

Berlin, 1 December 2010

PRESS RELEASE

SUCCESSFUL EU WRITERS' PROGRAMME 2010

HALMA achieves sustainable success in supporting writers and artist mobility thanks to a European Commission pilot project

28 writers from 21 countries travelled through Europe with a HALMA grant in 2010. The multilateral exchange of writers and their literatures was made possible by funding from the European Commission via the Pilot Project for Artist Mobility. Thanks to scholarships and residencies each writer gained experiences with a new audience in two European countries and developed his or her own writing; new perspectives opened up and new international contacts were established.

The programme significantly supports language diversity in Europe. Each author has been translated into four languages. This year, a total of **60 sample translations from 19 languages** have been prepared into the respective languages of the 21 countries visited. **25 literary essays** were published for the first time in the **book** "Travel through Europe" and in the **European Library** of the HALMA network in original language as well as in English and German translation. That way European literature becomes accessible to an international audience: www.halma-network.eu/en/library

With the support of HALMA, numerous writers were represented at **international literature festivals and book fairs**: Romanian author Filip Florian read at the 25th Vilenica International Literary Festival in Slovenia and at the International Literature Festival Berlin. At book fairs in Leipzig and Frankfurt, HALMA grantees from Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland talked about their travel experiences. The Slovenian writer and HALMA grantee Nataša Kramberger received the EU Prize for Literature this year.

HALMA will continue with its successful grants programme next year.

HALMA, the European Network of Literary Centres was initiated by the Polish Borderland Foundation, the Literary Colloquium Berlin and the Robert Bosch Foundation in 2006. With its unique European grants programme it fosters the cross-border mobility of writers and translators in order to make a common European cultural area a reality. The grants programme supports intercultural dialogue through literature and translation in Europe. **HALMA** connects 26 literary centers in 21 European countries.

In 2010 the HALMA grants programme has been supported by: BMUKK Austria, Danish Arts Council, European Commission, Fonds voor de letteren (Netherlands), S. Fischer Stiftung, Slovenian Book Agency, Spanish Ministry of Culture, Pro Helvetia and Translators' House Wales.

We would appreciate it very much, if you could circulate this information. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,
Nicola Beissner