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Michael D. Higgins
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

FEP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Brussels, 2017

Report from Ireland

Monday, 28 November.

Ireland Keypoint Summary

1. Trade Statistics
2. Copyright and Legislative Developments
3. Projects and Services

Trade Statistics

In 2016, book sales in Ireland were up 11% year on year to €130.8m with volume up by 9% to 10.9 million books sold. Irish-published titles comprised 24.3% (€31.8m) of the market, up from 23.2% in 2015. This year up until 4th November, the Irish market has showed a small rise in volume year on year, by 0.4% at 8 million books sold, but a 1.3% decline in value at €92.8m.

(Information from Nielsen BookScan)

Cle Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta T/A
Publishing Ireland,
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Copyright and Legislative Developments

There have been changes in personnel in the Intellectual Property Unit in the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (DJEI). Dermot Morrin replaces Anne Coleman Dunne as Principal Officer from this autumn, although Anne took up her new post in Industrial Relations in mid-July. ICLA have requested a meeting with Mr Morrin to brief him on our position on both local and European issues and is due to meet with him on Tuesday, 28 November.

We believe that the draft legislation is in its 9th iteration but the Department are not yet willing to allow sight of the draft. The Bill is currently listed in the Programme for Government under “Other Legislation” and the status is that Heads of Bill were approved in July 2016. There is no other indication as to its progress.

Projects and Services Update

Publishing Ireland held its fifth annual trade event as part of the Dublin Book Festival and included speakers from Nielsen, Waterstones, Serpent’s Tail and Profile Books in addition to panel discussions by some of our members on Rights and Commissioning. The event was well-attended and also included a presence from publishing students currently on the Masters programme in Galway. PI hopes to work more closely with the students in 2018 with regard to internships and training initiatives.

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Read Books from Ireland

The Read Books from Ireland sub-committee will be working with the Institute of Irish Studies, Liverpool University, and the Liverpool Irish Centre (formerly St. Michael's Irish Centre) to programme an Irish literary day as part of St Patrick's Day celebrations in March 2018. The work of the sub-committee follows on from a similar event which was held in London in June as part of efforts to expand Irish titles into the UK market.

Booksellers Conference 2018

Publishing Ireland will also collaborate with Booksellers Ireland and the Publishers Association of New Zealand (PANZ) in April 2018 as part of the Booksellers' Conference on foot of a publisher exchange which took place over the summer. Kevin Chapman of Upstart Press in New Zealand has been invited to participate in an event on 9 April 2018 to share the example of WeCreate NZ, a shared arts industry forum and lobbying organisation.

Illustrators Code of Practice

Publishing Ireland continues to establish guidelines for its members on working with illustrators and has developed a draft code of practice which will form part of its membership criteria on joining the association. This code is intended to provide guidance to publishers unsure of how to navigate the trickier and more controversial aspects of

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working with illustrated books. It is expected that these guidelines will be published on the website early in 2018.

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