



FINNISH NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION



Erasmus+  
Enriching lives, opening minds.

# TOGETHER!

## INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM AND DIGITALLY SUPPORTED LEARNING

18-21.4.2023  
MIKKELI & SAHANLAHTI,  
FINLAND

ERASMUS+ TCA  
THEMATIC SEMINAR

MIKKELI

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

## 18.4. ARRIVAL DAY

18.00-21.00 | REGISTRATION &  
INFORMAL DINNER

## 19.4. SEMINAR DAY

10.00-12.00	<b>WELCOMING WORDS</b> The City of Mikkeli & Finnish National Agency for Education
	<b>KEYNOTE: RIGHT TO BELONG - TACKLING OUTSIDERHOOD IN SCHOOLS</b> Niina Junttila, Finnish National Agency for Education
12.00-13.00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
13.00-14.45	<b>KEYNOTE: POSITIVE EDUCATION</b> Kaisa Vuorinen, University of Helsinki
14.45-15.15	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
15.15-17.00	<b>KEYNOTE: NEW LITERACIES - LIVING LITERACIES</b> Sara Sintonen, University of Helsinki
17.45-19.15	<b>CULTURAL ACTIVITY</b> Guided tour of Muisti Centre of War and Peace
19.30	<b>DINNER</b>

More details of the  
speakers, workshops  
and schools below.

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

## 20.4. SEMINAR DAY

8.00	DEPARTURE AND BUS TRANSPORTATION TO <u>SAHANLAHTI</u>
9.00-10.30	KEYNOTE: TOGETHER! - INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM AND DIGITALLY SUPPORTED LEARNING Kati Sormunen, University of Helsinki
10.30-11.00	COFFEE BREAK
11.00-13.00	WORKSHOPS Learning, creating and feeling together in digital projects, Mari Muinonen, City of Mikkeli Mobile Devices Increasing Class Activity and Engagement Anna Haapalainen, City of Mikkeli Together! Bridging Understanding Gaps in Inclusive Classroom Through Technology Marja-Leena Bilund, City of Mikkeli Innovative Entrepreneurship Education All Together! Alla Miller, City of Mikkeli
13.00-14.00	LUNCH BREAK
14.00-17.00	INTRODUCING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE <u>ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME</u> AND <u>ETWINNING</u>  FACILITATED NETWORKING AND COOPERATION PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
17.00-22.00	CULTURAL PROGRAM: <u>SAHANLAHTI SAUNAS</u> , HOT TUBS AND DIPPING INTO THE LAKE SAIMAA

## 21.4. SEMINAR DAY

8.00-12.00	STUDY VISIT TO LOCAL SCHOOLS Hospital School in Mikkeli <u>Otavia</u> <u>Rantakylän yhtenäiskoulu</u> <u>Kalevankankaan koulu</u>
12.00-13.00	LUNCH  DEPARTURES

More details of the speakers, workshops and schools below.

# KEYNOTES

## Niina Junttila

Professor in Educational Psychology, Universities of Turku and Jyväskylä; Councillor of Education, Finnish National Agency of Education

Niina Junttila is Professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Turku, Professor in Educational Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä and the leader of the consortium Right to Belong: Tackling Loneliness and Ostracism during Childhood and Youth (SRC 2022-2028). She has extensive expertise in the area of children and youth loneliness and co-creation with various stakeholders at the national level. She also holds the position of Counsellor of Education at the Finnish National Agency of Education.

Keynote: All humans have a fundamental need to belong, and anything that threatens accomplishing this may be seen as a threat to equality and existence. The need to belong is not fulfilled for the 10-20% of children and youth who currently feel lonely and/or ostracised. When prolonged, loneliness results in cognitive overload, deteriorating social functioning and adverse physical and mental health problems such as anxiety, depression, self-harming and suicidality. As an insidious form of social violence executed by ignoring and excluding individuals or groups by individuals or groups, ostracism activates social pain reactions in the brain, and if prolonged, it has adverse consequences on child and youth well-being and health, including e.g., increased risk for psychiatric disorders, impaired immune functioning and even the risk for radicalisation and violent act.

## Kaisa Vuorinen

PhD, University of Helsinki, CEO, Positive Learning, workshops

- Positive Education
- Theory of positive education.
- Character strengths and strengths spotting
- Instructions for seeing what is good and what works in students.
- Best tips and research-based methods for implementing positive education in practice.
- Putting theory into practice with See the Good! - app.

## Sara Sintonen

Doctor of Music Education. Adjunct Professor (media education), University Lecturer, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Educational Sciences, workshops

Sara Sintonen is a senior university lecturer at the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Educational Sciences. She also holds a title of Adjunct Professor at the University of Helsinki (media education) and University of Turku (children's digital culture). Her research focuses on media education and children's content creation. She believes that education is the key for playful and sophisticated digital culture and sharing. She serves on the advisory board of the Playful Learning Center. (see [New Literacies](#))

### New Literacies - Living Literacies

Digital competence is a right for every learner. New literacies offer opportunities for self-expression, togetherness, agency and criticality. If literacy is practiced and experienced daily, new literacies will develop into living literacies. For change, we must issue a call to action

## Kati Sormunen

PhD. Researcher and teacher educator, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Educational Sciences, workshops

Dr Kati Sormunen is a University Lecturer at the University of Helsinki. Her main area of research is technology-supported inclusive education. Currently, she co-develops a model of future-oriented invention pedagogy and social network methodologies that support the school's development work towards full inclusion in large-scale projects.

Her keynote will examine the research base around inclusive pedagogies and digitally supported learning. It will highlight aspects of digital inclusion, digitally supported and online learning, and creative technology education. During the keynote, the participants can engage in hands-on activities. The presentation will rely on the ['Guidance for the inclusion of students with Special Educational Needs for online learning publication'](#), which was put together in collaboration with European researchers to help parents and professionals concerning the inclusion of SEN students.



# WORKSHOPS

## Learning, creating and feeling together in digital projects, Mari Muinonen

The Collaborative Digital Content Creation Project has been a powerful pedagogical tool in my classroom for years now in Rantakylä Comprehensive School. The project is phenomenon-based learning and combines many subjects and curricula goals in the same work. The Collaborative Digital Content Creation Project is a digitalized learning environment and the operating culture within it, thus producing a digital content creation while working in groups (pupils aged 9-13). The groups are free to work as they wish, defining their goals, schedules, methods, and instruments as a group. For example, pupils have studied Middle Ages making fashion shows or solar system crafting artifacts in Minecraft.

Working in a digital learning environment during digital content creation projects pupils learned and practiced competence of multiliteracy, digital skills, emotional skills, and problem-solving skills. Use of digital skills in leisure time as part of schoolwork emerged as one of the added value of students' own control and task. For the group, the content creation project enabled them to work together in a digital environment and with tools, and especially to show the elements of humor, playfulness and togetherness that feed creativity in the group's work.

These digital projects provide pupils to practice the skills needed in the future, most of all collaborative learning and creating in digitalized environment.

### Mari Muinonen

PhD., class teacher. Rantakylä Comprehensive School, City of Mikkeli

Mari is enthusiastic to develop learning and pedagogy using the digital environment. She has used mobile devices in learning with her pupils in versatile ways over decade now. The most important thing in learning for her is to activate and motivate pupils and enjoy learning together. In her free time, Mari enjoys biking and hiking in nature and knitting on the sofa.

## Mobile Devices Increasing Class Activity and Engagement, Anna Haapalainen

Technology is considered as one of the biggest reasons why physical activity has decreased among children and youth not only in Finland but worldwide. On the other hand, technology may be the answer to save us from the sedentary lifestyle that it has created. If it's called a mobile device, shouldn't we use it to make us more mobile? This workshop will give you some ideas on how to use technology to increase movement during class / lessons / at school.

### Anna Haapalainen

P.E and Health Science Teacher, Ristiinan Yläkoulu (lower secondary) and Lukio (senior secondary), City of Mikkeli.

"My name is Anna Haapalainen. I'm Master of Sports Sciences and I work as a P.E. and Health Science Teacher in the City of Mikkeli in Rantakylän yhtenäiskoulu. At the moment I also work as a pedagogical expert in an organization for P.E. and Health Science Teachers. During my spare time I love to exercise (especially while using health technology), travel, edit photos and videos and spend time with family and friends. I'm also a Group Fitness Instructor specialized in dance lessons, but I also like to teach yoga and other body and mind lessons. I think you are never too old to learn new things or start a new hobby. I started acrobatics and CrossFit when I was over 40."

# WORKSHOPS

## Together! Bridging Understanding Gaps in Inclusive Classroom Through Technology, Marja-Leena Bilund

By the studies people learn more effectively in collaborating groups. Inclusion has brought different kinds of learners to the same classroom, and we need new ways to approach the learning process. Divers ideas are needed to face the double empathy problem, a communication gap, mismatch between people. Technology (apps/platforms) is a one way to bridge this gap between different kinds of learners. In this workshop will be shared ideas how to create mutual understanding using technology in this process to promote wellbeing and prevent problems through collaborative learning.

Video: [Together! How was it done?](#)

Video: [Together! CupCakes](#)



### Marja-Leena Bilund

Class teacher, doctoral researcher, Neuropsychiatric coach, Let's talk about children method - trainer, Montessori pedagog, Friends method -trainer. Rantakylä Comprehensive School, City of Mikkeli.

#### "Solutions Not Problems"

- Teacher (LPhil) innovator, researcher, trainer
- Lifelong enthusiasm, curiosity for learning, biking and travelling

[HundrED](#)

[BeDigitalLearner](#)



## Innovative Entrepreneurship Education All Together! Alla Miller

Rantakylä Comprehensive School has been a visionary school in the field of entrepreneurship education for many years. In

Rantakylä we have created our own entrepreneurship education path. Our students have a possibility to choose entrepreneurship studies in secondary school's every grade. We offer students 12 different modules of entrepreneurship. All the modules itch and awake student's creativity, curiosity, innovation ability, agency, perseverance, teamwork skills etc. from different perspectives. We focus on both internal and external entrepreneurship.

In "Innovative Entrepreneurship Education All Together!" - workshop You'll hear more about Rantakylä Comprehensive School's own, unique entrepreneurship education path. You will also have a chance to test your own creativity in a little challenge task! We believe that tomorrow's world needs creative innovators. All students have great competence and unbelievable hidden skills. Now it's our time to let them shine!



### Alla Miller

Teacher of history, social studies, and religion. Rantakylä Comprehensive School, City of Mikkeli.

An optimist, an ambassador of agency and entrepreneurship education who loves collective creativity and joy of learning. She considers entrepreneurship one of the best ways to change and improve the world.



# SCHOOLS

## Hospital School in Mikkeli

Hospital school takes part in care, education and rehabilitation in multi-professional collaboration with parents, teachers at primary and secondary level. Hospital school education is offered to pupils who are at outpatient care (avohoito) or under hospitalization. The consulting special teacher and coaches from hospital school are supporting pupils and teachers in challenging situations in pupil's own school during or after hospitalization. We use technology and apps in learning processes f.ex. e-learning materials and keep contact to pupils and parents through Wilma-platform. The learning process is personalized for each child and adolescent.

## Otavaia

Online basic education for adults - the place of new beginnings. For who?

- Students with social or health-related challenges
- Homeschoolers
- Students with school allergy
- Students who have been bullied at school
- Perfectionists
- Students with migrant background
- Students of compulsory education age (minors without basic education age of 17)
- Students who seek ways to further their education
- Students with a long distance to the nearest school
- Stay-at-home parents
- Entrepreneurs, shift workers
- Prisoners

Online basic education for adults (Nettiperuskoulu) offers possibilities to reattach to the school system and strengthens the student's self-esteem as a competent student. Students have their individual study paths and opportunities to study at 24/7/365 wherever they want via the net. With the help of their own guidance counsellor, they plan their studies and future (transitions of future educational, work-life and life career paths).

## Kalevankankaan koulu

Small Class Education in Special Education is integrated into Kalevankangas Comprehensive school which has 310 primary school pupils and about 250 pupils in secondary level. In this context there are also 6 special classes; 48 pupils/ 8 students in each class. There are 6 special teachers and 20 special needs assistants working as a team. The aim is to support the pupil's learning, development and wellbeing in cooperation with home and multiprofessional team enhancing among other things socioemotional education. Among many specialities there is f.ex. multisensory room for pupil's daily activities which has a positive effect on the disabled people's functional capacity in various ways.

## Rantakylän yhtenäiskoulu

Rantakylä Comprehensive School has been a visionary school in the field of technology in education for many years.

We have enthusiasm to create an environment which enables world-class learning solutions, and we want our pedagogy to be up-to-date and forward-looking. Devices or applications don't make these things in themselves, but they can create good conditions for developing them.

The keyword is collaboration between teachers, among students and teachers, head of school and the surrounding community and society. Collaboration creates inspirational projects where all the different subjects are brought together to sustain students' own reasoning.

In this kind of phenomenon-based pedagogy everyone is learning, evaluating and enjoying - both students and teachers. There's no coming back!

Check the video: [Project-Phenomenon Based Learning](#)