

Le Centre national du livre

Support for Translation

FAQS

Founded in 1946, the Centre national du livre (CNL) is a public institution under the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. Its mission is to support French authors, translators, publishers, booksellers, librarians and organizers of literary events. To do this, it gives them funding in the form of subsidies, grants or loans. These are awarded by the CNL president after consultation with each of the specialized commissions, and amount to 42 million euros annually. Decisions to grant subsidies are made after qualitative assessment of the projects. The CNL's aim is to foster creativity and the publication and distribution of quality works that uphold the diversity of intellectual and literary creation in France .

Is my project eligible to receive CNL support?

Yes

- If you are a professional publisher who bears the costs of publishing books selected by you; if the rights of the work to be translated have been licensed to you by a license agreement which is valid on the date your application is submitted; if you can show that you have a network distributing to bookshops in the territory covered by the license agreement
- If the original work for translation is in French, not in the public domain and belongs to one of the following categories: literature, children's literature, comic books and graphic novels, poetry, drama, science, social and human sciences, philosophy, religious studies, the arts, history, geography
- If the translator is a professional person operating independently, remunerated according to the terms of a translation contract in keeping with intellectual property law

No

- If you practise self-publishing or if the authors you publish bear the costs of publication;
- If the publication date of the work to be translated is prior to its examination by the CNL commission
- If the work to be translated has already been awarded direct or indirect subsidies amounting to 50% of the total cost of the translation; however, subsidies for translation can be added to other funding for publication from other public or private institutions;
- If the translation is not made directly from the original language, but from an 'intermediate' translation; if the translator is not remunerated or if their remuneration is clearly inferior to customary practice in your country

How do I apply?

You must transmit the completed application dossier to the French publisher and rights holder of the work, who will pass it on to the CNL. Dossiers must not be sent directly to the CNL.

What supporting documents must I enclose with my application?

The following must be sent to the French publisher and rights holder:

- **The completed application form, which can be downloaded at this address:
<http://centrenationaldulivre.fr/fr/editeur/presentation>**

N.B. You must give all the information requested *in French* concerning the translator (CV and list of publications) and detailed motivations for your request in the appropriate section. This information is important to the *commissions* who assess your dossier.

- **For a first application, detailed information in French about your distribution network , or, failing that, the list of bookshops selling the books in your catalogue on a national scale;**
- **A presentation of your publishing house in French, and a link to your Internet site. Failing that, your printed catalogue;**
- **A paginated excerpt of the translation between 30 and 50 pages, with no mention of the translator's name in order to preserve anonymity when it is submitted to an independent expert, together with the corresponding pages of the original text;**
- **A copy of the publisher-translator contract dated and signed, in keeping with customary practice in the country concerned, with a translation into French of the key points of the contract: title and author's name, delivery date for the translation, amount and nature of payment to the translator, date of signature.**

When should I submit my application?

The French publisher and rights holder must complete the dossier by adding information about the original work and the translation rights contract. In order to be on time for the appropriate CNL commission, you should send the complete application dossier one month before the closing date for submission established by the CNL and posted on the Internet site (<http://www.centrenationaldulivre.fr>).

For the year 2013, the closing dates have been set: **February 20, June 10 and October 31.** **This means your completed dossier should be sent to the French publisher and rights holder before January 20, May 10 and September 30.**

Please bear in mind that given the number of applications, there can be no exemptions from the CNL closing dates. Any dossier submitted after that date will be presented at the following session.

What are the assessment criteria?

Like all the other forms of CNL support, those for translation from French into other languages are attributed on a selective basis. In 2012, 279 subsidies were awarded out of 438 applications, i.e. 65% were successful.

Application dossiers are examined by two specialized commissions: firstly literature and secondly sciences/ technical, human and social sciences. These commissions are made up of book publishing professionals, publishers and translators, chosen for their in-depth knowledge of the production and marketing of books in other countries.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

- The literary, scientific or artistic quality of the original work, which is systematically assessed by an external expert
- Its originality as an editorial project and the compelling reasons for translating it
- Its conformity with the editorial policy of the applicant publisher's catalogue
- The quality of translation shown by the submitted sample, which is systematically assessed by an external expert
- The competence of the translator
- The specific difficulties of translating the original work
- The level of the translator's remuneration and the conformity of their contract to the laws in force in the applicant's country
- The commercial risks undertaken by the publisher and, if relevant, specific extra costs;
- The economic and commercial viability of the project (sales price, target readership, distribution)

Who makes the decision to accept, refuse or adjourn my request?

The decision to accept, refuse, or adjourn your application is taken by the president of the CNL after consultation with the commissions, on average within one month of the date of the commission. For the year 2013, applicants will be informed of decisions at the beginning of March, July and November.

The French publisher is informed of the decision. It is their duty to inform their foreign colleagues.

No justification of decisions is given. The French publisher is informed only of adjournments in view of improving a translation, and must transmit this information to their foreign colleagues who may resubmit their request at a later session, providing a new revised translation sample.

What is the amount of funding granted?

CNL subsidies represent from 30 to 60% of the translation costs, as they appear in the translation contract.

The percentage varies depending on the quality of the original work, of the translation, the foreign publisher's catalogue and the translator's remuneration.

For projects also receiving direct or indirect funding from private or public institutions, an adjustable rate is applied.

For especially ambitious projects (dictionaries, very big formats, series, complex translations...), the publisher can request a formal preliminary opinion from the president of the CNL, on presentation of a letter motivating the application. In this case, the French publisher and rights holder should consult the CNL for advice before beginning to constitute an application dossier.

For projects in which the translation costs are not the main financial investment (highly illustrated, small number of characters), the CNL may, on proposal of the commission, grant the cost of acquiring the rights (text and iconography).

When will the subsidy be paid? Who will receive it?

The translation of the work must not be published prior to the CNL's decision to grant a subsidy. Subsidies are paid on publication of the work and after reception, in the CNL's offices, of a certificate stating that the translator has received the agreed remuneration, as well as a copy of the book with the CNL logo printed on its back cover. The logo may be downloaded at the following address: www.centrenationaldulivre.fr under http://www.centrenationaldulivre.fr/fr/usage_du_logo_du_cnl/ at the bottom of the home page.

The subsidy is paid to the French publisher who will transmit it to the foreign publisher. The CNL has the right to verify that the subsidy has indeed been paid to the foreign publisher. Subsidies cannot be paid directly by the CNL to a translator as a partial or total remuneration. In application of the rules of French public sector accounting, the CNL may lower the amount of the subsidy if, after examining the documents submitted, they observe a reduction in translation costs.

How long does the subsidy remain valid?

Subsidies remain valid for **24 months** from the date of the commission's decision. If the project has not been realized in that period, the decision to grant a subsidy becomes null and void, except in exceptional circumstances to be examined by the President of the CNL, whose decision is final. In such cases, a motivated request in writing should be sent within two months of the date upon which the subsidy is set to expire.



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