



1. What type of projects is the autumn 2022 Open Call aimed at?

The goal Oulu2026 is to achieve a permanent cultural climate change and a positive development fuelled by culture in Northern Finland. The projects must have a wide-reaching impact and the ability to offer unique experiences, permanent change or new models of operation.

We are looking for projects related to the themes Wild City, Cool Contrasts and Brave Hinterland. Focus areas relevant to the themes include for example art and technology, cultural history, creative spaces and places, regional food culture, combining nature and art, festival development, the promotion of minority cultures and a sustainable future.



The projects must be ready to be delivered independently with funding provided. The focus of the project must be on 2026, and the project must mainly take place within the Oulu2026 programme region.

For more detailed selection criteria, please check the Guide for Applicants.



The Open Call for applications is open to Finnish and international actors. Co-funding may be applied for by private individuals, groups, associations, networks, businesses, organisations and public institutions.

The application must indicate the type of applicant (individual, work group or organization) and the main applicant in charge of the project.

4. The autumn 2022 Open Call is aimed at "large-scale" projects. What's does this mean?

With a large-scale project, we refer to projects that require a longer time, possibly years to plan and deliver.

The projects must be ready to be delivered independently and the applicant must be able to guarantee their independent delivery with the co-funding provided.





Absolutely! From the 450 applications received in 2019, only 50 project concepts were eventually selected for the final Bid Book. The projects in the Bid Book represent only a fraction of the final cultural programme, which will include hundreds of projects. Same idea can be used in future programme applications. However, we encourage each applicant to update their proposals and take account of topical issues and the specific criteria for the Open Call.





9. What can we include in the self-funding of the project?

The self-funded part may include funds obtained through other grants, sponsorships, sales or fees, for example. The self-funding assessment can also include voluntary work and the contribution of the organisation's salaried employees and wage subsidies.

10. Why are the projects expected to provide 50% selffunding?

The target level for self-funding is high so that the continuity of the activities can be ascertained.

It is our shared goal that the Capital of Culture year's activities also attracts funding for the region through other funding channels and increases project funding know-how and helps identify new funding sources for the region.

The Capital of Culture year is a unique opportunity also from the national and international funding perspective. In the evaluation of the proposals, the feasibility of funding plans will be a priority.

11. Which types of costs are not covered?

As a rule, funding is not available for the following purposes:

- The basic activities of cultural or other operators
- Established events and festivals repeatedly organised under similar principles.

The following costs may be covered only as part of a larger programme content and in reasonable proportion to the overall budget:

- Infrastructure and property costs (e.g., rent, building service charges, repairs and building work)
- Investments (e.g., building work and equipment purchases)
- Training, continuing education, research or travel costs of individual persons

12. Does the self-funding have to be secured before submitting the application?

The self-financed part does not have to be secured at this stage as. Secured co-funding from other sources will be considered an asset, but most projects will still be in their planning stages at this point. On the application form, we ask applicants to indicate where they plan on sourcing the additional funding in the coming years.

As a rule, the co-funding awarded will cover no more than 50% of the total budget. However, the co-funding granted when the project is being delivered is not dependent on other funding if delivery of the project can be carried out within the resources available.



14. When will we hear whether our project has been selected to be a part of the culture programme?



Oct - Dec 2022

Open Call 2022

Application period 3 October – 9 December

CALL CLOSES 9 DECEMBER 23:59(EET)!

Jan - April 2023

Processing and evaluation of applications, negotiations

May 2023

Co-funding decisions by 31 May 2023

15. Our idea fits more than one of the programme lines. Are we expected to select the programme line for our project at the application stage?

The themes and programme lines are there to support planning but it is not necessary to adhere to a specific programme line at the application stage.

16. Are the projects already included in the cultural programme available somewhere for viewing?

Yes! Check www.oulu2026.eu/bidbook

17. Can we participate in the Open Call with an existing festival or event that has been organised before?

Yes – with a new, relevant perspective, such as development project related to the themes of the cultural programme.

18. We are planning to apply funding for a touring event in Oulu for 2026. Can we participate in the open call?

Yes - we encourage applicants to consider the permanent impact the event will have on the region and how the programme could be developed further as part of the Capital of Culture year's activities. The possible co-funding must be directed at development activities.



We have not given any set figure for the number of participants in an event. When assessing the scope of a project, attention will be paid to the programme content accessible to the general public, the other content of the project and the delivery schedule.



Yes, each application should provide a timeline for the project showing when each element of the project will be completed.

21. Do we need to know for certain at the application stage who all the project partners will be?

We recommend that the applicants have already identified and negotiated possible partnerships at the application stage. Existing partnerships and networks will be considered an asset in the evaluation of the application.

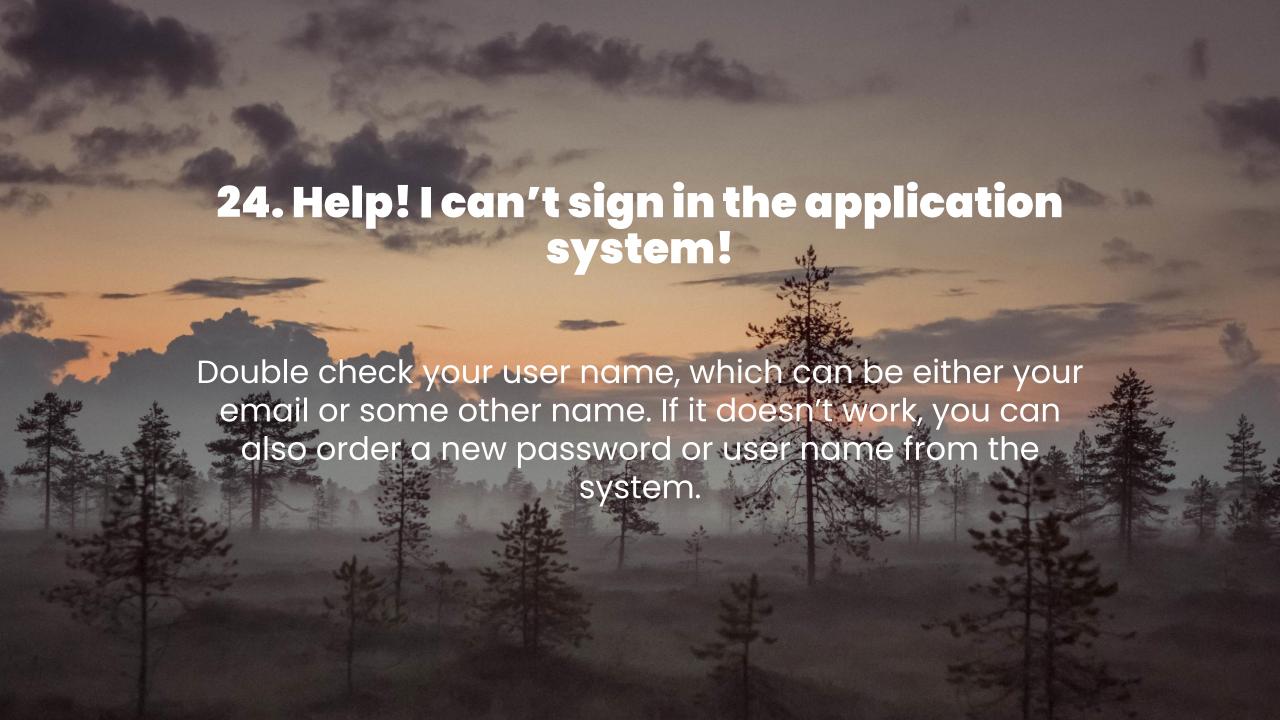
If necessary, the selected projects may also be offered support in creating partnerships after the application period ends.

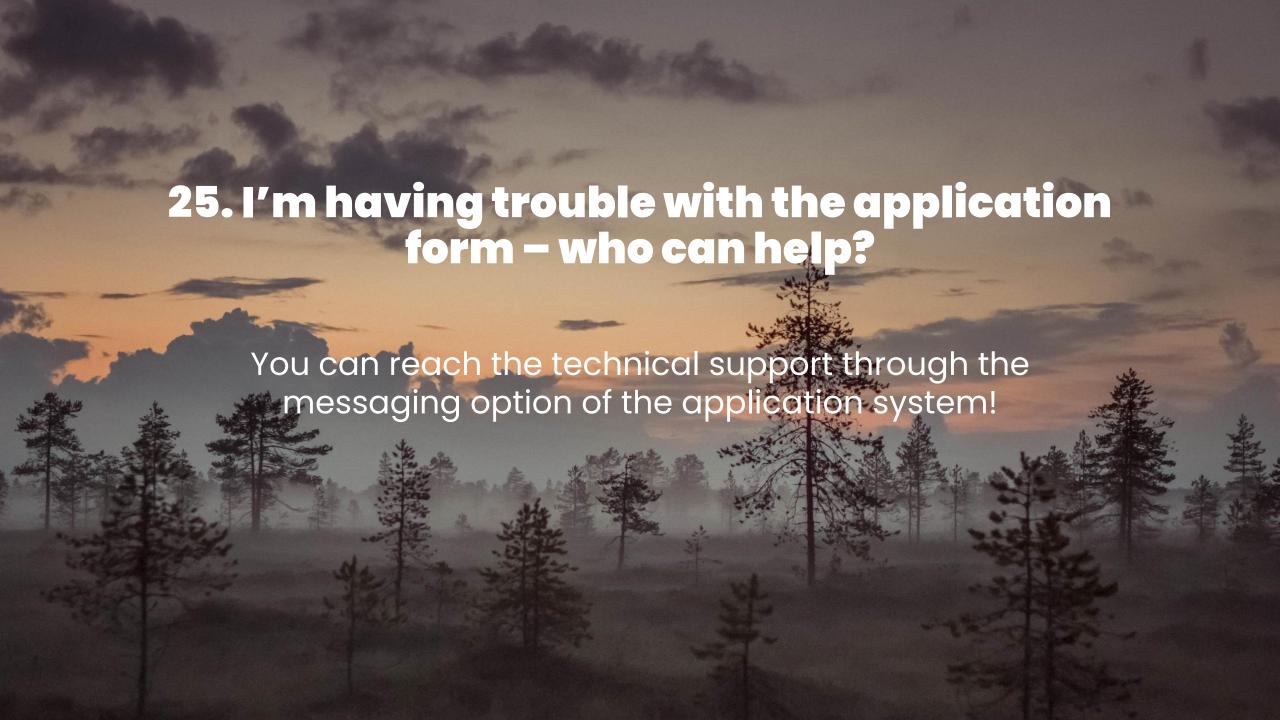


The aim of the European Capital of Culture activities is to promote the dialogue between European cultures and European dimension will be considered an asset for a project. However, cooperation with Finnish partners is not a prerequisite for a project to be selected for the cultural programme.



Yes, you may participate in subsequent Open Calls with applications based on the same idea. We encourage you to take into account the themes and priorities of each Open Call







- Guide for Applicants, FAQ, webinar recordings
 - Sign up for the last Help desk meetings 30 Nov!
 - > www.oulu2026.eu/opencall

Contact us: opencall@oulu2026.eu



The recording will be available at Oulu2026.eu/en/opencall



YouTube - Oulu 2026