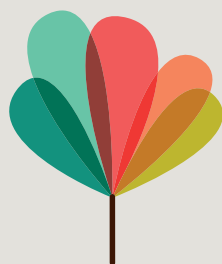


# EUROPA28 2020 REPORT



## HAY FESTIVAL EUROPA28





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Asja Bakić and Anda Bukvić



Zadie Smith and Carolina Sanín

# HAY FESTIVAL

## Europa28 2020

Hay Festival Europa28 took place as a hybrid festival – both digital and with physical events in Rijeka, Croatia. The festival ran 6–9 October 2020 in partnership with the European Short Story Festival, and gathered thousands of viewers from more than sixty countries across all continents, with participants from the 28 European countries. Europa28 is a Hay Festival project funded by Wom@rts, highlighting the contribution of women in Europe across the fields of literature, science and the arts.

There is a growing sense that Europe needs to be fixed, or at the least seriously rethought. The clamour of rising nationalism alongside widespread feelings of disenfranchisement need to be addressed if dreams of social cohesion, European integration, perhaps even democracy, are to be preserved.

This project brings together 28 acclaimed women writers, artists, scientists and entrepreneurs from across the continent to offer new perspectives on the future of Europe, and how it might be rebuilt. Through live events and a book, featuring essays, fictions and short plays, Europa28 asks what it means to be European today and demonstrates with clarity and often humour how women really do see things differently.

“Inspiring, essential, honest and deeply humane... This brilliant collection takes readers on a brave journey into our beloved continent, Europe, daring to tell the stories beyond its centres of power and privilege.”

Elif Shafak on the *Europa28* anthology



The city of Rijeka in Croatia was designated Rijeka 2020 – European Capital of Culture. Hay Festival organised a four-day festival in Rijeka in October 2020, bringing together prominent female authors, thinkers, writers and scientists. One participant was chosen from each EU country, across genres and generations, to discuss their visions of the future for Europe. The festival took a digital format for most events, with a few selected activities held in person.

Europa28 worked in collaboration with the Festival of the European Short Story and the Academy of Applied Arts in Rijeka. It is funded by Wom@rts and the European Union, Creative Europe.

Wom@rts highlights the contribution of women in European cultural heritage and diversity. It tackles gender inequality by supporting their presence in the field from a cross-sectoral perspective, promoting a wide range of mobility actions, knowledge, tools, training activities and events.



Dijana Dominis Prester, Asja Bakić and Janne Teller



Anda Bukvić and Elif Shafak





## HAY FESTIVAL EUROPA28 VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

In March 2020 the anthology *Europa28: Visions for the Future*, edited by Sophie Hughes and Sarah Cleave, was published by Comma Press in the UK and Fraktura in Croatia, featuring short stories and essays from the selected writers on the subject of what Europe means to them. The book also came out in Spanish in September 2020, published by Galaxia Gutenberg.

“Europe is a continent in perpetual change, it has been the birthplace to some of the world’s most unifying works of art and its most terrifying ideologies. Hay Festival Europa28 seeks to unearth the new ideas and art that can lead us forwards in this moment of political and cultural division, driven by an inspiring group of women who share their visions as beacons to guide the next generation. Our new anthology and events will be spaces in which to think and to hope. Join us.”

**Cristina Fuentes, Hay Festival International Director**

“As a publisher, Comma is committed to platforming writers and writing that challenge readers and offer new perspectives on global issues. The stories and essays gathered in this anthology do exactly that; they examine both the idea and the reality of Europe and put forward a set of ideas – a creative manifesto if you like – on how we might rebuild it for the better.”

**Sarah Cleave, Publishing Manager at Comma Press**

“We are in the grip of a technology revolution that is changing the contours of our continent; our public and private worlds. In response, Europe needs a sibling social revolution: bold systems, radical mindsets: new ways of supporting all to flourish. This is my work – the creation of new and radical social systems designed with and for communities across Europe. So I am honoured and delighted to be collaborating with the amazing women of Hay Festival Europa28: together we will seed something special.”

**Hilary Cottam, author of *Radical Help* and Hay Festival Europa28 representative for the UK, on her part in the project**





Pročítat ću vam dio  
ulomka iz svog eseja.

Tereza Nvotová



Leïla Slimani

# The Festival IN NUMBERS

19 events

40+ participants from...

28 different countries

## VIEWERS BY COUNTRY

UK: 135 USA: 513 **Colombia: 343** Croatia: 294  
Mexico: 174 Spain: 109 **Canada: 100** France: 90  
Germany: 58 Belgium: 42 **Italy: 37** Portugal: 34  
South Africa: 33 India: 33 **Peru: 33** Hungary: 23  
Ireland: 22 Poland: 22 **Cyprus: 19** Netherlands: 17  
Norway: 16 Finland: 13 **Argentina: 12** Serbia: 11  
Turkey: 11 Other countries: 161 (fewer than 10  
persons, more than 45 other countries)

## WEBSITE

More than 30,000 page views from programme  
release throughout the live Festival

45,000 total page views throughout the whole  
project (December 2018 to date)

Programme views online: more than 22,000  
impressions

Viewers from more than 60 countries

Total time watched: 56 days 11 hours 41 minutes

## SOCIAL NETWORKS

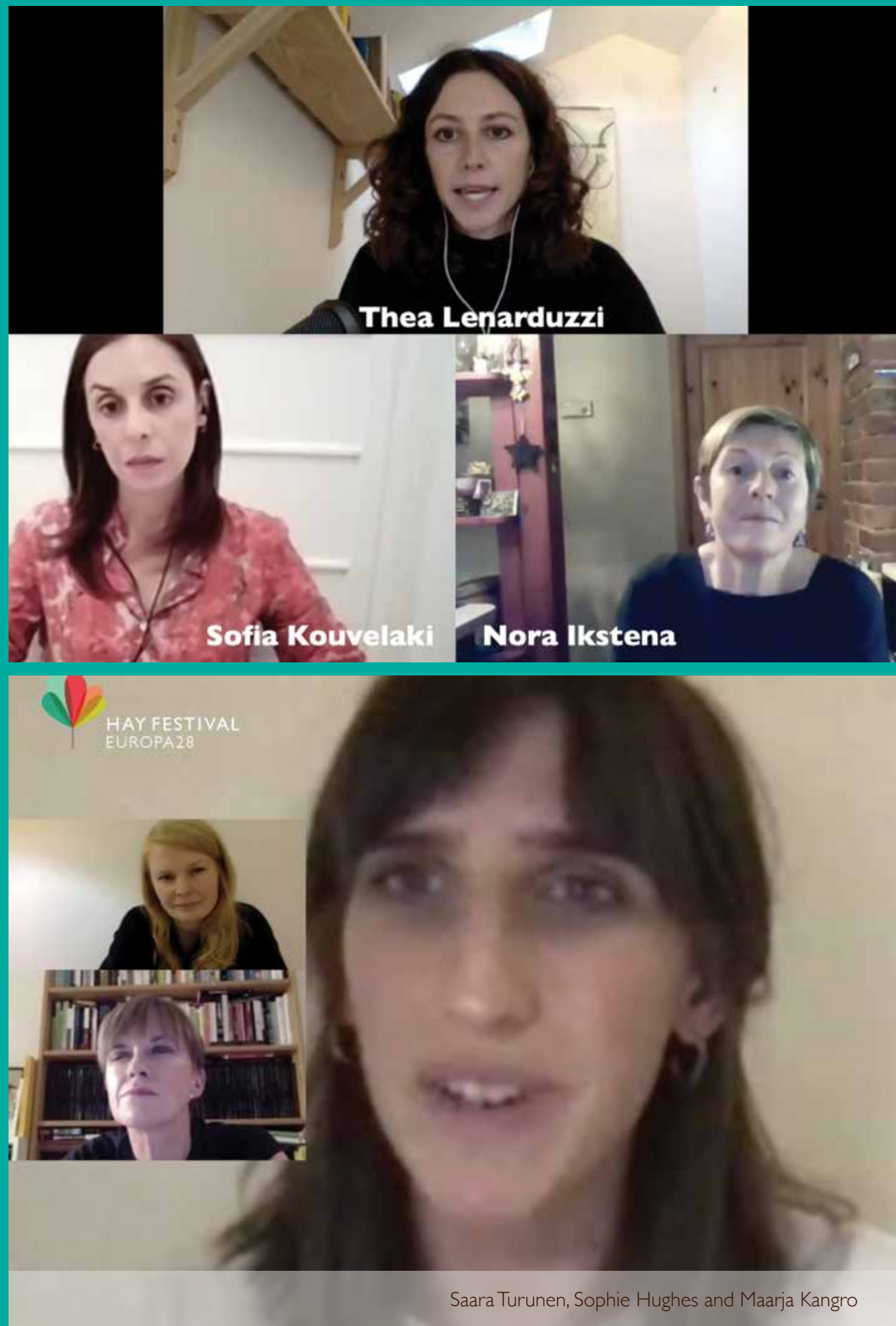
450 updates during the Festival period

**TWITTER** More than 1 million people reached

**FACEBOOK** 185,000 impressions

**INSTAGRAM** 150,000 impressions

**YOUTUBE** 5 shorts + Festival trailer generated  
1,172 views



Saara Turunen, Sophie Hughes and Maarja Kangro

# The Festival IN THE MEDIA

1 million+  
people reached

Articles from major media such as *The Guardian*, *T-Portal*, *El Pais*, *Jutarni*, *Financial Times*, *The New European*, *The Bookseller*

"Europa28 is not one of those anthologies thrown together quickly to reflect the Zeitgeist – although it does – but is a considered balance of educational, entertaining, amusing and urgent stories"

*Literaturhauseuropa*

150 articles from more than...

5 different countries

"The scale of vision is ambitious... a bright celebration of unity in difference."

*The Guardian*

"A fascinating and diverse collection of expositions on what Europe can, could, or should mean."

*Translating Women*





# Inspiring WOMEN ARTISTS

These 28 women, one from each European country, represent a multi-disciplinary snapshot of the best minds of our time.

<b>Asja Bakić</b> – poet, writer, translator	Croatia
<b>Zsófia Bán</b> – writer, critic, scholar	Hungary
<b>Annelies Beck</b> – writer, journalist	Belgium
<b>Silvia Bencivelli</b> – scientific journalist	Italy
<b>Hilary Cottam</b> – entrepreneur, activist	UK
<b>Lisa Dwan</b> – performer, director	Ireland
<b>Yvonne Hofstetter</b> – lawyer, essayist	Germany
<b>Nora Ikstena</b> – essayist	Latvia
<b>Maarja Kangro</b> – poet, translator	Estonia
<b>Kapka Kassabova</b> – poet, writer	Bulgaria
<b>Sofia Kouvelaki</b> – activist	Greece
<b>Carine Kreké</b> – artist	Luxembourg
<b>Caroline Muscat</b> – journalist	Malta
<b>Nora Nadjarian</b> – poet, writer	Cyprus
<b>Ioana Nicolaie</b> – author	Romania
<b>Bronka Nowicka</b> – director, screenwriter, poet	Poland
<b>Tereza Nvotová</b> – director, actress	Slovakia
<b>Ana Pessoa</b> – author	Portugal
<b>Edurne Portela</b> – author	Spain
<b>Julya Rabinowich</b> – writer, painter, interpreter	Austria
<b>Karolina Ramqvist</b> – writer	Sweden
<b>Apolena Rychlíková</b> – filmmaker and journalist	Czech Republic
<b>Renata Salecl</b> – philosopher, sociologist	Slovenia
<b>Leïla Slimani</b> – author	France
<b>Janne Teller</b> – author, activist	Denmark
<b>Saara Turunen</b> – playwright, director, author	Finland
<b>Žydrūnė Vitaitė</b> – entrepreneur, economist	Lithuania
<b>Gloria Wekker</b> – anthropologist	Netherlands







Bronka Nowicka  
POLAND

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Carine Krecké  
LUXEMBOURG

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Gloria Wekker  
NETHERLANDS

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Nora Ikstena  
LATVIA

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Nora Nadjarian  
CYPRUS

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Renata Salecl  
SLOVENIA

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Hilary Cottam  
UNITED KINGDOM

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Ioana Nicolaie  
ROMANIA

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Janne Teller  
DENMARK

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Saara Turunen  
FINLAND

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Silvia Bencivelli  
ITALY

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Sofia Kouvelaki  
GREECE

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Julia Rabinowich  
AUSTRIA

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Kapka Kassabova  
BULGARIA/UK

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Karolina Ramqvist  
SWEDEN

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Tereza Nvotová  
SLOVAKIA

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Zsófia Bán  
HUNGARY

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Yvonne Hofstetter  
GERMANY

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Leïla Slimani  
FRANCE

HAY  
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EUROPE



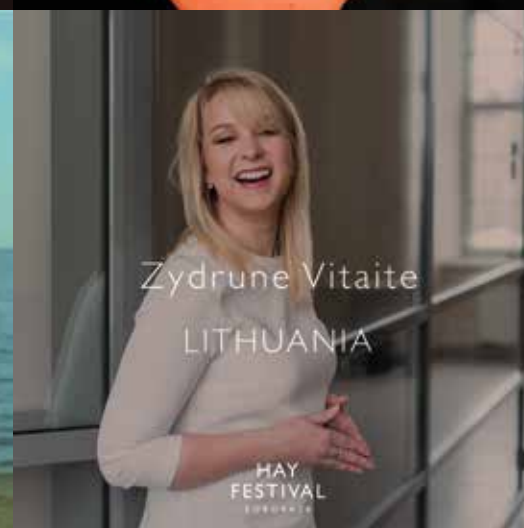
Lisa Dwan  
IRELAND

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Maarja Kangro  
ESTONIA

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Žydrune Vitaite  
LITHUANIA

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Asja Bakić  
CROATIA

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



Annelies Beck  
BELGIUM

HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPE



# PRAISE

## for Hay Festival Europa28 2020

### THE MEDIA ON THE ANTHOLOGY

“Las mujeres vemos las cosas de una manera distinta. No podría ser de otra forma. Igual que todo el mundo, integramos nuestras experiencias únicas a la percepción de cualquier problema.”

Todo Literatura (Spain)

“Un libro de ensayos que reúne las reflexiones sobre el futuro de nuestro continente de una mujer del campo de la literatura, la ciencia y las artes, y de todas las generaciones, de cada país de la Unión Europea.”

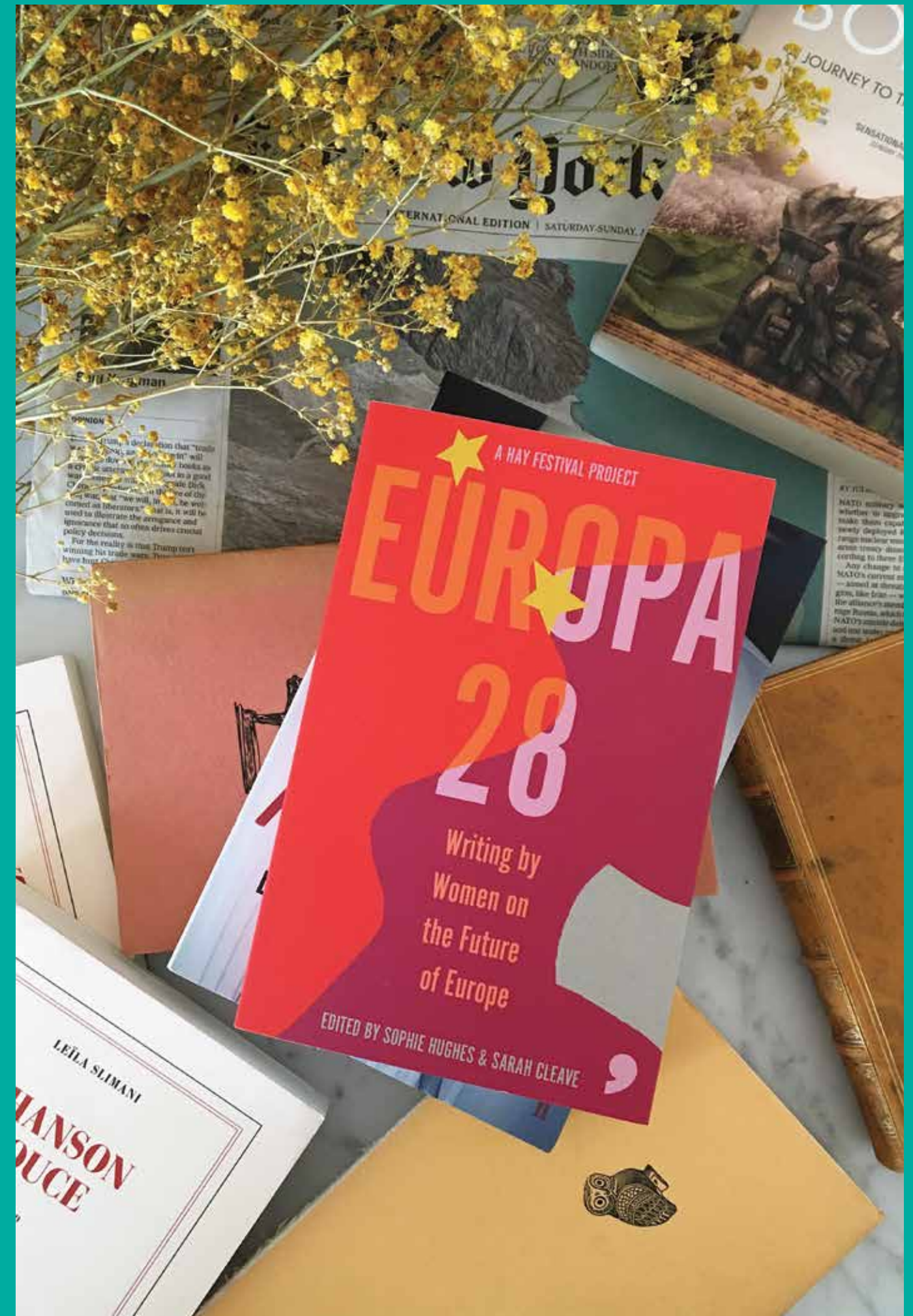
El Cultural (Spain)

“When the hummingbird hovered above a flower with that spectacular blur of wings, its heartbeat was unbelievable.”

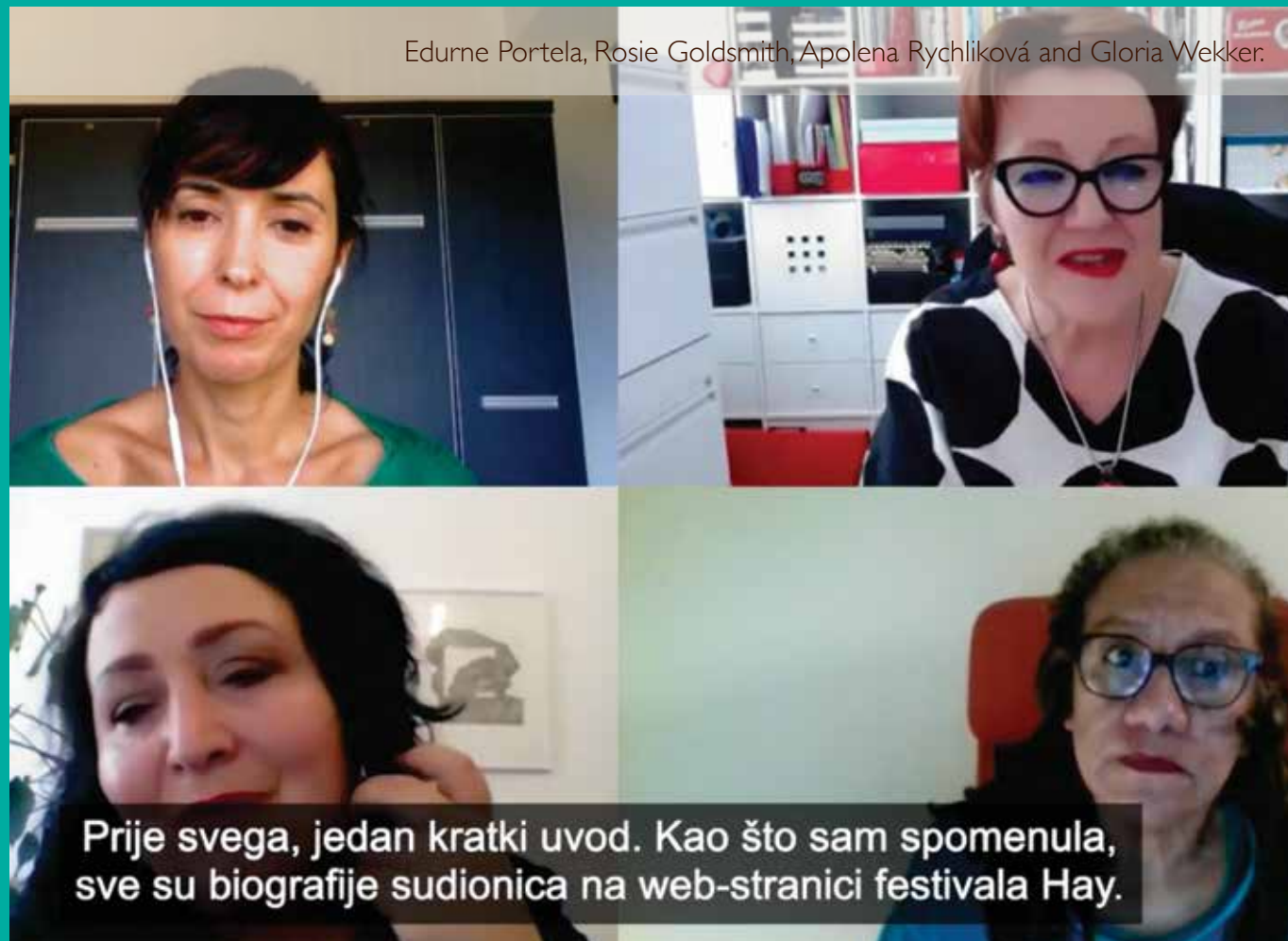
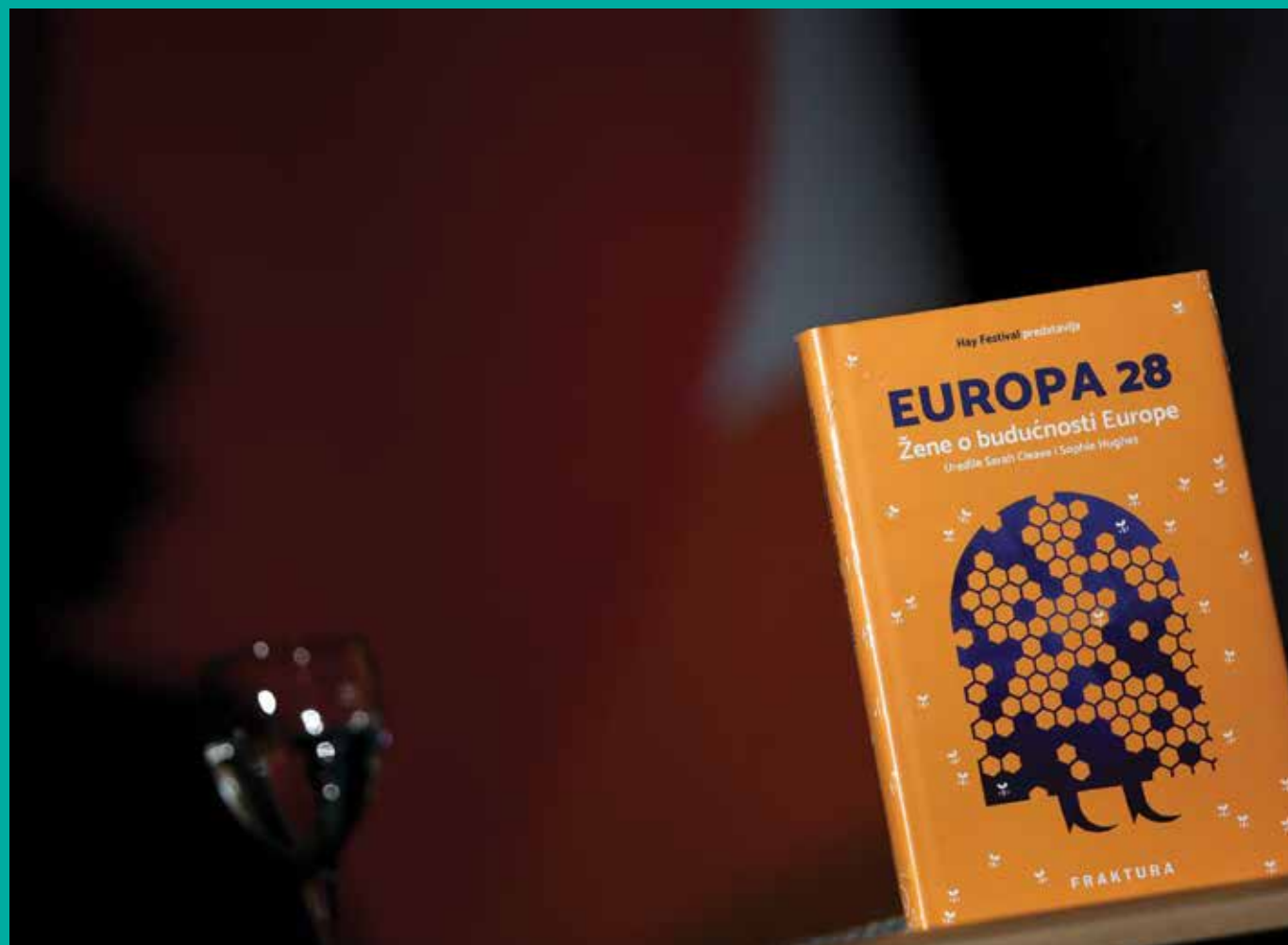
LitHub

“Many write about freedom, and the wildly divergent pieces themselves make a statement about artistic freedom, including the freedom to be off the wall. Freedom is a recurring theme in an ambitious collection edited by Sophie Hughes and Sarah Cleave.”

The Guardian







## PARTICIPANTS

“What an inspiration! Thank you all! Fantastic event and organization and rich discussion – in insights, perspectives... I am lucky to meet you.”

Žydrune Vitaite

“Inspiring, essential, honest and deeply humane... This brilliant collection takes readers on a brave journey into our beloved continent, Europe, daring to tell the stories beyond its centres of power and privilege.”

Elif Shafak

## PRAISE FOR THE ANTHOLOGY

“Essays on the EU’s future deliver warnings on the dream of becoming a beacon for the world.”

*The Financial Times*

“The anthology provides a literary platform for 28 insightful, pragmatic and enlightened female voices”

*The Irish Times*

“There’s plenty to engage with in this sharp collection... I can’t speak for everyone but this common humanity makes sense to me.”

Paul Burke

“Informative, touching, and occasionally funny, the book is enough to make one optimistic about the future.”

*The London Magazine*

“A fascinatingly detailed and hopeful collection that not only takes us travelling in and out of different countries, and their both significant and buried away moments in history; but it doesn’t shy away from asking difficult questions of the current climate.”

*For Books’ Sake*

“If you are interested in exceptional women writers, immersive, thought-provoking writing, for hope and inspiration, do pick Europa28 up.”

*The Literary Addict*

“Exquisitely written, translated, challenging and important.”

Rosie Goldsmith, Literaturhaus

“Europa28 is honest, brave and engrossing... both experimental and accessible in equal measure. Read it, please.”

Storgy



“In the UK’s Brexit bubble, an island in more sense than one, European politics seem artificially distant. Reading this book underlines the naivety in believing we are so very different.”

Andy McDougall

“This group of female writers recognise Europe’s flaws and riches, its challenges as well as its beauty... Europa28 is a call to action for us all.”

Cathy Castling, Goodreads user

“An excellent collection [...] a timely and important book.”

Bronwen Griffiths, Goodreads user

“A modern look at Europe, such a good collection.”

Haven Hightower, Goodreads user

“Thought-provoking and provides hope and inspiration from exceptional women writers.”

Number 9 Reviews

“This will be a body of work that encapsulates the human spirit. These writers and thinkers will change the world.”

Caroline Michel, Chair of Hay Festivals

“These writers are delivering their visions for the future – this is something we really need right now as we look to reimagine our institutions and relationships.”

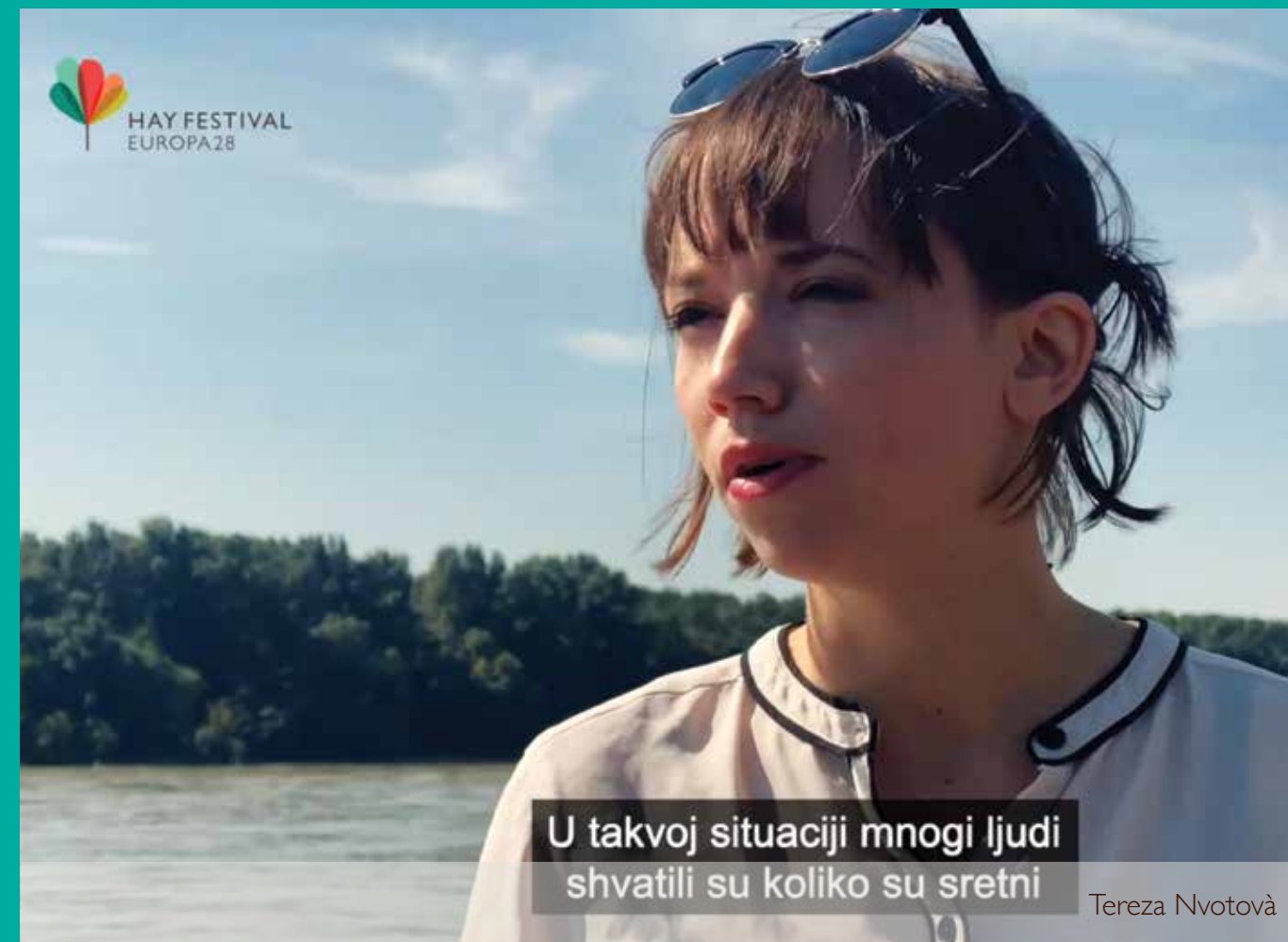
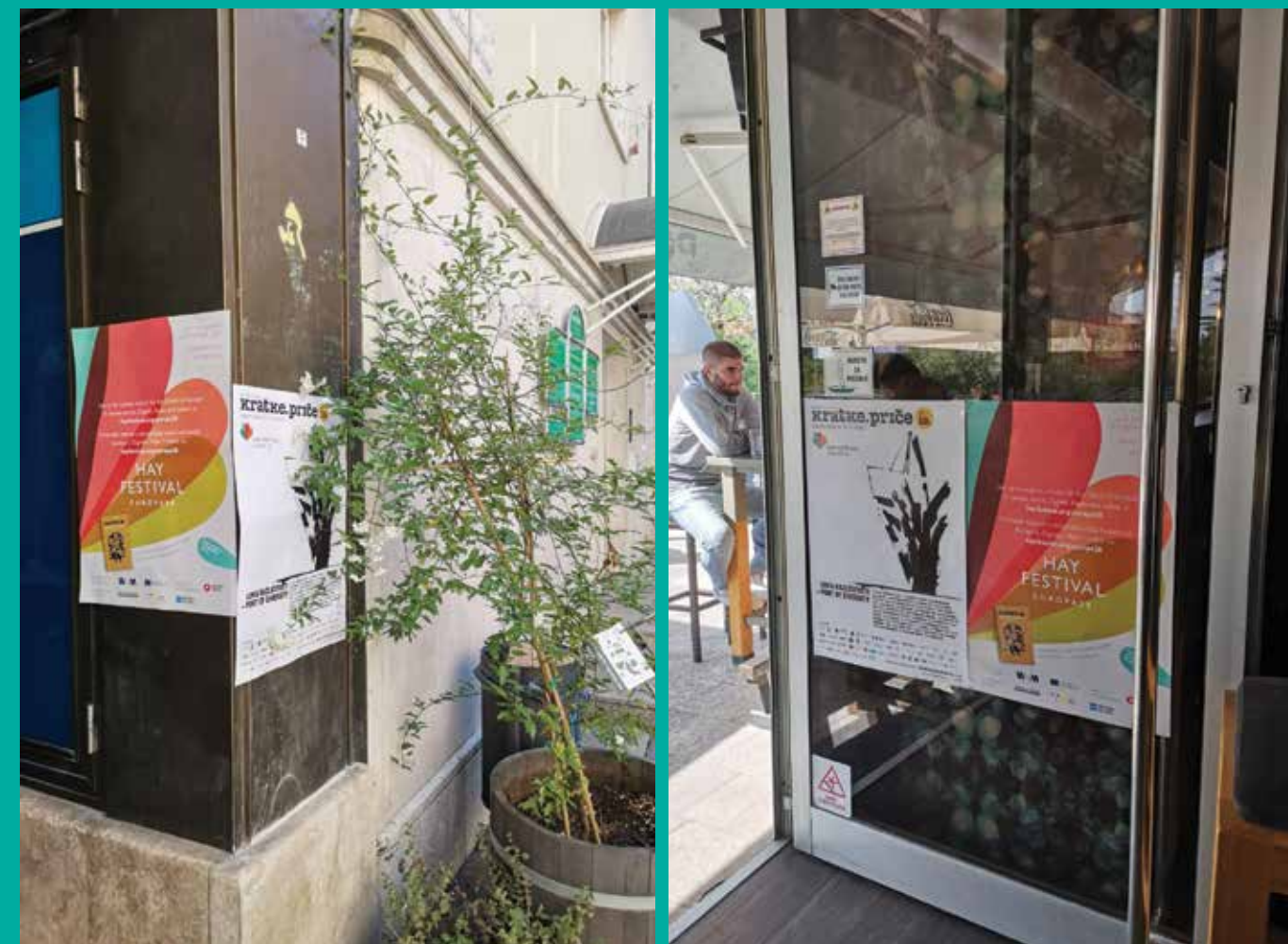
Roman Simic, Fraktura

“Women from that part of the world are so often Valkyries and we should know more about their stories and their bravery. The female domain has traditionally been the private one, not the public, so they are only just discovering that they can have a foothold there, too.”

Storgy

“It is women’s writing yet not writing solely about women. Europa28, as such, allows each essay or story to speak for itself, as part of an anthology, isolating it in a manner that articulates the paradox of the European project: the assertion of the sovereign individual as an abiding member of a collective union.”

*The London Magazine*







Asja Bakić

“Anyone misguidedly hoping for each chapter to homogenously represent and explain an entire country and its thoughts will be disappointed. No one can speak for a nation, but we can speak from a nation and we can, and should, listen to more voices from more nations. We might just find more parallels than we expected.”

**Beyond the Lines blog**

“What’s particularly special about that last theme is its focus on diversity, as Rijeka intends on making clear that it supports an inclusive society. Hay Festival is already a prestigious literary event in the UK, but this year it’s heading to Rijeka to highlight the contribution of women in Europe across the fields of literature, science and the arts.”

**Stylist**

“Hay Festival has unveiled its publishing plans for *Hay Festival Europa28: Visions for the Future*, a collection of new work by women writers, artists and scientists exploring the future of Europe.”

**The Bookseller**

“Comma Press is currently working in collaboration with Hay Festival and Wom@rts to present Europa28 – an anthology of essays and short stories bringing together 28 acclaimed women from 28 European countries to envision the future of Europe, which we believe is much needed in this tumultuous and ever-changing time.”

**Writing.ie**

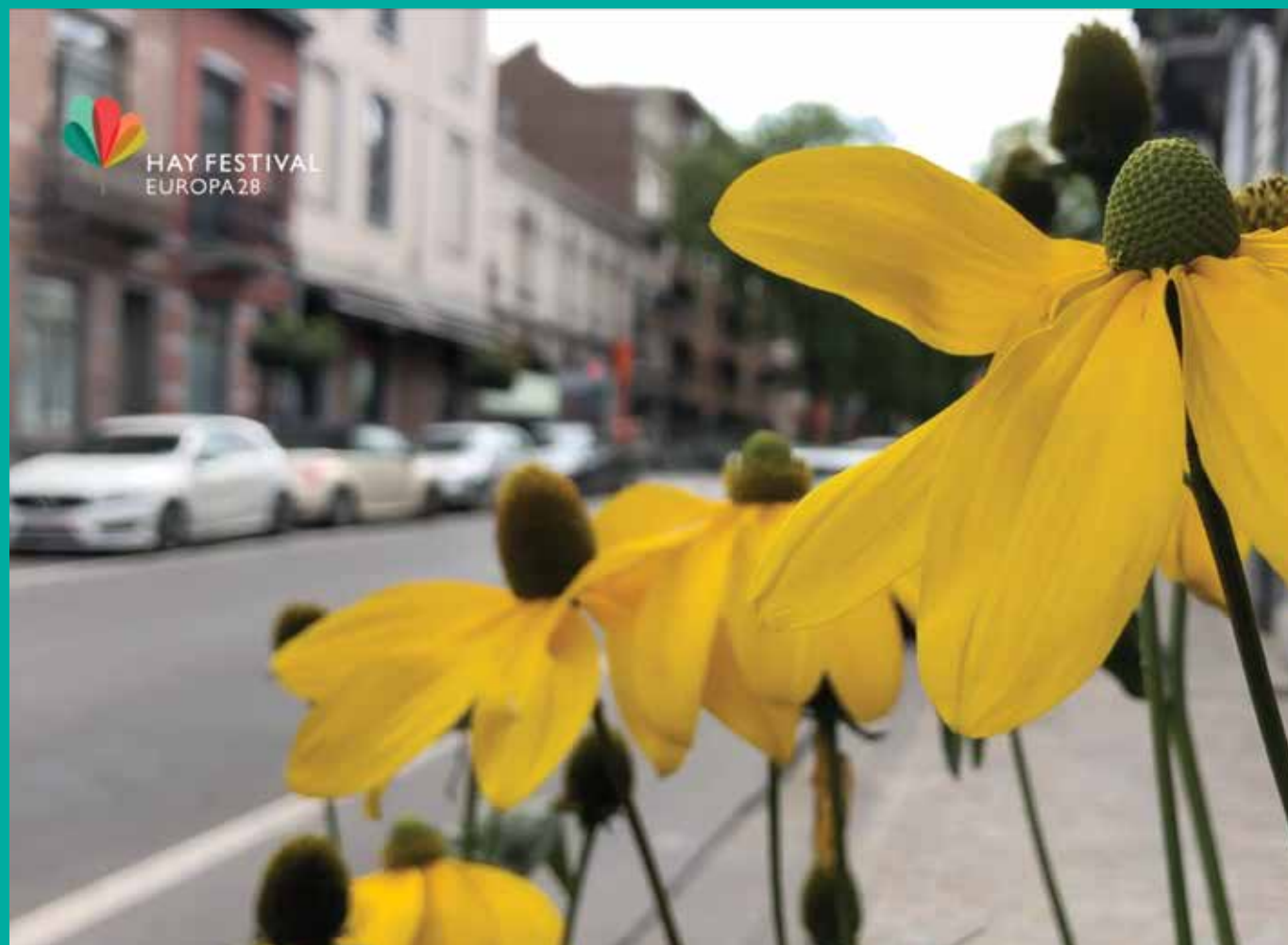
“It remains difficult for a woman to get ahead, even when she’s so much more competent than her counterparts. Women who are bold and at the forefront of their journalistic professions have to deal with threats and language men don’t face. New technologies that held such democratic promise were transformed into a platform for hate speech, leading people to be focused more on what divided us rather than united us.”

**The Shift News**



Hilary Cottam, Silvia Bencivelli, Marja Kangro and Rosie Goldsmith





# SPONSORS & PARTNERS



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~ PORT OF DIVERSITY  
zagreb, rijeka,  
4. - 9. 10. 2020.



RIJEKA  
2020



Akademija  
primijenjenih  
umjetnosti  
Sveučilišta u Rijeci



EUNIC  
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FRAKTURA



GKR  
Gradska knjižnica Rijeka





# ABOUT HAY FESTIVAL

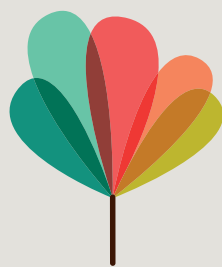
Hay Festival is a not-for-profit organisation that brings readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world. The festivals inspire, examine and entertain, inviting participants to imagine the world as it is and as it might be.

Nobel Prize-winners and novelists, scientists and politicians, historians and musicians talk with audiences in a dynamic exchange of ideas. The Festival's global conversation shares the latest thinking in the arts and sciences with curious audiences live, in print and online. Hay Festival also runs wide programmes of education work supporting coming generations of writers and culturally hungry audiences of all ages.

In 1987, the festival was dreamt up around a kitchen table in Hay. Thirty-three years later, the unique marriage of exacting conversations and entertainment for all ages has travelled to editions in 30 locations, from the historic town of Cartagena in Colombia to the heart of cities in Peru, Mexico, Spain and Denmark.

The organisation now reaches a global audience of hundreds of thousands every year and continues to grow and innovate, building partnerships and initiatives alongside some of the leading bodies in arts and the media.





HAY  
FESTIVAL  
EUROPA 28