

WELCOME TO  
Lapland International Forum for Education™

# LIFE2021



March 14 – 20, 2021  
Rovaniemi, Finland



THEME  
Shadowing Experience –  
Learning and Teaching  
Together

MORE INFORMATION:  
[www.life2021.com](http://www.life2021.com)



## LIFE2021 – the unique training program

offers an exclusive opportunity to visit Finnish kindergartens, primary, secondary schools, and also University of Lapland's Teacher Training School. In addition to school visits, lectures and workshops, you may take part in social program, such as city of Rovaniemi reception and farewell dinner. This fifth Lapland International Forum for Education™ is organized in collaboration with Visit Rovaniemi, University of Turku, and Euneos, a company with 15+ years of experience in providing courses in EU.

A special attention will be given to the practices during COVID-19 lockdown in Finland and in Estonia.

**THE THEME FOR LIFE2021** reflects the culture of learning promoted by the newest Finnish national curriculum. During the conference you will learn concrete examples of how to work as co-teachers, how to group the students to work together, what kind of means there are to support students' with special needs in multiprofessional co-operation as well as how to structure students' collaboration. In the seminar we will also establish our own culture or learning together and thus experience what it means in practice.

**LIFE™ was chosen in 2019 as one of the winners in the Authentic Finnish Educational Travel Product -contest!**



*"...We have the most enriching experience and so grateful the conference was so well planned and organized. Would highly recommend to others... Thank you again for the outstanding experience and the wonderful hospitality."*  
**Jessica Cowan, School counselor,  
Chautauqua Lake CSD, USA**



## EDUCATIONAL EXPERTS



**Aulis Pitkälä** has an exceptional career in the field of Education. During the years 2012-2016 Aulis responded a valued task of Director General in Finnish National Agency for Education and nowadays he works as a Deputy Mayor of Education and Cultural Services in the city of Espoo. In 2017 he was awarded with honorary title by the President of the Republic of Finland for his distinguished career in education.



**Suvi K. Westling** is an educational psychologist and expert in the field with both grass root teaching experience from school and teacher education as well as research from these environments. She has a broad and holistic view of education and a deep understanding of human mind and learning. She has graduated from and later taught new students in an innovative program of educational psychology at the University of Helsinki. In her research she studies the quality of regulation of students' learning and activity, at school and at teacher education. She has worked as an expert in educational program design at an academic level as well as in the world of international organizations.



**Kristiina Volmari**, Ph.D, works as Counsellor of Education and Head of Statistics and International Affairs at the Finnish National Board of Education. She has also worked as a teacher for 20 years at most levels of education and in vocational teacher education. Kristiina's areas of special interest and expertise are comparative international education data, teachers and trainers in vocational education and training and leadership. She has a thorough knowledge and understanding of European and global education and training issues having worked closely with European networks and working groups as well as participating in OECD studies and data collection.



**Mart Laanpere**, Ph.D, is a researcher in the Tallinn University, Estonia. His research and teaching at the university focuses on design and development of digital learning resources and tools, especially digital textbooks and personal learning environments for 1:1 computing in Bring Your Own Device settings.



**Ritva Ketonen**, Ph.D, is a former special needs teacher at a teacher training school, and works currently as a therapist and lecturer at the University of Helsinki. She is specialized in evaluating reading and writing difficulties. She is co-author of a book about early years speaking problems.



**Marjaana Sall** is an Ambassador for Education at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland since September 2019. She has extensive experience in Africa having served 12 years at diplomatic positions in Africa. Most recently, she served as the European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius and to the Republic of Seychelles. She was also responsible for the cooperation between the European Union and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). She was the first Finnish female EU Ambassador appointed by the Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in 2015. She has also worked as Deputy Ambassador of the European Union to Kenya and as Deputy Ambassador of the Finnish Embassy to South Africa and to Indonesia. She has also held a position at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York. Marjaana Sall joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1997.



**Jussi-Pekka Järvinen** (M.Ed) currently works as a university teacher at the University of Turku where he teaches a minor subject (60 ECTS) in the subject digital learning and teaching offered for both pre-service students at the department of teacher education, as well as in-service teachers as a professional development program. Jussi-Pekka has previously worked in the field of technology and possesses a strong knowledge of pedagogy, technology and the combination of these two for pedagogically relevant use of educational technology in teaching and learning. Jussi-Pekka was awarded as the teacher of the year in 2019 at the University of Turku alongside his colleague Aleksi Lahti.

## THE SHADOWING EXPERIENCE

The key purpose of LIFE2021 is to see in person how learning takes place in Finnish kindergartens and schools by shadowing Finnish teachers. You can choose the age range to ensure it is tailored to your needs. If you want to know more about pre-primary education, note that in Finland it normally takes place in kindergartens. Here are the age ranges for each visit:

Kindergarten (age 0–6)

Primary school (age 7–12)

Secondary school (age 13–15)

High School/Vocational college (age 16–18)

During the shadowing, you will observe teachers and children in their activities, and ask them about their daily teaching practices. On last day you will have a chance to teach together with other participants. Planning this session will offer you a great opportunity to share and elicit ideas inspired by the school visits.

LIFE2021 offers interesting expert presentations and workshops focusing on different aspects of Finnish education system. Last, but not least, you will here testimonies from earlier participants what they have changed in their own school after visiting Finnish schools and how did it work out.

### OPTIONAL WORKSHOP: IT'S THE PEDAGOGY, NOT THE TECHNOLOGY

Want to learn pedagogically appropriate ways for remote teaching? Would you like to be able to teach like Finnish teachers during lockdown? Join this special workshop uniquely designed for LIFE2021 participants by the University of Turku.

*"The value of attending this conference is immeasurable. I found the guest speakers to be highly motivating and worthwhile. I have so many ideas I would now like to implement in my own classroom to improve student learning. The time I spent in the various schools was so rewarding - to be able to see the learning happening in action and to be able to discuss theories and practises with teachers was something I found to be super educational and insightful. I also helps that Rovaniemi is such an amazing place and full of fun adventures  
Ruth Ferguson, Year 6 Leader, Yew Chung International School of Shanghai Puxi, China*

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*Tentative program for LIFE2021 – Please note that changes are possible.*

#### Sun 14th

- 17:00 – 18:00 Registration, coffee and snack at Scandic Pohjanhovi
- 18:00 – 19:00 Opening, getting to know each other
- 19:00-20:00 Kick-off for Learning and teaching together workshop

#### Mon 15th

- 09:15 – 09:30 Morning opening
- 09:30 – 12:00 Kristiina Volmari and Aulis Pitkälä: Key points to understand the Finnish perspective of education & National and municipal level co-operation with schools and teachers
- 12:00 – 13:15 Lunch
- 13:15 – 14:30 Socratic walk
- 14:30 – 15:30 Case examples of co-teaching and group learning
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break and wrap up
- 19:00 – 21:00 Rovaniemi City Reception

#### Tue 16th

- 09:00 – 12:30 Kindergarten/School visits (incl. lunch)
- 13:00 – 14:00 Outdoor activities or after lunch quiet time
- 14:00 – 15:00 Learning and teaching together workshop
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30 – 16:30 Learning and teaching together workshop continues

#### Wed 17th

- 09:00 – 12:30 Kindergarten/School visits (incl. lunch)
- 13:00 – 14:30 Ritva Ketonen: Varying models of teaching and learning together with students with special needs.
- 14:30 – 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:00 – 16:30 Mart Laanpere: Digital Turn

#### Thu 18th

- 09:00 – 12:30 School visits (incl. lunch)
- 14:00 – 17:00 Learning outside the classroom: Visiting Santa Claus Village, includes an optional visit and ride to Hysky Park
- 20:00 – 22:30 Excursion to Aurora Borealis Camp (optional)

#### Fri 19th

- 8:15 – 9:45 Morning session: What have we learned so far and how does it reflect to our own work
- 10:00 – 14:00 Co-teaching in practice (incl. lunch)
- 14:00 – 16:00 VisitEDUfinn- & Euneos-Alumni stories: How the learnings from Finnish education have been applied? Panel discussion with Marjaana Sall, Ambassador for Education in Finland.
- 17:00 – 19:00 Farewell Dinner at Scandic Pohjanhovi

#### Sat 20th

- 9:30 – 11:00 Morning session: reflection & feedback, food for thought, closing reflection diary, certificates.
- 14:00 – 17:00 Snowmobile Safari to Reindeer Farm (optional)
- 19:00 – 21:00 Ice Restaurant Dinner Experience (optional)



*"This has been an experience of a lifetime, cannot thank you enough for organizing this incredible opportunity."*

*Cindy Rice, EL school designer, Ripley Central School, USA*

## WINTER ACTIVITIES

For both LIFE2021 participants and avacs/ accompanying persons we have organized an exclusive winter activity program. In order to participate in these activities, please register before March 1st, 2021

## VENUE AND ACCOMODATION

LIFE2021 venue is at Scandic Pohjanhovi, and you can reserve a room there on the hotel website. Rooms facing the river offer a pleasant, open view. The buses for the school visits also leave from that hotel.

In addition to the Scandic Pohjanhovi, there are several options for accomodation.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Despite its northern location, Rovaniemi is well connected to the rest of the world. From abroad, the town is easiest to get to by about one hour flight via Helsinki. Daily flights between Rovaniemi and Helsinki are operated by Finnair and Norwegian throughout the year. In addition, more and more airlines offer direct flights to Rovaniemi.

Having problems finding proper flights between Helsinki and Rovaniemi? Night train and sleeping compartment can be an interesting, exotic and economic option for those who don't want to stay extra night in Helsinki or Rovaniemi.



## THE PARTICIPATION FEE INCLUDES:

- Admission to all sessions
- Conference materials
- School visits
- Visit to Santa Claus Village
- Certificate of attendance
- Possibility to participate on special winter activities designed for LIFE2021 (additional fees apply)

WE WELCOME YOU TO LIFE2021™ — THE SHADOWING EXPERIENCE



UNIVERSITY  
OF TURKU



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