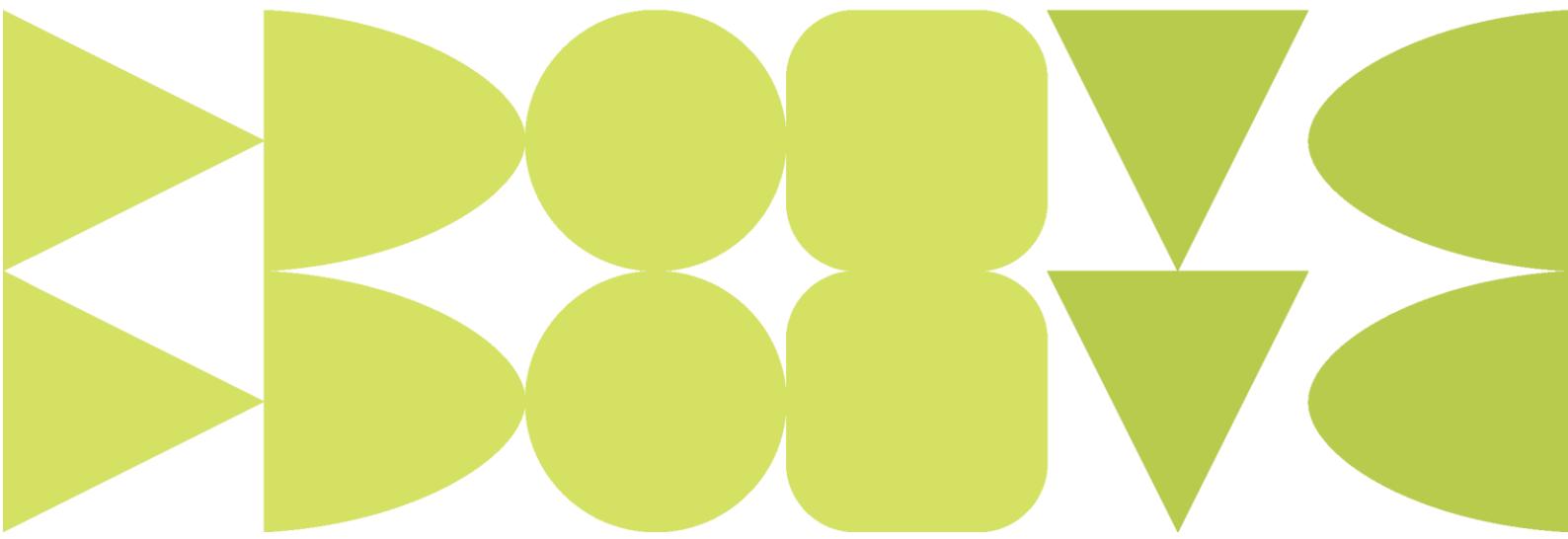




# TURN S

TAMPERE URBAN RESEARCH NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Annual Report 2025



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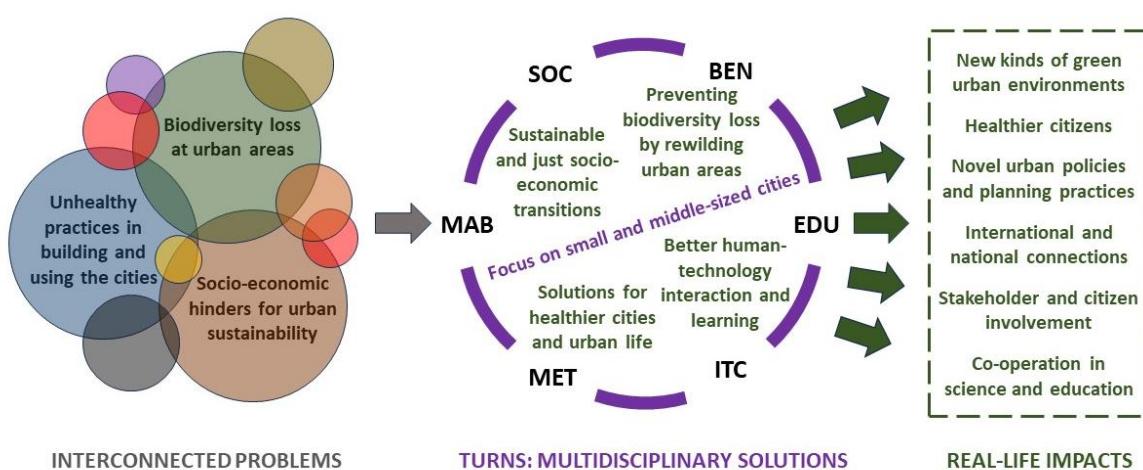
# Tampere Urban Research Network for Sustainability (TURNS)

## About TURNS

**TURNs Research Platform** catalyzes innovative, collaborative, and multidisciplinary research on urban sustainability by bringing together urban studies, transition studies, and sustainability research. It networks experts and offers funding to support new research initiatives, international mobility and societal impact of urban research. As a strategic and long-term initiative, TURNS increases Tampere University's scientific and societal impact regarding urban issues in Finland and internationally.

TURNs is one of the Tampere University's four official research platforms. The platforms are strategic research programmes and collaboration arenas supporting innovative initiatives. They enhance high-quality interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, and enable interaction and partnerships with public organizations, private companies, and third-sector actors.

TURNs emphasizes curiosity-led and scientifically courageous research on cities and urban regions outside the much-studied metropolitan areas. It seeks new conceptualizations and transformative solutions for the urban and spatial aspects of Tampere University's three research foci: society, technology, and health. In this dynamic and evolving academic context, TURNs enhances research in various interconnected themes and real-life challenges.



## TURNS 2025

In 2025, TURNS focused on strengthening its public visibility and international reach by hosting several international conferences, including the week-long **Radical Care for the City** event and the related **Re-City Conference 2025**; **INURA 2025 Conference**; and the **International PhD School 2025: Urban Planning for Discontinuity and Radical Transformation**. In addition, many local seminars and get-togethers were organized, bringing together members of the multidisciplinary Tampere urban research community and various partners.

In 2025, TURNS continued providing seed, mobility and research enrichment funding for urban researchers at Tampere University. TURNS enrichment funding was expanded to include art-science collaborations and the use of creative methods. **Tampere Urban Research Perspectives blog** remained active.

TURNs strategy work continued throughout the year 2025, and the strategy will be published in 2026. We were happy to see some earlier TURNS seed funding initiatives from 2024 to receive external funding, such as Jonathon Taylor's **ATMOPOLIS** project. The new **URBAN PROSUMERS** project started in autumn 2025, with TURNS having an active role in it. Other accomplishments in 2025 were that Tampere University and TURNS became the member of the **European Urban Research Association EURA**.

## Organization

The activities of TURNS are run by a coordination team, led by Professor **Panu Lehtovuori**. In addition, TURNS has a management group (MG) of 10 members coming from 6 faculties (BEN, EDU, ITC, MAB, MET, SOC). The Chair of MG is Professor **Marjaana Niemi**. There is a plan to establish an external TURNS Advisory Pool, with the first meeting in 2026. The roles of the TURNS actors are specified in the **TURNs rules of procedure**, published in autumn 2025.

In 2025, TURNS management group had altogether 6 meetings (of which 2 online) and a field visit to the Netherlands with a workshop on the future directions of TURNS. The materials and memos from the MG meetings are collected in a separate Teams Group.



## TURNS Coordination Team 2025

- **Panu Lehtovuori**, Director of TURNS (30 %)
- **Juho Rajaniemi**, Deputy Director of TURNS (10 %, from 1.8.2025)
- **Riina Lundman**, Project Manager of TURNS (100 %)
- **Anna Koskinen**, Producer of TURNS (20 %)
- **Anniika Annala**, Intern / Research Assistant (50 %, from 1.6.2025)

## TURNS Management Group 2025

- **Marjaana Niemi (SOC)**, Professor (Urban History)
- **Heikki Hyöty (MET)**, Professor (Virology)
- **Anni Jäntti (MAB)**, University Lecturer (Administrative Sciences)
- **Johanna Kujala (MAB)**, Professor (Management and Organisations)
- **Sami Oikarinen (MET)**, Senior Research Fellow (Environmental Health)
- **Eeva Puumala (SOC)**, Senior Research Fellow (Social Sciences)
- **Juho Rajaniemi (BEN)**, Professor (Urban Planning) (until 31 July 2025)
- **Annalisa Sannino (EDU)**, Professor (Education)
- **Jonathon Taylor (BEN)**, Associate Professor (Urban Physics)
- **Kaisa Väänänen (ITC)**, Professor (Human-Technology Interaction)
- **Antti Wallin (SOC)**, University Lecturer (Social Sciences) (from 2025)

## Activities

TURNS organizes various activities in and outside Tampere. In 2025, TURNS had almost 30 events with approximately 800 participants in total. In addition, more than 300 students visited the joint Thesis Market organized in collaboration with TURNS, STUE (Sustainable Transformation of Urban Environments profiling area), and SUD (Sustainable Urban Development degree programme).

TURNS concepts include:

- **TURNs Thursdays**
- **TURNs Seed Events**
- **TURNs Conferences and Seminars**
- **TURNs Visits**
- **TURNs PhD Workshops**



**TURNS Thursdays** are local activities and events organized together with the research community and various stakeholders mostly in Tampere region. Events include e.g. TURNS film evenings, TURNS research afternoons, TURNS expert panels, TURNS get-togethers, and much more. In 2025, the following TURNS Thursdays were organized:

- **TURNS Thursday: Tampere Urban Research Afternoon** (9 October 2025)
- **TURNS Film Evening: Inno-Native House** (6 October 2025)
- **TURNS Thursday: Research Funding Afternoon – New European Bauhaus NEB** (10 April 2025)
- **TURNS Thursday: Urban research collaboration between cities and universities** (27 March 2025)



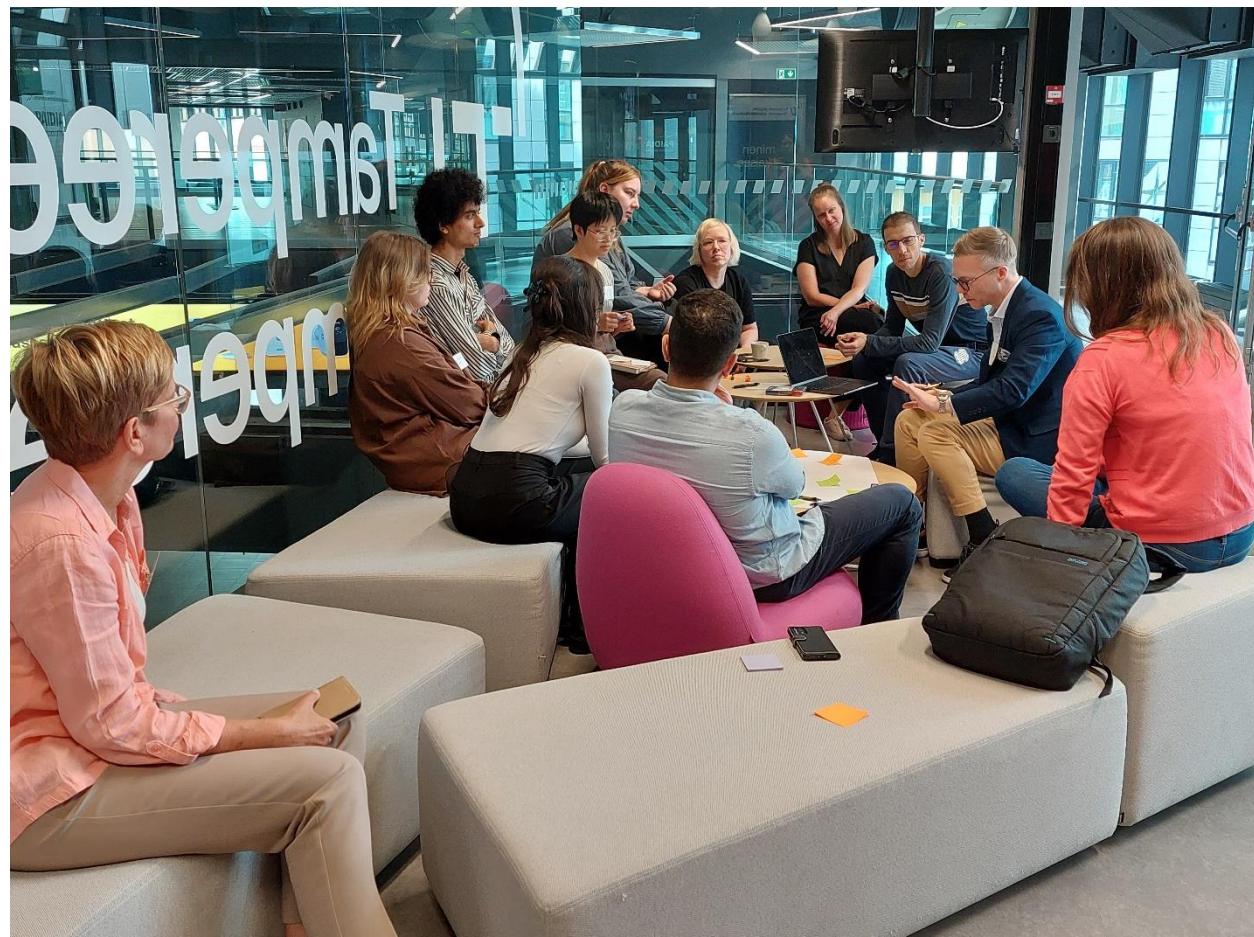
**TURNS Seed Events** are organized by the initiatives that have received TURNS seed or research enrichment funding, usually in collaboration with TURNS. Seed Events are open to the whole Tampere urban research community. In 2025, the following TURNS Seed Events were organized:

- **Investigating the (work)home: Performance & book launch** (10 December 2025)
- **Kuka tekee kaupungista turvallisen? – Paneelikeskustelu** (20.11.2025)
- **Purkukartta.fi Demolition Seminar** (9 October 2025)
- **Työpaja: Hyvää yleistajuista tietokirjoittamista** (29.9.2025)
- **Open lecture: Empathy and Radical Youth Engagement** (25 September 2025)
- **Workshop for researchers: Empathy through Art** (24 September 2025)
- **Tyhjien tilojen täyttäjät -retriitti** (28 August 2025)
- **Panel discussion: Co-innovating urban sustainability** (9 June 2025)



**TURNS Conferences and Seminars** vary from local and national seminars to international research conferences, which TURNS supports or organizes with its collaborators. In 2025, the seminars included:

- **Re-City Conference: Urban Democracy and Radical Care** (30-31 October 2025)
- **Radical Care for the City week** (27-31 October 2025)
- **Tampere Urban Thesis Market** (9 September 2025)
- **Urban Resilience Symposium** (12 August 2025)
- **INURA Conference in Tampere** (23-25 June 2025)
- **TURNS Spring Party** (28 May 2025)
- **Critical Perspectives on Urban Political Economy Conference** (26-27 May, Turku, Finland)
- **TURNS working groups at the Urban Studies Conference** (15-16 May 2025, Helsinki)



**TURNS Visits** other cities, towns and intriguing places to learn and discuss the topic of urban sustainability in different contexts. In 2025, TURNS visited the following locations and/or events:

- **TURNS visits the Netherlands** (14-17 December 2025)
- **TURNS visits TAD week** (26 September - 5 October 2025)
- **TURNS visits Mänttä Art Festival 2025**
- **TURNS visits the Citiverse** (27-28 May 2025)
- **TURNS visits MUST festival** (21-22 May 2025)
- **TURNS visits Malmö, Lund and Copenhagen** (13-17 April 2025)
- **TURNS visits Tampere Film Festival** (5 March 2025)



The joint STUE, SUD and TURNS visit to Sweden and Denmark in April 2025 included meetings at the **Malmö University** (Institute of Urban Research); **Aalborg University** (Copenhagen Campus; Sustainability of Buildings); **University of Copenhagen** (Green Solutions Centre); **European Environmental Agency**; Lund University (Climate-neutral Cities 2030 + Circular Building Sector); and a tour and dinner in **Christiansia**.

TURNs Management and Coordination Groups' visit to the Netherlands in December 2025 included meetings at the **Amsterdam University** (Amsterdam School of Planning); **Institute for Urban Excellence** in Hague; **European Urban Knowledge Institute**; a guided walk in Hague with **Den Haag City Planners**; **International Federation for Housing and Planning IFHP** and **Vereniging Deltametropool** in Rotterdam; **TU Delft** (Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment; Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions; Delft Campus: The Green Village); and **Utrecht University** (Pathways to Sustainability; Spatial Planning Group).



**TURNS PhD Workshops** include an annual international PhD school involving key speakers from the fields of urban studies, planning, and transitions research, together with other PhD seminars and workshops. In addition, TURNS holds writing camps meant for Tampere University's PhD researchers whose dissertations are related to urban sustainability. In 2025, TURNS PhD Workshops were:

- **TURNS Winter Writing Camp** (10-11 December 2025 in Kehräämö)
- **PhD Seminar on Research Methods and Ethics** (29 October 2025)
- **TURNS Writing Camp** (13-15 August 2025 in Rosendahl)
- **International PhD School 2025 vol 2: Urban Planning for Discontinuity and Radical Transformation** (15-19 June 2025)



## TURNS Funding

TURNS grants seed, mobility, and research enrichment funding to catalyze transdisciplinary, innovative and impactful action for urban sustainability. The main applicant must be a member of the Tampere University research community, but various kinds of collaboration and networking initiatives are also supported. In general, the aim is to use half of the TURNS annual budget for funding allocations, while the other half goes to other TURNS activities and salaries. TURNS budget and costs are separately reported.

In 2025, TURNS received 14 seed funding, 16 mobility funding and 13 enrichment funding applications (43 applications in total). TURNS granted funding for 6 seed initiatives, 6 mobility initiatives and 6 enrichment initiatives. The total acceptance rate of applications was 42 %.

### Funded TURNS initiatives 2025

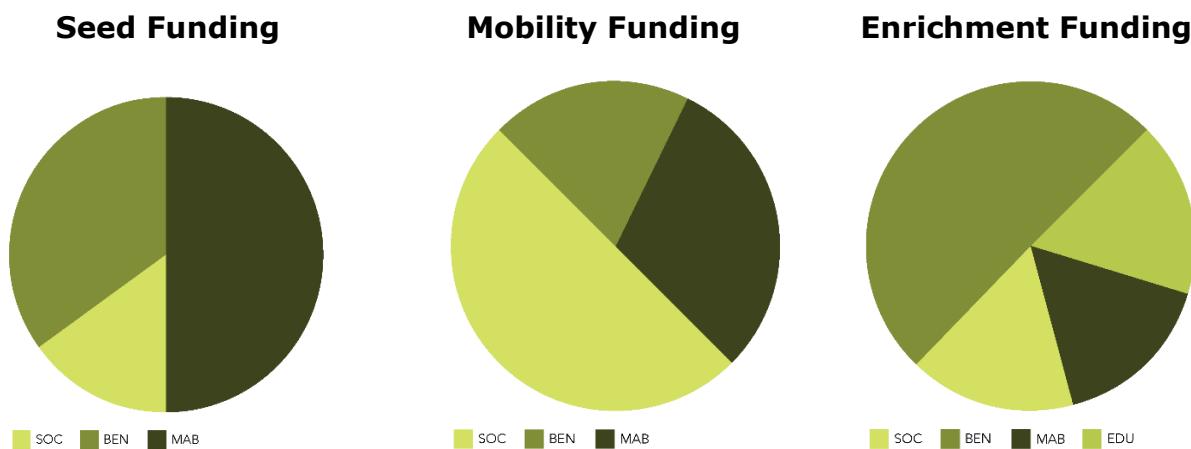


Figure: Funded TURNS initiatives by the faculty of the main applicant.

## Seed Funding

TURNS seed funding is granted for the purposes of applying significant external funding; for formation and establishment of multidisciplinary partnerships or consortia; or for other ambitious and high-quality scientific initiatives. In 2025, TURNS granted seed funding for the following initiatives, listed here by the name and faculty of the main applicant:

- **Lena Jegard & Elina Siren (BEN):** Exploring the potential of private urban balconies to enhance biodiversity and urban sustainability
- **Valtteri Kaartemo et al. (MAB+ENS):** Emission Experience in Urban Environment (Urban EE)
- **Anna Koskinen & Jens Brandt (BEN):** Building the NEXT Network and COST Action Application
- **Eeva Puumala & Samu Pehkonen (SOC):** Co-innovating sustainable and inclusive urban spaces and communities
- **Lotta-Maria Sinervo (MAB):** Public Financial Management Beyond 2030: Leading Local Economies Amidst the Sustainability Crisis
- **Jarmo Vakkuri & Elina Vikstedt (MAB):** CICO – Circular Economy Compass for Local Resource Governance

## Mobility Funding

TURNS mobility funding is granted to the members of the Tampere University research community for short-term visits to foreign universities and research institutes. In 2025, TURNS granted mobility funding to the following applicants and destinations:

- **Anni Jäntti (MAB):** University of Gothenburg + University West, Sweden
- **Johanna Kujala (MAB):** HWZ University + University of Zürich, Switzerland
- **Anitta Kynsilehto (SOC):** Tarapaca University, Arica, Chile
- **Pauliina Lehtonen (SOC):** University of Kent, UK
- **Dalia Milian Bernal (BEN):** Universität zu Berlin + Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany
- **Ebru Sevik (SOC):** University of Oxford + University College London + Coventry University, UK

## Research Enrichment Funding

TURNS research enrichment funding is intended to increase the impact of research results within communities and society, and it is granted, for example, for popularizing research; fostering stakeholder cooperation; organizing community events; and supporting art-science collaborations. In 2025, TURNS granted research enrichment funding for the following initiatives:

- **Dalia Milián Bernal (BEN):** The home as a space of work
- **Yelyzaveta Glybchenko (MAB):** Futures Design of Nordic-Ukrainian Urban International Relations
- **Iida Kalakoski (BEN):** Urban visions at Mänttä Art Festival
- **Mario Kolkwitz (BEN):** Anti-Demolition Seminar Series and Development of Purukartta
- **Vilhelmiina Vainikka (EDU):** Strengthening the societal impacting of climate mobilities education and research
- **Antti Wallin (SOC):** Urban research bottom-up and back: Public interaction with local street paper Rohee

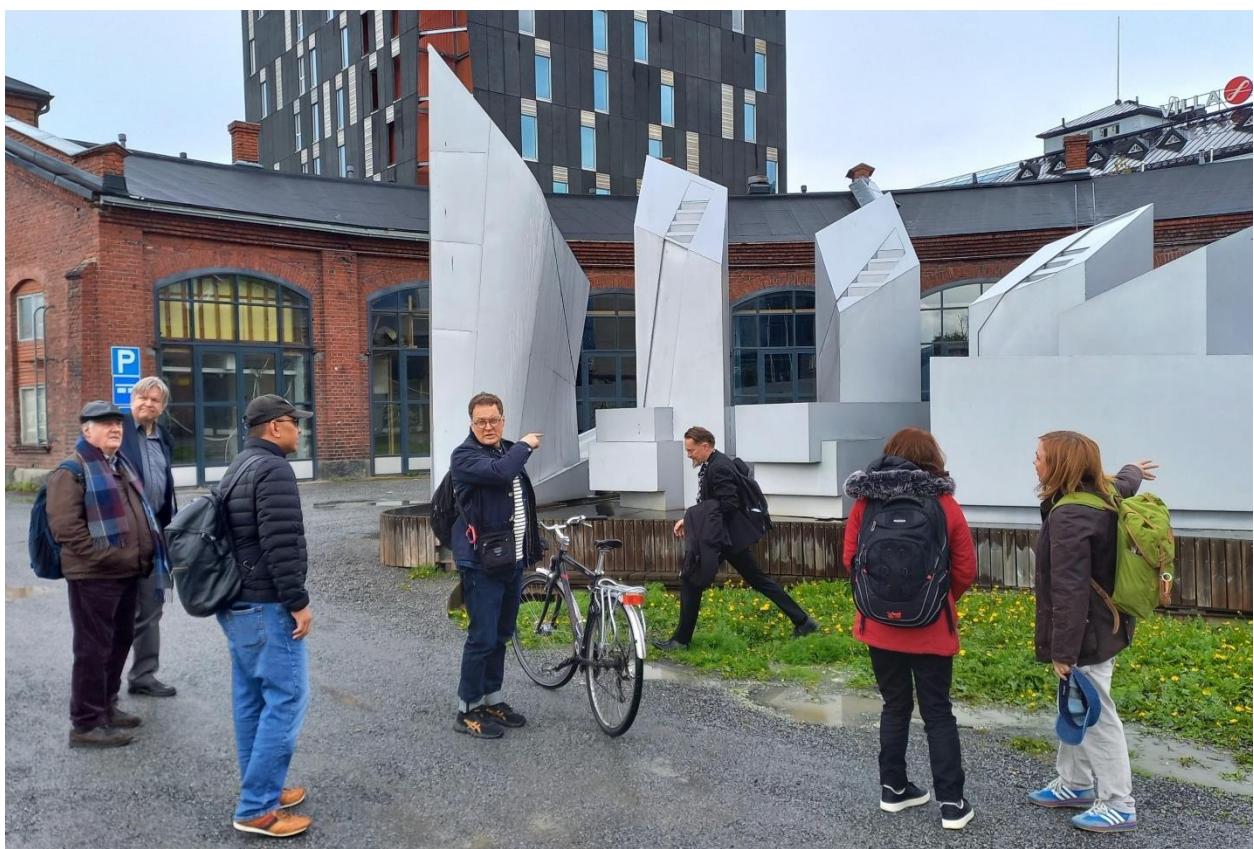
## Collaboration

In 2025, TURNS initiated and continued various forms of collaborations with external stakeholders through direct stakeholder meetings, joint project proposals, organizing joint events, promoting shared activities, and presenting TURNS in different events. In addition, TURNS collaborated with dozens of Finnish and international scholars and universities during 2025 through interpersonal connections, other networks, TURNS visits, and TURNS seed, mobility and research enrichment funding initiatives.

Each year, TURNS provides opportunities for 1-3 incoming scholars or experts to visit Finland and collaborate with the local research community. In 2025, TURNS visitors included:

- **Audrey Muratet**, University Lecturer, Université de Strasbourg, France
- **François Chiron**, Associate Professor, Université de Strasbourg, France
- **Joe Osage-Addo**, Architect, Joe Addo Studio, Chairman of ArchiAfrika Foundation, Accra, Ghana

Within Tampere University, TURNS presented its activities, for instance, to the University Board, Science Council, BEN Faculty, and MAB Faculty.



## Communications

The TURNS communications channels include:

- **TURNS website:** <https://research.tuni.fi/turns/>
- **TURNS mailing list** (c. 200 subscribers in December 2025)
- **TURNS LinkedIn** (2-3 posts per week; c. 1100 followers in December 2025)
- **Tampere Urban Research Perspectives blog** (18 blog posts in 2025; editor Anna Koskinen)
- For internal communications within Tampere University, TURNS uses TUNI intranet and Tampere Urban Research Community Teams channel.
- TURNS took part in editing a special issue of the e-journal **Aukio**.



## INURA – Academic conference done differently

**In June 2025, around 50 urban researchers, activists, and urban planners gathered in Tampere for the INURA conference, organised for the first time in Finland.**

### **Text: Annika Annala**

Last summer, I joined TURNS as an intern, and one of the first projects that I was involved in was the INURA conference. The conference, titled 'In war we fight, in peace we build', explored the histories and topical movements of safety and civil societies' resilience in Finland and Ukraine.

INURA, the International Network for Urban Research and Activism, engages in multidisciplinary approaches to understand contemporary urban phenomena. Each year, its conference dives into different locations and different topics, getting familiar with the selected theme guided by local actors.

The phrase 'In war we fight and in peace we build' is rooted in Finnish wartime history, and it resonates deeply in today's geopolitical climate. The conference explored how war and the threat of war reshape the relationship between state and civil society, and how communities respond, resist, and rebuild in times of crisis. Tampere played an important role in the Finnish civil war, and signs of the war are still present and visible in the cityscape. After the WWII, there were strong and active welfare policies in Finland; this is what 'In peace we build' clearly stands for. The Finnish welfare policies still have a strong echo in Tampere, and during the event, we explored different approaches the city and state still support or don't support its citizens.

My task at the conference was to coordinate and communicate the program to the attendees and local guides. Given the context, only recently having started my internship position, INURA was the first academic conference that I took part in, and it took me a while to understand the structure, goals, and attendees' motives for joining us in the rainy summer of Tampere. Later, I noticed how the attendees and organizers approached topics with curiosity and solicitude and how much the structure of the conference supported this.

The conference's first day started off with city explorations: the attendees walked through Tampere with minimal instructions and let their curiosity and intuition lead the way. They were invited to share their findings: what things can be learned about Tampere just by walking and looking at it. Four local Tampere "guides" joined the discussion to hear the conference attendees' learnings and questions and to share their perspectives on Tampere. In addition to the local guides sharing historical facts of Tampere, they also shared stories: lived experiences of their city.

After the first day, the conference days were divided into two parts: city walks and theory-focused evening panels. The aim was to examine the theme together with theorists and local urban practitioners. The walks were hosted by local experts: urban activists, researchers, and city officials. There was a total of 16 different tours. The walks included visiting Tampere's security infrastructures and getting familiar with some of the city's biggest development projects: the Tram, Hiedanranta, Hervanta, and the Arena. As civic action projects, the tours visited projects such as Kalevan Hallit cultural space, DIY Skatepark, and the graffiti scene of Hiedanranta, Villivyöhyke rewilding project, and lastly squatted neighbourhood space Pyynikin Aikamatkat. There were also walks to Annikki Wooden block housing and Housing First projects, social housing facilities, and a tour that explored city trees.

Meanwhile, we had online and hybrid tours to Ukraine on topics such as 'Artistic practices in wartime Kyiv', 'Volunteer movement in Kharkiv', and 'The full-scale invasion's impact on architectural education'.

The topic of 'In war we fight, in peace we build' gave a lot of room for different approaches; each participant was able to attend only four walks and tours. At first glance, the program seemed like it had a little bit of everything. When discussing civil resilience and regenerative society, it seemed natural to approach the topic from multiple perspectives: historical and topical. In the evening panels, we discussed 'Social innovation and civic action' and 'The future of democracy and the role of the state'. The panel discussion aimed to bring an opportunity for attendees to tie the learnings of the day to current research conducted.

The last part of the conference was hosted as a retreat, where attendees went out of the city, reflected on what they had learned in the first parts of the event, and planned for the following events and themes. I did not take part in the retreat, but

having now attended multiple academic conferences, this seems like the juiciest part that most events miss. Information in a 'regular conference' is usually reflected in the informal settings, but I claim that reflecting and synthesizing all the new information requires time.

The network's methodology challenges the traditional notion of academic conferences, where research is isolated into academic spaces. It invited activists and researchers to approach the topic with curiosity. All participants of the event are invited to join and contribute to the network's following events. As the first academic conference I have ever attended, INURA set a great example that research and researchers can find ways to co-create together with civil society. Better yet, it can give back to urban activists and movements functioning as part of a democratic and just society.



*Originally published in the Tampere Urban Research Perspectives blog (24 November 2025).*

## Figures

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Photos by Riina Lundman if not mentioned otherwise.

### Tampere University Faculties:

**BEN** = Built Environment, **EDU** = Education & Culture, **ENS** = Engineering & Natural Sciences, **ITC** = Information Technology & Communication Sciences, **MAB** = Management & Business, **MET** = Medicine & Health Technology, **SOC** = Social Sciences

### Tampere Urban Research Network for Sustainability (TURNS)

Annual report 2025

Riina Lundman, Anna Koskinen, Annika Annala

Tampere University, Tampere 2026