

Sofi Oksanen and Pasi Sahlberg open the Frankfurt Book Fair

Literature and education are the cornerstones of the Finnish Guest of Honour presentation at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October. Two speakers – the Finnish bestselling author Sofi Oksanen and the Finnish author and expert for education Dr. Pasi Sahlberg – will deliver the literary opening of the Guest of Honour Finland together. Finland's head of state, President Sauli Niinistö, confirmed its participation as political speaker.

Sofi Oksanen is one of the most important representatives of international contemporary literature. The novels of the Finnish-Estonian author have been translated into 37 languages. Her latest novel *Kun kyyhkysset katosivat* ('*When the Doves Disappeared*') will be published in German in August by the publishing house Kiepenheuer & Witsch.

Dr. Pasi Sahlberg, currently a visiting professor at Harvard University, has lectured and served as an ambassador for the Finnish education system all over the world.

The opening ceremony will be the kick-off event of the Finnish Guest of Honour presentation at the Frankfurt Book Fair under the slogan "Finland. Cool.". Beside 130 new publications in German, an outstanding result of FILI's translation programme, the Finns will bring about 60 authors from nearly every literary genre to Germany, Austria and Switzerland to introduce the Finnish literature to the German speaking Europe.