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Content |

This fourth publication of MAKE letters shares news offered by Professor Dr. Aki Rasinen and Professor Dr. Sonja Niiranen from the Department of Teacher Education, University of Jyväskylä in Finland.

Editor’s Note |

If anyone wishes to offer alternative designs or ideas for the newsletter, your input is certainly welcome.

It is the aim the newsletter would become part of the website and members would ideally be given access to edit their own online pages. More on this potential shall be shared later.

This news has also been published on the wmea.makermembers.org website. You are welcome to visit.

You recently received a WMEA | CEEIA letter. In it you have been invited to offer ideas for academic and maker activities during the conference. You are also welcome to submit an expert’s candidacy towards Country Representative for a region yet unrepresented within the WMEA.

MAKE letters — a newsletter made by Alliance members, for WMEA Alliance members.
Newsletter from Finland

Dr. RASINEN, Aki
**This works: A mobile toy**

“This works: A mobile toy” is a national competition in Finland, which has been organized by Technology Industries in Finland and various LUMA -centers more than ten times now. After registration at fall, pupils are working with their projects at schools and when they are ready, each school will choose one or two of them for the next phase, to the regional competition. These regional competitions are organized in various locations in Finland, in March each year, with cooperation of universities and other institutions. My colleagues Timo Rissanen, Sonja Niiranen, Pasi Ikonen, Antti Pirhonen and Tuomas Ikonen and in addition a great number of teacher education students from the Department of Teacher Education, University of Jyväskylä, have been responsible of organizing the Central-Region competition since 2010. The competition has shaped during the years passed, however the emphasis has always been in pupils’ team-work and technological innovativeness. When creating their project pupils are also encouraged to use recycled materials and “This works” –material baggage.

This year, the competition was enlarged to include six more theme areas and was called “The StarT”. The new StarT was launched in honor of Finland’s centenary by The LUMA Centre Finland, together with its network of cooperation partners. Schools, kindergartens, families and extracurricular activity groups from all around the world were invited to invest in the future and take part in StarT to share the excitement of collaborative learning. The national organizer was the national LUMA -center. More information on: [http://start.luma.fi/en/](http://start.luma.fi/en/)

**This works: Mobile toys in Central-Finland**

On March 15th of 2017, 21 teams from schools in central Finland attended a one day event at University of Jyväskylä to introduce their projects. The highlight of the day was that three best teams and their projects, from various categories, were awarded. These teams were also invited for a national gala which took place in Helsinki on 23rd of May 2017. On March 15th, pupils had also a chance to work in various workshops that were organized by teacher education students. This year the general theme for the work-shops was ‘A Science & Technology Room Escape’. The work- shops were about mathematical problem solving, building a flying vehicle, coding, science lab, dark room and coding and body-rhythms. Pupils were divided into six groups and they had 45 min time to solve the mystery and find out the code and access to the video, which revealed who was guilty for burgling into the science lab.
Some examples of the pupils’ projects:

- Dog feeding machine
- Trick-track
- Dragon: an interactive toy
- Table floorball
- Ghost game

Photos: Sonja Niiranen and Anniina Koliseva