

ninho

KULTTUURIKESKUS RY

www.ninho.fi

NINHO ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Jaranas del Norte at Sello Library, Kolibrí Festivaali 2025. © Sonia Cienfuegos

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PRINCIPLES

Ninho's activities are based on global education and active learning through multidisciplinary artistic expressions celebrating diversity. We acknowledge what makes us different but also embrace what makes each of us unique.

We work to support the expression, communication, and participation of various immigrant and multicultural communities. The Ibero-American dimension is important but not exclusive.

As an association founded by migrants, we propose ways for local audiences, organizations, and institutions to get to know each other and to collaborate in new and equitable ways.

MISSION

Kulttuurikeskus Ninho ry (NINHO) works to develop a more multicultural and plurilingual children's culture in Finland.

VISION

Our activities are recognized as spaces for learning, togetherness, and dialogue, supporting all families in Finland who enjoy spending high-quality time together, learning about, and experiencing different cultures.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

Milestones & Growth

In 2025, Kulttuurikeskus Ninho employed **63 people** (with various types of contracts), compared to 57 last year. The number of languages represented increased from **33 to 36**, including heritage languages spoken by members, attendees, volunteers, and team members.

Kolibri Festivaali celebrated its **10th anniversary**, marking a decade of growth and impact. In addition to the regular Open Call for proposals, we launched a **special call for Sámi and Roma creatives**, funded by **Suomen Kulttuurirahasto**. For the first time, a **Young Selection Team** participated, enhancing diversity and youth engagement in the festival. Attendance reached **3,422 people**; a **29.4% increase** compared to 2024. To commemorate the milestone, we produced a **5-minute video** showcasing the festival's origins and evolution. Notably, last year's pilot project **Kabooks!** also continued during 2025, reaching more families and communities, through **4 sessions**.

For the first time, Ninho received funding from multiple foundations, including **Suomen Kulttuurirahasto**, **Otto Malm Foundation**, **Pluralismisäätiö**, and **William Thuring's Stiftelse**, enabling us to strengthen programs and expand our reach.

Additionally, we successfully launched the **Family Encounters** project, further broadening our program offerings. These achievements demonstrate Ninho’s ongoing **growth, innovation, and meaningful impact** on children’s cultural programming.

Risteys - Palkinto

Kulttuurikeskus Ninho ry and Kolibrí Festivaali were honored with the 2025 [Risteys-palkinto](#), granted by the Global Music Centre to celebrate significant efforts in fostering intercultural encounters and supporting communities’ rights to their own music. The recognition comes at a meaningful moment—the 10th Anniversary of Kolibrí Festivaali and just months before Ninho’s own decade celebration—highlighting their long-term commitment to building bridges between cultures through art, childhood, and community. The award was presented on 9.11. at Malmitalo during the Children’s Etnosoi Festival, a venue that has hosted Kolibrí many times and provided the perfect setting for this multicultural celebration.

Guest Festival at Helsinki Juhlaviikot 2025

Since August 2025, Kolibrí Festivaali is part of [Helsinki Juhlaviikot Program](#), the largest arts festival in the Nordic countries: a milestone collaboration that allows us to connect with many more families and broaden community engagement.

Overview

During 2025, our activities reached more than 6500 people, around 1625 families. We did this through **8 trainings** , **5 information sessions**, over 40 PICNIC meetings, **22 encounters** under our Lukupesä project—including **2 events** during the Satakielikuukausi program— and 2 Open Calls for Kolibrí Festivaali's Anniversary, **2 Kolibrí Children's Book Fairs**, a **Family Day - Día de Muertos**, a **community encounter** and **4 KABOOKS! sessions**, **5 Family Encounters**, pilot sessions from our newest project.

Ninho has been at **25 venues** around the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and **2 venues** in Vaasa- **36 heritage languages** were present - in activities or spoken by the audience, artists, volunteers or team members. We collaborated with more than **60 organizations**, and a total number of **63 people** have been paid under contract, most of whom had immigrant backgrounds. We attended **2 major cultural sector events** to increase our exposure and build new connections along with **1 dialogue** with cultural workers and artists.

In 2025, we experienced substantial growth in the production team and encountered new challenges regarding government budget cuts. We continued hiring an office coordinator through TE Tomisto (*palkkatuki*), and we allocated resources to hire production, communication, office support and financial support. Our team expanded seasonally through our internship programs.

Board 2025

The Annual Assembly was held online on 14.4. with 18 attendees.

Ninho's Board was elected as follows:

- Chair: Andrea Botero (CO)
- Vice President: Adriana Saarialho (MX-FI)
- Treasury: Laura Zubillaga (AR)
- Secretary: Verónica Muñoz (MX)
- Vocal: Martha Vera (MX)
- Substitute members: Teija Potenze (FI) / Veronica Miranda (AR)
- Auditor: Mikko Mäkelä (FI)
- Vice-auditor and/or accountant: TASECO

Memberships in the Association

We have 45 **members** as of 2.12.2025:

- 2 institutional memberships
- 13 plus memberships
- 30 individual memberships

Financing

Daily finances are handled through online HOLVI banking tools. The operations are overseen by the Treasurer - Laura Zubillaga (AR), Chairperson - Andrea Botero (CO), and Financial Assistant - Patricia Zamudio (PE/ES). We continue using the services of an accounting company run by students of Haaga-Helia (TASECO) that follows the bookkeeping and prepares the final financial report and balance of our operations.

The economic balance of the association in 2025 was satisfactory; we handled a budget of 146.193 euros, the biggest to date for our Association. We covered all our expenses and generated small income (1.399) that help us support activities during the first months of 2026 when we do not have secured funding.

Incomes	
Subsidies and financial support	
Other Incomes	147 592,25 €
Expenses	
External services	
Personnel expenses	
Other expenses	146 193,03 €
PROFIT (LOSS) 2025	1 399,22 €
Previous year profit 2024	7 311,87 €
Total	8 711,09 €
Bank to 31.12.2024	14 940,76 €

Income and Grants

In 2025, we raised funds that enabled us to launch new projects and activities. Our activities have been funded by: Grants, Membership fees, Fundraising activities (e.g., new and secondhand books) Production services and facilitation of workshops; (for eg in the Helsinki Education Forum)

During 2025 we received grants from:

- Helsinki City - Operational Grant 2025: 30.000 euros.
- TAIKE - Operation Grant 2025: 20.000 euros.
- Svenska Kulturfonden - Operational Grant: 7.000 euros.
- Espoo City - Kolibrí Festivaali: 3.000 euros.
- Finnish-Iberoamerican Institute - Kolibrí Festivaali production: 1.000 euros.

- Moniheli - Family encounters 7.000 euros.
- William Thuring's Stiftelse - Kolibri Post/production: 2.000 euros
- Otto Malm - Kolibrí video production - part salary production team: 4.000 euros
- The Foundation for Pluralism - NINHO Strength Capacity Building Training Program for a more democratic and inclusive Children's Culture Sector: 3.000 euros
- SuomenKulttuurirahasto - Kolibri 2025, special open call: 22.000 euros

The team behind the applications include: Andrea Botero (CO), Victor Rincón (ES), Javier Knuutila-Gauto (PY), Laura Gazzotti (AR), Marta Bermúdez (ES), Laura Zubillaga (AR), Patricia Zamudio (PE – ES), Octavio Bellomo (AR) and Núria Rovira (ES), who handled the application processes.

Training, Information sessions and Advocacy actions

Ninho carried out a diverse range of training, information sessions, and advocacy actions designed for artists, volunteers, community members, and partners. These initiatives strengthened skills, promoted inclusion, and supported our mission across cultural and community contexts. We also held retrospective meetings to analyze and review the team's perspective on various aspects of Kolibrí Festivaali. The table below provides an overview of each activity.

Trainings, Impact & Advocacy Actions and Information sessions

Date	Training	Description	Facilitators	Attendees	Mode of Meeting/ Location
<i>Kolibrí Trainings</i>					
27.3.	Kolibrí Training for Adults	Training for the selection team to assess artistic proposals for Kolibrí, covering evaluation guidelines and technical methods.	Eduardo Acosta and Veronica Miranda	5	Online
29.3.	Kolibrí Training for Adults	Training was conducted as this person could not make it for the training on 27.3.	Eduardo Acosta and Veronica Miranda	1	Online
31.3	Kolibrí Young Selection Team Training	Pilot Training for the young selection team to easily assess artistic proposals	Eduardo Acosta and Veronica Miranda	3	Töölö Library, Helsinki

		for Kolibrí based on the criteria.			
12.5.	Kolibrí Training for Artists	Training focused on the festival's content and Ninho's approach to accessibility and inclusivity.	Laura, Marta, Nuria and Veronica	14	Hybrid
18.8.	Kolibrí Training for Volunteers	Training focused on Ninho's model, cultural insights, practical Kolibrí information, diversity, accessibility, and diversity statements.	Laura, Marta and Nuria	18	Hybrid
<i>The Strength Capacity Building Training Program was funded by Pluralismisäätiö, to help improve the community's ability to create a more democratic and inclusive children's culture sector in Finland.</i>					
26.5.	Cultural Diversity & Community Centred Proposals	First session	Ilaria Tucci and Laura Gazzotti	55	Hybrid
2.6.	Intercultural Dialogues and Non-violent Communication	Second session	Arlene Tucker and Marta Bermúdez	37	Hybrid
9.6.	Hospitality and Non-discrimination Practices	Third session	Leonardo Custódio	24	Hybrid
Date	Event	Description	Facilitators	Number of contacts	Location
<i>Impact and Advocacy Actions</i>					
31.3.	Helsinki Education Forum	Facilitation of discussion and peer support group about education and culture in the City of Helsinki.	Marta Bermúdez	7	Kulttuurikeskus Caisa, Helsinki
12 - 13.11.	Lastenkulttuurifoorumi 2025	Ninho presented a panel “From Migrant Roots to Cultural Impact,” showcasing Kolibrí Festivaali's 10-year contribution to diversity, multilingualism, intergenerational	Laura Gazzotti, Marta Bermúdez and Kaisa Kettunen	20	Ritz and Wasa Teater, Vaasa

		exchange, and inclusion in children's culture.			
3.12.	Cultural Dialogues in Spanish	The session was a dialogue with Spanish-speaking cultural workers and artists about their professional situation in Finland.	Coordinated by Marta Bermúdez and facilitated by Kemê Pellicer	6	Globe Art Point, Helsinki
Date	Event	Description	Facilitators	Attendees / Number of contacts	Location
<i>Information Sessions</i>					
5.6.	Helsinki Welcome Day	Ninho hosted an info table to meet new international residents - boosting our visibility and generating interest in our programmes and volunteering.	Marta, Nuria, Priyanka and Alicia	30	City Hall, Helsinki
13.6.	Oberlin College Visit	Presentation and Q&A session about integration, Ninho's activities, funding, outreach to different communities and goals related to minority heritage languages.	Octavio Bellomo and Eurídice Hernández	35	University of Helsinki
18.8.	Jade	Information session on services for Senior Residents.	Ruth Rubin	7	Kinapori Service Centre, Helsinki
23.9.	Kulttuurimarkinat	We strengthened our presence in the cultural sector and promoted Kolibrí Festivaali's Open Call and productions to artists and city cultural programmers.	Nuria, Marta and Priyanka	50	Musiikkitalo, Helsinki

10.10.	Moniheli 15th Anniversary Celebration	We hosted an info table presenting our 2025 activities, gaining strong visibility and interest in community involvement and volunteering.	Marta Bermúdez and Priyanka Tahilramani	35	Kalliolan Settlementitalo, Helsinki
Date	Meeting	Description	Facilitators	Attendees	Mode of Meeting
<i>Retrospective Meetings (Internal)</i>					
29.10.	First meeting	The meeting was convened to review the team's perspective on pre-production, promotion, internal dynamics, partnerships, execution, and post-production of Kolibrí.	Laura Gazzotti	9	Online
8.12.	Second meeting	The meeting focused on improvements in the organization and execution of Kolibrí, with top-voted points discussed in order, and action items assigned to each.	Eduardo Acosta and Laura Gazzotti	7	Online



Pictures of Kolibrí Artists Training and Ninho training in 2025



Volunteers Training © Marta Bermúdez Lastenkulttuurifoorumi panel © Vera Lapitskaya

Capacity Building and Professional Development

During 2025, the team participated in the following trainings and certifications to enhance professional skills and strengthen organizational capacity:

Project Lead

- *Certification of Peer Support Group Host by Finnish Refugee Council*

- *Advanced Training Course for Peer Supporters* by Finnish Refugee Council
- *Essentials of Crisis Communication* training by Moniheli - Network of Multicultural Associations

Communications Coordinator

- *Peer Support Group Host Certification* – Finnish Refugee Council
- *Advanced Training Course for Peer Supporters* by Finnish Refugee Council

Office Coordinator

- *2-day Digital Supporter Training* by DigiUp Programme, Moniheli - Network of Multicultural Associations

ACTIONS 2025

Our open events are free of charge and accessible to the general public without restrictions such as membership, invitations, or prior registration. Our open events celebrate intercultural encounters, diversity, multilingualism, and bring families together, highlighting minority heritage languages and promoting multidisciplinary approaches in the children’s culture field.

PICNIC – Family Art encounters

In 2025, PICNIC has hosted two groups of Spanish-speaking families: PICNIC-Bebés (ages 0–1 year approx. and PICNIC-Caminadores (ages + 2 years). The groups have been maintained by the families themselves, the support of Ninho members, actions facilitated by volunteers, as well as interns. Alicia Sevilla (MX) - oversaw the management and energizing of PICNIC-Bebés from May to June 2025.

- PICNIC — Bebés, Tuesdays 12:00 – 14:00
- PICNIC — Caminadores, Fridays 16:00 – 17:45

The year was divided into two seasons: spring (14.2. - 13.6.) and autumn (8.8. - 5.12.)

The 2025 autumn season opened on 8.8. with a musical storytelling session by storyteller Alicia Sevilla and musician Manu Rosales. The closing session was on Friday 5.12, and included a concert by Natalia and Sebastián Castrillón at Pasila Library - Auditorio.



Opening of PICNIC 2025 Autumn season



Closing session of PICNIC 2025 Autumn season

By the initiative of the PICNIC families, they are in the process of creating a NEW PICNIC encounter, in Espoo in Sello Library. Picnic sessions welcomed **more than 470 attendees** in 2025. Plans for the Spring of 2026 are already in place.

Satakielikuukausi (Language Month)

We remained engaged in the coordination of open events within the [Satakielikuukausi](#) program, a dedicated month celebrating heritage languages and fostering linguistic and multicultural diversity across Nordic countries.

- **Reading together / Leemos Juntos / Lemos juntos**

During **20.3.2025** our traditional **storytelling marathons in Spanish and Portuguese** arrived at Oodi, in cooperation with the Ibero-American Embassies. Verónica Miranda, Substitute member of Ninho's board, hosted the event.

During Leemos Juntos (Let's read together) marathon, representatives from the Embassies of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Spain, and Uruguay read the books.

During **Lemos Juntos**, Portuguese stories were read to us also by representatives of the Brazilian and Portuguese embassies, as well as Instituto Camões and Instituto Guimarães Rosa-Helsinki. Counting both marathons, the event received **over 70 people**. This project also falls under the **Lukupesä** project.

Lukupesä

This holistic program aimed at supporting immigrant parents to maintain multilingual reading practices in their families and contribute to preserving their heritage languages.

- **Reading together**

On 5.4.2025 we celebrated the traditional Multilingual Marathon for **Children's Literature Day** with a cooperation event with Oodi Library, Global Music Program of ARTS-EQUALand

Multilingual Library. We offered a [program](#) with musical storytelling sessions and workshops in 14 different languages thanks to artists, companies and associations: Ad- Astra, Associação Brasileiros na Finlândia (BiF), Associação de Professores de Português na Finlândia ry (APPF), Autokton ry, BiziVietnam, Espoon monikulttuuriset lapset ja nuoret ry, Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Helsinki, KK Entertainments, Mi Casita, Mirsal, Ukrainalaisten Yhdistys Suomessa ry . We had over **500 attendees**.



- **Ninho Library:**

This section of reading suggestions has been maintained by Ivonne Carlos and Marta Bermúdez. The section can be found on Lukupesä's page, and its goal is to promote Helmet collection titles in minority languages, diverse books, and the Ninho's Book Program. A new Reading Challenge has been created to keep this promotion and engage with our audience. This initiative is ready to be launched in 2026.

Kolibri Festivaali 2025 10th Anniversary

In this milestone year Kolibrí continues to be a unique experience in the Nordic countries, and one of the most multilingual spaces of encounters for children's culture in Finland, inviting many voices and a wide variety of artists and cultural workers. The festival offers high-quality programming for families of different backgrounds living in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area.

The theme for 2025 was **Wishes**. With this concept, we wanted to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the festival, remembering those deep desires we make when blowing out birthday candles.

We worked in 5 venues in Helsinki: Annantalo, Stoa, Helsinki University, Kuvittajat ry's Gallery, and Caisa; 2 venues in Espoo: Sello Library and LIVE Ammattiopisto; and 1 venue in Vantaa: Children's Cultural Center Pessi. There were **3422 attendances** to the activities.

Our international guests were:

- **Gusti Rosemffet:** Argentinian illustrator who has been working to visualize children with disabilities. He created 2025 Kolibrí official image. More details about [him](#).
- **Mar Benegas:** Spanish writer and children’s poet. More details about [her](#).

For the very first time, a **publishing house** joined us. The Catalan editor **A buen paso** had a stand at Children’s Book Fair – Pessi. Its founder, Arianna Squilloni, offered also a storytelling in Spanish and joined Mar Benegas at Stoa, offering a panel about children’s literature and encounter with the Italian Community of Familias, for a storytelling session.

Thanks to Suomenkulttuurirahasto, we launched a special **open call for including Sámi and Roma artists** in Kolibrí 2025 program. Find more details of the open call [here](#).

For the very first time, the selection process included a **Young Selection Team**, composed by Matilda Gazzotti, Sami Saarto, Clara Acosta-Miranda, and Tomás.

Thanks to Otto A. Malm Foundation, we filmed and produced a [5 minutes video](#), under the coordination of Marta Bermúdez. The piece explains what Kolibrí Festivaali is, its origin and evolution during the last decade, meaningful anecdotes and the importance of the festival for the children’s cultural agenda in the Helsinki capital area. The video had the participation of Ninho’s members, artists, and culture experts like Pirjetta Mulari, Helsinki City Children's Culture Chief.

The Program

The [Open Call](#) for Kolibrí 2025 received 51 artistic proposals for the general open call, and 12 proposals for the special open call. See the Kolibrí Festivaali 2025 Final Selection blog post for complete info [here](#).

The Kolibrí program featured:

- 22.8. Community Opening at Caisa (Helsinki) – 52 attendees.
- 23.8. Grand Opening for families at Kulttuurikeskus Caisa (Helsinki) – 111 attendees.
- 13.9. Family Day at Sello Library (Espoo) – 903 attendees.
- 18.9. “As if it were a cherry” – Mar Benegas conference at Helsinki University (Language Centre) – 27 attendees.
- 18.9. “From lullaby to story” – panel with Mar Benegas and Arianna Squilloni (A buen paso) at Kulttuurikeskus Stoa (Helsinki) – 8 attendees.
- 20.9. Family Day at Lastenkulttuurikeskus Pessi (Vantaa) – 763 attendees.
- 24.9. “Windows for Seeing Difference: Creativity, Image and Expression”: Gusti’s art workshop for professionals working with people with disabilities at Ammattiopisto LIVE (Espoo) – 20 attendees.

- 25.9. Gusti’s art workshop for students at Ammattiopisto LIVE (Espoo) – 50 attendees.
- 26.9. Encounter with Gusti at Kuvittajat ry gallery (Helsinki) – 10 attendees.
- 27.9. Family Day at Annantalo (Helsinki) – 1478 attendees.
- Total: 3422 attendees.

See more details and some info about feedback [here](#).

During Kolibrí, the accessibility team managed 3 Serenity Corners, a safe, comfortable, and calm space for those needing a sensory break. The serenity corner at Annantalo was the most successful, with around 90 attendees. This was the second time the festival offered 3 Eating Corners, where families had the chance to eat their own food.



Families feedback

This year, we continued using a single digital form to gather feedback from families and attendees. We received a total of 68 responses from families.

The multicultural environment stood out as a key strength, with families expressing how meaningful it was to see diverse cultures represented and celebrated.

Families also encourage us to increase venue space to reduce crowding, expand the selection of children’s books in languages like Portuguese, clarify photography and privacy guidelines, enhance visibility of the Serenity Corner, and add cozy touches like snack stations.

“It was a wonderful experience, full of joy and creativity. Everything was well organised, and the children enjoyed it a lot. Thank you for such a lovely festival!”

“The festival is important for the kids to have contact with others speaking the same language. Also to get in touch with culture.”



Sámi artist Petra Biret and her daughters at Annantalo. © Núria Rovira.

Institutional feedback

The feedback from 4 co-producers was positive. They highlighted that Kolibrí effectively drew multicultural audiences to their venues, strengthened inclusion and diversity in programming, and benefited from well-prepared materials alongside committed staff and volunteers. All co-producers expressed their willingness to host the festival again in the future. A more detailed report can be found [here](#).

Kolibrí Children's Book Fair

The Children's Book Fair, coordinated by Verónica Miranda, had 2 dates at Lastenkulttuurikeskus Pessi and Annantalo. As its tradition, we sold new and secondhand children's books in Spanish and Portuguese, including books by the 2 international guests. We also had a stand of A Buen Paso editorial at Pessi.

Gusti Rosemffet and Mar Benegas offered a total of 4 book singing sessions at the fair, in which they had the opportunity to engage with both children and adults.



Gusti Rosemffet at Annantalo. © Marta Bermúdez



Arianna Squilloni (left) and Mar Benegas at A buen paso's stand at the Children's Book Fair at Lastenkulttuurikeskus Pessi. © Marta Bermúdez

Family Day: Altar de Día de Muertos - Day of the Dead

To prepare for the *Día de Muertos* Family Day, we held a community gathering at the Globe Art Point offices on 23.10. Volunteers joined us to learn how to create *cempasúchil* paper flowers, papel picado and contribute to the event's decoration. The flowers crafted and the papel picado during this session were used in an installation for Family Day. **Attendees:** 14.



This year's [program](#) of the fourth edition of 'Día de Muertos' was coordinated by Marta Vera and happened on 1.11. at Helsinki Central Library Oodi consisted of:

- Multilingual storytelling session in Spanish, Finnish and Swedish.
- Two Nonstop Art Workshop for families: Calacas and Altars.
- Community Art Installation 'Altar for all souls'.
- Digital art 'Papel picado' video installation.
- Mexican music concert: "Songs for all souls" for all ages.

Total **attendees:** over 1000 people.



Storytelling session in Spanish. © Marta Bermúdez

Family Encounters

Ninho launched a new Moniheli funded project in 2025. The aim of this project was to create and evaluate a pilot for family encounters as a cultural mediation format that facilitates social inclusion and well-being of immigrant stay-at-home parents and their children of small ages. Encounters were free gatherings in Arabic, Hindi, Kannada, and Portuguese for families of immigrant backgrounds speaking minority heritage languages with children ages 0 - 2.5 years.

Through an Open Call, five (5) organizations were selected to participate in the project: Suomi–Syyria Ystävyyssseura ry, White Hands ry, Associação de Professores de Português na Finlândia (APPF) Saksham Performing Arts, and Bihar Jharkhand Prosperity Junction Finland ry (BJPF). We also mentored them in the process of signing contracts with facilitators, designing the events, following a calendar of step-by-step actions, and creating invoices- since many were doing this for the first time - and supported them in compiling and submitting all required project documents.

Held during September and October, partner organizations designed and co-produced pilot sessions in their own language including songs, poems, storytelling, and traditional music. The gatherings provided a safe and welcoming space for families to connect in their heritage languages, meet new people, and strengthen their sense of community.

Across all associations, several key learnings emerged. They emphasized the vital role of minority heritage language in strengthening family bonds, cultural identity, and children's language development. The associations also highlighted the importance of community-based cultural gatherings in preserving heritage languages, noting that music, play, and storytelling

are highly effective for engaging young children. Additionally, they found that selecting suitable venues and incorporating traditional elements, artists, and props significantly enriches the experience and enhances cultural impact.

Total number of **attendees** of all 5 family sessions: 141

KABOOKS!

KABOOKS! Is a multilingual storytelling and music session format designed for families with young children aged 0-2.5 years across the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. The sessions also welcomed older siblings and grandparents. In 2025 we produced 4 of them

3.5. – Myyrmäki Library, Vantaa The Spring season of KABOOKS! opened with a Spanish and English interactive performance by Alicia Sevilla (MX) and Manu Rosales (AR) which included live music, stories, singing and movement. **Attendees: 50**

24.5. – Tikkurila Library, Vantaa

This session featured storytelling and music in Farsi, Finnish and English by Anar Ensemble. The session was performed by Mahsa Khoshnejad, Banafsheh Eshrahi and musician Sara Majidinejad from Iran. **Attendees: 60**

24.5. – Mosaiikki Library, Vantaa

A second KABOOKS! event on the same day featured a multilingual performance in Swahili, Finnish, English, Sukuma, Sumbwa and Zulu, led by Kasheshi Makena (TZ) and musician Magogo (TZ) which included live music, stories and movement. **Attendees: 60**

8.8. – Pasila Library, Helsinki

The autumn season of PICNIC opened with a special KABOOKS! session in Spanish with storytelling led by Alicia Sevilla (MX) and live guitar by Manuel Rosales (AR). **Attendees: 46**

Craft Workshop for Pasilan Naapuruusviikko

During Pasilan Naapuruusviikko on 24.5, Ninho organized the “*Little Neighbors*” non-stop craft workshop for children aged 3+ and their families. Participants could create arts and crafts continuously with the materials provided, guided by facilitators Alicia Sevilla (MX) and Emily Guan (CH) in English, Spanish, and Chinese. The workshop aimed to encourage community interaction, inclusion, and playful engagement among local families.

Attendees: 15

DEVELOPED PROGRAMS

Bologna International Children's Book Fair, Italy

Ninho participated in the Bologna International Children's Book Fair on 31.3. - 4.4., coordinating the book donation for our Program for Enriching the Collection of Spanish & Portuguese Children's Literature in Finland's Public Libraries. The Cultural Producer, Laura Gazzotti established partnerships with publishers and international organizations connected to the guests of Kolibrí Festivaali 2025 and 2026, while opening dialogue with new publishers interested in Ibero-American children's literature. The trip also contributed to planning new regional projects with existing and new partners. These actions reinforced Ninho's professional network, expanded opportunities for international collaboration, and enhanced the association's visibility and recognition in the field of children's culture.

One of the main achievements was the confirmation of Argentinian illustrator, Gusti Rosemffet as a special guest of the 10th anniversary of Kolibrí Festivaali and the candidate for Kolibrí 2026 Roger Mello from Brazil. New cooperation Colombian and Mexican Camara del libro and Spanish, Chilean and Mexican Publisher Houses, and the traditional cooperation program with the Camara del Livro Brasil and DIRAC (Chile) and DGLAB (Portugal) bring us new selection titles for our program with the Children Books Collection HELMET and The Multilingual Library. This year we find more that 100 new children's books from Latin-American countries to Finland.

Bestowal of Children's Books in Spanish and Portuguese – 10th edition

During November-December 2025 the selection of books was catalogued to help families access them more easily on the day of the event. The bestowal of children's books in Spanish and Portuguese will take place on Marchi 21st 2026 in Vantaa, with the participation of the Multilingual Library and Helmet, led by Helmet Vantaa.

Internship Program

At the heart of our multicultural association's objectives lie internship opportunities for dedicated and enthusiastic students, playing a pivotal role in advancing our projects. Ninho presents a dynamic environment with an intercultural and multilingual team, comprehensive mentorship, and diverse learning prospects for students passionate about the non-profit sector. In 2025, we had **5 interns** on our team:

- Emily Guan, student from DIAK (March – June)
- Nancy Sosa Macias, student from Galimatias (February - March)
- Alicia Sevilla, student from Spring House Oy (May – June)
- Hansani Dahanayake, student from University of Jyväskylä (July – October)

- Sudeshika Nirmali, student from DIAK - BA Social services (September – November)

During the fall the team work hard on developing the program and created a complete internship program based on upcoming actions, with dates and processes set for 2026, helping to streamline the internship workflow. We have ready our 2026 Ninho Internship Calendar with all positions published on [our website](#) and scheduled in the 2026 Content Plan.

Promoting our Diversity and Accessibility Initiatives

We continue using and sharing our Diversity Statements, a comprehensive resource crafted for our diverse community of families, volunteers, artists, members, and allies. This initiative aims to reinforce our commitment to fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

These [guides](#), accessible on our website, serve as a roadmap for effectively communicating our core values and initiatives. They provide valuable insights into the steps we are taking to create an environment where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered.

Emphasizing transparency, accountability, and continual improvement, these guides reflect our dedication to promoting diversity across all facets of our organization. By sharing our strategies and goals, we strive to build trust and encourage a culture that actively celebrates diversity.

This 2025, we updated the accessibility information on Kolibrí's website, incorporating the 'Eating Corner', a new space that after 2 editions, has helped to enhance the financial accessibility of Kolibrí.

The [Diversity Plan](#) created in 2024 has been partially implemented by Verónica Miranda and Marta Bermúdez, creating the new 'Accessibility Info'. Included in the SoMe posts of each activity of Kolibrí's program. This new section offers accessible details related to spaces, languages, actions, and environment involved in the activities.



Accessible space



English, Spanish, Finnish,
Swedish



Loud space



Live music concert



Dancing



Communications

Marta Bermúdez (ES) was the communications coordinator. Volunteer Yuliana Castañeda helped to upload Kolibrí Festivaali program, intern Hansani Dahanayake helped to promote the festival and volunteer Nancy Sosa helped to create Kolibrí visual image.

This year we worked on making the most of Kolibrí 10th anniversary and improving the association's communications. We've reached an average of 3 to 5 posts per week across all Ninho's social channels, increasing the number of annual posts on our blog and newsletters.

Total number of blog articles: 16 + 4 articles in the Ninho Library section.

Total number of newsletters: 9

- Facebook: 987
- Instagram: 856
- [LinkedIn](#): 670
- WhatsApp Volunteers Channel: 56 members
- Newsletter subscribers: 424

We've gained 101 **Newsletter** subscribers, which means we will soon reach the limit number of subscribers of the free plan (500). Subscription forms and landing pages are the main sources of new subscribers.

The **average opening rate** in the generic English version is **52,5%**. The Annual Assembly email summit had a 70,6% open rate. These numbers show that subscribers are engaged. Almost all newsletters have been sent in 5 languages. We've noticed 16 clicks on the Spanish version, 8 on the Portuguese, 8 Finnish and 2 clicks on the Swedish version.

Enterprise members' logos are now included in the newsletter. **Website:**

We've updated the home page with new section 'What's New at Ninho' and funders logos. The site has a new social share plugin installed. In November 2025 we reached **+1500 monthly visits**.

Other improvements:

- KABOOKS! Project has a new visual image thanks to intern Nancy Sosa / Ads campaigns were launched on LinkedIn for the first time / Winter holidays campaign to increase memberships.



We made an additional Ninho rollup and the new Kolibrí rollup.

Goals for 2026

- New KABOOKS! Page on website /
- Enhance memberships numbers and get new sponsors /
- New page with annual achievements.

Kolibrí Festivaali communications

We created a new list of contacts to increase the number of applications to the general Open Call. Núria Rovira coordinated the Sámi-Roma open call.

We published the traditional guest artist profiles ([Mar Benegas](#) & [Gusti Rosemfet](#)), Children's book fair and the [results article](#).



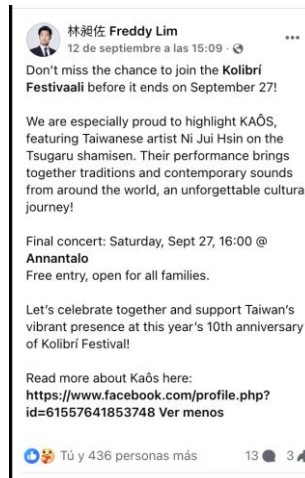
We transformed the traditional press release into a [5 languages article](#), to ease info sharing.

The traditional interview from the Iberoamerican Institute was to Gusti Rosemffet.

Advertising actions: 7 campaigns on FB/Instagram, publication of press release on **STT service** with send to 448 journalists and content creators, campaign on **pientenhelsinki.fi**, based on a banner and SoMe posts.



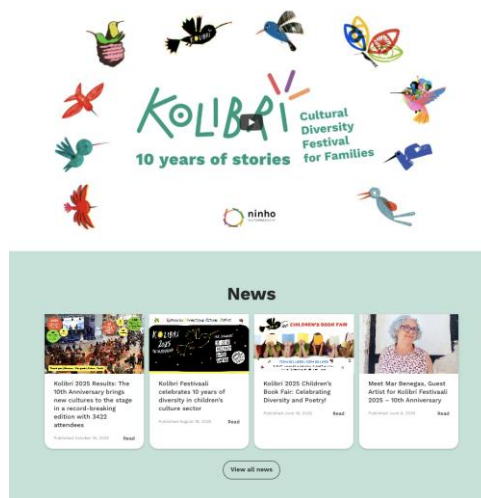
We kept expanding our contacts with new embassies and associations related to other nationalities, with customized emails, plus our regular allies like the Iberoamerican embassies. We contacted all daycares in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa, and associations working with disabled people, reaching almost 400 emails sent.



Facebook post of the Ambassador of Vietnam

The festival was included on media like [Länsiväylä](#), [Helsinki Uutiset](#), or [The Finnish-Palestine network](#), [Foreigners in Finland](#), [Vantaan Sanomat](#). And Events were published on 13 platforms (Eg. MyHelsinki, Vekarat, Sandis, Menokone, Lähella.fi).

Every activity had a [carrousel of 3 slides](#): main page, accessibility info, artist wish, accompanied by music selected by the artist, to respect their heritage and culture. They were invited as collaborators to expand our reach. We published videos of past international guests like Juan Palomino and Paloma Valdivia.



The 5 minutes video 'Kolibri 10 years of stories' has been added to the homepage

As a result of all these actions, the growth of followers on Instagram is more substantial and shows it's the favorite SoMe channel for the audience.

- Facebook: 3807 (24 more).
- Instagram: 2343 (305 more).

2026 Goals

- The Kolibrí 2026 communication plan will focus on enhance the current content plan (focusing on engagement) and create better content pieces specially videos.

Internal Team Development Reflections

2025 was quite a successful year for Ninho, with many actions being completed, we received more private funds than before. With national cultural budget cuts, expectations for 2026 continue to be challenging. Despite this year's successes, the team has felt strained by an intense workload handled by a small team—it is noted that, currently, Ninho has the biggest paid team and cultural workers it has had.

This year, for the first time, the general producer was on sick leave during the production of Kolibrí Festivaali. She was absent for one month during the festival execution, but the team was able to reorganize effectively, share responsibilities, and ensure that the festival ran smoothly and without any problems.

March (Satakielikuukausi) and, in particular, the months of September, October, and November have been the most strenuous months as they include Kolibrí Festivaali's execution and post-production, the bulk of grant applications, and reporting. Team members have felt strained by working overtime and failing to prioritize their well-being. We recognize that the coming year might demand a reduction of actions or activities within them.

The team awaits funding decisions, expecting to prioritize the overall Kulttuurikeskus Ninho ry as it comes to its 10th anniversary.

The team made several considerations for a more fruitful and organized workplace, including greater involvement by the board, the need for a project manager position, and cutting back on what is not possible within work hours by the available team. Mitigation actions will be put in place to keep key activities and support our community with limited resources.

COOPERATION and CO-PRODUCTIONS

We continue maintain and develop co-productions and dialogue with:

Main co-producers 2025: HELMET Libraries, Multilingual Library, Vantaa Lastenkulttuuri, Helsinki Juhlaviikot, STOAN-KOTO project; and Vantaa Cultural and Educational Offices and Helsinki City Cultural Centers: STOA; CAISA and ANNANTALO, LIVE Ammattiopisto, Helsinki University and Global Music Program- Uniarts Helsinki.

Our main venues were in Helsinki: Annantalo, Globe Art Point, STOA, Caisa, Itäkeskus Library, Oodi Central Library, Pasila Library and Helsinki University in Espoo Sello Library and Live Ammattiopisto and in Vantaa: Children's Cultural Centre Pessi, Myyrmäki Library. They hosted the main events throughout the year.

We continued and developed cooperation and mutual learning process with:

Finnish Researchers and Experts Organizations: Finnish Arts and Culture Agency, Cupore, Arts Equal, UniArts-Helsinki Global Music Program, Aalto University-Wood Program and Design Program, Helsinki University Urban Department and Romanic Language, Department and Latin-American Studies, University of Jyväskylä , East-Finland and Turku Universities, Emma Museum, Suomen Lastenkulttuuriliito, Kulttuurista Kaikille ry, Globe Art Point ry, Catalyst ry, HIAP, Moniheli ry, Kuvittajat ry, Fibul ry, LIVE Ammatiopisto, DIAK, Lukukeskus, IBBY-Finland; ASSITEJ-Finland, Galimatias, among others.

We continued co-creating actions, motivation and mutual support with:

Multicultural Association: Associação de Professores de Português na Finlândia (APPF), White Hands ry, Suomi–Syyria Ystävyyssseura ry, Saksham Performing Arts, and Bihar Jharkhand Prosperity Junction Finland ry (BJPF), Giocar Cantando, Afrika-Suomi seura, Serbialais-Suomalainen seura, Fin-Polar kulttuurikeskus, Ad-Astra ry, Mirsal ry, Think Afrika, Finnish African Society–FALA project; Espoon Mokula Project ry, Vietnam-seura, Suomen Venäjänkieliset KULSI ry, Cultura Säätiö ry, Randkids ry, Aurora Bunko, Pequeño Mundo and Espanjankielinen Päiväkoti Mi Casita oy, etc. Selkokulttuuri ry, POC-Lukupiiri, El Patio ry (Oulu) and Hola Tampere ry and Rulla Cultural Center (Tampere), Autokton, among others.

We continue amplifying contacts, actions, and strength cooperation funds with:

International Institutions in and abroad: EU-Creative Europe members, Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain, Ministry of Culture of Portugal, Finnish Ibero-American Institute in Madrid, Ministry of Culture of Chile, European Union National Institutes for Culture in Finland (EUNIC); Instituto Guimarães Rosa (BR), División de las Culturas, el arte y el patrimonio DIRAC (CL), Direção-Geral do Livro, dos Arquivos e das Bibliotecas DGLAB (PT), Ministry of Culture of Brazil (2026), Ministry of Culture of Poland (new) for 2026- Ministry of Culture of Italy (2026), Cámara del Libro de México, Brazil and Colombia, all the Ibero-American embassies in Finland and Mother Tongue Festival (Ireland).

National Public Funds: Helsinki City, Taika, Espoo City, Finnish-Iberoamerican Institute, Moniheli.

National Private Funds: Svenska Kulturfonden, William Thuring's Stiftelse, Otto Malm, The Foundation for Pluralism and Suomen Kulttuuri Rahasto.

We extend our gratitude to the institutions and organizations supporting us, enabling the realization of dreams for children and their families!

Ninho's memberships 2025

Moniheli ry: A service and network that facilitates practical methods, search for funds, physical space, and tools (evaluations tools principally), and develops cooperation between other multicultural associations and media. This has been an **important** resource to find partners and a good source of inspiration and support.

Globe Art Point ry: to promote equality and integration inside the Finnish art and culture sector. They offer office space and help us build bridges with Finnish art and culture workers and other organizations.

Suomen lastenkulttuurikeskusten liitto (Association of Finnish Children's Cultural Centers): offers peer support on policies and creative processes in art and early childhood education. It also provides opportunities to develop work methods, exchange ideas, and access specialized statistical information.

We appreciate the trust placed in Ninho and our projects.