



Brussels, 21 April 2017

Announcement of winners of the 2017 European Union Prize for Literature

We are pleased to announce the twelve winners of the 2017 European Union Prize for Literature:

Rudi Erebara (Albania), **Ina Vultchanova** (Bulgaria), **Bianca Bellová** (Czech Republic), **Kallia Papadaki** (Greece), **Halldóra K. Thoroddsen** (Iceland), **Osvalds Zebris** (Latvia), **Walid Nabhan** (Malta), **Aleksandar Bečanović** (Montenegro), **Jamal Ouariachi** (The Netherlands), **Darko Tuševljaković** (Serbia), **Sine Ergün** (Turkey) and **Sunjeev Sahota** (United Kingdom).

The European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL) is an award which recognises outstanding new and emerging literary talents across Europe, and highlights the wealth of contemporary European literature, while drawing attention to the continent's unique cultural and linguistic heritage.

The EUPL is organised by a Consortium comprising the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF), the European Writers' Council (EWC) and the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), with the support of the European Commission. It is accessible to all the countries participating in *Creative Europe*, the EU funding programme for the cultural and creative sectors for 2014-2020.

Every year, expert national juries are set up in one third of the participating countries and appointed to nominate the winning authors according to specific criteria and following a selection procedure. Once selected, each of the twelve winning authors not only receives a cash prize of € 5 000, but more importantly, benefits from increased international visibility and cross-border promotion, starting at the Awards Ceremony in Brussels and continuing at Europe's major book fairs.

"The EUPL highlights the invincible nature of literary creativity. Each winner gives us, readers, insights and worlds to explore. Their works impel our imagination to grow and our minds to evolve. Europe needs these new talents. They offer a feast of languages, people, and stories, from words to worlds, through translations. The EWC is very proud to be part of the celebration of these new European writers", reveals Malin Koch, President of the European Writers' Council.

FEP President Henrique Mota states: "For 9 years, FEP and our partners EIBF and EWC, have been working hard to organize and promote European emerging talents in literature. I am very proud that this year again, we have been able to select 12 outstanding writers across our continent. I hope their books will meet many new audiences in Europe and beyond, and that thanks to European literature, we bring citizens closer to each other through better understanding."



Jean-Luc Treutenaere, Co-President of EIBF, adds: "I am very happy, once again, to see that 12 emerging talents will be celebrated at the EUPL Ceremony. Many congratulations to them! Of course as a bookseller, I am looking forward to seeing their books in bookshops all over Europe, in original version and in translation. The EUPL has been increasingly successful over the years, thanks to the commitment of our three associations and the support of the European Commission. We must build upon this fantastic adventure."

Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, high-level representatives of the European Parliament and of the Maltese Council Presidency of the EU will present the twelve winning authors with their awards during a public ceremony on **23 May at Concert Noble, in Brussels.**

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Background

The European Union Prize for Literature is funded by the *Creative Europe* programme, which is designed to foster intercultural dialogue in Europe and to strengthen the competitiveness of its cultural and creative sectors as well as encourage them to operate across borders. The programme not only provides support to over 250 000 artists, cultural professionals and their works in gaining visibility transnationally, but also contributes to hundreds of European cultural cooperation projects, platforms and networks. *Creative Europe* has a total budget of €1.46 billion over its 7-year funding period (2014-2020), which also includes a special support scheme for literary translation, aimed at publishing houses wishing to translate works of fiction in all its forms from one European language into another.

The *Creative Europe* programme, in its first three years (2014-2016), has helped finance the translations of about 1 400 books, from and into more than 30 European languages, including the works of as many as 58 previous EUPL winners, some of which are being translated for the first time.

Generating an annual turnover of € 22-24 billion in the EU and European Economic Area alone, the European book sector is an important contributor to the EU's economy. In 2015, a total of approximately 575 000 new titles were published by European publishers – and the entire book value chain, including authors, booksellers, publishers, printers, designers and others, is estimated to employ more than half a million people. With 9 million available titles in the 24 official languages of the EU and numerous other minority languages, the multi-faceted European book sector significantly adds to Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity.

For more information

Website of the Prize:

<http://www.euprizeliterature.eu/>



Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/euplprize>

Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/European-Union-Prize-for-Literature/201625279911585>

Culture portal of the EU:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Creative Europe programme:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/index_en.htm