

**Criteria:**

- Implemented in Primary Schools the last 5 years
- Promote inter/intracultural skills
- Funded or supervised by a reliable national/international agency, organisation
- Accessible at platforms, such as e-Twinning, School Education Gateway and the Eurydice Network

General information	
Name/title of the Best Practice	Me & MyCity
Period of realisation <i>[Timeframe of the practice (period/duration). Is it finished?]</i>	Ongoing since 2009, reaches approximately 70% of Finland's sixth graders each year.
Type <i>(program, project, activity, event, multimedia, etc.)</i>	Educational program
Sources of information <i>(where information can be found about this best practice)</i>	<a href="https://yle.fi/a/3-7765245">https://yle.fi/a/3-7765245</a> <a href="https://www.dw.com/en/innovative-schooling-finlands-me-mycity-program/a-44560289">https://www.dw.com/en/innovative-schooling-finlands-me-mycity-program/a-44560289</a> <a href="https://www.edutopia.org/blog/me-mycity-positive-prelude-working-life-tomi-alakoski">https://www.edutopia.org/blog/me-mycity-positive-prelude-working-life-tomi-alakoski</a>
Administering organisation <i>(name &amp; address), if any</i>	The program is administered by multiple organizations across Finland, with regional coordinators responsible for local implementations.
Provide information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Contact details: name &amp; email</i></li> <li>○ <i>Certification/accreditation</i></li> <li>○ <i>Financing: how is the organisation funded</i></li> </ul>	<p>The program has received international recognition, including a 2014 World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Award.</p> <p><a href="https://www.wise-qatar.org/project/me-and-mycity-finland/">https://www.wise-qatar.org/project/me-and-mycity-finland/</a></p> <p>Me &amp; MyCity is funded through partnerships with Finnish universities and corporate sponsors</p> <p><a href="https://www.dw.com/en/innovative-schooling-finlands-me-mycity-program/a-44560289">https://www.dw.com/en/innovative-schooling-finlands-me-mycity-program/a-44560289</a></p>
Country of origin/Location of the program	Finland

Other countries participating	The Me & MyCity program is a Finnish educational initiative, and while it is primarily implemented in Finland, the concept has garnered international attention. The program developers actively participate in international education summits and cooperate with education experts worldwide. This suggests that while the program may not be directly implemented in other countries, the concept and learning model could be shared and potentially adapted internationally.
Partnerships or collaboration involved (e.g., institutions, organizations, associations, communities)	Collaborations with Finnish universities, corporate sponsors, and other educational institutions.
Target group/beneficiaries ( <i>vulnerable group, immigrants, ages, gender, parents, teachers, other stakeholders, etc.</i> )	Sixth-grade students (approximately 12 years old), with a focus on introducing them to working life, the economy, and society.
<b>Parameters</b>	
Short description of initiative/Best Practice	An educational program where students simulate adult roles in a miniature town, learning about entrepreneurship, the economy, and society.  <a href="https://yle.fi/a/3-7765245">https://yle.fi/a/3-7765245</a>
Goals and objectives of initiative/Best practice	To provide hands-on learning experiences that teach important life skills and prepare students for future societal participation.
Key components and activities of initiative/Best practice	Role-playing as professionals, earning a salary, paying taxes, and functioning as consumers and citizens within a simulated society.
Duration of the Best Practice/program	The program is ongoing and reaches a significant portion of Finland's sixth-grade population annually.
Required resources or equipment	A large hall transformed into a miniature town with booths representing various professions and sectors.  <a href="https://www.dw.com/en/innovative-schooling-finlands-me-mycity-program/a-44560289">https://www.dw.com/en/innovative-schooling-finlands-me-mycity-program/a-44560289</a>

Staffing requirements	Regional coordinators, educators, and support staff to facilitate the program.
Costs for the participants, if any	-
Services that are/were developed ( <i>i.e. counselling, capacity building, teaching, mentoring, supporting, accompanying, participant involvement in planning and decision making, training, coaching, etc</i> )	Counselling, capacity building, teaching, mentoring, supporting, accompanying, participant involvement in planning and decision making, training, coaching.
<b>Evidence and Effectiveness</b>	
Has the Best Practice/program been evaluated?	Yes <a href="https://www.wise-qatar.org/project/me-and-mycity-finland/">https://www.wise-qatar.org/project/me-and-mycity-finland/</a>
If yes: Impact/Results of the Best Practice on the target group/beneficiaries	The program has been successful in teaching students about society, the economy, and the responsibilities of citizenship.
If no: Subjective opinions/comments about the Best Practice/program and its impact on the target group ( <i>i.e.</i> , from participants, parents; if available)	
Recommendations for implementation In what way can pupils and other beneficiaries benefit from this best practice related to inter/transcultural competence, inclusion, etc.?	<p><b>Recommendations for implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Include a wide range of professions and societal roles to cater to diverse interests and backgrounds of students.</li> <li>● Provide specialized training for teachers to facilitate the program effectively, focusing on guiding students through the role-playing experience.</li> <li>● Implement a system for regular assessment and feedback to adapt and improve the program continuously.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cenCiJ3gVI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cenCiJ3gVI</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt-wFB5KZOE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt-wFB5KZOE</a></p> <p><b>Benefits for Pupils and Other Beneficiaries:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students gain a practical understanding of how society functions, including the economy, jobs, and civic responsibilities.</li> <li>● The program helps in developing essential life skills such as financial literacy, public speaking, and job application processes.</li> <li>● By simulating a diverse society, students learn to appreciate different cultures and perspectives, fostering intercultural dialogue and understanding<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>● Me &amp; MyCity provides an inclusive environment where all students can participate and learn, regardless of their background, promoting social inclusion and equality.</li> <li>● Encourages an entrepreneurial mindset, teaching students about innovation, problem-solving, and the importance of contributing to their community.</li> </ul>
Additional comments or information	
How is the supply adapted to individual needs (participants or beneficiaries)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The program adapts to individual needs by providing a diverse range of roles and activities that cater to different interests and learning styles.</li> </ul>

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General information	
Name/title of the Best Practice	Language Shower Program
Period of realisation [ <i>Timeframe of the practice (period/duration). Is it finished?</i> ]	Ongoing
Type ( <i>program, project, activity, event, multimedia, etc.</i> )	Program
Sources of information ( <i>where information can be found about this best practice</i> )	<a href="https://www.edueffect.fi/language-showering/">https://www.edueffect.fi/language-showering/</a>  <a href="https://hundred.org/en/innovations/language-showering-in-jyvaskyla">https://hundred.org/en/innovations/language-showering-in-jyvaskyla</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiiFh_noxkAlgk3Crt9qO9Q/videos">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiiFh_noxkAlgk3Crt9qO9Q/videos</a>  <a href="https://peda.net/jyvaskyla/kielisuihutus/in-english">https://peda.net/jyvaskyla/kielisuihutus/in-english</a>
Administering organisation ( <i>name &amp; address</i> ), if any	Finnish National Agency for Education, Hakaniemenranta 6, 00530 Helsinki, Finland
Provide information:	The program is recognized by the Finnish National Agency for Education.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Contact details: name &amp; email</i></li> <li>○ <i>Certification/accreditation</i></li> <li>○ <i>Financing: how is the organisation funded</i></li> </ul>	The program is funded by local education authorities.
Country of origin/Location of the program	Finland
Other countries participating	-
Partnerships or collaboration involved (e.g., institutions, organizations, associations, communities)	Institutions, organizations, associations, communities: Local education authorities, Finnish schools
Target group/beneficiaries ( <i>vulnerable group, immigrants, ages, gender, parents, teachers, other stakeholders, etc.</i> )	The program targets young learners in Finnish schools, parents, and teachers.
<b>Parameters</b>	
Short description of initiative/Best Practice	The Language Shower Program is an innovative method of foreign language teaching used in Finland, particularly with young learners. It introduces multiple languages and cultures through interactive lessons and cultural activities.
Goals and objectives of initiative/Best practice	The primary aim of the method is to provide positive experiences of languages and language learning.
Key components and activities of initiative/Best practice	Interactive lessons, cultural activities.
Duration of the Best Practice/program	Ongoing
Required resources or equipment	The Language Shower Program requires a basic set of resources which include a guide booklet, a material package, and a collection of vocabulary flashcards. The guide booklet contains a full guide on language showering and using it. The material package includes different types of activities, games, using drama, songs, nursery rhymes, and dances to use while language showering. The vocabulary flashcards are used to facilitate language learning.

Staffing requirements	The program is designed to be low-threshold, meaning that anyone familiar with the basics of a language can learn to language shower. Therefore, the staffing requirements are flexible. It does not require one to be trained as a language teacher or to have native-like skills in the target language.
Costs for the participants, if any	-
Services that are/were developed ( <i>i.e. counselling, capacity building, teaching, mentoring, supporting, accompanying, participant involvement in planning and decision making, training, coaching, etc</i> )	Language learning, cultural activities
<b>Evidence and Effectiveness</b>	
Has the Best Practice/program been evaluated?	Yes
If yes:  Impact/Results of the Best Practice on the target group/beneficiaries	There is a study that attempts to find out if language showers have an effect on pupils' language disposition. However, the specific results of this evaluation are not detailed in the available resources.  <a href="https://jyx.jyu.fi/bitstream/handle/123456789/41876/URN:NBN:fi:jyu-201307042072.pdf">https://jyx.jyu.fi/bitstream/handle/123456789/41876/URN:NBN:fi:jyu-201307042072.pdf</a>
If no:  Subjective opinions/comments about the Best Practice/program and its impact on the target group ( <i>i.e., from participants, parents; if available</i> )	
Recommendations for implementation  In what way can pupils and other beneficiaries benefit from this best practice related to inter/transcultural competence, inclusion, etc.?	The program provides positive experiences of languages and language learning, which can enhance inter/transcultural competence and inclusion.

Additional comments or information

How is the supply adapted to individual needs (participants or beneficiaries)?

The program is implemented during the children's everyday activities. The foreign language is used occasionally and where it fits naturally, which enables the majority of the language being spoken to be the country's official language with the foreign language being showered here and there.

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General information	
Name/title of the Best Practice	StarT Program
Period of realisation [ <i>Timeframe of the practice (period/duration). Is it finished?</i> ]	Ongoing since 2016
Type ( <i>program, project, activity, event, multimedia, etc.</i> )	Program
Sources of information ( <i>where information can be found about this best practice</i> )	<a href="https://www.stemcoalition.eu/programmes/start-finland">https://www.stemcoalition.eu/programmes/start-finland</a> <a href="https://start.luma.fi/en/start-programme/">https://start.luma.fi/en/start-programme/</a>
Administering organisation ( <i>name &amp; address</i> ), if any	LUMA Centre Finland, University of Helsinki, P.O. Box 4 (Yliopistonkatu 3), FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland
Provide information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Contact details: name &amp; email</i></li> <li>○ <i>Certification/accreditation</i></li> <li>○ <i>Financing: how is the organisation funded</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flagship of the StarT program are the annually handed out International LUMA StarT Awards for best educational practices to teachers and educators; and for best projects to teams of kids and youth.</li> <li>• StarT is organized by the LUMA Centre Finland and its cooperation partners. StarT learning projects are carried out in learning communities like day care centres, kindergartens, schools etc. around the country and funded by themselves. Regional and national StarT marketing as well as the regional StarT festivals and national/international StarT Gala are funded by the Finnish universities and the sponsoring companies.</li> </ul>
Country of origin/Location of the program	Finland
Other countries participating	
Partnerships or collaboration involved (e.g., institutions, organizations, associations, communities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• StarT brings people together from all around the world and allows them to experience the joy of collaborative learning and joint success.</li> <li>• In StarT, different learning communities share their best educational practices. Institutions, organizations, associations, communities: LUMA Centre Finland, Finnish schools</li> </ul>

	<a href="https://start.luma.fi/en/start-programme/">https://start.luma.fi/en/start-programme/</a>
Target group/beneficiaries ( <i>vulnerable group, immigrants, ages, gender, parents, teachers, other stakeholders, etc.</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>StarT is aimed for learning communities ranging from early childhood education to upper secondary schools</li> </ul>
<b>Parameters</b>	
Short description of initiative/Best Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>StarT is the flagship programme of the LUMA Centre Finland (Finnish STEM platform). The programme is implemented by LUMA Centre Finland (network between 13 regional STEM education centre within Finnish universities) through 'learning communities', supported by collaboration partners including the Finnish National Agency for Education and companies in the field of science and technology like IBM.</li> </ul>
Goals and objectives of initiative/Best practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The programme's main objective is to bring science, mathematics and technology closer to children and youngsters through interdisciplinary, project-based collaborative learning.</li> </ul>
Key components and activities of initiative/Best practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interdisciplinary Learning: The program supports the implementation of interdisciplinary project-based learning in accordance with the newest national core curriculum of Finland.</li> <li>Collaborative Learning: StarT brings people together from all around the world and allows them to experience the joy of collaborative learning and joint success<sup>3</sup>. In StarT, different learning communities share their best educational practices.</li> </ul>
Duration of the Best Practice/program	Ongoing
Required resources or equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The StarT Program requires resources that support project-based learning and STEM education. This could include science, technology, engineering, and mathematics equipment, as well as resources for interdisciplinary learning.</li> </ul>
Staffing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program is designed to be implemented by educators with a background in STEM education or who are comfortable facilitating project-based, interdisciplinary learning.</li> </ul>
Costs for the participants, if any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not specified. The program is implemented as part of the STEM education curriculum in Finland.</li> </ul>
Services that are/were developed ( <i>i.e. counselling, capacity building, teaching, mentoring, supporting, accompanying, participant involvement in planning and decision making, training, coaching, etc</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program offers services such as project-based collaborative learning, interdisciplinary learning, and STEM education.</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence and Effectiveness</b>	
Has the Best Practice/program been evaluated?	Yes

<p>If yes: Impact/Results of the Best Practice on the target group/beneficiaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall feedback has been excellent. For example, in relation to a math related learning project teachers noted that: “Children have learned to create their own ideas, to solve problems in a team, work together to overcome difficulties, associate the amount of things with numbers, improved perception of time and counting skills. During the festival they developed not only mathematical skills, but also improved their social skills.” In school year 2016-2017 support material was sent through the StarT newsletter to 500 learning communities in Finland. There were ca. 10 000 participants (kids/youth/teachers/educators) in StarT learning communities, ca. 1000 participants in regional StarT festivals and ca. 400 participant in national/international StarT Gala.</li> </ul>
<p>If no: Subjective opinions/comments about the Best Practice/program and its impact on the target group (i.e., from participants, parents; if available)</p>	
<p>Recommendations for implementation In what way can pupils and other beneficiaries benefit from this best practice related to inter/transcultural competence, inclusion, etc.?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The StarT Program can benefit pupils and other beneficiaries by providing them with positive experiences of STEM education, which can enhance inter/transcultural competence and inclusion.</li> </ul>
<p>Additional comments or information</p>	
<p>How is the supply adapted to individual needs (participants or beneficiaries)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program is implemented as part of the STEM education curriculum in Finland, suggesting that it is adapted to individual needs. It offers free online courses as well as material, such as a virtual science club for children.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/YK8aMXGBihw?si=zSX5RYEUzsNPaz7K">https://youtu.be/YK8aMXGBihw?si=zSX5RYEUzsNPaz7K</a></p>