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Thank you Chemnitz and Nova Gorica, Welcome ECoCs  
2026: Oulu and Trenčín

2026 European Capitals of Culture, Oulu and Trenčín have symbolically been handed over the title by 2025 ECoCs, Chemnitz and Nova Gorica, their programme still full on. For 2026, Oulu promises a 'Cultural Climate Change' and Trenčín sparks 'Curiosity' to explore cultural diversity.

The cities of [Oulu \(Finland\)](#) and [Trenčín \(Slovakia\)](#) will be European Capitals of Culture 2026. 2025 ECoCs, [Chemnitz](#) and [Nova Gorica](#), while offering a rich programme of events and activities for December, have already [handed over the title to the new ECoCs](#).

[Oulu](#) as the 2026 European Capital of Culture brings together 39 municipalities in the north region of Finland. From art to tractors and music to world peace, the ECoC's programme highlights 'Cultural Climate Change' and offers a versatile range of events of different sizes and styles, for their creators and visitors.





[Trenčín](#) spotlights the ECoC title as an opportunity for culture to transform the city not only in 2026, but also in the decades to come. With 'Curiosity' at its heart, the ECoC's programme aims to revitalise untapped places, develop imagination, experiment with experiences and gain education or work benefits, while connecting with Europe.



The [symbolic ceremony took place on 5 December 2025](#) in both cities of Nova Gorica in Slovenia and Gorizia in Italy, reflecting [Nova Gorica 2025](#) as the first borderless European Capital of Culture, with a joint cultural programme implemented by two cities from two different countries sharing the title. The programme's mission '[GO! Borderless](#)' was to give voice to the combined heritage of a modernist city and a thousand-year-old city, transcending their boundaries on a journey of post-World War II reconciliation and with a positive impact on the growth of European suburbs, as essential pieces of the EU mosaic.

With the motto “C the Unseen”, [Chemnitz 2025](#) aimed to reinforce the role of civic society through community-driven cultural projects and build a network of “European makers of democracy”. The city had announced [success already during the first six months](#) of the ECoC. Before its closing event on 28 November, Chemnitz had attracted around 2 million visitors and organised more than 2.000 events, providing one more example to verify [a recent report’s findings](#) that the ECoC title brings visitors and investments, among other benefits.

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Find more [here](#)

Image 1 featuring [Chemnitz finale Bergparade](#) by [Mark Frost](#) - Courtesy of [Chemnitz 2025](#)

Image 2 featuring [Oulu2026](#) by [Tero Suutarin](#) - Courtesy of [Oulu2026](#)

Image 3 featuring [Trenčín2026](#) - Courtesy of [Trenčín 2026](#)