

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 st 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	22 %	8 %	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
EBF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	Fixed Book Price	Legal Definition	Practice	History	General VAT	VAT on Books	Total number of bookshops	Inhabitants per bookshop	Internet
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%			
FOR COMPARISON									
USA	No	Robinson Patman Act designed to bring about fair competition							
Australia	No								