

Welcome to the CELA online lecture series! Hosted by our international network, the CELA lecture series brings together writers, translators, and industry experts from across Europe for a wide-ranging program of talks, masterclasses, and workshops.

Topics span the craft and business of literature – from teaching creative writing and negotiating publishing contracts to translating idioms and stable phrases across languages. Several sessions tackle timely issues like AI's impact on writing and translation, censorship, and the attention economy, while others explore literature's social role, including the representation of minorities, migration and identity, and post-conflict reconciliation.

Across the following pages you will find a total of 17 lectures taking place between October 2026 and January 2027. Please read through the document carefully and register for the topics and dates that work for you. Enjoy!

1. 5 October 2026
5.00–6.30 pm CET

Retranslation
by Jacek Dehnel

Hosted by:
Krakow Festival Office

A lecture focused on the creation of new translations of texts that already exist in the target language but require renewed interpretation. It examines why texts may need fresh perspectives, updated language, or different cultural framing over time. The session explores the role of the translator as an active reader and interpreter, offering insight into how retranslation can revitalize meaning, challenge earlier versions, and better align a literary work with contemporary audiences and evolving linguistic sensibilities.
2. 22 October 2026
4.00 – 5.30 pm CET

Language and translation in post-conflict societies
By TBA

Hosted by:
KROKODIL

This lecture uses the post-Yugoslav linguistic landscape as a compelling case study to explore the complex intersection of linguistic science and nationalist identity politics as well as how language is weaponized for political gain. By examining the transition from a single standard language to 4 politically manufactured separate languages, we will analyze the tension this creates and a unique challenge: navigating the thin line between linguistic emancipation and nationalist prescriptivism. We will also examine the intersection of linguistic activism and conflict resolution and discuss how literary works can transcend their traditional boundaries to become a tool for cosmopolitan peacekeeping.
3. 29 October 2026
6.00–7.30 pm CET

From Ukraine and around the world: a guide to translation festivals
By Tania Rodionova

Hosted by:
International Book Arsenal Festival

What is a translation festival like? Are there many of them around the globe? Based on her personal experience of visiting, organising and participating in different translation festivals, Tania Rodionova will give an overview of the events and share her insights. Most interestingly, attendees will be able to hear firsthand about how such an event is organized from a Founding Director of TRANSLATORIUM, a translation festival in Ukraine.
4. 11 & 12 November 2026
TBA

From manuscript to book: writers
by Velibor Čolić & Jedrt Jež Furlan

Hosted by:
Goga

Two-part lecture about what happens once a manuscript leaves the writer's desk. In the first lecture, acclaimed French author Velibor Čolić, published by the prestigious publishing house Gallimard, shares his experience of working with editors and reveals just how long – and transformative – the journey from first draft to published book can be. In the second lecture,

5. 16 & 23 November 2026
6.00–7.00 pm CET
- How to prepare and negotiate a contract?**
By Viktor Košut
- Hosted by:*
CzechLit
- Jedrt Jež Furlan, a renowned Slovenian pr specialist, journalist, and moderator of literary events who has worked with numerous Slovenian publishers, offers practical advice on what comes after publication: how authors and pr teams can join forces to help a book reach its readers.
- Two-part lecture about the ‘Ten Commandments’, presenting tips on how to read and understand a contract for literary translation. The first part will concentrate on theoretical basics, the second part will be open for discussion and participants’ questions. With Viktor Košut – a lawyer specialising in copyright law.
6. 18 november 2026
5.00–6.00 pm CET
- Writers are critical infrastructure: Poland's perspective**
By Joanna Gierak-Onoszko
- Hosted by:*
Krakow Festival Office
- This lecture will focus on the practical aspects of professionalization for emerging writers. It will address key issues such as unionizing, building strong networks of peer support, and advocating for fair and ethical practices within the writing profession. Participants will gain insight into collective action, sustainable career development, and strategies for navigating the industry while maintaining equitable standards and mutual solidarity among writers. It will be based on a case study of the Literary Union in Poland.
7. 19 november 2026
5.30–7.00 pm CET
- Minorities in literature**
By Delia Grigore
- Hosted by:*
FILIT
- This lecture explores the representation of minority communities in literature, using the Roma community as a central example and starting point for discussion. It examines how literary works – both by Roma authors and outsiders – shape, reinforce, or challenge public perceptions and the collective imaginary narratives surrounding Roma identity. The lecture analyzes the role of literature in perpetuating stereotypes or fostering nuanced understanding, empathy, and cultural visibility. Through key literary examples, it addresses themes of marginalization, resilience, cultural appropriation and authentic storytelling, highlighting literature’s power to influence social attitudes and contribute to a more equitable representation of minority voices. Guest speaker: writer, researcher and cultural activist Delia Grigore from the University of Bucharest.
8. 24 november 2026
6.00–7.30 pm CET
- Writing and the reception of books in the age of the attention economy**
By Anna Cieplak
- Hosted by:*
Krakow Festival Office
- Writing, translating, and reading books today take place against the backdrop of profound changes, shaped by the attention economy. LLMs and Big Tech platforms are transforming literary culture while increasingly undermining deep reading and imagination. Through a lecture with Q&A, the speaker will examine these cultural shifts and offer a personal perspective as a writer on what literature can still make possible under these conditions.

9. 30 november 2026
6.00-7.00 pm CET

How to approach publishers and pitch efficiently?

By [Jitka Hanušová](#)

Hosted by:
CzechLit

Using examples of pitches from CELA translators, the participants will learn how to write a cover letter, choose a proper sample, write and adjust pr texts (synopses, author bios, cover texts, blurbs et cetera). Terminology overview included. With Jitka Hanušová – a translator and literary editor.

10. 1 december 2026
5.00-6.30 pm CET

At a crossroads: the complex identity of a literary text and its contribution to cultures. Writers and translators at the frontier of languages

By [Grażyna Plebanek](#)

Hosted by:
Krakow Festival Office

This lecture explores the complex identity of a literary text and its role in shaping and contributing to cultures. It focuses on writers and translators working at the frontier of languages, where meaning is constantly negotiated and reimagined. By examining the dynamic relationship between languages, the session highlights how texts transform across contexts, and how creative and critical practices enable literature to move, adapt, and resonate within diverse cultural landscapes and evolving linguistic environments.

11. 3 december 2026
5.30-7.00 pm CET

Migration and double identity — translators and writers as 'double-agents'

By [Jozefina Komporaly](#) & [Monica Cure](#)

Hosted by:
FILIT

Traditional translation school discourse claims that only a native speaker holds the necessary linguistic and cultural knowledge to be a literary translator. However, migration challenges the notion of 'native speaker', especially when it comes to small language combinations. Pros and cons in an era of global mobility. The participants will be invited to reflect on the role of nationality in literary creation and translation.

Guest speakers: poet, writer and translator Monica Cure and translator, interpreter and academic Jozefina Komporaly.

12. 4 december 2026
6.00-7.30 pm CET

Negotiations

By [Barbara Sadurska](#)

Hosted by:
Krakow Festival Office

This lecture offers writers and translators a practical, strategic approach to negotiating with publishers. It starts from the premise that negotiations begin long before the contract stage, and that everyday language and assumptions can shape an author's position. Participants will learn how to recognise and critically analyse statements that may weaken their position, and how to respond with clarity and confidence. The session presents negotiation not as confrontation, but as an opportunity to understand the publisher's priorities, present one's working style, and build professional relationships based on mutual understanding and long-term trust. It encourages preparation, awareness, flexibility, and confidence. Participants can send their questions in advance from November 27 until November 30 and the questions will be answered during the lecture. Please send them to b.sadurska@unialiteracka.pl.

- 13.** 7 december 2026
6.00–7.00 pm CET
- How can the 'small' languages succeed in the 'big' languages?**
By [Alex Zucker & Marek Torčík](#)
- Hosted by:*
CzechLit
- Moderated debate in the form of a lecture by translator Alex Zucker, translator and writer Marek Torčík about the processes of publishing and promoting translated books. It is intended to reach out of the CELA languages to broaden the scope of interests, open up to new perspectives and opportunities.
- 14.** 9&10 december 2026
TBA
- From translation to book: translators**
By [Boštjan Gorenc-Pižama & Manca G. Renko](#)
- Hosted by:*
Goga
- Two-part lecture on how a foreign story becomes a Slovenian book. In the first lecture, Boštjan Gorenc-Pižama, one of Slovenia's most acclaimed translators from English (A Song of Ice and Fire, Captain Underpants), explores the hidden pitfalls of children's and genre literature – often dismissed as 'easy' to translate, yet full of tricky wordplay, invented names, and fictional places. In the second lecture, Manca G. Renko, founder and editor-in-chief of the acclaimed boutique publishing house NoPress, reveals why she started her own press and how carefully curated translations become books readers love.
- 15.** 17 december 2026
4.00 - 5.30 pm CET
- How does literature help develop more effective reconciliation in post conflict societies?**
By [TBA](#)
- Hosted by:*
KROKODIL
- How can literature, literary production, and literary events foster sustainable reconciliation? Drawing on the multifold work of the KROKODIL Association in this domain, the lecture explores the relationship between literature and peacebuilding. Moving away from passive cultural observation, this session will demonstrate how literature can be a contributory factor in the emergence of a proactive 'peace culture'. Participants will gain insights into how literature can serve as a powerful tool for reconciliation, moving beyond page and influencing public discourse in post-conflict environments. Participants will also learn how literary events and multidisciplinary storytelling can be leveraged to promote democratic culture and engage the public in difficult dialogues.
- 16.** 14 January 2027
4.00 - 5.30 pm CET
- Recognizing and combatting manipulations of literature in the context of FIMI campaigns**
By [TBA](#)
- Hosted by:*
KROKODIL
- This lecture offers a deep dive into the mechanisms used to manipulate literary texts in order to spread harmful political influence. We will focus on how, throughout history, literature has often been weaponized to 'prime the ground' for conflict, fuel nationalism and dehumanize the 'other', and draw parallels with contemporary forms of hybrid interference and narrative engineering, in particular FIMI campaigns. We will explore how texts are manipulated and how to identify subtle mechanisms of propaganda within narratives. The goal is to empower literary artists and professionals to recognize and resist instrumentalization and use their craft as a tool for democratization and critical thinking, ensuring that literature serves as a space for freedom rather than a vehicle for manipulation.

17. 21 January 2027
5.30-7.00 pm CET

Censorship in literature

By Radu Vancu

Hosted by:
FILIT

Censorship can appear in literature for translators and writers in careful choices of words, in terms of contract et cetera. This lecture proposes a dialogue about limitations in writing and translating in contemporary literature. Participants will explore how external and internal censorship shapes expression. Writers and translators will be invited to share personal experiences from the local literary scene. Guest speaker: Radu Vancu – writer, professor at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, founder and organizer of Poets in Transylvania Festival, former president of PEN Romania.