

UBC Education Conference

FuturEd: Shaping the future of education, Riga, Latvia

23.-24.10.2024

UBC Learning Cities Commission will arrange an Education Conference and Study Visit in Riga 23rd and 24th of October 2024. The themes of the conference and study visit focuses on school attendance, sustainable education, education technologies, A.I., STEAM, effective support for students, pathways to academic success, and the attractiveness of teaching profession.

The conference program includes keynote presentations, panel discussions and workshops. The objective of the conference as well as the study visits is to bring together education experts and decision-makers from different countries to share best practices and knowledge on current educational themes.

Wednesday 23.10.

VEF Culture Palace

Ropažu iela 2, Rīga

8:30 Morning coffee & registration

9:00 Opening words

Linda Ozola, Deputy Chair of Riga City Council, Member of UBC Executive Board

Matti Mäkelä, Chairman, Learning Cities Commission (UBC)

Part One: Education Is the Future

During the first half of the day, the keynote presentations, panel discussion and workshops will focus on how education is shaping our future and helps us to find solutions to different global and societal challenges.

9:30 Keynotes and panel discussions

Ilona Donina, Head of International and Investment Projects Division in Education, Culture and Sports Department, Riga City Council (facilitator)

Anu Parantainen, Director of Children and Youth Services, City of Turku

Kristine Niedre-Lathere, Deputy State Secretary for General Education, Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia

Laima Geikina, Chairman of Education, Culture and Sport Committee of Riga City Council

Grzegorz Kryger, Pomeranian Education Superintendent, Education Office in Gdańsk

During the first panel the participants of the conference are invited to take part in discussion

10:30 Break

10:45 Workshops

The participants have multiple workshops to choose from. All workshops start with a presentation of a good practices/ 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. Addressing youth violence and misbehavior: effective tools for change

Lead: Anu Parantainen, Director of Children and Youth Services, City of Turku and Līga Bērziņa, Head of Uzvedība.lv and the Latvian Autism Association, City of Liepāja

2. Integrating and Implementing Sustainable Development in basic education with urban context and corporate collaboration

Lead: Minna Kukkonen, Pedagogical ICT-Expert, City of Espoo and Tuukka Kallio, Class Teacher and Learning Technology Development Teacher, City of Espoo

3. Brain power: how to teach children and young people to learn

Lead: Dace Briede-Zālīte, Business Consultant, Founder of Youth Career Guidance NGO, Personal growth Coach, Member of Latvian Career Development Support Association

4. Empowering educators: bridging the gap

Lead: City of Riga and Ihor Stashkevych, Secretary of Kramatorsk City Council, Kramatorsk City Council

12:00 Lunch

Part Two: Future of Education

During the second half of the day, the keynote presentations, panel discussion and workshops will focus on the future tools, challenges, possibilities, and solutions of education systems in the Baltic Sea Region and throughout the world.

13:00 Keynotes and panel discussions

Katri Lehtinen, Project Manager, City of Turku (facilitator)

Niina Salonen, Project Manager, City of Turku

Zane Biteniece, Advisor on educational technologies and innovations of Education, Culture and Sport Department, City of Riga

Gunnar Anderzon, Project Manager, Federation of Swedish Municipalities and Regions

Anna Kilpeläinen, Senior Planning Officer, City of Espoo

During the second panel the participants of the conference are invited to take part in discussion

14:00 Workshops

Each participant will choose one workshop to attend.

The themes and leaders of the workshops are:

1. Addressing school attendance with a multi-level governance approach

Lead: Anna Liljeström, Process Manager, Federation of Swedish Municipalities and Regions

2. The role of AI in shaping tomorrow's education

Lead: City of Riga and City of Turku

3. Unleashing creativity and innovation: the power of STEAM education

Lead: Katri Lehtinen, Project Manager, City of Turku and City of Riga

4. How to navigate in an ever-changing multicultural world – perspectives of pedagogical and structural means in early childhood education and basic education

Lead: City of Espoo

15:15 Break

15:30 Workshop results and discussions

16:15 Closing Remarks

Matti Mäkelä, Chairman, Learning Cities Commission (UBC)

16:30 End of the day

19:00 Reception, Riga Art Space,
Kungu Street 3

20:30 End of the Reception

Thursday 24.10.

Multiple locations

9:00 Study visits

- Education system in Latvia presentation
- 182nd preschool of Riga (address: Dzelzavas iela 17a)
- Riga State Classical Gymnasium (address: Purvciema iela 38)
- Riga Technical College (address: Braslas iela 16)

16:00 End of the day

More information

Rosa Puusaari, Assistant Planner, City of Turku rosa.puusaari@turku.fi

Matti Mäkelä, Chairman, Learning Cities Commission (UBC), City of Turku matti.makela@turku.fi

Ilona Donina, Head of International and Investment Projects Division in Education, Culture and Sports Department, Riga City Council Ilona.Donina@riga.lv