



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

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17.10.2019 No 9-8/ 1865-1

Congratulation on the Pan-Finno-Ugric Day

Dear Colleague,


On the Eve of the Pan-Finno-Ugric Day, allow me to congratulate you, dear colleague, on this occasion! Celebrated since 1928 the Pan-Finno-Ugric Day has been one of the most prominent symbols of Estonian, Finnish and Hungarian cultural cooperation for more than 90 years. According to a decision made by the 4th Finno-Ugric Cultural Congress in Helsinki in 1931, Finno-Ugric Days are held annually on the third weekend of October in Estonia, Finland, and Hungary. Nowadays, the Finno-Ugric Day is celebrated as a state holiday and a flag day in Estonia, which symbolizes cultural and educational cooperation between the three Finno-Ugric countries and the Finno-Ugric peoples living in Russia.

The ongoing Estonian Finno-Ugric Days 2019 are dedicated to the United Nations' International Year of Indigenous Languages. As most Finno-Ugric languages are also endangered or even disappearing, the purpose of Finno-Ugric Days is to highlight the importance of those unique languages and cultures, and to remind everyone of our collective responsibility to protect and foster them. This platform gives us a great opportunity to emphasize the importance of culture of small nations and their wider value and role.

It is my pleasure and privilege to host the next, 8th World Congress of the Finno-Ugric peoples in Estonia next year in 17-19 June, 2020 at the Estonian National Museum in Tartu. The main theme of the 8th Congress will be "Cultural landscapes – language and mind". I'm sure that the Congress will be a memorable event which enlarges and underlines the linguistic and cultural continuity and the importance of our cooperation at the highest level.

I look forward to meeting you at the 8th World Congress of the Finno-Ugric peoples in Tartu next year! I'm particularly glad to highlight the Finno-Ugric movement as the common cultural and linguistic cornerstone for our cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Tõnis Lukas
Minister

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