

Support program for the Translation of Literary works of Latvian Authors. Guidelines for the Grant Program for Translators

1. General Provisions

1.1. "Support for the Translation of Literary works of Latvian Authors" is a program that has been developed by the International Writers' and Translators' House (hereafter referred to as IWTH) and is financed by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia. It is administered by the IWTH.

1.2. The aim of the program "Support for the Translation of Literary works of Latvian Authors" (hereafter referred to as the Program) is to ensure that the best of Latvian literature is accessible and known beyond the borders of Latvia.

1.3. To achieve the aim of the Program, IWTH organizes a Grant Program for Translators to provide financial support for the translation of Latvian prose, journalism, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and children's literature of high merit into various foreign languages.

1.4. By allocating funding to translators to translate Latvian literary texts, including literary classics, into different languages, thus promoting Latvian literature abroad, and in addition to ensuring the commitment of foreign publishers to publish translations of Latvian literature.

1.5. To ensure the high quality of the translations into other languages and taking into consideration the merits of the original work in selecting literary works for the Program, priority will be given to the following:

- A complete translation of the entire work that has been commissioned by a foreign publisher for potential publishing of the work.
- A work that has been nominated for the Annual Latvian Literary Award (since 2010 – LALIGABA), has won any significant literary competitions or received any other literary awards.

2. Genres

2.1. The genres covered by the Program are prose, poetry, literature for children and young adults, journalism, drama, comics, and graphic novels. In the non-fiction category, works of general non-fiction, essays, and memoirs are eligible.

3. Application process

3.1. Applications shall be submitted online by uploading all documents to: <http://latvianliterature.lv/en/grants>, in the section "Grants for Translators". Applications for the Program will be accepted twice a year. The schedule will be set by the IWTH.

4. Form and Content of the application

4.1. Application documents should contain the following:

- Completed application form (found in the IWTH webpage latvianliterature.lv/grants)
- **Sample translation together with an appropriate fragment of the original text** (70 – 200 lines of poetry, ~ 5 000 –10 000 characters of prose);
- CV of the translator, emphasizing the description of previously translated books;
- Signed agreement with the copyright holder of the original work or representative or license;
- Letter of intent or an agreement with a foreign publisher, ensuring the interest of the publisher to publish the future translation.

4.2. Application documents requiring a signature must be printed and scanned or signed with a valid and secure electronic signature.

5. Terms and conditions for the award of financial support

5.1. The quality of the literary work and the translator's expertise are significant factors in assessing the applications. Conditions for the award of financial support:

- The translator has professional experience in translation (previous projects supported from IWTH, other completed projects and experience in translating from the Latvian language in the particular literary form);
- The quality of the translation (the final translation for which support is requested must be faithful to the original text in terms of style, spirit and content);
- The translator translates into the mother tongue (native language);
- The original work has received recognition in Latvian literature;
- The book has potential for foreign markets;
- The application is based on an agreement with a specific publisher abroad;
- Already finished translations are not financed in the framework of the program;
- **Only direct translations will be supported, unless there is no qualified translator from the source language. The Committee of experts has the right to order an expert assessment of the translation.**
- **Translations made with a translation bot (AI) are not funded.**

6. Reviewing of the applications

6.1. The International Writers' and Translators' house (IWTH) will not consider applications that do not comply with the aims of the Program or have not been submitted according to the requirements. The IWTH will not grant financial support to applications submitted by translators who are engaged in prior commitments, i.e. who have not submitted a translation that was previously commissioned. The completed applications will be reviewed according to the quality of the work and compliance with the priorities set forth above; the Committee of experts will determine the eligibility of the applications and the allocation of funding.

- 6.2. The candidates for the Committee of experts are nominated and approved by the IWTH.
- 6.3. The working term of one Committee member lasts two years. Participation in the Committee of experts is permissible no more often than once every two years.
- 6.4. The Committee of experts includes 5 (five) representatives, bearing in mind the following conditions:
- 6.4.1. The Committee of experts can include at least one editor and/or literary scholar, and/or literary critic;
 - 6.4.2. The Committee of experts can include at least one publisher's representative;
 - 6.4.3. The Committee of experts can include translators having experience with foreign grant programs;
 - 6.4.4. The Committee of experts can include at least one IWTH representative;
- 6.5. If an application is submitted to the grant program in which the author or the publisher's representative is a member of the Committee of experts, the expert shall not participate in the evaluation of that application and shall not vote;
- 6.6. Before starting their work, the members of the Committee of experts shall sign a declaration of no conflict of interest in relation to the applications submitted to the grant program.
- 6.7. The Chairperson of the Committee of experts shall be nominated from the Committee of experts and confirmed by vote at the first meeting of the Committee of experts.
- 6.8. The Committee's decisions are valid if there are no fewer than three members present. In this case, if one of the experts can not participate in the Committee meeting, he or she can send his/her vote electronically. The Committee chairperson is selected from the members and approved by a majority vote.
- 6.9. The Committee makes decisions by an open majority vote. If there is no majority the chairperson's vote is the decisive one.
- 6.10. Decisions of the Committee of experts are recorded in minutes of meetings and confirmed with a signature by the Committee Chairperson and the IWTH Board Member.
- 6.11. The Committee evaluates the Applications based on their tangible quality and compliance with the Program's priorities (see Points 4 and 5).

7. Announcing of results, entering into the Agreement

- 7.1. The applicants will be informed about the results electronically via the e-mail address indicated in the application form within a week of the decision.
- 7.2. The reasons underlying the decisions will not be disclosed to the applicants.
- 7.3. Successful applicants will receive the agreement of the grant. The Applicant must sign the agreement and return it no later than 60 days after announcement of the results otherwise the Recipient of the Grant shall no longer be entitled to the Grant.
- 7.4. By signing the agreement the applicant shall undertake to grant to the IWTH non-exclusive rights to use the translation to ensure its rights to publishing abroad and promotion of the published work (the applicant shall maintain his economic rights to the translation).
- 7.5. The assigned financial support will be paid out no later than 10 working days after the Applicant has sent in the complete translation of the literary work and signed the delivery-acceptance document.
- 7.6. The financial support granted will include taxes, (personal income tax will be paid by the IWTH according to the Latvian law or by the awarded translator in their respective country if they can issue an invoice).

8. Other provisions

- 8.1. The completed translation must be submitted no later than **December 8, 2026**.
- 8.2. The support from the Grant program must be mentioned in the publication in English or in the target language of the translation in the following wording: “This book was published with the support of the Latvian Literature platform”.
- 8.3. Usage of the logo of the platform Latvian Literature is recommended.
- 8.4. Should the Applicant fail to meet the deadlines of the translation project, the agreement will be terminated.