

# THE BOOK TRADE IN EUROPE



EBF MEMBERS	Fixed Book Price	Legal Definition	Practice	History	General VAT	VAT on Books	Total number of bookshops	Inhabitants per bookshop	Internet/ BA
Austria	Yes	Law		Applicable on the 1 <sup>st</sup> of July 2000	20 %	10 %			Trade Net
Belgium (Flanders)	No	Officially, trade agreement	In practice free market		21 %	6 %	258 BA members	± 20 000	Trade Net
Bulgaria					20%	20%	N.A.	N.A.	
Czech Republic	No				20%	10%			
Cyprus					15%	5%			
Denmark	Yes	Trade agreement	Year of publication + 1, discount for libraries and schools. On 1.1.2001, abolition of exclusive rights of sales through the bookshops.	RPM since 1837, current regulation since 2001	25 %	25 %	450		Trade Net
Estonia	No				20 %	9% 0% on text books adopted by Ministry Education	+/- 100		Yes
Finland	No			Abolished in 1971	23 %	9 %	300	16 667	Wholesaler's database
France	Yes	Law		Abolished in 1953 with devastating consequences; reintroduction by Loi Lang, 1981	19,6 %	5,5%	1.600		
Germany	Yes	Law since 1.10.2002		RPM system operating for more than 100 years. EU Comfort letter renewed in 1996	19 %	7 %	7.394	16 875	Trade Net
Greece	Yes			RPM since 1997	21%	5%	3.120		
Hungary	Yes	Trade agreement between BA members (85% of market)		1992	25 %	5%	750	14 000	Yes
Ireland	No				21%	0%			
Italy	Yes	Law		Experimental law confirmed on 1.1.2005	20 %	4%	5.000		
Latvia					21%	10% on literary texts			
Lithuania					21%	9%			

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Luxembourg	No	Officially, Trade agreement	In practice free market		15 %	3 %			
Malta					18%	5%			
The Netherlands	Yes	Law on 1.1.2005		Law replaced trade agreement & will be evaluated	19 %	6 %	1.572		
Poland	No				22 %	0%	2.620		
Portugal	Yes	Law		Adopted in 1996	20 %	5 %	300		
Romania					19%	9%	N.A.	N.A.	
Slovakia					19%	10%			
Slovenia					20%	8,5%			
Spain	Yes	Law		Since 1975	16 %	4 %	2.300		
Sweden	No		Heavy state subsidies for literature	Abandoned in 1970	25 %	6%	500		
UK	No			1900-1995 NBA	17.5 %	0%	3 100 BA members		Trade Net
<b>EBF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>	<b>Fixed Book Price</b>	<b>Legal Definition</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>General VAT</b>	<b>VAT on Books</b>	<b>Total number of bookshops</b>	<b>Inhabitants per bookshop</b>	<b>Internet</b>
Norway	Yes	Trade agreement	New NBA on 1 May 2005, for book clubs too.	Trade agreements since the mid 50's (Publishers - Booksellers Assoc.) approved by the Government	24 %	0 %	600	8 000	Trade Net
Switzerland					7.6%	2.4%			
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>									
USA	No	Robinson Patman Act designed to bring about fair competition							
Australia	No								