

CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRES AND CULTURAL EDUCATION – TOOLS FOR SOCIAL COHESION IN FINLAND

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Director

Association of Finnish Children's Cultural Centers

Board member of ENO & ENCC

Children's Arts and Culture in Finland

- Professional children's cultural centres operate around the country.
- Comprehensive system for basic education in the arts that enable children and young people to study arts in their leisure time.
 - Curriculum based, result-oriented, entry exams
 - Participation fees €
- Children's arts and culture is carried out also by many cultural operators (theatres, museums etc).

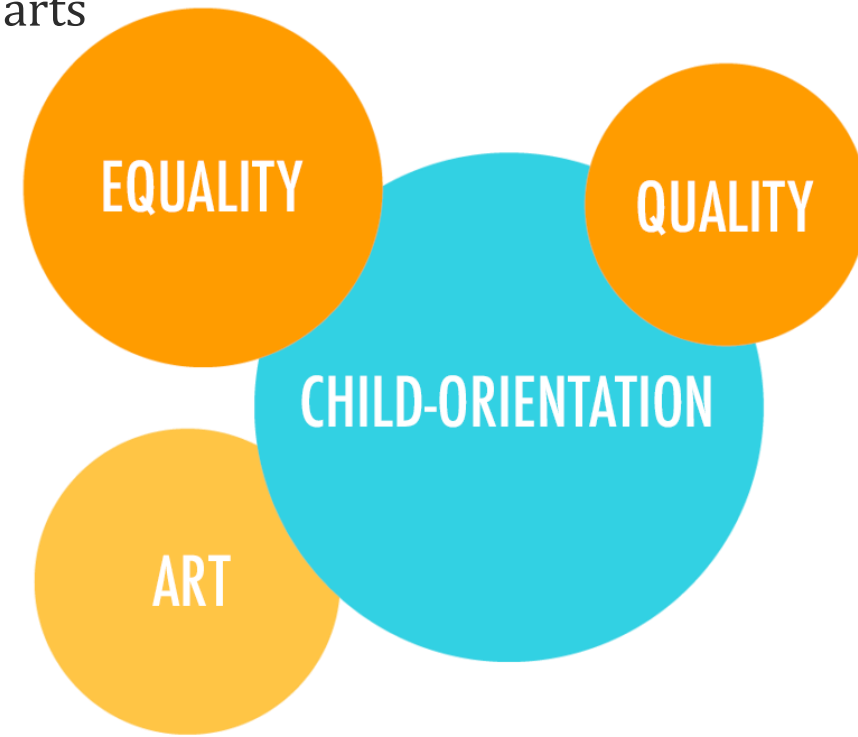


Association of Children's Culture Finland



- *Represents children's arts and culture in Finland and has 36 members (professional cultural centres for children and youth) + 47 cooperation members*
 - Operations are based on [Quality Manual for Children's Arts and Culture](#)
 - Organisations operate in more than 50 themes in culture and arts
 - 2 million visits annually in member organisations
 - Our foundation is in the UN Rights of the Child, article 31

VALUES



Activities in
249
municipalities
(80% of the
municipalities in
Finland)

80%



36
children's cultural
centres

20
years of professional
children's arts and culture
activities at national level

16
different languages
of activities

1 397 656
encounters with
children and youth



26 552
children's arts and
culture content



15

**Sustainable
Development
Certificate**



7

**using the
Accessible Art
Hobby-Label**

17

**centres had
international
activities**

*Croatia, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Italy, Sweden,
Poland, United Kingdom, Belgium, Norway, Japan,
Lithuania, Latvia, France, Estonia, Romania, United
States, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, Denmark,
Germany, Austria, China, Brazil, South Korea, Greece*

36

**children's
cultural centres**

21

**carried out recreational
activities on the basis of
the Finnish model of
Leisure Activities**



31

**implementing the
content of cultural
education plans**

Network open for collaboration with Czech organisations and artists

- Network of Finnish Children's Cultural Centres are interested in collaborating on international projects and promoting cross-border networking for practitioners in this field. Our projects typically focus on professional development for our members, adopting new practices, and sharing and promoting Finnish expertise.
- If you have a project proposal or a cooperation initiative, please reach out to henna.kojo@lastenkulttuuri.fi or aleksi.valta@lastenkulttuuri.fi. We will be happy to assist in finding a Finnish partner for your project, either within our organization or from among our member centres.
- Our members are skilled professionals in children's and youth culture and arts, each organisation is unique and offers specialized expertise in areas such as multi-arts, media education, children's theatre, environmental education, handicrafts, museum pedagogy, visual arts, Experimental Colour Workshops for Babies, child health clinic cooperation, exhibitions, public art, circus arts, the 'Time Travel' method, and many more.

Who do we work for?

Our foundation is in the UN Rights of the Child, article 31: arts and culture for every child, adolescent and youngster

Every child = 100%



Cultural education plan

- Guarantees all children and youth an equal possibility to experience and participate in local arts and culture.
- All grades are included (in Finland 0–9, sometimes also daycare and upper secondary education).
- Includes art in many forms, cultural institutions, cultural heritage and art education.
- Is a local agreement written together between educational and arts/cultural services and professionals.
- Art testers nationally for 8th graders.
- CEP is voluntary for municipalities!

Case Tampere: Culture path for pupils

One grade consists of approximately 2 000 pupils

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- Early childhood / day care (5-year-olds): Theatre experience + workshop
- Pre school (6-year-olds): Multidisciplinary environmental arts + workshop
- 1. grade: Multidisciplinary museum ensembles: museum visit + workshop
- 2. grade: Dance theatre performance and dance workshop in class
- 3. grade: Library visit, theatre play and a literary workshop in class
- 4. grade: Circus performance and circus workshop
- 5. grade: Tone art: visit by a musician, Tampere Philharmonic orchestra concert
- + music tip by central museum
- 6. grade: Multidisciplinary museum ensembles: museum visit + workshop
- 7. grade: Multidisciplinary museum ensembles: museum visit + workshop
- 8. grade: Art Testers: Art museum and theatre play + drama workshop in class
- 9. grade: Social influencer: Craft workshop

!Multiarts experiences tailor made for classes/pupils with special needs

2023-24 culture path for early
childhood education: 3-4 year olds

2024-25: culture path for early
childhood education: 0-2 year olds

2025-2026: culture path for upper
secondary education: high schools
and vocational education

Cultural Education Plan

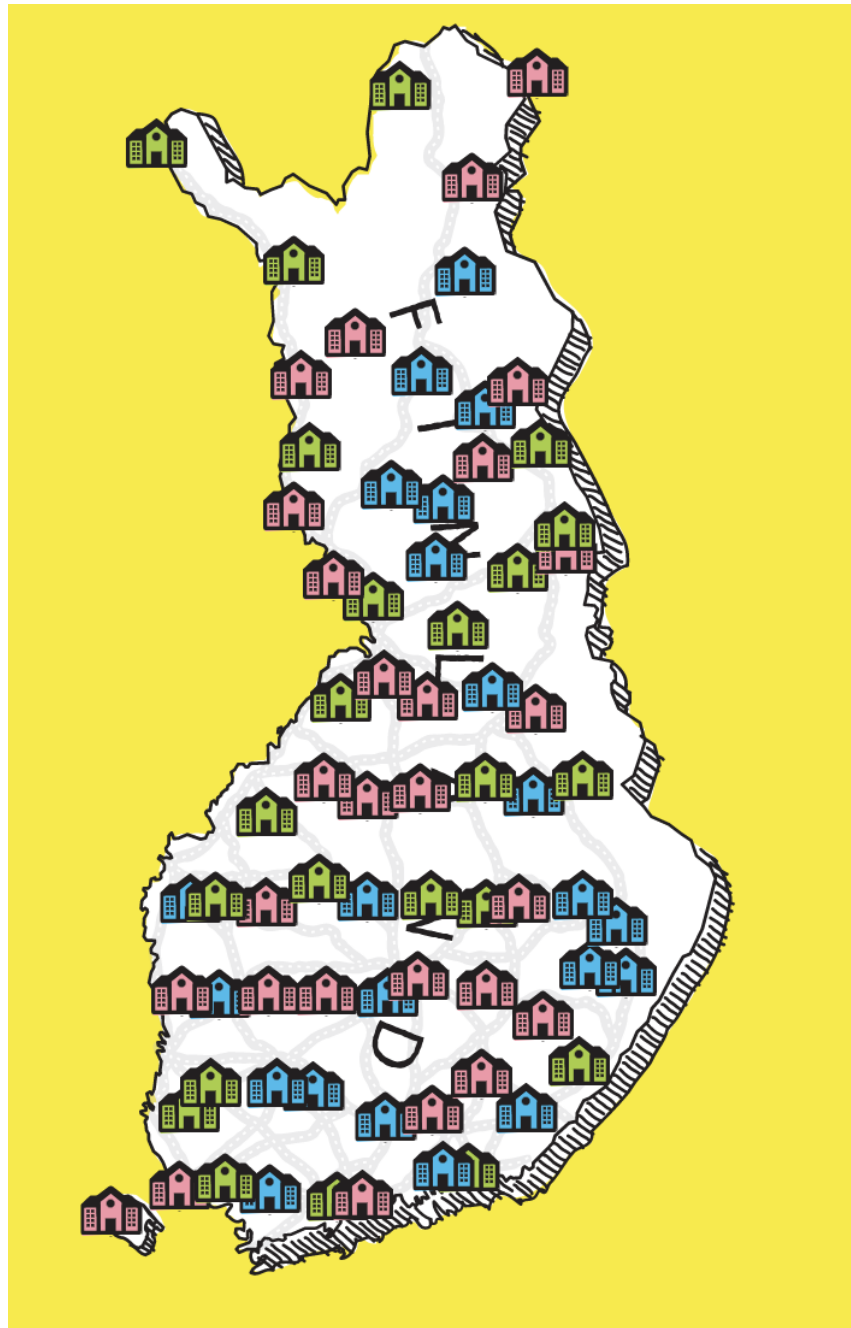
Internationally awarded (Europa nostra 2018)
Finnish education innovation.

What does a cultural education plan offer **for schools?**

- Systematic and target-oriented cultural education.
- Plan applies to all schools regardless of location, economic situation or teachers interest.
- Supports school curriculum.
- New ways of learning and new learning environments.

+ 80% of the municipalities in Finland have a cultural education plan up and running





Art Testers Cultural Education Programme

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Since semester
2017-18

Annually
100 %
68 000+

More than
800 000 visits

+ 300 000
feedback
from 8th
graders

In practice

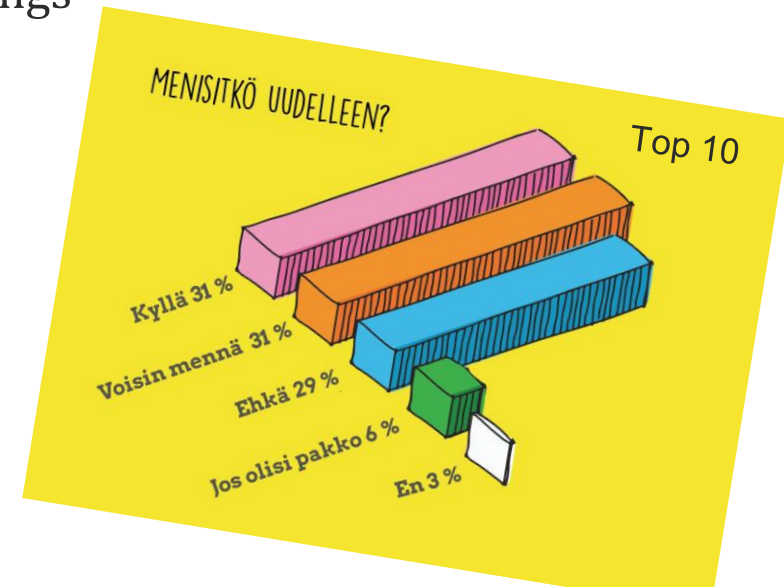
Offers all Finnish 8th graders and their teachers 2 annual visits in esteemed cultural institutions.

- Everyone is invited – despite of social background, place of residence, special needs, family's wealth, or teacher's activity.
- Covers travel and admission fees.
- Art visits are accompanied by pre- and post-visit work to deepen and support the experience.
- Every year, 50–100 varying attractions are selected to the program.
- Semester 2024–25 approx. 70 000 participants: either two local visits (52 %) or one local and one national visit in Helsinki (48 %) depending on the choice of the school.



Voice of adolescents!

- The 8th graders give feedback about their experience
- The reviews are published in nearly real-time by class: www.arttesters.fi
- Based on the feedback we have learned that according the the young people:
 - Circus is interesting!
 - Escape room games work in art museums
 - Action and making things is fun
 - Artist meetings



5 ★★★★★
PALJON KIVEMPAA KU KOULU

5 ★★★★★
MULLA OLI HAUSKAA JA LÄHDIN HYVÄLLÄ FIILIKSELLÄ!

Objectives of the Art Testers program

- To demystify art, make it more approachable to young people and to offer them unforgettable experiences in art as well as opportunities to practise forming well-reasoned opinions on one's own experience in art.
- To help the Finnish art scene to develop their content and audience work aimed at young people and schools.
- Whole generation = 100%



The Finnish model

- The main goal is to improve the wellbeing of children and youth. To give every child and youth access to an enjoyable and free leisure activity at their school or somewhere nearby during the school day.
- The target group includes grades 1 through 9 as well as students in additional education.
- Leisure activities are provided based on the wishes of children and youth.
- The model combines consultation of children and youth on leisure activities, coordination of existing best practices and operating models and collaboration between the school and organizers of leisure activities



Visual arts, dance, photography, cinema and animation, design



Parkour, soccer, riding, climbing, bowling, snow boarding, downhill skiing, biljards, gym, archery, riding, agility, cheerleading



Cooking, hunting, fixing mopeds, coding

Accessible Finnish Model for Hobbies -project

- Project promotes accessibility in all kinds of hobbies
- Introduction of **More Accessible Hobby recommendations** and launching of **Accessible Hobby label** for all leisure activities
- We're looking for project partners for a European culture project!



Links

- **Quality Manual for Children's Culture:**
https://lastenkulttuuri.fi/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Quality_manual_for_childrens_arts_and_culture.pdf
- **Accessibility guide** for children's cultural centers and basic art education institutions:
<https://lastenkulttuuri.fi/en/childrens-culture-finland/accessibility/>
- **Guide to Sustainable Development** for Children's Cultural Centers:
<https://lastenkulttuuri.fi/en/childrens-culture-finland/sustainable-development/>
- **Hobbies for Schools guide**
<https://harrastamisensuomenmalli.fi/en/for-organizers/guide/>
- **Children's Culture in Finland:** <https://lastenkulttuuri.fi/en/>

European Network of Observatories in the Field of Arts and Cultural Education (ENO)

- is an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status), which connects research and practice in European countries and monitors the developments of the field.
- ENO aims to:
 - facilitate the exchange of research findings and innovative practice
 - stimulate new research in the field
 - support the quality development of arts and cultural education within the framework of global UNESCO-policies and guidelines for education, culture and sustainable development.
- ENO Czech Republic includes only NIPOS
- For more info: www.eno-net.phil.fau.eu/

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF CULTURAL CENTRES

Founded in **1994**, the ENCC unites socio-cultural organisations across Europe and beyond, for training, cooperation and advocacy.

Since 2014, it is supported by **Creative Europe** as one of the networks representing the European creative and cultural sector.

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Co-funded by
the European Union

ENCC

Today, through its **153** members, ENCC reaches over **6,000** cultural organisations in **37** countries.

A diverse community comprising various types of organisations, from small, **grassroots initiatives** to municipal **cultural houses**, to **networks** stretching across entire regions and countries.

What binds them together is a commitment to promoting **social cohesion** through culture and the arts.

Czech: 2 individual members, 2 associate members. Room for plenty more!

For more info:

- www.encc.eu
- office@encc.eu

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SOME EUROPEAN TIPS

- ENCC research on **Transformative Power of Socio-Cultural Centres**: <https://encc.eu/articles/just-sustainability-from-the-heart-of-communities-the-transformative-power-of-socio-cultural-centres-2>
- The [Inclusive Arts](#) website is available in English, French, and Italian, and designed for users with and without disabilities (easy-read). The website collects existing tools, stories, and legal information on cultural and access rights for disabled people.
- The [CIAE toolkit](#) for arts organisations and art educators on how to support the inclusion of adults with disabilities (the toolkit also exists in an [easy-read version](#) for people with intellectual disabilities).



Association of Finnish Children's Cultural Centers' English newsletter is published 3-4 times a year.

Subscribe to our newsletter:

<https://lastenkulttuuri.us15.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=06342b346a1847f140b250dec&id=fb8ed49cdd>

Thank you!



Aleks Valta, Executive director
(advocacy work, projects, stakeholders,
finance and fundraising)

Member of the board, European Network
of Observatories in the Field of Culture and
Arts Education (ENO), 2022->

Member of the board, European Network
of Cultural Centres (ENCC), 2024->

Representative of Finland, ACEnet, 2024 ->

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