



# SWEDISH LITERATURE ABROAD

**NEW IMPROVED SUPPORT FOR PUBLISHERS, TRANSLATORS AND EVENT ORGANISERS**

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IT IS NOW DEFINITE, to the delight of all the interested parties in Sweden: Swedish Arts Council (Statens kulturråd) has assumed responsibility for the promotion of our literature at an international level.

Today, Swedish literature enjoys great success abroad, with many high-profile names helping other authors make their breakthrough. By coordinating national and international initiatives, Sweden will now be in a better position to increase effectiveness and improve visibility and impact. For the most significant professional target groups – publishers, translators and event organisers – the new scheme means considerable improvements.

Swedish and foreign publishers have been asking for the translation support program to be widened to include non-fiction, and it is therefore our pleasure to announce that publishers will now be able to apply for translation subsidies for this category of writing.

For the translators, there is a wider range of changes. They will still be able to apply for grants for trips to Sweden in connection with the translation they are working on, or to participate in the Göteborg Book Fair ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ or other literary events, but these will now be administered by the Swedish Authors’ Fund (Sveriges författarfond). This should not be seen as a fragmentation of resources, but rather as further co-ordination of our existing activities.

The introduction of grants for sample translations is another initiative that we hope will please both translators and publishers. Individual translators can apply to the Swedish Authors’ Fund for a grant for a project they think might interest not only publishers but also readers in the country in question. Under Swedish Arts Council management, the international promotion of Swedish literature will be a blend of demand-led and proactive approaches.



“Translating Swedish writers into other languages and enabling their books to be read outside the country’s borders is very important for the development of Swedish literature”

**Lena Adelsohn Liljeroth**  
Minister for Culture

# SWEDISH LITERATURE ABROAD

## **Support for Swedish literature in translation**

In January 2008, responsibility for support for Swedish literature in translation was transferred from the Swedish Institute to the Swedish Arts Council. *“Translating Swedish writers into other languages and enabling their books to be read outside the country’s borders is very important for the development of Swedish literature”* Minister for Culture Lena Adelsohn Liljeroth stated in a press release. The objective of this support scheme is to make it possible for more Swedish quality literature to be published abroad. The new support scheme applies to fiction for children and adults, non-fiction and drama. One condition is that the translation must be done directly from Swedish rather than via any third language.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Applications for subsidies for translations to non-Nordic languages may be filed by foreign publishers. In certain cases Swedish publishing houses that have drawn up a plan for distribution of a certain book abroad may also be eligible to apply. Any publishing house applying for a subsidy must have both well-documented experience of publishing quality literature as well as professional distribution channels. If the publishing house has not previously published Swedish literature in translation, the current publications catalogue is to be submitted with the application. Support for translation of Swedish literature to other Nordic languages is financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers through the Nordic Culture Point. There is a special application form for this support scheme which is administrated by the Arts Council.

Application deadlines: May 1 and November 1.

### **Who is not eligible to apply?**

Neither translators nor authors may apply for translation subsidies through the Swedish Arts Council support scheme. However, translators may apply for funding for sample translations (see further information below).

### **What types of literature does the support scheme cover?**

Applications for translation subsidies may be filed for books in the following areas:

- prose, poetry, drama, literature for children and young people
- non-fiction in the area of general culture, essays
- theme issues of journals and magazines including literature translated from Swedish.

Regarding applications for drama translation subsidies, a subsidy may be applied for on the condition that the play in question is either going to be published in book form or performed on stage.

Irrespective of genre, the work for which a subsidy is being applied must be of high quality in terms of both language and literary qualities.

### **What types of literature does the support scheme not cover?**

Applications for support will not be considered for translation of:

- scholarly dissertations or research reports
- text books, instruction manuals
- reference books, handbooks, yearbooks
- cookbooks, hobby literature, travel guides, etc.

Applications can only be filed to cover translation costs, but not for production costs or to cover copyright matters.

### **What books will be given priority?**

The objective of the support scheme is to raise the status of contemporary Swedish literature in translation.

Priority will therefore be given to introduction of the work of Swedish authors into languages where there are no previous translations of that author's work.

Particular consideration will be given to translations of literature for children and young people into languages where Swedish children's literature is presently poorly represented.

### **How is an application to be filed?**

There is a special form on which to apply for translation subsidies. When the application is filed, the following material is to be enclosed:

- one copy of the contract between the publishing house submitting the application and the rights holder
- one copy of the contract between the publishing house submitting the application and the translator
- the translator's curriculum vitae if the translator has not previously translated Swedish literature published in the language in question
- a copy of a recent catalogue if the publishing house has not previously published translation of Swedish literature

### **When can an application be filed?**

These subsidies must be applied for before the book has been published.

Application deadlines: 1 May and 1 November.

### **Conditions for disbursement of a granted subsidy**

Subsidies granted will be disbursed upon receipt of four copies of the published translation by The Swedish Arts Council, along with a written confirmation from the translator that (s)he has received remuneration according to the contract. Publishing houses outside Sweden may apply for grants from the Swedish Arts Council to invite authors of books being published by them in translation to attend the book launch. Subsidies granted are always to be acknowledged in the published translation with the following text, translated into the language in question: The cost of this translation was defrayed by a subsidy from the Swedish Arts Council, gratefully acknowledged.

### **Translation of Swedish Drama for Stage Performance**

The new support scheme includes Swedish plays to be performed outside the Nordic countries. One condition is that the translation must be done directly from Swedish.

Application for this support scheme should be filed by the director or producer of a theatre outside the Nordic area where the Swedish translation will be performed.

There is a special form on which to apply for translation subsidies. When the application is filed, the following material must be appended:

- one copy of the contract between the theatre submitting the application and the rights holder
- one copy of the contract between the theatre submitting the application and the translator
- the translator's curriculum vitae if the translator has not previously translated Swedish plays or literature published in the language in question.
- Information on the theatre submitting the application

The subsidy must be applied for before the play is staged and will be disbursed upon receipt of one copy of the translation by The Swedish Arts Council, along with a written confirmation from the translator that (s)he has received remuneration according to the contract. Subsidies granted are always to be acknowledged in programmes and/or advertisements with the following text, translated into the language in question: The cost of this translation was defrayed by a subsidy from the Swedish Arts Council, gratefully acknowledged.

Application deadlines: 1 May and 1 November.

## **International Literature Project Grants**

Swedish and foreign organizations may apply for project grants for literary events in support of Swedish literature to be held abroad. Applications must include a project description, a budget, and a statement of objectives and aims. Foreign publishers may also apply for funding from the Swedish Arts Council to invite Swedish authors to launches of their books in translation. Priority will be given to grants for Swedish authors whose work is being introduced in the country in question for the first time.

Application deadlines: 1 April, 1 June, 1 September, 1 November

## **Translation of Swedish literature into other Nordic languages**

Support for translation of Swedish literature to other Nordic languages is administrated by the Swedish Arts Council and financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers through Nordic Culture Point. Further information can be found on [www.kulturradet.se](http://www.kulturradet.se) and [www.kknord.org](http://www.kknord.org).

For further information on translation subsidies and literary projects, please contact:

Helen Sigeland, The Swedish Arts Council, PO Box 27215, SE-102 53 Stockholm

Tel +46-8-519 264 33 [helen.sigeland@kulturradet.se](mailto:helen.sigeland@kulturradet.se)

# MORE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Swedish Arts Council participates in a number of international cooperation projects and has an extensive international network of contacts. The Council's international undertakings include the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the EU Cultural Contact Office and the Swedish – South African Culture Partnership Programme.

## **Support for International Cultural Exchange**

The Swedish Arts Council promotes international cultural exchange and cooperation within performing and visual arts and music. Swedish organisations are invited to apply for travel grants involving professionals when taking part in projects in Sweden or abroad. The projects must be of high quality with the general public as target group. Applications from individual artists are not accepted.

Deadlines for 2008: 15 may, 15 August, 15 November. Contact: Ellen Wettmark, [ellen.wettmark@kulturradet.se](mailto:ellen.wettmark@kulturradet.se)

## **The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award**

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is an international award for literature for children and young people. The award was established by the Swedish government in 2002 to commemorate Astrid Lindgren, one of Sweden's, and one of the world's, most widely read and popular authors. Presented annually to one or more recipients, irrespective of language or nationality, the award goes to living writers, illustrators, storytellers, and/or to people, projects or organisations deemed to have made a valuable contribution to the promotion of reading.

The award is for lifelong work or artistry rather than for individual pieces. The body of work must uphold the highest artistic quality and evoke the deeply humanistic spirit that Astrid Lindgren treasured.

The aim of the award is to strengthen and increase interest in literature for children and young people around the world, and also to promote children's right to culture. The award is in the amount of five million Swedish crowns, equivalent to USD 770 000, or EURO 525 000, making it the world's foremost award for children's and young people's literature and the second largest literary prize in the world. The award winner is selected by a jury based on nominating bodies around the world.

Contact: Anna Cokorilo, literatureaward@alma.se Website: www.alma.se

## **Cultural Contact Point Sweden**

The Swedish government has made the Swedish Arts Council together with the National Heritage Board responsible for keeping up to date with and providing information about EU policy and activities in the cultural sphere. They run the EU contact office for culture in Sweden, Cultural Contact Point Sweden. The aim of such offices, which operate in 29 countries, is to promote European cooperation on the cultural front with special emphasis on each country's participation in cultural partnership projects, in European networks and in organisations in the cultural sphere. The EU Cultural Programme 2007-2013 also supports literary translation.

Contact: Monica Lindqvist, monica.lindqvist@kulturradet.se

## **Swedish – South African Culture Partnership Programme**

This programme grew from Sweden and South Africa's objectives for developmental cooperation and the cultural policy aims of both countries. The aim of the programme is to augment the cultural partnership between Sweden and South Africa through providing support for cooperation between institutions and organisations in the two countries. The Swedish government has given the Swedish Arts Council the task of managing the Swedish side of this partnership. In South Africa, the equivalent responsibility lies with the South African Ministry of Arts and Culture. The Swedish – South African Culture Partnership Programme was launched in 2004.

Contacts: Louise Thurén, louise.thuren@kulturradet.se Ellen Wettmark, ellen.wettmark@kulturradet.se

## **Statistics relating to cultural life in Sweden**

The Council represents Swedish cultural statistics within the EU, contributes towards the establishment of joint EU cultural statistics and also provides data to the statistical offices of UNESCO.

Contact: kulturradet@kulturradet.se



### **The Swedish Arts Council**

The Swedish Arts Council is a government authority with the principal task to implement national cultural policy determined by the Parliament.

The Council is responsible for:

- The allocation of state cultural funding to theatre, dance, music, literature, arts periodicals and public libraries, and to the fine arts, museums and exhibitions.
- Providing the Swedish government with the basic data it needs to make cultural policy decisions, by evaluating state spending in the cultural sphere, etc.
- Providing information about culture and cultural policy.

Visions and Guiding Principles:

- To promote art and culture with the aim of ensuring everyone's right to a broad spectrum of high-quality arts and culture
- To be a dynamic authority in the development of Swedish cultural policies
- To be noted for high degree of competence, respect of legal rights and excellent civic services
- To be efficient and flexible in order to enable its operations to be quickly and easily adopted to changing conditions in the outside world.

The Swedish Arts Council supports, develops and initiates co operations between the state, the regions, municipalities and representatives for cultural life in Sweden, e.g. libraries, museums and performing arts centres. The aim is to safeguard and develop Swedish national cultural policy, and to promote cultural diversity and an even geographical spread in cultural provision.

### **The Swedish Authors' Fund**

The Swedish Authors' Fund distributes grants covering travel costs for translators of Swedish literature and sample translations. More information on [www.svff.se](http://www.svff.se), contact [svff@svff.se](mailto:svff@svff.se)

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