

*"This has been an experience of a lifetime, cannot thank you enough for organizing this incredible opportunity."*

Cindy Rice, EL school designer, Ripley Central School, USA

Lapland International Forum for Education™

# LIFE2020

FEBRUARY 4 – 8, 2020 | ROVANIEMI, FINLAND

**LIFE2020 is a unique event** that offers an exclusive opportunity to learn about Finnish Education and visit Finnish kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, high school and a vocational college. In addition to inspiring keynote lectures and school visits, you may take part in a rich social program and extraordinary winter experiences and activities. LIFE2020 is organized by VisitEDUfinn in co-operation with the University of Lapland.

## **THE THEME FOR LIFE2020 IS: DIGITAL LITERACIES ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN.**

LIFE2020 also provides a popular Playful Learning Workshop, which invites educators for creative and playful activities. In addition, LIFE2020 provides a daily Playful Learning School Camp for children in an exotic Finnish Lapland. Therefore, also kids are warmly welcome to join the event. LIFE2020 takes place right by the Arctic Circle, in the city of Rovaniemi, also known as the official hometown of Santa Claus.



**Let's jump into new experiences and reinforce digital literacies - together!**

For more information and booking visit [www.life2020.fi](http://www.life2020.fi)



*"Just wanted to thank you again for organizing such an amazing conference in Finland. I have trully learned a lot andenjoyed the school visits."*

Bayarsaikhan Anar, Academic Advisor, Orchlon International School, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### Linda Liukas



Linda is a programmer, storyteller and illustrator from Helsinki, Finland. She is the author of Hello Ruby, a children's picture book about the whimsical world of computers. Hello Ruby has been translated to over 25 languages. Linda is also the founder of Rails Girls, a global movement to teach young women programming in over 270 cities. She loves Muji, Zelda Fitzgerald, software and sparkly things. Currently she is a TED Resident in New York.

### Kirsti Lonka



Professor Kirsti Lonka works at University of Helsinki, Finland and as Extraordinary Professor, Optentia Research Focus Area, NWU, South Africa. She is an expert in educational innovations, a popular keynote speaker around the world and she has published numerous research articles, chapters and text books. Prof. Lonka is . Latest book: Lonka, K (2019). Phenomenal learning from Finland. Edita. See [kirstilonka.fi](http://kirstilonka.fi)

### 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.

### Mervi Pänkäläinen



Mervi Pänkäläinen is the founder and CEO of Mightifier. Before founding Mightifier, she worked as a change leader and consultant focusing on designing encouraging and safe working cultures. She has facilitated hundreds of workshops and given keynotes and presentations on creativity and culture design process.

### Marjaana Kangas



Marjaana Kangas is a forerunner in research on playful learning and co-founder of Co2Play company. She is a university lecturer at the University of Lapland and an adjunct professor of playful and game-based learning at the University of Jyväskylä.

### Heli Ruokamo



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 and co-founder of Co2Play company.

## VISITS AND WORKSHOPS

### Visits

Kindergarten (age 0–6)  
Primary school (age 7–12)  
Secondary school (age 13–15)  
High School /  
Vocational college (age 16–18)

The nature of the visits is interactional; it is possible to discuss with teachers and children and to observe their daily activities. After the visits you can expand your insights and reflect them with others during the interactive wrap-up session after the last school visit.

### Special visits available for a limited amount of participants

Wednesday: Brand-new Ounasrinne School (age 7–15), a trendsetter for a new kind of community building, includes a wide range of different facilities, such as the library, youth club and a health center.  
Wednesday: High School (age 16–18)  
Thursday: Teacher Training School (age 7–12)  
Friday: Vocational College (age 16–18)

### Optional Workshop: Playful Learning Adventure

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 Heli Ruokamo.

## NEW FOR LIFE2020: SCHOOL CAMP FOR CHILDREN

Playful Learning School Camp for kids is a pedagogical program that is based on Finnish Education and provides creative and playful indoor and outdoor activities in exotic Finnish Lapland. The program is for children in the age of 5 to 12. The program is organized by Marjaana Kangas.

## PROGRAM

*Tentative program for LIFE2020 – Please note that changes are possible*

### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>

**16:00–17:30** Registration (coffee available)  
**17:30–20:00** Opening LIFE2020  
**20:30–21:30** City Council Reception and light dinner

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

**09:00–12:30** Kindergarten/School visits (incl. lunch)  
**13:00–14:00** Linda Liukas: *ABC of digital literacy*  
**14:00–14:30** Break (Coffee available)  
**14.30–16:00** Linda Liukas: *Workshop “Creativity & Computing in K5 education”*  
**18:00–21:00** Optional Winter activity: Snowmobile drive to reindeer farm

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

**09:00–12:30** Kindergarten/School visits (incl. lunch)  
**13:00–14:00** Kirsti Lonka: *Phenomenal learning from Finland - where are we going next?*  
**14:00–14:30** Break (Coffee available)  
**14:30–15:15** Mervi Pänkäläinen: *Socio-emotional learning in the digital age*  
**15:15–16:00** Marjaana Kangas & Heli Ruokamo: *Playful learning in the age of digital literacies*  
**19:00–23:00** Optional Winter activity: Aurora Borealis Adventure

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup>

**09:00–12:30** Kindergarten/School visits (incl. lunch)  
**12:30–13:30** Wrap-up session at schools  
**14:30–17:30** Optional Playful Learning Workshop  
**19:00–21:00** Farewell Dinner with a visit from Santa

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>

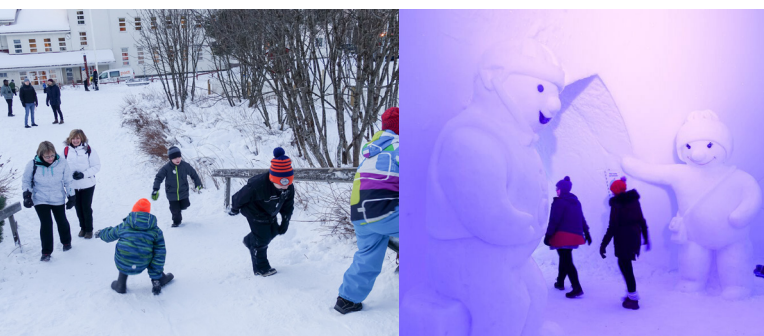
Time to explore Lapland, optional Winter activities:  
**12:00–14:30** Husky Safari  
**19:00–21:00** Ice Restaurant Dinner Experience





*"...We have the most enriching experience and so grateful the conference was so well planned and organized. Would highly recommend to others... Thank you again for the outstanding experience and the wonderful hospitality."*

Jessica Cowan, School counselor,  
Chautauqua Lake CSD, USA



## EXTRAORDINARY WINTER EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

During the LIFE2020 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](http://www.visitrovaniemi.fi). We have organized for our LIFE2020 guest an exclusive winter activity program.

## Venue

The conference venue is the University of Lapland. Bus transfer to the schools and to the University is offered for LIFE2020 participants from the city center.

## 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](http://www.rovaniemi.fi)

## 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 e.g. by Finnair and Norwegian throughout the year. In addition, more and more airlines offer direct flights from European cities to Rovaniemi.

## Accommodation

There is great variety of hotels in Rovaniemi. Please visit [www.life2020.fi](http://www.life2020.fi) for more information.



LAPIN YLIOPISTO  
UNIVERSITY OF LAPLAND  
For the North – For the World



VisitEDUfinn

For more information and booking visit [www.life2020.fi](http://www.life2020.fi)