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## PRESSEMITTEILUNG

### **Halma**

#### **16 literary centers found European network**

16 literary centers from 11 countries have founded the European network **Halma** this week. In Sejny, Poland, at the border to Lithuania, the Literary Colloquium Berlin (LCB), the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Borderland Foundation have initiated a meeting of important European centres. **Halma** will organise common projects and let authors, translators and editors experience their European heritage through cooperation, events and scholarships.

The network's central idea is to create an all-European structure for projects and actors beyond the limits of national borders, as well as to stimulate movement and exchange between different cultural regions. Like in the **Halma** board-game (Greek: "the leap") the network will make a change of locations between different European houses possible, for literary actors to work, to do research, or to present projects within this larger structure. An expansion of the network is already planned, in particular a westward expansion.

On May 11, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the German foreign minister will introduce **Halma** during a presentation at the Department of Foreign Affairs. On this occasion, there will be a Europe-wide appeal to support **Halma** scholarships. Additionally, a catalogue of **Halma** institutions, financed by the Robert Bosch foundation, will be presented.

#### **Founder members:**

1. Literary Colloquium Berlin (Germany)
2. Borderland Foundation, Sejny (Poland)
3. Elias Canetti-House Rousse (Bulgaria)
4. Pygmalion Press Foundation, Plovdiv (Bulgaria)
5. House of the Estonian Writers' Union, Tallinn (Estonia)
6. Hungarian Translators' House, Balatonfüred (Hungary)
7. International Writers' and Translators' House, Ventspils (Latvia)
8. Thomas Mann Cultural Centre; Nida (Lithuania)
9. Villa Decius, Krakow (Poland)
10. Mircea Dinescu Foundation for Poetry, Cetate (Romania)
11. International Centre for Literary Translators, Sremski Karlovci (Serbia)
12. House of the Slovene Writers' Association, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
13. House of Literature Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel (Germany)
14. Arts Institute, Prague (Czech Republic)
15. Fondation kunst:raum sylt quelle, Rantum (Germany)
16. Nikolaus-Lenau-House, Pécs (Hungary)

Best wishes,

Aylin Rieger