



norden



SECTOR PROGRAMME

Culture

Finland's presidency of
the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2016





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Nordic co-operation

Nordic co-operation is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland.

Nordic co-operation has firm traditions in politics, the economy, and culture. It plays an important role in European and international collaboration, and aims at creating a strong Nordic community in a strong Europe.

Nordic co-operation seeks to safeguard Nordic and regional interests and principles in the global community. Common Nordic values help the region solidify its position as one of the world's most innovative and competitive.

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Foreword

Water-nature-people is the common, leading theme of Finland's year of presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2016.

Respecting nature and the environment, unity of the economic area, vibrant and dynamic art and cultural life, diversity of languages, open data, civil society and a strong democracy are characteristic to all Nordic countries.

Our culture brings the Nordic countries together. It is also one of the cornerstones of official Nordic co-operation based on the Helsinki agreement of 1962. The openness of culture is common to the residents of the Nordic countries. We understand the significance and value of culture as a part of both welfare and inclusion.

We want that everyone living in the Nordic countries should feel at home and feel close to Nordic culture. We wish that culture and art could help those coming in to our countries in their integration to their new home land, and that these aspects would also help them to feel welcome.

Technology has increased the openness of culture and art. It has brought us new ways to create, experience and consume. At its best, digitalisation facilitates the availability, accessibility and openness of culture services.

Our Nordic cultures have garnered plenty of interest around the world. In this, too, the efficient co-operation between our countries helps the various operators.

During the presidency, we at the Ministry of Education and Culture highlight the people and consider the open *Nordic region – digital Nordic region* themes. In co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, we will launch a three-year project called an *Open and Innovative Nordic Region with Healthy People 2020*. Its cross-cutting themes are culture, welfare and equality.

In 2016, we will also carry on our sector programme on the basis of the themes of the Nordic Council of Ministers' cultural co-operation strategy 2013–2020: *the sustainable Nordic region, the creative Nordic region, the intercultural Nordic region, young people in the Nordic region, and the digital Nordic region*. This strategy is the culture ministers' vision of the future, which outlines the goals of Nordic cultural co-operation.

During our presidency, we will invest in large project entities, presented in more detail in this sector programme, which are part of today's world and fulfil our shared needs. Some of these projects are continuance to projects of other presidencies.

I hope that our presidency will be remembered as communal and innovative. And I wish you, all residents of the Nordic countries an inspiring cultural year 2016!



Sanni Grahn-Laasonen
Minister of Education and Culture



1. “An Open and Innovative Nordic Region with Healthy People 2020 – Equal Opportunities for Welfare, Culture, Education, and Work” priority project (2016–2018).

The three-year priority project jointly co-ordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and the Ministry of Education and Culture comprehensively highlights the theme of “people,” which is one of the three themes of the Finnish presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers 2016. The project seeks innovative solutions and operating models for preserving social well-being and equality amidst the challenges created by the ageing of the population, changes in the economy and working life, geopolitical crises and the international refugee situation.

Additionally, the project aims to form a shared political-level view of the prerequisites for the future preservation of the significant added value that expert co-operation offers to the Nordic countries. The project’s long-term results will strengthen the permanent structures of Nordic well-being policy co-operation and information sharing. The project’s pervading themes are well-being, diversity, equality, gender equality and culturally sustainable development. These themes will be explored with the help of and taking into account Nordic research and innovation activities. The project’s key priority area is children and young people.

Culture is part of people’s wellbeing and inclusion. The number of immigrants has increased in all Nordic countries during recent years. Nordic culture has become more diverse and enriched. Within the framework of this priority project, a cross-sector project will be launched, the purpose of which is to facilitate the inclusion of immigrants and improve the two-way integration process through the tools of art and culture.

EVENTS

- **The kick-off seminar for the three-year priority project 27–28 January 2016, in Turku.**
- **Youth café 27 January 2016 in Turku.**



2. The sustainable Nordic region

Nordic cultural life will improve sustainability in the Nordic societies by being more accessible and engaging.

A Diversity and sustainable development as a part of the Nordic culture policy seminar will be organised in co-operation with the Nordic Culture Point (KKN) and CUPORE. Within the context of this seminar, the combined effects of the principles of socially, culturally and ecologically sustainable development on the prevention of polarisation in society will be considered. How can we work together for a more sustainable world?

EVENTS

- *Diversity and sustainable development as a part of the Nordic culture policy seminar in Helsinki in November 2016.*

3. The creative Nordic region

The Nordic region will be perceived as a vibrant, dynamic and creative cultural region.

The Nordic countries are globally known for their architecture and design. In the Nordic countries, practical, high-quality day-to-day environments have traditionally been important indicators of the quality of life and international respect.

The Nordic countries were also among the first developers and innovators of architectural policies. The Finnish architectural policy programme (1998) has been used as the model of architectural policy programmes in several other European countries. In the development of architectural policy programmes, the citizens, specialists, authorities and decision-makers together identify the cultural, social and ecological significance of the built environment and, based on them, create strategies that build the resident comfort and success of environments in the future.

In early autumn 2016, a seminar will be arranged in Helsinki in co-operation with the Architecture Information Centre Finland, which will consider the significance of architecture to Nordic welfare and competitiveness.

EVENTS

- *The Architecture as the underlying structure in Nordic culture and wellbeing seminar in Helsinki in autumn 2016.*



4. The intercultural Nordic region

All citizens of the Nordic countries will feel they belong and will participate in the cultural life of the Nordic region.

Immigration as well as inequality between the different population groups are challenging social phenomena, which becomes evident through hate speech, for example. Finland hosts UNESCO's *World Press Freedom Day*, a conference held for the freedom of speech, 3–4 May 2016. At the same time, the world's first Freedom of the Press Act, introduced in 1766 in Sweden, is celebrated.

The events of UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day highlight globally the significance of press freedom to the realisation of human rights, functional civil society and development of democracy. Some central themes of the conference were, for example, safety of journalists, availability of information, media literacy, emigration and cultural freedom of expression.

As a side event to the UNESCO conference, a seminar on *Re-shaping Cultural Policies* will be arranged in co-operation with the Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre, UNESCO, and the National Museum of Finland. Its objective is to increase awareness of the significance of cultural freedom of expression's diversity in sustainable development and cultural expression in the Nordic countries and discuss how these could be utilised in the implementation of the UN's new action programme of sustainable development (Agenda 2030). The seminar also considers the significance of digital revolution in the field of art and culture, from the creation processes of art and creative economy to the availability and distribution of the finished works.

UNESCO's conference on freedom of speech is an excellent global forum for the shared presentation of the Nordic Countries. Also the year's first meeting of culture ministers will be held in connection with the conference (MR-K 1/16).

EVENTS

- UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day in Helsinki 3–4 May 2016.
- *Re-shaping Cultural Policies* seminar in Helsinki, 2 May 2015.
- Meeting of culture ministers (MR-K 1/16) in Helsinki, 2 May 2016.



5. Young people in the Nordic region

Children and young people in the Nordic region will create, participate in and have views on art and culture.

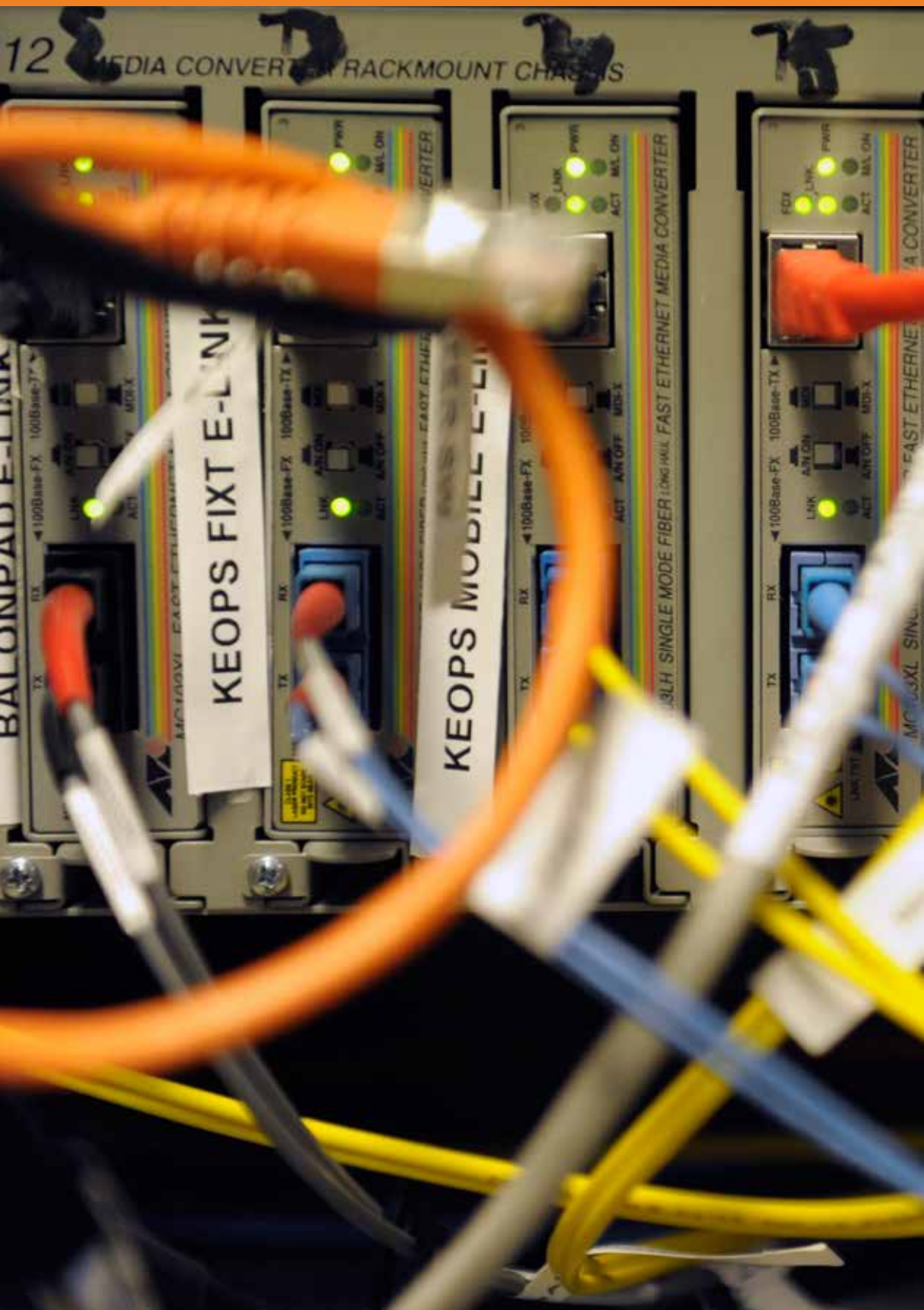
Children and young people have an important place in the Nordic cultural co-operation, which recognises the potential of children and young people and their rights to influence their own lives. It is also important to create both digital and physical meeting places for children and young people, which take into account their hopes and needs.

The cross-administration of children's and young people's affairs should be thought as the starting point, while also taking into account the wide range of matters concerning children and young people and the principles of sustainable development.

During the presidency year a youth conference called SILLAT-BRIDGES-BROAR-BROER will be arranged in co-operation with NORDBUK, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and the Hanasaari Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre, Nordic Culture Point (KKN), among others. This conference focuses on the wellbeing and inclusion of young people in the Nordic countries. This cross-administrative co-operation conference will inspect the realisation of young people's welfare and rights, for example from the viewpoints of education, equality, culture and media as well as employment and entrepreneurship.

EVENTS

- *SILLAT-BRIDGES-BROAR -BROER* – youth conference in Helsinki 26–28 September 2016.



6. The digital Nordic region

Nordic culture will benefit fully from digital technology.

For a long time, museums of cultural history have needed to develop their collection management and its work division as well as to co-ordinate current documentation. The national TAKO network is a collection co-operation network of professional museums, managed by the National Museum of Finland. This network has two main goals: preservation work division between museums and coordination of current documentation.

Even though all museums in the Nordic countries carry out current documentation, the networks are slightly different. Discourse on the current documentation processes and the networks built around them is paramount. During the year of presidency, the national network will be expanded into a joint, Nordic network. The seminar concentrates on the latest development views of collection management as well as the field's biggest challenges also, and in particular, from the starting point created by digitalisation.

EVENTS

- *Digital collections – more open Nordic region seminar in Helsinki*
9–10 February 2016.

Preliminary calendar 2016

EVENTS	Date	Location
Kick off seminar for the three-year priority project	27–28 January	Turku
Youth Café	27 January	Turku
Meeting of the senior officials committee (ÄK-K 1/16)	2–3 February	Copenhagen
<i>Digital collections – more open Nordic region</i> seminar	9–10 February	Helsinki
Meeting of the senior officials committee (ÄK-K 2/16)	30–31 March	Helsinki
Meeting of culture ministers (MR-K 1/16)	2 May	Helsinki
Side event of UNESCO's freedom of speech conference: <i>Re-shaping Cultural Policies</i> seminar	2 May	Helsinki
UNESCO's <i>World Press Freedom Day</i> , a conference on freedom of speech	3–4 May	Helsinki
<i>Architecture as the underlying structure in Nordic culture and wellbeing</i> seminar	autumn	Helsinki
Meeting of the senior officials committee (ÄK-K 3/16)	week 37	Åland
<i>SILLAT-BRIDGES-BROAR-BROER</i> joint Nordic youth conference	26–28 September	Helsinki
Meeting of culture ministers (MR-K 2/16)	2 November	Copenhagen
<i>Diversity and sustainable development as a part of the Nordic culture policy</i> seminar	November	Helsinki
Meeting of the senior officials committee (ÄK-K 4/16)	1–2 December	Copenhagen



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Nordic Council of Ministers
Finnish Presidency 2016



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