

## Two Polish cities to jointly host UNESCO event



**The southern Polish cities of Krakow and Katowice will join forces to host a high-profile international event billed as the 12th Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.** The meeting, which will be held in June next year, is expected to attract around 450 delegates from almost 200 cities around the world.

The two Polish cities have been selected to host the event following an online vote by members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, which comprises 116 cities from 54 countries. The Polish cities beat contenders such as China's Suzhou and Italy's Fabriano.

Krakow and Katowice, jointly dubbed "KraKowice," are known as Creative Cities of Literature and Music respectively.

The weeklong event in 2018 will feature debates and sessions expected to result in plans and crucial decisions on development strategies for UNESCO Creative Cities.

The attendees will be divided into several groups tackling issues such as film, music, literature, media arts, design, the food services industry, crafts and folk arts.

The meeting agenda also includes Steering Committee meetings, with Krakow presiding over the UNESCO Cities of Literature Steering Committee.

The event will coincide with a number of cultural events in both Krakow and Katowice in the summer of next year. These will include the Ogrody Dźwięków (Sound Gardens) Festival of World Music and a festival celebrating Nobel Prize-winning Polish poet Czesław Miłosz.

The Creative Cities Network is a UNESCO program designed to encourage cooperation between cities whose development is largely based on creative industries. UNESCO's Creative City designation is awarded in seven fields: literature, music, film, media arts, gastronomy, design, crafts and folk art.

Krakow was the first Polish city to become a UNESCO Creative City in 2013. Katowice followed suit in December 2015 when it became the first Central and Eastern European city to be designated as a UNESCO City of Music.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that seeks to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural projects.

Source: The Warsaw Voice