

# LYKE-network

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10 April 2024

Sanna Saari-Vesterinen

**Finnish Association for Nature  
and Environment Schools**



Photo: Sanna Saari

# The Finnish Association for Nature and Environment Schools

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- Staff: 3–4 people
- Funding: Ministry of Education and Culture (OKM) + grants



Photo: Satu Hiekko



## **Our aim**

Children and youth

will grow up with a strong relation with nature and a sustainable way of life.



Photo: Hanna Risku

# The Finnish Association for Nature and Environment Schools

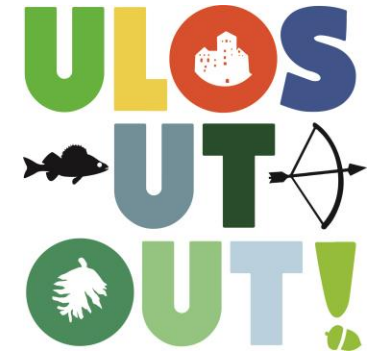
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- Coordinates the network



- Maintains the open MAPPAPA.fi service



- Organizes the BIG outdoor educational event ULOS-UT-OUT

*Is the link between researchers and schools!*



Power of LYKE-network!

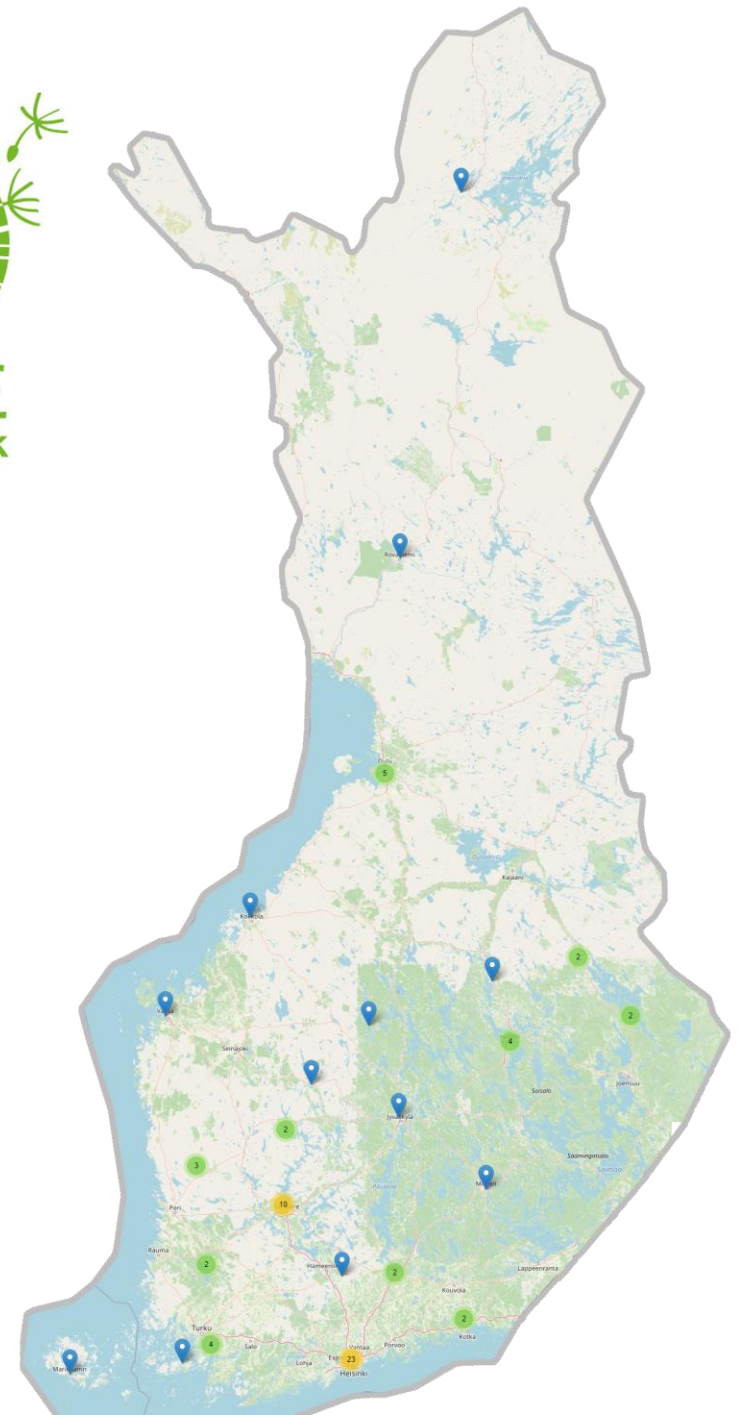
Photo: Sanna Saari

# LYKE-network

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- Nationwide, over **50** centers
- Members of the Finnish Association for Nature and Environment Schools
- Offer environmental education (EE) services for schools and kindergartens on local level
- **Diversity:** Nature & environment schools, Visitor Centres of National Parks, Youth Centres, Camp School Centres, Museums, Zoos...
- Big or small, ambulatory or stationary





## Example 1

- **SMALL** Nature School
- Governed by the city of Porvoo
- **Ambulatory**, goes to schools
- 1 employee



Photo: Pia Lindström



## Example 2

- **BIG** Environment School **Polku**
- Part of the Reuse Centre (Helsinki area)
- **Ambulatory**, goes to schools
- 20 employees



Photo: Polku





## Example 3

- MEDIUM size
- Nature School **Korento**
- Governed by the city of Tampere
- Permanent premises
- 2 employees



Photos: Laura Happo



## Example 4

- **BIG** Center
- Finnish Museum of Natural History
- Part of the University of Helsinki
- **Permanent premises**
- **3 locations**
- 3-9 employees working with environmental education



# In nature and environment schools...

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Focus:  
environmental  
education

Yearly **200 000**  
children with  
their teachers

Training for  
teachers and  
other educators

The work is based  
on the national  
curriculum

Learning is  
experimental

Certification  
system for  
centers

<https://www.luontokoulut.fi>

# 3 different levels of certification

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1. **Test member** develops to meet the criteria
2. **Activity Center** develops **its own** activities
3. **Development Center** (highest level) develops also the environmental education activities of **its own region**

*Auditing is done every 2<sup>nd</sup> year (self & peer-auditing).*





- An open site, a material bank, a search engine, a sharing platform and a multifunction tool
- Offers tools for teaching
- Environmental | Sustainability | Biodiversity | Climate | Outdoor | and Science education | Future skills | Nature as a learning environment





**70 000**

Users yearly



**300**

Publishers:  
Organizations,  
Teacher,  
Private person



**2100**

Materials  
in Finnish,  
also in Swedish,  
some in English



**250**

Theme  
packages

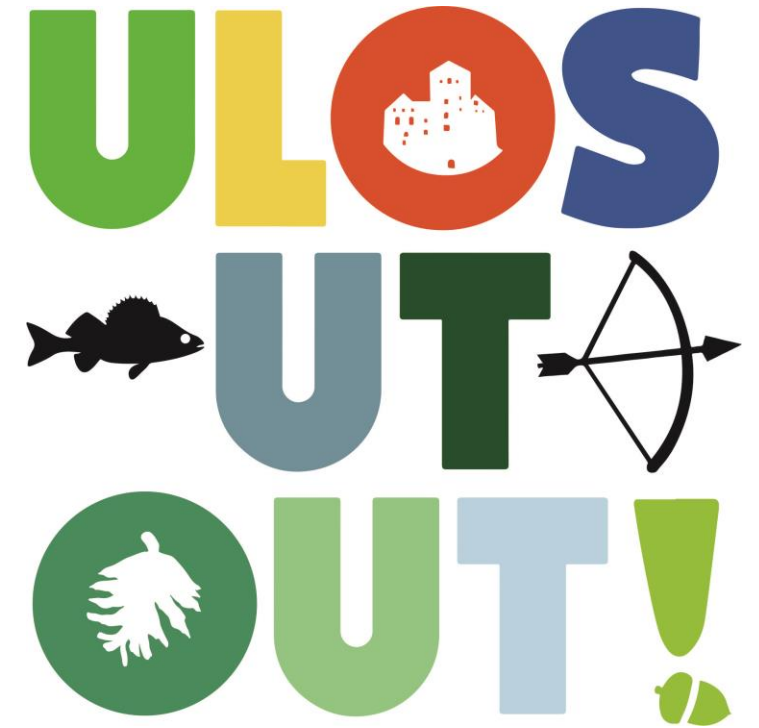
Sök i [MAPPA.fi](https://mappa.fi)



# ULOS-UT-OUT

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- Outdoor learning conference in Finland
- 8 organizers (held 3 times: 2017, 2021, 2023)
- Keynotes, workshops, seminars...concert 😊
- The program mainly in Finnish and Swedish, partly in English
- **Next UUO in 2026. Welcome!**
- [Ulos-Ut-Out website](#) also in Swedish and in English
- Streamed videos available in youtube: [UUO2023 playlist](#) of the keynotes





# Welcome to Ulos-Ut-Out 2026!



Photos: Vilma Issakainen