



Screenwriters' Guild of Latvia
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Screenwriters' Guild of Latvia, report 2024

The Screenwriters' Guild of Latvia (SGL) was founded in 2020. Currently we have 19 members. SGL has no office. Being a small industry, there is no division between screenwriters according to type of works they create. Not all members actively participate in SGL activities, many of them have parallel careers. Observations show that those who are more involved in the SGL are those who work on actual scripts, work as lecturers and deal with contracts, participation in workshops, 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 cooperation with both the Directors' Guild and the Latvian Film Producers' Association, the largest and 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 relevant to the SGL. We've heard of only a few cases where writers have managed to sign the standard contract drafted by the SGL.

In order to improve the capacity of the SGL, at the end of 2023 we applied to the State Cultural Capital Foundation's funding call "Support for non-governmental cultural organisations in the film arts sector for the years 2024-2025". Our application was accepted and we received the funds to cover the FSE fee and a symbolic salary for the Guild coordinator (a total of 2200 euros). All SGL activities rest mainly on the shoulders of the SGL chairperson, including participation in FSE activities.

In 2024, the SGL has continued to organise regular meetings for its members, where we continue to discuss how to improve screenwriters' working conditions, how to negotiate contracts with producers (screenwriters still lack knowledge of their rights and how to discuss contracts; they also lack knowledge of how to read contracts) and, more recently, the influence of AI on the creative process. One of the problems we face, as do many



professionals working in the film industry, is the lack of film lawyers in Latvia, there is no one competent in this field.

Guild 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 annual general meeting of the FSE is scheduled for December this year.