



WRITERS GUILD ITALIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

WHERE WE WERE

In the last few years Italian audiovisual industry was deeply impacted by the general crisis. Investments decreased dramatically. A huge percentage of screenwriters got unemployed, lots of them simply change their occupation.

In this environment, Writers Guild Italia tried at its best to obtain new opportunities for Italian screenwriters. Our goal was – and is – to change the producers' and broadcasters' approach to the industry.

WHAT WE DID

Last year WGI activity has been intense and, partly, very successful.

1. Politics

Italian Parliament purposed a new audiovisual industry law.

WGI President Carlo Mazzotta and delegate Massimo Martella made a great lobby job to five members of the Parliament, who support our requests.

The starting proposal was a good law, “copied” from the French one, but it has changed a lot during the usual bargain in the Parliament.

Thanks to WGI delegates hard work we saved the most important option for screenwriters: as soon as the law will be approved (by the end of this year, hopefully) there will be funds dedicated to the writers.

Since now any public money had to be assigned to the producers, even if they were supposed to support a script development. From now those money should be requested – and assigned – directly to the writers.

The law was just approved by one of the two assemblies in the Italian Parliament.

2. Industry

In order to change the producers' approach to the screenwriters and focus the audiovisual industry on the scripts, WGI made an agreement with AgPCI – a producers' organization.

Together, screenwriters and producers will organize three pitch sessions per year, divided into TV series pitches (in December), theatrical movies (in March), and international/coproduction projects (in June).

The first June session was a great success, with over than 150 projects presented

by authors, and 250 "10 minutes pitch meetings" with more than 40 producers.

In the meantime, WGI organized a pitch day during Nordic Film Festival in Rome, where Italian screenwriters met Scandinavian producers and audiovisual industry potential partners.

It's just a start, but any long trip starts with the first step.

3. WGI CoWorking

Since December WGI created a co-working office in Rome.

Close to the public broadcaster headquarters, and to almost all the producers' offices, the 8 desks WGI co-working has become a place where members can find a peaceful area to work and concentrate but also a meeting point to share ideas or have a coffee.

By evening and week-ends the Co-Working is the place where WGI organizes meetings between screenwriters to talk about each other's experiences, to help the encounter between young authors and expert ones, to hold conferences and masterclasses.

This year we had – between the others – James V. Hart, "Hook" and F.F.Coppola's "Dracula" author.

WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO

There will be so much to do, in Italy, in the next years.

WGI is going to follow the audiovisual industry law approval in the Parliament.

We're going to make new pitch agreements with other producers' organizations.