

The 25th Tbilisi International Book Festival

<https://tbilisibookfestival.ge>

info@gpba.ge



Tbilisi International Book Festival dates back to 1997 and has been held annually ever since. It is one of the most popular and sought-after cultural events in Georgia, gaining fast-growing public interest year after year. The festival has welcomed up to 100 000 guests in recent years.

The main objectives of TIBF are popularizing reading in Georgia, assisting the development of the publishing sector, enhancing international relations, and promoting literary processes. Over the years, the festival has made consistent and significant contributions to this very cause, as seen in the figures: up to 100 000 attendees, 40 media outlets, and 200 participants, including a large number of international guests, have participated in the festival. Local and foreign publishers, booksellers, embassies, state museums, institutions, international organizations, and foundations are traditionally represented at TIBF, arranging a wide array of activities – presentation of new books, meetings with authors, discussions, conferences, award ceremonies – all of which makes TIBF much more than just a trade fair, but both a

vibrant business hub and a creative workshop space. Throughout its history, the festival has grown rapidly in size and scope and has become one of the largest and the most dynamic book festival in the Caucasus region.

Tbilisi International Book Festival has introduced the program of the Focus Country, designed to provide the festival with special, rich, and distinctive cultural content, launching or strengthening business relations between the book industries of the host and focus countries. As a result, dozens of translations have been initiated during the festival, distinctive partnerships have been established between Georgian and focus country publishers. In 2017, Norway became the first-ever Focus Country at TIBF, which received the Guest of Honor status at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2018 from Georgia. The focus countries in the years 2018 and 2019 were Germany and Finland, respectively. Turkey had ought to be the Focus Country at TIBF 2020, however, due to the pandemic, it will be enjoying the given status at the 2022 festival.

TIBF brings together all the book, literature, and literary/publishing business-related activities; the Association and Publishers plan the presentations of recently published books, public readings, a guest of honor presentation, literary awards, and many other activities at the main stage. First held in 2019, the Publishers International Conference has become a traditional part of the festival and will focus on the most urgent and important issues and points of the International and Georgian book sector. Other key elements of the festival include an exhibition space, specially created for different arts and activities, offering a glimpse into the world of books and their illustrations; Children's Section, presenting entertaining, educational programs, lotteries, theatrical performances, animators, and public readings, specifically targeted towards children of different ages. Moreover, TIBF has initiated an innovative project "Actors for Literature", hosting famous Georgian film and theatre actors, presenting books, and leading artistic readings. The program usually gains a lot of spectators and significantly contributes to promoting reading in Georgia.

Tbilisi International Book Festival is held every year at the events venue Expo Georgia, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 22nd festival was held in a virtual mode. The festival was livestreamed with its traditional format and included an updated program. The online exhibition and sale of books proved to be a big success. By the decision of the GPBA, the 23rd festival was returned to in-person format in full compliance with the co-regulations. In 2022, the book festival will return to the traditional format.

Tbilisi International Book Festival is organized annually by the **Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association**.

Main Stage



During the 4-day large-scale program of the Tbilisi International Book Festival, Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association and the participants hold multiple events and presentations. The Festival brings together all the book, literature, and literary / publishing business-related activities; The Association and Publishers plan the presentations of recently published books, public readings, meetings and discussions with the authors, a guest of honor presentation, literary awards and many other activities at the main stage of the Tbilisi International Books Fair.

Special Guests

For years, writers from various countries have visited TIBF as special guests. This is an important part of the festival, as the readers are able to meet their favorite foreign authors personally, ask questions and be involved in discussions with them. During last years, we hosted a number of big names in modern literature – Holly Smale, Dmitri Gloukhovski, Erlend Loe, Robert Menasse, Nino Kharatishvili, Yasmina Mikhailovich, Bernhard L. Mohr, Vladimir Sorokin.

Fellowship Program



Tbilisi International Book Festival offers its guests a number of events related to books, literature, writing, and publishing, including professional seminars, conferences, and meetings. The 23rd TIBF will offer a unique opportunity for foreign publishers around the world within the framework of a Fellowship Program.

Children's Section

Publishing for children carries an imposing part of the market. Due to a growing industry and high demand, TIBF is offering Children's Section. It's a special pavilion with a separate stage and entertaining, educational program, lotteries, theatrical performances, animators and public readings, organized for children of different age categories.

Publishers International Conference

In 2019 GPBA organized one-day conference in partnership with International Publishing Association (IPA). President of IPA Hugo Setzer chaired the conference. Publishers discussed the most pressing issues in Georgian and world publishing - freedom of speech and publishing, copyright and school textbooks. Based on a huge interest from participants, the publishers conference will become a traditional part of the Fair and will focus on the most urgent and important issues and points of the International and Georgian book sector.

Exhibition Space



Tbilisi International Book Festival holds an exhibition space, specially created for different art activities. In 2019, the exhibition space hosted a shared exhibition of Georgian and Lithuanian illustrators. This exhibition offered a glimpse into the world of the two nations' contemporary children's books and their illustrations. The viewers had the opportunity to see how the images made by artists are eventually integrated into books, and how these images interact with the text.

Actors for Literature

A very special project of TIBF is Actors for Literature. Over the course of 3 days GPBA arranges a separate space to host famous Georgian film and theatre actors, who present books and lead artistic readings. The program usually gains lot of spectators and contributes a lot to the aim of promoting reading in Georgia.

Project "Actors for Literature" is presented by "Silknet".

Focus Countries

Focus Country status is designed to provide the Tbilisi International Book Festival with special, rich, and distinctive cultural content, starting or strengthening business relations between the book industries of the host and focus country. Since 2017, dozens of translations have been initiated during the fairs, also distinctive partnerships have been established between Georgian and focus country publishers. Turkey was going to be the Focus Country for the 23rd Tbilisi International Book Festival, however, due to the pandemic, the organizers and the FC team have decided to postpone the program. Thus, Turkey was presented as a country of focus at the 24th Tbilisi International Book Festival. In 2023, the focus country will be Poland.

About GPBA



Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association is a non-profit legal entity that plays a key role in the development of the Georgian book sector. The main objectives of the Association are expressing the general interests of book publishers and distributors and their protection, ensuring publishing freedom and copyright, development and establishment of professional ethics standards, organization/popularization of national and international book markets, festivals, and other professional events related to books, as well as supporting the participation of Georgian publishers and distributors in the above-mentioned events.

GPBA regularly carries out and manages projects and events of highest significance to the book market, such as Tbilisi International Book Fair, Tbilisi New Year Book Fair, Regional Book fairs across different cities of Georgia, World Book and Copyright Day, World Read Aloud Day in Georgia, Renewing the Bookstock of Public Libraries all over the country. Since 2007, the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association has been successfully participating in the Frankfurt Book Fair.