



UEF Finland - Call for participants to attend the Turku Europe Forum (27 - 29 August 2025)

Introduction

Organised since 2018, the Turku Europe Forum is an annual event dedicated to debates on EU topics. Held at the City Theatre of Turku, Finland, the event is set to feature high-profile speakers: among others, the programme features Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission and Petteri Orpo, Prime Minister of Finland. The Turku Europe Forum takes place in Finnish and English, with simultaneous interpretation to English available. In 2024, the event attracted 900 in-person participants, with over 4,400 viewers watching the sessions live online.

The 2025 Turku Europe Forum will take place on **27 - 29 August**. The initial programme of the event is available on the [Turku Europe Forum website](#).

On 27 - 29 August, UEF Finland will organise three events:

- ❖ Public Debate event: “European security: a common defence and a federal response to the challenges of the 2020s?”
- ❖ Federalist Evening gathering at a river boat
- ❖ UEF Organisational development workshop for Nordic and Baltic countries

Invitation for international guests

We would like to invite the UEF and JEF sections from Nordic and Baltic countries to join us in Turku to attend the Europe Forum and to **organise capacity-building discussions on the development of UEF sections in the region**.

Our goal is to gather 1 – 2 activists from each section, for a total of ca. 10 international guests. The main goal of the event is to boost the organisational development of the federalist family in the Nordic-Baltic region, and to develop new ways to advocate for federalism in our countries. We encourage partner sections to nominate members who are engaged in a leading role in their section, and who are committed to cooperation between different national sections in the federalist family.



We would appreciate sections' responses, confirming the participants nominated by each section, by **Saturday 12 July**. After this date, UEF Finland and UEF Europe may extend the invitation to other sections beyond the Nordic-Baltic region, until the target number of 10 international participants is reached.

To confirm the participants joining on behalf of your section, you are invited to email Juuso Järvinemi (UEF Finland Board Member) at juuso.jarvinemi@gmail.com, with Verena Kaun (UEF Finland President - verena.kaun@gmail.com) and the UEF Europe Secretariat (secretariat@federalists.eu) in copy. The confirmation should include the following details about the participants:

- ❖ Name and role in the section
- ❖ Contact details: Email and phone number

Indicative programme

The programme is subject to changes: The final version of the programme is communicated to the confirmed visitors. Visitors are invited to arrive in Turku on Wednesday 27 August by 15:00, with a possibility to attend public Turku Europe Forum sessions from late morning onwards.

The official programme for visitors finishes with lunch on Friday 29 August.

Time	Activity	Location
Wednesday 27 August		
<i>Arrivals during Wednesday, according to participants' schedules</i>	Arrival in Turku, informal socialising & attending Turku Europe Forum sessions. <i>(The Turku Europe Forum will begin at 11:30 on 27 August)</i>	Turku City Theatre (Itäinen Rantakatu 14)
15:00 – 17:00	UEF Capacity-Building Workshop, Part 1	Radisson Blu Marina Palace Hotel (Linnankatu 32)
17:00 – 19:00	UEF Capacity-Building Workshop, Part 2	Radisson Blu Marina Palace Hotel (Linnankatu 32)



19:30	Common dinner	TBC
Thursday 28 August		
08:30 – 11:00	Attending Turku Europe Forum events, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:30 - 9:15: “Finland 30 Years in the European Union”, featuring Prime Minister Petteri Orpo ● 10:00 - 10:45: “Europe in the New World Order” 	Turku City Theatre (Itäinen Rantakatu 14)
11:00 – 11:45	UEF Finland’s stage session: “European security: a common defence and a federal response to the challenges of the 2020s?”	Turku City Theatre (Itäinen Rantakatu 14) – Little Stage
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	Viides Näyttämö (Itäinen Rantakatu 14)
13:00 – 14:15	Attending other sessions of the Turku Europe Forum, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13:00 - 14:15: “Does security bring investments?” (Co-organised by Finnish Energy, UEF Finland’s partner for the river boat gathering) 	Turku City Theatre (Itäinen Rantakatu 14)
14:30 – 15:15	JEF Finland’s stage session: “Education as a solution for EU competitiveness”	Turku City Theatre (Itäinen Rantakatu 14) – The Nook (Sopukka)
15:15 – 17:00	Attending other sessions	Turku City Theatre (Itäinen



	of the Turku Europe Forum, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 15:30 - 16:15: “Mind the Gap - How Can We Close the Innovation Gap by New Tech Policy?” ● 16:30 - 17:15: “Future EU and challenges for the next decades” 	Rantakatu 14)
17:00 – 21:00	Federalist gathering at the river boat & dinner	River Boat: Cindy (Itäinen Rantakatu 19) Dinner: TBC
Friday 29 August		
09:00 – 12:30	Attending the Turku Europe Forum, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:00 - 10:00: Panel debate with Finnish MEPs ● 10:15 - 11:00: Commission Vice-President Virkkunen: Towards a new era for the EU ● 11:30 - 12:15: The EU’s partnerships in an era of predatory superpowers (featuring Jutta Urpilainen, former EU Commissioner) 	Turku City Theatre (Itäinen Rantakatu 14)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch & departures	TBC
13:30	<i>Optional: Sightseeing in Turku</i>	Departure together from the lunch venue



Capacity building sessions

Session 1: Increasing organisational capacity of the shared federalist family

During this session, we would like to achieve closer cooperation between the UEF and JEF sections across the countries represented. The indicative schedule of the session is the following:

15:00 – Introduction & Welcome

- ❖ Welcome by UEF Finland
- ❖ Welcome by UEF Europe (Antonio Argenziano, Treasurer)

15:10 – Boosting former JEF members' engagement in UEF sections

- ❖ Presentation by UEF Finland (5 - 10 minutes): UEF sections as the alumni organisations of former JEFers: the Finnish model
- ❖ Open discussion & sharing experiences (20 minutes)

15:40 – Boosting cooperation between UEF and European Movement sections & Boosting cooperation between UEF sections

- ❖ Presentation by a participating section (TBD)
- ❖ Open discussion & sharing experiences

16:00 – Short break

16:05 – Preparing country-specific action plans for the creation and strengthening of UEF sections

16:50 – Wrap-up & Conclusions

Session 2: Advocating for federalism in diverse national contexts

During this session, we would like to develop ways to bring European federalism to the public debate in our home countries. The goal of the session is to give the floor for sharing of experiences from individual countries, followed by discussion. The presentation topics are open for discussion together with the invitees. The indicative schedule of the session is the following:



17:00 – Presentation by UEF Europe: “Between pro-Europeanism and federalism – How to introduce federalism to the public debate”

- ❖ Open discussion

17:20 – Short presentations by participating sections: Arguing for federalism in my country’s public debate

- ❖ Short presentation (TBD)
- ❖ Short presentation (TBD)

17:40 – Short presentation by a participating section: Sharing good practices in ‘normalising’ federalism in the public debate

- ❖ Short presentation (TBD)

18:00 – Short break

18:05 – Developing argumentation and communication strategies for promoting federalism

- ❖ Short presentation (TBD)
- ❖ Short presentation (TBD)
- ❖ Open discussion & Case studies

18:45 – Exploring key moments and opportunities for federalist activism during the 2024/29 legislative term

18:55 – Closing words

19:00 – Conclusion

Logistical aspects

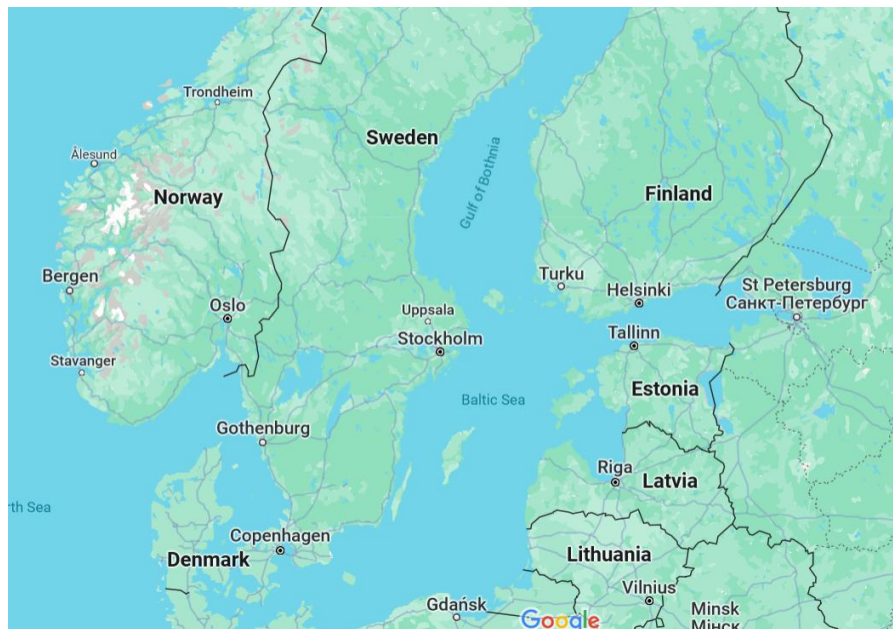
Financial support

Thanks to financial support from UEF Europe, travel and accommodation reimbursements of up to EUR 200/person are available for 10 international guests. In order to benefit from the reimbursement, the international guests must present receipts for their expenses after the event.



National sections may provide additional financial support for their members participating in the Turku Europe Forum according to their resources.

How to get to Turku?



Located at the Southwestern corner of Finland, Turku can be reached by boat, by airplane, or by road or rail from Helsinki:

- ❖ **Boat:** Tallink and Silja Line have regular connections between Stockholm and Turku.
- ❖ **Plane:** Turku Airport has direct flights to Stockholm and Copenhagen (Scandinavian Airlines), and Riga (AirBaltic).
- ❖ **Road/rail:** From Helsinki, Turku can be reached by rail (VR) or by bus (Onnibus). The journey takes ca. 2.5 hours.

Where to stay in Turku?

Participants are invited to organise their own accommodation independently. There are several hotels in the Turku city centre, near the Turku City Theatre which serves as the main venue of the Turku Europe Forum.



Participants may self-organise to stay in shared rooms. For the confirmed participants, UEF Finland will create a participants' WhatsApp group to help you contact other participants.

Some budget-friendly options in Turku include:

- ❖ Omena Hotels (<https://www.omenahotels.com>) is a budget, self-check-in hotel chain with two hotels in Turku, both within 15 minutes' walk from the Turku City Theatre: [Humalistonkatu 7](#) and [Kauppiaskatu 4](#)
- ❖ S/S Bore (<https://tai.fi/en/subsite/bore/accommodation/>) is a ship that serves as a hostel. It is 30 minutes away from the Turku City Theatre by foot, and reachable within 15 minutes by bus.

We look forward to seeing you in Turku this summer!