

## Finnish parliamentary elections 2023

# Objectives of the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes: Bringing Research, Art and Culture at the Centre

## Research-based knowledge, impactful art and vibrant culture build sustainable international relations and strengthen democracy.

### Premises

At the start of 2023, there are 16 Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes around the world. The Institutes' operations cover 26 countries in Europe, North and South America, the Middle East and East Asia.

The Institutes are well-established and respected organizations specializing in research, art, culture, and international relations. They promote the strength and societal impact of Finnish science, art, and culture, as well as international cooperation, visibility, mobility, and expertise. The Institutes promote cultural exchange and dialogue between Finland and their operating countries, while also bringing international research, art, expertise and alternative practices to Finland.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made it clear that economic interdependence is not a guarantee of democracy and peace. Now is the time to intensify intentional international exchange through research, art and culture.

### Objectives

#### 1) The essential role of the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes as a support structure for international research, art and culture must be strengthened

- The skills, networks, employment, and earning potential of those working in science, art and culture must be strengthened. The Institute network is led by experts in their field, well-established within their international communities. These leaders build the foundation for cross-cultural exchange and international relations.
- In order to gain prominence on an international scale, Finland needs significant support towards our researchers, artists, and cultural creators. To achieve this, Finland must develop a new strategy for internalization in science, art, and culture.
- Access to internationally compelling, and significant art and culture, as well as research-based knowledge, must be promoted by means of digitalization. Digital art and research increases accessibility for a wide audience and opens creators to new methods of reception and experience. By using digitalisation in an open-minded and responsible way, the creation, production, and archival of research-based knowledge and art can be developed.

#### 2) The role of the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes in promoting Finland's country image must be recognized

- Culture must be seen as a key part of Finland's international identity and country branding, and the Institutes must be provided with sufficient resources for this work.
- In strengthening our international identity, cooperation between the Institutes and the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the embassies should be developed strategically and on a long-term basis, clarifying the role of the Institutes as insightful experts in science, art, and culture and as independent agents of civil society.
- The Institutes' knowledge of their operating environments in other countries should be used to promote exchange in the fields of science, art, and culture, and for building sustainable international connections between different sectors of society.

#### 3) Increase the core funding of the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes<sup>1</sup> to 10 million

- To advance the impact of Finnish art, science, and culture, the Institutes' funding must reflect our country's values. Research-based knowledge and diverse arts and culture are shared human values and form the basis of democratic, progressive societies. Our leadership in these fields has grown Finland's role on an international stage, and we have the potential to do more. Increase the culture budget to one percent!<sup>2</sup>
- Impact and international leadership require an adequate financial base. An increased and predictable funding base will enable the Institutes to meet the growing demand for Finnish science, art, and culture worldwide. With sustained support, the institutes can introduce operational structures and best practices to Finland, and build upon international cooperation and funding opportunities.
- The Cultural Institutes are part of the international creative economy ecosystem. Their potential to contribute to the internationalization and value of the creative economy needs to be strengthened. Within this, the provision of intangible services and experiences must also be bolstered as part of the development of more sustainable economic structures and practices.

#### Increasing core funding for the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes is a profitable investment in the future.

<sup>1</sup> The core funding of the Institutes is a discretionary operational subsidy from the Ministry of Education and Culture.

## **The Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes support the Election Manifesto of KULTA Ry:**

### **Culture is common capital – increase the culture budget to one percent!**

1. Creative sectors drive Finnish growth
2. Children have a right to enjoy culture as creators and experiencers
3. Everyone has an equal right to enjoy culture and art

### **Election Manifesto of KULTA ry:**

<https://kulttuurijataide.fi/en/parliamentary-elections-2023-election-manifesto-of-kulta-ry-culture-is-common-capital-%e2%88%92-increase-the-culture-budget-to-one-percent/>