

SPEECH BY YANA GUENOVA
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I would like to thank the award jury, the award organisers and the Escuela de Traductores - an absolutely unique institution in whole world, for the privilege of having the name of Next Page Foundation among the winners and next to the name of Gerardo de Cremona.

For my organisation, this award comes at a very special moment, a moment in which - frankly speaking - we have almost started thinking of restructuring and downsizing some of our activities. Now, however, there is a new impetus, a driving force and a sense of recognition that will help us go forward.

We live in a strange world: while nowadays there is an unprecedented number of translations worldwide, more than any time before, still roughly every 2 out of 3 translations in the world are from English. There is nothing wrong with English-speaking authors, of course, nor with English language itself (and I am using it now, instead of Arabic or Spanish). However, we at Next Page and I myself dream of a world in which a literary author from Latvia, Sweden or Albania would not need to wait to become a best-seller in English in order to get the attention of Arab publishers. Similarly, we fantasise about a world in which an Arab writer would not need to start writing in French or English in order to be noticed by publishers in Bulgaria, Turkey or Italy. For this to happen, we work for facilitating direct contacts between organisations, publishers and translators from "the fringes" of Europe and from "non-mainstream" languages.

Our work so far has been possible due to the support of organisations such as the Anna Lindh Foundation, the European Cultural Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the European Commission and the Municipality of Sofia, and I would like to thank all of them. But most of all, as a reader of literature, I would like to thank the literary translators - these silent heroes of literature, who make it possible for us all to access works from all over the world, and whose literary tastes and high quality standards make literature live.