Sofia International Literary Fellowship

9-12 December 2026

National Palace of Culture

Organized by: Sofia Literary Agency, NEXT PAGE

Supported by: Republic of Bulgaria Ministry of Culture, Bulgarian Book Association, Think pub, Co-funded by the European Union, Култура, Rosslyn Central Park Hotel Sofia

2026 Sofia International Literary Fellowship

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Shahbaz Khuduoghlu, Qanun Publishing House, Azerbaijan

2026 Sofia International Literary Fellowship

The third edition of the **Sofia International Literary Fellowship** will take place from **December 9 to December 12**, and it will gather over 20 literary professionals from all over the world. The program fosters collaborations and provides unique opportunities for publishing professionals from 17 countries to get acquainted with the Bulgarian book market during the biggest and most significant Sofia International Book Fair and the Sofia International Literary Festival. In 2026 the Sofia International Literary Fellowship and the ThinkPub project join forces to offer a richer professional public program.

Publishers of translated literature and agents today work in changing, often shrinking markets. Our joint sessions bring together publishing professionals from small and larger markets alike. They will share and explore new strategies and practices for reaching readers, generating revenue and discovering new writers, while keeping the publishing of books in translation sustainable and true to its values.

The program is organized by Sofia Literary Agency and Next Page Foundation with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria and in partnership with the Bulgarian Book Association. The program is part of the ThinkPub project, co-funded by the Creative Europe program of the European Union and by the National Culture Fund of Bulgaria.

December 10, Thursday

PUBLIC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM
Literary Club Peroto, located in the National Palace of Culture (NDK)
Address: Bulgaria Blvd 1, 1463 Sofia

10:00 – 10:15 Opening
Gergana Pancheva, Sofia Literary Agency, Bulgaria
Julia Rafailovich, Next Page Foundation, Bulgaria

10:15 – 11:00 Keynote: The Politics of Translation Today
Sebastian Guggolz, Publisher at Guggolz Verlag, editor at S. Fischer Verlag, and a chairperson of Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, Germany
Responses from participants & discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Selling and Buying Rights 1: Lessons from Practice
Introduction by Benas Berantas, Book Smugglers Agency, Lithuania

11:30 – 12:30 Selling and Buying Rights 2: Lessons from Practice
Arevik Ashkharoyan, ARI Literary Agency, ARI Literature Foundation
Edge Publishing, Armenia
Darja Marinšek, Mladinska knjiga, Slovenia
Gergana Pancheva, Sofia Literary Agency, Bulgaria
Ranya Bakr, Al Arabi Publishing and Distributing, Egypt
Moderated by: Benas Berantas, Book Smugglers Agency, Lithuania

Drawing on their own experience, agents and publishers will discuss recent developments and new approaches in the buying and selling of translation rights, both within Europe and between European and non-European markets, with particular attention to the challenges that small markets face.

12:30 – 13:00 Open Questions & Wrap-up of Day 1

Organized by: Sofia Literary Agency, Next Page
Supported by: Republic of Bulgaria Ministry of Culture, Bulgarian Book Association, Trivia pub, Co-funded by the European Union, Kvatvpa, Rosslyn Central Park Hotel Sofia

December 11, Friday

PUBLIC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM
Literary Club Peroto, located in the National Palace of Culture (NDK)
Address: Bulgaria Blvd 1, 1463 Sofia

10:30 – 11:30 Cross-Border Cooperation and Solidarity: Examples from Practice
Alisa Shkoda, Ranok Publishing House, Ukraine
Neva Sendarevic, Fraktura, Croatia
Nevena Dishlieva Krasteva, ICU Publishing, Bulgaria
Zeynep Söylemez, Kalem Literary Agency, Turkey and Linden Editions, UK
Moderated by: Alba Cantón, Itineraria Editorial, Spain

The panel will explore different forms of cross-border cooperation, looking beyond the buying and selling of rights. Speakers will draw on their experiences across different publishing contexts, discussing English-language translation publishing, co-productions and working across countries.

Followed by responses from participants & discussion

11:30 – 12:30 Case Studies: Challenges to the Traditional Translation-Rights Models
by David Meulemans, Éditions Aux forges de Vulcain, France

The New Balkan Rights Platform by Biljana Crvenkovska, Strange Forest Publications, North Macedonia

12:30 – 13:00 Workshop - Public Funding for Translations in Europe
Presentation and facilitation by Yana Genova, consultant and researcher, founder of the Sofia Literature and Translation House and the Next Page Foundation in Bulgaria

Responses by: Alexander Popescu, The Ministry of Culture of Romania
Svetlozar Zhelev, National Palace of Culture, Bulgaria
Julia Rafailovich, Next Page Foundation, Bulgaria

The session will provide a brief overview of translation funding across Europe, explore common challenges in preparing publishers projects and offer some tips. It will introduce the key elements of the funding scheme for translations of Bulgarian literature.

13:00 – 13:15 Closing remarks and key takeaways

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Entrance is free with a registration here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWBS8IzRBamJibfjs9WxSsEFfPZi464j9qG39eOZjhbezvdQ/viewform