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PRESS RELEASE

The European Union Prize for Literature announces the 2026 laureate and two special mentions

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The European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL) recognises emerging fiction writers from the European Union and beyond.

Glenn Micallef, Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, said: *“Congratulations to the 2026 laureate and special mentions of the European Union Prize for Literature! Your work embodies the richness of European creativity, culture, and unity. The European Union Prize for Literature celebrates great storytelling, while forging connections that transcend languages, borders and cultures. It champions literary brilliance and provides a platform to a plethora of voices shaping our continent’s future. Through the Creative Europe programme and the Culture Compass for Europe, the Commission remains steadfast in this mission – today and in the years to come.”*

[A seven-member European Jury](#), constituted of literary experts with professional influence, read translated excerpts of the 14 books and selected one overall laureate and two special mentions, revealed in a ceremony organised within the wider programming and framework of the Warsaw International Book Fair. The ceremony was moderated by the Polish broadcaster Szymon Kloska.

We are pleased to announce the 2026 EUPL laureate: [Dora Kaprálová](#), Czechia, Mariborská hypnóza (*Maribor Hypnosis*), Publisher: Větrné mlýny.

This year’s two special mentions are, in alphabetical order by country:

- France: [Hélène Frédérick](#), Lézardes (*Rivers of White*), Publisher: Gallimard/Collection Verticales.
- Montenegro: [Vladimir Vujović](#), Slobodni udarci (*Free Kicks*), Publisher: Partizanska knjiga.

Spotlighting the creativity and the immense and diverse wealth of Europe’s contemporary literature in the field of fiction, EUPL aims to promote the circulation of literature within Europe and encourages greater interest in non-national literary works. Engaging the 41 countries participating in the Creative Europe programme of the European Union, the Prize celebrates 41 outstanding new literary talents across a cycle of three years.

Fourteen countries participate in the 2026 EUPL edition: Armenia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Sweden. The 14 shortlisted authors were announced on 27 February 2026, one for each participating country. The authors and their novels were nominated by national



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entities, knowledgeable about the literary scene in their countries and used to promoting their national literature abroad.

All shortlisted authors will be continuously promoted on a European stage, with the aim to reach a wider and international audience, as well as to connect with readers beyond their national and linguistic borders.

The EUPL is organised 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 Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

Sonia Draga, FEP President said: *“It is wonderful that the European Union Prize for Literature is now recognised by numerous publishers in Europe as an assurance of quality fiction from authors of our continent. I am delighted that at major book fairs the EUPL table in the Rights Centres draws more and more interest from publishers curious to discover new voices. Continuing encouraging fellow publishers to translate emerging European talents is at the very core of the Prize. EUPL will also keep on promoting translations when they are reaching the new audience through presence in bookshops and bookfairs.”*

Fabian Pagmaan, President of EIBF said: *“The EUPL Prize highlights the timeless power of European literature to break down barriers: at a time when freedom of expression faces growing limitations across the world, amplifying diverse perspectives is crucial to our democratic societies. The EUPL achieves this symbolically by recognizing 14 authors from across the continent, each representing unique cultures and narratives, their work fostering a future rooted in the exchange of ideas, literacy, tolerance, critical thought, and openness. Today, we honour these 14 rising literary talents, hoping their voices will resonate far and wide. My warmest congratulations to this year’s Laureate, the two Special Mentions, and all the shortlisted authors.”*

About FEP: The Federation of European Publishers is an independent, non-commercial umbrella association of book publishers’ associations in Europe. FEP represents 31 national associations of publishers of books, learned journals and educational materials, in all formats, in Europe, and is, thus, the voice of the great majority of European publishers. Founded in 1967, FEP deals with European legislation and advises publishers’ associations on copyright and other legislative issues.

About EIBF: The European and International Booksellers Federation is a non-commercial European and international umbrella organisation representing national booksellers associations and booksellers around the world. Through its member associations, EIBF speaks on behalf of more than 25.000 individual booksellers.

About Creative Europe: The Creative Europe programme supports a wide range of cultural and creative sectors and encourages cooperation and exchanges among cultural organisations and artists within Europe and beyond. It supports initiatives of translation and promotes literary works throughout EU markets, with the aim to raise accessibility of readership of high quality European literary writings.



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