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BALTIC REGION HEALTHY CITIES ASSOCIATION



Program and report Open the Door to Reading – Turku Meeting 10 – 12 October 2018

Wednesday, 10 October – Turku City Main Library (*Linnankatu 2*)

9:15 - 11:45 Steering Group Meeting
(Small meeting room on 3rd floor – the SG members meet in the lobby of the library by the main entrance at 9:10)

11:45 – 12:30 *Lunch at Sirius Café in the Library (Provided for Steering Group Members)*

12:30 – 12:45 Welcome from the Rebekka Pilppula, director of the library services
(The participants meet in the lobby of the library by the main entrance at 12:25)

12:45 – 13:45 Seminar on City of Turku reading initiatives and current projects

Sunflowers, Zombies and Unicorns. Literary art education in preschool by
Veera Vähämaa, school artist

Library course for preschoolers by
Sari Järvinen, Librarian

Preschoolers' media education: case kids' movie screening and workshops by
Terhi Hannula, Information Specialist of media education

Library –place for every child by
Sanna Hernelahti, Service Management & Leena Hiltunen, Planner of Children's Culture

13:45 – 14:10 *Coffee Break*

14:10 – 15:00 Site-Visit – Tour of the Main Library by Leena Pylkkö

15:00 – 16:00 Project Team presentations – inspirations after Bristol (all partners)
(Small meeting room on 3rd floor)

16:00 – 17:00 *Optional continuation of the Steering Group Meeting*

Thursday, 11 October – City Main Library (*Linnankatu 2*) and Syvälahti Center (*Syvälähdentie*)

(The SG members meet at the main entrance of the library at 9:00)

9:00 – 9:45 Lecture and discussion – University of Turku (Current research, methods, projects)
Janne Lepola, Associate Professor, University of Turku
Supporting the development of children's language and comprehension skills:
7-minutes-to-stories model in day-care and home

9.45 – 10.30 Lecture and discussion

Anu Kajamies, Adjunct Professor, University of Turku

Scaffolding young children's comprehension skills in daycare and at home

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee and fruit break*

11:00 – 11:45 Lecture

Juli-Anna Aerila, PhD, MA, adjunct professor (literature education and reading), University of Turku

StoRe - Stories make readers -projects creates communities of readers

11.45 - 12:45 Workshops in smaller groups about the subjects of the day

12:45 – 13:15 Bus to Syvälahti Center (health center, preschool, school, library all in one)

(Tickets at own expense: 3e / single ticket, only via cash directly from bus –please make sure to have small money as the driver doesn't have much change)

13:15– 14:00 *Lunch in the cafeteria*

14:00 – 14:45 Information about the Syvälahti Center for Families

14:45 – 15:30 Site visit – Tour of the Syvälahti Center

15:30 – 16:15 Workshop (in city groups) and reflection (whole group)

16:15 – 16:45 Bus back to the City Center

18:00 – 20:00 *Dinner* (Tiirikkala, Linnankatu 3 Turku), *drinks at the own expense*

Friday, 12 October – Brinkkala - Maistraatin salin (Vanha Suurtori 3)

(The SG members meet at the main entrance of Brinkkala at 8:50)

9:00 – 10:00 Steering Group Meeting

10:00 – 11:30 Workshop on the booklet and project next steps (Bristol Team)

11:30 – 11:50 Reflection and Evaluation of meeting

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch at M Kitchen and Café*

13:00 Close of meeting

Report from transnational meeting, Turku, Finland, 10-12 October 2018



In the middle of beautiful autumn and during the October - Reading Month in Turku, the partners of Erasmus + Open the Door for Reading project met in Finland on 10 to 12 October. Meeting in Turku was one of the possibilities to exchange knowledge and design and promote on-going practices between the partners from Gothenburg, Bristol and Milan. One of the main activity of the meeting in Turku was to bring the development of the Booklet further. The three-day meeting was hosted by the Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association and the City of Turku Main Library.

The meeting was pre-started by steering group meeting in which the main topic of the discussion was the manual training, the Booklet. The Booklet is at the moment in planning phase, so the structure, character and layout were feverishly discussed. The Booklet will be developed for the parents/guardians and professionals to guide them, how to support children's reading and language development. The official meeting was opened and partners were warmly welcomed by *Rebekka Pilppula*, director of library services. On behalf of the library staff, she conveyed her thanks and joy of the great interest for reading of the project.

After this, the seminar continued with diverse presentations about the current projects around Turku, regarding the main topic of the project: reading to children. Additionally, the school artist *Veera Vähämaa* opened the door for sunflowers, zombies and unicorns fantastic world where preschoolers can learn about literature art. One of the presented topics of this presentation was "The freedom of the story". The library course and media education for small kids were presented by the librarian *Sari Järvinen* and *Sanna Hernelahti*, service manager and *Leena Hiltunen*, planner of children's culture.



After the presentations, librarians took the group on a tour around the library. With eleven years of existence, still as “the new part” known half of the library made an impressive and modern perspective on visitor’s minds. In year of 1903, the older part of the library was built and this was an interesting attraction for the visitors. The visitors had the possibility to dive into the children’s library world where reading and developing in language skills were an adventure with different kind of characters, like sprite or bunny. Listening when a bunny was reading out loud was a funny, as the part of the audience was stuffed animals. At the end of the first day, partners focused on their latest local events and tasks and the topic of how the project has proceeded was discussed. Among other, following activities were presented: “The whole city of Turku is reading” campaign in Finland, history walks through the city of Brussels by discussing about all the signs in the city which talk to you in different ways in Belgium and giving book gifts for preschool children in Gothenburg in Sweden.

Next day started by reviewing children’s reading with the eyes of university and research. Several kinds of research and projects have been done at the University of Turku, among others supporting the development of children’s language and comprehension skills, scaffolding young children’s comprehension skills in daycare and at home and creating communities of readers by *StoRe –stories make readers –project*. The same subjects were worked on by workshop discussions, mainly as common reflection, how could the issues be utilized to support the parents and professionals to develop the reading with the preschool children.



The highlight of the day was the site visit in *Syvälähti Center for Families*, which opened its doors earlier this year. In Syvälahti, maternity and child health center, primary school, preschool, youth center and library create an entirety for multiplied services for children and their families. Among other, as the library is under the same roof than the preschool and children’s day-care, the access for reading, visiting the library, listening stories and borrowing books is made as easy as it could be.



Before the visit went to its end, it was the time for new ideas, planning for the next steps and putting all heads together and discuss about the booklet. This workshop was full of ideas, suggestions and active structuring to get the Booklet ahead. The main achievement in terms of Booklet during this visit was the development of the Booklet. Now the Booklet got more structure, its key messages and further ideas which will be worked on by each partner. Next project meeting takes place in Spring 2019 in Brussels, which will be looked forward to.

