CREATIVE EUROPE’S SUPPORT TO THE BOOK AND PUBLISHING SECTOR

2021-2023
Acknowledgements

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## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Europe funding schemes in support to the book and publishing sector</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation of European literary works</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Platforms for emerging artists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Networks of cultural and creative organisations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Cooperation projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union Prize for Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Themes &amp; Initiatives</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translators on the cover</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and young professionals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing to the resilience of the Ukrainian book sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day of European Authors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Europe Platform</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Europe Network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Cooperation projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CREATIVE EUROPE’S SUPPORT TO THE BOOK AND PUBLISHING SECTOR
FOREWORD

MS Sophie BEERNAERTS
Director
European Education and Culture
Executive Agency (EACEA)

Mr Georg HAEUSLER
Director
Directorate-General for Education,
Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC)
Dear readers,

Dear book lovers and book professionals,

This publication presents the projects and activities funded by the Creative Europe Programme in support of the book sector over the period 2021-2023.

Books are an invaluable source of knowledge, education, culture, and of course pleasure and leisure. Books are vital means of preserving democracy and disseminating the EU’s values, cultural and linguistic diversity. They play a particularly important role in our lives, contributing to children’s cognitive and emotional development, from very early on.

European literature is incredibly rich, linguistically diverse, and translation is critical to make books accessible across the European continent and beyond. There can be no boundaries to enjoying literature.

The European book and publishing sector is one of Europe’s largest cultural and creative industries and is facing many challenges: digital and artificial intelligence, accessibility and diversity, sustainable development, competitiveness with the entertainment industries.

Creative Europe’s objective is to support the book and publishing sector, to preserve the cultural and linguistic diversity, to ensure that books can reach readers across borders and to help the sector in its transformations.

Over the period 2021-23, the Creative Europe Programme co-financed more than 160 book sector-related projects through its different funding schemes with a budget of over 25 million euros. The highlights presented in this brochure include:

- the translation and promotion of European literature, which has contributed to the fair remuneration and visibility of translators
- the support to the Ukrainian book sector and the integration of the Ukrainian refugees through books
- the training and connection of professionals and the development and dissemination of innovative practices through more than 30 cooperation and network projects
- the promotion of emerging authors and poets through the European Union Prize of Literature and the Creative Europe Poetry Platform
- special attention to younger generations and promotion of reading through the launch of the Day of European Authors targeting schools, as well as a significant contribution to the European Year of Youth

Happy reading to all of you, today and every day!
INTRODUCTION

The following publication presents the Creative Europe’s support to the book and publishing sector and focuses on the projects selected and funded between 2021 and 2023.

Through the various schemes of the Culture strand, Creative Europe contributes to strengthening the independence, creativity, diversity, and competitiveness of the book and publishing sector in the Participating Countries in the Creative Europe Programme¹ and beyond.

Over the period 2021-23, 161 projects were funded under the various schemes of the Culture strand of Creative Europe including 131 literary translation projects funded under the dedicated scheme “Circulation of European literary works.”

CREATIVE EUROPE FUNDING SCHEMES IN SUPPORT TO THE BOOK AND PUBLISHING SECTOR

Creative Europe supports financially the book and publishing sector, first and foremost through its dedicated scheme “Circulation of European literary works.” The schemes “European Platforms for the promotion of emerging artists,” “European Networks of cultural and creative organisations”, and “European Cooperation projects,” though not tailor-made for the book sector, can also fund projects within the book and publishing sector.
The funding scheme “Circulation of European literary works” plays a crucial role in the European book ecosystem by supporting the translation, publication, distribution, and promotion of European literature covering different genres: novels, short stories, children’s fiction and youth literature, poetry, comic books, and radio and theatre plays.

This scheme promotes European literature, books, and languages, by giving first access to works that have never been translated and circulating them to as wide an audience as possible. Also, the scheme enhances the visibility of translators, recognising their pivotal role in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps. In order to respond to the various crises that Europe and the world are going through, or to take up challenges, this funding scheme establishes priorities within the framework of its calls for proposals. This is the case for the two cross-cutting priorities, inclusion, and the fight against climate change. The scheme also foresees annual priorities, as it was the case in 2022 with the European Year for Youth and in 2023 with the European Year of Skills, (as well as emerging priorities, like the support to Ukraine with a dedicated call for proposals: Support to the Ukrainian Refugees and the Ukrainian Cultural and Creative Sectors.

![Figure 1 Genres of books selected for funding through the ‘Circulation of European literary works’ calls in 2021-2023](image)
Between 2021 and 2023, Creative Europe funded a total of 131 projects through the scheme “Circulation of European literary works.” These projects encompassed the translation of 1,496 books written by 1,213 authors and translated by 981 translators.

The books, originally written in about 40 languages, were translated into about 26 target languages. To explore further, please refer to the “Playbook of Literary Translations 2021.”

**Figure 2** Gender identity of authors of the books selected for funding through the “Circulation of European literary works” calls in 2021-2023

**Figure 3** Gender identity of translators of the books selected for funding through the “Circulation of European literary works” calls in 2021-2023
The funding scheme “European Platforms for the promotion of emerging artists” supports projects that aim to increase visibility and circulation of European emerging artists and works outside their own borders, in Europe and beyond. It also seeks to increase access to, and participation in, cultural events and activities, as well as audience engagement and development.

In 2021, a total of 16 European Platforms were selected, with 1 specifically focused on literature. The Platforms collectively comprise 316 member-organisations, representing 38 countries, making it a truly diverse and inclusive initiative. These projects provide valuable support to approximately 4,000 emerging artists each year.
VERSOPOLIS—Where poetry lives is the Creative Europe Platform that plays a role in the book and publishing sector by creating opportunities for European emerging poets. The coordinator is the Slovenian publishing house Beletrina and the Platform counts 22 member-organisations from 20 countries. The funding dedicated to this project amounts to about 2 million euros for 3 years.

VERSOPOLIS has been creating new opportunities for more than 300 emerging European poets. It supports the translation of emerging poets’ works into European languages. It enables their publication in printed booklets, e-books and on the VERSOPOLIS website. It also supports poets’ mobility by organising guest appearances at more than 30 European literary festivals. This creates countless opportunities for networking with foreign publishers, literary agents, the press, and other actors in the field of literature, helping these emerging poets to make a breakthrough on the European and global scene.

Figure 5 The countries of the coordinators of the 16 selected European Platforms for emerging artists

Figure 6 The countries of the members of the 16 selected European Platforms for emerging artists
The funding scheme “European Networks of cultural and creative organisations” supports projects implemented by highly representative, multi-country, membership-based networks of European cultural organisations, which cover a wide range of countries.

The Creative Europe Networks provide a valuable forum for exchanging ideas and sharing best practices. The selected projects contribute to the Creative Europe’s objectives by fostering inclusiveness, strengthening international engagement, and promoting sustainability within the European cultural and creative sectors. The EU actively collaborates with the networks, seeking their input on the design and implementation of EU cultural policies. In 2021, a total of 37 European Networks were selected. At that time, they comprised 4,256 organisation members and 2,246 individual members. The members come from a wide range of countries, with an average of 27 countries per project and coordinators from 11 countries. Notably, 30% of the countries covered and 28% of the members are from outside the EU, demonstrating the scheme’s global outreach.

Figure 7 Sectors of the 37 selected European Networks
Among the **37 Creative Europe Networks** active in the various creative and cultural sectors, RISE is the Network working exclusively in the book and publishing sector. It is a 3-year project managed by the European and International Booksellers Federation and counts 33 members from 23 countries. It focuses on the resilience, innovation, and sustainability of the booksellers. The EU funding amounts to 650,000 euros.

RISE helps bookshops and bookselling professionals innovate and stay up to date with the latest trends and technologies to ensure their long-term success. It organises an array of activities, including thematic webinars and trainings to enable its members develop skills in different areas, such as sustainability and diversity. It runs a very successful booksellers exchange programme where booksellers host and visit colleagues from all over the world. Moreover, RISE sets up advocacy outreach campaigns highlighting the importance of the book sector with stakeholders at local and regional level. It is also present in international trade events such as the Frankfurt Book Fair, the “Rencontres Nationales de la Librairie” (France) or the “Fiera del Libro di Bologna” (Italy).

![Figure 8 The countries of the coordinators of the 37 selected European Networks](image-url)
The funding scheme “European Cooperation projects” supports transnational cooperation projects involving organisations in the cultural and creative sectors from different countries taking part in the programme. Through this funding, Creative Europe aims to stimulate transnational partnerships, improve access to European cultural and creative works and promote innovation and creativity along different themes and sectors.

The projects selected under this scheme that focus on the book sector involve various stakeholders, such as publishers, authors, translators, and literary agents, fostering transnational collaboration. They expand the outreach of European literary works and promote cultural and knowledge exchange.

Figure 9 The 30 European Cooperation projects, contributing to the book sector selected in 2021-2023, divided by project size.
Moreover, key aspects of the European Cooperation projects are partnership, capacity building, supporting training, networking, and market access activities. These initiatives empower professionals within the sector to improve their skills, expand their networks, and seize new business opportunities.

A total of 30 cooperation projects active in the book and publishing sector were selected between 2021 and 2023. The coordinators and their 132 partners come from numerous Creative Europe countries. The total funding of the projects exceeds 13 million euros.

**Figure 10**
Coordinator’s countries (European Cooperation projects 2021-2023)

**Figure 11**
Countries of partners in the 30, selected in 2021-2023, Cooperation projects contributing to the European book ecosystem
The European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL) is another scheme of Creative Europe which supports the book and publishing sector. The prize is awarded annually to emerging fiction writers, recognising literary talent from Creative Europe countries. It highlights the wealth of contemporary European literature and gives pride of place to Europe’s rich cultural and linguistic heritage.

Launched by the European Commission in 2009 and co-financed by Creative Europe, EUPL is organised in partnership with stakeholders from the European book sector, namely the Federation of the European Publishers (FEP) and the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF). Over 13 editions, the prize has enabled 148 emerging writers from 41 countries to make a name for themselves.

The Prize reflects the creativity and diversity of European literature and recognises the importance of the European book sector.
THEMES AND INITIATIVES

Translators on the cover

Youth and young professionals

Resilience of the Ukrainian book sector

Day of European Authors
Moreover, the report stresses the need to better understand the profession of literary translators and boost professional opportunities by collaborations with authors, publishers, and literary institutions.

Projects under the other Creative Europe schemes also contribute to translators’ professional development through diverse activities such as literary residencies, conferences, and international collaborations, which result in greater visibility.

Between 2021 and 2023, Creative Europe provided support to 1,496 translations involving 981 literary translators through the funding scheme “Circulation of European literary works”.

One of the guiding principles of the scheme is to promote fair remuneration and enhance the visibility of translators as recommended by the EU report “Translators on the Cover”. The report explores the crucial role of translators in bridging language barriers and enabling the dissemination of European literature. It delves into the challenges the translators face and proposes solutions to support their work, promote their visibility and recognition.

The report emphasises the importance of fair remuneration for translators, acknowledging their expertise, skills, and extensive effort invested in translating literary works. It recognises that fair remuneration for translators not only promotes good and fair working conditions but also contributes to the sustainability and quality of translated literature. Adequate compensation ensures that skilled translators can continue their vital work, enhancing the availability and accessibility of literary works across Europe and beyond.

In addition, Creative Europe actively supports the involvement of young individuals within the book sector, including emerging writers, translators, illustrators, and junior professionals working in book associations, festivals, and other actors. The projects working on the youth theme organise dedicated residency programs, internships, and networking events at European level.

The European Year of Youth 2022 was dedicated to empowering and engaging young people across Europe. Creative Europe acknowledges the immense potential of young people in the book sector, both as consumers/readers and actors/creators. Therefore, the programme places particular emphasis on projects that actively involve and engage young people at different stages, from creation to reading and promotion, making them an integral part of the literary ecosystem. The activities undertaken in the context of the European Year of Youth 2022 were also followed up in 2023.

The projects funded under the 2023 European Year targeted young people, stimulating their taste for reading, promoting literacy, encouraging their active participation in cultural and literary activities, as well as developing their skills and talents as illustrators, publishers, authors, translators, booksellers and more.

Between 2021 and 2023, the EU funding played a significant role in translating 517 books for children and young adults, accounting for 34% of all the books translated by the scheme “Circulation of European literary works.” The supported projects not only facilitated the availability of these works but also enriched the literary education of children and young people through various activities. Workshops, forums, and online platforms allowed discussions on important topics like coming of age, adolescence, love, grief, and loss, as well as democracy, gender, inclusion, freedom of expression, climate change. European publishers engaged with youth and broadened their understanding of themselves and the world, aligning with European values.
CONTRIBUTING TO THE RESILIENCE OF THE UKRAINIAN BOOK SECTOR

Creative Europe supports the Ukrainian artists, cultural professionals and organisations who continue to work under extremely challenging conditions of war.

Given the exceptional circumstances, Creative Europe encourages projects focused on Ukrainian literature, language, and cultural heritage. By investing in these projects, the EU enhances the visibility of Ukrainian culture and strengthens the ties between the Ukrainian and European literary landscapes. Particular attention is given to projects that provide books in Ukrainian to Ukrainian refugees and displaced individuals.

Eligible activities included the translation of European works of fiction into Ukrainian, their publication, distribution, and promotion. Moreover, the programme exceptionally supported the publication and distribution of works of fiction in Ukrainian without translation from another European language.

Thanks to the scheme “Circulation of European literary works” 63 books written in Ukrainian by 78 writers from or based in Ukraine were translated into multiple languages, including Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, and Serbian, expanding their reach and accessibility across diverse cultures.

Additionally, 154 European books were translated into Ukrainian, originally written in various European languages such as Czech, Danish, German, English, Spanish, Estonian, Finnish, French, Italian, Latin, Dutch, Norwegian, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian, Swedish, and Yiddish.

Between 2021 and 2023, 4 book and publishing projects funded under the scheme “European cooperation projects” included partners from Ukraine. The projects Tales of EUkraine (TEUK), REaders of Europe Play, Learn & Interact (REEPLAI), Archipelagos: Expanding literature routes in Europe (ARCHIPELAGOS) and Inclusive Comics: Visual Stories from Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine (INCLUSIVE COMICS) deal with the topics of youth literature, migration, audience engagement, digital arts, and translators’ skills, among others. The EU has allocated substantial support amounting to approximately 1.5 million euros to help these projects to be implemented.
The Day of European Authors is an initiative to reconnect younger generations with book reading, help them discover the diversity of European literature and show how literature can be a tool for individual empowerment. The first edition of the Day took place on 27 March 2023.

More than 1,000 activities were organised during the first edition. Schools across the EU organised reading-aloud sessions. European authors visited schools, libraries, and bookstores, read a piece of their work, and encouraged students to discover other European authors.

A one-day conference on reading promotion was organised in Sofia (Bulgaria). The event gathered Member States’ representatives of the Ministries of Culture or Education, relevant public institutions, and non-governmental organisations, as well as organisations representing the book and cultural sectors at European level. The conference was an opportunity to share best practices on how the education system and the book sector can collaborate to implement reading promotion actions in schools at local, national, and European level.
PROJECTS

Creative Europe Platform

Creative Europe Network

European Cooperation projects

2021 | 2022 | 2023
The 30 cultural operators from 21 EU and 7 non-EU countries, united in this project, believe that supporting the evolution of contemporary European poetry and European emerging poets represents a necessary and worthwhile endeavor for the European Union.

The goal of the project is to nurture European poetry and continue to re-position poetry in the European and global cultural, economic and societal landscape.

To achieve this goal, the project will pursue:

- supporting the visibility and mobility of European emerging poets;
- engaging in continued capacity building of European emerging poets and those cultural operators which function as platforms for meeting of artists and presentation of their works (European literary festivals);
- expanding the Versopolis platform into the global cultural and artistic space and developing clear brand recognition in order to present European poetry and emerging poets to global partners and the widest global audiences.

The project will accomplish the goals and objectives through implementing a variety of activities for the three target audiences (European emerging poets, cultural and creative sectors – particularly festivals and publishing, and widest audiences) for instance over 200 artist mobilities, 280 partner exchanges, podcast series, 214 live events and the publications of two Versopolis anthologies with the selected works of approx. 100 emerging poets.

Upon completing the project, we will have permanently improved emerging poets career trajectories, magnified the literary festivals’ ability to present poetry, increased the presence of European poetry in the global cultural scene and grew the widest audiences’ appreciation for poetry and arts and culture overall.

SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

# FESTIVALS
RESILIENCE, INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF BOOKSELLING

PROJECT PAGE | COORDINATOR WEBSITE | 2021 | CREATIVE EUROPE NETWORK

COORDINATOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL BOOKSELLERS FEDERATION (BE)

The European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF) is a European and international organisation serving as the focal point of a wide network of booksellers across Europe and beyond. Representing our network members and their interests on a European and global platform, our mission is to provide interested parties with professional information about the cultural, economic and educational role booksellers play and advocate for book-friendly initiatives and policies, for the benefit of all readers.

Through this project, EIBF seeks to upscale, reinforce and maximise the capacity and resilience of the European bookselling sector, by helping bookshops innovate and stay up to date with modern technologies while ensuring their long-term sustainability.

RISE Bookselling will provide booksellers with sector-specific training, facilitate cross-border networking and exchange of best practices and enable advocacy and research across a set of priority areas: unlocking the green potential of the bookselling sector, building a more diverse and inclusive bookshop community and reinforcing cross-border bookselling and European value.

Some of the innovative activities forming this project will include the first pan-European Bookselling Conference of its kind, a sustainability course for booksellers and a bookselling exchange programme.

SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

# BOOKS
# CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
# LITERATURE BOOKS AND READING - CULTURE
# TRAINING FOR CULTURAL AND CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS
EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECTS 2021

ArtACT Art activism in post-COVID Europe: A new agenda on methodology, artistic practices and stakeholder relations ..........................................................29

BiL Book = Life .............................................................................................................................................................................30

GG4A Innovative intercultural reading promotion .........................................................................................................................31

LIT-UP Strategies to support languages equality through literature .................................................................................................32

POT-VOT Poets of today - voices of tomorrow ..................................................................................................................................33

PVTTPC Peripheral visions - towards a trans(l)national publishing culture ...........................................................................................34

REMIX COMIX Comics for heritage ...............................................................................................................................................35

ULYSSES SHELTER 3 The Ulysses’ shelter: Building literary residencies network 3 ........................................................................36

UTM Urban Travel machines. European planetariums and immersive poetry performances ........................................................................37
The goal of the ArtACT project is to demonstrate the potential of arts for generating social change through art activist practices and methodologies.

The ArtACT consortium – composed of five cultural and artistic organisations from Slovenia, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, and Spain - will accomplish this goal through initiating highly visible trans-European art activist collaborations to produce 5 largescale trans-European art activist pilot projects, employing a range of artistic formats and practices and directly including over 100 European artists and over 500 European Citizen Artists.

The projects will be multi- and interdisciplinary in nature, and focus on those art forms, which have so far been under-deployed, thus expanding art activist practices beyond visual arts, graphic design and film to also include literature, poetry and performing arts. The art activist project topical focus will include, but extend beyond environmental issues to other important topics on the current global and European public policy agenda.

Through methodological elaboration and building trans-European communities of practice, the project will facilitate the emergence of a new wave of contemporary art that will contribute to finding solutions to central societal challenges of our time.

The major project outputs include stakeholder events, artistic performances and artworks, a film documentary and a project publication, detailing the emergence of the ArtACT pilot art activist projects, employing the case study method. In this way, the project outputs will be distributed widely to audiences, artistic community and societal stakeholders, producing artistic and societal impacts at scale.
What are benefits of reading? The answer is different for everyone. For ones - healing, joy, the hope of a better future, for the others - knowledge, values, ideas or identity... Reading can bring us together, despite of differences in gender, nationality, race, language, age, health, or profession. We can safely share our experiences through literature. Books and people are diverse. And it is the diversity that we find most valuable. It allows us to expand our awareness, and to build cross-cultural dialogue. Books provide questions and answers of what we need to change in ourselves and give us the power to change the world. They know no boundaries, and are open to anyone. They are available to whoever wishes to take them in hand. As we hold a book in our hand, it lets us remember that it also holds us. Let us hold each other and go through life together, because a book is life.

We invite you to this project, in which books bring people together. Let’s meet at the conference, international exhibitions, festival and more!

OBJECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION
PRIORITY(IES) INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION | AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT
SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

# LITERARY CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
The project **GG4A: Innovative Intercultural Reading Promotion** promotes and contextualises six high quality European literary works for young readers of minority and/or less known literatures, most of them written in lesser used languages. Leading authors from Slovenia, the Basque Country and Portugal are translated into Macedonian, Slovenian, Basque, Spanish, and Portuguese by renowned translators.

Dissemination activities of the translated works in five languages of the project are based on research on reading literacy, which in digital times requires new tools to reach new audiences. To foster digital reading literacy they include the use of an interactive platform in which reading competence is linked to digital competence through gamification in previously prepared ludic activities that include competition, teamwork and creativity.

Creative writing workshops are other project’s activities which, in addition to offering different types of activities for young people, provide materials (handbooks, webinars, videos) for teachers and librarians that can also be used when the project ends. Important activity is networking: tutoring of consortium members, sharing best practices within and outside the consortium at B2B meetings, large and small book fairs and video presentations for Latin American publishers. Five public events will be organised during the course of the project, including translated authors and their translators. All these activities will be promoted through press releases, newsletters, announcements, social media, bloggers, etc.

Young adult literature always has two addressees. Although the project activities are designed for young people, they also address adults (experts, teachers, librarians, general audience) at the same time. The members of the consortium are convinced that all audiences will benefit from the results of the project, as well as the societies of the countries included in Europe and beyond.

**OBJECTIVE** COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

**PRIORITY(IES)** NEW TECHNOLOGY

**SECTOR(S)** PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

# BOOKS
# CREATIVE WRITING
# LITERARY TRANSLATION
# PUBLISHING
The main objective of LIT-UP is to define and implement competitive strategies to empower publishers and authors working with less used languages in front of big players in a global context. Strategies defined will try to help publishers and authors participating in the project to compete with real opportunities of survival against big languages and players working in their own markets.

This general objective will be broken down in 3 operative objectives:

1. Develop the necessary skills to compete internationally.
2. Establish a network of publishers and authors in Europe to build commercial relationships and let publishers and authors meet new literatures, new business models, and new market opportunities to increase the size and the profitability of their portfolio based on a calendar of events.
3. Establish a network of intermediate agents to support publishers and authors that will be based on the share of successful experiences and the evaluation in common of challenges and opportunities to develop the industry and to promote literary works abroad.

The celebration of different events during project implementation in different countries will let participants take part in events such as workshops or congresses organised by local partners and dealing with different challenges and opportunities in the publishing industry and the source of long term relationship of cooperation in future events overpassing the end of this project.

There is also a cultural objective in the project as the mobility of authors and publishers during project events will let establish relationships, meet counterparts in other countries and preserve the literary heritage of Europe that represents independent literature and literature in lesser used languages.
Poets of Today – Voices of Tomorrow is a cooperation project of 5 project partners, which will bring poetry closer to young people and local communities with the main goal of changing a school curriculum in a way of bringing poets into the classrooms on a regular yearly basis.

20 artists will explore the potential of poetry performance to share the innovative methodology with 50 poets, 100 school teachers and reach more than 5,000 young audience members from all 5 participating countries. An international collective will become influencers for methodological process, perform in 5 different countries and present the process at Frankfurt Book Fair, publish an international book, which will include translations of poems in 5 partner languages and their contacts to enable further possibilities for translation and publishing in other EU countries.

50 European poets will be educated to perform in schools and be connected with high school teachers to start the discussion and practice about representation of poetry in schools. 50 literary events in schools called Poetry Days will be the most important result of that and will connect teachers and poets to engage the young audiences. A Tool Book will be created to spread the methodology in the long term and prepare new format scripts, to promote poets in partner countries and beyond. To support artists’ visibility, 5 Poetry City Walks will be organised - to connect poetry with life in the community and to offer quality cultural programmes for cities with emphasis on innovative poetry performance formats. Literary maps will be developed with professional illustrators.

The project will ensure gender equality and address gender representation in poetry. It will also focus strongly on environmental sustainability (with focus on eco promotional material). One of the most important outputs will also be a Policy Proposal for governments to start advocating for more funding for cooperation between poets and teachers and more poetry in schools.

Objective: Competitiveness and innovation
Priority(ies): Audience engagement | International dimension
Sector(s): Publishing and literature | Performing arts

# Poetry
# Literature books and reading - culture
PERIPHERAL VISIONS – TOWARDS A TRANS(L)NATIONAL PUBLISHING CULTURE

PROJECT PAGE | COORDINATOR WEBSITE | 2021 | EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECT

COORDINATOR UDRUGA ZA PROMICANJE KULTURA KULTURTREGER (HR)

PARTICIPANTS ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS KONTRAPUNKT SKOPJE (MK) | EIPCP – EUROPÄISCHES INSTITUT FUR PROGRESSIVE KULTURPOLITIK (AT) | MASKA LJUBLJANA (SI) | MULTIMEDIJALNI INSTITUT UDRUGE (HR) | UDRUZENJE GRADJANA KUDA.ORG (RS)

The project extends earlier collaborations and connects 8 organisations from 6 EU and non-EU countries to respond to the fragmentation of the cultural field and digital congestion caused by the current pandemic context. The partners are particularly suitable for this as they produce cutting edge cultural content, practices and knowledge, including in-depth research of new digital technologies, and reach large and diverse audiences.

The core of the project is international exchange among small/er cultural and linguistic contexts in European semi-peripheries, whereby they support each other through co-production, co-creation, transfer of know-how and sharing of resources. Through multilingual publishing, transdisciplinary cultural production, alternative distribution, exchange of knowledge, digital content, open source digital technologies and new game formats, the project creates international space for creation and experimentation in publishing.

With the objective to cut through the noise that causes paralysis in communication among cultural producers and artists in small/er cultural contexts, it stimulates creativity and circulation of artists and works, facilitates the transnational distribution of content and exchange of practices and builds capacities by taking advantage of new technologies.

The partners produce 26 print and electronic publications, audiovisual artworks, performances, card game, online platform and radio shows, and 15 international conference, festival, workshops, labs, exhibitions and residency programs in 9 countries, involving 294 artists, writers, translators, technicians, intellectuals, organizers, designers, cultural producers, journalists and software developers, engaging over 1,200 audience members in the physical activities and events, and reaching international audience of over 300,000 through online channels. It results in concrete products and operational tools to be further used in different contexts.

OBJECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION

PRIORITY(IES) NEW TECHNOLOGY | INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

# PUBLISHING
# LITERARY TRANSLATION
# ORGANISATION OF THE MOBILITY OF CULTURAL ARTISTS AND WORKS
# TRAINING FOR CULTURAL AND CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS
# EXHIBITION
# RESEARCH
The main objective of Remix Comix is the transnational creation of new, innovative contemporary comics that challenge dominant models of heritage presentation to develop and engage new audiences especially people belonging to minorities and socially marginalised groups and increase their cultural access and participation. A specific objective is to develop innovative and engaging formats of comics in the open space of 5 European cities - Novi Sad (Serbia), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Praha (Czech) and Pančevo (Serbia) that will be created through the cooperation of comic artists, writers, activists and local communities from 4 different partner countries.

The main project activities include:

- 2 conferences to present best practices, exchange and discuss on comics correlation to invisible heritage, public space and social inclusion;
- 5 artists in-residence programs to produce 5 site-specific comics in the public space.

Follow up activities will include heritage walks, which will be used to present the project results to a wider audience. The results of the project will be 5 site-specific comics, 1 project publication and a film.

The project will involve 25 participants - 1 by each partner (comic artists, writers, poets, community and heritage activists and experts) and at least 100 community representatives belonging to less privileged groups. The indirect group of the project will be much wider since the site-specific comics will be created in the high frequency spaces like parks, markets, city squares etc and promoted through existing comics and community festivals.

Through the project direct participants will have intercultural and artistic exchange as well as space to discover heritage that is invisible, or not sufficiently represented in museums, in school textbooks, TV screens, and tourist guides. The site-specific comics installations will be part of the official program of the Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture.

OBJECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION
PRIORITY(IES) AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT | SOCIAL INCLUSION
SECTOR(S) ART IN PUBLIC SPACE | DECORATIVE ARTS | INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

# COMICS
# CULTURAL HERITAGE - CULTURE
# INTEGRATION OF DISADVANTAGED GROUPS
The Ulysses’ Shelter: Building writers-in-residence (phase 3) is a literary residency network which was initiated in 2017 by an independent publisher from Croatia, together with two partners from Greece and Slovenia.

Now, in its third phase, the network includes seven partners from seven different countries: Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Serbia, Malta, Spain and the Czech Republic and collaborates with many institutions and NGOs in each participating country.

The objective of the project is transnational creation and circulation specifically in the literary field. The idea of the project is to combine literary residencies for emerging writers, literary translators and from this year also for screenwriters of younger generation with a strong supportive programme from which benefit not only participating authors but also the local community where the activities will be held. The residency programme addresses international dimension as its priority by giving the young emerging authors an opportunity to work, perform and present themselves in different social and cultural contexts. The programme will try to reach that by giving the participants new international experiences and motives for their work by:

- enabling young writers, literary translators and screenwriters to gain an insight into cultural and literary scenes of a country of their choice
- encouraging collaboration between authors from different countries
- encouraging networking with stakeholders in the cultural and more specifically literary field – active participation in literary festivals in partner countries
- connecting participants with local communities through supporting activities such as public presentations of participants (literary evenings, festivals, workshops etc.)

In the context of sector specific priorities, this initiative is crucial for capacity building both of partners and authors through professional support and encouraging various literary activities.

**OBJECTIVE**  TRANSCRATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION  
**PRIORITY(IES)**  INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION | ANNUAL PRIORITY  
**SECTOR(S)**  PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

- ORGANISATION OF THE MOBILITY OF CULTURAL ARTISTS AND WORKS  
- LITERATURE BOOKS AND READING - CULTURE  
- CREATIVE WRITING  
- LITERARY TRANSLATION
UTM contributes to the renewal of the literary sector in Europe through the adoption of Immersive Technology. UTM enhances transnational mobility, new technology and audience engagement with regards to poetry performance.

In order to do that, UTM builds upon:

- the networks and practices of slam poetry. They have proved themselves a vibrant vector of audience expansion and artistic renewal, in particular when it comes to urban and cultural diversification in the literary sector;
- immersive technology that has gained massive traction in the CCI’s at large, yet remains strongly underused in the context of literary creation, in spite of significant expertise within European art schools (visual arts);
- tech infrastructure in 4 scientific planetariums, re-defining 3D projection technology as a compelling means of digital storytelling in the context of 4 creative cities (Tartu, La Coruña, Vienna and Brussels).

UTM comprises 3 art schools and 4 planetariums with a combined experience in 35 relevant EU funded projects since 2018.

Together, they will:

- build 1 Immersive Website in order to build, exchange and disseminate immersive tools and skills, and make these accessible for literary and visual artists during and beyond the project’s lifespan;
- host 4 two-day Immersive Poetry Festivals in the planetariums of Tartu, La Coruña, Vienna and Brussels, tied in with existing literary festivals;
- set up 3 Collaborative Creation Courses at art schools in Antwerp, Helsinki and Warsaw, where 3 x 5 poetry performers coproduce 360° immersive environments for the Festivals mentioned above, together with visual arts students;
- set up 2 Immersive Storytelling Labs (online), 4 Poetry Youth Labs, and 3 Immersive Creator Exchanges for 3 x15 visual artists.

OBJECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION

PRIORITY(IES) AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT | NEW TECHNOLOGY

SECTOR(S) ART IN PUBLIC SPACE | DIGITAL ARTS | PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

# VIRTUAL REALITY
# POETRY
# DIGITAL ARTS
# CREATIVE WRITING
EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECTS 2022

ABE Lab Accessible Backlist Ebooks Laboratory .................................................................39
EUWebtoons EU webtoons competition ..............................................................................40
ODM Œil du Monde ..............................................................................................................41
OLL LE Our Little Library: Literary Exchanges .................................................................42
SSW Slavic Soundwalking ..................................................................................................43
TEUk Tales of Ukraine ......................................................................................................44
TIME Together In the Middle of Europe: Cooperation by Art and Literature for Young People .............................................................45
WOMCOM Women Power in Comics ..............................................................................46
By June 2025, the EU Accessibility Directive (EAA) will come into force and it will be a requirement for all ebooks sold in Europe to be fully accessible. The publishing industry, worldwide, agrees that EPUB is the only digital book format which allows, with a few efforts, the creation of fully accessible ebooks. Most titles are already published in EPUB, and the first accessible titles are now on sale.

There will still be an issue with most ebooks published before 2025 (a ‘backlist’ of probably 2.5 million files in Europe). Since the objective of the directive is to end the “book famine” endured by visually impaired people, it is necessary to transform as many titles as possible into accessible EPUB files before 2025. Because making some ebooks accessible requires an important manual work, the EU has evaluated the cost of transforming an “old” ebook into an accessible EPUB at 400 € per title. Since the blacklist is hardly profitable for publishers, the removal of most of these titles from the market is a risk, with the consequent loss of cultural diversity in Europe.

The project partners aim at analysing the process and workflows by which ebooks of different types and formats can be transformed into accessible EPUB in the easiest and less costly way. Multiple tests will be achieved, using existing open-source and commercial tools. The study will consider different levels of complexity of source ebooks and will evaluate the associated costs of remediation. Continuous interactions between the project partners, publishers and developers of remediation software will help setting up tools that better fit the needs of the European publishing industry. The guidelines which will be delivered by the end of the project will help European publishers selecting ebooks which can be made accessible for an acceptable cost. Dissemination efforts will make sure that EU publishers achieve inclusiveness and help protecting cultural diversity in Europe.

OBJECTIVE COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION
PRIORITY(IES) NEW TECHNOLOGY
SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE | FESTIVALS
# DIGITAL
Webtoon is a new form of eComics that is already very successful in Asia and the USA. Global platforms offering webtoons originating for example from South Korea are now coming to Europe to develop their activities and reach new audiences in Europe. Creation and production of European Webtoons is still very limited while the format is getting more and more successful towards the young digital-native generations. In order to grow this sector in Europe, we propose to launch a large scale competition to find webtoons artists in Europe.

The project is led by Cite de la BD in Angouleme, which is the leading European comics museum that plans to have a full year of 2024 dedicated to webtoons. The other partners are key comics players for the promotion in Europe. Key European festivals in Poland and in Lucca in Italy will make sure promotion is covered in the south and eastern Europe. Finally, the Finnish Comics Society and its CUNE Comics project bringing together all nordics countries, will support the action in the northern part of Europe.

The project of a duration of 24 months has 2 main phases. Phase 1 is about preparing for the call for project, communicate it and set up a jury to select the best 10 projects that will get cash prizes and unique visibility at festivals. The second 12 months will focus on the exhibition and promotion of the webtoons and to look at publishing deals opportunities with different platforms and publishers.

The expected impact is to develop European webtoon content and support artists to access exposure and publishing deals for their work. The goal is also to regain competitiveness among the global webtoon platforms to secure European artists and content abroad in the future.

OBJECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION
PRIORITY(IES) AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT
SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

# COMICS
**L’OEil du Monde** is an international and intercultural project conceived by four creative publishers of children literature from France, Poland, Czech Republic, and Italy: it takes place successively in these four countries.

It has two main objectives:

- Firstly, to highlight and promote cultural and linguistic diversity among young people aged from 0 to 15 and their entourage by allowing the circulation of works (albums) by artists and writers published by these four publishers as well as by eight other publishing houses from Spain, Portugal, Norway and, beyond Europe, Rwanda, M

- Secondly, to contribute to the establishment of a solid and sustainable cooperation between these small creative publishers, to foster their capacity to innovate and to strengthen their economic viability in a more concentrated and uniform environment.

L’OEil du Monde will start in 2023 and is intended to continue over the long term, both for the distribution of works and for cooperation between professionals.

**OBJECTIVE** TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION

**PRIORITY(IES)** AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT | INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

**SECTOR(S)** CRAFTWORK | CH - LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

# BOOKS

# LITERATURE BOOKS AND READING - CULTURE
Our Little Library: literary exchanges will bring together 7 EU publishers during a 30-month period. The purpose of the project is to create a mutual publishing market on the basis of literary exchanges. 48 co-editions will be published during the project and 22 authors/illustrators will visit and promote their work in seven different book markets through 36 literary tours. This will increase the circulation of literary works and transnational mobility of EU books, authors and illustrators.

The project includes a strategy to reach a larger readership and raise the awareness of the importance of reading. The beneficiary has been implementing Our Little Library innovative reading project in schools for thirteen years. Books that are in the project reach twice as many readers and 30% bigger sales than others. The beneficiary is going to share the knowledge with affiliated entities. We believe that 60,000 children and 4,000 mentors will benefit from it.

In order to increase the visibility of the publishers and their authors on the international market in Europe and beyond, we will organise inter-publishing meetings, focusing on selling rights and visiting international book fairs. Within 30 months, 7 publishing teams, 22 authors and illustrators, 48 translators, 7 editors, 4 designers, 13 members of the project team, one literary agent, 15 foreign editors who will take part in networking, will contribute to a successful implementation of the project. A total of 117 professionals.

We will produce 48 children’s books and 60,000 activity books for participating children, send 11,000 copies of newspapers and 13,200 postcards to libraries, and distribute 1,200 catalogues to foreign editors. We will distribute flyers, bags, posters and other promo material. We will advertise the project intensively through social and traditional media. We will prepare 13 press conferences, 29 video presentations of authors, illustrators and books, and a virtual exhibition of illustrators among other things.
The **Slavic Soundwalking (SSW)** mob app project has the fundamental goal of contributing to transnational literary circulation and fostering transcultural dialogue through literary creation between Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia, whose languages belong to the same group of South Slavic languages.

The underlying motivation of the project is to build good neighbourly relations resulting from language, expression, and a unique way of communication in an innovative and creative way, accessible to a large audience (people with disabilities, students, elderly, etc.), through digitisation and sound design. This project gives artists and cultural workers the opportunity to acquire new skills and present their works in a distinctive form that freely spreads across borders and offers absolute freedom to be accepted by anyone interested in cultural, artistic, and new technological values, as well as in building and deepening good neighbourly relations that go hand in hand.

To achieve the above objectives, a series of different activities will be organised. The activities, in which all partners cooperate, include a special call for authors, dubbing of content with voice recordings in several languages (South Slavic, English and sign language to enable a barrier-free society) with the participation of several composers from all partner countries, which will be used in the mobile application that works with the help of geolocation and city mapping. The result of the SSW is the mobile app that will contain 75 audio formatted short stories in 5 languages. Promotion through discursive activities (public events, workshops, etc.) will take place in all three partner countries.

The SSW mobile app will remain viable, and the content will be stored in digital form (SSW online platform) to support the artists’ work and allow for continued visibility after the end of the project. The project will have a long-term impact on building a sound archive of Slavic languages for future generations.

**OBJECTIVE**  
TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION

**PRIORITY(IES)**  
NEW TECHNOLOGY

**SECTOR(S)**  
ART IN PUBLIC SPACE | PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE | DIGITAL ARTS

# DIGITAL
The war in Ukraine has provoked a huge humanitarian crisis; one of its most evident aspects is the massive influx of refugees, mainly women and children, leaving the country. These people will likely not have been able to take many things with them, and definitely not books. Tales of EUkraine (TEUk) will address the issue with a solution that will favour the integration of Ukrainian refugees in their host countries, notably by facilitating the inclusion of children and their building relationships with peers from host countries, while supporting the Ukrainian publishing industry.

The project will build a catalogue of Ukrainian children’s books, the rights of which will be made available for licensing to several publishers from various EU Member States currently hosting significant numbers of refugees. The publishers, under the coordination and supervision of the respective national publishers’ associations, will acquire the rights to the books, translate them and publish bilingual editions in Ukrainian and the country’s language.

TEUk is expecting to print at least 300,000 books. The publishers’ associations and FEP will acquire the copies produced by the publishers at cost, and organise their distribution, relying on NGOs, voluntary associations, and other entities, to deliver the books to a series of beneficiaries such as schools, libraries and other hubs and venues where they will be made available to their ultimate beneficiaries: Ukrainian refugee children and their peers in the host countries.

Thanks to TEUk, refugee children will be able to both retain a connection with the culture of their home country and share it with their new friends in host countries, thus facilitating their inclusion and increasing the knowledge of Ukrainian culture across Europe. At the same time, the project will support Ukrainian authors, illustrators, and publishers in a time of dire need, facilitating their connection with European publishers.
TIME comprises of young writers and recently graduated illustrators at the beginning of their careers, living in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, selected by a professional tender within the frame of an international project. It realises a long-term cooperation among 3 publishing houses, 30 authors, 30 illustrators, 12 translators and several coordinating organisations and associations. As a result of numerous cross-border professional and personal meetings, common artistic creation in the three countries an international travelling exhibition will be organised and a richly illustrated anthology of youth literature will be published in book, e-book and audiobook format, with the ROUND DANCE title, setting an important precedent for future cooperation among the concerned artists, experts and professional organisations. As an indication of diversity, collaboration and reintegration the multidisciplinary artwork ROUND DANCE will be published in Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak and also in English and German for a wider scope of audience in Europe and in the world.

The ROUND DANCE title indicates the clasping of the participating countries and of the target audience, finding a common rhythm, acceptance, the joy of liberation. The project was initiated by the social need to relieve the anxiety of young people: the globally palpable climate change anxiety, post Covid symptoms and concern resulting from the present international political situation. There is also a very urgent need to relieve the cultural and personal isolation of young artists and authors due to the above-mentioned reasons.

Culture and especially literature and fine arts have an indisputable role not only in relieving these forms of anxiety but also in strengthening and extending social networks and interpersonal relations. Culture can connect not only persons but regions and countries as well. It does not only help by providing aesthetic experience, but it also creates the sense of belonging in a most efficient way. Social sensitivity, empathy, integration, versatility – these are just a few key functions which are acquired with the help of culture.

OBJECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION
PRIORITY(IES) INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION | ANNUAL PRIORITY
SECTOR(S) GRAPHIC ARTS / DESIGN | PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE | ART IN PUBLIC SPACE

# INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION
# BOOKS
# GRAPHIC ARTS AND DESIGN
Women Power in Comics (WOM&COM) brings together partners from Greece, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia with the aim to empower female artists to be more engaged in this artistic field, as well as to promote their equal treatment in the sense of payment, visibility and representation. In addition to this, the project shall debate the image of women in comics, and to debate how the societal changes are reflected (or could be more reflected) in comics, and especially with regards the image and roles given to women in comics. The other project’s strand is support to grassroot organisations in Europe to get involved in comics and the transnational cooperation and European Union Programmes and develop their capacities with this regard.

The project will last for two years and include WOM&COM Digital Platform developed for and with the artists which will not only communicate the project results but also become a referent repository of female comic artists and their works in Europe, bring the news from the comic scene and serve as a Platform for sharing knowledge and bringing positive societal changes in the world of comics and the women involvement in it. Another building block of the project are its residences, imagined as a coworking and co-creation spaces bringing together 12 European comic artists (majority of them women) under the guidance and mentorship of renowned European comic artists and curators.

Two conferences within this project are chosen in order to create a ground to discuss, present examples of good practices and research in the field of female roles and image in comics involving artists, experts, activists, scholars, curators, publishers, editors, art managers... Conferences will be held in Serbia, Novi Sad and Slovenia, Ljubljana.

OBJECTIVE COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION
PRIORITY(IES) SOCIAL INCLUSION | INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION
SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE

# COMICS
# INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION
# DIGITAL
# GENDER EQUALITY
# EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECTS 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APACE Accelerating Publishing Accessibility through Collaboration in Europe</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archipelagos - Expanding literature routes in Europe</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comics Beyond</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELA Connecting Emerging Literary Artists</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPESEP Equal Pay, Equal Show, Equal Pension</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive comics: Visual Stories from Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAP-CB Literary Agent Platform: Capacity building</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLLLJ Our Little Library: Through literary bridges to reading adventures</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEPLAI. REaders of Europe Play, Learn And Interact</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ThinkPub Thinking Publishing</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APACE is a network set to enhance social inclusion for over 100 million print impaired in EU (blind, visual impaired, dyslexic persons), creating a bidirectional dialogue between two target communities: publishers and specialist organisations producing accessible publications in alternative formats. Involving actors from both communities, represented respectively by 3 publishers associations and 3 specialist organisations APACE will promote innovation in the production and distribution process of Born Accessible publications, expanding efficiency to increase the number of accessible ebooks and positioning accessibility as a strategic asset in Europe.

APACE will enhance the capacity of the EU publishing industry in the accessibility field, filling the current gap of competences and creating a new generation of professional experts. By the end of the project APACE will reach 20 organisations in 18 countries involving more than 2600 participants in its activities. It will foster new forms of collaboration by leveraging digital opportunities and implementing a wide range of initiatives including:

- capacity building through training courses and the Accessibility Summer School,
- networking opportunities such as Meet-Ups and “Ask the Experts,”
- awareness events in various formats to promote accessibility best practices,
- pilot projects experimenting new methods for producing and distributing accessible ebooks.

All the activities will be in line with the European Accessibility Act (EU Directive 2019/882 on the accessibility requirements for products and services) and based on the adoption of existing open, interoperable, international standards. The results (i.e. guidelines, best practices, whitepapers) will be made available through the European Accessibility Directory.
Archipelagos' ambition is to make the diversity of European literary voices visible and widely read. By fostering the discovery of new voices in lesser-used languages thanks to the role of literary scouts played by translators, by qualifying them in these fields through contact with their peers, the diversity of representations and imaginations will be encouraged.

More than 100 translators will be supported in their research through residencies; 10 workshops will bring together 176 colleagues working with 10 core languages in any possible combination with other European languages. In addition to this increase in supply, the project aims to increase demand. Webinars, summer schools and professional encounters will be addressed to over 150 booksellers, librarians, and publishers in three of the largest book markets of the EU (Germany, France, and Spain). They will be given a special access to literature written in Arabic, Bulgarian, Catalan, Czech, Lithuanian, Polish and Ukrainian, so-called less-used languages in the book market. Publishers will travel to Bulgaria, Ukrainian authors to Berlin, new voices in Arabic will be heard in Paris; public events will flourish across Europe and give a large audience the opportunity to share with the explorers of the biblio-diversity the unseen treasures they have found. Archipelagos aims to draw attention to other ways to tell the world.

The change that Archipelagos aims to trigger is to delink support given to translators and production of a book. This dissociation is the condition for the acceptance of a new type of support, which would pay for the currently unseen and mostly unknown scouting activity.

The project should convince decision makers to trust in the leverage power of this small but powerful step, which can lead to a change of perception of the translator's craft, to more curiosity towards the lesser-used languages literature, and to the safeguard of an independent and creative book sector.

**Objective** Transnational creation and circulation

**Priority(ies)** Social inclusion | Annual priority

**Sector(s)** Publishing and literature
Comics beyond is the experimentation of a European comics incubator with the objective of strengthening the employability of European comics artists.

European comics artists suffer from a precarious situation; very few of them manage to develop their careers and make a living from their artistic activity. They lack networking spaces, continuous training and development of new skills that would allow them to expand their professional and creative activity, at different scales.

This project aims to develop new skills for European comic artists on a European scale, in particular by implementing a week of training for twelve artists on the development of new skills: the entrepreneurial author posture, the creation of live drawing shows, collaboration with museums, games. Also, throughout the project, attention will be paid to comics workshops and their implementation: guidelines, lectures and webinars will be set up in order to provide training for comics artists, as well as for schools and other interested organizations. Forty comics workshops will be set up in Europe.

It seeks to foster the creation and circulation of European works and artists by overcoming the language barrier associated with books, in particular by supporting the creation, production and international distribution of four transnational comic shows, which can be seen and understood without translation - and the circulation and networking of the four artistic groups behind these works.

The creation of a database of transdisciplinary comics will enable the networking of artists and distribution spaces, so as to promote and structure the transdisciplinarity of comics on a European scale, encouraging transnational and transdisciplinary creation and helping comics to reach new audiences.
CREATIVE EUROPE’S SUPPORT TO THE BOOK AND PUBLISHING SECTOR

CELA is a European cooperation project for literary talent development, transnational creation, promotion and circulation of literary works and literary artists in small language markets across Europe. The project brings together a diverse network of 12 literary organisations from 11 countries to collaborate at an international level on providing a total of 165 literary talents with skills, tools and network for a sustainable professional practice, serving the European audience with a rich diversity of quality prose. The project has value for capacity building and training activities, and related skills development activities such as mentoring, peer learning and networking. CELA fosters talents and enhances the entrepreneurial capacities of literary artists, and of the concerned sectors to adapt to new business models and market developments, and to embrace the digital and green transitions.

CELA aims to:

• Continue and grow the European network of professionals and organisations: providing emerging literary artists with access to the publishing industry and a relevant network in the European book and publishing sector.
• Increase the professional capability of tomorrow’s internationally acknowledged writers and translators to operate work in a self-sustainable way on an international level, for the European public.
• Build the capacity to cooperate at the international level within the diverse and strong CELA partnership.
• Provide for transnational mobility and connection within the European literary market: connect, share and exchange expertise and knowledge throughout Europe and help the new generation of European literary artists to meet and work together.
• Raise the international circulation of literary works from emerging literary artists from smaller language regions to the European public, investing in the professionalisation of translators, and in the ability for literary work to reach new audiences.

OBJECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION
PRIORITY(IES) ANNUAL PRIORITY
SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE
Equal Pay, Equal Show, Equal Pension addresses the gender-based discrimination in the literary world and creates a plan of action to improve the position of female authors in the European Union.

The main activities of the project are:

- Conducting interviews, focus groups, and digital surveys to collect data on the pay and pension gap, reception, visibility, social and economic standing of female authors in the EU.
- Creating a reading list of mainly contemporary female authors to increase their visibility and showcase their works to a wider audience.
- Establishing an international writing and networking group to promote transnational cooperation among writers and organisations in the field to provide support and opportunities for female authors.
- Organising symposia in Munich, Amsterdam, Yerevan, and Vienna, featuring expert lectures, meetings, networking groups, readings of female authors, exchange, and discussions on the results of the project.

The outcome of the project will be a comprehensive report on female writers in the EU, a reading list of works by at least 500 female authors, results from the writing and networking group with recommendations for schools, universities and the public, a plan of action to improve the overall position of female authors in the EU and start a European association for female authors.

The project seeks to address the lack of data concerning female writers and set a baseline of data to plan further improvements. The project will use the results of the Fairness Process and Gender Report launched by the Secretary of State for Arts and Culture in Austria to push for further improvements in the partner countries and at the EU level. All outcomes and findings of the project will be published and addressed to different target groups, with a special emphasis on (EU-) authorities.

The project is a diverse collaboration of partners, experts and writers from various countries, namely Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and Ukraine.
EXPLORING EXPANDED PUBLISHING: RESEARCH, PRODUCTION AND MODELLING OF EXPANDED PUBLISHING FORMATS

PROJECT PAGE | COORDINATOR WEBSITE | 2023 | EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECT

COORDINATOR STICHTING HOGESCHOOL VAN AMSTERDAM (NL)

PARTICIPANTS AKSIOMA ZAVOD ZA SODOBNE UMETNOSTI, LJUBLJANA (SI) | ECHO CHAMBER (BE) | PRODUZIONI NERO SCRL (IT)

The traditional publishing model faces inability to include all new emerging knowledge in its existing formats, especially knowledge from experimental, artistic or niche practices. A book cannot carry a sound, a theater performance is not the same if seen online, a participatory practices cannot be published. The traditional publishing model has been facing serious troubles, deriving from supply chain crisis, insufficient and poor usage of tech options available, and disinterested audiences (especially true for niche and smaller publishers). On the other hand, the emerging Expanded Publishing (EP) that has potential to tackle these issues, never got through experimental phase and remains fragmented without a common model.

The EX-Pub project is about researching and producing new EP formats and their combinations. develop a Toolkit for EP, and prototype these actions into a novel operating model for Expanded Publishing. These 3 key deliverables provide new capacities, new professional opportunities for creative sector, and sustainable potential for future spin-offs, upgrades, replications, scaleups, etc.

Target groups include: publishers, editors, producers, artists, art directors, curators, grass-root collectives, technicians, art researchers, and wider audiences: students, theorists, music, comics and art enthusiasts, performers, clubbers, etc. They will all be actively involved in the EP formats and Toolkit development.

EX-Pub will be realised through 10+ complementary approaches and methods. Activities include research-production-dissemination axis, prototyping and development, commissioned artworks, and snowball-like progressing of EP formats processing the main theme: internet aesthetics.

Main results are: 20 new EP formats, 8 combinations of those formats, 1 digital EP Toolkit, 1 operational model for EP, 9 capacity-building activities, 8 direct (conference, live events) and indirect (booklets, zines etc.) activities of audience engagement and cooperation.

OBJECTIVE COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION PRIORITY(IES) ANNUAL PRIORITY | INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE
INCLUSIVE COMICS: VISUAL STORIES FROM ARMENIA, GEORGIA AND UKRAINE

COORDINATOR ARI LITERATURE FOUNDATION (AM)

PARTICIPANTS KOMORA PUBLISHING HOUSE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (UA) | LITERATURE INITIATIVE GEORGIA (GE)

Create collaboration between Eastern Partnership and EU countries by introducing writers and illustrators from Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine to the international comics community and integrating into the European Comics scene.

Through training and experience exchange, the program participants writers and illustrators will develop professionally and learn entrepreneurial skills for monetisation of their talent and development of the field in their countries. As a project final product they will create graphic stories reflecting the current war and peace issue of their countries through the lens of women, thus through audience development also address messages of importance.

Participation at international book fairs, comic cons and festivals in Europe will lay a basis for new cooperation and will support the development of the genre in participant countries where the comics are not a popular genre.

The project will support Illustrators and artists, develop their professional skills, and train on marketing and promotion, publishing, copyright and monetisation topics.

OBJECTIVE TRANSNATIONAL CREATION AND CIRCULATION
PRIORITY(IES) ANNUAL PRIORITY | INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION
SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE | DIGITAL ARTS
LITERARY AGENT PLATFORM: CAPACITY BUILDING

PROJECT PAGE | COORDINATOR WEBSITE | 2023 | EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECT

COORDINATOR ZALOZBA GOGA, ZAVOD ZA ZALOZNISKO IN UMETNISKO DEJAVNOST (SI)

PARTICIPANTS HELSINKI LITERARY AGENCY OY (FI) | SRSEN IVAN (HR)

LAP-CB takes as its aim to address the lack of knowledge and skills in small European languages to sell rights for their books.

Specific objectives:

- Capacity building for literary professionals and literary agents
- Setting up an online platform for selling rights
- Research on first prize for literary agents

Activities:

- Five-days residencies for literary professionals
- One-year trainings for literary agents
- Workshops in Slovenia, Croatia, and Finland
- Visits of bookfairs and literary festivals
- Networking among professionals
- Organisation of lectures conducted by professionals
- Research on first Prize for agents
- Production of first online platform for selling rights
- Research done by agents regarding online platform and prize for agents

Expected results:

- 6 trained literary agents
- 18 five-days residencies for literary professionals from all CREA countries
- 18 lectures by visiting literary professionals for local literary professionals and general public
- Research done on Prize for literary agents
- Online platform for selling rights of European authors

Type and number of outputs to be produced:

- Gender equality plans for each partner organisation (3)
- Videos and reports on lectures (18)
- Completed questionaries for visiting and local LPs (78)
- Prepared toolkit (1)
- Book proposals (6)
- Online platform for selling rights (1)
- Research document on prizes (1)
- Projects website (1)
- Toolkit for communication, dissemination and visibility (1)
- Communication and dissemination plan (1)
- Project management and financial plan (1)

OBJECTIVE COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

PRIORITY(IES) ANNUAL PRIORITY | NEW TECHNOLOGY

SECTOR(S) PUBLISHING AND LITERATURE
OUR LITTLE LIBRARY: THROUGH LITERARY BRIDGES TO READING ADVENTURES

Project Page | Coordinator Website | 2023 | European Cooperation Project

Coordinator KULTURNO UMETNISKO DRUSTVO SODOBNOST INTERNATIONAL (SI)

Participants IBIS GRAFIKA DRUSTVO S OGRANICENOMODGOVORNOSCU ZA GRAFICKE USLUGE (HR) | SINNOS SOCIETA COOPERATIVA (IT)

Our Little Library: Through Literary Bridges to Reading Adventures is a 36-month project that aims to establish a mutual publishing market through literary exchanges. The project aims to increase the circulation of literary works and promote transnational mobility of EU books, authors, and illustrators by bringing together 3 European publishers.

The project leader plans to share their knowledge with beneficiaries, with the aim of benefiting 19,000 children and 2,800 mentors. The project will also focus on increasing the visibility of the publishers and their authors on the international market by organising up to 440 meetings with foreign editors with a focus on selling rights.

Over the 36 months, a total of 76 professionals, including 3 publishing teams, 6 authors, 4 illustrators, 6 translators, 7 editors, 3 designers, 10 members of the project team, and 5 foreign editors, will contribute to the project’s success. Together, we will produce 12 children’s books and 18 e-books, as well as 19,000 activity books for participating children. Flyers, bags, posters, and other promotional materials will also be distributed to increase the project’s visibility. The project will be advertised through social and traditional media, with 3 press conferences and 20 online events planned. Furthermore, 3 seminars for mentors will be included in the project in all 3 beneficiary countries, and 3 awards for best promoters of reading will be handed out.

Overall, the project aims to promote literature, encourage a love for reading, and make literature more accessible to a wider audience.

Objective Transnational Creation and Circulation Priority(ies) Audience Engagement Sector(s) Publishing and Literature | Digital Arts
REEPLAI aims at enhancing the reading habits of families with children and teenagers and to improve capacities to promote reading as a means for self-growth, interaction, dialogue and community activation in the partner countries - Ukraine, Portugal and Italy - through the promotion of innovative cultural practices related to reading and to the promotion of literature.

For this to happen, the work plan includes 5 WPs that, under the umbrella of an effective project management plan, will foresee a phase of Content Design in which installations and activities will be imagined and designed based on literary works from the countries’ literatures that will give birth to it; the implementation of new game installations’ prototypes and literary quests, as well as the preparation of the inaugural events; finally, engagement and capacity-building activities will take place to establish a dialogue with a wide array of stakeholders and enable educators, teachers and cultural mediators to familiarise with REEPLAI’s activities.

REEPLAI will mainly address families with their children and teenagers, devoting special attention to Ukrainian families temporarily residing in Obidos and Aosta Valley to stimulate inclusion, mutual understanding and knowledge sharing. In addition, it will operate to strengthen the capacities of school teachers, educators, cultural mediators and operators of the field who live in the surrounding areas.

Alongside the creation of spaces and activities related to reading, REEPLAI intends to protect and promote cultural diversity, stimulate curiosity and the desire to learn. Additionally, it advocates the enlargement and expansion of its network in the long term, based on starting formats and models.

In concrete terms, REEPLAI results in the creation of 2 Reading Parks with their game installations and the implementation of reading-related activities, e.g., literary quests based on the adaptation of 5 literary works from each of the partner’s literatures.
ThinkPub proposes the creation and implementation of a learning hub for the book sector in a tightly intertwined action between internationally experienced experts and relevant educational materials with well-established local industry gatherings, in the ambition to bring strong educational offers directly to the practitioners. Learning, experimenting with, and fully exploring new models of production, distribution and communication with highly targeted audiences is the key for sustaining the diversity of the book sector in both cultural and business regards. ThinkPub will introduce new ways to make available and target such knowhow with a special focus on small organisations and smaller markets, by combining 2 powerful approaches:

- Creating a “Library of Digital Learning Objects” providing the sector with international perspectives, insights, use cases and innovative practices in managing, marketing, using new technologies as well as fostering costly translations and learning about new research on reading practices of both, digital and physical books;
- Organising professional trainings in close collaboration with well-established local platforms to reach book professionals at their existing hubs and being able to adjust cutting edge business practices to respective local or regional requirements.

The ThinkPub consortium brings together broadly recognised trade organisations, experienced technological innovators, as well as local industry hubs, in the aim of producing and delivering highly relevant and customized trainings directly to the sector’s practitioners.

The composition of the consortium as well as the strategic connection of knowhow from internationally recognised experts with local purveyors of professional education and stakeholder networks, guarantees a sustainable offer which can balance the global perspectives of the ongoing digital transformation with the sector’s traditionally strong local and regional characteristics and differences.
CREATIVE EUROPE’S SUPPORT TO THE BOOK AND PUBLISHING SECTOR

This publication presents an overview of the funding schemes, themes, initiatives as well as the projects funded under the programme in support of the book and publishing sector over the period 2021-2023.

Each of the Creative Europe projects plays a specific and important role in the book value chain and contributes to the collective effort to promote literary works and artists, and to help as many people as possible discover the European cultural and linguistic diversity encompassed by more than 40 Creative Europe countries. The various themes, special actions and initiatives of Creative Europe such as “Translators on the cover”, the EU Prize for Literature, the Day of European authors, the support to the Youth and Young professionals, the support to the Ukrainian cultural and creative sector, complement the work that projects do in the field and help strengthen the book and publishing sector in the countries participating in the Programme and beyond.

2021-2023