

Global Cities Education Network Symposium

October 17 – 20, 2022

Hosted by: [Tallinn University](#), Estonia
Mare building, Room M-218 (2nd floor)

In 2022, Estonia will serve as a case study to frame our annual symposium. Since 1998, Estonia's growth strategy has focused on becoming an information society and to support this goal, the government has created an innovative national curriculum emphasizing problem solving, critical thinking, and information technology. The curriculum has been revised multiple times since then and these innovations, together with the IT infrastructure, resulted in an immediate and smooth pivot to online/hybrid learning as COVID began. Estonia emerged as a top performer on OECD's PISA 2012, ranking in the top tier in science and close to the top in reading and mathematics among all participating countries and regions. By 2018, Estonia had become a top performer globally in all three subjects and the highest performer in Europe. We believe that Tallinn will be the ideal place to resume the conversations we began in our 2021 virtual symposium on multiple modalities of learning and pedagogy in service of deeper learning as well as assessment, recognition, and credentialing in a post-COVID world.

Themes:

1. ***Learning Ecosystem: The Power of Technology and New Pedagogies***

What is the future of learning in hybrid and blended modalities? Learning takes place in multiple places with multiple people; it is no longer digital versus non-digital.

2. ***New Ambitions for Learning and the Central Role of Digital Literacy***

3. ***The Teaching Profession: Teacher Preparation and Teacher Leadership***

Building a collaborative profession. Partnering with allied professionals from outside education.

4. ***Assessment, Recognition, and Credentialing***

How do we broaden our assessment and credentialing systems to recognize complex competencies? What are best practice examples from GCEN members as well as from around the world?

Symposium Goals

1. Support and Dialogue: Discussion and feedback with the GCEN network. Deep dive into our host country's education system.
2. Spread of Learning: Sharing lessons, adaptations, and best practice with other districts focused on the above themes.

Monday, 17 October	
Time	Session & Speakers
8:30 - 9:15	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heather Singmaster, Director of GCEN & CTE, Digital Promise ● Kathryn Petrillo-Smith, Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Digital Promise ● Kristi Klaasmägi, Vice Rector for Educational Innovation, Tallinn University ● Liina Pöld, Deputy Secretary General for General Education and Youth Policy, Ministry of Education and Research
9:15 - 10:30	<p>Creating a High-Performing System: Understanding the Estonia Context</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eve Eisenschmidt, Professor of Educational Leadership, Tallinn University ● Maie Kitsing, Advisor, Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia ● Jaak Raie, Director General of Harno, Education and Youth Board of Estonia ● Moderated by Anthony Mackay, Consultant Advisor, GCEN
<i>10:30 - 10:45 Morning Tea</i>	
10:45 - 11:45	<p>Equity and Excellence for All: Perspectives from Inside the System</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kerli Reeder, Head Teacher, Avatud School ● Kerttu Mölder-Jevdokimov, Head Teacher, Tallinna Südalinna School ● Maive Merkulova, Principal, Tallinna Saksa Gymnasium ● Mona Marta Laasik, student at Pelgulinna Gymnasium ● Eva Sofia Polyakov, student at Avatud School ● Keith Krueger, CEO, The Consortium for School Networking (Respondent) ● Moderated by Anthony Mackay
<i>11:45 - 12:45 Lunch</i>	
12:45-13:45	<p>The Learning Ecosystem</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Betsy Dexter, Executive Director of Business & Education Network, Commerce Lexington ● Mona Mägi Soomer, Community Manager, SA Noored Kooli ● Erna Podanjova, Director of Mustamäe Hobby School

13:45 - 14:15	Team Debrief
14:15 - 14:45	Debrief, feedback, and questions
<i>14:45 - 15:00 Afternoon Tea</i>	
15:00 - 16:15	Education Leadership for Whole Child Development Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Karen Lam, Master Specialist, Assessment Policy and Practice ● Neder Dhillon, Assistant Superintendent, Surrey School District ● Lynda Reeve, Assistant Superintendent, Surrey School District ● Gloria Sarmiento, Director of Instruction, Surrey School District ● Barnett Barry, Professor, University of South Carolina
16:15 - 16:30	Wrap Up and Prep for School Visits

Tuesday, 18 October		
9:00	Depart for School Visits from Hotel	
9:30 - 15:00	School Visits	
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Group 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pelgulinna Gymnasium 9.30-10.30 Discussion with school management and teachers <i>(Learner-centered school model)</i> 10.40-11.40 How do we use data in leadership and how do we empower teachers? 11.45-12.15 Lunch 12.15-12.45 School tour ● Avatud School 13.00-14.00 Discussion with school principal or school management and teachers 14.00-14.45 Lesson observations 14.45-15.00 School tour </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p>Group 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tallinna Südalinna School 9.30-9.50 Welcome and short introduction of the school 9.50-10.35 Lesson observations 10.35-11.15 Discussions with school principal/school management and teachers 11.15-11.40 Lunch 11.40-12.15 School tour ● Tallinna Saksa Gymnasium 12.45-13.35 Discussion with school principal/school management and teachers 13.35-14.20 Lesson observations 14.20-15.00 School tour </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Group 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pelgulinna Gymnasium 9.30-10.30 Discussion with school management and teachers <i>(Learner-centered school model)</i> 10.40-11.40 How do we use data in leadership and how do we empower teachers? 11.45-12.15 Lunch 12.15-12.45 School tour ● Avatud School 13.00-14.00 Discussion with school principal or school management and teachers 14.00-14.45 Lesson observations 14.45-15.00 School tour
<p>Group 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pelgulinna Gymnasium 9.30-10.30 Discussion with school management and teachers <i>(Learner-centered school model)</i> 10.40-11.40 How do we use data in leadership and how do we empower teachers? 11.45-12.15 Lunch 12.15-12.45 School tour ● Avatud School 13.00-14.00 Discussion with school principal or school management and teachers 14.00-14.45 Lesson observations 14.45-15.00 School tour 	<p>Group 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tallinna Südalinna School 9.30-9.50 Welcome and short introduction of the school 9.50-10.35 Lesson observations 10.35-11.15 Discussions with school principal/school management and teachers 11.15-11.40 Lunch 11.40-12.15 School tour ● Tallinna Saksa Gymnasium 12.45-13.35 Discussion with school principal/school management and teachers 13.35-14.20 Lesson observations 14.20-15.00 School tour 	

15:00 - 16:00	Debrief at the Hotel
17:30 - 19:30	<p>Future of Education: 2030 and Beyond (Public Program) Tallinn University, Astra building (Narva mnt 29)</p> <p><i>17:30 - 18:00 Reception (Astra building 1st floor atrium)</i> <i>18:00 - 19:30 Program (auditorium Maximum, room A-002)</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Houston Barber, Fayette County Public Schools ● Aaron Loh, Ministry of Education, Singapore ● Ülle Matsin, Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia ● Mark Pearmain, Surrey, Canada ● Aki Tornberg, Ministry of Education & Culture, Finland

Wednesday, 19 October	
8:30 - 9:30	<p>Findings from a Pilot Project Designed to Support Struggling Schools</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helen Arus, Estonian Quality Agency for Education ● Tiina Tiit, Principal, Pelgulinna Gymnasium
9:30 - 10:30	<p>Transforming Education: AI in a Digital World - The Future of Learning and the Future of Work</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Märt Aro, Co-Founder, Chairman and Board Member of the Nordic EdTech Forum ● Aivar Hiio, Chief Expert on Education Digitisation, Ministry of Education and Research ● Janika Leoste, Associate Professor in Educational Robotics, Tallinn University ● Closing Remarks by Kathryn Petrillo-Smith, Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Digital Promise ● Moderated by Anthony Mackay
<i>10:30 - 10:45 Morning Tea</i>	
10:45 - 12:00	<p>Table Sessions</p> <p>EdTech companies: Edumus, Cognuse OÜ, Cashy, Praktikal, Einsteins Square</p>
<i>12:00 - 13:00 Lunch Break</i>	

13:00 - 14:30	<p>Visit to EduSpace Research Lab</p> <p>Hosted by Janika Leoste, Associate Professor in Educational Robotics, Tallinn University</p>
14:30 - 15:30	<p>Recognition of Student Learning</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Merlin Linde, Advisor, Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia ● Aki Tornberg, Senior Ministerial Advisor, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland
<i>15:30 - 15:45 Afternoon Tea</i>	
15:45 - 16:45	<p>Teacher Preparation and Development for Whole Person Education</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maria Erss, Research Fellow, Tallinn University ● Mona Mägi Soomer, Community Manager, SA Noored Kooli ● Triin Noorkõiv, CEO, School for Supporting New Teachers ● Moderated by Anthony Mackay
16:45 - 17:15	Team Debrief
17:30 - 19:15	<p>Movie “14 Cases” at SuperNova Cinema at Tallinn University</p> <p>Welcome by the director of the movie Marianna Kaat</p>
	Close for the Day

Thursday, October 20	
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome Back
9:30 - 10:30	<p>Case Study on Equity: Surrey Schools</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tony Jackson, Global Education Consultant, Former Vice President and Director for Center for Global Education, Asia Society ● Mark Pearmin, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, Surrey School District ● Lynda Reeve, Assistant Superintendent, Surrey School District
<i>10:30 - 10:45 Morning Tea</i>	

10:45 - 11:15	Estonia's Vision for the Future Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ülle Matsin, Head of General Education Policy Department, Ministry of Education and Research
11:15 - 12:15	Team Discussions
<i>12:15 - 13:15 Lunch Break</i>	
13:15 - 14:15	Team Feedback
14:15 - 14:30	Closing and Final Remarks