



Literature Across Frontiers 10th Anniversary Conference
LITERARY EXCHANGE AND TRANSLATION IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION:
CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT DECADE
26-27 May, Dedeman Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey

CALL FOR LITERARY DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPE & THE SOUTH-EAST MEDITERRANEAN

Literature Across Frontiers (LAF), the European Platform for Literary Exchange, Translation and Policy Debate, is calling for an increased and more substantial exchange between the languages and cultures of Europe and its neighbouring regions in the South-East Mediterranean at a landmark conference in Istanbul, co-organised with the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Libraries and Publications.

Ahead of research to be released this week showing the lack of translation from Arabic, Hebrew and Turkish literatures into English, **Alexandra Büchler, director of LAF** says: "At a time of political turmoil and economic struggle, we need to strive for social cohesion and peaceful coexistence on both sides of the Mediterranean, and cultural understanding brought about through literary translation is of crucial importance."

"Much more needs to be done in order for the literature of the region to travel across frontiers. This conference marks LAF's 10th anniversary and will look back at the achievements made in the last decade and find the best way ahead in the face of many challenges."

"LAF set out at the start of the decade with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe in response to the expansion of the European Union. More recently we've been working in the Middle East and the South and Eastern Mediterranean, the region where major political and cultural changes have taken place this year. It is the right time to reflect and improve conditions to have more contact between the literary scenes on both sides of the Mediterranean," says Büchler.

Stressing the importance of the conference **Ümit Yaşar Gözüm**, National Coordinator of the Publishing Committee and Assistant General Manager of the Directorate of Libraries and Publications of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, said: "Since Turkey became eligible to participate in the Cultural Program of EU in 2007, we have proved with many projects that Turkey has embraced the policy of contributing to the creation of European culture by safeguarding cultural diversity and developing local cultures as part of the Mediterranean region and of Europe."

LAF is celebrating 10 years of its activities since the very first Literature Across Frontiers conference brought the founding members of the LAF network together at the Prague Book Fair in 2001.

To mark a decade of making literature travel LAF is publishing a special issue of **Transcript**: the trilingual online review of international writing. The anniversary issue will bring together the best writing from Europe and beyond in French, German and English translation which *Transcript* has published since its first issue. See www.transcript-review.org

Co-chairs of the conference steering committee

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Notes for Editors

1. The conference **Literary Exchange and Translation in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: challenges of the next decade** will be held at the Dedeman Hotel in Istanbul from the 26th to the 27th of May and is by invitation only. A **media conference** will be held in the Dedeman Hotel on the 26th of May at 19.30pm.
2. Literature Across Frontiers (LAF) is a platform for literary exchange, a network of partners and a programme of initiatives based at the **Mercator Institute for Media, Languages and Culture, Aberystwyth University** in the UK. LAF has been supported by the **Culture Programme of the European Union** for its duration.
4. For more information on this conference and about the work of LAF visit www.literature-across-frontiers.org. *Transcript* can be found at www.transcript-review.org. Find out more about the Turkish Ministry of Culture's translation work go to www.tedaproject.com/
5. The findings and outcomes of the Euro-Mediterranean Translation Programme – a cooperation between the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures, LAF and Transeuropeennes will also be presented this week, including the research report: *Literary Translation from Arabic, Hebrew and Turkish into English in the UK and Ireland 1990 – 2010* which will be available to download from <http://lafpublications.org/>

Contact details

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For media enquiries regarding events in Turkey including the Media Conference: please contact Zerrin Yilmaz, +90543 340 28 77 (Turkey), and Fatih Özdemir, 0090534 317 24 68.

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