

International response to COVID-19 shared between TEMPO members

Australia

As an organization, The Australian Screen Editors have moved to stop all face to face meetings, Q&A's and screenings, doing as much as we can online.

Individually many of our members have been affected as productions close down, and their work has suddenly stopped, or will soon stop.

This is a concern for us as in this country, although we have a very good medical system, our government's support for the Arts is minimal, and our society on the whole has a large sector engaged in contractual work.

We are also joining with our Producers and union who are doing surveys across the industry to ascertain how widespread job losses are and the effects on individuals.

There will then be lobbying to the government to get them to understand the unique difficulties our industry face.

The government is offering packages to support small business such as loans and cash handouts, but contract workers and casuals are not going to benefit from the incentives offered at this stage.

We are seeing increasing lockdowns, we are banned from going to the beach, pubs and sports venues. Restaurants can only do takeaway and cinemas are to close from 10am tomorrow.

I now have all of my family working from home, except for myself, as my job has been cancelled....

The ASE has a newsletter, website and Facebook page where we are trying to keep our members updated with what our industry partners are doing, and so we can lend support to the campaigns.

We are pleased that both Adobe and Avid have offered solutions for working from home that give savings on their products too.

I am very interested to know how you and your governments are approaching this situation, and how we can help our freelancers who could be out of work for a very long time, as we are 18 months or so away from a vaccine.

From an otherwise beautiful warm day in sunny Australia!

Fiona Strain, ASE
President, Australian Screen Editors

Switzerland – Lockdown since March 16

Many Editors have moved work to their homes, others have lost their jobs due to shootings being cancelled or postponed.

Our Association collects information on all jobs cancelled or postponed and is in dialogue with producers associations and umbrella organizations (e.g. suisseculture)

Most commonly, people here work in short term employments and so can apply for unemployment money. About 10 years ago, a system was set up that should make it easier for freelancers to reach the necessary amount of work days needed to apply: for each short term contract you enter into, the first 60 days count double (so a 2-week employment counts as 4 weeks, a 20-week employment counts as 20 + 12 weeks). Due to the current situation, the relevant time frame, in which work days are counted, has been extended by 2 years.

Both the federal government, as well as local administrations have announced financial support for freelancers, artists. In the case of the federal government this support has turned out to be largely insufficient, because the compensation is only payed to for people who are directly affected, meaning that it is impossible for them to both do their job and comply with restrictions eg. cancelled concerts, exhibitions and film shooting. All those who endure damages as a result are not included. There are several petitions going around in an effort to remedy this.

The local administrations are still trying to figure out the guidelines for who gets support and who doesn't. In Zurich, a fund was set up a couple of days ago to give emergency help to those who are self-employed.

Also, the institution that distributes royalties in Switzerland (suissimage) has an emergency help fund for members. It has existed for a long time, so it is not directly connected to the Corona-Situation. Still it may prove to be a valuable resource for those, who cannot get any other support.

Ireland - Lockdown since March 16

Greetings from Dublin, where we have been in lockdown for over a week now. All non-essential services are suspended, and where possible people are working from home. Any productions that were either in place or scheduled to start have been postponed indefinitely, so as a result quite a few of our members have lost work. Some are able to work from home, and we have been giving advice and guidance to those that need it. We've also been circulating details of offers available from Avid and Adobe that are geared towards helping people to set up a home edit system

The government has announced a social welfare payment system for anyone that has lost work as a result of the virus/lockdown and we are sending out information to everyone to ensure they know how to avail of this support.

Finally we have suspended all our planned events, and we've moved the renewal date for membership of ISE from February to September so that nobody has membership fees (however small) to be concerned about at this time.

Hopefully this will soon pass and normality will return. In the meantime, stay safe and wash your hands.

Eoin.

Chair, Irish Screen Editors

Denmark - Lockdown since March 16

From an organizational pov we from the board are meeting online and are working together with the other organizations and unions to make sure that our members are going to be able to get economical support in these challenging times.

We have send out a collective letter to the ministry of Culture and Finance to emphasize The challenges of all filmmakers in Denmark.

Right now, it seems that most of the freelance editors (& fellow filmmakers) are able to get some form of support either via unemployment benefits or otherwise via a monthly fee for those who run their own businesses. However, all of these solutions are still under negotiation and not final.

We expect that there might be some unforeseen gaps in these help models from the government, and that a part of the editors will be going to have some very difficult times to survive economically.

We are prepping a short survey to get an overview of our members expected loss, and we are continuing our collaboration with The Danish directors, photographers, and the two different unions to hopefully get The best support for all of us.

We feel lucky that we are Living in a country where there is a possibility for help, but we do not yet know how this is going to affect us in the long run.

Our biggest concern is about post corona time. How are we going to deal with the formant of editors when projects can start again? Many productions Will not be able to work together with the editor who was planned etc. etc.

Our events are on pause or are happening online.

The international documentary film festival had to recreate their whole festival online, when it got hit by lockdown only one week before the opening.

The Danish film Institute and Danish broadcast are doing what they Can to offer online services, with a special and Big focus on children.

Giusy

President of Dansk Filmklipperselskab

Netherlands

Yes, all of this feels very unreal. Holland has closed schools and restaurants (safe for takeaway/delivery), and while we are not (yet) in full lockdown, many of us have locked ourselves down. Unfortunately, not everyone seems to realize the importance of it all, so there are still way too many people gathering in parks and on the beach — even fun shopping. Our NCE did not have any gatherings planned for now, but any meetings will be done via conference calling.

All shoots have been paused and/or postponed. Some of us are able to work from home, using remote collaboration tools. Many of us are helping each other figure out how to set these up. Obviously, others are seeing up to 5 months of work and income disappear.

Our government, like many others, has issued measures for businesses and small businesses. Our organization is part of a larger group of organizations in the field of Arts & Culture, called the Creative Coalition. This coalition is currently in close contact with the ministry in an effort to try and set up an additional emergency fund for our field. Thereto, the coalition has been gathering information on the expected size of the current and future damages.

On our NCE Members Facebook Group, and on The Avid Editors of Facebook Group, there have are threads about people setting up ways to share screens via Zoom, using regular screen sharing, or using Blackmagic Design's Web Presenter. Or Evercast, which is amazing but a bit more costly.

Love,
Job

Job ter Burg
President, NCE Netherlands association of Cinema Editors

Belgium Lockdown since March 16

Thanks for sharing,

In Belgium lockdown is going in his 2nd week. Most shootings have been interrupted... Belgian editors also try to work as much as possible from home.

As is in some other countries, the Belgian authorities have taken some measures to help employees and freelancers. But we're all afraid it will last for quiet some time before companies will reinvest in movies and culture. Our film business is partly based on a tax shelter system. If this collapses (which is now) it might take some time to recover.

Stay home and healthy,

Philippe from Belgium

Spain

In Spain the situation is quite dramatic. We are just behind China and Italy as the third country in terms of death toll and contagion speed. Colleges and universities closed on Wednesday the 11th and on Friday the 13th the state of alarm was declared throughout the country. Just as in Italy, only supermarkets and pharmacies are open and you can only go outside to go shopping for basic products or walk the dog.

This morning our Prime Minister announced that the state of alarm is extended for the time being until April 14. Hotels have closed to become field hospitals, as well as exhibition centres and city fairgrounds, the national health service is absolutely overwhelmed and it is expected that this week will be quite worse. Everything seems like a bad dream and going out on the street at times is similar to *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Omega Man* or *The Day the Earth Stood Still*.

The situation is an economic debacle for most sectors, but especially for culture. Here all the filming and TV shows have stopped (except for a few that the presenters shoot directly from their homes) and the projects that were planned for the next months have been postponed with no date.

Some editors have managed to continue working from home but for many others it has meant dismissal. Many companies are carrying out ERTES (Temporary Employment Regulation Files, in this instance the worker goes into unemployment for as long as it has been considered that the activity will be suspended) and the group of film and television professionals is one of the most affected. The government has not provided any specific aid for either the self-employed or cultural professionals. The situation of freelance or self-employed workers is the most critical, since all the projects are being cancelled and they do not have any protection.

At AMAE we had just started the registration of new members on Friday the 6th, a few days before the state of alarm was declared across the country. This situation has caused enrolments to drop quite a bit due to people's fear of not knowing what their work situation will be in the coming months. Just last night we had a Board meeting (virtual, of course) and we decided to contact the rest of the associations and union to introduce ourselves and see if a joint action can be made to claim help for our sector. We have also cancelled all our events and face-to-face projects. The unemployment benefits system is closed and will be for several weeks. They are looking at how to manage that people do all the paperwork online and be able to access benefits but for now it is collapsed.

We think it is a great idea to be able to share the situation we are experiencing in each country, thank you Fiona for doing it.

I hope that this situation ends as soon as possible but the most important thing is that we all continue to be well. We will get out of this although nothing will be the same after this.

We send you lots of kisses and hugs from Madrid.

Irene Blecua
President, AMAE

France Lockdown since March 10

Many thanks to all of you for sharing this. I feel that we are, more or less, experiencing the same difficulties, the same uncertainty and the same strategic responses.

In France, we were advised to lockdown 10 days ago, but it got official only a week ago. Since then, our government never ceased to send mixed signals to the population (for starters: pubs, restaurants, movie theaters were abruptly closed the night before an election was held and maintained in the whole country).

The cultural sector, as many others, was severely hit by the crisis. The government promised every business to take over most of the partial unemployment costs during the lockdown, but since most of us are contractually employed by a production at the last minute (or worse, never signing a contract before the production ends), we are very exposed and will most likely not benefit at all from this measure. For now, it seems like our employers are counting on the specific unemployment system of our sector, which usually covers a part of our income between two jobs, as long as we worked enough hours each year. We already obtained to "freeze" these unemployment benefits as long as the lockdown will last, but many specifics are yet to be discussed and clarified. And we're very concerned for those of us who were not yet, or not anymore in the system, thus inevitably left aside, which we can't accept. As far as the independent workers are concerned, a few assistance measures and subsidies were announced (to my knowledge, not specific to our sector), but I unfortunately fear it will be far from enough and will left them particularly insecure too.

As an organization, LMA obviously stopped meeting in person, and we're forwarding to our extended contact list (not just our members) every relevant news concerning the situation. As most of you did, we also collected data about every suspended or cancelled editing, and so did our unions. We shared this data with all the other professional associations, and signed a common letter to the ministry of Culture to put a light on our specific situation and concerns.

These are only the first steps, and it's very difficult to anticipate all the repercussion this will have on our industry. We'll have to adjust the negotiations along the way and mostly make sure not to leave behind the most precarious of us, which unfortunately are always the same.

I feel it's very fortunate and uplifting that we have this international group of discussion going on, and that TEMPO was born a few months ago. What an opportunity to help and inspire each other, to share experience, to defend our beloved profession. Thank you so much to all of you for your time, your ideas and your comforting words of support. I hope you and your families are staying safe and getting through this as peacefully as possible.

All the best from Paris,
Baptiste
President LMA

Argentina (1/2) Lockdown since March 16

Luckily in Argentina the lockdown was a week ago with only 50 infected people.

I'm CCing Guille Gatti, the vice-president of EDA that can explain better the measures of the government to help our area in this crisis.

In EDA we are paying attention to the psychological part of the quarantine (the isolation). This weekend we have been doing virtual meetings via ZOOM (for beers, having lunch, breakfast, etc) with members of EDA. And we are all the time taking about how are we feeling.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus brings a worldwide economic crisis in their hands but as other colleagues said, the good thing its that we are connected and inspiring each other. Hope all of you are doing well facing this pandemic and surreal time.

Mercedes Oliveira (Board Member EDA)

Argentina (2/2) Lockdown since March 16

In EDA We have stopped all of our gatherings or moved them to ZOOM.

Just like in many of your countries, we are in lockdown, suggested 7 days ago since our schools are closed and effective to every citizen in Argentina since last friday to March 31, but no one really believes that the lockdown will end that day.

Part of the presidential decree declared mass media production as an ESSENTIAL SERVICE to the population, so the TV Channels and many Tv production houses are still open and working normally, but with strict health guidelines. The TV workers Union it's very active in communicating this sort of things.

On the other hand all Film, publicities and fictionalized tv series had been halted, with no timeline to return production in the near future. The production house I work on is part of NBC Universal and the word it's that all production is in full stop at least till May 15th, but probably longer.

Wich leaves all of our EDA associates in a very precarious situation, since we don't have a good enough unemployment system in place in our country.

Thankfully the current goverment is much more culture oriented that the one we had till last year, but the country it's financially bankrupetd and much more oriented in keeping the health system up to the task that any other thing. So... we don't really know what's gonna happen with us.

BAFICI the Buenos Aires Film Festival wich takes place in late April has not yet been suspended, with many believing that it will be held online. Many film directors and producers have liberated their films for free or for as little as 2 dollars, and [CINE.AR](#) the official platform for Argentinian cinema has liberated many movies for free and others for as little as 30 pesos (0.40 euro)

I'm glad TEMPO it's in place, it give us hope and much needed information of what's happening around the world.

Guille Gatti
(Vice President EDA)

Finland

Greetings from Finland. We come a bit later - both this reply and the virus! - but for sure are catching up the rest of the world.

The whole country starts to be in lockdown more or less, but e.g. schools for the smallest kids are still open. Also many restaurants are still running their businesses. Obviously everybody who's able/allowed to work at home is already doing that, and the national regulations seem to go towards more strict in the near future.

Us in film business are getting news of postponed productions every day, I've personally lost the works for next autumn.

At the moment I am editing a drama at a cottage in the middle of nowhere, hoping that me and my family will not get sick.

As if the corona wasn't enough, just a few weeks back the directors', screenwriters' and actors' guilds teamed up to announce that they try cut down the copyright compensations of all other groups: editors, cinematographers, sound designers, production designers and costume designers. Editor's compensation is 3% for a fiction film now. So, this means we at F.C.E. might have to start organizing ourselves in that sense too, and also probably start to re-think the structure of our own association which is very small and exclusive (only 22 members, credits for minimum 5 features required).

I try to gather more information from Finnish editors for tomorrow's zoom-meeting.
Keep calm and carry on!

Joona Louhivuori F.C.E
chair, Finnish Cinema Editors

Italy

You all know the situation in Italy: we have been in lockdown for more than a month, half of the country for a month and the other half for 15 days.

The measures have been made more and more restrictive as the days go by. Today's news is that the total lockdown measures will be made extendable until July 31.

The productions have been suspended: the sets have all been blocked, while some post production already in continuous operation from home, with many difficulties (data sharing, Mix realizations for the works near the end, 24fps timeline exchange system).

For the rest, a lot of people have lost their jobs, and the stop of the sets will cause overlaps and complications that will cause many projects to blow up when there will be the resumption.

Also in Italy, the news production for TV is the only industry working full time right now. The government is taking a number of measures, for now we consider them a little weak. In principle, they are reducing the number of working days needed to access the subsidy between jobs and they are increasing the funds made available for the entertainment industry. But all grants will be granted until the funds are exhausted.

They have set a quota of €600 for entertainment workers for the month of March alone. Something similar for small businesses also .

It is still necessary to understand well how to access these economic measures, and whether they can be combined with the measures provided for ordinary citizens (babysitting support, parental leave, family support).

As AMC we are following the work of the trade unions and together with other associations in the sector we are putting pressure on the government to get adequate support. At the moment the priority is certainly health care.

In the future, it will be important to get long-term economic support to really support the recovery.

However, I'm fine and the whole AMC board is doing well too.

Here the situation is difficult and very strange.

In Rome there is a silence never heard, day and night, and the police pass through the streets with loudspeakers saying not to leave the house: it seems an apocalyptic movie!

My family is in the middle of the epicenter, between Brescia and Bergamo, they are locked in the house, and people around them have been in hospital, and beyond, but for now they are all fine, my three children, my brother, his wife, and my father who is 91 years old. So everything's fine.

Please, stay home too! It is the only way to stop the virus. And luckily we have the internet!!!!

Kisses MGrazia

Vice President AMC

Sweden

It is truly hard to grasp how this pandemic has changed the world as we know it, in just a few weeks time. It is also obvious that we all have similar experiences and worries to deal with, unfortunately some much worse than others.

In Sweden we've been noticed for taking a little different route in dealing with the pandemic so far and we are still free to meet in public. All the pre-schools and schools for kids up to 15 years of age have stayed open, but High schools, Universities and all higher educations are closed and now run their education on distance.

The government and The Public Health Agency in Sweden, recommend as many people as possible going to work in order to keep things running, but at the same time avoid as much social contact as possible. In other countries this strategy is more or less viewed as if we are naive and reckless. But experts and politicians are united in that they don't want too many people who work in hospitals, with health care, the police or in other professions with vital functions for the society, to stay home and take care of their kids.

However restrictions to meet in groups with more than 500 people are in place and general recommendations are that people who are able, should work from home and avoid visiting their elders. So far there are "only" 2272 confirmed cases and 36 people dead by the virus here. But since peoples habits of travel or going out for lunch or a visit to the local theatre have basically stopped here as well, one could say that "a self regulatory system" are set in motion and this has hit many many people hard who work with entertainment, transports, food, travel etc.

Economically experts, now fear that the society in general can't handle this situation for a very long time. Businesses have already had to let thousands of people go and many industries are already in ruins. People with day jobs, who are often not members of any of the unions, have suddenly no income at all. On this matter a former Deputy Governor of The Riksbank was on TV the other day and screamed to the reporter that "since so much that keep things running have suddenly just stopped (!) we will soon go into a recession where it will be 20-40% unemployment and it will be much worse than during the Great Depression in the early 1930ths! it is not matter of months, it is weeks, perhaps only days away"...

In this context it is hard to say that the film industry is more affected than any other businesses. But of course there are many freelancers and people with small companies that will have a hard time in the coming period, as jobs and films are cancelled due to the corona virus. For myself I have lost a couple of jobs already and now aim to work with documentary projects that most probably will have financial support by the public broadcasting company SVT and The Swedish Film Institute. Luckily there are some options for me on this front at the moment. For my colleagues who mostly work with drama, things look a little bit worse. The window to decide to shoot new movies are closing down rapidly (partly because of we also have such a short summer here when many films have to have their outdoor scenes shot) and of course that mean less jobs in post in a few months time.

In order to help, The ministry of Culture and Art has issued that it will soon be extra grants available to everyone that work in various film- and art professions. This money will

foremost be handled by The board of Art and The Film Institute, from where everyone will be able to apply as soon as the regulations are set.

There are also a lot of new suggestions on by the government how to reduce different taxes and help out with loans for companies and smaller businesses. But so far there have been few political suggestions how to really help on an individual level. Hopefully this will come soon.

The Swedish Editor association have not had any collective strategy so far but I will forward your various strategies to our next board meeting. We might even copy LMA:s way of writing a common letter to the ministry of Culture and Art.

Stay safe and take care of your loved ones.

Best,
Tell

Hungary

On the 12th March after Trump speech all of the US films' crew left Hungary within 24 hours. In the next days UK and German crews also left Budapest.

Every single foreign film & commercials which was shoot in Budapest has been stopped or postponed. Most of the Hungarian films were in preproduction but they postponed them.

In Hungary the Government, like many other European government are taking over the unemployment cost, companies don't have to pay contributions till the end of the year and helping the freelancers more or less because it's not clear how. Especially the art & cultural sector (like we) worry about how will the Government handle with 10.000 unemployed freelancer (artist, filmmaker etc.) So more or less they work with the same provisions like in other EU countries but there is an unusual difference to other EU countries. You might heard about it.

Here is it: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/23/hungary-to-consider-bill-that-would-allow-orban-to-rule-by-decree>

I think it's not necessary even in this situation and the citizens worry about it.

Schools, universities, restaurants, museum, theatres etc. are closed from last week. Just pharmacies and groceries are open with limited opening hours.

Unfortunately many people in Budapest especially elders think they are unbeatable or they old enough to die if once they get infect. Some of them are really irresponsible. Each day I see gathering old people in the streets. They aren't able to recognise the importance of being responsible for others not just to theirself.

Elderly editors now in safe at home and their family help them in everyday life. We cancelled every happenings, meetings, gathering parties, masterclasses and asked the editors if we as the community could help them just let us known.

We also planned to visit Christoph because they organised a great masterclass in Graz but the masterclass was cancelled because of the epidemic.

To tell you the truth I really worry about what Philippe mentioned in his mail because our film industry is also based on the tax rebate system.

My personal experiences is the following: Laszlo (or Pamacs) is at home office. Long Skype editing meetings with his director who is in Uppsala. They working from 9am-6pm from Monday to Friday. It works really good and very practical because with this it's possible to keep the editing deadlines. For me sometimes its embarrassing but it's OK so I try to listen to them carefully and learn so many things of the process of editing.

Warm virtual hugs from the snowy Budapest,
Picur

Norway

Here in Norway we are in our second week of lock down. But also here the authorities sent out mixed and confusing signals. Which e.g resulted in people going to their cabins in the mountains to go skiing and meet at after ski... Then they became angry when they were ordered home by the authorities because of lack of medical capacity in the mountains.

At this time all kinder gardens, schools and universities are closed. So are cinemas, theatres, sports arrangements and all other places for public meetings. As many as possible are having home offices, but a lot of people have lost their jobs or are temporarily laid off. The unemployment rate has in two weeks jumped from about 3 percent to 11 percent and is increasing day by day.

To my knowledge all film sets are now shut down. Some post houses are still open, but with fewer people at work. At the film school we are locked out from campus and all our production exercises are cancelled. We are now preparing for exams in June via Zoom and links. Some of the students are actually doing remote grading from Norway e.g in Germany and also remote sound mix here in Oslo. In desperate times... So far the feed back is that's actually working out decent.

The government has changed the rules for social security support. That means that everybody who are laid off, permanent or temporarily, free lance or self employed, are secured with 20 days of full payment. Also people with child support responsibilities have got a longer period of support. What's happening after that I'm not sure if anybody knows. Probably everybody falls into the old rules for social security.

The government also gave additional funding for the cultural branch since it's a specially vulnerable sector. But the amount is by far too small to last long. The Film Institute, which is one of the major film funding institutions, has reallocated fundings to put more money into development. They also refund costs for cancelled arrangements and change deadlines for applications and reports to make it easier for people to adapt to the new situation. The producers guild is asking for support after the same model as in Denmark with directly support to each company that have been forced to shut down. This include support to regular expenses, rent etc. If they manage to get that through remains to be seen.

All the best to you all!

Are

Canada

Greeting from Montreal, Canada. It's amazing to read all your stories, and I thought it would maybe be interesting to some of you to read about what is happening in our part of the world. Just like many of you, we are now in an almost complete lockdown, and have been since the last two weeks. People here are taking the Covid-19 situation very seriously, as our free health care system is working at capacity in the best of times. We understand it wouldn't take very much for a situation like the one our colleagues in Italy and Spain are describing to also happen here, if we don't take immediate drastic action.

Our governments are currently asking everybody to stay home. In order to protect actors and technicians, filming has stopped for all non-essential productions, which include pretty much everything except news. This is something that we agree with, of course. But it means editing work is now more scarce, and will probably continue to be for at least another few months.

Those of us who were already working on a project are in general able to continue from home. For those of us who are out of work, the government has just announced a special emergency fund to help pay the basic needs. It is all a bit new and still a bit unclear how self-employed editors will be able to benefit from this help, so we'll have to wait and see how it plays out.

As for the association, we had our first virtual meeting through videoconferencing. It felt good to meet, even though we could not do it in person, to talk about how the virus, and lack of work impacted us. We were also pleased to see no editor so far has been sick from the virus. In fact, we enjoyed talking so much, we planned an official event to have drinks together over Zoom next week.

We foresee that the next few months will be a test of our solidarity. As work starts to slowly come back, we know the temptation will be there for everybody to take on as much as possible to make up for the lost revenue. We are advocating for everybody to respect their own health, and share the work with colleagues who will also be hungry after this period of self-imposed isolation.

Again, thank you for sharing all your stories. It's amazing what all our experiences have in common. I hope you all stay in good health.

Sylvain Laliberté from Montréal, Québec, Canada