



BALTIC CENTRE *for* WRITERS
and TRANSLATORS





Annual Report 2021

Introduction

The year 2021 continued to be substantially effected by the Covid pandemics and its consequences. Yet the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators found routines how to keep the Baltic Centre safe and running. The Centre kept actively working as an international work place and meeting point for writers and translators. Yet, certainly, the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences have had a direct impact on Centre's activities. The very foundation, the essence - "to build bridges, to break barriers", to pass borders, literary and figurative, geographic and cultural, to work side by side and experience on-going face-to face professional and personal conversation, exactly that what the BCWT is about, got partially inhibited. Yet the BCWT worked out a constructive way to keep serving as a safe international creative haven for work and a dynamic cultural forum for exchange, the place where authors and translators experience an inter-cultural environment, have the time and space to write, read, translate, study, conduct research, give readings and become part of the vibrant and diverse literary context. With vaccination progress and coverage steadily rising we could during the autumn start scaling up the activity.

About BCWT

The Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators (ÖFÖC) is an international working and meeting place for writers and literary translators. The Centre was established in 1993 on the joint initiative of all the writers' and translators' organizations in the Baltic Sea region and the Nordic countries. The Centre offers writers and translators a place to work and a stimulating international environment. Based on its residency activities, the Centre creates contacts and networks across borders and contributes to strengthening freedom of expression, spreading knowledge and building bridges between different languages and cultures. The Centre's other activities, seminars, conferences and literary events, which we organize regularly, usually in cooperation with regional, national and international organizations or individual actors,

but also on our own, work in the same direction. Writers and translators have a majority on the Centre's Board, which has representatives from both Sweden and other countries.

Even if during the pandemic physical meetings in person were often obstructed the BCWT continued to serve and promote the BCWT as an international meeting place, actively participating in international exchanges, even so digitally. The meetings frequency intensified, and we experienced and contributed to the increased need for exchange of information in this difficult time, to consult and advice each other how to handle the situation and be able to start planning for the future.

The institutions, organisations, BCTW alike, or of other structures, felt a deep need to connect and exchange the experience in how to deal with the current situation and grounds to proceed.

New ideas and projects have been sown and already start giving results.

BCWT is a haven for work and a forum for exchange

“Building bridges and breaking barriers”

BCWT is a work place for writers and translators with residency priority given to literary professionals from the countries of the Baltic Sea region and Nordic countries, yet the centre is open for applicants from all over the world. The main criteria for receiving a residency at BCWT is the professional character of literary work t. i. the works have been published at an established publishing, either in paper form or digital. The regular application form contains CV, list of publications, description of the project to be worked on.

Writers and translators-in-residence could devote themselves to a literary project of their own, staying in average 3-5 weeks on a residency bursary, t. i. free of charge, and with 24-hours full access to all BCWT's facilities. Furthermore, Swedish institute, Estonian Writers' Union, Finland Swedish Writers' Association, Norwegian Writers Union, et al granted a number of individual allocated bursaries, meant for a working residency at the BCWT. The residing guests were authors and translators of poetry, prose, plays, screenplays, film scripts, libretto, essays, children books, non-fiction within humanities. BCWT actively facilitated dialogue between residents, as well as visibility of Centre's international activity.

2021: WRITERS AND TRANSLATORS IN RESIDENCE

	Guests		Days	
Belarus	2	4%	61	6,24%
Croatia	2	4%	38	3,89%
Czech Republic	1	2%	14	1,43%
Estonia	5	10%	153	15,64%
Finland	1	2%	19	1,94%
France	1	2%	27	2,76%
Iceland	1	2%	22	2,25%
Latvia	1	2%	28	2,86%
Lithuania	1	2%	21	2,15%
Norway	3	6%	43	4,40%
Poland	4	8%	72	7,36%
Slovenia	2	4%	40	4,09%
Spain	1	2%	33	3,37%
Sweden	25	50%	407	41,62%

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Latvia	1	2%	28	2,86%
France	1	2%	27	2,76%
Iceland	1	2%	22	2,25%
Lithuania	1	2%	21	2,15%
Finland	1	2%	19	1,94%
Czech Republic	1	2%	14	1,43%

Profession	Guests		Days	
Writers	39	78%	737	75,4%
Translators	11	22%	241	24,6%

Gender	Guests		Days	
Female	29	58%	530	54,2%
Male	21	42%	448	45,8%

Total 2021

Days **978**

**Unique
guests** **50**

Countries **14**

In 2021 BCWT cooperated and communicated, on a daily basis and in connection to projects, with a great number of international, national and local organisations and authorities:

Swedish Arts Council, Region Gotland, RECIT, Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, Kiraathane Literature House in Istanbul, Swedish General Consulate in Istanbul, Translation Centre in Arles, France, Page Foundation in Sofia, Krokodil association in Belgrad, Ventspils International Writers and Translators House, International Composers Center in Visby, Baltic Art Center, Translation House Looren in Switzerland, Künstlerhaus Lukas in Ahrenshoop.

The year was distinguished with the intensified international inter-organisational exchange carried out via digital platforms.

Cooperations / Projects

Highlights

BCWT and Swedish Research Institute, General Consulate and Kiraathane Literature House in Istanbul

The cooperation, been developed during the year, aims at literary exchange and residences of Turkish writers at BCWT. A promotion presentation of the programme and the BCWT was produced by the Literature House, BCWT and Research Institute and broadcasted on digital platforms.

<http://kiraathane.com.tr/sezon-programi/2021-10-18-gotland-da-uc-hafta>

Creative Europe EU-project: Translation-in-Motion

The Baltic Writers 'and Translators' Centre, together with RECIT and literary translators from Albania, Bulgaria, France, Latvia, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, is participating in a European co-operation project awarded a grant from Creative Europe.

The aim is to support translators, promote a flow of high-quality translations and strengthen literary cooperation between the participating countries.

Through the open call first bursary-holders were selected. Though due to the pandemics the implementation of the residency was postponed to 2022.

Writers from Belarus

As previous years BCWT hosted writers from Belarus, in cooperation with the Swedish Writers Union and independent Belarus Writers' Union and with the financial help from the Swedish Institute.

Digital public programmes

A number of talks and interview were produced during the year.

Adaptation-on -Residence

The project which had been postponed started to get realized in December 2021. The prize winner Lauris Gundars from Latvia, writer, scriptwriter, theatre director, playwright, held a month residency and a public masterclass, attended among others by students of film script writing in Fårösund. In cooperation with Film på Gotland.

How BCWT is being governed and managed

Members and founders

of the non-profit organization BCWT (Östersjöns författar- och översättarcentrum) are Swedish Writers' Union, Gotland County Administration and Region Gotland. The members appoint three representatives each to the Board of Representatives and nominate Swedish members to the Board of the BCWT.

Representatives

Gotland County: Britt Silfvergren, Hanna Johansson

Region Gotland: Inger Harlevi, Carin Rosell

Deputies: Bo Björkman, Eva Gahnström

Swedish Writers' Union: Lena Karlin, Ava Dahl, Kristina Sjögren Kristell

Annual Meeting of the Representatives was held on **23 August** via digital platform Zoom.

Board of the BCWT

is composed of a Chairman and six members and six deputies who are appointed by the Representatives on the annual meeting and the Board internally appoints its Deputy Chairman. Of the Board's six members, two are nominated by the Swedish Writers' Union, two - by the County Administration of Gotland, of whom one represents Uppsala University Campus Gotland, one member is to be nominated by Region Gotland. The Baltic Writers' Council nominate two members representing the foreign Writers' and Translators Unions for a two year period.

Members of the Board

Olle Jansson, chairman, Campus Gotland Uppsala university

Fredrik Gradelius / Ulf Hammarlund, Region Gotland

Thomas N Persson, Gotland County Administration

Janina Orlov / Stefan Ingvarsson, Swedish Writers' Union.

Marius Burokas, Lithuanian Writers' Union, Baltic Writers' Council

Dmitry Plax, Belarus Writers' Union, Baltic Writers' Council

Deputies: Oscar Lindster, Region Gotland
Cecilia Hansson, Viveka Sjörgren, Swedish Writers' Union
Malin Kivelä, Finland's Swedish Writers Association
Mudite Treimane, Latvian Writers' Union, both through Baltic Writers' Council

Meetings of the Board

During the year 2021 the Board held meetings on **23 April, 14 June, 1 October**; all via the digital platform Zoom

Baltic Writers' Council - BWC

The Baltic Writers' and Translators' Council (BWC) represents 21 literary organizations, 12 countries and approximately 17.000 members around the Baltic region and beyond.

The Council which was founded during the legendary authors and translators' Baltic Sea voyage in 1992 is a multinational, non-profit, non-governmental organization which promotes the freedom of expression, democracy and the free flow of ideas and information between the writers' and translators' organizations. It also aims to support and inspire BCWT activities. The BCWT is the headquarters for BWC, which nominates two members and two deputies to BCWT's Board. The chairperson of Baltic Writers' Council is **Kazimiera Astratoviene** (Lithuanian Translators' Union)

Due to the pandemic a General Assembly was cancelled, yet BWC and BCWT arranged on **24 April** an informal digital reunion for organizations to join. To manage current issues BWC's Board, joined by Lena Pasternak, had a number of digital meetings.

Employees:

Lena Pasternak - director
Patrik Muskos - managing assistant
Amanda Karlsson - household cleaning

Services:

Accountant: Gustav Söderdahl
Auditors: Barbro Hallgren, Revision och Redovisning på Gotland and Elena Stepanova, Region Gotland
Cleaning: Firm Hemstädning

BCWT's activity is financed by

Swedish Arts Council and Region Gotland.

Thank you from BCWT's Board

To maintain and develop the activity of BCWT is only possible thanks to support and vital relations with institutions, organisations and private persons in different countries.

Thank you all!

Visby, June 2022

Olle Jansson

Janina Orlov

Ulf Hammarlund

Stefan Ingvarsson

Thomas N. Persson

Dmitri Plax

Marius Burokas