



THE ANNUAL BOOK CONFERENCE 2026



THE ECONOMY AND THE BOOK

8th May 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton,
St. Paul's Bay, Malta

ORGANISED BY

The National Book
Council (Malta)

THE CONFERENCE

The Annual Book Conference is a new platform dedicated to critical reflection on the book industry and its relationship to cultural and economic policy. Launched in 2026 as the first conference of its kind in Malta, it is intended to become a recurring annual forum bringing together local and international stakeholders to examine the structures, challenges, and opportunities shaping the book ecosystem.

The inaugural edition, The Economy and the Book, focuses on how publishing, bookselling, and reading cultures function within small and micro economies such as Malta's. Through discussions that consider scale, language, readership, and consumption patterns, the conference aims to foster informed debate, generate ideas to support future policy development, and situate Malta's book sector within a broader European and international context.

Authors, illustrators, translators, editors, academics, researchers, publishers, booksellers, economists, policymakers, politicians, government entity representatives, cultural institutions and other interested individuals are invited to attend and contribute to this year's conference theme of 'The Economy and the Book'.



08:00

REGISTRATION | WELCOME COFFEE

Welcome coffee and attendee registrations shall take place outside the conference hall

09:00 – 17:00

FULL-DAY CONFERENCE

Morning Session

The morning session will include a keynote speech by a foreign speaker, a presentation of findings following a qualitative and quantitative survey exercise, and a panel of experts in their respective fields from literary creatives, publishing, economy and enterprise.

12:00 – 13:00

NETWORKING LUNCH

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session will commence with a second panel, formed of literary creatives, cultural entity representatives and academics. The second session shall also dedicate time for facilitated focus groups. All participants will be invited to discuss a series of questions related to the conference theme. At the end of the allotted time attendees will present the focus group outcomes and findings.
