

1 PURPOSE OF THIS GRANT

Flanders Literature awards grants to foreign language publishers for the translation of literary work written or illustrated by residents of Dutch-speaking Belgium. The work should originally have been published in Dutch by a Flemish or Dutch publishing house or staged by a professional theatre company in Flanders or in the Netherlands. The purpose of these grants is to stimulate international publication or performance of work by Flemish authors, illustrators, playwrights and comic book authors. The quality of the translation is the 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 young adult literature;
- High-quality literary illustrated books (picture books, comic books and graphic novels);
- Single-author poetry collections and anthologies of poems, 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 in the Netherlands.

The publication itself must be intended for a general audience. The following are excluded:

- Scientific, academic and educational works;
- Purely investigative journalism;
- Publications that will not be generally available (e.g. special/handmade/collectible books or booklets);
- Self-published texts;
- Publications with a limited print run;
- Unaltered reprints;
- Re-editions of existing translations. However, revisions of existing translations of Flemish classics may qualify. In that case, a representative translated excerpt, demonstrating the necessity and quality of the revision, should be enclosed with the application.

Publications that meet the above requirements, but for which an advance on royalties in excess of 25,000 euros has been paid, are also excluded from financial support by 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 consult with the applicant to see how we can support the literary product.

3 CRITERIA

When evaluating a project, Flanders Literature considers:

- **The literary and/or graphic quality of the original, which is assessed according to criteria such as style, composition, subject matter, linguistic complexity, inventiveness 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: professional contract and correct 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 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 the 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 [flandersliterature.be](#) 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.

4 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Foreign language publishers can apply for financial assistance to cover a percentage of the translator's fee and, in the case of illustrated books and poetry, also a percentage of the production costs. If the publisher makes a special effort to market a translation, Flanders Literature may also partially compensate the promotion costs.

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

The maximum grant for production costs is 2,800 euros for illustrated books and 1,400 for poetry. Grants for production costs will be subtracted from the maximum grant of 8,000 euros. For example: if 2,800 euros is granted to support the production costs of an illustrated book, a maximum of 5,200 euros will be granted to cover the translation costs of the same book.

Publishers may apply for grants for a maximum of four books by the same author or illustrator. In the case of a third or fourth book, the total grant amount (translation fee and, if applicable, production costs) will be reduced by 15% for the third and 30% for the fourth book. If the author and illustrator are not the same person, the grant reduction will reflect this.

Example 1: Author X has had three books published by a publisher. This publisher now plans to release a fourth book in which the author works with Illustrator Y, who has not yet been published by the company. In other words, this is the author's fourth book, but the illustrator's first. In this case, the contribution to the translation fee will be reduced by 30%, but the contribution to the production costs will remain unchanged.

Example 2: Illustrator X has had three books published by a publisher, which is now planning to release a fourth book with text written by Author Y. The company previously published two books by Author Y. In this case, the contribution to the translation fee will be reduced by 15% (third book by the same author) and the contribution to the production costs by 30% (fourth book by the same illustrator).

Translation of fiction, nonfiction, drama and children's and young adult literature

- Financial assistance to cover up to 60% of the translator's fee for publishers from economically strong countries;
- Financial assistance to cover up to 80% of the translator's fee for publishers from economically weak countries ^(*);

* Countries with a nominal GDP per capita lower than 60% of the EU average.

- Financial assistance to cover up to 100% of the translator's fee for literary classics. Publishers can ask the Flanders Literature team to check if a specific title is on that 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.

Editorial costs, advances on royalties, and printing costs are not covered.

Translation of poetry

- Financial assistance to cover up to 100% of the translator's fee (with a maximum of 2.5 euros per line);
- Financial assistance to cover up to 25% of the direct production costs.

Translation of illustrated books

- Financial assistance to cover up to 60% of the translator's fee for publishers from economically strong countries;
- Financial assistance to cover up to 80% of the translator's fee for publishers from economically weak countries (*);
- Financial assistance to cover up to 15% of the production costs.

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.

5 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

DEADLINE

Applications may be submitted throughout the year. Flanders Literature must receive these **at least three months before the book goes to print**. Any applications submitted at a later time will be denied. Every effort will be made to process all applications within two months, provided the submitted information is complete.

APPLICATION

From 2020 onwards, 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.

If you applied for a grant from Flanders Literature in 2018 or 2019, it is likely you were already assigned an account. In this case, the email address used for the earlier application will be linked to your account. Use this email address on the login page and click 'Forgot password?'

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:

- A representative translated and edited excerpt (4,000 words of 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.

* Countries with a nominal GDP per capita lower than 60% of the EU average.

If the application is found to be incomplete, the applicant will be informed of this 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;
- For poetry/illustrated books: copies of invoices for prepress and press costs.

And finally: Five hard copies of the translated book. 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 have to be deducted from the grant.

The grant amount will be based on the sum paid by the publisher to the translator. It will be calculated according to the exchange rate applicable on the day the payment 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. The final sum awarded shall never exceed the provisional sum.

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 applicable on the day the payment is made. For this reason only, the final grant awarded in euros may be more or less than the provisional grant in euros.

❑ CONDITIONS

Financial support is granted on condition that the publisher agrees to specify in the book that publication was 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 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)***. 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 any 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 will not be paid if the publisher is already receiving a grant for the same costs from another party.

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 bargain prices in discount shops.

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