*13 February 2025*

*Prague*

**Celebrating its 30th anniversary, Book World Prague will introduce Portuguese culture and host the award ceremony of the prestigious EU Prize for Literature**

**Book World Prague celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2025. The motto of this edition, “30! Energy of the Youth – Wisdom of Books”, illustrates how the International Book Fair and Literary Festival perceives this jubilee: as an opportunity to reminisce about its rich history and at the same time, and above all, to focus on the future. The theme highlights the dialogue between the creativity of young authors and the timeless wisdom that can be found in literature. The motto borrowed from the quote by Portuguese writer Ricardo Reis also hints at this year’s Guest of Honour which is Portugal. Czech readers will learn about the culture, language and literary innovations of this country through both classical and contemporary works. The selected literary stars will also bring to Prague the countries represented in the EU Prize for Literature, the award ceremony of which will be one of the highlights of Book World Prague this year. The 30th edition of the festival will be held from 15 to 18 May at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice. The jubilee edition will present a new hall housing Kája Saudek Stage, dedicated to comic books, but also to young adult literature, sci-fi and fantasy.**

The motto of the 30th Book World Prague is a quote by Portuguese writer Ricardo Reis: **“30! Energy of the Youth – Wisdom of Books”.** It combines the energetic and challenging nature of youth with timeless knowledge that can be found in literature. *“Thirty years is the age of one generation, and the festival has matured to fulfil its role as a bridge-builder and to bring the new generation to the level of their predecessors. The festival forms a bridge between the energy of the youth and the wisdom of books,”* said Guillaume Basset, Dramaturg of the festival, commenting on the choice of the motto.

The programme will focus on the role of literature in empowering young voices, featuring authors born in the three decades during which Book World Prague has been held. The fair will also focus on timeless works and their overlap to the present or on intergenerational transmission, where the writers of the older generation become mentors to the younger ones.

The Guest of Honour of the 30th Book World Prague will be **Portugal**, a country with a rich history of storytelling, represented by iconic writers such as Luís de Camões, Fernando Pessoa and José Saramago, as well as by contemporary authors who form the international literary scene. The Czech audience will have a unique opportunity to get to know Portuguese authors, translators and publishers in greater depth, and the programme will showcase Portuguese literary diversity in poetry, prose and children’s literature.

Book World Prague regularly hosts award ceremonies. A highlight of this edition will be the award ceremony presenting the **European Union Prize for Literature**. *“Among the various programmes we are preparing, we are particularly honoured to have reached the stage when we can host the EUPL award ceremony,”* commented on the highlight of this edition of the festival Guillaume Basset. This prestigious prize, awarded by the Federation of European Publishers, will be presented in the presence of the EU Commissioner for Culture. On that occasion, Book World Prague will introduce rising literary stars from fourteen European countries as well.

Traditionally, the festival will also host the award ceremony of the **Jiří Theiner Award** which is awarded to those fighting for freedom of speech in literature. This year the award will go to currently imprisoned Algerian author **Boualem Sansal**.

Another traditional and important part of the festival is the **programme dedicated to literature for children and youth or young adult literature**. *“We care about young readers very much and we prepare programmes for them with other partners very carefully. This year, we additionally want to focus on teachers for whom there will be an entire special programme section. We want to offer them activities they can use to enrich their classes, often incorporating new technologies used (and overused) by the new generation, such as artificial intelligence, comics or videos,”* added Radovan Auer, Director of Book World Prague.

Young adult literature will be presented in a **brand-new hall**. Apart from that this hall will also feature **comic books or sci-fi and fantasy literature.** The new premises house **Kája Saudek Stage**. *“We have responded to the request to create a unique space for the presentation of literature of these genres and we were happy to establish a stage named after the great comic book author Kája Saudek, whose ninetieth anniversary will be celebrated just before the opening of the festival,”* explains the reason for the establishment of the new hall and stage Radovan Auer.

The visitors can look forward to a vast array of literary production from **15 to 18 May** at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice where Book World Prague will take place. The fair also continues to attract a great deal of interest from publishers to present their books there. Tickets are available at [Book World Prague website](https://eshop.svetknihy.cz/).

**Contact for media:**

Pavla Umlaufová, pavla.umlaufova@piaristi.cz, +420 723 901 326

Jana Chalupová, jana.chalupova@svetknihy.cz, +420 603 439 943