

## PROGRAM

### “Salonika – Reinventing Diversity”

June 3-5, 2015

Literary Conference

with authors from Greece, Mediterranean neighbors, and Germany

*An event by the city of Salonika and the literary magazine Entevktirio/ Georgos Kordomenidis in cooperation with the Allianz Cultural Foundation, the Literary Colloquium Berlin and the Goethe Institute Thessaloniki*

The coasts of the Mediterranean region encompass a plethora of cultural diversity which has been coined by centuries of intensive trading and cultural exchange. Salonika in particular looks back at a long history of multi-ethnic coexistence. Over centuries, the urban structure of the city has been shaped by the presence of immigrants and their interaction with the local community. Gradually, the "foreign" became an organic element of the host society, and Salonika acquired a high international reputation as a cosmopolitan metropolis.

However, over the past hundred years, wars and ethnic cleansing have destabilized the basis of this peaceful coexistence and transformed what once was a mare nostrum into a site marked by deadly borderlines.

How can Salonika develop a vision for the future from its multicultural heritage and, along with other urban centers of the region, overcome boundaries and face the major challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How can immigrants nowadays contribute to a new cultural and economic blossoming of the region and of Europe?

We as citizens play an active role in providing answers to these questions. During the three-day literary event "The White Sea", the municipality of Salonika opens its gates to the public for a lively program of readings, discussions, music and film from artists and authors from both Greece and its neighboring countries, inviting to look at, redefine and re-invent cultural diversity in today's context.

*Supported by MIET cultural foundation of the National Bank of Greece and AthenSYN*

„The White Sea“ in Salonika (<http://dasweissemeer.eu/>)

The literary festival “The White Sea” invites authors and artists to reflect on the common cultural heritage in the Mediterranean region, and to develop new narratives for the future. Following stops in Trieste, Tirana and Alexandria, the participants in Salonika will discuss the cosmopolitan past, as well as future challenges of the region within a more diverse Europe.

## Participants/ speakers/ organizers

1. Michael Thoss (Allianz Cultural Foundation)
2. Florian Hoellerer (LCB)
3. Christina Weiss
4. Thanassis Valtinos
5. Phoebe Giannisi
6. Nikol Ljubic
7. Matthias Enard
8. Sherko Fatah
9. Najet Adouani
10. Katja Ehrhardt
11. Ruediger Schaper (Tagesspiegel)
12. Aris Fioretos
13. Mikela Chartoulari
14. Frank Stern (Journal der Allianz)
15. Vassilis Amanatidis (Thessaloniki)
16. Ulrich Ladurner (Die Zeit)
17. Gabriele Benno (Allianz Cultural Foundation)
18. Yiannis Skaragas
19. Christos Chrisopoulous
20. Vassilis Terzopoulos
21. Yorgos Kordomenidis (Entevktirio)
22. Spyridon Moskovou (Deutsche Welle)
23. Werner Bloch
24. Margerita Pournara (Kathimerini)
25. Ljubisa Vrencev (Symbiosis)

### Accommodation:

Hotel Electra Palace  
Aristotelous Square 9  
54624 Thessaloniki  
Tel 231 029 4000

## Program

### Wednesday, June 3

- until 2pm                   Arrival of guests, check in hotel
- 5.30pm                     Meet in hotel lobby for pick-up to Municipality of Thessaloniki
- 7pm                         At Municipality of Thessaloniki (pollaplon chriseon):  
Opening  
Greeting by Mayor Giannis Boutaris  
Greeting by Christina Weiss  
Keynote speech by Thanassis Valtinos (25 min)  
Discussion with Thanassis Valtinos, Mikela Chartoulari and Elli Chrisidou, facilitated by Yorgos Kordomenidis
- 10pm                        Wine reception in the municipality yard with light refreshments

### Thursday, June 4

- 11am                        Meet in hotel lobby for optional guided literary walk through Thessaloniki
- 5.30pm                     Meet in hotel lobby for pick-up to Municipality of Thessaloniki
- 7pm                         Podium discussions and short readings at municipality of Thessaloniki (dimotikou symboliou)
- 1st Podium: 1st Podium: "Greece today: Staying or Leaving?"  
Nikol Ljubic (Germany), Vassilis Amanatidis (Thessaloniki), Yiannis Skaragas (Greece), Phoebe Giannisi (Greece), facilitated Vassilis Terzopoulos
2. Podium: 2. Podium: "The Mediterranean Sea: bridge or border?"  
Matthias Enard (France), Sherko Fatah (Germany), Najet Adouani (Tunisia), Aris Fioretos (Sweden), Christos Chrisopoulos (Greece) facilitated by Ulrich Ladurner (Italy)
- 10pm                        Concert with writer and musician Thomas Korovinis and band in the yard with wine and light refreshments

Friday, June 5

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|---------|---|
| 9.30am  | Meet in hotel lobby for pick-up to Goethe Institute Thessaloniki                          |
| 10.00am | Roundtable discussion of all authors with representatives of NGOs at the Goethe Institute |
| 12 noon | Departure from Goethe Institute to airport  |

Parallel program: Exhibition in the gallery of MIET, guided tour 5 June 7pm