FINNISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

Helsinki Global Education Partnerships Forum 28.-29.10.2026

AGENDA

Wednesday 28 October 2026

9.15–10.00	Registration and coffee
10.00–10.30	**Welcome & Objectives of the HelGEP Forum 2026** Kurt Torsell, Director General, Finnish National Agency for Education
10.30–10.50	**Youth address** Mariia Demidova, UNICEF youth delegate, Ukraine
10.50–11.00	**Opening remarks** Heidi Backman, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland
11.00-11.30	**Keynote: The role of education in navigating the world in transition(s)** Hiski Haukkala, Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs
11.30–12.00	**Keynote** Iryna Shumik, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
12:00-12:15	**Building crisis-resilient and safe education systems** Dr. Martín Benavides, Director, UNESCO IIEP
12.15–13.15	Lunch, coffee and networking
13.15–14.00	**Parallel sessions**
14.00–14.15	Break
14.15–15.00	**Parallel sessions**
15.00–15.15	Break
15.15–16.00	**Parallel sessions**
16.00–16.15	**Conclusion of the day and call to action** Niina Tenhio, Chief Specialist, FinCEED Jaakko Skantsi, Programme Director, Education Finland
16.30-18.00	Sparkling wine and facilitated networking

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Thursday 29 October 2026

9.00–9.30	Registration, coffee and networking
9.30–9.40	**Opening remarks** Minna Koutaniemi, Director of International Affairs, Finnish National Agency for Education
9.40–9.50	**Opening remarks** Ramses Malaty, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
10.00–10.30	**Keynote: Beyond the classroom: School community as a protective factor** Saija Benjamin, PhD, Head of Management and Training, RADIA Knowledge Centre
10.30–10.45	Break
10.45–12.30	**Parallel sessions**
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.00	**Keynote** Ilaria Dettori, Director of the School Meals Coalition Secretariat and Director of the World Food Program Nutrition, School Meals and Social Protection Service
14.00-14.30	Presentation of the results of co-creation of the joint vision for the global education partnerships and the actions required – FINCEED training results** Wouter Van Damme, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF
14.40-14.50	Audience engagement
14.50-15.00	**Closing remarks** Marjo Mäenpää, Head of the Global Education Partnerships Unit, Finnish National Agency for Education
15.00 -	Coffee and farewells

** Changes to the programme are possible.*

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Parallel Sessions Wednesday 28.10.			
Room / Time	Sirkus **Group tables**	Tivoli **Group tables: max 54 (6 persons per table)**	Viktor Julius von Wright **Classroom: max 56 persons**
13:15 - 14:00	**Ask the Expert: From School-Level Climate Risk Analysis to More Resilient Education Planning** **(*International Institute for Education Planning, UNESCO*)**	**From Emergency to Ecosystem Building Resilient Teacher Development in Ukraine** **(The Campus Company Oy)**	**From Crisis to Continuity: Delivering Education in Emergencies in Nepal** **(UNICEF Nepal, UNICEF Finland and the Embassy of Finland in Kathmandu)**
14:20 - 15:05	**Future-oriented curriculum development for climate resilience and sustainable societies.** **(Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK)**	**Media literacy as a shared responsibility: Co-creating guidelines for research-based, community-anchored education content in politically charged contexts** **(Embassy of Finland in Pretoria / Ministry of Education Team Finland Knowledge)**	**Sustainability Is Not an Add-On: Designing for Institutionalisation from the Beginning. Experiences from TVET digital capacity development in Ethiopia.** **(EDUFI)**
15:15 - 16:00	**Teaching under fire: What AI use in Ukrainian schools reveals about resilience in conflict-affected education** **(WINWIN EdTech Center of Excellence)**		**Building Resilient Societies Starts in Early Childhood: Lessons from Finland and China** **(Pikkuli Edu Oy)**

Parallel Sessions Thursday 29.10.			
Room/ Time	Sirkus **Theater**	Tivoli **Group tables: max 54 (6 persons per table)**	Viktor Julius von Wright **Classroom: max 56 persons**
11:00 - 11:45	***Inclusion during emergencies; a key pillar to safety, security and resilience*** ***(UNICEF in the State of Palestine)***	**Building Resilient Education: Multi-Actor Collaboration for Safety, Security and Resilience** **(Finnish Development NGOs Fingo (with Education working group))**	**Beyond Digital? Why Human Connection Is the Foundation of Resilient Education Systems** **(The Campus Company & Texas A&M International University)**
11:50 - 12:35	**Supporting VET Teacher and Manager Training in Wartime: Insights from Bridge2Skills in Ukraine** **(EDUFI/HAMK)**	**Exploring multi-stakeholder perspectives on climate change education for resilience** **(Finnish University Partnership for International Development)**	**Teaching safely in the age of AI: building digital literacy into teacher training across borders** **(Fedu.ai/Mental Up Oy)**

Themes of the sessions
Education increases preparedness for crises, climate change,
Media literacy and foundational skills construct safety and security
Human security and safety as a prerequisite for learning

FINNISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

PARALLEL SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

WINWIN Edtech Center For Excellence

Teaching under fire: What AI use in Ukrainian schools reveals about resilience in conflict-affected education

What happens when AI meets education under extreme disruption? Drawing on two large-scale studies of Ukrainian teachers, students, and parents, this session reveals how AI is reshaping teaching, learning, and human-AI collaboration amid war, uncertainty, and emotional stress, and what Ukraine's experience can teach education systems worldwide.

Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK)

Future-oriented curriculum development for climate resilience and sustainable societies

Workshop explores how higher education can build resilience to climate-related uncertainty by developing future-oriented sustainability competences. Drawing on the GreenEdAsia project, participants examine foresight-informed curriculum development. Participants co-create practical curriculum ideas for resilient and sustainable futures.

Finnish University Partnership for International Development

Exploring multi-stakeholder perspectives on climate change education for resilience

Climate change education is widely acknowledged for building resilience and developing adaptation strategies. However, stakeholders often work in silos for greening education. This session takes a bottom-up approach and includes expert insights from the grass-root level NGO sector, academia and policymaking on the role of education in addressing climate awareness.

UNICEF Nepal, UNICEF Finland and the Embassy of Finland in Kathmandu

From Crisis to Continuity: Delivering Education in Emergencies in Nepal

How can education provide safety, stability, and hope when crisis strikes? Through the experience of Nepal's 2023 Jajarkot earthquake response, this session explores how partnerships between UNICEF Nepal, UNICEF Finland, and the Government of Finland have supported children's learning continuity, protection, and recovery in emergency settings. Combining children's perspectives from the Jhalko: Glimpses of West Rukum photography exhibition with insights from UNICEF Nepal, UNICEF Finland, and the Embassy of Finland in Kathmandu, the session highlights how collaborative partnerships can work to strengthen resilience, preparedness, and education systems. Participants will gain insights into how international partnerships can enable timely, inclusive, and context-responsive education responses while amplifying children's voices and supporting their right to learn during and after crises.

Fedu.ai/Mental Up Oy

Teaching safely in the age of AI: building digital literacy into teacher training across borders

Join Dr. James O'Meara (TAMIU), Dr. Aimable Sibomana (Catholic University of Rwanda), and Dr. Reşit Dogan (MentalUp Oy) as we share international experiences from Laredo, Texas, Rwanda, and Turkey—then roll up our sleeves for practical workshopping to equip participants with tools for teaching safely using ai.

The Campus Company & Texas A&M International University

Beyond Digital? Why Human Connection Is the Foundation of Resilient Education Systems

What if AI could give teachers more time to nurture the future talent their communities need? Discover how a U.S.–Finland collaboration connects Finnish innovation with the knowledge of local educators and communities to strengthen literacy—creating place-based solutions that prepare children to thrive in school, succeed in life, and contribute to stronger, more prosperous communities.

Finnish Development NGOs Fingo (with Education working group)

Building Resilient Education: Multi-Actor Collaboration for Safety, Security and Resilience

How can multi-actor collaboration strengthen education, protection, safety, and resilience in crisis-affected contexts? This dynamic workshop brings together practitioners and researchers to explore 4 real-world cases from Ukraine, Myanmar, Tanzania, and humanitarian settings globally. Through short case presentations and interactive reflection, participants will identify missing actors, value-adding partnerships, and new roles needed to enhance impact. The session concludes with collective insights and emerging ideas for advancing resilient, inclusive, and protective education systems. Welcome. After the workshop Ask the Expert 45 min session will continue with one more showcase and discussion.

Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) & Häme University of Applied Sciences HAMK

Supporting VET Teacher and Manager Training in Wartime: Insights from Bridge2Skills in Ukraine

What enables educators to learn, lead, and innovate during crisis? Drawing on the Bridge2Skills experience, this session will share insights into motivation and resilience and present some practices and engagement strategies adopted to achieve sustainable capacity building in conflict-affected setting.

International Institute for Education Planning, UNESCO

Ask the Expert: From School-Level Climate Risk Analysis to More Resilient Education Planning

This session presents a practical methodology for analysing climate and disaster risk at the school level to strengthen education planning. Integrating hazard, exposure and vulnerability, it helps identify which schools are most at risk, why, and where interventions should be prioritised. Country applications and lessons learned will inform an interactive discussion.

** Changes to the programme are possible.*

UNICEF in the State of Palestine

Inclusion during emergencies; a key pillar to safety, security and resilience

The session will showcase how inclusive education strengthens safety, security, resilience, and equitable access during protracted emergencies. Drawing on the Finland-funded EQUIP collaboration in the State of Palestine, it will highlight inclusive policy, gender-responsive pedagogy, digital solutions, and multidisciplinary support models for vulnerable children, generating actionable recommendations for adapting successful approaches to other humanitarian contexts.

Pikkuli Edu Oy

Building Resilient Societies Starts in Early Childhood: Lessons from Finland and China

What if the foundations of a safer, more resilient society are built before a child turns eight? Drawing on real-world experience in Finland and China, Pikkuli Edu explores how early social and emotional learning strengthens resilience, empathy and belonging—and what two very different education cultures can learn from each other."

Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)

Sustainability Is Not an Add-On: Designing for Institutionalisation from the Beginning. Experiences from TVET digital capacity development in Ethiopia

Embassy of Finland in Pretoria / Ministry of Education Team Finland Knowledge

Media literacy as a shared responsibility: Co-creating guidelines for research-based, community-anchored education content in politically charged contexts

How can we communicate research-based findings on education without oversimplifying or polarising public debate? Drawing on two South African media cases, this interactive workshop brings together Finnish and South African perspectives. Led by experts from Rhodes University (South Africa) and University of Jyväskylä (Finland), participants will explore politically sensitive education communication and co-create practical principles for responsible, locally grounded and research-informed public engagement. Organised by Team Finland Knowledge (Ministry of Education and Culture) and EDUCA – Education for the Future, a Finnish research flagship on education

The Campus Company Oy

From Emergency to Ecosystem. Building Resilient Teacher Development in Ukraine

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