

Project Report

JUNE 2026



EUROPEAN WRITERS' FESTIVAL 3

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About the Project

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01

A little bit about European Writers Festival 3



Building on the success of the first two editions of the European Writers' Festival in 2023 and 2024, the third edition of the festival brought together another outstanding constellation of literary voices from across Europe and beyond. As the festival continues to grow in scale and ambition, it has now transitioned to a biennial format. Following an opening reception on Friday 15 May 2026 at the Cyprus High Commission in London, the festival took place on 16–17 May 2026 at the British Library. Across two days of panels, performances and discussions, writers from 25 countries explored the stories, ideas and urgent questions shaping contemporary Europe today.

The 2026 edition featured internationally acclaimed and emerging authors from across the continent, including Gonçalo M. Tavares, Jáchym Topol, Sara Stridsberg, Vincenzo Latronico, Nino Haratischwili, Artem Chapeye, Fiston Mwanza Mujila and many more. Together, the programme celebrated the richness and diversity of European literature, while highlighting the central role of translation in fostering intercultural dialogue and exchange.

Responding to themes including war, memory, humour, identity, migration, democracy, nature, mythology and belonging, the festival created a space for debate, reflection and connection at a moment of profound social and political transformation across Europe. Through conversations, readings and performances, the European Writers' Festival once again demonstrated how literature and storytelling can help navigate uncertainty, encourage empathy and strengthen cultural understanding across borders.

Organised by EUNIC London (European Union National Institutes for Culture) in partnership with the European Literature Network and the British Library, and co-organised with the Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom and the European Parliament Liaison Office in the United Kingdom, the festival was developed in collaboration with a Programming Committee of experts chaired by Rosie Goldsmith, alongside Bee Rowlatt, Noreen Masud and Toby Lichtig.



Festival's Launch Event



Julien Bourtembourg, Head of Press and Public Diplomacy at the Delegation of the European Union to the UK
@giorgosothonos

The European Writers' Festival 3 was launched this year on 15 May 2026 with an opening reception hosted by the Cyprus High Commission in London ahead of the festival weekend at the British Library.

The event was attended by participating authors, publishers, translators, journalists, cultural professionals, festival partners and representatives of EUNIC member institutes and European diplomatic missions. Overall registrations reached 270 guests, with approximately 180 attendees on the night.

In his opening speech, Julien Bourtembourg, Head of Press and Public Diplomacy at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom, highlighted the importance of cultural exchange and literary dialogue across Europe. Additional remarks were delivered by Leena Maria Linnus, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK, Kelly O'Connor, co-president of EUNIC London, and Rosie Goldsmith on behalf of the festival's Programming Committee.



Kelly O'Connor, EUNIC Co-President
@giorgosothonos



Marika Goldman with Carolina Pihelgas
@giorgosothonos



Julien Bourtembourg and Koen Guiking
@giorgosothonos



Rosie Goldsmith
@giorgosothonos



Leena Maria Linnus, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK @giorgosothonos



Marios Theocharous, Cultural Counsellor, Cyprus High Commission, London @giorgosothonos



Some of the authors featured in the 2026 European Writers' Festival pictured with Festival Curator Rosie Goldsmith. @giorgosothonos

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Turning points panel with Wendy Erskine, Fiston Mwanza Mujila and Jente Posthuma, chaired by Rosie Goldsmith @jampondphotography

The Festival's Programme



SATURDAY 16 MAY

PANEL 1 - Turning Points, 11.00am at 12.15am

Lively wit, dark humour, ring literary formats and countless unconventional characters distinguish these three novels from three writers at the top of their game. Stories of life-changing events and the impact on individual lives, from regime change in 1990s Zaire, a sexual assault in modern Belfast and a devastating medical diagnosis in Dutch suburbia.

With **Wendy Erskine (Ireland), Fiston Mwanza Mujila (Austria) and Jente Posthuma (Netherlands)**

CHAIR: Rosie Goldsmith

PANEL 2 – Back to Nature, 12.45am at 2.00pm

Three award-winning, multi-talented female writers (aka poets, translators, marathon runner and photographer!) return to nature to tackle the threat of climate change, violence, war, poverty and injustice. But these exceptional books are far from depressing, elevating these stories of girls, women and grandmothers, with profound emotional truths, sharp satire, glowing prose and the solace of nature.

With **Zdravka Evtimova (Bulgaria), Małgorzata Lebda (Poland) and Carolina Pihelgas (Estonia)**

CHAIR: Antonia Lloyd-Jones

SATURDAY 16 MAY

PANEL 3 - Secrets and Lies, 2.30pm at 3.45pm

Secrets and lies abound in small town Norway, big city Athens and a near-future central European dystopia. Three renowned writers bring us the twists, turns and treacheries of an autocracy under surveillance, a 'washed-up writer and philosopher of Athens night-life'-turned sleuth, and then there's P.I. Wisting, the only person small town Larvik can trust to track down the mysterious Night Man.

With **Jørn Lier Horst (Norway)**, **Makis Malafekas (Greece)** and **Krisztina Tóth (Hungary)**

CHAIR: Noreen Masud

PANEL 4 - Tales of the City, 4.15pm at 5.30pm

Addonia is a British-Eritrean-Ethiopian novelist living in Brussels, running a writing school for refugees; Serrano is a journalist and debut novelist from Spain. In dazzling works depicting the trials and tribulations of modern life, we meet refugee Hannah in London and young creative Marisa in Madrid, navigating identity, belonging and the complexities of contemporary urban life.

With **Sulaiman Addonia (Belgium)** and **Beatriz Serrano (Spain)**

CHAIR: Toby Lichtig



Secrets and Lies panel with Jørn Lier Horst, Makis Malafekas and Krisztina Tóth, chaired by Noreen Masud @jampondphotography

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, 6.00pm at 7.00pm

Nino Haratischwili and Vincenzo Latronico

In conversation.

CHAIR: Maya Jaggi

Nino Haratischwili and Vincenzo Latronico, two of Europe's most successful contemporary writers, joined award-winning writer and critic Maya Jaggi for a wide-ranging conversation on their multicultural, multilingual and multidisciplinary creative lives.

Born in the former Soviet republic of Georgia and now based in Berlin, Nino Haratischwili is renowned for her epic novels exploring history, memory and female friendship, as well as for her work as a playwright and director.

Vincenzo Latronico, born in Rome and based in Milan after spending many years in Berlin, is an art critic, novelist and translator whose acclaimed novel *Perfection* offered a compelling psychological portrait of a millennial couple navigating life in contemporary Berlin.

The discussion explored themes of identity, language, translation and belonging, drawing on the authors' experiences of living and working across cultures and literary traditions.



Nino Haratischwili and Vincenzo Latronico and Maya Jaggi @jampondphotography



Back to Nature Panel with Zdravka Evtimova, Małgorzata Lebda and Carolina Pihelgas, chaired by Antonia Lloyd-Jones @jampondphotography



Tales of the City with Sulaiman Addonia and Beatriz Serrano, chaired by Toby Lichtig @jampondphotography



Personal Histories panel with Fabio Andina, Liliana Corobca and Marjun Syderbø Kjelnæs, chaired by Bidisha @jampondphotography

SUNDAY 17 MAY

Your paragraph text

PANEL 1 - Personal Histories, 11.30am at 12.45am

Mighty, moving and prize-winning literature, and rare insights into the history of three smaller European regions, Ticino, Moldova and the Faroes. Andino shares the story of his Ticino grandfather, imprisoned in WW2 for helping Jews escape; Corobca's protagonist Ana recalls the hardship when Soviet soldiers forced her to leave Bukovina, and Kjelnæs lifts our spirits with powerful personal stories from the Faroes.

With Fabio Andina (Switzerland), Liliana Corobca (Romania) and Marjun Syderbø Kjelnæs (Faroes)

CHAIR: Bidisha

PANEL 2 - Coming of Age, 1.15pm at 2.30pm

Intimate family stories from three prominent storytellers, reflecting the historic reality of 1960s Finland, when teenage Pirkko can't decide which she hates most, God, her communist Dad or her growing breasts; a multigenerational family epic from 1950s Yugoslavia to today; and, in a modern day Vilnius apartment bloc, Ona defies the Soviet past and alien present with folklore and ancient ritual.

With Pirkko Saisio (Finland), Goran Vojnović (Slovenia) and Kotryna Zylė (Lithuania)

CHAIR: Dan Richards

PANEL 3 - Stranger Things, 3.00pm at 4.15pm

These three acclaimed authors have been novel-writing, painting, publishing, translating or writing plays and lyrics and active in public life for decades. Known for their bold, often unsettling ideas, join them for science fiction from Luxembourg, blurred fact, fiction and fantasy from Sweden, and, a picaresque romp through Europe from the Czech master of satire and the strange.

With **Anne-Marie Reuter (Luxembourg), Sara Stridsberg (Sweden) and Jáchym Topol (Czechia)**

CHAIR: Tim Beasley-Murray

PANEL 4 - On the Road, 4.30pm at 5.45pm

All the writers in our closing event have contributed in stunning ways to the literature of their countries and to the understanding of Europe's most pressing problems, whether through accounts of ordinary lives on the move in war-torn Ukraine from soldier-writer Chapeye, refugee tales from bestselling Cypriot novelist Lefteri, or from Portugal, the story of Hanna wandering round the rubble of post-WW2 Europe.

With **Artem Chapeye (Ukraine), Christy Lefteri (Cyprus) and Gonçalo M. Tavares (Portugal)**

CHAIR: Bee Rowlatt



On the road - panel with Artem Chapeye, Christy Lefteri and Gonçalo M. Tavares, chaired by Bee Rowlatt @jampondphotography



Coming of an Age - panel with Pirkko Saisio, Goran Vojnović and Kotryna Zylė, chaired by Dan Richards
@jampondphotography



Stranger Things - panel with Anne-Marie Reuter, Sara Stridsberg and Jáchym Topol, chaired by Tim Beasley-Murray
@jampondphotography



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Fiston Mwanza Mujila, Wendy Erskine, Rosie Goldsmith, Jente Posthuma, and Roland Glasser @jampondphotography

Participating Authors

Participating Authors:

(in alphabetical order by surname)

- Sulaiman Addonia
- Fabio Andina
- Artem Chapeye
- Liliana Corobca
- Wendy Erskine
- Zdravka Evtimova
- Nino Haratischvili
- Jørn Lier Horst
- Marjun Syderbø Kjelnæs
- Małgorzata Lebda
- Christy Lefteri
- Vincenzo Latronico
- Makis Malafekas
- Fiston Mwanza Mujila
- Carolina Pihelgas
- Jente Posthuma
- Anne-Marie Reuter
- Beatriz Serrano
- Pirkko Saisio
- Sara Stridsberg
- Gonçalo M. Tavares
- Krisztina Tóth
- Jáchym Topol
- Goran Vojnović
- Kotryna Zylė

Discover more on the writers [here](#).

The Festival's Presenters



Panel Chairs:

(in alphabetical order by surname)

- Tim Beasley-Murray
- Rosie Goldsmith
- Maya Jaggi
- Toby Lichtig
- Antonia Lloyd-Jones
- Bidisha SK Mamata
- Noreen Masud
- Dan Richards
- Bee Rowlatt



Dan Richards



Tim Beasley-Murray



Toby Lichtig



Bidisha



Bee Rowlatt



Noreen Masud



Maya Jaggi



Antonia Lloyd-Jones



Rosie Goldsmith @jampondphotography

05

Our Special Guest Writer in Residence



UCL'S EUROPEAN WRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

Award-winning German-Georgian writer Nino Haratischwili was selected as the UCL 2026 European Literary Map of London Writer in Residence, offered in the context of the European Literary Map of London and the European Writers' Festival, in partnership with the UCL European Institute, Goethe-Institut London, EUNIC London and the European Literature Network.

During her four-week residency in London, Nino had the opportunity to dedicate time to her writing while engaging with UCL academics, researchers and students across disciplines. She also participated in the European Writers' Festival at the British Library and took part in a series of related public and academic events connected to the residency programme.

The residency is offered as part of UCL's European Literary Map of London (ELML), an interactive and continually expanding online platform featuring texts about London written in 29 different languages by European writers whose lives and works have been shaped by the city.

Born in Tbilisi in 1983, Nino Haratischwili is a novelist, playwright and theatre director who writes in German and is considered one of the most significant contemporary voices in European literature. Her internationally acclaimed novel *The Eighth Life* (for Brilka) was translated into more than thirty languages and received numerous international distinctions, including the Warwick Prize for Women in Translation. Her latest novel, *The Lack of Light*, explores friendship and political upheaval in post-Soviet Georgia.

The European Literary Map of London Writer in Residence programme is an annual four-week residency awarded to one selected European writer each year. Previous residents include Bulgarian writer Joanna Elmy (2024) and Irish writer Ciara Broderick (2025).

Discover more on the programme [here](#).



Book Sales and Author Signings

A dedicated festival bookshop operated throughout the European Writers' Festival weekend in partnership with Hatchards, offering audiences access to books by participating authors in both original languages and English translation.

Following each panel discussion, authors took part in scheduled book signing sessions, providing audiences with valuable opportunities to meet the writers, continue conversations beyond the stage and engage more personally with contemporary European literature.

The bookshop and signing programme contributed significantly to the festival atmosphere and audience experience, helping foster direct connections between readers, authors, translators and publishers while also supporting the visibility and circulation of translated European literature in the UK.





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Audience Numbers



THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE ATTENDANCE NUMBERS PER DAY DURING THE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

TICKETS	FULL	OVER 60	BL MEMBER	CONCESSION	COMP	TOTAL
DAY PASS/ SAT 16 MAY	131	13	9	46	51	250
DAY PASS/ SUN 17 MAY	76	14	10	35	56	191
ONLINE	53	0	4	8	0	65
TOTAL	260	27	23	89	107	506
PREVIOUS EDITION 2024	131	48	30	56	145	410

Promotional Material and Communication Channels



A wide range of promotional assets and communications materials were produced to support the visibility and audience development of the European Writers' Festival 2026.

1. **Press releases** were circulated at key stages of the campaign in the lead-up to the festival (on the 5 Feb, 4 March, 2 April, 5 May and 12 May 2026), including announcements of the programme, participating authors and opening reception. These were distributed to UK and international media contacts, literary networks, publishers, translators and cultural organisations.
2. A printed festival **brochure** featuring the full programme, speaker biographies and participating authors' book covers was produced and distributed across partner venues and institutions, including the British Library and the Cyprus High Commission. Overall, 300 copies of the brochure were printed for the 2026 edition.
3. Additional promotional materials included **two roll-up banners** displayed prominently during the festival weekend at the British Library and at the Opening Reception hosted by the Cyprus High Commission, as well as **festival stickers** distributed to participating authors and guests. Special European Writers' Festival **branded t-shirts** were also produced for volunteers and festival staff to support visibility and audience engagement across the weekend.
4. A **communications package** containing prepared social media copy, visuals, links and participants' social media handles was circulated to all partners and participating organisations to support coordinated promotion and strengthen the overall visibility of the festival.

EUROPEAN
WRITERS'
FESTIVAL 2026

BRITISH
LIBRARY

UNIC

Contribution of the
European Union to
the United Kingdom





5. **Social media visuals** and campaign materials were developed and adapted for use across **Instagram, Facebook and X/Twitter** in order to ensure a coherent and recognisable festival identity. The festival campaign also included **short videos, interviews and promotional clips featuring participating authors, moderators and partners**, which were shared across social media platforms before and during the festival weekend.
6. **Newsletters and dedicated mail-outs** were distributed through the channels of EUNIC London, the European Literature Network, the Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom, the European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK, the UCL European Institute and participating EUNIC members, reaching several thousand subscribers and contacts across the UK and Europe. See example [here](#).
7. The festival was also promoted through dedicated **website listings**, partner event pages and online articles published across EUNIC London, the European Literature Network, partner cultural institutes and associated organisations.



Press Coverage:

- An interview with Rosie Goldsmith on What does it take to run a literary festival? in New Books in German, April 1, 2026 / Sheridan Marshall. Read more [here](#).
- A web-story on the EU Del website - 12 May 2026/ Read more [here](#).
- An interview with Rosie Goldsmith on Litro Magazine on Literary Festivals, Translation and Cultural Risk. Read more [here](#).

At the time of writing, media coverage is still emerging. A fuller press report will be provided once all relevant coverage has been published and compiled.

Campaign Summary - Instagram [@europeanwritersuk](#)

Key Activities

Throughout the campaign period, Instagram was used as one of the festival's primary promotional and engagement platforms. Content published included:

- Festival announcements;
- Programme launches;
- Author spotlights and introductions;
- Short video clips and interviews;
- Opening reception promotion;
- Stories and behind-the-scenes content;
- Live coverage during the festival weekend;
- Audience engagement and reposted partner content.

Content Produced

The Instagram campaign included: Static feed posts, Reels, Instagram Stories, Shared collaborator posts, Partner reposts, Festival videos and author interviews, Event reminders and ticketing information.

Audience Growth and Reach

Followers:

- Followers on 5 February 2026: 950
- Followers on 26 May 2026: 1,178
- Net follower growth: 228
- Percentage growth: 24%

Reach and Impressions

- Total accounts reached: 18, 712 (+611.5%)
- Total views/impressions: 77,859
- Total profile visits: 690 (+13.3%)
- Link clicks / ticketing clicks: 24 (+26.3%)

Engagement

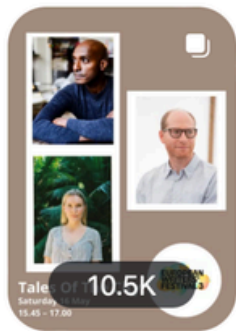
- Total engagement/ interactions: 2.123
- Likes: 1,083
- Comments: 31
- Shares: 82
- Saves: 25
- Engagement rate: 180.2%

Best Performing Content:

Posts:

Top content based on views

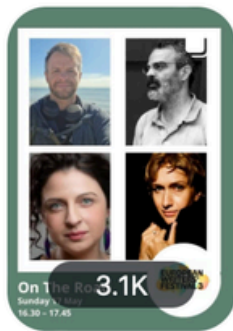
See all



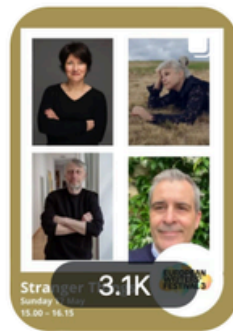
30 Apr



14 May



11 May

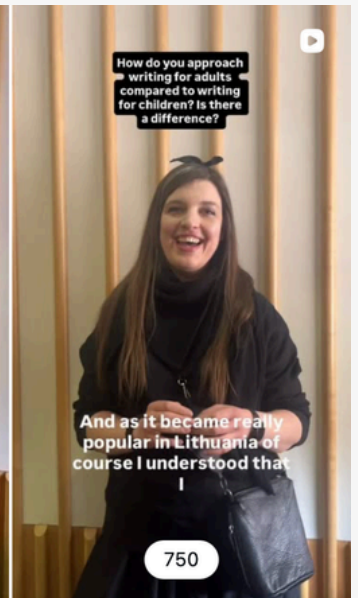


8 May

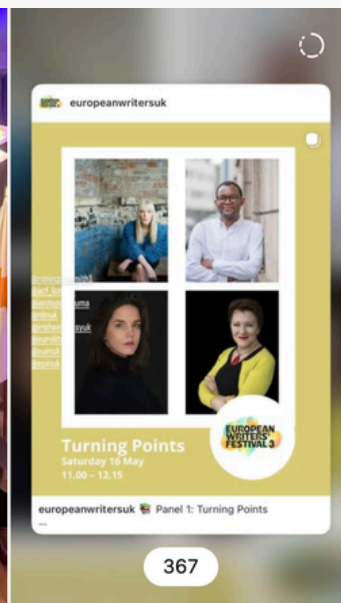


13 May

Reels:



Stories:



Key Observations

- Posts featuring participating authors and video content generated particularly strong engagement.
- Collaborative posts with partner organisations increased audience reach significantly.
- Reels and short-form video content achieved higher visibility and audience interaction than static posts.
- Content published during the festival weekend generated the highest engagement rates.

Partner Amplification

The campaign benefited significantly from coordinated promotion by EUNIC London members and partner organisations, including:

- British Library;
- European Literature Network;
- Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom;
- European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK;
- UCL European Institute;
- Participating cultural institutes;
- Publishers, translators and participating authors.

Prepared communications packages, including graphics, social media copy and Instagram handles, were circulated to all participants to ensure coherent branding and coordinated digital outreach.

Festival Weekend Coverage

Instagram played an important role during the festival weekend itself through:

- Live Stories coverage;
- Behind-the-scenes content;
- Audience interaction;
- Reposts from authors and partner organisations;
- Book signing highlights;
- Coverage of the Opening Reception;
- Photography and short-form video documentation.

The platform helped create a sense of immediacy and audience participation while extending the visibility of the festival beyond the physical events.

X (former Twitter) @EUWritersUK was also used as part of the promotional campaign, although to a lesser extent than Instagram, primarily to share programme updates, amplify partner and participant content, and report live quotes and highlights directly from the festival auditorium throughout the weekend.

Statistics:

Number of posts: 19 over 2 days

Followers: 180

Post with most likes: 60

Post with most impressions: 168

The online presence of the festival was further amplified by being published on all partner's SM platforms: British Library, European Literature Network, EU Delegation to the UK and EU Parliament Liaison Office to the UK, UCL European Institute, EUNIC members, the participating authors and general audience.

Below are some of the posts that received the greatest number of impressions on X,

You reposted

Istros Books @Istros_books · May 16

Thanks to @Hatchards for putting together a wonderful selection of books from the authors at today's @EUWritersUK at the @britishlibrary including Goran Vojnović and Ayfer Tunç published by Istros!

1 7 140

You reposted

Istros Books @Istros_books · May 18

Slovenian author Goran Vojnović arrives in Ireland following the @EUWritersUK for an event tonight with translators Frank Wynne and Olivia Hellewell and spots his novel, 'The Fig Tree' in @Hodges_Figgis

3 10 413

Cyprus in UK - Culture @culturalchcuk · May 16

Stories, voices and ideas came together at @Cyprusinuk for the opening of the @EUWritersUK 2026. Now on to the @britishlibrary for two inspiring days of literature, including British-Cypriot writer @christy_lefteri representing CY. @euniclondon @EUinUK

Κυριακός Π. Κούρος and 8 others

3 3 143

European Writers' Festival @EUWritersUK · May 17

"I was 5 yrs old when I realised adults don't know everything - for example is there god? So, I realised I had to decide by myself." Pirkko Saisio at #EWF3 @eventsBL @FinInst_UK_IRL @EUNICLONDON

1 20



Feedback Received

While no formal post-event survey was conducted, we received a significant amount of feedback from a wide range of stakeholders who attended the festival, including writers, publishers, translators, EUNIC members, moderators, partners, volunteers and audience members.

Feedback was gathered informally through conversations during and after the festival, follow-up emails, social media engagement and direct communications with participants. The overall response was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees highlighting the quality of the discussions, the diversity of voices represented, the welcoming atmosphere, and the opportunity to engage with contemporary European literature and ideas.

The comments and testimonials collected provide valuable qualitative insight into the festival's impact and audience experience. A selection of representative quotes is included below.

“Thank you for curating and organising such a wonderful and thought-provoking literary festival. It's great when European literature is appreciated and celebrated in such a meaningful way.”

Anonymous, Member of the audience

“I have to write more about European Writers’ Festival & other things that were happening last weekend at the British Library. Among authors from all over Europe, the festival featured the multi-talented Lithuanian writer Kotryna Zylė (who happens to be my namesake! For the record, meeting another Kotryna is a rare thing – it’s not a very common Lithuanian name). While the far right protest was marching down Euston Road, the festival felt like the best possible place to be – in the company of amazing multilingual books and people who make them happen.”


Kotryna Garansavilli, Translator

“I was really honoured to be invited, and I had a wonderful time.”

Jente Posthuma, Writer

“Thank you all for such a brilliant weekend. Everything was done with such thought and flair. It was a total pleasure to be on a panel with Fiston and Jente. I loved the discussion - and all the others I heard. Weren’t the chairs/moderators just exceptional? Anyhow, I felt very proud to be there.”

Wendy Eskine, Writer



Fabio Andina is with **Rosie Goldsmith** and **2 others**.
22 May at 08:45 · 🌐

I was invited to the European Writers’ Festival, hosted in the solemn halls of the British Library in London, a biennial event capable of bringing together some of the most significant voices in contemporary European literature.

For two days, on May 16 and 17, the library became a place of meeting and listening: round tables, readings, dialogues and reflections intertwined different languages, stories and sensibilities, in an attempt to understand our time through the quiet strength of the written word.

There were thirty writers, from as many European countries, from Spain to Ukraine, from the Faroe Islands to Turkey, as voices gathered around a single fire. We talked about our books, but above all about the stubborn task of literature: to cross the wounds of the world, to name wars, inequality, private and collective pains. But also of travels, migrations, exiles and returns, of lives in motion through a Europe marked by wars, reconstructions and experiments, where travel often becomes a form of survival and a search for meaning. And then the power of translation as a tool to navigate through the challenges facing Europe today.

And more of personal stories that become collective history, among family memories, age passages and roots that sink into the decades of the ninetieth century.

I told about the historical memory preserved in my novel "Sixteen months", how fragile is the thread that connects past and present, and how necessary it is to continue weaving it, because without memory the world becomes poorer, more lost, and easier to hurt.

Literature, then, seemed to me like a gesture against speed: an invitation to slow down, to go back inside yourself, to listen to what still endures in silence.

It's what I try to do, up here where I live, between the slow breath of the days and the subtle stillness that allows you to still feel the hidden throbbing of things.

[#europeanwritersfestival](#) [#euniclondon](#) [#britishlibrary](#) [#consolatosvizzero](#)
[#rubbettinoeditore](#)

🔍 · Hide Translation · Rate this translation

“What a terrific event!

Thank you for a completely fascinating and illuminating weekend at the European Writers' Festival. What a tonic for dark times.

As well as a very heavy bag of books and a full notebook, I've come away with a couple of prospective authors, introductions to translators and my head buzzing with ideas. The event was beautifully structured and most cleverly organised to cover the entire range of European literature, with such excellent panels - and magnificently chaired. Great combinations of writers, visibly enjoying each other's work. The talks were fascinating, funny and deep, and I was so glad that they are recorded.”

Monique Charlesworth, Writer and Publisher



The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post. At the top left is a profile picture of Maria Balinska, a woman with glasses and a red patterned jacket. To her right is her name 'Maria Balinska' with a verified badge and '2nd' next to it. Further right are the options '+ Follow', three dots, and a close icon 'X'. Below the name is her bio: 'Strategic Advisor | International Education, Civic ...' and '3h · Edited ·'. The main text of the post reads: 'It was a dazzling two days at the British Library's European Writers' Festival 3 - thought-provoking conversations between writers from over 20 countries that underlined how much we have to learn and enjoy from our neighbours across the Channel. My favourite quote of the weekend: "Literary language has the power of the human heart beat." Thank you and congratulations to the #BritishLibrary #EUNIC, the #EuropeanLiteratureNetwork and Rosie Goldsmith (in the photo below chairing the opening session with writers Wendy Erskine (Northern Ireland), Fiston Mwanza Mujila (Austria), Jente Posthuma (Netherlands) and Roland Glasser (Fiston Mwanza Mujila's translator)).' Below the text is a photograph of a panel discussion on a stage. A woman in a red patterned jacket (Rosie Goldsmith) is seated on the left, holding a book. To her right are three other people seated in a row. A large screen in the background displays 'EUROPEAN WRITERS' FESTIVAL 3'. The stage is lit with blue and red lights, and there are plants and a podium on the left.



Partnerships & Collaborations

The European Writers' Festival 2026 was organised for the third consecutive year by the European Union National Institutes for Culture London cluster in partnership with the British Library and the European Literature Network. The 2026 edition was co-organised with the Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom and the European Parliament Liaison Office in the United Kingdom.

This year's festival was further strengthened through collaborations with a wide network of cultural, literary and academic partners, including UCL European Institute, publishers, translators, European cultural institutes and media partners, contributing to the continued growth and visibility of the festival as a key platform for contemporary European literature and intercultural dialogue in the UK.

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"We are delighted to once again collaborate with the British Library and the European Literature Network, and grateful for the support of the EU Delegation to the UK and the European Parliament Liaison Office in the UK."

Kelly O'Connor
Presidency Team of
EUNIC London
(European Union
National Institutes for
Culture)



About the organiser:

EUNIC London (European Union National Institutes for Culture) is the network of the cultural institutes and embassies from the member states of the European Union in London. A branch of EUNIC Global, the London network was established in 2007 and has at present 37 members who share knowledge and resources in order to promote greater cooperation and develop partnerships between European nations and UK organisations.

About the co-organisers:

The European Literature Network was created with the mission of championing great writing from Europe in the UK – and doing it together. Open to writers, translators, publishers, agents, booksellers, festival directors, arts managers and journalists, ELNet is a free, collaborative hub for sharing news and views. Founded in 2010 by former BBC journalist Rosie ('The Riveter') Goldsmith, ELNet spreads the word about European literature and translation on its website and through the Riveter magazines, Riveting Interview podcasts, #RivetingReviews, workshops, events and festivals. ELNet operates without funding or grants (unfortunately) and is therefore dependent on the passion, professionalism and dedication of the core ELNet team and on an extensive network of volunteers, supporters, partners and donors. ELNet is both an online and physical gathering place for sharing content and discussion, with the goal of encouraging the promotion, professionalism and popularity of European literature in the UK.



The British Library is a national library of the UK and we are here for everyone. Our shelves hold over 170 million items – a living collection that gets bigger every day. Although our roots extend back centuries, we aim to collect everything published in the UK today, tomorrow and far into the future. Our trusted experts care for this collection and open it up for everyone to spark new discoveries, ideas and to help people do incredible things. We have millions of books, and much more besides. Our London and Yorkshire sites hold collections ranging from newspapers and maps to sound recordings, patents, academic journals, as well as a copy of every UK domain website and blog. Our public spaces provide a place to research, to meet friends, to start up a new business or simply to get inspired by visiting our galleries and events. We work with partners and libraries across the UK and the world to make sure that as many people as possible have the chance to use and explore our collections, events and expertise. And we're always open online, along with more and more of our digitised collection.

The Delegation of the European Union to the UK is one of the 144 diplomatic representations of the EU around the world. The Delegation engages with His Majesty's Government, political actors, academia, business, the media, civil society, and the British public, to assist in shaping a collaborative and forward-looking new EU-UK relationship.

The European Parliament Liaison Office in the United Kingdom strives to raise awareness of the European Parliament's work, what it does within the EU institutions and its support for fundamental European values, in particular to its long-lasting commitment to peace and democracy.

Our volunteers 12

The festival was supported by a team of volunteer media interns who contributed to communications, audience engagement and event delivery throughout the weekend. Dora Fidler, a recent graduate of the BA Creative Arts and Humanities programme at University College London, and Marianne Tabanji and Sanaa Dharamshi, students on the same programme, undertook their practical placement with the festival. They were joined by Gus Lovell, a Literature student at the University of Cambridge, who also volunteered as a media intern.

Their support was instrumental to the successful delivery of the festival, assisting with audience liaison, content creation, social media coverage and general event logistics. The festival also provided an opportunity for students and recent graduates to gain practical experience in the cultural sector, develop professional skills and engage directly with an international literary event. EUNIC London values these collaborations as an important means of supporting emerging cultural professionals and fostering greater participation of young people in cultural and literary programming.





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Photo Gallery

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