



The Finnish Reading Center

An NGO at the forefront of literacy work and an enabler of reading on a wide range. We monitor changes in reading culture, influence policy-making, support authors and open doors to reading for everyone.

We act as an innovative, versatile and international expert and influencer to make the reading lifestyle possible for all.

We work with close co-operation with schools, libraries, government and other organisations. We arrange author visits and produce materials and reports on literacy, both in Finland and globally. We produce services and expertise for schools, libraries, the general public, media and policy-makers.

The Finnish Reading Center is also responsible for major national reading and literacy campaigns such as Read Aloud, Book Bag For Every Baby Born, and Reading Week.

The Finnish Reading Center was founded in 1972.





The Finnish Reading Center's Vision 2030

Every child has the right to reading time together with an adult. Regular early reading strengthens interaction and supports language development. Age-appropriate, varied literature provides provides children with a safe world of imagination and lays the foundations for growing up as readers.

Every young person has access to literary experiences. Adequate literacy opens up open up future opportunities and connect with others. Young people have the ability to express their ideas, to becometo be heard and to be part of a larger community.

Every adult recognises the importance of literacy and reading for themselves and others. Reading enriches lives throughout the human life cycle. Good literacy is a prerequisite for coping in everyday life, independent functioning and lifelong learning.



What is the unique political context in your country?

Finland's political system operates as a parliamentary representative democratic republic.

Parliament holds supreme decision-making authority, with 200 members elected through proportional representation. Executive powers rest with the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Finland's multi-party system often leads to coalition governments, fostering negotiation and compromise in policymaking.

The current cabinet has 19 ministerial posts, eight ministers are from the National Coalition, seven from the Finns Party, three from the Swedish People's Party, and one from the Christian Democrats.

Finland's new government is historic in many ways. It is the most right-wing in recent history. There's a clear paradigm shift on the economy and immigration policies.

This means **budget cuts also for culture**, as VAT increase for books, cuts for financial support for marginal literature and several cuts for national fundings for culture organizations.



How does this impact on your advocacy approach and messaging around reading?

Although budget cuts for some parts of culture's funding, there's support for basic skills and literacy following the historically low PIRLS and PISA results.

From Government Program:

"Government must focus on **improving basic skills** and capabilities and enable a shift to stable core funding. Every young person completing lower secondary education must have sufficient basic knowledge and skills for upper secondary education. Students and teachers must have conditions that allow them to concentrate on learning and teaching."

"The Government will boost children's and young people's literacy.

We will pursue the implementation of the **literacy strategy** as the programme for promoting literacy among people of all ages.

We will make 'Lukulahja lapselle' a permanent scheme, whereby maternity and child health clinics will give a book bag to every newborn baby."



What are your top 3 reading promotion requests to national policy makers?

1. Lukulahja lapselle', Book bag for every baby born -program as a permanent part of Family Health Clinics counseling.

Lukulahja lapselle -program is a permanent part of counseling activities. Early reading is invaluable for the development of literacy and reading skills. The book bag distributed in the family health clinics effectively reminds of the importance of reading and enables reading on an equal footing. Information about the importance of reading belongs to all families!

2. Adequate reading skills must be guaranteed for every Finn.

Literacy is a civic skill that gives the opportunity to participate as a full member in the activities of society. An illiterate person easily falls into the margins of society. Lack of sufficient literacy can prevent access to necessary support measures.

3. Literature must be cherished and the working conditions of writers must be ensured.

Lukukeskus offers writers a considerable number of performance opportunities each year. It is only possible to do this work with sufficient basic funding. Author visits have been proven to increase interest in reading and are a worthwhile part of writers' livelihood.



Communications campaign before National Parliament Election April 2023

We launch the campaign in October 2022 by sending a bookmark to every MP in committees for culture and education:

Literacy is worth defending!

Campaign was done in 3 phases.

Something to advocate

Something to share

Something that activates



1. Something to advocate

Two main communication concepts:

- 10 Facts about reading in Finland: https://lukukeskus.fi/en/10-facts-about-reading-in-finland/
- Impact study on Lukulahja lapselle

Easy-to-use, trustworthy, researched information

Give numbers and €€€ when possible!

Start early!

Get to know the timelines of your countries political system: Party Conferences etc.

Every project is a communications project!

Media visibility gives pressure for decision makers

It's best to contact the opposition while the government season is still on

Personal emails to the members of committees covering education and culture



2. Something to share

Visual content for anyone to use on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Shared with colleague organizations and stakeholders.



🕻 Julkaisun kävijäti	edot
Sitoutuneet tilit	
Profiilin toiminta	8
Kattavuus ①	
Tavoitetut tilit	
473 Seuraajat •	26 • Muut kuin seuraajat
	Muut kuin
Seuraajat •	• Muut kuin • seuraajat
Seuraajat • Näyttökerrat	Muut kuin seuraajat
Näyttökerrat Aloitussivulta	Muut kuin seuraajat 544 484



Lukukeskus painottaa eduskuntavaaliteemoissaan lukutaitotyön ja lukemisen yhteiskunnallista merkitystä

Lukulahja lapselle -ohjelmasta pysyvä osa neuvolatoimintaa

Varhaislukeminen on korvaamatonta
lukutaidon ja lukijuuden
kehittymiselle. Neuvolassa jaettava
kirjakassi muistuttaa tehokkaasti
lukemisen tärkeydestä ja mahdollistaa
lukemisen tasa-vertaisesti. Tieto
lukemisen tärkeydestä kuuluu
kaikille perheille!

63% PERHEISTÄ
LUKI AIEMPAA
ENEMMÄN
KIRJAKASSIN

SAATUAAN

Lukulahja lapselle -ohjelma on kirjattu kansallisen lukutaitostrategian 2030 toimenpideehdotukseksi. Kirjallisuutta pitää vaalia ja kirjailijoiden työskentelyedellytykset turvata

Lukukeskus tarjoaa kirjailijoille huomattavan määrän esiintymistilaisuuksia vuosittain. Tätä työtä on mahdollista tehdä vain riittävän perusrahoituksen turvin. Kirjailijavierailut lisäävät tutkitusti kiinnostusta lukemiseen ja ovat varteenotettava osa kirjailijoiden toimeentuloa.

Lukukeskuksen julkaisemien kirjallisuuslehtien Kiiltomato-Lysmasken ja Lukufiilis.fi riittävä tukeminen jatkossa on tärkeää rikkaan kirjallisen kulttuurin säilymisen sekä monipuolisen kirjallisuuden näkyvyyden kannalta.

keskuksen cuntavaaliteemat 2023

us painottaa eduskuntavaaliteemoissaan työn ja lukemisen yhteiskunnallista merkitystä





1. helmikuuta 2023

3. Something that activates

Updated content for the last weeks before election:

"Before voting ask your candidate at least these 6 questions"

Simple questions and answers to send out as emails or shared in social media for tagging the candidates.

How do we secure every child's right for books and reading?

How do we support literacy for all ages?

How do we maintain a vibrant Finnish literature?

Kuusi kysymystä eduskuntavaaliehdokkaallesi



EDUSKUNTAVAALIT 2023



Keep going!

Government Program negotiations

Education and culture program was negotiated under the theme:

"A Nation of knowledge and competence"

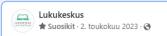
Updated materials to be shared in social media:

"A Nation of knowledge and competence requires support and funds for literacy work and reading promotion."

With compact and easy to use content it was easy to contact negotiators responsible for education and culture. The Finnish Reading Center's chairman of the Board was asked to present current themes on reading and literacy based on shared contents.

Budget negotiations are crucial!

Lukulahja lapselle was unfunded in the first budget draft, even though included in the government program.



* Actions and decisions are needed from the new government to secure equal possibilities for everyone to read and maintain a rich literary culture.

*Sufficient literacy guarantees that an individual has the necessary skills to function in society. That is why it is important to invest in the skills and literacy of Finns of all ages. Information about literacy and the importance of reading belongs to everyone!

*Early Reading is scientifically proven to increase by the book gifting program.

* Supporting the reading skills of adults is an effective employment measure!

Lue Lukukeskuksen terveiset hallitusneuvotteluihin.



Osaava Suomi edellyttää panostuksia lukemiseen ja lukutaitoon - Lukukeskus Uudelta hallitukselta tarvitaan tekoja ja päätöksiä, joilla turvataan kaikkien tasavertaiset edellyt...



Here we go again!

TO DO -list for the new parliament season

Acknowledge the support you got for your requests: Public thank you for MPs!

Personal contacts, also (or especially!) with the new MP's.

Most importantly contacting the newly appointed Minister of Culture, their political advisors and officials of the Ministry.

Show the impacts of your work!

Start planning for the next election.

The Finnish Reading Center Key Figures 2023 https://lukukeskus.fi/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2023-Key-Figures.pdf

