

A short guide

to grants and awards for translation of Italian books into foreign languages

by newitalianbooks
the website that promotes Italian book publishing
throughout the world

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Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



**CENTRO
PER IL LIBRO
E LA LETTURA**



*Fondazione
per l'Arte
e la Cultura
Lauro Chiazze*



**Associazione
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This short guide to grants and awards for translation of Italian books into foreign languages was realised by *newitalianbooks*

newitalianbooks is a site that promotes Italian publishing, language and culture in the world. It's quadrilingual and aimed at Italian and foreign publishers, literary agents, translators, scholars of Italian studies, **Italian cultural institutes**, Italians abroad and all lovers of literature.

With the goal of encouraging Italian publishing production in the world and of facilitating the translation process of the latest releases, the website offers reading opinions, in-depth analysis, interviews, information on awards and grants to translations. It offers information on the major trade fairs in the publishing sector, as well as databases of publishers, agents and translators.

newitalianbooks is a project promoted by **Treccani** with the support of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, the **Ministry of Culture (CEPELL – Centro per il libro e la lettura)** and the **Fondazione per l'arte e la cultura Lauro Chiazze**, in collaboration with the **Italian Publishers Association**.

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01

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)

Grants and awards to translation of Italian books into foreign languages

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) promotes the dissemination of Italian publications and films abroad by granting subsidies for translation and dubbing/subtitling, constituting a strategic tool in the promotion of Italian language and culture abroad.

The Foreign Ministry grants two types of financial incentives:

- Grants for the translation of unpublished Italian work abroad and for the production, dubbing and subtitling of short films, feature films and TV series;
- Awards to Italian works translated abroad.

Proposals shall be submitted annually to the Italian Cultural Institutes and the Italian diplomatic and consular Mission abroad, according to the Call regulations and procedures.

Application deadlines are announced annually on the MAECI website, usually in March.

MAECI Grants and Awards: an overview

Applications for grants and awards may be submitted by publishers, translators, production, distribution, dubbing and subtitling companies, literary agents/agencies and cultural institutions, based both in Italy and abroad.

MAECI contributions and prizes for translation are granted to projects involving the translation of books already published in Italy, with the exclusion of anthologies or other volumes published directly abroad by foreign publishing houses and not previously published by Italian publishing houses.

If a translation project has received funding from the Centre for Books and Reading (CEPELL), it cannot apply for funding from MAECI and vice versa.

Prizes are awarded to books that have already been translated and published.

Grants are intended for books that have not yet been translated and published.

Applications must be submitted each year to Italian Cultural Institutes or, if there is no Institute, to Italian Embassies or Consulates.

Applications must be submitted using the forms attached to the notices, in Italian or English.

Applications must be accompanied by:

- a **brief proposal** (max. 3000 characters including blank spaces) containing: an indication of the publication date for the work and the distribution and exploitation channels envisaged (book fairs, presentations, etc.);
- **the translator's curriculum vitae**;
- a **signed copy of the translation contract for the work**;
- a **brief financial plan specifying** (in euros) the costs of the project (unit cost per page, total cost of the translation) and the planned print run;
- a **copy of the first and fourth covers of the book in Italian**;
- a **copy of the copyright acquisition contract**, signed by the rights holder and the acquirer (or a letter of intent from the acquiring publisher stating its commitment to acquire these rights). In the case of a free-of-charge transfer, a declaration by the rights holder is always required.

Prize applications require the same documentation as grants, plus:

- a **copy of the text translated into a foreign language or of the realised/duplicated/subtitled work, in digital form**;
- a **copy of the signed contract attesting to the acquisition of the rights**.

N.B. This overview does not replace the information contained in the full text of the call for applications, published annually on the MAECI website and on the websites of the Italian Cultural Institutes, Embassies and Consulates. Please refer to these sites for any further details.

02

Ministry of Culture Centre for Books and Reading (CEPELL)

Translation Grants

The Calls “**For the translation and dissemination of Italian books and reading abroad by Italian authors**” are aimed at Italian publishers interested in promoting the translation of books and the reading abroad of Italian authors. All types of works are eligible (with the exception of school publications) which have already been published in Italian at the time of the publication of the Call for Entries.

Translations will be admitted into all foreign languages, with **priority** given to works in translation into **English, French, Spanish and German**.

Project proposals, accompanied by all the required documentation, must be completed and sent exclusively online, through the new CEPELL call platform, within and by the deadlines indicated in the notices published each year.

For further details, please refer to the ‘Calls for Proposals’ page of the CEPELL website: www.cepell.it

CEPELL translation grants - an overview

Only works in paper format are eligible. E-books are not accepted.

Translations into all foreign languages are eligible, with priority given to works translated into the following languages: English, French, Spanish and German.

If a translation project has received funding from the Centre for Books and Reading (CEPELL), it cannot apply for funding from MAECI and vice versa.

The application must be submitted by the Italian publisher or agent (applicant) on behalf of the foreign publisher (beneficiary) to whom the translation rights for the work have been assigned.

The grant application may be submitted by Italian publishers, agents or groups of publishers with their registered offices in Italy and who meet the following conditions:

- publishing houses or publishing groups with an ISBN code, established on the date indicated in the call, which have published, on the date indicated in the call, a certain number of titles indicated in the call;
- literary agencies acting on behalf of authors whose work has already been published in Italian on paper or on behalf of publishing houses whose catalogues they manage abroad.

Each subject may submit an application for a maximum number of works, as indicated in the call for entries.

Applications, accompanied by all the required documentation, must be sent exclusively online, via the Centre's call platform <https://bandi.cepell.it> before the date indicated in the call. Proposals sent via the platform must include the following documents:

- application form, generated by the platform in pdf format and digitally signed by the legal representative of the proposing party;
- identity document of the subscriber (the legal representative of the proposing party);
- copy of the valid rights assignment contract for each work, signed by the owner and purchaser of the translation of the work for which the contribution is requested. Alternatively, a copy of the letter of intent from the purchaser certifying their commitment to purchase these rights. In the case of a transfer free of charge, a declaration from the rights holder must in any event be provided;
- a copy of the personal data protection notice duly dated and signed for acceptance and acknowledgement.

N.B. This overview does not replace the full text of the call for proposals, published annually on Cepell's website. Please refer to it for any further details.

03

Ministry of Culture

National Translation Prizes

The **'Premi Nazionali per la Traduzione'** (National Prizes for Translation), awarded by the Directorate-General for Libraries and Copyright, represent recognition by the Italian State to those who have engaged in translation, an irreplaceable activity in the dialogue between different cultures.

The Prizes take the form not only of an acknowledgement of cultural intermediation work at its highest level, but also of a privileged observatory and centre of reflection on the very concept of translation understood in its broadest and most interdisciplinary sense, and form part of a variegated and organic complex of initiatives with which we wish to reaffirm the recognition of the substantial value of the role of translation, in the awareness of the absolute importance that translation activities assume in the international context.

The Prizes, established by Ministerial Decree of 4 February 1988 and subsequent amendments (Ministerial Decree 4 January 1990, Ministerial Decree 16 October 1991 and Ministerial Decree 13 April 1994), are conferred annually by the Minister of Culture on the basis of the assessment carried out by a special Commission, composed of representatives of trade associations (translators, interpreters and dubbers), competent experts in the various language areas and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - Office IV - Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy, appointed by ministerial decree, which assesses the applications received on the basis of the criteria indicated in Circular no. 1 of 27 January 2021 of the Directorate-General for Libraries and Copyright.

The recipients are translators and publishers, both Italian and foreign, who have contributed to the diffusion of Italian culture abroad and foreign culture in our country, according to the following categories:

- four indivisible Prizes to be awarded, each in recognition of superior merit for the work carried out by:
 - a translator into Italian of one or more works published from another classical or modern language or dialect;
 - a translator into a foreign language of one or more works published in Italian or dialect;
 - an Italian publisher for works translated and published from another classical or modern language or dialect;
 - a foreign publisher for works in Italian or dialect translated and published in other languages.
- up to four indivisible Special Prizes to be awarded in recognition of the high cultural, professional, technical, methodological contributions made in the context of and/or in support of the translation of works already written in another language or dialect.

Circular No. 1 of 27 January 2021 regulates access to the National Translation Prizes and replaces the previous Circular No. 9 of 14 March 2011. Applications may only be submitted in digital format according to the procedures outlined in Articles 5 and 6 of Circular No. 1 of 27 January 2021. For 2024, applications may be submitted from 11 March - 12 noon (local time) to 12 April - 12 noon (local time).

Awardees receive a commemorative parchment along with a financial contribution (which varies depending on budget availability) at a ceremony held annually at one of the Ministry's historical sites.

Access to the application portal is via the following link:

→ <https://biblioteche.cultura.gov.it/it/contributi/premi-nazionali-per-la-traduzione/Sportello-domande/>

Requests for clarification of the procedure can be sent until **12 noon on 10 April 2024**, exclusively to the email address: **preminaz-traduzione@cultura.gov.it**

N.B. This overview does not replace the contents of the "National Translation Awards" page on the Ministry of Culture website. Please refer to it for any further details.

04

European Secretariat for Scientific Publications (SEPS)

Translation Grants

SEPS – Segretariato Europeo per le Pubblicazioni Scientifiche is a non-profit association that cooperates with universities, publishers and authors in order to provide an economic support to the translation of works of high cultural value. For this purpose, SEPS provides contributions in support of the translation of non-fiction works of high cultural value, in both sciences and humanities.

SEPS grants - an overview

SEPS grants may only be requested for translation costs and for works that have not yet been translated into the language requested.

Grant applications can be submitted at any time during the year.

A response is given on average within 150 days of receipt of the complete documentation.

SEPS asks the publisher receiving the grant to print the SEPS logo on the back cover and to include a thank-you note on the copyright page of the translated book.

If the application is successful, the grant will be acknowledged once the book has been published and the conditions set out in the grant agreement have been met by means of a bank transfer made to the account details provided by the recipient publisher.

The grant application must be submitted at the start of the publishing project by the publisher intending to publish the translation. Publishers wishing to apply for a grant for the translation of a work must:

1. **download** the form from the SEPS website;
1. **complete** and sign the form;
1. **include** two copies of the form, as well as:
 - three copies of the original work;
 - a copy of the publishing contract with the copyright holder (or - initially - a letter of intent);
 - a copy of the contract with the translator (or - initially - an estimate of the translation costs);
 - the translator's curriculum vitae;
 - a recent catalogue from the publishing house;
 - a press review.
1. **Send** all documentation to :

SEPS - Segretariato Europeo per le Pubblicazioni Scientifiche
Via Val d'Aposa 7, 40123 Bologna – Italia

N.B. This summary does not replace the information on the SEPS website. Please consult it for further details.

