

21th April 2026: the challenge

The conference is hosted by Pasi Riikonen, Product Manager Surfaces at LAPPSET Group Ltd and Kimmo Isotalo, 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 of Helsinki

09.00 – 10.00 Why are our physical activity levels failing in the Nordics? Experts panel from four Nordic countries
Finland: Tommi Vasankari, Professor MD at UKK-institute
Sweden: Peter Ahlström, Head of sports strategy in the Sports department at City of Stockholm
Norway: André Flatner, manager of BIAA and President of IAKS Nordic
Denmark: Jens Høyer Kruse, Professor at University of southern Denmark, SDU

The session will be chaired by Minna Paajanen, Head of unit in the Sports department at City of Helsinki

10.00 – 10.30 Tea and coffee and time for conversations

10.30 – 11.30 Creating a framework for movement
Oliver Vanges, Development Specialist at Lokale og Anlægsfonden (The Danish Foundation for Culture and Sports facilities)

11.40 – 12.10 Designing for needs, not opinions
Mike Lawless, Director at LA Architects Ltd UK and Dave Cove, MBA of FMG Consulting UK

12.15 – 12.45 Inclusive movement for all people
Lisa Mari Watson managing Director of 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 Copenhagen, Denmark

14.30 – 15.15 Come and Play
Jonas Berglund, Creative director at Kragh Berglund Landscape architecture and urban design, Sweden

16.00 – 17.00 Tour of the Olympic stadium

17.10 Social Gathering 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

[Contact for enquiries](#)

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22th April 2026: creating new models

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

09.30 - 10.00 Tea and coffee

10.10 - 10.50 Uppsala, the politics of change

Karolin Lundström, Chair of the Sports and Leisure Committee at City of Uppsala, Sweden

11.00 - 11.50 Programming Activity and Delivering Activity

Barry Dempsey, Sports Development Officer and Shane McAdele Sports Coordinator at Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown Council, Ireland

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 - 14.30 Tapanila Sports Center: 1.5 million active people per year. How?

Teemu Heino, CEO at Tapanilan Urheilutalosaatiö, Finland

14.30-15.00 How can nature enable movement

Casper Lindemann, Landscape architect and Consultant at National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark (DIF)

15.00 - 15.20 Tea, coffee and buns

15.30 - 16.00 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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