



## Dear Colleagues,

It is my greatest pleasure to invite you to Oulu for an *Informal Meeting of Ministers of Culture* on 14<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> August 2026, in honor of the European Capital of Culture Oulu 2026.

Oulu has been selected as the European Capital of Culture for the year 2026, marking a unique opportunity to showcase the richness of culture, art, and creativity across Northern Finland. This year will be filled with inspiring events and encounters that highlight the diversity and unity of European culture.

To the Informal Meeting of Ministers we have invited the ministers responsible for culture from all European Union member countries and also the Minister of Culture of Ukraine. Your presence would greatly contribute to the spirit of collaboration that this occasion represents. **We kindly please you to save the dates to your calendars (14<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup> August 2026).** A more detailed invitation with agenda and programme will be sent in early 2026.

You may find further information on the European Capital of Culture Oulu 2026 here: <https://oulu2026.eu/en/>

We truly hope you will be able to join us in Oulu for this historic celebration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Samuli Parkkinen, Project Coordinator, ([samuli.parkkinen@gov.fi](mailto:samuli.parkkinen@gov.fi); tel. +358 295 330 443) and Ms Sessi Trapnowski, Secretary for International Relations ([sessi.trapnowski@gov.fi](mailto:sessi.trapnowski@gov.fi); tel. +358 295 330 218) and from the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland.

I truly hope you can join us for this special occasion in Oulu next year, and I wish you a merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season.

Yours sincerely,

Mari-Leena Talvitie  
Minister of Science and Culture