

Cultivating Curiosity.

**European Capital
of Culture 2026**

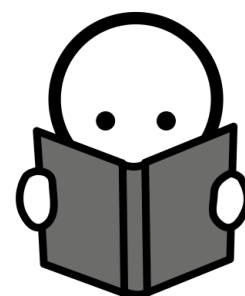
Trenčín's bid book

About this document

This document is an easy-to-read version of the bid book of the City of Trenčín in the competition for the title **European Capital of Culture in 2026.**

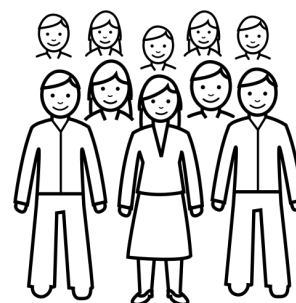


You can read here what are **the goals** that the city of Trenčín wants to achieve.



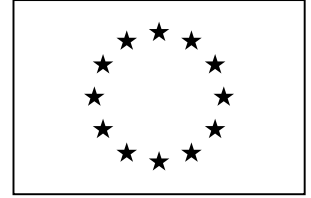
You can read here about **ideas, actions, and values** carried out in Trenčín, if the city wins the European Capital of Culture title.

It was prepared by the city authorities, cultural institutions and local artists. The **inhabitants of Trenčín** consulted on these ideas.



About European Capital of Culture: A competition

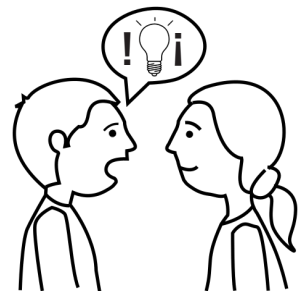
European Capitals of Culture is the initiative of the **European Union**. Every year there **are 2 cities** which get the European Capital of Culture title. They are from 2 different countries. Every 3 years, there are 3 cities. The third one is in country which is not in the European Union.



To become the European Capital of Culture cities **have to take part in the competition.** It takes a long time. Starts about 6 years before.



To take part in this competition cities need to prepare a proposal, a plan. This plan is called a **bid book.** Like this one. It tells what **will change in the city.**



About European Capital of Culture

European Capital of Culture title means that the city is an **important center of culture** in the country, and in Europe.

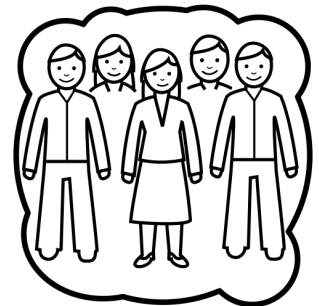


European Capitals of Culture **prepare many events, and discussions** about culture and art.

European Capitals of Culture make cities change for better.



It always says a lot about the **local community**, its history and identity.

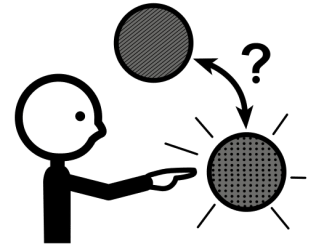


This is a chance **to show** what is happening in the city to people in all Europe. And to show people in the city, in the region what **is important in European culture**.

the European Capital of Culture 2026

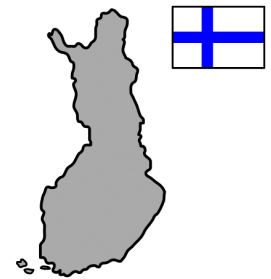
Independent experts

choose 2 cities from 2 different countries for each year.



In 2026, one European Capital of Culture will be in Finland.

The **City of Oulu** was selected.

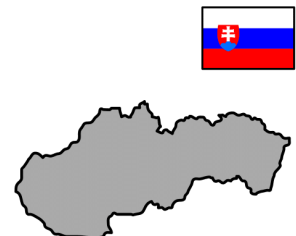


Second European Capital of Culture in 2026 will be elected in December, 2021.

It will be **one of the Slovak cities**.

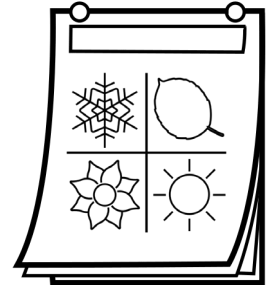
3 cities in Slovakia are competing:

Nitra, Trenčín and Žilina.



Trenčín 2026: Our goals

European Capital of Culture title
is **a chance for serious
and long-term changes**
in culture and art in the city of Trenčín
and the region.

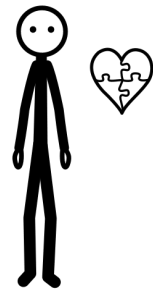


**Trenčín's programme of events
is divided into 3 sections:**

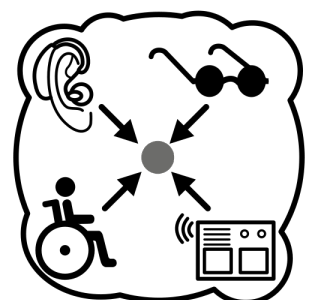
1. Common ground
2. Playground
3. New ground

Six values are important
in Trenčín's programme:

1. Nature
2. City
3. People
4. Culture
5. Communities
6. Europe

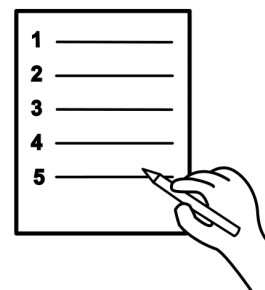


Accessibility of culture
is also very important.
**Events will be accessible and
available** for all people.



Trenčín 2026: Programme of events

Programme of events is a plan for the entire year 2026. Things will happen not only in 2026. They have already started and will continue after 2026.



If the city of Trenčín wins the title there will be a lot of events, like festivals, but also regular, and smaller events.

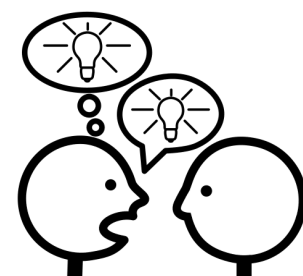


Local artists, local institutions, and citizens will organize the events. Institutions and people from other Slovak cities and from abroad will also work in Trenčín.



The group preparing the application of the City of Trenčín **uses metaphors to describe the programme,** and the possible actions in 2026.

These metaphors are **briefly described** on the following pages.



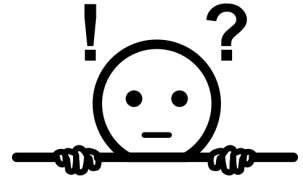
Cultivating Curiosity

“Cultivating Curiosity”

is the application's promotional slogan.

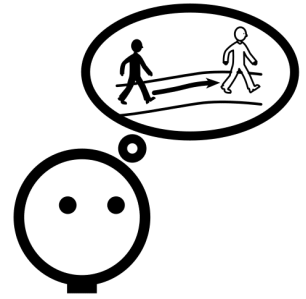
This is also **the main idea**

connecting all projects and actions.



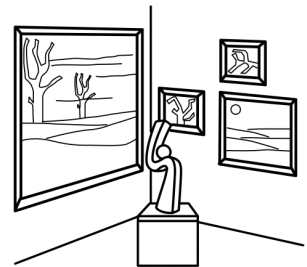
“Cultivating curiosity” **you can understand** as:

1. developing imagination,
2. cooperation in a group,
3. meeting and debating,
4. reason to change.



Being creative means:

1. asking questions,
2. experimenting and trying new things,
3. being together with others.

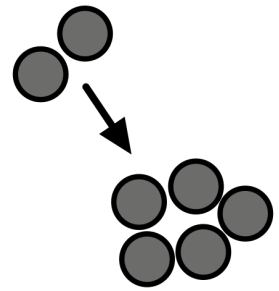


Common Ground

To have a **common ground** means to share opinions, ideas with others.

Common ground connects people.

Common ground of the people of Trenčín may be their **history, culture or landscape of the city.**

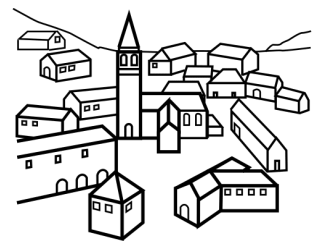


“Common ground”

means that events will be about Trenčín’s nature, Trenčín’s history and buildings in Trenčín.

There will be a lot of events.

Below are just 3 examples.



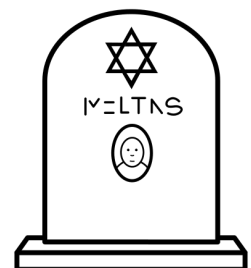
Some of the projects will be about the **Váh River.**

The Váh River flows through Trenčín.

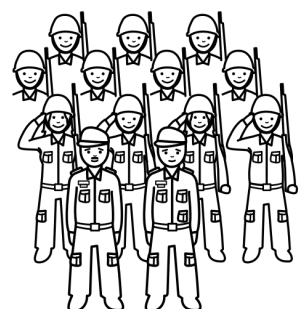


There will also be an event about the **history of Jews in Trenčín.**

This event will tell also the story of Jews all over Europe.



Some events will be about **military buildings** in the city.



Playground

Playground is a place where people **spend time together**. But it can also mean **space where you can try new things**. And people have fun there!



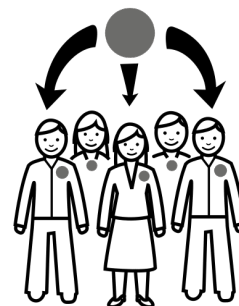
“Playground” means creating new places to spend free time. It also means events proposing new and interesting ways to do things.



The city of Trenčín will arrange **artistic residencies**. During the artistic residency, the artist, designer receive the funds and space **to create a new work**.

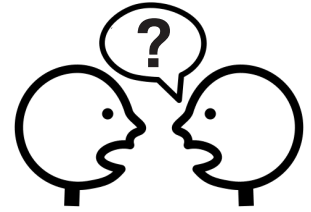


The events of the “Playground” programme are about **cooperation** between artists, universities and business.

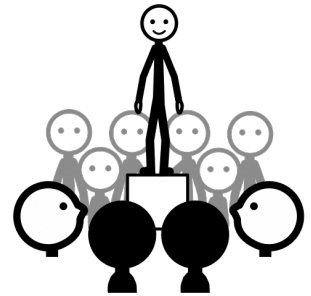


New Grounds

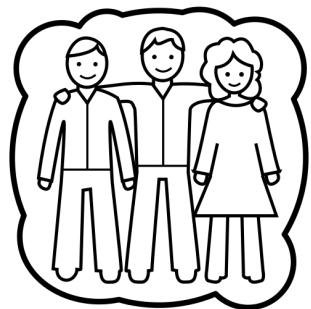
New ground is a place **that people do not know.** It can be also a project which is fresh and new. We can **discover it** together.



Events from the this programme **focus on the community of Trenčín** and all people in Europe. They will be about preparing people for big changes in the future, like **political, social changes or climate change.**



These events will teach people **how to talk to each other,** and create a community. And how to **take care of ourselves** and of each other.

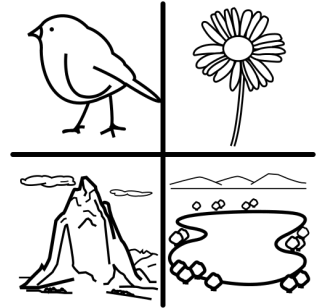


People in all Europe may have the same problems. We can **talk and look for the solutions together.**

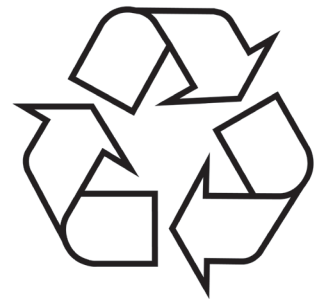


Goals and values: Nature Matters

Nature and the environment influence Trenčín and its inhabitants. They will be an important part of the 2026 agenda.



The organizers of events will pay attention to the fact that the events **are made in an ecological and environmentally friendly way.**



For example, **rural practices** that serve the good of nature will be shown in the city center.

Local authorities **of towns and villages near Trenčín** will help in this.

Goals and values: City Matters

Some places in the city
need to be improved.
Thanks to this, all residents
will have a better life.



Some places in Trenčín **are unused.**
They can become places for cultural events,
but **have to be rebuilt.**
One of the places that will be rebuilt
is the **local library.**



Nowadays, there is a road near
the Váh River on which
there are many cars.
The banks of the river will be rebuilt.
This will help the residents to reach them.



These two changes, among other things,
will improve the quality of life in the city.
And will be important places on the city map.

Goals and values: People Matter

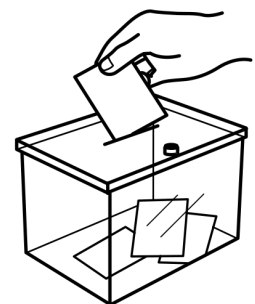
Changes in the city require **the involvement of its inhabitants.** Local authorities need to research **what people want and what are their needs.**



The Trenčín 2026 program assumes that **residents and guests** will have an **impact on events in the city.** Especially in culture and art. For example, they will create events in the city.

This is the basis of **participatory processes and actions.**

Something is **participatory** when people can take part in it. When everyone is given a chance to vote, to act, to decide, to contribute.



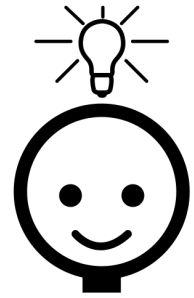
There will also be a **participatory budget for culture.** People will be able to propose and select events and projects.

Goals and values: Culture Matters

A new administration body will be created in Trenčín. It will be **Creative Institute Trenčín**. Creative Institute Trenčín will be responsible for the preparation and execution of projects in 2026.



It will be responsible for the greatest change: **changing the ways of thinking and organizing culture in the city.**



Aspects of this change are described in this document, and in the bid book.

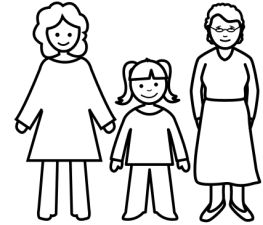
Culture and art are and will be **important parts of the development** of the city of Trenčín.



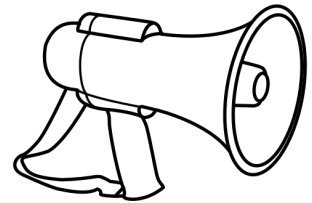
And thanks to them, people will talk about important values.
And they will be together.

Goals and values: Community Matters

It is very important that **everyone feels that they can** take part in the Trenčín 2026 events.
As a creator or as part of an audience.



That's why
Cultural Ambassadors Programme
will be established.

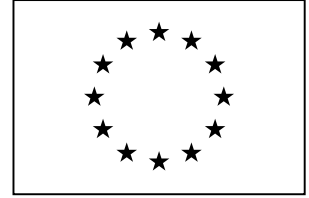


An **ambassador** is someone who is a very important person for some group of people and he/she **represents them**.
It is someone who **encourages the people** to organize events.

This action will **empower** (give power to) people, and show that Trenčín's people are very different.
And each one is very important.

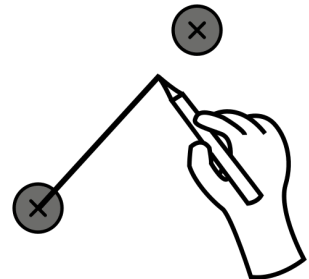
Goals and values: Europe Matters

All the values described here,
in this publication,
and in Trenčín's bid book
are important for the **future
of Europe and the European Union.**



Those values are also a response
to the changes that are taking place
now in society. And in the world.

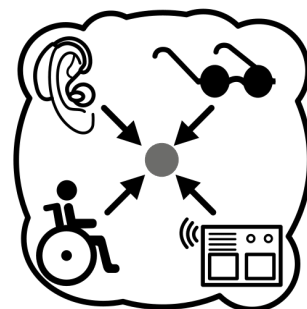
It is important that the activities
proposed by Trenčín
unite the inhabitants of the city
and the citizens of the European Union.



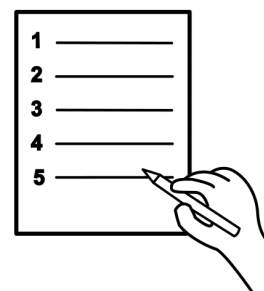
Access & Accessibility:

The events **will be accessible** to people with disabilities.

The team preparing the application of the city of Trenčín will take care of it.

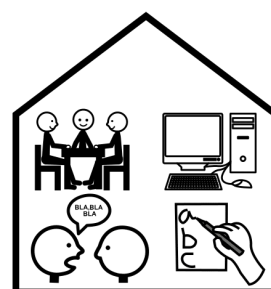


There **will be checklists** that will advise the organizers how **to ensure the safety and comfort** of all event participants.



The checklist is a list of access tools and services that can be used during the events.

There **will also be trainings** for the organizers and artists in the city.



We worked it out together

Our goal is **to involve as many people as possible.**

And to create a project that really engages people.

During preparation of Trenčín 2026 bid book

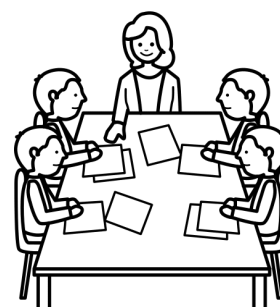
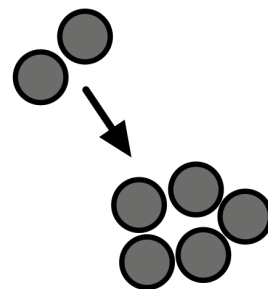
we have engaged and we are still engaging:

1. Citizens in the city,
2. People in the region,
3. Local communities,
4. Local businesses,
5. Cultural workers,
6. Local government.

We organized, among others:

thousands of meetings,
many presentations and discussions,
2 international conferences
and lot of workshops.

Thanks to that over **4,000 of people in the city and in the region** took part in our work.



Take part in Trenčín 2026!

You can take part in Trenčín 2026 programme in many ways. For sure you find something you like. You can participate in different events.

Many events will take part on the streets or in places which can be a surprise for you, for example on the railway bridge or castle.

If you are not sure what to choose – we can advise you. Just tell us what you like and we will suggest you options.

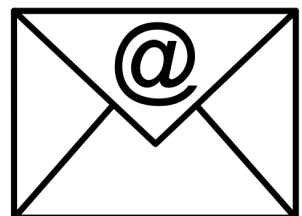
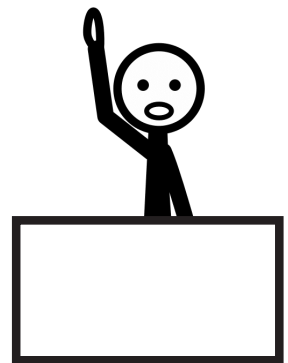
Volunteering

You can be a volunteer during preparations and events.

Contact us if you want to help.

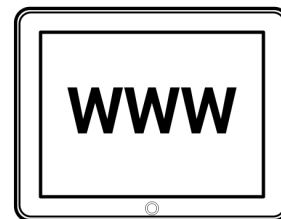
E-mail:

veronika.sucanska@trencin.sk



Website

For more information about
Trenčín's 2026 European Capital of Culture
visit



website:

www.Trenčín2026.eu



You can also visit our social media profiles:

facebook:

@trenčin2026

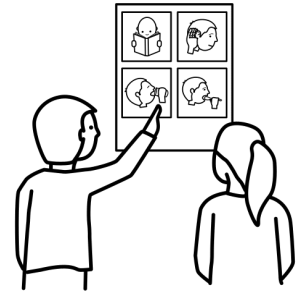
instagram:

@trenčin2026



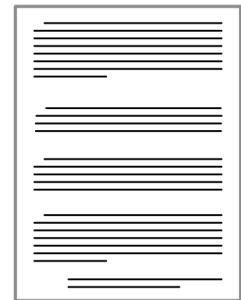
Comments and consulting

We constantly check
if we communicate in a clear way.

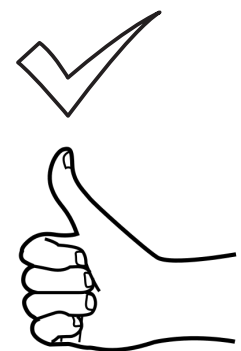


We test these documents
with people with disabilities
from Poland and Slovakia.

This document
may change its content.



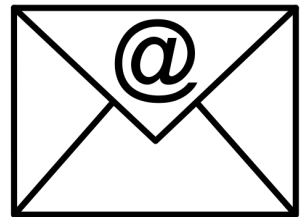
You can let us know
what we can do better.
Contact details are on the next page.



Contact us

If you need more information please contact us by:

Email:
trencin2026@trencin.sk



Post:
Mierové námestie 2, 911 64 Trenčín



The pictographic symbols used are the property of the Government of Aragón and have been created by Sergio Palao for ARASAAC (<http://www.arasaac.org>), which distributes them under Creative Commons License BY-NC-SA.

