



HELLENIC  
FOUNDATION FOR  
CULTURE



MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
AND SPORTS



**Thessaloniki  
Book Fair**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2019**

**16th TBF: 4 Days, 500 Events,  
290 Publishers, 300 Writers and 900 Speakers**

**On May 9 the Big Book Event begins  
at the Thessaloniki International Congress Centre**

**GUEST OF HONOR: THE SPANISH SPEAKING WORLD**

Five hundred events, 290 publishers, 300 Greek and foreign writers and at least 900 speakers will be hosted at the Thessaloniki Book Fair(TBF), which has the Spanish Speaking World as its guest of honor and opens its gate on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at Pavilions 13, 14 and 15 of the International Congress Centre of Thessaloniki TIF-HELEXPO. It is organized by the Hellenic Foundation for Culture (HFC) in cooperation with TIF-HELEXPO, the Municipality of Thessaloniki, associations of Greek publishers as well as independent publishers.

The Book Fair, which addresses “The Crowd as a Protagonist in Literature and History” as its main topic, is to last till Sunday, May 12, and its aim is to spotlight a wide range of crucial social and political issues, such as the refugee experience and the social movements. Moreover, the 16th TBF is structured upon a number of thematic areas; namely, “Literature and Memory,” “The Woman Man:”<sup>1</sup> Gender and Literary Performance,” “Imagine all the People: A Tribute to the Refugee Experience,” the Children and Teenagers’ Corner, the Translation Festival, the New Writers’ Festival, Professionals’ Day, various exhibitions, and an Exhibition-Homage to Yannis Behrakis.

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<sup>1</sup> Title of a poem by Zoe Karelli.

*TBF is supported in part by the European Union-European Regional Development Fund  
under the ROP of Central Macedonia 2014-2020.*



Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση  
Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο  
Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης

ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗΣ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ

ΕΙΔΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΗΣ  
Ε.Π. Περιφέρειας Κεντρικής Μακεδονίας



Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

The Spanish Speaking Countries are the Guest of Honor in the current Book Fair, as the Spanish language has contributed numerous masterpieces in the world literature and these countries bear several similarities with Greece. The Hellenic Foundation for Culture in cooperation with the Ibero-American Literature Festival in Athens (LEA), with embassies, institutes and other cultural institutions both within and outside Greece, seeks to place in the foreground not only the Spanish literature –the Basque literature as well– but also the Spanish language literature of Latin America, originating from countries such as El Salvador, Colombia etc. Furthermore, Portuguese literature will also be represented in the book fair. Consequently, within this context, an array of writers will visit Thessaloniki, such as Colombian writers Santiago Gamboa and Héctor Abad Faciolince, Jorge Galán from El Salvador, the Spanish writer and philhellene, Pedro Olalla, Spanish poet Juan Vicente Piqueras, writer Garbiñe Ubeda from the Basque country, the Spanish crime fiction writer and police officer, Alejandro Gallo, as well as writers from Portugal, Dulce Maria Cardoso and Jose Luis Peixoto.

Apart from the Spanish speaking authors, numerous foreign writers coming from at least 20 countries, such as from France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, USA, Russia, Israel, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Iraq, Turkey and Sweden, will participate in the book fair.

On Thursday, May 9, the official inauguration ceremony of the Greece-Russia Year of Language and Literature will take place and the relevant agreement will be signed. Welcome address speeches will be delivered by the Minister of Culture and Sports, Mrs. Myrsini Zorba, by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Markos Bolaris, by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Greece, Mr. Andrey Maslov and by the Alternate Minister of Sciences and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, Mr. Grigoriy Trubnikov. Russia is going to participate dynamically in the Book Fair, as it has organized more than 30 events in a 200 sq.m. pavilion. The Greece-Russia Year of Language and Literature will be concluded at the 33rd Moscow International Book Fair in September 2020.

Some outstanding events staged by the Hellenic Foundation for Culture include the event organized for 200th anniversary of the 1821 Greek revolution, the Cavafy Symposium and the teaching of the Greek Language in the HFC branches abroad.

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## The Press Conference

The potential of the Thessaloniki Book Fair to play a significant role not only in Greece but also on an international level was highlighted by Mr. Tasos Tzikas, President of TIF-HELEXPO, at the press conference held on account of the opening ceremony of the Thessaloniki Book Fair. He also underlined that the Book Fair was regarded as a major cultural event.

Mr. Yannis Boutaris, the mayor of Thessaloniki, claimed that it was very important that the TBF was organized in Thessaloniki, that the TBF was autonomous and emerged from the city of Thessaloniki. “We should take the example of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival,” he mentioned and he underlined that a new conception of the Book Fair should result from the hearty reception that the city of Thessaloniki has in store for the Book fair every year.

The significant presence of publishers and writers, as well as the wide range of events, was brought at the forefront by the member of the Board of HFC and associate professor of Historical Linguistics at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He added that the TBF continues the tradition of the previous years by hosting numerous and various events, only this year it has exceeded every expectation. He made a specific reference to the event dedicated to the most influential linguist Manolis Triantaphyllidis.

Mrs. Elli Chysidou, Deputy Mayor for Culture of the city of Thessaloniki, underlined the need to gain a different outlook on the TBF, to visualize it in connection with the city, with its surroundings, the local institutions and creative individuals. She also mentioned that in May there is a wide range of events and actions in Thessaloniki, whose common reference point is the Book Fair.

Mr. Manolis Piblis, the director of the Thessaloniki Book Fair, claimed that the TBF has accomplished its primary aim, that is to provide the academic community, the writers, the professionals of the publishing branch and the audience with a space to meet and interact. This kind of meeting takes place nowhere else in Greece and at no other time, and that is the reason why it is an extraordinary event. He also mentioned that it is the time for the TBF to make the next step forward, as the Book Fair should be visible and should operate all year round. Answering Mr. Boutaris’ demand to make the TBF more autonomous, he said that a first step towards that direction would be the opening of a TBF office in Thessaloniki.

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ΕΣΠΑ  
2014-2020  
ανάπτυξη - εργασία - αλληλεγγύη

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Last but not least, Mr. Philippe Ray, the French Consul in Thessaloniki, maintained that the book should be protected and promoted, especially through festive events, such as the Book Fair.

The 16th Thessaloniki Book Fair is organized with the support of the Hellenic Parliament and is under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. It is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund in the framework of the Regional Operational Program of Central Macedonia 2014-2020.

Kyriaki Tsolaki

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16<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki International Book Fair

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