



MEDNARODNI
LITERARNI FESTIVAL
INTERNATIONAL
LITERARY FESTIVAL



*Call for Applications for the **EMERGING WRITER ON TOUR** for the year 2019 and 2020 organized by the Vilenica International Literary Festival in co-operation with the Festival of World Literature and Cúirt International Festival of Literature within the project Read Me I am Yours*

Overview

The project ***Read Me I am Yours*** is a joint endeavour of 3 eminent literary manifestations with an aim of promoting European literature, coming from lesser known and used linguistic areas. The partners in the project are organisations that run renowned literary festivals from different parts of Europe representing the lesser-spoken European languages: Mednarodni literarni festival Vilenica / Vilenica International Literary Festival organized by the Slovene Writers' Association from Slovenia, Cúirt International Festival of Literature / Cúirt Idirnáisiúnta Litríochta organized by the Galway Arts Centre from Ireland, and Festival svjetske književnosti / Festival of World Literature organized by the Fraktura publishing house from Croatia. Due to the location, all 3 partners share a certain common historical, social and political experience that make them unique at the European level. Feeling that we, the countries of the so called European periphery, have much to offer to the centre, we want to turn the European focus towards its different edges, where the literatures of smaller nations, regions and minorities coexist, and so do the larger groups that, despite the high quality of their writing, are under-represented in the body of literary and cultural field. The overall aim of the project ***Read Me I am Yours*** is to promote cross-cultural understanding and encourage intercultural dialogue - both among literary cultures that come from lesser-used European languages and larger linguistic areas, as well as with the countries outside Europe - and exchange by stimulating the mobility of authors, publishers, translators, literary agents, and other cultural mediators as well as workers in the cultural industry.

Partners of the Project ***Read Me I am Yours***

The **Vilenica International Literary Festival**, a gathering of poets, prose writers, playwrights and essayists, but also translators, publishers, editors and critics from Central Europe and beyond is organised by the Slovene Writers' Association (SWA) in collaboration with the Cultural Society Vilenica from Sežana. Since the first Vilenica international festival in 1986, the climax of the event has been the presentation of the Vilenica International Literary Prize, awarded by the Slovene Writers' Association to a Central European author for outstanding achievements in the field of literature and essay writing. Vilenica Prize Winners include: Fulvio Tomizza, Peter Handke, Peter Esterházy, Jan Skácel, Tomas Venclova, Zbigniew Herbert, Milan Kundera, Libuše Moníková, Josip Osti, Adolf Muschg, Adam Zagajewski, Pavel Vilikovský, Peter Nádas, Erica Pedretti, Slavko Mihalić, Jaan Kaplinski, Ana Blandiana, Mirko Kovač, Brigitte Kronauer, Karl-Markus Gauss, Ilma Rakusa, Miodrag Pavlović, Goran Stefanovski, Andrzej Stasiuk, Claudio Magris, Dževad Karahasan, Mircea Cărtărescu, David Albahari, Olga Tokarczuk, László Krasznahorkai, Jáchym Topol, Dubravka Ugrešić, Yuri Andrukhovych and Ilija Trojanow. Vilenica features numerous literary

and cultural events; the theoretical part of the festival provides many opportunities for in-depth debates, while social events add to a relaxed atmosphere for socializing and meeting. www.vilenica.si

The **Festival of World Literature** was founded by Fraktura Publishing House in 2013. In 6 days at the beginning of September, with the Festival of World Literature, Zagreb and Split become one of the centres of world literature, places to present new titles, where authors discuss their novels and many other topics in panels and round tables. The program of the festival incorporates more events every year, embodying highly significant cultural platform on the national and international level. The events are moderated by leading literary editors, writers and critics. Every year, around 20 Croatian most distinguished painters make portraits of the Festival participants as well as paintings inspired by motives from their books. As a literary and cultural manifestation, the festival includes literary talks, round tables, film screenings and graphic novel discussions. Opening and closing events of the Festival are accompanied with music performance. The aim of the festival is to bring together the best of local and international literature, through a series of live events, as well as to provide opportunity for the audience to interact with contemporary writers. www.fsk.hr

Cúirt International Festival of Literature is Ireland's premier literary event having hosted Nobel Laureates and prize winning authors from around the world. Cúirt is an annual contemporary literature festival based in the West of Ireland that specialises in bringing established writers, emerging talent and the festival audience under one roof to create unique literary experiences. One of the oldest and most recognised literature festivals in Europe, Cúirt has earned an international reputation as a prestigious event attracting national and international visitors every year.

Founded in 1985, Cúirt was a three day poetry festival; it has since grown to seven days and expanded to include fiction, non-fiction, genre writing, debate, events for young people, community-focused activities, and a number of other disciplines such as visual arts and film. The festival provides a varied programme of events showcasing the best of National talent, in addition to a wide array of International guests. Some previous guests of note include: Seamus Heaney, Allen Ginsberg, John Banville, David Mitchell, Ian McEwan, Lorrie Moore, Amy Bloom, Margaret Atwood, Carol Ann Duffy, Billy Collins and many more. Cúirt is known internationally for its warm and attentive audiences and has a very strong reputation in the US and Canada as well as the UK. www.cuirt.ie

Emerging Writer on Tour

Is an activity of the *Read Me I am Yours* project, aimed at promoting young authors (up to 35 years) coming from the countries participating in the EU programme that have already reached a certain national recognition (national awards, good reviews, etc.) but not yet managed to establish their international career. The activity includes participation at all three partners' festivals as well as a residential stay (10 days each) in all 3 partners countries, following the below pattern:

April 2019 at 34th Cúirt International Festival of Literature: author A

September 2019 at 34th Vilenica International Literary Festival: author A

September 2019 at 7th Festival of World Literature: author B, author C

April 2020 at 35th Cúirt International Festival of Literature: author B, author C

September 2020 at 35th Vilenica International Literary Festival: author B, author C

September 2020 at 8th Festival of World Literature: author A

The aim of the activity is to invite the young writers to come and work in a foreign environment and engage with the local cultural scene, consecutively creating trans-national

works of art. The extended (residential) stay will take place before the festivals and after, authors will also be included in the festivals' events where they will be able to present their work to the national audience. The residential programme will be offered in the capital city of Slovenia, in the capital city of Zagreb, in cultural city of the Galway in Ireland (one week in an urban location, and one week in a rural setting experiencing Ireland's lesser spoken language), which are all a very inspiring places to create new works. Meetings with the national publishers, translators and writers will be organized so that the selected authors will be able to set the plans for future translation projects. The excerpts of their work will be translated and presented at the web portal of the *Read Me I am Yours* project.

Conditions of entry

Applicants eligible for the Emerging Writer on Tour activity are writers from all genres under 35 (born from 1 January 1985 onwards) from countries participating in the Creative Europe Programme (Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, United kingdom).

Application guidelines

The deadline for applications is 18 February 2019. Applications must be received in a **PDF FILE by e-mail**. The committee will consider **entries sent on or before 18 February 2019**.

Applications must be sent to:

info@vilenica.si

The application **must include** the following **obligatory enclosures**:

1. A filled in registration form (find attached).
2. A biography of the applicant in English (max. 1800 characters without spaces).
3. Copy of a valid ID or passport with the visible date and place of birth, and the citizenship of the applicant.
4. A bibliography of the applicant in English (max. 3600 characters without spaces).
5. A motivation letter on applicant's current project/work that she/he would like to develop within her/his residential stay (10 days each) in all 3 countries in English (2000 – 4500 characters without spaces). The project must be a literary work (all genres and themes), not a research project.
6. One original signed letter of recommendation from an established author/critic/professor/publisher in English (max. 1800 characters without spaces, letters without the original signature will not be considered).

Incomplete entries will not be considered.

Application procedure

1. The application form will be distributed through our partner's festivals, embassies, PEN centers, writers' associations, cultural centers, publishing houses, literary magazines, book foundations etc., on the web-page of the *Read Me I am Yours* project partners.

2. The international committee including members from Slovenia, Croatia and Ireland will consider entries dated on or before 18 February 2019.

3. Entries will be evaluated according to the following criterion: 30% (3 points) for the bibliography, 50% (5 points) for the motivation letter (project description) and 20% (2 points) for the letter of recommendation.

4. All the applicants will be notified of the decision of the committee in the beginning of March

5. The selected authors will be officially notified and invited to all 3 festivals following the bellow pattern:

April 2019 at 34th Cúirt International Festival of Literature: author A

September 2019 at 34th Vilenica International Literary Festival: author A

September 2019 at 7th Festival of World Literature: author B, author C

April 2020 at 35th Cúirt International Festival of Literature: author B, author C

September 2020 at 35th Vilenica International Literary Festival: author B, author C

September 2020 at 8th Festival of World Literature: author A

6. 60 days after completion of all three tours, the candidate must submit a written report in English (7200 – 9000 characters without spaces) by regular or e-mail to the Slovene Writers' Association.

Information

Questions may be sent via e-mail before the deadline to:

Slovene Writers' Association/Društvo slovenskih pisateljev

Tomšičeva 12

SI-1000 Ljubljana

Slovenia

E-mail: info@vilenica.si

Tel: 00386 1 25 14 144