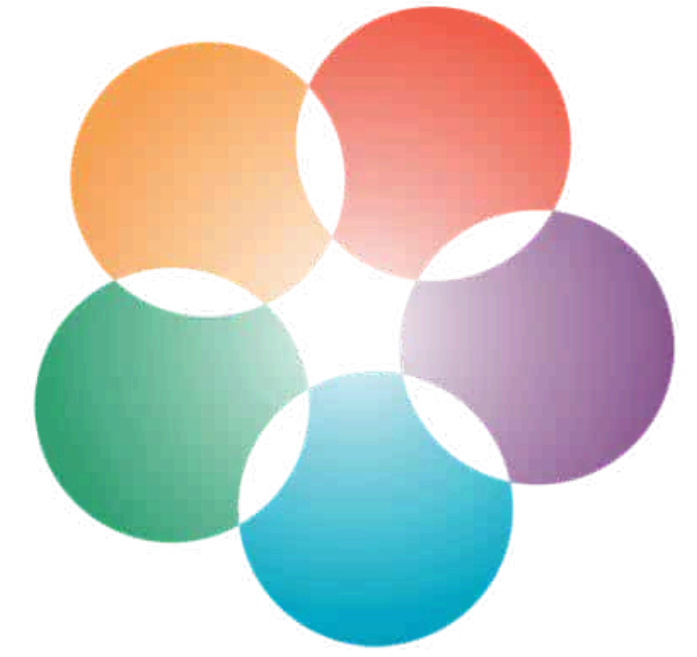


*Bring Your Children to Work Day was celebrated on 21 November 2025 at the University of Helsinki. Photo: Oona Kiviluoto.*



**LUMA CENTRE  
FINLAND**

# **Annual Report 2025**

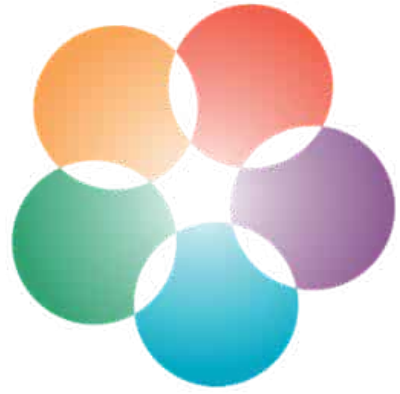
## **Year 2025**

# Contents

1. Year 2025 in a nutshell
2. Accessibility
3. Study visits and outreach activities
4. Research and teacher education
5. Support for continuous learning
6. Leisure activities
7. Events
8. Collaboration
9. Communications
10. LUMAT Journal
11. People involved
12. Review of LUMA Centres' year 2025
13. Acknowledgements



*Planning day for the LUMATIKKA+ project on 15 April 2025. Photo: Maikki Roiha*



# Year 2025 in a Nutshell

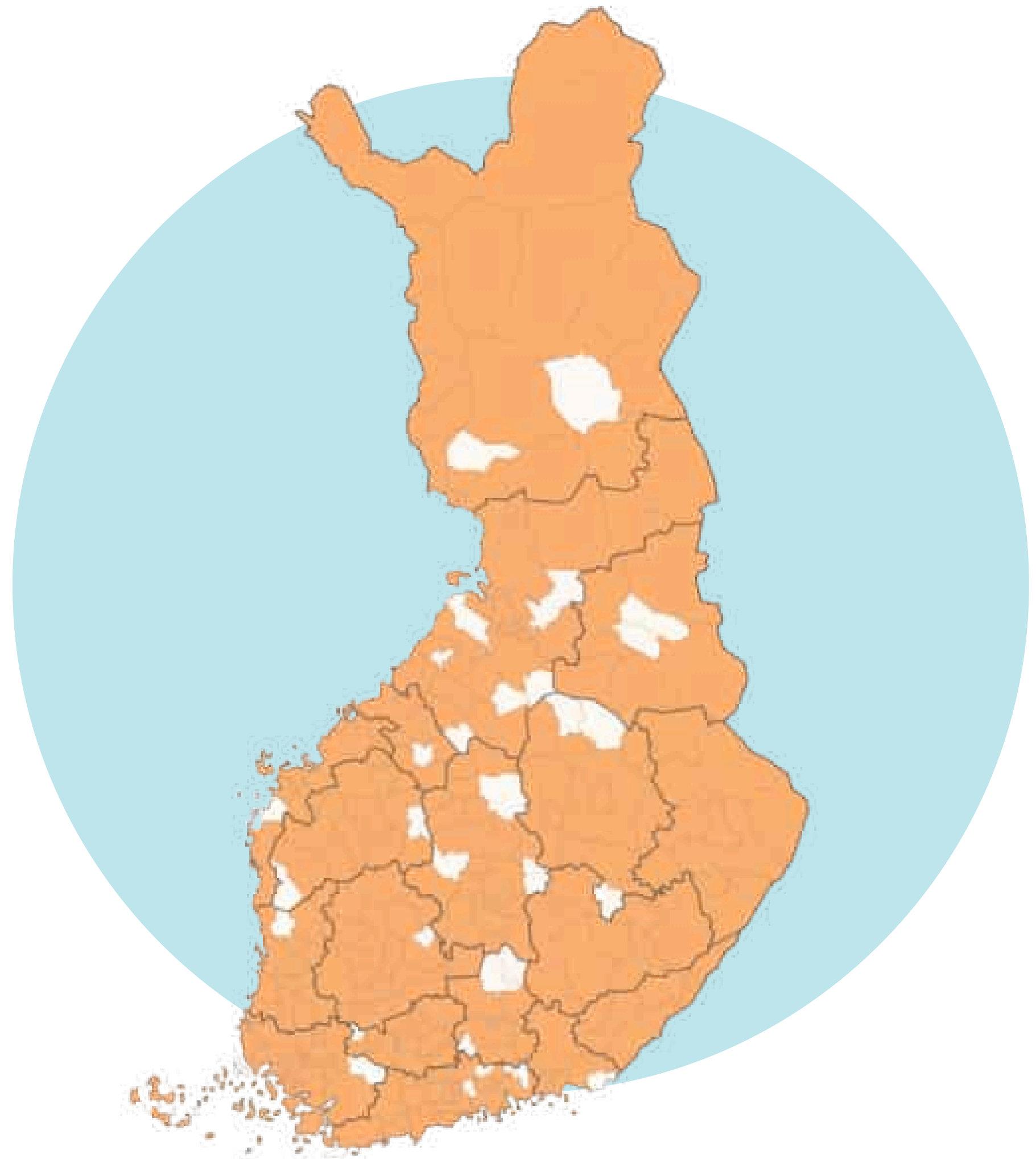
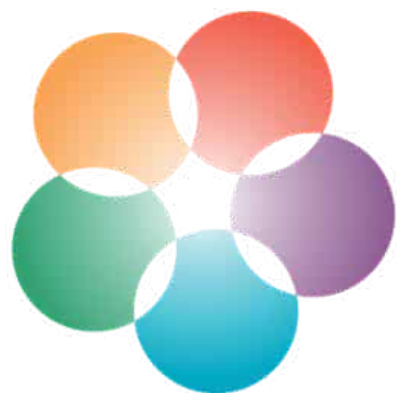
The activities of the LUMA Centre Finland network reached approximately 175 000 children, young people, and teachers in total. Compared to 2024, reach increased by 33 000 people. This growth was driven by the diversification and scalability of activities: study visits remained popular while remote and outreach activities expanded significantly.

Accessibility became an even clearer shared priority across the network. Activities reached 87 % of municipalities in Finland. Support embedded into everyday school and early childhood education strengthened: equipment lending services became more popular, educators increasingly used network resources in teaching, and demand for in-service training continued to grow. Communications also developed significantly. Website visits and social media engagement increased notably during 2025.

At the beginning of 2025, both the national coordination period and leadership changed. The pioneering work of Maija Aksela (2013–2025) concluded in February, when Jan Lundell began as Director of LUMA Centre Finland.

# Accessibility

The network's activities reached 87 % of Finnish municipalities. Many formats, such as online study visits, teacher webinars, outreach tours, and online science clubs, bring science education closer to all Finns regardless of location.

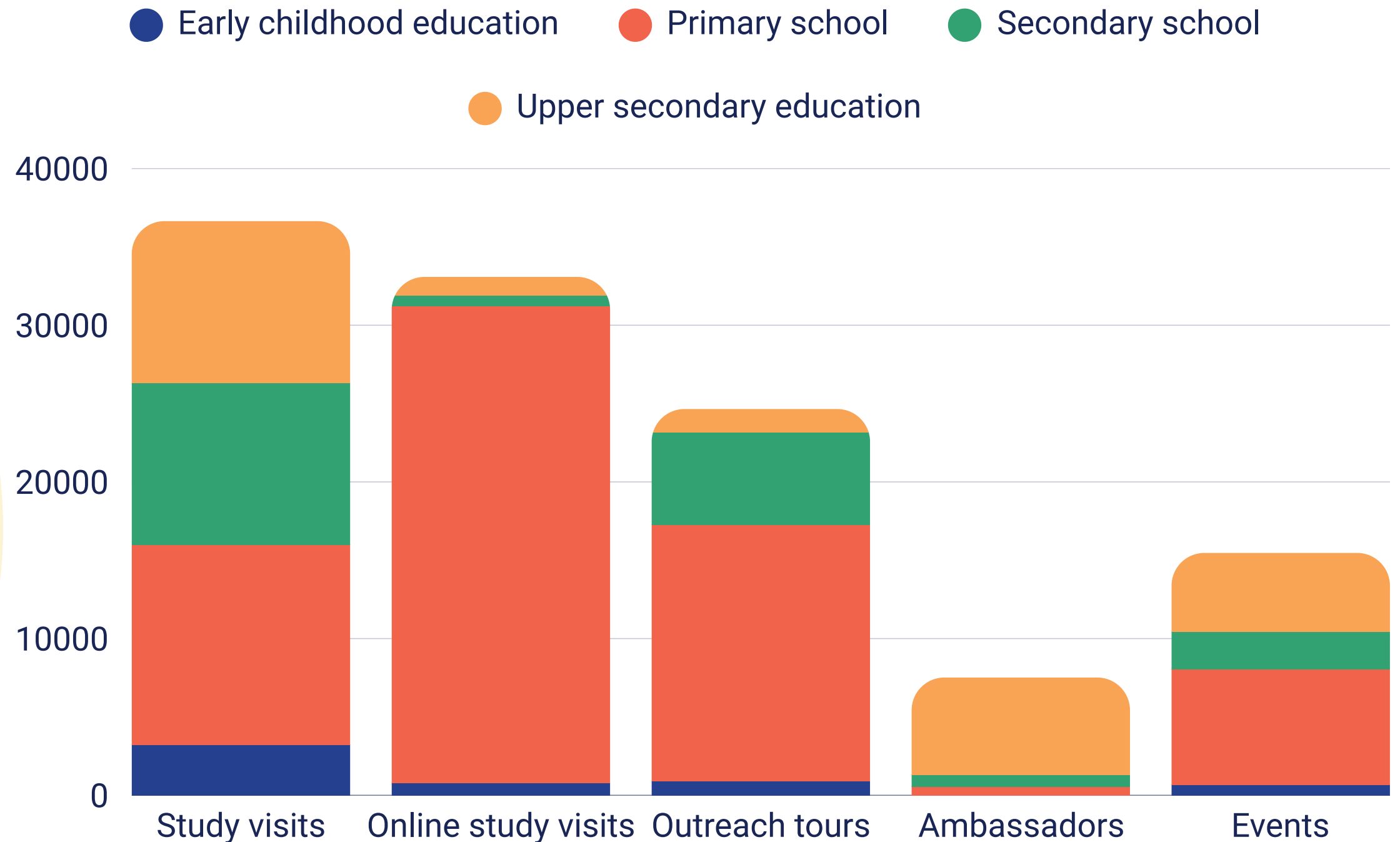


LUMA Centre Finland organizes high-quality study visits across Finland on campuses, in schools and daycare centres, and online. In addition outreach tours, workshop days and teacher training were also provided. Altogether, 139 000 participants took part in activities supporting formal education.

# Study Visits & Outreach

## Participants by activity

- 39 069 via study visits
- 33 235 via online study visits
- 26 352 via outreach tours
- 8 437 via visits by researchers and student ambassadors
- 20 527 via school events
- 1 228 via competitions
- 519 youth via courses and online courses
- 9 433 equipment loan users



# Research and Teacher Education

University research was introduced to children, youth, and teachers through various ways such as: interviews with researchers conducted by children, science cafés, worklife experience placements, student ambassador programmes, citizen science projects, visits, and exhibitions.

The network strengthened the competence of teacher students through courses, workshops, and presentations. Integration of LUMA activities with teacher education across Finland was promoted, for example, students delivering science workshops in schools as part of their university studies.



179 worklife experience trainees and 2 070 university students engaged with LUMA network activities.



*At Chemistry Education Day on 4 April 2025, research conducted by chemical companies was presented to pre-service and in-service teachers. Photo: Maikki Roiha*

# Support for Continuous Professional Development



LUMA Centre Finland provided high-quality, needs-based in-service training across Finland and online. Particularly popular were: From Teacher to Teacher trainings, funded by the Finnish National Agency for Education, and ESERO training programmes. The final LUMATIKKA+ program cycle was completed, and self-study versions were published on the DigiCampus platform.

In total, 3 690 teachers and instructors were reached:

- 2 290 through online training
- 1 400 through in-person training

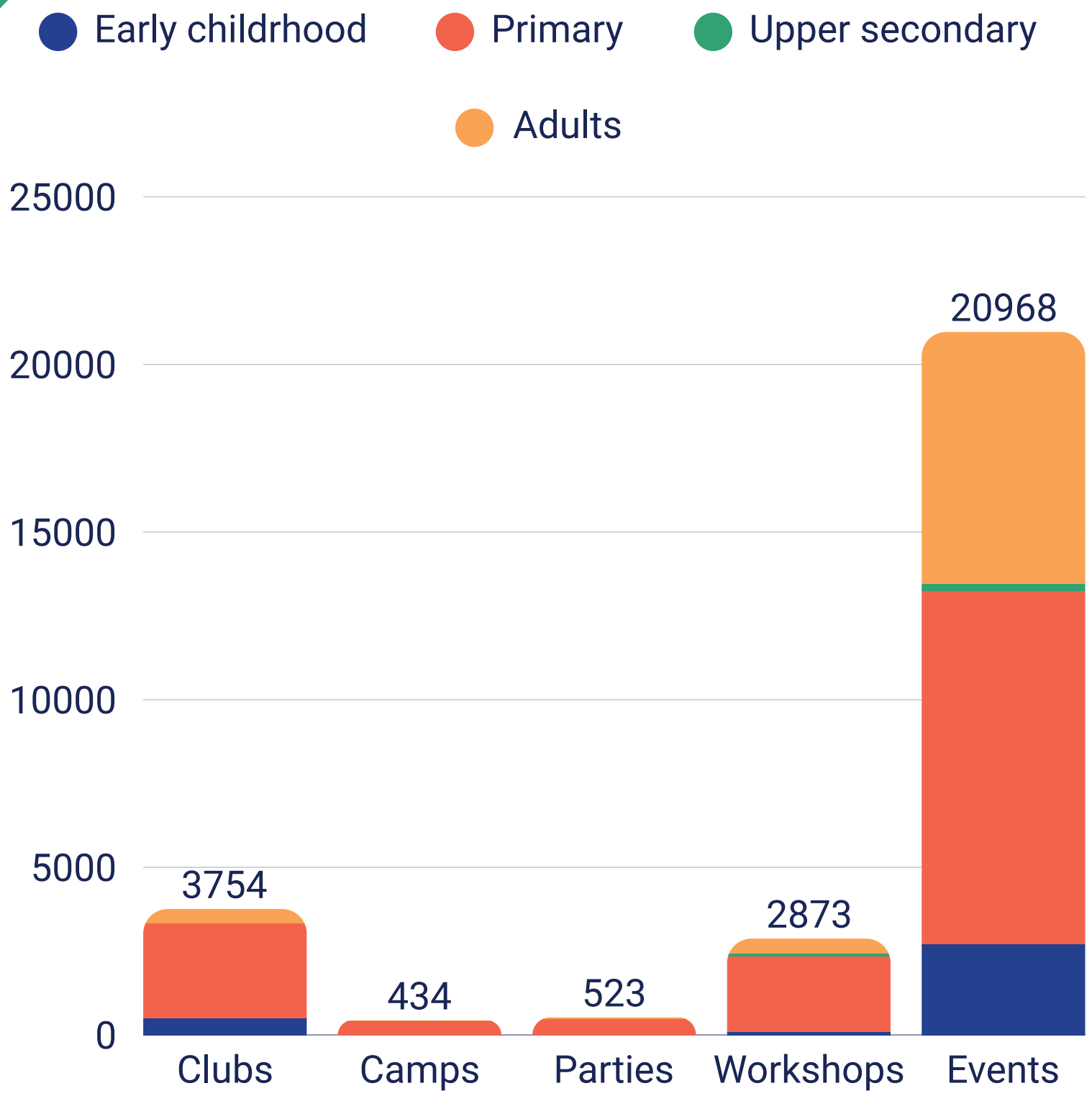


*At the in-person training of the From Teacher to Teacher project in Helsinki on 19 November 2025. Photo: Eveliina Hietakymi*

# Leisure Activities

The network provided diverse science and technology after-school opportunities for children, youth, and families. Popular activities included science clubs, summer camps, science evenings at the universities and Saturday family events. The online science club for after-school program reached participants from 90 municipalities. Accessibility was strengthened through cooperation with youth services, libraries, and other regional partners. Translation, interpretation, and easy read materials ensured inclusion.

**In total, 28 600 participants engaged in leisure-time activities.**





*Members of the board and staff of the LUMA Centre Finland network gathered at Tampere University in November 2025 to develop the network's operating methods and participate in professional development.*



# Events

Numerous events were organized in 2025.

Established and popular public events included Saturday family events, Science evenings at the universities, and Children's science days. Other activities included workshops, such as geology workshops in Lahti libraries, and large-scale events like Researchers' Night in several cities.

An updated [national event calendar](#) was launched in autumn 2025, bringing all LUMA Centre events together on one platform.

LUMA Centre Finland network's internal development days were held in Helsinki (May 2025) and in Tampere (November 2025).

# Collaboration

In 2025, the network engaged in diverse collaboration with various stakeholders across Finland. Key forms of collaboration include the LUMA Advisory Board, which guides the network's activities, as well as the forum for teacher education, educational research, and development in LUMA subjects. The advisory board consists of approximately 50 representatives from different organizations.

In cooperation with Technology Industries of Finland, LUMA/STEAM certificates supporting the quality and development of education were awarded to 29 comprehensive schools.



# National STEM Strategy Monitoring



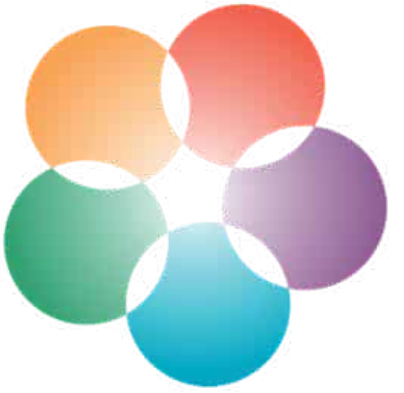
The LUMA advisory board annually monitors the implementation of the National STEM Strategy Action plan. In 2025, the monitoring focused on projects related to STEM competence, as well as the implementation of the EU STEM strategy in Finland. The findings can be summarised in five key observations:

- The focus of projects in Finland is on strengthening STEM competence and basic digital skills.
- There is a wide range of activities: a total of 284 projects over the past three years (2022–2026). Based on survey responses, the projects were particularly concentrated in science education (83), technology (54), and education (52).
- The target groups of these projects primarily consist of 7–15-year-olds.
- Funding is mainly public, but private and EU sources are also significant.
- A considerable amount of funding remains unavailable, particularly for themes related to technology and science education.

*Project funding has enabled numerous activities, such as in-service teacher trainings. Photo: Eveliina Hietakymi & Alisa Uusi-Kilponen*



# International Collaboration



The international networking of LUMA Centre Finland was strong. Six new MoU agreements supporting collaboration were signed: KNU (South Korea), BNU & PDC Network (China), SEAMEO STEM-ED Centre (Thailand), Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, StarT collaboration with India, and with Experience Workshop (Jyväskylä).

Participation in the EU STEM Coalition and the International Dialogue on STEM Education (IDoS) networks has facilitated international funding applications related to collaboration, learning, and educational materials. In 2025, planning for a Nordic STEM Alliance was also initiated, and the network is currently under development.

The research-based approach, strategic expertise, and inclusive operating models of LUMA Centre Finland have attracted interest at conferences, expert consultations, and through a continuous flow of international visitors to different LUMA Centres.



*The dean, staff, and students of Nakhon Phanom University in Thailand visited the University of Helsinki's science education team as guests in September. Photo: Maija Aksela*

## **luma.fi** uudistuu



**Uusilta sivuilta löydät tutut jutut...**

opintokäynnit  
oppimateriaaleja  
lainatarvikkeet  
kerhot  
leirit

**...ja paljon muuta!**

**www.luma.fi**

### **Facebook**

interactions 3 400  
views 192 000  
reach +191 %

### **Instagram**

interactions 4 600  
views 249 000  
reach +36 %

# **Communications**

## **luma.fi**

During the year, 28 articles were published on the LUMA News section of LUMA Centre Finland's website. According to website analytics, the pages received approximately 76,000 views, which is 153% more than in 2024. The most popular content included the online after-school club, the LUMA/STEAM certificate, and teacher trainings. The website renewal began in the autumn, and the new site was launched on 1 December.

## **Social Media**

Facebook and Instagram were actively maintained. A total of 82 posts were published on Facebook and 430 posts or stories on Instagram. In particular, posts achieved strong view counts, and reach increased significantly compared to 2024. The number of followers grew by over one hundred on Facebook and by several hundred on Instagram. Subscription numbers and open rates for the LUMA newsletter increased by approximately 7% during the year.

*The launch of the new website was announced on LUMA Centre Finland's Instagram account on 8 December 2025.*

# LUMAT Journals



## LUMAT Journal

- 9 000–17 000 monthly readers
  - April, July and August were quieter months
  - February, June, and September were busy months
- 217 submissions
- Rejected: 206 (84 %) and published: 40 (16 %)
- Changes were made to Scopus indexing in 2025, which affected the methods of statistical reporting.
- An application was submitted for LUMAT to receive a JUFO 2 classification, as the publication meets all the criteria.

## LUMAT B

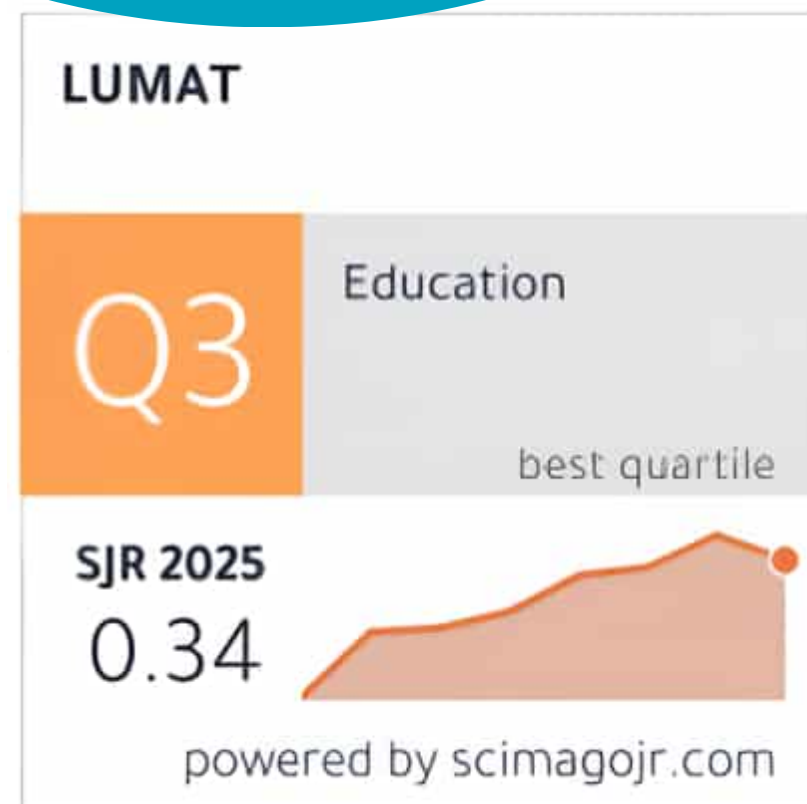
- 1 000–4 000 monthly readers
- 94 submissions
- Rejected: 23 (30 %) and published: 40 (70 %)

## Events

21 March – Webinar: New Special Issue Calls

23 May – LUMAT Research Symposium: Promoting STE(A)M Learning through Non-formal Education

10 October – Webinar: Cultivating a Future-Ready Workforce: Re-imagining STEM Education



*The Scopus indexing level declined from Q2 to Q3 in 2025.*



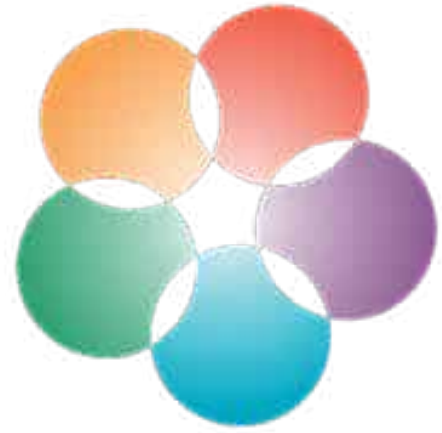
## People make the network



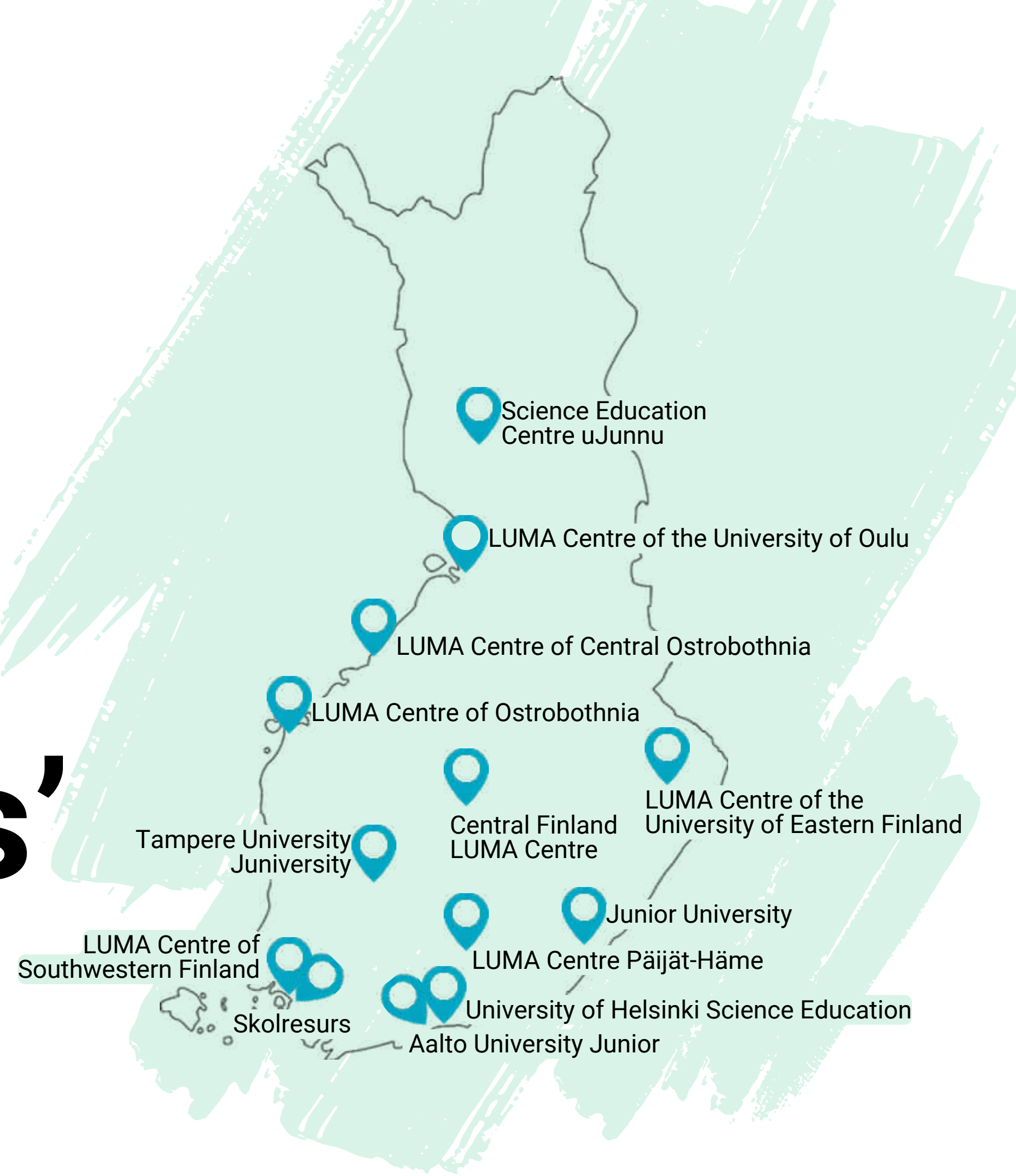
The LUMA Centre Finland network consists of 11 universities and 13 regional LUMA Centres. Its activities are based on a broad and diverse network of experts.

In total, approximately 34 full-time or main-role experts, coordinators, or directors work within the network, along with dozens of part-time employees across Finland. In addition, more than 200 hourly-paid instructors, resource persons, or students contribute to the network's activities each year. These individuals are involved, for example, in leading clubs, camps, and study visits, organizing events, and supporting communications and project work.

In many centres, students form a significant part of the practical implementation of activities. This broad personnel base enables regional coverage, diverse target groups, and the continuous development of science education as part of higher education institutions and their stakeholders.



# Review of LUMA Centres' year 2025





# Aalto University Junior

In 2025, Aalto University Junior took a major leap in visitor numbers: it reached approximately 55 500 children, young people, and teachers across Finland. This represented an impressive 67 % increase compared to the previous year. Following this growth, the number of participants has doubled since 2022.

The popularity of remote workshops increased significantly in 2025, with approximately half of the participants joining activities online. The number of study visits to Otaniemi also grew, supported by the new teaching facility, Junior Space, which opened in early March. In 2025, Junior coordinated four different projects, through which outreach activities in schools reached approximately 12 000 pupils.





HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO

MATEMAATTIS-LUONNONTIEEELLINEN TIEDEKUNTA

# University of Helsinki Science Education



At the University of Helsinki, study visits were, as traditionally, highly popular. In the field of natural sciences, visits at the Kumpula campus involved 216 groups and 4 463 children and young people. Remote study visits attracted 246 groups and 3 083 children and young people. We conducted outreach visits to schools 13 times, reaching 233 children and young people. In total, 475 groups and 7 779 children and young people participated in study visit activities.

In leisure activities, we offered programming and mathematics clubs as well as summer camps.

Collaboration with upper secondary schools was strengthened through newly co-developed models. For example, together with the Helsinki Upper Secondary School of Natural Sciences located on campus, we developed the Amazing Race of Science event (pictured), study visits, and course content.

# LUMA Centre of the University of Eastern Finland



The year 2025 for the LUMA Centre of the University of Eastern Finland was filled with events and driven by collaboration. We participated in numerous events with workshops across North Savo and North Karelia, reaching more than 5 000 people. In both spring and autumn, the traditional Light for Families event was organized in collaboration with the PREIN Flagship of Photonics. Cooperation with various partners continued and developed further, and new initiatives were launched.

As a new development, we received funding from the Olvi Foundation for the Science Adventure in Eastern Finland project. The project develops visit packages based on research topics from the University of Eastern Finland, which are then taken to schools in the region, offering workshops for students in grades 5–9.

Through established activities such as visits and equipment lending, we reached over 3 000 pupils, students, and teachers.

# Junior University

- The year 2025 at Junior University was filled with a wide range of activities and events. We reached approximately 16 000 children, young people, and adults!
- Our city collaborations continued at full capacity in a well-established manner. Within the Lappeenranta Junior University framework, all preschoolers, as well as students in grades 3, 5, and 8 and upper secondary students, gained inspiring experiences through our science, technology, and sustainability education. In Imatra, all 8th-grade students and first-year upper secondary students participated in workshops on campus, while in the Lahti Junior University, our robotics-themed activities reached 5th-grade students.
- The “LUMA van” project, funded by the Finnish Cultural Foundation, was brought to completion with a large number of workshops organized at schools, as well as through the development of a “Science Day” concept, which enables the continued, resource-efficient delivery of mobile LUMA activities to schools in nearby municipalities.



# LUMA Centre of Central Ostrobothnia

- In 2025, the LUMA Centre of Central Ostrobothnia reached approximately 5000 students in basic education and upper secondary education. At the same time, their teachers and instructors were also able to deepen their expertise in LUMA science education through in-service training.
- At the core of our activities are study visits to our two science classrooms. In addition, we actively bring activities to schools located further away in the region.
- The Baltic Sea Rescue Operation escape room was particularly popular, significantly increasing lower secondary students' participation in science classroom visits.
- In primary schools, there remains a particular need for tools that develop computational thinking and support environmental inquiry. We have responded to this by offering equipment for schools to borrow as a continuation of the science classroom visits.
- In addition, the LUMA Centre has actively participated in regional youth events, where we have highlighted the future opportunities offered by LUMA fields in our region.



# Central Finland LUMA Centre



In 2025, the LUMA Centre of Central Finland reached over 10 600 children, young people, teachers, and parents through school visits, camps, training sessions, and public events. Particularly memorable highlights of the year include the World of Hydrogen exhibition, opened in January and donated by the Central Finland Mobility Foundation (Cefmof) to support the science education activities of the University of Jyväskylä's Faculty of Mathematics and Science and the LUMA Centre of Central Finland, as well as the Great Bird Excursion campaign carried out in spring, which engaged 3 800 schoolchildren across Finland!

# LUMA Centre of Southwestern Finland

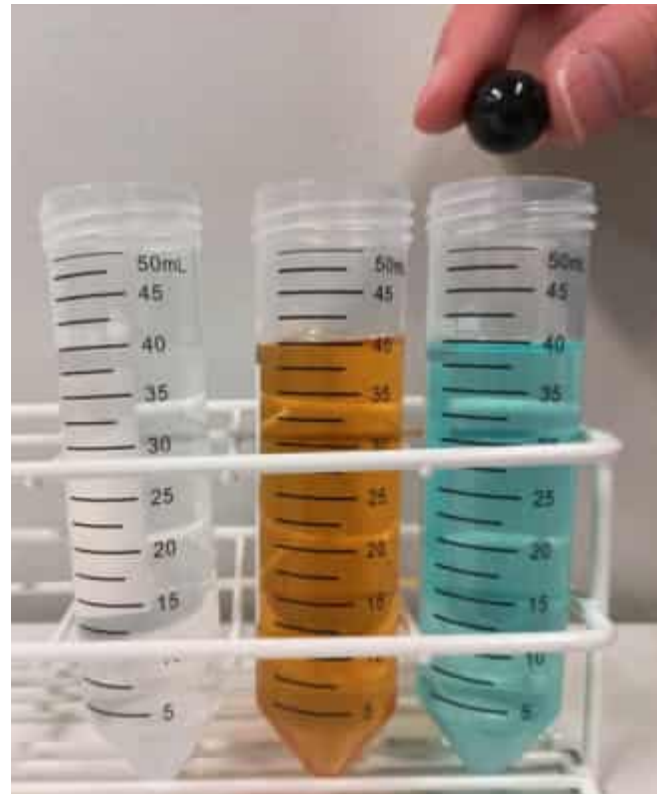
The year 2025 went very well for the LUMA Centre of Southwest Finland: in total, we reached nearly 10 000 people. There were two highlights during the year. In the *Universe in Different Languages* project, pupils from 30 comprehensive schools had the opportunity to participate in an astronomy-themed programme either at their own school or a neighbouring school and to visit a mobile planetarium. We also secured funding for a science mystery video series, whose scriptwriting and filming work kept us especially busy in late summer and early autumn.





LUMA-KESKUS POHJANMAA

# LUMA Centre of Ostrobothnia



The LUMA Centre Ostrobothnia's science education activities reached a total of over 5 000 children and young people, more than 900 educators and teachers, as well as hundreds of university students, families, and stakeholders in 2025.

At the core of the activities were the workshops of the SAGA science classroom in Vaasa, as well as science-themed days implemented across the region, focusing on topics such as energy, economics, and information technology. During the year, several events were organized, including the CanSat competition, the opening of the academic year, family-oriented science clubs, and the Science Artwork exhibition, which brought together new teaching materials combining science and art. Children and young people were encouraged to engage in hobbies through electronics and science-art themed clubs. The work of educators and teachers was supported by offering training through national network projects and ESERO collaboration, as well as through equipment lending services. The testing of a new operational model also strengthened the involvement of students in science education activities.



# LUMA Centre of the University of Oulu

In 2025, the activities of the University of Oulu's LUMA Centre reached over 10 000 participants.

The forms of activities included, for example, hands-on workshops for pupil and student groups at the university, outreach activities in daycare centres and schools, children's clubs, in-service training for teachers and educators, and equipment lending.

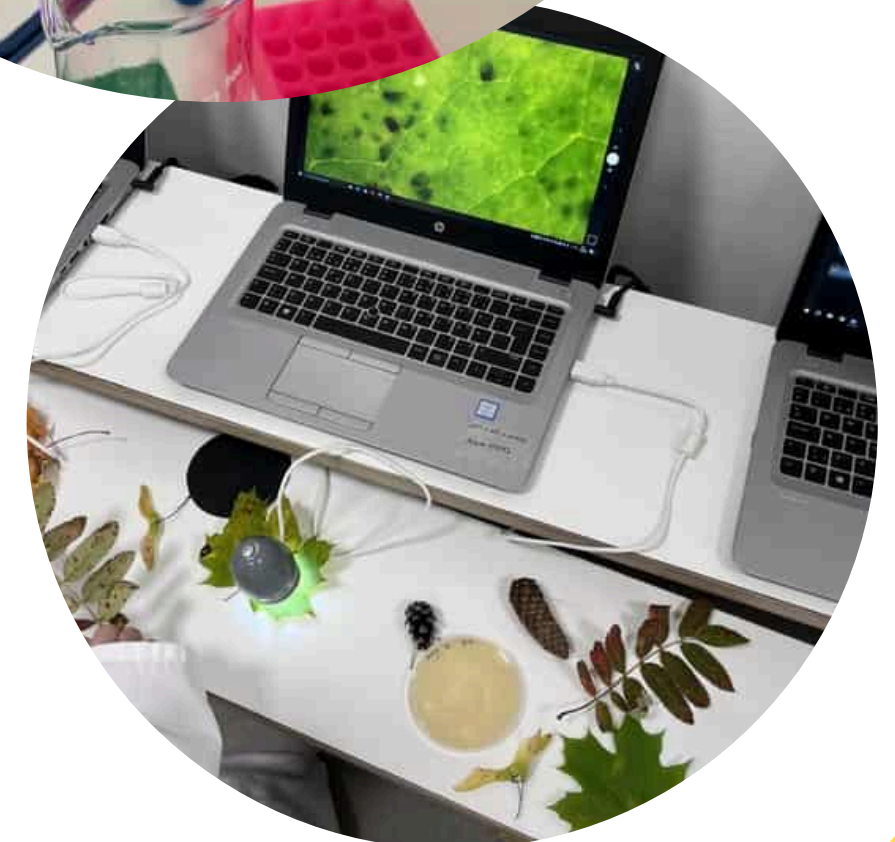
In addition, pop-up style workshops were organized at various events, such as the Toivo Agenda & Tool Camp, the Night of the Arts, the Researchers' Night, and the LUMO Light Festival. Science-related side activities were also offered for children and young people during the City of Oulu's summer park dining events.



# LUMA Centre Päijänne Tavastia

In 2025, the activities of the Päijät-Häme LUMA Centre reached over 6 000 children, young people, and adults. The SOLU science classroom provided inspiring science education visits for groups from early childhood education to upper secondary level, while mobile LUMA activities brought science directly to teaching groups across the region. All 9th-grade students in Lahti visited the science classroom to solve a crime mystery, and preschoolers conducted water studies as part of the Lahti Junior University. Science Classroom in a Box kits were loaned to schools, enabling low-threshold engagement with experimental science.

Open club activities organized in the library reached especially students studying Finnish as a second language, and public events brought together a large number of enthusiastic residents to explore scientific phenomena. In January, the 2,5-year ESF+ Nemoni project was launched, focusing on developing science education content for neurodiverse learners to support equitable and accessible learning.



# Skolresurs



Skolresurs' operational year 2025 was marked by the change negotiations and the subsequent restructuring carried out by Åbo Akademi during the year. Despite this turbulence, we are pleased to note that we managed to maintain a very high level of activity throughout the year. We once again reached a new record in terms of the total number of events organized for our Swedish-speaking target groups during the year, with 232 events. In total, we succeeded in reaching 1 043 Swedish-speaking teachers and educators through our in-service training and events. The number of participants in our Swedish-language activities and events for pupils, children, and young people was also once again gratifyingly high, amounting to 4 786.

# Tampere University Juniversity



In 2025, the multidisciplinary activities of Tampere University Juniversity reached a record number of participants, over 36 000, representing a 21% increase compared to the previous year. The strongest growth was seen in science classroom activities, which reached over 5 000 learners, as well as in student ambassador visits to educational institutions, which reached over 8 000 young people. The largest single event of the year was the annual Jatsoon! Day, which attracted 3 500 participants.

During the year, activities were further developed especially from the perspectives of accessibility and faculty collaboration. Content development was supported by funding from the Finnish Cultural Foundation, focusing in particular on themes such as artificial intelligence and sustainability, as well as media literacy.

# Science Education Centre uJunnu

In 2025, the activities of the Science Education Centre uJunnu at the University of Lapland were joined with LUMA Centre Lapland. uJunnu promotes interest in science, art, and technology among children, young people, and educators in Lapland.

In 2025, our activities reached a total of over 9 500 children, young people, educators, teachers, as well as students, families, and stakeholders. At the core of our work were uJunnu's GIDDA workshop tour, the autumn Science Weeks, and various workshops, science events, and themed activities carried out across Lapland. The equipment lending service supported the implementation of activities throughout the entire region.

During the year, several science camps, workshops, and events were organized in cooperation with partners. The work of educators was supported through training, network collaboration, and pedagogical materials, and higher education students were actively involved in science education as part of their studies and LUMATE development.



Tiedekasvatusta  
lapsille ja nuorille



# **Thank you to everyone who participated!**

We would like to thank all of you who participated in our activities during 2025! It has been a pleasure to meet at events, learn together during study visits, and connect online. We all are doing important work toward shared goals and for future generations.

Finally, we would like to thank the enablers of our activities: the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finnish universities and higher education institutions, the Finnish National Agency for Education, the Finnish Cultural Foundation, Maa- ja vesitekniikan tuki ry, the Weisell Foundation, and the European Union Interreg NPA Programme.