Issue for discussion: Selection of a candidate for the Promotion of Literature in Translation Internship (Activity 9)

In the course of planning activities of the second project year a tentative conception of Activity 9 was approved. It presupposed invitation to internship of two representatives of leading cultural institutions - Olesya Ostrovska-Lyuta, project and program manager of the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation for Development of Ukraine and Iryna Deschytysia, manager of Cultural Horizons Program of the Arseniy Yatsenyuk Foundation “Open Ukraine”.

The decision to cancel an open call and to invite to the internship certain specialists was taken consciously and aimed to actively involve influential stakeholders in the process of promotion of Ukrainian literature. The results of the studies, carried out within the Book Platform project, and discussing the problems with representatives of the environment indicate the necessity of establishing a special institution for the effective promotion of Ukrainian literature abroad, as it was done in other European countries. The representatives of leading foundations that express a stable interest in literary issues could become the initiators of establishing such institution. And the internship in the relevant cultural organizations of other countries would be very valuable for them in terms of gaining experience and establishing contacts.

Potential interns confirmed their interest in the issue and gave their prior consent but dramatic events which have been taking place in Ukraine for a few months already prevented from implementing this initiative. This is connected with the unstable situation in the mentioned above foundations and the heavy workload of potential interns. This March Olesya Ostrovska-Lyuta was appointed the First Deputy Minister of Culture of Ukraine. The new position opens great opportunities but also imposes certain restrictions on the performer, for example international business trips during the country crisis are unacceptable.

Thus, taking into account the objective circumstances and a logical approach to the selection of a candidate, the local team of the project made the decision to consider Oleksandra Koval, President of NGO “Publishers’ Forum”, as a candidate for the internship. The organization run by Ms. Oleksandra have been actively dealing with the promotion of literature in translation for twenty years already and strives to further develop its activity in this direction. The choice in favor of an experienced (not young) professional was made with a certain purpose and meets real needs of the environment. After the internship there is a need to involve in cooperation the authorities and other stakeholders and to implement the gained experience in order to start the process of establishing a powerful institution aiming at the promotion of Ukrainian literature in the world. Such ambitious above-task can be fulfilled only by the organization which already has a considerable experience in the implementation of projects aiming at the promotion of literature in translation, but always seeks for new opportunities.
Ms. Oleksandra submitted the application which contains arguments for the relevance and objectives of her professional internship in the Polish Book Institute and the organization which implements the program “Books from Lithuania”. The internship in these organizations will allow to adopt the professional experience, relevant to the Ukrainian literary space.

Agreed on April 25, 2014

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