



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

## World Book Capital

22 March 2016

### WORLD BOOK CAPITAL NOMINATION 2018 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

1. Through the World Book Capital programme, UNESCO acknowledges the cities commitment for promoting books and fostering reading during a 12 months period between one World Book and Copyright Day and the next (23 April).

2. The Selection Committee – operating under the auspices of UNESCO – is made up of one representative of the International Publishers Association (IPA), one representative of the European and International Booksellers' Federation (EIBF), one representative of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and one UNESCO representative as well as two other independent experts, non-governmental organizations and/or independent institutions designated by UNESCO on a rotational basis.

3. The Director-General of UNESCO is responsible for the designation of the cities in conformity with the procedure set out below and follows both internal and external consultations with the other members of the Selection Committee.

4. The Selection Committee for the World Book Capital is calling for nominations for the World Book Capital 2018.

5. The complete applications including a cover or support letter from the Mayor of the candidate-city and drafted in one of UNESCO Secretariat's working languages (English or French), should reach UNESCO no later than Tuesday 31 May 2016. No application received after this date will be taken into consideration.

6. The applications should be submitted by email using the UNESCO application form (in Annex) and sent to the following address: [wbcc@unesco.org](mailto:wbcc@unesco.org).

7. To ensure a balanced representation of all regions<sup>1</sup> of the world, the Selection Committee will not consider consecutive nominations of cities or municipalities from the same region. Since the 2017 title was awarded to a city of Africa (Conakry, Guinea), no candidature from this region will be taken into consideration for the 2018 nomination.

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<sup>1</sup> According to its own criteria based on operational needs, UNESCO distinguishes five regions: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean (see annex).

8. Furthermore, the Selection Committee will only consider an application for a city in a country where another city has been a World Book Capital if a period of 10 years or more has elapsed since the previous host city nomination.

9. Applicants' programme proposals will be evaluated in the light of the following six criteria using a weighting system:

- the submission of an activity programme specifically conceived for the World Book Capital programme and implemented during the city's term as Capital with long-term benefits for partners and society at large;
- a general outline of expenses foreseen and fund-raising strategies;
- the degree of municipal, regional, national and international involvement, including professional and non-governmental organizations, and the foreseeable impact of the programmes;
- the quantity and quality of one-time or ongoing activities organized by the applicant city in collaboration with national, regional and international professional organizations representing writers, publishers, booksellers and librarians respecting the various players in the book supply chain and in the scientific and literary community;
- the quantity and quality of any other noteworthy projects promoting and fostering books and reading;
- conformity with the principles of freedom of expression, freedom to publish and to distribute information, as stated in the UNESCO Constitution as well as Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and by the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials (Florence Agreement, see annex).

10. By presenting its application each candidate city or municipality commits, in case of nomination, to:

- associate UNESCO and the three professional organizations represented in the Selection Committee, in its communication and information campaign by displaying their respective logos, on all publications and on the website of the World Book Capital programme);
- provide UNESCO, which will share it with all members of the Selection Committee, with:
  - a. an interim report on the activities implemented during the first part of nomination year (23 April 2018 - October 2018);
  - b. a final report on the activities implemented during the entire nomination year (23 April 2018 - 22 April 2019);

- systematically invite UNESCO and the three professional organizations represented in the Selection Committee to all main events relating the World Book Capital programme;
- produce and circulate information and communication tools on the City programme both in national and international languages.

11. Indicative timetable for the designation process and call for applications 2018:

<b><u>Phase 1</u></b>	<b>Call for Applications</b>
22 March 2016	Launch of call for applications
31 May 2016	Deadline for receipt of the applications by UNESCO
<b><u>Phase 2</u></b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
30 June 2016	External and internal consultative evaluation process
<b><u>Phase 3</u></b>	<b>Notification of results</b>
15 July 2016	Publication of designations by the Director-General of UNESCO

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A panel of independent experts will assist the chosen capital in the planning and implementation of its programme during the two years prior to its mandate. The panel will take stock and evaluate the whole preparatory work according to monitoring guidelines.

If the work doesn't meet the panel's expectations, the Selection Committee may withdraw the title from the City at any time during the monitoring phase, with one month's notice.

The City authorities should also commit to facilitating possible evaluation audits implemented on UNESCO's request.

The first World Book Capital chosen prior to the adoption of 31 C/Resolution 29 was Madrid (Spain) in 2001. Subsequent World Book Capital Cities have been Alexandria (Egypt) in 2002, New Delhi (India) in 2003, and Antwerp (Belgium) in 2004. Montreal (Canada) was the World Book Capital City in 2005, succeeded by Turin (Italia) in 2006, Bogotá (Colombia) in 2007, Amsterdam (The Netherlands) in 2008, Beirut (Lebanon) in 2009, Ljubljana (Slovenia) in 2010, Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 2011, Yerevan (Armenia) in 2012, Bangkok (Thailand) in 2013, Port Harcourt (Nigeria) in 2014, Incheon (Republic of Korea) in 2015, Wroclaw (Poland) in 2016 and Conakry (Guinea) in 2017.

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