

The International Frankfurt Book Fair will be held **from 16 to 20 October** this year, and once again, the **CZECHIA National Stand (Hall 4.1, D76)**, organised by the Moravian Library in Brno with support from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, will be part of the event. The Stand will showcase Czech literature through a selection of recent publications and their **translations into various world languages, with a particular focus on German**. The Stand will also feature award-winning titles, including those honoured with the **Magnesia Litera, Golden Ribbon (Zlatá stuha)** and **The Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year** (Nejkrásnější české knihy roku) awards, with the latter competition hosted by the Ministry of Culture and the Museum of Czech Literature. Visitors can also discover the **Milan Kundera Library in Brno**, honouring one of the most translated Czech literary figures across the globe. Spanning 120 square metres, the Stand will highlight **29 publishers** offering fresh titles in Czech contemporary prose, poetry, comics, children's and young adults' literature and essays. The Czech Literary Centre, a division of the Moravian Library in Brno, has supported the participation of 19 of these publishers. Additionally, one more Czech publisher and three printing houses will be exhibiting independently at the Fair.

In two years, in October 2026, the Czech Republic (CZECHIA) will step into the spotlight as the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair. As part of this initiative, a series of business meetings will also be held at the Fair, involving representatives from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic (such as **Ondřej Chrást**, Deputy Minister of Culture, and **Milan Němeček**, Director General of the Section for Performing Arts), the Moravian Library (including **Prof. Tomáš Kubíček**, Director), the GoH FBM 2026 CZECHIA team and the Czech Literary Centre team. At the National Stand, literary agents, publishers and translators will hold business meetings.

As part of the BOOKFEST Literature Festival at the Frankfurt Book Fair, **Petr Borkovec** will present his short story anthology titled *Sebrat klacek* (EN: *To Pick up a Stick*, Fra, 2022) in German (*Den Stock aufheben*; Edition Korrespondenzen, 2024). He will discuss the book alongside his translator, Lena Dorn, and a journalist, Mirko Schwanitz, **on October 18 at the Weltenleser Bookshop** and again **on October 19 at the National Stand**. This book was nominated for the “Hot List” of independent German-language publishers this year.

On 18 October, poet **Petr Hruška** will present his poetry anthology titled *Spatřil jsem svou tvář* (Host, 2022), translated into English by Joshua Mensch (*I Caught Sight of My Face*; Kulturalis, 2024). The book was published by Kulturalis, a new London-based publisher from the Universal Art Group (UAG), specialising in art books, poetry and fiction. The event will be moderated by Jan Zikmund from the Czech Literary Centre.

On 19 October, **Vratislav Maňák** will discuss his anthology of six allegorical short stories, *Smrt staré Maši* (EN: *The Death of Old Masha*, Host, 2022), translated into German by Lena Dorn (*Der Tod der alten Jungfrau*; Karl Rauch Verlag, 2023), with a radio presenter, Hadwiga Fertsch-Röver, **at the House of Books** (Haus des Buches, Frankfurt am Main), **during the LiteraturBahnhof Festival**. Several of the short stories will be read in translation by a German actor, Stephan Wolf-Schönburg.

Vratislav Maňák will hold a discussion with Martin Krafl, Director of the Czech Literary Centre, **at the CZECHIA National Stand on 19 October, focusing on the life of the LGBT+ community** in Central Europe, particularly within the restless cultural landscape stretching from Mainz to the Vltava and the Danube rivers, and the literature that shapes this community.

Many other authors will participate in the Fair, including **Radka Denemarková**, a novelist, and **Marek Toman**, a writer. The latter will join **Kamila Drahoňovská**, a literary critic, for a **debate on Czech and Czechoslovak children's literature**, which will be held **at Stage International on October 18** and moderated by a Spanish-American author and translator, Lawrence Schimel. The debate will also

feature **Jana Čeňková** from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, who will represent the Czech Republic at the 2024 German Youth Literature Award ceremony.

On 18 October, the prestigious stage in the Frankfurt Pavilion will host a discussion panel titled ***The Novel and Europe*** as part of the Book Fair. Why do Milan Kundera's novels still captivate readers around the world? What is the state of the European novel today? Does it convey powerful social messages and reflect societal unrest? And are readers engaging with it in this way? These questions will be explored by **Aleš Šteger**, a Slovenian author, **Juergen Boos**, Frankfurt Book Fair Director, and Professor of Literature **Tomáš Kubíček**, Director of the Moravian Library in Brno, home to the Milan Kundera Library.

The Czech Literary Centre, a division of the Moravian Library in Brno, will participate in the professional programme alongside colleagues from the **CELA project**, which seeks to train, connect and promote emerging authors and translators on the European literary scene and is funded by the EU Creative Europe programme. The project will feature a discussion on Thursday, **17 October, at the Czech National Stand** titled ***The Translator as a Literary Professional***. Two emerging Italian translators, **Monika Štefková** (Czech Republic) and **Mateusz Kłodecki** (Poland), will share their insights on the role of translators and their personal experiences in the CELA project. The discussion will be moderated by Michala Čičváková from the Czech Literary Centre and Kim van Kaam from the Dutch Wintertuin Literary Production House.

The Czech National Stand will host 15 **young talents on the book scene across ten European countries**: Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Czechia, Ukraine and Hungary. The Czech Republic will be represented by **Barbora Baronová from the wo-men publishing house**. These young talents are part of the fair's professional fellowship programme and will have meetings with Czech publishers and literary agents. They will be introduced to the Prague ***Book World Prague*** (*Svět knihy*) and the ***Central and East European Book Market 2025*** by Radovan Auer, Managing Director.

For the first time this year, the Frankfurt Book Fair will feature the **Games Business Centre**, showcasing eight European studios from five countries. Among them will be **Charles Games**, a Prague-based independent game studio that specialises in games with social significance. Their mission is to expand the boundaries of storytelling in games and to explore broader topics.

This year's Czech presentation at the Fair was supposed to be accompanied by an exhibition at the **German Architecture Museum** (DAM) in Frankfurt, based on the book *Město pro každého: Manuál urbanisty začátečníka* (EN: ***A City for Everyone: A Beginner's Guide for Urban Planners***) by **Osamu Okamura, David Böhm and Jiří Franta**. The book was published by Labyrint on the Czech market in 2020 and by Karl Rauch Verlag in Germany two years later. It was **awarded the German DAM Architectural Book Award in 2022**. Unfortunately, the ongoing renovation of the museum has led to the exhibition being **rescheduled for late spring 2025**.