

GEP Forum 29.–30.10.2025

AGENDA

Wednesday 29 October 2025

9.15–10.00	Registration and coffee
10.00–10.15	Welcome & Objectives of the GEP Forum * Ms Minna Kelhä, Director General, Finnish National Agency for Education
10.15–10.30	Opening plenary * Mr Pasi Hellman, Under-Secretary of State, Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
10.30–10.50	Virtual keynote - Multiply Possibility Through GPE * Ms Ruth Kagia, High-Level Envoy and Advisor for Education, Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
10.50–11.15	Break
11.15–12.00	Fireside chat – Re-positioning education sector in the changing global financing environment * Host: Ms Niina Tenhio, Chief specialist, Head of FinCEED, Finnish National Agency for Education Participants: Ms Manuela Prina, Principal Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Ms Martina Winkler, Private Sector Engagement & Employment Expert, TEI OP-VET, Enabel, Ms Birgit Nevala, Programme Director, Finnpartnership
12.00–13.15	Lunch, coffee and networking
13.15–14.00	Parallel sessions on the Forum's key areas 2025 <i>Role of Higher education in multi-stakeholder partnerships and Vocational Education development in Africa</i> – by Finnish National Agency for Education <i>Empowering Educators with VR: Hands-On Training Using the VR4VET Method</i> - by Jyväskylä Educational Consortium Gradia <i>Co-Creating a Sustainable Future: Inclusive Curriculum Development in Kenyan TVET</i> – by Häme University of Applied Sciences HAMK
14.00–14.15	Break
14.15–15.00	Parallel sessions

Co-creating impactful solutions and using the Action Lab method - by Finnish Development NGOs (Fingo) with Education working group

Empowering Educators with VR: Hands-On Training Using the VR4VET Method - by Jyväskylän Educational Consortium Gradia

Rethinking of the aid effectiveness in education: how can aligned education sector pool funds be a game changer? – by Agence Française de Développement / Global Partnership for Education

15.00–15.20

Coffee break

15.20–16.05

Parallel sessions

Low-Tech, High-Impact: Field-Tested Digital Innovations in Education from Sub-Saharan Africa – by Enabel - Belgian Agency for International Cooperation

Democratizing Digital Transformation in Rwandan Classrooms: Insights into Capacity Building, Challenges, and Opportunities through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration – by Jamk University of Applied Sciences

Spotlight session with Global Skills Factory Oy, Moomin Language School and VentureVillage Oy

16.20–18.00

Sparkling wine and facilitated networking

Host: Dr Minna Koutaniemi, Director, International Affairs, Finnish National Agency for Education

Thursday 30 October 2025

9.00–9.30

Registration, coffee and networking

9.30–9.40

Opening remarks *

Ms Kristiina Kokko, State Secretary to the Minister of Science and Culture

9.40–10.20

Keynote - Beyond the MoU: What Really Makes Partnerships Work Across Borders and Sectors? *

Dr Elizabeth Agbor Eta, Senior Researcher, University of Helsinki and Research Associate, Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies, University of Johannesburg

10.20–10.40

Break

10.40–12.15

Parallel sessions on the Forum's key areas 2025

Co-Creation and Innovation in Action: How UNICEF and EdTech Partners Are Shaping the Future of Learning – by UNICEF

* These sessions will be streamed online. The link to the live stream is shared on the event page.

** Changes to the programme are possible.

Bridging Global and Local Expertise in TVET: Co-Creating Sustainable Skills Pathways in Refugee Contexts with TWB Finland and FCA Uganda – by Finn Church Aid / Teachers Without Borders Finland

Innovating Public Sector Capacity: Lessons from the Finnish-African Cooperation on Digital and Inclusive Learning - by HAUS Finnish Institute of Public Management

Empowering Educators with AI: Hands-On Workshop Using OnEdu AI to Build Personal Learning Materials – by Mobie Oy

12.15–13.15	Lunch
13.15–14.15	Plenary workshop: Weak signals from the Future * Ms Terhi Ylikoski, Specialist, Foresight and Training, The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra Ms Lilli Poussa, Specialist, Foresight and Training, The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra
14.15–14.30	Closing remarks * Ms Marjo Mäenpää, Head of Unit, Global Education Partnerships, Finnish National Agency for Education
14.30–	Coffee and farewell

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Parallel Sessions Wednesday 29.10.

Room / Time	Sirkus	Tivoli	Viktor Julius von Wright
13.15–14.00	Role of Higher education in multi-stakeholder partnerships and Vocational Education development in Africa (<i>Finnish National Agency for Education</i>)	Empowering Educators with VR: Hands-On Training Using the VR4VET Method (<i>Jyväskylä Educational Consortium Gradia</i>)	Co-Creating a Sustainable Future: Inclusive Curriculum Development in Kenyan TVET (<i>HAMK</i>)
14.15–15.00	Co-creating impactful solutions and using the Action Lab method (<i>Finnish Development NGOs Fingo (with Education working group)</i>)		Rethinking of the aid effectiveness in education: how can aligned education sector pool funds be a game changer? (<i>Agence Française de Développement / Global Partnership for Education</i>)
15.20–16.05	Low-Tech, High-Impact: Field-Tested Digital Innovations in Education from Sub-Saharan Africa (<i>Enabel - Belgian Agency for International Cooperation</i>)	Democratizing Digital Transformation in Rwandan Classrooms: Insights into Capacity Building, Challenges, and Opportunities through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration (<i>Jamk University of Applied Sciences</i>)	Spotlight: 1. Global Skills Factory Oy, 2. Moomin Language School, 3. VentureVillage Oy

Parallel Sessions Thursday 30.10.			
Room/ Time	Sirkus	Tivoli	Viktor Julius von Wright
10.40–11.25	Bridging Global and Local Expertise in TVET: Co-Creating Sustainable Skills Pathways in Refugee Contexts with TWB Finland and FCA Uganda (<i>Finn Church Aid / Teachers Without Borders Finland</i>)	Innovating Public Sector Capacity: Lessons from the Finnish-African Cooperation on Digital and Inclusive Learning (<i>HAUS Finnish Institute of Public Management & African Capacity Building Foundation</i>)	Co-Creation and Innovation in Action: How UNICEF and EdTech Partners Are Shaping the Future of Learning (<i>UNICEF</i>)
11.30–12.15			Empowering Educators with AI: Hands-On Workshop Using OnEdu AI to Build Personal Learning Materials (<i>Mobie Oy</i>)

Themes of the sessions
The Rising Role of Vocational Training Globally
Current Trends in Digital Education
Key Lessons for Successful Commercial Cooperation and Development Partnerships

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