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**Supporting the  
translation of foreign  
literature (inbound  
translation): benefits for  
the national and  
European ecosystems**

**N**ederlands  
letterenfonds  
dutch foundation  
for literature

**traduki**

## Structure of the workshop

1. Support for inbound translation- why?
2. Key data from the *Translators on the Cover*-report;
3. Existing support systems- the Dutch Foundation for Literature and Traduki;

### The challenges we face:

- 4.1 How to improve the image of (translated) literature: declining value of language and literature studies
- 4.2 An ageing field: finding (and keeping) new translators
- 4.3 How to best help publishing houses that commit to making translated literature available?

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# traduki

**Translations  
from, to and within  
Southeast Europe**



# traduki

- connects Southeast Europe with the German-speaking world through the means of literature
- connects Southeast European neighbours among each other
- was established 2008 in Leipzig (A, D, CH)
- 2024 consists of 18 organisations from 12 countries





# traduki

- **What we aim at:** Dialogue, exchange und mutual understanding through literary projects
- **Where are we working:** SEE<>D, CH, A, FL; SEE<>SEE (105 translation combinations!)
- **How do we work:** Headoffice (ZH, BG, LJ, BLN), programme jury, steering committee, experts. (1 member per organisation in each body, common decisions twice a year)
- **What do we do:** Funding of translations and literary projects, residencies, events, workshops, digital promotion formats

# traduki

## Translation

- Translators fees, licence fees, presentations

## Residencies

- for authors, translators and other literary experts, 2-6 weeks in 10 SEE cities

## Funding literary projects

- Participation of translators at events in SEE

## Events cooperation

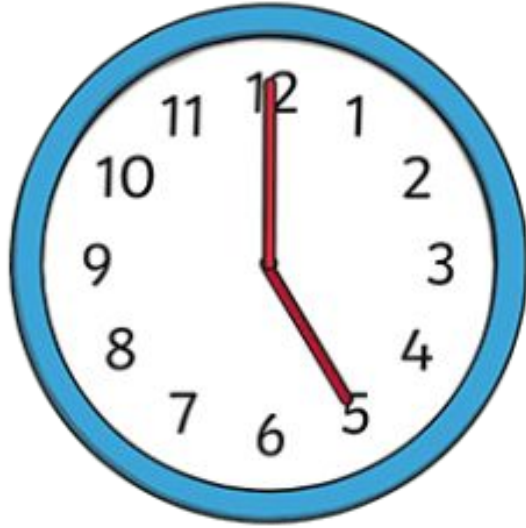
- Book fairs, festivals, workshops, etc.



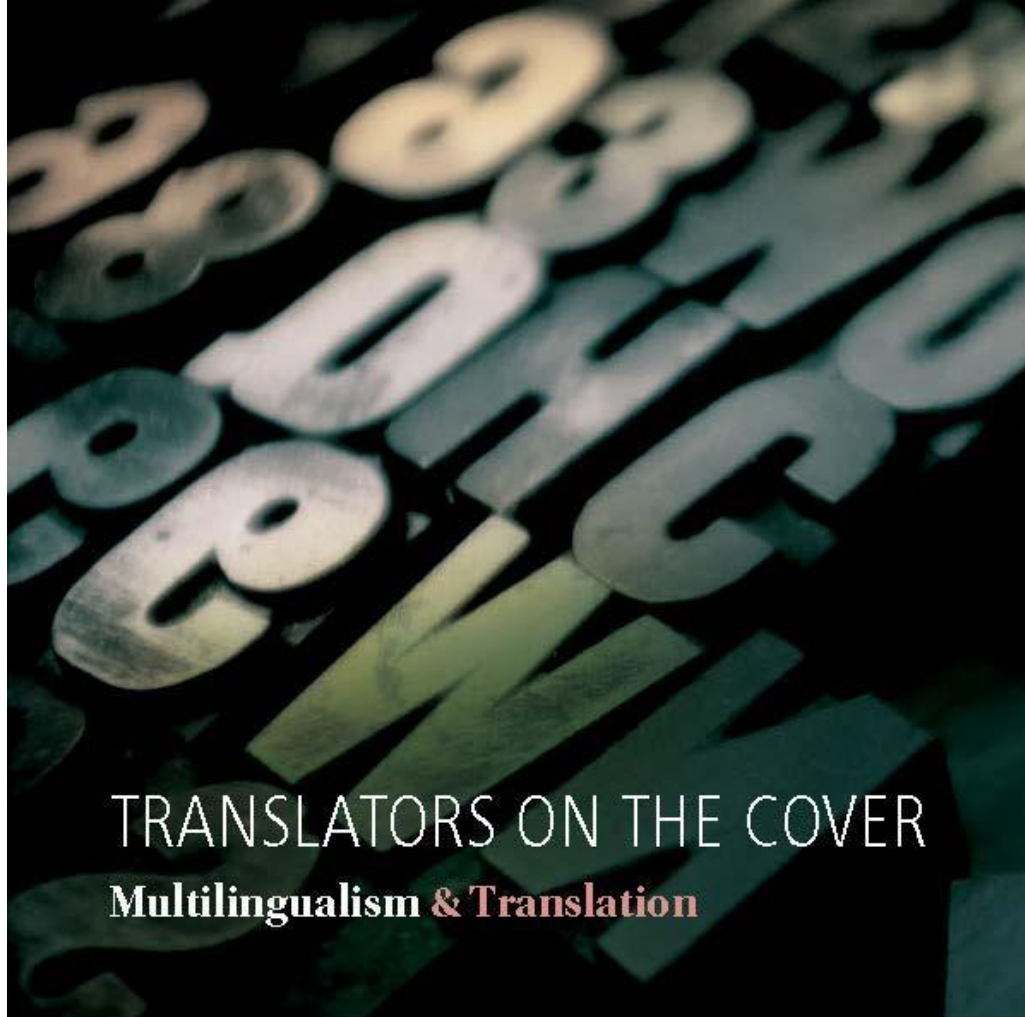


Broader ecosystem of works □ deeper understanding of  
foreign cultures





Fair remuneration  More time to translate  Better quality

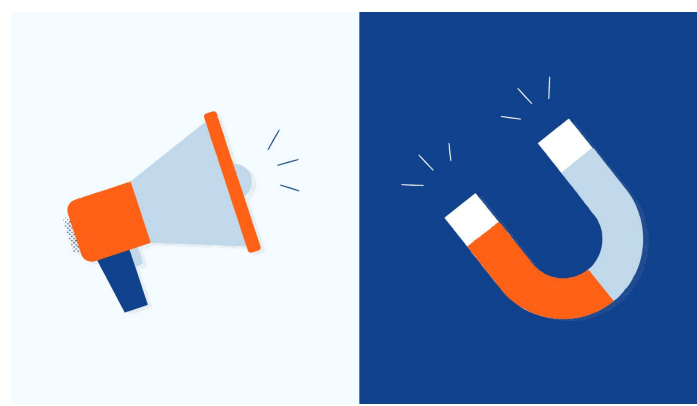


- **Not many grant opportunities for inbound translation in Europe**
- **Grants are usually available for publishers, not directly for translators**
- **Budget for outbound translation is usually higher than that for inbound**

REPORT OF THE OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION (OMC)  
GROUP OF EU MEMBER STATES' EXPERTS

EU WORK PLAN FOR CULTURE 2019-2022





**Outbound (2023):**

1.12 million€ grants + activities international team



Support for inbound translation almost **equal** to support for outbound translation (ca. 1.40 million€)

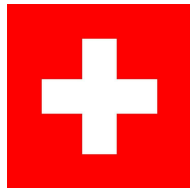


**Inbound (2023):**

2.05 million€ total budget inbound translation (grants and activities)



Total amount of grants: **800.000€+**  
(Übersetzerfonds, Deutscher Literaturfonds, Pöschel Stipendium, Toledo Program, Traduki...)



Inbound translation in a **multilingual context**: a new significance



# **Inbound funding: Germany**

## **Germany**

- **Litprom: Grants for translators into German, publishing costs, promotion**
- **Deutscher Übersetzerfonds: grants for translators into German**
- **Deutscher Literaturfonds: grants for translators into German**
- **Toledo-Programm: mobility grants**
- **Local grants (6 of 16 Bundesländer) for inbound translators**
- **Straelen: residencies for translators working with German**

# **Inbound funding: Switzerland, Austria**

## **Switzerland**

- **Pro Helvetia: Swiss translators (inbound) working grants, grants for preparation of dossiers, sample translations**
- **Complementary grant for inbound translation (Compensation of difference in fee)**
- **Inbound 'inbound' translation funding (swiss multilingual context)**
- **Federal Office for Culture: 'structural' funding of publishing programs**
- **Cities, Cantons local grants to inbound translators**

## **Austria**

- **Project and travel grants to austrian 'inbound' translators**
- **'structural' funding of publishing programs (austrian publishers)**

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# Which Scandinavian country has the highest budget for inbound translation?



1st | Sweden

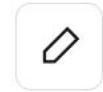
2nd | Norway

3rd | Denmark

4th | Iceland



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Only supports outbound translation (no grants available for inbound translation)



Robust system for inbound translation:

- Project grants Danish publishers can apply for **'writers' grants**, not for a specific project but for **artistic support** (around 385.000€ per year)



Each country allocates **130.000 to 140.000€** to inbound translation each year



No translation grants available for inbound translation, but there is a **publication grant** available for the whole production (also for translations)



# Project grants for literary translations

- For all genres
- Does not replace any of the publisher's costs
- Main goal: buying time for the translation
- Additional fee available for extra time-investment
- Average grant (2023): 7.500€

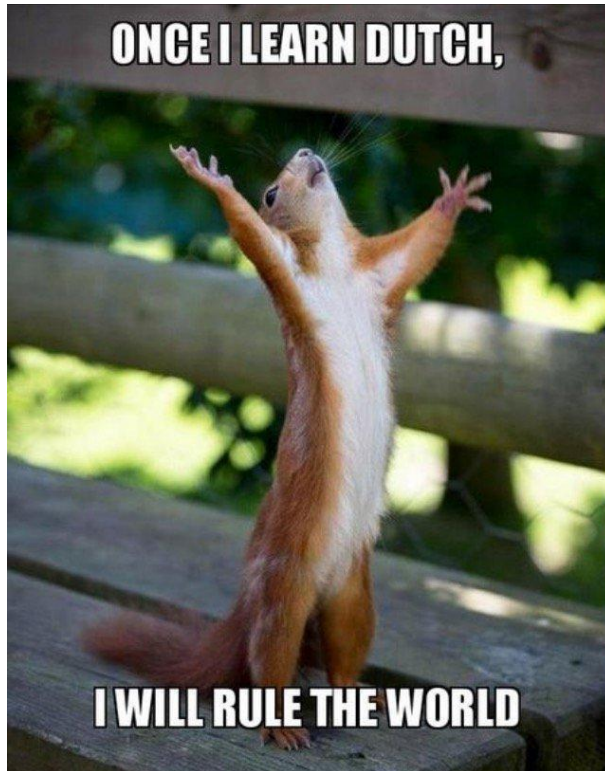
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## Main conditions:

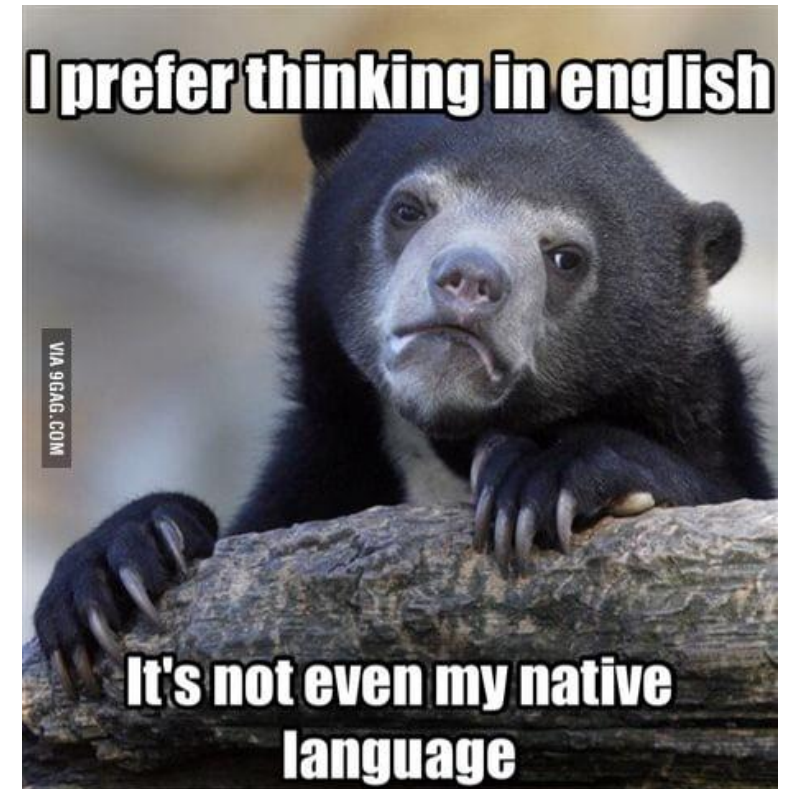
- The translator has a Dutch model contract (min. of 7,5 cent per word)
- The quality of a previous (published) translation as well as the literary quality of the current project are evaluated

**2023: 235 approved applications (254 received), 1.740.523€**





It all starts with  
an  
**image  
problem**



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# Is reading directly in English (instead of translations from English) popular in your country of origin?



Yes

0

No

0

I'm not sure



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- 
- Considerable **shortage of teachers**
  - **Dutch government** makes decisions based on enrollment (**economic grounds**):
- some language **studies disappear** (Romanian and Portuguese), programs are **merged** (less access).



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# How can public institutions tackle this problem (declining interest in language studies) and increase the visibility of translated literature?

All responses to your question



Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting to let participants vote for their favorites



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# Finding (and keeping) new translators



Translating: often a **second career**

**Lack of financial stability**, but needing to invest time to get proficient

Difficulty to **retire**

# How to best support publishing houses that commit to making translated literature available?





**Production subsidies- a good policy instrument?**

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# Concluding remarks

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