

## 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.

Please register here: [https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/UBC Education Conference 2023 6611](https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/UBC_Education_Conference_2023_6611)

Registration ends: 31.08.2023

### **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)

Monica Chamorro Gonzalez, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (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

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

*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. Future learning environments  
Lead: Kitija Kuduma, Manager, Liepaja Science and Education Innovation Center
2. Digital solutions  
Lead: DigiOne
3. STEAM  
Lead: 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: University of Oulu

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

**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 Tour around S/S Bore

AR learning environment

Sustainable development gaming 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)

13:50-15:30 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

## 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 have 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.

### **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 manabalss.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 resource effectively support schools and municipalities in enhancing student emotional welfare.

### **Niina Salonen**

Ms. Niina Salonen (M. Soc. Sci.) has worked in EU funded international and national project as project coordinator and manager for ten years. Currently Salonen acts as project manager in

Development program for Skills and Competences in City of Turku. Her background is in administrative sciences and policy management.