

NEXT PAGE FOUNDATION ACTIVITY REPORT 2014



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ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES

2014

A. THE BOOK PLATFORM PROJECT

“This project is of exceptional importance. It had created an environment, had raised awareness, had involved every specialist... It raised issues that need a closer attention for a reform to take place”

Nerses Ter Vardanyan, deputy minister of culture of Armenia at the project’s final press-conference

About the project:

In 2010 Next Page Foundation put together an ambitious program for strengthening the publishing sectors in Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine, for enhancing regional cooperation and for opening up the countries’ literary scenes for more intensive dialogue with the EU member states. A funding proposal got approved in August 2011, and over the next two and a half years (2012-2014) the project was about to assist the book sectors in Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine in overcoming the challenges that publishing, writing and translating face today. The project is financially supported by the [Eastern Partnership Culture Programme of the EU](#).



Why Book Platform: Development of book, translation and reading promotion in Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine

The particular symbiosis of culture and commerce is one of the key characteristics of the book publishing sector. The extent to which a given book sector is healthy is shaped by a combination of factors that involve the level of economic and technological growth and the existing regulatory frameworks but is also strongly determined by soft factors of human development such as literacy, education and level of citizens’ participation in public life. As a cultural industry, a strong book publishing can be a contributor to national GDPs and employment rates but is also an essential prerequisite for the development of creativity, critical thought, informed public debate and – ultimately – for more democratic societies. Creators, producers and distributors in the book sector all over the world are facing the same challenges ranging from changing reading habits and competition from the mass media to new technologies and threats to linguistic diversity. In developing and transitional countries, however, these are supplemented by critical limitations in infrastructure, lack of adequate public policies and restricted language markets.

Period of implementation: January 1, 2012 - June 30, 2014, extended to August 31, 2014

Scope:

The Book Platform project assisted in developing skills, in building international networks and in creating smart policies for creating an environment for a healthy, sustainable and open book culture in three countries of the EU Neighborhood Policy – Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine. The Book Platform offered a comprehensive approach to the challenges of the book market by a program that comprised of:

I. Capacity-building via both regional and national seminars, workshops, mentorship and internship schemes:

The different parts of the program were designed to answer the needs of different groups in the sector – publishers, professional associations (of publishers, writers, translators and other creators) and reading promoters (book-fairs, events organizers, cultural NGOs and journals).

Activities implemented under this cluster in 2014:

A. Workshops

- ⇒ [Workshop “Promotion of Literature in Translation in Yerevan”](#) (21-22 Febr 2014, Yerevan, Armenia)
- ⇒ [Workshop “Creative Writing for Quality Reading”](#) (26-28 June 2014, Yerevan, Armenia)
- ⇒ [Workshop “Promotion of Literature in Translation: Ukraine”](#) (26-27 June 2014, Kyiv, Ukraine)
- ⇒ [Book Platform Final Conference](#) (19-25 July 2014 in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia)

“Goethe Institute’s trainings posed questions; the trainings within the Book Platform gave the answers ... and posed new questions for us”

Armen Martyrosyan, publisher - Armenia

“It was so useful and interesting, I want to thank you for giving us chance to have the mentorship sessions of so important and useful person.”

Gvantsa Jobava, board member GPBA and publisher (Georgia)

B. Internships

- ⇒ [Internship on Promotion of Reading - Georgia](#) (23-29 June 2014 in Poland)
- ⇒ [Internship on Promotion of Reading - Armenia](#) (8-13 July 2014 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
- ⇒ [Internship on Promotion of Literature in Translation - Armenia and Georgia](#) (18-25 June 2014 in Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- ⇒ [Internships on Promotion of Literature in Translation - Ukraine](#) (June 2014)

C. Professional coaching:

- ⇒ [Mentorship Scheme on Strategic Development](#) (May-June 2014)
- ⇒ [Mentorship Scheme on Policy Restructuring](#) (June-July 2014, Armenia and Georgia)

II. Thematic national studies and policy recommendations on the publishing industries, on literary translations flows and on reading:

The studies included primary data collection, analysis and policy recommendations in the three thematic areas for each of the countries, and were designed according to local needs and availability of previous data. They were elaborated to assist both book professionals and public policy makers in getting informed decisions and forming future strategies.

Activities implemented under this cluster in 2014:

A. Studies

- ⇒ [Reading in Ukraine](#)
- ⇒ [Translations from Georgian after 1991](#)
- ⇒ [Translations into Armenian since 1991](#)
- ⇒ [Translations into Georgian since 1991](#)

B. Public Presentations and Discussions on the Studies

- ⇒ [Public Discussion on Publishing and Bookselling in Georgia](#) (24 Jan 2014, Tbilisi)
- ⇒ [Public Discussion on Translations into Georgian](#) (25 Feb 2014, Tbilisi)
- ⇒ [Translating Ukraine: German Experience - Presentation and Discussion at Leipzig Book Fair 2014](#) (13-16 March 2014, Leipzig)
- ⇒ [Preliminary Discussion on Readership in Ukraine](#) (08 April 2014, Ukraine)
- ⇒ [Public Discussion on Readership in Georgia](#) (31 May 2014, Tbilisi)
- ⇒ [Public Discussion on Readership in Ukraine](#) (26 June 2014, Kyiv)
- ⇒ [Public Discussion on Translations into Armenian](#) (10 July 2014, Tbilisi)
- ⇒ [Public Discussion on Translations from Georgian](#) (10 July 2014, Tbilisi)

“It was such a privilege to have been invited to Georgia and to be so generously welcomed there - the whole experience was incredibly eye-opening and inspiring. I will definitely be returning to Georgia as soon as I am able and, in the meantime, I’ll look forward to absorbing all I learned, and reading all I brought away with me”

Laura Barber, Editorial Director,
Portobello & Granta Books (UK)

III. Enhanced literary and publishing dialogue:

This part of the program aimed at helping the development of resources for promotion of contemporary literature from the three countries, both within the region and in EU countries. It also organized study visits of up to key European editors, publishers and events organizers to the three countries and facilitated the mobility of Armenian, Georgian and Ukrainian book professionals for participation in European literary and book events.

Activities implemented under this cluster in 2014:

A. Editorial Visits

- ⇒ [Editorial visits - Armenia](#) (18-20 Feb 2014, Yerevan)
- ⇒ [Editorial visits - Georgia](#) (29-31 May 2014, Tbilisi)

B. Events Participation

- ⇒ [Arevik Ashkharoyan in Straelen, Germany](#) (5-13 March 2014)
- ⇒ [Ukrainian participants at Leipzig Book Fair 2014](#) (13-16 March 2014)

- ⇒ [Ukrainian participants at Salon du Livre](#) (21-24 March 2014)
- ⇒ [Armenian participant at Bologna Children's Book Fair](#) (24-27 March 2014)
- ⇒ [Georgian participants at London Book Fair 2014](#) (8-10 April 2014)
- ⇒ [Armenian participants at London Book Fair 2014](#) (8-10 April 2014)
- ⇒ [Yury Zavadsky at the Belarusian-Swedish Literary Days in Vilnius](#) (16-18 May 2014)
- ⇒ [Armenian Literature Foundation at XVI Tbilisi International Book Festival](#) (29-31 May 2014)
- ⇒ [Iryna Slavinska at the festival Literary Days in Solothurn in Switzerland](#) (29 May - 1 June 2014)

C. Book Platform at Key European Events

- ⇒ [Book Platform at Leipzig Book Fair 2014](#) (13-16 March 2014 in Leipzig, Germany)
- ⇒ [Conference on Culture in the EU External Relations 2014](#) (7-8 April 2014 in Brussels)
- ⇒ [Book Platform at London Book Fair 2014](#) (8-10 April 2014 in London)

D. Information on literatures

The Book Platform project made available about 1000 pages worth of content on literatures and writers in 6 languages on the websites of the project and the project partners. These include information about 60 Armenian, 31 Georgian and 65 Ukrainian authors, annotations of books available in different languages, etc. Follow the links for more information about [Literature from Armenia](#), [Literature from Georgia](#) and [Literature from Ukraine](#).

Cooperation and partnerships

The national partners of Next Page Foundation are the [Armenian Literature Foundation](#), [National Publishers Association \(Armenia\)](#), the [Georgian Book Publishers Association \(Georgia\)](#), and the [Publishers Forum-Lviv \(Ukraine\)](#). In addition, we had [CEATL \(Council of European Associations of Literary Translators\)](#) as an associate partner, and also cooperated with [Frankfurt Book Fair](#), Goethe Institut, and other 20+ European organizations that are Next Page's traditional allies, and kept enlarging its partners' base. Furthermore, in the three action countries the project got endorsed by the [Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia](#), and we've collaborated successfully with [American University of Armenia](#), [The National Parliamentary Library of Georgia](#), and others. Some of the project events were part of the program of [Yerevan World Book Capital](#).

The program built upon previous efforts of national public and private institutions as well as of international organizations that have worked in the book sector in the three countries (such as Goethe Institute, Council of Europe, World Bank, MATRA program of the Royal Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Open Society Institute and others).

On the project website you can download the complete interim narrative and verification reports for [Year One \(January 1, 2012 - February 28, 2013\)](#), [Year Two \(March 1, 2013 - February 28, 2014\)](#) and [Final Report](#).

B. THE WHY INDEPENDENT PROJECT

About the project:

To what extent in the new generation of the EU Structural Funds will there be place for culture and projects in the field of culture, and how to justify the role of culture in the social, economic and human development of the country? What is and what could be the place of the independent cultural organizations in the negotiation and cultural policy making at local, national and European level? What advocacy tools can we have as an independent cultural sector beyond the specific artistic and cultural projects that we implement? These are part of the topics, covered in the *Why Independent* project, which aimed to encourage and motivate the independent cultural organizations in Bulgaria for more and better participation in the policy making process, for more partnership within the sector through experimenting with new instruments for communication and introduction of social design techniques.

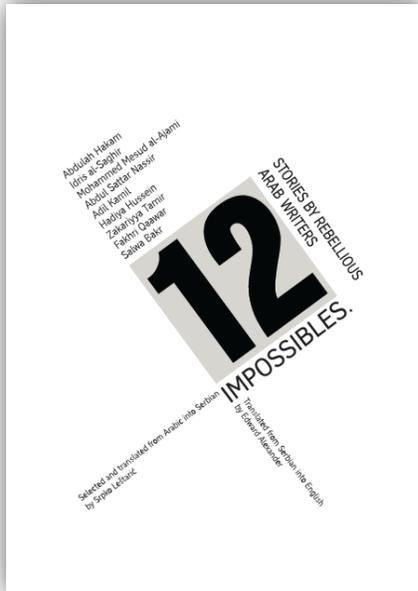
Period of implementation: June 15, 2012 - August 15, 2013, extended to December 31, 2013

Development in 2014:

The project activities were implemented by the end of 2013. In 2014 a new special [module](#) was elaborated at the [website of the Foundation](#) to enable the proper cover of the project. The module now provides free and user-friendly access to information from all the events and the resources created under the project.

Why Independent is a project of Next Page Foundation, supported by the [Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe](#), and implemented in partnership with [Culture Desk Foundation](#) and [A25 Cultural Foundation](#). Within the project a task force group was formed, including the experts Yuriy Vulkovsky, Rozalina Laskova, Diana Andreeva and Andrian Neshev.

C. NEW BOOK PUBLISHED:
12 IMPOSSIBLES. STORIES BY REBELLIOUS ARAB WRITERS



About the book:

In the end of 2014 Next Page Foundation in cooperation with the [European Cultural Foundation](#) published the book “12 Impossible. Stories by Rebellious Arab Writers”. This short selection of forbidden, censored or harshly criticised stories by contemporary Arab writers of the "middle generation", represents in the best possible way not only the tradition of storytelling, but also the culture of rebellion and dissent that has long been part of Arab societies. The stories were collected, selected and translated over a period of twelve years as the Serbian editor and translator Srpko Leštarić came across them, and are accompanied by masterful descriptions about the fate of the authors, their texts, and the art of translating from Arabic.

Distribution:

The book was published in a print run of 1000 copies. The book was also made available for free at the websites of [Next Page Foundation](#) and the [European Cultural Foundation](#). 500 copies were distributed at the [2014 Euro-Arab Dialogue Forum: The Arab Future and the Role of Europe](#), and the rest were distributed by Next Page and ECF. Next Page Foundation has so far distributed about 100 copies. The graph below shows this distribution in details:



II. PARTNERSHIPS

MEMBER OF: ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION NATIONAL NETWORK

In the beginning of March 2011, Next Page was welcomed as a full member of the [Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures](#) national network in Bulgaria. The Anna Lindh Foundation was founded in 2005, with the mission “to bring people together from across the Mediterranean to improve mutual respect between cultures” and is structured as a network of national networks. It links more than 3,000 civil society organizations from 43 different countries, dedicated to promoting intercultural dialogue through various means.

MEMBER OF: BULGARIAN PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In July 2012, Next Page joined the [Bulgarian Platform for International Development](#). The Platform was founded in 2009 and nowadays is an influential network of over 22 NGOs working in diverse fields, such as education for development, health, gender issues, environment and sustainability. The Platform aims at becoming an active and legitimate partner to the state institutions in implementing the commitments of Bulgaria to European Union policy for cooperation and development towards third countries.

MEMBER OF: CULTURE ACTION EUROPE

Since the beginning of 2014 Next Page Foundation has been a member of [Culture Action Europe](#). Set up in 1992, Culture Action Europe is Europe’s biggest umbrella advocacy organisation for the arts and culture. Today, Culture Action Europe has more than 100 members that together represent over 80 000 arts and culture players across Europe and beyond at the local, regional, national or European level in more than 14 artistic disciplines.

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2014

STATEMENT OF ANNUAL REVENUE FOR 2014, as of 31 December 2014
uc=Bulgarian Leva BGN (1 Bulgarian Lev equals 0.51 Euro)

	2014
	BGN'000
Assets	
Total non-current assets	2
Total current assets	141
Total assets	143
Liabilities	
Own equity	82
Due to banks	7
Deferred expenses	54
Total liabilities	143

ABOUT NEXT PAGE FOUNDATION

The activities of Next Page Foundation are based on the premise that access to knowledge and information is crucial for people's participation in shaping the societies they live in, and for promoting intercultural understanding. The Foundation thus aims at helping the empowerment of underprivileged groups, languages and countries for an equal participation in the global dialogue of ideas. To achieve its aims, Next Page develops cultural programs and projects in the field of books, reading and translations.

The Next Page Foundation's main office is based in Sofia, Bulgaria. It works in close partnership with international organizations and local partners in 25 countries. The Foundation is governed by a Governing Board, an executive director and a number of advisory committees. It also cooperates with a vast network of international experts.

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