

Press Release

Berlin, 03 March 2011

Letters to Miłosz

On the occasion of the 100th birthday of the Nobel Prize winner Czesław Miłosz HALMA network wants to remind of the multicultural spirit he evoked in his autobiography “Rodzinna Europa” (“Native realm”) which can be literally translated as “home Europe”. HALMA invited ten writers from what is now the EU as well as from EU neighbors to comment on this text and develop their own narrative of Europe today and their visions for the future.

In order to create a trans-generational dialogue the network will also organize workshops with students in five European cities. It is important that young Europeans are aware of Europe’s history but also develop their own vision of Europe’s future.

The essays by renowned writers as well as the ideas of participating students will be published online on the project website and will be accessible for free to internet users from all over the world. HALMA will also organize readings in **Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Switzerland, France and Poland.**

It is important to HALMA that also writers from non EU member states participate in the project, e.g. Belarus and Ukraine, in order to create a view that transcends European's political borders because the network believes that these people are also part of a European cultural community. To pair these writers with those from the places where readings take place will create a diverse dialogue and stimulate controversy about what Europe and European values can mean and how they have developed since Miłosz wrote about “home Europe”.

Authors that have confirmed their participation in the project are: Ihar Babkov (Belarus), Peter Haffner (Switzerland), Petra Hulova (Czech Republic), Drago Jančar (Slovenia), Alexander Lukashuk (Belarus), Predrag Matvejevitc (Italy/Croatia), Pierre Pachet (France), Donatas Petrošius (Lithuania), Ostap Slyvynsky (Ukraine), Igor Stokfiszewski (Poland).

The project is supported by the European Cultural Foundation, the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, and the Polish Cultural Institutes in Leipzig, Paris, Prague and Vilnius and by the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt). Official media partner is the literature magazine RADAR.

Website: www.letterstomilosz.eu, www.halma-network.eu