



Leeuwarden
Fryslân
2018

Culturele
Hoofdstad
van Europa

An Invitation!

Dear ISPA Delegate,

Greetings from the 2018 European Capital of Culture! The UN predicts that by 2050, 66% of the world population will live in cities. And yet, humankind seems to flourish in smaller communities, regardless of calling the city or the countryside home. Are the values that we attach to urban and rural living shifting? In a world that is tense with populism, climate change, conflict and massive migration, the significance of these territories in society seems to be changing. What role do the performing arts choose to play in this transition and in particular, in the countryside?

In 2018 we invite the ISPA community to explore the unique countryside of Leeuwarden and Friesland and to engage in these questions, against the backdrop of the rich program of the European Capital of Culture. We promise you lively and participatory debate, stunning nature, site-specific theatre, more of the best the Dutch have to offer in the performing arts and classic ISPA networking opportunities.

We will host this ISPA congress in the beautiful historic city of Leeuwarden. The congress will include an unforgettable one-day excursion to the island of Terschelling where we will meet the Oerol Festival team. To make your visit complete, consider visiting the classical music festival Het Oranjewoud Festival prior to the congress or the Holland Festival after your stay in Leeuwarden. Another option we would like to offer you is to return to the island of Terschelling for the official opening of the Oerol Festival.

On behalf of the Leeuwarden-Friesland 2018 team, I very much hope that you will come and discover the heartland of Dutch culture between June 11th – 15th June, 2018..

With kind regards,

Tjeerd van Bekkum
CEO
Stichting Europese Culturele Hoofdstad Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018

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