

UBC Education Conference

UBC Learning Cities Commission will arrange an Education Conference and Study Visit in Turku on the 20th and 21st of September, 2023. The themes of the conference and study visit will focus on e.g. basic skills, youngsters not in education, employment or training (NEETs), school attendance problems, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics), and new learning environments. The program includes keynote presentations, panel discussions and workshops. The objective of the conference as well as the study visits is to share best practices and knowledge, and to bring together education experts and decision-makers from different countries.

Wednesday 20.9.

President Auditorium (BioCity)

Tykistökatu 6, 20520 Turku

8:30 Morning coffee & registration

9:00 Opening words

Elina Rantanen, First Vice-President of UBC, Deputy Mayor of social services and healthcare, City of Turku

Piia Elo, Deputy Mayor of childhood and education, City of Turku

Matti Mäkelä, Chairman, Learning Cities Commission (UBC)

During the first half of the day the keynote presentations, panel discussion, and workshops will focus on different educational challenges such as early school leaving and school attendance problems, NEET's, basic skills, segregation, and mental health.

9.30 Keynote speakers and panelists

Anu Parantainen, Director, City of Turku (facilitator)

Erno Hyvönen, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland
(basic skills)

Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator, EUSBSR PA: Education (NEETs and one

stop shops)

Ilona Doniņa, Head of International and Investment projects division in Education, culture and sports department, Riga City Council (early school leaving)

Laura Kepplinger, Teamlead educational politics, Arbeiterkammer OÖ (early school leaving)

During the panel the participants of the conference are invited to take part in the discussions.

10:30 Break

10:45 Workshops

The participants have multiple workshops to choose from. All workshops start with a presentation of a good practice / innovative project and proceed to find solutions to the challenges presented during keynotes and panel discussions. Another aim of the workshops is to share knowledge and create new ideas for joint development opportunities and/or new projects.

Each participant will choose one workshop to attend.

The themes and leaders of the workshops are:

1. NEETs and One-Stop-Shops
Lead: Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator, EUSBSR PA: Education (NEETs and one stop shops)
2. Basic skills
Lead: Erno Hyvönen, Project Manager, Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland
3. Early school leaving
Leads: Ilona Doniņa, Head of International and investment projects division in Education, culture and sports department, Riga City Council & Martin Mahringer, Arbeiterkammer Oberösterreich
4. School attendance problems
Lead: Tarumaija Aalto, project coordinator, City of Turku & Teea Laiho, regional coordinator, City of Naantali

5. School segregation
Lead: Emil Kusnetsoff, Project Manager, City of Turku
6. Mental Health
Lead: Ville Hakala, Communal Turku

12:00 Lunch

During the second half of the day, the keynote presentations, panel discussion, and workshops will focus on future possibilities, tools, and solutions of education such as STEAM, digital solutions, networking, research and science, future learning environments, and AI.

13.00 Keynote speakers and panelists

Anu Parantainen, Director, City of Turku (facilitator)

Gunnar Anderzon, Project Manager, Federation of Swedish Municipalities and Regions (networks and cooperation)

Jan Wilker, Project Manager, StartNet/Goethe-Institut Brussels (networks and cooperation)

Paula Vorne, Project Manager, City of Oulu (STEAM)

Jānis Erts, CEO, EMU (mental health)

During the panel the participants of the conference are invited to take part in the discussions.

14:00 Workshops

Each participant will choose one workshop to attend during the afternoon session.

The themes and leaders of the workshops are:

1. Future learning environments
Lead: Kitija Kuduma, Manager, Liepaja Science and Education Innovation Center
2. Digital solutions
Lead: Taru Pätäri, Principal, City of Turku
3. STEAM
Lead: Katri Lehtinen, Green STEAM project (Jelgava, Kaunas, Tallinn, Tartu, Turku)
4. Research and science education
Lead: Salla Sissonen, Project Coordinator, City of Turku
5. Networking: learning and sharing
Lead: Jan Wilker, Project Manager, StartNet/Goethe-Institut Brussels & Gunnar Anderzon, Project Manager, Federation of Swedish Municipalities and Regions
6. Artificial intelligence
Lead: Jari Laru, University Lecturer, University of Oulu

- 15:15 Break
- 15:30 Workshop results and discussions
- 16:15 Closing remarks
- 16:30 End of the day
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- 19:00 Reception, City Hall
Aurakatu 2, 20100 Turku
- 20:30 End of the Reception

Thursday 21.9.2023*S/S Bore**Linnankatu 72, 20100 Turku*

Best practices and study visits

8:30 S/S Bore: Finnish education system and themes of the day

9:30-11:00 Tour around S/S Bore

AR learning environment

Sustainable development gaming environment

Pia Ruoho, Lecturer of tourism in Turku Vocational Institute, is going to talk about Bore's History and the learning environment. Then the group will be divided into two groups. First the groups will take a walk around Bore. After that the other groups will explore the Sustainable Development gaming environment and AR learning environment.

11:00 - 11.45 Lunch

12:00-13:30 [Machine Technology Center Turku Ltd.](#) (group I)

12:20-13:50 Basic education school Syvälahti (group II)

14:10-15:40 Machine Technology Center Turku Ltd. (group II)

13:50-15:30 Basic education school Syvälahti (group I)

Busses will be taking participants from location to another (distance approx. 20 minutes)

*Group 1**- Machine Technology Center: 12.00–13.30**- Syvälahti: 13.50–15.20**Group 2**- Syvälahti: 12.20–13.50**- Machine Technology Center: 14.10–15.40*

15:50 End of the day

Keynotes

Erno Hyvönen

Erno Hyvönen works in the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland. His main cup of tea is Adult basic skills in VET, including NEETs, older workers, and immigrants. He is also way too interested in evolution of administration.

Anders Bergström

Coordinating the Policy Area Education in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region together with a colleague in Hamburg. Anders has had this position since 2013 and he has been working with European cooperation since 1986.

Ilona Doniņa

The head of International and investment projects division in Education, culture, and sports department of Riga city council as well as a project manager of European Social Fund project "Support for reducing early school dropouts".

Anu Parantainen

Anu Parantainen works as the director of change in the city of Turku, with responsibility of developing new service and leadership model for children and youth services. In addition, Anu has years of experience in guiding young people and managing various projects. Anu has also worked as a trainer and speaker both in Finland and elsewhere in the EU on special education, youth guidance, implementation of the youth guarantee and multi-professional cooperation. By education, Anu has a master's degree in educational sciences, a special education teacher and a study counsellor.

Gunnar Anderzon

Senior advisor and expert in European social fond at The Swedish association of Local Authorities and Regions. Also, the leader of the flagship School to work.

Jan Wilker

Leader of the StartNet network.

Laura Kepplinger

Sociologist specializing in social theory, social mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion. Currently Laura is leading a team on educational policies and educational equity at the Upper Austrian Chamber of Labour (AKOÖ). She focuses on educational policy review and assessment as well as providing monitoring and a critique of Austria's school system through the lens of educational equity.

Paula Vorne

Paula Vorne (Master of Education) works as a Project Manager for the City of Oulu. She's been developing STEAM education and the STEAM in Oulu network for six years.

Jānis Erts

Jānis Erts, CEO of EMU, brings a wealth of business and marketing expertise alongside a proven track record in driving societal change through impactful projects like manabals.lv and Dod Pieci.

With a passion for education and a commitment to student well-being, he leads efforts to leverage EMU's innovative approach to resources effectively support schools and municipalities in enhancing student emotional welfare.