



02.04.2026

One Year of HFBC

One year after the presentation of its strategy and actions, the Hellenic Foundation for Books and Culture (HFBC), through its activities, initiatives, synergies, and extroversion, is bringing the book to the center of public life and dialogue.

What has been achieved during this period:

INFRASTRUCTURE for a modern, functional, and extroverted book organization

Internal Operating Regulations and Organizational Chart: For the first time in Greece, a national book organization has Internal Operating Regulations and an Organizational Chart, enabling it to be staffed with permanent personnel.

Institutional, financial, and operational rationalization: HFBC, as the universal successor to the Hellenic Foundation for Culture (and, consequently, to FCH and EKEBI), proceeded with institutional, financial, and operational rationalization to implement sustainable strategies and policies for books and culture. In this context, it restructured the operation of its Branches to serve strategies for the international extroversion of Greek books and culture through international exhibitions and actions.

Digital infrastructure HFBC-GreekLit and TBF:

- Creation and development of a new HFBC website and a platform for GreekLit, functioning as tools for communication and information dissemination within the book ecosystem.
- Creation and development of a platform for the Thessaloniki International Book Fair (TBF) which belongs to the national book organization – a first – while serving as a management tool for the Fair's programs and documentation of all past TBF editions, as a networking hub for book professionals, and as a communication hub for the Fair's activities with the general public.

Biblionet: Upgrade and expansion of Biblionet, the national digital platform for the Greek books, ensuring it continues to fulfill its critical role in strengthening the public's relationship with Greek literature. The new – currently under development – Biblionet, as a modern, expandable, interoperable, and sustainable bibliological and bibliographic database, serves the strategic goals of HFBC, constitutes a reliable research tool, and contributes dynamically to the extroversion of Greek books and their creators.

Documentation and research: Following a systematic search for the valuable archival material of magazines digitized during the EKEBI period, HFBC proceeded to salvage it and completed the new digital curation of said archive. In total, 431 volumes of magazines were created (*Nea Estia, Odos Panos, Periplous, Planodion, I Lexi, Oropedio, Intellectum, To Dendro*). HFBC is bringing back to light research conducted by EKEBI for archival and

research purposes, as well as for the documentation of institutional memory, it publishes concise reports on the Greek book sector in both print and digital form, distributed at International Book Fairs, while planning quantitative and qualitative research using scientific methodology in collaboration with institutional bodies.

The new Home of Books

The neoclassical building on Ermou Street, the new Home of Books, which was granted by the Ministry of Culture to the Hellenic Foundation for Books and Culture (HFBC), has housed life and activity for over 100 years. It is located near Agioi Asomatoi, at the junction of Melidoni, Ermou, and Euvoulou streets, next to the Holocaust Memorial and the archaeological site of Kerameikos.

A large-scale edifice, featuring a main building (ground floor and upper floor), a garden, and an auxiliary building in the courtyard. It was likely built in the early 1900s. In 1908, it is mentioned in Iglisis's historical *Guide to Greece* as a "building materials" shop owned by Georgios K. Ventouris, on Ermou 274. Later, in 1916, its numbering changed to Ermou 270, while during 1934-1935, the building bore the number 132. The ground floor housed the showroom of the "O Kyklops" Building Materials S.A. (G. Ventouris & Co.), while simultaneously serving as Ventouris's residence.

In 1973, it was expropriated "for archaeological purposes." At the time of its expropriation, it was the property of Athanasios P. Tsaggaris. A large warehouse building existed where the garden is today, while the ground floor housed a TEXACO gas station office and "To Theseion" transport office. From 1982, the building at 134-136 Ermou Street housed the offices and activities of the Association of Greek Archaeologists.

From 2026, when it was granted to HFBC, it will house all the Foundation's functions, aiming to be a hub for books and the people behind them.

Actions

The dynamic relaunch of **GreekLit**, with the translation of **83 books** into **24 languages**, significantly supports the dissemination of Greek book production. Since the program's inception, 177 full translation applications and 248 sample applications have been approved.

In June (01-15/06), the **GreekLit Residency Program in Vitsa (GRPV)** will take place for the first time, providing a workspace and meeting point for translators from Greek into other languages with works being translated under the GreekLit framework. The program will take place twice a year (June and October), with 5 translators participating in its launch.

Within the framework of GreekLit, HFBC is also developing publishing activity. It published a catalog of the first 52 translated books of GreekLit. Its latest bilingual edition, "29 Paths to the Greek Language," is linked to International Greek Language Day and includes personal stories from translators about their connection to the Greek language.

FROM BOOKS TO SCREEN is the program connecting books with cinema, featuring screenings in the HFBC garden in July 2025 in collaboration with the **Athens Open Air Film Festival**, and in March 2026 at the **Greek Film Archive**.

Writers, Books, Ideas is the program that, in collaboration with the **Megaron-the Athens Concert Hall**, brings dialogue to the city center as part of **Megaron Plus**, featuring people from literature, science, and the arts, aiming to highlight originality, authenticity, storytelling, research, the art of discussion, and orality. The Italian writer Vincenzo Latronico (21/01/2026) opened the program, followed by the Greek-American professor Gregory Jusdanis (24/02/2026) – both in very interesting conversations. On Monday, April 27, Georgios Varouxakis, Professor of the History of Political Ideas at Queen Mary University of London, will follow.

As part of **This is Athens City Festival**, an evening was co-organized with the **ELYTIS HOUSE-Museum**, titled "Moving objects, seeking ideas".

On the last weekend of September, HFBC organized **STORIES IN THE GARDEN**, a two-day event of narrations for children and adults.

During Christmas, HFBC, in collaboration with **Athens Urban Rail Transport (STASY)**, "transported" passengers into the world of books with a **Christmas tree made of books** and an **exchange library** at Syntagma Metro station, accompanied by a series of actions over two weekends. This was just the beginning of a series of synergies between the two organizations, with the exchange library continuing its operation to promote reading culture.

Synergies with other organizations and the connection of books with other arts are at the core of HFBC's action. The goal is for these programs to continue and be further strengthened.

HFBC is the **nominating organization** for the **European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL)** and the national hub-platform for the **Read For Real** program in Greece, conducting school activities for **European Authors 'Day** in December 2025.

Additionally, it provided support or its auspices to events by other organizations, such as the **ViceVersa Translation Workshop** from Italian to Greek and vice versa (23-27/11/2025), and the first **FILE – Italian Literature Festival in Greece** (13-15/02/2026), both held at the **Italian Cultural Institute of Athens**.

Since January 2026, HFBC has had an active role in organizing International Book Fairs, focusing for this period on the **38th Turin International Book Fair / Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino**, where Greece is the Guest of Honor (14-18/05/2026) under the title "Grecia in Tempo Reale" (Greece in Real Time).

Year of Reading Culture



DiavaZOUME (We Read/Live)

Actions for reading culture

In collaboration with institutional reading

Within the framework of its programming for the promotion of Greek letters and culture both in Greece and abroad, and the highlighting of books as an educational, cultural, and recreational medium, HFBC has declared 2026 as the Year of Reading Culture, focusing on children and adolescents under the general title **DiavaZOUME** (We Read/Live).

As part of developing policies and actions for the reading culture, HFBC has included among its statutory objectives the cultivation of reading practices across all population groups, with an emphasis on children, adolescents, and vulnerable groups. This is achieved through its own initiatives, as well as through cooperation with relevant Ministries or partnerships with domestic and foreign entities.

Furthermore, following strategic pillars such as extroversion, synergies, networking, and the coordination of actions related to books, the publishing sector, reading, and the broader field of letters, HFBC designs programs that foster a culture of cooperation within the Greek book industry. In this context, throughout 2026, it organizes and implements actions to support reading culture and the love for books, focusing on children, teenagers, and the younger generation, while addressing institutional bodies (public or private) during this pilot phase.

By providing financial and promotional support, as well as creating its own inventive and modern actions in collaboration with institutional reading and book organizations, HFBC has compiled a cohesive year-long program based on key milestones of the book world (e.g., World Book Day, World Poetry Day, International Children's Book Day, Thessaloniki International Book Fair, International Literacy Day, International Children's Rights Day, etc.). These activities expand into bookstores, libraries, and public spaces, aiming to have a significant impact on the target audience and the world of Greek books.

The following organizations are collaborating and/or have submitted proposals for the Program: National Library of Greece (NLG), Greek Section of IBBY / Circle of the Greek Children's Book, Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists (AGLIS), "Diavazontas Megalono" (By Reading I Grow), Hellenic Authors' Society, Book Publishers Association, Book Publishers Association of Northern Greece, Network of 8, Network for Children's Rights, Writers' Network, Little Bookstores Week, Patras World Poetry Festival, Women's Literary Team, Center for the Study and Dissemination of Myths and Folktales, "Scholeio Paichnidion" (Play School).

1st International Children's and Young Adult Book Fair

The **1st International Children's and Young Adult Book Fair** in Patras will be implemented by HFBC, funded by the Region of Western Greece and the Ministry of Culture. It is scheduled for November, featuring the participation of publishing houses, authors, illustrators, translators, educators, and cultural organizations. The main event includes parallel actions, interactive workshops, performances, conferences, and

innovative educational activities. The venue in Patras is the neoclassical building of the Skagiopouleio Orphanage, a site linked to childhood memory and the country's literary history.

22nd Thessaloniki International Book Fair (TBF)

From **Thursday, May 7, to Sunday, May 10, 2026**, the **22nd Thessaloniki International Book Fair** will take place at the TIF-HELEXPO International Exhibition and Congress Center.

The Guest of Honor is **Bulgaria**, with the participation of 9 authors and 10 book professionals.

This year's theme is "**GeneReaders/Book Generators**" (**GeneReaders_BookGenerators**) and is linked to the **Year of Reading Culture**.

A total of **318 exhibitors (publishers and organizations)** are participating in this year's fair, including 30 publishing houses participating for the first time. A total of **330 events** will take place, starting as early as Thursday morning, May 7.

Twenty-five (25) international authors are coming to Thessaloniki, alongside hundreds of **authors, translators, and illustrators** from Greece. **Fifty (50) distinguished professionals** from major publishing houses and book organizations are participating in the **Professional Program**. The sections of the Professional Program are: **Genereaders, Book Generators: The future of publishing and bookstores, International Publishing Markets: The Spanish phenomenon, Small Languages / Great Literatures, Books and Media**, and **Rights Sales and Acquisitions: literary agents and international trends**.

The program includes **more than 100 events for children and teenagers**, organized by 40 publishing houses and 16 educational and cultural organizations. The Fair will host 50 to 60 school groups, with the participation of approximately 2,500 students from all levels of general and special education from the prefectures of Macedonia.

The Thessaloniki International Book Fair (TBF) is organized by the Hellenic Foundation for Books and Culture (HFBC) in collaboration with TIF-HELEXPO, Greek publishers, and the Municipality of Thessaloniki, with the support of the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Central Macedonia. It is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the Central Macedonia ROP 2021-2027. TBF is a member of the International Book Fairs Forum and the ALDUS UP European Book Fairs Network.

ORGANIZED BY



CO-ORGANIZED



IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE GREEK
PUBLISHERS



Co-funded by
the European Union



Programme
Central Macedonia