the Flemish Film Fund, 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 FSE.

## 2. Current affairs

### *2.1 Lobbying*

We participate and try to initiate meetings with the director's and producer's organizations with the aim of concluding **collective agreements**, regarding amongst others transparency. However, these negotiations were put on hold last year and need to be resumed as soon as possible.

Other important dossiers we worked on in 2023 include those concerning **the social status of the author, the collection of cinema rights in theaters, and the obligation to invest in audiovisual content** by parties making money of this content.

### *2.2 Recognition as arts federation and Working in the arts*

The Screenwriters Guild was officially recognized as an arts federation in 2023. This recognition is part of the establishment of a **new Artist Committee** and the improvement of the social protection of artists. The social status of authors/artists has been completely reformed with the enrollment of a **new artist certificate** and came into effect in January 2024. This artist certificate provides numerous specific social benefits and is granted by the Artist Committee. The Committee is composed of art experts, half of whom are proposed by the arts federations. Through its recognition, the guild was also able to nominate an expert.

### *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*

We started 2023 with our **Away Day**, our annual thinking day for board members, in Brussels. Our regular events were also on last year's agenda: the **General Meeting** in Cartoon's cinema, the **Script2Screen** evening in the RITCS, our **Serial Day at Film Fest Gent** (this time we focused on documentaries and a panel discussion about A.I.) and our **pitch events at the Brussels Short Film Festival and the Short Film Festival Leuven** on the one side and the **Belgian Animation Rendez-Vous at the Animation Festival AniMA** on the other. We bring colleagues together, introduce the public to them and link them to producers during speed dates and pitch sessions.

Next to this, we brought **Jim Capobianco** (*Ratatouille, Up, Inside Out, The Lion King*) to the **AniMa Festival** for a highly appreciated masterclass.

We were also involved in organizing the very first **Streamz Academy**, a new talent development program that give a new generation of creators the opportunity to further develop their skills and gain experience in a professional context. The final winner will get to create a high-end Streamz Original.

Finally, we launched the first season of our own **podcast series 'Third Act Problems'**: a podcast by and about Flemish screenwriters. Several screenwriters were asked about their writing journey and the obstacles they had to overcome.