Where poetry lives – Opportunities and challenges of European platform projects as experienced through Versopolis platform

Vilnius, 8th October 2015
Beletrina Academic Press:

- it publishes more than 50 titles every year
- it places great importance on international cooperation; each year about 20 books are published abroad
- it produces two festivals: the annual Days of Poetry and Wine and the World Literatures – Fabula Festival
- it runs Biblos - the first Slovene eLibrary and eBookshop and literary portal Airbeletrina
- is the coordinator of European poetry platform Versopolis – where poetry lives
Facts:

- network started: **1. December 2014**
- duration of the project: **2014-2017, afterwards as independent web-media**
- Member organizations (second year of the platform): **13**
- poets selected, translated and presented in member countries in the first year: **55**
Main goals of the platform:

- promotion of emerging poets and their poetry
- poets' mobility
- new translations of poetry
- building audience
- bringing closer all relevant entities in the field of European poetry
- creating new, integrated European poetic identity
- establishing the Versopolis brand
Future goals of the platform:

- Creating a common space for young dynamic European poets
- Audience building
- Creating a link with publishers and opinion makers
- Connecting poetry festivals
- Creating a unique space for poetry and other literary-related content on the web (starting in 2016)
Versopolis is a network of literary festivals from 13 EU member states:

- **ARS POETICA**, Slovakia
- **DNEVI POEZIJE IN VINA (DAYS OF POETRY AND WINE)**, Slovenia
- **FELIX POETRY FESTIVAL**, Belgium
- **GORANOVOST PRZOLJEC (GORAN’S SPRING)**, Croatia
- **HAUSACHER LESELENZ**, Germany
- **EUROPEAN POET OF FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL**, Poland
- **LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL**, Great Britain
- **LE PRINTEMPS DES POÈTES**, France
- **LITERATURE & WINE FESTIVAL**, Austria
- **LITTFEST**, Sweden
- **PAROLE SPALANCATE-FESTIVAL INTERNATIONALE DI POESIA**, Italy
- **POETINIS DRUSKININKŲ RUDUO (DRUSKININKAI POETIC FALL)**, Lithuania
- **STRUSKI VECERI NA POEZIJATA (STRUGA POETRY EVENINGS)**, Macedonia

Two new members in the second year:

- **HAUSACHER LESELENZ**, Germany
- **LES PRINTEMPS DES POETES**, France
Challenges:

- different circumstances, financial systems in each member country
- different types of platform partners (societies, publishing houses, governmental bodies)
- how to motivate all partners to play an active role
- financial reporting – the coordinating partner (Beletrina) also has the role of a supervisor, which can create tensions, so regular communication is necessary
- sustainability – how to make the platform last after the three-year period
Launch of Versopolis webpage in March 2015 (World poetry day) with a short film *Where poetry lives*

www.versopolis.com

Follow us on facebook and twitter:

https://www.facebook.com/versopolis?fref=ts

https://twitter.com/versopolis
Check our *Where poetry lives film* at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8yahGwPlsg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8yahGwPlsg)
Thank you!