

European Youth forum

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## Letter of support for Romsa's candidacy for European youth capital 2026

The Sámi Parliament supports the candidacy of the city of Romsa for European Youth Capital 2026, and their ambitions to increase youth participation and young citizenship in the city and the whole region. We see this as a positive initiative for young people in the Arctic, and it is also positive that the initiative includes indigenous youth.

We have positive expectations that such an initiative will also contribute to strengthening the involvement and participation of Sámi youth in the local communities.

Sámi people have shaped the history of Romsa's society over the centuries. Today, Romsa is also a central Sámi city of culture and knowledge, and host city for a large number of Sámi students. Romsa is today in a special position in the important work to safeguard and further develop Sámi language and culture in urban communities and in the northern areas.

The Sámi Parliament has several cooperation agreements with urban municipalities that have a larger Sámi population. The aim of the cooperation agreements is an active and targeted collaboration with regional and local authorities to strengthen and develop Sámi culture, language, and community life.

One of the paragraphs in the cooperation agreement between The Sámi Parliament and Romsa Municipality states that the parties agree to create good upbringing conditions for Sámi children and young people, and will collaborate on the development of measures, projects, and activities where children and young people are involved.

The parties will work together to ensure that Sámi children and young people are offered cultural and leisure activities, to safeguard the Sámi language and cultural perspective, and to stimulate entrepreneurship among Sámi youth. The parties will emphasize the participation of children and young people.

The Sámi Parliament is the Sámi people's democratically elected parliament in Norway, and is an independent elected body that ensures Norway's Sámi population political representation and participation. The Sámi Parliament works to strengthen the Sámi's political position, to promote the Sámi's interests in Norway, to contribute to equal and fair treatment of the Sámi people, and to create the right conditions for the Sámi to secure and develop their language, their culture, and their social life.

The Sámi Parliament is a democratic instrument for Sámi autonomy and for the development of useful and necessary services for the Sámi population. The Sámi people are an indigenous people with traditional territories within the national borders of Finland, Norway, Sweden and

Russia. The Sámi parliaments in Finland, Norway and Sweden engage in parliamentary cooperation through the Sámi Parliamentary Council and represents the Sámi people in intergovernmental matters. The Sámi Parliament works for the implementation of the rights in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in legislation and practical policies that

Dearvvuodaiguin/Med hilsen

Silje Karine Muotka  
Sámeddiggepresidenta/Sametingspresident

*Dát tjála le elektrávnálatjät dahkkidum ja vuollájtjálek sáddiduvvá./  
Dát reive lea elektrovnnalaččat dohkkehuvvon ja sáddejuvvo vuolláičállaga haga./  
Tjaatsege lea elektrovneles jááhkesjamme jih seedtesávva vuolietjaalegaph./  
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