

GENERAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS

READING

COLOMBIA

2025

Incentives for the Translation and Publication of Colombian Literature

General Objective

To support and promote translation and publication of Colombian literary works worldwide, contributing to the creation of new narratives about the country, its people, and its territories through literature. This will be achieved via a grant program for translation of literary works written by Colombian authors, with special emphasis on strengthening the independent publishing sector to foster the sustainability and diversity of a fundamental segment of the cultural and creative economy.

TRANSLATION

AND

PUBLICATION

FOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS

Reading Colombia, a co-financing program for the translation and publication of Colombian literary works into foreign languages, invites international publishing houses and companies to apply for available incentives aimed at fostering the translation and publication of works by Colombian authors.

Foreign for-profit publishing houses and companies that are legally established and interested in translating and publishing Colombian literary works may apply for financial support of **20,000,000 Colombian pesos (COP)**. In total, up to fifteen (15) incentives will be awarded in 2025 for the translation and publication of Colombian works of fiction and non-fiction (short stories, novels, chronicles, biographies, historical essays, essays, and letters), poetry, and children's and young adult literature.

Reading Colombia was launched in 2018 as a strategy to strengthen the publishing sector and promote the internationalization of works by Colombian authors through support for their translation and publication. The 2025 edition is led by the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Knowledge, through the Directorate of Strategy, Development and Entrepreneurship (DEDE), in coordination with the National Library of Colombia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its Directorate of Cultural Affairs.

Participation Requirements

- Eligible titles must be authored by Colombian writers and previously published by Colombian publishing houses.
- Foreign publishing houses applying for the incentive must submit a signed copyright transfer agreement for the publication of the work in another language and territory.
- Each foreign publisher may submit up to two titles.

- Each foreign publisher may receive a maximum of one co-financing grant.
- A single title may receive support from a maximum of two different international publishers.
- Publishers that receive the grant must send four (4) copies of the supported publication to the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Knowledge of Colombia (Calle 9 No. 8-31, Bogotá) and two (2) copies to the Colombian Embassy in the country where the publisher is located.

Who May Apply?

Legally established foreign for-profit publishing houses or companies that hold signed agreements for the publication of Colombian literary works in other languages and territories. Colombian publishers, authors, or agents who hold the rights to the literary works presented may act on behalf of the foreign publisher, but the administrative procedures related to the grant disbursement will be carried out directly with the latter.

Required Documents

Foreign publishing houses must submit the following documentation:

- Signed copyright transfer agreement between both parties for the Colombian title submitted.
- Translator's résumé.
- Detailed project timeline, including a commitment to publish the work within 18 months of receiving the grant.
- Detailed promotional and distribution plan for the translated and published Colombian literary work.

Winning publishers must include in the printed copies the Reading Colombia logo and the statement: *"Published with the support of the Reading Colombia program, co-financing for translation and publication."*

Evaluation and Grant Award Process

The Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Knowledge and the National Library of Colombia will establish a selection committee made up of members from the Directorate of Strategy, Development and Entrepreneurship, the National Library, and its Book, Literature, and Reading Group. This committee will meet bimonthly to review applications and award grants based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria

- The book must be written and/or illustrated by Colombian author(s).
- The book must have been previously published by a Colombian publishing house.

- The book must not be in the public domain (in accordance with Colombian law, Law 1915 of 2018, which modifies Law 23 of 1982: copyright is valid during the author's lifetime and for eighty years after their death. In the case of co-authorship, the term is counted from the death of the last co-author).
- A signed copyright transfer agreement must be submitted, guaranteeing the right to publish the work in the target language.

The committee will also assess the relevance and impact of the proposed publication.

Proposals meeting all requirements and criteria will receive a base score of 20 out of 50 points in the evaluation process.

Additional points (non-cumulative) will be awarded as follows:

- 10 points: for proposals involving works written by women, LGBTQ+ authors, Afro-Colombian, Raizal, Palenquero, or Indigenous authors, or that represent the ethnic diversity of Colombia.
- 10 points: for works originally published by independent Colombian publishers.
- 10 points: for proposals from languages or regions not previously selected in earlier editions of the program.

Applications will be evaluated in the order of submission and upon verification of compliance with all requirements.

Notifications regarding the awarding of all incentives will be published on the websites and social media channels of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Knowledge and the National Library of Colombia.

The 2025 open call will remain open from May 8 to October 31, 2025, or until all grants have been awarded, in accordance with the criteria established by the selection committee.

For more information, please visit:

- Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Knowledge: www.mincultura.gov.co
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.cancilleria.gov.co
- National Library of Colombia: bibliotecanacional.gov.co