

Press release
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Book World Prague Invites All Book Enthusiasts to a June Date

Organisers of Book World Prague – International Book Fair and Literary Festival have announced that the country's key event focused on the book profession will be held at a June date. After last year's involuntary cancellation, visitors can look forward to the book fair taking place on June 10 – 13 at the Prague Exhibition Grounds.

Book World Prague's director Radovan Auer has provided following information on the current state of preparations for this year's international book fair and literary festival: *"Given both the domestic and the international epidemiological situation, as well as the planned reconstruction of the Industrial Palace, we were left with only one date, **June 10-13, 2021**. Taking into account the pivotal role of the major Czech book and literary event, its indispensability for the book profession and its international resonance, we have accepted the date and are currently launching full-scale preparations for it."*

The organisers will locate majority of the literary and cultural programme at venues other than the Industrial Palace itself, to give the event more air and eliminate crowded conditions for visitors. Besides already existing venues that have been used for Book World programmes in the past, such as the National Museum's Lapidarium, Gauč ve Stromovce or the pavilions in front of the palace, some more unique locations provided by the Exhibition Grounds will also be used.

"We are prepared to carry out COVID-19 antigen testing on the spot if the situation in June requires it. The event would thus be only attended by people with negative results. The overall ground plan of the displays will remain largely unchanged but we will attempt to increase the distances between them," says Auer in regard of the coronavirus situation.

This year's guest of honour will be **France**, a veritable literary heavyweight, with special attention also focused on **Poland**, whose presentation could not take place last year. The 2021 book fair's motto **"Language is my home"** aims to explore the relationship between literary works, their authors and their languages, as well as the geographical and mental affiliation to a country.

After last year's online broadcasts of Czech writers' readings that substituted for the cancelled book fair, we will make further use of this experience at the June book fair especially in relation to live presentations of books and authors and international debates.

"I am a lifelong optimist and as such I am already looking forward to many pleasant encounters with visitors at the Exhibition Grounds in June," concludes Radovan Auer.

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