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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Selection of the 2028 European Capital of Culture (Bourges) <i>- Information from the French delegation</i>

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Delegations will find in the annex a note from the French delegation intended for an ‘any other business’ item at the meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 13- 14 May 2024.

## Selection of the 2028 European Capital of Culture, Bourges

### *Information from the French delegation*

In 2028, France and the Czech Republic will be home to European Capitals of Culture. České Budějovice has been designated for Czechia. Skopje (North Macedonia) will be the third European Capital of Culture for 2028, on behalf of the EU candidate countries.

Nine French cities participated in the pre-selection phase, which took place in February 2023: Amiens, Bastia, Bourges, Clermont-Ferrand, Montpellier, Nice, Reims, Rouen and Saint-Denis.

The European panel shortlisted Bourges, Clermont-Ferrand, Montpellier and Rouen to take part in the final selection phase, held from 11 to 13 December 2023. At the end of that phase, the panel recommended that Bourges be designated 2028 European Capital of Culture. Based on that recommendation, the French Minister for Culture designated Bourges as the successful candidate.

Bourges' 'Territories of the Future' project envisions societal and climate innovation for cities on a 'human scale'.

As a medium-sized town with few transport links, which is difficult to access and where the population can sometimes feel 'invisible', Bourges aspires to use culture to step out of the shadow of big cities, to use artistic creativity to directly inspire changes in our individual and collective behaviour, and to create a space for people from all walks of life.

With this title, Bourges aims both to create new modes of governance in medium-sized towns, which are where most Europeans live, and to develop innovative and attractive projects to mitigate the effects of climate change and safeguard a habitable planet.

At the meeting of the EYCS Council, the French delegation would like to inform all delegations about the selection process and Bourges' art and culture programme for 2028.

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