

Press Release for the 1st International Literature Festival Odessa (ILO) 1–4 October 2015

The Festival aims to underscore the cultural charisma and international character of the city and to contribute to strengthening its connections with other cultural metropolises in Europe and on other continents. The Festival's program will express this with its international character, which will in no way be restricted to (but will include) accents on Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region; rather – like the festivals in Switzerland and Berlin headed by Hans Ruprecht and Ulrich Schreiber.

Authors from Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Turkey, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, France, Canada, the USA, Mexico, and India will attend and read their texts (see the program enclosed).

Along with purely literary events, there will also be events for political discussions devoted to European and non-European themes.

The Festival is bilingually designed: foreign authors' texts will be read in their original languages and in Russian translation. The talks will be simultaneously or consecutively translated.

The main part of the program will be held in the Literature Museum. International authors of children's and young people's books will present their books in schools in Odessa on Thursday and Friday morning.

The organizers will strive to integrate the ILO in the existing regional literary networks, including the festivals in Lviv, Czernowitz, and Iași (Romania), and the book fair in Kiev, as well as to establish international collaborations with other international literature festivals and the Word Alliance.

The Festival will receive organizational support from a local committee that, along with the initiators and directors, will present itself at a press conference **in Odessa's Literature Museum at 11:00 AM on 17 July 2015**. On this occasion, the program points and authors of the 1st ILO will be announced.

Hans Ruprecht and Ulrich Schreiber

www.litfestodessa.com