The centenary year of Finland’s independence, 2017, will be a joint effort

Finland will celebrate the centenary of its independence in 2017. Coming up soon is the current generation of Finns’ most significant anniversary, which will be celebrated throughout the year all over Finland. The theme of the centenary year is ‘Together’. Accordingly, the Finland 100 programme will be a joint effort, built together by the Finnish people and friends of Finland.

The centenary year theme ‘Together’ strikes a chord with Finns. A survey* conducted by Statistics Finland for the Finland 100 project shows that a good nine in ten (92%) Finns consider that doing things together will be one of the most important success factors for Finland in the future.

“According to the study, one in two Finns would like to participate in the centenary year celebrations by working for some common cause. In addition to celebrating with their close circle of friends and relatives, Finns would also like to be involved in joint efforts to promote the common good or participate in charity work. A successful centenary year will strengthen the feeling of belonging in our society,” says Pekka Timonen of the Prime Minister’s Office, who is General Secretary of the project secretariat.

Today, there are 396 days to go until the start of the centenary year of Finland’s independence. The centenary year will be launched at the beginning of 2017 and will culminate in Independence Day week in December.

Programme open to everyone

The centenary year programme is open to everyone. Anyone can make a proposal up to the end of October 2017. Nearly 600 different proposals for the programme have already been submitted from all over Finland. Proposals can be made via the website suomifinland100.fi.

The programme will examine the history, present and future of Finland’s independence. Covering the whole of society, it will extend to Finland, abroad and, via the Finland 100 satellite, even to space.

“The centenary year celebrations will be rich and diverse: just like Finland itself. Reviewing the spectrum of programme proposals, one can only admire the determination of the Finnish people to build and celebrate the centenary year. Both large and small organisations and even private individuals are getting involved,” says Timonen.

In 2017, Finns and friends of Finland will plan the future of Finland together, eat together, sauna together, exercise together, enjoy various forms of music and theatre, visit exhibitions, watch new films, relish Finland’s nature, listen to Finland from space, remember famous Finns and give gifts to the centenarian. Children and young people will play a prominent role in the programme, creating and experiencing events.

Government projects include, among others, the establishment of a new national park in 2017 and Helsinki Central Library. Parliament, the President of the Republic and the Government will be active participants in the 2017 celebrations. Finland’s centenary year will also have an international dimension. Companies will also have an opportunity to participate in the centenary year celebrations.
Coordinators all over Finland

The preparation and coordination of the centenary year celebrations are the responsibility of the Finland 100 project, set up by the Prime Minister’s Office. The project secretariat will disseminate information, motivate actors and connect partners to create the centenary year programme. Regional implementation of the centenary year celebrations will be the responsibility of a regional network consisting of the regional councils and the six largest cities; 25 regional coordinators will help actors build the regional programme.

Inquiries:
Pekka Timonen, General Secretary, pekka.h.timonen@vnk.fi, tel. +358 50 337 4386
Päivi Pirttilä, Communications Specialist, paivi.pirttila@vnk.fi, tel. +358 40 705 3323
Prime Minister’s Office

Finland 100 centenary year website: suomifinland100.fi

The centenary year can be found on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube under the name SuomiFinland100 (#suomi100, #finland100).

A video presenting the centenary year, When Finland reaches 100, can be viewed at the address: http://www.suomifinland100.fi/?lang=en

*The survey was conducted in connection with Statistics Finland’s Consumer Barometer in September 2015. The comprehensive demographic survey interviewed over one thousand (1,134) residents of Finland aged between 15 and 85 years.

*****

Finland will celebrate the centenary of its independence in 2017. It is a big year for Finland, which Finns and friends of Finland will build together. The centenary year will give rise to events, experiences and a programme of activities. It will be celebrated all over Finland throughout 2017. The events will examine the century, present and future of Finland’s independence. Read more at: suomifinland100.fi