



## 63<sup>a</sup> BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

The 2026 edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair closes today, April 16, together with BolognaBookPlus and the Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids: **32,652 professional visitors**

The **63rd Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF)** closed today, April 16, 2026. The fair, inaugurated on April 13, took place at BolognaFiere alongside **BolognaBookPlus (BBPlus)** – in collaboration with the Italian Publishers Association – and **Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids (BLTF/Kids)**, with **Norway** as Guest of Honour Country.

There were **1,540 exhibitors** in Bologna, coming **from over 90 countries and regions** worldwide (new entries included Barbados, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, and Zambia).

There were **32,652 professional visitors**, showing a slight decline compared to 2025 (-2%), partly attributable to the complex international context and transportation difficulties. Over four days, Bologna once again became **the global capital of children's publishing**, the most important stage for rights and copyright exchange in the kids and young adult sector, and a promoter of content spanning the entire book supply chain and beyond, increasingly establishing itself as a **cross-media hub**: from scouting new talent to discovering new voices in emerging publishing markets, from gaming to audiovisual, comics and art.

The **Comics Corner**, the area dedicated to comics, which each year attracts increasing participation from publishers – both specialized and not – from around the world, grew by **60% compared to 2025**.

The **BolognaBookPlus** area expanded, with a **+15% increase in exhibitor presence** compared to the 2025 edition. Two new features enriched the BBPlus offer: the **Designer Studio** and the **Writers Lab**, spaces dedicated respectively to illustrators and writers for children's and general publishing.

Additionally, for the first time, within the **Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids**, a space dedicated to the **Toy sector** was introduced, developed also thanks to a strategic partnership with Play, another BolognaFiere event dedicated to board games.

Among the key themes of this edition: research into **folktales and fairy tales**, in collaboration with **UN Publications**, the special category of the 2026 BolognaRagazzi Awards. Collaboration with the UN also expanded to **UN Women**, focusing on **gender representation** in children's and young adult books, promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, of which BCBF has become a strong global advocate.

There was also significant attention to sharing best practices worldwide for **supporting reading among children** and young people, as well as reflection on the role of European and international policies, with an international conference organized by BCBF and AIE in collaboration with the French Syndicat National de l'Édition (SNE), the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), the International Publishers Association (IPA), and International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). Alongside this, there was a focus on **new reading habits** that are redefining young people's relationship with reading, including illustrated books.

This success confirms the importance of the work carried out by the Bologna Children's Book Fair through activities – including tours and initiatives – that go beyond the Bologna event and continue throughout the year, also thanks





to the support of the Italian **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)** and **Italian Trade Agency (ICE)**.

The **64th edition** of the Bologna Children's Book Fair – with BolognaBookPlus and the Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids – will take place at **BolognaFiere** from **April 5 to 8, 2027**, with **Poland as Guest of Honour Country**.

Bologna, April 16, 2026

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