

NEWSLETTER #3

July 2026

The PAGE Literary Competition Unveils Its Five Winning Stories



Five countries, five languages, and five stories united by a shared ambition: to give more young adults access to the pleasure of reading. We are delighted to unveil the winning stories of the international PAGE Literary Competition.

The 2026 Call for Stories

Launched as part of **PAGE – Project for Advancing Cognitive Accessibility in Publishing** – this European literary competition invited authors from Italy, France, Slovenia, Croatia and Portugal to imagine new stories for teenagers and young adults with intellectual or cognitive disabilities.

The submitted stories were expected to combine **literary quality, emotional depth and cognitive accessibility**. Each entry was assessed against four key criteria: its relevance and appeal for the target audience, the clarity of the language, the coherence of the narrative, and its creativity and originality.

The jury brought together **complementary perspectives** from the fields of publishing, Easy-to-Read communication, inclusive education, and, most importantly, members of the target audience themselves. This diversity of expertise lies at the heart of the PAGE approach: **creating accessible books with readers, not simply for them**.

Today, we are proud to celebrate **five original works**, one from each of the participating countries. Although each story offers its own unique world, they all demonstrate that clear writing can be engaging, moving and truly literary.



The Winners by Country



ITALY

Akike, Giovanni Gaetani Liseo

From the meeting of light, dust and colours, Akikè is born: a small creature capable of bringing life back to what once seemed still. A delicate story that moves through suffering without allowing it to define us, reminding us that every new horizon takes shape one step at a time.



CROATIA

When the Factory of Happiness Closed, David Šesto

Vedran loses his job when the Factory of Happiness closes and finds himself facing uncertainty and a sense of loss. Through a series of encounters with different people, he gradually discovers that true happiness is not found in work or technology, but in human connection, friendship, and small acts of kindness that can change a life.



SLOVENIA

Daisy's Green Fingers, Aksinja Kermauner and Izidora Kazić

After finishing school, Daisy gets a job at Plant Nursery. At first, her boss underestimates her because he believes she does not know enough about plants.

When Daisy saves the orchids from dying, he recognizes her knowledge and dedication. Although Daisy earns her boss's respect, she decides to move to another workplace, where she will be respected and appreciated from the very beginning.





FRANCE

Tim and Rugby, Agnès Stéphan

Tim is 16 and dreams of playing rugby despite the doubts of those around him. Through personal challenges, friendship and first love, he discovers that courage has the power to change a life.



PORTUGAL

Leonor sabe, Valentina Silva Ferreira

Leonor likes Tiago and wants to be in a relationship with him. Her family is worried, but Leonor shows that she can make her own choices and decide about her life. This is a story about love, respect, courage, and the right to grow up.

What Happens Next?

The **five winning stories** will now be prepared for publication in **accessible formats**.

They will be translated into the project's **partner languages** : Italian, Portuguese, Croatian, Slovenian, French and English and published digitally through the PAGE website and mobile app.

A **limited print edition** will also be produced to help share these stories with readers across Europe.

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Funded by the European Union.

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