*15 April 2025, Prague*

**Polish Nobel Prize winner Olga Tokarczuk is coming to Book World Prague 2025. This edition offers a rich programme featuring literary Portugal and a great variety of genres, and yet again supports authors fighting for freedom**

**The star of Book World Prague 2025 is a world renown Polish author and winner of The Nobel Prize in Literature Olga Tokarczuk. Portugal, the Guest of Honour of the 30th edition, will present literary works across genres from this country on the Atlantic coast with the help of guests such as the master of prose Lídia Jorge, ironist Rui Zink and poet João Luís Barreto Guimarães who explores the depth of everyday life. Book World Prague 2025 will welcome around 70 foreign authors, including world renown writers such as Georgi Gospodinov from Bulgaria, Andrej Kurkov from Ukraine or Sam Holland from USA. The visitors will be also able to enjoy another edition of Das Buch, project focused on German-language literature. Czech literature will be represented by dozens of authors. The fair continues to support literature as the voice of freedom through the Jiří Theiner Award which will go to Algerian writer Boualem Sansal this year. It will also host the award ceremony of the prestigious European Union Prize for Literature and present talented authors from thirteen European countries who were nominated for this award. A new hall housing Kája Saudek Stage will offer a comprehensive overview of comic works, but also present new releases from young adult, sci-fi and fantasy literature. There will be plenty for the youngest readers to enjoy thanks to our Growing With a Book campaign. A networking opportunity for professionals will be provided for the third time already by the Central and East European Book Market. The 30th edition with a rich programme and motto “30! Energy of the Youth – Wisdom of Books” will take place from 15 to 18 May at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice. It will offer a wide range of genres and types of programmes for all generations and for both readers and teachers and book professionals.**

One of the most popular and acclaimed contemporary Polish writers, **Olga Tokarczuk**, winner of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature, accepted our invitation to Book World Prague 2025. Her debut novel *Podróż ludzi Księgi* [The Journey of the Book-People] (Czech translation *Cesta lidí Knihy* has been recently published by Host) published in 1993 introduced a number of big and in subsequent years widely discussed topics to Polish and, consequently, world literature. *“Podróż ludzi Księgi is the best proof of the visionary mindset and foresight of the future Nobel Prize winner. I think that it is not about what the author identifies with, and what or whom and how actively she supports in today’s society, but about how perfectly she addressed the issues which we, at least in our part of the world, only began to really recognize many years later,”* says Petr Vidlák, who translated most of Tokarczuk’s books to Czech. Themes, such as a quest for knowledge, fascination with borderlands and natural occultism, apostasy, coping with cultural, sexual and religious domination of the Western world or nationalism, can be found also in other books of this esteemed writer, such as *Flights* or *The Books of Jacob*. Tokarczuk’s books have been translated to more than fifty languages.

**Portugal, this year’s Guest of Honour**, will be represented by eight prominent writers. Stories from the country washed by the Atlantic will be brought to the heart of Europe by **Lídia Jorge**, whose novels perfectly capture the transformation of society and the echoes of the colonial past, or **Rui Zink**, known for his sharp sense of irony and his ability to combine reality with fiction in unexpected contexts. Czech readers are familiar with their books and the same goes for the poetry of **João Luís Barreto Guimarães**, whose verses discover deeper thoughts and feelings in seemingly ordinary moments. Among the invited guests from Portugal are also two representatives of children’s literature, **Ana Madalena Matoso** and **Isabel Minhós Martins**, experimental author **Gonçalo M. Tavares**, creator of graphic novels **Filipe Melo** and poet of Angolan origin **Ana Paula Tavares**.

The programme of the 30th edition will feature about seventy foreign authors, including the first Bulgarian winner of the International Booker Prize, **Georgi Gospodinov**, esteemed Ukrainian writer and intellectual **Andrey Kurkov**, American thriller master **Sam Holland** or Finnish novelist **Pirkko Saisio**. Nordic literature will also be well represented, plus there will be authors from neighbouring Slovakia as well as from far overseas – Argentina, Canada, Columbia, Peru and USA. Authors from Germany, Austria and Switzerland will come yet again within the **Das Buch – German-Language Literature programme**. This is the 18th time this programme will cross both geographic and literary boundaries. One of the biggest stars is **Joachim B. Schmidt** (Switzerland) who will present his novel *Kalmann And The Sleeping Mountain*.The visitors can also look forward to German writer, playwright and teacher **Ewald Arenz**, popular especially thanks to his novels *Tasting Sunlight* and *One Grand Summer*, who will present his new book *Zwei Leben*.

There will be a **plethora of popular and acclaimed Czech writers**, many of whom are planning to publish their new books just before the festival. This is the case of best-selling author Alena Mornštajnová, but the programme also includes Bianca Bellová, Vlastimil Vondruška, Tereza Boučková, Jiří Padevět, as well as Halina Pawlowská, Nina Špitálníková, Jaromír 99 or Tomáš Sedláček.

**Literature, or the Voice of Freedom** is a traditional festival programme section. *“It continues to draw attention to the transformative power of literature in the fight for human rights and social justice, as evidenced by the* ***Jiří Theiner Award****, which will be awarded this year to the imprisoned Algerian author Boualem Sansal, or the big debate with Ukrainian intellectual Andrei Kurkov and Belarusian prose writer and journalist Sasha Filipenko at Prague Castle,”* adds Guillaume Basset, Dramaturg of the festival programme. This theme will be covered by many other programmes as well.

Book World Prague 2025 is also honoured to host the **award ceremony of the European Union Prize for Literature** on 16 May. On this occasion, the fair will feature thirteen shortlisted literary talents – authors from Belgium, Bosnia, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine. The nominated authors were selected by a consortium of associations made up of the Federation of European Publishers (FEP) and the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF) with the support of the European Union’s Creative Europe programme.

Book World Prague is typical for variety of genres and types of programmes. This year, it is evidenced by the new **Kája Saudek Stage** named after the legendary comic book artist. We have created a unique space for the presentation of **comics**, to which a four-day packed programme will be devoted, but also **young adult literature, sci-fi and fantasy**. Together with the Growing with a Book campaign, the fair also continues its **support of the youngest readers**. The carefully crafted programme has not only children but also parents and educators in mind, for whom a whole set of professional suggestions has been prepared.

*“We believe that this year’s exhibition section and the really interesting festival programme will be a dignified celebration of the 30th anniversary of Book World Prague,”* says Radovan Auer, Festival Director.

Launches of new titles, debates with authors or discussions crossing both genre and literary boundaries await Book World Prague visitors from **15 to 18 May** at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice. Tickets are available at [Book World Prague website](https://eshop.svetknihy.cz/). More detailed information on the programme and exhibitors, including a map of the grounds, can be found at our [website](https://www.svetknihy.cz/) or social media. Interesting articles on literature are available at our [blog](https://www.blog-svetknihy.cz/).

**Central and East European Book Market**, an international platform initiated by Book World Prague for book industry professionals interested in literatures and book markets in the CEE area, will be held for the third time parallel to the fair. So far, professionals from 24 countries, including the Czech Republic, have registered for this event. The focus remains on business meetings, which in the two years of CEEBM’s existence have already yielded results in the form of translations of Czech books to other languages. The two-day programme will also feature panel discussions on the role of literary agents in small markets and the impact of awards on the marketing of books by unknown authors. The participants will also discuss current Czech and, considering this year’s Guest of Honour, Portuguese literary scene.

**Book World Prague 2025 in Figures**

**Festival:**

Number of participants: 818
Number of programmes: 551

Number of exhibitions: 11

**Fair:**

Number of exhibitors: 398

Number of booths: 231

Area: 3.313 m2

**Countries and regions:**38

**Angola – Argentina – Austria – Belarus – Belgium – Bosnia – Bulgaria – Canada – Columbia – Czech Republic – Denmark – Finland – France – Germany – Great Britain – Hungary – Chile – China – Ireland – Italy – Kosovo – Cuba – Mexico – Norway – Peru – Poland – Portugal – Republic of Korea – Romania – Russia – Slovakia– Serbia – Slovenia – Spain – Sweden – Switzerland – Taiwan – Ukraine – USA**

**Organizer:** Svět knihy, s.r.o., společnost Svazu českých knihkupců a nakladatelů

**Financial support:** Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Prague City Hall, Prague 7 City District

**Partners:** PPF Foundation, Das Buch, Czech Literary Centre, Moravian Library, National Gallery, National Library, Scandinavian House; Auroton Computer, Magnesia

**Main media partner:** Czech Television

**Media partners:** Czech Radio, Deník.cz, Echo, Echo 24, Knižní novinky, Host, A2, Deník N, Forum 24, Respekt, Tvar, Vltava Labe Media, Radio1

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