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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 27 - 28 October 2025: Polish Capitals of Culture 2026–2028 - <i>Information from Poland</i>

Polish Capitals of Culture 2026–2028

Information from Poland

The Polish Capitals of Culture (PSK) is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, launched in 2024 as a response to the high quality of applications submitted by Polish cities competing for the title of the European Capital of Culture (ESK) 2029. The project includes three finalist cities: **Bielsko-Biala (2026)**, **Katowice (2027)** and **Kołobrzeg (2028)**. Its aim is to harness the cultural potential developed during the ESK competition, strengthen the role of culture in social and economic development, and foster local pride and identity. The Polish Capitals of Culture 2026–2028 project is one of the 58 priorities of the Polish Government's policy, which were adopted at the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 9th September this year.

Each city will implement a year-long cultural and artistic programme based on local artists, cultural institutions, NGOs and residents. These programmes build on the original concepts submitted in the ESK competition and emphasize the long-term impact of culture on regional development, social cohesion and the well-being of residents. The PSK initiative is designed to inspire, connect and promote local values while engaging in dialogue with national and European contexts.

The project is coordinated by the **National Centre for Culture** (institution supervised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage), which leads cooperation between the participating cities and public, social and business partners. Funding comes from local government budgets, the state budget and the EEA and Norway Grants. The initiative has been included as a predefined project under the EEA Financial Mechanism, receiving 3 million EUR in support. International partners include the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Norsk Kulturforum, adding a European dimension of exchange and mutual learning.

The programme will begin on 17 January 2026 in Bielsko-Biała and conclude on 31 December 2028.
