



Conference 'We love reading'

Salaborsa Library, Bologna, 10 April 2024



Conference on good practices in reading promotion

Conferenza sulle buone pratiche di promozione della lettura



PROGRAMME (short)

REGISTRATION FORM

The conference will be moderated by **Boštjan Gorenc- Pižama**.

Boštjan Gorenc – Pižama is a writer, podcaster, translator, actor and rapper. His debut book *sLOLvenski klasiki 1* (sLOLvene Classics Vol.1) won the Book of the Year award at the 2016 Slovene Book Fair. He has been creating *Šnofijeva družčina* (Šnofi's Gang) comics with Matej de Cecco for 16 years. The illustrations of his book *Si že kdaj pokusil luno* (Have You Ever Tasted the Moon?) earned Igor Šinkovec a place on the 2022 IBBY Honour List. He also dabbles in stand-up comedy. His latest book is *Huda risinja* (The Mighty Lynx).

Programme:

CONFERENCE OPENING

8.30-9.00

Speeches by international colleagues

Elisabetta Lippolis, Coordinator of the Organizing Committee 2024 IBBY World Congress

Sylvia Vardell, IBBY President

Marieta Tzvetkova, FELA President

Elisabetta Lippolis graduated in translation from the University of Trieste and specialised in children's literature at the University of Padua. Responsible for the training programme and institutional events at an international research centre, she is currently involved as a trainer and reading promoter in projects on parenting support and reading education in schools and care settings, teaching seminars at the pediatric nursing postgraduate programme at the University of Trieste, and promoting the use of multilingual picturebooks and wordless books with adults in situations of fragility. She is vice-president of IBBY Italia, a member of its editorial board and of the *Mamma Lingua* project team. A trainer for the Italian *Nati per Leggere* programme, and active member of the association *Senza Confini Brez Meja*, she promotes activities and events to support linguistic diversity and intercultural dialogue in collaboration with the many communities present in Trieste. She is coordinating the organising committee of the 2024 IBBY World Congress.



Conference on good practices in reading promotion

Conferenza sulle buone pratiche di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



Sylvia Vardell is IBBY President and professor emerita of Literature for Children and Young People at Texas Woman’s University in Denton, TX. She also served as previous co-editor of IBBY’s quarterly journal *Bookbird* and as a past President of the USBBY. She has authored numerous books, book chapters and journal articles about literature for children and co-edited many anthologies of poetry for young readers. She taught at the University of Zimbabwe as a Fulbright Scholar, studied at the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany, and has conducted hundreds of presentations at conferences around the world.

9.00-9.10 A welcome speech by **Katja Stergar**, Director of the Slovenian Book Agency

Katja Stergar studied comparative literature at the University of Ljubljana. She has been Director of the Slovenian Book Agency since November 2022, and has been part of the agency as head of international cooperations since it was established in 2009. She previously worked as a proofreader and editor, was also active as a literary critic and promoter of reading. She has been the Agency’s representative in the Traduki network since 2010. From 2019 to 2022 she led the European project *Every Story Matters* in Slovenia, and from 2019 the project Slovenia Guest of Honour at the 2024 Bologna Book Fair.

PLENARY LECTURES

9.15-9.30 **Marko Kravos: Pride and care - homemade bread of words**

Let us count all who are called and dedicated to promoting the joy of reading. Let us count ourselves. Teachers at all levels of education, professors at institutes for humanities, librarians, book club mentors, editors of magazines, newspapers, books, and, last but not least, also writers and others who contribute to the creation of books, publishers, illustrators, translators. Basically, an entire army. Clearly, reading is of great importance. In fact, it presents a root-like structure, a mycelium of our social and societal life, our cultural identity, which, going back at least to the cuneiform writing of Mesopotamia, defines us, gives us the joy of living and reading.

Marko Kravos is a Slovene poet, writer, essayist and translator from Trieste. His short stories are known for their imaginary and lyrical elements, humour and Mediterranean sensuality. He has so far published 29 volumes of poetry and 19 books for children. He has received several prestigious awards in Slovenia and Italy, among which the Prešeren Fund Award, the Poetry Gold Medal in Celje, the 2019 Schwentner Prize for his work in publishing and reading culture, the L’Astrolabio d’oro poetry award, the Premio Reggio Calabria, the Scritture di frontiera. His work has been translated into 29 languages. He was President of the Slovene PEN from 1996 to 2000 and is currently President of the Slovenian Reading Badge Society and the Gruppo/Skupina 85 in Trieste.



Conference on good practices in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



9.35-9.50 **Tilka Jamnik: Intergenerational hunger for words**

All of us who work in the field of youth literature and reading are aware of the importance of including adults and older people in encouraging children and teenagers to read. Successful lifelong readers grow with vertical encouragement of reading: from family (cradle reading), to school and peer reading to various forms of intergenerational reading (at all levels with particular attention given to readers with special needs). Sharing reading experiences deepens both reading and interpersonal relationships. This is also something that both the Slovenian Section of IBBY, which with its various campaigns to promote reading tries to satisfy the hunger for words with readers of various ages, and the Slovenian Reading Badge Society, which has been encouraging reading for more than six decades, are aware of.

Tilka Jamnik is an expert in the field of youth literature and reading with many years of experience in promoting reading among young people and intergenerational reading. She is an external associate of the Ljubljana City Library, Pionirska – Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship, Vice President of the Slovenian Reading Badge Society, and Vice President of the Slovenian Section of IBBY. She is recipient of several awards, among others the International Literacy Association Maryann Manning Special Service Award in 2019, the award’s only European recipient.

9.55-10.10 **Miha Kovač: In search of lost complexity: is AI making us stupid?**

Over the last few years, we have been facing two interrelated trends: on the one hand a trend has been emerging in education of reading simplified and abridged texts, cleared of content that might be considered controversial or emotionally harmful to students, on the other hand, AI is able to shorten and recap texts instead of us, write summaries and essays without grammatical mistakes, and translate languages we don't understand. What is there left for humans to do in all this? Should we give up and leave machines to tackle intellectual challenges while we play in a simplified world? Or will we – quite the opposite – tackle challenges with more demanding education, reading more complicated texts and in thus utilise AI as a tool that enables us a broader and deeper insight into the issues of the contemporary world? Or is there a third way?

Miha Kovač is Professor at the Department of Library and Information Science and Book Studies at the University of Ljubljana. In his publishing career he has worked as an editor at two of the largest Slovene publishing houses and as editor of the Slovene edition of the National Geographic. In 1999 he started lecturing at the University of Ljubljana. Between 2011 and 2021 he was Head of Digital Development at Mladinska Knjiga, Slovenia's largest publishing house. He is author of over fifty articles and four books on the history of books, reading and publishing. His book *Read to Breathe* has been translated into seven languages. His latest book, *Is This a Book?*, co-authored with Angus Phillips, was published in Elements series by Cambridge University Press. He was the curator of Slovenia’s programme as guest of honour at the 2023 Frankfurt Book Fair.



Conference on good practices in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche di promozione della lettura





PRESENTATIONS

10.15-10.30 Petra Potočnik: 'Back to the future' with the Reading badge

The Slovenian Reading Badge Society is the NGO at the helm of the Reading Badge movement, both in terms of professional guidance and organisation. Through various programmes it encourages children and young people – as well as other groups of readers – to read in their free time. The mission of the Reading Badge, supported by schools, libraries and similar organizations, is to encourage reading literacy and lifelong reading culture. Some Reading Badge programmes even transcend the borders of Slovenia to reach Slovene communities abroad. Due to its significant role in Slovene culture, the Reading Badge is listed on the national Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

We will present some of the most successful projects we are implementing and explain why the Reading Badge has (for over 60 years!) been so successful in encouraging leisure reading.

Petra Potočnik is a professional associate of the Slovenian Reading Badge Society. She prepares various activities related to the development of reading culture and literacy for various target groups (reading mentors, teachers, librarians, young readers) and participates in a network of organizations dealing with reading culture at national level. She is the society's representative in the international Federation of European Literacy Associations (FELA). She edits the society's website and looks after tenders and trainings.

10.35-10.50 Jerneja Černilogar: To read or not to read 1000 books? Is there a shortcut to staying on top of the annual production of books for children and young adults?

Pionirska - Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship, which is part of the Ljubljana City Library, presents the Golden Pear, a mark of quality for children's and YA books, and the Manual for Reading Quality Youth Books, which evaluates the annual production of youth literature in Slovenia in a unique and critical way. Both are a valuable help to librarians and libraries, teachers, reading mentors, parents, students and professionals in the field of youth literature.

Jerneja Černilogar graduated in English and Spanish language and literature at the University of Ljubljana. A former school librarian, she now works at the Pionirska – Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship, a competence centre in the field of youth librarianship and promotion of reading. She is a member of the editorial board of the Manual for Reading Quality Youth Books and coordinates the EU project G-BOOK for Ljubljana City Library, promoting gender positive children's and YA literature.



Conference on good practices
in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche
di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



10.55-11.10 Andreja Erdlen: Journal, festival, or award? Why not all three!

The journal Otok in knjiga (Child and Book) is the only specialised journal in Slovenia dedicated to children's and YA literature, literary education, and book-related media. Its purpose is to inform and establish youth literature as a subject that deserves equal and systematic study within the framework of literary science.

The Oko besede (Eye of the Word) festival annually attracts authors as well as literary experts and literary intermediaries. Regular events at the festival include a round table discussion on a selected topic, prepared by the Otok in knjiga journal. The festival highlight is the presentation of the Večernica Award for best Slovene literary work for children and young adults published in the previous year. The emphasis on promotion, exchange of experiences and research finding, strengthens the position of youth literature in the professional and broader public.

Andreja Erdlen graduated in comparative literature and obtained a PhD in literary studies at the University in Ljubljana. As an experienced librarian, she has provided reference services and implemented activities aimed at promoting youth literature among children and young adults. She has contributed to several journals, collections of papers, and conferences with her articles. Since last year, she has been the editor of the *Otok in knjiga* journal and head of the Centre for Reading Literacy Promotion at the Maribor Public Library.

11.15-11.45 Coffee break

ROUND TABLES

11.45-12.30 The superpower of libraries

The network of Slovene libraries provides a comprehensive range of library books to the broadest circle of inhabitants of Slovenia. The round table discussion will look at the contribution of librarians who plan, organise and implement library programmes in different types of libraries according to the different needs of users visiting each type of library. We will also discuss the connective function of libraries and reveal the formula behind the superpower of libraries.

moderator Sabina Fras Popović

Sabina Fras Popović, assistant professor in the field of librarianship, working since February 2023 at the Department of Library and Information Science and Book Studies at the University of Ljubljana. Prior to this she worked in general libraries for more than twenty years, running various activities to promote and encourage reading. She is part of the editorial team at the journal *Knjižnica* (Library) and the portal *Družinska pismenost* (Family Literacy). For her work she has received the Slovenian Section of IBBY Award, the Kalan Fund Award, the Čop Prize, and the 2024 Čop Lifetime Achievement Award.



Conference on good practices in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



Participants:

Representative of school libraries: Metka Kostanjevec

Metka Kostanjevec is a professor of Slovene language and head of the school library at the First Grammar School in Maribor. A member of numerous Slovene and international associations (Slovenian Library Association, International Federation of Library Associations, Slovenian Reading Badge Society, Slovenian Section of IBBY), as well as member of the expert development group for library activities at the National Education Institute, the editorial board of the journal *Šolska knjižnica* (School Library), and the program committee of the Slovenian Reading Badge Society. At the school where she works, she successfully manages various reading projects and also participates in national and international projects promoting reading (Growing with a Book, National Month of Reading Together, Month of School Libraries, Reading Mountains, EPAS – School Ambassador of the European Parliament). She places particular emphasis on intergenerational reading.

Representative of public libraries: Maja Kenda

Maja Kenda is a children's librarian employed at the Kranj City Library. Her work focuses on various areas of youth librarianship, especially reading culture, reading promotion and literacy development, with special emphasis on family literacy. She is involved with implementing bibliopedagogical content, running workshops, she co-created and organises the Family Reading project, and is a co-author of the literary quizzes *Modri pes* (Wise Dog). She is active in professional organisations and is a member of the IO Section for Youth Librarianship at the Association of Library Societies of Slovenia.

Representative of specialised libraries: Aksinja Kermauner

Aksinja Kermauner is a professor of Slovene language, fine arts, typhlopedagogue, writer and poet. For 25 years she taught at the Institute for Blind and Visually Impaired Youth in Ljubljana (today IRIS Centre). In 2010 she received her PhD from the Department of Special and Rehabilitation Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education at the University of Ljubljana, and after that lectured on inclusive pedagogy at the Faculty of Education at the University of Primorska and the University of Maribor. She has published 42 books of fiction for children, youth and adults, many professional articles, and three monographs on the subject of people with special needs. She leads many projects aimed at improving the inclusion of people with disabilities into society. She is a member of the Slovene Writers' Association and vice-president of the Slovene Association of Special and Rehabilitation Educators.

Representative of the Slovene National and Study Library in Trieste: Ivana Soban

Ivana Soban is a librarian at the children's and YA section at the Slovene National and Study Library in Trieste, the main library for Slovenes in Italy, the main role of which is to provide Slovene books and promote Slovene literature and language in a multilingual environment. In the youth section she looks after basic library



Conference on good practices
in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche
di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



activities and the organisation of events such as fairy tale hours, meetings of the *Rojeni za branje/Nati per leggere* (Born to Read) project, biblio-pedagogic meetings, opening exhibitions of local artists, lectures for parents and more. She studied comparative literature and Polish language and literature, and completed specialised courses in librarianship. She regularly collaborates with the children's literary magazine *Galeb*, published in Trieste for sixty years.

12.45-13.30 A Planetarium of Reading: Navigating through the universe of multimedia

The universe of multimedia allows for multiple ways of expression and communication, and a wide range of narratives. The panel will address the possibilities of creating encouraging reading environments with a plethora of diverse print, digital and audio-visual materials and approaches. The panellists, all of them experienced planetarians in the universe of children's literature, artists, editors, authors and reading promoters, know all about engaging young audiences. They will discuss how they bring readers together, enable their voices to be heard, and how they maximize their creative participation. How can film and television, magazines and storytelling contribute to creating a reading community? Can they address each child individually, and help them develop several skills and a life-long love of reading – and where to find funding for such activities?

moderator Veronika Rot Gabrovec

Veronika Rot Gabrovec teaches at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana and occasionally translates children's books from English into Slovene. She has a broad range of interests, including (inter)cultural studies (with a special focus on Australia and New Zealand) and children's literature. An active member of the Slovenian Reading Association, she is also honoured and proud to be one of the UK Literacy Association (UKLA) International Ambassadors.

Participants:

Periodic press: Alenka Veler- *Ciciban* and *Cicido*

Alenka Veler is a former editor of children's literary magazines *Cicido* and *Ciciban* (2000–2010), since 2010 she has been a YA fiction editor at Mladinska Knjiga, one of Slovenia's most prominent publishing houses. She is one of the initiators and mentors of *Itn.* (Etc.), a festival of engaged writing for young people (2017–2024). She strongly believes in the power of books and is always seeking out new ways of promoting reading among young people. In 2023 she was awarded the Special Distinction from the Slovenian Section of IBBY for her role in promoting children's literature and reading.

Slovenian Periodic Press in Italy: Ivan Mitrevski- *Galeb*

Ivan Mitrevski (1979) is an illustrator, comics artists and writer. Together with Maša Ogrizek he edits the Slovene language children's literary magazine *Galeb*, published in Trieste.



Conference on good practices in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



Radio broadcasting: Klemen Markovčič – Radio Slovenia

Klemen Markovčič is a radio director and editor employed at the Drama Department at the Slovene national broadcaster, Radio Slovenia. He directs a variety of radio formats, from literary programmes to radio plays. He is especially fond of radio plays for young listeners and pays particular attention to radio as a didactic means for auditory development and literacy of children and young adults. This includes projects such as *Čebelice* (Bees), a series of narrative programmes in a new audio-video format with the aim of transferring children's literature to radio and TV, the annual art competition for primary school pupils *V objemu zvoka in slike* (Embraced by sound and image) as a means of encouraging active listening of radio plays and creating art related to what is heard, and the radio programme and podcast *Grafoskop* (Graphoscope) with the aim of opening up the media landscape to topics of cultural and artistic education.

TV broadcasting: Maruša Prelesnik Zdešar – TV Slovenia

Maruša Prelesnik Zdešar, editor of the TV quiz '*Male sive celice*' (Little Grey Cells) on TV Slovenia, has been captivating audiences for 28 years. Collaborating with the Golden Pear national reading project, she introduced '*Prebrane celice*' (Read Cells) to promote youth reading. She extends her influence to primary schools, encouraging a love of books.

TV Slovenia's Children's and Youth Programme focuses on delivering high-quality, age-specific content, emphasising an enjoyable experience and fostering values. The program offers information, education, and entertainment.

Film: Petra Slatinšek- Kinodvor

Petra Slatinšek, head of the film education programme and the programme for young audiences at the city cinema Kinodvor, has since 2004 been actively involved in shaping film education for children and young people in Slovenia. She is the founder of two major film education projects, the animated film educational programme *Slon* (Elephant) in 2005, and the educational film programme *Kinobalon* at Kinodvor in 2008. Her work involves the selection of films suitable for children and youth, presentation of films to audiences, editorial work and organising other film-related events.

Storytelling: Špela Frlic - Pravljični studio (Storytelling Studio)

Špela Frlic is a storyteller and author. She studied comparative literature and journalism and also holds a master's degree in folklore studies. For five years she ran the children's programme at the Vodnik Homestead literary venue in Šiška, Ljubljana, and was for seven years the programme leader of the Storytelling Festival in Ljubljana. Her literary debut *Bleščivka* (Glitterton), published in 2022, received the 2023 Večernica Award for best children's or YA literary work in Slovenia.



Conference on good practices
in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche
di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



13.30-14.00 Coffee break

PLENARY LECTURE

14.00-14.30 Gaja Kos: So few people, yet so many books!

The talk will take a look at the publishing landscape in Slovenia, specifically the part that is dedicated to publishing books for children and young adults. A few decades ago we could count such publishers on the finger of one hand, today the list is long, and their book programme and accompanying activities very diverse. What, however, is the ratio between top and lower quality publishers? What is, at least at first sight, the recipe for a successful business? Can there ever be too many books?

Gaja Kos works as an editor and literary critic. For several years she has been a member of the editorial board for the annual publication 'Priročnik za branje kakovostnih mladinskih knjig' (the Manual for Reading Quality Youth Books), prepared by Pionirska, Center for Youth Literature and Librarianship. At LUD Literatura she co-edits the collection of translated short prose titled 'Stopinje', and at Miš Publishing House edits domestic children's and YA fiction and non-fiction. Many books she has edited have received top domestic awards as well as international recognition. She is a member of the executive committee of the Slovene Literary Critics' Association, a member of the program committee of the Slovenian Reading Badge Society and a member of the supervisory board of the Slovenian section of IBBY.

ROUND TABLES

14.45-15.30 Can you imagine a teenager with a book?!?

In recent time we are witnessing a sharp decline in leisure reading – reading in youth has an effect on reading in later life, and this round table will look at the question of how to attract teenagers, a key group in reading promotion, to reading and encourage them to keep the habit. A few successful projects in Slovenia will be discussed, demonstrating the positive effect of reading during teenage years. Together with authors of YA literature, we will also examine what teenagers need and expect within the context of literature – in short, what contributes to them becoming and remaining lifelong readers.

moderator Nika Pušlar

Nika Pušlar is a member of the team organising the festival of engaged writing for young people *Itn.* (Etc.). She studied Sinology and is now doing a degree in cognitive science. She grew up with books and is currently most interested in magic realism, socially critical literature and prose poetry. She is one of those people who in their spare time like to research and ask questions about everything and anything that can be researched and is always seeking to learn new things – about the world, meaning, society, humankind, and everything else, the existence and issues of which she is as yet unaware of.



Conference on good practices
in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche
di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



Participants:

YA readers and Reading Badge: Manca Perko

Manca Perko is the General Secretary of the Slovenian Reading Badge Society, heading in terms of professional guidance and organisation the preparations and execution of the Reading Badge programmes in Slovenia and internationally where the programme is active with Slovene minorities beyond its borders. She has been involved with children's and YA books and with promoting reading culture through her entire professional life.

YA fiction author: Janja Vidmar

Janja Vidmar is the author of over 50 books, numerous screenplays, theatre and radio plays, columns and articles. She has received several national and international awards for her work: the Večernica Award in 1998 and 2008, the Desetnica Award in 2006 and 2013, IBBY Honour List 2010, the Glazer Charter in 2007, the 1999 Medaglia d'oro 1999, the 2010 Zlata paličica, nominations for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2013 and 2014. Her work has been translated into Albanian, Serbian, German, Croatian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Italian and English. She lives and works in Maribor, where she continues to be inspired by the surrounding vineyards, her daughter and her cats.

Projekt GG4A: Barbara Pregelj

Barbara Pregelj is joint professor at the University of Nova Gorica and co-founder and editor-in-chief at Malinc publishing house, translator, interpreter, lecturer and researcher with bibliography of more than 700 bibliographical entries. At Malinc she designed reading promotion programmes and different projects at national and international level, including the project GG4A: Innovative Intercultural Reading Promotion.

15.45-16.30 The crème de la crème of Slovene children's literature

The Slovenian section of IBBY is among others a nominating body for some of the main international awards in the field of children's literature. With so many excellent artists, how do we choose the crème de la crème of Slovene children's literature creators? Why is such a promotion important and how far does it reach? Does it help the artists? And how do they see the current state of Slovene children's literature and their own work within it.

moderator: Tina Bilban

Tina Bilban is a writer, editor, literary critic and researcher (Institute Nova revija). Since her PhD in literature studies she has been focusing especially on the crossroads between literature, philosophy and science, and has recently been focusing especially on children's literature. She is the President of the Slovenian section of IBBY and a member of the IBBY Executive Committee (2022-2024); she was a member of the Hans Christian Andersen Award jury in 2020 and 2022, and is a member of the BolognaRagazzi Award 2024.



Conference on good practices
in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche
di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



Participants:

Peter Svetina (2024 Andersen Award nominee)

Peter Svetina was born in Ljubljana, where he received his PhD in Slovene Literature. He is currently Professor of Slavic Literature at the University of Klagenfurt in Austria. His professional interests are poetry and youth literature. He writes for children and young people, and has twice been among the finalists for the Hans Cristian Andersen Award. He also writes poetry for adults and has published several translations of Czech, Croatian, Serbian and German literature.

Damijan Stepančič (2024 Andersen Award nominee)

Damijan Stepančič is an academically trained painter, illustrator, comics artist and lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. He has received numerous awards for his work both at home and abroad and is the Slovene nominee for the 2024 Anderson Award. It is illustration that best allows him to tell stories through drawing, realising his bold visual and artistic ideas. In recent years he has also been working on comics and puppets where art can come to life through various materials. He considers comic strips an extremely vital media that beside stories also offers a powerful reflection of times and events- the world in general.

Anja Štefan (2024 IBBY Honours List)

Anja Štefan is a poet, writer and storyteller whose poems and fairy tales, illustrated by some of the best Slovene illustrators, address both children and adults. Her work is included in school reading books and anthologies. Plays based on her stories are staged in Slovene puppet theatres. Most notable among her works are *Bobek in barčica* (Bobby and the Boat, 2005), *Lonček na pike* (A Pot With Spots, 2008), and the more

recent *Zajčkova hišica* (Rabbit's Little House, 2021) and *Štiri črne mravljice* (Four Black Ants, 2022). In 2015 an anthology of her work was published entitled *Svet je kakor ringaraja* (The World Is Like Ring-a-Ring o' Roses). In 2022 she was the first Slovene children's book author to receive the Prešeren Fund Award, Slovenia's main award in the arts. She is the founder of the Slovene Storytelling Festival, which she ran for 20 years. With her sensitive adaptations she brought numerous folk tales to life, published either individually or as more extensive volumes of selected tales. In 2018, the European Year of Cultural Heritage, she was chosen as the ambassador of cultural-artistic education in Slovenia.

Maša P. Žmitek (2024 IBBY Honours List)

Maša P. Žmitek works as an illustrator, curator and producer. She received her master's degree from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. In 2018 she took over the management of the Vodnik



Conference on good practices in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency



Homestead Gallery, later establishing and managing the Slovenian Center of Illustration within the framework of the Divja Misel Institute. She is interested in artistic illustration but devotes most of her time to scientific

illustration, with a recent focus on depicting prehistoric creatures. Her analogue interactive book *Giants of the Cenozoic* (2021) and was followed by *Jurassic Dinosaurs* (2023). She has illustrated several literary projects for Slovene and foreign publishers, and her illustrations have featured in the Slovenian Biennial of Illustration and been exhibited at numerous Slovene and foreign galleries. She received the University Prešeren Award for her master's thesis in the field of scientific illustration, the Graphis Silver Award in New York, the Brumen Award for Excellence in Slovene Design, the Golden Pear Award, and was named on the IBBY Honours List.

Mateja Seliškar Kenda (2024 IBBY Honours List)

Mateja Seliškar Kenda studied comparative literary theory, French and Dutch at the University of Ljubljana. She earned her doctorate in literary theory with a dissertation on Dutch and Flemish avant-garde poetry. She translates Dutch, Flemish and French literature for adults and children. She has translated works by Annie M.G. Schmidt, Daniel Pennac, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld, Arnon Grunberg, Guus Kuijer, Hugo Claus, W.F. Hertmans, Bart Moeyaert, Annet Schaap and others. In 2017 she was nominated for the Sovre Award for her translation of the novel *Sorrow of Belgium* by Hugo Claus and in 2023 for the Vasja Cerar Award for the best translation of books for young readers for her translation of the novel *Lampje* by Annet Schaap.

16.30 Closing of conference, social event



[LA SLOVENIA AMA LEGGERE](#)



[SLOVENIA LOVES READING](#)



Conference on good practices in reading promotion
Conferenza sulle buone pratiche di promozione della lettura



Conference Organizer: Slovenian Book Agency