

Translation Grants for Foreign Publishers

The Dutch Foundation for Literature,
mindful of the General Administrative Law Act (*Algemene wet bestuursrecht*),
mindful of article 10, clause 4 of the Law Governing Cultural Policy (*Wet op het specifiek cultuurbeleid*),
mindful of the General Regulations (*Algemeen reglement*),
has resolved as follows:

Article 1. Definitions

In these regulations, terms are defined thus:

1. board: the board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature.
2. Foundation: the Dutch Foundation for Literature.
3. applicant: a legal body not based in the countries of the Dutch Language Union that is continually engaged in commercial activities whose aims include the publication of literary works.
4. translation: the publication in paper or digital form of a translation of a work of high literary quality originally written in the Dutch or Frisian language, such as fiction, poetry, literature for children or adults, including illustrated works and comic books, as well as literary non-fiction and classic works written in other languages that are regarded as belonging to Dutch literature.
5. publication agreement: an agreement between a Dutch publishing company and the applicant concerning the right to publish a translation, containing at the very least agreements covering royalty percentages and permissions.
6. Dutch literature: literary works written in the Dutch or Frisian language by an author of Dutch nationality, or a stateless author or an author of another nationality who is or has been a long-term resident of the Netherlands.

Article 2. Objective

These arrangements are intended to promote international familiarity with and distribution of Dutch literature by subsidizing the costs of translations.

Article 3. Requirements concerning the applicant

If the translation is still under copyright, the applicant must have made a contractual agreement giving said applicant the right to publish the translation.

Article 4. Further requirements

1. A subsidy will be provided only if the work is published within two years of the announcement of the decision to provide said subsidy.
2. The applicant can apply for a subsidy for the translation of only a limited number of works by the same author in a specific genre, that number to be decided by the board. This maximum number will be made known through the website of the Dutch Foundation for Literature.
3. The applicant must be prepared to provide the Foundation with a specific number of published copies of the subsidized translation free of charge in digital and paper form for international distribution, that number to be decided by the board.

Article 5. Grounds for refusal

An application for a subsidy can be refused if the applicant has demonstrably failed to comply with the obligations imposed in relation to previous subsidies granted by the board.

Article 6. Application

1. An application can be made only by means of an application form supplied by the Foundation.
2. The application form must be filled in truthfully, completely and according to the guidelines supplied with the form, and accompanied by all the required documentation.
3. The required documentation includes copies of the publication agreement, unless the work is out of copyright, and the contract with the translator.
4. Application forms are digitally available on the website www.letterenfonds.nl.
5. An application can be submitted at any time of year.
6. Applications should be made before translation begins.
7. An application for a specific translation cannot be submitted a second time if the first application has been rejected.

Article 7. Application procedure

Applications are dealt with in the order in which they are received.

Article 8. Assessment with respect to content

If the application fulfils the formal requirements, the Foundation will assess it according to the following criteria:

1. The literary quality of the text to be translated.
2. Where applicable, the artistic quality or cultural importance of the text to be translated.
3. The quality of the applicant.

4. The quality of the translator.
5. The quality and appropriateness of the budgetary arrangements.
6. The degree to which the publication contributes to the promotion of Dutch literature in the country and language area of intended publication or forms a bridge to promotion in a third country.

Article 9. Subsidy ceiling and amount granted

1. The board may decide to place limits on the total amount of subsidy available. Any such decision will be made public on the Foundation's website.
2. The subsidy for a specific translation is limited to a maximum sum that will be made public on the Foundation's website.
3. The subsidy covers 50% or 70% of the total costs of translation, based on the average rate charged for the translation of such a work in the country of publication, as determined by the Foundation, with a maximum rate per word determined by the board. Exceptions will sometimes be made for poetry, classics and magazine contributions, for which the subsidy may be up to 100% of the translation costs as specified above.
4. For illustrated works and poetry, a subsidy may be given for either part or all of the costs of translation as specified in article 9, clause 3, and for other costs, up to a maximum sum as specified in article 9, clause 2.

Article 10. Advisers

In assessing an application, the board may call upon advice from staff members, members of the advisory board or external advisers, as specified in the Foundation's internal regulations.

Article 11. Obligations placed upon those in receipt of subsidy

1. The subsidy must be used to cover the translation costs.
2. Those in receipt of subsidy must inform the Foundation immediately of any substantial changes to those details provided on the initial application form.
3. If the recipient of the subsidy does not expect to succeed in publishing the translation as described in the application within the time specified, the reasons for this must be made known to the Foundation at the earliest possible opportunity.
4. If the recipient of the subsidy receives further subsidies or financial contributions from third parties, the Foundation must be informed of this.
5. Those in receipt of subsidy are obliged to supply the Foundation with the agreed number of promotional copies of the translated edition, free of charge, as soon as possible upon publication.

6. The name and logo of the Foundation must appear in the translation for which a subsidy has been provided, and in all public manifestations relating to the subsidized activities.

Article 12. Granting, specification and payment of subsidy

1. The decision to grant a subsidy, which will be taken within 22 weeks of receipt of the application, will be directly accompanied by a decision on the sum to be granted.
2. The subsidy will be paid within four weeks of receipt of the published copies.

Article 13. Grounds for withdrawal or alteration of the sum granted

1. The board may withdraw or change the sum granted if:
 - a. those to whom a subsidy has been granted have not met the obligations that the receipt of a subsidy places upon them.
 - b. the board determines that the publication has departed substantially from the specifications supplied upon application to the Foundation.
 - c. the length of time as specified in article 11, clause 3 has been exceeded and the board judges that the applicant has not been able to provide valid reasons for the delay.
2. The withdrawal or alteration of the sum granted is retroactive, in the sense that it extends back to the moment when the subsidy was granted and specified, unless decided otherwise at the time of withdrawal or alteration.

Article 14. Hardship clause

Taking into account the interests these regulations are intended to protect, the board may decide not to apply one or more articles or to depart from them, should their strict implementation lead to significant unfairness.

Article 15. Temporary provisions and final provisions

1. In all eventualities not covered by these regulations, the board will decide how to proceed.
2. These regulations were drawn up on 12 December 2013 by the board as constituted on that date.
3. These regulations come into force immediately on 1 January 2014.
4. The previous regulations concerning translations of works in the Dutch or Frisian language in book form are withdrawn as of 1 January 2014.
5. These regulations are to be cited as 'Translation Grants for Foreign Publishers'.

On behalf of the board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature,

P. Steinz, director

These regulations are made public through the Staatscourant and the website of the Foundation (www.letterenfonds.nl)

Explanatory notes

General information

These regulations replace the previous subsidy regulations for the publication in book form of works originally written in the Dutch and Frisian languages and are intended to promote familiarity with and distribution of Dutch and Frisian literature abroad.

The regulations describe the working method, assessment criteria, procedures, demands and obligations that relate to subsidies granted to foreign publishers to cover or partially cover the costs of translation.

Further explanation, per article

Article 1. Definitions

Clause 2. The Dutch Foundation for Literature and the Flemish Literature Fund collaborate for the purposes of implementing article 2 of the Treaty on the Dutch Language Union (*Verdrag inzake de Nederlandse Taalunie*). With a view to efficiency, application for a subsidy can be made either to the Foundation or to the Flemish Literature Fund but not both. For the same reason, foreign publishers are requested to apply to the Flemish Literature Fund if the author they intend to publish is Flemish. The two foundations exchange information about applications they have received.

Clause 4. Publication may be in book form, in digital form, or in the form of a magazine contribution.

One example of a classic written in another language that is regarded as part of Dutch literature is the work of Erasmus, written in Latin.

Article 3. Requirements

The publication agreement and the existence of copyright are governed and determined according to Dutch law.

Article 4. Further requirements

Clause 3: The Foundation uses its complimentary copies of the subsidized translation of a work originally written in the Dutch or Frisian language to bring the work to the attention of publishers in other countries and language areas. Translated works, especially those in the major languages, can function as intermediaries.

Article 6. Application

The application consists of a fully completed application form, accompanied by a copy of a contract with the Dutch (or Frisian) publisher, demonstrating that the applicant has acquired translation rights, unless the work is in the public domain, and a translation contract with the translator.

Article 8. Assessment with respect to content: translator and applicant

Clause 3. In evaluating the applicant, the Foundation will look at whether the foreign publishing house has a good network, access to relevant distribution channels in its own country and the ability to organize professional promotion for the book in the country concerned. The work must be published by a publishing company that has an independent editorial team able to support authors through the publication process, regularly offers its publications to the book trade, allocates each of its publications an ISBN, abides by the customary terms of delivery and produces a catalogue at least once a year.

Clause 4. In judging the quality of the translator, reference will be made to The Dutch Foundation for Literature's List of Approved Translators. If the translator is not on that list, a sample translation may be requested, to enable independent, external advisers to assess the quality of the translation work. In assessing the (expected) quality of the translated edition, reference may be made to assessments of earlier translations by the same translator, commissioned by the Foundation.

Article 9. Amount granted

Clause 3. A subsidy covering a maximum of 70% of the costs of translation will be granted if the original publication is judged to be of high quality, the work of the translator is approved and the applicant is assessed as suitable as a publisher of the translation.

If the latter two criteria have been met and the original publication has been judged important for reasons other than its literary merit, the subsidy will cover a maximum of 50% of the costs of translation. The translation may, for example, provide a bridge to the publication of translations of other works that are of a high literary quality in the country or language area concerned.

A subsidy covering a maximum of 100% of the costs of translation may be granted for classic titles of Dutch and Frisian literature. This maximum of 100% also applies to the translation of poetry and magazine contributions.

A subsidy to cover a maximum of 30% of the costs of translation applies in the case of exclusively digital publication.

For all subsidies other than for poetry, the maximum translation rate on the basis of which the amount of subsidy is calculated is 10 eurocent per word.

Article 11. Obligations placed upon those in receipt of subsidy

Clause 3. The date of publication must post-date the granting of subsidy, but by no more than two years.

Clause 5. In case of a digital publication only, a digital copy or e-book should be supplied.