

SZÉPÍRÓK TÁRSASÁGA – SOCIETY OF HUNGARIAN AUTHORS

The Society was established in 1997 to promote contemporary literature and democratic cultural policies. Its almost 400 members include some of the internationally most acclaimed Hungarian writers as well as cultural journalists and cultural managers from across Hungary, and also writers and critics of the Hungarian minorities and diasporas, along with international translators and scholars of Hungarian literature.

CURRENT SITUATION

- Almost all of the Hungarian NGOs apply to the National Cultural Fund on a yearly basis, and then get more or less the same amount of donation every year. That is what the action plan of our association is based on in each year.
- **This time, the Fund radically reduced the money (minus 66%) and blocked the bank transfer for at least 4-5 months** reasoning it with the current economical crisis. **It means the possibility of a bankruptcy and it threatens the operation of our association in the very near future.** (To be exact: about 25-30 000 EUR will be missing from our budget in 2023.)
- We are all aware here that the inflation and the international increase of oil and gas prices effect all the European countries, but we still have a strong belief that the **Hungarian government uses this situation to eliminate local independent civil societies**, or at the least makes it almost impossible for us to survive. Which means it is not only an economical but mostly a political question in our country.

ACTION PLAN

- **Local and international fundraising:** We have already started a local online fundraising campaign in Hungary in connection with the 25th anniversary of our Society. We encourage people to subscribe to our programs and offer them special merchandising, private literary events, etc. We are looking for opportunities to make it on an international level as well. **We need tips for successful online fundraising platforms.**
- **Donation network:** We also reached out to our few private donors to offer other persons or companies from the business sector. The aim is to build up a donating network and structure to help our operation in a 1-3 years term. **Is there a real possibility to open it up for companies abroad?**
- **International projects:** Our Society is open to be the Hungarian partner in the upcoming EU grant season. It is also the plan to apply as a project leader if we find the fitting partners and theme for it. **Maybe among the members of the Alliance?**

PROJECT PROPOSALS

In the same time our board also came up with project ideas of different size and genre, and **we are looking for ideas, moral support, opportunities, rapid projects, instant accessible funds that can lead us through this situation** and make us take the next and necessary step towards being totally separate from the current national political-cultural power.

- **Europe in Budapest / Budapest is Europe:** A series of public and educational events in Budapest to introduce the latest and also classical literary (and cultural) achievements of different European countries. Each time a member of the Alliance can cooperate with us creating a multi-event program representing their countries in Budapest.
- **Return Ticket (only for Authors):** Bilateral writer exchange and translation programs. Short-term residencies for Hungarian writers in European cities, rapid translating sessions, creative writing workshops with local authors, also meetings and/or public events discussing our current political and social issues.
- **BE(p)ART:** Contemporary European literature in education. A follow-up to our already running literary educational program, but this time opening it up for the Hungarian minorities in our neighbor countries: Slovakia, Serbia, Romania, Austria, Ukraine. A support and opportunity for the students of the Central Eastern European region to get familiar with European literature & arts at an early stage of the their education.
- **Arts & Co.:** A series of problem-based debates: Discussing the ever changing (and/or eternal) role of arts in the light of the cultural, political and social challenges of today's Europe – arts & politics; arts & cancel culture; arts & capitalism; arts & nationalism; arts & new media, etc.
- **The Eastern Job:** Coordination tasks in the Alliance. As a representative of our Society I am also open to take more tasks in the general operation of the Alliance on a daily basis and by that integrating Hungary and the region on a deeper level into our all-European cooperation.

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