

"KROKODIL"

WRITERS IN RESIDENCE

Introduction

Residency for Writers in Belgrade - “Krokodil’s Writers-in-Residence program” is the project launched in **October 2012** by the **Association KROKODIL** from Belgrade, Serbia. Established in **2009**, **Association KROKODIL** specializes in promotion of literature and organization of literary events. The main activity at which the **Association KROKODIL** is engaged is the **literary festival KROKODIL** - www.krokodil.rs - which recently celebrated its **20th edition**.

Srećko Horvat in Novi Sad, Crna kuća, 2014



“Krokodil’s Writers-in-Residence program” offers to the writers from all over the world the possibility to spend one month in Belgrade with accommodation and monthly stipend in order to continue with their work in a new, inspiring context.

The program offers a free-of-charge apartment in the broader center of the city, completely covered travel cost from and to the country of origin and a solid monthly stipend for living expenses. Our main aim is to allow and encourage foreign authors to get more closely acquainted with the Serbian society and culture and, in turn, for the Serbian literary audiences to enjoy a steady influx of different writers from all over the globe.

The project was initially supported by **TRADUKI foundation**, **ERSTE BANK** and the **City of Belgrade**. In **2013**, several foreign embassies and cultural centers recognized the importance of the **Residency** and decided to fund one month stays for the writers from their respective countries.

In the past three years, therefore, **KROKODIL’s residency for writers** hosted 26 writers, among whom are **Daša Drndić** (Croatia), **Ognjen Spahić** (Montenegro), **Olya Stoyanova** (Bulgaria), **Rumena Bužarovska** (Macedonia), **Sylvain Prudhomme** (France), **Ingvar Von Malmborg** (Sweden), **Faruk Šehić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), **Tea Tulić** (Croatia), **Navid Kermani** (Germany), **Lena Ollmark** (Sweden), **Tibor Pandur** (Slovenia), **Emmanuel Adely** (France), **Olle Bergman** (Sweden), **Marko Tomaš** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), **Marcel Beyer** (Germany), **Alexandra Lucas Coelho** (Portugal).



Press conference announcing the program, Matthias Mueller-Wieferig (director of the Goethe-Institut Belgrad), Slavica Marković-Sandić (Swedish embassy Belgrade) and Philippe Le Moine (cultural attache, French institute)

Context

The **city of Belgrade**, as one of the oldest European cities, has had a tumultuous history. Most recently, throughout the last decade of the twentieth century it has been a motor of the wars that split Yugoslavia apart and ended up with the bombing of the city by the **NATO forces**. Even though political life in Serbia ever since the turn of the century and millennium has continued to be rocky, the life has returned to normal and the years of economical, political and cultural blockade were finally over. This is why nowadays Belgrade is once more ready to adopt a role of friendly and open city ready to attract and accept new visitors. In such context, the intensification of cultural communication with the rest of the world became one of the priorities of the city life and Krokodil's Writers-in-Residence program is our contribution to this activity. Belgrade is an everchanging city that tries to overcome it's problematic recent past. Despite most European capital cities it is an unfinished place that changes it's sensibility almost on a daily basis. The continuous presence of writers from different cultures in a city like Belgrade influences the rise and formation of the new identity of this Balkan capital.

Activities

The **guest writers** use their time in Belgrade for their own work and research, but they will also be involved in the city's literary and cultural life. All candidates may be asked to give guest lectures or readings for students and to write a blog on the residence's webpage.

So far, guest writers had public events in different venues and institutions, such as the Faculty of Philology, Faculty of Medicine, Cultural centre of Belgrade, Cultural centre KC Grad, Nova iskra design hub, Cinema Rex, and were involved in different programs in Belgrade and other towns, such as Novi Sad, Zrenjanin, Pristina, Kosovska Mitrovica, Sarajevo etc.

Ten books were published as a direct outcome of the writers's stay in Belgrade, among whom are Lena Ollmark's collection of stories "**Misteriozna kuća u šumi**" (Odiseja, 2014), Tea Tulić's collection of stories "**Kosa posvuda**" (LOM, 2012), Marko Tomaš's book of poems "**Varanje smrti**" (LOM, 2014), and etc.

Olle Bergman, at the Faculty of Philology, department of Swedish language, Belgrade 2014



The Residency

The apartment A completely furnished one bedroom flat has all the amenities of a standard apartment, furnishings, work desk and chair, bath, towels, bedding, mobile phone,



WiFi, housekeeping services.



Study

What we can offer

By this project, **Association [KROKODIL](#)** aims at stimulating the quality and availability of local and foreign authors and literature, as well as literature translated into Serbian. We offer to the literary authors the financial scope to work on a professional basis while in Belgrade, by providing good working and living conditions and travel grants to writers of fiction, poetry, non-fiction, children's books and drama.

Marko Tomaš at the Reader's club for high school students, Zrenjanin, 2013



During their stay in Serbia, authors have the opportunity to get acquainted and meet with organizations and professionals of their specific interest (theatre, journalism, prose, poetry, etc.).

Association KROKODIL is also organizing meetings with editors and at least two public readings (in Belgrade and in some other Serbian cities). The guest authors are also presented on our website, and actively promoted via local media and social networks.

Audience at Srećko Horvat's book promotion, Belgrade, 2014



In 2014, association KROKODIL became part of the project called **Create In Residence**, initiated by Swedish institute. This project was developed to intensify cooperation and exchange of artist-in-residence programs between Sweden and Serbia. Krokodil started cooperation with Baltic Centre for writers and translators from Gottland, and Seriecenter from Malmo, and so far four Serbian writers and two comic book authors spent a month each in Sweden.

The future aim of Krokodil is to expand the network and to also serve as a platform of cooperation between Serbian and European writers and residences.



German writer Clemens Meyer

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Swedish Insitute, <http://eng.si.se>

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