

The background of the entire image is a warm-toned photograph of a bookshelf filled with books. Overlaid on this background is a large pink circle in the center. Below the circle is a yellow shape with a wavy, organic top edge. The text is arranged as follows: 'Slovenia' in black serif font at the top of the pink circle; 'LOVES' in large, bold, white sans-serif font across the middle of the pink circle; 'reading' in black serif font at the bottom of the pink circle; and a paragraph of text in white sans-serif font inside the yellow shape.

Slovenia  
**LOVES**  
reading

Associations, institutions  
and projects in Slovenia engaged  
in the promotion of reading  
culture and quality  
children's literature



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# The Slovenian Section of IBBY International Board on Books for Young People

The Slovenian Section of IBBY was established in 1992, soon after Slovenia gained its independence. The Section connects, informs, guides and encourages various institutions and individuals engaged in the creation, study, popularisation and promotion of children's literature, making it one of the central institutions in the field of children's literature in Slovenia.

It was at the 1966 IBBY Congress in Ljubljana that the 2nd of April, Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, was proclaimed **International Children's Book Day (ICBD)**. It has been celebrated ever since. The Slovenian Section of IBBY was the international sponsor of the 1997 ICBD, when artist Matjaž Schmidt and poet and writer Boris A. Novak designed the message



and poster **Childhood Is Poetry of Life. Poetry Is Childhood of the World.**, and of the 2020 ICBD, when author Peter Svetina and artist Damijan Stepančič designed the message and poster **Hunger for Words**.

We annually present awards to promoters of children's literature and reading. As we strongly support reading promotion programmes and promote quality Slovene literature for children and youth, we are also a nominating body for IBBY i-Read, IBBY Asahi Reading Promotion Award, Hans Christian Andersen Award (HCAA), ALMA, and IBBY Honour list. We are very proud that our excellent authors and artists have been recognised by international juries. Two Slovenes have been on the HCAA shortlist: illustrator Marija Lucija Stupica in 2000, and author Peter Svetina in 2020 and 2022.



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🌐 [www.ibby.si](http://www.ibby.si)

# The Slovenian Book Agency JAK RS



Photo: JAK RS

The Slovenian Book Agency (JAK RS), founded in 2009, is a government institution that deals with all actors in the book publishing chain, from authors to publishers and readers, and also promotes Slovene literature abroad.



Photo: Aleš Fevžer for KZS

JAK RS is the organiser of Slovenia's presentation as Guest of Honour at the 2023 Frankfurt Book Fair and the 2024 Bologna Children's Book Fair. Many of the projects and programmes presented in this publication are co-funded by JAK RS.



Photo: JAK RS





## *Growing Up With a Book*


The national project *Growing Up With a Book* includes all seventh-grade primary school pupils and all first-year secondary school students, who, during their yearly visit to the nearest public library, receive their own copy of a selected book of young adult literature written by Slovenian authors.

*Growing up with a Book* is a national project organised by JAK RS in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, the National Education Institute Slovenia, etc. It is carried out in collaboration with all general public libraries, all primary and secondary schools, primary schools with an adapted programme, educational establishments for children and young people with special needs, and primary and secondary bilingual

schools in neighbouring countries (Austria, Hungary and Italy). JAK also cooperates with teachers of Slovene language at so-called Saturday schools (America, Australia), at supplementary Slovene classes abroad (Belgium, BiH, Serbia, Croatia, France, etc.) and at European schools (Brussels, Luxemburg, Frankfurt, etc.). In addition, the Agency cooperates with the Basketball Federation of Slovenia to promote reading.



### **More about the project:**

 <http://www.jakrs.si/en/reading-promotion-in-slovenia/growing-up-with-a-book/>

 [tjasa.urankar@jakrs.si](mailto:tjasa.urankar@jakrs.si)

## *A Book's Journey*

*A Book's Journey - from author to reader*, is a presentation of the process of a book coming into existence. A short story in comic-book form written by Žiga X. Gombač and illustrated by David Krančan guides us into the world of books with the help of an appealing hero, the Bookworm.

In collaboration with the Slovenian Reading Society (BDS), JAK RS launched a brochure and posters guiding us through *A Book's Journey* by looking at each stage as a conceptual topic:

- **THE BIRTH OF A BOOK** - presentation of individual authors, publishers, e-books;
- **BOOK MEETS READER** - presentation of individual bookstores and libraries;
- **HEAD OVER HEELS IN BOOKS** - acquainting readers with book promotion tools, book promotion campaigns, and related activities, awards and projects;
- **EMBRACED BY WORDS** - meetings between book producers and readers.

The poster exhibition *A Book's Journey* is accessible to schools, libraries and other interested institutions throughout Slovenia.

A second booklet of the project *A Book's Journey* is entitled *The Mystery*



Photo: JAK RS



*of The Missing Letters*. This time our hero the Bookworm is facing a difficult task - all the letters of the world have disappeared. Has someone stolen them? Eaten them? Or have they just vanished? Beside the comic strip story, the booklet offers educational activity sheets and ten catchy slogans about reading.



**More about the project:**

- <https://www.jakrs.si/en/reading-promotion-in-slovenia/a-books-journey/>
- ✉ [tjasa.urankar@jakrs.si](mailto:tjasa.urankar@jakrs.si)

## Tenders and Public Calls The Slovenian Book Agency: funding opportunities for foreign publishers

### Grants for the translation and publication of works by Slovene authors

Annual open call for translations from Slovene and translations from works written in other languages when the author is part of the Slovene cultural environment. It includes first translations of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be legal persons (publishing houses, theatres) registered abroad. The subsidy covers up to 100% and maximum of € 10,000 of the translation costs.

### Grants for printing costs

Annual open call for translations from Slovene and translations from works written in other languages when the author is part of the Slovene cultural environment. It includes first editions of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be publishing houses registered abroad. The subsidy covers up to 70% and maximum of € 3,000 of printing costs.

### Travel Grants

Travel grants are also available for Slovene authors, translators, editors or rights agents, who have been invited to literary or industry events abroad. An invitation and the event programme must be enclosed with the application.

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🌐 [www.jakrs.si/en/international-cooperation/tenders-and-public-calls/](http://www.jakrs.si/en/international-cooperation/tenders-and-public-calls/)



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# The Slovenian Reading Badge Society

**T**he Slovenian Reading Badge Society is the NGO at the helm of the Reading Badge movement in terms of professional guidance and organisation. The Society implements various programmes that encourage children and young people – as well as adults – to read in their free time. The mission of the Reading Badge, supported by schools, libraries and similar organisations, is to promote lifelong development of reading culture and reading literacy.

Initially a mentoring practice at the Prevalje\* primary school, the movement was founded in 1960/61 by Slovene language professor Stanko Kotnik and author Leopold Suhodolčan. The movement's initiatives today bring together about 140,000 readers each year. Reading is supported by numerous mentors – librarians, teachers and other experts, as well as authors and publishers; children are also encouraged to read by their

families. Some Reading Badge programmes even transcend the borders of Slovenia to reach Slovene communities abroad. Due to its significant role in the national culture, the Reading Badge is listed by the national Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

## The Slovenian Reading Badge Society

- Provides guidelines for the selection of reading material and develops the tools needed for their use.
- Shares expert knowledge on the development of modern strategies for encouraging reading.
- Informs about the development of reading, writing and literary culture.
- Ensures efficient and quick integration of the network of participants and an unimpeded flow of information.
- Organises programmes of specialised education and exchanges.

*\* A settlement in the north of Slovenia.*



- Coordinates visits of Slovene authors.
- Provides motivational book gifts and works to improve the quality by youth literature.
- Prepares motivational materials and certificates.
- Develops various pilot programmes and projects for different age groups (e.g. a programme of intergenerational reading).
- Collaborates with similar organisations in Slovenia and elsewhere (being one of the initiators of the *National Month of Reading Together* network; heading the *Reading Together* promotion programme, etc.).
- The Slovenian Reading Badge Society is a member of the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth and is internationally

active as a member of the Slovenian Section of IBBY and the Federation of European Literacy Associations (FELA).

In addition to numerous national awards and prizes, in 2022 the Society received an award for innovative practice in the field of promoting reading culture, awarded biannually by the Federation of European Literacy Associations (FELA).



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🌐 <https://www.bralnaznacka.si/sl/>  
<https://www.bralnaznacka.si/en/>

# THE LIBRARY LANDSCAPE IN SLOVENIA: the anchor of promoting reading culture

In Slovenia, the library landscape influences the attitude of the people towards reading culture through five pillars – school libraries, public libraries, special libraries, higher-education libraries, and the National Library. Two of these pillars, namely school libraries and public libraries, accompany everyone through life. A network of 58 public libraries with 273 branches and 13 mobile libraries provides access to books and reading in almost the entire territory of Slovenia. When we add to that the 821 school libraries that young people can utilise for the entire duration of their schooling, we get a true idea of the potential power of this anchor. Discovering reading, using information resources, encouraging enjoyment of high-quality illustrations and selected texts of great stories, and identifying



knowledge in professional texts, are just some of the librarians' tasks. They are the starting points for many interesting projects aimed at developing reading culture. An important role in this is played by library organisations whose activities go beyond their local framework such as Pionirska - Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship at the Ljubljana City Library, the Centre for Promoting of Reading and Literacy at the Maribor Public Library, and the Section for Youth Literature at the Slovenian Library Association.

There are many projects and programmes that promote reading culture to all age groups. Some of them are groundbreaking and backed by enthusiastic and devoted librarians who work hard to provide users with services, information and materials. Since 1967, the Slovenian Library Association has been awarding the highest national recognitions in the field of librarianship. **The awards are named after** the Slovenian librarian and scholar **Matija Čop**. The winners highlight the importance of the wide range of activities performed by libraries.



## links

Slovenian Library Association:  
[www.zbds-zveza.si](http://www.zbds-zveza.si)

Public Libraries:  
[www.knjiznice.si](http://www.knjiznice.si)

National Library of Slovenia:  
[www.nuk.uni-lj.si](http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si)

School Libraries:  
<https://www.zbds-zveza.si/sekcija-za-solske-knjiznice/>

Centre for the Promotion  
of Reading Literacy:  
[www.mb.sik.si/center-zaspodbujanje-bralne-pismenosti.html](http://www.mb.sik.si/center-zaspodbujanje-bralne-pismenosti.html)

Section of Youth Libraries:  
<https://www.zbds-zveza.si/sekcija-za-mladinsko/>

National Education Institute  
Slovenia:  
[www.zrss.si/strokovne-resitve/](http://www.zrss.si/strokovne-resitve/)

Šolska Knjižnica Magazine:  
<https://www.zrss.si/strokovne-revije/solska-knjiznica>

Knjižnica, Journal of Library  
and Information Science:  
<https://knjiznica.zbds-zveza.si/>

Facebook: Slovenian Library  
Association:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ZBDSlovenija/>

Facebook: Section of Public Libraries:  
<https://www.facebook.com/sekcijasplosneknjiznice/>

Recommendations portal of  
Slovenian Public Libraries:  
<https://www.dobreknjige.si/>

# The *Otrok* in *knjiga* journal

**O***trok in knjiga* (*Child and Book*) is the only specialised professional journal in Slovenia concerned with the subject of youth literature, literary education and book-related media. It has been published since the 1970s, a boom time in youth literature, which coincided with major advances in theories of youth literature. The journal was founded in order to establish youth literature as an important and indispensable type of literature, which deserves equal and systematic study within the framework of literary science. Although the journal was founded by a number of co-publishers (including the Academy of Education at the University of Maribor and the Ljubljana-based Pionirska Library), its headquarters have always been located in Maribor.

Through persistence and good planning, the journal's editors have managed to secure contributions from

distinguished Slovene and foreign experts. As the journal is intended for everyone involved in the study, dissemination and creation of youth literature, as well as literary education, it quickly acquired a loyal readership. Many articles published in the journal remain a precious, and in some cases only, resource on various topics. The journal has facilitated the development and increased recognition of the field and has helped develop youth literature criticism. During the first two decades of the journal's existence, the editors worked hard to move youth literature away from purely educational goals towards other aspects, particularly those related to literary aesthetics. In the past decade, a lot of attention has been paid to reading culture.

The concept of the journal has proven itself so successful that the editors are able to use roughly the same format until this day.





**The journal has a number of recurring sections:**

- **Treatises – Articles:** first publications of studies by Slovene experts and translations of important articles by distinguished foreign authors.
- **Self-review:** self-presentations of youth literature authors, illustrators, translators and editors.
- **IBBY News:** articles about the activities of the Slovenian Section of IBBY and IBBY in general.
- **Responses to events:** in-depth discussions of exhibitions, awards, events, anniversaries.
- **Reports – Reviews:** includes book reviews and can be of interest to a broader audience.

Regular activities by the journal also include organising symposia, debates and round table discussions where the editors try to shine a light on current issues in the field of youth literature, show them in a different perspective and fill certain gaps in the theory.

*Otrok in knjiga* is also a regular participant at the **Eye of the Word** (*Oko besede*) festival.

📍 Mariborska knjižnica  
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🌐 <https://www.mb.sik.si/revija-oik.html>

# Pionirska, Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship



**P**ionirska – Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship, which is part of the Ljubljana City Library, is Slovenia’s leading institution in the field of youth literature, librarianship and promotion of reading. It collects and studies information and materials related to its field for anyone who may be interested in the subject, whether in Slovenia or abroad. For this purpose, Pionirska also maintains a library collection consisting of books for young readers written in Slovene, translated youth books, as well as an archive of Slovene youth periodicals. It organises professional seminars for librarians, publishers, editors and reading mentors. Each year, Pionirska publishes the *Manual for Reading Quality Youth Books*, which presents the annual production of youth literature in Slovenia in a unique and critical way. The Pionirska Competence Centre collaborates closely with the Slovenian Section of IBBY, which is also based at the Ljubljana City Library, and with other related institutions in Slovenia and abroad.

Pionirska introduced **the Golden Pear**, a mark of quality children and youth books, today providing reliable information to reading mentors and helping readers in libraries and bookshops. It is also a symbol of excellence publishers like to pride themselves with.



📍 Mestna knjižnica Ljubljana  
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# The Slovenian Reading Association

The Slovenian Reading Association (*Bralno društvo Slovenije* (BDS)) was founded in 1995 with the aim of raising the awareness of the importance of literacy, promoting reading, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, and helping to build bridges between theory and practice. Since its founding, one of its most important goals has been fostering national and international partnerships in research, and enabling (inter)national exchange of information. The BDS joined the International Literacy Association (formerly the International Reading Association) in 1996 and became a member of FELA (Federation of European Literacy Associations) in 2008.

The association organises annual symposia on various cutting-edge topics, workshops and panel discussions. In 2018, the Slovenian Reading Association was among the initiators of the first *National Month of Reading Together*, a joint nation-wide campaign of various associations, libraries, educational institutions, and ministries, aimed at promoting reading and literacy across all age groups. The campaign has since become an annual event with several hundreds activities taking place every year.



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# The Section for Children's and Youth Literature at the Slovene Writers' Association

The Section for Children's and Youth Literature at the Slovene Writers' Association was established on 10 December 2003, on the initiative of Janja Vidmar, who was later appointed its chair, officially approved at the Association's General Meeting on 16 December 2003.

The Section's founders called for its establishment due to the fact that children's and young adult literature had been unreasonably absent from ongoing and long-term evaluations of literature. The founders thus considered it necessary for authors of children's and young adult literature to come together, as well as establish a professional award, laying the foundations for the recognition of the excellence and originality of youth literature and its authors



Already in its first year of operation, the Section accomplished most of its goals; especially noteworthy is the establishment of the **Desetnica Award** for best work of children's or young adult literature, awarded annually by the Slovene Writers' Association to its members writing in Slovene for books published in the previous three years. A five-member jury consisting of authors of children's and adult literature, members of the Association, first collaborates with



Cover of the anthology of selected Slovene authors writing for children and young adults

an independent expert to create a shortlist, from which it then selects the winner of the Desetnica Award.

The Section is very active and is present at all events related to children's and young adult literature, it has been collaborating in the *Povabimo besedo* and *Knjigovanje* projects financed by the Slovenian Book Agency, and works tirelessly to make children's and young adult literature recognised by the expert public in the same way as other literary genres.

The Section has also realised the idea of an anthology of selected Slovene authors who write for children and



2020 Desetnica Award winner Jana Bauer for *Ding dong zgodbe*

young adults titled *Bee Curious: Slovenia's Best for Young Readers*, which was published in 2023 with the aim of facilitating Slovenia's presentations at international book fairs.



*Društvo slovenskih pisateljev*  
Slovene Writers' Association

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Nataša Konc Lorenzutti:  
[natasa.konc-lorenzutti@guest.arnes.si](mailto:natasa.konc-lorenzutti@guest.arnes.si)

🌐 <https://drustvo-dsp.si/en/home/>

# The Slovenian Association of Fine Arts Societies, Illustrators Section

The Slovenian Association of Fine Arts Societies (ZDSLU) is a national umbrella organisation and an expert association of professional fine artists living and working in the Slovene cultural area. It is the oldest association in the field of fine arts in Slovenia, its founding assembly having taken place in 1899. With nine regional societies, it covers the entire Slovene cultural space and includes over 800 members, professional and active artists. Different sections operate within the ZDSLU, covering various areas within the profession. One of these is the **ZDSLU Section of Illustrators**.

The Section was established in 1992 with the aim of ensuring the continuity and development of illustration in Slovenia under the new

political and economic circumstances. As one of its priorities, in addition to numerous other activities, the Section established the **Slovenian Biennial of Illustration**, which covers the entire Slovenian illustration production. As part of the Biennial,



the highest awards for illustration in Slovenia are awarded as well. Among the works created in recent years, the jury selects the winners



of the **Hinko Smrekar Award**, the **Hinko Smrekar Lifetime Achievement Award**, as well as the **Hinko Smrekar plaques and recognitions**, all named after the eponymous Slovene painter, graphic artist, illustrator and caricaturist. The Biennial is organised in cooperation with the Cankarjev Dom Gallery.

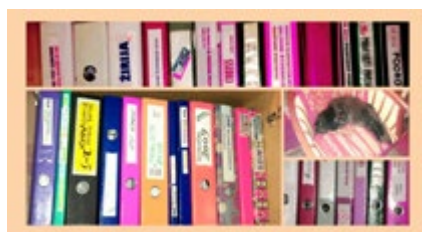


Among other activities, the Section of Illustrators also organises the submission of illustrations by Slovene authors to the central international **Biennial of Illustration Bratislava – BIB**.



Within the framework of its regular exhibition projects, the Section also collaborates with the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU) in a project on the subject of illustrating ethnographic heritage.

The Section regularly cooperates with the Slovenian Book Agency, the Slovenian Section of IBBY and other cultural institutions. It is actively involved in events related to cultural and social policy.



**ZDLSU**

Zveza društev slovenskih likovnih umetnikov  
The Slovenian Association of Fine Arts Societies  
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🌐 <https://zdslu.si/>  
<https://zdslu.si/sekcija-ilustratorjev/>

# Slovenian Association of Literary Translators

The Slovenian Association of Literary Translators (DSKP) was founded in 1953. The DSKP is a professional association dedicated to ensuring a high standard of translations, promoting the profession of literary translators, facilitating contacts between translators and familiarising them with the theoretical, historical, social, and practical aspects of translating. To achieve its goals, the DSKP organises literary evenings, debates, professional meetings, lectures, and seminars; encourages international study exchanges of translators; promotes cooperation with other cultural, educational, and professional organisations and institutions in Slovenia and abroad; publishes translation journals; and contributes to translation-themed journals published elsewhere.

**The DSKP is a member of the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL).**

Many of DSKP's members translate children's and YA literature, so promoting excellence in these areas of translation is one of its central tasks. In 2021, the DSKP founded **the Vasja Cerar Award** for the best translation of children's and YA literature into Slovene. It is named after a renowned editor and translator of children's literature Vasja Cerar. The award is bestowed annually for translations of books published over the previous four years, alternately in one of four categories: picture books, texts for readers 12 or younger, comic books and graphic novels, and texts for readers 12+. The Award was bestowed for the first time in 2022, received by Milan Dekleva for his translations of two picture books by Rachel Bright. In 2023, the award was received by Nada Grošelj for her translation of Tove Jansson's *Moominvalley in November* from Swedish. The sponsors of Vasja Cerar Award and co-organisers of events connected with the award are the Maribor Youth Cultural Centre (MKC Maribor) and the 25th Slovene Book Days Literary Festival in Maribor. The DSKP also organises literary evenings and debates on the topic of translating children's literature.



**DRUŠTVO SLOVENSKIH KNJIŽEVNIH PREVAJALCEV**  
SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATION OF LITERARY TRANSLATORS  
ASSOCIATION DES TRADUCTEURS LITTÉRAIRES DE SLOVÉNIE

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# Center of Illustration

The Center of Illustration, which was founded in 2022, is a physical and online space that presents, connects and educates local creators in the field of illustration. It acquaints the general and professional public at home and abroad with a wide and diverse field of illustration in Slovenia, presents its active creators, informs about current events, connects spaces and organisations, and takes care of the professionalisation of the field.

It was created on the basis of many years of activity and observation of the field of illustration and is a response to the challenges and questions that arise in the field of illustration. Some illustrators and representatives of spaces, galleries, and organisations that are part of the program committee of the Center of Illustration were involved in the creation of the webpage. The webpage initially invited 50 active illustrators to present themselves on it, but the list

will be supplemented every year on the basis of an open call.

The promotion of active local authors, who for the first time present themselves in one place with uniform presentations, references, and contact information, is an important innovation brought by the website of the Center of Illustration. This also provides information on key spaces, organisations, and institutions and major events, illustration studies, and awards in the field. It also supports authors with non-formal training and orientations on issues such as how to evaluate your work, set prices, protect copyright and material rights.



center of  
illustration

📍 Center ilustracije

✉ [info@centerilustracije.si](mailto:info@centerilustracije.si)

🌐 [www.centerilustracije.si](http://www.centerilustracije.si)

# The Slovene Literary Critics' Association

The Slovene Literary Critics' Association was established in 2008 and is a professional society with about sixty members – literary critics of various generations and interests, some of whom specialise in children's and youth literature. The Association has operated three projects with the financial support of the Slovenian Book Agency: the **Critic's Sieve Award (*Kritiško sito*)** for book of the year as selected by the Association's members, an *international critics' symposium*, and the *Second Opinion (Drugo mnenje)* projects that connects authors and critics. In 2020 the Association also received financial support from the City of Ljubljana to oversee the *Connected Words (Povezane besede)*

project, which includes, among other things, talks with a diverse selection of authors. Those members of the Association who deal with children's and youth literature primarily publish in the following media: the magazine *Sodobnost* and and its *Mlada Sodobnost* supplement, which regularly publishes reviews of children's and YA books, the journal *Otrok in knjiga*, the only magazine in Slovenia for youth literature, which also publishes reviews, the journal *Literatura*, the newspaper *Delo*, the magazine *Bukla*, the [www.ludliteratura.si](http://www.ludliteratura.si), the [www.airbeletrina.si](http://www.airbeletrina.si) and the [www.dobreknjige.si](http://www.dobreknjige.si) online portals. Its members are also members of various juries and committees, etc.



**DSLK**

Društvo slovenskih literarnih kritikov

📍 Društvo slovenskih  
literarnih kritikov  
Tomšičeva ulica 12  
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija

✉ [literarni.kritiki@gmail.com](mailto:literarni.kritiki@gmail.com)

f Društvo slovenskih  
literarnih kritikov

# The Chamber of Publishing and Bookselling at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia

Private enterprise requires collaboration, interactivity and coexistence, which is the reason why the Chamber of Publishing and Bookselling (ZKZK) was established within the context of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (GZS). ZKZK's membership includes over 40 Slovene publishers that operate as corporations. ZKZK's cohesive and teamwork-based efforts are directed both towards its members as well as outwardly, towards partner institutions, organisations and authorities. Every November, ZKZK organises **the Slovene Book Fair**, the biggest such event in Slovenia. The Chamber ceaselessly works to promote reading using large-scale independent activities, such as the *Slovenija bere*



Photo: Uroš Abram; <https://knjizni-sejem.si/galerija/>

(Slovenia Reads) project, and participates in other activities aimed at encouraging people to read and buy books.

In relation to children's and young adult literature, the principal activity of ZKZK is the annual bestowment of **the Kristina Brenkova Original Slovene Picture Book Award**.

Accompanying the main award, the Chamber also awards special accolades for innovative approaches in picture



book production. These and other activities of the ZKZK promote the publishing of picture books in Slovene, as well as contribute to the improvement of children's reading habits.

Publishers are important promoters of reading culture. Among other things, they are involved in the following:

- **Awarding prizes to outstanding children's and YA books:**



- **The Blue Bird Award (Modra ptica)**

Modra Ptica is a biennial award for the best unpublished literary work. Since 2012 it has been bestowed by the Mladinska Knjiga Group, alternately for YA novels and adult novels.

🌐 [https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modra\\_ptica\\_\(nagrada\)](https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modra_ptica_(nagrada))



- **The Levstik Award (Levstikova nagrada)**

The Levstik Award has been bestowed since 1949 by the

publishing house Mladinska Knjiga for the best books in their range in the field of children's and young adult literature as well as illustration. Until 1991 the award was presented annually, since then bianually. It is awarded in four categories best original fiction, best original illustration, lifetime achievement in the field of children's literature, and lifetime achievement in the field of illustration.

🌐 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levstik\\_Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levstik_Award)

- **Devising and implementing projects for the promotion of reading among young people:**



- **Our Little Library**

promotes reading and literacy development among the youngest readers, from kindergarten to the 5th grade of primary school. It offers quality works by established authors and numerous other activities besides reading.

🌐 [www.nasamalaknjiznica.com](http://www.nasamalaknjiznica.com)  
[www.sodobnost.com](http://www.sodobnost.com)

✉ [sodobnost@guest.arnes.si](mailto:sodobnost@guest.arnes.si)



- *Reading Train*

is a family literary activity that encourages reading, conversation and creativity. By reading, tandems (adult and child) collect carriages and compete with each other and can take part in various challenges and fun activities.

- [www.sodobnost.com](http://www.sodobnost.com)
- [sodobnost@guest.arnes.si](mailto:sodobnost@guest.arnes.si)



- *Open book: GG4U*

is a joint project of the publishing house Malinc and KUD Sodobnost International, designed as a game on an online platform. It places a book alongside digital media, enables in-depth reading, and elevates reading and digital literacy among teenagers.

- <https://www.sodobnost.com/odprtaknjigagg4u-oprojektu/>
- <https://www.malinc.si/bralna-kultura/gg4u-projekt/>
- [bralniProjektgg4u@gmail.com](mailto:bralniProjektgg4u@gmail.com)

## leo, leo

- *Leo, Leo*

a project aimed at children between the ages of 3 and 10. Alongside language competence (especially reading literary texts), which the project promotes through the use of reading motivation strategies, the project also raises the multicultural competence by the use of a foreign language (Spanish).

- [www.malinc.si](http://www.malinc.si)
- [info@malinc.si](mailto:info@malinc.si)

## Španska vas

- *Španska vas (Spanish Village)*

is a project that promotes reading by training reading mentors along the entire education vertical, thus facilitating the acquisition of lasting language skills. The Spanish Village in the name of the project refers to the Slovene saying *španska vas* when referring to something remote and unknown, with the aim of preventing reading from ever falling into this category.

- [www.malinc.si](http://www.malinc.si)
- [info@malinc.si](mailto:info@malinc.si)



- *Reading Is a Gift*

The project includes a variety of book presentations, events and talks given by a broad range of creators who meet with young readers, their mentors, booksellers and librarians at different venues. Some of the events involve vulnerable groups in order to address many mutually crucial points: how to cope with losses or challenges, and how to overcome them?

The objectives of all events include targeting and attracting new (especially hesitant) readers, instilling a love of reading and language, making readers aware that reading is a gift, encouraging better reading and promoting quality books.

🌐 <https://zalozba-zala.si/>

✉ [info@zalozba-zala.si](mailto:info@zalozba-zala.si)

- *The aim of the Nogometastic Ambassadors project*

is to encourage young readers to share their enthusiasm for books with their classmates and friends.

🌐 [www.malinc.si](http://www.malinc.si)

✉ [info@malinc.si](mailto:info@malinc.si)

- **Organising festivals:**

- Reading Under a Straw Hat (Bralnice pod slamnikom), etc. (see pg 50)

- **Expanding and reinforcing reading culture through online media and journals and magazines for young and adult readers, whether experts or educators or simply fans of quality children's literature (see pg 28).**



Photo: Uroš Abram; <https://knjizni-sejem.si/galerija/>

📍 Zbornica založnikov in knjigotržcev pri Gospodarski zbornici Slovenije  
Dimičeva ulica 13  
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

✉ [info@gzs.si](mailto:info@gzs.si)

🌐 [www.gzs.si/zbornica\\_knjiznih\\_zaloznikov\\_in\\_knjigotrzccev](http://www.gzs.si/zbornica_knjiznih_zaloznikov_in_knjigotrzccev)

# RTV Slovenia – TV Slovenia Children’s and Youth Programme

The Children’s and Youth Programme at TV Slovenia, Slovenia’s national broadcaster, brings high quality TV programmes for children of different age groups. We believe that working for children is working with children and we place them at the centre of all our programmes. Our creative work is defined by the knowledge on how children watch and understand TV. We want to bring our audience stories that create a comfortable experience for children who through this learn to value themselves and their lives. We want children to feel good, valued, competent, safe and independent throughout our programmes. Our aim is to provide our viewers with information, education and fun.

## *Čebelice – Little Bees*

The Little Bees project is a reminder that bees and quality literature have great significance in our lives. The series began in 2018, when the United Nations designated 20 May as World Bee Day. The project is carried out by Radio and Television, and on several levels it has elements of national heritage: each episode presents a story from **The Little Bee Library**, which is amongst the richest collections of children’s stories in Slovenia. With the series, we took part in the national campaign *Reading Together*, creating close ties with local communities and the Municipality of Ljubljana,

organising events to promote reading and the life of bees.

### **Key elements of the show:**

- **Dramatisation of stories by renowned actors and their friend puppet Bor the Beaver.**
- **Maintaining a high standard of the Slovene language.**
- **Showing quality illustrations**
- **Stimulating imagination, visual and aural sensibility.**
- **Promoting reading (*together*) and spending quality time with one another.**
- **Underlining media education.**

### **Links to the show:**

 <https://ziv-zav.rtv slo.si/oddaja/cebelice/173250951>



# RTV Slovenija – Radio Slovenia as the biggest reading room in the country



**F**or a small nation with its own language, Radio Slovenia, Slovenia's national radio broadcaster with a history of over 90 years, is an important factor that cannot be overlooked. Since its beginnings, Radio Slovenia has promoted standard pronunciation and language, and has provided media support for reading promotion. With the number of literary shows in its archives running into the thousands, it is also the biggest reading room in the country, creating over 500 new literary shows each year and providing radio readings of various forms of literature, from poetry to drama. Not a day goes by without literature

appearing on one of the two national radio channels. Particular attention is paid to a carefully curated selection of literature for children and young people and to the diverse aesthetics of translating it into sound. This ranges from radio plays for children (a tradition of more than 70 years), which are essentially performed literature, to the literary series of bedtime stories *Lahko noč, otroci!* (**Good Night, Children!**), which have accompanied young listeners to sleep every single night for over 50 years. In order to encourage what is called joint reading, Radio Slovenia and its TV counterpart, TV Slovenia, have created a flexible format of



shows called **Čebelice (Little Bees)** for the new generations of children. The shows encourage joint, active reading and viewing of stories and original illustrations from one of the oldest Slovene collections of fairy tales, **Knjižnica Čebelica (The Little Bee Library)**, whose history spans over 65 years. Radio readings and literary representations in the media undoubtedly contribute to reading and listening skills. This is another reason why literature has been an integral part of the Radio Slovenia programme for decades. Many generations of listeners have grown up with it and children still listen to it today.



**RADIO  
TELEVIZIJA  
SLOVENIJA**

📍 RTV Slovenija  
Tavčarjeva ulica 17  
SI-1550 Ljubljana, Slovenija

🌐 <https://prvi.rtvsllo.si/>  
<https://ars.rtvsllo.si/>  
[https://ziv-zav.rtvsllo.si/  
radijska-igra-za-otroke](https://ziv-zav.rtvsllo.si/radijska-igra-za-otroke)

✉ [rio@rtvsllo.si](mailto:rio@rtvsllo.si)

# Literary Magazines for Young Readers






The cultural landscape of Slovenia has traditionally included magazines that publish bite-sized literary offerings for young readers. These magazines used to be a major complement to schoolwork, while today they are mostly intended as leisure time reading. Many publish excerpts from the ongoing production by the finest Slovene authors of children's and young adult literature, providing young readers and their parents with a curated selection of texts and illustrations, introducing them to high quality works that can currently be found

in bookstores and libraries. On the other hand, these magazines also provide authors and illustrators with opportunities to reach their audiences which immediately respond to new authors or new approaches by established ones. The literary part of these magazines is complemented by educational content that encourages children to explore the world through play, practice logical thinking, as well as read and write.



The logo for Ciciban features the word "Ciciban" in a playful, rounded font. Each letter is a different color: C (red), i (blue), c (yellow), i (green), B (purple), a (pink), and N (blue).The logo for Cicido features the word "Cicido" in a playful, rounded font. Each letter is a different color: C (red), i (yellow), c (green), i (purple), d (orange), and o (pink).

*Ciciban*, created in 1945, is the oldest and most popular Slovene children's magazine, aimed at readers age 6 to 8. It has received numerous awards such as The Golden Order for Services on its 60th anniversary of publication, the award of the Republic of Slovenia for successful educational work and the Erasmus EuroMedia Seal of Approval. In 1998, *Ciciban* also acquired a younger sibling, *Cicido*, aimed at pre-school children. Countless literary texts and illustrations from both magazines have later been published in books.

-  Mladinska knjiga založba
-  [ciciban@mladinska-knjiga.si](mailto:ciciban@mladinska-knjiga.si)  
[cicido@mladinska-knjiga.si](mailto:cicido@mladinska-knjiga.si)
-  [www.mladinska-knjiga.si/revije](http://www.mladinska-knjiga.si/revije)  
[www.mladinska-knjiga.si/revije/cicido](http://www.mladinska-knjiga.si/revije/cicido)  
[www.mladinska-knjiga.si/revije/ciciban](http://www.mladinska-knjiga.si/revije/ciciban)




The logo for Galeb features the word "GALEB" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

The *Galeb* magazine is based in Trieste and targets young Slovene readers who live in Italy. The authors included in *Galeb* come from across the entire Slovene cultural territory.

-  Zadruga Novi Matajur – Čedad, ZTT-EST
-  [galeb@ztt-est.it](mailto:galeb@ztt-est.it)
-  [www.galeb.it](http://www.galeb.it)




The logo for Zmajček features the word "ZMAJČEK" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below it, the tagline "Z IGRO DO ZNANJA" is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font.

*Zmajček* is another magazine that integrates literary texts with educational content.

-  Studio Hieroglif d.o.o.
-  [revijazmajcek@siol.net](mailto:revijazmajcek@siol.net)
-  [www.zmajcek.net](http://www.zmajcek.net)

The logo for Mavrica features the word "MAVRICA" in a playful, rounded font. Each letter is a different color: M (red), A (blue), V (yellow), R (green), I (purple), C (pink), and A (blue).

Slovene authors of children's literature are also published by *Mavrica*, a Catholic magazine.

-  Založba Družina
-  [druzina@druzina.si](mailto:druzina@druzina.si)
-  [www.druzina.si/mavrica](http://www.druzina.si/mavrica)

# Kinobalon at Kinodvor Cinema

**K**inodvor cinema, founded by the Municipality of Ljubljana, is a public institution whose main aim is to screen a diverse selection of quality films. Its mission is to promote film culture, starting with film education of young audiences. They offer two educational programmes for young audiences, **Kinobalon** aimed at audiences under the age of 14 and **Kinotrip** for audiences of 14 and above.

In 2010 Europa Cinemas, a network of 977 cinemas with 2,350 screens in 596 cities from all over the world, gave Kinodvor the 2010 Best Young Audience Activities Award.

In their family and school programme they regularly present films based on literature, and encourage local publishing houses to publish these children's books, promote local releases of the books in libraries and

at the Kinodvor bookshop with a substantial discount (a see-the-film and get-a-book-discount package). The Ljubljana City Library is their lead partner in promotion of literaturerelated programmes.

Kinobalon also publishes booklets for children about selected films and encourages visitors to prolong their cinema experience by reading about film and themes related to it.

## Some film + literature double bills:

**Comedy Queen**, film directed by Sanna Lenken, 2021, and the novel written by Jenny Jägerfeld

**Best Birthday Ever**, film directed by Michael Ekbladh, 2021, and short stories by Rotraut Susanne Berner

**Myši patří do nebe**, film directed by Denisa Grimmová, Jan Bubeníček, 2021, and novel by Iva Procházkova



## links


Film + literature double bills:  
<https://www.kinodvor.org/od-knjige-k-filmu/>

Kinobalon booklets:  
[https://www.kinodvor.org/gradivo-za-ucitelje-in-starse/?show\\_as\\_booklet=true](https://www.kinodvor.org/gradivo-za-ucitelje-in-starse/?show_as_booklet=true)

Kinobalon programme:  
<https://www.kinodvor.org/en/kinobalon/>



**Kinodvor.**  
**Mestni kino.**  
[www.kinodvor.org](http://www.kinodvor.org)

 Javni zavod Kinodvor  
Kolodvorska ulica 13  
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija

 [kinobalon@kinodvor.org](mailto:kinobalon@kinodvor.org)

 <https://www.facebook.com/kinodvor>

# *Bukla* Free Magazine on Books

*Bukla* is a free magazine about books that has since 2005 been giving readers regular presentations on all that is new in the Slovene bibliosphere. Its generally informative nature builds upon four important merits: it is free of charge, high in circulation, easy to access, and diverse content. This translates into the publication of 20,000 free copies on the shelves of libraries and bookstores whose readers are informed about new releases, interviews with authors, dates for book fairs, special events, and awards bestowed to renowned and recognised literary artists. For over a decade *Bukla* has also specifically focused on informing young readers, providing them with several content sections run by library professionals, educators, and expert organisations.



Editors: Samo and Renate Rugelj

This also includes IBBY News, where readers all over Slovenia and beyond are informed about the activities of the International organisation as well as its Slovenian Section, they are encouraged to join IBBY reading promotion activities or to read quality literature promoted by IBBY.



**bukla**  
Brezplačna revija o dobrih knjigah.

✉ [bukla@umco.si](mailto:bukla@umco.si)  
 🌐 [www.bukla.si](http://www.bukla.si)

# National Month of Reading Together (NMSB)

On International Literacy Day 2018, the first *National Month of Reading Together* (NMSB) commenced as a joint initiative of 9 organisations. The initiators and organisers of the NMSB collaborate to improve the recognition of the importance of reading literacy and reading culture at the national level and facilitate a more comprehensive national engagement in this important area. With NMSB, all stakeholders are also involved in the construction of a national network for the improvement of reading culture and reading literacy.

An online registration web diary for reading-related events is provided and presents information on various



events in the field of reading culture and reading literacy, with an emphasis on shared reading, both locally and nationally.



## Reading together

NMSB is complemented by a public awareness campaign called *Reading Together* (organised by the Slovenian Reading Badge Society). The campaign further supports the promotion of reading, raising awareness of the importance of reading, reading literacy, reading culture, home libraries and of reading quality literature for all generations. *Reading Together* is a public media and poster campaign. The visual identity of the campaign is based on illustrations by award-winning Slovene illustrators and focuses on the topic of (joint) reading. An annual selection of illustrations is used as the main feature of the campaign's website, and the different posters and leaflets are available for download.

**NMSB '23**  
 nacionalni mesec skupnega branja

✉ Petra Potočnik:  
[beremo.skupaj.nmsb@gmail.com](mailto:beremo.skupaj.nmsb@gmail.com)

🌐 <https://nmsb.pismen.si/>

# Eye of the Word a Meeting of Slovene Children's Writers



**O**ko besede (Eye of the Word) is a literary festival that traditionally takes place in Murska Sobota and is a gathering of authors who write for children and young adults, as well as of literary experts, librarians, teachers of literature, and publishers – an opportunity to discuss current issues in literature for children and young adults, and to exchange experiences and findings. Also bestowed at the meeting is the **Večernica Award** for best Slovene literary work for children and young adults published in the previous year. The festival was created in 1995 at the initiative of the publishing house Franc-Franc and has since 2016 been organised by ARGO, Society for Humanist Issues. Regular events at the festival include a round

table discussion on a selected topic, the Večernica Award ceremony, literary matinees at kindergartens and primary and secondary schools in the Pomurje region, literary readings (*Literarna mesta*), a literary criticism workshop for pupils and students (*Mlade oči*), the Pannonian Writers' Trail (a trip to a chosen location with a literary matinee), exhibitions, and a book market.

Time frame: September

**Argo**  
društvo za humanistična vprašanja

📍 Argo, društvo za humanistična vprašanja  
Černelavci, Dalmatinova ulica 21  
SI-9000 Murska Sobota, Slovenija

✉️ [argoargoo16@gmail.com](mailto:argoargoo16@gmail.com)

🌐 <https://www.okobesede.org/oko-besede>



# Ljubljana Storytelling Festival



The annual Ljubljana Storytelling Festival (*Ljubljanski pripovedovalski festival*) was first organised in 1997, making it one of the oldest such festivals in Europe. In its twenty-year history, the festival has established itself as the most important storytelling event in Slovenia, drawing large adult and young audiences every spring with a diverse selection of folk content and various Slovene and foreign storytellers. The main venue for the festival is the Cankarjev Dom Centre, though it has over the years also collaborated with other venues in Ljubljana and elsewhere (cinemas, theatres, the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, etc.). The festival has recently increasingly included various

creative aspects, becoming a space for research, international collaborations in creation and production, and for the development of new content that considers questions such as: How ancient stories, shaped primarily by oral traditions, can address us today when produced onstage? What new ways can storytelling as a form of performance develop in?

Time frame: March

✉ [info@pripovedovalskifestival.si](mailto:info@pripovedovalskifestival.si)  
🌐 [www.pripovedovalskifestival.si](http://www.pripovedovalskifestival.si)

# Fairy Tale Day



The Young Readers' Service at Maribor Public Library has been developing and promoting youth-oriented librarianship, children's literature, book illustration and the art of storytelling since 1972.

*The Fairy Tale Day* project, which the library has been running since 2001, arose from a long tradition of storytelling for children and adults. The festival programme is targeted at multiple age categories (children, young adults, and adults) as well as the expert public, annually celebrating the art of telling stories and fairy tales. Fairy Tale Days connect the library with various organisations, associations and publishers, and provide the audience

with an opportunity to meet numerous Slovene and international authors, poets, illustrators, musicians and storytellers. In parallel with the storytelling events, the project develops education programmes, fairy tale schools and symposia. The project has also produced three expert monographs. Time frame: November



✉ [meta.blagsic@mb.sik.si](mailto:meta.blagsic@mb.sik.si)  
🌐 [www.mb.sik.si/  
pravljicni-dan-s-pravljicno-solo.html](http://www.mb.sik.si/pravljicni-dan-s-pravljicno-solo.html)  
[www.facebook.com/mariborska.knjzница](https://www.facebook.com/mariborska.knjzница)

# *Itn.* Festival of Activist Literature



A good book can turn our world and our beliefs upside down and never ceases to pose new questions. The *Itn.* Festival invites authors whose works call attention to what is overlooked or taken for granted, tear down prejudice, and sketch outlines which the organisers believe could lead to a better world. The festival takes place in spring and features talks, lectures, workshops, poetry readings, breakfasts with authors, foreign guests, book dramatisations, and concerts. In addition to hosting established authors, the festival is also open to the creativity of young people. The festival is curated in close collaboration with the Vodnik Homestead, the Mladinska knjiga

publishing house, and a group of young people who set out its programme, promotion, execution, and organisation. The festival's primary audience are young people, however, the pertinent topics it addresses can be of interest to audiences of all ages.

Time frame: September

**itn.**  
Festival angažiranega pisanja

📍 Festival angažiranega pisanja Itn.  
Vodnikova domačija

✉ [press@divjamisel.org](mailto:press@divjamisel.org)

🌐 [www.facebook.com/intakonaprej](https://www.facebook.com/intakonaprej)

# Reading Under a Straw Hat



The reading Under a Straw Hat (*Bralnice pod slamnikom*) festival represents the annual culmination of a programme of activities such as creative events, workshops, talks with authors, exhibitions, expert meetings, etc. aimed at encouraging free-time reading. The festival tailors these activities to children's needs, wishes and interests, and connects them with other activities. It works to involve vulnerable groups, develops intergenerational and intercultural collaboration, and strives to improve literacy, which is crucial for one's understanding of the world. An important part of the festival is a meeting of experts that involves a large number of reading mentors; in addition

to having high professional standards, the meeting also focuses on making the lectures as engaging as possible. The festival comprises roughly 100 events that take place in about 40 Slovenian towns and cities. It is attended by many Slovene and foreign authors.

Time frame: March - May

Organiser: Miš založba

Co-organisers: Domžale Library, Ciril Kosmač Library Tolmin, France Bevk Library Nova Gorica, City Library and Reading Room Idrija, Kosovel Library Sežana, Maribor Library, Miran Jarc Library Novo Mesto, Regional Library and Study Library Murska Sobota

**Bralnice pod slamnikom**

✉ [festivalmladi.domzale@gmail.com](mailto:festivalmladi.domzale@gmail.com)

🌐 [www.bralnice.si](http://www.bralnice.si)

# Children's Book Festival



The Children's Book Festival at the Vodnik Homestead, produced by the Divja Misel Institute, is the only specialised festival in Ljubljana focused on presenting children's literature. A book fair attended by virtually all Slovene publishers that deal with children's books is accompanied by a diverse programme aimed at introducing reading to children: the festival's stage features plays based on children's books, and the festival is visited by distinguished authors of children's literature; there is also an exhibition, and each year the festival concludes with a family

concert – after all, the integration of good music and literature has a long history in Slovenia, including when it comes to young audiences.

The one-day festival traditionally takes place just before the summer holidays and provides families with ideas and books for summer reading.  
Time frame: June

✉ [press@divjamisel.org](mailto:press@divjamisel.org)  
🌐 <https://www.facebook.com/VodnikovaDomacijaSiska/>

# Reading Slovene Beyond the Borders of Slovenia

## Austria



Slovene language is spoken, read, written and taught in parts of Austria with a Slovene minority, especially in the region of Carinthia. Various institutions are responsible for promoting Slovene reading culture. The oldest among them is the **Hermagoras Society (*Mohorjeva družba*)** in Klagenfurt, considered the first Slovene publishing house, founded in 1851. By publishing affordable books in Slovene, it enabled access to books in their native Slovene to a broad circle of readers in the former Hapsburg Empire. Today the Hermagoras Society is still active in the field of preserving it in Austria as well as Slovenia itself, and in promoting the value of multilingualism, reflected in their publication of books in both Slovene and German, bilingual editions of children's books, as well as textbooks for learning Slovene in the bilingual areas of Austria. Literature in Slovene is also published by the **publishing house Haček**. Educational texts are published in the magazine ***Mladi rod***. It is a bimonthly periodical

aimed at school children and also includes relevant texts by local authors writing children's and young adult literature in Slovene.

In Carinthia, access to authentic Slovene texts from the core Slovene cultural area is provided by libraries, especially the **Slovene Study Library (*Slovenska študijska knjižnica (SŠK)*)** at the Slovene Educational Association (*Slovenska prosvetna zveza*). The SŠK is the only public library with material in Slovene and also the largest Slovene library in Austria. Users of the SŠK library are members of the Slovene national minority, Slovene educational societies, bilingual schools and kindergartens from all over Carinthia. The central role of the library is the encouragement of early reading literacy and enabling access to books in Slovene. In terms of their knowledge of Slovene, groups of children are very heterogeneous, so it is essential that



they have access to appropriate literature. Numerous projects by the SŠK encourage intercultural dialogue and a culture of cooperation, among them a mobile library that prepares and loans (for longer periods) library material to both educational establishments and societies. A number of projects are run in cooperation with Slovenia, e.g. the Reading Badge movement (*Bralna značka*), the national project *Growing Up with a Book (Rastem s knjigo)*, the project *Be Cool, Read Full (Bodi kul, beri ful)*, the reading badge *Little Reader (Malček Bralček)*. Among the more recent projects for promoting reading culture are *My Family Reads (Moja družina bere)* and *Story Hours with Dadi and the Flying Bag (Pravljične urice z Dadijem in letečo torbo)*. The newest project *Megamiša* uses innovative ways to introduce the youngest readers to the reading galaxy Č.R.K., allowing both pupils with only elementary knowledge of Slovene as

well as those already fluent to cooperate. They can test their knowledge by solving quizzes and thus progress through the reading stages. Rewards for their efforts motivate them to continue reading. In Styria, the publisher **Pavel House** also publishes (children's and YA) books in Slovene. In Graz, a **Slovene Reading Room** operates under the auspices of the Styrian State Library, offering a rich section with children's and YA books in Slovene. In cooperation with the Pavel House ([www.pavelhaus.at](http://www.pavelhaus.at)) it also organises exhibitions and meetings with Slovene authors, including those who write for children and young adults. Slovene language courses in Graz also actively participate in the Reading Badge project. In the summer months, an open-air library operates under the trees in the courtyard at Pavel House. Graz Municipal Library also has a Slovene children's and YA shelf in their multilingual section.

#### **Megamiša:**

 <https://megamisa.at>

#### **Slovene Study Library:**

 <http://celovec.sik.si/sl/home/>

 [ssk@celovec.sik.si](mailto:ssk@celovec.sik.si)

#### **Slovene Reading Room:**

 <http://www.slovenska-citalnica-gradec.si/de/home/>

 [office@pavelhaus.at](mailto:office@pavelhaus.at)

#### **Mladi rod magazine:**

 [www.mladirod.at](http://www.mladirod.at)

 [urednistvo@mladirod.at](mailto:urednistvo@mladirod.at)

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## Croatia

Information and the dissemination of reading culture in Slovene among members of the Slovene minority in Croatia is mostly influenced by the minority's own media production created over the last two decades, chiefly within the scope of the activities of Slovene cultural societies in Croatia. Between 2005 and 2011 the monthly information journal *Kažipot* was published in Rijeka and beside the activities of Slovene societies also followed the problems of minorities in Croatia as well as themes related to studying in Slovene and the status of the Slovene community. To a certain degree it was replaced by the quarterly *Sopotja*. Currently the following Slovene bulletins are published in Croatia: *Novi odmev* (quarterly, Zagreb), *Sopotja* (quarterly, Rijeka), *Planika* (quarterly, Split), *Mavrica* (quarterly, Pula); *Liburnijska*

*priloga* (annually, Lovran); *Ajdov cvet* (annually, Umag).

In Karlovac, the Central Library for Slovenes in Croatia cooperates very successfully with the Miran Jarc Library from Novo Mesto; the Slovene Cultural Centre in Bazovica has its own library; and the Children's Library in Rijeka has a section with Slovene picture books. The mobile library Bibliobus also visits certain schools. The Karlovac County mobile library also operates on a multilingual basis, lending books to the wider community. Some Croatian libraries also hold Slovene picture books published when both countries were still part of Yugoslavia, some of them rare examples of older editions.

In 2022 the Association of Slovene Societies in Croatia and the Rijeka branch of Slovenia's Institute for





Ethnic Studies began cooperating with the national Reading Badge movement. For the second year running, the Association of Slovene Societies in Croatia is carrying out a programme to promote a reading culture with children of preschool or early school ages (lower classes of primary school) and also the familiarisation with Slovene children's literature and culture for children from communities in the areas close to the border with Slovenia. A similar project under the auspices of the Association was ran in 2021 and 2022 using the fairy tales *Muca Copatarica* (*Slipper Keeper Kitty*) and *Maček Muri* (*Muri the Cat*). It involved over 400 children from nursery and primary schools in Croatia, from the entire area close to the border. Through this project, children living in the area were introduced to Slovene literature,

culture and language. The Association also organises an annual literary competition for children and publishes the contributions of the children's literary and creative expression in the journal *Sopotja*.

### Central Library for Slovenes in Croatia:

- 🌐 [http://www.gkka.hr/?page\\_id=40](http://www.gkka.hr/?page_id=40)
- ✉ [sloka@gkka.hr](mailto:sloka@gkka.hr)
- e-catalogue: <http://katalog.gkka.hr/>

### Association of Slovene Societies in Croatia:


- 🌐 [www.slovinci.hr](http://www.slovinci.hr)
- ✉ [zveza@slovinci.hr](mailto:zveza@slovinci.hr)

# Reading Slovene Beyond the Borders of Slovenia

## Hungary



In the Rába (Porabje) area of Hungary with an ethnic Slovene minority, an important role in creating and preserving the minority's mother tongue, raising awareness of national affiliation and developing a cultural identity is held by the national minority's education system. Individual schools have libraries where pupils can borrow books in both Slovene and Hungarian; Slovene books are also available in the Municipal Library and the Slovene Cultural and Information Centre in Szentgotthárd (Monošter). Since 2000, the region is visited every fortnight by the Bibliobus mobile library from the Regional and Study Library in Murska Sobota, which since 2017 also organises story-telling evenings throughout the Porabje region.

 <http://beta.ms.sik.si/en/knjiznica/projekti-porabje/>

The literary festival *Oko besede* (Eye of the Word) also reaches to schoolchildren in Porabje with school

visits by authors. A long tradition of meetings with writers and enriching library stocks for children and young adults is also upheld by the national Reading Badge movement.

 <https://www.bralnznacka.si/sl/>;  
[www.bralnznacka.si/sl/english](https://www.bralnznacka.si/sl/english)

Especially important in encouraging a reading culture among youths in the area is the only Slovene newspaper in Hungary, *Porabje*, which informs Hungarian Slovenes about current events in their mother tongue. It is published weekly with articles in both literary Slovene and the local Porabje dialect. Since 2021, the newspaper also has a children's supplement *Mlado Porabje* (Young Porabje), published quarterly (one issue per season). By co-creating content for the publication, the region's youth visibly contribute to the linguistic diversity in the area.

 [https://www.zveza.hu/sl/casopis\\_porabje](https://www.zveza.hu/sl/casopis_porabje)



Cultural events in the Porabje area are organised by the Association of Slovenes in Hungary (various meetings, book presentations, story-telling hours, discussions on current issues). In 2022 they also organised the **literary competition *Porabske litere***. Extremely important in terms of literary creation in the region is the **collection *Med Rabo in Muro*** (*Between the Rába and the Mura*), which in its twenty years of publication has not only become an important part of the regional and, through this, also national literary output, but is also a unique spiritual bridge that connects Slovenes in Hungary with the main Slovene linguistic and cultural area.

🌐 <https://www.kamra.si/digitalne-zbirke/knjizna-zbirka-med-rabo-in-muro/>

Ethnic Studies (IES), *Porabje z otroškimi očmi, malo drugačen pogled* (*Porabje Through the Eyes of Children, a slightly different view*) and *Vodnik po Porabju* (*The Guide to Porabje*), which encourage intergenerational cooperation with pupils and at the same time engage teachers and students in active digital reading. The Institute of Education of the Republic of Slovenia also tends to the needs of students and teachers, introducing with the help of school teachers content that enables an increase in reading literacy in the Porabje region.

**Association of Slovenes in Hungary:**

🌐 [www.zveza.hu/sl](http://www.zveza.hu/sl)

In encouraging reading culture in the school environment, an important place is also held by the publications from Slovenia's National Institute for

# Reading Slovene Beyond the Borders of Slovenia Italy



Slovenes in Italy live along the entire length of the common border area between Slovenia and Italy. Along with access to education at all levels, they have a network of libraries as well as two bookshops, one in Trieste and one in Gorizia, that regularly organise book presentations and exhibitions. Important contributors to reading culture are the **children's magazines** *Galeb*, published since 1954, and *Pastirček*, published since 1946. They are published monthly during the school year. Plays for children are also often included in the repertoire of the professional Slovene Civic Theatre in Trieste as well as numerous amateur dramatics groups and societies throughout the area. The state broadcaster's radio station aimed at Slovene listeners, Rai Radio Trst A, also regularly transmits children's programmes. Literature for young readers and illustrations are produced

by a number of local authors and artists with success beyond the area of the Slovene minority in Italy.

Slovene publishing houses in Italy: **Založništvo tržaškega tiska ZTT**, the **Novi Matajur Cooperative Society**, **Mladika**, the **Gorizia branch of the Hermagoras Society (Goriška Mohorjeva družba)**, also regularly publish books aimed at young readers.

Nursery and primary schools widely participate in the Reading Badge movement of Slovenia which encourages reading quality works for young readers and includes almost all school-age children.

Important in promoting reading culture is also **the Slovene National and Study Library in Trieste**, especially after opening a Young



Readers' Section at the Slovene Cultural Centre (*Narodni Dom*) in Trieste and the restored Gorizia section in the library at the Trgovski Dom centre in Gorizia. Beside comparative and contemporary material, it also organises a number of events that provide opportunities for contact with literature, meetings within the framework of the **Born to Read** (*Rojeni za branje*) project for children up to the age of three, story-telling hours that take place in the summer months on the beach for children aged between 3 and 8, creating **Lego Stories**, the national project **Growing Up with a Book** (*Rastem s knjigo*), creative writing workshops and other book-related educational activities with organised school groups, exhibitions of book illustrations, and meetings with writers of books for children and young adults.

#### Galeb:

- 🌐 [www.galeb.it](http://www.galeb.it)
- ✉ [info@galeb.it](mailto:info@galeb.it)

#### Pastirček:

- 🌐 [www.mohorjeva.it](http://www.mohorjeva.it)
- ✉ [mohorjeva@gmail.com](mailto:mohorjeva@gmail.com)

#### Slovene National and Study Library:

- 🌐 [www.knjiznica.it](http://www.knjiznica.it)
- ✉ **Trieste:** [mladinskioddelek@knjiznica.it](mailto:mladinskioddelek@knjiznica.it)
- ✉ **Gorizia:** [gorica@knjiznica.it](mailto:gorica@knjiznica.it)






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# SLOVENIA

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and at  
the Bologna  
Book Fair in 2024.

For more  
information see:

-  <https://eng.ibby.si/>
-  <https://www.bralnaznacka.si/en/>
-  <https://www.jakrs.si/en/>





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