

# Libraries in the new era: Roles and challenges

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# Introduction

- Long and rich library tradition in Macedonia
- Continuity of professionalism and dedication
- Libraries as centers of learning, culture, and community



# History and Development

- Founded on **November 15, 1945**
- Initial collection: **3,500 books (500 children's)**
- Today: over **500,000 books** across all branches
- Last purpose-built libraries in Skopje : **1974**



# Current Challenges

- Lack of space, resources, and qualified staff
- Absence of a systematic strategy and plan
- Many successes depend on individual dedication
- Clear vision and strategic direction needed on national level



# Importance of Libraries

- Reading is increasingly marginalized

- Consequences: lower functional literacy, weak communication, screen dependency

- Benefits of reading:
  - Expands vocabulary

- Develops intellectual and emotional skills
- Improves mental health

# Young Readers and Early Start

- Nurturing readers from early age = key to the future
- Example: Poland – every newborn receives books and a library membership
- Library as the third safe space (after home and school)

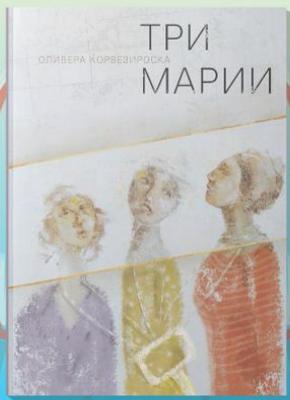


# Our Programs

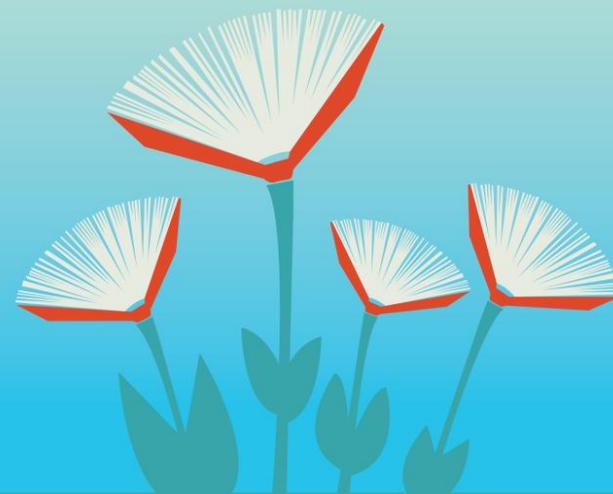
- Campaign: “Reading Contemporary Macedonian Authors”
  - 27 author talks
  - 27 reader clubs
  - Award: “Promoters of Reading Culture”
- Creative Writing Workshop
  - 2 anthologies published
  - Third season in preparation
- Polish Library Corner:
  - Donations, training, author visits, exhibitions



# КНИГА НА МЕСЕЦОТ



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## РАЗГОВОР СО РУМЕНА БУЖАРОВСКА

Автор на романот  
„Тони“

06 ОКТОМВРИ

Спомен - соба „Т’ра за југ“, 19:00 часот



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# Mission and Vision

- Books = fundamental human right
- Increase access to books for all readers
- Engage young people through activities and programs
- Networking and collaboration with institutions, publishers and schools



**BookStar 2025**  
Festival of European Literature #11

29.09 - 02.10

bookstar.mk



📅 1 октомври

🕒 12.00

📍 Градска библиотека „Браќа Миладиновци“

## КНИЖЕВНО ЧИТАЊЕ „ЗА ПИСАТЕЛЦКИТЕ РАБОТИ“

### Странски учесници:

Шоле Резазаде (Холандија / Иран), Серај Шахинер (Турција),  
Ондреј Штиндл (Чешка), Ахмет Умит (Турција), Мајнхард Раухенштајнер (Австрија)

### Домашни учесници:

Блаже Минеvски, Александар Прокопиев, Калина Малеска,  
Ермис Лафазановски, Михајло Свидерски, Иван Антоновски, Дијана Петрова  
**Водител:** Тијана Милиќ

📅 October 1

🕒 12:00

📍 City Library "Brothers Miladinovci"

## LITERARY READING "ON WRITING MATTERS"

### Guest writers:

Sholeh Rezazadeh (Netherlands/Iran), Seray Şahiner (Türkiye),  
Ondřej Štindl (Czech Republic), Ahmet Ümit (Türkiye), Meinhard Rauchensteiner (Austria)

### Host writers:

Blaže Minevski, Aleksandar Prokopiev, Kalina Maleska,  
Ermis Lafazanovski, Mihajlo Sviderski, Ivan Antonovski, Dijana Petrova

**Presenter:** Tijana Milikj



# Conclusion

- Libraries are an investment, not an expense
- Make reading and library visits “cool” again
- Strategic support and long-term investment =  
key to success