



Lapland International Forum for Education

LIFE2018

JANUARY 16–20, 2018 | ROVANIEMI, FINLAND

LIFE2017 was a big success – education experts from 18 different countries visited Lapland. Now it's the time for second Lapland International Forum for Education - LIFE2018, which is organized by VisitEDUfinn and University of Lapland.

The theme for LIFE2018 is: **Learning should be fun!
Finnish perspectives on playful learning for all ages.**

LIFE2018 is a unique event that offers an exclusive opportunity to visit Finnish primary schools, kindergartens and a vocational college. Brand-new Ounasrinne School, which is a trendsetter for a new kind of community building, will open doors for LIFE2018 participants. The school includes a wide range of different facilities, such as the library, youth club and a health centre. In addition to schools, LIFE2018 provides a Playful learning workshop, which invites educators for creative and playful activities. Let's jump in new experiences - together!

The conference offers interesting keynote presentations focusing on different aspects of the Finnish education system. In addition to general presentations, you may expand your insights and reflect them with others during the interactive workshops organized each day.

LIFE 2018 takes place right by the Arctic Circle, in the city of Rovaniemi, also known as the official hometown of Santa Claus. During the event, you have an opportunity to meet him in person and participate in many other exotic winter activities.

For more information and booking visit www.life2018.com



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Hannele Niemi



Dr. Hannele Niemi is a professor of education at the Faculty of Behavioural Sciences, University of Helsinki. She has been an invited speaker in several international forums and published many books about Finnish education e.g. "The Miracle of Education: The Principles and Practices of Teaching and Learning in Finnish Schools (2012).

Linda Liukas



Linda Liukas is a programmer, storyteller and illustrator of "Hello Ruby", a children's picture book about the whimsical world of computers. The China Academy of Art awarded the Design Intelligence Prize for Hello Ruby in 2017. Linda is the founder of "Rails Girls", a global movement to teach young women programming in over 260 cities.

Kristiina Volmari



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

Heli Ruokamo



Dr. Heli Ruokamo is a professor of media education, at the University of Lapland. She is a Vice Dean of the Faculty of Education and the Director of the Centre for Media Pedagogy. She is a head of the Sino-Finnish JoLii Teacher Training Center in Finland.

Marjaana Kangas



Dr. Marjaana Kangas is a university lecturer and post-doc 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.

Pirkko Siklander



Dr. Pirkko Siklander is a docent and an associate professor in collaborative learning at the University of Oulu. She is a forerunner in Finnish research on playful learning environments in pre and primary education.

Sanna Lukander



Sanna Lukander is a Fun Learning creator and evangelist. She leads Fun Academy, the spinoff from Rovio Entertainment & Angry Birds.

Janniina Vlasov



Janniina Vlasov is a doctoral student and early years teacher with an interest in developing the quality of early childhood education.

VISITS AND WORKSHOPS

Visits

Kindergarten	(age 0–6)
Primary school	(age 7–12)
Secondary school	(age 13–15)
Vocational college	(age 16–18)
Ounasrinne school	(age 7–12)
Teacher training school	(age 7–12)

The nature of the visits is interactional; it is possible to discuss with teachers and children and to observe their daily activities. Visits are followed by discussion sessions and sharing experiences continue between the teachers and conference participants.

Workshops

Apply Principles of Play in Your Classroom

If code is the colouring pens and lego blocks of our times - the tools of creation - how do we teach the curiosity, joy and wonder to our kids? How to create experiences that go deeper than just learning logic? These and other questions will be elaborated in the workshop. The workshop is organized by **Linda Liukas**.

Playful Learning Workshop

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 **Marjaana Kangas** and **Pirkko Siklander**.

PROGRAM

Tentative program for LIFE2018 – Please note that changes are possible.

Tuesday 16th

16:00–17:30	Registration
17:30–18:00	Opening LIFE2018
18:00–20:00	Kristiina Volmari: <i>Key points to understand the Finnish perspective of education.</i>
20:30–21:30	City reception and light dinner

Wednesday 17th

09:00–13:00	Kindergarten/School visits (lunch)
13:00–14:00	Hannele Niemi: <i>The Finnish educational system – A miracle or persistent work for education?</i>
14:00–14:30	Heli Ruokamo: <i>Media education: From university teaching to primary school</i>
14:30–15:00	Break
15:00–16:30	Discussion sessions
18:00–21:00	Optional winter activity

Thursday 18th

09:00–13:00	Kindergarten/School visits (lunch)
13:00–14:00	Linda Liukas: <i>Principles of play: Creativity & computing</i>
14:00–14:30	Pirkko Siklander & Marjaana Kangas: <i>Playful teaching and learning in theory and practice</i>
14:30–15:00	Break

15:00–16:30 Workshop: *Apply principles of play in your classroom*

15:00–16:30 Discussion sessions

19:00–23:00 Optional winter activity

Friday 19th

09:00–13:00	School visits or Workshop: <i>Playful learning</i>
13:00–14:00	Sanna Lukander: <i>Fun Learning – inspiring future astronauts to reach for the stars</i>
14:00–14:30	Janniina Vlasov: <i>Challenges of applying Finnish early childhood education principles internationally</i>
14:30–15:00	Break
15:00–16:30	Discussion sessions
19:00–21:00	Conference dinner

Saturday 20st

Time to explore Lapland, optional winter activities





EXTRAORDINARY WINTER EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

During the LIFE2018 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. We have organized for our LIFE2018 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

Accommodation

There is great variety of hotels in Rovaniemi. Please visit www.life2018.com for more information.



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