The International and Global Education Programme of Espoo Education and Cultural Services 2019–2021
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Education and Cultural Services’ Steering Group approved this International and Global Education Programme on 18 December 2018. The programme was prepared by Education and Cultural Services’ Internationalisation Working Group. The preparation of this programme involved a workshop for the steering group and for the employees. Secondary school pupils and upper secondary school students were asked about their views on internationality and internationalisation opportunities. The Espoo Youth Council was also heard.
FOREWORD

Internationality is here to stay. In a world shaped by globalisation, we are dependent on each other, collaboration and networks. No one can make it on their own.

Being international is particularly important for a country like Finland, which is dependent on international collaboration and international skills. Our welfare is built on collaboration across borders. At the same time, however, views and phenomena built on opposition and exclusion are spreading all over the world.

Our message is clear: Closing doors will not make the world a better place. Encounters and interaction will.

Espoo is an international community. Given that the cultural diversity in our city is increasing, we need to pay even more attention to ensuring that everyone is encountered, heard, seen and able to be part of a community.

The Education and Cultural Services have a special mission. The responsibility-bearers and change-makers of the future are growing up here and today, as users of our services. The better we support their growth into open-minded and curious individuals, the better they will do. The more children and young people experience respectful encounters and learn about various traditions and languages, their own identity and global phenomena, the better our world will do.

Investments in children and young people is the path to a sustainable future. Furthermore, we need to be equally determined and willing to empower everyone to act in an increasingly international world. Internationality means building peace and involving everyone. Internationality also means learning new things and sharing what is good.

This programme outlines our internationalisation efforts and our message. Education and culture are the cornerstones of a sustainable world and an Espoo for all.

In Espoo on 3 December 2018

Aulis Pitkälä
Deputy Mayor, Education and Cultural Services, City of Espoo
“Cooperation and bold leadership will result in a civilised city.”

- The Story of Education and Cultural Services 2018–2021
BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

We live in a glocal world where global phenomena are intertwined with local everyday life. Cities must understand the rapidly and constantly changing world and collaborate across borders. International collaboration is Finland’s lifeline. It is part of Finland’s strategy and our way of assuming global responsibility. As Finland is an export country, our welfare depends on our international skills.

For this reason, Espoo needs ideas from abroad, international networks and goal-oriented internationalisation efforts. Our city is part of an international community. The community of Espoo residents is also becoming increasingly international: by 2030, almost 30% of Espoo residents will have moved to Espoo from outside Finland.

The City of Espoo is adapting to increasingly rapid global change by means of economically, ecologically, socially and culturally sustainable development. Education, cultural, youth and sports services are an important part of a sustainable city. They empower residents and help them integrate into the community and society. International experts of the future are raised with the support of our services. Education, cultural, sports and youth services also increase the city’s international vitality.

The internationality efforts of the City of Espoo’s Education and Cultural Services are not only guided by this International and Global Education Programme, but also by special acts, Espoo’s Integration programme, Espoo’s early childhood education plan, pre-primary education plan and curricula, and the stories, policies and action plans of the city’s sectors and units.

The International and Global Education Programme of the Education and Cultural Services outlines the sector’s internationalisation principles and goals. It brings together different actors within the sector to make our internationalisation efforts more efficient and to ensure that we all work towards common goals. The programme complements and supports existing policies that focus on different aspects of internationalisation.

The shift from fragmented working practices towards mutual goals and efforts requires novel structures and ways of working. This International and Global Education Programme is the first sector-level programme of its kind in Espoo. Its goal is to establish shared goals and ways of working for the entire sector.
WHAT ARE INTERNATIONALITY AND GLOBAL EDUCATION?

Internationality

Internationality is a versatile term that may refer to various things depending on the context. In this International and Global Education Programme,

internationality means

...attitudes, courage and understanding
International attitudes concern all of us. The Education and Cultural Services aims to create a climate where people appreciate each other and are open-minded. This lays the groundwork for internationality and all internationalisation efforts. The strategy of the City of Espoo – called the Espoo Story – supports this goal by stating that Espoo operates openly, justly, equally, humanely and tolerantly.

...internationalisation at home and national internationalisation
Internationalisation at home (IaH) and national internationalisation mean taking an international approach in one’s immediate community, home municipality and home country. Internationalisation at home brings the world to one’s everyday surroundings. It for example means making the most of one’s immediate environment, getting to know cultural diversity in the area, or staying in touch with the world online. Internationality at home is a permanent part of education and cultural services.

National internationalisation means international activities in one’s home country, for example cooperation with internationalisation centres or embassies located in Finland.

...international collaboration and mobility
International collaboration and mobility refer to international activities across borders, such as staff and youth mobility, export and import of education, culture, youth and sports services, cooperation with international networks or partners or EU development activities. Student, youth and cultural exchanges are an important part of international cooperation in the field of the Education and cultural services.

The International and Global Education Programme outlines, for its part, internationalisation efforts at different levels.
Levels of internationality and number of participants in schools
(carbon footprint = the pyramid upside down)

In this International and Global Education Programme, internationality is defined in the same way the Finnish National Agency for Education defines it in its classification of levels of internationality at school.
Global education

Global education is a form of education that encourages people to become active citizens of the world. Global education increases understanding of the way each individual is connected to global phenomena and may contribute to global justice through individual choices. It has been identified as a key means to promote sustainable development.

Global education is one of many ways to pursue the goals of this International and Global Education Programme. In early childhood education, pre-primary education and basic education, global education is implemented in line with the Espoo's early childhood education plan and curriculum.

International Espoo

According to the values of the Espoo Story, Espoo is a responsible and humane pioneer. Being a pioneer means that it benefits from research and international expertise and runs experiments. Espoo’s goal is to develop in a way that is economically, ecologically, socially and culturally sustainable. Espoo’s goal is also to be a nationally and internationally attractive bilingual city with services that are available also in English.

Internationalisation in the Story of Education and Cultural Services

Education and cultural services empower residents and help them integrate into the community and society. According to the Story of Education and Cultural Services, diversity is a valuable part of everyday life. Education and cultural services enhance the city’s international vitality. The sector is known internationally as an active operator with wide networks. We learn from others and welcome others to learn from us. Everyday internationality in Espoo enables growth, development and well-being for all Espoo residents.
Programme of Espoo Education and Cultural Services 2019–2021

Internationalisation in the Story of Education and Cultural Services

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OUR INTERNATIONALISATION EFFORTS RESPOND TO CHANGES IN OUR WORLD

The need for development of internationality in the Education and Cultural Services sector is spurred by the rapid and constantly ongoing changes in the international operating environment. Our internationalisation efforts enable us to adapt and react to the following changes in particular:

The economy and the labour market are at a turning point. The platform economy and new organisational models are challenging traditional forms of work. In order to discover new forms of business, skills and professions to replace traditional sectors and professions, we need to expand our search beyond our immediate surroundings. Success at work increasingly often requires international skills. In a country dependent on exports and international networks, international skills are very important.

Digitalisation expands opportunities beyond borders. People learn, work and spend time in the digital world regardless of national borders. New forms of technology, such as cloud services, artificial intelligence, robotics and the Internet of Things are an increasingly common part of our everyday life. To make these opportunities available for everyone, we must ensure that everyone has basic digital and international skills.

The residents of Espoo hail from all over the world. Increasingly many Espoo residents have communities and backgrounds that reach outside Finland’s national borders. As there are encounters between various languages and cultures, religions and values, customs and traditions, backgrounds and identities, the city must learn to function better in a changing operational environment.

Understanding diversity is necessary because humanity is increasingly interdependent. Humanity is becoming even more interlinked and interdependent, making it necessary for us to understand diversity and otherness, the dissimilarities between oneself and others. The City of Espoo must do its part to build an appreciative, open-minded atmosphere. In this, education, culture, youth and sports services play a key role.

Borderless phenomena require cross-border cooperation. An ever-growing share of social phenomena are universal. New things and phenomena are created at an ever-increasing pace, and we must stay on top of this development. We need to learn from others about phenomena familiar to them, and we need to share our own expertise. Furthermore, we – humanity as a whole – have already created phenomena that can only be controlled through cross-border cooperation.
We are globally responsible for the future. We are participating in a significant number of European and global agreements and goals, such as the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the European Union. These networks and agreements bind us but also provide us with a shared language for collaboration and new opportunities. Furthermore, given that we are experts in certain areas, we must make solutions in that area available to the world.
“You can develop global competencies at school, during your spare time, abroad, in social media, everywhere. You have to be open-minded and unprejudiced.”

- Upper secondary school student in Espoo
PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONALITY AT THE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

The internationalisation efforts of the Education and Cultural Services are guided by five basic ideas based on the values of the Espoo Story.

Internationality at the Education and Cultural Services

...is openly curious and bold
Internationality includes and promotes open-mindedness, empathy and curiosity. We at the Education and Cultural Services enable people of all ages to grow and develop towards curiosity and boldness. We also work to create an appreciative climate. We search our immediate surroundings and look abroad for new perspectives and ways of working. We dare to experiment and experience new things.

...is an everyday matter and creates a sense of togetherness
As Espoo’s cultural diversity is increasing, internationality is always present. We take into account this increasing diversity in everything we do. Everyone has the right to feel a sense of togetherness. We create encounters and help people to get ready for them. This we do through internationalisation at home and international operations. Mutually appreciative coexistence that is based on dialogue also promotes civil peace.

...builds a world that is ethically more sustainable
Education and Cultural Services’ internationality creates preconditions for using expertise, education and culture to build a world that is ethically more sustainable. We support the development of Espoo residents’ learning, cultural skills and international skills. We also take global responsibility by sharing our expertise.

...belongs to everyone
Being international – both as a skillset and a sign of humanity – is a basic skill that belongs to everyone. We promote equal internationalisation opportunities for everyone in Espoo. We at the Education and Cultural Services open doors, create opportunities and remove obstacles. We bring the world to Espoo and take Espoo to the world.

...is active and future-oriented
We are an active operator with wide networks. Our international operations respond to future needs. We acknowledge that many future phenomena require collaboration across borders. As a responsible pioneer, we align our operations to this fact.
GOALS AND MEANS OF INTERNATIONALITY AT THE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

The internationalisation efforts of the Education and Cultural Services support the implementation of the Story of Education and Cultural Services. Internationalisation efforts build a city of education and culture for all, a learning city and a vibrant and innovative city.

Our internationalisation efforts are directed towards six goals that we strive to realise through everyday actions and choices. Internationality is realised, implemented in everyday life and created by various operators in the Education and Cultural Services, Espoo residents, communities, companies and partners.

City of education and culture for all

Goal 1: We promote an appreciative, open-minded climate and bring people together

In an interdependent world and an increasingly versatile city, encounters between different kinds of people require mutual understanding and respectful interaction. The internationalisation efforts of the Education and Cultural Services support every person’s opportunity to strengthen their own identity and contribute to the growth and development of open-mindedness and tolerance towards diversity. We bring people together and build a sense of community. We create spaces where encounters can happen. Coexistence marked by mutual understanding and appreciation also promotes civil peace.

Actions:

- Global education, learning languages and about cultures, internationalisation at home, international collaboration and mobility, cultural advising, reduction of confrontations, events and multi-channel meeting places, hobbies, associations and clubs, equality-promoting communications, personnel competence development.
Goal 2:
We improve the accessibility of services for all Espoo residents.

Espoo is a resident- and customer-oriented city. As the city grows increasingly international, we improve the way we account of the service needs of people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds and their ability to find and access our services. We understand the importance of language and culture for socialisation into society. Increasing the number of customer service languages and the development of equal communications improve the accessibility of our services and make Espoo a more attractive city. The involvement of residents and partners in service development ensures that services meet our residents’ needs.

Actions:

• Personnel competence development, the share of New Finns in the personnel, support to integration, accessible and equality-promoting communications and interaction, cultural advising and interpretation services, events, development of involvement, learning about languages and cultures, the process of adopting English as a service language, English-speaking education and early childhood education.

Learning city

Goal 3:
We offer increasingly more Espoo residents the opportunity to become international and improve their international skills.

An interdependent and diversifying city needs people with international skills.
Being international is therefore a basic skill that belongs to everyone. International skills comprise cultural skills, language and interaction skills, sustainable lifestyle skills, global social and economic skills and global responsibility. It is based on attitudes, courage and understanding. Qualities such as curiosity, open-mindedness and resilience are examples of international skills. The curriculum calls for transversal competences which encompass international skills.

Education and culture are the cornerstones of international skills. The internationalisation efforts of the Education and Cultural Services help Espoo residents of all ages to develop their international skills. Raising global citizens does not only lie at the core of the work done by the Education and Cultural Services. People also increasingly often learn international skills in their everyday life for example through hobbies, cultural activities, youth activities, sports clubs and online.

Internationalisation at home and international collaboration both improve international skills. All actors in the Education and Cultural Services are encouraged to benefit from international funding intended for supporting the development of the residents’ international skills and active international actors. The promotion of equal internationalisation opportunities lies at the core of operations. Efforts are also made to develop language and cultural skills.

A key means to strengthen international skills in the city is to offer New Finns better opportunities to use their skills. New Finns’ equal opportunities to study and work are steered particularly by the integration programme of the City of Espoo.

**Actions:**

- Global education, learning about languages and cultures, internationalisation at home, international collaboration and mobility, events and multi-channel meeting places, hobbies, associations and clubs, equal internationalisation opportunities, identification of expertise, personnel competence development, international funding.
A vibrant and innovative city of education and culture

Goal 4: We work towards an ethically more sustainable world by collaborating with the Global South.

One of the targets of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals is to enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships. The focus is on the countries that form the Global South, which struggle the most with poverty, marginalisation and environmental issues.

The goal of the Education and Cultural Services is to work with actors in the Global South to encourage people to become active global citizens and build a sustainable world. Some of the goals of this International and Global Education Programme are to increase awareness of existing collaboration and to assess new collaboration possibilities. A responsible and humane pioneer city committed to sustainable development also takes global responsibility.

Actions:

- Global education, cooperation between organisations or governments.

Goal 5: We work with international partners to influence, develop and provide education and cultural services.

The actors and partners of the Education and Cultural Services have extensive international connections, partners and networks at various organisational levels. For us, international collaboration is a means to develop services, solve challenges, have an influence and provide services such as cultural, youth and student exchanges. International collaboration is our way of building a sustainable Espoo and our contribution to a sustainable Finland, European Union and global community. Furthermore, international connections are an important means to make Espoo better known internationally.
Fruitful international collaboration is goal-oriented, active and systematic. It is built around the partners’ compatible goals and interaction. The collaboration is frequently assessed, and responsibilities are clearly defined. The international collaboration of the Education and Cultural Services is also future-oriented and flexible. We look for new partners and are also able to leave cooperation that does not fit our interests or goals.

A special goal of the International and Global Education Programme is to bring together various actors in the sector to enhance internationality. Knowledge, experiences and benefits are shared within the sector and the city, and with partners. The international cooperation of the Education and Cultural Services sector is transparent.

**Actions:**

- Development of the management and assessment of collaboration with networks and partners, development of the follow-up of international collaboration, investigation of international funding sources.
Tavoite 6:
Our internationalisation efforts enable Espoo’s vitality to increase.

Education and Cultural services increase the city’s international vitality. High-quality and accessible early childhood education, education, culture, sports and youth services are key factors of attraction that create a positive image for the city. According to the Story of Education and Cultural Services, the sector is an actor that is also known abroad.

According to the Espoo Story, the offering of education in English responds to a strongly increasing demand, and the city’s services are also available in English.

International and close to nature, Espoo is also an attractive event city enlivened by active urban culture. The growing offering of events will strengthen Espoo’s internationality, attractiveness and appeal.

Many actors across the world are eager to learn more about Finland’s strengths, our educational expertise in particular. As a city that has fared well in international rankings, invests in learning and participates in international networks, Espoo has a lot to give to education export. Espoo supports the export of education and other expertise, and the advertising of these exports.

Actions:

- Support to export of expertise, events, development of English-language services.
DIRECTION OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

From viewpoint of the Education and Cultural Services sector, all languages and cultures are valuable. This is reflected in our operations. However, we are unable to engage in international collaboration everywhere. Therefore, we primarily work with:

- Actors from whom we can learn, that seek solutions to the same challenges as we do, or with whom we can work towards a sustainable future.

- Actors who can benefit from our expertise. In such collaboration partnerships, we strive for reciprocity so that the collaboration also contributes to our local needs.

- The Nordic countries and the Baltic region. As the provider of education, cultural, youth and sports services in Espoo, we seek to use our collaboration relationships to increase understanding, create encounters between people and build long-lasting relationships with our neighbours.

- Areas from where a large number of New Finns have settled in Espoo. The involvement of the residents who have relocated to Espoo is a key factor in this kind of collaboration. The goal is to increase understanding and cross-cultural encounters.

- With countries, regions and cities that may benefit business life in Finland and Espoo. This for example includes regions whose languages and cultures are expected to be a sought-after area of expertise in Finland in the future. For example, international collaboration may be used to increase language and cultural skills of Espoo’s children and young people.

Education and Cultural Services as an administrative sector of the City of Espoo, and the units under it, decide on the start and follow-up of collaboration according to normal administrative procedures, taking account of its strategic value and cost effects.
APPROACH AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Our internationalisation efforts adhere to the values of the Espoo Story, the Code of Conduct of the City of Espoo and the Principles of internationality at Education and Cultural Services.

The International and Global Education Programme is implemented by the sector’s employees, experts and management across all organisational levels and in all units. The majority of internationalisation efforts are everyday operations, actions and development. Furthermore, annual spearhead actions are adopted as part of the programme. Their realisation is monitored as part of the City of Espoo’s financial and strategic monitoring (balanced scorecards, BSC).

The Deputy Mayor and Director of Education and Cultural Services leads the sector’s international operations. Education and Cultural Services’ Steering Group outlines the sector’s international operations and monitors strategically important activities under the leadership of the Director of Education and Cultural Services.

Education and Cultural Services’ Internationalisation Working Group supports the management of internationalisation by preparing policies that apply to the entire sector and development suggestions, and by coordinating and monitoring operations. Education and Cultural Services’ Sector Management provides expert support to operations, preparations and coordination, and serves as the city-level contact point for coordinators of international activities.

The units of the Education and Cultural Services outline, monitor and coordinate unit-level international actions and participate in the work of the Internationalisation Working Group. In the units, the operations of the units and services under them are organised on a case-specific basis, taking account of the sector’s goals and needs.