

## 1 PURPOSE OF THIS GRANT

Flanders Literature awards grants to foreign language publishers for the translation of literary work written or illustrated by citizens of Dutch-speaking Belgium. The work should have been published in Dutch by a Flemish or Dutch publisher or staged by a professional theatre company in Flanders or the Netherlands. The purpose of these grants is to stimulate international publications or performances of work by Flemish authors, illustrators, playwrights, and comic book authors. The quality of the translation is key to the success of a translated book. This is why Flanders Literature encourages publishers to work with professional literary translators and emphasises the importance of high-quality translations.

## 2 WHICH PUBLICATIONS QUALIFY?

The following publications qualify for support:

- High-quality fiction, nonfiction, and children's and youth literature.
- High-quality literary illustrated books (picture books, comic books, and graphic novels).
- Single-author poetry collections and poetry anthologies, texts by poets who are invited to attend an international poetry festival, and who feature in brochures or appear on stage.
- Drama texts that have been published by a professional publishing house or that have been staged by a professional theatre company in Flanders or the Netherlands.

The publication itself must be intended for a general audience. The following works are not eligible for support:

- Scientific, academic, and educational works.
- Purely investigative journalism.
- Publications that will not be generally available (e.g. special, handmade, or collectible books or booklets).
- Self-published texts.
- Publications with a limited print run.
- Re-editions of existing translations. Only new translations are eligible. Where a translation already exists, the publisher must be able to demonstrate that the previous translation is not, or is no longer, suitable and explain why a new translation is needed. Publishers pursuing a re-edition of a Flemish book of which a translation was originally published by a different publisher can apply for a contribution to their production costs.

Publications that meet the above requirements, but for which an advance on royalties in excess of 25,000 euros has been paid, are also not eligible for financial support from Flanders Literature.

Flanders Literature is open to new forms of literature, including digital applications and audio literature. When the end product of the planned project is not a book, we will consider a contribution towards the translation (70%, with a maximum of 8,000 euros) and production costs (25%, with a maximum of 4,000 euros). The overall maximum is 8,000 euros.

## 3 CRITERIA

When evaluating a project, Flanders Literature considers:

- The literary and/or graphic quality of the original, which is assessed according to criteria including style, composition, subject matter, linguistic complexity, creativity, and a coherent balance between text, illustration, and design. Flanders Literature may ask its specialist advisory committee to assess the literary and artistic quality of the original book.
- The quality of the translation: the final translation for which the grant is requested must be faithful to the original text, respecting style, spirit, and content.
- The status of the publisher: repertoire, speciality, distribution and marketing efforts, special interest in translation, editorial accuracy, etc.
- The translator's contract: a professional contract and a sufficient compensation for the translation, in compliance with copyright laws.
- The degree to which the publication contributes to the promotion of literature from Flanders in the country and language area of the intended publication.
- The degree to which the translation is a priority to the international policy of Flanders Literature, in relation to the other translation grant applications and the available budget.
- The marketing and distribution strategy: Flanders Literature expects the publisher to be strongly committed to the translated text and to the editing of the publication, as well as to do its utmost to market, promote, and distribute it to bookshops, libraries, and relevant media.

Translators are excellent literary ambassadors and the **quality of their translations** is key to the success of a translated book. This is why Flanders Literature and the [Dutch Foundation for Literature](#) share a [database of accredited literary translators](#). Publishers can consult [Flanders Literature's website](#) to find a list of accredited translators in a variety of target languages. Not all accredited translators have agreed to have their profile placed on our website. We are always happy to provide more information or tailored advice on accredited translators.

Flanders Literature insists that international publishers work with **professional literary translators**. If a publisher decides to work with a non-accredited translator, Flanders Literature will appoint two experts to assess the quality of the translation. The assessors will be native speakers of the target language, have a thorough knowledge of Dutch, and will generally be experienced translators and/or linguists.

Flanders Literature encourages publishers to pay attention to the accessibility of their publications. According to the [European Accessibility Act](#), all products and services available for the European market must be widely accessible. This includes books. Publishers can find more information on this legislation in various [articles](#) on [Every Effort Matters](#), a platform created by the Every Story Matters project (supported by Flanders Literature).

## 4 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Foreign language publishers can apply for financial assistance to cover a percentage of the translator's fee. This percentage depends on the genre of the translated work (see below). In some cases publishers can also apply to cover a percentage of the production costs. If the publisher makes a special effort to market a translation, Flanders Literature may also partially compensate the promotional costs. Translations into the languages of book markets or of countries that Flanders Literature has decided to focus on especially, for example by being Guest of Honour at a book fair or by engaging in other projects, may qualify for a larger subsidy.

Flanders Literature values the role of translators and therefore encourages their visibility. That is why we like to see the translators' name(s) on the front cover. Publishers who decide to mention the name of the translator on the front cover of the book receive a bonus of 250 euros on top of the translation grant.

### ❏ TRANSLATION OF FICTION, NONFICTION, AND CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

- Financial assistance to cover up to 70% of the translator's fee, with a maximum of 8,000 euros
- Financial assistance to cover up to 100% of the translator's fee for literary classics, with a maximum of 8,000 euros. Publishers can ask the Flanders Literature team to check if a specific title is on their list;

- Financial assistance to cover up to 100% of the translator's fee for stories, literary excerpts, and eligible articles published in foreign literary or cultural periodicals, with a maximum of 8,000 euros;
- Digital applications, audio literature and other new forms of literature may also qualify for financial assistance up to 25% of the production costs, with a maximum of 4,000 euros.
- Re-editions of existing translations of Flemish titles (when the translation was originally published by a different publisher) may qualify for financial assistance up to 25% of the production costs, with a maximum of 4,000 euros.

#### **❏ TRANSLATION OF POETRY AND DRAMA**

- Financial assistance to cover up to 100% of the translator's fee, with a maximum of 8,000 euros;
- Financial assistance to cover up to 25% of the direct production costs (only for poetry), with a maximum of 1,400 euros.

#### **❏ TRANSLATION OF ILLUSTRATED BOOKS (PICTURE BOOKS, COMICS, GRAPHIC NOVELS)**

- Financial assistance to cover up to 70% of the translator's fee, with a maximum of 8,000 euros;
- Financial assistance to cover up to 25% of the production costs, with a maximum of 4,000 euros.

This financial support is granted in accordance with the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1998/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to de minimis aid (OJ L379 of 28 December 2006). Publishers who receive translation or production grants will therefore be required to sign a declaration letter confirming that the total amount of de minimis aid granted to them over a period of three financial years does not exceed 200,000 euros.

Flanders Literature expects publishers to pay translators fairly and sufficiently. When calculating the amount of the grant, Flanders Literature assesses the translator's fee as stated in the contract. The maximum amount for a translation grant is 8,000 euros.

Grants for production costs will be subtracted from the maximum grant of 8,000 euros. For example: if 4,000 euros are granted to support the production costs of an illustrated book, a maximum of 4,000 euros can be granted to cover the translation costs of the same book.

Files fees, advances on royalties and freight fees are not taken into account as production costs and neither are costs for proofreading or editing.

#### **❏ FOCUS COUNTRY SWEDEN**

Translations into the languages of book markets or of countries that Flanders Literature has decided to focus on especially, for example by being Guest of Honour at a book fair or by engaging in other projects, may qualify for a larger subsidy.

Flanders and the Netherlands are Guest of Honour at the 2027 Göteborg Book Fair. In this connection, publishers of translations from Dutch into Swedish may be eligible to have up to 90% of the translation costs reimbursed, as well as receiving a contribution towards the production costs of up to 25%, limited to a maximum of 4,000 euro. This measure applies until the end of 2028.

## **5 APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

#### **❏ DEADLINE**

Applications may be submitted throughout the year, but must arrive at Flanders Literature at least three months before the book goes to print. Any applications submitted later than this will be

declined. Every effort will be made to process all applications within two months, provided the submitted information is complete.

## ❏ APPLICATION

Applications are to be submitted through the online application portal [My Flanders Literature](#). A user manual is available [here](#). If a problem cannot be resolved with the help of the manual, please contact us at [team@flandersliterature.be](mailto:team@flandersliterature.be). Applicants will be asked to upload the following documents:

- A copy of the contract between the publishing company and the owner of the Dutch-language rights, signed by all parties.
- A copy of the contract between the publishing company and the translator, signed by all parties.
- A copy of the translator's curriculum vitae.

If the translator is not accredited by Flanders Literature or the Dutch Foundation for Literature, please also send an email with the following attachments to [team@flandersliterature.be](mailto:team@flandersliterature.be):

- A representative translated and edited excerpt (4,000 words from the final edited version).
- The final edited translation (PDF) for illustrated books.

Based on this information, two experts will assess the translation and issue a report on the quality of the translation to Flanders Literature.

If the application is found to be incomplete, the applicant will be informed through the online application portal. The applicant will then be given two weeks to provide the missing documentation.

## ❏ DECISION AND PAYMENT

Based on the translator's fee stated in the translator's contract and/or based on the submitted estimate of production costs, a provisional amount for the grant will be established. Applicants will be informed of the grant decision through the online application portal.

The final amount of the grant will never exceed the provisional amount. This final amount will be established and paid after Flanders Literature has received the following supporting documents:

### **- through the application portal:**

- A low-resolution PDF file of the translated book.
- A copy of the publisher's bank statement that proves the payment to the translator has been made as set out in the contract between the publisher and the translator. A letter from the translator confirming receipt of the payment is not sufficient proof.
- Copies of invoices for pre-press and press costs when the grant also covers production costs.

### **- by mail:**

Three (children's and youth literature and picture books) or four (fiction, nonfiction, comics, graphic novels, poetry, drama) hard copies of the translated book. In case of an English translation, please send four (children's and youth literature and picture books) or five (fiction, nonfiction, comics, graphic novels, poetry, drama) hard copies. If Flanders Literature would like to receive more copies, this will be stated in the grant decision. Flanders Literature must receive the requested copies within six months of the book's publication. **Please make sure to mark the parcel as containing documents, samples, or promotional material and to indicate a lower value (a couple of euros).** Otherwise we might have to pay extra import taxes in order to receive them and these taxes would be deducted from the grant.

The grant amount will be based on the sum paid by the publisher to the translator. In the event that the publisher pays the fee in a currency other than the euro, the final grant amount will be calculated according to the exchange rate on the day the decision is made. The total amount of the grant will be reduced proportionally if the fee paid to the translator is less than stated in the contract and the

application. In the case of poetry or illustrated books, this is also applicable to the production costs: if they are lower than indicated in the application, the grant will be reduced accordingly.

## □ CONDITIONS

Financial support is granted on condition that the publisher agrees to specify that the publication and translation were made possible (in part) by a grant from Flanders Literature. It is therefore essential to apply in good time.

Financial assistance from Flanders Literature must never be cited as a condition in a contract between publisher and translator or in a contract between publisher and the rights holder.

The **Flanders Literature logo** and the following **acknowledgement** should be printed in the book:  
*This book was published with the support of Flanders Literature ([www.flandersliterature.be](http://www.flandersliterature.be)).*

In case of financial support for an unpublished translation of a play or poems, the Flanders Literature logo must be included in the PDF of the translation and on the website of any performance or reading, together with the following acknowledgement: *This play was/These poems were translated with the support of Flanders Literature ([www.flandersliterature.be](http://www.flandersliterature.be)).*

The correct logo (in colour and B/W) can be downloaded at the bottom of each page on our website. This acknowledgement should be repeated in all subsequent reprints.

If the publisher receives further grants or financial contributions from third parties for the same project, Flanders Literature must be informed of this. The Flanders Literature grant cannot be applied to costs for which the publisher is already receiving a grant from another party. In this case the amount covered by the Flanders Literature grant can be reduced proportionally.

An example: A publisher applies to Flanders Literature for a translation grant, and to another subsidy provider for the translation of the same book. The total cost of translation is €4,000 and Flanders Literature allocates a subsidy to cover 70% (€2,800) of the translation costs. The other subsidy provider allocates the publisher a subsidy that covers 60% (2,400) of the total translation costs. In that case the subsidy from Flanders Literature is limited to a maximum of €1,600.

The translated edition must be distributed nationally through recognised general book trade channels. A publication that was awarded a grant by Flanders Literature must be available for purchase for at least one year without being sold at reduced prices in discount shops.

The publisher must inform Flanders Literature without delay if the project has been modified (e.g. publication date or print run).

## 6 HARDSHIP CLAUSE

Flanders Literature's board may decide to deviate from these guidelines if they result in an outcome that does not reflect its main objectives or leads to injustice.



**FLANDERS LITERATURE**

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