

PRESS RELEASE



World Championships Poetry Slam are coming to Belgium in 2022

The World Championships Poetry Slam are coming to Belgium in September 2022. During the 7-day event, there will be much more than the final competition. You will be able to enjoy different performances, attend workshops or participate in networking moments, on various locations throughout the region of Brussels. All the different rounds and the final round will be live-streamed to allow fans all over the world to follow the event online. Last weekend, different cultural organizations and volunteers located across the globe have designed the outlines of the Championships.

In a Poetry Slam event, artists perform their poetic texts in front of a live audience and jury. By performing them as such, they break away from the traditional, elitist image, of poetry as art. Slam Poetry is animated, lively, and leaves a lot of room for the audience to participate. The genre has been influenced by hip hop and urban culture, which is reflected in the background of the artists and the activism that lies in their content. “Worldwide, there are numerous talented artists active in this scene that still has an ‘*underground*’ reputation. By organizing these Championships, we want to change that”, says Suzanne Ter Haar of the Willemsfonds vzw that coordinates the WCPS 2022, supported by the Brussels-Capital Region, in collaboration with Creatief Schrijven vzw and the creative agency Hurae.

During the European Week of Multilingualism, slammers from all over the world will perform on the different stages in Brussels for a period of seven days. Every country sends their national champion. During a number of continental competitions (Africa, Abya Yala, Europe, Asia and Oceania) the 60 best slammers are selected to perform one slam poem during the Championship. “By making use of the so-called ‘Eurovision format’, there is the advantage that we can offer a worldwide stage to each participant as we’re streaming the entire competition. It’s our way of showing that this form of art, performed across the globe, is an emancipated type of activism in which each voice is equal”, explains the Belgian coordinator Philip Meersman. The winner of the World Championships Poetry Slam will not only receive a generous amount of prize money, but will also go on a world tour and can count on significant media attention.

Deciding on the format was only one of the many decisions that were taken in the past weekend during the networking days. These sessions were organized online so that everybody had the chance to participate in one or more workshops, no matter their location. The fact that it did not matter where you were, is particularly important because the World Poetry Slam Organization (WPSO) doesn’t only focus on its horizontal structure but also wants to emphasize the importance of inclusivity and multilingualism.

The World Championships Poetry Slam wants to set an example by bringing an inclusive and multilingual art of storytelling to the public and to shed a light on themes such as decolonization, LGBTQI+ and freedom of speech. This already starts with the jury who will not only be a mix of professional judges and public voters, but will also be a diverse panel when looking at ethnicity, origins, gender, language and age. The World Poetry Slam Organization, who is the organization making these World Championships possible, therefore decided to create a statement to create awareness in the participating countries and with the partners and sponsors.

Interested in finding out more?

Visit our website www.worldpoetryslam.org and the social media of WPSO to find out the latest news about the World Championships Poetry Slam 2022, but also to be the first to hear about other competitions that will be held in the coming months. The organization is still looking for partners and sponsors, if you're interested contact us by email: info@worldpoetryslam.org

Read WPSO's statement [here](#).