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**IS THE SITUATION OF LITERARY TRANSLATORS IMPROVING? AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ROUNDTABLE IS BEING PREPARED WITH PUBLISHERS.**

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Literary translation is a coveted profession of many who work with a foreign language here. This is despite the fact that the situation of translators in the labour market is not in any way rosy. Fees are low compared to other European countries, contractual conditions are often unfavourable for translators and there is currently no dialogue between professional organizations and publishers to improve the situation to the satisfaction of all parties. However, this will soon change, namely thanks to a grant from the EEA and Norway Funds, which the Překladatelé Severu (Czech Translators of the North) has received along with its Czech and Nordic partners.

“We founded the Czech Translators of the North association three years ago, among other things because we lacked more intensive contact, exchange of experience, educational opportunities and a stronger professional organization in the translation community to defend our interests and initiate a broader discussion in the book industry,” says the chairwoman of the association and a translator from Norwegian Kateřina Krištůfková.

Překladatelé Severu succeeded with an application for a grant from the EEA and Norway Funds 2014–2021 within an open call for Strengthening the Capacities of Industry and Umbrella Associations, Networks and Platforms. The Czech partners of the project are the professional organizations Obec překladatelů (Community of Translators) and the Jednota tlumočníků a překladatelů (Union of Interpreters and Translators), four associations from Norway and two from Iceland will participate from abroad.

“Although our association has only been in existence for a few years, in such a short time we have managed to raise the profile of the work of translators, organize a number of training events for a diverse range of participants, shoot a series of videos for beginning translators and several times to stand up for our members in the event of unfair dealings that they have encountered. The obtained grant is a huge opportunity for all Czech literary translators to professionalize the activities of existing member organizations and also to start a long-needed dialogue with publishers,” explains the chairwoman.

The project aims to improve translators’ working conditions, cultivate the milieu through the mutual exchange of know-how at national and international levels, open a discussion with publishers leading to the creation of missing standards, strengthen participants in key skills for cultural entrepreneurship and inform the public about the importance of the work of literary translators.

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The first significant activity will be an extensive **analysis of the contractual conditions and prices** of translation work, because relevant data has been lacking for several years here already that could be used to support factually any kind of discussion with private and public entities. The culmination of the project will be an **international conference on the status of literary translators**. It will be attended by, among others, the foreign partners from Norway and Iceland, who will share examples of good practice with us, because in the Nordic countries translators have extensive experience in negotiating. For instance, a few years ago, a framework licensing agreement managed to be reached in Norway. A number of other activities of their local professional organizations can also be an inspiration for our milieu.

Not only for members of the participating associations, there will be copyright **workshops** led by a lawyer, as well as courses focused on negotiation, self-presentation and the basics of entrepreneurial practice. The leadership of the organizations will be educated in managerial skills.

The representatives of Czech translation organizations will also set up a working group which, with the help of a lawyer, will prepare draft standards for a **model license agreement**. Based on those standards, there will be two **round tables with Czech publishers** onthe topic of negotiating contractual conditions, fees, feedback, demands for translation quality, etc. The project will end with a campaign to inform the public about the importance of translation work, necessary to raise awareness of the translation profession and its appreciation among readers and the general public.

The project Strengthening the Capacities of the Professional Organizations of Czech Literary Translators and Their Members, coordinated by Czech Translators of the North, runs from April 2021 to the second half of 2022.

**More information about the project:**

<https://prekladateleseveru.cz/posilovani-kapacit-oborovych-organizaci-ceskych-literarnich-prekladatelu-a-jejich-clenu/>

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**Implementor and project partners:**

* [Czech Translators of the North (Překladatelé Severu](https://prekladateleseveru.cz/))
* [Community of Translators (Obec překladatelů](http://obecprekladatelu.cz/))
* [Union of Interpreters and Translators (Jednota tlumočníků a překladatelů](http://jtpunion.org/))
* [Norwegian Association of Literary Translators (Norsk oversetterforening)](https://oversetterforeningen.no/)
* [Norwegian Association of Audiovisual Translators (Norsk audiovisuell oversetterforening)](https://www.navio.no/)
* [Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association (Norsk faglitterær forfatter- og oversetterforening)](https://nffo.no/)
* [Norwegian Association of Professional Translators (Norsk fagoversetterforening)](https://norfag.org/)
* [Icelandic Literature Center (Miðstöð íslenskra bókmennta)](https://www.islit.is/)
* [The Icelandic Association of Translators and Interpreters (Bandalag þýðenda og túlka)](https://www.thot.is/thot.is/index.html)