



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE

Youth, Education and Erasmus+
Erasmus+ Coordination

Brussels,
EAC.B.4/UHB/AS
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(E+/NA/DIR/2023/008)

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF ERASMUS+ NA DIRECTORS

Subject: Invitation to participate in the first edition of the Day of European Authors 27 March 2023

Dear colleagues,

The European Commission is pleased to announce the launch of a new European initiative, the Day of European Authors. It will take place on 27 March 2023 and then annually on the last Monday of March to promote reading in particular for young people.

Building on the great variety of initiatives existing in all the EU Member States, this EU-wide celebration aims at knitting together the book and education sectors, aspiring to reconnect European people with reading and helping them discover European literature and its linguistic and cultural diversity.

The Day of European Authors wants to showcase literature as a way to expose young people to the richness of European culture and as a tool for individual empowerment, contributing to equipping learners with the adequate skillset to engage with ongoing social and personal challenges through reading.

On 27 March 2023, secondary schools across the EU Member States are invited to participate in an aloud-reading moment to mark the Day of European Authors.

Ms Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth will officially launch this initiative in Sofia, Bulgaria. She will be accompanied by Mr Georgi Bardarov, a famous Bulgarian author and winner of the European Union Prize for Literature in 2021 for a reading aloud moment.

We would like to ask you to contact secondary schools in your country and invite them to join this exciting initiative by:

- Inviting an author or a popular personality who could also read aloud;
- Host a representative from the book sector to present the different professions of the book industry (author, illustrator, translator, editor, etc.) to raise awareness of the diversity of book-related professions;
- Or, simply have a read aloud session with pupils in class.

It is a great opportunity for schools across the European Union to share this moment together.

How to plan a school's event?

- Schools should find the right person to read during their event. This is not limited to authors; schools may invite an actor, a sports person, an illustrator, etc. to read from a book of their choice. It may be easier to find someone in the network of their alumni students. Schools should reach out to them as soon as possible to ensure that they have availability on this day.

- Schools should think about the format and location of the reading session: would they like it to take place in the library, in a classroom or in a different space? Would they like them to do the reading for the whole school or in smaller groups? Perhaps their students have a wish list which will give them an idea who to invite? These are some important things to consider in preparation of school events. It should be an exciting day that will encourage pupil to strengthen interest in books and read more.

- After the reading session, please ask the schools to share their experience by sending an email with pictures or video and a short description to EAC-DAY-OF-THE-EUROPEAN-AUTHORS@ec.europa.eu

Schools interested in participating should send a message to EAC-DAY-OF-THE-EUROPEAN-AUTHORS@ec.europa.eu by 20 February 2023.

More information on the upcoming initiative can be found here: <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/cultural-and-creative-sectors/books-and-publishing/day-of-european-authors>

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Ute HALLER-BLOCK
Head of Unit