

Creative Europe promoting translation of European literature (Panel discussion with publishers from Slovenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Hungary)

**Slovenian Book Fair, Friday, 25 November 2016, from 11.00 to 13.00.
Cankarjev dom Ljubljana (M3–4 Hall)**

GUEST SPEAKERS

Ákos Déri, Typotex Kiadó, Budapest (HU)

Ákos Déri (b. 1991) is a Hungarian editor. Born in Budapest, Hungary and works as a senior editor and foreign rights manager at Typotex since 2014. Received an MA in Philosophy and Theory of Art at Loránd Eötvös University Budapest in 2016.

[Typotex Publishing Ltd.](#) is one of the major publisher of academical and non-fiction books in Hungary since 1990. Since Typotex's started to participate in EACEA's co-funding frameworkship program in 2012 the Publisher has already a literary series with 40+ titles from contemporary European authors.

Bojan Sazdov, TRI & Publisher, Skopje (MK)

Bojan Sazdov (1984) has a degree in Politics and international relations from the Faculty of Law in Skopje. He started working at the TRI Publishing Centre in 2003 as a junior editor working on the editorial and publishing strategy of the company, communication with foreign publishers and agencies, working with team of translators on the time-line and supervising the process of translation, proofreading and editing/typesetting of the books.

He has taken part in two state-funded publishing projects - Stars of the world's literature and University textbooks project, as a project coordinator working on publication of more than 150 literary and 40 textbooks intended for the state libraries and universities. He is the project manager for the joint projects of the TRI Publishing Centre and the Ministry of Culture, working on the original editions of the publishing house by established Macedonian authors, and project manager for the implementation of the books from the EU's Culture Programme (2007-2014) and Creative Europe (2015).

From 2010 he is the Executive editor of TRI, responsible for designing the yearly publishing programme, design, implementation and quality management of the editorial strategy, coordination and supervising of the publishing processes (translation, proof reading, editing and printing of the works), managing and supervising human resources and sub-contractors, contacting authors, obtaining and managing copyrights. He is president of the Association of Macedonian Publishers (2015).

[TRI Publishing Centre](#) is one of the most prominent, serious and professional Macedonian publishing houses, devoted to promoting high-quality literature, following and setting new trends and standards, the biggest objective of the publisher is to promote and popularize diverse authors, genres, styles and works. TRI stands for supporting and promoting contemporary literature, as well as bringing the most popular and acclaimed authors' works from around the world closer to the Macedonian reader. So far, TRI has managed to enrich the Macedonian literary fund with more than 600 titles from acclaimed authors, and is successfully creating and animating a wider readership and audience. At the same time, TRI is promoting literature as a way of representing the foreign cultures, values and ideas, as well as introducing and promoting the Macedonian culture via its notable representatives outside the country.

Nevena Dichlieva-Krysteva, ICU Publishing, Sofia (BG)

Nevena Dichlieva-Krysteva was born in 1971. While majoring in English and Bulgarian literature and language at Sofia University in mid 1990s, she co-founded a magazine for literature and blues and started translating fiction. Among her translated authors so far are Zadie Smith, Jeffrey Moore, Jeffrey Eugenides, Philip Roth, Mohsin Hamid, Rana Dasgupta, John Updike, J. R. R. Tolkien, etc. Nevena is also editor, book scout and—from 2010—publisher of her own projects. Her publishing house is ICU – a small independent press with its own face and niche.

[ICU](#) is as a small-size independent press based in Sofia, Bulgaria. ICU means I SEE YOU—as a partner, as a human being. Our focus is on contemporary European writers dealing with issues of migration, refugees, human rights, identity, and multiculturalism. The objective of our books is to involve Bulgarian readers in a larger literary context by offering a perspective that is broader than our individual lives. We aim to invoke empathy and ask important questions about identification, personality and the sense of belonging. Among ICU's authors in translation are the Slovenian author Goran Vojnovich, as well as writers like Zadie Smith, Colm Toibin, Hisham Matar, Priya Basil, Chris Cleave, Rose Tremain, Pierre Mejlak, Josip Novakovich, etc. We also publish works by contemporary Bulgarian authors: novels, essays, and poetry: Kerana Angelova, Radmila Mladenova, Katerina Stoykova-Klemer, Elin Rahnev, etc.

Seid Serdarević, Fraktura, Zagreb (HR)

Seid Serdarević is editor-in-chief of Croatian publishing house Fraktura and program director of World Literature Festival - *Literatura Mundi*. He was born in 1970 in Arnsberg, Germany. He graduated comparative literature and Czech literature at the University of Zagreb. He was Herder scholarship holder and worked as a Croatian lecturer at the University of Bamberg. In 2002, together with his wife, he founded Fraktura publishing house and, so far, he edited more than four hundred books. He was awarded the Croatian prize Kiklop as editor of the year 2007 and in 2015, Fraktura won the London Book Fair International Excellence Award 2015. He published a book of literary criticism *Station to station*.

[Fraktura](#), independent publishing house found in 2002, is one of the winners of The London Book Fair International Excellence Awards 2015 - The *Bookseller* International Adult Trade Publisher Award. With the annual production of 50 new books and carefully choosing its titles, Fraktura is a leading Croatian literary publishing house. In 2014, Fraktura received the Kiklop award for the best publisher in Croatia.

From its beginnings, Fraktura has a particular approach to quality literature. Every year Fraktura publishes living classics, the most compelling authors of their respective generations and presents new promising authors. Fraktura's literary program includes high quality literary fiction, upper market fiction and genre fiction. Fraktura addresses a wide audience who recognized its program and the brand, which is a guarantee of the best quality. Every year, besides the literary fiction, Fraktura publishes a few thoughtfully selected non-fiction titles, which focus on the History of the 20th century and socially engaged philosophy.

Croatian authors published by Fraktura are the most awarded and the most translated Croatian authors. Authors from more than 40 countries have been translated into Croatian from over thirty languages. Among the published authors, there are number Nobel laureates in literature as well as the winners of the most important literary prizes in their own countries.

In literature promotion, Fraktura uses innovative media platforms and solutions combined with traditional book presentations. Fraktura was one of the first publishers in Croatia to use social networks, newsletters and other advantages of Internet marketing. Fraktura is also a leading publisher of e-books in Croatia and the region.

Every year Fraktura organises more than 80 book promotions and literary events. Fraktura prides itself on the Festival of world literature – *Literatura Mundi*, launched three years ago, which takes place in early September in Zagreb. During ten days 30 international and regional writers promote reading and books, participate in literary talks, round tables and other events, which intertwine literature, music and art.

Fraktura, present since its founding at many international book fairs, successfully collaborates with other festivals and fairs.

Irena Miš Svoltjšak, Miš, Dob pri Domžalah (SI)

Irena Miš Svoltjšak (1961) finished studies on University of Ljubljana (B. Sc.), attended also School of Marketing, University of Maryland. Finished 19 years of banking career as a head of marketing in third largest Slovene bank. Published more than hundred articles in Slovene business magazines. She established Mis založba with her husband and since 2004 work there as a publisher and chief editor. A member of the Executive Committee of the Slovenian Section IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People). Participate as a speaker on international conferences.

[Miš založba](#) is now one of two most important Slovene publishers for young readers and awarded as Slovene publisher of the year 2016. Releases 30-40 new titles yearly, 75% are youth works by best Slovene and foreign authors. The strategic position of the publishing company is to translate excellent books from countries whose literature has not yet been introduced more than marginally to the Slovene public and best Slovene authors as well. Many awards and prizes received are confirming best quality of published titles.

Miš založba is organizing the Slovenian children's literature festival (under patronage of UNESCO), with more than 140 events and 9.000 attendees.

Andrej Ilc, Mladinska knjiga, Ljubljana (SI)

Andrej Ilc graduated in comparative literature and sociology of culture. He wrote about music and literature for newspapers Mladina, Razgledi, Dnevnik, Delo, Start. Youth book editor since 1996 (initially for children's fiction now for conductive fiction for adults), the last fifteen years, and the head of the editorial board literature. Author of poetry anthologies *Komadi* and *Drugi komadi*. Member of the international jury for the Andersen Award IBBY.

[Mladinska knjiga Publishing House](#) (MK) is the largest publishing house in Slovenia. Exports have increased with the re-opening of the Croatian market. Mladinska knjiga was established in 1945. Today it has branches in eight other countries: Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, and Italy.

Apart from the largest publishing house in Slovenia, Mladinska knjiga Group manages also [Cankarjeva Publishing House](#) and the network of about 50 Mladinska knjiga Bookshops round Slovenia, the largest of which (Konzorcij Bookstore) in Ljubljana. It hosts the *Frankfurt after Frankfurt* Book Fair and *Bologna after Bologna* Children's Book Fair.

Mitja Ličen, Goga, Novo mesto (SI)

Mitja Ličen was born in Šempeter pri Gorici in 1977. He studied political sciences at Faculty of Social Sciences and got his Bachelor's degree in 2007. He was president of the Students Union of Novo mesto (2000-2002). In 2002, he was in charge of the 1st international Short Film Festival SNIFF, in 2006 he was a member of the committee establishing professional theatre in Novo mesto. He started to work at Goga Publishing House in 2004 and was appointed director in 2009. In 2015, he was in charge of organizing the 650th anniversary of Town of Novo mesto. He is also a member of the Novo mesto Public Library board and a member of the Slovenian Book Agency board.

[Goga Publishing House](#) was established in 1998 in Novo Mesto and is one of the major cultural producers in Dolenjska region. Goga is involved in a wide spectrum of activities:

- publishing fiction (Slovene and translated authors),
- promoting books and writers through cultural events (in Slovenia and abroad),

- promoting reading culture through various artistic projects and programs for disadvantaged groups, the Roma, migrants, children and elderly people,
- promoting Slovene writers on international level by participating in international book fairs (Leipzig, Frankfurt etc.),
- organizing international cooperation through the Writer in Residence program
- managing Goga bookshop, a popular venue for musical, cultural, literary, and other events in Novo mesto,
- organizing summer literature festival Novomeški poletni večeri and street theatre festival Rudi Potepuški,
- publishing a magazine that covers literature, culture and social topics.

Gabriela Babnik, EUPL winning author (2013)

[Gabriela Babnik](#) was born in 1979 in Göppingen, Germany. After finishing her studies at Ljubljana University, she spent some time in Nigeria before working on a master's degree on the modern Nigerian novel. Since 2002, she has regularly contributed articles to all major daily and weekly publications in Slovenia. In 2005, Babnik graduated in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory at the University of Ljubljana.

Her first novel *Koža iz bombaža* (Cotton Skin) was published in 2007 and was awarded the Best Debut Novel by the Union of Slovenian Publishers at the Slovenian Book Fair. In 2009, her second novel *V visoki travi* (In the Tall Grass) was published, which was shortlisted for the Kresnik Award in 2010.

EUPL awarded book: *Sušna doba* (Dry Season)

Gabriela Babnik's novel Dry Season is a record of an unusual love affair. Anna is a 62-year-old designer from Central Europe and Ismael is a 27-year-old African who was brought up on the street, where he was often the victim of abuse. What unites them is the loneliness of their bodies, a tragic childhood and the dry season or Harmattan, during which neither nature nor love is able to flourish. She soon realizes that the emptiness between them is not really caused by their skin colour and age difference, but predominantly by her belonging to the Western culture in which she has lost or abandoned all the preordained roles of daughter, wife and mother. Sex does not outstrip the loneliness and repressed secrets from the past surface into a world she sees as much crueller and, at the same time, more innocent than her own. Cleverly written as an alternating narrative of both sides in the relationship, the novel is interlaced with magic realism and accurately perceived fragments of African political reality.