

21th April 2026: the challenge

The conference is hosted by Pasi Riikonen, Product Manager Surfaces at LAPPSET Group Ltd and Kimmo Isatalo, Senior Planning Officer, Sports Department at City of Helsinki.

08.00 – 08.30 Arrival and registration

08.30 – 09.00 Welcome to the city of Helsinki and the Olympic Park

Paavo Arhinmäki, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Leisure

09.00 – 10.00 Why are our physical activity levels failing in the Nordics? Findings of each Nordic country

Finland: Tommi Vasankari, Professor at UKK-institute and Minna Paajanen, Head of unit in the Sports department at City of Helsinki

Sweden: Peter Ahlström, Head of sports strategy in the Sports department at City of Stockholm

Norway: To be announced shortly

Denmark: Jens Høyer Kruse, Professor at University of southern Denmark, SDU

10.00 – 10.30 Tea and coffee and time for conversations

10.30 – 11.30 Creating a framework for movement

Oliver Vanges, Consultant at Danish foundation for Sports and culture facilities

11.40 – 12.10 Designing for needs, not opinions

David Cove, Director of Consulting at FMG Consulting Ltd UK and Mike Lawless, Director at LA Architects Ltd UK

12.15 – 12.45 Inclusive movement for all people

Lisa Mari Watson CEO, Tverga Norway

12:45 – 13.30 Lunch at Bistro Stadion, Helsinki Olympic stadium

13.40 – 14.10 The process of designing differently

Stephen Dietz-Hodgson, Architect at JAJA Architects Ltd Denmark

14.30 – 15.15 Come and Play

Jonas Berglund, CEO at Kragh Berglund Landscape architecture and urban design Sweden

16.00 – 17.00 Tour of the Olympic stadium

17.10 Happy hours at Tahto – Sports museum of Finland

19.30 Conference dinner

Venue to be announced shortly

[Helsinki Olympic Stadium](#)

Paavo Nurmen tie 1
00250 Helsinki

[Room for all seminars](#)

Auditorium
Floor -2

[Finding your way](#)

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22th April 2026: creating new models

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09.30 - 10.00 Tea and coffee

10.10 - 10.50 Programming Activity and Delivering Activity
Barry Dempsey, Sports Development Officer and Shane McAdele Sports Coordinator at Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown Council, Ireland

11.00 - 11.50 Uppsala, the politics of change
Karolin Lundström, Chair of the Sports and Leisure Committee at City of Uppsala and Magnus Jansson, Head of Sports Department at City of Uppsala, Sweden

12.00 - 12.45 Lunch at Bistro Stadion, Helsinki Olympic stadium

13.00 - 13.30 User led scheduling – learnings from self-organized facilities
Mari Pietilä, Youth Worker at City of Helsinki, Finland

13.30 - 14.00 Operational structure and outreach
Steve Ward, Chief Executive at Newport Live and Lucy Donovan, Positive Futures Development Manager at Newport Live Wales

14.00 - 14.20 Title, to be announced shortly
Teemu Heino, CEO at Tapanilan Urheilutalosaatiö, Finland

14.20-15.00 How can nature enable movement
Casper Lindemann, Consultant at National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark (DIF)

15.00 - 15.20 Tea, coffee and buns

15.20 - 15.45 Think differently in Finland
Petri Kontukoski CEO, Kontukoski Architects Ltd Finland

16.00 End of conference

16.30 Post Conference discussions and relaxation

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