

ACTIVITY REPORT

LEARNING CITIES COMMISSION

November 2021 - October 2023

1. General description

Chair: Matti Mäkelä, City of Turku

Vice Chair: Troels Heilmann, City of Naestved

Secretariat: PMO, City of Turku

Mission: Strengthen the UBC cooperation in the field of education.

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission 1st online Meeting

- place, date: Teams, 24.5.2022, 14.00 – 16.00
- number of participants: 23
- short description: first meeting of the Commission; discussions and decisions about the activities of 2022
- outcomes: The work of the LCC was started.

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission Meeting & Study Visit

- place, date: Turku, Finland, 19.-20.9.2022
- number of participants: 19
- short description: First day meeting: planning and organising the work of the LCC. Second day: study visits.
- outcomes: Activity plans were made and the city of Turku's best education practices were presented to the participants.

Event: STEAM in Kindergarten, webinar

- place, date: Teams, 15.11.2022, 13.00 – 14.30
- number of participants: 35
- short description: STEAM in Kindergarten in Turku (Suvi Venäläinen and Suvi Aflecht, project coordinators, City of Turku) / The child is a researcher and practitioner (Ilze Spunde, project

manager, Riga City Council) / Best STEAM practices from Copenhagen (Karen Bollingberg, associate professor, University College Copenhagen)

- outcomes: Educational STEAM activities in early childhood education were presented and the best practices shared.

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission, 2nd online Meeting

- place, date: Teams, 25.11.2022, 12.00 – 14.00

- number of participants: 17

- short description: Commission meeting

- outcomes: Results of the Autumn's activities were shared and discussed, further actions were planned, and co-operation with other actors mapped.

Event: School Segregation, webinar

- place, date: Teams, 30.11.2022, 13.00 – 14.30

- number of participants: 6

- short description: Measures to reduce school segregation (Project manager, Emil Kusnetsoff, City of Turku) / Best practices in learning (Head teacher Anna Listewnik & English teacher Agnieszka Malinowska, City of Gdansk)

- outcomes: Best practice on the topic of school segregation were shared.

Event: Circular Economy in Vocational Education, webinar

- place, date: Teams, 25.1.2023, 13.00 – 14.00

- number of participants: 11

- short description: Circular economy in vocational education (Project manager, Sanna Paloposki, City of Turku)

- outcomes: Best practices were shared and discussed.

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission, 3rd online Meeting

- place, date: Teams, 31.1.2023, 10.00 – 12.00

- number of participants: 17

- short description: Commission meeting

- outcomes: Spring activities were planned; commission members discussed about the programs and activities of the UBC Education Conference (Turku) and UBC General Conference (Palanga).

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission 1st Advisory Board, online meeting

- place, date: Teams, 28.3.2023, 12.00 – 13.00
- number of participants: 8
- short description: Advisory Board meeting
- outcomes: Advisory Board's role, tasks, and activities were planned and discussed. The activities of the Learning Cities Commission were presented.

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission Meeting and Study Visit; Gdansk

- place, date: Gdansk (Poland), 17. – 18.4.2023
- number of participants: 18
- short description: Meeting and study visit
- outcomes: Commission's activities (past, present, future) were mapped and discussed during the first day. On the second day the participants visited various educational facilities.

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission, 4th online meeting

- place, date: Teams, 25.5.2023, 11.30 – 12.30
- number of participants: 13
- short description: The preliminary agenda of the Autumn's Education Conference was shared and discussed.
- outcomes: The conference's agenda was planned further.

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission, 5th online meeting

- place, date: Teams, 16.8.2023, 10.00 – 11.00
- number of participants: 16
- short description: Education Conference check-up
- outcomes: final version of the UBC Education Conference program

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission 2nd Advisory Board, online meeting

- place, date: Teams, 30.8.2023, 9.00 – 10.00
- number of participants: 5
- short description: Advisory Board meeting
- outcomes: Discussions about the UBC Education Conference and LCC plans for the year 2024.

Event: UBC Education Conference

- place, date: Turku, 20.-21.9.2023

- number of participants: 60 (estimation)
- short description: Education conference
- outcomes: dissemination of best practices, networking, future development plans

Event: UBC Learning Cities Commission Meeting

- place, date: Turku, 22.9.2023
- number of participants: 15 (estimation)
- short description: Commission meeting
- outcomes: evaluation of the conference, planning of the year 2024

3. Projects

- name: G-STEAM
- duration: 10/2022 – 09/2025
- financing: 400.000 € / Erasmus+
- projects partners: The city of Turku, Jelgava local municipality, Jelgava state gymnasium, the city of Tallinn, Gustav Adolf Grammar School, Tallinna Järveotsa gymnasium, Lasnamäe gymnasium, the university of Turku, the university of Tartu, and the Vytautas Magnus university (Kaunas).
- short description & aims: The project promotes interest in science, technology and green skills through an increase in both the quantity and of STEAM in schools. To ensure that future-oriented, sustainability-based green STEAM becomes an entrenched education landscape to fulfill local economic and societal needs, the project establishes local green STEAM ecosystems partner regions with the help of regional authorities, education providers, businesses, and other stakeholders.
- results: The project will result in marked expansion of STEAM in participating schools and regions, improved teacher abilities in sustainable STEAM through specific green STEAM training, and a network of four functioning STEAM ecosystems in the Baltic Sea region. It will also produce the Green STEAM Handbook, which will include the best teaching practices developed in the project, a model for green STEAM teacher training, and a guide to entrenching STEAM through local ecosystem building.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

- meetings

Cooperation meeting with StartNet network in Brussels in March 2023.

Cooperation meeting with School to Work network in Hamburg (December 2022) and in Stockholm (April 2023).

Two presentations (STEAM and Monitoring systems in education) in School to Work Conference in Stockholm (April 2023).

5. Other activities

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6. Report Authors

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