



# LIFE 2019

SHADOWING EXPERIENCE

**MARCH 19–23, 2019**

**ROVANIEMI, FINLAND**

LIFE2017 and LIFE2018 have both been a big success –education experts from 20 different countries visited Lapland both years. Now it's the time for third Lapland International Forum for Education - LIFE2019 SHADOWING EXPERIENCE, organized again by VisitEDUfinn in co-operation with University of Lapland. The theme for LIFE2019 is: Equity a Cornerstone of Finnish Education.

LIFE2019 SHADOWING EXPERIENCE is a unique training program that offers an exclusive opportunity to visit Finnish kindergartens, comprehensive schools and upper secondary schools. Based on the feedback received from the LIFE2017 and LIFE2018 participants, the speciality of the third LIFE-event is to combine traditional LIFE-elements, with our popular Visit and Learn -program. So, instead of just visiting schools in large groups, visitors will stay in the same class for a longer time and shadow local teachers. And why not teach a short lesson to Finnish pupils? In a nutshell, it is all about interaction between local teachers, pupils and visitors. This approach enables a deeper insight into the everyday life of Finnish schools and generates new ideas on what could be integrated into the classroom and how it could be done on a practical level. In addition, LIFE2019 SHADOWING EXPERIENCE invites participants to creativeness and playfulness by exposing them to Playful learning, which has a long track record in the University of Lapland. Let's jump into new experiences - together!

**LIFE2019 SHADOWING EXPERIENCE** takes place right by the **Arctic Circle**, in the city of Rovaniemi, also known as the official hometown of Santa Claus. During the program, you have an opportunity to meet him in person and participate in many other exotic winter activities.



*"Just wanted to thank you again for organizing such an amazing conference in Finland. I have trully learned a lot and enjoyed the school visits."*

*-Bayarsaikhan Anar, Academic Advisor, Orchlon International School, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia*

*"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*

*"...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*

**LIFE2019 SHADOWING EXPERIENCE** offers interesting presentations focusing on different aspects of the Finnish Education System by the following experts:



**Kristiina Volmari**

Dr. Volmari works as a Counsellor of Education and Head of Statistics and International Affairs at the Finnish National Board of Education



**Eeva Penttilä**

Eeva (M. Ed.) has a long and varied career in education both in Finland and on the international level. After working as a teacher and principal, she was elected president of ESHA – The European School Heads' Association with 17000 members. After the presidency, the city of Helsinki asked her to use her expertise for the benefit of its schools as the first Head of International Relations in the Education Department.



**Aulis Pitkälä**

Aulis 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 Board of Education and nowadays he works as a Deputy Mayor of Education and Cultural Services in the city of Espoo.



**Sari Kontra**

Sari Kontra (M.Ed.) is a elementary school teacher who would rather take her students outdoors to learn than stay and teach in a traditional classroom environment. She believes that by incorporating physical activity and new forms of functionality and devices into teaching, we can tackle many of today's challenges in the field of education. She currently works at the International School of Vantaa close to Helsinki, Finland.



**Marjaana Kangas**

Dr. Kangas is a university lecturer and postdoc researcher at the University of Lapland. She is a docent of playful and gameful learning, and a forerunner in Finnish research on playful learning environments in pre- and primary education.



**Markus Humaloja**

Markus (M.Ed.) has long experience as a class teacher. The teaching method and associated learning culture developed by Markus have recently roused extensive interest both in Finland and abroad. Markus views the future as full of potential for learning and believes that technology will enable limitless learning opportunities for all learners.



**Leena Heinilä**

Leena (M. Ed) is experienced teacher who has worked not only in Finnish schools but outside Finland as well. She is also an education advisor, teacher educator, administrator, researcher with interest on students self-efficacy and welfare.

## VISITS AND WORKSHOPS

### Visits

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Kindergarten                   | (age 0–6)   |
| Primary school                 | (age 7–12)  |
| Secondary school               | (age 13–15) |
| High School/Vocational college | (age 16–18) |

The nature of the visits is interactional; it is possible to discuss with teachers and children and to observe their daily activities. After the visits you can expand your insights and reflect them with others during the interactive wrap-up session after the last school visit.

### Optional Workshop: Playful Learning

in an exotic place in the Arctic Circle invites educators to engage in creative and playful activities and pedagogies, and participate in mind-on, hands-on and body-on activities. The aim is to provide ideas and tools through practical experiences of playful learning to take home for developing 21st century education. The workshop is organized by Dr. Marjaana Kangas.

## PROGRAM

Tentative program for LIFE2019 – Please note that changes are possible.

### Tuesday 19.3.2019

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 16:00 – 17:30 | Registration (coffee available)   |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | Opening LIFE2018  |
| 18:00 – 19:30 | Kristiina Volmari: <i>Key points to understand the Finnish perspective of education</i> |
| 19:30 – 20:00 | Marjaana Kangas: <i>Playful learning in theory and practice</i>                         |
| 20:30 – 21:30 | City Council reception and light dinner   |

### Wednesday 20.3.2019

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00 – 12:30  | Kindergarten/School visits (incl. lunch)   |
| 13:00 – 13:45 | Aulis Pitkälä: <i>Ensuring the Quality of Education -how is it done at local level</i>                         |
| 13:45 – 14:00 | Break (coffee available)   |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | Eeva Penttilä: <i>High quality education for every child -Special Support and Education in Finnish Schools</i> |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | Break (coffee available)   |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Markus Humaloja: <i>Equity in future society - Learning skills with Flipped Learning</i>                       |
| 18:00 – 21:00 | Time to explore Lapland - Optional Winter activity (Snowmobile drive to reindeer farm)                         |

### Thursday 21.3.2019

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 – 12:30  | Kindergarten/School visits (incl. lunch)  |
| 13:00 – 14:15 | Leena Heinilä: <i>Culture-Sensitive Approach in Finnish Education: Who am I and where do I come from – a joy of sharing and learning together</i> |
| 14:15 – 14:30 | Break (coffee available)  |
| 14:30 – 15:45 | Sari Kontra: <i>Active learning in Finnish schools - physical activity contributing pupils' schoolwork</i>  |
| 19:00 – 23:00 | Time to explore Lapland -Optional Winter activity (Aurora Borealis adventure)   |

### Friday 22.3.2019

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00 – 12:30  | Kindergarten/School visits (incl. lunch) |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Wrap-up -session at schools              |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | Optional Workshop: Playful learning      |
| 19:00 – 21:00 | Farewell Dinner with a visit from Santa  |

### Saturday 23.3.2019

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Time to explore Lapland -Optional Winter activities |                                |
| 9:45 – 12:15  | Husky Safari                   |
| 19:30 – 21:00                                       | Dinner at Ice Hotel Restaurant |





## EXTRAORDINARY WINTER EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

*During the LIFE2019 you will be able to get the real feeling of winter in Lapland by participating in the amazing arctic experiences. To get inspired you can have a look at [www.visitrovaniemi.fi](http://www.visitrovaniemi.fi). We have organized for our LIFE2019 guest an exclusive winter activity program.*



### How to get there

Despite its northern location, Rovaniemi is well connected. From abroad the town is easiest to get to by plane 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. For instance, Norwegian flies from London and Germania from Berlin.



### General information about Rovaniemi

- Administrative capital and commercial centre of Finland's Lapland
- 61 000 inhabitants
- Educational centre of Lapland, two universities
- For information about Rovaniemi, visit [www.rovaniemi.fi](http://www.rovaniemi.fi)



### Accommodation

There is great variety of hotels in Rovaniemi. Please visit [www.life2019.fi](http://www.life2019.fi) for more information.



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